

BPFC Management Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 19th April 2016

Present: Dave Poppitt (DPop) in the Chair; Jon Beardmore (JB); Phil Clarke (PC) for item 3; Adrian Curtis (AC) Minutes; Dave Hanby (DH); Gillian Harrison (GH); Matt Larsen (MtL); Mark Lloyd (MkL); Rob Loveday (RL); Alan McGown (AMcG); Bryn Morgan (BM); Pippa Ranson (PR); Jim Rochford (JR); Bill Seddon (BS)

NB: AC has included some points under appropriate headings on the Agenda or under AOB.

1. Apologies: Barry Allen; Christine Barber; Alan Marsland; Del Trotter

2. Matters arising from Meeting on 16 February:

DH reported that progress with establishing a women's team was in its early stages, with a small number attending. It was hoped that they would attend the Club Dinner.

3. Report from Phil Clarke:

PC reported on progress regarding the development of sports facilities at Hough End. Arising from previous consultations, a plan/proposal would be going to the Council's Scrutiny Committee in July or August. A Stakeholder Board was being set up and a representative from BPFC would be needed. There were a number of questions and comments:

- BS asked about the current status of potential links with GAA. PC indicated that he had been advised to contact a different link (Sean Hackett) but had received no reply yet.
- DPop expressed concern over the state of the pitches and noted that the Club's earlier plans for improvement had depended on links with GAA etc.
- MkL asked whether there were to be further pilots of 3G pitches such as had been installed at Preston. PC indicated that there were no plans yet, but noted that the RFU are installing a pitch at Platt Lane which might be used by MMU.
- JR asked whether the proposed re-alignment of BPFC pitches was part of the proposal being submitted to the Scrutiny Committee. PC indicated that the plan had not been finalized, but that the proposal would have been fed in to the consultation.
- MkL underlined the extent to which the Club had been struggling, due to the state of the pitches, both in terms of matches and of training. PC invited the Club to identify the issues and then a meeting can be arranged with Tom Bartram (RFU) to look at possible solutions.

DPop thanked PC for attending. In subsequent discussion, concern was expressed over the lack of clarity as to what was to be included in the proposal being prepared, and whether the Club's interests would be reflected. A scheduled meeting between BPFC reps and Council personnel had been cancelled at the last minute, and not rearranged. The situation regarding the lease, pitches etc had not been addressed. It was suggested that a local councillor (David Rawson) might be able to investigate what is happening from the Council's perspective. It was agreed that he should be invited to the Club Dinner. It was proposed, and agreed, that JR should represent the Club on the Stakeholder Board.

4. Lacrosse World Cup 2018

DPop reported that a formal agreement was imminent. A draft agreement was being prepared, and matters should be completed by the end of the month. The Club would receive £20k for hire of the premises plus £2k for damage/contingencies. The clubhouse would be the base for officials and a tented village would be set up food, drink etc. There would be good opportunities for income generation by the Club, and it was agreed that this should be looked into once the legal structure had been agreed. (GH reported that a lacrosse tournament would take place at BPFC in May.)

5. NatWest Rugby Work Force

It was noted that BPFC had not been successful in a bid for funding on this occasion. Only a number of clubs had been selected, but a possible reason for the non-selection was that the project for which previous funding had been granted had not been completed. It was agreed that, despite its coinciding with the U20RWC finals weekend, working parties should go ahead on the Saturday morning and Sunday. GH would prepare a list of jobs required.

6. Ground Maintenance

AMcG reported that he had sought advice and quotations to get the pitches playable by the beginning of next season. Regarding pitch 3, two agronomists had advised that it needed seeding, feeding and vertidrainage to produce a turf covering which would prevent problems with stones coming to the surface. The Club is owed a seeding from Souters which would also include part of pitch 2. On pitch 1, three bare patches need seeding, weeding and feeding, and the gradual application of top-dressing to make them level. The estimated cost was in the region of £5k, which would include some top-dressing for pitch 4. This work needs to be undertaken as a matter of urgency. The expenditure was agreed. It had not yet been possible to put up the new posts on pitch 2 because it had been too wet for a digger to be brought in. This would be done as soon as the ground is dry enough, and while the digger is on site it might be possible to dig a trench and sump to help with drainage problems on pitch 2. Pitch 5 had been too wet to use because of drainage problems. In connection with the carrying out of work on the pitches, it was noted that Andy and Boz use their own equipment which saves the Club significant expenditure. AMcG and GH would prepare a schedule of remaining pitch usage to establish when the work could be carried out.

7. Players' Concerns (Matt Larsen)

DPop welcomed MTL to the meeting. MTL reported that there had been some meetings of players to discuss matters of interest and concern. (DH noted that these discussions had been based on the results of the questionnaire which had previously been sent to members.) Clarification was desired about the present management of the Club and establishment of priorities, and how suggestions and recommendations from players might be put forward for discussion and action. An example of a particular issue at present was that of coaching arrangements for next season. [With regard to those issues, it was noted that hitherto management had been based on a structure of committees formed to undertake particular tasks, reporting back to the Management Committee. But it was acknowledged that this was not working due to the lack of people to serve on committees so the tasks were falling on a small number of individuals. In terms of priorities, the running of the bar had been a recent concern, and for the immediate future the priority would be the implementation of the re-structuring agreed at

the recent EGM. Coaching for next season was under investigation, and DPop planned to establish a sub-committee to meet and come back to Management. JB requested that he be included in that group. BS suggested that the current job-descriptions need urgent revision.] MtL mentioned several other issues which had arisen in the players' discussions, e.g. ways to increase membership and use of the bar. The timing of Management Committee meetings on training nights was also questioned, but it was noted that this arrangement had been intended to facilitate player attendance after training. A suggestion that meetings might be held on Saturday mornings met with a mixed response, and it was noted that this would create difficulties for those with family responsibilities. JB mentioned that monthly 'free (from training) Tuesdays' were being considered, which might provide an appropriate time for Management meetings. AMcG pointed out the possibility of 'Chair's action' being taken on urgent but uncontroversial matters. The meeting warmly welcomed the players' initiative and encouraged ongoing discussion. MtL said that the players group would meet again to identify a set of priorities to bring to the Management Committee. A version of an initial document which had been produced would be sent to the Executive Committee prior to the AGM.

8. New Zealand Medal Participation Event

AMcG reported that he had been in touch with the New Zealand Consulate with regard to a celebration event to mark the NZ team's arrival to use BPFC as their HQ for the U20RWC. This would have to be arranged through the organising group. Members welcomed this. The date of 4th June was suggested.

9. Finance

- JR reported that the latest set of accounts had just arrived and would be circulated. Arising from the decisions taken at the EGM, the new company had been established and a bank account would be set up. VAT registration issues are being addressed.
- The final figures for the event arranged by John Russell were not available, pending some outstanding payments, but it was anticipated that a significant profit had been made.
- In response to a question, RL noted that incorporation cannot proceed until issues regarding the lease have been sorted.

10. Bar Accounts

DH indicated that future bookings were good. March had been a poor month, but April promised to be better. BS commented that accounts are needed, as previously agreed, and asked whether a stock-taking had been carried out. GH said that a stock-taking had not yet happened but would be undertaken in due course.

11. Youth

PR reported that over 100 people from BPFC had enjoyed an outing to Sale, when Park had participated in a junior match during the half-time interval. There had been regular Youth meetings, and the Youth AGM and Presentation Day was planned for 8

th May. Youth membership was up overall, but some age-groups are struggling for numbers. There had been particular difficulties due to the state of the pitches.

12. AOB

- Agreed that the AGM would be held on 24th May.
- JR reported that he had arranged for someone from Phillips to look at the Club's electrics. It was thought that the circuit board could be adjusted to overcome the problem of spikes in usage due to floodlights being switched on without suitable time-gaps. They would look into whether the stanchions could be moved, which would be a factor in any pitch re-alignment.
- DH asked whether the Club is happy to host an RFU sponsored 7s event on 2nd July. This was agreed.
- BS suggested that the availability of the Clubhouse and its facilities could be presented more attractively on the website.
- PR expressed concern over the lack of activity in reviewing and encouraging sponsors. This issues needs to be revisited urgently.

Date of next meeting: May 19th