



Notes of the CFU meeting held on 21st May 2015 at 7.30pm

In the Blues Bar – Deva Stadium

The meeting was attended by approximately 36 CFU members

- 1. Welcome** – Grenville Millington welcomed members and introduced Simon Olorenshaw the newly co-opted board director. Apologies were received from Neil Bellis, Mike Day and John Martin.
- 2. Notes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2015** – these were accepted as a correct record and any matters arising would be covered by the agenda.
- 3. Chairman’s briefing** – GM commented on the amount of work that was going on around the ground in respect of building and maintenance work and also the selling of season tickets. He said that plans were still in hand to develop a club DNA and emphasised the importance of everyone working together for the benefit of the club. There was a brief discussion about some of the best and worst moments of the season 2015/16. Dan Burns was introduced as the club’s new media officer.
- 4. Finance summary** – Mike Poole said that the financial status was healthy and that work had been undertaken to produce a budget for season 2015/16; this budget included an increase over last season for the playing budget. MP also referred to the status of the club as a community benefit society and said this status was something that board would need to look at as in his view it was something that might need to change in the future. He added that the status of the club is not something that the board can determine; it would be a matter for the members. SO referred to work now being undertaken to explore the possibility of obtaining grants now the club has secured the 50 year lease. He had identified that there was the possibility of securing up to £400k funding over a five year period and that matched funding would be needed. It was noted that such grants could not be used for general maintenance. A prioritised action plan will be put together over the next few weeks identifying possible development works.
- 5. Commercial report** – Marion Needham gave the commercial report on behalf of John Martin. MN said that the new commercial brochure had been produced and been distributed round the trading estate and although this had only been done today there had already been one positive response. Work is underway regarding ground board advertising with some advertisers having renewed already. Discussions are underway with several potential new advertisers / sponsors and there will be two evening for sponsors at pre season friendly games. Anyone interested in sponsoring or advertising can contact the club by phone or email commercial@chesterfc.com or john.martin@chesterfc.com
- 6. Youth development** – Brian Burns said that work was underway to look at a strategy for developing and growing our own players and coaches. He reported that agreement had been reached for the youth team’s budget to be increased by £1k and this would help with

costs of pitch hire etc. The youth team are hoping to increase their training to 3 times a week and looking for sponsorship generally. A new initiative had been proposed to sponsor the kit of youth team players at a likely cost of £40 per player; other options for fundraising were also being explored. It had been agreed by the board that the youth team could play at the Deva stadium up to 3 times a season in addition to playing any cup matches there. In respect of the scholarship academy, as previously reported this was planned to be in place in September 2016 and would provide an opportunity to develop young players through an educational system. Charter standard status is being pursued and it was hoped that a submission would be made to the Cheshire FA in June.

- 7. Communications** – in the absence of Neil Bellis, GM asked Dan Burns to provide an update on communications. DB expressed his thanks to Jeff Banks for all the work he had done for the club and the media team. He said the volunteer's media group was working well and had a number of ideas for improving communications. There is a small budget which will enable better equipment to be used for Blues Live and plans are in hand to purchase a camera to enable CFU meetings to be streamed with password access for CFU members. DB said if anyone had ideas in respect of communications they should contact him.
- 8. Fundraising** – BB said that Barbara Rogers who has been a volunteer in the finance department has now taken over the administration of the Seals Lottery and she and Ann Salmon have joined the fundraising team with John Martin stepping down, more volunteers are needed to join this group. Noted that about £2.5k had been pledged for the sponsored walk and about £2k already paid in; steady income continues to be received through squad builder, pound a goad, small change boxes and the quiz nights.
- 9. Volunteers** – GM said there are about 90 volunteers split into several groups and he had recently joined the stadium maintenance group who had undertaken a range of work in a very short time. He said he felt that volunteers do not get the credit they deserve and emphasised their importance to the club and the need for them to understand the philosophy of the club.
- 10. Q and A session** – a number of questions had been answered during the meeting and other questions included:
 - a. Have we received all the FA cup money – no still a small amount to come from the main pot
 - b. What do CFU members get for their money – the chance to be a part owner of the club; other options like discounts from local companies are being investigated.
 - c. Chester FC and CFU accounts – only one organisation but there are separate bank accounts with the Operations Board having to defer to the main CFU board in respect of expenditure.
 - d. Readiness for the football league – there would be increased costs, more sponsorship and the need to develop the infrastructure.
 - e. What is the liability of a CFU member – just £1!
 - f. Possibility of future Liverpool games – nothing confirmed as yet but signs positive.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm