



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING AUGUST 16th 2006

1 Present

Geoffrey King (GK), Derek Wilshire (DW), Paul Yeomanson (PY) and Bryan Woodford (BW) were present. Terry Jeffreys sent his apologies.

2 Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 19th July 2006.

DW said that a meeting with Ricky Duncan to discuss youth matters will be held at 3pm on Friday 18th August, where the proposed structure of the SUYDA could be discussed.

GK said that complaints from disabled supporters had now ceased. However, John Dickens had approached GK about a friend who has downs syndrome, a condition which is not normally included as a high level of support when considering persons for discounted match tickets. GK has agreed that his son could have a discounted seat and J Dickens could get free entry as his carer.

There was still no clear answer concerning whether Autopay could be used to purchase away tickets.

GK said that Ron Martin had agreed to participate in a Q & A session but this should be after mid-September, when the planning application for the new ground will be submitted. This would seem to be ideal for the Trust AGM, which will be held on 19th October.

GK said that stewards were being vigilant about smoking, particularly in the West Stand. The no smoking policy had yet to be included on the Trust web-site.

GK reported that Lawson International's representative who had been speaking to the Club about the lottery had left and joined QPR. This had delayed progression. Lawson International which had been appointed as the Football League's operator were now dealing direct with Anthony Pearce who will now be handling this on behalf of SUFC, and it was hoped that things would start moving again.

3 Racism

Both the Trust and the club had received complaints from supporters about serious racist comments being heard from Southend "supporters" at the QPR away game. If these so called fans are identified they will be dealt with accordingly, however GK did stress that it is very difficult to deal with these sorts of incidents when they occur at away matches. A fan has also complained about frequent racist comments at Roots Hall, in East Green Block D. GK said that Chris Baker will be asked to follow up the latter.

4 Ticket Office

There had been several complaints about long delays in reaching ticket office personnel by telephone. GK was aware of this and steps are being taken to increase the number of lines to improve the service. Kathy, Ticket Office Manager, has resigned and will be leaving at the end of September. There was general disappointment at Kathy's impending departure as she has a good and friendly rapport with supporters and is well regarded within the club.

5 Visit from Canada

PY said that he had received a request from David Kenley in Canada for two tickets for the Cardiff game. GK would see that two tickets would be "put by" so that David could collect and pay for them when he arrives for the game.

6 Southend Carnival Torchlight Procession

PY mentioned that he had received a small supply of fixture cards, fixture posters and leaflets on the Norwich and Peterborough Building Society savings scheme from Nina to distribute during the procession. Nina had told PY that despite several requests to the club shop for merchandise, nothing had been forthcoming. GK would follow this up. GK confirmed that the club car park could be used as a pick-up and drop-off for the coach, although PY had to speak with Chris Baker about locking-up arrangements. GK said that Brian Dear would be providing supplies of water etc for those Trust members participating in the procession.

7 MTBD

PY mentioned that the players' autograph signing at the Trust tent had been chaotic as all the players arrived together. Also, the players had no drinking water and exhausted the supplies of the Trust members. GK said that players' management had received a schedule of events, in advance, but this did not seem to have been followed. Brian Dear had also apparently provided a supply of water to Boots and Laces for the players, the previous day.

8 Sponsors Shirts (2005/06 Season)

GK informed the meeting that both shirts for season 2005/06 and 2006/07 would be given to sponsors at the end of September this year.

9 Club AGM

GK said that no date had yet been set for the club AGM.

10 Shrimpers Bar

PY stated that chairs, which the Trust had bought for the Shrimpers Bar some years ago had been removed and placed in the new Press Facility, and that there was now a shortage of seating. GK would ensure that more chairs would be obtained hopefully by the home match with Sheffield Wednesday.

11 Any Other Business

PY and DW raised the matter of "Dave the kit man", a supporter who had helped out with the first team for many years and was apparently no longer required by the club. GK said that it had been agreed by Ron Martin that this should now be a more in-depth and full time position. Dave's contribution did not fit this requirement and was therefore no longer required.

12 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 20th September at 1600.