

Minutes of the CFU Monthly Meeting held on 13th October 2004 at the Golden Hind Pub, Milton Road, Cambridge.

1) Attendees & Apologies

Present:

Dave Matthew-Jones (Chair),	Lionel Webb (VC),	Derek Wick,
Lorna Morley-Waldron	Justyn Medd	Ben Yelton,
Martin Jordan,	Jamie Dyer,	Mark Saywell,
Carol Looker,	Andrew Lang,	Terry Wilby (Minutes)

Apologies:

Brian Attmore,	Barry Eley
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Not present:

Will Jones

Guest:

Anton Thacker

2) Approval of Last Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 1st September were approved.

3) Financial

Derek had already circulated financial details with explanations by email. Final figures were not available, however the Youth Tournament had raised around £1,400 and cash in the bank was around £10,000.

4) Membership

- i. Membership is currently 422.
- ii. Karen Hinkins is due to take over the membership database once Mark has made some final additions, and will deliver the database to Dave MJ next week
- iii. Mark will run a lapsed members list by the end of the week.

Lionel asked if the 2 members from Portsmouth had been added, the reply was yes.

5a) Events

Ben had agreed to head up the Events Group.

- i. Christmas 5-a-side Tournament.

Terry stated that the date for the Xmas 5-a-side tournament had been confirmed as Thursday 30th December. Dave MJ had emailed all the entrants from last year.

- ii. Poker night.

Jamie and Matt Frost would continue to look at organising a Poker night, and had been getting advice from the Police on the 1971 Gaming Act, section 15.

Terry had a brochure from a company that organised Fun Casino nights, cost of around £700 for 4 tables for the evening with the company supplying everything required including staff. It was noted that a similar Casino as part of the Burns Night did not do very well although this was partly due to a lack of promotion .

The committee were asked to come up with ideas for other events as there had been little in the way of non-football events, the last being the Groove Armada gig.

Dave MJ had received a Thank You text message from St. Lawrences Youth Football club saying how they had enjoyed the trophy presentation on the Abbey pitch following their win at the Youth Tournament

5b) Publicity

- i. CEN: Ben stated that articles were going in the local newspapers OK.
- ii. Website: Jon Keane had been very busy and unable to update the CFU website regularly. Rob Garry and Anton Thacker were working on taking it over. Ben said that 2 or 3 articles a week are needed to ensure people visit the website regularly, and anyone who had an article should contact Ben. It was suggested that the application to Supporters Direct would be a suitable article.

Mark Bennett from Liverpool had offered to help CFU, he had experience in organising events. Ben was trying to arrange to meet him.

The CFU email list is believed to be quite out of date, and it was suggested that another list be set up. To avoid accusations of "Spamming" an option not to receive further emails must be added to the bottom of any email.

6) Community

- i. Radios for the blind: There was a 6-8 weeks waiting list since ordering the chosen radios; however they are expected in the next 2 weeks. Andy Harper may be able to get a Trustline grant.
- ii. Chariots of Fire Run: Had been very good, with a lot of publicity for CFU. Ben had also completed the Great North Run.
- iii. Kick it out: Martin had been unable to get a grant. Anne Campbell had written to local Indian and other communities inviting them to the CUFC v NTFC match. It was not clear if they would get free tickets. Martin had made contact with the Bell School of languages and hoped to arrange a football match between them and Moosenet FC. There was also the possibility of a 5-a-side tournament in the spring.

7) Commercial

- i. Heather was dealing with the Calendar. Some photo proofs were available. The calendar is planned to be out for the Rushden game on 20th November. There may be a problem arranging for players to have a signing session at Sainsburys, Brian would be asked to put pressure on the CUFC directors to allow the players to be available. There were some sponsorship opportunities still available, Martin would check the message boards to see if there were any offers.

8) AOB

Carol stated that the Away Travel Race Night had been successful, with publicity for CFU through the sponsorship of a race.

Terry asked if everyone was getting the minutes, the answer from the group was yes, although it was not known if Will Jones was getting the minutes, or if he was intending to be an active committee member.

Anton had been told that the Golden Hind would be closing the meeting room for development into bedrooms, so an alternative venue for the regular meetings would have to be found.

The meeting on 3rd November would be an “open” meeting.

Ben was hoping to go to Cheltenham to talk to representatives of their Supporters Trust.

Dave MJ congratulated Justyn and Lorna on their recent marriage.

9) Fans Director Q & A.

As Brian was unavailable, Dave MJ talked through what Brian had told him recently:

Brian had hosted the first Fans Director Consultation evening which is intended to replace the open CUSA meetings.

Financial issues: Since the last meeting things were not very positive with no real changes. The club were still losing around £10k per week. There had been no major financial input from the Directors, no Carling Cup income, and no outgoing player transfers. There is still a loan of £600k to pay back at Christmas, and the loans had not been re-scheduled. It was felt that Grovefield (who the current loan is with) are a better company than Sterling.

Dave MJ speaks to Nick Pomery regularly on financial issues, Nick had previously generated a business plan for CUFC. The income would be greatly affected by the lower gate income.

Dave MJ, Brian Attmore and Nick had recently met with members of Supporters Direct, and discussed creditors. The Inland Revenue and VAT authorities are unlikely to try to close the club if there were financial problems, however Grovefield may choose to. CUFC are in discussion with other financial organisations.

If CUFC came to CFU wanting CFU to raise money (for example Bridge the Gap 2), what should CFU reply? There followed a long discussion, the general feeling being that BtG2 would not work very well, raising around £20k. However, CFU would have to do something. Dave MJ thought that the only way it could work was if CUFC board members were to leave.

Gary Harwood is to be invited to the next meeting.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is an open meeting on 3rd November at the Cambridge Joint Ex-Services Club.