



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING OCTOBER 19th 2005

1 Present

Geoffrey King (GK), Helen Norbury (HN), Lis Orford (LO), Derek Wilshire (DW), Paul Yeomanson (PY), Bryan Woodford (BW) and Terry Jeffreys (TJ) were present.

2 Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 21st September 2005

GK said that the "Feed the Goat" and "Freddy" shirt were now on sale in the club shop.

GK said that Chris Baker, the new Stadium manager, was getting requests to provide smoking areas in the ground. He said that he was reluctant to go back on an agreement with the Safety Committee especially as the club had been nominated for a "Clean Air" award. He said that he was aware of some smoking in the East Stand, which is regrettable; however, the club are taking steps to stop this.

GK said that he had spoken to Brian Dear (BD) about the reported serving problems in the South East tea bar and BD had raised the matter with the staff concerned.

GK said that he asked for representatives of the persistent standers in the West Stand to meet him but they had cancelled twice. He has given them one more chance to meet and if they did not, the club would become more heavy handed.

LO said that Alan Perry had not contacted her before the last game about the pass that he wanted to other parts of the ground. She said that he needs to organise the pass before. TJ said that he would pass this on.

3 Quid A Goal

GK said that he had written twice about the players' money to Steve Tilson (ST) who said that he would sort it out. He said that he would speak to ST again.

4 Match Day Music/Announcer

GK said that the club had dispensed with the services of the new match day announcer as he had no personality or knowledge of football. Brian Wheeler (BW) has been given the task of obtaining another announcer for the next match. GK said that if a member of the Trust felt that he could do the job, he or she should put themselves forward.

5 Season Tickets

PY raised the problems with the ticket machines in the West Stand before the Notts Forest game. GK said that some machines had problems reading the ticket bar codes. He said that he was not particularly pleased with ticket.com who were the biggest ticketing company in the world and he had raised the problems with them.

PY said but for the good behaviour of the fans, who had waited patiently for the problems to be resolved, a very serious situation could have arisen. He said that he was very unhappy with the marshalling of the fans by the police who were happy to force fans into the road in front of the traffic. GK said that he had spoken to the police about their attitude and he had been assured that it would not happen again.

6 Q&A

PY said that it had been some time since there had been a Q&A between the fans and Ron Martin and hoped that one could be arranged soon. GK said that he would discuss the matter with Ron. TJ asked whether the fans could have a Q&A with both sides of South Eastern Leisure to try to resolve the issues surrounding Fossetts Farm. GK replied “absolutely not!”

7 Leg Waxing

PY said that the Shrimpers Trust would like to hold a leg waxing fund raising session at half time during a home match in February or March. GK asked PY to liaise with Ross Hill. PY asked if he could have some complimentary tickets for the student doing the leg waxing and GK agreed this.

8 Mascots

PY said that the Trust were paying for the Eel’s head to be repaired and asked if the club could provide this season’s shirts for the mascots. He also asked what the club’s tie-up with HSBC was regarding the mascots. GK said that he would discuss these issues with BW.

9 Reserve Matches at Roots Hall

PY said one of the Trust members had stated that the record for a reserve game at Roots Hall was for a match between West Ham and Arsenal. He asked if the club would consider inviting all the children from local schools to a reserve match to break that record and “bring it home.” GK said that he would speak to BW about this to see what could be done.

10 Old Shirts

PY said that one of our members had contacted the Trust about a local football side who were soon to travel to Germany for a tournament. He had asked if the club had a set of old Southend United shirts that could be worn during the tournament. GK said that there may be some old LDV shirts that could be used and would make enquiries.

11 Collection Tins

PY asked if the Trust could put collection tins into the club bars to raise money for Trust Funds. GK said that he would prefer it if we didn’t as many people complain that there were too many collections at Southend United anyway!

12 North Bank

PY said that some time ago, Ron said that he wanted to put acoustic tiles in the North Bank to reduce the amount of noise coming out from visiting fans and asked what was being done about this. GK said that he had not heard anything about this and would ask Ron for his view.

13 Any Other Business

BW asked how the club wine was going. GK said that the wine was on show in the shop but not selling too well. He added that it was on sale in the Shrimpers Bar.

BW said that he had recently read the new Blues News magazine and said that it needed proof reading as there were lots of spelling mistakes and grammatical errors as well as problems with presentation. GK said that it wasn’t a club issue but was concerned that there was a lot of stock available.

GK added that the Football League wanted to do a monthly football magazine but he was not sure if it would get off the ground.

TJ asked if there was any more news on Fossetts Farm. GK said that there was none and Colin Wagman was away for Yom Kippur.

GK said that the shop was doing well and now had two tills. He said that there were more lines expected in the shop such as toys, apparel and golf apparel as well as a new range of leather goods available for Christmas and a range of footy chick ladies wear.

He added that the shop had sold over one thousand home shirts since it had opened plus 750 away shirts.

TJ said that the Shrimpers Trust had allocated £1500 for Ricky Duncan (RD) to spend for the youth set up and wondered if GK had heard about this. GK said that he had heard and thanked the Trust for their support. TJ said that RD was going to buy a portable Smart board and had asked if the Trust would contribute towards the fares/lodgings of a promising youth team player, Joel Ledgester, who was just too old to get a two year contract with the club.

GK asked what the background was to the £500 donation that the Shrimpers Trust was donating to Southend Hospital on the pitch soon. PY said that Paul FitzGerald (PF) had become involved with Rayleigh Rotary about the £6K that they had raised in ticket sales for the Philharmonic in the Park but had been caught up in the Supreme Travel crash. This money was destined for the Southend Hospital. He had tried to contact the Rotary without success to donate £500 to help mitigate their loss so the Trust decided to donate the £500 direct to the Hospital. PY added that John Bridge had now said that he would pay the missing money out of his own pocket.

8 Date of Next Meeting

TBA (GK to advise of suitable date)