

BPFC Management Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2018

Present: Jim Rochford (JR) in the Chair; Adrian Curtis (AC) Minutes; Dave Hanby (DH); Alan Marsland (AMar); Bryn Morgan (BM); Dave Poppitt; Pippa Ranson (PR); Bill Seddon (BS); Andy Stripe (AS)

Apologies: Graham Higginbotham, Mark Lloyd, Rob Loveday

(AC has recorded some points raised under appropriate Agenda headings or AOB.)

1. Youth (PR)

Youth membership Sunday would take place on 15th September.

RFU membership was going on line, and GMS was in hand.

Discussions regarding sponsorship, in particular with Williams, were taking place, and consideration was being given to marking sponsorship support with e.g. a game on Pitch 1.

Arrangements for updating material on the website, and for safeguarding, were in hand

2. Director of Rugby's Report (AMar)

There had been a shortage of players for the 3rd and 4th XVs at the beginning of the season. (The league has agreed that a team can travel to an away fixture with as few as five players, so long as the opposition have agreed to make the number up to nine.) DP asked whether the return of University students was likely to boost the number of players available. This would be monitored. While it was a stretch to run four sides, it was worth noting that a number of fathers who had played for the 3rd and 4th XVs had become junior coaches..

The issuing of membership cards was in preparation.

There had been initial problems with the completion of the electronic scorecard. In future this might facilitate the gathering of statistics.

AMar presented a detailed playing budget and commented on various details. It was anticipated that in a number of instances the figures given were an over-estimate. Players would not be supplied with kit unless they had paid their subscriptions. (DP suggested that this should also apply to beer tokens.)

JR stressed that, in the context of considering the budget, the Club is deeply indebted to Fairhome Group for their generous sponsorship of £15k per annum, and he expressed the thanks of the Club. **Agreed: to record the Club's gratitude to Fairhome Group.**

In connection with the above, the ground would be known as the Fairhome Stadium. A board indicating the new name would be placed by the entrance gates, and would include the facility to advertise the next home game.

Despite the above, more sponsorship is needed, especially for the Ladies XV.

3. Match Day Arrangements (JR)

It was planned to prepare an e-brochure advertising 1st XV games, for circulation via website, email and social media, including details of special bar promotions. This had happened for the first home game of the season against Burnage. Bar promotions had gone well, with £1.9k being taken on the bar that day. The BBQ had been less successful, but it was intended to try this again. (BM noted that the BBQ had not been put away and that doors had been left open.)

AS suggested that someone should be on duty at the gate rather than just by the Clubhouse entrance.

4. Finance (JR)

Talks with sponsors were taking place, and a number of other possible sponsors had been identified or were suggested.

The Council have agreed in principle to give the Club two new pitches (and it was hoped they might erect posts). Pitch 5 would be returned to the Council.

The posts on pitches 2,3 and 4 have been painted, thanks to a generous donation from Howard Warren. **Agreed: to record the Club's thanks to Howard Warren.**

Blackburn RUFC's annual application form included a statement that a proportion of the subscription would qualify as a donation for Gift aid purposes. (It was agreed that this should be considered for BPFC, and possibly linked to the EPOS system.)

A date has been set for a Gala Ball in February 2019 at the Mercure Hotel.

The building of a new school in the proximity of the Club/Hough End Centre was understood to be going ahead. The council will submit a planning application for the the installation of a 3G pitch (with the support of Sport England, the Council, and a loan from the RFU) and the reconfiguration of the current rugby pitches. If this went ahead, Old Chorltonians FC and GAA would be subletting from BPFC.

The accounts for 2017-18, including the end of year accounts for BP Trading Ltd, were expected imminently. It was expected that Al Speakman would take up the role of treasurer fully for the next financial year.

A check would be carried out on the pitch-side banners, and those not paid for would be removed.

It was proposed to place a banner promoting BPFC on the fence beside the Metro line. (It was noted that trees planted between the Clubhouse and the Metro line in conjunction with the Woodland Trust had been intended to be moved after a few years. It was agreed that the it should be checked as to whether this was still the intention.)

5. Ladies XV (DH)

There had been some difficulty with numbers at the beginning of the season because the students had not yet returned. But there were some good new players.

Louise Sinclair would submit a budget.

Toilet seats were missing in some of the Ladies' toilets.

It was suggested that a sub-committee should look at social /fund-raising events.

BS asked whether members of the Ladies XV would be willing to run a raffle at the game against Manchester on 29th Sept.

6. Ground

Planned work on the pitches had not been carried out because of the dry weather. The grass had begun to green up to some extent, but the ground was still too hard to vertidrain or seed. It might be possible to apply some fertiliser.

It was noted that Pitch 1 was being used for training that evening. The need to protect the pitch was stressed.

7. 250 Club

BS stressed the need to increase membership. Consideration could be given to including 250 Club membership on the membership application form or subscription mandate.

8. AOB

It was necessary to fix an AGM in the near future.

DH would be attending a GMS training session.

AMar raised the possibility of BPFC supporting the Wooden Spoon children's rugby charity. His might include the wearing of special socks for two games per season, and some of the money raised by the 'Last Try' or a raffle might be devoted to the charity.

BS urged the return to the practice of holding Management Committees regularly in the same, week of the month, alternating between Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Next Meeting: Thursday 4th October at 7.00 p.m.