

BPFC Management Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2015

Present: Dave Poppitt (DPop) in the Chair; Phil Clarke (PC) (RFU) was present for item 1; Adrian Curtis (AC) Minutes; Dave Hanby (DH); Mark Lloyd (ML); Rob Loveday (RL); Alan McGown (AMcG); Bryn Morgan (BM); Dave Pilkington (DPil); Pippa Ranson (PR); Jim Rochford (JR); Dave Rodgers (DR); Bill Seddon (BS).

Apologies: Gillian Harrison (GH)

Pre-agenda discussion:

BS proposed that, with effect from March, Management Meetings should alternate between the 3rd Tuesdays and Thursdays of the month. **(Agreed.)**

The following dates were proposed for the remainder of 2015: 19th February, 19th March, 21st April, 21st May, 16th June, 23rd July, 18th August, 17th September, 20th October, 19th November, 15th December.

1. Rugby Development (Phil Clarke)

DPop welcomed PC to the meeting.

- PC noted that the Business Plan was still awaited. He was assured that this had now been drafted and discussed by the Executive and would be submitted imminently. (JR subsequently confirmed this.) Once approved, RFU accreditation could proceed. (PR noted that an opportunity to bid for a grant under the RFU 'Improving Social Space' scheme had been lost because of the delay in accreditation.)
- In preparation for the RWC, there would be a meeting with a Uruguayan delegation at BPFC on 27th Jan. The possibility of a Uruguayan evening was being investigated. The Uruguayan ambassador had requested a meeting with PC.
- The Webb Ellis Trophy would be visiting BPFC as part of its tour. (PR noted that dates were being investigated but the visit was likely to be between 25th and 27th July. Possible accompanying activities were being considered.)
- A pitch report had been submitted to the club. Some financial help (£2.5k) was being provided by the Council for pitch improvement in view of the RWC.
- Plans were in hand to push forward O2 Touch rugby in the summer. Help would be needed from within the club.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. BS reported that he had pursued the possibility of a 7s tournament and discussed this with Kevin O'Brien. This would probably concentrate on local clubs. The possibility of incorporating a beer festival (to be contained within the clubhouse or immediate vicinity) was being considered. BS planned to talk further with DH and other members. A date and a sponsor would be needed. (DPop suggested re-opening discussion with Metrolink and that he would approach the appropriate person.)

3. Items raised by Secretary

RL reported that progress was being made in establishing a link between the club and Christies. He also underlined the importance of generating income from the RWC given that it now appeared that

an expected hosting fee of £2k would not be forthcoming.. In response to a query RL indicated that Andy Stripe will be pursuing the club's interests against Griffin Leisure.

4. Rugby World Cup

Further to points mentioned under 1 above, PR reported that events were being considered, particularly for the minis and juniors, to coincide with the Webb Ellis Trophy tour and the RWC final. As a lead up to RWC, there were plans to show the Wales-v-England 6 Nations match in the clubhouse on 6th Feb, preceded by a disco and food. In preparation for hosting the Uruguay team, a Rugby Work Force event is planned for the weekend of 20th-21st June. . DH, through his company, is arranging a work day to carry out jobs in and around the clubhouse.

5. Youth

- PR and DPil reported that the Under 14s and Under 15s have been doing well, and a link has been established between the Under 12s and Trafford MV. The strength of the minis section is good, with an influx of Under 6s. Former players were gaining coaching qualifications. The regular tuck-shop was realising £30-£50, but more volunteers were needed to help with coaching, serving food, staffing the tuck-shop etc.
- Re future plans, PR noted that a Happy Sundays event is to be held in March. DPil reported that a youth tour will take place from 8th -10th May.
- ML reported that 2 Under 15s have been selected for the final Lancs trial and 4 Under 14s for the Manchester squad. In order to demonstrate BPFCS success in producing players, he hoped to obtain shirts from former BPFCS junior players who have gone on to play in the Premiership (Tom Casson, Jason Duffy, Simon McIntyre and David Tait) and display them in the clubhouse.

6. Ground and Match

DPop reported that plans were in hand to re-constitute a Ground Committee with particular concern for matters relating to pitch usage and maintenance. Bozz Walker has tentatively agreed to chair this, and Andy Cochrane (Groundsman) and GH (Operations Manager) would need to be included in its membership. This committee will have the ultimate authority to make decisions on pitch usage. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to all team captains re pitch usage (RL to draft). It was noted that pitch 1 needs vertidrainage as a matter of urgency; the go-ahead for this was authorised.

A pitch inspector had visited the club and reported on the pitches. Bozz and Andy are to attend a session on pitch maintenance.

There are ongoing problems with the floodlights. This is impacting on arrangements for training, and DPil noted that some senior players have been training on Wednesdays, limiting space available for youth training.

It was noted that a number of problems relating to pitches and floodlighting were the result of poor workmanship by Souters, whom the RFU had required the club to use, and it was suggested that a letter be sent to the RFU expressing concern and seeking possible redress.

In light of the foregoing discussion, it was proposed:

(a) that, for the remainder of the season, only the 1st and 2nd XV's should play in pitch 1 (Agreed unanimously)

(b) that use of the pitches for training on Wednesday nights should be limited to the Youth section (Agreed unanimously).

7. Breakaway Tours

Two events were being planned to take place at BPFC – a youth competition and a veterans' and women's competition. Income to BPFC would be double that of 2014 (£2 per participant instead of £1). It would need to be made clear that BPFC cannot provide referees. It was noted that there had been problems last year because of lack of awareness of what input was expected from the club.

8. Selection

ML reported that the situation with regard to playing strength was relatively weak at present. Links with MMU were not working well, and some of the better MMU players were being encouraged to play for Glossop rather than BPFC. There was a lack of commitment to training, and there continued to be problems over players moving up to fill gaps in higher sides. Recruitment of players from MMU was important because of a gap in time before players from the youth section will be available for senior sides. MMU were not using the BPFC bar because it was too expensive, but the sale of cheap cans might overcome this. This would need to be discussed with Guy Barlow and GH and then with MMU. (It was noted that a meeting of the Bar Committee needed to be convened.)

9. Finance

JR noted that the source of sums being paid into the accounts was not always clear, making it difficult to check on e.g. the level of sponsorship income. It was important that he be provided with details of items of income. He understood that there were only a handful of bookings until the end of March.

10. Membership

No report. JR indicated that he suspected that some members had not updated their standing orders so were still paying at the previous rate.

11. Sponsorship

No report. An update was needed from Tom Booth.

12. AOB

- ML reported that Richard Barton had informed him of an energy-saving advisor who would be willing to visit the club. He could also provide information about available grants. Liaison with GH would be needed to arrange this.
- Dorita Morgan had contacted ML over the opening of the new 'lounge' and indicated that some former Oldham RL players would like to attend.
- Thanks were expressed to Barry Allen for his work in preparing for the move of the office downstairs.
- BM asked where the income from sale of programmes goes. (The answer was that it is handed in to GH in the first instance.) He also noted that arrangements for preparing the programme appeared not to have been working, resulting in him and Barry Allen having to put together a programme at the last minute. This needed to be taken up with Tom Booth.
- BM also asked who is currently confirming referees. Answer: 1st XV Alan Marsland, 2nd XV Neil Parkin, 3rd, 4th and 5th XVs Kevin O'Brien.

Next Meeting – Thursday 19th February at 7.00 p.m.