



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING JUNE 22nd 2005

1 Present

Geoffrey King (GK), Helen Norbury (HN), Derek Wilshire (DW), Chris Berry (CB), Terry Jeffreys (TJ) and Bryan Woodford were present.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Paul Fitzgerald (PF) and Paul Yeomanson (PY).

3 Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 18th May 2005

GK said that the train company were still reluctant to give compensation over the LDV train but the club continued to press the matter with them.

GK said that the refurbishment work had started on the shop and it would be open for business on July 31st. BW asked what the tower at the front of the shop was. GK said that it was an "architectural foible." It was the entrance to the shop and the ticket office and would have a screen in there. He added that the shop would be much better stocked than we were used to. In response to a question from TJ, he confirmed that there would be separate managers for the shop and the ticket office.

4 Shrimpers Bar

At this point, DC Richard Spooner joined the meeting to discuss the signing-in arrangements for the Shrimpers Bar. After some discussion, the following procedure was agreed:-

Home Fans

A signing in book and a current copy of the Shrimpers Trust membership list must be available in the foyer to the Shrimpers Bar.

Shrimpers Trust members producing their membership cards would not have to sign in.

Members could bring guests, who would have to sign in and the member would have to countersign.

Members, who could not produce their membership cards, would have their membership checked on the membership list. Once their membership of the Shrimpers Trust was verified, they would sign in and be countersigned by a Committee member.

Non members would not be allowed entry. However they could join the Shrimpers Trust immediately and then be allowed entry. A new member joining on the day could bring guests, who would have to sign in and the new member would have to countersign.

Away Fans

The Shrimpers Trust could, at their discretion, send an invitation to the Chairman or his representative, of the visiting Supporters Club/Trust inviting their bona-fide members and their guests into the Shrimpers Bar.

A copy of the invitation must be available for inspection in the foyer to the Shrimpers Bar. The visiting Chairman or his/her representative must also bring a copy of the invitation.

Bona-fide members of the visiting Supporters Club/Trust could gain entry to the Shrimpers Bar by producing their membership cards. These members could bring guests, who would have to sign in and the member would have to countersign.

Extra Information

The capacity of the Shrimpers Bar was agreed as 200.

The Shrimpers Trust could charge their member's guests, bona-fide members of the visiting Supporters Club/Trust and their guests a nominal entry fee which would go towards Trust funds.

At this point, DC Richard Spooner left the meeting.

5 Meet The Blues Day 2005

GK said that the MTBD had been brought forward to the 24th July due to a previous booking at Boots & Laces.

HN said that she had spoken to Steve Tilson (ST) who had said that he would be very pleased to be able to have the use of a training wall. TJ said that he had tried to contact ST but as he was on holiday had spoken to Paul Brush (PB) instead. He had explained to PB what the Trust was trying to organise for MTBD with a "Beat the Wall" competition. PB had said that the club did not have a training wall and one would be very useful in training with the players.

TJ had asked PB how much a suitable training wall would be and PB just happened to have an equipment catalogue in his car which he consulted! After determining a price for the training wall and speaking about other training equipment needs that PB had, TJ gave the go-ahead for PB to purchase the training wall and a rebound training wall for the club. The Trust would purchase these items using the remaining balance of the QAG monies raised from the season past. The Trust had recently purchased some cardio-vascular equipment worth £3500 for John Stannard.

PB said that he would have to seek authority to purchase the equipment from GK. TJ said that he has heard that the authority had been received and the equipment had been purchased and delivery awaited. GK thanked the Shrimpers Trust for the purchase of this equipment which would benefit the players and the club.

TJ said that he had made loose arrangements with PB to help set up the training wall for the Trust at the MTBD. However they still needed the services of a goalkeeper and HN said that that she would make enquiries to see if a youth team goalkeeper was available on the day.

TJ said that the Trust would like to order ten autographed footballs as prizes for the day and requested a price for the balls. He also asked that the Trust be able to use tables from B&L on the day as usual and this was agreed.

6 QAG in Programme

TJ asked if the QAG scheme could receive more coverage in the programme to include all the categories and all the names of the participants. GK said that we should contact Dave Scriven (DS) who would put in what we required. He added that the programme would be increased by 16 pages for the coming season. TJ asked if this meant a price increase. GK said that the price of the programme would be £3. However he said that the extra revenue would be used to recruit a person to help DS produce the bigger programme and a better website.

HN said that she had spoken to DS about the progress of the “Round the World” pennant and told him to take the “up to date” information on the progress of the pennant from the Trust website. This was agreed to be the best policy.

7 Torchlight Parade

GK said that the Southend United bus was being re-furbished and the club would book it for the Torchlight Parade. CB asked if the Bluebelles would be available for the parade and HN said that she would check their availability.

CB asked if the club would be able to provide any “goodies” to give away to the public during the parade. GK said that the club would have to confirm what stock they did not want to move into the new shop.

8 Any Other Business

TJ asked if the club had received many complaints from the fans regarding the smoking ban imposed on Roots Hall. GK said that the club had received one complaint but had also received many letters of support including some from the local Council and Health Authority who were very pleased with the club’s stance on the matter.

TJ asked where the ban would be in force. GK said that there would be a ban on smoking within the football ground and the buildings. As soon as someone enters through a turnstile or into the club reception, they will not be allowed to smoke. He confirmed that the ground rules will be amended to take account of these changes. He added that people who smoke within the ground will be ejected!

CB asked when the car park season tickets would be on sale. GK said that there had been some uncertainty whether they would have the use of the Prospects car park this season. However he was pleased to announce that this had been achieved. However both Prospects and the school had increased their prices significantly. Hence the price of a season ticket would be £75. He added that existing season ticket holders would be written to soon offering them a car park space for the coming season.

CB asked if the “U Choose” ticketing scheme had been popular last season. GK said that it had not but the club may still operate it again for the forthcoming season.

BW asked if any building works would be taking place within the ground in the near future. GK said that the windows had been replaced in the Far Post Bar and that all the toilet areas were being re-decorated. He added that someone within the organisation was responsible for checking all the toilets within the ground before a match to check that they are “fit for purpose.”

GK said that said that the club would be introducing extra catering facilities on match days. He said that the club were re-opening one of the catering stands at the back of the South Upper, the one in the bottom South West corner and opening another counter in the West Stand. TJ said that this would relieve pressure and encourage extra sales but asked if a catering facility providing just hot and cold drinks plus chocolate etc., could be provided. GK said that this had been included.

TJ said that the Shrimpers Trust were considering re-decorating the Shrimpers Bar. He asked if the club had any objections to this. GK said that he had no objections but would like to be consulted on any proposed colouring scheme. TJ said that the Trust did not know whether they had enough spare funds to carry out the re-decoration but would now seek quotations. DW said that he could recommend a decorator and it was agreed that he would provide the contact details.

GK said that he was pleased to say that many companies were approaching the club wanting to provide sponsorship which was encouraging. He added that Betterview were continuing to be the main sponsors.

CB asked how arrangements for the Victory parade on July 17th were progressing. GK said that the club were liaising with the Council regarding routings and timings and this would be announced when finalised. He added that memorabilia would be on sale during the day.

12 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on July 20th 2005 at 1600.