



# SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LIMITED LIAISON MEETING



Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017

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## 1. Present and Apologies:

Those in attendance were Geoffrey King (GK); Danny Macklin (DM); Patrick Van der Waag (PvW); Paul FitzGerald (PF); Paul Yeomanson (PY) and Kay Fogg (KF). Apologies were received from Shane Chapman (SC).

## 2. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Follow up on actions not otherwise covered in Agenda items:

- **Local Promotions** – the action remains with the Trust as there has not been a Meeting since the last Liaison.

**ACTION – Trust to raise at their Board Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> June**

## 3. Club Finances

PvW reported that the finances are as would be expected at the end of a season with a “tightness” in cash flow. Nothing unduly of concern however.

## 4. New Stadium

GK reported that plans “proceed”.

PY asked how the plans announced in the Echo for the development at Seaway would affect our plans for Fossetts? GK said that it wouldn't affect it and that there was an enormous amount of work going on in the background to ensure this.

PF referenced discussion at the recent Biennial General Meeting, particularly with regards to “apportioning costs” and discussion ensued about the reasoning behind this. It was noted that these meetings would revert to being held annually again.

## 5. Junior Blues

KF outlined plans discussed at the recent meeting for renewals, gifts and events. Thanks were noted to April Smith of SUCET who would be entertaining tours of Roots Hall for groups of Junior Blues on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June during half term holidays.

## 6. Stadium Facilities & Planned Summer Improvements

Discussions are still in progress with the Stadium Manager for next season, however, the new cleaners are working out well. PvW reported that the toilet areas around the ground are having a deep cleanse and that repairs and painting was currently in progress to “spruce up” walls and woodwork where possible to improve appearances for next season. GK advised that the Local Authority inspection had taken place the previous day and a report on their findings would follow. The Stadium Management are to be charged to carry out the work scheduled by the Local Authority following which they would inspect to ensure that matters had been dealt with in accordance with their requirements. This does not include decorating or “sprucing up”.

KF asked about a report of Boots & Laces having failed a recent “health and hygiene” inspection receiving a zero star rating. PvW replied that this relates to the fact that burgers are produced there for youth team matches on a Sunday and, as a result, some refurbishment had been put in place to bring facilities up to the required level.

KF also asked specifically about the concourse at the back of the West stand and the changes discussed, amongst others, for accommodating wheelchairs more safely. DM said plans are still in place to do this but some season card holders would be affected by the proposed changes and they still need to be contacted first. The Stadium Manager will also be asked to ensure this area is not so congested.

**ACTION – Club to report back**

## **7. Meet the Blues Day**

DM advised that he had been able to obtain 5 extra tables, as he'd been requested to for the Trust tent. He also said that it may be necessary to move some things about this year. Plans are in progress and there will again be a "Legends" match. It may be that there is a need to find an alternative to our regular supplier of inflatables for this event, options are being explored. Further discussion took place on the practicalities of organising the signing of autographs, specifically that the current culture of "selfies" causes this to be quite difficult. The Trust will discuss this at the next Board Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> June.

**ACTION – Trust to discuss at Board Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> June**

## **8. Shrewsbury Coach Travel**

The Trust had been approached just prior to the Meeting regarding payment of the coaches for the Shrewsbury away game at the end of the season. The suggestion had been made to "offset" this payment against our regular sponsorship of the Youth Team.

After some discussion, the Trust agreed to take this to their Board Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> June, however it was noted that it was unlikely to be well received. KF asked if the coaches run by Travel Zone had been paid for, and it seems that a cheque has been issued to Cooks Coaches for their coaches.

**ACTION – Trust to discuss at Board Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> June**

## **9. Car Park updates**

Nothing further to report.

## **10. Blues Lottery**

It was reported that an email had gone around to committee members which had included Rob regarding requests from Ricky Duncan. Trust members were asked to make sure that Mick Maddox is aware of the personnel changes.

DM reported that there would be a re-launch of the Blues Lottery, with a need to see the benefits to keep interest. PY asked if draws take place during the Summer months and pointed out that names had still not been showing on the website. DM replied that draws do still take place and that they would try to make it more visible for participants.

## **11. Any Other Business:**

- **Alan Moody** – PF reported that he and DM had met with Trust member, Andrew Leeder recently to discuss our legendary former player and the situation he finds himself in. Following DVT, Alan has had both legs amputated and was finding things difficult. Supporters had been keen to try and do something to help. RM was reported to be keen to help and Andrew would be taking the lead to try and find out what can be done. It is thought that an adapted car is a priority. GK advised that SUCET have already donated some items for auction. KF suggested that it might be possible to seek advice from Lions Clubs locally, through her father, long time supporter and local Lions Club member.

**ACTION – PF to discuss with Trust Board**

- **Jacob Jones Appeal** – KF highlighted this cause, Jacob has the same condition as Bradley Lowery, who has had high profile involvement with Sunderland AFC this season. The pre-season friendly against Brighton has been designated as a fund raiser for Jacob, with him making an appearance as mascot for the game. A bucket collection will also be held, and DM advised that we are doing everything we can to help.
- **Ticket Office** – PY asked if the Trust could have a banner in the Ticket Office promoting membership of the Trust. There was no objection to this, however, DM said it must be secured so it cannot be inadvertently let down by a child.
- **Anton Ferdinand shirts** – some extra shirts had been promised by Anton at the Sponsors' Evening, and again at the Gala Dinner. The Trust made it clear that we do not want these if they were going to cost the Club money.

**ACTION – DM to investigate**

- **Cricket Match SUFC v SOSEMCC** – DM advised that this will now be taking place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July at Southchurch Park.
- **Gala Dinner** – KF congratulated DM on a very successful and enjoyable evening.

**12. Date of next meeting – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July – This will be with a specific eye on Meet the Blues Day and, as such, will not be a regular Liaison Meeting. The next Liaison Meeting will be scheduled once SC is available and able to liaise with Amanda.**