



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING JULY 7th 2004

1 Present

Helen Giles (HG), Derek Wilshire (DW), Brian Wheeler (BW), Paul Yeomanson (PY), and Terry Jeffreys (TJ) were present.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Geoffrey King (GK) and Paul FitzGerald (PF)

3 Matters Arising

HG said that the minutes stated that registered disabled supporters were given free entry and their helpers given half price admission. She said that the club had changed its policy to allow free entry for carers as well.

HG produced a list of three wheelchair-disabled members who had taken up season tickets for next season, and also advised that no season tickets had yet been taken up by any sight impaired supporters. She said that once the register of disabled supporters was formed Ross Hill could send out a posting on CRM to set up a disabled supporter's forum and seek the views of the disabled supporters.

HG said that there had been a dozen or so comments from fans about goal line technology and sin bins.

4 Shrimpers Bar

PY asked if a decision had been made on the classroom in the annexe. HG said that the education department had asked for more particulars on the club's bid. PY said that if the classroom went ahead there would be a loss of natural light from the annexe as well as the opportunity to open the windows to provide airflow. He said that the bar gets hot and very smoky and could become claustrophobic. He added that all the lights would need to be turned on which in turn would increase the temperature.

He asked if the club could provide more ventilation or air conditioning. HG asked if a smoking ban would be relevant. PY said that the bar would probably lose 50% of its customers if there were a smoking ban. BW said that hadn't been the case in Eire when a smoking ban came into place. HG said that the club would look at the air movement in the Shrimpers and at worst could provide mobile extractor units.

HG said that the Shrimpers would be open for all the home friendly matches. TJ said that he understood that the new plasma screens would be fitted in the Shrimpers in the week starting the 19th July so the trust would need to remove the pennants above the bar. DW said that he had noted that the bar looked very colourful at the AGM with the memorabilia on display. TJ asked if the barrow/trolley could be removed from the bar in order to make more space available. HG said that the club would look into it.

5 Centre of Excellence

PY asked if the potential sponsor had taken up the sponsorship of the Centre of Excellence (CofE). BW said that they had and had put up £25K. He added that when he had offered the sponsorship to the Trust but was not aware of the negotiations going on behind the scene at that time. PY said that the Trust saw their involvement and sponsorship of the CofE as an excellent thing. BW said that he hoped that PY and himself could still liaise to see if there were any more opportunities for the Trust to help to sponsor the CofE. It was agreed to close the CofE topic forthwith.

BW added that due to the sponsorship of the East Stand by the Evening Echo, an opportunity had become available for advertising each side of the stadium scoreboard. This was for two 30' by 4' advertising boards which would be seen by all the Southend fans and this was available for £5k plus VAT was not applicable. PY felt that this might be an opportunity for the Shrimpers Trust and would put it to the committee for discussion. BW said that he would arrange for a photograph to be taken of the available area and send it through to PY the next morning.

6 Physiotherapy Department

TJ said that he had been invited to visit the physiotherapy department last week and had noted the equipment available. He asked if John Stannard (JS) had a budget, which he could spend on equipment. DW said that it would be safe to say that there wasn't a budget HG said that if JS felt that he needed anything he was able to ask if there was any funding available.

TJ said that the Trust felt that the club should be investing in an area that was imperative in getting injured players fit and playing again as soon as possible. Whilst the Trust were very happy to help the club by purchasing essential equipment, they felt that the club could do more.

He said that he understood that JS had produced his wish list and given it to GK but he had not received anything from GK. HG said that she was certain that GK had sent the list plus a covering letter. TJ said that he did not doubt that the letter had been sent but it had not arrived. He said that he had been given a copy of the wish list by JS but would welcome a copy of the covering letter from GK.

TJ said that last week JS had been advised to purchase the new weights and stand at a cost of £539 excluding VAT as the ones that the club had were past their best. However the purchase had not yet taken place. This would leave a list of rehabilitation equipment that JS considered essential that would cost £1112 excluding VAT. He said that he was pleased to announce that the Trust committee had decided to offer to purchase that equipment immediately. This expenditure would cover all the income from the last season's Quid A Goal (QAG) scheme. He added that the Trust would hand over the cheque(s) on sight of the invoice(s) for the rehabilitation equipment.

TJ said that JS felt that further cardiovascular (CV) equipment would be most useful. TJ said that he had seen the equipment and had been advised that it was second hand when purchased. The CV equipment consisted of two exercise bikes, a rowing machine, a stepping machine and 2 running machines, one of which has a broken belt and the original manufacturer has gone out of business and spare parts are not

available. This is for 20 playing staff! TJ said that he had advised JS to put down the CV equipment on his wish list with prices and to prioritise as it could help the Trust with their forward planning.

TJ said that the Trust would be continuing their QAG scheme next season and were considering the purchase of CV equipment. He asked that if the Trust bought CV equipment whether the club would also buy CV equipment for JS. HG asked if any Trust purchase hinged on the club's commitment. TJ said that it did not but the Trust would hope that the club would provide something from the wish list.

BW asked how the QAG scheme was progressing. PY said that there was a healthy take up for those who took part last year and that the scheme as now being pushed in time for the new season. DW said that last year the players had taken part in the scheme for goals against. TJ said that the players had made an offer of £1 per goal conceded from the whole squad. The Trust felt that that was derisory and had declined the offer. DW asked whom the Trust had spoken to and BW said that he had spoken to Carl Emberson who was PFA representative and that was the offer. He said that Drewe was the PFA representative and he would ask if the players would enter the scheme this season.

PY asked if the club website editor could interview JS about the club's physiotherapy department and how the new equipment provided by the Trust would help the rehabilitation of injured players. BW said that he would ask Dave Scriven (DS) to do this. It was agreed that DS would liaise with TJ on this.

7 Centenary Celebrations

HG said that it would be good to have the events organised between the two sides and suggested that a Club/Trust steering committee should be set up to discuss and plan the Centenary Celebrations. It was agreed that there should be no more than six members, three from each side consisting of HG, a person from Commercial and one other from the club plus PY and two others from the Trust. It was agreed that the first meeting would be held late August or early September and then meetings should be held quarterly. PY said that once the Trust had decided its representatives, he would advise HG who would then set up the initial meeting.

8 Any Other Business

PY asked when a Q&A would be held for the Shrimpers Trust. HG said that she understood the Q&A after the club AGM was open to all fans. PY said that the Trust had not formally been advised of that and the club had not advertised the fact that all fans were welcome after the AGM. He said that the Trust had requested a Q&A prior to the last season and events had meant that it had not taken place. He added that now that there was a stable managerial situation, the Trust was keen to organise a Q&A meeting. BW said that it would be best to hold the Q&A just into the new season. PY said that he would like the manager and the player sponsored by the Trust, Mark Gower to attend.

PY said that GK had given permission for the Trust to put their logo outside the Shrimpers Bar. He asked who did the signs for the club and HG said that Morgan Signs from Brentwood had made all the club signs for a long time and they were very reasonably priced.

PY said that the Trust would like to position their 9m by 3m stand nearer to Boots & laces on Meet the Blues Day. BW said that would be a problem as the balls from the Trust penalty competition could fly into the car park and cause a hazard. He offered the same pitch as last year. PY asked if the players would be using the Trust stand as a base for signing autographs and this was agreed.

PY asked when the Sponsor's evening would be held this year and BW said that it would be on August 2nd.

TJ said that he understood that the placing of a plaque on the memorial wall at the club was available at £50 per annum. He felt that was very expensive at put people off. BW said that similar schemes had proved very popular at Millwall and West Ham but unfortunately not at Southend. He said that he would re-visit the pricing. TJ said that there would be an opportunity to sponsor a brick at the new stadium, which may help with building costs. BW said that he was looking at that opportunity.

9 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting would be August 11th 2004 and be held at Roots Hall commencing at 1600.