



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING FEBRUARY 1st 2006

1 Present

Lis Orford (LO) Derek Wilshire (DW), Paul Yeomanson (PY), Bryan Woodford (BW) and Terry Jeffreys (TJ) were present. Geoffrey King (GK) was not available until the end of the meeting. However I have written the minutes to include GKs responses at the meeting and in an e-mail providing some answers which was sent to PY on 8/2/2006.

2 Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 19th October 2005

PY said that the mascots were still wearing last season's shirts.

PY reported that Touring Kings FC would be delighted with 30 badged silver shirts.

PY asked how Ron Martin was progressing with his plans to buy Delancey's share of SEL. DW said that there was every reason for optimism and that everything was going in the right direction.

PY said that the Trust had provided four different dates for a Q&A session with Ron Martin but had not had a reply on the matter. GK said that Ron was working extremely hard on the matter at hand and because of his busy schedule; the Q&A could be at the end of March.

PY said that the Trust had not received any more feedback on the South East tea bar.

DW said that the attempt to break the record for the attendance of a reserve game at Roots Hall would be held over until next season.

3 Colchester Away

PY said that the Trust had been allocated 50 tickets for the top Trust coach travellers who were not season ticket holders. LO said that the club had put 250 tickets by for regular away travellers. PY said that the Trust were fully aware who travelled on their coaches but would not know who regularly travelled by train, car or other means. He said that for the Trust to take on that allocation would have meant that the Trust would get flak for not being able to provide tickets to genuine away travellers through no fault of its own.

He said that he had asked the club to consider handing out vouchers at away matches or checking who had bought away tickets through the ticket office in an effort to ensure that regular away travellers received tickets for the Colchester match. PY said that if promotion was achieved, there would be problems next season as Luton, Brighton and Ipswich have low away allocations.

4 Away Travel Club

PY said that there was always a shortage of tickets at high priority away games. He asked if the club would consider a voucher system to ensure that regular away travellers were able to get tickets. He added that some clubs operate an Away Travel Club where members received priority for tickets and this may be another avenue to consider and another source of revenue. GK asked that the Trust set out some fundamental points on this for him to consider.

5 Shrimpers Bar

PY said that the big screen projector in the bar had ceased working at half time during the Brentford match and he had been told that it went off "with a bang." He said that it had been reported but the projector was still not working for Blues TV and there were some Trust events coming up when it would be needed especially for the Trust POTY night. GK said that this had not been reported to him but would make enquiries. (Subsequently it was found that the projector was not broken but someone had switched the channels!)

6 Marketing

PY said that some London clubs were offering Sunday morning teams discounted tickets and asked if the club would do the same. GK said that Sunday teams do contact the club although he felt that the club give enough concessions as it is.

PY said that his company in Rochford had been receiving e-mail hits from Colchester United offering corporate packages on match days, use of facilities and advertising but his company had not heard anything from Southend United. He asked if the club were doing enough to attract more corporate sponsors. GK said that the Commercial department had lists of all previous advertisers with the club and the local Chamber of Commerce lists of companies and were in the process of contacting all the local companies. BW said that he had received the corporate commercial package from the club but felt that was because of his player sponsorship!

7 QAG

TJ said that he had recently received a call from John Stannard asking if the Trust had paid for the cross-trainer and exercise bicycle that was delivered last June. He had told JS that the club had received a cheque for the full amount minus VAT as soon as they saw the invoice last June. TJ said that he was concerned that the equipment company were chasing the club for payment although the club were given the money by the Trust seven months ago.

GK said that he was sure that this was an error in the Accounts department of the equipment company but would investigate.

8 Speakers

PY said that there was a problem at the Swindon game but to the lack of sound from the speakers in the West and South stands. GK said that he was aware that there is a problem with the ownership of the speakers but the back up speakers which would be used in an emergency situation were working. He said that he had authorised the Stadium Manager to look into upgrading the speaker system but there had been a quote from a company for £42K! He added that he was meeting the company next week as he felt that the speaker system may need an upgrade to meet current legislation.

9 Leg Waxing – 25th February

PY asked if the club would provide six complimentary tickets for the beauticians and their partners. GK said that the club were trying to limit complimentaries to 100 for each match. He said that he would allow the request this time but may not be able to in the future. He asked for the names of the recipients to be provided.

10 Race Night

PY asked if the club would provide eight bottles of club wine as prizes for the Trust Race Night and GK agreed to this.

11 MTBD

PY asked if there were any dates available for the MTBD and whether a programme had been decided. GK said that a date had not yet been decided.

12 End of Season Draw

PY asked if the club would donate a signed ball for the Trust End of Season Draw and GK agreed to this.

13 Any Other Business

PY asked if the club would subsidise coach travel to Swansea if it became a critical game. GK said that the club would not provide sponsorship.

GK said that some issues had arisen over smoking at the ground. He said that it was recently estimated that up to 350 people were flouting the ground rules by smoking at the back of the West stand. He said that smokers would be warned at the next home game and at the game after that, those found smoking would be asked to leave. He added that LO had been abused by a guest in one of the executive boxes after she had asked them to stop smoking! He added that the box holders had apologised to LO and the club.

GK said that some of the guests in executives boxes had turned up wearing ragged jeans, trainers etc in contradiction of the club's dress code. He said that the club would now vigorously enforce the code. TJ said that it was unlikely to apply to the majority of Trust members. However when the Trust had sponsored a match it always made its guests aware of the dress code provided in the match pack.

TJ asked if the club would be writing to the FA, Football League and Bradford City in the event of its member being cleared of all racism charges as expected. GK said that it had already written to the FA, Bradford City and a City fan who had contacted the club over the alleged racist incident

14 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on the 8th March 2006 at 1600 followed by another on the 12th April 2006.