



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING JULY 4th 2007

1 Present

Geoffrey King (GK), Derek Wilshire (DW), Gary Adamson (GA), Liz Orford (LO), Paul Yeomanson (PY), Paul FitzGerald (PF) and Bryan Woodford (BW) were present.

2 Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 23rd May 2007.

- PY thanked the club for the donation of shirts to the local football team who had just returned from an event in Germany.
- PY mentioned that he was unaware that the matter concerning the Manchester United complaint had been satisfactorily resolved. GK said that a letter had been sent to Chris Berry in this regard. PY would follow this up.
- PY informed the meeting that following receipt of next season's fixture list, the Trust were unable to participate in the Southend Carnival Torchlight Parade as the team would be playing away to Leeds Utd on that day. As a result, both the Trust liveried coach and supporters who are normally involved will be unavailable.

3 CofE/Youth Dept

It has been agreed between the Trust and Ricky Duncan that the former will provide £5,000 p.a. over the next two years to the Youth Dept. This will be above the amount received from the "Quid a Goal" fund-raising and be used primarily to assist in the funding of Youth team tours. PY said that there will shortly be a formal presentation to Ricky Duncan.

PY also mentioned that the Trust will introduce a Player of the Year award which will be presented at the first team end of season awards evening. The ultimate winner will be chosen from those successful in monthly "Player of the Month" awards for the Youth team(s) throughout the season.

GK informed the meeting that youth living accommodation had been leased in Alexandra Road Southend to enable more of the young players to live together and provide a comfortable "home from home".

4 Meet the Blues Day

PY said that the Trust would have its normal pavilion present during the day with merchandise and memorabilia available for purchase. This area would also be available for autograph signing by players and it was hoped that this year players would arrive at varying times to avoid the chaos which the Trust encountered with supporters last year when they all arrived together.

The Trust wished to arrange a "Cross Bar Challenge" this year with a photo opportunity with players as the prize. GA could see no problem with this provided the goal-posts were sited away from pitches considered to be "out of bounds" during the day.

5 Fossett's Farm/Stadium Inquiry

GK stated that he had been very busy preparing the club's case concerning the new ground application to present to the Public Inquiry due to commence on 25th September. The Inquiry is a result of concerns by Renaissance Southend Ltd (RSL) over the perceived detriment to the Southend Town Centre caused by the introduction of new retail outlets at Fossett's Farm. GK feels the club has addressed these concerns but BW asked whether there was anything the Trust could do to assist. GK had noted that we had a planning representative in our membership and asked whether he could give his view on the application to support the club's case. PY will follow this up.

6 Car Park Space – Match Days

PY asked whether the Trust could have a car parking space on match days, similar to previous years. GK agreed.

7 Shrimpers Bar

PY requested access to the bar on Friday 27th July at 10 am to put up some new framed shirts etc. GK agreed.

8 Away Matches – Ticket Allocations

PY raised the subject of the distribution of tickets for away games with clubs with small away ticket availability e.g. Brighton (895). GK said that it was difficult to please everyone and GA agreed that season card holders had priority. Dependent upon the demand for tickets there may have to be a ballot to decide who is eligible to purchase one.

PY stated that previously in League 1 we had been offered a number of free junior match tickets by the away club's supporters club and he asked whether we would be prepared to reciprocate should the situation arise this season. Following discussions with GK and GA it was agreed that should it occur it would be looked at on a case-by-case basis. Availability of free tickets will much depend on the success of the team and demand for tickets.

9 Ticket Office

PF mentioned that he had received a complaint from a supporter who had bought a number of tickets for his family which resulted in separate credit card transactions being arranged by ticket office staff. After purchase of the tickets the customer was unable to use his credit card in a shop due to his credit card company having security concerns over the multiple use of the card in a short space of time and blocking the card. GA mentioned that the club wished to identify each purchaser of tickets for their own data but agreed that this was not an ideal situation and would investigate this further with the company through whom we issue tickets.

10 Club Website

PY acknowledged the improvement in the new club website but mentioned that the linkage to the Trust website had not been included as in the previous format. GA stated that there were a number of issues to be addressed on the new website and this omission would be included.

11 Trust Recruitment Drive

PY said that the Trust wished to assist in its recruitment drive by providing relating leaflets in all bars at the first home match. GK agreed.

12 Blues in View

PY asked whether there were any objections to the Trust producing a photographic record of the club ranging from now until the new ground is complete. This request emanates from the success of a similar book produced by Glentoran FC, in Ireland. GK asked to see the Glentoran book. PY to arrange.

13 Any Other Business

BW asked whether we should soon expect to see a new signing(s) following the long running saga and sale of Freddy Eastwood, to which GK replied, "I should hope so!", followed by unanimous agreement.

14 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting has still to be determined.