

Minutes of meeting of Shadow Board

May 16, 2023

Present: James Errington, Derek Daniels, Matty Davies, Mellony Shepard, Dan Pearson, Len South, Gill Shepherd

Club representatives: Gavin Baldwin, Shaun Lockwood, Liam Hoden

1. Minutes from the previous meeting (April 22, 2023)
 - a. The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.
 - b. SL provided an update on the potential use of a priority system for ticket sales from the new season onwards. The club received a quote from ticketing website operator Seat Geek for 1-2 days development work. This would be a one-off payment. LS said he would propose at an upcoming meeting that the Supporters Club offer financial assistance in covering the cost of the work.
 - c. GB questioned whether the election process would be discussed at the next meeting. SL said contact with the Viking Supporters Cooperative had been made in regards to electing a representative for one of the three vacant roles. DD said the process would go ahead with three positions available for elections and adjustments could be made if the VSC makes a request to do so.

2. Discussion of the change of head coach/manager at Doncaster Rovers
 - a. GB discussed the timeline of the dismissal of Danny and the appointment of Grant McCann.
 - b. LS asked when the retained and released list would be published. GB said Grant McCann was still in the process of informing the players of his decisions but the club was required to make official communications to the players and the EFL by May 20. SL said the aim was to publish the list on May 19 or May 20 pending those conversations.
 - c. MS asked if Grant McCann's appointment had boosted season ticket sales. GB said there was a considerable spike on the day it was announced and that the positive trend had continued. SL said it had been the best week of sales since the previous deadline.
 - d. MD asked why Grant McCann was the choice for manager and what led to the decision. GB said roughly six managers were under consideration. GB said the club was well aware of how Grant McCann operates from his previous spell but other factors were considered against the other potential candidates and Grant consistently came out as the top choice. GB said one of the biggest factors was Grant's passion to return, along with his previous record.

- e. MD asked what was the nature of McCann's contract. GB said it could not be described as a 12-month rolling contract as previous. GB said there would be considerable compensation paid to the club should McCann leave for another club, on a sliding scale from Premier League and international to League Two.
- f. DD asked if Grant McCann would be working with the same playing budget that Danny Schofield would have been. GB said yes DD asked if the coaching staff's wages would come from the playing budget. GB said the playing budget was ring-fenced for players.
- g. LS asked if the club would consider extending the early bird price deadline for season tickets. SL explained how the sales process had played out so far and said he did not feel there was a need to extend the early bird pricing. SL said the prices after the deadline were still among the cheapest in the EFL.
- h. GS asked how the raising of the playing budget would impact future seasons. GB said the club must guarantee the term of the contracts can be covered.
- i. LS asked if Grant McCann would have the final say on transfers. GB said Grant would provide a priority list for signings in a given position, negotiations would be carried out by GB and James Coppinger and then Grant would give the final say on which target they would proceed with.
- j. DP asked if previous recruitment plans had been torn up. GB said there was a crossover between what Grant McCann wants and the list of potential targets which had already been produced by James Coppinger and head scout Michael Cairney. GB said Grant McCann has inherited, from James Coppinger's work, departments that operate more professionally with good processes, along with the training ground being in the best state it has been for a long time.
- k. DD asked if Grant McCann prefers to meet potential targets in person. GB said absolutely and offers have only been made to players that Grant has met. GB said Grant knows the players in the EFL really well.
- l. DD asked if any contracted players would be let go? GB said there would be efforts to get players out, either on loan or permanently. Paying off players would be a last resort.
- m. JE asked if there were planned dates for kit unveilings, pre-season announcements etc. SL said there would be a push for season ticket sales ahead of the early bird deadline on May 31. SL said there was lots to talk about in regards to the new catering contract but that could not be done until June. SL the home kit is likely to be unveiled before Fathers' Day with away and third kits to follow. SL said there would be two home pre-season friendlies.

3. Dates for future Supporters' Board meetings
 - a. A date of July 29 was proposed, ahead of one of the home friendlies.
SL said there should be a meeting during June
 - b. It was agreed the dates would be finalised over email.

Meeting closed