

ISC meeting 7th February 2023 18.30pm

Present – Andy Payne (AP- Hammers United), Sue Watson (SW- WHUST), Steve Applebee (SA- Bond Holders), Paul Christmas (PC- WHUSC), Sara Page (SP -Away Season Ticket Holders), Cathy Bayford (CB - DSB), Martin Clowes (MC - Pride of Irons), Apu Vyas (AV - Inclusive Irons), Robina Ahmed (RA - Claret Members) (joined at 18.50) Amanda Jacks (AJ - FSA).

Apologies – Don Adams (DA - Any Old Irons)

AP welcomed everyone and thanked them for making time for this meeting and confirmed that the meeting would not be recorded, as had been requested in advance and confidentiality of discussions would be respected.

Chair and vice Chair Elections

It was agreed that nominations for the roles would be accepted at this meeting and then ISC members would take those back to their respective committees before the vote takes place. The vote will be conducted by an open group email by 23rd February to allow for consultations with members' committees, although there would be no chair or vice chair in place at the ISC/Club meeting on 21st February. AP disagreed with the proposed process stating that the standing orders (which had not formally been adopted by the ISC) pointed to a process whereby there was a vote for all candidates who declared themselves and the person with the most votes would be chair and the person with the second most votes would be vice chair.

SA and AP declared they would run for chair seconded by SP and PC respectively. AP and SW declared for vice chair and were seconded by PC and SP respectively.

Action

All ISC members to vote for their preferred candidates by close of play 23rd February 2023.

Adoption of ISC Standing Orders

On February 7th AP circulated the draft Standing Orders that were drafted by Kevin Hind. AP stated that these Standing Orders had been referenced in previous ISC meetings but had not been formally adopted and proposed that these were adopted.

Action

It was agreed that ISC members should review the document and provide feedback at the next meeting.

Government White Paper

SW stated that the White Paper would be published on the 23rd of February. AP stated that the White Paper will be issued by the Government in response to the Fan Engagement Plan led by Tracey Crouch MP. There would be an open public consultation on the White Paper before that is drafted into a Bill and then passes

through Parliament, both Houses and the Select Committees and all of the attendant amendments and becomes an Act of Parliament and therefore passes into UK law. This process will take at least 18 months but more likely 24 months and thus unlikely to pass into law before the General Election of 2024

For Information

Premier League Fan Engagement Standard (FES)

The Premier League has announced a self-regulation FES and every club, including West Ham would be expected to come up with a dedicated Club plan. It was established that no details had been received by ISC members to date but it was expected to be discussed at the ISC/Club meeting on 21st February.

Action

The ISC members agreed to add this item to the next ISC/Club meeting.

FSA Report

SA asked if the outstanding submissions to the FSA issues had been submitted. AP shared that HU have submitted the outstanding statement or evidence in response to the FSA request. MC was not in a position to confirm on behalf of POI. AJ confirmed that Malcolm Clarke (FSA Chair) is overseeing this issue and it was agreed that the final FSA report will have recommendations for the ISC to consider. AP asked what are the possible outcomes and consequences for the ISC when the FSA report is closed and AJ was unable to comment.

Action

AP and MC to clarify the position of POI and HU respectively and report back to the ISC.

Meeting with the Club 21st February

PC stated that this meeting should take place in person given that was minuted at the last meeting with the Club and seconded by AP. It was agreed that it would be challenging unless meeting dates are scheduled with sufficient notice.

AP asked that the ISC/Club meeting focus on the two democratically elected motions specifically around the ECL ticketing offer which was the reason for all the emails and this meeting in the first place. A discussion took place in respect of agenda items and it was agreed it should include the two motions relating to ECL ticketing, the Club response to the Premier League FES.

Action

It was agreed to enquire if the technology was available for a face to face/online meeting to accommodate those who can/cannot travel on the 21st February and future meetings. The ISC members to establish an agenda including a request that the Club to provide any available information for review prior to the meeting. The agenda to include FES, ECL Ticketing motions, Club Museum, Heritage Items, Welcome Packs and Catering Pricing. AP will write to the Club to chase up the answer to our requests for information ahead of the meeting as that had not been answered or acknowledged.

AP to set up a Google Doc by February 8th, to allow sharing/collaboration of the agenda thus cutting down on email and WhatsApp messages.

Club Museum

AP raised the issue of the previously promised Club museum and advised Hammers United were having a meeting on the 8th February with some interested parties who were exploring the subject of a Club museum. AP confirmed that that ideally we should ask the Club for a definitive list of what the Club owned and put that under NDA. AP went on to suggest that key items of memorabilia including 1996 World Cup winners' medals should be on display and far better if they were loaned to the Football Museum in Manchester given their national cultural and historic importance than lay in storage unseen. AP stated that there was no point discussing the museum if we had no clear plan what we would like to be delivered. PC added that we need an action plan and SW suggested we go back to the Club to make them aware of the project and the museum should be on the agenda for the meeting on the 21st February.

Action

AP and AV to attend meeting between interested parties on 8th February and ISC members to consider potential an alternative interim display location e.g. an existing London Museum, although it was noted that insurance and security would be key factors in any project.

Club Heritage

SA advised that the 'shopping list' of heritage related ideas remain under review with the Club including discussions around a small rotating display of memorabilia in the stadium store and the production of a short film of the Club's history to show before games.

For Information

Free coach travel for FA Cup match at Old Trafford

AP apologised to SP for not sharing with her the call from Hammers United to the Club to offer free coaches to Manchester. SA advised that for similar past requests the Club responded that free coach travel results in some fans not taking up their seats and empty/unused coaches, although it was agreed that a heavily subsidised service should be made available for travellers supporters.

Action

AP to report back as to whether the Club have responded to Hammers United.

DSB Car Park Update

CB presented the proposed plans to the improving the disabled carpark are being progressed with Andy Fraser, the Deputy Safety Officer for LS185. The proposed improvements include the marking out of parking bays; removal of pavement furniture, lighting and an improved dropped kerb at the entry point (see also CB email dated 8th February for further details). The Disabled

Supporters Association website launch date is the Southampton Game on 1st April.

Action

CB to update the ISC at the next meeting.

New Season Ticket Holders Welcome Packs

RA stated that no details had been forthcoming about 'Welcome Packs', although the idea had been well received by the Club. RA has had zero feedback and no replies to her mail which was considered unacceptable.

Action

Item to be raised at the next ISC/Club meeting.

Next Meeting

Wednesday March 8th 7-8pm (RA advised that she would be unable to attend).

Meeting closed at 20.14pm