

Minutes of the CFU meeting held on Wednesday 29th June 2016 in the Boardroom at CUFC.

Present:

Dave Doggett, Dave Mathew-Jones, Robert Osbourn, Margaret Pearson, Tim Christopher, Nigel Browne, Martin Chapman, Terry Wilby (minutes).

Dave D explained that CUFC turnover was #£5m, of which ~£750k was Premier League Solidarity payment, and ~£450K was Premier League Academy payment.

- Everton helped CUFC by allowing Ryan Ledson to come here on loan, CUFC paid £300 a week (~10% of his weekly wage). Everton were very pleased with how CUFC operate
- CUFC Academy play from U8 to U16. Compensation for a young player is worth £4k per year, but only applies to the years the club has been in the Football League, so CUFC could lose a promising player for only £8k.
- A Premier League club has offered £100k for a CUFC young player + a further £50k
- CUFC have 4 highly rated young players and want to keep 3 of them, but if "silly money" is offered the club has to consider letting the player go.
- Season tickets and other ticket sales bring in ~£1.2M, which is roughly equal to the Premier League payments. If there were no payments the prices would have to double, or cuts made elsewhere.
- Player budget is ~£1.4M, in the conference it was ~£600k.
- A recent financial audit of 166 clubs put CUFC in the top 16, with 144 in distress.
- The trust get grants of ~£50k+.
- 1500 Regional Development Squad, 200 Academy, 80 Schools, 60 grass Roots clubs get access to CUFC coaches and First Team players.

The decision to support the 1 year trial of U21 Academy A clubs (15 from the Premiership + Newcastle) was not taken lightly, the revised structure to be:

- 16 groups of 4 teams, each group containing 1x Academy A team, 1x League 1, 1x League 2 and 1 from Leagues 1 or 2.
- Groups to be regionalised.
- Academy teams play 1 game at home, 2 away.
- Top 2 teams go through to knockout rounds.
- Prize money of £10 for a win, £5k for a draw.
- That day a request to change the rules had been received: to have U23 players and 4 overage players.
- There was a discussion on the reason why CUFC and CFU had differing views, it was felt this would not happen again with better communication.

The suggestion of B-teams joining the league was a different matter, and was very unlikely to happen.

Last season average crowds were 5200. CUFC were not able to manage the catering outlets sufficiently well, so they have been franchised out to Elmor with a 3 year contract. Elmor will invest in the facilities, and CUFC will receive a percentage of the profit.

Possible improvements could be to order by WiFi, and pay using a phone.

Dave D had to leave the meeting.

Notes from the last meeting between Robert, Dave MJ and Jez George were circulated (See appendix).

Last seasons match programme:

- Improved by responding to feedback.
- Having benchmarked other clubs programmes the content has to be improved.
- CFU and former contributors may offer more articles.

James Taylor has taken over the CFU finances, martin Page will help with the year end documentation.

Dave MJ reported:

Survey:

- ~340 replies, critical points were food and toilets.
- Data is to be analysed and made available soon.

Womens football:

- Play at Mildenhall.
- Training pitches required.
- CFU had offered help which as yet has not been accepted.

Futsal:

- Very pro-active.
- Website set up by Dave MJ.

Football League Family Awards:

- CUFC did not get anything for a number of reasons, such as signage, information, things to do.
- Hopefully improve for next year.

Kick it out:

- Now being run by the league.
- Self assessment form to be completed.

Away Fans Info:

- Margaret to continue to send out.

Taxis:

- Liz to find a taxi company that used female drivers that can be used by female CUFC fans.

SC Car park:

- Trial of cones to prevent entry/exit worked well, as did forming 2 lines to exit.

Open Day:

- 11am to 3pm on 24th July.
- CFU probably in the SC.

Tim reported on programme sales:

- Just about made budget.
- Looking to improve diversity, such as multiple language versions.

Next meeting: TBD.