



CPISA AGM

8 MAY 2024 – 8pm

WELCOME

The meeting was held at Speroni's restaurant within Selhurst Park with the support of the club who also provided a buffet on the evening.

People were greeted at the door by the Membership Secretary and given the opportunity to submit their own questions for the VIP guests. Attendees were also given forms and invited to put themselves forward to join the CPISA committee.

The host for the evening was the CPISA Vice Chair who welcomed all to the meeting, including guests Paddy McCarthy and Matt Woosnam (the Athletic's reporter focused on CPFC).

Members of the CPISA Committee were introduced and an explanation given of CPISA's origins. Following the demise of the previous Supporter's Trust a group of fans had come together to start a new independent, fan based organisation entity as the old trust had folded and had become less active for some time.

CPISA is currently made up of willing volunteers with the aim of providing an independent fan voice to feedback to the club and effect change and improvement in fan experience. Founding members and current committee members are Keith Powell (Chair) who was involved with the previous Trust some years earlier Paul Mee and Sue Maisey (Secretary) who were both also part of the old CPST, Ian Weller (Treasurer), Sandy Weller (Membership Secretary), & Peter Saysell (Vice Chair). We are all longstanding Palace season ticket holders & online forum members.

In June 2023 we came together as a group to agree our aims, create our constitution, the roles we would take and how we could fund CPISA. We established our website, began to publicise ourselves. From December 2023 we started to meet regularly with the club to bring up subjects for discussion brought to us directly from Palace fans such as matchday experience, club shop, clothing range, box office, ticketing arrangements, ticket touting, away travel and stewarding etc.

Our 'Modus Operandi' is that we gather feedback from members and fans and send an advance list of questions/issues prior to our meetings to the club, giving them time to be distributed around the relevant departments and enabling them to fully investigate and then report back at our meetings. We also raise other issues at our meetings that may come to light after the

advance questions are submitted. Where resolution is not immediate we use an action list to ensure that issues continue to be raised until resolved.

The club deserve acknowledgement for the time, manpower and resources they put into these meetings and their willingness to improve their systems, matchday experience and what they have to offer.

We then moved on to the VIP guest part of the evening.

VIP GUEST 1 - PADDY McCARTHY

An introduction was given of Paddy's career starting in Dublin before joining Manchester City's youth scheme, and then moving to Leicester, then Charlton, before becoming a Crystal Palace player and after playing, coaching the U/18s, U/21's and more recently the first team and Republic of Ireland side.

Paddy then kindly answered questions put to him.

Who was your Favourite Player when growing up/playing?

I had two really these were Paul McGrath especially when playing against Italy in a 1-0 win and Roy Keane for his personality, trophies and inspiration to Irish people.

What were the biggest sacrifices you had to make in those early years to pursue that career?

This was leaving home at 16 years and life was tough. He gained support from fellow Irish people and had a clear view of what he wished to achieve and worked hard.

Are you good at handling pressure and how do you deal with disappointment?

Disappointments get easier to handle over the years, but I was/am passionate over results both as a player and now as a coach. Pressure come with the level of scrutiny with top class players and as a coach, but also the enjoyment at being in a privileged position.

What is your most memorable match and goal?

The most memorable match as a Palace player was against Sheffield Wednesday - there was a togetherness and belief - a special memory. The best goal for Crystal Palace was against Ipswich away.

Do you think having been a professional player makes you a better manager?

There are many managers that have been successful without having been players. There is now a heavy reliance on player data and stats, but having been a player probably helps - an instinctive nose, providing emotional intelligence, something that data & stats can't. Paddy would like to manage a Premier League club one day.

Being a player or coach which is better?

I enjoyed being a player, but the next best is coaching – I enjoyed being with the U/18s which helped my coaching career. Through my career I have kept in touch with some of my old teammates and regularly see those involved in the game at various roles and levels.

How are CPFC Academy players developed?

There is a clear pathway for each player - all on an individual basis. Sometimes going to a certain club may improve an aspect of the player's game. There are regular meetings of staff

involved in the player's development and if a loan is thought appropriate a suitable loan is sought. Some U/21 remain at the club and others go out on loan if it is thought it will assist in their development.

Is the current U/21s system better than the old Reserves system for the development of young talent that is ready for the first team squad?

Paddy found the reserve system beneficial, playing with seasoned professionals and learning from them professional ways. For U/18s and U/21s the players are with the same players throughout their Academy careers.

When young, Paddy had to clean boots, paint around the ground, help clear up etc. Having to clean a professional's boots created a relationship. None of that is done now, even the Academy set up now have special boot men.

Given that Palace have not scored many set piece goals this season Is it time to Hire a 'Set Piece Specialist'?

The role of set piece coaches is becoming more prevalent. Different members of staff have done set plays of different types. The club has been defensively strong and there was no consideration of a set role at present.

Why were a high-level of team Injuries incurred this season?

The high level of injuries this season is of course noted. This has also been experienced by many other clubs across the league. A whole range of factors were being looked into and analysed including nutrition, training activities, and the pitch to identify possible causes. The risks of head injuries and long-term dementia was also a concern, and, in the Academy, there was now limited heading permitted and there was now a protocol for head injuries.

What does your role as 'Assistant Manager' at Palace entail?

The role is to assist the manager in whatever way is needed. This changes through the weeks and months. There is also a certain role in delivering information to players. The aim was to keep developing the club, to recruit top class players, keep the best players and look to improve individual players.

Do you consider yourself a 'people person'?

The biggest factor with coaching whether at grassroots with children or more senior levels was dealing with people, as human beings and being authentic with yourself. At International level with only 5 days this involved long hours working and preparing.

Paddy was thanked for coming, answering questions, and giving up his evening for us it was much appreciated.

VIP GUEST 2 - MATT WOOSNAM

Matt introduced himself as a reporter with the online subscription journal the Athletic, owned by the New York Times, covering Crystal Palace FC and responsible for producing 2 or 3 articles a week. He attends both home and away matches.

He started covering the Academy, and found that he enjoyed talking Palace, so set up a blog, then progressed to Palace Press Conferences and worked for the South London Press as a

freelancer. In 2019 the Athletic decided to have a reporter for each Premier League club to give broader coverage including the pleasure of interviewing ex-players and travelling abroad to speak to some.

Matt commented on a number of points raised:

The club

It had been a difficult season, but it was starting to head back in the right direction with the new manager. Selhurst Park was an old school ground, but there seemed to be a plan to start development work for the main stand in the summer, so it should be good in the end.

Acceptance by CPFC

The press officer is seen each Friday, and he attends the press conferences. There has to be a reasonably good relationship with the club to be accepted and for the club to be confident in providing information.

Press Conferences

Roy Hodgson often talked about books and his many experiences. His press conferences were sometimes extremely long but Roy was very intelligent, knowledgeable and had respect for the people he worked with.

What was it like during Covid?

During the six months of Covid, Matt was fortunate to watch matches from the stands, but realised like the players how different it was without the fans being present. During this time press conferences were held by zoom. Roy became quite distracted during a particular zoom session held at the training ground by the sound of lawn mower outside his office window.

Patrick Veira was at the Academy launch - press conferences over Zoom were different with him. Although he had an aura having been an invincible, he always said he was Palace's manager. He could be profound, but it was possible to have a laugh with him. Post match if it had not gone well, he could be less forthcoming. Prior to the match against Brighton, he seemed to know that he was about to be sacked and shook hands with all the members of the press.

Oliver Glasner is taking a while to warm up and to understand how press conferences work. In Germany, all club activities are more open in terms of access in both press conferences and training, but he has shaken hands with all the members of the media. Recently he mentioned intense motivation is good for the players themselves - people have to be invested in it - and he wants to see this in every game. His approach is a belief in an overarching philosophy.

Numbers at Press Conferences

At Oxford away there were only two and Sky cameras and only a few at Newcastle for the League Cup. On average there are 6 or 7 reporters present. There are the broadcasters like Sky Sports, Premier League Productions, local radio and then the written press. Broadcasters take a more general approach whereas the written reporters are more focused on Palace. Usually, the press conferences are open to all, then the broadcast cameras are closed, and the focus is on the written press. The press officers at Palace have not ever intervened to say a matter cannot be covered.

Press Sources

These come from many different places. Matt always questions why he is being told something, information is then verified through more than one source. This is achieved by developing many viable relationships and then being authenticated.

Press Rivalry

Although there is rivalry with other reporters to get a story, he gets on fine with other reporters - they all have a healthy competition but an ultimate aim.

Foreign Reporters

When Palace have signed foreign players or managers Matt has spoken to relevant foreign reporters to get information/views from them. He has found them helpful notably for Riedewald and Mateta.

Pre-Season

Likely to write in due course about possible transfers both in and out - release clauses for Eze and Olise - players can possibly benefit financially. In his view possible one of Eze, Olise, Ghehi may go, although there is no massive necessity for any of them to leave. There may be a few players coming in, although PSR and finances may play a part in decisions.

With any transfers Matt will delve into their histories to let people have more information. Dougie Freedman may also be on the move to Newcastle - but he heads up a team. This includes a person with a degree in astrophysics and another covering data analysis and so the team is likely to continue. Matt expects to be looking at Glasner, the direction of the club and reflecting on this last season.

Women

Have been playing at Sutton and have now secured promotion to the WSL which will require a better playing surface. Matt has interviewed Laura Kaminski, who expressed a wish to play more matches at Selhurst Park.

Academy

The pathway for Academy players to come through - there will be a better idea pre-season who with those appearing around the first team.

Player Interviews

Matt interviewed Martin Kelly when he started with the Athletic, but it is difficult to arrange player interviews as the club have contracts with other organisations like Sky and players have so many commitments. Players also can only say so much while playing. Matt had hoped to interview James MacArthur, but he was injured and so interviewed him after he had left. Matt goes through their game and approach.

He interviewed Zaha during Covid and showed him his debut at Cardiff - he said he could not hold back his emotions. Some players are better at speaking and others go into their shell and are more uncomfortable with interviews.

Matt was thanked for his time and sharing his insight and views.

AGM

Chairman's report

This was delivered by the Vice chair as part of the opening introduction and welcome and included an introduction to the current committee and how CPISA came into being.

Treasurer's report

The Treasurer advised CPISA had been set up with a donation from the closing Crystal Palace Supporters' Trust, and there were currently no membership fees.

Costs for the website and stationery amounted to £1200 for the last 7 months.

Limited edition CPISA badges were being procured and would be on sale in the near future.

Constitution

Copies of the constitution were available for view at the meeting and could be accessed on the CPISA website together with other policies.

The meeting ratified the constitution of CPISA.

Committee

The meeting confirmed the re-election of the Committee members.

AOB

There was no other business and the meeting was closed.