

Shrimps Trust Open Meeting Minutes

Location Morecambe Football Club, Morecambe

Date 28th August 2018 19:30

Attendees: Stuart Rae (SR), Jimmy Goulding (JG), Ian Lyon (IL), Pat Stoyles (PS), Joanna Wilkinson (JW), Ron Freear (RF), Jack Steer (JS).

Apologies Steve Doran (SD) & Paul Hodgson (PH)

Meeting opened 19:30

Introductions

SR- introduced the evening and welcomed everyone

Trust currently 300 members (400 previously), with the aim of 500 to represent the fans and to increase engagement between trust, fans and board

Since Trust AGM the Trust met with Jason Whittingham and Mike Hinchcliffe, previously engaging with the board through Rod Taylor. Jason approached the Trust for feedback and ideas on improving the match day experience for fans.

Fan expectations

1. Omega terrace bar roof project

View of the Trust is to provide shelter from rain as the priority. Been long discussions over the years and various fan groups but no progression. Plans were on display at Fans Forum meeting but in Trust meeting JWh & MH were not aware of the plans or progression of the project.

Trust are willing to drive funding, to get involved with project and drive it forward. What do people feel?

- Loss of fans from Omega stand to seating- why?

Less supporters overall, need to keep those that do come.

Priority for Trust, keen for fundraising. JWh keen to develop in stages, a modular design to develop over time from roof to hospitality suite

- Cost for plans?

No exact values but numbers suggested of £25,000. Grants, community sports etc all can be considered

- How big/ size?

1/3 of the stand covered according to plans.

- Windless?

Eventually enclosed area, TV's and cover to develop over time

- Will it ever happen if £25,000?

JWh did mention fund matching but no values discussed. SD Looking to the Accrington Stanley scoreboard fundraiser and different initiatives.

- A roof over with insulation and ends would cost in the region of £25,000
- Fans priority
- Positive step if done

2. Experience enhancements and Approach to arena

Benefit to certain supporters. JWh had stated the experience starts as turn the corner and approach the arena to approach stadium.

Wigan Rugby have drop goal competitions for kids. Shrimps voices has mentioned to make the Legends wall more visible

Approach to arena

- Wycombe inflatable kick/ goal
- Stall outside selling key fan merchandise, to reduce pressure on club shop
- Food/ butty vans outside
- Cut down grass on approach
- Drummers- consider More Music community group, other entertainers.

JW to approach at Lancaster and Morecambe college fresher's fayre

- Colchester had a band in a container

Teenagers not in the bar – consider what interested them. Through FIFA trust gained overseas fans. Consider hire of vans of consoles. Trust and club pay?

- Christie the Cat to be around more

Selfie station with player and mascot under canopy

- Add colour as all grey and dark- use the red, white and black
- Feather flags
- Block Hurley car park and bog/ hill to make access only through Christie Way
- Merry go round- consider R Leisure hire
- Consider away fan spend.

Morecambe town quiet Saturday post 1700 away fans attending match. Police and liaison officer advise where to go? Restrict where go?

- Other clubs requested memorabilia to add to displays
- Christie the cat should be mascot at every game. Give a drum and encourage fans. Link to college/ performing arts/ university or college?

Need to consider cost of CRB checks

- Need to push forward with ideas

Idea of meeting to get ideas and then prioritise

- Away end flags of away supporters take over Bay radio stand- shouldn't we have our flags there?

Couple of younger supporters looking into more flags and banners

- Crowd flag
- Bus/ transport to away games

Half time

- Penalty shoot outs, beat the keeper
- Omega end speakers not all working and main stand muffled in certain areas
- Need to provide enough food and beers etc
- Added value to tickets with player interviews (hospitality)
- Increase road signs directing people to arena, nothing bay gateway and from oxcliffe
- Highlights of last game on big screen
- Brian Campbell developing features on big screen
- Shelf for putting food/ drink in omega bar area
- Big screen show in play highlights
- Aminated players such as turning to face camera when introduced
- Goal celebrations- fanfare on screen
- Fixtures advertised around town

Screen in Arndale has and advert

- Next game advertised on the way out
- Improve outside with digital boards and signs and adverts
- Plastech previously involved at Christie Park

Colin Goldring and Rod Taylor introduced

Roof plans are developing, speaking to architects this week and plans being submitted.

Concern with taking revenue from MFC

Community important and need to promote MFC within the town. Want to work together

Owners taking no money, invested £2 million which covered losses. Want income to increase to put o player budgets etc

- Happy hours, discounts for members
- Mark Mckenna entertainment great. Smaller crowds of away fans excellent, less so when bigger crowds
- Football shown in bar and promotions to get people to stay in bars

Volunteering

Roche testimonial match 16/9/18

Mark Swindlehurst organising for help on the day- stewards, programme sellers, raffle ticket sellers, litter pickers

Contact Trust or MS direct

Any other business

22/9/18 Trust fundraiser event

Geoff Wilson memorial shield, quiz

Looking for local artists

Discussing promotions after game

- Club shop name to change to Shrimps store
- Increasing attendance by extra people such as a child brings a parent
- Kids 5-a-side teams to liaise with Janet Preston. Use blow up inflatables at front

Close 9pm

Other. Meeting dates and trust timetable 2018/19

Tuesday 28th August open meeting

Tuesday 25th September

Thursday 25th October- decide calendar, printed end of November for distribution early December

Thursday 29th November

Thursday 20th December

Tuesday 22nd January – start membership packs

Tuesday 26th February

Tuesday 26th March- start renewals discussions and paperwork

Tuesday 23rd April