

Minutes of recent REDaction/AFC meeting

15/11/05

Story by Ben

REDaction had a meeting with the club on 12th October. In attendance were three fans who took up the open invitation of the discussions about atmosphere and various other issues put forward by fans this season.

Below are excerpts from the meeting. A fully comprehensive list will be issued when they're completed:

RA: How do red and silver members apply on match days? Will the system say they're registered and they automatically get the right seats?

AFC: Anything to do with applying for tickets is done by post or personal callers for most games. Application will be similar to an away game and methods will be personal callers or post. We cannot say if REDsection tickets will be available through online booking yet.

RA: Will green level/red/silver members get promoted and keep the same seven digit number?

AFC: Yes. Seven digit numbers don't change when status changes.

RA: When people get promoted to gold, will they be able to choose their seats in the REDsection? What will happen when we outgrow ourselves? Will we be able to accommodate silver and red members?

AFC: Newly-promoted gold members will have to choose a seat at the new stadium somewhere so they can choose it in the REDsection if they wish. This may be at the expense of silver and red seats.

RA: Can we buy more than four tickets at a time?

AFC: Tickets can only be bought in multiples of four per person as it is currently.

RA: Do we have to sell a certain proportion of gold tickets in the REDsection e.g. if Emirates is 60% gold members, do we need 60% gold members in the REDsection?

AFC: Ideally no but the more gold members, the better.

RA: Can the club send something official out confirming we can choose a new seat in the REDsection? Maybe the date we can all choose our seats together?

AFC: This can happen some time after Christmas period.

RA: Can green level (season ticket waiting list) members who have a guaranteed seat still choose a seat with us on REDsection day?

AFC: Yes. Those registered with the REDsection and on the waiting list that are eligible for a seat in time can have a seat in the REDsection. They will need to resend their waiting list numbers to REDaction from now.

RA: Can the club explain why the REDsection wasn't put adjacent to the away fans?

AFC: There were several issues. The lower tier is the first to be allocated to away fans and has to therefore be as flexible as possible. Also, our obligation to offer 9,000 away seats for F.A. Cup ties means we can't have season ticket holders there.

RA: Will the REDsection have an area for Junior Gunners at the usual reduced prices?

AFC: Unfortunately not. We cannot provide scattered concessions in one part of the ground without offering it everywhere else in the ground.

Other fan questions:

RA: Will fans be allowed to have large flags anywhere in the new ground? e.g. hanging them from the lower tier?

AFC: This hasn't been decided yet. (REDaction will follow up on this question in the future).

RA: Will the club be offering cheap tickets for any League Cup home ties like Sunderland have?

AFC: We'll find out if this will be possible but prices are likely to be similar to last season's League Cup. A complication with pricing of these tickets is both clubs have to agree a price.

RA: Are we getting the Metropolitan Police band back for any of the games?

AFC: They have been booked for several fixtures with a Saturday 3p.m. kick off.

RA: Are the club going to look at the music played on match days and possibly asking for suggestions from fans?

AFC: Keith Edelman is seriously looking at the current match music. We've put the music to shortlists and votes but fans will never all be satisfied. Keith Edelman is considering getting an Arsenal fan musician to write an anthem for the club.

RA: As there are only 1,600 local residents have taken up the opportunity to gain season tickets does that suggest that 11,000 season tickets will become available to those on the waiting list ?

AFC: The number will be more like 13,000 but we cannot be sure of the exact figures until the end of the season.

RA: As costs are increasing for our season tickets can the club re-introduce a scheme to pay for the ticket over a year rather than just sending us a leaflet for an arsenal credit card?

AFC: There are developments with the Arsenal credit card and we're yet to see the outcome. Our credit card's an opportunity for fans to have something from the club but people can probably get better rates with High Street credit cards. The interest free season ticket purchase is something that wouldn't be viable and further financial ventures of that nature would only carry a risk of bad publicity.

RA: Is there some sort of facility where kids/young fans can pay for their tickets easier? Maybe pay by cash on the day?

AFC: We can't reserve tickets. There are initiatives with the new stadium to attract younger fans but unfortunately, reserving tickets isn't practical.

Questions previously answered:

Where in the ground will the section be? Equivalent of Block 7 in the west of the north lower stand

How much will the club charge for the seats to Season ticket holders & then Silver / Red Members? Season tickets are priced @ £885.00 Match ticket pricing will be around the £35.00 mark)

How big will the section be? The area will have will consist of 500 seats

What proportion will be for gold and what for silver/red? We believe that a large proportion of these will be taken up by Season Ticket Holders with the remaining Seats will be available on a match by match basis to members of the Arsenal. Silver first then Red members in line with availability elsewhere in the stadium.

Will there be a chance to expand the section over the years? If so, can we ensure that the section is not surrounded by gold members? No, the section will be surrounded by Gold members and the only route of expansion would be into the upper tier which would mean a price increase.

Will REDaction be involved in the initial administrative seating plans so groups of friends can sit together? If not, can we advise the club where our registrars should sit based on groups of friends? This will be sorted out on the REDsection day at the reservations centre.

REDaction would like to strategically sit prominent singers within the section (just like they do at Portsmouth), so we will need the club to give 5 to 10 people "1st choice" within the section if at all possible? Yes, we can put those people in.

How will we ensure that only people registered as "singers" get into the section? They can only come to the REDsection day at the reservations centre if they are on our list.

How will silver members be able to purchase tickets for this section? - Through normal methods? Same as now although online booking is yet to be confirmed.

If the section does not sell out to Gold and Silver, will the red members registered with us get the remaining tickets, or will any silver member be able to purchase them? Tickets will be available in line with availability elsewhere in the stadium.

Will the club be able to arrange a REDsection day for Gold Members so that Gold Members wanting to sit in this group all go into the reservations centre on the same day? Yes. Details to follow.