

Minutes of the CFU Monthly Meeting held on 9th March 2009 at the Funky Funhouse, Mercers Row, Cambridge.

1. Attendees and Apologies

Present: Dave Matthew-Jones (Chair), Brian Attmore (FD), Mark Stuart-Wood, Gary Atyes, Derek Wick, Martin Jordan, Robert Osbourn, Colin Proctor, Anton Thacker, Will Jones, Carol Looker, Joy Childs, Terry Wilby (minutes).

Apologies: Carolyn Cater.

Guest: Trevor George, Gordon Theobald, Nick Parker.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting.

- a. The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read.

3. Financial:

- a. Around £15,000 in the Co-op bank and ~£350 in PayPal.
- b. Bill for Amber Army scarves has been paid
- c. £1086 for the YD walk (includes £138 from Poker tournament, £950 through Paypal and some other donations).
- d. £929 due to Nightingale for the printing of the CFU Community bible.

4. Membership:

- a. Current membership: 321
- b. Lapsed: 87
- c. Non members: 115.

5. Trevor George.

Trevor talked about various issues around CUFC:

- a. Histon game:
 - a. CUFC fans with tickets were turned away.
 - b. Histon are still learning what to do at this level.
 - c. Only 100 tickets had been sold to home fans, and 500 to CUFC fans, so the All Ticket restriction was lifted.
 - d. He was surprised CUFC had not been allocated the whole of the far side.
 - e. Some Histon fans were already in the far side, and Setanta would put pressure on not to delay the start.
 - f. Histon opened an exit gate to allow fans with tickets in, sometimes not tearing the ticket stub off.
 - g. Some CUFC fans in the home end were ejected, 3 due to a fight.
 - h. SAG will look into the matter.
 - i. CUFC have had similar problems in the past.
 - j. Gordon noted there were 14 issues he was aware of, and offered to draft a letter for CFU to send, as well as a letter in his name to Histon and SAG:
 - i. The decision to lift the All Ticket restriction was made for financial reasons,
 - ii. The allocation on the East (far) side should have been reversed,
 - iii. There was no contingency plan for more than 1200 CUFC fans,
 - iv. There was overfilling of the terrace behind the goal,
 - v. Stewarding was poor,
 - vi. Little management of the queue outside the ground,
 - vii. Little priority for ticket holders,
 - viii. Away fans directed to behind the home goal,
 - ix. Failure to delay the kick off (echo's of Hillsborough disaster)
 - x. No supervision of away fans in the home end,

- xi. HFC should admit the decision to lift the All Ticket restriction on financial grounds was wrong,
 - xii. The release of the away attendance at 1050 is different to what was said on Setanta,
 - xiii. No apology from HFC,
 - xiv. Paying in advance is a contract, Histon (not CUFC) should refund anyone who still has their valid ticket.
- k. Brian commented that he and Wayne had seen the problems and suggested to Histon that the kick off be delayed.
- l. It was felt that HFC had not learnt from last year.
- m. Stewards from an agency did not seem used to Histon or football crowds.
- n. In the interest of public safety the police decided to put a police car and bollards on the road where the fans were on the bank.
- o. A Leeds fans had previously slipped down the bank and broke an ankle.
- b. Policing at Abbey:
 - a. At CUFC and HFC the police no longer stop the traffic outside the ground.
 - b. The clubs have to manage those issues and get a traffic management plan.
 - c. Police can direct traffic under their emergency powers, a planned event such as football is not deemed an emergency (in the past an officer had been injured by a vehicle, it was decided he did not have the power to control the traffic so was in the wrong).
 - d. Some CUFC fans have received life bans, if the person has served a ban for 15 years they are allowed to apply for a season ticket in the Main stand where they can be monitored by CCTV.
- c. Section 27:
 - a. Section 27 is a dispersal order intended to move groups who are the worse for alcohol.
 - b. It has been used by some police forces to stop fans going to matches (Stoke fans sent back from Manchester, Plymouth fans from Yorkshire.
 - c. Cambridgeshire police will not use Section 27 against football fans.
- d. Trevor retires from the police force in the next few days, then returns to do the same job as a civilian.
- e. The Kettering away game may be made all ticket.

6. FED report

- a. At the last meeting George Rolls had said the Board meetings were held in the afternoon, especially when seeing suppliers etc., however some are held in the evenings.
- b. Fewer complimentary tickets are being issued.
- c. Vouchers for food are not being given to stewards etc. (other employees do not get food vouchers).
- d. Study Support are trying to get funding for a Double Club for 3 years. Similar to a scheme operated by Arsenal, students get 45 minutes of football coaching (from 3rd year scholars, FITC, YD) then 45 minutes National Curriculum teaching with a football emphasis after normal school.
- e. Brian had recently attended a meeting at the House of Lords with representatives of other clubs and local MPs to discuss community issues.
- f. The walk by Jez and Matt had raised ~£20k by last week plus ~£10k gate money plus a lot of donations. There were political gains too.

7. AOB

- a. Dave: Colin had not been accepted as a CUFC Director in his own right.
- b. Gary: Had recently met George to discuss commercial issues, George had asked for a proposal to increase sales of the Cambridge United brand and repair damage done over a number of years. The proposal had been accepted, and Gary would start work at the club. Gary would like to continue as a CFU Trust

board member, but possibly step down as vice chairman. Dave congratulated Gary on his appointment.

- c. Joy: George had asked Joy to complete the work on the Employees Handbook she had started a while ago, and had started today.
- d. Mark: had started working at the club, sorting out a PC network. An accounts package (Sage) was needed to show bills paid and money accounted for.
- e. Martin: SMILE: Red Balloon Learning Centre had been at the last game, they arrived at noon for a ground tour, had lunch, had photographs taken with Gary Brabin and other players. Cambridge Premier Chauffeurs wanted to hand out leaflets, this was stopped by the club. They may have an advert in the programme on the CFU page.
- f. Carol: Race night planned for 4th April, profits to YD walk.
- g. Colin: Sportsman dinner on Friday 27th March with Ron Atkinson and 20+ ex-players. £400+VAT per table of 10. Soul night on 28th March. The marquee is available on the Sunday. He is doing it as a fan and looking for sponsorship.

Meeting closed at 10:00 pm

Next Monthly Meeting: 6th April 2009.

Other planned meetings: 11th May, 1st June, 6th July, 3rd August, 7th September, 5th October, 2nd November, 7th December 2009.