**Fans Forum**

**Equality, Diversity & Inclusion**

**Online Teams Meeting**

**18:00 – 19:00 1st February 2024**

**In attendance from LFC**: Yonit Sharabi, Supporter Liaison Officer; Rishi Jain, Director of Impact, Amanda Jacks, Director of Supporter Engagement; Bryan Denny, Digital Research Manager.

**Fans Forum**: Paul Amann, Supporters Board Representative and Chair, Ross Hovey (representing Disabled fans), Rabbi Marc Levene (representing faith) Riaz Ravat (representing faith) Collette Armitage (representing LFCW)

**Apologies:**  None received

Yonit opened the meeting and thanked all for their attendance.

**Update on Club Activity by Rishi Jain**

Back in December our focus was on disability with the highlight being young Daire Gorman returning to Liverpool to meet Jurgen.

International Women’s Day:

The Club planning content across it's global channels, internal activity for colleagues and LFC Foundation plans in place for a series of engagement programs and sessions for young people.

In January, and in conjunction with AXA, there was a focus on mental health and well-being Across the club approximately one hundred staff received mental health first aider training which is a substantial number fostering a real sense of community and engagement.

Members of the Forum shared their own experiences in this regard which were well received. One example was that individuals, particularly those with higher profiles, sharing their own experiences with a wider audience would encourage other, harder to reach communities to come forward and seek help.

RJ undertook to work with colleagues to identify further activation opportunities (such as Time To Talk Day).

February is LGBT+ History month during which the club will focus on the importance of role models.

On overall strategy the club are currently doing a big piece of work around the importance of having a diverse work force. We are making progress but are aware we could do more and are taking a data driven approach on how to improve on this and how to address imbalances. We should be in a position to update further on this towards the end of the season.

**The Sensory Room**

Unfortunately, the room is still undergoing repair following some damage caused during the Anfield Road work. An invite was extended to the Forum to visit the room as soon as it is ready for use.

The Forum discussed how important it was that it was understood that the room be available for anybody with neuro conditions such as dementia.

**Concessionary Tickets for Disabled Supporters**

The discussion on this subject raised some key issues that the Club will look into further and revert back to the Forum with a full response

* Whether or not there had been a restructure meaning tickets for ambulant disabled fans are now on sale alongside General Admission tickets
* That in some instances there was no obvious option for a PA
* The timescale in which to buy tickets for members may be too short for some
* There were no training materials – including short videos – outlining how to use the new system
* The suggestion that the club website may not be disability compliant

**Credits for Disabled Supporters**

The Forum highlighted that some disabled fans will sometimes struggle through health or transport issues to attend matches just so they retain their credits. It was acknowledged that while discretion may be shown on a case by cases basis, disabled fans, especially those with a long attendance history, would feel more reassured if there was an established policy around match credits so supporters were not compromising their health to attend matches. Similar applies to older supporters.

**Sanctions Policy**

The Forum asked if LFC publish details about how many supporters have been through their sanctions policy and if there was a breakdown of outcomes and for what offences. We will provide these figures at the next meeting.

It was further advised that the Home Office release annual football related arrest and reported incidents and that they are published on the Home Office website. See [here.](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/football-related-arrests-and-banning-orders-2022-to-2023-season/football-related-arrests-and-banning-orders-england-and-wales-2022-to-2023-season#:~:text=During%20the%202022%20to%202023%20football%20season%2C%20there%20were%202%2C264,clubs%20and%20the%20national%20teams.)

**Segregation and Bag Searches at WSL Away Games**

The Forum reported that pyro had been used by LFCW supporters at away games, that bags weren’t always searched nor were fans segregated. It was suggested that LFCW request that bag searches are carried out to lessen the risk of pyro being used.

Segregation or not is a matter for individual clubs and open to subjective debate.

**Discriminatory Chanting**

With specific regard to the continued work of the club alongside supporters to ensure the eradication of homophobic chanting online and in the stadium, a tannoy announcement was read out prior to kick off. The club is pleased to confirm there were no reports or complaints received of the use of the particular chant during our game against CFC.   It was noted that Jurgen Klopp is an incredible leader in this space and that our supporters have worked closely with the club to end this chant being heard at Anfield. Targeted tannoy announcement about tragedy chanting, actions being taken against 2 or 3 fans.

PA to link RJ with Football v Homophobia.

Agreed for Foundation to present at a future meeting, this to cover areas of work linked to EDI.