



Attendees:

RFC:

Nigel Howe
Bryan Stabler
Brian Teverden
Adam Benson
Ray Booth
Mark Bradley
Dave Evans
Jackie Evans
Lee Herron
Sue Hewett

STAR:

Paula Martin
Pete Vickery

Meeting Report - Reading FC SMT – Thursday 2 March 2017 – Madejski Stadium

1. Scoreboard and display of scores from other games. The half-time and full-time scores of Premier League and Championship are displayed and, if time, League 1 and 2 are also displayed.
2. Buses:
 - a. Concessionary passes next season: decision on this is awaiting the transport plan for 2017-18 season and data from bus usage after 1 April changes.
 - b. Shire Hall Park and Ride: There was a particular problem on Boxing Day with a lack of buses but in general RFC are proactive and buses are moved from route to route as demand is apparent. F2 buses are no longer parked at the stadium since the abandoned game when they were trapped in the road closure.
 - c. Mere oak Park and Ride: the fact that the Mere oak P&R does not stop at the stadium from 12 to 5 on Saturday match days was communicated by leaflet for several months. The shuttle buses will honour P&R tickets so they should be used during the build-up to a match.
 - d. Buses and pedestrians mixing at the roundabout at the bottom of Hurst Way: This is a perceived problem and RFC will be proposing public road closures matching those in the stadium grounds to the Safety

Advisory Group meeting later this month, along with a taxi rank proposal to keep taxis away from this area.

- e. Buses blocking the road at the same roundabout: RFC was not aware that once the bulk of pedestrians have been moved to the P&R there can be a surplus of scheduled buses waiting there and will take it up with Reading Buses.

3. Ticketing

- a. £20 away ticket pricing – how successful has it been? It cannot be assessed until the end of the season.
 - b. Print at home tickets: These are not compatible with the current system but any change is likely to move straight to tickets on phones or more technical.
 - c. Next season's pricing: This is currently being finalised but given the percentage of season tickets holders that do not attend (though not the same ST holders every game) some more radical thinking may be needed to encourage filling the stadium.
 - d. Brighton tickets – going straight to general sale: This worked as there were 30 on the waiting list once the allocation was sold and they all attended with returned tickets. It enabled ST holder to buy tickets to sit with non-STs
4. Kit for next season: The launch will depend on the pre-season games so a date is not yet available
5. Safe Standing: STAR understand the SGSA are intending to define standing in wider and harsher terms. RFC is looking to encourage an area for singing that will inevitably lead to more standing so some supporters may need to move seats in order to remain sitting. But at the same time there was an inspection at the Cardiff game that was critical of the stewarding and so it will be discussed at the next SAG meeting.
6. Catering – is it necessary to claim the meal deal? RFC not aware of this so STAR is to supply details of the problems.
7. Club financial accounts – what was the source of the currency loss? The year end was a week after the Brexit vote and so the drop in the value of the £ on a \$ loan resulted in the loss.
8. Checktrade Trophy – is RFC wanting to enter it next season? RFC definitely would enter again if it is open to U21 Cat 1 teams. It was a successful and useful way of exposing Academy players to the experience of playing before a crowd. STAR reiterated the reason it is against the entry of Academy teams for the good of the game as a whole but understands that from an RFC viewpoint it is good for the progression of young players. The decision on the format next season is yet to be determined by the relevant clubs but given the importance to RFC Academy if invited RFC will enter the competition.