

Minutes of the Blackburn Rovers Fans' Forum

Ewood Park, Monday 17th September 2018 – 6.00pm

Present – Fans' Forum

Tris Stock
Neil Duckworth

John Wareing

Jim Holden
Savio Mathias
Annette Birkbeck
Anthony Corry
Jennifer Lewis
Alan Birkbeck
Ray Williamson
Gordon Ormerod

Present from BRFC

Lynsey Talbot
Mike Cheston

Steve Waggott

1. Apologies for absence

Bharat Parmar
Mark Hitchen
Terry Crawford
Ben Sumner
Steve Birtwell

2. Using Disabled Tickets as Credit for Upgrades

LT stated that there was no reason why disabled tickets could not be used as credit for match day ticket upgrades in the same way as standard season tickets and confirmed she had discussed this with the ticket office.

3. Match Day Programme

AB reported that the programme had been significantly improved after the changes made in the close season. There were now some contributors from outside the club staff, which had also freed up time for the in house team.

The changes had been made following a meeting with interested fans who had made a number of suggestions which the club had adopted.

In response to a suggestion from TS that the club should now be marketing the programme more MC agreed and undertook to review this.

4. Discounted Home Games

TS asked whether the club was still considering discounting ticket prices for a future home game. SW replied that he expected that a game would be chosen in the near future.

The club had been disappointed with the level of attendances at home games so far this season. There was some discussion about the possible reasons for this. It was clear that the fact that all Championship games not played on Saturdays at 3pm being shown live on Sky TV was having an effect on attendances across the league. Sky paid £100,000 to the home club for a live TV game and £10,000 to the away club but there were currently no extra payments for the other games now being shown.

The fact that Rovers' first three home games had been with teams with small away followings and the fourth had been live on Sky TV had not helped. There had also been difficulties with both local and national train services.

RW asked whether the club would consider laying on coaches from various local communities for fans. This might help encourage more regular attendance. There was some discussion about this and SW agreed to consider the idea.

5. 2018-19 Season Ticket Sales

TS asked whether the season ticket price rise had affected sales. SW replied that it was important that the club move away from the benefactor model towards a more financially self-sufficient basis. Whilst the cheap ticket policy in the Premier league had brought an increase in attendances it had made it more difficult to increase prices thereafter.

SW stated that season tickets had been taken off sale after the Aston Villa game and that sales stood at 9,641. This was below the club's stretch target of 10,500, although that target included half season ticket sales (typically around 300-400).

SW stated that the club currently planned to continue with the contract with Ticketmaster for the time being despite some problems. He has raised the failure of Ticketmaster being able to offer disabled tickets online and there were also problems with season ticket holders being able to renew 1975 and Junior Rovers memberships online.

6. Senior Leadership Team Announcement

TS asked what the situation was with the planned announcement on the Senior Leadership Team at the club. SW replied that this is still under review. He was looking to introduce a more co-ordinated structure across the club.

7. Supporters' Consultation Meeting

TS asked when the next Supporters' Consultation meeting was planned. SW replied that another trip to meet with the owners in India was planned, probably for the International break in November. It therefore made sense to hold the next meeting after that, probably in early December.

8. Any Other Business

- ND asked for more information about the refusal of the club's appeal against the women's team failure to be granted promotion at the end of last season. The club had hired a QC to argue their case along with SW and Gemma Donnelly. The FA failed to send anyone to attend other than four lawyers. He failed to see the fairness in the FA having allowed Leicester City (who finished behind Rovers in the league) and Lewes being promoted ahead of them.
- JH asked if a date had been fixed for a shareholders meeting. MC replied that it would probably be in the third week of October.
- JH asked if more shelving could be provided in the concourse of the Jack Walker Upper, as it was very tricky to eat food and drink without any space to put one down. SW agreed to consider the matter.
- RW stated that traffic problems leaving the car park behind the Blackburn End were very frustrating and had been particularly bad at the Aston Villa game. It was agreed that the Forum would discuss this in more detail at a future meeting.
- SM asked when individual player photos would be available in the club shop. LT replied that the photos had been done so they should be available very soon.
- JL asked what the situation was with Tony Mowbray's contract. SW replied that it was a subject towards the top of his agenda.

10. Dates of Next Meetings

Pre -meet	Main meeting
5/11/18	12/11/18
7/1/19	15/1/19 (Tuesday)
11/3/19	18/3/19
13/5/19	20/5/19
1/7/19	8/7/19
2/9/19	9/9/19

4/11/19

11/11/19

All dates are Mondays unless otherwise indicated

Pre-meets are held 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 to give their apologies if they cannot attend a meeting.

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