

Date of Meeting: 17 November 2023
In Attendance: Chris Waters, Joanne Youngson, John Helens

Introduction

Joanne gave a general update of how the branch has grown since our last meeting in July. The branch has been awarded funding and have three planned events between now and Christmas.

- Memory pebble painting
- Christmas get together.
- Candlelight remembrance.

Memorial Day

After sharing our thoughts in our last meeting, the club confirmed that a dedicated Memorial game will take place January 1 at home to Preston. From now on there will be a memorial game, the first home game of the new year each season.

The day will include a one-minute silence before kick-off, while fans that have passed away names are displayed on the scoreboard. Club also agreed for Heaven Branch logo to be displayed on the scoreboard.

Heaven Branch asked if we could possibly involve the travelling team' fans names, like Millwall did with us last season. Yes.

Heaven Branch also asked if the section of the program can be dedicated to the day and names displayed. Yes, for this to happen it was agreed that names must be submitted to the club by our branch by 19th of December. Club will liaise with the branch over the next few weeks with the finer details and promotion of the Memorial Day.

Candlelight Remembrance.

Heaven branch confirmed all in place for the event. As requested, the club will close the barriers to the red car park, so that people from another event taking place that day won't park there, keeping the area empty for our members. Heaven Branch agreed to email a reminder two days before. Last year there were around 50 people in attendance, and Heaven Branch expects to double this season, the itinerary will run identical as last year.

Extension of Memorial Area.

More and more ashes being spread at the memorial area, we wish to extend it at the back for ashes. Club Confirmed that it will not possible to place ashes inside the stadium for foreseeable future. The Club are happy to look at our proposals and support our idea that area could be improved.

Both parties agreed that as there are already ashes lay at this area this is to be done sensitively, and in consultation with families who have already laid ashes.

Agreement to send in any consultation and proposal via email once we have them.

John shared that a lot of people are asking whether the club still have capacity to write names on bricks. He suggested this could be done in the memorial area. Chris shared that the club are aware that this is something fans want and are keen to find another way of doing this, and will update fans if something is decided.

Chris gave us signed ball and pack of signed photographs of current squad which can be used as prizes at our Christmas evening!

Actions

Heaven Branch to liaise with members to gather names of fans who have died in the last calendar year and wish for loved ones to be added to Memorial Day. Name is no later than the 19th of December.

Heaven Branch to gather information and ideas for improvement of memorial area and send proposal to Chris, so he can forward onto management team.