

Minutes of the CFU Monthly Meeting held on 5th July 2006 at the Cambridge Joint Ex-Services Club, Barnwell Drive, Cambridge.

1) Attendees & Apologies

Present:

Dave Matthew-Jones (Chair),	Derek Wick (Treasurer),	Brian Attmore,
Lorna Morley-Medd	Robert Osbourne,	Colin Proctor,
Martin Jordan,	Justyn Medd,	Andrew Lang,
Jon Keane,	Anton Thacker,	
Carol Looker,	Terry Wilby (Minutes)	

Apologies: Carolyn Cater, Ben Yelton,

2) Last months Minutes/Matters arising

The minutes of the June meeting had not got through to the email distribution list.

Action: Terry to re-send the June minutes.

3) Financial & Membership

Derek reported:

- £20k advance to CUFC
- ~ £6k in the bank
- the form has been received to change the cheque signatories.

It was suggested that CFU may get a better rate of interest by opening a Norwich & Peterborough account and changing from the Co-op. Derek agreed to look at the possibilities. **Action: Derek**

4) Summer Tournaments

Andy reported:

Adult:

- Information available on the website.
- 9 teams so far (Fulham have pulled out as they are to play Man Utd).
- Abbey Pool has confirmed the event is on their system.
- Ben has emailed his contacts.

Youth:

- 38 teams so far, short on the 11-a-side groups.
- Possibly have a girls 11-a-side group.
- Dave has spoken to Jez about getting teams.
- There is a possibility that a sponsor may wish to approach tams about foreign football trips. CFU can see no problems if they do that.
- Carolyn does not have the latest Cambs FA handbook yet, but will use last seasons for referee contact details.
- The Sainsbury's van may not be available for the YT.
- Brian and Justyn will liaise on stock required.
- CFU may purchase a Pop-up gazebo which can also be used outside CUFC on matchdays.
- The "coffee man" needs to be contacted. **Action: Andy.**

5) Footlights

Lorna reported:

- No players have agreed to be present; there is the possibility that the event might be a washout. This is a good opportunity to raise money as the venue and food are free.
- The current date (14th August) is the day before a pre-season friendly game, so the current players are unlikely to be allowed to attend.
- Possibly delay to later in the season, 25th September or 23rd October being suggested as suitable.
- Possibly have a 50/50 split with the Youth Development or Ladies team.
- Player partners might have to be given a free ticket.

6) Race for Life

Lorna reported:

- The race had been very hot, 33°C!
- There were around 9,000 runners.
- No drinking water had been supplied for the runners.
- Lorna and Carolyn were expecting to raise in excess of £500.
- Andy Duncan had been race starter.

Dave thanked the runners and commented that it was good PR for CFU too.

Anton was waiting for details of the Chariots of Fire event.

7) AOB

Membership:

- Membership was currently 462, letters were being sent to lapsed members.
- The possibility of a list of members being available was considered, this is something that the website proposed by Peter Stern could be used for. John was asked to contact Peter to check the current status. **Action: John**
- Robert (assisted by Anton) agreed to start a membership drive.

Anton:

A prediction league organised by Ryan Chapman could be a good fundraiser, it seemed simpler than the system used last season.

Carol:

The next Quiz night will be after the start of the season.

The player sponsorship (joint CFU/Race Night) is likely to be Josh Simpson as Michael Morrison is wanted by another sponsor.

Colin:

The IT room has been decorated by VP Club/CFU/Chris Martin, the VP Club and the Harris Suite are due to be decorated soon. Brian commented that the room would look good for a presentation he was making to local school Headmasters the next day.

Some of the existing pictures may not be needed after re-decoration, they may be sold to raise funds. The signed player shirts may be positioned in the corridor.

Martin:

Last seasons Goal sponsorship should raise £764 if all the money is received. Martin agreed to organise a similar scheme for the coming season.

John:

Following the earlier idea of publishing a list of members, perhaps a list of new members could be published in the match programme. This might shame other supporters into joining.

Terry:

Had the Supporters Direct membership paperwork which he would go through with Dave after the meeting,

Dave:

Had met Peter Salvage who wanted to join CFU and be more involved. There were no objections from the Committee provided there was no hidden agenda.

The meeting broke at 8:15 for 15 minutes.

8) Fans Director report

Brian reported:

- The Histon v CUFC game would be for the Cambs Professional Cup.
- The home league fixture against Exeter currently set for Friday 1st September to avoid a clash with an England game may (at the request of Exeter) be scheduled for 1pm on the Saturday.
- Home games against Aldershot and Oxford may be changed to Friday nights to minimise policing costs.
- CUFC are negotiating to have some “police free” games, this could save ~£1k per game. There could be positive PR from this.
- York City had asked for a breakdown of CUFC policing costs, policy changes mean the Police charge more.
- The Directors hospitality budget remains zero, the CUFC Directors pay for hospitality.

Brian Attmore, Paul Barry (Paul had been on holiday in Germany and had given away an England match ticket and flown back to be at the meeting) and Nick Pomery had met with Brian York and Johnny Hon’s representative at Hon’s office in London, Brian Attmore being an observer:

- The financial situation was discussed, CUFC need £1million over 3 years.
- If the consortium are to invest they want the CUFC board to be united and moving towards being a community club involving Youth and FITC.
- There was no conclusion, the ground ownership could be a difficulty as the consortium would want John Howard off the board.
- It seems that Brian York and John Howard do not get on together.
- Since the meeting talks have continued, any move forward would have to be watertight.
- For success the consortium would have to “sell” the package to CFU, before it went to an EGM.
- Brian York has been a backer of the CCFC Youth development, however there was no pre-requisite that CCFC would play at the Abbey.

At the CUFC board meeting 2 weeks ago:

- Terry Baker had resigned.
- The minutes tabled of the previous meeting (written by Matt) did not reflect what had been said at the meeting.
- The Board realised they could not solve the financial problems, and could not work together.
- Previous offers from Terry Baker and from John Howard to run the club had no substance.
- Paul Barry was unable to present a plan to the Board.

- It was agreed new investment was required and/or put the club up for sale.
 - There had been some interest from possible buyers
 - As it is a private club advertising is not allowed
- The Board talked about possible savings and staff changes, but decided it would not be fair to change the staff just before possible new owners come in.
 - A few days later at a staff meeting John Howard suggested to the staff that they look for new jobs as the Board had “messed up”.
- Concert Review:
 - Terry Baker wanted to sack Heather, he lost that vote.
 - Terry Baker then resigned.
 - At a meeting on 2nd May Terry Baker had announced that the concert would go ahead as there would be too much to lose already.
 - Previous minutes prior to the concert were queried where Terry Baker had thanked Heather for all the work she had done, and said she had done everything asked of her.
- During AOB the Board were again asked to vote for Gary Chapman to join, the vote was lost.
- Brian became acting Chairman.

In the CEN the next day Terry Baker claimed:

- he had resigned over the concert failure (Nick had already offered to resign),
- he had proposed a CEO (actually he had opposed it)
- the club needed to promote itself (actually he had said the club didn't need a Commercial department).

On staffing:

- Matt had left last Wednesday,
- Lisa (Office administrator) had left last week.
- James took over from Matt, but had resigned this week. Possibly he was being honest in that he was out of his depth.
- There was no-one in the office, some leads were to be contacted.
- Norwich had been helpful (bucket collection at Carrow Road and the forthcoming friendly game), and had in the past offered help in staff/marketing that Brian would follow up.
- The divide in the board room had not been helped when John Howard spoke to the staff.
- Ian Darler would now report to Brian instead of John Howard.

Bideawhile:

- John Howard had suggested that Bideawhile/CFU run the club
- John Howard seems to be lining up an exit from the Board.
- The current agreement tabled by Bideawhile to sell back the ground contains a covenant that Bideawhile have a say on future plans. This is not acceptable to CUFC and is non-negotiable.
- The confidentiality clause is not much use.
- There was a rumour that Tesco want the whole of the proposed Milton site.
- The plans for the Milton site were progressing towards a planning application, although 2 parcels of the land were currently advertised as being for sale. Bideawhile have not purchased the land, but did have options on some land.

On possible new owners:

- CFU would have to stand back and consider what was being offered before voting.
- The motivation of new owners would have to be questioned.

Other Board matters:

- Was John Howard any use on the Board? He had a role on the playing side only, and was currently doing quite a good job.
- 4 more directors would be required.
- Baker and Howard had not been very happy with the CFU press release concerning the £20k loan.
 - At the last board meeting Baker had offered to stay on the Board and underwrite £200k, later in the meeting he said he was pleased to be leaving the Board!
- The Board were looking for and needed Investment, Management and Community.
- A new Board could be appointed then ratified at an EGM.
- Brian can appoint non-executive directors.
- The 20% shareholding limit may not be a problem if a consortium of current shareholders took over the club.
- There was the possibility that if all Directors resign to allow new owners to come in any shares could become worthless. CFU could not sell their shares.
- Current debts:
 - £40k to Terry Baker
 - £40k to Paul Barry
 - £20k to CFU
- Cambridge Concerts money had already been paid (CUFC had to pay suppliers up front).
- Baker and Howard had both said they would support a second Fans Director.
- Robert questioned the cost of matchday sponsors, and if any profit was made. Brian replied that there was a small profit, but also a lot of goodwill from the sponsors to draw in money elsewhere.
- The Playing Budget had been cut after Rob Newman had started moulding the squad, this would mean only half the money for a striker.
- John Howard had suggested CFU had been at fault for the concert failure, Brian had replied that CFU were not involved.
- Aims and objectives for the next few months and years would need to be generated, and regular schemes put in place to raise funds.

The meeting closed at 9:35pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

The next regular monthly meeting scheduled for Wednesday 2nd August 2006 at the Cambridge Joint Ex-Services Club.