

Supporters Trust Meeting
Thursday 12th February
Bar BS3, Ashton, Bristol

Present – Stuart Rogers, Marie Day, Andrew Marshfield, Mike Adams, Jon Darch, Miles Hendy, Gavin Mapstone

New Stadium

Stuart updated the board on the new stadium project. He'd had a good meeting with BCFC and the lead architect where he'd been shown slides of the new stadium and a cardboard model. He reported that the 'Bus Shelter' stand did not look as bad as previous images had suggested.

The club has still to clarify the questions asked by the Trust in regards to the rake of the stand and distance to the pitch however initial comments have been encouraging.

The stadium will be all seater but the architect had said that it would be easy to convert an area to safe standing should current legislation change.

Stuart passed on two possible areas for concern. The roofs on the two end stands may be translucent to allow light to reach the pitch. This will depend on cost. In addition no metrics have been given for acoustics. The club had confirmed it will be employing an acoustics expert but were unable to quantify volume levels. They were unwilling to measure the noise levels in the East End in order to benchmark current and proposed and were of the belief that the noise levels being projected out of the stand were more important than the perceived noise level within the stand. The latter being something Stuart pointed out that was of high importance for many current East End ticket holders.

Overall Stuart said that he was encouraged by what he'd seen.

Nothing has yet been mentioned regarding Supporters Group facilities. There is a possible space at the corner of two concourses but the club has not yet decided whether to leave this area open or enclose it. Jon Darch suggested lobbying the club to make the space available for fan groups and the community. Stuart said that cost would be an issue for the club if the Trust was to take this proposal forward.

A decision on the 2016 World Cup will be made in 2010.

Standing at Away Games

The Senior Reds had complained that their views were being blocked at away games. Stuart had asked the club whether they could sell two types of away ticket based on whether fans preferred to sit at the front or the back of the stand. Doug Harman had responded for the club and said that the club would not be able to do this as it could not be seen to condone standing.

Norwich Q&A

Twenty to thirty people turned up with few searching questions asked of Steve L. One exile had complained that the membership scheme did not represent value for money for exiled fans.

Jon said that he was disappointed that season ticket terms for 09-10 promised them first access for high priority games and that 10% if this allocation wasn't kept aside for members.

AG8 Plaque

Andrew had been presented with two different designs by the etchers and the chosen design was now with Stuart to present to the club. Andrew had also asked for a picture of the backing board so a full picture could be gained as to how the plaque will look. There is still no consensus as to where the plaque should be sited and Andrew will walk around the ground on Saturday to get some ideas.

1909 Cup Final

Mark reported that the logo will be ready on Sunday with the commemorative shirt signed off next week. Once shirt samples have been received then the press launch can take place.

MUST are to produce a commemorative web-site. Mark said he had not yet been able to secure sponsorship in excess of that promised by Kevin Mabbutt. E-on had now been ruled out but Tim Darby was to contact Carlsberg, Hovis & National Express on our behalf.

Mark had spoken to the London Reds football team and forum football team and was hopeful of getting a team together.

City Til I Die Book

The first proofs of the book have now been done with some good stories on fans and the community incorporated. There will need to be an official launch around Easter time.

Atyeo Evening

Terry Hamlin has put together a list of players who played with John Atyeo to contact. A way to encourage young people to attend will need to be decided upon and footage of Atyeo playing obtained.

Misc

A letter had been received from a member asking the Trust to organise a "By the fans, for the fans" day to raise money for flags in other stands. The Trust

felt that this was not within its remit and it was down to fans in individual stands as to whether they wanted to form ultra groups or purchase flags.

AP – Andrew to propose sites for the AG8 plaque.

AP – Gavin to investigate indemnity insurance cover - £5 mill needed.

AP – Board to decide whether to join the FSF.

AP – SR to contact the Supporters Club and offer to meet about the new stadium proposals and the impact on them

AP – SR to speak to Dave Lloyd about a press launch for the 1909 FA Cup final re-enactment and to clear with Puma the sale of replica shirts

AP – SR to write to Colin Sexstone to follow up on the new stadium consultation process

AP – SR to contact the club about a possible season ticket discount deadline beyond the end of February

AP – SR to alert the club to the minimum threshold of £250 for Barclaycard 0% interest possibly being compromised due to the discounts for tickets (£240 for the East End)

AP – SR to write an open letter to Birmingham City congratulating them on their £15 ticket price

AP – SR to contact David Lloyd and talk about the upcoming fundraising events, especially the sponsored walk