



Notes of the CFU meeting held on 18th August 2016 at 7.30pm

In the Blues Bar – Lookers Vauxhall Stadium

The meeting was attended by 43 CFU members and a maximum of 11 members were listening via the streaming service at any one time.

1. **Welcome and apologies** – apologies were received from Ed Jones, Alan Povey and Anne Salmon.
2. **Notes of the meeting held on 21st April 2016** – these had been published on the CFU website and were accepted as a correct record; there were no matters arising.
3. **Chairman's update** – SO referred to the progress made in developing the strategic plan. All the data collected had been drawn together under five key themes:
 - a. **CFU**
 - b. **Community**
 - c. **Organisation**
 - d. **Football**
 - e. **Facilities**

All these link to the overall aim *'To be financially sustainable supporter owned, community focused football club playing at the highest level possible in the English pyramid.'* When finalised, posters will be printed for display all around the ground and details published in the programme. There will be an action plan to support the five key themes, with an action tracker to monitor progress.

SO introduced Mark Maguire the recently appointed CEO and he described his background and approach to the role.

4. **Finance summary** – LK reported that the accounts were completed by the end of June and have been passed to the auditors, so not yet signed off; the predicted loss is circa £8.6k pre tax. This is a much improved from the anticipated position, some of the reasons being, the kit launch and a contribution from the council contributing to some improvements as the stadium is their asset. Overall the balance sheet is healthy with fixed assets having a net book value of £50k and net current assets standing at £170k. Member's funds are £157k which includes £100k retained as the special reserve. A balanced budget has been set for 2016/2017 and this is based on no transfer income, and it is anticipated that there will be increased commercial income. If there is an increase in income there is the potential to increase the playing budget. In response to a question relating to season tickets LK said of the season tickets sold approximately 820 attend each game so the budget is based around 1100 people paying at the gate which is a mixture of adults and the various concessions.

5. **Commercial update** – JH provided updates:
 - a. The updated programme had been well received; he thanked all those who had contributed to the new format.
 - b. Work is still ongoing regarding alternative arrangements for the website.
 - c. Shop sales had gone well following the launch of the new kit and training gear.
 - d. Events had been held for sponsors and local businesses on the trading estate had also been contacted – both approaches had been successful.

In response to a question regarding the cost of sponsorship MM said he preferred to make direct contact with potential sponsors but took on board the idea of publishing costs of the various sponsorship options.

6. **Youth development** – BB referred to the youth development strategy which was aimed at ensuring the youth team were playing in the same style as the first team and this had been previously referred to as the DNA. The youth team players that had graduated to the first team had been involved in soccer schools and some of the current youth team squad were attending first team training. Jon McCarthy and Ian Sharps were working very closely with the youth section. As part of their pre season preparation the youth team had undertaken a successful tour of Scotland winning both their games. Discussions had also recommenced regarding the possibility of developing a scholarship academy. In response to a question it was agreed that details of upcoming fixtures would be published on a month by month basis rather than for the whole season as they tended to change. Jon McCarthy was also looking at a reserve team fixture model on an informal basis to give the opportunity for some of the youth team players and first team players not regularly in the squad to have match practice.
7. **Communications** – MM said that in the various meetings that he had since he started communications both external and internal had been highlighted. The new email fans@chesterfc.com had not been launched and this was proving popular with questions from both local fans and those living further away. A number of interesting issues had been raised through this and it was agreed that it may be useful to publish some of the Q's and A's. MM also referred to the recent problems relating to problems that had been encountered with Blues Live at the Barrow game and the pending issue with Borehamwood requiring a payment to broadcast. A press release will be issued relating to the latter and subscribers will be reimbursed as we are not able to provide the service. MN said the Big City Survey was due to be issued shortly and members were encouraged to complete it as it provided a good source of feedback to the board.
8. **AGM** – MN outline the arrangements for the AGM as follows:
 - a. During the week of 22nd August letters or emails will be sent out advising members of the process for submitting a manifesto for a director post. The closing date for submissions of manifestos will be 9th September.
 - b. During the week of 21st September letters or emails will be sent out with the agenda and supporting papers, this will include a ballot form if there are more candidates than director places available. In the event that there are the same number of candidates or less there would be an affirmative vote at the AGM.
 - c. The AGM will be held on Friday 7th October, 2016 which is a Friday night before a home fixture; this date had been chosen to enable as many exiles as possible to attend.

9. Q and A session

- a. In response to a question about honouring Neil Young, SO said the former players are currently considering future plans to honour people and would be making a recommendation to the board.
- b. Agreed that a request for people to put litter in the bins provided should be added to the announcer's script. A request to turn down the volume of the new sound system was noted and that there were still some further adjustments to be made to the system.
- c. In response to a question about season tickets MM said that 1012 had been sold.
- d. The need for boosting CFU membership was noted and agreed that periodically the programme would include a CFU application form (not a flyer.)
- e. Car boot sales – a further one is planned for 18th September and then they will be held periodically with the maximum permitted being 4 per year.
- f. In respect of Tony Allan's role in the club, SO said that he looked after the football side and other general administration and that MM was looking at everyone's role with the aim of maximising resources.
- g. In response to a question relating to Ben Heneghan's move SO said that the potential loss was about £2k and the person involved no longer worked at the club.

10. Date of next meeting – 22nd September 2016 at 7.30pm this will be an informal meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm