

# Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust

(also known as Berwick Rangers Supporters Society Limited)

c/o 10 Golden Square  
Berwick-upon-Tweed  
Northumberland  
TD15 1BG

Telephone: 01289 333100  
E-mail: [trust@berwickrangers.co.uk](mailto:trust@berwickrangers.co.uk)  
Website: [www.berwicktrust.co.uk](http://www.berwicktrust.co.uk)



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## MINUTES

### Meeting of the Society Board

Date: Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012

Time: 19.00

Place: The Pilot Inn, Berwick-upon-Tweed

**PRESENT: Colin Pike, in the Chair; David Cook, Gordon Dickson, Bill Purvis, Steven Scott, Michael Smyth & Davie Spence**

**APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of John Bell, Keith Hall & Ron Kirk**

### 1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Bill Purvis and seconded by David Spence and approved as a correct record.

### 2. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

### 3. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARIES REPORT

Bill Purvis reported that:

- current membership stood at 232, down from 236 reported at the previous meeting
- confirmation of membership renewals was awaited from 31 current members; Bill was confident that a number of these would review, but it was likely that some follow-up work would be required to maintain current levels of membership

In regard to stocks of membership packs, it was agreed to purchase a further 300 Trust badges at a cost of £317 (Action: Bill Purvis)

### 4. TREASURERS REPORT

Gordon Dickson reported that at 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012, the balance of the Trust account was £2706.50

It was noted that the Trust donation of £5000 to BRFC earlier in the year had been assigned to a number of different projects, including upgrading floodlights at Old Shielfield. In light of the new partnership with Salvesen BC at Forrester High in Edinburgh, which would see the reserves and U-19s training with the first team on the 3G pitch there, a question was asked about whether the floodlights at Old Shielfield needed to be upgraded now if that pitch wasn't to be used.

Clarity was needed on what that money would be used for instead. (Action: Gordon to clarify with John Bell).

## **5. CLUB REPORT**

In the absence of John Bell, David Cook provided an update on player signings and proposed friendly fixtures.

It was noted that the club had re-signed Steven Notman, Chris Townsley, Lee Currie, Kevin McDonald and Stuart Noble, and that Ben Miller from the U-19s and Darren Lavery from the reserves had also been added to the first team squad, which had been further augmented by the signing of keeper Youssef Bejouai and ex Hearts, Brechin & East Fife midfielder Neil Janczyk.

It was understood that Rangers' management had made offers to Spartans striker Omar Kader (who had decided to do pre-season with Forfar), and Bonnyrigg's Alex King (who decided to do pre-season with East Fife). Rangers were expected to sign Spartans left back Dean Hoskins but that deal was still pending.

## **6. WORKING GROUP REPORTS**

Note: it was agreed that updates were not required from the leads of the following sub groups in light of significant AOB:

### **(a) Communications**

### **(b) Events**

### **(c) Strategy**

## **7. Any other business (AOB)**

### **(a) Reserve team programme**

Colin Pike has been asked by reserve team administrator Sean Jackson if he can produce the reserves' programme for the forthcoming season. Following a discussion about where the reserves would play their matches, it was agreed that the Trust would fund the printing of programmes for reserves' matches played at Shielfield only.

### **(b) Trust membership of Supporters Direct**

Gordon Dickson confirmed that the Trust had paid its annual membership fee of £50 to Supporters Direct.

However, following an update from Colin Pike about unresolved political and constitutional matters

relating to Supporters Direct, it was agreed to disaffiliate from Supporters Direct until such time as the organisation restored full democratic rights to its Scottish Council (Note: this item went to the vote, with 6 in favour of the decision and 1 abstention)

### **(c) Position of Trust Secretary**

Colin Pike reported, with regret, that Secretary Karen Thorburn had resigned due to personal reasons

The Trust board was unanimous in thanking Karen for her service and expressed the hope that she would continue to be a Trust member.

The recruitment of a new Trust Secretary was agreed as a priority, and it was also agreed that the new Secretary did not have to be a Trust member.

Action: David Cook to prepare a notice of vacancy for the Trust newsletter and website

### **(d) Rangers newco**

Actions: 1. David Cook to draft a statement to be posted on the Trust website, asking for members to vote for their preferred option in relation to the future of the Rangers newco; 2. Colin Pike to notify the BRFC board of the outcome of the Trust consultation and request that it be taken account of by the board when deciding the club's position on the matter

It was noted that the SFL was due to meet on 12<sup>th</sup> July, and that all agreed actions would therefore need to be carried out at short notice

### **(e) Elvis Tribute night**

David Spence reported that an Elvis tribute night had been arranged at the Black & Gold for the end of October, with tickets priced at £10m including supper.

A flier would be included in the summer newsletter (Action: David Spence/Paul Smith)

### **(f) Reserves update: Michael Smyth**

Michael Smyth gave an update on the appointment of Mark Lamb to oversee the development of the reserve and U-19 teams, and reported that the reserves in particular appeared to be signing some good young players.

It was noted that the Berwick Advertiser had highlighted local concerns about the use of Forrester High in Edinburgh for training, with local pundits claiming that the move represented a clean break with the town and the creation of "Edinburgh Rangers".

Varying views on this were expressed round the table but it was agreed that this was a matter for the football club to deal with, though canvassing Trust members for their views was not ruled out.

### **(g) Trust shop-front logo**

It was agreed to put this initiative on hold until March 2013, when work could start on having the display ready in time for the 2013 season. This would allow the proposal to be factored into the local authority planning cycle.

## **(h) BRFC Supporters Club AGM**

David Cook reported that he had attended the BRFC Supporters Club AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> June to find out more about the SC secretary's statement that the SC didn't wish to co-host the Elvis tribute night with the Trust for "personal reasons". The response from a small clique on the SC was that this was "...because of the way you treated Jimmy Crease". DC reiterated Trust commitment to both organisations working together in the wider interests of Berwick Rangers FC, and that petty grievances should not be allowed to prevent that.

## **8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Date: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2012

Time: 11.30

Place: The Pilot Inn, Berwick-upon-Tweed

David Cook

Vice-Chair

Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust