

BEDFORD RUGBY FOLLOWERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a Committee meeting held in the Lifesure Suite on 1 December 2011

Present: Peter Smith (Chairman), Jackie Markham (President), Andy Cobley (Vice Chairman), Geoff Appleton (Treasurer), Margaret Appleton (Membership & Outings Secretary), Martin Clark (Social Secretary), Jane Roberts (Secretary), Hayley Clark, Lesley Cornish, Peter Kimber, Brian Langston, Phil Novis, Adrian Randall, Baz Townsend, Steve Wosley (Committee members).

Apologies: Alan Harper Smith, Barry Rylands

Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

Matters Arising: MA still not been able to get in touch with Cathy Leather, however, now has personal email address so will try and contact that way.

Correspondence: None.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer gave the current financial position.

Membership & Outings: Membership so far – 213 adults, 17 juniors, 5 life members, 1 paid for 5 yrs in advance.

Melrose went very well.

Bristol – 33 booked so far.

MA asked JM to put Doncaster trip in next notes for Sam – leaving at 1000 hrs for 1430 kick-off - £18 & £9 (7 January).

Social Secretary's Report:

New Year's Eve - tickets going reasonably well. Nos doing food.

End of Season Ball – have alternative band – MC/AC going to see in January. Food confirmed with Doreen Lambert. PS asked if we could emphasise the “125th effect”. Following on re 125th anniversary, JM commented that she liked the idea of a hog roast following a home game – **PS will raise at Board meeting.**

Go-karting – decision made to leave for now as Auction of Promises will take up a lot of time – perhaps something for close season.

Auction of Promises – PS/JM/MC had met with Auctioneer prior to committee meeting and got lots of ideas. Need to work hard in next few weeks to get high ticket items and make appropriate contacts now. Auctioneer suggested three-quarters of an hour auction, then half hour food break, then another three-quarters of an hour auction – can get through 75 lots in that time – want some that will raise a few thousand and some that everyone can bid on. All need to be in place by mid-Jan. JM asked if we can have a page in the Pirates programme for advertising this – **PS will check.** £5 for catalogue suggested (includes entry and fish & chip supper). Fish & Chips from local chip shop delivered – agreed.

Quiz Night – JM advised that Nos is OK to do food. Need to start promoting. **MC will arrange posters.**

MA advised that she had been speaking with Mike Lilley's brother who runs Greycourt Florists – he's keen to do a flower arranging evening – would just charge to cover costs and arrangements would be raffled at end. Agreed to consider for future.

AR asked if we should be thinking further ahead, ie planning now for events next season.

PS mentioned 125th dinner – not many tickets available as info had gone out to Former Players contacts before Club took it over so probably 600 tickets already sold.

MA asked if we wanted a trip to the seaside next year – agreed that we do. Please let MA have suggestions for location.

Fireworks – Comments from PS –

Disappointing this year – has put 4 pages report to Andy, Peter & Duncan. Too many meetings last year prior to event so reduced this year, but hasn't worked so need more next year. W/end prior to event realised that ticket sales not going well and that Facebook was saying that all tickets sold. T&C and TIC advised that they could sell tickets after 4pm (latest time listed on web by Club) and that was when they sold most. Last year T&C sold 1,100, this year it was 550. TIC sold 2100 last year and 1400 this. Attendance was just over 4,000. Standard of fireworks continued to be very good. Conclusions – too few meetings prior to event. There had been a big event at Bodyflight the previous week. Putting the price up for second year on adult tickets had some impact, as did Facebook issue and 4pm cut off time, plus lack of publicity on radio and in town. Pete Beard and team did a great job. DSD machine didn't work on the Saturday – letter of complaint has been sent. Reports from Police/Kimbolton Fireworks/Bedford Borough are all fine. Week after event, PS was speaking with student journalist – her assessment said there was a real lack of awareness of the event and lack of publicity around the town.

JR will find out from Kimbolton the costs and duration of children's and main displays for next year. PS will get other prices for comparisons.

Tony Goodman – Sport Bedford had suggested he be nominated as someone who had helped lots of Clubs. Ian Bullerwell thought a good idea so PS nominated him in recognition of past services. Sadly, Tony subsequently died and his wife (Janet) received an invitation to the ceremony. PS has spoken with her and she's delighted that Tony has been nominated. PS has checked and it can be awarded posthumously.

Josh Bassett has also been nominated – by JM on behalf of the Followers – as a rising star.

125th Dinner – PS mentioned the DVD that had been shown on the background screens – looking at producing this at a cost of £10 or £12 including postage.

From the Boardroom:

No formal meeting since last report. PS comments on various matters, all above.

AOB:

PN – has next home match posters (Rotherham) plus one advertising Blues market stall in Bedford.

HC – when will Bedford Cerebral Palsy Society get bucket collection? PS advised it will be considered at next Board meeting.

JM – need to push Winter Draw ticket sales.

BL – as we have so little space in the programme now, how about a noticeboard near the followers office? **PS will check.**

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Informal update meeting in Scrum Hall at 1930 hrs on Thursday 15 Dec for those interested in Auction of Promises.

Next formal meeting – Thursday 19 January at 1930 hrs in the Lifesure Suite (Larry Webb Room being used by EMRU).

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

Agenda for next meeting:

Apologies
Minutes of last meeting
Matters arising
Correspondence
Treasurer's Report
Membership & Outings Report
Social Secretary's Report
From the Boardroom
AoB