

Minutes of the Blackburn Rovers Fans' Forum Ewood Park, Monday 9th June 2014 – 7.15pm

Present – Fans' Forum

Tris Stock
Ste Birtwell
John Wareing
Neil Duckworth
Jim Holden
Alan Birkbeck
Annette Birkbeck
Rob Parker
Jennifer Lewis
Ray Williamson

Present from BRFC

Alan Myers
Lynsey Talbot

1. Apologies for absence

Ben Sumner
Simon Barnes
Mark Hitchen
Terry Crawford
Greg Coar

2. Matters arising from the Minutes 15th April 2014

a) Free Birthday tickets

There still seemed to be an issue with the free match ticket offer for season ticket holders in the month of their birthday. It should be sent to all those on the club's emailing list but it appeared some fans had not received it. LT agreed to make further enquiries. AM confirmed that the offer for those with summer birthdays would be a ticket for the pre-season friendly with Stoke City.

b) Links with Blackburn Business Community

TS asked for an update with AM's contact with Blackburn council. AM replied that he had been to a meeting that day at The Hive with local business leaders and would be making a presentation to their next meeting in late June. He wanted to emphasise that the club wanted to be more actively involved in the town and with its businesses.

c) Financial Fair Play

In the absence of Derek Shaw there was no detailed information available, but AM reported that clubs had met in Portugal in the previous week and were planning to meet again in the next few

weeks when it was expected that the policy would be finalised.

d) Matchday Car Parking Passes

JL asked whether there had been a decision on allowing payment for matchday car parking passes by installments for the new season. LT replied that the club expected to be able to offer a policy of three installments across the season and were currently sorting out some practical issues.

e) Roadworks in Ewood

RW asked whether the club would be communicating to fans the effects of the planned major roadworks around Ewood which were about to start and would be running for most of the 2014/15 season. LT stated that the club were meeting the contractors weekly and would be informing fans of effects as and when they happened throughout the season. In answer to a question of whether the club would consider subsidising buses to relieve traffic congestion, AM stated that they might and asked Forum members to help them gauge demand for such a service.

3. Owners Open Letter to Fans

AM stated that he had been keen for the owners to issue a communication to fans and that they had agreed. Although AM had provided some ideas for the content of the letter it had been written by Mrs Desai. The owners had been keen to emphasise that the problems the club had were their responsibility to sort out and no one else's. AM asked for feedback from Forum members. The consensus was that the letter had generally been well received but that there were a group of fans who had reacted more cynically.

TS asked whether there had been any change in the day to day management of the club. LT responded that the atmosphere in the club had improved considerably in recent months. The new Board structure was working well and there was a general positivity around the club. The club had also recently received the Football League Family Excellence Award.

4. Season Tickets 2014/15

AM stated that he had no exact sales figures in Greg Coar's absence but he was aware that sales were higher than at the same stage last year, although it was still very early days.

Asked for feedback from fans TS said that the response appeared to be generally positive, with fans accepting the need for modest price rises. AM stated that it was likely that prices would continue to rise gradually in

the coming years so that the product was not devalued. He also stated that the owners had been particularly keen to maintain the very low prices for juniors.

RW asked for confirmation of the cut-off date to claim your own season ticket, which was 30th June. AM also confirmed that last year's tickets should be retained as new ones would only be issued if there was a change in seating or circumstances.

5. 2014/15 Team kits

AM stated that the plan was to launch the new home kit in early July with the away kit following in early August, before the start of the season.

TS asked if it would be possible for the Forum to have input into future kit design. AM replied that it was too late for the 2015/16 designs as they would be signed off shortly, but agreed that it would be good for future years.

6. 2014/15 Pre-Season

TS stated that a number of fans had been disappointed that there would not be a pre-season friendly overseas this year. AM confirmed that there were no plans for a game at the pre-season training camp in Portugal.

AM stated that there would be a festival day at the pre-season game with Stoke, with the Fan Zone opening on that day.

7. Gary Bowyer's availability for a Future Meeting

In response to a question from TS, AM stated that he was sure that Gary would be willing to attend a future Fans Forum meeting. Whether that would be the next one in August was unsure as there would be a League Cup game for the first team on either 12th or 13th August.

8. Any Other Business

a) Blues Bar Membership Renewals

SB asked when the renewal forms for Blues Bar membership would be issued. LT undertook to check.

b) Golden Season Ticket

AM noted that the Golden Season Ticket campaign had started and had been well received. He also stated that other campaigns would be launched soon.

c) Fans Memory Wall

AM stated that the club planned to put up a display based on fans'

memories of important moments and players in the club's history. They wanted this to be led by fans' requests and asked the Forum to help facilitate this.

d) Junior Fans Forum

AM informed the meeting that the club intended to set up a Junior Fans Forum for 8-16 year old fans, which would meet around 3 times a year.

e) Away Fan Ambassador

AM stated that the club intended to appoint an Away Fans Ambassador. This person would be provide a contact point for support for Rovers fans travelling to away games and also for away fans coming to Ewood

12. Date of Next Meetings

Pre -meet	Main meeting
Monday 4/8/14	Monday 11/8/14
Monday 6/10/14	Monday 13/10/14
Monday 1/12/14	Monday 8/12/14

Pre-meets are held at Ewood one week before the main meetings. The pre-meet is open to all interested fans to attend, providing they request to do so in advance by contacting John Wareing by email or phone as below.

Members should contact John Wareing at roversfansforum@hotmail.com or 07984 085474 give their apologies if they cannot attend a meeting.

Fans can also contact John regarding the Forum using the contact details above.