

SAB Meeting – Thursday 15th August 2024

Venue: Elland Road

In attendance: Jane Dowson (Chair), Angus Kinnear (AK), Jordan Owens (JO), Mark Pitts (MP), Jack Douglas (minute taker), Paul McManus, Katie Watkin, Nikki Allan.

Online attendees: Anders Palm, Jay Bhatt, Umair Meer, Lliam Brockson, Maz Ferguson, Josh Cawthorne.

1 - Welcome & Introductions

2- Club update and questions to Angus Kinnear

AK thanks everyone for attending. The club are where they expected to be at this stage in the transfer window. Archie Gray and Crysencio Summerville's departures were to be expected. Aim now is for more additions before the end of the window and no notable exits.

Katie discusses the current squad, given the players who have left, and asks for an update on other release clauses.

AK provides updates and explains why release clauses are included in certain circumstances. Using Georginio Rutter as an example, without a relegation clause he wouldn't have signed for the club at the time in January 2023. The club made every effort to keep Georginio, but he wanted to play in the Premier League now.

AK explains that from a business point of view, no-one wants promotion more than the 49ers. Investors have invested for Leeds to be a Premier League side. Club have missed out on targets this summer as no amount of money can attract certain players because the Premier League's pull is vast, but this is the profile of player the club wants. AK says a lot of business now under this ownership is intentionally kept away from the media to stop other clubs from hijacking deals, hence the lack of rumours.

Lliam asks about the Germany pre-season tour and the lack of fans.

AK says that the tour was agreed to be purely technical, as opposed to prioritising commercial aspects. However, the club did not expect the matches to be played behind closed doors. By the time the club knew the decision, it was not appropriate to change the destination of the camp. AK says there is a trade-off between commercially led tours as opposed to technically led tours. Club will work hard to ensure fans can attend future tours.

AK asked about kit sales.

AK says club are delighted with away kit sales. AK says club are aware of issues with quality and invites supporters to return any fault products to exchange.

AK asked about stadium redevelopment and whether this is determined by promotion.

AK asks fans to constantly feedback and if any sections of Elland Road immediately need action, to please raise issues. Club hopes to reveal some positive information in the near future regarding redevelopment.

Anders says his branch had feedback on overseas allocation ticket scheme. Says the scheme isn't flexible, particularly for smaller branches.

AK says he will follow up with Katie Holmes (head of ticketing). Explains the reason for the limited allocation is to ensure no ticketing abuse takes place.

Katie asks about Wembley allocation and ticket forwarding.

AK explains crediting system and how that worked throughout the season given ticket forwarding and how the club came to the decision they did and demand outstripped supply.

Katie asks about change from Super Away Attendees to Away Season Tickets.

AK accepts the notice was too short. Says away ST holders are committing to every game. Says Super Away Attendees were picking games infrequently, so decision was made to remove the tier. Intention is not to increase away ST holders however, to help all fans get the chance of an away day experience.

Nikki says that the club's approach to carers being 'non-entities' isn't fair.

AK accepts as a fair point and will speak to KH.

Additionally on the subject of ticketing, AK says the club proposed a £30 away ticketing price cap across the division, but this received some push back.

Katie asks about safety ahead of trip to Hillsborough.

JO to look into.

Josh asks for an update for stones outside the Pavilion to be replaced.

AK says stones will be replaced outside the Pavilion, with an announcement in the near future. Company which installed went out of business and the quality of stones wasn't as good as original Bremner Square. New stones will also be made available.

Jay asks for an update on PSR (profit and sustainability rules) given player sales.

AK says it is tight because of Premier League relegations, but the club will be compliant with PSR rules.

Katie asks about whether players in general, are being offered new and improved contracts.

AK says that the club is continuing to do this behind the scenes.

3- Issues from previous fixtures & AOB

Chair asks about the club having one designated charity for the 2024/25 season.

JO says approach might differ from having one designated charity to working alongside multiple organisations this season.

Katie raises queuing issues at turnstiles from Valencia pre-season fixture.

JO to look into, this may be due to Season Tickets not being used and lots of supporters using mobile tickets for the first time. MP also to look into other stewarding inconsistencies.

Josh raises issue that some fans can't see the screen and a lot of people can't see the timer.

JO asks for further feedback, with Josh to speak to supporters and then report back to JO.

Chair thanks those in attendance, with a date for the next meeting to be confirmed next month.