

MINUTES OF CFU TRUST BOARD on MONDAY 8th OCTOBER 2018 at the ABBEY ARMS

PRESENT: Robert Osbourn (Chairman), Dave Matthew-Jones, Margaret Pearson, Frank Pearson (Secretary), Terry Wilby, Colin Proctor, Joy Childs, Nigel Browne, Andrew Stephen, Brian Thorby, Pat Morgan, Nigel Pearce, .

1. Apologies for Absence

Carol Looker, John Bilboa, Martin Chapman, James Taylor.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

NP requested a further copy of the August minutes.

Action: MP to send

3. Regular Reports

a. **Membership** is 309 and rising. (TW)

b. Finance:

Main Account	22414.00	including around £500 book sales for Coconuts
Second account	30.39	
Paypal	157.21	
Total	22,601.60	

Football Supporters Federation membership is up for renewal. Membership is free, but AS proposed and DMJ seconded a donation of £50.

c. **Lottery:** Membership 147

Bank Balance	£39720.52
made up of Prize fund	14631.81
Costs	721.09
Fund	24367.62

Jackpot won. Hoping for presentation on 3rd November. (BT)

d. **Coconuts:** PM provided the Chair's annual report from 100 Years of Coconuts AGM, highlighting the names of the new Officers and the success of the CUFPFA attending the match on 22/9. (Tickets for ex-players + guest are available for non-sell-out games.) Barnwell at War almost ready. 55 pre-orders already for Andrew Bennett's volume 3, to arrive in time for Christmas.

e. **SLO report:**

- Went to SAG meeting last week. We were complimented on Ground Update. (See website link.)
- "Football Business" magazine: we are up for recognition and DMJ will attend the Awards meeting with BT.
- Next SAG meeting will focus on Counter-Terrorism and Hacking. Before meeting there will be a training session for stewards on counter- terrorism.
- South Stand Initiative: How possible is it to have 2 clubs accommodated in one stand? This is being investigated by SAG.
- Concert likely to be repeated but after more planning.

f. FED report:

- Safeguarding This is the big issue. Reports must go to Andy Beattie. **All** must be followed up.
- Footballing Operation At start of season results and performances were discussed at Board level.
- Financial Report Duncan Foyle has a free hand and has given much more information. He attempts to tell us how we are doing. DMJ has found this a refreshing change. We now have cash-flow planning.
- Finance going forward A rumour that wages have not been paid is wrong. Perhaps we're being confused with Oldham Athletic. There are plans to cut costs. A business update has somewhat stalled and this is not unrelated to some staff sickness.
- Communications - eg with Cambridge News, Radio Cambridgeshire, Fanzines etc. DMJ asked how we get more exposure. Graham Daniels has been on radio and Ben Strang was on tonight. Club will attempt to be more open with media and fans.
- China Update No change of structure yet but Audit is expected to confirm £300,000 due to us for intellectual rights.
- EFL meeting at Sheffield Wednesday last month There was a very telling item on Chinese ownership.

JC asked if anyone had seen Martin Hunter's attempt to get a loan player for the rest of the season because of CUFC's lack of goal power. DMJ said he had seen but remarked it could only work if the money were available 'up front'. DMJ said he would send details of this proposal to the BoD.

(Update: Andy Fox and Martin Hunter have now met 2 members of the BoD: Eddie Clark and Ian Mather.)

4 Supporters' club liaison

Postponed until Andy Fox can be in attendance.

5 Meetings with club officials

- a. Fan engagement – meeting with Godric Smith (13th October)

RO has circulated a 2 page summary of fan engagement responses. Most fans believe there is no leadership and therefore no spokesman.(AS) Until awkward questions are answered people will not trust the BoD. EFL require 2 fans forums a year: perhaps one at our Open Day. Other clubs hold regular 'Surgeries' whereas our BoD struggles to communicate. Should they issue an apology? (NP)

We need to look at ourselves: how does CFU communicate with fans? Could we improve?

Amber News could include CFU statements and press releases. eg: What is CFU's view on Live Streaming?

- b. Pre-Audit meeting with FD and Audit team from Price Bailey

This has been delayed due in part to staff sickness. Duncan Scott needs to attend.

Hopefully this will shortly be resolved. It is encouraging that our questions are being absorbed into the Audit. Price Bailey are sponsors and Auditors and must adhere to legal obligations. The result must be made public and shareholders given a full report.

6. Sale of Wembley – should CFU respond?

It would be better for individuals to respond direct to SD and FSF consultation

Action : DMJ to put on website.

7 AOB.

NP: Can we have dates of Football league meetings so we can consult?

Action: DMJ to ask Andy Beattie

AS: Should Amber News remain monthly? Yes and produce hard copies. Can use Coconuts' printer at cost. JC suggested highlighting articles to attract extra readers. More contributors needed. NP to send article on Agents.

DMJ: Boots for Africa to be collected on Saturday. Flags but not shirts will return to South Habbin.

TW: When will Amber News go on website? Wednesday.

NB: The £2 extra pay-on-the-day – does it apply for Cup matches? (Not for tomorrow's Checkatrade.)

8 Date of Next meeting

Monday 12th November in Abbey Arms.



100 Years of Coconuts AGM – 13 September 2018

Chair's annual report

The past year has been one of flux for 100 Years of Coconuts. The group has achieved a great deal in its six years of existence but activity has slowed in the last 12 months.

It has been difficult, sometimes impossible, for a variety of reasons, to maintain the volume of work that was carried out between 2015 and 2017. This is entirely understandable, perhaps even desirable, and it should be stressed that 2017/18 has still seen much achieved, with some marked successes.

Before outlining the activities and achievements of the past year, I would like to thank the management committee, officers and volunteers for their invaluable contributions. I would also like to pay tribute to the priceless work and devotion of Andrew Bennett, whom we lost in February this year. Without Andrew's tireless effort, writing skills and amazing dedication, most of Coconuts' achievements would have been severely diminished and many would have been impossible. We continue to publish his work, and will ensure his memory endures with the placing of a memorial plaque in the Habbins and the institution of the Andrew Bennett Award, made possible by crowdfunding led by Ian.

The Story of the U's: volunteers welcomed visitors to the display whenever possible, including during the CUFC open day in July. Several parties from primary schools found the display fun and informative. Other visitors included Trudy Gallagher (Geoff Proctor's daughter) and family, Nigel Fenner of Cambridge Sports Tours, the entire CUFC first-team squad and coaches and members of the CUFC business team. A live radio broadcast from the museum on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire took place when the Abbey Stadium reverted to its historic name.

Exhibits including Bob Bishop's first contract, donated by his son Rod, have been added.

Coconuts was reassured when CUFC director Shaun Grady confirmed that purpose-built museum space will form part of any future redevelopment of the stadium's north end.

CUFPA: membership stands at 166, a net increase of 31 since this time last year. Much growth can be attributed to social media efforts on LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

We lost one member, Johnny Haasz, during the year. We also learned of the death of non-members Colin Harper, Billy Day, John McGlashan and Allan Harris.

One newsletter has been produced (provoking no feedback); small get-togethers have been poorly attended; the website has not been updated. However, collaboration with CUFC has produced a successful ex-players' day, to take place at the Mansfield game on September 22. This perhaps provides a pointer for future development.

Hall of Fame: the success of 2017's HoF dinner/induction was repeated in March this year and a small profit was recorded thanks to generous sponsors (one of which has yet to pay its bill). There were six inductees: Dudley Arliss, Alan Biley, Bill Leivers, Wilf Mannion, Richard Money and John Taylor. Widespread publicity was achieved. Planning for the 2019 event will begin this month.

World War I: a six-month research project aiming to illuminate the everyday lives of residents of east Cambridge during World War I, funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council and run in collaboration with Wolfson College, ended in December. One of the aims – finding out what happened to the 1913/14 Abbey United players – was not achieved despite widespread publicity and appeals on social media. Work is continuing in this area.

The research group, guided by Michael Hrebeniak and aided by Nick Mansfield of the University of Central Lancashire and Sarah Lloyd of the University of Hertfordshire, consisted of PM and volunteers Jane Gilmour, Nigel Browne and Gill Cannell. A 40-page booklet on the results of the research, to be published next month, will be followed by a month-long display in the Museum of Cambridge.

Schools: while the four-week project with Abbey Meadows primary school piloted in 2017 was not repeated, Coconuts worked with Abbey Meadows and the primary schools of Fen Ditton and Somersham to inform, educate and entertain children and spread the United story. Two of these initiatives arose from collaboration with CUCT, and Coconuts is in dialogue with the trust with a view to running a version of the four-week project in other schools.

Work with older people & those with dementia: in collaboration with CUCT, volunteers visited several residential care homes in Cambridge, aiming to encourage reminiscence and gather stories, and continues to run a series of 'sports cafés' for people with dementia and their carers. These ventures have proved popular and successful; feedback has been positive; and evidence of improvement in wellbeing among 'clients' has been gathered. The importance of the Coconuts collection – especially kit, clothing, programmes and cuttings – in these sessions is huge, and is evidence of the importance of the collection in future community-focused initiatives.

Publishing: volume two of Andrew Bennett's Celery & Coconuts history of AU/CUFC, *Risen from the Dust*, was published to acclaim, under the Lovely Bunch imprint. It was thought it would outsell the first volume but this has not been the case: sales stand at a little over 200. Volume three (*Champagne & Corona*) will go to press within the next couple of weeks and marketing will begin shortly.

Lovely Bunch is also publishing *Barnwell at War*, the booklet arising from the WWI research referred to above, and is in discussion about a further title: Geoff Price's *Match Day* book of behind-the-scenes photographs, to which Coconuts has contributed.

Aside from Lovely Bunch, PM is working with Ian Darler and a publisher towards the 2019 publication of Ian's memoir, *Life's a Pitch*.

Accounts: we maintain a surplus at the bank thanks mainly to book and merchandise sales. Thanks are due to Caroline for her keen control of financial affairs.

Funding: no funding has been secured since the AHRC grant expired at the end of 2017. An application to the Mick George Community Fund was unsuccessful. Work continues on a bid for further HLF money to fund a desperately needed two-year sorting, cataloguing and digitisation project, and it is hoped an application will be made in the next two months.

Plans are in hand to collaborate with Abbey People in placing 'listening benches' providing oral history on audio to sitters and loiterers. The intention is to fund this programme with HLF money.

Merchandise: sales were slow, although progress was made with the launch of an online shop through Saffron Apparel. This has lifted the workload from Coconuts' volunteers' shoulders but no income has yet been received.

Social media, publicity and promotion: social media work – invaluable to the promotion of Coconuts, CUFPA and the HoF, and the propagation of the United story – has had another great year.

Facebook 'likes' number 1,536; Twitter followers 1,325; LinkedIn connections 353; and Instagram followers 118. Barry, praise be upon him, updates all platforms several times every day, even when he's on holiday.

Coconuts continues to contribute a column, and provide other ad hoc material, to the matchday programme. The monthly column in the *Cambridge Independent* has been discontinued for lack of resources but it is hoped that this will resume some time. An article was contributed to *Soccer History* magazine and contributions were made to articles for *The Guardian* and *These Football Times*. We respond frequently to requests from the club, the press, radio and television for information, quotes and appearances, and the frequency with which it's found necessary to explain what Coconuts is all about is diminishing.

We helped a bloke whose name I've forgotten with a book he's writing about football clubs.

We respond frequently and, I hope, speedily to requests for information, help and contacts from supporters, family members of ex-players and other football clubs. This work goes largely unseen and perhaps we should make more of it.

Q&As: just one post-match player Q&A (Alan Biley/John Taylor) was held during 2017/18. Must do better.

Research & oral history: collection of memories, on video and audio, from former players, supporters and others has made little progress this year. Research on club and community history continues at the Cambridgeshire Collection, online and elsewhere.

Storage/collection: the collection was moved from Cambridge Self-Service Storage to Peaks Storehouse (with large objects stored in Matthew Browne's garage) for reasons of cost, a contra deal having been negotiated. There is still a pressing need for the collection to be sorted, tidied, boxed and shelved, and for some objects to be disposed of, and funding is to be sought for this.

Richard came on board to assemble, augment, catalogue and store the programme collection, which has also benefited from Andrew's and Richard's donations. The need for cataloguing of the rest of the collection is urgent.

Several objects from the collection have found temporary homes around the Abbey Stadium thanks to Dave's programme of enhancement of empty areas.

Pop-ups: because of a lack of volunteers, there have been no appearances at community events over the past year apart from at the club's open day. Not only has this diminished Coconuts' visibility among the people we should be reaching, it has disappointed partners including Abbey People, Cambridge Past, Present and Future (the organiser of Stourbridge Fair recreations) and people within the Community Trust, and led to the existence of a coconut mountain in Dave's cubbyhole. I believe these public appearances are important: they allow us to meet people, spread the word about the United story and Coconuts, strengthen links with community partners, have fun and sell a book or two. I hope we can find enough volunteers to resume our pop-up activities in the coming year.

Websites: while 100yearsofcoconuts.co.uk is updated every week and cuhalloffame.org.uk every year, the same cannot be said of cufpa.org.uk, and this is a source of great frustration and regret. We have tried twice to recruit a volunteer website editor to work across all three sites, without success – it seems the young men in question have as little spare time as your vice-chair and chair. I am talking to another potential editor.

Volunteers: the contribution of volunteers, whether committee members or not, is of huge importance. The past year has seen a decrease in volunteer involvement and the search for new blood continues.

Committee: Caroline has taken Tom's place as treasurer with aplomb. Our thanks go to those two, as they do to Ian Elliott, who is stepping down as secretary (Tom has taken over and is willing to continue) and Barry Benton, who is vacating the vice-chair's seat.

We have welcomed potential committee members including Alan K, Gina and Richard to meetings. Whether they wish to sit on the committee or not, their input has been and will continue to be of great value.

Other valuable contributors to committee meetings have included Wendy and Annabelle Glancy and Andy Appleton.

This time last year, I indicated that I was willing to continue as chair for a further year but would like to hand over at this year's agm. A shadowy cabal of committee members persuaded me to reconsider and stand for the post for another year, but it is high time someone else had a go. This should be my final year as Coconuts chair.

That said, I would like, with the consent of the committee, to continue to work full-time for Coconuts. I would prefer this work to be remunerated.

Thanks: in addition to the committee and other volunteers, I would like to thank the following friends and partners for their support for Coconuts over the past year: CFU and its Trust Board (especially Dave, Martin, Nigel, Brian, James, Colin, Robert, Terry & Andrew), Cambridge United Football Club (especially Tom Stewart, Andy & Estelle Beattie, Henry Comfort, Nick Fairbairn, Joanne Kafouris, Graham Daniels, Dave Doggett, Ian Darler, Mick Brown, Paul Burling, Joe Dunne, Mark Bonner, Ben Strang, Luke Chadwick, Shaun Grady, Wendy & Annabelle Glancy & Gareth Daniels), Cambridge United Community Trust (especially Ben Szreter, Andy Farrer, Simon Wall, Tim Walker, Sam Gomersall & Eleanor Smith), Cambridge United Supporters' Club (especially Graham Passey, Paul Mayes, Rob, Jay & Angela), the Cambridgeshire Collection (especially Celia & Mary), the Museum of Cambridge, the Cambridge Roar (especially Tony Murdock), my long-suffering family, Neil Harvey, John Taylor, Alan Biley, Bill & Shirley Leivers, the Mannion family, the Arliss family, Richard Money, Nick Mansfield, Sarah Lloyd, the Arts & Humanities Research Council, Joyce Bennett, Emma Smith, Janet Williams, Josie, Nigel, Liz & Ollie Slack, Kate Horrey, Sandra Grant, Pat Watson, Nick Parker, Andy Appleton, Sean Bonnington, Dave Boost, Stuart Kent, Steve Adcock, Vic Phillips, Tim Cobbold, Mark Barlow, Sarah & Robin Bailey, Deborah & James Fielden, Tom, Eddie, Brian, Kevin & Jean Higgins, Anne & Paul McGrane, Simon Lankester, Matthew Browne, Nigel, Carly & other Schoeppe, Nigel Fenner, Steve Line, Gary Atyes, Gill Cannell, Becky Proctor, Hilary Cox Condon, Caroline Biggs, Vanessa Burkitt, Warren Dosanjh, Jon Appleton, Rod Bishop, Peter Reeve, the Cambridge Independent, the Cambridge News (especially Aaron Mason and Andrew Georges), the Guardian, Chris Elliott, BBC Radio Cambridgeshire (especially Chris Mann, Sam Edwards & Steve Jackson), Barnwell Baptist Church (especially Stuart Wood), Abbey People (especially Wendy Lansdown), Mark Johnson, Doug Shulman, Christ Church/the Abbey Church (especially Charles Hall), Friends of Stourbridge Common, Friends of Coldhams Common, Peaks Storehouse (especially Matt Stevenson & Sarah), Charles Malyon, Michael Morrison, Mike Petty, Cambridge City Council, Caroline Hart, Richard Johnson, Peter Bowstead, Edye Hoffman, Sporting Memories Network, National Football Museum, Sporting Heritage, Sport in Museums Network, SHARE, Museums Association, Cambridgeshire Museums Partnership, all attendees at sports cafés, Abbey Meadows Primary School, Fen Ditton Primary School, Somersham Primary School, Saffron Apparel, Streamline Imaging (especially Ray Clark) and my medical advisers. I apologise to anyone I've omitted. Most of all, I would like to thank Andrew Bennett for his amazing contribution to Cambridge United & Coconuts, his inspiration & his friendship. And a final thanks for the life of Celia Brackenridge, who first made me think deeply about what sport really is.

PM
13.9.2018