



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING SEPTEMBER 20th 2006

1 Present

Geoffrey King (GK), Derek Wilshire (DW), Paul Yeomanson (PY), Terry Jeffreys and Chris Berry (CB) were present.

2 Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 16th August 2006.

GK said that David Kenley should go to the NE Ticket Office to collect his two tickets.

GK said that it was possible for Autopay to be used to purchase away tickets, however, it was not that easy. He added that there would be a change in the management of the Ticket Office from Monday and once the new man had settled in, he would be asked to address the possibility.

DW said that a meeting had been held with Ricky Duncan but he wanted more money than had been anticipated.

PY said that the Torchlight Parade had gone very well. He said that he had received fixture cards, Mini-Blues flyers and flags to distribute to the crowds. However, he said that he had found a lot of Insure and Go leaflets to distribute. He said that the Shrimpers Trust was there to promote Southend United not its sponsors so had not distributed them. GK said that promoting the club's sponsors was promoting Southend United.

GK said that Pat Coyne had left the club and this had delayed negotiations with Lawson International. Anthony Pearce was now dealing direct with them on the launch of the lottery. He added that interviews would be taking place with prospective Heads of Commercial shortly.

3 Racism

CB reported that there had been racist comments made at the Sheffield Wednesday game. However when this had been reported to a nearby steward, it is alleged that the steward said that he was not able to do anything about it. When questioned later by CB, the steward said that he had reported the incident.

CB said that the steward had been told exactly where the comments had been coming from and should have acted immediately on that information. GK said that he felt that some of the stewards did not have the bottle to tackle that sort of information. He added that he was presenting certificates to all the stewards in the next week. He will tell them that they are all qualified stewards now but they are paid to do a job and he wants them to do their job.

4 Stewarding

GK said that the issue of people coming over the wall or being let in for nothing had been resolved. CB said that there was still a problem with people sitting in the wrong seats. He said that after 40 minutes of the start of the last game, stewards started trying to move people who were sitting in the wrong seats, which then set up a knock-on effect as those people tried to find their seats. This was while the match was going on and interrupted the viewing of those around the seats in question.

GK said that the club were stressing that people should sit in the correct seats. He said that it wasn't a problem when the place was half empty. He added that the club had received a letter from Lou Elliston from the Football League Licensing Authority regarding the Stoke City game. Part of the letter had criticised the club because home fans were standing. He added that the last sentence said that "if you cannot comply, we will recommend the reduction of the number of away tickets for Southend United fans."

GK reported that Chris Baker had left the club.

5 West Stand Barrier

GK said that there was an impaired view and the new top bar was causing the problem. PY said that he had received a number of e-mail complaints about the impaired view. GK said that he would continue to monitor the situation.

6 Catering

TJ said that he and many other fans had been disappointed by the recent rise in the bars and catering outlets. GK said the club's gross profit on catering had dropped by 20% last season and this was due to the fact that prices had not risen and they should have done and this was an error. However he said that sales were up and he was happy with that.

TJ said that he knew of a number of fans who were boycotting the Shrimpers Bar not just for the price increase but for poor service and allegedly, cleanliness. He added that he had heard from the bar staff that the prices on beers and lagers had risen to pay for the new tills system. GK said that he should not believe all that he heard in the Shrimpers! TJ said that therefore he should their ignore advice that the lager was not drinkable or words to that effect!

PY said that the new system was actually slowing down service as only one person could use the new till. GK said that he was happy with the new system as it had reduced pilfering and once the staff were used to the system, service would improve.

7 Junior Blues Club

PY said that the Trust were very unhappy with the introduction of the Junior Blues Club as it clashed with the junior section of the Trust and also that there was no consultation whatsoever with the Trust. He added that the Trust had taken over the Junior Blues at the direct request of the club about five years ago and amalgamated it into the Shrimpers Trust.

GK said that he did not see a conflict. The club has introduced a section where the Under 7's go free and it was a natural progression to have a section covering the 8 to 15 year olds. He wanted to affiliate children over 7 and ensure that they are fans of the club for a long time. CB asked how the update on the Junior Blues Club had gone and GK said it had gone very well.

TJ said it was therefore a natural progression that the club would introduce a senior section which would be in direct competition with the Shrimpers Trust. GK said that the club would not introduce a supporters club for adult members. However he did add that when the club moved to the new stadium, the club would introduce a club membership where fans could get away tickets.

8 Trust AGM

GK said that Ron Martin could not attend the Trust AGM, which would be held on 19th October. PY asked if GK and Steve Tilson (ST) could answer questions in a Q&A session at the AGM. GK said that he would check on the availability of ST.

9 Shrimpers Bar

PY reported that when he had arrived in the Shrimpers recently it was obvious that the floors of the bar had not been cleaned. GK said that he would look into this. PY then asked if there was any sign of the new chairs that had been promised. GK said that that was a good question and he would check progress.

10 Turnstile Opening Times

PY said that he understood that the turnstiles opened at 1300 but had recently changed. GK said that the turnstile opening time moved to 1330 some time ago and hadn't been a recent change. PY said that there could be a loss of revenue if the bars were opening later.

11 Colchester Beam Back

PY asked if there would be a beam back for the Colchester away game. GK said that there would be. He added that there would only be 900 tickets available for the away match and that the club would have a problem distributing them. CB suggested that the club offer the tickets to those season ticket holders who had ticket stubs for away games which would have limited attendance such as Burnley in the League and Leeds in the Carling Cup, first and then to those that had one stub and so on.

12 Any Other Business

TJ said that he had heard that Sue McCamley, who had worked in the Youth Department for a number of years, had been made redundant and asked how that could be. GK said that her work had been spread amongst other members of the department.

PY asked what the minimum age was for purchasing tickets at Roots Hall. GK said that fans had to be 14 years of age to attend matches on their own.

13 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 18th October at 1600.