

Q&A Highlights

Firstly, from 'The Gaffer' and the club representatives, thank you for taking the time to join us for the Q&A and thank you to those who sent questions in.

Football First

There was good discussion around our squad, squad numbers, our season and cup aspirations and the importance of transparency with our fans.

The desire to be open and honest was top of the agenda in the opening from Ritchie, and the offer to have more frequent Q&A sessions like tonight.

Asked & Answered

- Pre-Season
 - Pre-Season has been strong. There have been many good first halves and the second we've seen some tired legs.
 - Ascot was an exception. The first half was not great! The team know they must do better and pulled it back in the second half with some great performances. Omar was a standout performance.
 - The run rate is being measured for every player, and if they have not hit the target for their position, they will be fined. This will keep them motivated.
- Fans
 - "Nothing worse than supporters not knowing what's going on".
 - We want to give more opportunity to the fans to ask questions and be a part of the team.
 - The team greatly value your support and appreciate those that travel also.
 - Fans are wondering why the players can't warm up on the pitch. New league rules are changing this season and players will be permitted a period on the pitch prior to kick off.
 - We will keep you better informed of player movements going forwards. There are always some that we can't announce straight away.
- Squad Numbers
 - We want the team to be responsible for their own kit.
 - If a player is out injured for a period, the squad number will be reallocated. We do have spare training kit that can be issued, this will only be issued by Kelly.
 - If a player leaves the club, squad number and all kit will be reallocated to the player replacement.
- Injuries
 - We are currently carrying some injuries. We are working with the players to get them fit and match ready as soon as they are able.
- Signings
 - The top scorers from our league last season have all moved up a league.
 - We want to strengthen the team up front. We need to be patient for the next 4,6,8 weeks and players will start to become available.
 - Players want to be in Step 2, so we have met challenges.
- Season Ambitions
 - "You go into every game to win it" Ritchie talked about the team being driven, and the desire to win the league.
 - Sanmi has taken on the role of Captain for the season and will lead the team and make sure the team are ready and prepared for every game.
 - The plan is to defend our cup win. Proud of the team that won it, and we aim to do the same again this season.

- We have some areas that we need to work on in training looking at the way some of the teams in the league play i.e., set pieces, positioning, but the team are working hard and pulling it together.
- Youngsters
 - Some good youngsters signed in the squad, and we are looking forward to seeing them grow as players.
 - The hope is always for our players to come through the youth teams, but this takes time. We have a strong record with our younger players going on to do well too.
- Player of the Match
 - We will look to get this up and running this season. We need to work out who will choose and when will it be presented. Some ideas were given during the session, which was great, thank you.
- After Match Reports/Interviews

Everything Else

Asked & Answered

- Stand
 - There are multiple parties involved with getting the stand open, which is what has caused some of these delays. We are in contact with all parties regularly to endeavour to get the stand open by year end.
 - We know and understand that it is frustrating. We are also frustrated, but we can assure you, we are doing everything that is in our control to get it open.
- Bar
 - Discussions with multiple breweries have begun and we are listening to you about what you would like served.
 - The flooring in the bar is going down. We will then aim to get a temporary bar set up as soon as possible.
 - We know that this has been a bone of contention for the fans, and we aim to have the main bar up and running by 2024.
- Merchandise
 - We have limited merchandise ready for the start of the season, but we are looking at increased offerings, including hoodies which has come up several times.
 - We recognise that there is a need to have merchandise to purchase by game day visitors as well as people that pop by. We are working on this and hope to have news soon.
- Increasing Fan Base & Social Media
 - You have already noticed that our social media presence has increased, Tim and Reggie are working hard to grow those channels.
 - There are several projects going on behind the scenes currently. We are looking at.
 - We are working on relationships with local schools. Our new Welfare Officer will support us in this.
 - Community days – inviting our local communities to join us for a game.
 - Engage more with charities including local charities like Halo. You may have seen Halo join us for a game towards the end of last season.
 - Youth Academy – As you will have seen, we have partnered with Adam Cash and Football Icon to take over the running of our youth teams.

We are working with Adam and his team on ways to encourage the Youth teams and their families through the gates on game days.

- Dugouts
 - We have new dugouts pitch side. Our volunteers have been working hard to get them in place and should be ready in a couple of weeks.
 - The old dugouts will be moved to the 3G pitch.
- Season Ticket Holders
 - Great response this season, thank you! We are moving close to 150.
 - We are working on a partnership with a lifestyle card for our season ticket holders.
 - The aim this season will be to have two turnstiles open. One designated to season ticket holders and the others to paying visitors.
 - We are working on having your cards ready for collection on the first game of the season, but we made need a little more time to have them ready.
- Volunteers
 - It was great to hear both supporters and club officials talk to the value of our volunteers. From our stewards, Wednesday crew and game day host to those helping us to increase our fan base and social media footprint.
- Parking
 - There were questions as to why we do not charge for parking. This is an untapped revenue stream. The club reps will take away and discuss internally.
 - Blue Badge Parking – we will always try to accommodate people with blue badges. We often get calls prior to games asking us to reserve spaces, which we will. We will look to get it on our website and communications to clubs.
- Coaches for Fans
 - This was raised with mixed responses from the audience. An action was taken by the club to go away and consider options and relay back to the supporters.
- Friday Night Games
 - Raised as a potential way to increase gates numbers. There are several clubs that have good numbers on a Friday night.
 - The club will take away and discuss what if any possible options we have.

We thank you again for taking the time to attend and send in your questions. We encourage you to keep talking to us and we will do the same. Please feel free to send any future questions to Kelly.matthews@hyufc.co.uk or speak to one of us on game day.