

Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust

(also known as Berwick Rangers Supporters Society Limited)

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MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: 18/12/10

Time: 11:30

Place The Black and Gold Club

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Alan Beith M.P., Paul Smith, David Cook, Keith Hall and Eric Deighton.

2. GUEST SPEAKERS

- (i) **Brian Porteous – Director, Berwick Rangers Football Club**
- Reserves and Under 17's playing in SFL national league.
 - Club has UEFA license for the first time ever.
 - Improvements have been made to home and away dressing rooms, disabled toilets and gates. A new kitchen has been fitted upstairs in sponsors lounge. This was donated by Howdens and fitted by Callum Porteous.
 - A bore hole has been sunk which will give long term savings in water costs. Thanks to Jeff Burnlees for this.
 - Thanked the Trust for the £50,000 donated over the past 7 years.
 - Exclusively revealed to AGM that JB Site Investigations had signed up as sponsor for another 2 years.
 - New Associate Director, Alan Montgomery, signed up for initial one year.
 - Disappointed that Club still had losses at 31st May of £3,700 but in perspective with many clubs this was modest.
 - On the field the Team has played well up until recent bad weather.
 - Manager Jimmy Crease has 100% backing of the Board.
 - Feels squad is good enough for play-offs.
 - Celtic Cup tie is a real bonus for the Club. Plans for this are running smoothly. Sky TV is covering the game.
 - Is a great pleasure and honour to be part of BRFC.

(ii) Jimmy Crease - Manager

- Chairman is good to work with.
- Never pressured on playing side.
- Good support from Board.
- Thanks all who take time to come along to away games to support the team.
- Hope to add 2 new players in January.
- Managers of other teams complimenting Berwick on standard of football played.
- Thankful to Directors for paying for accommodation for the team for Cove game.
- Took questions from the floor about the team.

(iii) Bill Parking – Supporters Club Chairman

- There has been a lot of support from many areas for the work at Shielfield Park.
- Segregation has been taken from the Duckett, health and safety officers thought it was an issue.
- Spoke about the work done to the stadium in preparation for Cup tie.
- Disabled viewing areas would be constructed for tie.
- Need to address the issue of high average age of 70 on Supporters Club.
- Looking for new members for weekly scheme.

3. CHAIRMANS REPORT – Colin Pike.

“Here we are again almost at the end of another year. Like all other years in the life of our Trust it’s been a busy one. We have undertaken various pieces of work which we all hope have benefited our football club.

Back in June a discussion took place around the possibility of organising a member’s survey. In the following months this became reality with board member Eric Deighton taking on the responsibility of actually getting it done. This has subsequently proved to be an extremely important piece of work for us, as regards telling us how you think we as a board are doing on your behalf. This we intend to share with the football club and supporters club as it is a unique exercise relating to our club. From that we formed several sub committees who were tasked to take forward your thoughts and actually put them into practice. So we do listen to what you tell us!

Around that time as well we were able to further help the football club by giving them £12500, part of which was the handing over of the club shop operation.

In September we held another one of our successful race nights in Berwick, where our guest was Jimmy Crease, and we managed to raise a substantial

sum which ultimately will find its way back to the football club. Thanks to all for that, you know who you are.

As part of a planned recruitment drive we held a recruitment day prior to a home match, also in September, where several board member “manned” (apologies girls) a stand at the turnstiles where those concerned done extremely well signing up several new members on the day, as well as reinforcing our presence to all those present.

We also decided that due to ongoing fiscal restraints, which few of us have been immune from, that we would freeze membership fees for another year. However, you are off course free to pay more if you’re feeling particularly “flush”

We have also restarted our online communication with yourselves, assuming you have the facility off course, with a new revamped eNewsletter which hopefully those of you that have received it will like the look of. On that subject, from the data we have, a number of you may have changed your email addresses since you originally notified us. Can I ask you if that is the case to update your details which can be done quite simply via the Trust website.”

4. TREASURERS REPORT – Gordon Dickson

- Trust has broken the £50,000 mark for donations to the Club, a point worthy of highlight.
- Subscriptions, (core funding) up £1,500.
- Web costs have been reduced.
- Trust paid for Club webcosts to get them running with a good website.
- Have been looking at core expenditure (audit/postage/newsletters) to seek reductions.
- Was £11 per head to service a member, is now £7 per head.
- Shop stock and cash handover this year gave Club nearly £7,500.
- Some stock held back for promotional use.

5. SECRETARIES REPORT - Karen Thorburn

- Confirmed that the Trust Board had conducted its meetings, election arrangements and annual meeting arrangements in accordance with the model rules of the Trust constitution.
- Also confirmed her willingness to remain Trust Secretary if the Membership is happy with this.

6. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARIES REPORT – Bill Purvis

Bill mentioned the high in May 2009 of 230 members. At May 2010 membership stood at 217. In the business year to May 2010 we lost 30 members and gained 17. Membership currently stands at 223.

We now have recently formed Youth Section with 16 members, to give youth a voice and have sought clarity on pricing for young people. They are organising some things for themselves.

7. CLUB REP REPORT – John Bell

- Progress off the pitch has been staggering and not at the expense of the playing budget.
- A lot of work has been funded by Supporters Club and Supporters Trust.
- Grants are needed – a Football Partnership Grant is in place for next year, will pay for floodlights.
- Rusty boxes at base of floodlights need replaced.
- Shielfield Park hasn't looked so good in while.
- Spoke about organisation for Celtic Cup Tie, including new turnstiles.
- Thanked Northumberland County Council, SFA and Celtic FC for their help.
- Mentioned Brian Porteous's attendance and business skills in his Chairmanship.
- Mentioned the additional support of Speedway fans in the stadium work.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Elaine Mallory voiced her thoughts that the membership elect and trust the Board and support it's very specific aims. We are in a better situation now in relation to the Club and have John Bell as our representative by right not appointment.

Colin drew the meeting to a close by saying he felt the membership were happy with what we are doing and thanked everyone for their attendance.