

**Minutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> CFU AGM held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 in the Supporters' Club,  
Newmarket Road, Cambridge**

**Welcome by Andrew Stephen (CFU Chair)**

Part 1

Andrew Stephen (Chairman, CFU)

Mark Bonner

Ben Strang

Ian Mather

Stuart Wood

Part 2

The 'top' table consisted of the following:

Andrew Stephen (Chairman, CFU)

Robert Osbourn (Previous Chairman)

Frank Pearson (CFU Secretary)

There were approximately 40 CFU members in the audience.

**CFU ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Part 1**

**Q & A with Mark Bonner, Ben Strang and Ian Mather compered by Stuart Wood**

A full recording of this may be found at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JNEfVcvAT9g&t=5s>

A summary is appended.

**Part 2**

**CFU AGM**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

David Charters, Penny Morris, Beth Phillips, Gina Heath, Richard Toombs, Patricia Williams, Ian Elliott, Emma Smith

**2. MINUTES OF CFU AGM 2020**

Available on CFU website.

**3. CFU ANNUAL REPORT– ROBERT OSBOURN + ANDREW STEPHEN**

a) RO: The last AGM was pre-COVID. Following Paul Barry's acquisition of CFU shares, several CFU Trust Board members stood down. Others have taken their place and stand for re-election tonight and I can commend each of them to you. The most notable loss was that of Carol Looker. She is fittingly commemorated by a plaque at the North End of the Abbey. Covid-19 lockdowns brought a halt to Trust Board meetings, but they soon resumed via Zoom.

Support was given in various ways including £10,000 Lottery funding for a tractor, the Face in the Crowd scheme, a further Andrew Bennett history, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary T shirt, Lottery funded scoreboards, contacting older fans and organising a weekly on-line quiz.

CFU lobbied against the proposed Super League.

Following the club's successful trial events , we supported the petition to allow fans back into games.

On a personal level, I was advised that I should require heart surgery and decided to step back as Chair.

b) AS: Thanks to Robert for his years as Chairman. His finest hour was seeing through the independent audit on behalf of shareholders.

What does CFU do for the club?

- Lottery – organised as fundraiser for the club
- Coconuts – preserves and exhibits the Club's history. Also set up ex-players association
- Away Travel – CFU, Gina in particular, has taken this over from the Club
- Programmes – CFU trying to find ways to make hard copies available as Club goes digital
- Player of the Year Poll 2020 – organised by CFU
- Ben Phillips has been photographing Season Ticket holders with promotion trophy

What are we doing now?

- Currently pursuing Equality and Diversity, working closely with CUCT.
- Successful visit to Mosque
- Sponsored the Allotments' group
- Football sessions for BAME
- Organised tournament for homeless, working closely with YMCA
- Looking at facilities for elderly and those with autism and other disabilities
- Support Amber Belles facebook group
- Still keen to develop a Fanzone

#### **4. MEMBERSHIP REPORT (TERRY WILBY)**

**Membership** currently stands at 326 (260 last year).

Price structure has been reviewed. Reduced prices include £15 for 16-25 year olds ( 17 have joined)

Life Membership is available for £50.

We have 4 Norwegian members and are considering setting up Exiles' Group.

Lost one member over Taking the Knee.

#### **5. TREASURER'S REPORT (Paul Moffatt)**

Copies of the CFU annual financial statement at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 had been circulated previously.

- Paul asked for approval of the accounts. Given.
- Paul put the following Full Audit Exemption resolution to the meeting: 'It is hereby resolved that subject to the provision of section 4A of the 1968 Friendly and Industrial Accounts covering the current financial year ending on 31st August 2019 when they are presented to the next AGM. The members of the Society agree that the Accounts for the following AGM do not require a full Audit provided that an Independent Examination is carried out in place of the full audit, the Independent Examination is carried out in line with best practice and a report from the Independent Examiner is included within the Accounts and circulated to members'. Agreed.

- Paul asked that Clifford Towers be re-appointed as Independent Examining Accountant, this was agreed unanimously by a show of hands. Frank Pearson and Terry Wilby started counting FED votes during this report..

## **6 TRUST BOARD**

- Martin Chapman, Nigel Browne Dave Matthew Jones, Margaret Pearson, Gina Heath, Paul Moffatt, Leanne Huff and Terry Wilby continue in membership.
- Colin Proctor and Robert Osbourn stood down by rotation and were re-elected
- Also elected were Ben Phillips, Carl Badcock, Andrew Stephen, Alex Nix and Emma Smith.

## **7 100 YEARS OF COCONUTS (Dave Matthew-Jones)**

- Andrew Bennet's 'Moose that Roared' sold more than 250 copies
- 50 years T shirts sold out
- Hall of Fame dinner had to be cancelled, but will be re-scheduled
- Ben, Gina and Emma are working on a Players' Reunion in November with Shaggy and Paul Wanless
- Website has been updated + Facebook + Coconuts
- Museum in Supporters' Club

## **8 ELECTION OF FANS' DIRECTOR (Terry Wilby and Frank Pearson)**

David Matthew –Jones was elected for a further term. He then addressed the meeting thanking them for their votes.

## **9 LOTTERY REPORT (Nigel Browne)**

The Lottery now has 180 members. The Club is the biggest beneficiary, receiving £50,000 over 8 years. Projects this season include two new scoreboards, now working in tandem as wi-fi replaced by cable. Extensive publicity will be coming from CUFC at re-launch.

## **10 AWAY TRAVEL (Dave Matthew-Jones)**

The Club is no longer prepared to run Away Travel. CFU have taken the project on, charging one price for all e.g. £30 for the Accrington match. Please spread the word as we plan to break even. We have spoken to other clubs .

## **11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A raffle was held.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

## **Part 1 Summary**

Top table: Ben Strang, Ian Mather, Stuart Wood (MC) and Mark Bonner

## **Highlights of last season?**

**IM:** a) Away v Cheltenham with Mullin's injury time equaliser

b) Club coming together – a real collective effort

**BS:** a) Last day celebrations

b) Orient away this season compared to the same game, the last of the previous season

c) v Carlisle and v Walsall – late goals

**MB:** a) So many on the pitch. Oldham win with 11 games to go, coming from behind

b) Magic Tuesdays when results went our way

c) Orient away – felt different with Air B&B fans

d) Salford and Bolton losses taught us loads and we responded well

#### **How were Club's finances hit by Covid?**

**IM:** a) Long term, FAIRGAME is key to long term sustainability

b) Short term, was challenging but coped quite well. Furloughed quickly, cash from EFL, Grosvenor rent holiday and 1500 season ticket holders.

c) There will be a substantial loss, but we know how to cover it via owners. Bigger crowds would help.

#### **How was recruitment affected by Covid**

**BS:** a) Last summer was straightforward. Not much money, but more of a level playing field. Our low budget led to shorter contract offers

b) This summer an increased budget, but still the lower end. Need to find best value, be competitive.

#### **What has happened since the last day of the season?**

**MB:** a) We had 4 months last season but only 7 weeks' preseason this. No players' meetings until after the sheer relief of the last match. Met Ben on Tuesday, and all the players on Wednesday.

b) How do I switch off? Doing my Pro Licence in Windsor and taking a few days off.

#### **Being in League 1, does it change plans for future development?**

**IM:** a) Being in League 1 helps. We need to find more money. Need progression.

b) Training ground – Marley not viable. Need 4 pitches. Looking at other possibilities

c) Academy – to get from Category 3 -> 2 need £1million for inside dome.

#### **What is your new role as Sporting Director?**

**BS:** a) Very little different but grown. US terminology. Need to improve links with Women's Football and St Neots. Broad remit. Split time between Training Ground and Abbey.

b) No full time Head of Recruitment, so continue to go to games when U's not playing

c) Tricky to switch off. Busy: 13 contracts renegotiated +7 new signings. Defender and GK needed, but we benefit from a small squad.

**Preseason: how is the squad?**

**MB:** a) Trip to Wales was good. Worked hard. Good talks with Mick McCarthy. Gary Waddock and Barry Corr a good team.

b) Looking forward to away trips and away fans at the Abbey.

c) Our pitch is a bit smaller. We will be underdogs.

d) Looking forward to Dunk's testimonial.

**How have you supported staff having furloughed them?**

**IM:** a) Our staff pulled together very quickly. Tried to address problems. Fortnightly management meetings but as yet no full staff meeting. We have a new HR manager with our own software system.

**What has happened to the £1million investment?**

**IM:** Nothing as yet. Saved for capital project. Have spent on painting floodlights and providing heat/light for pitch.

**Is i-Follow to continue?**

**IM:** Certainly not for 3pm Saturday games Perhaps for long-distance mid-week away trips especially as £300k were generated last season.

**Realistically, how do you see 12 months from now?**

**IM:** a) A regulator with teeth in place. Transparent finances.

b) For Us – a good season. Look out for Autumn plans regarding Marshall's land . Option C includes stadium.

**MB:** Maintain our movement forward. Arrive in a better place. Everything needs growing. Confident underdogs. More people in ground.

**BS:** Women's team integrated into club. Academy continued growth.

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From the floor:

**Remarkable disciplinary record last season needs mentioning**

**MB:** Resilience, Respect and Responsibility were our key words.

Competitive without being a soft touch.

**Plans for managing Wes?**

**MB:** Wes will be Wes. He impacts the whole team. He has talent, is a role model and loves being in front of a crowd.

**Were you surprised with Mullin's decision to go to Wrexham?**

**MB:** We have known he's leaving for a few weeks. His achievement for the Us was ridiculous. He's close to home with a good contract - we wish him well.

**Dion's new role**

**IM:** Wants to be an active member of the Board. He has football experience and media knowledge. He was pleased to be asked.

**CUFC's response to Racism**

**IM:** Take it very seriously. Need to stamp it out of social media.

**BS:** Trying to improve gender/ ethnic representation on Board and staff.

Have a Premier League grant for BAME coaching scheme.

**Can you win in front of crowds?**

**MB:** Yes!