

# Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust

(also known as Berwick Rangers Supporters Society Limited)

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## MINUTES

### Meeting of the Society Board

Date: 24/04/13 Time: 7.00pm Place: Pilot Inn, Berwick-upon-Tweed

**PRESENT:** Michael Smyth, Bill Purvis, David Spence, Gordon Dickson, Gary Smith, Stephen Scott, Ron Kirk, Paul Smith, John Bell, Ian Beresford & Isla Barber(Sec)

**APOLOGIES:** Keith Hall & Martin McCleary

**1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

At the last meeting having a Twitter Account was discussed and the decision was to wait until we could get more informed information about Twitter before a decision was made.

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Gary Smith and seconded by Bill Purvis

**2. MATTERS ARISING:**

On the proposed Race Night it is suggested that we book in early for the start of next season, this was proposed by Gary Smith and seconded by Bill Purvis

**3. NEW BOARD MEMBERS:**

Paul Smith was proposed by John Bell & seconded by Bill Purvis

Ian Beresford was proposed by David Spence & seconded by John Bell

Andrew Neville was proposed by Gordon Dickson and seconded by Gary Smith

Welcome to the Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust Board.

**4. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARIES REPORT:**

Membership is at 241

Birthday cards for junior members – stock has been purchased.

## **5. TREASURERS REPORT**

Balance as at 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013 is £1546.10

## **6. CLUB REPORT**

John Bell gave the club report starting with the AGM of the club where it was reported that the club made an annual profit of £11K, which in financial climate is good, there were concerns in the club that there could be losses and breakeven would be good. Ian Little and Robbie Horn have signed contracts for next season and will continue building their team. Travel grants will continue to school and youth groups at the Queens Park match there were 3 groups at the game, all with positive feedback.

Berwick are committed to the Reserves and cash has been put aside for this, Mark Lamb has done a brilliant job.

Stephen Scott stated on kids season tickets that if the price of a ticket was put to £25 and they received one of the new home tops it would raise the club profile and promote the club in a positive light, also for match mascot, if the price was put up to include a top to be worn for the match and that players could sign, it would bring together players and fans.

John feels that the Trust board in the ground has seen better days and we need to deal with this.

For Shielfield there needs to be pitchwork carried out and new duckett toilets need to be installed.

## **7. WORKING GROUP REPORTS**

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Paul Smith will update the advert for the Trust. Paul and Ian Beresford think that the website could do with a makeover, then it would be compatible with smart phones etc. Paul and Ian Beresford are updating our Facebook group to a Facebook page(which has already been done as of today) and thinks that the website could do with a makeover, then it would be compatible with smart phones etc. It was decided that Paul and Ian would be administrators for this page. They will also become administrators for the Trust Twitter account as this is another way of engaging people. This was proposed by Gordon Dickson & seconded by David Spence

**EVENTS:** David Spence reported that when we get the new fixtures list we would look at organising: another Elvis Tribute Night(David Spence); Race Night in the new Sponsors Lounge(Stephen Scott); £100 note raffle(David Spence & Isla Barber); Penalty Challenge, a season long challenge.

**STRATEGY:** It was proposed that we set up a T-shirt working group with a view to merchandise for raising Trust awareness and our profile, and query whether we could involve Zoo...the working group consists of Gordon Dickson, John Bell, Paul Smith & Stephen Scott

Proposed by John Bell & seconded by Ian Beresford

## **8. RESERVES REPORT**

The Reserves play Preston Athletic on Sat 27<sup>th</sup> April in the semi-final of the King Cup.

BRR are in the position that they still have a chance of promotion and still have a few games to play.

## **9. MEETING WITH BRIAN PORTEOUS**

The meeting with Brian Porteous (Berwick Rangers Chairman) was an informal meeting in which five topics were discussed:

- (a) Changes to the Supporters Trust board
- (b) The matter of a certain individual sponsoring games was raised because of Trust members concerns. Brian Porteous explained that the club's view is that as long he behaves himself at Shielfield, the club will accept him as a sponsor. Now that this has been flagged up, should this become a problem the club have been made aware.
- (c) Mr Porteous expressed his unhappiness at David Cook's match reports, his point is that we are part of the club, Gordon Dickson says that David Cook puts in his reports his feelings and he is free to say that...the Trust is an independent body, has shares in the club and is a major shareholder. He felt that some of the negative ratings given to certain players could be detrimental to the players concerned.
- (d) Postponement of matches at Shielfield, Brian Porteous took the decision to call of the Reserves match the week before the Rangers game due to the condition of the pitch. This was raised as a concern as this was felt that this was not the real reason for the call off.
- (e) Presentation of cheque on March 10<sup>th</sup> 2013. This is to coincide with and to mark the tenth anniversary of the Trust. The Trust has been asked to publicise the new venture of Sunday lunches in the new Sponsors Lounge at Shielfield.

## **10.AOB**

- (a) Trust Player of the Year, this will be presented to our nominated player on Sat 27<sup>th</sup> April 2013.
- (b) Newsletter, we will concentrate on having the next newsletter for the end of July
- (c) Library, Berwick Library has asked if we wish to put on a display which would involve a Presentation and visual diplays which ideally could include a timeline of the club and selected memories of the club. The suggestion is that a list is sent out on the websites so we can start collating everything we need, with a view to the display coinciding with the start of the new season in August. It was felt that once the display was finished in the library that we could display in Sponsors Lounge and maybe elsewhere. Any ideas on this please speak to Michael Smyth.
- (d) Charity sponsorship. We will be advertising an event which is due to take place at the beginning of June and the organisers includes four trust members.

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

Date : Wed 29<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Venue : The Pilot Inn, High Greens, Berwick-upon-Tweed

Time : 7.00 pm