

**Minutes of OUSP Meeting**  
**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 7pm by MS Teams**

1.	<p><b>Attendees:</b>  Paul Scaysbrook (Chair) <b>(PS)</b> Richard Jackson (Vice-Chair) <b>(RJ)</b>  Janine Bailey (Secretary) <b>(JB)</b> Grace Bailey <b>(GB)</b> Joe Nicholls <b>(JN)</b> Trevor Lambert (OxVox) <b>(TL)</b>  <b>By invitation:</b> Niall McWilliams <b>(NMc)</b> Andy Taylor <b>(AT)</b></p>	Action
2.	<p><b>Minutes of Last Meeting</b>  Minutes of meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December had previously been agreed online.</p>	
3	<p><b>Matters Arising from Minutes</b>  Onsite meeting with safety officer and TVP liaison has not yet taken place. NMcW will arrange for them to attend our next meeting (end Feb) or have onsite meeting.  The meeting between the Fanatics group, AT and safety officer also not yet happened. AT will arrange meeting for next week with JN to take place by Friday 21st Jan  Signage photos from SoL - RJ will send them now.  4c. Debris around cycle racks has now been cleared.  6. Fans forum – Original proposal in Oct/Nov was aiming to re-establish fan-club communications post Covid. Situation has moved on and events of last week have shifted focus onto new stadium, so the original proposal is no longer relevant.  7. AT has advertised for MatchDay volunteers and already had several responses. They will be properly trained, their role will be to help fans before and after the match: being proactive, way-pointing, dealing with questions, feeding back to AT on the day. They will also cover away matches which is a new initiative. AT hopes to recruit enough to have a group which can share the workload on a rota. There will be trial and error until its established.  There followed discussions about whether it was the best/only way to use fans who wish to volunteer: there are many fans who are passionate about wanting to help their club, and other suggestions could be made from the fanbase.  AT will meet with JN on Wednesday to look at other ways in which fans could contribute and draw up a coordinated plan.  OUSP supports this initiative for matchday volunteers and will encourage people to come forward.  8e. All Wigan compensation now been issued. AT will follow up with ticket office how the wheelchair refunds were processed, as these tickets are not booked through ticketmaster.</p>	<p>NMcW</p> <p>AT/JN</p> <p>RJ</p> <p>AT/JN</p> <p>AT</p>
4	<p><b>Stratfield Brake:</b>  NMcW briefed the OUSP on developments at Stratfield Brake.  Lots of questions have been asked through OUSP, OxVox, emails, media, councillors etc. The same three key issues come up repeatedly at present:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How are we going to avoid a repeat of the Kassam situation</li> <li>2. Is masterplan in the briefing definitive/accurate</li> <li>3. How long will it take</li> </ol>	

	<p>Tomorrow (14/1) there will be series of FAQs published addressing these questions, which NMcW summarised to the meeting.</p> <p>If the proposal is accepted on 18<sup>th</sup> January, there will then be further consultation. The club will work with OUSP, OxvVox, residents, councillors etc. and will strive to keep everyone as up to date as possible.</p> <p>TL offered huge thanks to NMcW for getting us this far, it is a tribute to him and those around him. RJ reiterated that all fans appreciate the work being done on this.</p> <p>OUSP had collated a number of questions from fans, many of which will relate to developments further down the line, and we will forward them on.</p>	JB
5	<p><b>SLO Report</b></p> <p>Toilet floors have been jet washed, throughout.</p> <p>Lighting has been raised with Stadco.</p> <p>AT will follow up issue of concessions stock running out on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan (Cheltenham) match.</p>	AT
6	<p><b>Site Safety and Parking</b></p> <p>A detailed list of points had been circulated to the club ahead of the meeting. AT had forwarded it to MW for input and will ensure that it is followed up with her. Many points need to have her input and could not therefore be fully addressed in the meeting. OUSP reiterated the importance of a meeting, and that an on-site meeting would probably be the most productive way to discuss these points. AT will get a date. The points which could be partially addressed were:</p>	AT
6a	<p><u>Cycle racks:</u></p> <p>It was agreed that the current set up is poor. AT will look into sourcing higher level cycle racks and also look at the location of cycle parking, including how cycles and motorcycles could be given separate areas.</p>	AT
6b	<p><u>Access to Blue Badge parking behind North Stand</u></p> <p>Stewards are often not there to move cones in order for blue badge holders to access the spaces. A disabled driver on their own cannot move them. There have been incidents of blue badge holders being turned away from these spaces when there are spots. AT to flag up to safety/stewarding.</p>	AT
6c	<p><u>Site-wide</u></p> <p>Road surfaces are poor in several areas, with pot holes a potential hazard. Poor lighting around the stadium increases the risk of injury. AT has already spoken to stadium manager about lighting, he will go back over issues of surfacing and lighting.</p>	AT
6d	<p><u>Area in front of turnstiles 7-10</u></p> <p>With the area under the staircase from SSU now boarded over, access to these turnstiles is around the car park and alongside the away team coach. A supporter who uses a mobility scooter has difficulty negotiating away team coach to get to the big door, as away coaches are inconsistent in where they park and do not always leave enough space. TL suggested crosshatched yellow markings to the left of the away coach parking could be considered, to encourage away coaches to leave some space when parking up. AT – the steward parking the coaches should make sure they are parking with awareness of access needed. Will remind safety team.</p>	AT
6e	<p><u>Post-match car park safety</u></p> <p>Cars used to be held back from moving until pedestrians had dispersed. This no longer seems to be happening and is made worse with the volume of fans forced into the road</p>	

	by the closure of the cut-through under the SSU stairs. It should be possible to paint some walking routes. OUSP felt this is especially important for the route to the bus stops. Meantime could holding back cars be reinstated? This will be looked at on site visit.	AT/OUSP
6f	<u>Bollards</u> Difficult to see in the dark. Club will look into lighter / reflective paint. (NMcW left the meeting)	AT
6g	<u>Parking</u> There are still unused spaces most matches in the Ox Car park, previously used by 1893 club. OUSP suggested again that the car park boundary is reviewed with the cones moved so that some spaces can be accessed from the main car park. AT will follow up with car park management through MW. It was felt too that car park management could be more proactive with directing fans on where to park.  All have noted that the main car park is turning people away when there are spaces. This is because, unlike most stadia car parks, some people use it to attend other venues, therefore the turnover of cars is less predictable. OUSP had suggested that it be re-opened to let in certain number of cars when spaces become available. This would be helped by having car park attendants more proactive in directing fans to spaces. AT / OUSP will follow up with MW.	AT
6h	<u>North Stand Barrier</u> OUSP felt that it is not always clear when the North Stand Barrier will be in operation nor for how long. AT responded that information is included in the pre-match story on the website and emailed to fans and is included in the matchday announcement script. Many fans do not read all the social media posts, and it was suggested that timing of the announcement could be reviewed, for example announce with attendance figures rather than right at the end of the match? Stewards could also be instructed to inform fans as they leave if they are heading towards the barrier.	AT/OUSP
6i	<u>Accessibility</u> More radar keys have been ordered, AT will look into issuing them to more stewards in each stand. AT had checked emergency cords in N stand and they looked fine, so it seems to have been replaced. PS queried what the procedure is if someone pulls the cord? He suggested he liaise with AT /MW to do an emergency drill for testing response.	AT
7	<b>Equality, Discrimination and Inclusion. (E.D.I) Update</b> GB and PS are meeting next week to go through LPF survey and Access Card and will then feedback to AT ahead of LPF audit.  Disabled platform – AT updated on discussions with Arena seating with idea to extend and raise NS wheelchair platform and provide cover. AT will share plans once received. Other locations for wheelchair platforms in corners of stands had been explored but they have insufficient space.	PS/GB  AT
8	<b>OUFC Fanatics update</b> Display for Sheffield Weds is now arranged – assuming East Stand sells-out. JN has approached some local businesses with helping Fanatics and for improving fan experience – talking to city centre pubs, looking to coordinate some transport. JN has been looking for ways to reconnect fans, AT pointed out that the club has more desire now for fan engagement.	

	<p>OUSP asked how they can best work with Fanatics and Club to pull these ideas together for the fans so that the different initiatives are well coordinated? It was agreed that all would consider how best to do this. JN and AT will talk through ideas at their next meeting.</p>	<p>OUSP JN/AT</p>
9	<p><b>Sheffield Wednesday and Portsmouth match arrangements (Covid/crowds)</b>  Expected attendance for next three home games is 10k + , so we have to employ full Covid protocols. It is a legal requirement to have a 100% check. The club has recruited extra staff specifically to do this at an outer ring before going through turnstile.  Gates opening <b>1pm</b>.</p> <p>Information has gone out early and keeps being reiterated. There are stories on club website and social media. Direct mailing has gone out to some fans. OUSP has shared info on social media and in the fans forum.</p> <p>All agreed that we need to ensure our older fans are contacted and prepared – they are less likely to have smart phones. AT will see if ticket office staff can contact older fans.</p> <p>Key actions next week which the club, OUSP and OxVox would support were to encourage fans to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Turn up earlier.</li> <li>● Have downloaded or screenshot their vaccine passport/LFT result</li> </ul> <p>TL had suggested that disposable face coverings be made available to offer to fans as some still do not wear coverings and they are now required in concourse areas. AT has ordered 4000 and these will be made available on the match day to anyone who needs one.</p>	<p>AT  All</p>
10	<p><b>Away match ticket allocation</b>  OUSP raised concern that the knock-on effect of us receiving a reduced allocation for WWFC was that fans were registering on the WWFC database and buying seats in the home end. All noted that this is against ground regulations. Usually this would be prevented by a “database only” allocation but this did not seem to be the case on this occasion.</p> <p>AT explained that the home team has final say on allocations in consultation with police and safety officers, which is based on previous behaviours among other factors.</p> <p>OUSP have been contacted about poor fan behaviour among groups of our own fans, particularly at away matches, especially with standing fans blocking the view of seated fans and children. This could be alleviated by selling tickets in two batches – one for specific seats and one for “sit anywhere” fans. OUSP accepts that this suggestion has been discussed before, but maintains that in the long term this could reduce some of the problems at away matches. Fanatics are working on educating fans on some areas of unacceptable behaviour e.g. pyro. and offensive chanting.</p> <p><b>Correspondence from FSA</b>  The FSA has remarked how dramatically fan behaviour seems to have deteriorated (particularly among away fans) across all leagues. They have contacted supporter groups and are arranging a zoom call to which L1 and L2 FSA members are invited which OUSP shall attend.</p>	
12	<p><b>Fanzone</b>  AT is planning to have Fanzone for Burton Albion game on 5<sup>th</sup> March. Location likely to be the Ox car park.</p>	

	<p>Plan to have beer marquee, large screen TV, Food outlets, Beer tent and/or local brewery, Charity partner, Retail, OxVox and OUSP stands. The aim to start building atmosphere before the match, Fanatics could contribute to this.</p> <p>OUSP asked what help they can give with this. AT will let us know.</p> <p>TL noted we could learn from other clubs, and recalled a good fanzone at Plymouth</p> <p>Further suggestions include interview with matchday guest of honour or member of board available for Q&amp;A</p>	AT
13	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Away Match Information</p> <p>Discussion was held over better ways to provide fan-focused information for away matches – perhaps OUSP could find out and publicise facilities and details at away games e.g. parking/disabled access/ fan pub.</p> <p>The Yellow Army has an awayday twitter account already sharing this kind of information, and hope to do more of this going forward. The new away match volunteer SLOs could also contribute.</p> <p>OUSP agreed to work with SLO, Yellow Army and match volunteers on this.</p>	AT/ OUSP
14	<p><b><u>Dates of Next Meetings</u></b></p> <p>(Day/time to be confirmed by Doodle poll)</p> <p>Panel meeting w/c 7 Feb - Club meeting w/c 21 Feb</p> <p>Panel meeting w/c 14 March - Club meeting w/c 28 March</p> <p>Panel meeting w/c 25 April</p>	JB