



# MILLWALL SUPPORTERS' CLUB

## MFC Fans Forum 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Questions to Steve Kavanagh (CEO) **SK** & Billy Taylor (Dir, Strategic Ops & Comms) **BT**

- 1. Football Finance.** SK gave detail of the current situation regarding finance within football as a whole and the struggle for the governing bodies to regulate this properly. Parachute payments are a huge obstacle in that the level of monies involved create an unfair advantage for clubs who have 'failed' in the league above and the yo-yo effect results. It also has an effect on the transfer market inflating prices for players who are wanted by teams in the same league-affordable by some, not by most. SK paid respect to the Chairman without whose constant financial input this club would not be as stable as it is.
- 2. Redevelopment.** SK updated on the latest position, that after May elections there was a 50% turnover in elected members at Lewisham council and as a result a sea change in both the understanding of the club's position and aspirations but also in the level of appreciation of the work carried out in the community by the MCT. Hopefully progress can now be made if a new lease agreement can be signed.
- 3. Recent FA/EFL sanctions.** Certain transgressions in and around the stadium now warrant statutory punishment. This includes pitch invasions which will now carry a ban and a criminal charge. This has been handed down by the EFL to ALL clubs and any incidents not only affect the person/s involved but impact on the club with fines etc. It is therefore hoped that fans put their club first when considering their own behaviour.
- 4. Safe standing** Whilst there is a will for a safe standing section, it is currently difficult to site that. New stadia can be built with this in mind but trying to impose it on an existing seating layout and not displace fans is difficult. There is pressure from the SGSA (Sports Grounds Safety Assoc) with the possible threat of enforcement.
- 5. Away Tickets** Question was asked as to why there is no detail as to when these will be sent out/made available. SK explained that it is entirely in the hands of the host (away) club when they send tickets to Millwall for distribution. Some send them early, some very late before the fixture date.
- 6. Kiosk food and drink** The club outsource to Sodexo for food and drink in the concourses and they have been asked to look at improving choice (something the MSC have been advocating and asking the club to address for some time). Whilst the prices charged are determined by Sodexo, SK does keep a watching brief with discussion if necessary. For the 22/23 season there should be some extra food outlets both near SE16 fan zone and also at the front of the stadium plus a FourPure stand.
- 7. Fan Led review-Shadow Board.** SK gave a precis of the progress to date and the want for fans to be involved The shadow board will have an input to the club, the MSC will play a major part in that as will the Lions Trust when fully constituted.
- 8. Sustainability** There is an internal club policy to look at all issues regarding environmental sustainability i.e. EV chargers now available with profits raised going to the MCT, use of plastic, energy conservation etc.





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9. **Social Media platforms.** There was some confusion expressed regarding the recently launched Millwall TV/TV+/App. BT explained the rationale behind the recent developments and how they offer the fanbase choice regarding club news/behind the scenes/player interviews etc. The club are aware however that there is still a section of the fanbase who do not use online access which does need addressing in terms of how club info/news is communicated to them.
  
10. **Matchday programmes** SK explained the rationale behind the decision to withdraw matchday programmes which was based on the unsustainable level of financial losses. Sales had decreased considerably in recent years. A fan group have produced their own version which they will be selling outside the grounds as per regulations.

