



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING JULY 23rd 2003

1 Present

Geoffrey King (GK), Derek Wilshire (DW), Paul FitzGerald (PF), Dave Scriven (DS) and Terry Jeffreys (TJ) were present.

2 Apologies

None

3 Matters arising

It was noted that GK would chair the meeting and TJ would take the minutes.

Season Ticket Holders Lists

GK said that the new CRM database would be live from the first week in August. Seven databases had been merged.

FLPTV

GK said that FLPTV was probably the source of the spam but wouldn't admit it.

Exeter

GK said that Exeter City had not responded to the club's letter regarding the last match of the season and it was best to draw a line under the matter.

Fossets Farm

GK said that the public enquiry would now begin in January 2004. He said that Lansbury Estates had requested the postponement.

Steve Wignall and the Trust

GK said that the Trust should give Steve some dates to consider. He suggested that it would be a good idea to have a full blown Q&A with the manager and Ron Martin/Geoffrey King.

Blues Lottery

GK said that the club had changed agents and were now using a proper company to run the lottery and the club were sure to get their money this time.

Steve Smeaton

GK confirmed that Steve Smeaton had received a 3 year banning order from all football grounds.

Sponsorship

DS said that it was a good idea to be able to purchase the new shirts beforehand and collect on the day. PF asked if there had been any problem with discounts although the season ticket books had not yet been issued. GK said that there hadn't.

4 Players Sponsors Evening

PF said that it was very disappointing that he as a sponsor as well as the Shrimpers Trust and Shrimperzone had not received invitations for the Sponsors evening. GK said that the club were very disappointed with this themselves. He said that he was sure that the letters had been sent but acknowledged that there was a problem with the post in the Southend area. He now took the club post home with him to post in the Chelmsford area. He felt that the new CRM system would ensure that each sponsor would definitely be sent invitations next year.

5 Shrimpers Bar

PF said he was disappointed to find that none of the changes that were promised by the Club for the Shrimpers Bar had materialised. GK said it was found not to be possible to provide some of the changes that had been thought possible. It was raised that simple things had not been carried out i.e. soap in the Men's toilet, positioning of the hand dryer, cleaning the ladies toilet had not been carried out.

GK said that it was early in the season and these things would be put right for the start of the season. GK said that Brian Dear had been approached by many people claiming to represent the Trust on the matter of the Shrimpers Bar and other catering complaints such as lack of pies for the Ipswich game. It was agreed that Terry Jeffreys would be the contact point representing the Trust for the Shrimpers Bar.

6 Quid A Goal Scheme

PF said that Frank Van Wezel and Michael Markscheffel had yet to pay their contribution towards the scheme. GK said that these gentlemen were on holiday. TJ said that he had been informed that Carl Emberson, the keeper of the players pool, had offered £1 for each goal conceded by the team for the scheme. He felt that between a first team squad of say 20 players, the effective offer of 5p per player per goal was hardly showing confidence and also in danger of weakening the impetus of the scheme if the team's offer was publicised. He added that at the end of the day, the purchase of much needed physiotherapy equipment by the Shrimpers Trust for the Physiotherapy Department was for the sole benefit of the players. GK said he would look into the matter.

7 Shrimpers Trust AGM

TJ said that the Shrimpers Trust AGM would be held on October 22nd 2003, 1930 for 2000. He asked if GK or Ron Martin could attend a Question and Answer session along with Steve Wignall and John Stannard.

8 Any Other Business

PF said that a supporter called Kevin Lloyd had sought the assistance of the Trust in resolving a problem that he had. Kevin, who was certainly eccentric but may also have a mental disability, had received a letter from the club warning him as to his behaviour as he was allegedly upsetting supporters around him. Kevin, in his defence, felt that he was being picked on by those around him and was only defending himself. In order to remove himself from the situation, he had requested to move his season ticket away from East Reds to the South Stand.. However he had

been told that this was not possible. PF asked if the club would re-consider this stance for the mutual benefit of all? GK said that he would look into it.

GK said that the Family Stand now had barriers to prevent the transit from that area to the other end of the West Stand. It had a dedicated turnstile entrance which must be used. He added that the old Wine Bar had now been opened up for the families could drink in there before the match and at half time.

GK said that the club had a good reputation with the Football Licensing Authority regarding standing by home fans which they were keen to keep so would be continuing their policy.

TJ asked if the club had a Safety Committee. GK said that it had and was chaired by Southend Borough Council. TJ asked that the Trust be represented on this Committee but GK declined this request. DS said that he had heard that there was going to be a fire drill during a match soon. GK said that this had been suggested but it was thought not to be a good idea. TJ asked whether Assembly Points were prominently displayed within the ground to assistance a ground evacuation? GK said that they were.

GK said he had heard that a Trust had sent a letter to shareholders and was disappointed that he had not received one as a shareholder. PF said that he had intended to give him a copy of the letter as a courtesy at the meeting on the 11th June which had unfortunately been postponed at a late hour. GK said that as a result of our letter, many shareholders were donating their shares back to the club. PF said that hundreds of shares had been also donated to the Trust.

9 Date of next Meeting

This was confirmed as 20th August 2003 at 1600