

BPFC Management Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 21st April 2015

Present: Dave Poppitt (DPop) in the Chair;
Christine Barber (CB); Adrian Curtis (AC) Minutes; Dave Hanby (DH); Gillian Harrison (GH);
Mark Lloyd (ML); Rob Loveday (RL); Alan Marsland (AMar); Bryn Morgan (BM); Dave Pilkington (DPil); Pippa Ranson (PR); Matt Raybould (MR); Jim Rochford (JR); Bill Seddon (BS);.

[NB, some points raised at the meeting have been inserted by AC under appropriate Agenda headings]

1. Apologies: Alan McGown (AMcG)

2. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting:

- DPop reported that discussions regarding the Operations Manager's job description were ongoing
- Re Christies Car Parking, RL reported that a revised contract is being prepared, but some planning issues have to be resolved.
- BS is in the process of collating photographic evidence for the RFU to take up concerns with Souters.
- The deal with Heineken is going ahead. Their reps had been impressed with the set-up at BPFC.
- A formal letter has been sent by Andy Stripe on behalf of the Club to Griffin Leisure, requiring a response within 14 days or else further steps will be taken.
- The opening of Lyn's Lounge had been a great occasion.
- GH had negotiated with Cathedral Hygiene to undertake toilet hygiene in the clubhouse at a rate which would save £272.30 in the next year.

3. MMU:

MR was awaiting responses to dates suggested for a meeting between MMU and BPFC reps. AMar stressed the importance of taking agreed actions, particularly in terms of contacting Freshers. He had attended Freshers' games last year and got names of some potential players. MR agreed to attend at the beginning of next season. It was noted that some special offers in terms of reduced prices for drinks and food had been made last year, but on the whole the men's teams had not stayed at Park, whereas the women's teams had. (BS suggested that perhaps a special offer might be made for the women in recognition of this, and in the hope that it might influence the men. RL suggested such an arrangement might be reconsidered, perhaps after Christmas, and continued if working.) AMar noted that some MMU players had been retained by Park, but the influence of Rob Jones had resulted in some going to Glossop. (It was unclear whether Rob Jones will be coaching MMU next season. He is believed still to have a set of keys to the clubhouse, although he denies this.) MR indicated that MMU will probably be training at Platt Lane next season, but would hope to play matches at Park. Since they had been promoted, it was likely they would be expected to provide food for visitors. BS stressed the desirability of concentrating on what could be offered on match days and on being clear on costs. It was important to try to be clear what MMU were looking for from us prior to any meeting. (MR agreed to try to have some informal conversation about this.) .JR said that costing packages, depending on just pitch hire, changing room hire, and the inclusion of provision of meals were needed.

(It was agreed that pitch hire should be £150 for the stadium pitch and £80 for others.) GH and MR agreed to liaise over charges, in consultation with JR.

Other points mentioned:- pitch availability had been an issue, especially when a game had been cancelled on a Wednesday but the pitch used for training on the following day (GH); MMU are sponsoring BPFC to some extent, and a reciprocal arrangement might be considered (BS); there is RFU funding available for the 16-21 age group, and this had been included in BPFC's accreditation statement (PR)

4. GAA:

DPop indicated that the plans to make alterations to the size of the stadium pitch and hold matches in May would not proceed this year, but GAA were still keen on a relationship with BPFC for the future. It was suggested that GAA teams playing on Hough End who use BPFC changing rooms might be encouraged to use the bar. GH will inform match organisers when they make bookings.

5. Christies Car Parking : See under Matters arising

6. RWC 2015:

PR reported that Ken Andrews (Lancs RFU) planned to attend a meeting at BPFC on 29th April. Lancs are keen to be involved and some funding may be available. Plans were being made (including the construction of a giant Griffin in Park colours!) for the Club's participation in the Manchester Day Parade on 14th June. The aim is to promote the game and the Club, and members who walk in the parade can wear club colours. A flyer is needed to promote the visit of the Webb Ellis Trophy on 27th July. This needs to be prepared as soon as possible and to be distributed in the neighbourhood. DPop thanked PR for all her efforts in connection with promoting interest in RWC2015 and rugby in the area be recorded. **Agreed: that the Club's thanks to Pippa be recorded in the Minutes.**

7. Youth:

DPil reported that the youth section tour to Blackpool would take place from 8th-10th May, and include a game at Fleetwood on the 10th. Some teams would be making presentations during the weekend. The large signs at the main gates had been purchased from Youth funds. For the first time, over £3k had been raised from Youth membership subscriptions. The Youth AGM would be held on 17th May. Failure to observe the previous decision of the Management Committee that Wednesday nights be restricted to Youth training had not been observed. This decision must be adhered to next season.

8. Finance:

JR reported that there had been a drop of income from rentals which only partly been offset by returns from the bar. More functions were needed, plus the encouragement of other bar uses, e.g. GAA. Also sponsorship beyond the 1st XV is needed and the Finance Committee will look at this. A sum in the region of £3k is due to be paid to HMRC. The finalising of the accounts for 2013-14 was being delayed because of the failure of Griffin Leisure to supply figures. GH indicated that the Rugby School of Hard Knocks will be using BPFC bringing in £2400. Suggestions for increasing attendance and usage, included: the design and distribution locally of attractive leaflets with dates of matches and information about the facilities (BS); a board by the gate to advertised forthcoming matches (GH); the offering of BPFC as a venue for the Chorlton Arts Festival (DPil).

9. Membership:

AMar indicated that DH will be helping, with assistance from Warren Duffy, in the hope of putting more pressure on non-payers of subscriptions. Some 52% of payers had not increased their

subscription to the correct current rate. The use of a card machine for paying subs is under consideration. There will be a sign-up day for the Senior teams, and no one will be registered to play for any team (thereby being insured) until they have been signed up. He proposed that, rather than the current type of fixture card, a credit-card style membership card should be produced which might then be used for members to have reduced prices in the bar. There was concern over a suggestion that the 5th team had decided not to play next season, which would have significant membership implications. It was noted any such move would need a committee decision, but that this was a symptom of a much wider issue concerning player availability and willingness to move between teams in the best interests of the Club. This was the subject of a lengthy discussion during which a number of possible ways forward were suggested. It was stressed that the requirements of the Club's constitution must be maintained.

10. Match and Ground: See under Matters arising.

11. Social: No report.

12. Playing:

ML reported that the last month of the season had been a good one for the 1st XV, with players attending and enjoying training. He would be discussing with Jason Duffy what input into coaching he might be able to give, but a backs coach is definitely needed. The 2nd XV had been relegated but would be playing at a more appropriate level next season. Jon. Beardmore would probably be coaching the 2s, with Neil Parkin as manager. **Agreed: that the Club's thanks to Neil for all his work with the 2nd XV recorded in the Minutes.** It was hoped to encourage 3rd XV players to train on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

15. Any Other Business:

- GH noted that the concrete bollard next to the main gate had been removed. **Agreed:** that this be replaced.
- ML raised the issue of whether the club looks after injured players adequately, and proposed that four players who had had severe injuries be given free tickets for the Club Dinner. **(Agreed)** It was noted that any such injuries must be recorded in the accident book. For next season, a trained first-aider will be needed for each team. This is already in place for the Youth section, and the necessary training can be provided.

Next Meeting: to be arranged after the AGM (5th May)