Minutes of OUSP Meeting Wednesday 2nd March 6pm

O.U.S.P.

at

Bangkok Glass Training Ground

1	Attendees: Paul Scaysbrook (Chair) (PS); Richard Jackson (Vice-Chair) by Zoom (RJ) Janine Bailey (Secretary) (JB) Grace Bailey (GB) Simon Hathaway (OxVox) (SH)	Action
	By invitation : Niall McWilliams, items 4-8 (NMc) ; Andy Taylor (AT); Steve Mountain (TVP), items 7-8 (SM)	
	Apologies: Joe Nicholls (JN) Michelle Walton (MW)	
2	Minutes of Last Meeting Minutes of meeting on 13 th January had previously been agreed online.	
3	Matters Arising from Minutes	
	3) Meeting between JN/AT/Safety team regarding match displays has not yet taken place. A new Whatsapp group involving relevant club staff, fanatics and OUSP was set up ahead of Cambridge match and has improved communication. The group will continue to communicate via Whatsapp and a meeting will be setup with JN.	JN / AT
	 5) Potholes are being repaired, it is an ongoing process due to the number of them. Lighting is being worked round, however the area of lighting outside of South Stand needs significant investment. Currently AT is developing a maintenance plan, to include for example installing a changing places toilet, addressing lighting, replacing urinals. Items will need to be costed and prioritised. AT will forward the plan to OUSP. 	AT
	6) Cycle parking: Main SE one most used, yet this is where debris tends to collect. It only gets cleared when the club request it, so has only been done a couple of times this season after prompting. Same with the cleanliness at the back of the East Stand. We have received approval from stadium company to upgrade cycle parking. One option would be to relocate bicycles away from hedge so it doesn't collect as much debris by designating the NE cycle parking for bicycles (and upgrading the secure racks there) and designating the SE area to motorcycles. OUSP will find out from cyclists if this option makes sense to them. AT anticipates quotes in by next meeting. (NMc W joined meeting).	AT
	6e) The new pedestrian route created by removal of kerbs and marking out the area in the SE corner is being well used, and makes it safer.	
	6g) OUSP was pleased that at the BWFC and CUFC matches, car park attendants were more proactive in directing people to spaces in west car park and letting cars in when spaces became available. There is still some poor parking: ideally attendants should be waving vehicles into spaces to avoid this, but cannot affect the parking of cars which arrive before they start. East stand had management of cars after the match last week and that made it much easier. This has been working in the west car park for some time and overall seems to make it quicker and easier to exit. This is first full season with car park management and will need tweaking.	
	6h) North Stand RES gate There has been better social media notice ahead of the matches. The stadium announcements are still not adequate, as they need to be done towards the end of the match. AT responded that it is in the script to go out at least	

	 twice, and will reinforce. The decision on its use is made mid-week ahead of the game. It should generally be reopened at around 5 / 5.10 once the away area is cleared. 4) Stratfield Break: NMcW updated the meeting. The consultation is now closed, we await the outcome of the next Cabinet meeting on 15th March. 	AT
4	Her Game Too The Partnership with Her Game Too was announced today. GB has been appointed OUFC Ambassador by HGT. OUSP congratulated GB, who has worked hard with HGT over the last weeks. GB also thanked Tom Law for his support and input.	
	As part of the launch the Club planned to hold the Women's match against Southampton on 9 th March at the Kassam. This was agreed with the stadium manager, however on Monday (28 th Feb) the club was contacted and told the stadium could not be used as it would fall outside the current licence agreement. On enquiring whether a fee could be paid for the evening, the figure quoted was an excessive amount. The club decided that if this amount were to be spent it would be better to invest it directly in the women's team. OUSP will encourage attendance at the match at Court Place Farm on Wednesday.	GB
	OUSP agreed that a #HGT supported Women's Evening with role models working in football would be a good event. It would be better – and could host a bigger audience – at the stadium, however it is clear that holding any event at the stadium is not currently an option. GB will explore the possibility of running the event at the Training Ground.	GB
	The OUSP will be hosting a "meet and greet" on Saturday with several of the women's team in attendance. A video has been made promoting HGT.	All OUSP
5	Fanzone The fanzone planned for 5 th March has been cancelled. The use of part of the car park for the fanzone had been agreed with Stadco, and we were told to expect a similar fee as charged for car boot sales. The club was then notified earlier this week that the charge would be significantly higher for each of four fanzones planned for the year, and that all four would have to be paid in advance of the first one taking place. This made the project financially prohibitive.	
	OUSP and the club were deeply frustrated that the work which had gone into planning the fanzone would not come to fruition. AT had booked a hog-roast and pizza, bar, several games and children's activities; OUSP was planning to launch the HGT partnership with the women's team at a meet and greet. All agreed that it is difficult for the club community when events such as this cannot be held at our stadium.	
6	Level Playing Field Weeks of Action	
	Level Playing Field had contacted OUSP regarding their weeks of action as they had not heard from the club. Ahead of the meeting NMcW had agreed that the Club wanted to support the weeks of action, although the chosen match would be outside of the LPF campaign. He has cleared wearing LPF T-shirts for the match warm-up with the EFL.	
	OUSP agreed to run it for Sunderland match. PS will follow up details with LPF.	PS

7	Site Safety (see briefing document) A number of items in the circulated document could not be addressed as MW was not at the meeting. These will be forwarded via AT for discussion and responses.	JB
8	Fan Behaviour / Stewarding	
8a	FSA Good Practice:	
	JB fed back on suggestions from FSA meeting which clubs had found helpful.	
	 i) Publishing the club sanctions policy so supporters understand the implications of antisocial behaviour was proving effective with other clubs. It was agreed that this should be looked into along with publishing the appeals process (at which any ban issued could be increased or decreased). AT and NMcW would discuss at next safety meeting. SM pointed out that some behaviours can incur a court-issued ban as well as the club one. Publishing a summary of bans might encourage some fans to think before acting in an antisocial manner. One club had recently carried out a high profile media campaign, having issued over 40 bans in a short period. OUFC fans do not cause this level of 	AT / NMcW
	problem, but there are some incidents.	
	ii) Pyro is being used at many of our away matches. Some clubs had made videos shared on Instagram and Tiktok with players highlighting why they dislike pyro (toxic gases emitted affecting their performance and other fans' health). At Glasgow one fan lost a hand with pyro. To be considered.	AT/ NMcW
	(NMcW left the meeting)	
	Away Matches	
8b	OUSP has received a number of messages from fans about away matches, the recurring concerns are:	
	1) behaviour of our fans towards each other, e.g. much stronger language than at home, confrontation between standing and seated fans, use of pyro.	
	2) the variable attitude of away stewards when dealing with issues.	
	These issues are always best reported and dealt with at the time. If local stewards do not respond appropriately we can feed this back to the home club. OUSP will ensure that such complaints are directed to AT to pass onto the home club. Abusive behaviour, including abusive language, can be addressed through a behaviour contract if necessary.	
	Other routes of communication – police spotters (in yellow and blue jackets) are really supportive and good for anyone to feedback to; SAG (OxVox attends on behalf of fans, so we can feed into them).	JB / AT
	With OUSP set up more feedback is getting to the club from fans.	
8c	Away Fans at Grenoble Road	
	RJ raised that away fan groups sometimes ask us what the preferred public transport route from the railway station is for away fans - 3A Westgate to stadium or 1 / 5 to Knight's Road? (nb. 3A used to stop at station but now only goes from Westgate). There is not a designated route. SM queried what communication takes place with stagecoach (Mick Brown liaises with them on a match-by-match basis). Agreed TVP should look into routes used for certain fixtures. Travel after match is more of a flashpoint than before the match. Use Uber for cabs.	

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8d	<u>Away fan pubs</u> Usually The Catherine Wheel (Sandford), The George and The Golden Ball (Littlemore). The George take fans from most, but not all, away teams. Distance from city centre makes it difficult to go elsewhere. JSports usually home only. SM suggests AT makes contact with the pubs.	AT
	RJ is meeting with Jane Hughes from the FSA on Tuesday 8 th March on behalf of OUSP.	RJ
9	Equality, Discrimination and Inclusion. (E.D.I) Update	
9a	LPF Survey and Audit	
	PS and GB had reviewed the LPF survey feedback from Oxford fans. Overall it was not too helpful as it pre-dated the enforced move of wheelchair users from SSU and did not have specific enough focus on the club. They suggest a more targeted survey is carried out with our fans in due course. PS and GB to look at with AT to get a survey out over close season. LPF access audit will also take place at end of season. The two will inform an action plan. (SM left the meeting)	PS / GB / AT
9b	AccessCard	
	PS and GB suggest that the club consider joining the AccessCard scheme, which helps recognise a wide group of disability. PS has provided AT with links to further information on becoming a business associate. AT wants to look at which other clubs use it. Cards are issued after thorough review of documentation.	AT
	JB added that from personal experience, it makes it much easier to access appropriate adjustments without having to provide personal medical or DWP information as this is done by the access card organisation. Whilst many arts venues recognise it, few football clubs do (Brentford is one), so we could be ahead of the game on this.	
9c	NorthStand Wheelchair Platform	
	There is insufficient space for all PAs to sit on chairs alongside the wheelchair user they accompany. As the platform is not tiered, a couple of the PAs stand behind the wheelchairs to watch the match. At a recent match they were moved away from the area because they were standing. This not only moved them away from the person they were accompanying, but also contrasted with the many people allowed to stand in the away end and at the back of the East Stand. Some wheelchair users felt they were being singled out as easy targets.	
	It was agreed that the club should look to reopen the back row in front of NS wheelchair platform solely for wheelchair user PAs. Consideration will need to be given to accommodating the flags on display there.	АТ
	There is inconsistency over allowing people to walk across the wheelchair platform at half time. This could be improved by having a dedicated steward for wheelchair users in NS.	
	It was agreed to run a test on pulling cord in disabled loo, will run this on Saturday.	PS / AT
10	Mental Health and Joey Beauchamp	
	The OUSP wished to put on record their condolences to the Beauchamp family and their appreciation of the way the club organised last week's match for Joey.	
10a	MH First Aid Training	
100	OUSP suggested that the club look at providing some MH first aid training for fans, perhaps identifying fans in key areas, plus some from OUSP and OxVox? AT will speak to NMcW about feasibility of arranging a Training Day.	AT

10b	<u>Five-A-Side</u>	
	OUSP suggested holding a fan-led five-a-side tournament over the close season. SH will talk to OxVox about supporting this as a joint event with OUSP and the club. Discussion was held around whether proceeds should go to a MH charity or to the family, and agreed it should be the family. AT will speak to OUITC, as they have expertise in organising these sort of events. He could arrange a hog-roast or similar to create a real community day. Competing for the Joey Beauchamp Five a Side trophy, with a commercial sponsor, could raise good funds. AT will feedback after discussion with OUITC.	SH
10c	Annual MH awareness match	
	An annual MH awareness match was suggested. There was some discussion around whether the EFL already has this with MIND. Will be considered at a future meeting.	
11	SLO Report	
	Ollie the Ox: AT has advertised around colleges/performing arts to get suitable candidate who is more performative to take on Ollie the Ox. So far there has been no response, AT welcomes any other suggestions.	
	Ollie's den is now the sensory room, as vaccination clinic took over original space.	
	OUFC is considering re-locating family area to SSL, Fence end (where it used to be) as it has bigger concourse, better facilities. OUSP to get feedback from families and bring to agenda of next meeting.	All
12	AOB	
	Match ambassador recruitment is currently on hold. There is definitely a need for them, AT will pick this up with JN who had several ideas.	AT / JN
13	Dates of Next Meetings (Day/time to be confirmed by Doodle poll)	JB