



Attendees:

RFC:

Nigel Howe
Bryan Stabler
Adam Benson
Ray Booth
Mark Bradley
Dave Evans
Jackie Evans
Sue Hewett
Sohaib Naeem
Bev Towner

STAR:

Roger Titford
Richard Langley
Paula Martin

Meeting Report - Reading FC SMT – Monday 9 January 2017 – Madejski Stadium

1. **STAR opened the meeting with a Thank You card:** There were pages of thank you messages from STAR members from the coaches to Manchester United thanking RFC for the subsidising of the tickets to the FA Cup game.
2. **Update on STAR matters:** STAR reported that membership, following the Arsenal and Manchester United cup games exceeds that for the whole of last season and also two seasons ago. Also STAR is sponsoring the Hospital Radio game commentaries.
3. **Update on progress regarding extra car parking:** RFC is nearly ready to make a proposal but needs another meeting first.
4. **Ticketing – away tickets at Madejski Stadium:** RFC reported that, for the £20 ticket, early indications are that numbers visiting are up, but it will be reviewed at the end of the season to see if it will be continued.
5. **Ticketing – away ticket allocations to RFC supporters:** STAR reported that Burton have decided to allow supporters to choose between family and singing areas for their away game to Cardiff. RFC are wary of allocating a singing area but have, for sell-

out games, asked those in person or on the phone where they would prefer in an attempt to keep supporters with like-minded supporters. STAR suggested that an allocation for family area would perhaps be the most useful to enable those who cannot stand to be sure that there will not be people standing in front of them, as this is an area of dispute for those unable rather than unwilling to stand. MB / AB to get back to STAR with suggested communications on this.

- 6. Fulham abandoned match – what were the issues and ticketing for rearranged match:** Firstly the rearranged game will be on Tuesday 24 January and RFC will honour all tickets at no further charge. There will however be no refunds for those who cannot attend. Some of the comments made in the media at the time were very unfair and based on rumour. RFC related the process involved in the abandonment. Firstly the 4th official and the safety officer met 10 minutes before the end of the first half, and the safety officer was happy for the game to continue, but the discussions at half time (and it took all of half time) continued with the referee willing to restart the game but the other officials recommending abandonment. The Police were in favour of abandonment while it was goalless as it could be a public order issue once a goal was scored (and in fact there was damage in the away end even though it was still goalless). It was suggested Fulham changed shirts to make them more visible but the referee was against this. Postponing the second half kick-off by 10 minutes may have been an option, but the fog had been entirely unpredictable all day so a delay may not have helped in the process. Any proposed delay would have still been a decision made solely by the match officials. RFC could only advise.
- 7. Player of the season:** STAR should liaise with Dara for this.