

Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust

(also known as Berwick Rangers Supporters Society Limited)

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MINUTES

Meeting of the Society Board

Date: 01/07/08
Time: 18:30
Place The Pilot Inn

PRESENT

John Bell (Chair), David Spence, Ian Gregory, Bill Purvis, Paul Smith, Colin Pike, Gordon Dickson, Cameron Waterhouse, Karen Thorburn, George Thompson, Derek Purvis, Steven Scott.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from David Cook.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOCIETY BOARD HELD ON 03/06/08, DECISION:

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Society Board held on 03/06/08.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Advertising Board at Shielfield; The Club have stated that they will relocate the board to the shop, at a cost of £175. We had offered to pay £100, but if £175 is the going rate then we will pay that. Discussion followed, other potential site would be on the boundary wall opposite the turnstiles.

All not present at the last meeting were e-mailed with regard to the leaking of e-mails, and replied in the negative. The member responsible is encouraged to speak privately to John Bell as this may raise its head in future and best to get it over with.

Printing company in Dudley gas been asked to do the match programmes, Trust advert to be included. Some inaccuracies in adverts, unfortunately once they are set up they can't be changed. Fantasy Prints had been doing the programmes for a number of years at a loss and were extremely unhappy that the Club have chosen to take this business out of the town. Other local businesses were of the same mind for various reasons.

4. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARIES REPORT

Stands at 200, one down on last month.

20 annual members yet to pay, 6 will pay when new season starts. Reminders to go out shortly.

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2 new applications have come in, one from Maryland, USA.

5. TREASURERS REPORT

£8490.09 in bank. Second instalment of payment to club for lawnmower to pay. The bill for the seats is on its way.

We took in almost £1,000 for the race night, this included in above figure. Les and Andy have offered to do another race night at Berwick Holiday Centre. The TV won at Haggerston was donated back, and can be used again. It was felt that match day hospitality should be given to Les and Andy for their support.

The question of a pre-season sale was raised, but Gordon explained that he tries to get stock that is not season based, and any stock bought to replace stock sold in a sale will likely have gone up in cost.

6. 42 GROUND TOUR

Fixtures are out, possibly looking at 18th October, away to East Stirling. The next newsletter is out at the end of November or beginning December. If we leave it until later we could get publicity for sponsorship. Continuing to plan and sort route in meantime.

7. BOOKS

Dave and Ian now have a list from Paul; though need to sort out which money has come from which source. Will liaise with Gordon on this. More detailed list will be produced. Will need to look at where the remaining books can be stored. May lower to £5 per book at next newsletter. Could sell books with programmes at matches all season, special offer at £5 only at games agreed. Championship t-shirts already selling for a lot less.

Have told Testimonial committees that we would sell them at their events for donation to testimonial.

8. COMMUNICATION/MEDIA

2 e-mail newsletters have been sent since last meeting, and communications regarding other clubs' Trust successes. Website is being updated twice weekly, and is getting around 2,200 hits per month, representing a good hit count for sponsors. Paul thanked everyone for the excellent content once again.

9. SUPPORTERS CLUB AGM

Was straightforward and uneventful. Supporters had given the club £20k from the weekly scheme and £14k from the speedway last year, with £8k coming from the TV ariel, catering etc.

Mr Robertson had attended.

Getting a Trust member on the Board of the club was discussed, also the need for openness. Decisions at club should be taken only at Board level as there has been a history of this not happening.

There was an impression given that the sale of the Black and Gold was imminent, and should be used as a community resource.

Mr. Robertson trying to buy Shielfield, and is trying to contact shareholders to put in £100 each to make this possible. John stressed the importance of the club NOT owning Shielfield, that it should be kept separate to preserve its use

for football. Mr. Robertson also discussed the possibility of an artificial pitch within 2 years, though it was felt by the Trust that realities need to sink in with him!! Mr Robertson would be invited to the next Trust meeting.

10.A.O.B.

- a) Easysearch webfundraising; money needs to be 'claimed' as was the case for the directory enquiry number money. Cheque can be issued every quarter.
- b) Weather Lottery; Participants can join online, and details are in newsletter.
- c) Raffle; George has now sent the camera which was the first prize.
- d) Two Way Taxis ; it was agreed to supply Two Way Taxis with Trust polo shirts with Two Way Taxis stitched on the sleeve as a staff 'uniform' for their support.

11.DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Saturday 26th July at 11.30 at the Pilot Inn.