

Minutes of the CFU Monthly Meeting held on 3rd March 2008 at the Funky Fun House, Mercers Row, Cambridge.

1. Attendees and Apologies.

Present:

Dave Matthew-Jones (Chair),	Brian Attmore,	Anton Thacker,
Gary Aytes	Colin Proctor,	Mark Stuart-Wood.
Robert Osbourn,	Shane Kind,	Joy Childs,
Will Jones,	Martin Jordan,	
Derek Wick (Treasurer),	Terry Wilby (Minutes).	

Apologies: Carol Looker, Carolyn Cater, Justyn Medd,

Guest: John Bilbao

2. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising.

- a. The minutes of the February meeting were taken as read apart from the following points:
 - i. 10.c.ii: Job Descriptions go to Norman, not George.
 - ii. 10.c.iv: Incorrect spelling of Rwanda
 - iii. 8.k: Query on the Agents Fee, Brian will find out. **Action: Brian**
- b. Actions:
 - i. 4.a: A certificate for £15k worth of shares has been approved by the Board, the Certificate is to be prepared soon.
 - ii. 7.d and e: Brian and Will have articles in hand.
 - iii. Will has sold an advert for the newsletter for £50.

3. Financial. (Derek)

- a. £8,800 in the bank, ~ £800 of cheques outstanding leaving ~£8k.
- b. The Accounts need to be signed by Dave and Terry and submitted by the end of the month. **Action: Dave and Terry**
- c. The current Paypal account is emptied regularly.
- d. When the new website is up another Paypal account will be opened.

4. Fans Director report: (Brian)

- a. There have been some issues with anti-social behaviour in the NRE:
 - i. mostly little annoying things like flicking the ear, splashing with water etc.
 - ii. Two 15year old lads were escorted out during the Forest Green game and have subsequently been banned for 6 games.
- b. Pricing structure for next season is being considered:
 - i. Programme is likely to increase to £3 if in the Football league.
 - ii. Possibly special prices for Amber Army members
 - iii. Norwich have a good system, Dave has information which he will pass to Brian. It includes allowing fans to watch away games at Carrow Road.
 - iv. It is hoped the Junior U's price will remain at £2.
 - v. Possible have a 2 year season ticket?
 - vi. Match changes due to Setanta TV may impact season ticket sales.
 - vii. Possibly have flexible tickets, for 5 or 10 games?
- c. There is the possibility the away shirt may be changed for next season:
 - i. 2 new designs were introduced this season,
 - ii. In Brian's opinion the sample designs were not very exciting and the supplier has been asked to do further design work.
 - iii. Orders have to be put in by April to meet demand at the start of the next season.
- d. Naming Right for the Abbey Stadium and individual stands are pushing ahead.

- e. Away travel coaches to Salisbury and Northwich Victoria:
 - i. A special offer of 2 journeys for the price of 1 is being operated for people travelling on the coaches,
 - ii. A complaint has been received from David Stroud: He is a regular traveller but is unable to go to one of the games, therefore he will not benefit from the offer. Brian agreed to speak to him. **Action: Brian to speak to David Stroud.**
- f. Issues at Aldershot:
 - i. Their fans have only known success since reforming, and may be quick to get on the players backs if they do keep winning.
- g. Michael Morrison:
 - i. Last meeting it was suggested that Michael Morrison agent might be ruining his career.
 - ii. It has been noted that Michael was thoroughly professional through all the discussions, and at no time did the fans get on his back.
 - iii. The agent will get no money from the club with the latest contract.
- h. Scott Rendell:
 - i. The Board statements were fact.
 - ii. Bids from Rochdale had been turned down, it was felt unlikely that Scott would want to go to Rochdale.
 - iii. Bids from Peterborough were turned down, until they reached a value the Board had previously agreed would be acceptable.
 - iv. When that value was reached on the Friday the Board said they would reply on the following Monday.
 - v. The Board intended talking to Scott after the game on the Saturday, but his agent had already told him of the offer so Scott asked for a transfer.
 - vi. Brian feels this type of loan deal is against the spirit of the transfer window.
 - vii. Some money is paid in advance.
 - viii. There are add-ons and sell-on clauses.
- i. Message Board:
 - i. There are 3 legal challenges in hand with solicitors at the moment on things being written on the official message board.
 - ii. The Club have requested that players do not have "Facebook" pages.
 - iii. The Customer Charter is to be reviewed, and include acceptable behaviour of players.
 - iv. It was felt that the club were not hard enough on message board abusers, and that perhaps some form of registration may be required where full details on the posters have to be entered.
 - v. Policing of a message board is a 24hour job.
- j. Marstons Brewery deal: there are no others in hand.

5. Trevor George

Trevor had been invited to talk about his role as Police Football Liaison Officer, and answer any question.

- a. He has been Football Liaison and Intelligence Officer since 1988, and is believed to be the longest serving in the country
- b. He is a CUFC shareholder;
 - i. His grandfather helped build the Habbins,
 - ii. His father was a CUFC player,
 - iii. He has played for CUFC reserves.
- c. The first question he is usually asked is "Why are there so many police at the Abbey?"
 - i. Problems can occur such as at Wolves and Aldershot.
 - ii. Some fans have been banned from the Abbey, but can attend away games
 - iii. He has 8 officers, 4 are senior, 4 training.
 - iv. The numbers on duty are the minimum agreed with the Board.
 - v. Histon and Cambridge City are treated exactly the same.
 - vi. He thinks he has got it about right at the Abbey.
 - vii. Oxford are not policing the game with CUFC, he has offered "spotters" but the offer has not been accepted.
- d. Hooligans:
 - i. They seem to get a buzz from being in a gang and fighting.
 - ii. There seem to be two groups: the older people in late 30s upwards and the younger people up to around 25 years old.

- iii. The gap could be because the rave culture was a suitable alternative “high” at the time.
 - iv. The older group would usually fight others who wanted a fight, “scarfers” or fans wearing colours could often walk through without any problem.
 - v. The younger group seem to have a “don’t care” attitude; the courts are too weak on them.
 - vi. Hooligans have been around for a very long time.
 - vii. There does not seem to be a “Pecking Order” as in the past.
- e. Coaches from York:
 - i. 2 coaches from York were met at Swavesey
 - ii. 35 police were used to ensure the different groups were kept apart.
 - iii. The club pay for 1 Commander and 5 officers.
 - iv. The hooligans seem to come out when the club is doing well.
- f. NRE:
 - i. Currently two groups:
 - 1. “silly buggers” at the back pushing around,
 - 2. A nasty group midway who have not been around lately.
 - ii. It is believed that the “nasty” group were involved in the trouble with the Rushden fans earlier in the season.
 - iii. Swearing and hand gestures could result in prosecution.
 - iv. New officers may not be so lenient in the future.
 - v. Trevor feels that gestures to the away fans at the other end of the ground are not a problem, however when the two groups are closer together then action has to be taken.
- g. Aldershot:
 - i. Their success on the pitch has not been matched off the pitch.
 - ii. Some Police are not trained to deal with football crowds.
 - iii. They had special Police trained to deal with Public Order issues.
 - iv. Trevor had received a phone call to tell him of the problems the away fans were having getting into the ground. He was able to pass the information on to his Aldershot counterpart who despatched officers to the turnstiles, and was surprised at only 1 turnstile being open and the large numbers waiting to get in. Another phone call got another gate opened.
 - v. Trevor always tries to get 4 senior officers on football duty at CUFC. The minimum number is 4, but usually there are 8.
 - vi. 2 officers will be going to the Ebbsfleet game.
- h. Other points:
 - i. There are no hooligan issues at Histon.
 - ii. Perhaps the ground regulations should be placed in more prominent positions, although it was noted that no-one bothers to read them.
 - iii. It was suggested that the 15/16/17 year olds (perhaps the Amber Army?) be asked to write their own “Code of Conduct”.
 - iv. The CCTV may focus more on the NRE, over the past few years the focus has been more on the away fans.
 - v. Cambs Police are always looking for full recovery of policing costs, Trevor has always tried to minimise the costs to the club.
 - vi. The energy of the younger fans should be channelled in a positive way.
 - vii. There have been some ground ejections, but not the same people.
 - viii. Northwich can hold around 5,000, and can segregate.
 - ix. When CUFC play Torquay at the Abbey, Newport are playing CCFC. Newport can sometimes be a problem.
 - x. Trevor has been in discussion with the Conference:
 - 1. The schedule is for play-off games to be played on the Tuesday after the end of the season.
 - 2. This gives very little time for organisation of resources.
 - 3. He has suggested that if CUFC and Histon are in the play-offs it is unlikely they games will be played on the same night if both are at home.
 - xi. Histon are learning from CUFC.
- i. Dave thanked Trevor for coming along, and suggested he come to meetings at around 6-monthly intervals.

6. Website

- a. Dave had spoken to Carolyn, the domain name issue was now resolved.
- b. It is hoped the website will be up soon.
- c. Permission to include CUFC photos was being sought.
- d. Ann Miles has some photos that may be suitable.

7. Newsletter (Anton)

- a. Had a partial draft newsletter that was nearing completion
- b. The first draft to be available by the end of the week. **Action: Anton**
- c. It is on track to be ready for the end of March.
- d. A second advertiser is required. **Action: All**

8. Membership (Mark)

- a. Is putting together a lot of data.
- b. Hopes to be able to present at the next meeting.
- c. Aims to launch at the end of the season, but before the play-offs.
- d. Follow up with Season Ticket sales, then at the start of the season, then at Christmas.
- e. Brian noted that the Early Purchase discount is to be offered for donation to Youth Development.
- f. A CFU application form may be put in the season ticket application letter.
- g. Dave reported that Eleanor is standing down as Membership Secretary by September to continue her studies at college, and thanked Eleanor for all her work over many years.
- h. A new Membership Secretary would be required; Mark offered to take on the role.
- i. Will suggested that there could be regular deals, perhaps part of the CFU membership fee could be donated to charity or special discounts could be gained by being a CFU member, and that regular press releases could inform people of the offers.

9. Amber Army (Will)

- a. Has met with Brian, and George to discuss Amber Army.
- b. The 16 to 21 year olds are a key area.
- c. Intended to be a retention scheme
- d. Can be a communication channel, with regular newsletters.
- e. Membership gives discounted entrance at the Abbey.
- f. Amber Army would be representing CUFC.
- g. Brian commented that such a group could give him a better cross reference of views.

10. Beer Festival (Robert)

- a. Has met with Mark and Phil Law, Phil is keen on a beer festival.
- b. Dates are Friday 11th, Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th April (home to Stafford Rangers on the Saturday).
- c. Use the Fans Bar with a fenced area outside.
- d. Fencing will have to be removed to allow parking at the game.
- e. 10 barrels on staging in the bar.
- f. Marstons have offered 6 barrels for the price of 3.
- g. The SAG have yet to agree to the event, there is a meeting next Thursday.
- h. A licence amendment may be required.
- i. Staffing and stewarding issues have to be sorted out.
- j. Possibly have a commemorative glass?
- k. The Fans Bar is due to be cleaned up soon.
- l. A hot water system is required for the sink.

11. AOB

Martin:

- a. Has been contacted by Ben Carpenter of the Abbey Building Society, asking if a mortgage referral system would be of interest.
- b. Dave replied that he has no problem with it, but would like it to tie in when the website is up.

Shane:

- a. Thanked whoever put the insert in the programme, and wrote an article in the programme for CRC, there has been an increase in the crowd for their last game.
- b. Dave said the leaflet had been done by Henry.

Gary:

- a. Suggested that Mark Squires do another media training session with people who were new to the club.
- b. Willy Wordsworth had a good article in the NLP.

Anton:

- a. The CRB workshop he was due to attend had been cancelled; another date would be set up soon.
- b. Brian, Dave, Jackie and Will had completed the CRB forms.
- c. Passed on thanks from his nephew Jordan following a recent programme interview.

Will:

- a. Latest SSI leaflet drop completed.
- b. System has been tweaked to allow 2 adults and up to 3 kids per application as it had been noticed that a number of regular fans were using free tickets.
- c. Some letters had been posted back without stamps which add to the costs.
- d. An application had been received asking for tickets for S. Fallon and J. Beck!

Dave:

- e. A Bounce Bounce family party was being planned at the FFH for 12th April

The meeting closed at 9:50pm.

Next Monthly Meeting: 7th April 2008.

Other planned meetings: 12th May, 2nd June, 7th July, 4th August, 6th October, 3rd November, 1st December 2008.