

BPFC Management Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2016

Present: Dave Poppitt (DPop) in the Chair; Barry Allen (BA); Christine Barber (CB); Adrian Curtis (AC) Minutes; Dave Hanby (DH); Gillian Harrison (GH); Mark Lloyd (ML); Rob Loveday (RL); Alan Marsland (AMar); Alan McGown (AMcG); Bryn Morgan (BM); Dave Pilkington (DPil); Pippa Ranson (PR); Jim Rochford (JR); Dave Rodgers Jnr (DRJ); Dave Rodgers Snr (DRS); (Bill Seddon (BS); Del Trotter (DT).

NB: AC has included some matters discussed out of sequence under appropriate headings on the Agenda or under AOB

1. Apologies: None

2. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

- The heating system presented to the last meeting had been investigated and deemed not viable. The possible installation of solar panels was on hold, and consideration of the internal lighting was ongoing.
- The proposed meeting to discuss bar issues had not yet been held.
- In connection with Junior RWC, representatives of several teams (England, South Africa and Wales) had visited BPFC to look at facilities. Allocation of teams to host venues would be made by the RFU but teams could express preferences with priority given to the most successful teams last time. (The team to be hosted at BPFC would be known in mid-February.)
- Plans were well in hand for the Sportsman's Dinner, with 268 tickets sold to date. There would be a subsidised BPFC table. Top quality raffle prizes were needed, including some not rugby related. Thanks were extended to John Russell for his hard work.
- A 'household' washing machine had been purchased, but no funding had been located for a commercial washing machine. GH agreed to take up funding possibilities with Ted Mitchell (RFU). (It was suggested that a special 'draw' to fund this could be held at the Sportsman's Dinner.)

3. Finance (including ramifications of new CASC status requirements)

For the purposes of incorporation and of satisfying the requirements of CASC status JR recommended the creation of two separate companies. One would be the Rugby Club itself (including the Youth section) and relate to playing activities, and be registered as a CASC. The other would cover the trading element, including bar, hire of facilities, car park etc. Two new accounts would be needed, plus the closing of the current VAT registration and the opening of a new one. The Management Committee would act as directors. The Finance Committee would

need to advance this as soon as possible, to meet the deadline of 31st March. **This recommendation was agreed unanimously.** (It was noted that the decision re directorship replaced a previous decision [18 August 2015] about proposed directorship of the bar company.)

4. Communication issues and decisions on pitch playing conditions.

DPop indicated that it was his understanding that the decision on playability was ultimately the Chairman's, based on the advice of the groundsman. This practice had been followed the previous Saturday. ML indicated that there had been a feeling among the players and the visiting team's coach that the pitch was not playable, but the referee had allowed the game to proceed. It was noted that a referee's decision is needed if a pitch is to be declared unplayable; the referee should not be attached to the club. (ML indicated that a couple of referees are available to be called upon for a decision). AMar suggested that it is better to leave decisions until the Saturday if at all possible. It was confirmed that the decision should be that of the Chairman (or his delegate) in consultation with the groundsman, who would inform the manager and webmaster if necessary; it should be assumed that games were on unless there was information to the contrary. For the following Saturday and Sunday, pitch 4 and the Gaelic football pitch would be marked. Concern was expressed over a plan to hold two games on pitch 1. After discussion, and a vote, it was agreed by a majority that only one game should be played on pitch 1. The chairman expressed concern that an agreed procedure regarding the playing of games which he had acted upon had been outvoted by the committee

5. Pitch conditions and training facilities

- AMcG reported that he was compiling a list of work needed on the pitches as soon as the season ended and costings were being sought. Souters would be seeding pitches 2 and 3, and creating a sump to aid drainage.
- The replacement posts for pitch 2 are believed to be en route. It is understood that Lancashire have paid for them and that they will arrive soon.
- ML expressed concerns about the ongoing problem with stones rising to the surface on pitch 3. AMcG said that the agronomists' advice was that the work to be undertaken by Souters would improve the situation.
- It was suggested that, since pitches are leased from the Council, there might be some redress in light of their being unplayable. Phil Clarke might be able to exert pressure given the implications both for rugby playing and for future events such as the Lacrosse tournament in 2018. JR agreed to speak to Phil Clarke about the situation.
- AMar raised the possibility of turning pitches 2 and 3 through 90° to avoid the areas which regularly became waterlogged. JR said that he has raised this with the Council and a reply is awaited, though it was noted that the floodlights would have to be moved.
- ML reported that the lack of training facilities, due to the state of the pitches, was a major problem and was having an adverse effect on players' fitness. GH indicated that enquiries had been made about using facilities at Chorlton High School or Loretto

College but Chorlton High was not free on BPF's training nights and Loretto was only suitable for non-contact training. ML indicated that it might be possible to change training times temporarily if Chorlton High was available, and that some fitness training could be undertaken at Loretto if available.

- Use of BPF's Astroturf pitch on Sundays was limited by a regular booking through the Council for an Asian football group between 1.00 and 2.00. GH was asked to enquire whether they could possibly move the time of their session back.
- A Bounce Test is needed for the Astroturf pitch; without this being passed, the pitch can only be used for non-contact activities.
- There was discussion around the duties and job description of the groundsman and it was agreed to review this. AMcG agreed to provide further information.

6. Bar

CB indicated that the bar is working well on the whole, though there have been some problems over finding volunteers to work in the bar. A number of functions have been booked in the weeks ahead. There is an ongoing need to encourage people to come to the Club. Match day attendances have been poor recently.

7. Youth, including involvement with players and families

- BS raised the question whether we are capitalising on the number of people coming to the club on Sundays, in terms of sales of food, providing facilities etc. PR reported that the clubhouse is often full and a tuck-shop is available. CB said that tea/coffee and food are available as soon as practicable. It was noted that an ongoing issue is that, if the bar is to be open, the Youth section has been required to pay staffing costs. GH indicated that she had looked at the figures over several weeks and calculated that the bar would be in deficit if staffing costs (currently £21 for someone to work for 3 hours) were taken from bar income. The point was made that parents are expected to pay a subscription so have the right to expect appropriate facilities, and that it might be appropriate for the club as a whole to meet this expense. It was agreed that CB and GH would discuss the issues with PR and RL .
- DPil reiterated the desirability of doing more to keep in touch with players who have moved through the Youth Section, particularly former Colts, to encourage them to maintain links with the club.

8. Membership

AMar reported that he was not aware of current membership figures or whether new players were paying. He suspected a significant number of player subscriptions had not been paid or only partially paid. DH agreed to produce, in consultation with AMar, a list of those who had not paid and that this would be publicized.

9.AOB

- BS mentioned that he had some items which had belonged to Alan Shuker. After some discussion and a vote it was agreed (by a majority) that these should be sold. AMar agreed to liaise with BS over this.
- CB reported that a visitor from the RFU was coming to look at possible areas of savings in expenditure.
- BA indicated that he needed to be informed about 4th or 5th XV fixtures if they were to be included in fixture lists on the website. DRJ and DT would inform as appropriate.
- The push to increase membership of the 250 Club is underway. PR suggested that more publicity, such as a list of winners after the draws, would increase awareness.
- DH reported that plans were in hand to form a women's team as part of a 4 year funded programme, commencing in Sept. 2016. Recruitment would focus on students about to graduate.
- The Council plan to hold a 7s event on July 2nd.
- BM expressed thanks to DRS and others who had made sure that games were played despite recent adverse conditions.
- ML said that the physios need to be paid. (JR requested an invoice to be supplied.)
- ML reported that some of the Under 16s kit had been stolen from the laundry which had been left unlocked. DRS mentioned finding that lights have been left on or doors left unlocked.
- DRS mentioned that some gym equipment has been donated to the club and the possibility of establishing a gym was being considered.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 16th February (AC gave his apologies and indicated that a minute-taker will be needed.)