



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING NOVEMBER 15th 2006

1 Present

Geoffrey King (GK), Derek Wilshire (DW), Paul Yeomanson (PY) and Terry Jeffreys (TJ) were present. Apologies were received from Bryan Woodford

2 Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 20th September 2006.

GK said that a letter of thanks had been received from David Kenley.

GK said that Matt Fletcher had settled in well as Ticket Office Manager. He announced that David Jobson was now back as the Stadium Manager.

GK said that everything was ready to go with Lorson International. He said that he would be meeting them soon to discuss the launch.

GK said that the prices had been reduced by 10p per pint in the Shrimpers Bar and reported that the taking are up on last season.

PY said that Chris Berry was formulating what the Southend Junior Shrimpers will offer on the Junior Blues and will send the proposal to the club shortly.

GK said that Ron Martin had instructed that the club accounts be released for printing. The date of the club's AGM would be announced when the accounts had been printed.

PY asked if the club would provide a "beam-back" for the Colchester game. GK said that it probably would not happen because at last Friday, there were still 200 available tickets in the Ticket Office. He added that the screen hire for the "beam-back" was £10K plus VAT.

3 League Cup vs. Manchester United

PY said that GK had contacted TJ and himself to sound out ticket pricing for the game but had not discussed the ticket distribution policy. He said that the Trust were disappointed to find that the club's official website stated that the Shrimpers Trust had been involved with both the setting of ticket prices and distribution policy. He said that the Trust had received a lot of "flak" over this and despite protests to the club, the error had not been removed from the official website.

TJ said that the misleading information was still being displayed on the door to the Ticket Office as he stood by it awaiting his ticket on the last day of the season ticket holder window. GK said that he could only apologise for this error as it was not mentioned in the conversations and he had not passed that information on the Press Officer.

GK said that there were only a finite number of tickets available and unfortunately the club could not keep everyone happy. GK defended the reasons for insisting that only allowing the personal collection of tickets. He said that tickets had gone astray in the post before and had previously discussed these problems with the Post Office.

PY said that there had been a problem with a steward who had been swearing at fans including women and children before the game. He said that the Manchester United players had to use the steps down to the Shrimpers Bar to access the club due to problems with

their coach. Many fans including women and children were coming up the stairs at that time and the steward was swearing at them to get back down the stairs to give the players priority. PY said that many fans who witnessed the incident including Chris Berry were fuming at the behaviour of the steward and the totally unnecessary use of bad language. GK apologised for the behaviour of the steward and asked if the steward number had been taken as he wanted to bring this to the attention of David Jobson. PY said that the Trust had all that in fact Chris Berry had already written to the club.

4 League Cup vs. Spurs

GK said that the match would be on Wednesday 20th December and that the Birmingham game would be put back to Saturday, the 23rd, from the Friday.

He said that there would not be enough tickets for season ticket holders due to the policing policy! He said that at this stage, he did not know that the actual allocation of tickets would be as negotiations continued with Spurs. He said that the tickets would go on sale to season ticket holders from November 21st for two weeks and they would accept telephone sales from the 28th. After the two weeks were up, any remaining tickets would go on general sale.

PY asked if the Trust could use Roots Hall car park as a staging point. He said that DC Dick Spooner was keen to see as many fans travel by coach as possible so the Trust envisaged taking a lot of coaches. HN said that she would speak to David Jobson about the request.

5 Fossetts Farm

PY said that Ron Martin had asked the Trust to promote Fossetts Farm on its website and this had now been done. He asked what else the Trust could do to help? GK asked that fans go on the Council website, continue to send in the slips and generally promote the Fossetts Farm application. He said that the club were producing 5000 tee-shirts promoting Fossetts Farm to give away to fans.

6 West Stand

PY again reported that at half-time in the West Stand, it was impossible to get into the men's toilets as the main concourse near the men's and women's toilets were packing with congregating fans. GK said the club would be putting up advertising hoardings at the back of the West Stand seats to ensure that people do not congregate.

7 Shrimpers Bar

PY reported that the women's toilets were not very tidy. GK said that this could be that a member of staff had been transferred to other duties and that his duties had not been covered. He said that he would look into this.

8 SUFC Staff Interviews

PY asked if the Trust could interview Dave Scriven and Ben Clarkson who were Trust members for the Trust newsletter and website. GK said that he would make enquiries about this.

9 Away Match Mascots

PY said that the Trust had offered the free facility of being a mascot at an away game to its junior section members. However, when Chris Berry had tried to arrange for a junior member to be the mascot at Burnley, he was told that the club were now doing a mascot package and one had been sold for Burnley but there was not a mascot at Burnley. PY wondered what was going on.

GK said that the club had been approached by a fan living in the Burnley away wanting to pay for the privilege of being an away mascot. HG said that it was now the club's policy to sell an away mascot package! GK said that he had seen a letter from one of the Championship club's referring to the inter-trading of mascot packages. He said that he would discuss this with Brian Wheeler.

10 Any Other Business

PY asked if the Centenary badge was in the shop. GK said that he had spoken to Nina Drew yesterday and was awaiting a response.

PY said that the Trust were embarking on a membership push and asked if leaflets could be handed out by Trust personnel at the turnstiles. GK said that he was not happy with that approach as it was a potential litter problem for the club. However he said that he was happy for the Trust to have membership leaflet dispensers in all the club bars.

GK said that he had spoken to S.U.C.E.T. recently and it was reported that there had been three Trust functions in the Shrimpers Bar recently and they had not received the Trusts contributions as agreed previously. PY said that he would ask our Treasurer to send the £150 cheque.

11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 13th December at 1600.