

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

1) Attendees & Apologies

Present:

Dave Matthew-Jones (Chair),	Lionel Webb (VC),	Ben Yelton,
Carol Looker,	Brian Attmore,	Martin Jordan,
Andrew Lang,	Colin Proctor,	Jon Keane,
Mark Saywell,	Derek Wick (Treasurer)	Terry Wilby (Minutes)

Apologies: Justyn Medd, Lorna Morley-Medd, Anton Thacker, Carolyn Cater

2) There was clarification that the start date of the 2 year tenure of the Fans Director would be this year, 2006. There were no other queries of the minutes.

3) Financial

Derek had circulated drafts of the accounts before they go to the auditors.

Notes:

- Matt Wild was to confirm how much do CUFC owe CFU.
- £78k was shown in the accounts as a loan to CUFC during administration, this sum was converted into shares in October which is after the end of the accounts.
- 600 shares were to make up for a previous error when a share certificate was generated.
- CFU currently own £240k worth of share, approximately 17% of the total shares available.
- Many people had bought shares in CUFC through CFU. This is money CUFC probably would not have got if CFU had not been in existence.

Cash in the bank is around £20k, the direct debits are due shortly and there is around £700 in the Paypal account.

4) Membership

Database is with Carolyn, the problem is still to be fixed by Jamie.

Around 580 members as there is usually a 2 to 3 months grace period. The membership is likely to fall.

Of the Conference clubs Exeter and York trusts have the highest percentages of their average home crowd, CFU are 3rd. Exeter is high due to combining trust membership with the sale of FA Cup tickets against Manchester United.

5) CFU AGM

Date is 27th February 2006 in the Cambridge United Supporters Club.

Lionel will sort out all the paperwork which is to be sent out end January/early February.

Renate Stroud has offered to help with envelope stuffing.

Ben has produced a newsletter that will be included.

The Local Secrets cards will not be available, the current cards are still valid.

Lionel needs to know the following before 23rd January:

- Who is standing down from the CFU Committee?
- Who wants to join the CFU Committee?

- Who wants to stand as Fans Director?

Dave would like Rob Newman to be at the AGM if possible.

6) CUFC AGM

The Ruston room is available on 28th January (after the Crawley game) for an open CFU meeting. This will be publicised closer to the date.

CUFC usually allow 2 CFU representatives, Carol and Terry requested the places. What questions should CFU ask?

Brian answered some question emailed to him from Colin:

Q. When would the CUFC notice of AGM and accounts be available? In the past the accounts had not been available before the AGM.

A. The letters were expected to be sent this week. CFU would help with envelope stuffing/mailing if required. The letters will contain two proposals:

1. That the available shares be increased from 3.2m to 5.0m. This will require a majority vote to be passed.
2. That the maximum %shareholding by any individual or group be increased from 20% to 24%. This will require 75% agreement to be passed.

Q. Is anyone from Cambridge City FC to be co-opted or stand for election to the CUFC board?

A. No.

Q. What had happened to the letter from Reg Smart proposing that Colin be co-opted to help the day to day running at the club? Colin had received no reply, but had been told that the letter had been seen by some members of staff at the club.

A. There was no record of the letter in the past Board minutes, Matt had checked the records and could find no evidence of the letter being received.

On the Sale and Leaseback, the CFU shareholding had kept predators out.

Justyn Medd, Nick Pomery and Terry Baker are to stand for election.

Roger Hunt and Paul Barry are due to stand for re-election by rotation, Roger will not stand.

Colin asked Brian of his knowledge of the proposed new ground plans:

- On Good Friday 2005 Brian saw a scruffy drawing with little detail.
- At the last CUFC board meeting (5th December 2005) another drawing was shown which had more detail, such as the road infrastructure, car parks and other planned development, but there was only a rectangular space for the stadium with no detail.
- John Howard was to meet with a construction company to consider details of the stadium.
- The plans are expected to be used for outline planning permission prior to spending more time and money on the detail.
- Gary Harwood has seen the plans (according to his comments on the CUFC message board) that he described as detailed. Who else has seen or discussed the plans is not known.
- There had been no reply from John Howard on the offer to buy back the ground.
- It was thought that he would leave making his decision as late as possible.
- Brian considered that John Howard was treating CUFC with contempt.

- It was thought that John Howard increased his value by being on the CUFC board, and possibly sees himself as the saviour of the club.
- There were no changes to the Sale and Leaseback contract after the AGM.
- The solicitor representing CUFC who looked at the contract may not have been an expert in that area.
- Shareholders have not been able to see the contract, however CFU had seen it.

Colin felt that John Howard should be relieved of one of his “hats”.

How should CFU deal with John Howard at the AGM?

A vote of no-confidence can be made at the AGM.

It was agreed that if there was no new information before the AGM that CFU would table a vote of No Confidence in John Howard.

It was felt that CFU should have a Director by right due to the large shareholding. Currently there is a requirement that CFU hold at least 15% of shares. It was proposed that the wording be changed to replace the 15% requirement with “as long as CFU exist”. The proposal has been submitted to CUFC and is expected to be sent out with the AGM paperwork

With regard to John Howard and Bideawhile, it was not known if Steven Clarke (John Howard’s business partner) was being told the truth about the fans feelings. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Steven Clarke outlining the issues.

Who would CFU support as Chairman of CUFC? The position was decided by the Board.

Dave Smith (former Commercial manager at CUFC) had been proposed for the board.

After a short break Brian gave his views on the recent talks with Cambridge City FC:

- There had been some talks over the last couple of years.
- A ground share would help CUFC pay the rent to John Howard.
- Cambs FA have been given notice to quit their offices at the Milton Road ground, leaving date rumoured to be this summer. They have been offered a lump sum in lieu of their contract.
- There had been a CUFC Board decision to close the Youth Scheme, Luke Hobbs had been given a 2 year contract before Administration but had decided to move on.
- CUFC were considering a College based scheme similar to Cambridge City and Kings Lynn, so it was convenient to talk to Cambridge City about the pros and cons of their scheme. The scheme would be based at Milton College, the college gets money from the government for each pupil. The college work is important, and works in a similar way to the scholarship system.
- Cambridge City had been talking to John Howard about the youth scheme, however there was some doubt whether Howard was speaking for CUFC.
- Cambridge City have a FITC scheme, it may be beneficial to combine.
- It was believed that Cambridge City may be living on the money from the sale of their ground despite it not formerly having been sold, and that their losses may be similar to CUFC weekly losses.

- There was no attempt to hide the second meeting at the Abbey, Board members were seen by players and other staff.

7) AOB

Terry:

The Christmas 5-a-side tournament had gone very well, with Trumpington Tornadoes winning again. Terry thanked everyone who helped. It was hoped that the profit would be around £550.

Brian:

The match against Exeter is to be a Community day with invitations to attend going to diverse groups such as Headways Clinic and other suitable groups. There could be a pennant swap with the Exeter Trust.

Possibly CFU members would be invited to meet at the game.

FITC would be helping, it was suggested CFU help too as both groups have similar aims. Possibly invite FITC to some of the CFU committee meeting, especially to get help with the Youth Tournament.

Carol:

A Quiz night was to be arranged for early in February.

Steve Line was organising a disco on 4th February.

Ben:

Thanked Terry for organising the 5-a-side tournament, but felt that the Moosenet team had again been on the wrong end of some dodgy refereeing decisions!

Dates for the Youth and Adult tournaments would soon have to be considered.

A 10k run is being considered for a date in October, this would be a pay-to-enter race possibly using the Abbey Stadium as a base.

Dave thanked Ben for producing the newsletter, and congratulated him on his impending marriage to Claire in the summer.

Lionel:

As he would not be able to attend the next meeting Lionel said goodbye.

Dave thanked Lionel for all his help from the beginning of CFU.

Dave:

A fundraising raffle was being considered, to run from February to the end of the season. It was felt that a previous idea from Mark to run a raffle with a prize of £25k was too big. Hopefully non-football fans would buy tickets. CFU have a license for this type of raffle.

There was an opportunity to sell England merchandise for profit.

Brian:

CUFC are organising a colt's football tournament in May.

Mark:

The CEN implied we would receive enough money from Reading as part of the Dave Kitson sale to cover the losses over the summer. Brian replied that Reading had been invoiced £25k for Kitson making 75 appearances, another invoice would be raised for £100k if Reading are promoted.

The meeting closed at 9:40pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

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