

Minutes of the CFU Monthly Meeting held on 6th September 2006 at the Cambridge Joint Ex-Services Club, Barnwell Drive, Cambridge.

1) Attendees & Apologies

Present:

Dave Matthew-Jones (Chair),	Brian Attmore,	Anton Thacker,
Lorna Morley-Medd	Robert Osbourn,	Colin Proctor,
Martin Jordan,	Justyn Medd,	Andrew Lang,
Carol Looker,	Carolyn Cater,	Terry Wilby (Minutes)

Apologies: Derek Wick (Treasurer), Ben Yelton, Jon Keane.

Guests: Ben Phillips, Martin Chapman, Phil Law.

Dave congratulated Ben on his recent marriage to Clare.

2) Last months Minutes/Matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read

3) Financial & Membership

Derek was ill, there was no financial information available.

- Dave asked that any income from the recent Adult and Youth Tournaments be paid as soon as possible.
- Information to change cheque signatories was now available and forms for completion were passed to Justyn, Martin and Terry. **Action: Justyn, Martin, Terry.**
- At the Youth Tournament there had been an accident where the hired van being driven by Justyn hit another car, causing damage to the value of £1700. The insurance excess was £500, it was agreed that CFU would pay the excess.
- The £20k loan to CUFC would probably be converted to shares at some time in the future. At a recent CUFC Board meeting Brian had suggested to the Board that CFU might be able to contribute around £25k per annum, the £20k would form part of that contribution. This possible contribution will be discussed further at a later date.

4) Membership

Dave reported on behalf of Eleanor:

- Current membership is around 470, there have been a number of new joiners although there had been a lot who had not renewed.

Robert reported on the new questionnaire:

- It was based on the questionnaire of a few years ago, it was felt that an incentive to complete the questionnaire was a good idea, Colin offered 2 tickets tickets to the VP club as a prize.
- The questionnaire would be distributed at the Stevenage game, with the date for return being the Crawley game.

- Using a printing company was considered, it was felt that photocopying would be more suitable. Justyn agreed to do the photocopying when Robert sent the electronic data. **Action: Robert, Justyn.**

There had been a good response from people who ticked the CFU box on season ticket applications, the money was still to be sorted out.

5) Supporters Direct

Terry had received some documents from Supporters Direct that needed consideration of the Committee:

TSD were holding a ballot to change a number of their rules. Terry felt that these rules were mainly “technical”, such as wording changes to make meanings clearer. Brian added that at last years SD AGM it had been agreed to update the Rules of Conduct to give a better guideline and structure for trusts. He felt there was no reason to vote against, this was agreed by all. Terry commented that the ballot return date was 5pm Thursday, 7th September, so he would fax the ballot paper on Thursday. **Action: Terry.**

Terry also had received the share certificate from SD, however it was for “Call to Arms”, not CFU. He had contacted SD and another share certificate was to be sent.

6) Events

Dave thanked those who had helped at the Adult, Youth tournaments and Golf day, esecially Carolyn and Andy for the Youth and Anton for the Adult tournament.

Golf Day:

- The Golf Day had less teams than in the past, this could be because the date was a Bank Holiday weekend.
- Approximately £250 profit had been made.
- The sponsors had supplied a number of shoe bags with CUFC logo, the remaining bags were available to buy at £9.99.

Youth Tournament

Financial figures were not yet available for either tournament.

- The amount of food sold at the Youth tournament was way down on the previous year. It was noticed from rubbish left on Coldhams Common that many people had bought sandwiches etc. from supermarkets.
- The number of teams participating was much the same as last year.
- One of the U10 team managers was not very happy with the decisions of a referee (one of the scholars), other independent views of the apparent incident suggested it was not that bad a decision.
- A referee reported a wrong result which caused a team to wrongly be presented as runners up, the error was corrected and the right team got the medals.
- The team that came from Eastbourne had enjoyed the day, their organiser (a CUFC fan) had offered the use of goalposts and generators for future events.

Adult Tournament:

- 2 teams dropped out very late, one team was able to inform Anton, the other didn't. A refund was being arranged for the team that had contacted Anton, it was felt that in future a non-returnable deposit should be required.
- 12 teams played in 2 groups of 6.
- Anton would like to invite the winners to a CUFC game.

- Because of the late finish (which meant the staff at the Abbey Pool had to stay a little later to lock the gates) it would be better to start the tournament at 11AM instead of 12noon.

Both tournaments had a good team of volunteers. A timeline of tasks would be generated, this would help others organising similar events.

Jez George wants to be more involved with the event next year.

Terry felt that it looked a little un-professional not to have St.Johns Ambulance in attendance. There were a number of suitably trained First Aid people at the tournaments, however they were doing other tasks and were not readily identifiable as First Aiders.

7) Fans Director

Brian:

- Brian reported that the decision to sack Rob Newman and Tony Spearing immediately after the Exeter had been taken to make sure it was out in the open for as long as possible, which would allow more people to know of the vacancy.
- CUFC had received a number of CV's, many were from people who had good coaching qualifications. The Board would not pursue people who were not suitable. To pursue a possible candidate who was already employed would mean approaching that persons club for permission to talk to him, Brian felt that any manager who was interested in CUFC would have applied anyway.
- Lee Power had stepped in as Manager being helped by Chris Turner. Keith Curle was at the last game in a scouting capacity.
- The process was to shortlist those worth pursuing, someone who knows the Conference and League 2 and has a record at that level. Phil has a criteria list with around 16 points, a candidate able to tick 11 to 12 would be a good possibility.
- A new manager may want to bring in an assistant/coach, this would be considered. It was felt that Rob and Tony were too alike, and that a Manager/Coach team with a "hard" and "soft" man might be better.
- In previous training sessions the players had to play games with no physical contact. This week Chris Turner encouraged players to "get stuck in". He said that football was a simple game played by simple players. Training had been changed, with 2 sessions on Tuesday, but allowing the players a day of off Wednesday.
- The players had asked to see the Board to get Rob and Tony re-instated.
- John Howard had tried to contact Lee, there was nothing further to report on any buy back.
- CUFC were taking back responsibility for Harris Suite bookings by mutual agreement.
- It was rumoured that Chris Whitehall was moving his family stand sponsorship to Histon.

Phil:

Phil was looking at the terms of the Abbey Buy-back:

- There was a lot of legal jargon, Phil was being helped by Simon Turner.
- He would assess the options, and the best time to exercise the options.

- To Exercise the option would mean a shortfall of between £0.5 and £1.5 million, plus whatever was needed for the actual buy-back.
- Securing the ground would mean no rent would be required.
- Phil hoped that Paul Barry and Johnny Hon might put up the money.
- Planning permission had been granted for a hotel at the NRE, he was looking at options such as replacing the hotel with student accommodation.
- There was always the possibility that the NRE could be developed, then the situation could change and CUFC move from the Abbey and the whole area then be re-developed.
- Apparently the Milton option was still progressing, if CUFC own the Abbey it would put the club in a stronger position.

8) CFU Youth

Dave asked that representatives of CFU Youth attend the monthly meetings, and that any financial information (such as money raised) be passed to Derek to be included in CFU Financial accounts.

Ben:

- Apologised that Claire who had the financial information was not present.
- 3 events organised so far (Ipswich shirt raffle, Man in the Moon music gig, raffle with many prizes).
- The first 2 events had raised £350. This had already been handed to Jez with £260 raised by a raffle in the VP club by Colin to buy new beds for the houses in Milton where the Scholars lodge.
- The raffle at the Exeter game had raised £220.
- An on-line auction was being planned for October.

9) South Stand initiative

- A few months ago Nick had contacted Mark Saywell and Will Jones and started the South Stand initiative, to make better use of the South Stand on matchdays. Ideally the South Stand would contain a lot of local supporters, with visiting fans being housed in the South Habbin.
- Extra matchday costs would occur, between £300 and £500 for extra stewards, tea bar staff etc. which would be borne by sponsorship of each event. CFU had been asked to contribute this money, however Dave wanted a breakdown of what it would cover.
- (Phil was doing an on-going analysis of matchday costs, CUFC pay ~£900 per match, Dagenham ~£150. The Safety Advisory Group suggest numbers for adequate medical provision, steward numbers and police cover).
- The first event was to offer up to 6 free tickets to households in the Abbey Ward for the Crawley game, tickets would have to be pre-booked. A half price voucher for a future game would also be offered to those taking up the offer, this would enable the club to monitor take up.
- Other areas would be targeted with tickets for the Burton, Southport and Tamworth games.
- Hopefully this would encourage new supporters who would probably buy a programme, food and other merchandise, possibly join CFU.
- Jez was considering a similar exercise for the Gray and Gravesend matches, with possibly a tour of the ground.
- Leaflets for the Crawley game on 14th October are being printed by Nightingales for delivery on 8th September, on 10th September they will be

hand delivered in the Abbey ward. 6th October is the cut-off date for applications, on 9th October the applicants will be contacted, tickets will be delivered by hand on 13th October

- Phil commented that the Board are very supportive of this initiative, and hope for a decent response.

10) Phil Law Q & A session.

- When he was asked to join the Board he had no idea what he was taking on.
- It was a big thrill, he had been a supporter since 1969 although not able to go to as many games in the last few years.
- He has worked with kids clubs in Waterbeach and Milton, and in some ways he felt these clubs were better organised than CUFC in that many of the parents were professional people and made their expertise available to that club.
- There were a good core of people at CUFC to make a solid foundation, and now the board were now all pulling in the same direction which was very positive.
- The poor start on the pitch was not expected!
- Future plans:
 - Generate a 3 year plan,
 - Objectives for the new manager,
 - Reduce the £200/300K a year deficit.
- He felt around £150k a year commercial income was not being exercised, he hoped to realised around £40/50k this season
- His role is Ground Utilisation/Health & Safety, although that has only been around 10% of his work at the club so far.
- Brian and Phil are the only Directors who are locals.
- He felt staff moral was low, and it would take time to speak to all the staff.
- He had a lot of friends and other contacts he could call upon for help
- Nick is continuing with the Financial information while he works the 4 weeks notice period, a new part time bookkeeper is being taken on.
- The front of the ground is a mess!
- Eurocar will rent some space, possibly a car valet company too.
- Options might be to remove the existing portacabins, flatten the area then erect 2 storey portacabins at the rear of the area for office and shop use.
- Possibly a bookmaker might be interested in renting premises, and a taxi company.
- It was rumoured that the Supporters Club had a planning application for a pub turned down.
- He hoped the Harris Suite/Ruston Room would be used for Christmas parties and other functions.
- All changes have to be approved by the landlord.
- The Study Support Centre has attracted interest from national companies to use as a training base.
- A new brewery sponsor for the Harris Suite is being sought.
- He would welcome any ideas, and can be contacted at:
philip.law3@btopenworld.com

11) AOB

Lorna: Thanked the people who helped with the cooking at the tournaments

Anton: Chariots of Fire event is on 24th September, a 1.7km run (walk?) for teams of 6 people. Thanked those who helped at the Adult Tournament.

Carolyn: Thanked those who helped at the Youth Tournament.

Carol: Quiz night on 26th September with Jez, Race night on 14th October with Jez. This will allow players parents to attend and contribute to the club. CFU/Away Travel player sponsorship will move to Michael Gash as Josh Simpson had another sponsor.

Terry: Xmas 5-a-side tournament provisionally for Thursday 28th December.

Dave: CRC will be producing fixture lists posters and had asked if CFU would be a sponsor, which was agreed. Wayne Purser found bagging of coins time consuming and had asked if CFU would consider purchasing a sorting machine. Dave had asked Wayne to find out prices.

The meeting closed at 9:25pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

The next regular monthly meeting scheduled for Wednesday 4th October 2006 at the Cambridge Joint Ex-Services Club.