

RISC have played a major role in fund-raising

Contributed by John Walsh
Sunday, 02 August 2020

Workington's Independent Supporters Club has won high praise for the members' efforts during the coronavirus pandemic.

Reds chairman Les Byers has personally thanked them for the successful fund-raising they have carried-out during the last four months, which has proved invaluable to the parent club.

"They have been tremendous for us and their efforts have contributed over £10,000 to the club's funds which has been a massive help," he said.

The Reds Independent Supporters Club have been organising various weekly pot-boilers, and also ran an excellent auction of sporting memorabilia when there were contributions from a number of ex-Reds old boys including Glenn Murray, Paul Stewart and Scott Carson.

Now the RISC are looking ahead to a resumption of NPL football with the season hopefully getting underway next month.

In the past there have been allegations of throwing flares and inappropriate language from a small minority and the RISC want to lay down strict rules for fans who travel away with the official supporters coach.

They have drawn-up a code of conduct which includes – a ban on alcohol on the coach; no pyrotechnics on the bus or taken into the ground; no comments of a discriminatory nature or foul and abusive language and no entering the field of play.

The rules will be presented to the board for discussion but chairman Byers admits to being impressed with how the RISC officials have used their initiative on fund-raising and the new code of conduct.

At the moment, unless Government and FA guidelines change – and the two are constantly in discussions – friendly matches can go ahead involving no more than 30 people and behind closed doors.

The NPL's test programme starts on September 1 when paying fans will be allowed into grounds for friendly games when clubs are expected to carry out their own full and rigorous risk assessment.

Reds' first game when fans will be admitted is the September 5 friendly at Borough Park against Lancaster City.

Before then Danny Grainger's men have confirmed friendly work-outs at Carlisle City (Tuesday) and Penrith (Saturday, August 8); a home game with Carlisle United on Saturday, August 15 and a trip to Whitehaven on Tuesday, August 18.

It's possible that the NPL North West Division fixtures will be released this coming week, and unless Government guidelines change, the first matches will be on September 19.

Reds could be involved in an FA Cup preliminary round tie on September 12 and once again there is a suggestion that the early rounds could be drawn this week. An extra-preliminary round is due to take place on September 5.

If all goes to plan the season will last for 34 weeks which is about a month short of normal, which does mean there will be extra mid-week games. However, there will be no Integro League Cup this season and both FA Cup and FA Trophy ties

will be settled on penalties after 90 minutes if the sides are level. Extra time will only start at the first round proper.