

# Minutes from questions raised by members

## 1. Overall Direction of The Club

### **Are the owners still actively looking to sell the club? Was Dom Hyam sold to cover cash flow in light of the three postponed home games? SkyBlueTalk (SBT)**

DB wasn't sure why this question had arisen. Neither SISU nor CCFC have said they are looking to sell. That the club is for sale is just speculation. DB questioned whether this was related to the Daily Telegraph article and subsequent TalkSport interviews/coverage.

DB advised that the club up-date issued shortly before the meeting has gone into detail about the club's finances. Dom Hyam was not sold in the light of the 3 postponements. The postponements have caused significant cash flow loss for the month of August but the sale is not connected to the cash flow issue. Selling footballers is part of the model for CCFC and has got us to the point we are now and always has been the model since he has been at the Club and before. It's got us to this point.

Part of the overall budget includes the sale of a player each season and CCFC haven't sold a player for a significant fee for the last couple of seasons. The sale is disappointing given Dom Hyam's journey with the club. Because of that he is in demand. Blackburn made an offer and it was accepted.

There was a discussion about whether an earlier higher offer had been rejected to then accept a lower figure. DB didn't accept that Blackburn's statement implied this and it wasn't the case.

### **What are the short term, medium term and long term aspirations for the club? (SBT)**

DB advised that they were:

Short term – stay in division

Medium term – finish above 12<sup>th</sup>

Long term – Current format – Incremental steps unless there is massive investment

### **Do you agree that 12th place in the championship is the ceiling for the club in the current climate? (SBT)**

DB feels we have massively overachieved finishing 12<sup>th</sup> last season and to achieve that this season would once again be a massive achievement. –

### **What are your current biggest challenges? What could the club be doing better? (PG)**

The pitch and expectations are the biggest challenges

## **2. Pitch, game postponements**

What could you or the club done in hindsight to have avoided the pitch fiasco and do you expect a points deduction? **(SBT)**

DB explained that access to the stadium was not possible due to the Commonwealth Games (CWG) Security Protocols. SS confirmed that access was not possible unless accredited during this time.

TS confirmed that they had found out the state of the pitch watching the Rugby 7's at the CWG. SS advised that their chief constable was stopped from getting into a CWG venue during the CWG. Security takes precedence. It wasn't possible for CCFC to just wander in to watch a game/check the pitch.

DB confirmed that the first time they had access was Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August.

DB confirmed the club were informed on the 6<sup>th</sup> June that the new pitch promised for this season was not going to be installed. Installation of a new pitch was a key part of negotiations to return to the Arena.

DB confirmed that the EFL had confirmed that the club could not move the first three fixtures of the season to away games due to way the fixture algorithm works.

### **Same question but regarding executive box holders for Preston game? (SBT)**

Mentioned about this in the club update. TS / DB were frustrated that certain individuals had made this an issue, when it had been communicated to the Box Holders directly affected.

The reality is that it's been an issue since we returned to the Arena as events are arranged 2-3 years in advance and so certain fixtures are affected. On this particular issue DB wrote to box holders in Jan 22 saying they were working closely with the stadium. This did not come out of the blue and was not linked to issues of communication with Wasps.

DB explained that when fixtures came out in June they identified 2-3 potential clashes and have been working on minimising the issues.

TS explained that there is an event clashes document and that the impact this season is significantly reduced from last year. Most corporate members are being accommodated for tomorrow, the situation having changed and improved since the letter to Box Holders.

### **How's are the repairs being funded? (SBT)**

DB explained that there are some outstanding invoices and other payments that are due shortly, so whilst CCFC have cash flowed the cost this is only in the very short term. CCFC will not be paying any more than the contract agreed with Wasps.

RS linked the March 2022 comments about buying season tickets and investing in the squad. DB acknowledged that no defender has been signed yet, but that efforts are being made.

MH quoted from DB's statement and it was slightly nuanced than that quoted above. He added that season ticket revenue has all gone into improvements to CCFC and retaining players/staff, and not just in buying and selling certain players.

DB confirmed that the playing budget has increased 17% on last season and our budget is now within the bottom 7 of the league rather than bottom 4. Most of the increase is due to contractual uplifts and extending contracts to the existing squad. He added that over the last 2 seasons the net spend has been significant.

CH asked about those fans who had to cancel travel and hotel at late notice. DB acknowledge the impact on these supporters and agreed to discuss this with CH outside of the meeting.

**Can the club confirm the club have a written guarantee from Wasps that they will accept reduced rental (or other) payments from us in future, to recover the pre-payment made now in relaying the pitch, and that it will be re-laid as promised next season? (CH)**

DB said there isn't a written guarantee regarding relaying the pitch but hopes to discuss this with Wasps at the earliest possible moment.

**You will be aware that the Wigan game has been rearranged for November meaning we play 4 out of 5 games at home just before the World Cup break. This will be very expensive for supporters and for us Travel and hotels costs. Do the club have a view on this? (CH)**

DB acknowledges this but advised that there were only 2 or 3 spots available in the week before the World Cup and 2 of the games have been arranged in these spots with the other one likely to be after the world cup has finished.

### 3. Tickets

**How is the away ticket allocation scheme going? Are we maximising the numbers in a fairer way? Any changes envisaged? (SBT)**

**DB / TS felt that the system was working well and believe it to be fairer than in previous seasons.**

**Specific question raised by Leamington and Warwick about tickets and how the current reciprocal model of working with supporters groups has worked really well but maybe given a change of memberships it isn't working as it was. TS agreed to discuss outside of the meeting**

Rumours abound that the club only receives match ticket income once the relevant match has been played, is this correct? **(CH)**

DB confirmed that it was a combination of the two. Some is received initially and some after each home game.

#### **4. Stadium Up-date**

**What's the overall plan? investment at the CBS or new stadium at Warwick university? (SBT)**

Progress was always going to be slow and there are numerous conversations with various consultants taking place. We should expect a proper update from the parties in the Autumn.

#### **5. Corporate Lounge**

- 1 Dress Code in Corporate areas. This degenerated towards the end of last season
2. Extremely slow bar service in corporate areas. Many complaints from supporters. Too few staff serving
3. Impossible to get served coffee and tea in half time break. Long queues
4. E cigarette smoking around pitch side seating.
5. Foul Language in Corporate lounge, in particular from Supporters passing through to boxes. Post match particularly bad when box supporters congregate in level 1 lounge
- 6 Foul language in seating continues despite ladies being present in seating.
7. The overall standard of behaviour and dress has declined in corporate areas. It does not present a good impression to business users who wish to entertain clients.
8. If we have to continue to be searched prior to entry can they get metal detectors. Many ladies object to being patted up and down. **(all MG)**

TS – This has been raised on the meetings before and communications have gone out. Doesn't disagree with any of the comments made. This has been addressed with corporate members / stewarding team. It's difficult to give an undertaking that those in corporate areas will not swear. Clear direction to the various teams to deal with the issues directly

TS advised that the process should be that female stewards search female fans, male stewards search male fans – He will raise this with the stewarding team at the CBS.