

## **BPFC Management Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015**

**Present:** Dave Poppitt (DPop) in the Chair;  
Tom Booth (TB); 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); Matt Raybould (MR); Jim Rochford (JR); Bill Seddon (BS); Del Trotter (DT).

By invitation for item 4: Sean Hopkins (Lancs County GAA)

**1. Apologies:** Christine Barber (CB); Guy Barlow (GB); Gillian Harrison (GH); Alan Marsland (AMar); Bozz Walker (BW).

[\*NB Two notes have been added below in light of information not available at the meeting.]

#### **2. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting:**

DPop reported that a meeting called to discuss the Operations Manager's job description had been poorly attended but a draft description had been prepared and was being considered.

#### **3. Christies Car Parking:**

RL confirmed that the legal side of an arrangement had been dealt with and a lease sorted out. Parking spaces need to be reconfigured and council permission would be required. [It was noted that it was still not clear where new changing rooms for Hough End would be located. The new facility is to include a gym.]

#### **4. GAA Link:**

Sean Hopkins (Lancs County GAA) outlined hopes for a link with BPFC to facilitate the playing of hurling and Gaelic football at Hough End, including some use of Pitch 1, as well as changing rooms, bar etc. There was a short term issue regarding the playing of two hurling matches on Pitch 1 in May; this would involve increasing the size of the pitch by moving (or removing) the mounds at the side and end of the pitch, the costs to be borne by GAA. In the longer term, it was hoped that discussions could begin between GAA, BPFC and the Council for a developing link, including 3 pitches to become available for GAA. (Pitch 1 would only be used for County games.) Further discussion concentrated on the short term proposal. Among points raised were whether the mound could be moved without disrupting the pitches (DPop); the desirability of receiving a mandate from BPFC club members and ensuring Council support (BS); the necessity to bear in mind the essential work on Pitch 1 required before RWC and its use for training by Uruguay (AMcG); the necessity to check the current pitch footprint and feasibility of moving fences (JR); and the likely attendance (BS – Sean estimated about 300).

DPop thanked Sean for attending and responding to questions.

There was further discussion, particularly of the short term proposal, in which points noted included the importance of a positive response for keeping the goodwill of the Council, the fact that any delays in considering this proposal were not the fault of BPFC, the issue of whether the mounds should be moved or removed completely, possible implications for pitch recovery, and whether it was feasible to complete the work in time for matches in May. It was stressed that GAA should put a contract to BPFC, including a clear written acceptance of their agreement to reinstate the pitches for rugby and

rectify any damage. **It was proposed that, subject to the receipt of an acceptable contract, the go-ahead be given for the two matches in May. For: 8 - Against: 2 – Abstentions: 3.**

#### **5. Ground:**

Bozz and Andy now have the necessary equipment to carry out the work on Pitch 1 required by RWC, but it was essential to order seed etc at a cost of about £3k. **Agreed that this be authorised.**

*[\* RWC have agreed to postpone their visit to inspect the work on the pitch ready for the Uruguay team until June.]*

#### **6. RWC 2015:**

PR indicated that another meeting was needed to plan for the visit of the Webb Ellis Trophy to BPFC on 27<sup>th</sup> July. It was hoped to attract many people to the Club on that occasion. No charge can be made for viewing the Trophy. She requested suggestions for a suitable type of event and it was agreed that a social Touch Rugby event, targeting clubs in south Manchester, would be most appropriate. BPFC's application to take part in the Manchester Day parade has been accepted. Plans were being made for an event at BPFC on Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, the day before the England-v-Uruguay match.

AMcG agreed to represent BPFC at a meeting also involving Phil Clarke at the Uruguayan Embassy.

*[\* Phil Clarke has already met with the Uruguayan ambassador so there will be no need for AMcG to go to London. But it is hoped he can be the point of liaison for BPFC.]*

#### **7. Bar:**

DPop reported that GB had negotiated a contract with Heineken to supply the bar. It was anticipated that this would bring in about £8k for the Club, plus hospitality offers and some equipment. This news was welcomed. It was suggested that GB be asked to discuss with Heineken the possibility of holding a Beer Festival on Oct 9<sup>th</sup>. The Club's grievances against Griffin leisure were being pursued.

#### **8. Finance:**

JR noted that bookings of the clubhouse and the 5-a-side pitch were down, so new revenue streams are required. The lack of bar accounts from Griffin Leisure is delaying the submission of accounts for the AGM.

#### **9. Relationship with MMU:**

Some issues regarding the relationship between BPFC and MMU had been put in writing to the Club, including the amount of shared coaching and the problem of matches and training being called off at short notice. It was agreed that a meeting is needed between MMU and BPFC representatives to discuss matters. **Park to be represented by DPop, BS, ML and AMar, with MR to co-ordinate.**

#### **10. Pitch problems:**

Photographic evidence of debris coming to the surface of the pitches and of injuries caused to players was required for the RFU to take matters up with Souters. **BS agreed to coordinate the photos and case studies of Pitch 3**

#### **11. Youth:**

PR reported the Happy Sundays event had been a great success, and that the Under 7s and Under 8s had played during the half-time break at the Sale-v-Gloucester match. DPil noted that all was in hand for the minis tour..

#### **12. Membership:**

No report.

### **13. Playing:**

ML reported that Andy Daldry and GB had resigned as coaches. There had been a number of issues and players had been unhappy and unwilling to attend training. ML would hold the fort until the end of the season, with support from Jason Duffy on training nights. There had already been a significant improvement on attendance at training. In the longer term new coaches, perhaps player-coaches, needed to be recruited.

### **14. April 11<sup>th</sup> - Opening of the Lyn Morgan Lounge and Players' Reunion:**

This promised to be a well supported occasion, with an opportunity to encourage additional sponsors. The possibility of a curtain-raiser was mentioned. ML asked who should pay admission and noted that Alexander (Lloyd) had experienced problems with some visitors refusing to pay. It was agreed that, with the exception of Lyn Morgan's immediate family, **all** should pay either the non-members' or member's rate as appropriate. DH agreed to support Alexander on the 'gate'.

### **15. Other Business:**

- DPop indicated his intention to raise at the AGM on May 5<sup>th</sup> of the desirability of establishing a Fund, for use by the Club President for entertainment of visiting officials.
- ML noted that plans for the Club Dinner are in hand.
- TB had resumed his role as sponsorship co-ordinator.

**Next Meeting** – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7.00 p.m.