

FSA Premier League Network Meeting

Thursday 30th January 2020, 6pm

Mechanics Centre, 103 Princess Street, Manchester, M1 6DD

Attendees:

Chris Owen	Spirit of Shankly
Daniel Dunn	1894 Group
Dave Kelly	Blue Union
Dave Pennington	Manchester United Supporters Trust
David Michael	My Old Man Said
Dominic Rosso	Chelsea Supporters Trust
Don Grant	1894 Group
Duncan Drasdo	Manchester United Supporters Trust
Glenn Aston	Wolves Fans Parliament
Ian Stirling	Manchester United Supporters Trust
Jane Hughes	The FSA
Janet Ireland	Sheffield United Supporters Club
Joanne Mckibbens	Aston Villa Disabled Supporters Association
Kevin Miles	The FSA
Kevin Parker	Manchester City FC Supporters Club (1949)
Liz Costa	Brighton Hove Albion Supporters Club
Malcolm Clarke	The FSA
Michael Brunskill	The FSA
Neil Dady	Wolves Fans Parliament
Nev Townsend	Forces2Canaries
Nigel Cotterill	Claret Trust
Robbie Daniels	Blue Union
Sonia Kingscott	Aston Villa Disabled Supporters Association
Steve Moulds	Leicester City Supporters Trust
Sue Maisey	Crystal Palace Supporters Trust
Thomas Concannon	Newcastle United Supporters Trust
Tony Scholes	Burnley FC Supporters Groups
Trevor Payling	Sheffield United Supporters Club

Apologies:

Allan Galley	Manchester City FC Supporters Club (1949)
Hardev Sroa	Punjabi Wolves
Joe Blott	Spirit of Shankly

John Fawell	Watford Supporters Trust
Kat Law	Tottenham Hotspur Supporters Trust
Liam Hallinan	Claret Trust
Mark Dean	Cherries Trust
Martin Cloake	Tottenham Hotspur Supporters Trust
Nev Townsend	Forces2Canaries
Paul Colborne	Hammers United
Stephen Cross	Hammers United
Steve Powell	Arsenal Independent Supporters Association
Ted Morris	Liverpool FC Disabled Supporters Association
Tom Hutchinson	Liverpool FC Disabled Supporters Association
Wayne Shortland	Sheffield United Independent Supporters Association

Minutes

1. VAR

Discussions at the last PL Network meeting identified initial problems and communicated those to PL at our Supporter Engagement meeting: Supporter consensus that in-stadia communication has simply not been good enough. Ideas suggested re: further use of PA, big screens and advertising hoardings to communicate to fans in the ground. PL have an open mind but acknowledged there were issues. FSA asked for hold a national survey which will seek fans' views on VAR.

Action

- FSA to follow up PL on possibility of another pre-season meeting at Stockley Park and to see how far they have progressed with production of detailed digital assets (e.g. social media vids) to explain protocol.
- FSA to approach Chris Foy to attend next meeting if dates allow.
- Fan groups to suggest questions for VAR Survey & share once open.

2. European Super League (update)

FSA recaps [original proposals](#) for ESL changes. These 'proposals' have been withdrawn, the ECA said any other proposals would include supporter consultation. There has not been an official proposal but it is believed to be 6 groups of 6. The FSA will register an objection to these proposals when they are released but advised patience until proposals are official. FIFA World Club competition in 2021, will be in China which is against FIFA's own rules on consultation, bidding process and assessed against human rights standards. They

are expanding it to a 24-club competition, including 12 European clubs, held every 2 years, in November / December, which will impact domestic fixtures. UEFA are considering taking European finals out of Europe and having a finals weekend, i.e. New York. This could impact on national leagues taking domestic fixtures out of their home nation, UEFA would be in a weaker position to object.

Action

- FSA to keep watching brief and update all Networks / engage with Football Supporters Europe.
- FSA to include questions on European Super League in National Survey.

3. FA Cup:

PL Network rep Dave Pennington reported back outcomes from FSA meeting with the FA in November and FSA chair Malcolm Clarke provided updated feedback on them from FA Council last week. FA are open to fans views. Semi & final prices, no movement likely. Ditto final allocation of ticket to competing teams (note: an FSA campaign previously secured an extra 7,000 tickets for fans). Semis will not be moved from Wembley. TV deal is in place and will not change. Commitment to follow up meeting in May from the FA. The FA denied an application from a club to reduce the 15% allocation, which was a win for us.

Discussion on FA Cup prices on replays, particularly with disparity between clubs (Spurs recently charged Saints fans £25 when Spurs fans had only paid £10 at St Mary's. NUFC away fans charged considerably more than Oxford Utd away fans for their upcoming replay). There is a tension as lower league clubs see glamour ties as an opportunity generate revenue. However, the FSA has policy for a £20 away cap.

Action

- FSA National Council to debate FA Cup pricing with reps from all leagues.
- Inclusion in National Survey (FA Cup replays, extra time etc).

4. Standing:

The 3 major political parties included a commitment to introduce standing. FSA will attend briefing with other football stakeholders 24th Feb 2020. FSA understanding is Sports Ground Safety Authority will amend the licensing conditions to allow for some standing with a view to introducing secondary legislation.

Action

- FSA to invite SGSA reps to next meeting for discussion on how we can best increase fan representation on Safety Advisory Groups.

5. Concessionary prices

There is no specific cap for concession tickets, other than the standard £30 PL away cap, but FSA believes a £10 cap for juniors & a £20 senior cap would be appropriate. This was presented to the PL who said they have a working group of club ticketing leads looking at this issue.

Action

- FSA to follow up PL on their working group proposals and feed that back to PL Network for opinion.
- Clubs competing in Europe to feedback on concession prices available in European competitions to FSA (to pass onto PL).

6. Discriminatory abuse

Concerns after increased reports of racist and homophobic abuse, both in the ground and on social media. General agreement that fans are self-policing and reporting incidents which are being dealt with more efficiently by the authorities. The increased reporting rate is because supporters are more willing to challenge and discrimination not tolerated as it was in decades past. But there is no room for complacency.

FSA has campaigned to include all protected characteristics in the Football Act. Fans for Diversity, a joint campaign between the FSA & Kick It Out, has worked on inclusion projects across the country, promoting diversity in football. FSA has worked on strengthening legislation, promotes the KIO reporting app and provides one on one, fan education programme working with fans who have been accused of racist or homophobic behaviour. Some younger fans have shown willingness to engage and views have been changed thanks to joint KIO/FSA initiative.

Aspects of the protocol could be problematic; false alarms could trigger the protocol when no evidence can subsequently be found; getting a game stopped because of the actions of one person is worrying. We have to keep winning the same battles over and over.

Action

- FSA and fan groups to continue to challenge discriminatory behavior and to promote [KIO app](#).

7. Club sanctioning policies

Discussion around club sanctioning policies. Clear sanction and appeals process important but doesn't exist at all clubs.

Action

- FSA to promote any good work which has taken place at clubs in this area.

8. Be Gamble Aware (FSA partnership)

Increase in betting sponsorship in recent years and general involvement in football. FSA and Gamble Aware are working to promote responsible gambling; combatting impulsive, bored or drunk betting. [Safer Gambling Hub](#) has been launched, all CEOs have been written to informing them of the hub.

Action

- Fan groups to put this on their supporter engagement agendas and feedback discussions to FSA. See Safer Gambling Hub [here](#).

9. Atmosphere groups

MB: there is still a gap to engagement for younger fans to become involved with the FSA. One area we have identified is the rise of atmosphere groups, we would like to engage with in the future.

Action

- Fan groups send contact information / introduction to FSA office if you have any groups at your club.

MC closes meeting.