

## **Minutes of OxVox committee meeting on Thursday 13 September 2007**

### **Present**

Trevor Lambert, Neil Carter, Ray Whittaker, Graham Hilsdon, Jenny Cuff, Bob Scholes and Chris Davis.

PC Huw James attended by invitation for the first main item on the agenda.

### **Apologies**

Martin Brodetsky, Tim Rosser and Geoff Millward.

### **Discussion with TVP**

The following points emerged:

- a) Only 2 fixtures identified in 2007/08 (3 in 2006/07) and agreed as requiring a police presence for which the Club pay. The police numbers inside the ground and in the car parks are also agreed.
- b) There are at least 2 officers on duty for every home fixture which involves patrolling the city centre, the approaches to the stadium and attendance inside the ground checking CCTV if a problem has been identified.
- c) In the past 5 years, no fixture involving OUFC in the TVP area has had its kick-off time moved from 3.00pm Saturday on police advice, and this is unlikely to change in the current climate.
- d) For away fixtures, reports are sent to the "home" constabulary informing them of the likely number of visiting supporters and the likelihood of any possible disorder or problems. In TVP's opinion, Cambridgeshire police were always going to insist that CUFC advanced their fixture with us last October to the Friday but they did not base their decision on a report supplied by TVP. It is also possible that this month's fixture at Histon was originally advanced to a Friday for the same unspecified reason. (It should be pointed out that all CUFC home fixtures are policed at cost to their club and different criteria may be used in that area when policing events.)
- e) There was a strong police presence at Stevenage last month and York last April. This was deemed necessary by the "home" force following OUFC's previous visit to Stevenage and York's previous visit to Oxford. Decisions on policing numbers are always down to the host force and only them.
- f) An Inspector is the lowest rank who can authorise the use of a camera. Photography is used to capture evidence of any disorder or problems at fixtures as well as to capture Intelligence of members of any perceived risk group to prove their presence in a specific place and at a specific time. Passers-by and bystanders will frequently be subject to getting filmed but it is not the aim of the Police to affect the public and cause upset in any way.
- g) TVP believes it has a healthy relationship with the Club and gets things right. It also

believes that Banning Orders for trouble makers are the best way forward. This is at variance to the policy adopted by some other forces who tend to make more arrests for misbehaviour and then get involved in a protracted prosecution.

h) At present, there are 24 Banning Orders in force but 16 of these emanated from a single event in Chester. Neither Cheshire police nor Lincolnshire police have been able to identify "their fans" from the incidents that occurred on 27 November 2004 in Chester and 30 November 2002 in Oxford respectively. As a result of action taken and from general experience, TVP consider that safety and well-being at OUFC fixtures and at fixtures in the TVP area is no worse than anywhere else and higher than most.

i) The obtaining of Intelligence relating to football and risk fans is far harder to come by than other fields of Police work due to the nature of the group and the type of criminality the risk fans seek to involve themselves in.. Assistance from ALL supporters in reporting ANY information on what may happen at OUFC fixtures home and away is always appreciated whether by direct contact with the FIO or Crimestoppers. It is clear TVP monitor all forms of Intelligence including the tui and other forums and they try to take notice of what has been said.

j) PC Huw James is moving on to pastures new (associated with the England national team) and the new FIO in Oxford will be PC David Rescorla. The FLO will remain as PC Steve Norman. We will invite TVP to a pre-match members' meeting in the future.

### **Matters arising**

The PR about the fixture changes resulting from live TV coverage of games was issued and coverage was given locally. The PR has now been updated and re-issued to the Non-League Paper. The question of whether the Club receives all of the Setanta money (or whether a percentage is re-directed to the stadium company) will be put to the Club.

### **7-a-side competition**

Sunday, 28 October has been earmarked for the event with the following week held as a reserve date. Provisional bookings have been made at 2 venues; Gosford Hill, Kidlington and Tilsley Park, Abingdon. The cost works out at £267 and £300 respectively. A decision on the venue will be made outside the meeting.

An application to Kick It Out for a grant of £250 has been submitted.

The tournament will be advertised and potential teams approached when a decision on the venue has been made.

### **Membership report**

A maximum of 45 renewals will be outstanding at the end of September although the number has been reducing. Attempts will be made to contact the people concerned on 15 September and afterwards.

### **Fundraising**

The web-site link to Fish Brothers car leasing company will go live shortly and could

prove profitable to the Trust.

The sale of fixture posters had not been as good as hoped and the Trust was not yet in profit (although we are not bearing any loss.) We will be seeking authority to reduce the price to £1 now the season is entering its sixth week.

14 mugs remained unsold. Pro-active sale of these around the stadium will be suspended for 3 months but will be available upon request while stocks last.

Calendar production will now take centre stage. Suitable photographs will be sought (with a plan to have the finished article ready by 20 October?)

Last season's under 9s sponsorship will now be finalised and the final cheque instalment handed over shortly. The framed autographed shirt was sold for £120 and this amount forms part of the sponsorship money due.

### **Members' meeting**

This is going ahead in the Landmark Suite on 15 September at 1.30pm.

Subjects to include a report of this week's meeting with the stadium company, feedback from our meeting with Thames Valley Police's Football Intelligence Officer and the Setanta TV deal with the consequent fixture changes. Members have been advised of the meeting by e-mail and/or the local media.

### **Date of next meeting**

Monday 8 October 2007

### **Any other business**

None.

Chris Davis  
Secretary  
14 September 2007