



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LIMITED LIAISON MEETING



Thursday, 16th August 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 9th April 2018:

Follow up on actions not otherwise covered in Agenda items:

- **Local Promotions** – It was agreed that this would continue to be monitored by the Trust as a low key matter.
ACTION – Trust to monitor and report back as and when
- **Frankie Banks scrapbooks** – GK had managed to secure the scrapbooks, which were handed over to PF. The Trust will now use these to further the original aims.
ACTION – PF to take control of. No further action for Liaison Committee.
- **Player attendance at Trust events** – The Trust calendar of events has been passed over to the Club. It was noted that Chris Powell has agreed to attend a Question and Answer session facilitated by the Trust but open to all supporters on 24th September. It was also noted that it would be good if some player attendance could be arranged at the Race Night which is scheduled for 16th March, as this is being run jointly to fund raise for CRY – Cardiac Risk in the Young, a cause which a number of players have already indicated they would be willing to support. RE agreed that he would endeavour to secure some player attendance at this event.
ACTION – Trust and RE to continue to liaise
- **Liam Callaghan** – Liam’s new wheelchair has been handed over to him, and his mum, in particular, is delighted with it. A formal presentation will be held on the pitch on 1st September.
- **West Stand issues surrounding supporters standing** – the stadium manager has said that he is not aware of this continuing to be a problem, however, it was agreed by those present that at times it can be. Stewards will be rotated to ensure that supporters do not become too complacent about being “allowed” to stand. KF advised that there are still quite major issues surrounding wheelchairs in close proximity to queuing areas for the snack bar.
ACTION – GK to discuss further with DJ
- **Supporters’ Loyalty Scheme** – RE reported he is still hopeful that the recent upgrade will enable us to explore the possibility of this. Training is imminent for relevant staff and it is anticipated that supporters will be able to choose a seat on a mobile app and book hospitality.
ACTION – RE to report back
- **SUEPA** – PF advised that he has not yet spoken with Steve Waggott.
ACTION – PF to liaise with Steve to share good practice and ideas for SUEPA
- **SUCET Trustees** – GK reported that Dale Spiby is to provide the Trust with information to help find a female Trustee.
ACTION – Trust to liaise with DS

3. Club Finances

PvW advised by email, that VAT and HMRC payments are up to date.

4. New Stadium

GK advised that he had met with the Chairman very recently and that progress towards the new stadium had "been maintained". Southend Council still keep requesting more reports from the Club, which the Club continues to deal with as they come up. The latest request is regarding pedestrian transport.

There is no time frame as yet, the retail outlets are being marketed and going well, with the majority of things tied up pending approval by the Council.

5. Junior Blues

A number of Junior Blues had taken up the opportunity of a stadium tour during the Summer holidays and grateful thanks were noted to April Smith from SUCET for conducting these tours. There had been favourable reaction from parents on social media.

The free gifts for new members, the lunch box and wall chart, had been received well, with the wall chart also being produced for adults to purchase following reaction at "Meet the Blues Day".

With the Coventry match on 20th October being the designated "Junior Blues Day", the Club were trialling an activity area at the top of the car park for the forthcoming match, which was also "Kids for a Quid" day to gauge how it works. A number of plans are already in place for the match against Coventry.

KF pointed out that the usual date on which the October half term "Meet the Players Day" is held is actually a match day this year, and that we need to find an alternative. The suggestion is Thursday 25th October.

The Trust feels that sometimes, the Junior Blues are not given the high profile that they feel they should, which comment was noted by the Club.

ACTION – RE and KF to continue to liaise. RE to seek permission for 25th October

6. Away Travel Reciprocal Coach Parking Charges

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 been received by the Trust, however, it transpires that this money had inadvertently been handed over to PvW by DJ. RE provided an up-to-date list of clubs who have agreed they will not charge and those who couldn't/wouldn't agree.

Clubs that have agreed there will be no charge for supporters coach parking:

Accrington Stanley
Barnsley
Bradford City
Bristol Rovers
Fleetwood Town
Luton Town
Oxford United
Plymouth Argyle
Portsmouth (can drop off & collect)
Rochdale
Scunthorpe United
Shrewsbury Town
Wycombe Wanderers

Clubs who have stated there **will** be a charge for supporters coach parking:

Coventry City - £20
Gillingham – cost not yet known
Peterborough United – cost not yet known

Walsall - £12
Not yet known:
AFC Wimbledon
Blackpool
Burton Albion
Charlton Athletic
Doncaster Rovers
Sunderland

ACTION – GK/RE to liaise with DJ to ensure monies collected at Roots Hall are passed to the Shrimpers Trust

7. Police Request:

PF reported that Andrew Leeder, who is the Trust's main organiser for SUEPA, had been contacted by the Police who had been given Andrew's contact details by a member of SUEPA. The police had requested assistance with contacting youth team and any academy players from 1975 – 1978, in connection with historic child sexual offences.

PF advised that he intends to write personally to the members of SUEPA that this time frame relates to forwarding the contact details provided by Jackie Flynn, Essex Police Sexual Offences Investigations Team (South) & Child Abuse Investigation Team and had requested this item on the Agenda to inform the Club of his actions.

8. Youth Team Shirt Sponsorship

PF reported that the Trust's contract to continue this sponsorship for another season has been signed but has yet to be handed over. A formal presentation will be arranged.

GK advised that the £3,000 provided by the Trust to allow youngsters from the Academy to go and spend five days at Five Lakes on a residential training camp had been extremely well received with the young people all deriving a huge amount from their time there. The Club had paid the remainder of the funds required for this.

The Trust asked that they be given first refusal on player sponsorship for Academy players breaking into the first team. It was felt that with the Trust having supported them through their Academy years that this ought to automatically happen. GK agreed and suggested that this be put in place for the future with the Trust having missed out in recent years on Dru Yearwood, Ted Smith, Dan Bentley and others.

ACTION – RE to ensure this is conveyed to Commercial Department

9. Season Cards not working

It was noted that fewer cards than usual had been reported as not working, however, SC raised concerns about the quality of the "receipt" given to supporters when their cards have been retained. It was agreed that this would be improved in the future.

ACTION – Club to ensure a better quality receipt is issued when season cards are retained

10. Any Other Business:

- 1. Trust Fund Raiser** – PF advised that no major fund raiser has been arranged by the Trust for the year ahead so far. The Club's feelings were sought on an appropriate area to focus on. GK advised on a couple of areas which are currently topical, mental health, which SUCET are currently focussing on, and the Senior Shrimpers, which GK enlarged on for those present. PF agreed to take these suggestions back to the Trust to discuss. It was also pointed out that the Trust could approach the AVIVA fund again and that, with the Club's support, we may receive a bigger bursary this year.

ACTION – Trust to discuss and report back

2. **Mascot Changing** – As the previous meeting had been postponed, KF realised that this was a little out of date but felt it worth reiterating that all staff looking after mascots know that they are not to be directed to the toilets in the Shrimpers Bar to change. This had happened at a match towards the end of last season, when the regular team had not been present and those in charge had been heard directing the children to the toilets to change. Trust representatives also reinforced the concerns with children generally in the Bar.
ACTION – Club to ensure that all involved with mascots are properly instructed as to these matters
3. **Heaters in the Shrimpers Bar** – The ancient heaters in the Bar had recently been removed on Health and Safety instructions. SC pointed out that these will need to be replaced and that it shouldn't be left until it actually gets cold to do so.

Next Meeting TBA