

BPFC Management Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th August 2015

Present: Dave Poppitt (DPop) in the Chair; Adrian Curtis (AC) Minutes; Dave Hanby (DH); Gillian Harrison (GH); Rob Loveday (RL); Alan McGown (AMcG); Dave Pilkington (DPil); Pippa Ranson (PR); Jim Rochford (JR); Bill Seddon (BS); Del Trotter (DT).

[NB, some points discussed have been inserted by AC under appropriate Agenda headings or AOB]

1. Apologies: Christine Barber (CB); Mark Lloyd (ML); Bryn Morgan (BM).

2. RWC2015:

- DPop reported that a BPFC delegation will be going to Cardiff to welcome the Uruguayan team.
- A further pitch inspection is to be carried out on 21 August. It was fertilised last week but vertidrainage is needed on the dips. RFU have provided a liquid feed to be used 1 week in advance; it may be necessary to get a company in to spread this.
- A stanchion and some gazebos will be erected.
- Security will be very tight and car-parking will be controlled.
- It was hoped that a Beer Festival would be arranged for the weekend of the Uruguayan match (see later) and that other games would be targeted with a view to encouraging people into the Clubhouse.
- With regard to the World Cup Trophy visit, PR said that it was unclear how many 'outsiders' had attended. It was noted that some had just had photos taken and gone, probably because of the poor weather. GH reported that £398-20 was taken on the bar.

2a. Links with MMU/former players:

Arising from the previous discussion, the desirability of maintaining contact with former colts and other former players and members and of arranging special promotions to attract them back to the Club was stressed by DPil. DH noted that the new membership database which was coming into use should facilitate this.

Some matters relating to links with MMU students were also raised. It was desirable to build on existing links, but a problem with attracting MMU players to play for BPFC was the ongoing dispute with the MMU coaches. DH noted that there were 3 different issues; the playing of matches at BPFC, MMU players playing for BPFC, and other types of involvement of students. It was agreed that a package price for use of pitch, changing rooms, and food should be offered. Players might be encouraged to stay around after matches if food and a chap cans-bar were available. Some students might not want to play for MMU but could be interested in playing for Park. A flyer providing full details of what the Club is offering would be useful. GH reported that MMU have requested some use of the Stadium Pitch for training; concerns were expressed about this.

2b. Beer Festival:

DT reported that he had had preliminary talks, including with CAMRA, about arranging a beer Festival the weekend of the England-v-Uruguay match (Oct. 10th). This proposal was welcomed in principle and there was discussion about e.g. the length and scale of the event. It was agreed that DT

would have further talks in the near future and report back to Management via email rather than wait for the next meeting

3. Pitch and Ground:

- See 2nd bullet point above under RWC2015.
- Some drill-seeding has been carried out on the outer pitches by Souters.
- The pitches need fertilising. Suggestions were made as to possibilities for the loan/hire of a spreader.

4. Finance (GAA, Christie):

- JR reported that a response is being awaited from GAA regarding future links.
- He also noted that a pilot scheme for use of the Car Park by Christies involving 56 spaces is underway. They are paying quarterly in advance.
- Christies have made a planning permission application to extend the Car Park. There have been local objections and a petition opposing this has been started. It was stressed that this is NOT a BPFCL initiative, but it had provided the opportunity for a meeting with local councillors at which various issues were discussed, including safeguarding and ongoing problems over dog-dirt. Advice to the Club was that the matter should be left to the planning process.

5. Bar:

- CB and GH have successfully completed licensee training. They are awaiting their personal licences and will then apply to the Council to become licensees of the Club Bar.
- £5k is expected from Heineken, but it was stressed that this sum represents forward takings rather than sponsorship and will need to be repaid. In terms of this money being available for first team kit etc, it was noted that this should be part of a First Team budget which needs to be submitted for consideration by the Finance Committee.
- JR noted that the Bar needs to be put into a limited company with directors and shareholders, and that a bank account needs to be opened. It was **agreed: that DPop and JR should be Directors, with RL as Company Secretary; the shareholders will be the Club President and Trustees.**
- Legal action is being pursued against Griffin Leisure on the club's behalf.

6. Operations Manager:

GH provided details of bookings over the Summer, several of which had been very successful with regard to bar takings, and of a number of future bookings. It was proposed that a banner advertising the Club's facilities should be positioned on a hoarding alongside the Metro line.

7. Director of Rugby Report:

ML is currently out of action, following surgery. Jonathan Beardmore and Richard McCabe have been taking training, with some help from Jason Duffy. Pre-season matches were planned against Aldwinians and Shrewsbury, with a Lancs Trophy game at Wigan on 29 August.

8. Membership:

DH reported that subscription payments are beginning to come in. Team captains will be helping with collecting subs from players. The new membership database can include information about jobs etc.

It was suggested that the accountants should be consulted as to whether any portion of the subscription can be Gift Aided.

9. Youth: DPil reported that:

- Training would start in September.
- Williams Landrover would be sponsoring the Under 9s.
- The Under 13s would merge with Trafford MV. (Issues of insurance had been checked.)
- Storage space for Youth equipment and tuck-shop items had become an issue. Plans were in hand to build units to house equipment, a filing cabinet etc.
- He had completed a return for Manchester Airport detailing the use of the grant they had given over a three year period. It would be possible to bid again in 2016, but it would be necessary to supply a charity number. (DPop noted that it had been agreed in principle to re-establish charitable status and that a meeting would be arranged to advance this.).

AOB:

- There had been preliminary discussions regarding the 2018 World Lacrosse Championship which the Council had agreed would be held at Hough End.
- The planned Open Day at the new Hough End Leisure Centre would not now proceed because of the Centre's popularity. DPop suggested that it would be useful to have a meeting with them.
- There appeared to have been no progress with perimeter advertising banners. *
- The issue of incorporation was mentioned but it was suggested that it would not be wise to pursue this at the moment.
- A sum is still owed to the Club by Mancunians Rugby League and this could be pursued in the small claims court. DPop would write formally to Stefan on the Club's behalf.
- Barry Allen had circulated a message about a shortage of referees. DPil stressed the desirability of persuading some club members to qualify. A training course was to be held at BPFC.

Next Meeting: 17th September 2015

**Since the meeting DPop has had discussions with John Russell who is willing to take charge of perimeter advertising.*