**Carlisle United Supporters Club London Branch**

**Minutes of Meeting held via Zoom on 14 March 2024**

Meeting opened at 7:05 p.m.

**Present**: Dave Brown (chair), John Bowman, Paul Irving, Terry McCarthy, Peter Smithson, Ken Hullock, Andrew Dobinson

**Apologies**: Matt Hill, Mike Carruthers, Kris Foster, Simon Clarkson

**1. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

i. **Matters Arising**

i. February meeting minutes were approved.

ii. Record of committee decisions made via WhatsApp or E-mail since last meeting: None

iii. February action notes reviewed.

**2. REPORTS**

Committee officer reports were received and reviewed.

Noted that funding needs at CUFC have changed as a result of the new ownership, so that funding for items such as gym equipment are now unlikely. Agreed that we will need to review our funding strategy before 24/25 season.

**Action: DB to talk to SC about the nature of funding that CUFC might now seek and then talk to Nigel Clibbens**.

**3. AGENDA ITEMS**

**i. Matchday organisation**

Meeting pubs/ticket distribution locations agreed as:

Peterborough – Charters Bar, Town Bridge, Peterborough PE1 1FP

Northampton – Thomas A Becket, 52 St James' Rd, Northampton NN5 5HY

**ii.AGM 2024**

Agreed that this will take place on **July 5th or 6th** (subject to venue). Likely attendance c20 people.

**Action: TM to contact Robert Calvert re Windsor & Eton Brewery and DB to talk to Stonegate re suitable pubs in central London.**

**iii. Recruitment of 24/25 Committee – officers and vacancies**

Howard Davidson has indicated that he wishes to cease his role as Brunton Park season ticket co-ordinator at the end of the current season.

Jason Casey has indicated that he will be stepping down from Mascot coordinator at the end of this season due to his now limited access to email.

DB noted his view that we need to create a new role of Social Media co-ordinator.

DB recorded his thanks to Andrew Dobinson for offering to stay on for season 24/25 as treasurer.

**Action 1: TM to talk to HD with a view to taking on the season ticket administrator role.**

**Action 2: DB to identify possible candidates for Social media and Mascot roles.**

**iv. End of Season Awards**

It was agreed that we should give ‘Player of the Season’ and ‘Champagne Moment’ awards. Voting to be on-line via Mailchimp as per last season. As CUFC do not currently plan an end-of-season dinner we will need to find a suitable presentation opportunity. MC has explored the costs etc. of purchasing the same trophies as last season and provided details to committee.

**Action:**

**1. DB to authorise MC to purchase awards from N&C.**

**2. KH to set up voting process in time to provide N&C engraving details by 8th April. (liaise with DB re access to Mailchimp)**

**3. TM to contact Amy Nixon re potential presentation opportunities**.

**v. Renewal of Wix website hosting plan**

KH set out the features of the hosting plans offered to us by Wix as detailed in his officer’s report. Following discussion, it was agreed that we should renew on their basic plan at a cost of £216 for three years.

**Action: KH to renew as agreed**

**4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**i. Date of next meeting**: 8th April at 19:00 via Zoom

Subsequent meetings will be 13th May and Thursday 20th June (Expected fixture release day)

**ii. Brunton Park Season Ticket 24/25**

It was agreed that we should purchase two adult season tickets for the Paddock. We should analyse the pattern of use of the tickets in recent seasons as the basis for more active promotion of this member benefit.

**Action: AD to purchase two such tickets as soon as they are available thus benefitting from the ‘early bird’ discount. DB to ask HD for user analysis.**

**iii. Mascots**

DB noted Jason Casey’s hard work in trying to secure mascot opportunities for matches in all parts of the country. This is despite poor information and high charges from some clubs we visit. Jason will be standing down at the end of this season and DB recorded his thanks for the excellent work he has done over many seasons.

It was agreed that mascot opportunities are a key activity for the branch especially in view of the need to encourage juniors and younger members and that we should offer ourselves as the sole organiser of mascots at away games. Noted that the age band for mascots is 5-13 years. DB pointed out that we must offer mascots for all Carlisle fans whether members or not.

**Action: TM and SC to discuss best process for handling the mascot process with the ticket office and then to offer to Nigel Clibbens for the London Branch to take over all away mascots.**

**SC will include mascot process, price and contacts in his SLO request to away SLOs.**

**DB will look for new mascot coordinator.**

**iv. 74/75 season/Branch 50th**

It was noted that there are two distinct activity streams. One is the branch 50th Birthday where we will arrange an event or events for members and memorabilia focussed on our 50th birthday. We should develop plans for this at a future meeting following the fixture release.

The second is our part in wider activity to mark the 74/75 season. CUFC has indicated that it sees fan groups as the focus/organisers of this. It was agreed that as a key member of CUSG we should take the initiative and produce an eye-catching image that we will use for a T-shirt and then share that with CUSG/CUFC for use in other merchandise as per the Roma T-shirt.

**Agreed: DB to invite Jane Jardine to create an image. Committee members to think of potential themes for the image and share on committee WhatsApp. DB to get quotes for print and supply of shirts.**

There being no other business the meeting was closed by the Chair at 8:50 pm.