

BEDFORD RUGBY FOLLOWERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a Committee meeting held in the Scrum Hall on Thursday 22 April 2010.

Those present: Peter Smith (Chairman), Jackie Markham (President), Geoff Appleton (Treasurer), Margaret Appleton (Membership & Outings Secretary), Jane Roberts (Secretary), Hayley Clark, Martin Clark, Andy Cobby, Lesley Cornish, Alan Harper-Smith, Adrian Randall, Barry Rylands, Amanda Saxton, Baz Townsend (Committee members).

Apologies: Alf Tanner (Vice-Chairman), Edwina Tanner, Sue Rice

Not Present: Bill Willson

Matters Arising:

1. AHS advised that bar staff need to be instructed on arrival/start time for End of Season Ball – AC has done already but will do again.
2. PS has not checked on keeping the new shield in the trophy cabinet, but will do so.

Correspondence:

1. PS has received an email from Phil Novis regarding posters – will raise under AoB.
2. Sue Rice has advised of her resignation – not enough free time to give to Committee.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer updated the meeting on the financial situation.

Membership: Adults - 250, Juniors – 27, Life members – 5, Complimentary – 1 This is 50 down on last year.

MA suggested that for next season, towards the end of the season we offer 2 prices for away trips – one for members and a slightly higher one for non-members – agreed.

Outings: MA advised that we do not have enough interest to run a coach to the Colts final on 3 May – anyone interested will make own way. Difficult to plan as we won't know whether we have Friday or Sat game – best way is to advise everyone to watch the website (ask Sam to announce). If we play Exeter on a Friday, we will have to leave at about 1pm.

Social Events:

End of Season Ball – Everyone asked to push tickets as much as possible. 17 of the 24 tables have bookings although not all full. Beds on Sunday and Times & Citizen to be contacted, also former players.

From the Boardroom:

PS has been elected as a Director for another two years.

The proposals for next year are that the Championship will have a sponsor, there will be more money in it, and the format is likely to stay much the same. British & Irish Cup may include teams from Spain and Italy – and that all expenses will be paid by RFU. It may also be moved so there is more time for the semi-finals/final. This probably means an extra week in the season.

It is proposed that there will be more distinct rules next season relating to any clubs going into Administration – probably that they get relegated.

To get to the semi-final would be a lifeline for the Club. It was agreed by the Board that if it is a choice between paying for a decent playing squad and anything else, then the squad must come first.

Followers' AGM:

The format of the AGM was agreed and guest speaker identified to invite.

Supporter of the Season:

Was agreed – presentation to be made at half time at first league game of next season.

Match day posters:

Proposal received to produce match day posters to distribute to local pubs. Agreed was a good idea – PS will seek Club approval. There was a discussion about contacting people by email rather than snail mail – members will be asked for details in future and if they are willing to be contacted by email. PS commented that the Scrum Hall is 100 years old in October – any ideas for commemorating this to be discussed at next meeting.

Any Other Business:

AR – has decided that the next newsletter (Plymouth game) will be the last. AR feels he's running out of ideas and it is getting increasingly difficult to get contributions. PS thanked AR for doing it thus far. AR gives his thanks to everyone who has contributed.

MA – will we be giving the end of season wine as we did last year? PS has mentioned it to Mike Rayer and he would be happy for the Followers to do a team presentation in the marquee after the Plymouth game – 6pm. MA will organise the wine as last year.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 27 May at 1930 hrs in the Scrum Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2100 hrs.