



# SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LIMITED LIAISON MEETING



Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020  
18:00

Tap Room 19, Haltwhistle Road, South Woodham Ferrers

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## 1. Present and Apologies:

Those in attendance were Patrick Van der Waag (PVW), Paul FitzGerald (PF) and Kay Fogg (KF). Guests, Gavin Preston (GP) and Kevin Fogg (KF2) were also in attendance. Apologies were received from Rhys Ellingham (RE), Paul Yeomanson (PY) and Shane Chapman (SC).

Meeting chaired by PF.

## 2. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held in December 2019

- **Flag bearers, photos and Junior Blues merchandise**  
KF advised that photos have now been updated on the Junior Blues gallery on the website and she and GP were in discussion about the merchandise. On pitch issues regarding the Junior Blues flag bearers have improved, however, there are still issues on occasion. PVW asked that he be contacted by text should this be the case on any particular match.
- **SUEPA**  
Discussions ongoing following PF recent meeting with the Chairman.
- **Away Ticket Priority**  
GP advised that this is still being looked into and he is making progress.
- **Shrimpers Bar entrance**  
PVW advised that there are clear guidelines for ground staff to deal with the issues on matchdays prior to opening.
- **West Stand**  
It was noted that people are still standing at the back of the West stand which can cause an obstruction. PVW to discuss with stewards to ensure this area is kept as clear as possible.

## 3. Club Finances

An in depth discussion was held over the late payment of wages and as to the regular occurrence of the club being chased by HMRC. This was explained by the timing of monies moving from the chairman to the football club. Delays were caused due to complex property transactions that had taken longer than expected.

PVW said that the Club were "on course to be on course" and that salaries will be paid. He went on to explain in response to a question that the Club cannot be subject to two winding up orders at the same time – a 2<sup>nd</sup> cannot not be submitted for 5 days after the 1<sup>st</sup> finishes – and that an embargo could be lifted the same day as payment was made to HMRC. He responded to a question asking if it was correct that once you pay monies owing you stay under the embargo for the amount of time you were late paying it in the first place, with an emphatic "no".

#### 4. New Stadium

There was little to say about the new stadium, however, PF had met with the Chairman recently and he has agreed to attend a forthcoming Trust Board Meeting, and to attend alternate Liaison Meetings, where possible. With the lack of a CEO, it was felt that the Chairman's presence was welcome and that this would help him be more aware of things like SUEPA, the Trust's community grant from Aviva and the Junior Blues. PF had enlightened him on both SUEPA and the Aviva grant. The Chairman was happy for an unsold box to be used by the Trust in such cases.

The Chairman had also met with the Supporters Group Forum recently and answered questions from them.

#### 5. SUEPA

As previously mentioned, the Chairman has now been made fully aware of SUEPA, which will be of benefit moving forwards.

#### 6. Junior Blues

The focus of this meeting was to discuss the Junior Blues at length as it was felt by the Trust that it seems to be diminishing in importance and focus.

KF reported that she and GP seemed to be working well together with arranging events, it is a learning curve for GP, being quite new to the Club, but he brings with him experience from other clubs which may be able to be utilised with our own membership.

The Christmas party was discussed first, with the problems highlighted, particularly the situation with food being an hour late and the lack of players in attendance. One player had said they were only informed about the party during that afternoon.

The Easter event has been booked at the Megazone Centre at Rayleigh, which is a new venue for Junior Blues events. 90 minutes exclusive use of the facilities has been booked and paid for by KF. PVW agreed that the Club would reimburse this ahead of booking monies being received for the event. A minimum of 6, but preferably 10 players have been requested to attend via April.

**ACTION – KF and GP to continue to liaise. Player attendance request to put not only to April, but also through Amanda and Liz as it is part of their contract to attend.**

Once we have held this event, KF, GP and others to sit down to discuss strategies for next season and where we are going with the Junior Blues. GP suggested that we consider a two tier membership, with all youngsters in the family stand who are season card holders being given automatic basic membership (similar to those on the old Shrimpers Trust scheme), which will help to increase numbers and with the hope that once they see what the membership gives them, they will opt to take out the Junior Blues membership as well. This could also be used for babies.

**ACTION – KF to discuss with Shrimpers Trust board.**

PF agreed that the Trust could also target our members' children and grandchildren via newsletters.

KF also wondered if we could have a Junior Blues Twitter account.

**ACTION – KF to discuss with RE, MM and CB**

## **7. Any Other Business:**

- KF2 asked if there was any news about the end of season Sponsors' Dinner? Discussion on this felt that this event should still take place in some form, as it is part of what sponsors have paid for.

### **ACTION – To be referred to RE**

- Youth mini bus sponsorship – PF asked if we have come to the end of the agreement as yet, PVW said that there is another year to run.
- Chris Barker Charity Match – this charity match is being organised by Chris Phillips and will be taking place on 6<sup>th</sup> May at Roots Hall with the Club and the Trust being fully supportive.

## **8. Date of next Meeting – Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, at the Tap Room**