

BPFC Management Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th August 2016

Present: Dave Poppitt (DPop) in the Chair; Adrian Curtis (AC) Minutes; Matt Larsen (MLar); Rob Loveday (RL); Alan Marsland (AMar); Bryn Morgan (BM); Dave Pilkington (DPil); Pippa Ranson (PR); Bill Seddon (BS)

NB the meeting was not quorate, but it was felt that a number of matters could usefully be discussed.

1. **Apologies:** Christine Barber; Gillian Harrison (GH); Mark Lloyd; Alan McGown; Jim Rochford (JR)

2. **Minutes: Notes on** the Meeting of 26th July were presented.

3. **Matters Arising (not on the Agenda):**
 - It was expected that there would be a further meeting re Hough End Development in September.

 - Preparation of the contract for the Lacrosse World Cup being pursued (RL).

4. Travellers:

In connection with the group of travellers whose caravans had been brought on to Hough End, an eviction order had been issued but not complied with, so a court order was to be sought. There had been damage to Pitch 4. It was suggested that Pitch 4 should be marked out to show that it was to be used for rugby. It was noted that access was being gained via BPFC land but the travellers were on Council land as well so the Council needed to take action. Criminal damage had been caused. MLar knew of a possible contact within the Council who might be able to help and would give details to DPop. BM noted that the travellers tend to be very aware of their rights.

5. Mancunians Rugby Club:

DPop reported that Mancunians Rugby League Club was planning to establish a Rugby Union section. This development appeared to have the support of Phil Clarke (PC), the Rugby Development Officer. DPop had met with PC to express concern on behalf of BPFC but had not found him to be supportive. PC was to have met Stefan of Mancunians but the meeting had not happened, and DPop was waiting for PC to come back to him. The meeting shared DPop's concern, noting possible implications for BPFC. It was also noted that Mancunians still owe BPFC money. It was suggested that this should be taken up with Dave Southern of the RFU. (Enquiries during the meeting suggested that a claim on Mancunians' website that they would be playing in the NW Intermediate League was incorrect.)

6. Players' Group Report:

MLar reported that it had not been possible to hold a meeting recently, but some issues had emerged from previous discussions.

- Glen Foley was taking on a social role and looking into dates for certain events. (The importance of liaising with GH over dates was stressed.)
- In order to foster a club identity, it had been agreed that club shirts should be worn after games. Steve McEwen would be obtaining the shirts and they would also be available to non-playing members.
- They had been made aware of some issues of maintenance:- A hose was needed for the dryer in the laundry. (**Agreed:** that this be purchased immediately.) Attention was needed to the air-conditioning in the beer room; an initial estimate suggested this might cost £1k to rectify but Paddy O'Donnell had indicated willingness to do some of the work to reduce the cost. (**Agreed:** to refer this to JR and the Finance Committee.) There was a problem with the Fire Alarm board. (It was noted that this should be covered by the contract with the Fire Service. **Agreed:** to ask GH to look into the contractual situation.)

7. **Youth:**

- DPil expressed grave concern over the loss of several U14 players to Heaton Moor, due to pressure from Lancashire coaching staff. Lancs had been contacted over this but no reply was received initially. Subsequently Ian Spavin of Lancs claimed he had not received the first message, asked for it to be re-sent, and promised to deal with the matter but would need some time to do so. If no satisfactory response was forthcoming from Lancs, it would be necessary to contact Heaton Moor directly and also warn other clubs. He was concerned that there might be an impact on other Park players when they discovered that some of the best players were no longer at the Club. He requested that, for the time being, links with Heaton Moor be severed. This was **agreed**.
- Contrary to previous practice, competitive games were now being arranged for as early as 11th September, rather than October. This created difficulties in preparing a side so soon after the re-commencement of training.
- Re youth training, DPil asked whether the U15s might train on Tuesdays since some players were involved with school matches on Wednesdays. (It was agreed that this could be tried and monitored.) He also noted that the women's team had been training on Sundays, and it was agreed that this would have to take place after youth training or matches.

8. **Coaching and Playing:**

- AMar reported on the practical arrangements he had been making in connection with the away fixture in the Isle of Man. Flights would be with Flybe, and players would be issued with their own kit because of a 20 kg weight allowance. The hotel where he had booked rooms required a document to be signed and credit card details supplied from someone who would be on the trip, as a safeguard against any damage caused. DPop indicated

that, while he would be on the trip, he was reluctant to sign because of past instances of damage caused on away trips and of players' lack of respect for their own clubhouse. It was agreed that any damage caused on the forthcoming trip to the IoM or at other times must be paid for by those who caused it. MLar undertook to make sure that players were aware of this. DPop agreed to sign the document on the strict understanding that he is not personally responsible for any financial commitment and that undertakings would be taken from the players regarding their responsibility to pay for any damage. The Management Committee endorsed his stance on this.

- AMar indicated that he had emailed team managers regarding their responsibilities in various areas, including ensuring that subscriptions were paid and stressing the importance that club identity (shirts, ties etc) be adhered to. He stressed that non-payment of subs was resulting in a significant loss of revenue for the club. Consideration was being given to providing a player's card to those who have paid their subs. Approval was given to the ordering of a supply of ties with a new design of black and silver stripes with a small red griffin emblem. These could be worn by players, and other club members, and the anticipated profit from their sale would go into the rugby budget. (MLar said that the players were supportive of this, and had suggested that no one who had not paid the subscription should be allowed to wear the tie.) AMar would liaise with Steve McEwen and Arco, the suppliers, about opening a club account.
- AMar agreed to talk to DPil and PR about a possible deal with Under Armour over kit supply.

9. **Finance:** No report.

BS noted that a proposed meeting regarding budget and social dates had not yet taken place. MLar mentioned that some social events being considered by the players were not necessarily intended as fund-raisers but had the aim of encouraging club spirit and use of the Clubhouse.

10. **Ground:**

- The new posts had been erected on Pitch 2.
- Pitch 1 was to be used as little as possible. Problems had been caused by too much sand being put in dips on the pitch, inhibiting grass growth; this had had to be removed.
- It was suggested that a review might be undertaken of how work undertaken by the groundsman and paid for by the club was initiated and prioritised. It was proposed that GH be asked to provide to the Management Committee a list of required tasks to be carried out; these could be prioritised and referred back for action. (It was noted that much work is carried out using the groundsman's own equipment at a significant financial saving to the Club.)
- Immediate priorities noted were the removal of ruts from Pitch 4, resulting from the presence of travellers, and the permanent marking of Pitches 2,3, and 4. DPop would

instigate this with the groundsman.

- DPil asked about the safety of Pitch 3. DPop said that this had been confirmed after it had been inspected by an agronomist.
- AMar asked about the use of the Asro pitch for club training when pitches were unfit for use. It was noted that the Astro is widely used by groups who make regular and long-term bookings, providing much needed income for the Club. However, GH could be asked whether there are free slots which might be available for training.

Future Meetings:

EGM to approve rule changes: 20th September at 8.00 pm

Next Management Committee: 27th September at 7.00 pm