



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING DECEMBER 13th 2006

1 Present

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

2 Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 15th November 2006.

GK said that everything was set for the Lottery launch with Lawson International in mid January. He said that the bank accounts are open and ready to go.

GK said that he was still awaiting the offers available from the Southend Junior Shrimpers. PY apologised for this stating that Chris Berry (CB) had been unwell and was now spending all his spare moments arranging the Trust coaches for Spurs.

GK said that the club's plans to erect advertising hoardings at the back of the West Stand seats to ensure that people do not congregate had been blocked by the Safety Advisory group. He said that David Jobson and his security team would strive to move people on and to prevent loitering.

GK said that he had given permission for Dave Scriven and Ben Clarkson to be interviewed by the Trust for the Trust newsletter and website, and they were awaiting the call from the Trust.

On the subject of the away game mascots, BW said that there had been a lot more requests for mascots at away games. He said that he did not know what had happened when CB had tried to arrange for a junior member to be the mascot at Burnley but he would look into it and report back. He added that CB should contact Marisa to check if an away mascot package had been sold.

GK said that the Club AGM had been set for the 18th January 2007 and that the Centenary badges and folders were now in the club shop.

3 Southampton Violence

PY said that he wanted to bring the club's attention to an incident that had happened in the town during the evening after the Southampton match. He handed out copies of an e-mail relating to an incident where innocent bystanders had been assaulted during the "trashing" of a pub near Victoria Circus by hooligans allegedly supporting Southampton.

GK said that he was very sorry to hear of this violence and sent his good wishes to those caught up in it. He said that the police were not aware of the travel of this Southampton risk group until they received an alert from Police at Liverpool Street saying that the risk group were on their way. He added that the hooligans did not attend the match.

4 League Cup vs. Spurs

PY said that 15 coaches had already been booked for the game and after agreement from David Jobson, would be starting from Roots Hall. The first coach would leave at 4.15 pm and the coaches will have to be parked ten minutes away from White Hart Lane.

5 Away Ticket Allocation for future High Demand Matches

PY said that one of our committee members had done some research on the way all the other championship sides allocate tickets for high demand matches. Southend United and four other clubs allocate by season ticket only but the rest have a number of schemes mixing season tickets and away ticket stubs. DW asked if the Trust wanted an allocation of tickets. PY said that the Trust were not the only providers of away transport as many go by car or by train. He said that the Trust probably transported 20% of the away fans to matches.

BW said that he was in an away travel club and tickets are paid for by credit card and are dispatched whether they are required or not. If he doesn't require them he sells them on. DW asked if the Trust wanted an away travel club but PY said that the Trust wanted an away ticket club.

GK said that the club had some advanced ideas that they were kicking around and these would be open to the Trust, say in February. BW said that the fans had panicked last time and some had queued all night when there was no need. TJ said that if the fans had been informed how many tickets were available, there may not have been the panic. BW said that the number was on the web. TJ said that a number had been posted on the Shrimperzone message board by a "southend insider" but gave that no credence as he did not consider that to be an official statement, unless you want to tell us otherwise that this now the club's policy!

GK said that the club had been trying to get 7000 but had ended up with the official allocation of 5,500. PY said that the 5,500 had also been subject to police restrictions and GK responded that this was correct. PY asked why each ticket had to be sold individually i.e. having to have four individual sales of £20 tickets instead of one sale of £80 as this had added to the long queuing times. GK said that he would take advice on that point.

PY asked if the club could put aside match tickets for the people running the Trust coaches. GK said that he could do that and just needed to be told the numbers required.

6 Fossetts Farm

RM said that the meeting at Rayleigh went very well adding that the Rochford councillors had held a photo-call at Roots Hall after they backed the proposals. He said that so far he hadn't seen anything that would indicate that they would not get planning permission. He said that English Heritage and the Archaeological Group had not complained. The Southern architect liked it.

He said that there had been an archaeological survey on part of Smithers Farm where the training ground would be. The council do not want the parking at the training ground used during the mid-week and it wouldn't be. He said that he thought that floodlighting would be an issue but it had not been mentioned. He added that there would be low level lighting with no spillage.

GK asked that the fans get the message out, to fly the flags and wear the tee-shirts.

7 Rayleigh Lights

PY said that he would just like to clear up the confusion regarding the event and hoped that Nina's grandmother was getting better. He said that at the event, the Trust were there

standing like lemons and they didn't see Tilly but understood that he arrived at 1630 expecting a 30 minute stint and was there for over three hours.

GK said that the club were asked to be the main sponsors of the event, paid their money and were then at the beck and call of the promoter. – Rayleigh Council. He added that ND was unable to be there at short notice due to family illness and she was the contact.

ND said that she wanted to draw a line under the incident. BW said that it was all very unfortunate and would strive to make better arrangements next time. GK said that he had spoken to ND the next day and she had taken full responsibility. PY said matters had not been helped when a representative of the club put something flippant about the Trust complaints on Shrimperzone at 1256 on a match day. GK said that he took responsibility for that message.

GK said that originally the Trust had been approached by Rayleigh Town Clerk to get involved in the Rayleigh Lights but had declined. PY said that the Trust had indeed declined as it did not want to tread on the club's toes. However when ND invited the Trust back in, they were delighted to be able to become involved.

8 Any Other Business

GK said that he wanted to talk about the bars. He said that he had reduced the bar prices and the turnover had never been better in all the bars except for the Shrimpers Bar. PY said that this was due to a combination of things, the prices, the state of the cleanliness in the bar, mildew on glasses and the attitude of the staff. He said that a lot of drinkers had been lost to the local pubs because of this. He added that many of them had been canvassed about their problems with the Shrimpers Bar. Many had said that they had put up with a sub-standard service for a long time because they wanted their money to go into the club's coffers but enough was enough and they would not be coming back. GK said that he would resolve this issue.

11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 28th February 2007 at 1600.