



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LIMITED LIAISON MEETING



Thursday, 12th April 2018
Roots Hall Stadium 16:00

1. Present and Apologies:

Those in attendance were Geoffrey King (GK); Rhys Ellingham (RE); Paul FitzGerald (PF); Shane Chapman (SC) and Kay Fogg (KF). Apologies received from Paul Yeomanson (PY).

Meeting chaired by GK.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th February 2018

Follow up on actions not otherwise covered in Agenda items:

- **Local Promotions** – This has now been discussed at Trust committee meetings, and the Trust Secretary, Lesley Hicks, has agreed to try to follow this up with Supporters Direct and/or the Football Supporters' Federation pending their merge.
ACTION – Trust to feed back to GK
- **Frankie Banks scrapbooks** – still outstanding due to issues as previously outlined
ACTION – GK to speak to April as Frankie is now back in the country
- **Reciprocal Parking** – DJ had advised that two lots of £35 and one of £20 had been collected from visiting supporter coaches in line with what had been agreed. This has not, as yet, been received by the Trust. The Walsall coach had recently refused to pay and parked elsewhere. With the designated coach parking in the town being Seaway car park, the police do not want supporter coaches parking on the road near the ground. Following RE's work in communication with clubs towards the end of the season this year, GK would like Club secretary, Amanda Balcomb, to write to all clubs in the division next season to discuss the futility in these charges, and, potentially to raise at conferences, when appropriate, during next season.
ACTION – GK/RE to liaise with Club Secretary and DJ
- **Wheelchair supporters using toilets in the Shrimpers Bar** – It was noted that the issue previously highlighted had re-occurred at a recent game.
ACTION – GK to discuss with DJ
- **Player attendance at Trust events** – After some discussion, this matter is to be taken back to the Trust to discuss realistic expectations.
ACTION – Trust to respond when next year's calendar is available
- **Liam Callaghan** – Fund raising has been well supported. Additional support will be sought at the Sponsors' Evening from amongst the players to, hopefully, secure the target. GK suggested consideration be given to what further use excess funds might be put to.
ACTION – PF to liaise with DS
- **Cost of drinks** – Prior to the meeting, GK had circulated a comparison of drinks prices at the club, the Railway, the Blue Boar and the Spread Eagle. It was noted that, prices compare quite favourably on the whole, particularly with the special offers run by the Club, however, the Club is unable to compete with the prices charged by the Blue Boar and the Spread, which, it was noted, are run by the same company. In any case, SC and PY both confirmed that they thought, in the circumstances, that the matter was not worth pursuing further.
- **West Stand issues surrounding supporters standing** – this continues to be a problem although things had improved a little. Wheelchair supporters are still encountering obstructions when trying to use the facilities.
ACTION – GK to discuss with DJ

- **Supporters' Loyalty Scheme** – RE reported that he had recently discussed aspects of upgrading the ticket office system with the Ticket Office Manager, Candice, and that they are due to meet with the providers, Talent, next week. The system is overdue an upgrade and there is a possibility that we may be able to introduce a scheme such as this as part of the upgrade.

ACTION – RE to report back

3. Club Finances

GK advised, via PvW, that salaries and HMRC payments are up to date.

4. New Stadium

GK advised that, with the Council currently being in purdah, there is no change. The Club has produced the requested reports and GK has been visiting local schools to engage with them about the possibility of allowing matchday parking for the new stadium. Over 500 spaces have been promised in this manner.

5. Junior Blues

KF and RE confirmed that the recent “Meet the Players Day” had been a huge success, with some very positive feedback from parents. Consideration is currently being given to plans for next season, both regarding planning events and gift packages.

6. SUEPA

PF advised that the ex-players association is proving to be successful, with 119 former players currently signed up. The 2nd newsletter is due to be circulated imminently. There has been a huge amount of social media interest, and Andy Leeder has been working extremely hard on making it a success.

A planned “surprise” for Chris Powell at the MK Dons game on 21st April is gaining momentum, with many of his ex-playing colleagues already committed or hoping to be able to attend.

ACTION – PF to liaise with Steve Waggott at Blackburn, to share good practice and ideas

PF advised of the concern amongst those sharing in the organisation of SUEPA, regarding the event at the Arlington Rooms promoting the 2006 squad and Chris Phillips’ fundraising. It was felt that this should have been incorporated under the SUEPA umbrella and that it sent out “wrong” signals. RE advised that this event had been in progress for many months but announcement had had to be delayed because of commitments of one key member of those attending. He agreed to speak directly with Andy, as the main SUEPA organiser.

ACTION – RE to speak with Andy Leeder.

7. Any Other Business:

- **Shrimpers Trust Question & Answer Session with Chris Powell** – PF advised that he and PY had met recently with Chris and that he was happy to continue the tradition of carrying out one of these events in the new season.
- **Meet the Blues Day** – RE confirmed that the date had been set as 29th July this year, and that, contrary to previous years, there would not be a Legends’ match. Instead there will be an U18s pre-season match, hopefully against Brighton.
- **SUCET Trustees** – GK advised that SUCET are keen to attract a female trustee to the Board and sought the help of the Trust in finding a suitable candidate. PF agreed that the Trust would be happy to do so

8. Date of next meeting – To be confirmed as 21st June