

Minutes of the CFU Monthly Meeting held on 4th February 2008 at the Funky Fun House, Mercers Row, Cambridge.

1. Attendees and Apologies.

Present:

Dave Matthew-Jones (Chair),
Gary Aytes
Robert Osbourn,
Will Jones,
Derek Wick (Treasurer),

Brian Attmore,
Colin Proctor,
Shane Kind,
Carol Looker
Terry Wilby (Minutes).

Anton Thacker,
Mark Stuart-Wood.
Joy Childs,
Carolyn Cater,

Apologies:

Martin Jordan, Justyn Medd,
Guest: Jez Daniels

2. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising.

a. The minutes of the January meeting were taken as read.

b. Actions:

- i. 3. December minutes had been sent out OK, as had January minutes.
- ii. 4.c.v. Joy had sent out the revised documents.
- iii. 5.h. Advertisers were still required for the March Newsletter.
- iv. 5.n. The phone was sorted OK.
- v. 6.a. Dave had sent the email.
- vi. 9.a. Brian had confirmed attendees.
- vii. 9.n. Carol was getting the raffle figures together.

3. AGM Minutes.

a. The AGM minutes previously sent out were OK.

b. Dave thanked Terry and Derek for their hard work at the AGM.

4. Financial. (Derek)

- a. CFU have given £10k to CUFC for the Promotion fund (which will be exchanged for shares). **Action: Ask CUFC for share certificate**
- b. There is ~£9k remaining,
- c. ~£1k of outstanding bills (such as AGM expenses, Accountancy costs and other minor costs).
- d. There are a few Aldershot/Stevenage DVDs available, profit was ~£1700.

5. Presentation by Jez Daniels.

- a. Jez is in charge of the Cambridge United Learning Centre
- b. Jez wants to work closer together, to make stronger links between Fans, Youth team and CFU.
- c. There are 155 Learning centres around the country, most are associated with a sporting group.
- d. It is funded by DCSF, LEA, Football Foundation, CUFC.
- e. CUFC contribute by giving the space for the facility, stadium tours, access to players and tickets for the students.
- f. The refurbishment of the toilets in the Harris were paid for by the Learning Centre buying paint etc, volunteers doing the work.
- g. Key objectives:
 - i. To improve literacy, numeracy and ICT skills,
 - ii. Encourage independent learning,
 - iii. Improve motivation to learn,
 - iv. Develop self esteem and confidence,
 - v. Develop new skills.
- h. Activities:
 - i. Ground tour,
 - ii. Healthy eating,
 - iii. Anti racism,
 - iv. Player interviews,
 - v. Club shop activities.
- i. Academic year 2006-7:

- i. 137 students from 9 primary schools,
 - ii. 96 students from 7 secondary schools,
 - iii. 32 students from 1 special school.
- j. Sessions:
 - i. Take place after school on weekdays,
 - ii. Last for 3 hours,
 - iii. CRB checked adult attend for the 6 week period.
- k. Nearest other Learning Centre is at Newmarket Stud, where Ipswich Town have a link, although it does not seem to be a very strong link.
- l. Jez would like to develop day time programmes.
- m. They are going to purchase 4 outdoor notice boards for around the ground, CFU and FITC can contribute articles for the notice boards.
- n. Students are encouraged to join Junior U's.
- o. They would like to produce some T-shirts (Lui Notarnicola may assist?).
- p. Ridgeons sponsor and supply staff to act as mentors to student.
- q. What can CFU do?
 - i. Be aware of what the Learning Centre does.
 - ii. Get links to schools. (Programme is fully booked at the moment, but new schools will be welcomed).
 - iii. Tie in projects together.
- r. Playing for success works better in a smaller club, players are more available.
- s. FFH may host "Family days" on a Saturday, some football coaching, ground tour, quiz then watch a game.
- t. There is a database of students that may be useful.
- u. Macdonalds may be interested in some sponsorship; there is a new franchisee at the Newmarket Road branch.
- v. Contact details:
 - i. 01223 240191
 - ii. jez.daniel.pfs@cambridge-united.co.uk

6. Website: (Carolyn)

- a. Due to go live in the next couple of weeks.
- b. Domain Name information has come from Jamie Dyer.
- c. 3 or 4 people will be have permission to update the website.
- d. A solid framework needs to be in place before any pages are uploaded.

7. Newsletter: (Anton)

- a. Aim is to send out in March.
- b. Aim for one every 3 months.
- c. There were some problems with the generic format that have been overcome.
- d. Article required from Fans Director, **Action: Brian**
- e. Article required on SSI. **Action: Will**

8. Fans Director report: (Brian)

- a. The last couple of weeks had been interesting!
- b. The Board are aware of where they are and where they go forward.
- c. Now have 5 Board members, Phil, George and Brian are UK based, they talk to the USA based Paul and Adrian daily.
- d. Phil is the Chairman.
- e. George deals with the playing side:
 - i. A deal for Scott Rendell was close, but was messed up by his agent.
 - ii. No concrete offers for Michael Morrison, his agent could ruin his career.
- f. The Board are not actively seeking more members, but if someone with money, or the right skills comes along they would be interested, but there is no rush.
- g. There were issues when CUFC played at Stevenage and Histon where home fans were charged less than away fans, which is not allowed in the Football League, but is allowed in the Conference. Brian was against charging their fans more to come to the Abbey, and did not want "tit for tat". He was pleased his view was taken by the Board.
- h. Last Wednesday Phil and Brian visited the new Colchester United Stadium with Steven Clarke, as guests of the construction company.

- i. Steven Clarke is involved with the adjacent construction.
- ii. Brian looked at access and location.
- iii. Site is next to the A12.
- iv. Currently the site has only 1 road in and out.
- v. The site is also for park & Ride, and will have just fewer than 1000 car parking spaces.
- vi. The Council have paid for the Stadium.
- vii. Changes were allowed after the contract was signed which will probably mean extra costs.
- viii. It can accommodate 10,000 fans; the Main stand is heated with stands on the other 3 sides.
- ix. The corners can be filled in at a later date to take the capacity up to 13,000.
- x. The only Community area is a study centre.
- xi. There is the possibility of a library, and 2 units are available.
- i. CUFC have written to Cambridge Horizons with reasons to move from the Abbey.
- j. A "Top 30" shareholders list at the time of the AGM was handed out, CFU are 3rd with 12.76%.
- k. An agent was used to set up the Marstons brewery deal, the agent gets 10%.
- l. Dave had received an email from Phil, in it he suggested he meet with CFU in the near future.

9. Membership: (Mark)

- a. Outlined his approach:
 - i. Retain the existing members,
 - ii. Find out why lapsed members had not renewed (produce a questionnaire),
 - iii. Produce a pack for new members.
- b. Need to confirm what CFU has done in the last year.
- c. Any suggestions to Mark.
- d. The new website will help.
- e. Possibly email members more often, possibly use Constant Contact?
- f. Under 16's are to be taken off the CFU member's database and moved to the Junior U's.
- g. When a Junior U reaches 16 years old they will be invited to join CFU, possibly as a student
- h. Mark to update Committee by 20th February. **Action: Mark.**

10. AOB

- a. Anton:
 - i. Is CRB checked, Brian, Will and Carol are all to be CRB checked as they have (or will have) contact with children.
 - ii. Has been invited to a CRB workshop at Cambs FA.
- b. Carol:
 - i. As Easter is early this year there is not enough time to do an Easter Raffle, an end of season raffle is being considered.
- c. Joy:
 - i. Has met 5 people at CUFC and written Job Descriptions, another 4 are due shortly.
 - ii. The Job Descriptions will be reviewed by the individuals before going to George.
 - iii. Brian reminded everyone that this information is CONFIDENTIAL.
 - iv. Has been unable to set up a distribution system in Ruanda for football shirts, it is impractical when so far away.
 - v. Joy intends going to Ruanda late summer, and will try to set something up then.
 - vi. Sometimes airlines will allow excess baggage if it is booked in advance and Joy would like to take some CUFC shirts.
- d. Carolyn:
 - i. Is starting to think about the Youth Tournament, and is checking the database of names.
 - ii. Is soon to get a signed photo of Scott Rendell scoring at Wolves to sell.
- e. Mark:

- i. Commented that Farsley Celtic and Droylsden are not very well supported, and it would be good if there could be discounted travel for U's fans to get to their grounds when CUFC play them.
- f. Robert:
 - i. Had written to Malcolm Taylor, the Chair of SAG, with comments on the recent games at Histon, raising 7 issues.
 - ii. A reply had been received which agreed with the points, and that some had already been attended to and others were in hand.
 - iii. It was not clear if the Histon ground had actually been approved for League use.
 - iv. The Fans Bar could be used with Temporary Event Notices; an application to vary the Main licence had been submitted.
 - v. The Police had objected on the last day, which gave very little time to respond.
 - vi. The objections were:
 - 1. No drinks to be allowed outside of the Bar
 - 2. Stewarding
 - 3. Membership scheme
 - vii. There may be a problem with the Stevenage match if the matters are not resolved.
- g. Gary:
 - i. Junior U's day was a great success, especially getting some of the NRE singers in the South Stand, there was no swearing and the kids joined in with the songs.
 - ii. In the media CUFC seem to get a lot of negative press. CFU and CUFC should build bridges and influence the media in a positive way.
- h. Dave:
 - i. The March meeting is to be an open meeting, and Trevor George has agreed to attend.
 - ii. It was suggested that Ian Darler also be invited, there may be questions he would be able to give the true answer to.
 - iii. The meeting will be publicised in the usual media channels.
 - iv. FFH will require a rough idea of the numbers expected to attend. **Action: Terry to contact Susie.**
 - v. Ben Yelton had contacted Dave, asking if CFU would make a donation to Abbey United for their sponsorship of Lee Boylan.
 - vi. Abbey United is the current name of the fans team, formerly called Moosenet.
 - vii. It was agreed that a donation would not be made, if CFU wanted to pay to sponsor a player it would be done in their name.
 - viii. Abbey United would be offered the chance to sell raffle tickets to raise funds.
- i. Brian:
 - i. The special phone for the Fans Director is no longer operational; contact can be made via the CFU number.
 - ii. The email address is still valid.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm.

Next Monthly Meeting: 3rd March 2008.