

Minutes of the CFU Monthly Meeting held on 4th October 2006 at the Cambridge Joint Ex-Services Club, Barnwell Drive, Cambridge.

1) Attendees & Apologies

Present:

Dave Matthew-Jones (Chair),	Derek Wick (Treasurer),	Brian Attmore,
Robert Osbourn,	Anton Thacker	Carol Looker,
Carolyn Cater,	Terry Wilby (Minutes)	

Apologies: Colin Proctor, Justyn Medd, Martin Jordan, Lorna Morley-Medd, Ben Yelton, Jon Keane, Andrew Lang.

Guests: Will Jones, Mark Saywell, Shane.

2) Last months Minutes/Matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read

3) Financial

- Approx £11k in the bank with around £350 to be banked. There are no outstanding bills to be paid.
- Completion of the cheque signatories documentation was outstanding.
Action: Justyn, Martin, Terry.
- Stuart Jacobs had previously asked if CFU would pay for kit for the Street Football coaches, with CFU logo on the front. The cost is £1,400. It was agreed that CFU would pay using the most cost effective method. This could be giving CUFC the money, they would pay for the kit and be able to re-claim the VAT.

4) Membership

Derek reported on behalf of Eleanor:

- Current membership is around 480.
- There was a query on some money paid by Gus Jeaver to Bruce to join CFU a while ago, as Gus had not received a membership card. It was known that the money had been received, however there had been no name or other details given so it had been treated as a donation.

5) Questionnaire

Robert reported on the replies from the latest questionnaire:

- 1500 forms had been handed out at the Stevenage game, more had been downloaded from the website.
- 30 returns so far from members,
- 29 returns from non-members.
- Main reasons for joining:
 - CFU as a Trust
 - Getting a Fans Director
- Reasons for not joining:
 - No-one had approached them
 - Don't understand
 - Can't afford it.

- Things CFU should do in the future:
 - Represent the fans views
 - Fund raising
 - Encourage new fans
 - Raise the profile in the community.
- Fans Director should:
 - Represent the fans
 - Be involved in the Buy Back
 - Improve communication.
- Things that were good:
 - Atmosphere,
 - Seats/view,
 - Match program.
- Things that could be improved:
 - Tannoy,
 - Club shop (range, merchandise and opening times). Brian commented that CUFC were considering offers from kit manufacturers to run the club shop. There may be more opportunities for a better club shop by removing the offices at the Newmarket Road and erecting 2 storey building that could also include a betting shop.
 - Food (quality, staff attitude)
 - Half time entertainment
 - Penalty shoot outs
 - Fans challenge
 - Kids displays
 - Crossbar challenge
 - Marching band.
- Offers of help:
 - Insurance broker
 - Negotiator/purchaser
 - Database administrator
 - Financial person
 - Marketing person
 - Retail person
 - Clean the Main Stand seats
 - Put up fixture posters
- Other comments:
 - Not all fans are computer literate,
 - More regular updates (every 2 weeks)
 - Offer to help in the club shop had not been taken up
 - More fans forums (Brian commented that the next one is on 26th October)
 - Improve relationship with Universities, perhaps a stand at the Freshers Fair?
 - Central Cambridge contact point
 - Improve CFU recruitment
 - Minutes of meeting to be available
 - Golden Gamble sellers do not approach people
 - Players to phone people who have not renewed their season ticket
 - List of members and where they come from to arrange car sharing (this may be against the Data Protection act).

6) Events

- a) Russ is organising a grid of 1000 squares at £1 each, the winner gets a Season ticket. There are to be other prizes.
- b) Martin is organising Sponsor a Goal.
- c) Carol is organising a Race Night on 14th October. CFU agreed to sponsor a race (£25), and to sponsor Michael Gash (as well as Josh Simpson). Bingo night on 18th November. £134 was raised at the last Quiz night, another is scheduled for December.
- d) The calendar is soon to go to print with a print run of 500. Possibly Norwich & Peterborough in Grafton Centre would sell the calendar. Calendars signed by the players will be available.
- e) The Xmas 5-a-side tournament date has been changed to Friday 29th December. Sooty had offered some sponsorship, Terry considered some form of Fair Play award (voted by team, referees and CFU organisers) would be a suitable addition.

7) CFU Youth

Shane commented that the CFU Youth donations had purchased beds for the Youth digs, however there was a great need for a washing machine and drier (there had been an offer through Colin that had yet to be followed up).

Other events planned:

- Auction of Promises
- PC Football tournament (Playstations and TVs loaned by Andrew McCullochs).

8) South Stand initiative

Will reported on the South stand initiative:

- Intention to bring in new fans.
- Leaflets had been delivered (the area divided and allocated to different teams)
- So far 871 applications for tickets.
- There is a 6 year plan to cover Cambridge and the surrounding villages, this is around 150,000 households.
- The current promotion for the Crawley game will include a secondary offer of discounted tickets for the Oxford game.
- Half time entertainment at the Crawley game will include presentations to winners of the CFU Youth tournament, Centre of Excellence, and possibly winners of the CFU adult tournament. Cambridge Mayor should be attending (Dave commented that help will be required on the day).
- Some spare tickets may be offered to Histon residents (Histon do not have a game that day).
- The next promotion will be tickets for the Burton game to residents in the Queen Edith/Cherryhinton areas.

9) Fans Director report

Brian reported:

- There had been comment about seat prices for away fans at the Abbey. Price had been £15 for the Aldershot fans, but reduced to £12 for Altrincham fans. It seemed Ian Darler had made the decision without consulting the Board.
- A recent meeting about redevelopment with Simon Turner had been attended by Paul Mayes (CUFC supporters club):
 - £1.35m would be required to purchase the land from Bideawhile
 - £1.9m would be required to build a hotel etc.

- The £3.25m would have to be in an account and available, a requirement of the buy back terms.
- It is intended to get everything in place then go to Bidewhile.
- Talks are going on with another brewery company, with the possibility of kitting out a bar in the South Stand.
- CUFC cannot afford to employ more staff, job titles and job descriptions are being redone.
- The agreement to change the £20k loan to shares has not yet been approved.
- The CUFC AGM is likely to be at the end of January.
- New manager Jimmy Quinn is making a good impression.
- The Altrincham trust is made up of Club appointments.

10) AOB

Carol: Will be doing a Christmas raffle on the Away travel coach.

Will: Q: Any news on Cambridge City sharing the Abbey? A: Brian said that there had been a meeting with CCFC (August Bank holiday) where possible costs were considered. No reply from CCFC as yet.

Shane: Commented that if CCFC did share the Abbey then the CRC team would need to find somewhere to play. Jez was aware of this possibility.

Terry: Reminded everyone that the Supporters Direct Conference was on Friday 13th October, and he would be going (Brian and Dave were also intending to go). The last CFU AGM had been held in February (after the CUFC AGM, it was agreed to have the next AGM around the end of February 2007).

Dave: Had been contacted by Supporters Direct asking that CFU help the Cambridge City trust. Dave said that he had been to their meetings and had offered help, but he had not been asked for help by the CCFC trust. Brian commented that he also had not been contacted by the CCFC trust.

Robert: Asked who did the player ratings for CEN as it was supposedly CFU. Carol replied that she does them.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

The next regular monthly meeting scheduled for Wednesday 1st November 2006 at the Cambridge Joint Ex-Services Club.