

## **BPFC Management Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

**Present:** Dave Poppitt (DPop) in the Chair; Christine Barber (CB); Adrian Curtis (AC) Minutes; Dave Hanby (DH); Gillian Harrison (GH); Dave Herron (DH); Mark Lloyd (ML); Alan Marsland (AMar); Alan McGown (AMcG); Bryn Morgan (BM); Dave Pilkington (DPil); Pippa Ranson (PR); Matt Raybould (MR); Jim Rochford (JR); Bill Seddon (BS); Louise Sinclair (LS).

**Apologies:** Rob Loveday (RL)

(NB AC has noted some points made during the meeting under appropriate headings or under AOB)

1. **The Minutes of the Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> October** were received.
2. **Matters Arising**

Nothing not on the agenda.

3. **Operations Manager's Report**

GH reported on the following matters:

- There had been an approach from ATC to use the clubhouse twice per week since one of their buildings has been condemned; PAT testing and a wiring check would be required. It was agreed to approve this at a charge of £50 per session, subject to availability and on condition that the kitchen is not used. (The agreement to be checked by RL.)
- There had been a new booking for the Astro, and it was sometimes being used by the University of Manchester.
- MMU had asked to hold their Christmas Party at Park. (It was suggested that a deposit of £250 be required, to be returned as bar credit if appropriate.).
- A number of other bookings had been made including a Referees' Society Meeting and 8 salsa evenings.
- Future bookings by NHS and Mental Health are unlikely in view of cutbacks.

4. **Finance**

JR gave an update on finances and raised a number of concerns. **Please see the attached Financial Report.** He stressed that urgent consideration is needed of the issues and suggested that ideas and/or proposals should be submitted to him for discussion at a special meeting

Immediate questions/comments/suggestions from those present included the following:

- People are unaware of the existence of the facility. (AMcG)
- A standalone website to advertise the facilities is needed. (PR)
- What is the current midweek usage of the facility? (BS)
- Are there firms who had previously expressed interest in use of the car park who might be re-approached, or other potential users? (ML)
- Another dinner along the lines of that organised by John Russell could be arranged, but JR had indicated that he could not undertake this himself but could get people to attend. (DPop, CB, and ML agreed to take this forward in consultation with John Russell.)
- Offers to raise sponsorship via advertising boards and for the match programme had not been followed through.
- There is currently an age gap between playing members and older members who have undertaken jobs and offices for many years and should be handing them on to younger members (AM, BS).
- More help from current/recent players in business in terms of advertising, sponsoring, taking tables and retaining club membership would be welcome. Some senior 'members' are using the facilities but not paying subscriptions. (AM)
- There is an issue of atmosphere; it is important to encourage more people to use the bar and in particular to stay after matches. Events such as a beer festival or a 7s tournament provide opportunities but these may need to start on a small basis with a view to increasing in the future. (DH)
- The 6 Nations would provide an opportunity to encourage people to watch games in the clubhouse. (PR)
- Could the club hold a Car Boot Sale, or be involved in the one which currently uses Hough End? It was suggested that there might be a contractual problem. DPop agreed to investigate this.

It was agreed that these issues should be a special Club Meeting rather than a Management Committee, to be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 pm. (CB agreed to provide food.) Suggestions should be submitted in advance to JR.

#### **5. Club Dinner 2017**

It was agreed that this be held in the Clubhouse on the first Friday in May, food to be fish and chips or hotpot rather than a 3 course meal. Team managers would liaise with CB over the arrangements.

#### **6. Players' Group**

Disappointment was expressed that yet again there was no report. It was agreed to remove this as a standing item on the agenda.

#### **7. Coaching and Playing**

AMar reported:

- There continue to be problems over players moving between teams. (DH endorsed this.)
- Consistency of selection has been a problem, with players not necessarily available from week to week.
- Equipment (e.g. water bottles) is being left around rather than locked away.

He also proposed an amendment to a previously agreed pitch allocation, to the effect that **all** 2<sup>nd</sup> team home games should be played on Pitch 1 (when fit) rather than 4 games per season. Reasons included the desirability that players who are in the first team squad should be used to the pitch, convenience of spectators in terms of comfort of watching and access to the bar, and the impression given to visiting teams. The protocol regarding pitch fitness should be:

- Operations manager/Groundsman informs Chairman/DOR of any pitch issues prior to any game.
- Chairman (or, if not available, DOR) inspects pitch. The time would depend on the condition of the pitch but would normally be at 10.30-11.00 on match day. For Minis and Juniors, RL and ML would be informed of pitch conditions on the Saturday and make an inspection on Sunday prior to matches being played.
- If the state of the pitch dictates that an earlier decision is required, this should be agreed by the Chairman/ DOR/ Operations manager/Groundsman. In such a case it would be necessary to ensure compliance with the League criteria.
- Once a decision is made that the Stadium Pitch is unfit, the game would be transferred to an outer pitch so long as one is fit for play.
- If the Stadium pitch is deemed unfit **it must not be played on.**

**The above was agreed.** JR suggested that any team ignoring this protocol should lose the right to use Pitch1. This was agreed. It was also agreed that, particularly during winter, it would be inappropriate to have 3 games on Pitch 1 in any weekend

On behalf of the Ladies XV, LS reported:

- They were anxious to have enough games this season to qualify for admission to the league next season; there would be an away game on 11<sup>th</sup> December, and further games in the new year. The possibility of fixtures with a team from Cardiff was being considered.
- The potential for sponsorship is being looked into.
- There had been an instance when their training had been called off because the pitch was unfit, but the 1<sup>st</sup> XV had trained. GH stressed that the 1<sup>st</sup> XV had only used the dead ball area.

## **8. Lacrosse World Cup 2018**

DPop reported that further meeting had been held to discuss arrangements and a draft contract prepared. An issue for future consideration would be the necessity to remove all the goal posts.

## **9. Bar**

GH and CB reported that a stock check had been carried out and all had been found to be in good order with an increase in profits. CB noted consideration would need to be given to obtaining a more efficient till.

## **10. Youth**

PR thanked GH and CB for their help with the Dinner Dance. She was still chasing memberships. Growing numbers had created problems with there being sufficient space and the council had been approached about the possible use of neighbouring pitches.

DPil commented on the following:

- There is an ongoing problem with dogs fouling the pitches. ( GH has contacted the council about this.)
- He has begun to make enquiries in preparation for a Youth tour at the end of the season.
- There has been no response from Lancs. RFU over BPFC's protest about Heaton Moor's approaches to Park players.

## **11. Ground**

AMcG reported that the pitches have had their Winter feed and that it would be necessary to think ahead to what was needed for Pitch 1. JR noted that an invoice he had received from the groundsmen implied that we are now being charged for equipment hire.

## **A.O.B.**

- BS indicated that there would be a 250 Club Draw and Players' Reunion in January
- DPop reported that the Club had been approached by Crabbies with a view to their nominating Park as a grassroots club.
- ML raised the possibility of instituting a system of 'credit' cards for members to use in the bar, perhaps with a reduction in price. CB noted that this would require a special EPOS system which would be expensive to install. This was referred to the Finance committee.

## **Next Meeting**

Special Club Members' Consultation Meeting - 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 pm