



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING FEBRUARY 28th 2007

1 Present

Geoffrey King (GK), Derek Wilshire (DW), Helen Norbury (HN), Paul FitzGerald (PF), Paul Yeomanson (PY) and Bryan Woodford (BW). Brian Wheeler (BWH) attended briefly to provide an update on the Centenary celebration arrangements. Since the previous meeting, Terry Jeffreys had indicated that he no longer wished to serve on the liaison committee.

2 Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 13th December 2006.

GK said that the Lottery launch was expected to be Monday 5th March. Discussions are still to be completed with Lorson International concerning prizes to be offered and it is expected that these will be predominantly a number of non-cash benefits.

GK said that he was still awaiting the proposals in respect of Southend Junior Shrimpers. This related to enabling the club Junior Blues section to receive certain benefits currently available to the (Trust) Junior Shrimpers. PY stated that there had been no further developments on this and that the Trust was currently reviewing various related matters. GK mentioned that membership of the clubs Junior Blues had reached 180.

PY said that he and Rob Craven had interviewed Dave Scriven for the Trust newsletter and web-site and found the discussions to be most interesting. A further interview with Ben Clarkson has still to take place.

3 Manchester United Stewarding

PY said that there had been no further communication from the Club concerning the supporters' complaint about a Roots Hall steward swearing at fans at the Manchester United match. GK to follow this up with Dave Jobson.

4 Smoking in the West Stand

PY said that there had been incidents of stewards smoking in the toilets in the West Stand, contrary to ground regulations. PF mentioned that people were also smoking in the toilets of the South Upper stand. GK will speak to Dave Jobson.

5 Shrimpers Bar

PY observed that Colin the bar manager was back behind the bar, having been absent for two home games. He mentioned that over the Christmas period Colin's son, whose main job is a refuse collector, was also a potman and collecting glasses in the Shrimpers Bar, still dressed in his working clothes. There was a general concern voiced over hygiene and GK will follow this up.

PY asked GK if the Trust could have access to the Shrimpers Bar from 11 am on Saturday 3rd March, prior to the Leicester home game, if necessary. GK did not envisage a problem.

6 Fossetts Farm

PF stated that during a recent meeting, Ron Martin had seemed receptive to including supporters' requests in discussions over the facilities to be available at Fossetts Farm (FF). GK said that the architect was, in effect, dictating matters and no doubt he had his own vision of the stadium and relating facilities. However, he felt that the concourse was an area which should be open to discussion on supporter requirements. General discussion then continued on whether the Trust would like a kiosk on the concourse or in the bar(s) in order to try to increase membership and the sale of merchandise etc. No conclusions were reached at this stage.

GK mentioned that he had visited the new stadium of MK Dons, in order to see their plans for facilities. This stadium is still to be completed but is being constructed by the same firm of architects as FF. Similar to MK Dons, GK preferred to franchise the food outlets but no plans had been made at this early stage.

GK said that the FF application is now with Ruth Kelly MP, and it was hoped that this would be finally approved before the end of March. If approval was received, it was expected that work would commence on the stadium by the end of May. PF asked if the ongoing discussions with Southend Council on the plans for Roots Hall redevelopment would delay matters, to which GK replied that it would not.

It was stated that as matters progress there would be a Steering Committee, involving the Trust, to discuss and agree the various facilities available in FF.

7 Trust Player of the Year Evening

PY said that the Trust had received a request from Paul Brush to change the Trust Player of the Year evening to Wednesday 9th May 2007, for reasons unknown.

PY also mentioned that further control is needed over the people attending the celebrations for health and safety reasons. Last season, we issued an agreed number of tickets to cater for the numbers permitted in the Shrimpers Bar under the current licence. This control was compromised when several management/players' relatives arrived unexpectedly.

It was agreed that the club management and players would receive a pre-agreed allocation of tickets for this year's event and, to prevent any licence contravention, this number would not be increased on the day.

8 Youth Dept./Centre of Excellence

PY asked if there had been further thought on the composition of the committee for the above. There had been proposals in the past for a greater involvement of the Trust in discussions on and plans for youth matters but nothing had been resolved. DW remembered the subject and indicated that it was raised in or around July 2006. GK will revisit the matter with an update to be given at the next meeting.

9 SUFC CRB Verifier

PY asked whether the club had anyone who was responsible for arranging Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks. The Trust required help in obtaining CRB clearance for those persons responsible for stewarding coaches for away travel. HN stated she and Lesley were the persons designated with this task at the club and indicated that the authorities would levy either no or only a nominal charge for obtaining clearance as our members were volunteers. PY will progress matters.

10 Centenary Meetings

PY mentioned that there had been no further news from the club concerning the next meeting of the Centenary Meeting Committee. The previous meeting was late 2006.

GK requested BWH to join the meeting and provide an update on plans to celebrate this milestone. BWH said that arrangements had been made for a 500 cover (50 tables of 10) Centenary Ball on Saturday 12th May. The event would be held in a marquee on the Roots Hall pitch and include a cabaret. Prices will be £650 + vat for a table of 10. This will be for 8 guests and include both a current or past player and their partner. Individual tickets will be available at £70 + vat. The merits of silver or self-service buffet service have yet to be decided upon.

BWH informed the meeting that it is expected there would be a pre- (2007/8) season match with Fulham FC, which would form part of the Centenary celebrations. Plans are still being finalised but this may be preceded by a short Blues Legends v Celebrities game. PF suggested that involvement of local junior teams to commence proceedings would help to encourage more families to attend.

11 Any Other Business

GK informed the meeting that Hull AFC had sent the club 100 complimentary tickets for the forthcoming match with the Blues on 31st March. This gesture was to try to make amends for our supporters' coach being attacked upon leaving their ground, the last time we met in 2003. HN said that 80 adult and 20 children's tickets had been received. PF will send a copy of the original letter from the Hull AFC Chairman, offering free tickets, to GK for information (done).

BW asked about developments on loan players to help the club remain in the Championship. GK stated that the Manager had been trying unsuccessfully for some time to obtain a further player(s) but the wages required were prohibitive.

PF asked if the club would consider having a bust of, or suitable acknowledgement to Oliver Trigg, former landlord of the Blue Boar public house and considered the founder of Southend United FC, incorporated into the FF plans. GK asked for a picture of Oliver Trigg so that this could be researched further.

11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 21st March 2007 at 1600 (GK has already given his apologies).