Minutes of the Blackburn Rovers Fans' Forum
Ewood Park, Monday 12th January 2015 – 7.15pm

Present – Fans' Forum
Ste Birtwell
Rob Parker
John Wareing
Neil Duckworth
Jim Holden
Bharat Parmar
Jennifer Lewis

Present from BRFC
Derek Shaw
Lynsey Talbot
Dave Biggar

1. Apologies for absence

Tris Stock
Ray Williamson
Ben Sumner
Alan Birkbeck
Annette Birkbeck
Gordon Ormerod
Mark Hitchen
Terry Crawford
Simon Barnes
Anthony Corry
Greg Coar

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes 13th October 2014

a) Ewood Roadworks
LT stated that she believed the position with the roadworks making crossing Bolton Road difficult had improved now that some changes had been made.

JW raised an issue with parked cars on Livesey Branch Road between the Fox and Hounds and Albion Street. Parked cars were partially blocking the footpath and forcing fans leaving the ground into the road, mixing with traffic coming down the hill.

b) Fan Zone
JW stated that a number of fans had asked about a seeming lack of publicity about the Fan Zone and planned activities. LT replied that there had been some publicity about the Fan Zone on the website for recent matches although nothing had been done ahead of the Wolves game given the weather forecast and the early kick-off. In fact attendance had been surprisingly good on the day at that game.
DB stated that the club had a planned meeting with Heineken on

Thursday (now rescheduled to Monday 2nd February) and would welcome any ideas fans had to improve the experience at the Fan Zone.

c) 20th Anniversary Plans

DB reported that there had been a meeting with the Former Players Association and an event was being planned, details of which should be announced before the end of January.

d) Tannoy

JW stated that the problem with the tannoy in the Blackburn End Upper seemed to be with the speakers at the rear of the stand – the sound at the front was fine. DS agreed to get the matter checked.

3. Dave Biggar – Commercial Director

DB outlined his role as Commercial Director. Since arrival he had found a team of good people with a wealth of experience with the club. There was no need for radical change but his intention was to use his experience to make some little tweaks to improve both the fan experience and revenue streams.

There was some discussion about ticket pricing for the cup game with Swansea. DS pointed out that for cup games, after payment of VAT on ticket prices and deduction of expenses each club received 45% of income with the FA taking the final 10%. He confirmed that the TV fee for the game was only £48,000 and that the club had no choice about acceptance if the game was chosen for live coverage.

4. Half Season Ticket Sales

DB stated that half season ticket sales had exceeded the budget target by 26%. A total of 481 tickets had been sold to add to the 10,901 full season tickets. He was pleased that 60% of the half season tickets had been sold to new fans.

5. Financial Fair Play

DS stated that the club had currently 23 established players with the return of Leon Best. This meant that under the FFP regulations 1 further player could be brought in during the transfer window, unless there were other departures.

He was unsure what the club's situation would be re FFP in the Summer. There were a number of players out of contract at the end of the season and most would not be renewed.

He was unable to comment on why other clubs in similar financial

situations had not been subject to a transfer ban as he was not aware of the detail of their accounts.
He stated that the club had no intention of selling any of the key players at the club, although he noted that there had been 27 scouts from other clubs at the Wolves game.

6. Smoking Areas

JW asked for an update on the possible creation of smoking areas at Ewood. LT relied that the issue was still with the Safety Group. There was some discussion of the now wide practice of smoking areas at other Championship grounds.

7. Any Other Business

a) JH asked what role Rob Coar played within the club. DS replied that he was a good solid Board member, who was not involved in the day-today running of the club. He had important roles nationally with the FA.
b) RP asked whether the club still offered training sessions for people with learning difficulties. DS stated that he assumed that the Community Trust would have run such courses and he advised RP to contact them directly to find out about the current situation.
c) SB asked about the position of Alan Myers, as it appeared that he had withdrawn from social media contact with fans in recent months. DS stated that Alan had deliberately cut back on social media over the Summer. He has also been ill recently but was expected back at work shortly.

12. Date of Next Meetings

Pre -meet	Main meeting
2/3/15	9/3/15
5/5/15	11/5/15
6/7/15	13/7/15
7/9/15	14/9/15
2/11/15	9/11/15

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 give their apologies if they cannot attend a meeting.

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