

## Gillingham FC Supporters' Club Meeting



Thursday March 13, 2025

Great Hall at Priestfield Stadium

### Attendees:

Phill Catterick (minutes)

Ben Reeves

Keith Pestell

Linda Ward

David Garth

Kris Delo

Darren Smart

Simon Cordier

a/ **New phone system** – fit for use, self-explanatory and no negativity received so far.

Committee seemed very happy, no need to go public on anything. All is well.

b/ **Medway Stand concourse.** It was suggested that the family area is perhaps a bit dated, needs freshening up.

New TV's (approximately eight) are due to be installed within this particular stand. BR says they should be in place before the start of the 2025/26 regular season.

Bar area not open in the Medway Stand? GFC to look into that.

Heavy traffic across the stand, not much we can do.

Was mentioned that staff not overly engaging and service is a touch slow. Queuing isn't great, people give up. Idea was presented to pre-pour drinks and just have a drinks line? Staff almost shocked people are ordering. Needs looking into.

GS sits in Block E. Quicker service in Medway 2 for sure.

Rainham End is a lot better. However, cashiers have been seen taken cash? Supervisors need to be made aware. GFC to follow up.

c/ **The Stadium** – Pigeon mess is everywhere. The whole front of the building needs a jet wash. General impression is debatably not very good.

Could Facilities please have a look at this?

After games, Gills supporters urinating in the alley ways behind Brian Moore. Can stewards patrol these areas immediately following the full-time whistle?

Smoking and Vaping still happening inside the stadium, in and around Simpsons. Rainham End Block 3 is an example.

Can stewards ask people to stop if they are spotted? Can Doug read out regular PA announcements, piece in programme? One game not normal stewards, for that particular game there was no vaping.

d/ **PA** – Nothing imminent is planned here. Cost of replacing it is very expensive. We know about it, we know it is not a great system at this moment in time and we know supporters get frustrated. At the point of writing, no imminent plans to change it. Certainly in the back of our minds though.

e/ **Car park at Sikh Temple (up to 60 spaces)** – Club may (and only may) explore additional parking in future for representatives, staff etc. If the club paid for a certain amount of spaces then they could be coned off hypothetically.

**f/ POTY Awards** – April 26. Player of the Year and Young Player of the Year presented following warm-up as per 2024. Second and third for each award as players come through players' entrance on the day.

**g/ Robert Flood** – Been recording a video of people's memories from GFC, being put together as we speak. Available to GSC to put on their website.

**h/ Museum** – Old shop space. DG says they would like to do some fundraising to help pay for the space. Can club share a website piece if written by committee? Memorial wall is an idea, which MS came up with, where you have a plaque put up and pay £50 for it was on the table.

Club position is that the project is for GSC to proceed with, club will do its best to support where it is possible.

**AOB** – BR says might be an idea next season to make GSC more aware to the fans who may not have knowledge.

**Julia Skinner** – Significant number of programmes. Museum bound in the future, bringing them in for Walsall game. PC says fine, bring them in for us to store.

**Monthly Quiz** – LW told she needs to speak to HG to get quiz to happen at Priestfield. Only get 30 at the moment and charge £2 for entry. All regulars, been coming for ages. Doesn't want to increase cost dramatically, entrants do drink alcohol on the nights. Availability?

**Penalty Shootout – H/T** – Supporters perhaps not caring who wins week-to-week. Is it getting a bit dull? BR says it will change. Got some ideas, might be something new every week. Perhaps some repetition but one week will be different to the next in 25/26.

**Fan Zone** – Planning permission has been granted for the Fan Zone. Next step is demolition, no set date for this. Plans are out there for people to see.

**Beer** – Spitfire reportedly not nice in plastic cups?