

BPFC Management Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2017

Present: Dave Poppitt (DPop) in the Chair; Christine Barber (CB); Adrian Curtis (AC) Minutes; Gillian Harrison (GH); Mark Lloyd (ML); Alan McGown (McG); Bryn Morgan (BM); Pippa Ranson (PR); Jim Rochford (JR).

Apologies: Dave Herron; Matt Larsen; Rob Loveday (RL); Alan Marsland (AMar); Bill Seddon (BS).

NB The meeting was not quorate (the quorum is 12).

[Some matters mentioned have been inserted under appropriate headings on the agenda or included under AOB]

1. Matter Arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting not covered by Agenda

The padlock cover for the main gates has been welded in place.

2. Operations Manager

GH gave an update on bookings. There had been some cancellations on the Astro pitch but this had enabled it to be used for training by the 1st XV.

A sensor had been deliberately damaged the previous Sunday and it was hoped that CCTV might reveal the culprit(s). The cost of replacement would be met by the Youth section, unless the perpetrator(s) could be identified and their parents invoiced.

3. Annual Dinner

ML gave an update on arrangements. Fran Cotton would be the guest speaker and give a Q&A session. There would be presentations but not speeches from the captains or coaches. He had made arrangements with a catering firm which had been highly recommended. Auction items were needed. A group of Junior Colts would deliver drinks from the bar to tables. (Noted: Club ties will need to be provided for them.) AMcG reported that several people had not yet replied to invitations to sit at the top table but he hoped the table would be full.

4. Report on Meetings with GAA and Lacrosse Representatives

DPop and JR reported on discussions with reps from Fullen Gaels (hurling) and St Peters (Gaelic football) clubs. The proposal was that they should become Associate Members of BPFC, play home matches at Hough End at suitable times on Sunday afternoons, use the bar facilities, and hold their functions in the clubhouse. It had been made clear, and accepted, that BPFC is a Rugby Club, hence the category of Associate Membership. RL was preparing an agreement. It might be appropriate to establish a liaison committee to oversee future arrangements. All present endorsed this as a positive step. JR commented that links such as this would be important for relations with the Council and would contribute to increasing membership, something which he had highlighted at the special meeting last December.

There has also been an exploratory meeting with Manchester WACS Lacrosse Club.

5. Crabbies Sponsorship

The training session using equipment advertising Crabbies drinks had been held. It was hoped that there might be further sponsorship in the future

6. Match Programme

DPop had met Mike Perkins who was prepared to help with the preparation of a programme into which a team-sheet could be inserted. But someone is needed to seek advertising for the programme and, more widely. He proposed that a post be advertised, initially within the Club, for someone to undertake this on a commission basis. He would prepare a job description and oversee the work. After discussion of some details, those present endorsed the proposal to move ahead with this.

7. Tree

The plan to plant trees in the vicinity of the Club had been dropped.

8. Coaching and Playing

AMar had submitted a written report:

- Park would play Burnage in the Lancashire Trophy Final on May 6th, venue to be confirmed but possible Eccles.
- There was currently only one outstanding fixture (2s v Birkenhead Park). It was hoped that the league would switch the fixture from April 29th (the day after the Club Dinner) to April 15th.
- He had attended the successful Minis and Juniors event the previous Sunday.
- He and John Heald had attended a coaching co-ordinators meeting. Her planned to discuss some issues which came up with BPFC coaches.
- Sponsorship, particularly for 1st XV kit, for next season is a matter of urgency. There will be a special deal through Crabbies (see item 5 above) for training kit, based on bar sales.
- The 1st XV are still aiming for a top two finish, but this will require victories over LSH and Manchester, and other results going in Park's favour. The 2nd XV need two wins to avoid relegation, the 3rd XV are safe and the 4th XV are in a promotion spot.

9. Finance

JR reported that

- A bank account with Nat West had at last been opened for the New Company and would come into operation on April 1st. All commercial activity would be shifted to NewCo, and it would be necessary to transfer the VAT number and arrange insurance. These actions were important for the Club's CASC status. He sought the meeting's endorsement to make these changes, and this was agreed.
- There are at present no funds available ground development etc, so sponsorship and fund-raising events (e.g. a Sportsman's Dinner) are essential.
- Kit for the Ladies XV is being purchased from RFU development funds.
- Subscription rates for 2017-18 will need to be considered at the next meeting.

CB reported that a stocktaking had been undertaken the previous day. In future it would be necessary to ensure that wastage was properly recorded. Functions in the period Dec – March had raised £14k. It was planned to hold a sponsors' lunch, for which there would be some funding from Heineken, at the beginning of next season.

10. Youth

PR reported that

- the 'Happy Sundays' event on March 19th had been successful. Profits would have been greater if more car-parking space had been available. Land Rover had provided trophies and certificates. (It was agreed that it was important to maintain links with Land Rover, and that a representative should be invited to the Annual Dinner on April 28th.)
- Plans for the forthcoming tour were ongoing, but there have been difficulties in getting money from parents.
- A number of DSB checks are still outstanding.
- More coaches are needed, particularly for the U12s.

11. Ground

AMcG noted that the submission for a Nat West Rugby Force grant of £2k had sought funding for work on pitch 3. Keith Kent would be visiting the Club on May 8th to advise on work needed. Some work on pitch 1 would be carried out as soon as possible after the end of the season. DPop agreed to investigate the logistics of moving the posts.

A.O.B.

- ATC cabins would be arriving on 23 March to replace those containing asbestos.
- PR requested that the appointment of (a) First Aid Officer(s) be discussed at the next meeting.
- ML asked about the £800 still owed to the Club by Mancunians Rugby League Club. It was understood that the request had been re-submitted and that RL would be writing formally on the Club's behalf.
- DPop would pursue the matter of higher fencing to prevent the loss of balls on the tram track with Metrolink.
- Arrangements were in hand for the Reunion on April 1st. BS had requested raffle prizes.
- CB indicated that there would be a 250 Club double draw on April 22nd. She was considering the possibility of increasing the number of draws (with correspondingly reduced prizes) during the season, and requested that this be discussed at the next meeting. PR suggested that it would be good to publicize the dates in advance and to attempt to ensure that only 'live' numbers were in the draw.

Future meetings:

Thursday April 20th, Tuesday May 16th, Thursday June 22nd, all at 7.00 p.m.