



# SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING APRIL 18<sup>th</sup> 2007

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## 1 Present

Geoffrey King (GK), Derek Wilshire (DW), Liz Orford(LO), Brian Wheeler (BWH), Lee Bird (LB), Paul Yeomanson (PY) and Bryan Woodford (BW). Apology for absence was given by Paul FitzGerald.

## 2 Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007.

GK asked whether anyone had noted that, following previous discussions on the matter, Colin the bar manager was no longer working in the Shrimpers Bar. GK also believed the complaint concerning a club steward swearing at fans at the Manchester United match had been dealt with. PY was to check with Chris Berry, who had made the earlier complaint, to see whether he had heard anything.

## 3 2007/08 Ticket Prices

GK said that until the club knew which league we would be playing in next season it was not possible to provide details.

## 4 Away Travel Club

GK mentioned that consideration was being given to introducing an away travel club for next season. It was not yet decided which form this would take or what would be included but GK will speak with Ron Martin (RM) about the possibility of an away season card. All will be revealed at a later date and probably at the next meeting.

## 5 Club Shop

PY mentioned that he had been asked by some supporters about having a Blues scarf for the 'summer' i.e. a thin and lightweight version of the current one. GK will speak to the club shop staff.

## 6 Smoking in the South Stand

PF mentioned that people were still smoking in the South Stand. GK took the opportunity to raise this with Dave Jobson (DJ) during the meeting and he will follow this up and take appropriate action.

## 7 Stewarding in South Upper

PY said that he had received complaints from fans in the South Upper regarding "over-zealous" stewarding when they have given the players a "ticker-tape" reception onto the

pitch. While not happy about the litter that this action causes in the stand, GK will speak with DJ and discuss the manner in which stewards communicate with fans.

## **8 Fossetts Farm**

GK informed the meeting that matters concerning the new stadium would still continue in the background despite the disappointing set-back caused by the Government "calling in" the planning application for a public enquiry. However, while remaining confident of eventual approval, this enquiry is likely to delay the development by a year.

## **9 Centenary**

The Trust had previously asked whether the club would be prepared to provide a table at the Centenary Ball at no cost to the Trust, so that a few of the less affluent supporters could attend. In turn, the Trust would make a further donation for equipment required by the club. This way, the Trust would not be seen to be using its funds for a social event and the club could gain important PR by being seen to make a gesture to the "ground-roots" fans that may be precluded from attending the event by a lack of adequate finance.

GK did not feel that this was an interesting proposition. He said that the club was just about breaking even for the event and suggested that the Trust raffled tickets for the Ball which was rejected as unfeasible at this late stage and competing with the End of Season draw.

BW and PY mentioned that it appeared the event and pricing was directed towards the Corporate supporter which GK and BWH denied. However, at a cost of £95 per person for those on a table of 10 (only 8 paying) this could be prohibitive for the majority of individuals.

GK suggested that the Trust used some of its bank balance to purchase a table but this was rejected as inappropriate and discussions reached an impasse.

At present a Table is still held for the Trust, pending a final decision to be made by the Trust Committee/Geoffrey King.

BWH raised the matter of the match to celebrate the Centenary and informed us that discussions were ongoing and the team to play has yet to be decided.

## **10 Touring Kings**

PY had received a request for any merchandise the club may have that was no longer required and which could be given to a kids team which tours Germany every year, to distribute amongst local youngsters.

GK said that there may be some of the LDV silver shirts remaining and he will investigate and revert.

## **11 Any Other Business**

The End of Season Draw was to take place during the final home game against Luton.

The discussions moved on to RM's very kind gesture to provide free coaches to Plymouth in order to generate as much Blues support as possible for this important match. PY said that people still had to be found to run these coaches and mentioned that those responsible for running the Trust coaches usually received free travel. As these coaches were to be provided free, PY asked whether the organisers could receive a free match ticket instead for

the added responsibility as in previous seasons. After lengthy discussion GK agreed to provide 16 match tickets.

The Trust was holding a Curry Night on 1<sup>st</sup> May to which GK and RM were invited as guests.

PY passed to GK the complimentary tickets for staff, players and their families to attend the Player of the Year night on 9<sup>th</sup> May.

GK was still awaiting a picture of Oliver Trigg, landlord of the Blue Boar public house and considered the founder of Southend United FC, for a bust or suitable acknowledgment to be incorporated into the FF plans.

GK mentioned that supporters were leaving fish and chip wrappers outside the Shrimpers Bar before matches and causing an unwanted mass of litter.

## **12 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2007 at 1600.