**Coventry City Supporters Forum**

**Minutes of the meeting on the 28th August 2024 at 6pm**

**Attendees:**

CCFC: Doug King (DK), John Taylor (JT), Jodie Jones (JJ), Eamon Collins (EC), Mark Hornby (MH)

Colin Henderson (Chair), Pete Griffiths (Secretary/ Vice chair/ Sky Blues Talk), Paul Maddax (South Wales Supporters), Scott Harding & Steve Harding (Bedworth and Nuneaton Supporters), Craig Watson (Proud Sky Blues), Alan Ludford (Diamond Club), Laura Smith (Family Zone), Claudio Cardellino (Leamington and Warwick Supporters), Simone Seth (Disabled Supporters Association)

1. **Apologies for absence**

Pat Raybould, Daren Cowley, Dave Eyles, Paul Armstrong, Mark Silvester, Billy Bell, Kevin Heffernan, Lewis Wale

1. **Matters Arising from last meeting**

2.1- Print at home tickets. JT confirmed that this issue has been successfully resolved. Supporters now have the option of print at home but also digital tickets and things are working well.

2.2- Refreshment outlets staying open after the game. JT confirmed that the club were in on-going discussions with the CBS management regarding this idea and other options.

2.3- New 5 Year lease deal for the Academy @ The Higgs Centre DK confirmed that the new 5 year lease has now been signed. DK said he was excited by some of the new young players coming through from the Academy.

2.4-Roof issues covering blocks 21/22. JT confirmed that this issue has been passed onto the CBS management to remedy. JT pointed out that roof work of this nature can only take place at certain times of the year. JT encouraged all Supporters to keep letting CCFC know of any infrastructure issues affecting supporters on match day so they can be reported to the CBS Team.

2.5- Maintenance of the Wall of Fame Bricks. JT explained that bricks that had been falling off have been repaired. There will be a working group set up to deal with the long term maintenance of the wall along with the memorial garden.

2.6- Additional TV screens on the concourse. JT confirmed this had been passed on to the Arena.

2.7- Ticket exchange for Sky Blue International (SBI) fans. JT explained that this would be looked at as part of the planning for the 2025/26 season.

2.8- Posters for Prostate Cancer Awareness. JT explained that this request was on-going and hope to have posters up soon. Awaiting Arena confirmation.

2.9- Availability of more non-alcoholic beers. JT confirmed that Guiness Zero and Zero Budweiser should be available now in the stadium.

2.10- Work on the underpass. Maintenance on the lighting has been completed. Further tidying up of the area would be great. The club and the CBS Arena will continue to discuss this with the Council (who are responsible for this area).

1. **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EFL Mandate).**

Eamon Collins was introduced to the group as the new Disability Access Officer at CCFC. Eamon explained his background which included working at Premier League clubs Chelsea and Nottingham Forest. There was a general discussion about supporting fans with disabilities and being able to access the stadium bowl safely.

1. **Club update by Doug King.**

DK briefly discussed the removal of Mark Robins as manager of the football club and the recent Live Supporters Forum at the CBS that explained that decision. DK explained the process used to recruit Frank Lampard and his team. DK explained that it is never ideal financially to cut short a long term contract and replace key personnel but that investment was warranted at this moment. DK admitted he was surprised by the extreme reaction of that decision with the fan base but the decision whilst unpopular was in his view the correct one.

The plan is always to recruit well and ensure stability at the football club and the club does not want to be a revolving door football club with respect to their Head Coach appointments.

DK was asked about the relationship with Frasers Group and long term plans for the Arena. He responded that the parties continue to work well together, are in the second year of a five year agreement and had nothing new to add at this moment.

1. **Submitted Questions.**

The majority of responses were given by the club ahead of the meeting, see separate Question and Answers document.

1. **Family Zone update.**

LS thanked Janet Chamberlain and the Bedworth and Nuneaton Supporters Club for their recent sponsorship support of the Family Zone. JT/JJ explained there had been a recent review of the Family Zone and the outcome was that it was to transfer over to become part of Sky Blue in the Community (SBITC). This would allow Pat and Laura to benefit from the resources and advice of SBITC. Laura and Pat are supportive of this new approach. JJ and Laura briefly outlined there were new plans for the Family Zone which included a new permanent area for match days. Details are currently being finalised with Frasers Group.

1. **Dates for Future Meetings.**

The next meeting will be on the 25th February 2025 at the CBS at 6.00pm

1. **Any Other Business.**
2. Could future kit launches be brought forward to the early summer? DK explained this seasons kit launch was linked to sealing the sponsorship deal with Monzo. Early release of the new season kit is always a target but is directly linked to signing of any sponsorship.