



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING OCTOBER 20th 2004

1 Present

Geoffrey King (GK), Helen Giles (HG), Paul Yeomanson (PY) and Terry Jeffreys (TJ) were present.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Derek Wilshire (DW) and Paul FitzGerald (PF)

3 Matters Arising from the Meeting held on August 11th

GK said that the club had decided that plaques could be placed on a memorial wall of the family's choice for a one-off charge of £150. There were memorial walls in various parts of the ground.

GK said that the Study Support Group had agreed funding for the classroom in the Shrimpers annexe but asked that the Trust do not broadcast it as the Department of Football Education, the LEA and the Club would issue a joint press release. PY said that he and TJ had moved all the Trust memorabilia out of the annexe and re-located it into the main bar.

HG said that she was continually requesting ticket information from Orient but as yet didn't know the allocation. The club's plan would be to ask the season ticket holders to state that they want to go into the draw for an Orient ticket so only those who wanted to go would get the chance of a ticket.

GK asked if the Trust had send in the list of questions for Mark Gower. PY said that the questions were still being received and would be sent to the club soon.

GK said that Frank Van Wezel was keen to be a quest of the Trust on a match day and the Trust were asked for provide a list of dates for this. PY said that PF would probably be Frank's host and escort him to the South Upper. He said that a list of dates would be provided shortly.

4 Shrimpers Bar

PY told the club about the recent problems in the Shrimpers Bar regarding lack of staff and change, which made getting service in a reasonable time a problem. GK said that there was a problem with staff being reduced for one game due to illness but agreed that there was no excuse for lack of change.

TJ said that at the Boston match, one of our members was timed at 17 minutes to get served and others had given up including himself. He added that before the Swansea

game, the same member was timed again and the waiting period was down to 11 minutes.

TJ said that after the Boston game when he was amongst a group of fans wanting to make the fabulous atmosphere carry on a little longer so they went round to the Shrimpers for a drink. However they were not able to purchase drinks as the staff did not have any change. Drinks were only available for the right money. Needless to say we went elsewhere. GK said that he would look into the problems.

5 Friday Night Legends

PY asked what was happening about the Legends evening. He said that he had heard that Tony Hoskins had dropped out of the event due to severe health problems and that Bill Garner did not want to be involved. GK said that the club had been approached by Tony and Bill regarding the Legends evening and had been persuaded to become involved. He said that he would contact Bill Garner in the morning to resolve the problems.

6 Centenary Celebrations

TJ said he had been contacted by David Goody (DG) regarding publication of the updated Southend United history. He had informed DG that the Centenary Committee had discussed a possible re-issue. He asked if DG could attend the next Centenary meeting to discuss the book.

GK said that the club would like raise some revenue from the publication of the book and TJ said that DG had some ideas on this but he felt that DG should present them to the club. It was agreed to invite DG to the next meeting. It was further agreed that the meeting be put back to November 3rd in view of the half term holidays. TJ was tasked to invite DG to the meeting.

7 Centre of Excellence

PY asked if the sponsorship for the Centre of Excellence had been finalised. GK said that it had not.

8 Torchlight Parade

PY said that he had spotted the SUFC bus at the back of the Torchlight Parade and asked if this was a coincidence or the club had organised it. GK said that they had asked Arriva to put the bus into the parade. PY said that the Trust felt that the Parade was an excellent publicity opportunity for the club and asked if the Trust could man the bus on behalf of the club at the next Parade. He said that the Trust would hand out Trust literature and whatever the club wished to be handed out on its behalf. GK said that it was an excellent idea and had no problem with this.

9 West Stand Standing

PY said that recently a hand-out was given to West Stand fans regarding the standing policy and that many fans had been incensed that hand-outs had not been given to away fans. GK said that there was a general problem in football regarding standing in seated areas. He said that they kept informing the Football Licensing Authority that Southend had a good crowd and that the majority sat down. He added that the Council had taken a responsible attitude towards this.

PY said that the problem was that away fans seem to be allowed to stand with impunity and that our fans were picked on by the stewards. Our experience at away grounds was the exact opposite as stewards are constantly telling our fans to sit down when home fans were not. He said that all that the Trust were asking for was a constant approach from the club and for it to treat the away fans at Roots Hall exactly the same as it treated its regular customers.

10 LDV Cardiff

PY asked when the Trust would be receiving its share of the transport money from the LDV Cardiff trip. GK said that Gary Laver had now left the club and another accountant had been employed. He said that he had looked again at the accounts for the Cardiff travel and had uncovered a few problem areas. There seemed to be a problem with credit card payments and he had asked the new accountant to resolve this.

PY said that the Trust still had all their records from the transport organisation. They had been used by Gary Laver, along with the clubs records, to produce the final transport accounts. The previous accountant and the Trust had agreed the division of profit based on the final transport accounts. However the Trust would work with the club in order to resolve the problems that GK had. He added that the Trust looked forward to receiving the money that the club was holding on its behalf.

11 Any Other Business

PY asked if John Stannard could be the guest speaker at the Shrimpers Trust AGM as he was the main recipient of Trust funding at the moment. GK said that he would ask the manager and come back to the Trust shortly.

12 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting would be on 17th November 2004 and would be held at Roots Hall commencing at 1600.