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**Research Report**

**Introduction**

The topic being discussed at hand is about COVID-19 and more specifically the impact that it has had on the widely known Arsenal Football Club. This report dives distinctively into the Financial impact that the fatal COVID-19 virus has had on the Football organization. It’s first financial loss since 2002 according to McMahon (2020). The main topic is, how much damage has the pandemic had on Arsenal FC (Football Club) and its Finances? The emphasis is on “how much”; the aim is to dive into the extent to which each of the effects affected Arsenal FC. The sub-topics that will be used to get an answer to the main topic are firstly, What problems have Arsenal FC faced as a result of the COVID Pandemic?, How have these difficulties affected the different stakeholder groups of Arsenal FC? (Specifically the supporters of Arsenal FC as this is who most identify as the main stakeholder group as they are the main customers for the club. Collings (2021) talks about one of Arsenal FC’s award nominated, COVID proof community service schemes that they used to keep their supporters connected during the pandemic.) and How will Arsenal respond to the effects of the COVID pandemic? This is a very interesting topic to take a look at because, it involves one of the biggest and most profitable organizations worldwide which makes it very fascinating to assess how far the COVID pandemic has sent them back in terms of their financial power and profitability. In addition to this, it is also important to get a grasp of how critical this pandemic is for a very large service based firm that is heavily reliant on the money it collects from fans to come into its stadium on a weekly basis It is relevant to know this information because it gives an insight into how rigid and merciless the COVID pandemic is regardless of how big or small a corporation is. Deloittle Sports Business Group (2021) compares how COVID has affected Arsenal and other organizations of different sizes within the same sector and industry. It is a good idea to discuss this topic at this current point in time as the COVID pandemic era is slowly becoming a thing of the past therefore it is relatively modest to place the impacts and it’s bearings on a timeline; it also makes separating and differentiating between primary and secondary unproblematic.

**Methodology**

The information and data that was taken during the course of this report was taken from many different sources that had a few similarities but also had some contrast in some respects. Most of the information was retrieved using Google as the search Engine whereas some were from Bing. A chunk of the data in this report was taken from credible sports websites, people and organizations as they have the best and most reliable information when it comes to reporting about the sport of football and more specifically information regarding Arsenal Football Club. Olley (2021), McMahon (2020) and McNicolas (2021) are very reliable and trustworthy journalists that have been writing about sports organizations for over a decade therefore they have a large amount lot of experience in this space and profession. Furthermore, Olley (2021), McNicolas (2021), Watts (2020) and Arsenal Supporters Trust (2020) are people and administrations that are senior Arsenal FC correspondents for their organizations therefore they specialize in reporting all information regarding all the decisions and actions that Arsenal FC specifically take in detail. The quality and reliability of the sources was checked using the CARS framework. The CARS framework assess the **C**redibility of the authors by looking at the organizations they work for and if they are experts, the **A**ccuracy by looking at the date in which it was written and what comparable sources say. It also checks the **R**easonableness by assessing if the author has a bias and if the information they report is balanced or not. The S in CARS is **S**upport and it assesses whether the writer mentions the source of their information and the quality of their source.

**Analysis and Results**

What problems have Arsenal FC faced as a result of the COVID Pandemic?

Arsenal Supporters Trust (2020), Olley (2021), McMahon (2020) Watts (2020) and McNicolas (2021) all talk about the effects that COVID-19 has had and will continue to have on Arsenal FC’s costs and revenue streams. Lerner (2021), Olley (2021), McMahon (2020), McNicolas (2021) and Arsenal Supporters Trust (2020) provided specific numerical details on the financial tussle that Arsenal FC has faced as a result of COVID-19. Watts (2020) however didn’t offer any specific numbers on the matter. The most common figure that was touted around in the sources Lerner (2021), Olley (2021) and McNicolas (2021) was that Arsenal FC did in fact face a financial loss of £47.8 million as a result of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for the year end 2020. The other 3 sources though, Watts (2020), McMahon (2020) and Arsenal Supporters Trust (2020) did not mention anything about this figure. Something that is interesting to consider though is that Lerner (2021) says that this reported £47.8 million figure is after tax which the other sources don’t say. This brings about the question, has tax payments been included to slightly inflate the figure in order to make it seem a little more extravagant? This could be portrayal of a bit of bias and propaganda. Or is this just a bit of information that Lerner (2021) has received and used to make his piece that little bit more specific. It also makes questioning the dependability of Lerner (2021)’s source legitimate because he is the only outlet that reports this information. That could be an indication of inaccuracy. On the other hand though, it could be argued that Olley (2021) and McNicolas (2021) left this information out because they didn’t have the intel. Either way, the specific amount of money Arsenal FC lost at face value is the same in Olley (2021), McNicolas (2021) and Lerner (2021) however when looked into with more detail, Olley (2021) and McNicolas (2021) may be suggesting that after tax, this amount is higher than the £47.8 million that was reported.