

Minutes of CFU Committee Meeting held on Monday 2nd June 2003
at the Golden Hind, Cambridge

Present: Heather Wilkanowski (Chair)

Terry Wilby

Derek Wick

Eleanor Wick

Brian Attmore

Barry Eley

Carol Looker

Mark Saywell

Ben Yelton

Justyn Medd

Lionel Webb (Sec)

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Dave, Nick, Alan, and Martin.

2. Minutes of previous meeting (held on 7th May at the Golden Hind)

Approved as an accurate record.

Thanks go to Graham for their preparation.

3. Finance

In the period under review, CFU received almost £1100 in member pledges.

Our net assets stand at ca £84,000, made up of £62,000 in CUFC shares and £22,000 cash (after payment of the FA fine).

The committee thanked Derek for another excellent set of figures.

Prediction Competition winners had been paid £140, leaving £179 as profit. The feeling was that we could and should make it a bigger competition next time, with several components for people to choose from/pay for. Brian suggested a list of players and goals scored forecasts.

Martin had issued a note saying that he had cheques for £42 from programme sales as well as £66 from Marvyn book sales. Programme sales have yielded £550 in the last year, thanks to Martin's efforts. The new spot on the website is working well.

4. Membership

Numbers have risen to 416, with another 10 coming through from the tick-boxes on season-ticket applications. Eleanor's efforts with lapsed members have resulted in 10 people re-joining. Mark has a list of 35 lapsed members to contact, Lionel offered to help. **ACTION: Mark/ Lionel + ?** Mark has prepared a super crib-sheet for people to use when phoning, commended by the committee.

The CEN have agreed that an application form will be published with the first of Ben's fortnightly features, which should be a big help.

The Membership sub-group had proposed to the committee that the membership rate for students and for seniors should be changed to £10 for each category. The first is defined as those in full-time education, the second as 60+ yo. The constitution was consulted and there is no barrier to doing this. The proposal was made by Graham, seconded by Mark, and carried unanimously by the committee. Brian suggested we go to the AGM but the feeling was that we need to get on with it and Lionel will announce it at the AGM **(ACTION)**.

The Membership Group have also taken on the preparation of a new up-to-date brochure and their suggestion is that a new 7yo member should be on the cover presenting a cheque to Gary Harwood. This was agreed and will be progressed. **(Action: Carol/Graham)**. On 1st July, the Membership Team will meet again and will discuss the brochure. We had an email from Craig offering preparation of leaflets at cost. Mark knows him and will follow up costs, A3 folded and A4 folded. **(Action)**

Another aid to increasing membership could be a CFU video, as offered by Sooty. Justyn had raised this at the Communications Group meeting and there are Sensitivities. However, the offer was made, in public, at the AGM, and we should follow up, if at all possible. **Action: Ben/ Barry to work up some ideas. Heather will speak to JT about getting player comments.**

Graham reported that the Membership Team is meeting between committee meetings and will feed back each month.

As a general point, it was felt that it would be a good idea to send a Direct Debit form to new members with the welcome letter.

5. Habbin Refurbishment

CFU had not been approached by the club for help with the £26k cost of work on the Habbin but the committee felt we should look at making an investment. Heather reported that the club were more confident that grant money and sponsorship would be forthcoming, so no action is needed.

Eleanor had spoken to Peter Salvage at the Cambourn event about another needed Refurbishment – to Marvyn's costume! He had spoken of it costing £3-4k, which the committee felt we should not spend fans' money on but, if it could be done for less money, we should take a look. Justyn has subsequently been on the case and has issued with several contact websites.

Action: Ben/Brian to follow up.

6. Communications

CEN Feature

The agreement of Chris Gill to publish an application form, with Ben's first article, on Thursday 5th June, is great news. It will carry a box to tick for DD requests.

Ben had circulated his first article, which was very well received by the committee. Small amendments were suggested and Ben said it may have to be edited further to fit. He would appreciate ideas for the column – he is thinking of a doing a specific story each time, around 300 words. There are several events coming up, see later, so there should be material coming through. Ben will include an item about programmes, following Martin's request.

Leaflet Campaign

The leafleting campaign went well in Cambourn, 600-700 letterboxes, 450 in Royston, thanks to the committee members involved, and their offspring! There are 250 lined up for Haverhill and we have had an email from Jim, who says he can deliver 300 with papers. Andy Brand is lining up his team for a campaign in Newmarket. It is a good exercise with the club and Peter Salvage has been very Appreciative. The CEN coverage has been excellent.

CFU/CUFC Meeting

At the CFU/CUFC Comms Group meeting, Justyn took up the proposal about using CFU Cards as loyalty cards. Andy Pincher is keen to record matches people go to, using the grid on the back of loyalty cards, not possible with CFU Cards. Justyn also spoke to the club about the Adult Football Tournament which CFU are arranging for 17th August. Jo asked that we do not cut across teams in the Club Corporate tournament, no problem.

Justyn asked which charities are favoured by CFU and Graham said that they are concentrating on community concerns, such as East Barnwell Community Centre.

The club are happy for us to progress the sunglasses scheme, great news.

Action: Lionel to regenerate the emails.

Last but not least, Justyn reported that , after the meeting (and the end of the season!) Graham had presented him with a great load of videos. Justyn will catalogue them and see whether they can be useful for the CFU video and/or a season's compilation.

Fanzine

It has been agreed with Franco that we will prepare an adult fanzine, which will alternate with Planet Amber. Steve Jillings will edit it, also a newsletter. Ben is talking to Gerry Kiernan about OWA.

7. Events

Fixture List Posters

Dave is making good progress and is having review meetings with Lionel and Keith Craney. Dave's target is 10 posters, input for which should be ready for end-June. The fixtures are published 12th June but the team photo won't be available until a week before the season starts, so end July. We'll try to get everything ready so the list and photo can be just dropped in. Alan Millard joined us at the last meeting and is progressing artwork. Keith Craney is going to try some large accounts, such as Shelford Energy, to see if they'll take spots on multiple posters. The area representatives are doing their revisits, and have the colour poster leaflet and Dave's letters to assist them.

Mountain Climb

Justyn will participate in the '3 Peaks in 24 Hours' climb 12th/13th June and his sponsors are being asked if they would like to split their contribution between Amnesty and CFU. As well as climbing Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon, there is the travel, between them, over 400 miles, so it will be quite a challenge! Good luck

to Justyn with his adventure and we all forward to his feedback.

Golf Day

Eleanor reported that it is going well but difficult to get people to commit. There are 6 teams definite and a similar number unconfirmed. Efforts continue, helped by the flier. Eleanor has had good response to her request for help on the day. Ideas/offers of prizes will be welcomed, there are none from last time.

CUFC Open Day

Since the club's plans would be difficult to separate from ours, for 27th July, when we have a number of key people away, Heather proposed to the meeting that we let the club run an Open Day on 27th July and we'll participate by having a stand, concentrating upon membership, rather than attempting a Fun Day at the same time.

Youth Tournament

Karen has very kindly prepared all the paperwork to go out and Barry is working on the mailings in the next few days. Barry and Heather had visited an event at Cottenham for ideas and the conclusion is we need a tent, with some tables for the organisers. For the Adult Tournament, Terry has identified a supplier, of a 6x4m unit, for £60 rental, so that will be followed up for 31st August. The Cottenham people do well out of the catering, because they do it themselves, buying rolls from a local supplier, keeping it simple and charging £1 per burger, hot dog etc. We may have to spend £150 on large BBQs but the return would justify it. This will be looked into and Graham will ask his local about borrowing their gear.

The CEN had been interested in sponsoring the Youth Tournament but haven't the funding/budgets so want to do publicity instead, great. Heather has met their Marketing Manager to talk about their promotion of the event.

2004 Calendar

Heather had spoken to Peter Salvage about the prospect of CFU doing a calendar for next year and he was fine with it.

Action: Justyn to raise at the next Communications Group meeting.

Cycle Rides

There are various ideas which will be firmed up when the fixtures are known.

8. Supporters Direct

As secretary, Lionel had received the voting documents for the election of the SD Board, including statements from all candidates, including Brian Attmore. Votes are requested for 12 positions and, since it cannot be voted by committee, the committee was asked to agree that Lionel should complete the ballot paper on behalf of CFU. This was agreed. **Action: Lionel.**

Dave had contacted SD about Public Liability insurance and had been given contact details for CIS. **Action: Lionel to follow up.**

9. AOB

- The committee agreed that ownership of the Topica email list should transfer from Jamie to Martin Jordan
- The 'Save & Raise' utility scheme offers value and a commission for CFU but our concerns about the service given preclude us from taking this on
- 'Trytime' marketing/fundraising support had been offered to CFU but whilst it looks as though there might be something in it, we felt there is too much going on to get involved now, maybe in 6 months time. This requires a polite thanks but no thanks reply. **Action: Would Nick please pen this.**
- Alan Clarke had asked whether we keep in touch with our patrons by newsletter? There is contact with some but we have no routine, which we should have, and we must ensure that when our next newsletter is ready, from Steve Jillings, that they are sent to patrons.
- At the JT Ball, Dion Dublin agreed to be a patron and this needs to be followed up. **Action: Heather.**
- We need to look at whether we wish to continue our sponsorship of youth player Darren Quinton. **Action: Lionel to include on next agenda.**
- Barry has a contact who would be very interested to take over the running of the website from Jamie. He is a CFU member who lived with Chris Smith for a while but is now resident in Mexico. He has the credentials and is keen, so it was agreed that we should give him a positive response. **Action: Barry.**
It is hoped that Jamie will stay in touch.

10. Next Meeting

At the Golden Hind on 2nd July, at 8pm.

It was agreed that the meeting will be made open for representatives of other supporter groups. **Action: Heather to invite CUSA, St Ives Us, Supporters Club, VP Club and Franco.**