

BPFC Management Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2016

Present: Dave Poppitt (DPop) in the Chair; Christine Barber (CB); Phil Clarke (PC) for item 1; Adrian Curtis (AC) Minutes; Gillian Harrison (GH); Alan Marsland (AMar); Alan McGown (AMcG); Bryn Morgan (BM); Pippa Ranson (PR); Jim Rochford (JR); Bill Seddon (BS); Louise Sinclair (LS) and Ashlea Trueman (AT) for item 6.

Apologies: Barry Allen; Dave Hanby (DH); Rob Loveday (RL)

(NB AC has noted some points made during the meeting under appropriate headings or under AOB)

1. Conversation with Phil Clarke (RFU)

- DPop invited PC to remind members of his main duties. These involved the development of Rugby Union, initially in Manchester but the brief had now been expanded to include Tameside, with responsibility to, and funded by, the RFU and the City Council. It had been agreed that BPFC would provide office space. He commented on the fact that Mancunians RL are also intending to play Rugby Union: initially on a casual basis; they have no home and would be playing their first match on the 3G pitch at Platt Lane; they would not receive development money from the RFU but have affiliated to Lancs.
- BM expressed concern that more clubs will be competing for a limited pool of players, and noted that a BPFC registered player has been playing for another club. DPop commented that the RFU seems to be assisting new clubs such as Mancunians and Wythenshawe but not established clubs such as BPFC. JR suggested that BPFC could perhaps establish links with the new Wythenshawe club, some of whose players might move to Park for a higher standard of rugby. PR indicated worry over the possibility that Mancunians might establish a youth RU section; some Park juniors have been playing RL in the summer. PC suggested that attention needs to be given to player support retention and indicated willingness to come and talk to the Youth coaches. He also suggested it would be good if a club member, perhaps a student, could be present in schools when CRC coaching is going on. AMar agreed to do this, but information was needed as to when coaching sessions were taking place.
- In the course of the above discussion, it was noted that Mancunians still owe some £900 to BPFC. DPop indicated that RL would be writing again to pursue this, and asked GH/CB to provide details of food etc for which payment is owed.

2. The Minutes of the Meeting on 25th August were received.

3. Matters Arising (not on the Agenda)

The EGM which was scheduled for 20th September to approve rule changes had not taken place and would need to be re-arranged.

4. Operations Manager's Report

GH reported on the following matters:

- **Bookings** for functions including funerals had been good. Hire of the Astro were picking up, including use by the University of Manchester pending the installation of a 3G pitch at the Armitage Centre. MMU girls are training at BPF on Monday evenings for the full season and had requested food and drink after the forthcoming training session. However, bookings for conferences had decreased due to cutbacks in funding for e.g. the NHS.
- **Security** was a concern, with doors being left unlocked, items going missing from the office (including GH's own equipment), laundry, and garage. After discussion, it was **agreed to purchase 5 new external locks, and 3 keypad locks** for the office and for each end of the changing room corridor. JR indicated that a clear protocol is needed stipulating which doors need to be unlocked when, and stressing the necessity for all doors to be locked at night. It was noted that it is an RFU requirement for facilities to be open for community users.
- The Astro needed a deep clean in preparation for being re-tested.

5. Players' Group

No report.

6. Coaching and Playing

AMar reported on the following issues:

- The 1st XV had lost narrowly the previous Saturday and needed to increase the playing intensity especially in tackling. The 2nd XV were doing well, the 3rd XV were struggling, and the 4th XV were winning comfortably in their present division.
- The 2nd XV have already played 3 of the 4 games allowed on pitch 1.
- He has been trying to find physios, in particular someone to be available on Tuesdays. This needs to be sorted as soon as possible.
- He is not being provided with information regarding the membership list, and which players have paid their subs. PR indicated that the details should be available via the GMS system, but AMar stressed that he needs to be kept up to date with the relevant information.
- He was aware that a number of players have not paid their subs. This needs to be rectified. It was proposed: **That no player who has not paid his subscription by the end of October shall be picked for any BPF team.** (Proposed by JR, seconded by AMcG, and carried unanimously.) AMar would speak to each team to this effect.
- Most of the arrangements were in hand for the away fixture in the Isle of Man. He had received a quotation for transport between airport, hotel, and club.

At this point DPop welcomed LS and AT to the meeting and assured them how pleased the Club is that the **Ladies XV** would be playing matches this season. This was endorsed by all present. A number of issues relating to the Ladies XV were discussed: AMar indicated that a budget would be required, but that some funding should be available from within the playing budget he had submitted earlier. Shirts would be obtained initially from O'Neill's, with players providing their own shorts and socks. Their first game would be away to Littleborough, with the first home fixture on October 30th. It was suggested that the Ladies fixtures should be added to the Club website. Storage space for equipment is needed and the possibility of RFU funding would be looked into. For the future, the issue of subs would need to be considered. LS and AT reported that a video 'Spirit of Rugby' is being prepared under the auspices of 'Spirit of Manchester' to promote the 'fit and feminine' campaign. This would plug BPF.

BM asked about the injury to Piers Connolly. AMar indicated that recovery was expected to take 6-8 weeks.

7. Lacrosse Events

- DPop reported that a meeting about the 2018 Lacrosse World Cup would take place on October 18th. He understood that RL was on the point of finishing the contract.
- There is some concern over the fact that the FA have pulled out of funding 2 3G pitches and additional changing rooms at Hough End. It had been anticipated that these would be available for the Lacrosse World Cup.
- GH indicated that there would be a Lacrosse tournament at Park next May. This would bring in a £5k hire fee.

8. Finance

- JR reported that the account for the newly established company was to be opened shortly. This was important to ensure CASC status.
- Meetings with Manchester Leisure were ongoing, and conversations with GAA had been resumed#, including the possibility of re-arrangement of the pitch layout. GAA had held a social event at Park and were considering more.
- A meeting about Hough End development was scheduled for October 13th.

9. Youth

PR reported that a Bonfire Night was planned for October 30th. She was in negotiation with Chorlton Fireworks over provision of fireworks and their having a banner near the gates for one month. It was suggested that it should be checked that public liability insurance was in place and that a risk assessment would be needed.

A.O.B.

- The enhanced version of the club logo was approved.
- The change of wording on items of club uniform from 'Founded 1882' to 'Established 1882' was queried.
- The question of whether there is to be another 7s tournament at the end of the season was raised. It was understood that DH was considering this.
- It was agreed not to proceed with an approach from GOV TV.
- DPop requested that AC record thanks to him for producing the Minutes.

Future Management Committees:

27th October at 7.00 p.m.

29th November at 7.00 pm