

**Minutes of CFU Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 27th March 2002
at the Black Horse, Dry Drayton**

Present: Nick Pomery (Ch)
Eleanor Wick
Derek Wick
Barry Eley
Brian Attmore
Dave Matthews-Jones
Martin Jordan
Alan Clarke
Karen Hinkins
Jamie Dyer
Steve Greenall
Heather Wilkanowski
Graham Whiting
Lionel Webb (Sec)

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Justyn Medd.

2. Minutes of previous meeting (held on 6th March 2002 at St Ives)

Approved as an accurate record.

3. Finance

Our net assets stand at £49,000, including £17,500 from our matching sponsors. Cash in the bank stands at £22,000. Nick has spoken to our matching sponsors and there should be £12,500 forthcoming.

Derek had completed the return to the Registry of Friendly Societies by the deadline date, another good job.

The exercise carried out by Jamie to try and take over the very small shareholders in CUFC, so as to reduce the admin burden, has been completed. There was only about £40 worth of shares involved but it has reduced the number of shareholders by about 20 so it was a very worthwhile undertaking.

Lionel had visited CCC the previous day to meet a lady called “Harry” Cubitt, who is working on our Leisure Grant application. When the application was made, we did not have formal accounts to submit so the monthly summary was sent. This is excellent for our purposes but she would like a simple summary and provided a couple of templates we could try.

ACTION: Derek to phone Ms Cubitt

4. Membership

Eleanor reported that the chasing of people on the 'lapsed' list had yielded 7 signups and another 3 were members anyway, 10 in all.

Jamie provided Eleanor with an up-to-date list, which Eleanor will follow up.

ACTION: Jamie to email the listing to Eleanor.

Jamie reported that CFU has 288 fully-paid-up members and if we include those who have lapsed in the last few weeks, the total is 320+. It was agreed that those who do not renew should be allowed an absolute deadline of 3 months.

Member Nick Smithson had expressed concern, based upon a previous unfortunate experience with another organisation, of the liability associated with being a shareholder in CFU. Nick had sent him a comprehensive reply. It was felt that we should get back to him and ask if he's OK.

ACTION: Nick to contact Mr Smithson

There had been some email about offsetting membership fees when services are provided – the case of Sally Stubbings/Isaac Lowe, who did graphics work for Burns Night, was a case in point. Derek said it was no problem, provided that he knows about it! An invoice would be appreciated for his records.

The committee felt that we should not seek to arrange rewards for people who do a lot for CFU. They are doing things they want to do so we should not offer. If there is a request to waive membership fees in lieu of services provided, the committee will consider each case on its merits. However, Eleanor's offer, to host a BBQ in the summer for committee and helpers is seen as a great initiative. The committee would like to share the costs.

As for the idea to have all CFU members attending a BBQ, Nick's suggestion was agreed – we should invite all CFU members to come to the Youth Tournament at the beginning of September. **ACTION: Barry, nearer the time.**

Dave had floated the idea, some while ago, about offering life memberships in CFU. This would be a good initiative but it is a job to know what price to set. Some members pay quite a lot each month to CFU and, if you charged say £300, they would be undercut and we would lose their steady income. It would have to be a high enough figure to not cause upset. Our first target should be to get as many as possible onto Direct Debit.

5. LDV Final

ACTION: Justyn to progress video

6. Creative Ideas (Nick Pomery email/ Discussion with P.Barry)

Nick said the Club are most interested in progressing the following ideas:-

1. To develop Local Groups

At present, there is the St Ives Us group, which goes well, organises a bus to home games, has its own newsletter etc. East Cambs is also up and running.

The 'Local Groups' initiative has been worked on quite hard, with presentations made in a number of areas but, whilst someone might come forward and say "I'll join it when there is one", nobody has been willing to take on the setting up, in spite of our offers of help.

St Ives is a lively group and has done well but it has to be said that the bus runs at a loss – it is good PR but the club should not think that can just be successfully introduced for other areas. St Ives have done brilliantly with their A3 team picture/fixture list, surrounded by company ads. This is a good earner and pays for the bus deficit. Companies pay £40 each to appear on the fixture list and there 18-20 firms on it. CFU should progress this for other areas. Heather has got the Cambridge areas worked out. We would need people to take specimens into pubs, shops, chippies etc to gauge interest.

ACTION: Jamie to run an analysis of Members' locations

2. Posters for Games on Website

Andrea will make match posters available on the web for members to download and display at their place of work, their local pub etc

3. South Stand

The Marketing Sub-Committee will progress this.

Regarding stories for the freesheets, Will Jones and Ben Yelton are progressing. There is some sort of CU trailer available with a folding display stand – would we be interested to use it? It was agreed we should use it at Strawberry Fair.

7. Events

- **Golf Day** – Eleanor has launched the publicity for the afternoon of 29th April at the Meridian course and is getting some good responses. She will look at it after Easter and will progress further. Noel Young will be invited and hopefully will offer a prize.
- **Bike Ride** to the Northampton game – organisation is underway and participants will be Karen, who proposed the event, Peter Woor, who cycles to all games where possible, Brian Attmore, Steve Greenall and Colin Davies. The ride finishes at the Walter Tull memorial at Northampton's ground, between car park and the away end. **ACTION: Nick to try Barclays for sponsorship, since half the proceeds will go to charity.**
- **Youth Tournament** – Barry and Karen are progressing, redesigning the brochure, getting in the handbooks from FA, colts leagues etc. Tony Major has agreed to join the team again. Sooty is OK to be MC on the day, which will be 1st September. The under 15s will be included. Gary Atyes will help from the managerial standpoint. **ACTION: Nick to ask club if they will again provide free match tickets to participants, also to ask whether they would like to sell merchandise on the day.**

- **Open Day** – the feeling of the committee was that we should not do one this year, it should not be seen as an annual event.
- **Strawberry Fair** – Nick has spoken to Justyn's contact. It was felt that the Boing machine would attract a lot of interest if the Club could provide – we would need something more than a stand with leaflets/fixture lists.
ACTION: Nick to speak to Graham Eales about Boing Machine, also whether Marvyn could come for a while.
ACTION: Nick to speak to Mark Nutter about promoting the Boing machine on school visits
- **Raffle of famous video** – Steve has written to ManU
- **JT Testimonial** – Heather reported that the following are being organised, with the support of Garry Harwood, for Shaggy's testimonial year:-

Gala Ball 20th July in marquee, disco, dinner, auction.
Game the week before the season starts
December dinner
Feb/Mar Supporters Party
End Season Golf Day

8. CFU Volunteers

We should remember Brian's email about the AGM, in which he says that two participants, Brian Phillips and Bruce Hart, had said they would like to get involved more. Bruce is caretaker of Abbeyfields School, formerly Priory, a useful contact from a community point of view.

ACTION: Barry utilise for Youth Tournament?

9. CUFC Financial Situation

The situation at the Club is clearly very bad and is aggravated by the near collapse of ITV Digital. Around £400k has been spent on the South Stand and a further £1 million will be spent, half-funded by grants. With grant money 'you must use or lose', within 3 years. This was a major discussion item, which culminated in a Recovery Team being set up, comprising Nick, Steve, Graham and Dave. Nick has already published a super article on the plight of CUFC, urging non-CFU members to join and give maximum support to their club.

10. CFU Website

Barry met Charlie Gray at Cardiff. He had spoken to a director of the Rivals site who offered to set up our own page. This was welcomed as an alternative to using the CUFC site. Jamie offered to look after the technical side, aided by Dave. After talking to Charlie Gray/Rivals, Jamie will assess needs and call on help as necessary. **ACTION: Jamie.**

11. CFU Sub-Committees

Jamie's suggestion was not specifically discussed but sub-committees are forming naturally. We have a group for each of the events, a Marketing group, a CUFC Recovery Team and the nucleus of a website team. We are getting there.

10. Other Business

It was agreed that we should progress Brian's suggestion to meet for dinner at the Black Horse, Dry Drayton – on Friday 3rd May.

ACTION: Brian offered to arrange.

11. Next Meeting

We will stay with Wednesdays for a few weeks, while Barry has Tuesday commitments, then switch to Tuesdays.

Our next meeting will be held on Wed 24th April, venue to be advised

1. LDV Final

- Banner
- Arrangements
- Meeting at CU

2. Creative Ideas (Nick's email) & mtg with P Barry

6.Events 2002

- Golf Day (Eleanor)
- Bike ride to Northampton game (Karen)
- Youth Tournament (Barry)
- Open Day (Nick to write to Club – when do they want it?)
- Stall at Strawberry Fair (Nick/ Justyn)
- Raffle of Famous video (Steve)

We could discuss social CFU events – Ideas?

7. CFU AGM

- Review developments

8. Matters from Previous Meetings

- Following up youth teams who had not taken up the free ticket offer (Barry/Heather)
- Arranging seats for disadvantaged youngsters/adults (Nick)
- Website, Steve to phone Andrea for a solution, Barry to implement
- Nick to check with Club whether we can do a lottery (we have a licence)

9. AOB

10. Date of next meeting (a Wednesday)