

Programme Notes v Harrogate

Good evening and welcome to tonight's game against Harrogate Town. Our visitors have made a great start to their first ever season in the EFL and as we have witnessed already when we played them in the EFL Trophy game, they are very difficult opponents and we will need to be at our best to get the 3 points. It is so frustrating that there will still be no crowd allowed into Blundell Park to cheer the team on and like many other people we are very confused as to why socially distanced crowds cannot be allowed, it seems to us much safer than other social situations. We continue to campaign for the return of crowds through the FSA and hopefully something can be agreed when it is debated in Parliament on November 9th.

Although we will not have any supporters in the ground tonight some, both past and present, will be represented with their "Face in the Crowd" boards. We would like to thank everyone who have done this so far, as well as a bit of fun out of the £25 cost each board is worth £12 to the club. At the end of the season, or when full crowds return, the board can be collected and if required it will be signed by at least one player. If you would like to take part here is the link :

https://www.faceinthecrowd.store/home/25-12-grimsby-town-fc-fan-visual.html#/26-option-standard_25

As long as it is not offensive, the image can be of anything and we have already had some interesting purchases. As well as yourself, you can do one a loved one, best friend or even your pet so get those creative juices flowing.

We have been talking to the club about making sure the loyalty shown in these difficult times by season ticket holders, and indeed all supporters, is not forgotten. Rest assured the club are very supportive of this and you will see a number of initiatives in the coming weeks starting with a free copy of the digital programme for each home game. We have also agreed that we will do a draw each game for ST holders over 16 to have the chance to be ball retrievers and also a draw for a free signed shirt and ball. Obviously iFollow is a key part of this and after some initial issues the quality now seems much better but if you have any issues at all please let us or the club know and we will feedback. A reminder that the clubs receive approx £8 for each match pass purchase and home teams retain all the receipts from their own supporters and the first 500 from the away club who the retain any above this level. For example, for Bolton away we had 978 subscribers and so we retain the revenue for 478 which is worth around £3,824 net. At a time with little other revenue this is vital source of income and so by buying passes it is a great way of supporting the club.

Talking about little revenue this week's news about "Project Big Picture" was concerning to say the least. As well as the content, which we will cover more in the Carlisle programme, the process is really concerning. The whole lack of transparency proves to us that no one at the top of football governance whether it be EFL, FA or Premier League can be trusted and the promised review by the government or an independent body is desperately needed. This article on the FSA website provides a good understanding of the issue.

<https://thefsa.org.uk/news/project-big-picture-a-sugar-coated-cyanide-pill/>

Meanwhile the clock is ticking and the need for a rescue package for League 1 and 2 clubs is getting more urgent by the week.

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