

## SP Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at STFC

Present:

Roger Groves; Chris Wynne; Brian Caldwell; Lawrence Ellerby (STFC Safety Officer); Mike Davis; Joshua Wynne; John Bailey; Harry Challoner; Paul Coyne; Barry Davies; Rachael Dilloway; Helen Hall; Marion Lane; Malcolm Lane; Rob Lewis; Jill Lucas; Simon Moore; Ian Payne; Adrian Plimmer; Lynn Price; Steve Price; Stewart Price; Joyce Pulford; Rosie Sabin; Richard Vernon; Geoff Davies; Paul Buckley; Peter Nottle; Andy Davies; Sophie Davies; Sarah Charsley.

Apologies:

Jamie Edwards; Rob Fox; Mike Jones; Martin Rans; SJ Somerset; Colin Storey; Selwyn Plant.

### **1. Safe Standing Update**

Mike Davis gave a general update on progress. The deadline date has now passed and all monies have been raised.

The total raised is £69,690. The SP would like to go on record to thank all supporters who have contributed to the project.

Mike Davis has attended the last 3 SAG (Safety Advisory Group) meetings and reports the feedback from the group has been both supportive and positive of the project. The Building Regulation certificate has been applied for and it is hoped that we will receive the final sign off of the certificate following the next meeting in January 2018.

A survey monkey has been sent out to all South Stand season ticket holders. Non season ticket holders from the South Stand have now been included in the survey. Leaflets regarding the survey will be issued on forthcoming match days.

Ferco have been and tested the concrete at the stadium in preparation for the installation and we can report that everything is in order to date.

Lawrence Ellerby - Safety Officer for the football club has carried out some Risk Assessments and safety management plan on a match by match basis.

Question: Will the Safe Standing area be open to non-season ticket holders?

Answer: Brian Caldwell responded by saying priority had to be given to existing supporters in the affected area and season ticket holders however it was the intention to open this to non season ticket holders where possible.

Question: What was the next steps after the okay from the SAG on planning?

Answer: Brian Caldwell responded by stating that the intention was to install late January/early February subject to manufacturing and delivery by Ferco.

Question: What would happen if we got promoted to the championship?

Answer: Brian Caldwell responded by saying that currently the regulations state that there is a 3 year period in place before any affected club would have to remove a Safe Standing

section to be all seated again. However the feeling was that this would change and Safe Standing areas would be allowed in Championship during the 3 year period.

Question: Are the Risk Assessments available for supporters to view?

Answer: Lawrence Ellerby replied by confirming that the Risk Assessments are not currently available as they are difficult to finalise as many aspects identified are on-going and work in progress.

Question: What is the clubs view on standing in other areas of the stadium and what action will they take.

Answer: Lawrence Ellerby advised that this was monitored on a match by match basis, ideally supporters should be seated except when in any designated Safe Standing area. Lawrence was currently finalising a Code of Conduct document which would be issued very soon. Lawrence was also reviewing the stewarding and would be providing training in the management of standing in non-designated areas. The code of conduct would make specific reference to Safe Standing.

Suggestions were made from the floor to include details of the code of conduct on tickets and other STFC purchases and for a message to appear on the scoreboard to confirm the clubs stance of swearing, fighting and other unruly behaviour.

Question: what plans have been looked at for stewarding the Safe Standing area?

Answer: Lawrence Ellerby suggested the initial thoughts were stewards would be in position at the end of each stairwell to ensure only those with relevant tickets entered the Safe Standing area to stop overcrowding.

Roger Groves gave the meeting a view of the option of the colour of the rail seats. The group were in favour of a mixture of blue and Amber rail seats however it was explained that the exact colours could not be confirmed without further discussions with Ferco.

## **2. Maintenance and Cleaning**

Ian Whitfield whilst not in attendance confirmed that the TV company had been informed of the problems and that a request for them to carry out a site inspection had been requested. The TV in the West stand was particularly poor with the screen freezing from time to time.

The cleanliness of the toilets, in particular the disabled toilet in the South Stand was raised. A photograph had been sent in by a supporter showing the poor state of the toilet at a previous home game. Lawrence Ellerby agreed to monitor the post match cleaning and report back to the SP.

Question: Were there any cleaning staff available on a match day?

Answer: Lawrence Ellerby confirmed that cleaning staff were not available on a match day. Lawrence confirmed he carried out final cleaning checks on a Friday afternoon prior to a home game.

It was also highlighted that the vending machine in the South Stand was either giving out too much change or extra items. Lawrence Ellerby and Brian Caldwell agreed this would be investigated.

Question: is there any update on the external cleaning of the stadium and repair of the paintwork

Answer: Brian Caldwell reported that discussions were on-going in this area and no further details were available.

### **3. Toilet Seats Update**

Barry Davies asked about the toilet seat situation and said he had details of a plumber who may be able to assist. Roger Groves agreed to meet with him if Barry could supply the plumbers details. Roger confirmed that he would continue to look at alternatives which were more affordable however at this time the alternatives were limited.

### **4. Super Blues Way Lighting**

Lawrence Ellerby agreed to inspect the lighting on Super Blues Way and report back to the SP. It had been fed back to the SP that it had not been lit at a recent home game. Brian advised this was down to the person responsible for switching on the lights not been there. It was agreed going forward that it would be ensured someone would assume responsibility if that situation arose again.

### **5. Half season tickets**

Brian confirmed these were available and were reducing in cost on a match by match basis. Details had been published today on the availability for the Oldham game onwards with the message that this made a great Xmas present.

### **6. Catering – food and drink**

It was raised about the slow service from the Woods bar in the West stand. Rob Lewis had been asked about the possibility of pre-pouring the beer. Brian Caldwell pointed out that feedback he had received was that this was not popular amongst supporters, this was backed up by Ian Payne from the Prince of Wales pub who advised that pre-pouring beer into plastic glasses prior to half time would mean the beer would not be in the best condition, whilst solving the speed of service it would compromise the quality of the beer.

Brian Caldwell said that a meeting with MPM was to be arranged. Roger Groves would be involved with the meeting and report back to the SP at future meetings.

### **7. Why was the Bottle Bar by Blocks 18/19 removed?**

Brian Caldwell advised that the bottle bar in the West stand had been removed due to a recent incident. The club were looking into the Safe management of this and hoped the bottle bar would be reintroduced in the very near future.

Brian mentioned that the EFL were trying to persuade the Home Office to allow supporters to take beer back to their seats. Further updates would be discussed when there was anything further to report.

#### **8. Fans e-mail raising various observations**

Chris Wynne read out an email sent to the SP touching on observations about Super Blues Way; the recent Bradford post-match disturbance; the location of the Away End and Safe Standing.

On Super Blues Way the fan had noticed a dip develop in the path and also a branch coming through the fence at eye level. Lawrence agreed to investigate and take on maintenance tasks.

Lawrence reported he had reviewed the cctv footage of the Bradford incident and confirmed that the groups were dispersed quickly. Lawrence confirmed that both gates would now be locked in future – the double gates (transport gate) and the pedestrian gate. Lawrence confirmed that there were no arrests and no further action taken by the police following this incident.

The club were looking into the possibility of having netting fitted to block out the view of Supporters.

In his email the fan questioned why the Away End was not in the South Stand. It was believed this was due to the guidelines set out at the time that the club had to follow with the Travel Plan and Section 106. Those in attendance at the meeting could see pros and cons of wherever the Away End was situated and felt overall it was probably best as it is currently sited

On Safe Standing the email suggested if the North Stand became the Home End it would allow the singers in the SS area to be next to the singers in Blocks 18/19. It was felt by those in attendance though that quite a number of those in 18/19 are there because they like to be near the Away Fans. There is also the Control Room located in the North Stand.

#### **A.O.B.**

##### **I. Replica Shirt Availability**

A lack of availability of replica shirts in certain child sizes was mentioned. Brian stated the demand for kits had been overwhelming, fuelled no doubt by the success of the team on the pitch. The club were looking to stock up as soon as possible but had been told this would not be before Christmas.

## **II. Training Ground Tour**

It was asked if the club was considering having a tour of the training ground facilities. Brian said they were looking to have a virtual tour on the club website and that they had already had a drone flying round taking footage and video recordings of inside the facilities.

Brian would like to have an Open Day at the Training Ground but due to limited parking that may not be possible, however he will look if it can be done in the future.

No other items offered, meeting closed.

Next proposed meeting date Tuesday January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at Montgomery Waters Meadow.