

Minutes of CFU Committee Meeting held on 7th July 2004 at the Golden Hind, Cambridge

Present : Heather Wilkanowski(Chair)
Derek Wick
Ben Yelton
Justyn Medd
Brian Attmore
Martin Jordan
Barry Eley
Lionel Webb (Secretary)
Jamie Dyer
Lorna Morley - Waldron

1 Apologies for Absence

Received from Mark, Dave, Terry, Carol, Will and Andrew.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (2nd June 2004)

Accepted as an accurate record.

3. Finances

Derek had, as always, circulated the financials to the committee. Highlights were read out to the meeting, £927 of membership income during June, plus £27 from recycling, plus £32.50 from programmes. Against these Revenue items, we paid out £75 in prediction competition prizes. We still have £4,190 in cash/bank/PayPal accounts.

4. Membership

Mark had reported to the previous meeting that membership stood at 445, so 20 more members had dropped out since the previous meeting.

Mark had been congratulated for all his hard work on taking over the Membership Secretary role, getting the database set up to suit, and for preparing and mailing the newsletter to all members.

Mark had also prepared a letter to the 140 lapsed members and this was sent out, with a newsletter, on 6th May.

However, there have been reports from members that they have not been contacted, eg Chris Smith, Long Road, where there are 5 CFU members. There are other examples of members/lapsed members not having heard from us.

Martin reported on a meeting which the Membership Group had had and it is clear the various tasks need to be broken down and shared, so as to sustain and grow membership. It had been agreed, for instance, that Martin will look after youngsters/students. We could find out who are the favourite players and get a birthday card sent. It was also felt that we should have an event, aimed at lapsed members and converting members to DD., possibly a session after a home game? Heather had spoken to Paul Mayes about this and it would be difficult, with everything else going on in CUSC on match-days.

It is a general concern that we have a problem with membership and our response to members, for whatever reason, but we must hold a meeting a.s.a.p. to agree an action plan. Jamie is happy to participate.

ACTION: Heather to arrange Membership meeting w/c 19th July, with as many committee members as possible.

5. Communications

The target for the next CFU Newsletter is early August. Does anyone have info to contribute?

- Groove Armada gig
- Youth Tournament/Adults Tournament
- Prediction Competition (Ben volunteered to take this on)
- Newsletter needed by start of season, by 4th Aug, in fact, for our open meeting

ACTION: Ben to liaise with Nick on production of newsletter.

ACTION: Barry to send copy of Youth Tournament form to Ben.

Justyn offered to print the newsletter, A3 folded to A4, 4 pages, colour outside, B&W inside, 500 copies, for £100, unanimously accepted!

We are keeping up good contact with CEN, who will run a feature on the Youth Tournament shortly. This is an event they are keen to be involved in.

Heather suggested that Lionel's friend, Martine Betton, could do a translation into French of what CFU is about for Herve Renard and Claude leRoi.

ACTION: Heather to provide transcript for Lionel to arrange translation.

6. Events

6.1 Fixture Lists

Dave and his team continue to work hard on this important money-spinner and a major breakthrough has been achieved. We may be able to get a few more customers each year but the key thing is to drive down our costs. Dave has done a deal with CEN whereby they take the 4 spaces below the team picture on all posters that we get done, in return for which, they will print the posters FOC. Brilliant.

6.2 Youth Tournament

We are well ahead this year, all the forms were mailed and we are getting plenty of good response. It has been declared that there will be no under 11, 11 a side tourney this year but Heather will keep the possibility up her sleeve. We had no response last time from Whizz Kids and Blind Sports to our donations and we should look at other beneficiaries.

It was agreed that we should again use Barkers' rolls since they are such good quality.

It was reported that Sooty could get access to vehicles, in addition to his role as MC on the day. Could he perhaps get something to move the goalposts around?

Ben reported that there are 16 places for the Adults Tourney, of which 13 had been taken up, so going well.

ACTION: All to consider beneficiaries for the Youth Tournament proceeds.

ACTION: Justyn to investigate using gas urn for hot drinks (done).

ACTION: Brian to arrange Sainsbury's chiller van (done).

ACTION: Ben offered to make a list of all requirements for tournaments.

ACTION: Heather to contact Sooty about vehicles.

6.3 Golf Tournament

Many thanks to Eleanor who, in spite of her commitments, has arranged the next CFU golf day. It will be on Friday 3rd September, at Abbotsley main course, tee-offs from 12.30. The cost is £37.50, to include Coffee and sandwiches on arrival, 18 holes of golf, followed by a buffet meal and presentation of prizes. It was reported that Paul Mayes should be fielding 2 teams, Barry Eley will have one or two and Lionel is confident of getting at least one team together.

7. CFU 5th AGM

Heather and Brian had been exchanging emails about the timing of our next AGM. There is a general feeling that we ought not to go for a February date, as in the past, we should try to fit ours in before the club AGM. The club are expected to hold theirs on the last Monday in January = 31st. The club issue their agenda 4 weeks in advance so we would know what's coming when we have ours. We should be about 2 weeks before them, so it was agreed that our target should be 17th Jan. We also agreed on CUSC as the best location.

ACTION: Lionel to check with Paul Mayes.

ACTION: Ben to liaise with Nick about reporting in the newsletter about bringing our AGM forward.

8. Other Business

8.1 CUSA Minutes

The last minutes said that Graham Whiting's idea to have CUSA operating as a CFU sub-committee dealing with matchday matters had brought no response from Brian so they assume that they carry on as before. If CUSA have such a proposal to make, it has to come to the CFU Committee to discuss.

ACTION: Heather to write to CUSA.

8.2 Programme Website

In his email of 5th July, Martin reported that Neil Blaber is progressing well with the new programmes website and he believes that it could be expanded to sell books and videos. This was agreed and Martin will progress with Ben, who is investigating match DVDs. Ben reported that these could be made, with cover and shrinkwrap, at a cost of £6.

ACTION: Martin/Ben to progress.

8.3 2005 Calendar

It has always been a wish to use action pics and Heather has obtained permission from the Football League to do this for next year's calendar, good news indeed. It was Derek Johnson, Photographic Licencing Manager at the FL who gave the approval.

8.4 Youth Development

Heather has been contacted by YD, thanking us for our support of Darren Quinton and asking whether we would like to sponsor him again. All agreed.

ACTION: Heather to progress.

9. Fans Director Report

Brian gave feedback from the club's board meeting. Finances are still very tight, they continue to lose £10,000 a week, they have hit their overdraft limit, but have obtained an increase. The possible investment by Messrs Friedman, Baker and others has not materialised, so they have had a whip-round to get through July.

The NRE redevelopment is at 'intent to tender' stage and it would take a further two weeks to get everything ready. The club will go back to the interested parties, now that Planning Permission has been granted. The club

would build the hotel and restaurant and will franchise them out. The Football Foundation originally granted the club £2 million to develop 2 ends. The club used £1 million for the South Stand, so the balance will be available for NRE. However, it seems that some other clubs, in similar situations, have obtained £2 million for one end so there is hope that CU will get the same. It appears that the FF grants are for funding stadium costs so not all of the redevelopment plans would be included.

10. Next Meetings

- Wed 7th July
- Wed 4th August (designated as an Open Meeting)
- Wed 1st September
- Wed 13th October
- Wed 3rd November
- Wed 1st December

ACTION: Dave to publicise the August meeting.

