



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LIMITED LIAISON MEETING



Thursday, 14th March 2019
Roots Hall Stadium 16:00

1. Present and Apologies:

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

Meeting chaired by GK.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th January 2019

Follow up on actions not otherwise covered in Agenda items:

- **West Stand issues surrounding supporters standing** – GK still felt that things could be improved and had pointed out the areas for concern to the Stadium Manager. He added that Dave Jobson would be retiring at the end of the season so some changes will occur as a result.
ACTION – GK/KF to monitor
- **SUEPA** – PF had spoken with Steve Waggott and shared some good practice. It is planned to have an end of season review with RE to discuss forward planning as the Trust has been funding events largely so far. It is hoped for more involvement from the Club and to involve a former player in planning. Permission was sought to contact the Directors of the Club and those sponsors personally known for assistance with funding. GK advised writing to the Directors personally.
ACTION – PF and RE to discuss with other SUEPA representatives
- **SUCET Trustees** – GK advised that two responses had been received with one taking things no further and one deciding it was not for them. SUCET is still looking for assistance to fill this role.
- **Away Travel Reciprocal Coach Parking Charges** – nothing received recently.
ACTION – Continue to monitor
- **Foodbank** – RE had advised prior to the meeting that the Club were happy to make this a more regular and permanent occurrence next season. Arrangements to be finalised. PF advised that 9 guests from the “Off the Streets” charity would be coming to the next home game, with the Trust funding their tickets and food vouchers.
- **ACTION – Shrimpers Trust to continue to liaise with RE**
- **Shrimpers Bar** – it was noted that the Shrimpers’ Trust urn had still not yet been replaced.
ACTION – GK to discuss further with DS
- **Blues Lottery** – a meeting had been held of the Committee. PF mentioned that his number had recently been drawn and that some of the time restrictions in place for utilising prizes concerned him, specifically the need to use hospitality within 30 days. It was agreed that there might be a suggestion of introducing some new prizes for the new season.
ACTION – RE to discuss with MM on behalf of the Lottery Committee
- **Aviva Scheme** – Some recipients of the grant had already benefitted with a group of children from Kingsdown School further benefitting this weekend, having a box paid for out of this grant.
- **Fairfax Drive exit**
ACTION – GK/KF to continue to monitor

- **Shrimpers Bar TVs** – RE had sent a note ahead of the meeting detailing that a quote had been obtained by Craig, with some additional information required before committing.
ACTION – Trust to monitor; PF to write to RM concerning the quality of viewing in the Shrimpers Bar and other hospitality areas
- **Away Shirt** – It has been agreed with RM we will wear our light blue away kit for the remainder of the season when playing away (other than obvious clashes) this started at Blackpool, was meant to be worn at Scunthorpe but the referee changed his mind last minute when seeing the kit – RM has also agreed that next season we will wear our away kit where there isn't a clash for the whole of the 19/20 season.

3. Club Finances

GK had received an email from PvW ahead of the meeting saying that all PAYE and NI was up to date and that the VAT has also been paid.

4. New Stadium

GK had given RM the opportunity to share anything relevant, ahead of the meeting, if there was anything that he wanted to be said on this subject. Unfortunately, there was nothing to add. Things continue to progress and those best placed to know, are "positive". GK advised that the plans would not now be going before the Council ahead of elections in May.

5. Junior Blues

KF had met with Club representatives ahead of the meeting and reported that things are in hand, with consideration currently being given to new season gift packages.

GK enquired as to his own grandchildren's memberships and whether it was possible to put membership on standing order payments. KF agreed to discuss this with RE and the rest of those involved.

ACTION – KF to liaise with RE, and CL in the ticket office.

6. Any Other Business:

- **Academy Tour** – PF advised that the Trust have just been approached to help with approx. £3k funding for the Academy's trip, which would be going back to the Trust for approval. GK agreed to facilitate a meeting between Ricky Duncan and PF to discuss "family membership" amongst other things.
ACTION – GK to liaise between RD and PF
- **Season Cards** – SC had asked, ahead of the meeting, if supporters get a discount on their Season Cards if the Club is relegated. This is, of course, a risk taken by all when taking out Season Cards, whether you gain by paying less for a promotion or otherwise.
- **Burton Game, Easter Monday** – SC asked why this match was classed as a Category A match. KF replied that she had been told this had been designated at the start of the season and was due it being the penultimate home game and also, of potential significance if the Play Offs had been a possibility.
- **Youth Trophy** – during the Trust's programme fair and programme sort, a large trophy won by the Youth Team had been unearthed. This had, apparently, been donated to the Trust by Ricky, as the sponsors. Trust members felt this should be on display.
ACTION – GK to speak with RE and DJ to see if an appropriate home could be found.
- **Derek Wilshire** – GK advised that the Club had been given a number of programmes and memorabilia by former Director, Derek's wife Joan. This is thought to be a complete 10 year collection of programmes, home and away. It was agreed that the Trust would discuss with RE the best way to utilise this gift.

ACTION – PF to discuss with RE

- **Away Supporters** – GK raised the issue of bad language from away supporters, particularly at the recent Portsmouth game. It's worth noting that home games have family friendly areas but, for away fans, everyone is together. He asked for thoughts on how we can "respect the child" in these circumstances. KF said she would contact the Fan Experience Company for guidance.

ACTION – KF to speak to Mark Bradley at the Fan Experience Company

- **Outstanding Actions** – GK noted that, should there be any outstanding items from staff at the Club, he would always follow them up before meetings.
- **Adam Barrett flag** – KF had been asked to find out what has happened to this as it has disappeared from the North West corner, where it had previously been.

ACTION – RE to follow up with appropriate members of staff.

7. Date of next Meeting – Proposed as 16th or 23rd May – please advise accordingly