



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING JULY 19th 2006

1 Present

Geoffrey King (GK), Helen Norbury (HN), Derek Wilshire (DW), Paul Yeomanson (PY) and Terry Jeffreys (TJ) were present.

2 Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 21st June 2006.

GK said that he had circulated the proposed structure of the SUYDA to the three non-executive directors for discussion. DW said that they had tried to arrange a meeting with Ricky Duncan but he "is so snowed under" but hoped to arrange something from the end of the month.

GK said that the Centenary shirt would be launched on August 3rd as arranged, adding that the new away shirt would be launched at the Meet the Blues Day event.

PY said that the Centenary badge was not on sale in the club shop and said that there may have been confusion with the League One Winners badge. He said that he hoped that the club would issue the badge in hard enamel. GK said that he had insisted that it is an enamel badge.

3 Disabled Supporters

GK re-iterated that the success of the club had increased the attendance of both able and disabled supporters. He said that in previous seasons, the club had provided free places for supporters claiming the medium and higher rate of the Disabled Living Allowance (DLA) and their carers.

As NADS had recommended that disabled supporters should pay a concessionary rate, the club had amended their policy to charge disabled supporters but not the carers. He added that due to the dramatic rise in demand for disabled places, the club decided to limit places to those claiming the higher rate of the DLA. He said that he had sought the advice of NADS on their revised policy, who had advised him to set out the criteria and take applications on a first come, first served basis.

GK said that he had been to the Ticket Office and seen that there had been a big rise in applications from those claiming the higher rate of the DLA. He said that he felt that the club's representative had not come across well on the BBC when putting across the club's stance. He added GK said that he had written to the Disability Alliance (who advise on disability issues) for further advice on the 9th July but they had not responded as yet.

DW said that it was a very emotive issue but unfortunately they couldn't accommodate everyone due to space limitations. He said that existing disabled Season ticket holders had been given first choice when re-applying and that the club had also set up instalment plans for the purchase of those tickets should they be required.

4 Away Tickets/Ticket Office

PY asked if Autopay could be set up for the purchase of away tickets so that the regular away fans could always be able to get a ticket. GK said that he did not think that the facility would be available for this. PY said that the problem remained that many fans had followed the club through the lean and the successful seasons may not get tickets for away matches this season. The Trust wanted to set up a system where regular travellers were able to have first choice of an away ticket.

He felt that if Autopay could be set up so that fans would purchase their away tickets then those intending to travel throughout the season could be assured of getting a ticket, then if a fan decided to drop out of the facility they would no longer be assured of an away ticket. PY further suggested that the club could set up an "Away Fans Club", where there was nominal signing on fee but the members were assured of a ticket before season ticket holders. HN said that she thought that it had been published that season ticket holders would get priority for away tickets. GK said that he would come back on this.

5 Southend Carnival Torchlight Procession

PY said that the Trust would be taking part in the carnival again this year with our coach and requested the use of the mascot costumes. GK asked that PY deal with Pat Coyne on this. PY asked if the Bluebelles would be available. GK said that the Trust would have to deal direct with their agency and Brian Wheeler would know who it was.

PY said that the Trust would be handing out "goodie" bags again and asked if the club wanted any publicity items included such as Mini-Blues cards. He added that the Trust had used the main club car-park as a pick-up point for the coach etc., and asked if they could use it again this year. He said that last year they had returned at about 23:15.

6 2007 SUFC Calendar

PY asked if the club would be publishing a calendar this year. GK said that they wouldn't as it was not cost effective. PY said that in that case, could the Trust publish a calendar? GK said that he had no problems with this.

7 Bucket Collection

PY asked if the Trust could hold a charity bucket collection this season and GK asked the Trust to liaise with Ray Davy.

8 Shrimpers Bar

PY gave GK a list of events for which the Trust wanted to book the Shrimpers Bar. GK said that he would give the dates to Brian Dear to agree. PY asked if the Shrimpers Bar would be open for the friendly matches and GK said that it would, adding that the fast beer pourer had been installed.

PY asked if Ron Martin & GK would consider having a Q & A session at the Trusts AGM on October 19th. GK said that he would need to discuss this with RM.

9 Any Other Business

GK said that the club is a non smoking club and has put notices on the website and around the ground, especially in the West Stand about this. He said that the club were employing new stewards and guards and all of them had been through the training process. He said that anyone found smoking will be dealt with politely but if they did not respond then the club would come down hard. He asked if the Trust could publicise this on its website and in the newsletter. PY said that the Trust would do this.

GK said that the Blues Monthly would no longer be published.

GK said that Pat Coyne would be taking on the new Lottery and will be in touch with the Trust regarding the progress.

GK said that the letters would be going out that day regarding the car park season tickets. He said that there was now an extra car park with 100 spaces available at Southend High School for Boys.

GK said that the Police were considering asking the Council to close Shakespeare Drive for 30 minutes before and after the match on the grounds of road safety. He said that there had been three accidents involving pedestrians on match days during last season.

10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 16th August at 1600.