

# **Minutes of the Blackburn Rovers Fans' Forum**

## **Ewood Park, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2012 – 7.15pm**

### **Present – Fans' Forum**

Martin Haworth  
Julie Wilkinson  
Gordon Ormerod  
John Billouin  
Neil Duckworth  
John Wareing  
Andy Neill  
Ben Sumner  
Ray Williamson  
Jennifer Lewis  
Alan Birkbeck  
Annette Birkbeck  
Mark Hitchen  
Terry Crawford  
Glenn Pegden  
Ste Birtwell

### **Present from BRFC**

Shebby Singh  
Greg Coar  
Lynsey Talbot

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Ben Pirraglia

#### **2. Shebby Singh**

The meeting was a special one for Forum members to meet Shebby Singh, newly appointed as Global Advisor and representative of the club's owners in Blackburn.

Shebby was born in Malaysia of Indian descent and had played professional football for 18 years, nine of them also for Malaysia. He has then been a football pundit for the last 15 years. He has been involved with Venkys since August 2011 but had continued work as a football pundit until recently. He always believed in speaking his mind and was openly critical of Rovers performances in the 2011-12 season despite being employed by Venkys during that time in representing the club in Asia.

Shebby confirmed that he very much wanted to continue with the Fans Forum and it was his intention to attend regularly. He recognised that both he and the club needed the fans and that without them the club was nothing. He had also met Wayne Wild and the Action Group at two separate meetings and had received a warm welcome from them. He intended to keep up contact with them as well.

Shebby then took questions from Forum members for around 90 minutes. There was a full and frank exchange of views with members strongly expressing the view that the current broken relationship with

most fans could only be fixed properly with a change of manager. Shebby stated that he understood the views of fans. He was at the club with the one immediate aim of promotion back to the Premier League and decisions would be made if necessary and quickly to achieve that aim. He had direct daily contact with the owners and decisions could now be made very quickly.

**3. 2012/12 Season Ticket Sales**

In response to a question from TC, GC stated that sales had been fairly good since they went on resale and achieving a final sales total similar to that made on the last time Rovers were relegated now seemed attainable.

**4. 2013/13 Shirt Sponsorship**

AN asked what the situation was with shirt sponsorship for next season. GC replied that Ken Beamish was working to secure a suitable sponsor and progress was being made in this respect.

**5. Date of Next Meeting**

To be advised. A new programme of meetings for 2012 will be agreed.

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](mailto:roversfansforum@hotmail.com) to give their apologies on 07984 085474 if they cannot attend a meeting.

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