

BEDFORD RUGBY FOLLOWERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a Committee meeting held in the Larry Webb Room on Thursday 12 August 2010

Present: Peter Smith (Chairman), Geoff Appleton (Treasurer), Margaret Appleton (Membership & Outings Secretary), Jane Roberts (Secretary), Hayley Clark, Martin Clark, Andy Cobley, Lesley Cornish, Alan Harper-Smith, Phil Novis, Adrian Randall, Barry Rylands, Amanda Saxton, Baz Townsend (Committee members).

Apologies: Jackie Markham (President), Alf Tanner (Vice-Chairman), Peter Kimber, Edwina Tanner

Matters Arising:

Actions

1. Sacha's Testimonial – MA confirmed that a black-tie dinner has been arranged for 22 October (£40 per person). Scott Quinnell will be speaker. MA will liaise with Sacha re tables for Followers.
2. PS thanked BR for arranging the meal at the White Horse.

Correspondence:

1. Thank you letter received from St John Ambulance.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer gave an update on the current financial situation.

Membership: Currently stands at 42 adults, 6 juniors, 1 complimentary and 5 life members.

Outings: MA advised that Barfordian are not increasing their prices for this season. They are also doing us a cheaper deal for Plymouth to help us out and in recognition of our continued support of them. As we lost a lot of money on trips last season, MA proposed that all prices are increased by £1 – agreed. Cornwall trip is causing problem re hotels – many are full and others will not sell one night only. The Luggar in Penzance has a few rooms available for one night (£65 double at rear of hotel and £75 at front) – some rooms can take additional beds which are charged at £20 per night. Agreed that MA would book all available rooms with a request for first refusal if any more become available. Hotel will also provide evening meal. Propose to leave at 1000 hrs on 1 Jan and return straight after game. Prices/departure times will be on web, but for Rosslyn Park, it's £15 & £8 leaving at 1000 hrs. Rotherham and Doncaster will both be £18 and £10, departing for R/Ham at 0930 hrs and Doncaster at 1000 hrs.

MA

Social Events: AC proposed and MA seconded, Martin Clark as Social Secretary – carried.

Events agreed:

1. Happy with usual activities, ie Quiz, Carols Evening, NYE. Can't agree date for Quiz until JM's return. JM
2. Possible Ferret racing for Spring (because of lighter nights). MC to pick up. MC
3. MA advised that Andrew Small would like to do a referee evening. All agreed this would be welcome. MA to liaise with Andrew and arrange a suitable date (on a Thursday) as early as possible in the season. MA
4. NYE – as no movement on music timings in marquee, agreed that NYE event will have to be in Scrum Hall. As MA will be at Club in morning, she will check that we have this booked. MA

Fireworks: Club will print tickets for us in future – PS has advised printers. Suggestion made to increase prices to £6 adult and £4 child with family ticket (2 adults & 2 children) remaining at £15 – agreed. AR asked if the rugby club/fixtures could be promoted at the event in some way.

From the Boardroom:

PS thinks that Mike Rayer has put together a very good squad with some good raw talent coming in.

Ground Improvement Project – PS and Richard Glasspool (RG) have had two meetings – PS is taking on looking at the ground and possibilities for improvement, while RG is looking at finances/grants etc. 3 structural engineers were spoken with and one (HACE Consultancy) was engaged. They have been to the ground and had a look at possibilities for improving the standing areas. PS has received a letter from them confirming the brief – agreed that they will be asked to produce a full report with costings.

Charities: A vote was taken and the two nominated charities for next season are: Great Ormond Street and Injured Rugby Players Foundation. AR suggested inviting someone from IRPF to speak at the next Ball dinner and a rep from each there to accept cheques. Agreed was good idea.

Posters: PN advised that the Club will provide info to him and he is happy to print posters – Followers to distribute locally. PN's idea is to produce a poster for each home game (in addition to existing posters advertising all home games) – something that picks up on any history of previous games, and includes a picture or two from a previous game. All to think about where they can distribute these and how many they'll need (pubs, social clubs, workplaces, schools etc). Please let PN know.

All

Any Other Business:

JR – mentioned Hall of Fame dinner. MC confirmed that he had contacted AI and is waiting to hear from him.

MA – thanked PN and MC for the membership forms they created for the River Festival.

MA – had received feedback that providing a drink for everyone AGM is unnecessary. After discussion it was agreed to put on the Agenda for the next meeting for consideration.

PS – very impressed with the support the Followers had given the Club at the River Festival.

Also wanted to compliment those who had helped clear the ground – it is looking really good.

No news yet on player sponsorship – PS waiting to hear from Ted and will chase.

MC – is it worth speaking with visiting teams to see if they will donate anything for auction etc.

MC to pick up.

MC

BT – advised that on 18 September, Nos is doing a charity curry night in aid of CF. Duncan will be having his "locks" cut off for charity. Nos selling tickets.

AR – should we be making better use of email. An option is now on the booking forms and we will try to encourage people to opt for receiving info this way. AHS will arrange technical side of it.

AHS

Date of next meeting: Thursday 30 September at 1930hrs.

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

Agenda for next meeting:

Apologies for absence

Minutes of the last meeting

Matters arising

Correspondence

Treasurer's Report

Membership & Outings Report

Social Events

AGM - drinks
From the Boardroom
AOB