



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING DECEMBER 17th 2003

1 Present

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

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Paul FitzGerald (PF)

3 Matters Arising

GK said that he had written to TJ after the Liaison meeting held on the 12th November and hoped that his points had cleared up the points raised at that meeting. TJ agreed that the majority of the points had been resolved.

Shrimpers Bar Signs

PY said that word "HOME" had been painted out on the sign above the Shrimpers Bar entrance but requested that the Trust be allowed to put a Shrimpers Trust logo on the sign.

GK asked if the problems regarding the signing-in procedure had been resolved. TJ said that PC Spooner had made a request to attend a Trust Committee meeting to discuss policing matters. At that meeting, the Trust had taken the opportunity to discuss some of the finer points of the legal situation regarding the signing-in process. The Trust had now taken on board all of the recommendations that PC Spooner had made. The new signing-in process was now being operated in the full confidence that the Trust and its members were meeting all their legal requirements.

GK said that he was now happy to give permission for the Trust to put its logo on the sign above the entrance to the Shrimpers Bar.

He said that the club was very pleased with the furniture that had been delivered to the Shrimpers Bar and thanked the Trust for being able to source it. Additionally, he was very pleased that the Trust was able to source the physiotherapy couches for John Stannard.

Banning Orders

TJ asked what the results on the court cases regarding the problems that had arisen at the Colchester game. GK said that one person was to be charged and the rest were let off.

Christmas Draw Prizes

TJ asked if GK had reconsidered his stance over donating prizes for the Trust Christmas Draw. GK said that the club would now provide a signed replica shirt and ball. TJ thanked the club for this generous donation.

Designated Singing Area

TJ said that the Trust had passed the details of the clubs offer on this back to the members who had made the original suggestion. It was considered that the offer of a designated singing area in the South Stand lower would not be a success as the acoustics were not good and the view was considered to be poor. It was felt that fans would not congregate there. However the idea was not dead but being re-considered.

4 Family Stand Segregation during Cup games

DS asked why the movement of fans in the West Family Stand was still restricted during Cup games when the prices were all the same. GK said that at this time, people could sit where they liked so he did not see it as a problem. DS said that people sitting in the Family Stand were prevented from using the club shop in the West Stand. GK said that the club shop was not making much money and he was thinking of closing it as it was costing him more to keep it open. DS said that this could be a symptom of the family stand restrictions. GK said that he would speak to Dave Jobson and if he could improve the situation he would.

5 B&Q Public Enquiry – Fossets Farm

DS asked where the Public Enquiry for the proposed B&Q development would be held. GK said that he did not know yet but would expect it to be held in Southend.

6 New Manager/Q&A

DS said that when the new manager was appointed, the Trust would like to organise a Q&A session with him and the Trust members. GK said that he would consider this request.

7 Any Other Business

GK raised the subject of “spam” again. He said that the club and FLPTV had not sold any e-mail addresses on but members of the club had set up accounts to test the situation and they were being plagued with unsavoury e-mail. The club had contacted the Football league with their evidence and asked if the Trust could canvas its members on behalf on the club. He wanted to ask any member had set up an account with Blues World using a unique e-mail and had started receiving “spam” to contact him so the evidence could be part of the club’s report to the Football League. TJ said that he would send a suitable message to all the Trust members who had e-mail facilities.

GK said that the club had been very successful with its support of the Princes Trust initiative and had 39 people go through the Princes Trust programme. They were very proud that this number was more than any other 3rd Division club and that only two 2nd Division Clubs had more people pass through than the club did. DS congratulated the club on this.

TJ said that the Trust had liased with Frankie Banks and were now sponsoring one of his Football in the Trust programmes. He added that the Trust had also made donations to local and national charities on behalf of the Trust’s Players of the Month – Drewe Broughton, Leon Constantine and Jay Smith. GK said that he was very pleased to hear this and asked TJ to contact Ross Hill and update him on the Trust’s donations. TJ said that he would do this.

GK said the club was entering into an education programme covering all the junior schools in the area from Southend out to Basildon. There would be a two-day programme at each school covering the Year 5 and 6 age groups. He said that they would be given vouchers to obtain reduced price tickets at Roots Hall.

Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 14th January 2004 at 4pm at Roots Hall.