

Minutes of CFU Meeting held on 11th February 2004 at the Golden Hind, Cambridge

Present : Heather Wilkanowski(Chair)
Barry Eley
Justyn Medd
Brian Attmore
Dave Matthews-Jones
Terry Wilby
Carol Looker
Derek Wick
Martin Jordan
Ben Yelton
Mark Saywell
Lionel Webb (Secretary)

Apologies : Eleanor Wick
Nick Pomery

2. Matters Arising from Bridge the Gap

2.1 Aspects to continue into 2004

The committee were unanimous that the Sponsor-a-Seat scheme should continue to be promoted in our publicity.

The T-shirts have sold well, over £900 so far and will become a standard item.

The 'HelpCFU' website should be maintained and developed further.

Action: Dave will liaise with Peter Stearn and John Keane on website management.

2.2 Thank-you letters

Nick has compiled a list, which had been circulated for comment.

Action: Nick to prepare and send letters, with the exception of those involved in the sponsored events, to whom Ben volunteered to write.

2.3 Seat Stickers

Barry reported that he will visit the supplier in Lincoln w/c 12th Jan and will then get a team together to install them. Karen Hinkins has done a terrific job to build the database to create the name labels. Records for 750 seat sponsors had been entered and Karen has been passed almost all of the forms and emails to complete the project. There are 1300 seats to be done. It was agreed that in publicity, we should say that installation should commence by end-January and that it will take a few weeks to complete.

2.4 Active Helpers List

Clearly, we have had a lot of extra help, outside the usual committee volunteers and we should not lose track of them.

Action: Dave agreed to compile the list.

3) Election of Fans' Director

3.1 Method/ Candidates

The responsibilities are seen as threefold:-

- Liaising with other groups
- Participating in Board meetings
- Communicating with the media

It was agreed that the elected candidate should stand for one year, subject to review.

It is clear that the Fans' Director will need help with this new role with its additional requirements. A support group will need to be set up. Martin is keen to be involved and it was clear from views expressed that there should be no lack of support.

For a variety of reasons, there are not going to be many candidates for Fans' Director. It is in CFU's Constitution that " Any Trust representative seeking election to the Board of Directors of CUFC must have served a minimum of two full years as a current Executive Committee member or officer of the the Trust ".

This rule is recommended by the central body Supporters Direct to ensure that all candidates have shown the appropriate commitment to the club and fans before standing.

Lionel circulated a table showing the committee members as at CFU Launch, 1st, 2nd and 3rd AGMs. This shows that Nick, Brian, Dave, Lionel, Derek, Barry, Heather Justyn and Martin are eligible to stand. Of this group, Brian and Justyn said that they would not confirm their interest to stand there and then but they will consider standing and let their feelings be known. Martin is comfortable to stand, in order to give a choice of candidates, if either Brian or Justyn decide against. Since it is possible that we might not be able to field

two candidates, it was proposed that Jamie Dyer, who has the experience and may be interested to stand, should be co-opted to the committee. The committee has vacancies arising from the resignations of Alan Clarke and Graham Whiting. Co-opting Jamie Dyer onto the committee was a formal motion, proposed By Nick Pomery, seconded by Mark Saywell.

Action: Nick to discuss with Jamie.

TIMING

- It should be our target to send out ballot papers on 24th January.

The Fans' Director would be expected to speak on behalf of all supporters' groups and it should be possible to have some rationalisation, with the exception of the outlying groups.

Action: Heather/ Justyn to discuss structures regarding other supporters' groups.

Action: Brian will ask Supporters Direct about the possibility of financial help with our election.

3.2 Membership

There was considerable debate about the possibility of reducing membership to £10, in order to attract new members. There were only two committee members in favour and so the basic level will remain at £20pa, with concessions staying at the same levels. Graham Whiting, who has led the membership team hitherto, has resigned. Mark Saywell was unanimously elected to take on this role, with continuing support from the team.

In this connection, reference was made to a recent email from Eleanor. She is happy to continue doing the work that she does now, as Membership Secretary, running the caravan activities, counting and banking money, etc, but she is unable to attend meetings. If the committee is happy for her to work on that basis, she is happy to continue. Of course, Eleanor will be missed at meetings but the committee would certainly be grateful if she is able to continue with her excellent work.

3.3 Club AGM

Will be held on Monday 26th January. Those members of the committee who are shareholders will attend in their own right. The club would like to have our nominations for 3 CFU committee candidates. These are Justyn Medd, Mark Saywell and Ben Yelton.

4) CFU AGM/ Committee Positions

4.1 Timing

Our AGM must be by end February. Our first three AGMs have been

15th Feb 01, 18th Feb 02 and 24th Feb 03. This year's almost defines itself as w/c 23rd Feb. The last two have been on Mondays so the date chosen was Monday 23rd February 2004.

Action: Lionel to dig out previous notifications to members, including election nomination slips, ideally we should mail them out to members with the Fans' Director mailing on 24th January. Lionel also to book venue, bearing in mind that there was insufficient space in the Golden Hind last time.

4.2 Intentions of Current Officers

Nick had explained that he is standing down as Chairman, because his work is increasing in its overseas travel content, also from the committee because of the difficulty in getting to meetings (and back!). He stressed, however, that he is keen to remain involved and for the committee, as he put it, to make use of such skills that he has. His particular interest is to produce a regular newsletter for members. We all feel that, although a lot of communication goes out by email and via the press, that members expect to get regular updates sent to them and some lapsed members have said that they cancelled because they never heard from us, possibly because they have no access to email or don't take the local papers. It can only do good to have a regular information sheet going out.

Heather indicated her interest in standing for Chair, which, if she was elected, would leave the position of Vice-Chair open.

Derek is willing to stand for another year as Treasurer, a decision much-welcomed by the committee.

Lionel is standing down as Secretary, having served from the outset and so a new secretary must be sought. (The complimentary emails which colleagues have sent are very much appreciated).

It was established from the regulations that two committee members should stand down this time. Dave and Barry put themselves forward, commended by the committee. Both will stand for re-election.

Action: Lionel to note in AGM papers.

If Heather was to be elected as Chair and, if Dave was re-elected, then Dave would be interested to be Vice-Chair.

Brian proposed a vote of thanks to Nick and to Heather for getting us through the recent campaign and for all their good work with the committee. This was unanimously agreed and will be formally put at the AGM.

5) Maintaining Momentum

5.1 5-a-Side

Terry reported that the tournament on 29th December had gone very well, with many complimentary remarks made by participants. It went well and should

raise about £400, so very well done. Terry expressed his appreciation to everyone that helped with the organisation and on the day.

5.2 Events for 2004

There has obviously been a lot on and it will be busy with the elections but Nick felt that we should be in a position to put an events list together end-February

5.3 Press Relations

CFU has had superb coverage in the press and Nick paid tribute to Dave, especially, and to Heather for all their fine work on this.

5.4 New Public Goal for CFU

Both Nick and Mark have, independently, come up with the idea of getting a training ground for the club. CFU could possibly get grants which are not available to the club.

Action: Heather to find out how far the club have got with their investigations.

6) Other Business

There have a lot of problems with the Topica list, which have hampered communication.

Action: Martin will get it sorted, likely with an alternative supplier.

7) 2004 Dates - tba