



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING AUGUST 29th 2007

1 Present

Geoffrey King (GK), Derek Wilshire (DW), Gary Adamson (GA), Brian Wheeler (BWH), Paul Yeomanson (PY), and Bryan Woodford (BW) were present. Apologies were received from Paul FitzGerald (PF).

2 Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 4th July 2007.

GK mentioned that in a letter he had received from Chris Berry thanking the club for the two season cards presented to him and his wife for their service to away travel, he had mentioned that his complaint regarding an incident at the Manchester United match last season was now considered closed.

Following discussions during the previous meeting concerning the creation of a book consisting entirely of pictures of, and relating to, the Blues, PY loaned GK a copy of a similar publication on Glentoran FC, for information purposes.

3 Fossetts Farm/Stadium Inquiry

GK informed the meeting that the club submitted it's case for the Public Inquiry, relating to the new ground application, one week prior to the 31st August deadline. The hearing is to commence on 25th September and it is hoped that a positive decision will be reached by December this year. If the go-ahead is given the club could begin playing at the new ground during the season 2009/10.

GK asked whether Gary, the Trust member with experience of planning applications could assist the club's case by submitting his document, supporting the club's application, to the Department of the Environment.

4 Ticket Office/On Line Ticketing

PY said that he had been informed that the ticket office processed multiple credit card transactions (instead of one) for a person buying several tickets for himself and enquired why this was necessary. GK said that this should not be the case as tickets can be placed in a "shopping basket" to be purchased in one transaction. PY agreed to seek further clarification from the person highlighting the perceived problem.

Discussions continued on ticket office telephone answering times and choosing seats together on-line. GA said that the Leyton Orient game had identified a problem with season cards, with several being refused entry, and the club was currently putting all it's resource into solving this issue. GA would follow up on the telephone waiting times when the season card entry was resolved. The matter of having the ability to choose seats (together) on-line would be included in an upgrade of the present Tickets.com system, although this could also present the club with problems with single seats being left unsold in various parts of the ground.

5 Prospects Car Park

BW mentioned that the Prospects Car Park seemed considerably more congested at the first two league home games and enquired whether the club had increased the number of vehicles permitted to park this season. GK said he was not aware that the number of permitted vehicles had increased but would look into the matter.

6 Trust Membership Application in Match Day Programme

PY asked whether the club could insert a Trust Membership Application Form on a page in a match day programme. BWH pointed out that not only would this take up advertising space but supporters may not wish to damage their programme by tearing out the form. BW's suggestion of a loose insert in the programme was not considered practical due to the short timescale of receiving programmes from the printers and distributing them to the various outlets. DW also felt that this would increase the amount of litter around the ground. Additionally, BWH considered that programme sales are not high enough to reach the majority of home supporters at the game. It was suggested that the Trust place an advert for membership in the new Blues News.

7 Trust Sponsorship of CofE – Recognition in Programme

PY expressed disappointment that the Trust donation of £10,000 to the Youth Centre of Excellence had not been acknowledged in the match day programme, whilst a list of CofE Players Sponsors are shown. GK thought that Ricky Duncan would have addressed this issue but he would see that this is rectified. BWH stated that Dave Scriven is now aware of this and asked that PY send the Trust Logo and suitable wording for inclusion in the Match Day Programme.

8 Free Tickets for U16 Walsall Fans at Home Match (29th March 08)

PY informed the meeting that Walsall FC had offered free tickets for Under 16 year olds at the clubs away match at the Bescott Stadium and asked whether the club would be prepared to reciprocate. GA could not understand the rationale for the offer, unless Walsall did not expect many fans from Southend, and felt that there seemed no reason for our club to reduce income by giving away these tickets to that age group. GA said the club is, however, keen to encourage Under 8's to attend games.

BWH asked whether Walsall were making this offer to every club and PY said he will investigate. The matter was put on hold and would be reviewed early 2008 when the club is in a better position to determine demand for tickets.

9 Frankie Banks Testimonial

PY asked whether it would be acceptable to arrange a testimonial game for Frankie Banks next season. GK said that in the near future there would be similar matches for Spencer Prior (proceeds going to Little Havens) and Kevin Maher (10 years service) but it could be that Spencer's game would be the last match at Roots Hall (application approval permitting) and Kevin's will be the first at the new stadium. Next season was probably the ideal time for Frankie. GK mentioned that the club's charges for holding a match should be borne in mind during preparations to avoid any misunderstanding at a later date. PY to present more detailed proposal to the Club at the next Liaison Meeting.

10 SUFC AGM

PY asked whether a date had been set for the club's AGM. GK said that no date had been arranged to-date but he may have more information at the next meeting.

11 Any Other Business

GA informed the meeting that a member of the Trust committee had been reported as showing aggressive and unacceptable behaviour towards Millwall supporters who were in an Executive box during the last home league game. PY said this would be discussed at a future Trust Board meeting.

12 Date of Next Meeting

19th September 2007.