



# SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING MARCH 8<sup>th</sup> 2006

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## 1 Present

Lis Orford (LO) Derek Wilshire (DW), Ray Osborne, (RO), Paul Yeomanson (PY), Bryan Woodford (BW) and Terry Jeffreys (TJ) were present. Geoffrey King (GK) sent his apologies.

## 2 Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2006.

PY said that the mascots were now wearing this season's shirts but was not sure if the shirts were carrying the Shrimpers Trust lettering.

PY said that the 30 badged silver shirts had not been handed over yet.

DW said that at long, long last Ron Martin had resolved all the issues with Delancey and had purchased their share of SEL.

LO said that the club had paid the gym equipment company for the cross-trainer and exercise bicycle that the Trust had paid for last June.

PY said that there had been many problems regarding our Leg-waxing charity event on 25<sup>th</sup> February. He said that the arrangements had been made for months and had been organised with Brian Wheeler. However, on the day, those being waxed had made their way to the stewards at half time as arranged but no-one knew anything. The stewards had then directed them to Reception where Ray Davy demanded £10 each to get into the ground. Once the situation had been resolved, the waxing took place on the side of the pitch and was so rushed that not everyone could be done in the time available! DW apologised for the problems and said that there had obviously been a lack of communication somewhere. However he said that he could not comment further as he did not what had happened on the day. He hoped that there would be no problems if another session was held at a later date.

TJ said that it seems that the arrangements concerning smoking areas outside the front of the ground had been altered. LO said that smoking is banned up to the entrance on Victoria Avenue. TJ asked what was going on with the disregarding of smoking at the back of the West Stand and asked if smoking was also banned up to the entrance at Shakespeare Drive. DW said that he would have to find out.

TJ asked if there had been any response to the letters sent by the club to the F.A., Football League and Bradford City regarding the unsubstantiated racism claims. DW said that there had not been a response yet.

## 3 Vouchers for Away Matches

DW said that he did not see a problem with issuing vouchers for the remaining away games as this would ensure that regular away travellers would get priority for tickets should the club reach the play-offs. PY suggested that priority should go to season ticket holders with all three vouchers, then two and one, and then to fans who had all three vouchers, then two and one with any remaining tickets going on general sale. DW said that he did not see any admin problems as the vouchers could be given out by our ticket office when away tickets are sold.

#### **4 Ticket Allocations for Remaining Away Fixtures**

PY asked if the club would ask Bournemouth, Barnsley and Swansea for allocations of tickets and DW said that the club would do so.

#### **5 Ron Martin Q&A**

PY said that the Trust had put a number of days to Ron Martin for a Q&A but to date had heard nothing. DW said that Ron had been very busy over the last two months resolving the Delancey issue but was sure that he would be able to set a date soon.

#### **6 Leaving Hospitality Areas on Match Days**

BW said that he had tried to leave the hospitality area before the game had started to collect a package but had been prevented from doing so and wondered why. LO said that Ray Davy had been asked to clamp down on people leaving the Executives Suites or Platinum Suite once they had been entered, on security reasons. PY said that in his opinion, the club were creating a problem for itself. He felt that petty bureaucracy would prevent corporate guests for returning to their cars to pick up forgotten items and therefore causing bad feeling which could rebound on the club.

#### **7 Persistent Standing**

TJ had said that he was happy with the response from GK regarding his letter about persistent standing. However, LO said that there had been a Football League ruling that home clubs were not responsible for the visiting away fans. TJ pointed out that that was not the case stating that the Football League generic ground rules applied to all fans in a stadium not just the home fans. He gave background details on how Southend fans had been treated at some away grounds this season, in particular Nottingham Forest. Ray Osborne showed surprise at our treatment.

#### **8 Mascots at Colchester**

PY said that the Southend United mascots had not travelled to the Colchester game and had heard a rumour that the Essex Police had advised them not to do so! He said that the match day commentator had made a big thing of the fact that our mascots had not taken part in the half time competition. DW said that he had not heard anything about this but would find out. He added that the Colchester fans had been magnanimous in their defeat!

#### **9 Any Other Business**

PY said that the Trust wanted to help raise sponsorship for Steve Tilson's marathon attempt. The Trust wanted to set up a pay button on its website so people could donate to his favourite charity. PY asked if LO could contact Tilly to confirm that he was happy with this.

TJ asked if there had been any progress on the proposed Youth Development committee. DW had said that meetings continued with Lawson International the lottery provider. TJ said that four Trust members had put their names forward to go on the committee and asked that they could all be accommodated as there were enough places. DW had responded that in his opinion, committees should not be top heavy!

#### **10 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2006.