

## Minutes of OUSP Meeting

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2024, 6:30 pm

Court Place Farm



1	<b>Attendees:</b> Paul Scaysbrook (chair) <b>(PS)</b> Janine Bailey (Secretary) <b>(JB)</b> ; Grace Bailey <b>(GB)</b> ; Pete Green <b>(PG)</b> ; Ohad Green <b>(OG)</b> ; Andy Holding <b>(AH)</b> ; Matthew O'Donoghue <b>(MO'D)</b> ; Pete Chilton <b>(PC)</b> .  Invited: Andy Taylor (OUFC) <b>(AT)</b> , Joe Nicholls (Yellow Army) <b>(JN)</b> , Paul Peros (Oxvox) <b>(PP)</b> . Apologies:	<b>Action</b>
2	<b>Election of Officers</b> <b>The following were elected for the season 2024-25</b>  Janine Bailey to be Chair Paul Scaysbrook to Vice-Chair Matthew O'Donoghue to be Secretary  All passed unanimously	
3	<b>OUSP Allocation of Additional Roles</b>  JB reiterated the communication process agreed with the club, that <b>non-urgent</b> items would be collated and sent to the relevant club contact weekly, via the Secretary. This will allow feedback to be discussed in club pre/post operations meetings.  It was noted that the main channel of communications to club remains via the OUSP Secretary email but that panel members would be responsible for taking the lead on areas of interest.  The following panel members agreed to be the main lead(s) in the following areas: <b>Fan Group Liaison</b> – Matthew O'Donoghue <b>Disabled Supporters Group</b> – Grace Bailey and Paul Scaysbrook <b>Supporter transport</b> – Andy Holding <b>Away match info</b> – Janine Bailey <b>Matchday events and activations</b> – Grace Bailey, Pete Green and Ohad Green <b>First time/New fans experience</b> – Grace Bailey, and Ohad Green <b>FSA Liaison</b> – Matthew O'Donoghue and Janine Bailey <b>Social Media</b> – Grace Bailey, Janine Bailey and Matthew O'Donoghue	

4	<p><b>Register of Interests</b></p> <p>PG volunteers as part of the matchday operations team.</p>	
5	<p><b>Approval of Minutes of last meeting 17<sup>th</sup> July</b></p> <p>Approved online</p>	
6	<p><b>Matters Arising From Minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> July</b></p> <p>It was noted that the buying patterns for fans for Home game ticket releases will be monitored as we progress through the season progresses and that there will be some adjustments for fans to get used to in the lead up to home games.</p> <p>Away game ticket information and buying windows are subject to the club receiving the allocation and information from the other club before being put on sale. This makes timings less regulated.</p> <p>Away game preview – number of set questions sent to clubs in advance of away games. These will be published in the programme the game before. JB to take lead on this</p>	JB
7	<p><b>Actions since last meeting</b></p> <p>JB and PS met with AB and AT to reconfirm lines of communication. This was an honest conversation and it was restated that OUSP is there to help the club as well as bringing issues to their attention. OUSP is happy to be a sounding board, especially on items such as communications.</p> <p>JB met with Andrew Colley, editor of the Oxford Mail and Liam Rice (sports reporter), along with Ryan Maher, Greg Box Turnbull and Paul Peros. It was a very constructive discussion, which recognised Liam's excellent contribution in the sports section, and discussed some points that supporters had raised. The discussion covered inclusion of more OUFC-related content in other sections of the paper and contacts for the news reporters to balance out the perspectives quoted in news reports. Andrew confirmed that he welcomes letters from readers with all opinions as long as the content is appropriate for publication. JB felt that overall the meeting was constructive and looks forward to further developing the relationship between United's many supporters and our local newspaper</p>	
8	<p><b>Atmosphere Groups - Yellow Army and Yellow Division (JN)</b></p> <p>JN gave an update on Yellow Army and Yellow Division who have been building on the excellent work of fans at the end of last season to improve atmosphere and create a United Oxford.</p> <p>The Yellow Army are working hard to bring fan groups together and be a positive outlet for fans.</p> <p>The Yellow Division atmosphere group is working to allow fans to be creative in leading the atmosphere at games in a positive way. There 4 or 5 fans helping to keep focus on providing to support to the team but this project is open to all who want to get involved. It</p>	

	<p>was noted that the atmosphere in the final 3 home games is proof that it is possible to make an atmosphere at the stadium.</p> <p>The fundraising by the Yellow division over the summer will help with displays at the start of the season. Going forward, money will be used to purchase more permanent items e.g. flags, banners rather than single-use items e.g. balloons.</p> <p>OUSP and OxVox reiterated their support to volunteering before/after games with practical help. More work will be done throughout the season to remind fans that OUSP and OxVox are there to voice fans concerns directly to the club.</p>	
9	<p><b>Fans Forum (Playing) Plans</b></p> <p>The upcoming fans forum, on a date to be announced, will focus on the playing side of the club.</p> <p>This is a joint venture between OUSP and OxVox.</p> <p>JB to chat with Jerome Sale about potential hosts for the evening.</p> <p>PP to help coordinate AV.</p>	JB
10	<p><b>Meeting Schedule</b></p> <p>The panel agreed to a principal meeting schedule of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, although these are subject to change.</p> <p>The meeting will alternate between just OUSP then OUSP with club.</p>	
11	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Ticketing</p> <p>OG and JB raised a number of issues regarding ticketing in preseason and other issues. These and other issues that fans have reported to OUSP will be addressed in a Ticketing working group with the club.</p> <p>Her Game Too partnership</p> <p>GB proposed that OUSP partner with Her Game Too. PG Seconded and passed. JB to sign the partnership document.</p> <p>OUITC</p> <p>GB is attending girls football camp on 15<sup>th</sup> August</p> <p>AT SLO Update</p> <p>A vast amount of preparation work to get the stadium ready for the start of the season has been taken in the close season. Lots of the work behind the scenes to get the club up to Championship standards. The stadium company have been cleaning the stadium across the summer.</p> <p>The current disabled car parking spaces are to be permanently relocated at later date.</p> <p>The RES gate is to be closed for most games to keep a safe flow of people</p> <p>Supporters are reminded to make use of the 'Report it' phone number or to ask for help from stewards/stand supervisor.</p>	JB

	<p>Transport</p> <p>AH has created a Car-pooling group on Facebook to connect fans looking to share lifts to games. The group already has 130 members.</p> <p>PP to put AH in touch with Trevor at OxVox.</p> <p>There are now 8 football special bus route in operation, including 2 new routes from Bicester.</p>	
12	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024</p>	