

BEDFORD RUGBY FOLLOWERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a Committee meeting held in the Lifesure Suite on Thursday 26 November 2009.

Those present: Peter Smith (Chairman), Jackie Markham (President), Alf Tanner (Vice-Chairman), Geoff Appleton (Treasurer), Margaret Appleton (Membership & Outings Secretary), Jane Roberts (Secretary), Andy Cobley, Lesley Cornish, Alan Harper-Smith, Adrian Randall, Barry Rylands, Edwina Tanner, Baz Townsend, Bill Wilson (Committee members).

Apologies: Amanda Saxton

Not Present: Peter Kimber, Sue Rice

Matters Arising: JM confirmed that she has written to Martin & Hayley.

Correspondence: None.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer updated the meeting on income and expenditure since the last meeting.

The Chairman updated the meeting on income and expenditure relating to the Fireworks evening.

Membership: Adults - 233, Juniors – 24, Life members – 5

Outings: All had a good weekend on Pirates trip.

MA passes on thanks to Sheena at Eagle Travel –Ulster trip was fantastic. JM has written to Sheena to thank.

MA also sent letter to Editor of Belfast Telegraph thanking the people of Belfast for their hospitality.

Next trip is Coventry, leaving at 1630 hrs (37 poss bookings so far).

Then Bristol, leaving at 1430 hrs (due to roadworks decided to bring time forward from 1515hrs) – 28 booked so far. MA has obtained quote for smaller coach in case no increase in numbers.

Birmingham is on 2 January – costs £14 and £8.

Agreed that Exeter trip will have to be £22.

MA described the Doncaster system of paying £1 to forecast the actual score. Anyone getting it absolutely right, gets half of the money and the other half goes into coach funds. Any monies not given out, are put into coach funds, once they reach an agreed amount. They've built up quite a good fund from this activity – perhaps worth trying?

PS mentioned the play-offs. The idea of the Championship final being played over two legs has gained favour with the RFU. If confirmed, may be televised.

Need to encourage as many people as possible to travel.

Social Events:

Dog Racing – everyone seemed to enjoy. PS thinks we should do again.

Fireworks – the Chairman was pleased with the way it went overall although there had been a few problems caused by not enough stewards to control the flow of people within the ground. There had been a few complaints about the congestion at specific areas, however, these have been dealt with personally and a satisfactory outcome reached.

The Policing had been very effective with two gangs being apprehended without gaining access to the ground.

Overall displays were good, although AT/ET had received comments from some people near them that they hadn't thought it as good as previous years.

Catering people said takings down.

It was agreed that JM and GA will go to see Dave at White Hart Press re tickets for next year – need less children's tickets. Agreed to get 5,000 adult and 2,000 child tickets (with age on).

Agreed on date for next year – **Friday 5 November 2010.**

Carols Evening – Confirmed as 17 December in Jack Pope Bar – JM to keep in contact with choir.

New Year's Eve – Confirmed for Scrum Hall with music until 1215 hrs. Limit is 120. MA has tickets – she wants to give Followers first option before selling to anyone else. Nos doing hot food – eat at 2030 hrs. JR advised that she has spoken with the DJ and it's all arranged. AR suggested we could have a two-tier system and charge non-members a little more in future – agreed.

From the Boardroom:

No formal meeting since last report. Things progressing on music license.

Former players have contacted Board as concerned that traditions of the Club are being left behind. A small team, led by Ian Bullerwell, has been set up to look at this – JM and Leigh Mansell are both on team. One outcome is that no life memberships had been granted for a number of years.

Geoff was very pleased with the Followers letters trying to promote the Mini raffle. There is a book of tickets in Followers office if anyone wants one. PS also has some books of tickets.

Mike happy with squad and won't sign anyone who isn't good enough – he wants to win every game.

Most clubs in our division are suffering. Nottingham will definitely move.

No progress on Hall of Fame idea as no Board meeting.

Any Other Business:

MA – Mrs Volland passed on thanks for picture given to Matt – he was totally overwhelmed.

MA – champagne at away games for MoM – suggested she buys enough for all games, when half price. She can then bring bottle to game on coach and individuals can reimburse her. All agreed. MA will arrange for next season.

AT – Rugby Times – query about loan/dual registration players.

ET – several people have spoken to her about not being able to upgrade to stand. Some have said they aren't going to buy a season ticket next year as they won't be able to upgrade if they want to (if weather bad).

JM – as no Xmas draw this year, suggested an Easter Draw, to be drawn on a Thursday night in the Club – 25 March agreed. JM/GA will speak with Dave at White Hart Press re tickets.

JM – will we be able to have music at the Ball (or perhaps go for a dinner with speakers)? PS hopes will be OK, but will keep everyone updated. 22nd May pencilled in. AC, BR, MA & JM all agreed to help organise. AC will book band provisionally.

JM – suggest no Xmas cards between ourselves and instead give a donation to our charities. Agreed. JM will arrange.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 21 January at 1930 hrs. [Lifesure Suite 1 booked as Disciplinary hearing in Larry Webb Room.]

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