

CUSP CUFC Meeting

Notes from the CUSP CUFC Meeting held at 7.00pm on 13 February 2023

Present

CUFC: Alex Tunbridge

CUSP: Ben Payne (Chair), David Burkett (Vice-Chair), Philip Saich (Secretary), Nigel Browne, Chris Neild, Mark Cawdery

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Ben Phillips and Danielle Foster.

Behaviour

The Club has received messages around behaviour at away games and is keen for individuals to report incidents discreetly. At the Abbey fans can send a text, fill in a form or talk to a steward. Evidence can only be gathered if fans report things they see when they happen. The police are aware of a group of fans who travel away, and this demographic is common among several clubs across the UK and is being shared on social media. The Club is determined to deal with the problem, hence the new Sanction Policy which covers damage and anti-social behaviour both at home and away. The Club is now looking at ticket records, social media accounts and purchasing patterns to anticipate potential problems and work with away clubs.

Search policy

There has been inconsistency in the search policy depending on the stand. Everyone is searched on entering the Habbin, as is every bag, while searching for the NRE is more random, especially depending on time of entry. Fans entering the NRE from 2.50pm tend not to be searched, while all fans arriving at 2pm will be. Alex Tunbridge will speak to the Safety Officer to achieve consistency in this area.

NRE stewarding

Stewarding – especially from younger stewards – is also inconsistent and is having a negative effect on fans' enjoyment. Some female fans have reported feeling unsafe, and there have been issues with some fans throwing objects on to the pitch. Additional stewarding resource is now in place and the Club have installed additional CCTV. The Club is committed to focusing on general behaviour and stewarding levels.

Peterborough

At the away game, 47 suspects were identified and there were 17 arrests, 16 are ongoing investigations, two court cases have been held and one individual has been banned. The kick off for the home game has been brought forward to 12.30 and planning is well underway. Cambridge is a more difficult city to police than Peterborough, so policing levels are likely to be higher. The ground will also be open earlier and fans will be encouraged to arrive earlier than normal. There will be

more stewards than normal and the Club is tightening ticket procedures, especially to limit the number of tickets that will change hands.

Ticket credits

For home games, the order of allocation is season ticket holders, Abbey Access, CFU and then fans with a purchase record for a set period of time (based on the safety rating of the match). For away games it depends on allocation – for a small allocation, away credits come into play.

Arsenal

The game was moved to Thursday due to the ambulance strike on Wednesday. The initial attendance cap was 5,000 but this has now increased, as has our allocation. The demand has been exceptional for an FA Youth Cup tie.

Outside drinking area – Main Stand

The Club's focus has been on the NRE, which is now done, and the next project will be to explore an indoor drinking area (new Abbey Arms) for fans behind the Main Stand.

Coconuts

The technical issue around the playing of Coconuts has now been resolved.

Programmes

The programme now makes a profit. The question was raised regarding the number of pages dedicated to the away team, of which there are eight. The Club is always looking to improve its products and content and notes the request for more to be aimed at the older generation.

Ladies' toilets

The Club is confident about the cleanliness of the ladies' toilets, but understands that they are old and would benefit from being replaced. If female fans experience anything to the contrary, then the Club should be made aware.

Season tickets

Fans used to be thanked for committing to a season ticket, but this was dropped during Covid and will be revisited. Rewarding landmark season ticket holders (five, ten, twenty years) would be welcome if possible. Prices will be announced towards the end of the season.

New kits

The Club has a new kit supplier and front of shirt sponsor, both of which will be announced in due course.

Date of next meeting

This will be confirmed in due course.