



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING MAY 4th 2005

1 Present

Geoffrey King (GK), Helen Norbury (HN), 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 16th March 2005

GK said that the club were still discussing the problems on the trains on the return journey from the LDV Vans final with the train operator.

PY said that he had not heard of any more problems with the perceived East Greens Safety issue. He added that he had not received any feedback from members regarding leaving seats late on in the game and blocking gangways.

GK said that the club management had visited shop operations at other clubs recently and the new plans for the club shop were being finalised.

GK said that he had written to Adam Edge regarding his problems with the Seatbooker ticketing system at the Lincoln game and hoped that the situation has been resolved. He had looked into the Seatbooker system and found that it is possible to issue a duplicate ticket. However, in this instance, a duplicate ticket report would be automatically issued which would highlight the problem.

GK said that the club would be introducing a better system of parking cars in the club cars parks next season. He said that the club will do their best to make sure that car parking runs smoothly. He said that the disabled car parking spaces will be clearly marked and that all spaces would be numbered.

GK asked if the "processions" of tea bar and bar personnel had been re-routed in the West Stand. TJ said that they had not passed him at the Yeovil game so he must assume that they had. GK said that he would ask Dave Jobson to make sure that this continues.

4 Shrimpers Bar

PY said that since the classroom had been put in the annexe, it was noticeable that the bar had become more hot and stuffy. He said that the entry doors were kept open to bring fresh air in but there was not the free flow of air that was possible when the annexe was available. He said that originally air conditioning had been mentioned for the bar and wondered what had happened to that plan?

GK asked if smoking in the bars contributed to the stuffy atmosphere. PY said that it didn't help. GK said that the club's plan was to ban smoking in the stands from the start of the season and were considering extending this to the clubs bars as well. PY said that the Trust had been concerned with smoking in the stands especially the East Stand

for some time now, He said that he was sure that the Trust members would support the club if the proceed with a ban on smoking.

GK said that he had asked for a quote to improve the lighting with diffusers in the Shrimpers Bar.

5 Pre Match/Half Time Music

PY said that the pre match music in the East Greens was noisier than ever. However during the Yeovil game, nothing could be heard from the speakers at all! GK said that he would review the situation during the summer.

6 Yeovil Programme

PY asked why the club had increased the price of the match day programme for the Yeovil game. GK said that the programme had better content and had been increased to 84 pages therefore increasing paper and printing costs. GK said that one in three fans bought a match day programme.

7 RBS & West Stand Toilets

PY said that the poor state of the RBS and West Stand toilets had been highlighted after the Yeovil game. TJ said that his wife and children had complained to him about the disgusting state of the RBS ladies toilets during the game. He said he had passed the complaint on to a female steward who didn't seem interested. He then complained to a male steward who said that a plumber was trying to resolve the problems and contacted Dave Jobson to bring him up to date with the latest situation.

GK said this was most unfortunate. During his pre match inspection of the ground and facilities, he had inspected the ladies toilets in the West Stand and had not found any problems. In fact he went to find the cleaning staff to congratulate them on their good work.

However, the problems had arisen because of vandalism by youngsters that had occurred in the ground before the match. The vandalism had caused blockages and flooding. At one stage the water had run out in the West Stand as a result. He had identified the culprits and had taken steps to ensure that there is no re-occurrence of his and can only apologise to those affected by this vandalism.

8 LDV Trophy Photographs

GK said that the printer dealing with the photograph orders had been swamped with the demand. He said that the outstanding photographs were being delivered in the next couple of days and would then be sent out.

9 Meet The Blues Day 2005

PY said that the Shrimpers Trust were planning to run a "Beat the Wall" competition. He was proposing to place a training wall in front of a goal and challenge people to put the ball in the net. He said that successful people would win a signed matchball and proposed to buy these from the club. He also proposed that four club players would be challenged to "beat the wall" and if they were successful, then a sum of £50 would be donated to the player's favourite charity.

GK said that he could see no problem with this but he would have to ask Steve Tilson. PY asked if the club had a training wall that the Trust could use for the event.

10 Ticket Pricing For Next Season

GK said that the prices had been set for next season and in the main, season ticket prices had been held. Match day prices had been increased but there was a discount if tickets were bought in advance which meant that some tickets prices had been held too. He said that the club were trying to reduce the pressure on the ticket office on match days. TJ asked if the discounts on advance tickets would be available for away fans. GK said that they would.

PY asked why there was such an increase for car park prices. GK said that as car parking had become busier, more staff have had to be employed to manage the car parks on match days. He said that car parking tickets would not go on sale yet. He said that present holders would be contacted first and then car parking places would be offered to season ticket holders first.

PY asked if the Shrimpers Trust could have two car parking in the main car park for match days as stuff had to be delivered into the Shrimpers Bar. GK said that he would provide passes for the Trust but they must not be abused.

11 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

12 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on May 18th 2005 at 1530.