

Supporters Board Meeting Minutes – 26th August 2020 – 7pm

Chair's Notes

The Supporters Board hope that all Imps fans are keeping well & looking forward to the new season with optimism.

We held our latest scheduled meeting on Wednesday 26th August via video conferencing.

As detailed within the minutes shown below the long-awaited return of fans to the LNER Stadium figured prominently in our discussions. Michael & the team need as many of us back in the ground as soon as possible to provide our usual brilliant support. Once limited crowds are allowed to return those fans attending the initial matches can clearly play a major part in helping the club to make matchdays run smoothly & hopefully enable larger numbers of us to attend sooner rather than later.

The 2020/2021 season is about to start in very strange circumstances however there is plenty for us all to look forward to including several new players joining the club, new sponsors coming on board & a fans forum coming up soon whilst we all get the opportunity to watch the team from a distance for the time being.

The Supporters Board wish Michael & the team all the best for the new season.

UTI

Tony Smith

Chair of the Supporters Board

Attendees

- Andrew Helgesen, Tony Smith, Liam Scully, Jon Clack, Jackie Atkins, Dan Rawson, Jay Wright, Julian Burley, Gary Hutchinson, Jane Chamberlain, Marcus Burton

Apologies

- Nick Procter, Sam Kendall, Jonathan Battersby

Season Ticket Update

- As of 26th August – c300 new season tickets, c70 refunds.
- Club budgeted for a static window meaning the number of renewals would match the number of refunds.
- Window 3 for new purchases is on hold until the Club is able to assess the capacity and number of social bubbles.
- Club is hopeful of getting 2,500 supporters into the stadium when crowds can return.
- Likely to be a test/pilot event in September/early October with a small number of supporters (c300-500).
- Club working towards October 10th v Bristol Rovers for fans to return. This may have to be the smaller test/pilot event.
- Supporters must group their season tickets together to be in the ballot as a group using the 'my network' section.
- Ticketmaster is working on a ballot system to enable fairness amongst supporters with the hope that Season Ticket Holders attend roughly 1 in 2 matches.
- Supporters will need to apply to be in the ballot for every home league game they wish to attend.

Live Streams

- 42 Live had issues with streaming the Scunthorpe fixture due to a data centre which was down.
- 986 supporters watched the Scunthorpe match.
- As of 26th August, 102 fans had asked 42 Live for a refund.

- Game v Oldham Athletic to be streamed for free following issues with Scunthorpe game for many.

Covid-19 Protocols

- Authorities currently reviewing our Operations Plan. Team working really hard behind the scenes to ensure supporters can return safely and that capacity is maximized. Most of the capacity factors will be due to wider environment and number of social bubbles.
- Match days will look different and supporters will need to work with us to ensure the return of crowds is a success. Example being arriving as early as possible.
- Supporters may need to wear face masks when in the stadium unless exempt from doing so. Review currently ongoing.

Flooding in Buildbase Legends Lounge

- Remedial works to take place Oct/Nov after Covid-19 delayed work.

Connection with Supporters

- Club looking at ways the players can interact with supporters digitally.
- We had planned an event at the Waterside which could not take place due to the ban on any activity which could encourage mass gatherings.
- Fans Forum to be announced in the coming weeks.
- Players and Michael Appleton are wholly committed to fan engagement. This is discussed at length during the recruitment process.

AOB

- Programmes being looked at ahead of the season with a subscription/postage option most likely.
- Betting company to feature on the back of our home shirt. Difficult decision, but after losing previous back of shirt sponsor at short notice, it was felt that this approach was in the best interest of the Club overall.

DONM

- 23rd September 2020 – 7pm