

Minutes of the CFU Monthly Meeting held on 5th January 2005 at the Cambridge Joint Ex-Services Club, Barnwell Drive, Cambridge.

1) Attendees & Apologies

Present:

Dave Matthew-Jones (Chair),	Lionel Webb (VC),	Derek Wick,
Lorna Morley-Medd,	Ben Yelton,	Jamie Dyer,
Barry Eley,	Justyn Medd,	Andrew Lang,
Brian Attmore,	Martin Jordan,	Terry Wilby (Minutes)

Apologies: Carol Looker, Mark Saywell.

Not present: Will Jones

2) Approval of Last Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 1st December 2004 were approved.

3) Financial

Derek circulated copies of the CFU accounts as at the end of November.

Since then further income of ~£5k had been added. Income from Calendar sales had yet to be added. There is ~£13,500 in the current account.

A further £6k can be added, which takes cash to ~£19k less calendar costs. No donations have yet been made out of the profit from the Youth Tournament. It was agreed to spend £350 on the Youth team, and £350 on Football in the Community (instead of a cash donation).

Over 700 calendars have been sold, this is past the break even point. The sales had not been as good as last year, poor playing results and no Bridge the Gap being the main reasons.

Other income:

- £70 income from Cartridge recycling
- £500 cheque from Supporters Direct for being Trust of the Year
- £100 donation from Bruce (catweasel) towards buying the ground
- £150 from the selling "Gary Harwood" on ebay.

It has yet to be decided what the £500 from Supporters Direct will be used for. Dave Boyle from Supporters Direct will be coming to the AGM.

4) Events

Ben has form and "events" group with Andrew Lang, Emma Camps, Andrew Fox and Maz to discuss events. They will be meeting on 15th January, the day of the Chester game.

Possible events:

- Poker night- Jamie and Matt Frost are investigating.
- Golf Day (but didn't want to step on Eleanor's toes)
- A Coconuts single
- CUFC branded beer.

Xmas 5-a-side tournament:

Terry reported that the tournament had gone very well, and thanked those who had helped. He had good feedback from many teams. He expected profit to be ~£560.

5) Publicity

Ben reported that there had been a lot of information on the website, including:

- Programme sales
- Asia Relief
- 5-a-side tournament

Mark Bennett was developing a new website that was being tested.

Andrew Lang has a regular piece in the CEN on Saturdays

A letter had been sent to the new manager, Steve Thompson, giving details of CFU and our aims.

There was some discussion about how to attract people to the CFU website. There is a message board that is rarely used, it was felt that the Official message board had a good "hold" on message board posters and this would not change unless something drastic happened to that system. Asking for a CFU section (alongside the Football Chat, Social Chat, Questions for Club Officials and Championship Manager Chat) was not thought to be much use. The Moosenet Prediction League may become available to put on the CFU website.

6) AGM - Review

Lionel reported that the mailing had been done, and thanked those who had helped, especially Justyn for photocopying and Mrs Renata Stroud for envelope stuffing. Only 1 envelope had been redirected back.

Steve Thompson had been invited to attend the AGM.

Committee member's nominations so far included:

Anton Thacker

Carolyn Cater

Matt Casper

It was believed that Jon Keane would also like to stand.

Lionel would have to check the rules to find out if Matt Casper could become a committee member as it is believed he is 17 years old. If not, he could be co-opted to the committee.

The AGM was open to anyone, but only members could vote. Voting cards would be given out at the AGM. Forms for non-members to join would be available.

It is intended that there should be a raffle during the AGM.

7) Commercial

Around 4 boxes of calendars are available (3 with Martin, 1 with Dave), each box contains 70 calendars. It was felt that there should not be a "January sale" of calendars at half price as this may in future encourage people to delay buying. Any unsold calendars would be donated to local schools in March.

Peter Stern is working on the HelpCFU website with a number of links added.

8) Group Communications

Martin is testing a group email system to improve communications to members.

There may be a problem if only 1 person can post to the group.

The CFU newsletter has been going out at approximately quarterly intervals. It was suggested that regular updates to the Prediction Competition could be included.

10) Membership

- Current membership stands at 393. 48 reminders had been sent in December, a further 51 sent out for January renewals.
- Eleanor has taken over the membership database from Karen Hinkins (Karen is pregnant). There are advantages with the database being close to the Treasurer. Work will start soon going through the database.
- 750 membership cards had been printed at no cost (some of the existing cards had been stuck inside out) and can be given out at the CFU caravan when a member joins or renews.
- Lapsed members will be chased when the "Buy back the Ground" campaign starts.
- Membership rates are to be put on the website.

11) AOB

- The current Supporters Direct magazine was available, it was noted that there was a picture of Dave on page 41.
- The winners of the 5-a-side tournament (Trumpington Tornadoes) would have a trophy presentation on 22nd February (an evening game).
- The Local Secrets card sent to members may change in the future to a loyalty card.
- There is a meeting of the East Midlands Trusts on 20th January 2005.
- Jamie Dyer is standing down from the committee, but is will continue to help as required.

9) Fans Director Q & A

Brian was able to give information on a variety of issues, some of which were in confidence and have not been recorded here:

- The view of some scouts watching Colin Heath was that he was trying too hard.
- Strikers are being sought, and CUFC are also looking at non-league players.
- CUFC are setting up a scouting system. There has not been a system for the last couple of years.
- Steve Thompson is looking at all the current squad players. He had also asked Brian and others for their view on some players.
- Following the sale & leaseback, there is enough money to keep CUFC going to the end of the season.
- Players who are out of contract at the end of the season have to be paid up to the end of June.
- Steve Thompson is hoping Dan Chillingworth will return after the loan to Orient.
- Possibly some players may not be fully focused on playing for the team.
- Luke Guttridge has a back injury which is why he has not played recently.
- There are a number of injuries at the moment. If CUFC were at the top of the league table perhaps some of these injuries would not be quite so bad?
- CUFC were pleased with Greg Reid as physio, he was very "down to earth".
- At the Grimsby match the players were dressed in suits.
- Steve Thompson had been "told off" for shouting bad language at the players from the dugout.

- Player wages were currently around £650k, there is a target of £500k by the end of the season (this is a similar value to Kidderminster).
- Re-structuring is taking place, the redundancy process is being followed.
- Gary Harwood's view is that CUFC is finished if relegated to the Conference.
- If Gary Harwood stands down as Chairman who would want to stand? It was felt that since the sale & leaseback John Howard now pulls the strings.
- Steve Thompson has a contract to the end of the season and on a low salary.
- Rob Newman is not currently being paid by CUFC.
- On the re-development CUFC are still looking for pre-lets. There are 6 companies interested in the hotel.

12) Sale & leaseback/Community Stadium Trust

A small team of Jamie, Justyn, Lorna and Mark are looking at options:

- Ian Nimmo-Smith is due to set up a meeting (hopefully in the next 2 weeks).
- Gordon Theobald and Neil Waterson will also help as required.
- For any scheme to be viable the support of Cambridge City Council is necessary before financial offers are committed.
- There will be a weekly update on progress.

If CUFC are relegated Gary Harwood may walk away, and CFU may be left to run the club.

- Gary Harwood has asked (via the message board) to meet with CFU, a date will be arranged by Dave, with Nick Pomery invited too.

Nick is looking at how Conference clubs are run:

- Andy and Martin will contact Conference clubs and ask a set of standard questions on financial matters.
- The Youth Team budget would have to be cut, possibly extra sponsorship would be required.
- Youth team boss Ricky Duncan would be invited to a CFU meeting.

The Rotherham trust had introduced a consortium to take over their club.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

The AGM is at 8pm on 17th January 2005 in the CUFC Supporters Club.

The next regular monthly meeting is on Wednesday 2nd February 2005 at the Cambridge Joint Ex-Services Club.