

Questions for Dave Boddy – 28th April 2021 @ 5.00pm

DB gave a brief club update before answering the forums questions. He explained the club were delighted with the winning streak of 3 games that all but securing the clubs status in the Championship for next season and last Saturday this was confirmed. It gives the club an opportunity to plan and move on for next season and can start now rather than waiting for another couple of weeks.

DB remarked on the great efforts from all involved at the club and repeated that Mark Robins had publicly stated that it's his greatest achievement in his managerial career. Last year we finished top of League 1 with the 11th highest playing budget.

DB said we can now return to the Ricoh in the championship for next season

JB asked if the Covid pandemic would level next season's playing field with regards to budgets, DB remarked that this just wasn't the case. He acknowledged that all clubs would have suffered without attendance income, but the field won't ever be level when some owners are willing to put in multi millions of pounds each season, alongside parachute payments.

Return to the Ricoh /next season

Is the decision not to open all the stands financial or atmospheric?

DB announced during the week that the decision has been taken to open the North stand on the back of staying in the championship. If we'd been relegated this probably wouldn't have happened.

CH – Asked about membership. DB advised 8000 is 25% of capacity. If we are under restrictions/social distancing, people won't be able to choose where they sit or sit in their season ticket seats, they will need to sit where they are told to comply with social distancing requirements. This will be different if restrictions are lifted.

Can we do some match day branding to make the ground our own on match day? Spruce up the outside / and or CCFC signage?

DB – Working on that with the Ricoh. Watch this space. TS added that we are well on the way yet. Some clarity would be useful. PG advised that he had previously shared a document with DB. DB is hoping it will feel more like home next season. PG will share some marketing ideas with TS and link in the person from the SBT forum who had discussed this with him. Post meeting note – email sent to TS.

What attendance(s) are you projecting for next season?

Depends on government restrictions – but the forecasts are all based on 17000 as an average. The EFL governance think it's unlikely that 100% capacities will be possible until at least late October / November. CH asked about away games and attendances and whether this is likely to be a similar timetable, DB said this is yet to be confirmed.

What is being done by the club to engage dormant and new fans?

They use the database to contact dormant supporters. Currently contacting 18-19 supporters who haven't followed up with memberships. CH – Wondered whether supporters' groups could help at all. Great to engage with people. DB phase 2 project on Friday where we will release a further 2000 memberships. Same as previous apart from if restrictions are still at 25%.

SC – What percentage are new fans? DB – Don't currently have these figures.

PG – Idea of monthly subscription with different options. TS encouraged people's ideas for how this could be taken forward. See note above about email shared with ideas.

JB – Suggested using supporters clubs to arrange visits from MR or the team / open evenings for instance. Difficult with restrictions of course as DB pointed out. SC agreed as soon as restrictions are removed then he'd agree. DB would absolutely be looking to instigate once restrictions are lifted but unlikely before August.

RS – Could you keep a database of people interested in season tickets once restrictions are lifted. TS advised CCFC have a database of 130000 people who have an interest in CCFC, many who they can email with any information.

Can any details be shared about the agreement with Wasps? I.E cost per season? Percentage of food sales income? Match cost breakdown?

DB – No it's all commercially sensitive information

Regarding the rent at the Ricoh, Is there a tiered approach depending on Covid restrictions and or which league we are playing in?

Yes, there is a COVID restriction and yes the rent is dependent on which league we are playing in

What are the aims for next season?

DB – His thoughts are realistically to improve on this season. If that means being safe from relegation with 3 games to spare then that's progress. He believes that we have been 12 months behind Luton Town on our development/journey since Mark Robins joined. They've been comfortable in the Championship this last season. He would be delighted with repeating their season, next season.

(Sky Blue Talk forum)

Can plans be made at the Ricoh for better room for storage for the club's historical archives?

DB – Can't answer it at this moment. Will take up the discussion with JB outside of this forum

(Jim Brown – Club Historian and Former Players Association)

Playing Staff next season

DB – Won't ever or have ever talked about recruitment plans in a public forum. CH clarified whether CCFC are looking to improve the squad. DB says we've always done our work early in the last 4 years and this will be no different this year.

JB – What's your feeling from talking to other clubs in this transfer window following the Covid issues. DB advised restrictions of 25 players in the squad were in place this year. This may change following PFA challenge to EFL. DB thinks players wages might reduce marginally in CCFC favour but the clubs that are relegated from the Premier League receive parachute payments who can spend 6-8 times more than CCFC. The transfer market in terms of fees may be different this close season but no one really knows

JB – Are the FFP rules being relaxed for this season? DB – No thoughts of relaxing the rules in the championship. There have been discussion about salary caps in the Championship but it's difficult to agree rules to suit all clubs as there are so many different types and sizes of clubs within the Championship

JB – Do you think more people will be released this season? DB said the question is probably will all released players be replaced? TS – Clubs made massive cuts 3-4 years ago and he feels that clubs cannot reduce their first team squads much more. DB agrees with this and that probably wages will reduce a bit. Clubs relegated last year were spending £60-70m on wages in the championship.

TS – Clubs won't stop spending unless there is a global set of rules to manage wages across all leagues. DB explained any maximum pay or salary cap would likely be met strongly in legal terms by the PFA

(Sky Blue Talk forum)

New Stadium

Any up-date? Is everything waiting on the University plan?

DB – nothing further to add –work is still being done on developing the master plan and transport links (Road and rail). Still meetings taking place, last week they were on a daily basis.

RS – He believes it will happen but not before he's dead.

CH – Asked about a timeline, are there any timelines? DB - The size and timelines of the project is reflected in 10 year deal at the Ricoh

(Sky Blue Talk forum)

Accounts

Have we submitted our accounts yet?

DB – No, as we stated publicly – they will be submitted by the end of May, in line with Companies House extension, and likely before then. Received draft accounts this morning. The intention is to be submitted imminently.

CH – Asked about appealing the embargo? DB – It is irrelevant as it's when the window has been closed. Non payment of Paye was an embargo case before this last year but was removed during the Covid pandemic. Their decision on the embargo makes no sense.

(Sky Blue Talk forum)

Post 21st June 2021

If, after 21st June all restrictions are lifted, would the club consider a large formal get together for all supporters clubs with players and coaching staff attending? Maybe a meal / black tie event in the legends lounge or something similar. **(Chris Holliday (Southam CCFC))**

TS – Unsure of restrictions being lifted and what this means for mass gatherings. Would want to do something but probably not this year.

DB – We may be able to do something in pre-season on line – we'd like certainty before arranging events understandably.

TS is involved in City of Culture – shirts have been done in partnership with them. Calendar of events only just being put together. Year moved back to May and unlikely that much will be happening because of all the uncertainty. D Busst – SBITC – Meeting with all the city of culture team. Until full calendar comes out it's hard to know what we can collaborate with

Disabled Supporters

How do I become a genuine representative for disabled fans? i.e. How does the disabled fan know who and how to contact as their representative? E.g Can the club e-mail all disabled ticket holders?

DB –Will take the discussion off-line and enable disabled fans to communicate through KG with the club.

(Kevin Greenfield – Disabled Supporters)