

BPFC Management Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th October 2017

Present: Jim Rochford (JR) in the Chair; John Clifford (JC); Adrian Curtis (AC) Minutes; Mark Lloyd (ML); Rob Loveday (RL); Alan Marsland (AMar); Pippa Ranson (PR).

Apologies: Alan McGown; Dave Poppitt; Bill Seddon; Louise Sinclair

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Received

2. **Matters Arising:** Covered by the agenda.

3. **Director of Rugby's Report (AMar)**

- The 1st XV have been producing good performances, notably the Lancs Trophy win away at Warrington, and the defeat of Bowdon.
- Players have on the whole accepted that it is an 18 man game, with selections for the bench as well as the starting XV.
- Donald George was playing for Rossendale, to gain experience at a higher level.
- The 2nd XV were in a good position in the league.
- There was some cause for concern over the 3rd and 4th XVs, with players not making themselves available for selection.
- There were some issues regarding the relationship with Man. Met. University which he would try to investigate.
- JC commented that numbers attending training had been good, although fewer players tended to turn up on Tuesdays.

4. **Finance (JR)**

- There had been a Finance Committee the previous day, looking at items including arranging a Sportsman's Dinner and the possibility of using a professional organiser with input from John Russell.
- The Club's claim against Griffin Leisure had been settled, on terms felt to be positive for BPFC.
- The BP trading company was up and running, and it was hoped that accounts would soon be available. The VAT number was being transferred.
- An EPOS system would be introduced whereby paid-up members would receive a club card entitling them to a discount on alcoholic drinks in the bar.
- The membership list was currently being updated and checked, and would be monitored. A copy would be published. The EPOS card would be withdrawn if members failed to keep up subscription payments.
- Membership had been boosted by the number of lady players registering.
- Ways of attracting people who live and/or work in the city centre to join BPFC were under consideration. JR had had an initial conversation with Tom Booth about this. RL mentioned the possibility of targeting gyms.
- There would be a Sponsors' Day on 9th December. AMar noted that this was primarily to mark the link with Fairhome; he was in discussion with their head of marketing, and would speak with key people at BPFC about arrangements.
- ML suggested the Sportsman's Dinner would be an opportunity to look for other sponsors.

5. **Minis and Youth (RL)**

- RFU accreditation had now been put in place. PR was thanked for her work in achieving this.
- Support was needed from players from the senior section to help with coaching. The Youth section would pay for people to attend coaching sessions, and those suitably qualified might also be offered some coaching opportunities (with remuneration) by Phil Clarke. (JC indicated that this needs to be publicized among senior players.)
- There had been better bar and food provision on Sundays. This had been much appreciated.
- Two disciplinary issues had been dealt with internally, and plans were in hand to manage the return of another player after discipline.
- ML reported that Raffi Quirke had been selected for the England U17s squad; although through his school he was linked with Sale, he might be available to play for Park occasionally. Several Park players had been selected for training with their age groups for Lancs.
- PR reported good ticket sales for the Halloween event on 29th October. Numbers might have to be limited if the weather restricted outdoor activities. Some items of machinery would need to be moved for reasons of safety.

6. **Ground**

- With regard to the ongoing unavailability of pitch 5, the possibility of re-orientation of pitches or the creation of youth pitches was under consideration.
- A lot had been spent on pitch improvements, and work had been carried out as per the RFU agronomist's report. Grass length would be 60mm rather than 40mm.
- A protocol for pitch use had been drawn up and agreed. It was essential that this be followed, in particular when pitches were deemed unplayable.
- There had been an issue with the protocol not being followed the previous Sunday. (RL noted that strictly speaking there should have been no youth games during half-term.)
- A bounce test had been carried out on the all-weather pitch, so it could be used by minis and juniors when the weather is bad.
- The dead-ball areas have been extended to full length.

7. **Club house matters:** no report.

8. **AOB**

- There was some concern over the whereabouts of the Arthur Light Trophy which seemed to have gone missing.
- AMar commented on uncertainty over arrangements to entertain visiting officials before 1st XV games, and to represent the Club at away games, and indicated that he would try to co-ordinate this. It should be assumed that there would be lunch prior to home games.
- There was some discussion of the role of Vice-President. AC suggested that there might be other models, rather than one wherein the Vice President would take over as President. AMar recalled that there had previously been a suggestion to have several Vice-Presidents.
- PR noted that no one from BPFC has attended the RFU Leadership Programme, and that Lancs will cover the cost of someone attending. She would circulate details.
- JC raised the possibility of a 7s tournament in the Summer. He had a contact who might be willing to be involved in the organisation. It was agreed that a preliminary discussion between JC, JR and the contact would be useful.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 28th November at 7.00 p.m.