

BPFC Management Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2017

Present: Dave Poppitt (DPop) in the Chair; Christine Barber (CB); Adrian Curtis (AC) Minutes; Gillian Harrison (GH); Mark Lloyd (ML); Rob Loveday (RL); Alan Marsland (AMar); Pippa Ranson (PR); Jim Rochford (JR); Bill Seddon (BS); Andy Stripe (AS).

Apologies: Alan McGown; Matt Larsen.

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

1. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

Nothing not on the agenda.

2. Finance

JR reported:

- There had been little feedback from the special meeting in December.
- He had been in conversation with two GAA clubs (one Gaelic Football, one Hurling) who were interested in using our bar and holding some events at BPFC. Some form of associate membership might be negotiated. (They would continue to play on their own pitches.) Links with other sports clubs were important for negotiations with the Council.
- It remained essential to raise membership numbers, and for current members to bring other people down to the Club.
- There were currently no funds to meet anticipated debts.
- It was still hoped to develop Touch Rugby in the Summer.
- The opening of a bank account for the 'New Company' was proving frustrating. Matters were hand from the Club's perspective but banks were proving unhelpful.
- Another fund raising occasion such as the Dinner arranged by John Russell was needed.
- A follow-up to the special meeting in December was needed. He would arrange this. BS mentioned that this might also be an opportunity to approve the new Club rules which he and RL had been working on. (**Action: JR and RL**)

Points made by others present included:

- DPop reported that he understood that plans for the development of sports facilities at Hough End had been abandoned.

- With regard to a fund-raising dinner, it was agreed that a meeting with John Russell should be arranged as soon as possible. DPop, CB, AS, BS, and ML agreed to be involved. (**Action: ML** to contact John Russell.)
- AMar indicated that he was sure a number of players were still not paying subs. He was aware of 59 currently paying by SO. There was currently a lack of communication over who had paid. (He was not aware of those who had paid early via the SponsoriseMe appeal.) He would communicate with Dave Hanby and team reps over who has paid. (**Action: AMar**). DPop agreed to go into the changing rooms at the next home game to speak to the players. (**Action: DPop**)
- GH reported that parents of players were refusing to pay to watch matches, have being told that they need not pay. It was agreed that they **should** pay the appropriate admission charge.
- Curtain raisers or mascots might bring more parents down to watch.
- BS urged that attention be paid to the visibility of the Club's facilities on the website. GH indicated that she and Barry Allen are working on website improvements. It was suggested that club members with relevant expertise (Ali Ellis, Richard. Wood) should be invited to become involved.
- It was noted that the List of Officers needs updating.
- GH was preparing cards with details of our facilities to distribute to funeral directors etc.
- BS urged the establishment of a Social Coimmittee, and agreed to approach Dave Rodgers Jnr, Dave Herron and Matt Raybould with a view to advancing this. (**Action BS**)
- For the Players Reunion on April 1st maximum attendance is needed. BS and JR would approach those on their contact lists. Suggested possibilities for the day included a raffle, a Ladies team curtain raise and a Minis match at half time.
- CB reported that Heineken are willing to sponsor a match, and suggested that this might be a sponsors' day. Possible dates were March 11th or April 22nd.

3. Operations Manager's Report

GH circulated a list of bookings for the months Jan. – July 2017, and noted that these included some day-time booking for conferences or meetings as well as sporting events, functions, parties etc. A Lacrosse weekend in May would bring in £5k for the Club. (DPop also mentioned an approach for BPFc possibly to host the European equivalent of the Bingham Cup in 2019. This would be dependent on the local bid being accepted. It would potentially bring in £10k)

The Club has been approached by Loretto College as to whether we could be their designated 'safe site' to be used in case of the need to evacuate the College because of terrorist activity. **This was agreed.** (There would not be any payment to the Club, but we might be able to use their Astro pitch from time to time.)

4. Club Annual Dinner 2017

It was noted that the proposed date is the day before the Lancs Trophy Final so would not be suitable of Park qualify. It was agreed to postpone any decision on this until after 25th Feb (semi-final).

ML reported that, contrary to what was agreed at the previous meeting, the players preferred a 3 course meal to fish and chips (or equivalent). It was agreed to canvass more opinions before making a decision. Some thought was given to a possible speaker.

5. Potential 'Crabbies' Sponsorship

DPop reported that negotiations were in hand. Initially this would involve providing equipment featuring their name for the filming of a training session for their publicity. The club would retain the equipment.

6. Travellers Intrusions and Hough End Security

A meeting had been held but nothing had happened to date. There would be a further meeting on Feb 24th. It was understood that there was some council money available and that wooden stumps might be put around the ground in an attempt to prevent access. Consideration might also be given to the erection of a barrier on the approach road on the Club side of the ATC huts. JR stressed that any solution was ultimately the responsibility of the Council. As an interim measure, it was **agreed** that a lock guard be purchased and welded on to the gate to prevent the removal of padlocks with bolt cutters.

7. ATC Relationship

Discussions about possible links between BPFC and ATC were ongoing. As previously agreed, they are using our facilities in view of the discovery of asbestos in one of their huts.

8. Coaching and Playing

AMar reported that the result at Bowdon the previous Saturday had been disappointing, and that there had been 6 injuries to Park players, some long-term. The issue over the calling off of the game on its scheduled date was ongoing. The RFU are awaiting Bowdon's response.

There is to be a meeting on 28th March at Trafford MV to discuss issues regarding moving U16s teams into clubs, and the growing of club membership.

9. Lacrosse Events

DPop and RL were discussing details of the contract for the Lacrosse World Cup, to take into account the need to hire the Club's facilities as they are now. (Council proposals to install All-weather pitches at Hough End have been dropped.) The installation of an All-weather pitch at Park might come into consideration.

10. Youth

The forthcoming Youth tour has a record number of 205 people attending.

RL complimented Mark Goodman and Phil Clarke at working hard to keep the Colts team running.

11. Ground

No report at this stage.

A.O.B.

- Dave. Rodgers Jnr was arranging a Casino Night on Feb. 18th.
- The possibility of holding a New Year's Eve Party at the Club was mentioned. It was agreed that the players should be sounded out as to whether there would be support for this.
- Someone from the Council had turned up with a view to planting trees around Hough End. This was not something of which the Club was aware, and it had been stopped. But the Club would work with the Council over the planting of trees in appropriate places.

Next Meeting Thursday 2nd March 17 at 7pm