



# SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LIMITED LIAISON MEETING



Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019  
Roots Hall Stadium 16:00

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## 1. Present and Apologies:

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

Meeting chaired by PF.

## 2. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Follow up on actions not otherwise covered in Agenda items:

- **West Stand issues surrounding supporters standing** – KF advised that things had been particularly bad at the Sunderland game with people standing three rows deep at the back of the West. Admittedly this particular game had been sold out but this will continue to be monitored next season.  
**ACTION – GK/KF to monitor and report to PvW**
- **SUCET Trustees** –SUCET is still looking for assistance to fill this role a further plea is to go in the Trust newsletter out imminently.  
**ACTION – PF to ensure this goes in the newsletter**
- **Away Travel Reciprocal Coach Parking Charges** – RE to write to all clubs in our League once the League is finalised.  
**ACTION – Continue to monitor**
- **Foodbank** – PF advised that Off the Streets had asked for help with items other than food and that we would take this further during the new season.  
**ACTION – Shrimpers Trust to continue to liaise with RE**
- **Blues Lottery** – some issues still surrounding this which RE would take back to the committee, particularly time restricted prizes and KF's repeated request for new membership to be sorted out.  
**ACTION – RE to discuss with MM on behalf of the Lottery Committee**
- **Aviva Scheme** – PF reported that all who had benefitted so far had been extremely grateful and that we hope to bring in some children from Glenwood School next. KF is to liaise with a teacher friend of hers there.  
**ACTION – KF to report back to Shrimpers Trust**
- **Fairfax Drive exit**  
**ACTION – GK/KF to continue to monitor**
- **Shrimpers Bar TVs** – All TVs in the bars and hospitality areas have now reverted back to full screen viewing with the advertising removed.
- **Youth Team Trophy** – this trophy is still in the Shrimpers Bar, requiring a new home.  
**ACTION – GK/RE to discuss**
- **Away Supporters bad language** – KF advised that she had raised this with Mark Bradley at the Fan Experience Co. He was interested and was going to look into it further and come back on the subject.  
**ACTION – KF to report back**
- **Adam Barrett flag** – RE advised that DJ was confident he knew where it was and would try to find it before he left.

### **3. Club Finances**

Update provided by GK ahead of the meeting as follows:

There is an amount owed on PAYE/NIC relating to M12 2018/19 which is overdue. M1 for 2019/20 is not yet due.

The VAT payment due on 7 May 2019 is also outstanding.

The April 2019 salaries which were reported on in the media as being late were late for some of the payroll. The delay was due to a timing issue which has been resolved and the payroll has now been paid in full.

### **4. New Stadium**

RE advised that the Chairman had recently given an interview with Glenn Speller at BBC Essex, which was uncut, at his request. It is a candid interview and can be heard by copying and pasting this link into a browser: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p079bvqr>

RE also advised that a new Ticket Office Manager is being appointed, who has had previous experience at Colchester and Ipswich. Jordan has done a sterling job in the Ticket Office in the interim.

### **5. Junior Blues**

KF had met with Rebecca and Jordan ahead of the meeting and advised that the gifts for the new memberships have been received and look good.

It was agreed to take the old stocks of Junior Blues gifts to sell off at Meet the Blues Day to try to raise some funds.

The Easter event had been a big success at the Kursaal, even though only 6 players had turned up for it.

Once the fixture list is out then we will talk to Kevin Bond about getting things in place for the MTPD in October half term and for Christmas. It was agreed that we wouldn't go with an entertainer for the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the Christmas event, instead look to have a quiz and challenges with players joining in with groups of children.

KF asked if consideration could be given to raising the profile of the Junior Blues flag bearers, we were quick to drop them for some matches last season, with them possibly providing the Guard of Honour when players come out instead of the ball boys. RE didn't see that this would be a problem and agreed to discuss with others.

KF reminded those in attendance of the competition for Junior Blues to write match reports last season, and that a prize is outstanding. It was agreed that the Media team would discuss and invite those who took part – of which there were only three or four – to take part in a matchday experience with them.

KF asked if we could also try and find a sponsor for Junior Blues, to help with funding the events, and RE agreed to get the Media team on to this.

**ACTION – RE to discuss the above with MM and CB in Media; RE/KF to liaise to discuss the Flag Bearers**

**OUTSTANDING ACTION – to discuss renewal by standing order**

## 6. SUEPA

Two Club Directors had been very generous in their help with funding the visit of the players from the David Smith era towards the end of last season, which had been a huge success.

It was agreed that future SUEPA events should try and generate some income to cover their costs.

The Club and the Shrimpers Trust have agreed to try to organise a black tie event to instigate a "Hall of Fame" amongst our members, to be held in November. RE proposed hosting this at the Park Inn, as those attending would be able to take advantage of a favourable tariff if they then booked accommodation.

A number of ideas were discussed and RE agreed to contact the Park Inn for costings and circulate.

**ACTION – RE to discuss and circulate to all SUEPA representatives**

## 7. Academy Sponsorship

Trust Chairman PF had recently been contacted by the Chairman with a request concerning additional funding towards sponsorship in the Academy.

Whilst the full amount may be beyond the Trust's ability at present, PF proposed to meet socially with GK and Ricky Duncan to discuss further. The Trust have recently agreed to commit £3,000 for the Academy residential tour.

**ACTION – PF to liaise with GK and RD**

## 8. Any Other Business:

- **Meet the Blues Day** – no date as yet for this event, as much of pre-season is still to be confirmed. RE advised that the team will not be going abroad for pre-season training this year, but, instead, were planning a visit to the South coast, an area familiar to the new manager.

KF asked if we could look into having a SUEPA "meet and greet" on the day, with some of our members coming along for an hour or two to meet supporters.

**ACTION – RE to liaise with Andrew Leeder**

- **Parking at Roots Hall for the Sunderland game** –it was noted that a number of regulars and those using boxes had been unable to park, and that some cars had parked in aisles making movement difficult at the end. With the number of police vehicles and Sky also attending, it meant that a large number of car parking spaces were not available.
- **Bluebelles** – a member had asked for this subject to be brought up. They felt it was demeaning for them to have been soaked by the sprinklers and also inappropriate.
- **Shrimpers Trust Urn** – this matter remains unresolved. The kettle in the Shrimpers Bar is also unsafe meaning hot drinks cannot be offered.
- **Wimbledon Supporters Coach** – one of the supporters coach was attacked following our game with them at Roots Hall, with a window being smashed. The Trust have been in touch with their counterparts at Wimbledon, with the intention of trying to recompense them in some way
- **Cost of Free Coach Travel** – SBC have been paid for the coaches for Peterborough, but, payment has not yet been made for the coaches to Rochdale. A promise has been made that this would be forthcoming by the end of the month.
- **Away Supporters Loyalty Scheme** – RE advised that he would sit down with the new Ticket Office Manager to discuss a way forward with this.

**ACTION – RE to report back**

- **Kevin Bond** – it was suggested it might be a good idea to invite him along to our next Liaison Meeting

**ACTION – RE to liaise**

**9. Date of next Meeting – Proposed as 4<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> July – please advise accordingly**