



The 2022-23 Annual General Meeting of the Arsenal Scotland Supporters Club (ASSC) took place at No.9 Committee Room, 18 John Street, Glasgow. on: Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023 at 3.00pm

## Minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

### Attendees:

Alan Speed	Gav Glover	Chris Alexander	Dave Harrold
Mike Buchanan	Martin O'Donnell	Peter Burnhill	Jabs
Karen Slater	Brian Slater	Andy Smith	Ryan Mills
Layla Macowan	Linsey Henderson	Angie Kidd	Martin Donohoe
Bill Woodward	Alan Reid	Liam Finn	John McNulty
John Samuels	Jennifer Fox	Danny Fox	Rob Thompson
John Milesi	John Johnstone	Sam Patterson	Jamie Gillespie
Sheriff Ahmed	Ruth Moir	Derek Moir	Eric Mutasa
Nathan Moloney	Michael Bekier	Danny Broughton	Paul Harcourt
Unen Tsogtbaatar	Glyn Morgan		

### Apologies received:

Tich Wighton	Raymond Paterson	Del Sharkey	Jamie Lynch
Christopher Kenmore	Nat Fisher	Stevie Clark	Steven Lynn
Ben Coburn	Charlie Coburn	Chris Pullinger	Billy Mitchell
Jason Cross	Colin Shanks	Brent Finlay	Mary Tough
Gregor Benvie	Aiden Benvie	Phil Zadruzynski	Alan Keefe
Paulo Rosa	Ant Rice-Maley	and Stewart McLachlan	Macedonian Loyal Branch

### 1. Welcome and Introductions by the Chairman – Chris Alexander

Welcome to the Arsenal Scotland Supporters Club Annual General Meeting 2023, I believe this is our twentieth scheduled meeting. Thank you to all members who have attended today.

Can I please introduce you to the following:

Club Secretary Martin O'Donnell - Club Treasurer Alan Speed and Membership Manager and Home ticket officer Mike Buchanan, my name is Chris Alexander.

### 2. Minutes of the previous scheduled AGM - to be approved

Matters arising:

2.1 Charlie Nicholas – Martin explained that while Charlie had agreed to do a zoom Q&A with us last year that the planned event was pushed back due to the work and time required to handle the changes needed in regards to ticketing and the membership structure. However we will make arrangements with Charlie during this coming season.

2.2 The Club Constitution – Martin explained that the Clubs Constitution was minuted as an ongoing matter at AGM22. That process has been completed and the amended constitution is tabled for those present. Peter explained further that the changes were fairly minor, mostly updating the elections section and introducing an Elections and Constitution Review Committee made up of two past Club Officers and one non-executive member of the Management Committee. The aim being to oversee the process for nomination and election of the Executive (Chair, Treasurer and Secretary).

Chris called for the minutes of last years AGM22 to be approved.  
The approval was indicated by a show of hands.

### 3. **Vote for Player of the season – Chris Alexander**

Chris proposed a vote by the members present for Arsenal Scotland Player of the Season 2022-23.

Four players were proposed. Bukayo Saka, Martin Ødegaard, William Saliba and Aaron Ramsdale.

Bukayo Saka	10 votes
Martin Ødegaard	23votes
William Saliba	3 votes
Aaron Ramsdale	2 votes

## **Martin Ødegaard is the Arsenal Scotland player of the season 2022-23**

There was a tradition in the past of a trophy being submitted to Arsenal for presenting to our chosen player but as some 160 other Supporters Clubs generally selected the same player, Arsenal asked that we do not do this anymore. In place, we shall ask that Arsenal pass on a message to Martin Ødegaard on behalf of Arsenal Scotland Supporters Club.

### 4. **Chairman's Report – Chris Alexander**

It has been an amazing and challenging season both on and off the pitch. On the pitch the club exceeded all expectations and pushed Man City all the way and with three big additions already in the bag, this season coming promises to be very exciting indeed.

Off the pitch Arsenal made some big changes regarding tickets, which reduced our home allocation to 20% of what we normally received, amounting to only 2 tickets. With only a few season tickets available for each home fixture, this was terrible news. So up stepped Martin and he worked day and night to try and restore a better allocation for the club, after loads of work and liaison with Arsenal, Martin managed to get us back to almost where we were before regarding number of home tickets.

Home and Away ticket allocations were on the decrease and the membership was up to around the 600 mark so this led to regular ballot for tickets and a new tier system, which all had to put together quickly and although it had its faults, it worked not too badly. With the membership now dropping by about 200 or so, we are hopeful that more members will get the chance of tickets this season.

I would like to thank everyone for their support last season and here`s to a successful new season

Come on you Gunners!

Martin called for a show of approval of the Chairman`s Report.  
The approval was indicated by a show of hands.

## 5. Treasurer`s Report - Alan Speed

*While Chris, Martin, Mike and Peter are doing most of the talking our members should know that the Club funds are in the safe hands of Alan Speed who is a Chartered Accountant with his own accountancy business in the west end of Edinburgh. He also plays progressive rock guitar and has extensive knowledge of Gerry Anderson and Star Trek. Live long and prosper.*

The Accounts to the Year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were tabled for members to view. These will be appended to the members section of the website.

2022-23 was a successful season following two seasons of Covid affected membership fees, none at all in 2020-21 and just £10 per member in 2021-22. During this time the Clubs activities were limited to Christmas donations (see Secretary`s Report below) however there were no major events calling for funds. As such the Club account stands at £14,597 after having prepaid two Arsenal season tickets with a third still to be invoiced at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The surplus for 2022-23 was £10,669 at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

We made a one off cash donation of £500 to the Ashburton Army. On reflection and having a more informed understanding of this group of supporters, it is unlikely that we will consider doing this again as they are not an official supporters club.

Martin called for a show of approval of the Treasurer`s Report.  
The approval was indicated by a show of hands.

## 6. Secretary`s Report - Martin O`Donnell

### DONATIONS

Our main expenditure was in the form of Christmas cash donations and gifts of selection boxes, etc, covering many local areas in Scotland.

Arsenal Scotland covers all regions of Scotland, and the Reps from each local group were enabled to choose for themselves how to use their donations totalling £1,225 in cash or in kind.

Gifts were made to the following:

The Hermeny Education Trust in Edinburgh

Instant Neighbour / Giving Tree for children in Aberdeen

The Childrens Unit at Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy

The Trussell Trust Foodbank appeal in Glasgow

The largest donation was £750 made collectively by several club areas to the Team Lukas fundraising initiative.

This will again help Lukas Thomson, the son of our member, Martin Thomson.

In 2017, Lukas, then aged 4, became unwell with a virus which attacked his heart resulting in myocarditis. He later went into cardiac arrest, requiring 30 minutes of CPR and placed on an ECMO (heart and lung bypass) machine, saving his life. Lukas also suffered a stroke following the cardiac arrest. Four months followed in the neuro rehabilitation ward where he had to relearn how to talk, eat and move. Lukas has worked so hard and can now stand and walk a little with assistance.

At Christmas 2021 management committee member Jamie Lynch led a fundraiser initiative to raise £1,080 through Arsenal Scotland which was paid to the Team Lukas JustGiving fundraiser, allowing Lukas to benefit from several weeks of specialist intensive physiotherapy at the world renowned NAPA Center in Los Angeles. Our donation of Christmas 2022 will help Lukas with a return visit to LA.

### **OTHER CHARITY DONATIONS**

In the past we have made donations or have held fundraisers for the Willow Foundation, CLAASP, Age Concern, Glasgow Sick Kids Hospital, SIMBA, SAMH, etc. In 19 full seasons since the formation of Arsenal Scotland we have raised and donated over £93,000.

Arsenal Scotland prefer to focus charity donations to Scottish based charity organisations. Members should note that they propose any worthy donation recipients, and these should be sent to the Club Secretary with a brief explanation of the work that charity does. All proposals will be met with a positive view.

### **CALL FOR DONATION PROPOSALS**

After discussion through the meeting and with contributions from Andy Smith, Ryan Mills, Mike Buchanan and others present it was agreed that the Club would look to make Four Donations of £500 each to deserving causes. Rather than make an on the spot decision at the AGM it was agreed that Martin will issue an email to all members and call for proposals for where the £500 donations could go.

### **CALL FOR EVENTS PROPOSALS**

This is a Club for the members. Following some discussion, it was acknowledged that as in the past it is hoped that we will return to regular Events such as Sportsmans Dinners, smaller Q&A nights with an Arsenal celebrity (even on Zoom), 5 a sides, 11 a sides, Quiz nights, race nights, match day parties, and so on. The Club will help to support these events in energy and in funds.

But we ask the membership to come forward with proposals, ideas, and some level of sustainable package worked out. Then we can decide what will work and support the event.

Do please step forward.

## THE TICKETING ISSUE

We would like to have done a lot more events this past year however a great deal of time was needed for the Management Committee to discuss matters including:

- the new ticket restrictions early in the season before the World Cup.
- how to find a fair ballot system.
- how to restructure the membership and introduce tiers.
- how to close the membership during the season.
- how to react to Arsenal changing the ticketing system for the second time in April.
- how to react to the need to ask members to take up Arsenal Membership at their cost.
- how to scrap the tier system after just 8 months.
- how to handle a reduced membership with FULL and SOCIAL members.
- And we continue to review ticketing purchases.
- and ticket distribution – Not finished yet.

We also had strong representation through our past Chair Dave Harrold who is on the Arsenal Fans Forum. That representation and influence helped Arsenal Scotland to hold onto the small ticket allocations for Home games in particular. Dave will present his report as an appendix to this meeting.

The members attending indicated their appreciation.

Martin called for a show of approval of the Secretary's Report.

The approval was indicated by a show of hands.

Chris thanked Martin, adding "With you stepping down, thank you for all your invaluable work, not just last season but for all the previous years".

The members attending indicated their appreciation.

## 7. Membership Report - Mike Buchanan

When Arsenal changed the ticket allocation mid-season (twice) it caused a few problems resulting in the necessary introduction of tier systems and ballots for almost every game. We knew there wasn't a good way to deal with all the requests, but we tried our best to accommodate everyone.

In the long term it came down to looking at how we ran the Club and trying to keep as many members as happy as possible because despite what some members think we do not print tickets ourselves. So, we had to put a cap on the membership. Many a 'heated' conversation was had in the Management Committee WhatsApp about what number to set the cap at.

Due to Arsenal announcing that everyone who enters the stadium will need a membership as well as a match ticket, meant I was sure that we would have more than the usual annual 'drop offs' in the membership of around 100 to 150.

We agreed to set a hard deadline for membership renewals to 30<sup>th</sup> June and we stuck to that.

We had 595 members last season. As it turned out 363 members renewed as FULL members who also took out Red /Junior Gunners Memberships with Arsenal and a further 24 renewals taking out Social Membership giving a total of 389 members for season 2023-24.

The FULL membership is now closed until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

We will look at it over the season with a view to cutting the membership again next summer to perhaps around the 300 mark. Alternatively, we may review a 1 out – 1 in policy for entry.

I know some will say we cannot have a ‘closed shop’ but I am looking after the members interests.

Martin asked mike if applications could continue to be reviewed for new SOCIAL Membership on the understanding that there is no guarantee that SOCIAL memberships will automatically lead to FULL membership. It was decided that this point should go to a vote by members present. The majority voted YES, so SOCIAL membership applications can continue over the season.

The members attending indicated their appreciation of Mikes report.

## 8. Ticketing Report – by Martin O’Donnell

### Ticket Sales 2022-23 Season

Over the past season we managed to obtain **651** tickets over **51** games however due to the success of Arsenal on the pitch the demand for tickets rocketed with most of the games going to a ballot draw. We had an average of 12.76 tickets per game which is the lowest since the very early years of the Club.

	Home Tickets	Home Games	Average	Away Tickets	Away Games	Average	Total tickets	Total Games	Average
2012/13	381	25	15.24	972	27	36.00	1353	52	26.00
2013/14	416	27	15.40	1108	23	48.17	1524	50	30.48
2014/15	225	23	9.78	901	27	33.37	1126	50	22.52
2015/16	302	27	11.18	878	24	36.58	1180	51	23.14
2016/17	336	26	12.92	857	29	29.55	1193	55	21.69
2017/18	232	29	8.00	876	29	30.20	1108	58	19.10
2018/19	284	30	9.46	865	29	29.80	1149	59	19.47
2019/20*	220	21	10.47	613	20	30.80	833	41	20.31
2020/21**	3	1	3.00	0	0	0	3	3	3.00
2021/22***	230	24	9.6	462	24	19.25	692	48	14.41
2022/23	260	25	10.4	391	26	15.04	651	51	12.76

\* Up to COVID Lockdown March 2020.

\*\* Full season lockdown

\*\*\* Gradual relaxation of COVID restrictions

We sourced **391 Away tickets** (down by 15%) over 24 away games (2 more than the previous season) averaging about 15.04 tickets available for every Away game.

In 21-22 we had 183 members and guests at Newcastle on a Monday evening but last season we had just 23 attending on a Sunday teatime. That is the measure.

We sourced and sold **260 Home tickets** over 25 games – actually a slight increase and averaging 10.4 tickets available for every Home game. This may have been due to Away tickets becoming more difficult to obtain and Members seeking to go to The Emirates instead.

**EUROPA LEAGUE** - We had Members attend all 8 fixtures including away trips to Zurich, Bodo, Eindhoven and Lisbon. Everyone who asked for an Away Ticket in Europe got a ticket.

**NEXT SEASON** – Champions League football returns once again, and we would encourage our members to think about the group stage games as generally these are low cost tickets and ticket availability is generally very good being midweek games.

#### **TICKETS AND MEMBERSHIP CARDS**

All members attending games **MUST** carry their Arsenal Scotland membership card **AND** also their Arsenal Membership card when attending games. And present the card when requested by match Stewards. As there is the possibility that you may be refused entry if the Stewards think that you are not Club members.

#### **WHEN TO APPLY**

Ticket requests must be made no earlier than **SIX** weeks and no later than **FOUR** weeks prior to the fixture date. So, you have a two week window to sort out your time off work, holiday plans, birthday parties and weddings.

For cup ties you have only three days after the cup draw. That means if the draw is on a Friday for example you can check with your boss on the Monday.

#### **LATE CANCELLATIONS POLICY**

Depending on circumstances we will always try to refund late cancellations if we can resell tickets to another member or return them to Arsenal FC. We always consider personal circumstances which have caused cancellations and we will not be unreasonable.

However as tickets are so scarce now and other members may lose out on the chance to see Arsenal play, we will 'if necessary' penalise late cancellations with a two month ban on future ticket applications.

It was decided that this point should go to a vote by members present.

The majority voted YES, so Late Cancellation Bans 'may be applied with reasonable circumstances in mind.

#### **HOW TO APPLY**

As detailed on the members section on the Website Updated 14/07/23 for all ticket requests.

Only Full (Ticket) Members of Arsenal Scotland may apply for match tickets from Arsenal Scotland. It is now also a necessary requirement to possess an Arsenal Membership.

### **Home Matches including European games, Emirates Cup, Community Shield or Cup Semi or Cup Finals**

Apply by TEXT ONLY to Mike Buchanan

Give your name and membership squad number for verification. And also your 7-digit Arsenal Membership.

### **Away Matches including European games**

Apply by TEXT ONLY to Chris Alexander

Give your name and membership squad number for verification. And also your 7-digit Arsenal Membership.

### **NOTE:**

**To confirm - The Tier structure is scrapped. No more Tiers.**

**To confirm - Deposit payments are no longer required.**

### **PAYMENTS**

ALL tickets MUST be paid **within 3 days** of successful confirmation of ticket allocation. This is to help with cash flow and cash management as the games come along every 3/4/5 days and we must clear payments before moving onto the next game.

ALL payments MUST be confirmed by a screenshot text.

### **TICKET TEAM**

Ticket buying and selling has once again been carried out by Mike Buchanan, Tich Wighton and Chris Alexander over the past season often under pressure due to the number of applicants seeking tickets over the season as Arsenal played so well. I thank them for their continued support and extremely hard work. Chris added his thanks to Tich Wighton who has built up a great relationship with Highbury House and various members to enable us to apply for as many Away Tickets as we can possibly obtain all through direct issue from Arsenal. This is great work.

The members attending indicated their appreciation.

### **BALLOTS DRAWS**

Most of the Home and Away games next season will again be balloted and Chris and Mike will call on random members to help to draw ballots. It will be done fairly with the aim being that hopefully everyone will get a chance to attend games. The problem with last season's ballots was they were too random with some members getting lucky in several ballot draws and some members got no luck at all. While ballots will remain, a more 'human' element has to be included to 'seed' members who have had earlier success in ballots to the lower half of the next ballot.

The members attending also indicated their appreciation of Martin's report.



## 9. Election of Executive Officers for 2023-24 – Peter Burnhill

Report on the Ballot for Club Secretary of Arsenal Scotland Supporters Club, July 2023

Four candidates stood for the position of Club Secretary for Arsenal Scotland Supporters Club. A total of 104 valid votes were cast in the online Ballot on behalf of the membership between 6th and 20th July 2023. This represents a turnout of 27% of the total membership.

*A copy of the online Ballot is shown below and through which members were invited to state their first preference, also having opportunity to record their second and third preferences. As things turned out, only one round of counting was needed.*

The outright choice for the next Secretary of Arsenal Scotland Supporters Club is **Angela Kidd** who received over 57% of the vote on the first round. With more than twice as many votes as the next candidate, this result is clear and conclusive, providing Angela with a strong vote of confidence from those voting.

Who is your first choice to be Club Secretary of Arsenal Scotland?	Count	%
Angela Kidd	60	57.7
Gavin Glover	22	21.2
Gareth Wardlaw	16	15.4
Neil Paterson	6	5.8

Valid votes counted in first round 104

As per the Constitution, the results of this ballot are presented at the AGM of the Arsenal Scotland Supporters Club on July 22nd to adopt **Angela Kidd** as its next Club Secretary.

Peter called for a show of approval of the Election Result and that **Angela Kidd** be the next Club treasures from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023.

The approval was indicated by a show of hands.

### Conduct of the Ballot

Invitations to vote were to be sent to all paid-up members using a full list of 387 members (then) supplied for that purpose by the Club Secretary. The intention was then to reach these members by email with an invitation to log-in to the Ballot on the [arsenalscotland.com](http://arsenalscotland.com) webpage, using a simple password.

This was supported by advance email alert sent out by the Club Secretary and posts on the Club FaceBook page.

This prompted some members to make contact with an update of their email address. One of the biggest challenges was the use of shared email addresses as online voting systems and 'mailers' used for bulk emails do not like 'duplicate email addresses'. To compensate, invitations were sent in several successive mail-outs, each member assigned their unique Voter-ID.

The following outline detail on the Ballot is now being shared with the membership:

Of the 105 votes received prior to the 6pm deadline, 104 are regarded as valid and were counted. The one disallowed was a duplicate: a member had added their name in place of the Voter\_ID but then voted again using the corresponding Voter\_ID.

One other member had entered the Club Password instead of the Voter\_ID but visual checks confirmed that the member's Voter\_ID had not otherwise been used and so the mistake was forgiven and the ballot regarded as valid.

Of the 104 valid ballot returns, all but 8 made use of a second preference vote.

Two completed ballots received after voting closed at 6pm were disallowed, as was an email received at 17:58 reporting inability to locate the email with the Voter\_ID and expressing support for a preferred candidate. About 8 other such requests had been acted upon with reissue of Voter-IDs during the two week period of the ballot, one on the last day of the ballot.

*Dear XXX*

*As a paid-up member of Arsenal Scotland Supporters Club, you are invited to choose the next Club Secretary from a slate of four candidates:*

*Gavin Glover*

*Angela Kidd*

*Neil Paterson*

*Gareth Wardlaw*

*Their supporting statements have been pre-circulated but can be viewed again at <https://www.arsenalscotland.com/supporting-statements/>*

*The winner of the Ballot will be put forward for adoption as Club Secretary at the Club AGM on July 22nd, subject to approval by Arsenal FC.*

*The ballot is open now and will close at 6pm on Thursday 20th July.*

*The election is being carried out electronically on a page in the Members Only Area of the Club website - the password should you need it, is Highbury1913*

*The ballot form is available via link below:*

*<https://www.arsenalscotland.com/ballot-for-assc-secretary/>*

*You are asked to select your first choice and are then given opportunity to state your second preference which may be used if there is no outright winner and your first choice attracted the fewest votes.*

*(You do not have to express second and third preference votes but doing so helps ensure the winner commands majority support across the Club; it does not undermine the chances of your first choice. Restating your first choice is a waste.)*

*Please note that you are required to enter your VoterID and email address before registering your vote.*

*Your VoterID is XXX*

*The email address is XXXX*

*COYG!*

*Peter Burnhill*

*Acting Returning Officer*

*Arsenal Scotland Supporters Club*

As per the Constitution, the position of Chairman is reviewed annually prior to the AGM. As the current Chairman has indicated a willingness to continue for another 12 months and no other nominations have been declared, the members present were invited to vote that Chris Alexander continue as Chairman for another year.

The approval was indicated by a show of hands.

As per the Constitution, the position of Treasurer is reviewed annually prior to the AGM. As the current Treasurer has indicated a willingness to continue for another 12 months and no other nominations have been declared, the members present were invited to vote that Alan Speed continue as Chairman for another year.

The approval was indicated by a show of hands.

Peter Burnhill, Acting Returning Officer  
Arsenal Scotland Supporters Club  
20 July 2023

The members attending indicated their appreciation of Peter's report.

#### **10. Membership Fees for the **season 2024 – 2025** – Chris Alexander/Alan Speed**

It was proposed that the renewing members fee **next summer 2024** be reduced as follows.  
Renewals £15 adult, £10 Junior (Under 18), £30 family (two adults and two juniors).  
Social members £5.

The fees for accepted new members will remain as the previous 12 years.  
£20 adult, £14 Junior (Under 18), £40 family (two adults and two juniors)  
Social members £5.

The approval was indicated by a show of hands.

#### **11. Any Other Relevant business**

As noted under item 6 above member and past Chair - Dave Harrold is currently serving on the Arsenal Fans Forum representing all of the Arsenal Supporters Clubs in the UK and Ireland.

His annual report is included as attached on the final page for the benefit of our supporters Club.

And lastly.....It was suggested by the outgoing Club Secretary Martin, that owing to the increased membership in Dundee and Perth that the venue for next years AGM in July 2024 could perhaps be in Dundee. The Chairman agreed with this proposal. The Members present were asked to vote on this.

The approval was indicated by a show of hands.

The Chairman closed the meeting thanking everyone for their support and contribution.

## Appendix

### Arsenal Fans Forum - UK & Ireland Arsenal Supporters Clubs - Reports of meetings.

For background information there are 4 meetings for Arsenal supporters:

1. **Arsenal Advisory Board**, Supporters Clubs (SCs) are represented by Mick Padfield. The representation from the club is the club senior management team, Chair (Josh Kroenke – I'm not sure if he attends the meetings), CEO, Stadium Director, Director of Communications etc. My understanding of this meeting is for the club to securely discuss matters and get and gauge opinions of supporters. All members of this group have to sign a Non Disclosure Agreement.
2. **Supporters Clubs Meeting**, All affiliated SCs are invited to this meeting, Chaired by Mark Brindle (Supporter Liaison Officer).
3. **Fans Forum**, this group is made up of the different supporters organisation, AISA, AST, Disabled, Overseas, Gay Gooners, etc. I was elected the UK and Ireland SCs Representative last year. Club representation is CEO, Stadium Director, Senior Fan Services Manager, Senior Ticketing & Strategy Manager and any member of staff with expertise for the topic being discussed.
4. **Working Groups**, from the Fans Forum to discuss initiatives such as ticketing (I was part of this group), safe standing, redesign of the stadium exterior, match day experience etc etc.

I have set up a FF WhatsApp Group for discussion with over 30 SCs registered.

Over the past year I have attended (either virtually or in person) Fans Forum on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Ticketing Workshops on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

As I am not on the Extranet email list I have not been invited to the SCs meetings, I have asked to be included on this.

Following the European Super League debacle and Tracy Crouch's review of football governance (which recommended greater supporter involvement) all PL clubs were spooked into setting up supporters forums. Since then the Review has been kicked into the long grass the pressure has gone off clubs.

The initial meetings of the FF were chaired by the CEO (Vinai Venkatesham), his appearances at the FF have diminished as the season progressed. The Chair of the FF is now Senior Fan Services Manager, Khali Parsons with the Stadium Director, Tom McCann and Amy Trynka, Senior Fan Services Manager. Plus others with knowledge of the topics under discussion.

I am not sure that the FF will continue in its current form, I get the feeling there will be working groups into particular topics. From my experience on the Ticketing Working Group, I got the feeling that decisions had been made (e.g. all match attendees must have a club membership) and despite my protestations the course was set.

At the last FF I asked if these meetings were consultative or information imparting, Tom McCann said both – I have my doubts. I wrote to Tom about the new match attendance requirements, challenging his comment that SCs were 'ticket hubs' stating that it will mean the decline of SCs, he said he recognised the importance of SCs but disagreed with my point of view. I also voiced my opinion at the FF, again Tom disagreed.

It is clear to me that SCs have been pushed down the pecking order and I have made the point that this is purely a financial decision (again Tom disagreed) and a decision the club will regret when SCs start disappearing.

I would like to have presented a more positive Report.

However, that said I am happy to continue to represent SCs at these meetings.

COYG!

Dave Harrold

10 July 2023