

Minutes of the CFU Monthly Meeting held on 1st March 2010 at the Cambridge United Supporters Club, Cambridge.

Reminder: These minutes are confidential and must not be disclosed to persons outside the CFU Trust board.

1. Attendees and Apologies

Present: Dave Matthew Jones (Chair), Robert Osbourn, Colin Proctor (FED), Derek Wick, Brian Thorby, Joy Childs, Mark Start-Wood, Anton Thacker, Nick Parker, Nigel Browne, Rob Negus, Carol Looker, Gary Atyes, Terry Wilby (minutes)

Apologies: Will Jones,

Guests: Malcolm Taylor, Ian Elliott, Tom Taylor, Kevin Robson.

2. Malcolm Taylor had been invited to talk about the Safety Advisory Group (SAG)

- a. Malcolm is Operations manager for Cambridge County Council Trading Standards. He is Chairman of the Safety at Grounds group which includes Newmarket racecourse and Cambridge Rugby ground as well as CUFC and Histon football grounds
- b. The Bradford, Hillsborough and Heysel disasters meant changes to the way grounds are licensed.
- c. League grounds need a license, non-league grounds do not. All clubs need a Safety Certificate, which is usually 5 to 6 pages. It is there to ensure the safety of spectators.
- d. Football has special problems, usually alcohol related.
- e. The Certificate includes: Buildings, fire, safety management, stewarding, First aid, testing of crush barriers, safe capacity (which can be affected by the number of turnstiles, exit widths and number of stewards. The "P" factor is a multiplier of 1 or less and relates to the state of buildings etc. The "S" factor is a multiplier of 1 or less and is based on the safety and management systems.
- f. Andrew Fayers is the Enforcement Officer who performs "during performance" inspections to ensure the systems are being followed.
- g. It is a criminal offence not to comply, responsibility rests with the clubs Safety Officer and the Board.
- h. The Abbey Stadium is a designated Sports Ground, so the ground as a whole is assessed. Histon is not, and each area is assessed on the basis of size and number of seats.
- i. Standing in seated areas can be dangerous, especially if the rake of the structure is greater than 25°. Capacity can be reduced to minimise the risk of injury.

Dave thanked Malcolm for coming to the meeting and explaining what the SAG do.

3. Minutes

- a. The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read.

4. Finance

- a. Approximately £12k in the bank, £300 in PayPal.
- b. Donations to the Walk for Change can be made using PayPal at the CFU website.

5. Ground

Dave talked about the recent news that Bideawhile were to sell the ground to Grosvenor for £3.5M.

- a. Dave and Colin had been told about the sale by Paul Barry on Thursday afternoon (25th February).
- b. It seems there was a bidding war which raised the price, the other bidders may have been more interested in the rent income.
- c. A commercial loan from a bank is very unlikely; the club do not break even.
- d. Grosvenor may want the land for "Section 106" community use.

- e. The original contract gave CUFC 20 days to exercise an option to buy at the same price as the accepted bid. The start of the 20 days is not clear; it may be Monday 22nd February.
- f. Dave is hoping much of the required capital can be raised from 2 or 3 wealthy people.
- g. The option of fans (or other investors) buying the ground as part of a group in a Community Interest Company (CIC) was discussed:
 - 1. 3500 people paying £1,000; or 700 people with £5,000 to invest. Blocks of £1,000 was felt to be good to allow as many people as possible to invest, but it would mean more paperwork.
 - 2. A separate bank account would be needed and there would be legal costs.

The meeting closed at 10:15pm.

Next meeting: 12th April.