

Minutes of Meeting Grimsby Town, Grimsby Town Foundation and Grimsby Town Disabled Supporters Association

Held in the Trust Bar Blundell Park at 3pm Tuesday 29th October 2024.

Purpose - To discuss ways to improve the match day experience for disabled supporters, investigate ways to improve reach into the community and to raise awareness and understanding of attending matches at Blundell Park.

Present Dave Roberts GTFCDASA, Jane Stephenson GTFCDASA, Jane Hylton-King GTFCDASA, Paul King GTFCDASA, Thomas Jones GTFCDASA, Polly Bancroft GTFC, David White GTFC, Vikki Harries GTFC, Jason Land GTFC Foundation, Kristine Green GTFC Foundation.

1. No apologies, all present
2. Review of Level Playing Field audit and setting priorities
 - a. All agreed that No.1 priority is increasing the number of home wheelchair spaces available and improving their viewing experience
 - b. DR explained that there was a scheme ready to go in 2021 which involved building a platform out from the existing area in main stand where the vomitory is sufficiently wide. This was cancelled when it was decided to use the Osmond corner for home fans which meant that the entrance and exit to that area needed the full width of the existing vomitory
 - c. Meeting agreed that DR and DW would look at other options and report back to next meeting
 - d. GTFCDASA to provide DW with a priority list of the remaining items from the audit so that he can incorporate into the work schedule
3. JL & KG explained the work that already takes place within the community and that we are already signposting those who haven't attended BP before, and may be apprehensive about it, towards lower attended games such as women's matches or men's BSM cup games
 - a. Meeting agreed to target a lower attended game and look to use the Osmond stand for an exclusive deal for disabled supporters and organisations
 - b. Note post meeting - The Level Playing Field unite for access campaign runs from March 1st to March 16th 2025. There are two potential games during that time Tranmere on Tuesday on March 4th and Salford on March 15th
 - c. There are no specific budgets for work at present and so costs need to be understood for consideration, especially wheelchair viewing options
 - d. DW and KG to investigate any potential grants that may be available
DR suggested that a specific fundraising campaign by GTFCDASA would get good support once the details of the wheelchair facility are finalised
4. AOB - JS highlighted issue for away wheelchair supporters at MK Dons game caused by their own supporters. Similar incident at Bradford game last season. DW to review and look at ways to prevent in future
5. Date of next meeting. - Agreed meeting should be held 3 times pa. Next meeting in March 2025, DR will sort specific date and time