

MINUTES OF CFU ON MONDAY 10th APRIL 2017 IN DION DUBLIN BAR AT CUFC

PRESENT: Robert Osbourn (Chairman), Tim Christopher, Nigel Browne, Dave Matthew Jones, Margaret Pearson, Frank Pearson (Secretary), James Taylor, Brian Thorby, John Bilboa, Dave Doggett, Pat Morgan, Terry Wilby

1. Apologies for Absence

Martin Chapman, Colin Proctor, Carol Looker.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting and AGM

These were now with Board members.

3. Membership Update

Currently 391 members. There had been a complaint that, for emails, there was no unsubscribe button. There had been some email glitches but Board Members confirmed that e-mails were getting through to them.

4. Financial Update

£21,985 in Main Account.

£30.49 in Secondary Accounts about to be closed

Action: Terry to provide James access to PayPal accounts.

5. Fans' Elected Director Report

- a. Club and CFU AGMs both well attended and went well
- b. Planning to attend EFL disability conference in Derby this week.
- c. Crewe Alexandra won League 2 Excellence award. (Sheff Wed L1; Brighton Ch.) Family Excellence Awards at MKDons next week will provide feedback for improvements we can make.
- d. Orient bucket collection raised £1800
- e. Negotiated for Colchester United fans to bring large flags on poles. Unlikely to be repeated as pole thrown at Stewards
- f. Met with Fans for Diversity (FSF) along with Margaret Pearson to discuss possibilities of organising events, but must be a fan initiative
- g. Pat asked about notable omissions on Wall of Fame. DMJ suggested 'Walking in their footsteps' on the ground behind the NRE

6. Lottery report

- a. Prize Fund £ 10,148.71
- b. Costs Fund £ 675.17
- c. Stadium Fund £15,743.61
- d. CRY Fund £ 5,205.34 – due to be paid out in July 2017
- e. Distribution Fund £ 1,448.63

f. Bank Balance £33,221.46

£750 given to Coconuts for Dementia and Schools' Projects.

Mention was made of a Look East item on Norwich City's Dementia project called 'Still on the Ball.'

Still waiting to hear from Phil Mullins about sports equipment required.

More members still needed. Publicity on club website and opportunities to buy tickets on the spur of the moment and enter immediately into the draw might increase membership.

So as not to affect the 50/50 sales, John Bilbao suggested a joint 50/50 + Lottery ticket.

Dave D challenged the meeting to become Salesmen. Thought needs to be given to next season.

7. Coconuts Report

- a. Thanks for the donation which will provide volunteers' expenses in Dementia Programme. Looking for funding post –Lottery. Other sources could include Age(UK), Sporting Memory Foundation and a further National Lottery bid. Dave D suggested Premier League funding: talk to Ben Szreter.
- b. World War I research project is taking shape with a hub at Hertfordshire University to examine lives of working class people of Cambridge. A little funding is available
- c. Andrew Bennett's next volume will be available in October: 'Risen from the Dust' takes us up to 1970. (Title not yet being publicly released)

8. Trust Board Member Roles in 2017/18

Frank has replaced Joy. James is responsible for Finance.

Dom Baldock has shown interest in boosting contacts with younger people, liaising with Tim and also Ryan Johnson.

9. Abbey Helpers

Roy was the driving force, but since his demise it has declined and now we have no Abbey Helpers at all – although we still have sweets. Pat suggested we need another figure head + training. Dave D said we need to train up Stewards to fulfil much of this activity. DMJ told us of other clubs where Stewards wear more friendly gear to meet and greet Away coaches as they arrive. With limited resources it is important that the club does what it is responsible for. The end of season gives us time to prepare and plan. It is important that Helpers and Stewards are aware of changed access eg in South Stand initiatives.

10. Josh Coulson's Testimonial- possible sponsorship

DMJ asked whether people wanted to support the dinner and the testimonial match (against a Spurs XI at the end of July – not yet announced publicly). CFU chose to sponsor the match at a cost of £1,500 and DMJ will communicate that to Josh.

11. DATES OF 2017 MEETINGS

12th June

10th July

11th September

12. AOB

- a. Next season starts 5th August
- b. Checkatrade Trophy review tomorrow: various options exist. Current format including Category A under 23 teams ensures largest income although certain tweaks might be possible. In particular, the position regarding involvement of Cat 1 clubs needs to be known early. Support for some group games being played pre-season, to boost interest. The system for fining clubs regarding composition of teams is to go.
- c. Match Day programmes generally sold out, but sales down from last season.
- d. Clearer signage needed for smoking areas and stewards to point people to correct areas.
- e. How does anyone volunteer to help round the ground, particularly in closed season? Talk to MP.
- f. A date has been agreed with Southend for the match for Simon Dobbin.
- g. It is planned for Tim, DMJ and Robert to discuss the content of next season's programme with Tom Stewart.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.