



## **Minutes of Bradford City Supporters Board Meeting**

**Venue: Microsoft Teams**

**Date: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023, meeting commenced at 7.00 pm**

**In attendance: Tony Bates (Chair), Wayne Robinson (Vice-Chair), Steve Gorrington, David May, Jonnie Carrington, Ian Taylor, Marco Townson (BCAFC), Ryan Sparks (BCAFC).**

**Apologies for Absence: Christine Tarren, John Barker, Adam Baker, Robert Cranmer (Mental Health Lead)**

### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

**The Chair welcomed all members present.**

### **2. Mental Health Supporters Group**

**Agenda item not covered and will be rolled to next meeting as Robert Cranmer unavailable at short notice**

### **3. Review of Minutes/Actions from previous meeting**

**The Minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 Meeting, having been circulated were accepted as a true and correct record together with the separate circulated Action Log which forms part of the record of meetings.**

**Matters arising from these documents were as follows:**

**It was agreed that the Supporters Board working with the Academy for fundraising support for be Under 11 and Under 13 tours would be deferred until the Club is ready to engage on this again. The tragic loss of Neil Matthews has hit the club hard and some time will be needed to pass before this can be focused on again properly.**

**Loyalty Points Accuracy – following from the queries raised in last meeting the club confirmed that if any fans notice any issues with the accuracy of their loyalty points they should email the ticket office direct in the first instance**

### **4. Updates from the Club not captured on Agenda**

**Kit Launches, final schedule being firmed up at present but expect both home and away kits to be launched prior to pre-season. Third kit will be launched very early in new season and potentially may be driven by when needed because of Fixture list.**



Pre Season fixture being released over coming weeks, a couple of really interesting fixtures in the pipeline

5. Agreement to make Bradford City Community Foundation our Charity Partner  
Following meeting with Ian Ormondroyd we now have provisionally agreed a way forwards to link with the charity and provide support. The first step of this is that we as a Supporters Board adopt the Charity as our 'Official Charity Partner'. The logistics of that would mean we add information about them on our website, actively promote their initiatives, offer support where we can as individuals and also try and gather volunteers from the wider fan base. The Charity do not require us to lead on fundraising initiatives for them, our partnership is more about increasing awareness and volunteers. The Board agreed to this partnership.

Next step is for Wayne to work with Ian Ormondroyd and Lewis Redmond to add information into a 3 way press release to come out in the summer which will ideally come from the Club's website and social media profiles as they have more reach than the Charity and the Supporters Board combined.

6. Questions from Fans (responses in italics):
- a. Bucket Collection total donated announcement  
*This will be announced in coming days. Club wanting to tie in with announcing money raised through Ribbon sales too.*
  
  - b. Play off Semi final Home Leg Issues - Technical ticketing issue – are measures in place to prevent reoccurrence?  
*Lessons have been learned and Club have started process of finding a new ticketing partner. This will also address some of the Loyalty Point issues fans have experienced too. It is unlikely that the replacement provider will be in place before start of season though, but conversations with alternatives already started.*
  
  - c. Midland Road ticket holders being relocated – is any learning being taken from recent feedback about lack of notice and the way seating was allocated?  
*In hindsight the speed of turnaround to get tickets on sale contributed to some of the feedback – sperate than the ticketing issue itself. Club accept that they didn't explain rationale for offering Midland Road to away fans as clearly as they could have – or gave advance notice. Next time club have big enough away following expected they are likely to not offer restricted seating to any fans which means that all season ticket holders will be able*



*to buy any available seating in alternative stands rather than those in Kop & Main Stand having reserved seating and displaced Midland Road fans having to fit around them. It is also worth noting the atmosphere for the game was amazing and the best we have had in years. Given the Club mentioned to Supporters Board in advance of play off qualification that it was likely that Midland Road would be handed to away fans, can we agree a way of getting certain more timely messages out from these meetings prior to minutes being signed off? Tony and Ryan agreed those items would be flagged during meetings as they arise*

**d. Stadium Ownership/Lease Update**

*The club have a 25 year extension for Valley Parade on the table, beyond the end of the ongoing, current deal. The club doesn't anticipate a ground move in the interim. The perception that the club are overpaying for the ground is not necessarily accurate in comparison with clubs who have got new stadium developments. Also new stadium developments often come with limitations on commercial, events and retail income which would make that option not commercially viable for the Club. The Club also confirmed it is not currently part of the owners plans to buy the stadium back outright. Maintaining a strong relationship with our landlord is important.*

**e. Stadium Modernisation update, what more is planned and when?**

*Bantams Bar will be having a overhaul over the summer to become more like a sports bar, and also remedy long standing issues with toilets, etc. The lift to the Bantams bar is already being replaced too. Work underway on painting Kop concourse which will have input from the Working Group. The Club still intend to replace seating the Kop, but that will not be done over the summer as the pricing of seating has raised and also logistically there is a lot of planning in replacing that volume of seating at an appropriate pace*

**f. Loyalty Points Survey Update**

*Survey complete and now closed. Club reviewing findings and will release update through their usual comms channels along with updates to Loyalty Point scheme (if any)*

**g. Possibility of away games being shown on screen at club (maybe in suite) for fans to watch collectively via iFollow, etc.**

*The club have explored this in the past and the commercially aspects do not add up to run for routine games. If there was a specific scenario which*



*may drive higher attendance they would consider (i.e. last game of season away at a ground with minimal away fans and we have the chance to confirm promotion)*

- h. Pre-Season tour package with Kadima Sports – when will more clarity be given about accommodations, etc. as that helps people decide  
*Club will raise with commercial partner. Expect the lack of information at present will be because they are unsure of numbers wanting to take up offer so holding back on accommodation decisions.*
- i. Female Toilets – West Stand behind Block D – routinely blocked and multiple broken seats. Can these be rectified in off season  
*Information about this will be passed to the Clubs Maintenance team to resolve problem.*
- j. Plans to support fans with disability in attendance at games (Swindon have started a scheme focused on fans with autism and ADHD as an example)?  
*This something the Club are already actively looking into. Further updates will come as they arise.*

#### **7. Working Group Update**

Club have already started doing some painting themselves, but Working Group plan on picking up activities on weekend of 10th June and spending the next 3 weekends working on this. Big drive to clean seats in advance of new season will be done nearer pre-season.

#### **8. Any Other Business**

Friends and Family details pulling through into the app – this will be in place for the new season.

Supporters Board membership changes – the process around the resignation of Keith Taylor was discussed. Whilst no issues with how this was handled it was agreed that an issue of this nature would be helpful to be included in the next review of Terms of Reference

**The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023 via Microsoft Teams**

The meeting closed at 8 pm.