

Minutes of the CFU Monthly Meeting held on 3rd November 2008 at the Funky Funhouse, Mercers Row, Cambridge.

1. Attendees and Apologies

Present: Dave Matthew-Jones (in the chair), Gary Atyes, Derek Wick, Will Jones, Martin Jordan, Carol Looker, Carolyn Cater, Robert Osbourn, Mark Stuart-Wood, Terry Wilby (minutes).

Apologies: Brian Attmore (FD), Colin Proctor, Anton Thacker, Joy Childs,

Guest: John Bilboa

2. Minutes of the previous meeting.

- a. The minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2008 were taken as read and agreed. Terry thanked Robert for writing the minutes.

3. Financial:

- b. Around £16,600 in the Co-op bank and £250 in Paypal.
- c. Some fixture poster money is outstanding.
- d. Around £200 spent on Amber Army, bill for membership cards is outstanding.
- e. £1200 due for Abbey Youth DVDs.
- f. White lining on Coldhams Common bill has been paid, it seems the first bill was returned "address unknown".
- g. Derek may require some help with the Paypal account to accept credit/debit cards.

4. Membership:

- a. 319 current members and 73 lapsed.
- b. Will asked if the meeting minutes on the CFU website could be grouped together to make them easier to find. Carolyn agreed to contact the website designer.
Action: Carolyn
- c. Junior U's database will be moved to ITWM soon. This will make it easier to send newsletters by email, 2 newsletters a year will be sent by post. Dave will need help when it comes to mailings due to the quantity of letters to be sent out.

5. Fans Director report:

- a. Brian had to work and had phoned Dave earlier about Amber Army and Community Interest Company (CIC)

6. Amber Army:

- a. It was considered reasonable that Amber Army membership would include Associate membership to CFU, with no voting right. Membership could be upgraded to full membership by paying a further sum.
- b. Amber Army could have a representative on the Trust Board depending on the number of members.
- c. As a representative of Amber Army was not available any decision was put back to the next meeting.

7. AOB

- a. Terry:
 - i. Had paid the CCC Lottery License for 2009.
 - ii. Reported that Brian, Carol, Colin and Robert were due to retire from the Trust Board having served for 3 years
 - iii. Had attended the Supporters Direct conference with Dave and Anton:
 1. Other trusts have the same problems, such as the FD balancing the requirements of being a Club Director and confidentiality.

2. Dundee have around 4,000 members with no renewal, which creates a large customer base.
 3. Some Trust's FD brings back issues to the Trust Board for decision before reporting back to the club, others like CFU allow the FD to make the decision on his own.
 4. Most clubs want to increase their shareholding, Sheffield Wednesday Trust are about to sell much of their shareholding.
 5. Some Trusts have a "Golden Share" so the Trust cannot be excluded.
 6. At some Trusts the FD invites, or has a draw for members to join him in the Boardroom or as matchday guests.
 7. Swansea Trust Board elect the FD, the Trust Board members elected by the fans. Brentford used to have an election, now the FD is appointed.
 8. Trusts are often associated with a club in trouble rather than being for the greater good of the club. Trusts have to bring solutions, not "throw bricks".
 9. Swansea arrange bi-annual Sportsman dinners, the club do nothing but give access to players. This makes around £10k profit.
 10. SD had commissioned a survey on Trust members, the full results were to be sent out to Trusts soon. Facebook and Bebo could be used to attract younger members. Local paper was main source of information for fans, biggest complaints were lack of communication and poor website.
- b. Gary:
- i. Was surprised that Brian's piece in the match programme was written more as Vice-Chairman, and not as Fans Director. It is believed there will soon be a separate Fans Director section in the programme.
 - ii. Is helping arrange a "Bounce Bounce Boogie Night" dance/disco to be held at FFH on 27th November 2008. There will be a bar, and 300 tickets are available, target is to raise £1000.
 - iii. Has nominated Will in the Radio Cambs "Services to Sport" for starting Junior U's, SSI etc, Will has been shortlisted.
- c. Justyn:
- i. Beer Festival planning has started, a replacement for Phil Law is required, Carl (barman at CUFC) may be interested in helping.
 - ii. Possibly have the theme "Blue Square Beers"
 - iii. Possible date is weekend of 4th April 2009 (FGR game).
 - iv. Justyn, Mark and Robert agreed to continue organising the event.
- d. Martin:
- i. Smile is going well. A Young Carers group will be attending the Ebbsfleet game. There may be a problem if CUFC have a Cup game as CUFC cannot give out many free tickets due to FA rules. It was agreed that CFU would pay for the tickets if required.
 - ii. Possibly have an article in the programme about those who attended the previous match, Matt Gooding may be able to take photos and write a piece.
- e. John:
- i. Lottery meeting on Thursday 6th November in the Supporters Club, Norman will come if available.
- f. Will:
- i. CFU Poker tournament, 1pm on 9th November in the Harris. £15 buy in. May become a regular event.
 - ii. CUFC Calendar: Now going to print, possibly the best yet. May have a launch in Grafton Centre, or Grand Arcade.
 - iii. Last seasons DVD reduced to £7.50.
 - iv. Community Bible: 8 page brochure about CFU.
 - v. CFU raffle going ahead, little conflict with CUFC raffle.

- vi. CRC: Shane is having financial problems such as paying referees fees, CRC do not have any financial system or bank account. It was proposed that CFU donate a sum to CRC (perhaps to cover referees costs) when CRC have a financial system set up.
- vii. Trevor George had offered to attend a meeting every 6 months, he would be invited to the next meeting.
- viii. Heroes: 559 had attended the game with no impact on the days take. Sooty had used his network to distribute tickets. Fixture cards were given out.
- ix. Local language schools have linked with CUFC to offer group tiered discounted tickets, which is new revenue for the club.
- g. Mark:
 - i. Showed a Glasgow Rangers boxed DVD set. A fan pays £40 in advance then receives a DVD of 8 games about 1 once a month to build to a 10 disc set at the end of the season. To have a proper cameraman and system costs around £250 per match. Will commented that Richard French is already working on an end of season DVD, Richard may be invited to the next meeting.
- h. Dave:
 - i. CFU sponsorship of Greg Reid: Macron will put a suitable CFU logo on his bag.
 - ii. Carl is the new bar manager at CUFC and is keen to work with CFU, and has offered Harris Suite for New Years party.
 - iii. Paul Mayes has also offered CFU use of the Supporters Club, possibly for live bands.
 - iv. Supporters Direct Conference:
 - 1. Was more interactive than in the past, Anton, Terry and Dave had attended different sessions.
 - 2. At Stockport the trust appoint Board members with little input from the fans.
 - 3. Exeter Trust have membership for life, so no lapsed members.
 - 4. The value of a football club to the Community is high, grants are available for social accounting (for example getting a child off the street and into football gets a good score). Cambs CC and CCC are keen to be involved with Amber Army.
 - 5. Other trusts were interested in Junior U's and Amber Army.
 - 6. SD are keen to help CFU with Community Interest Company, and will be attending a meeting with solicitors at the end of November. Eastbourne are now a CIC, which should lock in the assets.
 - 7. SD often use CFU as a template for setting up other trusts, CFU are seen as "leading lights".
 - 8. Ebbsfleet trust had been poorly treated by their club when MyFootballClub took over the club. The Trust used to run the club shop but had been kicked out when the shop was passed to Nike, and forced to sell from table outside.

Meeting closed at 9.37 pm

Next Monthly Meeting: 1st December 2008

Other planned meetings: 5th January 2009.