

SAB Meeting – Tuesday 24th September

Venue: Boardroom

In attendance: Jane Dowson (Chair), Angus Kinnear (AK), Jordan Owens (JO), Katie Holmes (KH), Mark Pitts (MP), Jack Douglas (minute taker), Paul McManus, Ken McCarthur, Katie Watkin, Lliam Brocksom, Maz Ferguson, Nikki Allan, Umair Meer, Josh Cawthorne.

Online attendees: Jay Bhatt, Steve Griffin (LUSN).

1. Attendance and Apologies

Introductions from those in attendance. Steve Griffin, head of Thames Valley Branch and representative of Leeds United Supporters Network, gives brief introduction.

2. Minutes

All agreed and accepted.

3. Matters Arising

Chair mentions issues with kit quality. JO asks fans to return any faulty products as per standard UK consumer rights. AK says these issues aren't as bad as first feared, and club were in dialogue with Adidas throughout.

Chair asks for an update on new commemorative paving stones at Centenary Square. AK says are on track to sell out, he added that another scheme is potentially on the cards. Mentions that early ideas for a new statue have also been discussed internally.

Chair asks JO for an update on the club and working with charities throughout the season? JO & AK say internal discussions will take place.

4. Angus Kinnear

Football updates:

AK begins with a football update. AK explains that it is difficult to communicate going into, and during, a transfer window regarding incomings and outgoings. Club were able to retain certain players other Championship clubs wouldn't have been able to, including Wilfried Gnonto, Ethan Ampadu, Pascal Struijk and Illan Meslier.

Club is still close to PSR limits. The values brought in for the players sold were high. On PSR, AK states that in the EFL, if clubs aren't on track to meet requirements they can be put under embargoes and sanctioned. Club don't expect any issues.

Stadium updates:

On stadium redevelopment, the press release announcing the initial proposals of getting to approved planning stage for West and North Stands has gone out. Planning expected to cost in region of £10m. Uses the example of Anfield's redevelopment as something to emulate.

AK mentions idea of those involved with planning and conducting feasibility reports to meet with SAB, as well as other focus groups. SAB and Disability Group will be consulted on a variety of things including branding, ticketing, seat configuration etc. Club will try find a balance between GA and hospitality seats in new stands. Says important stadium maintains the atmosphere.

AK wants to set a date for consultancy groups and asks members of the SAB to consolidate a list of questions from members in their groups/ branches. One of the things AK asks feedback on would be WiFi coverage. Josh Cawthorne explains coverage is needed from a safety perspective, which the need for would be amplified by a larger stadium with more traffic. Other members commented that it is better that supporters enjoy the game without the distraction internet use may result in.

5. Katie Holmes

KH to bring age profile demographics to a future meeting, because Ken McCarthur says that he has heard complaints that the pricing for 16-22 year olds is often too high for their salaries and fears certain demographics are being excluded. KH to bring age profile demographics to a future meeting.

KH is aware that certain fans routinely struggle to complete online transactions and the club are working alongside partners, such as SeatGeek, to look into this.

KH addresses Anders Palm's concerns from a previous meeting regarding the overseas group travel scheme. This scheme worked well in the Premier League she says. KH to speak more with Anders about this.

KH says that name changes on the season tickets stopped when the season ticket waiting list came in. KH also says that the number of season tickets that weren't renewed went directly to the supporters on the waiting list. This number was roughly a couple of hundred.

KH also accepts that Sunderland's upcoming away allocation is low given the capacity of the Stadium of Light, but this is all SAFC are entitled to give.

Due to the time constraints, KH agrees to return to a future meeting to discuss other ticket related queries and issues.

6. Feedback on last month's matches and any issues to note ahead of next month's matches

Coach access after the Burnley fixture was a lot better. This will be improved once temporary lights become permanent. Steve Griffin to follow up with MP about coaches leaving Elland Road.

JO says the club are being investigated for missile throwing in the Burnley fixture, notably from the East Stand towards Hannibal Mejbri. JO asks for fans to report all incidents through the

correct channels, and also requests members of the SAB remind members of their groups/ branches to reiterate the message that alleged actions like these are illegal and not welcome at Elland Road.

At Cardiff, coaches were late. Looking ahead, there will be no drop off for disabled supporters at Norwich after a certain time. At Sunderland, no coins, vapes or power banks are allowed on entry and will be rejected.

7. Review of annual SAB report

All ok.

8. Chairs Business

All discussed in previous agenda points.

9. AOB

Liam Brocksom asks about the future of the Leeds United podcast. JO explains one member of the podcast is no longer able to do it, but talks are underway with new proposed interesting parties to host.

Liam Brocksom asks about the Adidas originals collection. AK admits that a website error initially sold more products than were stocked. New systems will be implemented to prevent things like this occurring again. The collection was limited edition and not expecting more to be available.

Ken McCarthur feeds back that certain items of the club's merchandise don't go up to big enough sizes. AK thanks for the feedback and will pass it out to the retail department.

Chair says the person that does the inclusion report has suggested linking the group alongside the Disabled Advisory Group in December to jointly look through the report. This was agreed if a suitable time and day can be agreed.

10. Date and Time of next meeting

TBC.