

Trust meeting with MFC co-chairman

Before the game we had our monthly meeting with the MFC co-chairman. Below is a summary of that meeting:-

Date: 23rd February 2019

Present: MFC - Graham Howse (Rod Taylor was ill)

Shrimps Trust - Steve Doran, Ron Freear, Paul Hodgson, Stuart Rae, Jack Steer, Pat Stoyles

Graham was concerned that the summary of the previous meeting came across as being very negative - particularly with regard to the options for half-time refreshments in the Ace Scaffolding Stand.

However, tangible improvements have been made since that meeting, with the club adopting Toby Greenwood's suggestion of pre-ordering drinks in JB's Bar before the game. Also the club have responded positively by making food and drink available to supporters on the Shrimps Trust coaches to Oldham (both the postponed game and the re-arranged game) and this has brought in quite a bit of extra cash to the club.

On the subject of the planning application for the cover over the home end, Graham revealed that the drawings are still with the architect, and that no planning application has yet been made with the City Council. This contradicts the information that Shrimps Trust has received from Rod Taylor in a previous meeting (8th December 2018), and will be a disappointment to Shrimps Trust members.

Jack handed over a cheque for a £750 donation promised last season to improve the club's sound system. Graham explained that the sound system is being updated in 2 stages, so this donation will help towards the second stage, to be organized by Adam Wilde.

The donation is to be funded from the proceeds of the Fans' football tournament which will be held at the Globe Arena on Sunday 12th May. Graham said that the club would charge the Trust £300 + VAT to provide the pitch, dressing rooms, stewards, and a Ground Safety Officer for the game (this is half the club's standard charge). The Trust would hope to reduce this charge still further, particularly as most of the stewards will be taking part in the tournament with a team of their own. Graham pointed out that the charge is the cost to the club of staffing the event, and may be reduced further providing it doesn't contravene the ground safety certificate and affect the club's insurance cover.

Graham apologized for some miscommunication from the club when the Trust were scheduling the Fans' tournament and Kevin Ellison's charity bucket collection. Graham eventually sorted it out, and promised that if we speak with Toby Greenwood in future there will be no problems.

Stuart mentioned that Alzheimers UK have approached the Trust to ask for some memorabilia for a museum they are running to promote football memories. Graham expressed interest on behalf of the club and said he would provide some suitable items.

Jack raised the issue of future donations, and said the Trust would prefer to purchase MFC shares instead. Graham agreed, and said that it is also preferable to the club as

share sales are treated differently to donations in the club accounts. Any sale of shares to the Trust would be subject to MFC board approval.

Graham expressed the club's appreciation for the Shrimps Trust volunteers who responded to the call for turnstile support for the 2 recent big games (Bury and Lincoln City).

The next meeting will take place before the Crawley Town game on March 30th.