



# SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LIMITED LIAISON MEETING



Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018  
Roots Hall Stadium 16:00

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## 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 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Follow up on actions not otherwise covered in Agenda items:

- **Liam Callaghan** – The formal presentation planned for 1<sup>st</sup> September did not take place, however, his mum has expressed her thanks privately.  
**ACTION – No further action**
- **West Stand issues surrounding supporters standing** – Stadium Manager, Dave Jobson reports that there are no issues and that the area is closely monitored. GK advised that he can still see areas with congestion due to people standing and that this will continue to be monitored.  
**ACTION – GK/KF to monitor**
- **SUEPA** – PF still to discuss good practice with Steve Waggott.  
**ACTION – PF to liaise with SW and report back**
- **SUCET Trustees** – GK advised that no volunteers had been notified and that this item is still open. KF said she would follow up the contact she had.  
**ACTION – KF to follow up on her contact. Shrimpers Trust members to re-consider any suitable candidates.**
- **Away Travel Reciprocal Coach Parking Charges** – it was noted that some funds had been received and that Coventry had refused to pay on their recent visit. PF is trying to contact all clubs' supporters' groups ahead of visits where they currently impose charges on us.  
**ACTION – Continue to monitor.**
- **Season cards not working** – GK advised that the majority of cards which were reported as not working were either old cards or being used at the wrong gate. The Club is continuing to monitor this, and it was also confirmed that no changes would be made to the receipts being issued when cards are retained.
- **Heaters in the Shrimpers Bar** – these have now been replaced.

## 3. Club Finances

PvW had advised that payments are up to date. PF questioned why the Trust had recently been asked for contribution towards the Junior Blues day, and whether that was a symptom of financial problems. RE replied that this had been a one off and no such symptom.

## 4. New Stadium

All documentation has now been filed with the Council and it is hoped that this will now be considered at the Council Meeting in December. GK advised that the Chairman is pleased with the way things are going and especially with the retail take up, and re-iterated that there is too much invested for this not to happen.

## **5. Junior Blues**

KF and RE confirmed that the recent "Meet the Players Day" had again been a huge success, with some very positive feedback from parents, including for the lunch boxes rather than pizzas.

The Christmas party is scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> December at Play Football, and RE confirmed that the Club would be handling bookings for this for the first time. KF asked for clarity as to how this would work going forward as she and PY had handled all aspects of this for the last 5 years.

### **ACTION – RE to liaise with KF regarding the Christmas Party.**

A complaint had been received and investigated arising from the recent Junior Blues Day but was unfounded.

## **6. Wimbledon Away Seating**

SC raised concern about the allocation of seating for this forthcoming game, emphasising the number of elderly supporters who are denied seated tickets. In some cases, it was felt that player complimentary tickets were preventing seated tickets being issued. According to away fans' guides, Wimbledon offer 94 seated tickets, but only 56 were made available to supporters.

RE replied that the players have been notified that they have a "cut off" point and that seated tickets will be available for issue. The ticket office has a list of people who had requested seated tickets who would be contacted as and when further seats become available.

KF questioned the ballot system in the ticket office, where she had been offered one ticket, but her husband hadn't.

The Club is currently looking into a system to handle away ticket allocation, but it is proving to be costly.

Director Gary Lockett has also recently been discussing with supporters about away ticket allocations.

## **7. Foodbank – nominated games**

Following the recent trip to Sunderland, the Trust had been approached with the idea of a similar scheme operating at Roots Hall. It was noted that there are a number of implications with this though, notably the potential for bringing tins and cans into the ground with the potential for these to be used to assault. The only way that this would be accepted by the Club would be if searching supporters was adopted with the consequent result of slower admission to the stadium and grumpy supporters.

PY had suggested we try and link up with Southend Street Spirit in trying to promote something in this line and it was agreed that there were a number of options to look into going forward:

- The possibility of having a cash collection at a nominated match
- The possibility of having a physical collection of goods tied in with a signing session in the Club shop.

GK suggested that whatever decision was made David Jobson should be involved as he is the Stadium Manager having responsibility for health and safety matters.

## **8. Shrimpers Bar Ladies' Toilets**

At the recent Trust Board Meeting on a Monday evening, it was found that all toilets were blocked. This is assumed to have been down to SUCET activity as they had been fine at the match on the Saturday. GK was under the impression that SUCET did not use the bar, however it was pointed out that photos on social media would suggest otherwise.

It was also noted that the lights in these toilets had not been on at a recent match. A cigarette bin is also to be placed on the wall outside the bar.

### **ACTION – GK to discuss with SUCET and Dave Jobson**

### **9. Poster space in the Shrimpers Bar**

PY had asked if redundant advertising space could be released for the Trust to put up more shirts.

**ACTION – RE to liaise with DJ to do so**

**EDIT – This has already been actioned**

### **10. Blues Lottery**

Concern had been expressed that some winners do not know they have won, and discussion was held over how names could be read out for winners rather than numbers.

RE advised that Rebecca Groom contacts winners on the Monday after matches.

It was agreed that the committee had not met for this for some time and that this should be addressed.

RE reported that funds from the Blues Lottery had funded extra office space for the Academy and discussion ensued about how the numbers for the Lottery might be increased. RE had been speaking with Southend Council about different strategies that comply with Lottery Licensing.

Numbers have dwindled from a high of 600 – 700 to only about 200 members currently. It was agreed that a full re-vamp and re-launch would be a good idea and that the committee should be encouraged to meet to help formulate this.

**ACTION – GK to request, via PvW, that Mick Maddocks call a meeting of the committee**

### **11. WIFI**

It was confirmed that the Football League have now withdrawn their plans for WIFI implementation in all FL grounds.

### **12. Any Other Business:**

- **Charlie Kelman** – PF requested the Trust be given the sponsorship of Charlie's shirt for the remainder of the year, which was agreed.
- **Aviva Scheme** – PF also requested the Club's support in seeking an improved Grant from Aviva for social inclusion

**ACTION – RE to send an email to all members of staff asking for their support, and also to have this put out on social media**

- **SwipeStation** – RE advised that this would be being trialled in the Shrimpers Bar and West stand from this Saturday. It is a mobile app which allows people to order drinks.
- **Fairfax Drive exit** – KF advised that this had been closed, and, on some occasions, padlocked after matches.

**ACTION – GK to investigate with DJ, as he was also under the impression these should generally be unlocked**

### **13. Date of Next Meeting – Proposed as 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019**