

Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust

(also known as Berwick Rangers Supporters Society Limited)

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MINUTES

Meeting of the Society Board

Date: 07/05/11

Time: 11:30

Place The Pilot Inn

PRESENT

Colin Pike (Chair), David Spence, Gordon Dickson, Karen Thorburn, David Cook, Keith Hall, Bill Purvis, John Bell, Dale Jones and Gregor Thompson. Also present was Trust member Michael Smyth.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ron Kirk, Gemma Law and Steven Scott.

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOCIETY BOARD HELD ON 09/04/11, DECISION:

The minutes of the meeting held on 09/04/11 were accepted as a true record, proposed by David Cook, seconded by Keith Hall

2. MATTERS ARISING

John Bell asked for clarification of 'voting committee members' as there had been question about under 18's voting rights, which affected the status of a seconder in a decision on last months meeting. He pointed out that as Board Members under such bodies as the FSA we are 'Directors' of BRFC Trust and therefore no-one under the age of 18 has voting rights. **ACTION** model rules to be clarified and updated.

3. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARIES REPORT

Membership is 228; junior figure still has not been added. Bill informed the Board that he has submitted his yearly expenses claim. The subject of raising fees was discussed again, and it was again agreed to look at it in the future. There are difficulties with raising fees when people pay by standing order, as we cannot increase the fees at our end, the member has to change the standing order.

4. TREASURERS REPORT

Balance in bank is £4,113.62 as at 4th May.

Bills to pay are the final instalment of £1k to the Club, Bill's expenses of £246.86. Colin Pike informed the Board that he would no longer be presenting his expenses to the Trust for payment as it was covered by Supporters Direct Scottish Council.

5. YOUTH SECTION REPORT

There has been one five a side game since the last meeting. Walter is asking for updates.

6. WORKING GROUP REPORTS

COMMUNICATIONS: Everyone has received an e-mail from Paul seeing items for the next newsletter. Colin has produced 2 e-newsletters since the last meeting. Dale reported that people the attended a recent Supporters Trust event had been impressed with the e-news.

EVENTS: The karaoke was a good night and raised £54 as well as the profile of the Trust in another area of Berwick.

7. TRIPARTITE MEETING

The meeting was very positive, and two further dates have been arranged. Weaknesses and strengths on the Club Board have been identified, (communication being one). Supporters Club are holding some money back as they are being expected to carry out repairs to the stadium. The Club is strong in financial discipline; however it is seen as being very reactionary, dealing with problems when they arise rather than having a set plan of work to keep the property in good order. The Trust is still planning to factor in member led projects for stadium improvements into our financial planning.

We are still going to be the body that asks the awkward questions of the Club, and Brian accepts this, and will try to answer as honestly as possible.

It was suggested that the Trust look at a communications strategy for the Club as it is one of our strengths, and everyone was asked to bring ideas forward to the next meeting **ACTION**.

8. CLUB REPORT

There are a few players not signing for next season. Damon Gray and Andy McLean have signed.

A presentation night with all teams present will be on Saturday 7th May at the Golf Club. Entry is free.

Trials are to be held in three locations, Tranent, Selkirk and Berwick in late May, early June.

Working on the set of accounts that do not take the Celtic match into account, the Club made a loss last year as a result of so many fixtures being postponed. However the Club is 'in the black' and there will be a modest

increase in the players budget next year. Closed season pitch work is planned. The Club is looking for a second hand sprinkler system. The Club is looking to take on the lease of the Ivinson pitch from BRFC Juniors.

9. SCOTTISH COUNCIL REPORT

Colin to attend his second meeting on Monday. Fans have not been included in discussions about SFA changes. Colin handed round postcards to be given to supporters at the afternoon's match and handed back to him to return.

10. SUPPORTERS CLUB REPORT

As no rep has been put forward, Karen will make contact with Rodelle to share information. **ACTION**

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i) Trust Player of the Year will be Andy McLean. His presentation will be made at the ceremony at the Golf Club.
- ii) We still have a £200 donation towards producing the Reserves programme so it was decided to carry on for the next season, however the advert needs revamped and Paul would be asked to do this. **ACTION**. Proposed by Colin Pike seconded by David Cook.
- iii) Under item 12a on the agenda, Bill made a proposal that this item be deferred as it was tabled too late to give it due consideration. Gordon seconded. A vote was taken and passed 5:1 to delay. A discussion then took place about recent events regarding the questions the Trust agreed to take to the Club re; Jimmy Crease's reappointment. This was brought to a close by a unanimous show of hands to the question of confidence in John Bell as representative to the Club.

12. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 31st May at 7.00 pm in the Pilot Inn.