

First virtual ATT Voices Panel meeting

- ATT Voices Panel meeting in June 2020
- Fans' panel meeting attended by Chief Executive Mark Devlin and Marketing & Communications Director David Threlfall-Sykes

Details from the June 2020 'All Together Town' meeting have today been released.

Due to the current COVID-19 situation, the ATT meeting went virtual for the first time, as supporters, alongside members of Huddersfield Town staff discussed the current Sky Bet Championship season surrounding home matches and the lack of atmosphere, the 2020/21 campaign, Season Cards, the Club's finances, the development at PPG Canalside and, of course, a thank you to former Commercial Director Sean Jarvis.

Fans' panel meeting attended by Chief Executive Mark Devlin and Marketing & Communications Director David Threlfall-Sykes.

Preparations for the 2019/20 restart

Contact training resumed on 1 June. As indoor interaction is severely limited, Huddersfield Town have invested in a marquee for players, analysis, gym work and so on.

iFollow HTAFC

A really positive percentage of supporters took the iFollow HTAFC option instead of a refund or e-credit. Supporters to email ifollow@efl.com if any issues with the service.

2020/21 Season

Huddersfield Town searching for confirmation regarding next season; a start date, number of games and cup competitions. At EFL meetings, Huddersfield Town has probably been the most vocal club in regards to looking for 2020/21 answers. Potential start date for the 2020/21 campaign was discussed.

2019/20 Season

It's cost Huddersfield Town around £1 million to play the last nine games (COVID-19 tests alone have cost 150k). The EFL will take money from the next seasons to central funds to pay for tests and distribution.

There's circa 250-300 people at each game. Some boxes are in use by media teams from both sides. Four camera production on iFollow for each club and 20 people from a production team at each game; that's the biggest group of people from one organisation.

Season Cards 2020/21

Huddersfield Town will tailor their response for fans accordingly, once decisions have been ratified by EFL. If limited number of fans allowed to games, then plan will be challenging.

Huddersfield Town are modelling various financial plans based on 'worst case' zero fans in stadium during the new season. Other budgets have been drawn up for multiple scenarios.

Season Cards remain on sale but are not actively marketed.

Stadium atmosphere with no fans

Huddersfield Town have a 90-minute recording of Cowshed Loyal and other areas. This has been tested, is loud and sounds good. However, broadcasters are likely to want to add their own noise during production. It's to be determined if that relates just to live Sky matches or also iFollow.

Balls into stands

If immediately retrievable then players can get the ball, otherwise they need to be disinfected as per regulations set out. No ball boys.

Canalside Development

Handover from Project Management at Canalside this week regarding the re-development, which is now finished. It's been scaled back from original Premier League plans.

COVID-19 upside

Mark Devlin – Club are looking at their finances rather than just talking about it. Wages will almost certainly need to reduce. Approx 1,400 players will be out of contract on July 1. Of those 800-1100 would normally find new clubs on deals they are happy with. He predicts this number will fall hugely.

For any financial restriction changes the biggest obstacle is transition from FFP to, for example, squad salary/size caps.

The PFA have been challenging during discussions. Damian Collins would like Government intervention for what he terms as community assets rather than just football clubs. Phil Hodgkinson very strongly believes there's enough money at top of pyramid for non-selfish clubs to help the wider game.

One major point - when Phil realised the EFL and others focussed solely on finishing this season and not proactively talking about the wider implications of COVID-19, he decided to speak out after internal comms with Mark and David. Phil is passionate about a robust football pyramid.

EFL have informed Mark Devlin that proposals for salary caps are due to be presented in the next few weeks.

Huddersfield Town has been warned due to broadcaster rebates, parachute payments to club will reduce.

The meeting ended with warm thanks to Sean Jarvis for all his work with ATT in the past and wished him well for the future.