



# SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup> 2004

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## 1 Present

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

## 2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Geoffrey King and Paul Fitzgerald.

## 3 Matters Arising from the Meeting held on November 24<sup>th</sup> 2004

HG said she had made enquiries for a televised link from Brisbane Road. However Sky wanted £12k for the link, Orient wanted a cut and the Football League wanted 3% of the gate! She thought that it was not cost effective to go ahead with it.

HG said that Mark Gower had answered the questions put by the Shrimpers Trust. PY said that they had been received and they would be published in newsletter 66. He also advised that Nigel Rickard was stepping down from the Trust newsletter editorship in the New Year.

DW said that GK had reported back on the North Bank standing issue and the message was that he couldn't do anything further about away fans standing. TJ said that he felt that more could indeed be done on this issue. The Trust had first hand knowledge of how strict the stewards of other clubs could be when dealing with our fans standing in seating areas. We had seen our fans ejected for this. He felt that the club would get a much better reaction from the Southend fans regarding standing in home seating areas at Roots Hall if they were to be stricter with the standing away fans in the North Bank.

HG said that she had spoken to the Yeovil Town (YT) club secretary about the treatment of Southend fans at Huish Park recently. YT had received a letter of complaint from Mark Wallis but HG did not know if the Trevor Bashford letter had been received. The YT club secretary was thankful that HG had contacted her about the issues. She was genuinely concerned about the treatment that Southend fans had received and was particularly disappointed as the excellent treatment that the Yeovil fans received at Roots Hall last season had been widely reported at Yeovil.

It would seem that the YT Safety Advisory Committee was quite new and the Safety Officer was a consultant who was present for only two days a week. However the Safety Officer would be instructing the stewards about the issues when dealing with minors immediately and the club will be purchasing stools so that stewards do not restrict the view of away fans.

Regarding the restrictions on seating, YT did not open the covered stand to more Southend fans, as it would have meant mingling between both sets of fans. However they realised that there was a problem to be resolved and would look at the matter in time for next year. The YT club secretary stressed that they would be monitoring the issues raised by the Southend fans on a regular basis so the treatment would not occur for other fans.

HG said that if Southend fans wrote to other clubs complaining about the treatment received, could they please copy the letters to the club.

HG said that she understood that the Shrimpers Trust had been sent a cheque for the outstanding monies for arranging the LDV Cardiff match transport. PY said that there was still an amount of money for unprocessed credit card payments to be agreed.

#### **4 Shrimpers Bar**

PY asked HG what the official capacity of the Shrimpers Bar would be now that the front annexe had been taken away. He also asked whose responsibility it was to ensure that the official capacity was not exceeded. HG said that she would ask Dave Jobson and report back.

#### **5 Centre of Excellence**

DW said that the CofE sub-committee had met the previous evening with Ross McClaren (RM). He said that RM would like to be given a budget, as he didn't have one, so that he could develop the CofE further. He added that it would seem that the funding that Ron Martin had negotiated was no longer forthcoming. PY asked how much revenue the increased ticket prices had raised for the CofE and DW said that he did not know.

DW asked if the offer of sponsorship previously made by the Trust was still on the table. PY said that he understood that our offer had been declined so he would have to raise the matter at the next Committee meeting. TJ said that when the Trust had met with Michael Markscheffel and HG, they had wanted to become involved with the sub-committee and had a number of ideas for the raising of funds including the sponsorship of the CofE shirts. However it was felt at that time that the increase of the ticket prices would cover the shortfall in the CofE funding and therefore the Trust involvement was declined. However the Trust had still offered to sponsor the CofE shirts.

It was the Trust's original intention to seek an involvement within the CofE by having a Trust representative sitting on the sub-committee to help in fundraising etc in return for the sponsorship. HG asked if the Trust wanted any control of the CoE policy but it was pointed out that the Trust wanted to be involved in fundraising and an oversight of sub-committee dealings only. DW said that he would take note of this.

#### **6 Shrimpers Trust Army Fund**

DW said that the Trust's paper had been distributed at the last Board meeting and it would be discussed in detail at the next Board meeting. He said that the response was generally favourable.

#### **7 Steve Wignall**

HG said that Steve Wignall had been paid in full and could not understand why the subject had been raised in the Evening Echo. She said that Bernie Friend had been informed that his report was inaccurate.

#### **8 John Stannard Sponsorship**

TJ said that when the cheque for the LDV Cardiff money had been cleared, the Trust would make available enough funds for John to purchase an item of cardio-vascular equipment for the Boots & Laces gym and asked that John be advised of this. DW thanked the Trust for their kind offer and HG said that she would ask John to liaise with TJ promptly.

#### **9 Paul Holland**

PY said that Paul Holland, a loyal fan, who had organised away transport for Southend fans in the 90s had recently passed away at a young age and asked if the club could arrange a one minute silence for Paul at the next home match. HG said that regrettably the rules on this were very tight

and silences were only allowed for people who had made a massive impact at a club or for royalty. She said that she receives many requests for silences and it is very unfortunate that she has to let people down on this.

#### **10 Any Other Business**

PY raised the fact that Phil Cox had recently attended his 800<sup>th</sup> consecutive Southend United match and asked if the club could put something in the programme to commemorate this and maybe thank him publicly on the pitch. DW said that this was a fine record and HG said that she would see what she could arrange.

TJ raised the fact that he had been in the shop earlier and was dismayed to find that there were very few home shirts for sale and that was only in XXL size. He could see that customers who wanted to buy shirts as Christmas presents were unable to and there was also some uncertainty whether further stocks would be available in time for Christmas. He said that was a massive opportunity to increase sales and turnover being lost to the club. DW said that he was amazed at this and asked that the matter be raised at the next Board meeting.

#### **11 Date of Next Meeting**

HG said that she would advise the Trust of the date of the next meeting.