



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING 23rd April 2008

1. Present

Geoffrey King (GK), Garry Adamson (GA), Derek Wilshire (DW) Helen Norbury (HN), Bryan Woodford (BW) and Paul Yeomanson (PY) were present. Apologies were received from Paul FitzGerald (PF).

2. Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 19th March 2008.

PY mentioned that the date (in August) for Spencer Prior's (SP) testimonial was now being publicised by Little Havens Hospice although he was not aware that this had been finalised. GK said that originally SP had arranged for a team to play the first team but was now unclear about whether this would still take place. GK asked HN to contact SP and obtain further clarification.

GK said that GA would now be writing to persons who will be participating on the Youth Team Lottery Board and provide details of their requirements and responsibilities. It is anticipated that there will be quarterly meetings of the Board.

PY said that the Trust had received a thank you letter from Mrs Taylor regarding their donation to Southend Scorchers and it was intended that the Trust would play them in a football match later in the year. GK anticipated that Boots and Laces would be available as a venue.

GK stated that the amount raised by the recent share issue was now in the region of £306,000. Equipment was now in place to issue the share certificates.

3. Play Offs

HN stated that the dates for the play-off matches had still to be confirmed by the Football League.

GA was aware of the need to consider the speedy distribution of tickets for these matches and was considering several options to reduce administration. One proposal was to make tickets immediately available for the home leg to Season Card Holders (SCH's) without knowing the date. SCH's would have to take the risk that they would be able to attend the match on a date to be set, as refunds or credits for future matches would not be made.

Although tickets will be also available for purchase by telephone, it was hoped that this advance arrangement would help reduce the queues for tickets once the date had been set by the Football League.

GA also raised the matter of distribution of tickets for the away leg and it was anticipated that these would be made initially available on a first-come-first-served basis to SCH's. Depending on the ground to be visited and the distance involved it was felt that the number of tickets available may well meet demand.

PY raised the question of parking for the considerable number of coaches needed to transport supporters to the away match. For example, if we were to play Leeds on a Thursday evening it would mean leaving around 1pm at which time the market would still be reaching its close at Roots Hall and be unavailable for coaches. BW suggested the airport car park as an alternative starting point and GK offered to make contact with them to obtain their agreement for such an arrangement. Should we reach the final, Roots Hall would be available for the coaches.

PY asked about accommodation for selling tickets for the coaches. In previous years we have used the programme hut near Prospects Car Park but this is not ideal for a number of reasons, including its small size and distance from the ticket office. Discussions on alternative accommodation are continuing.

It was agreed that the Trust would receive a block of tickets for sale to their members should the team reach the final at Wembley.

HN said that there would shortly be a meeting with the Football League to discuss various matters relating to the play-off matches so anything which needed to be raised should be mentioned to her as soon as possible.

4. Trust POTY – Tuesday 6th May

PY gave GK a number of tickets for SUFC staff to attend the awards night on 6th May. GK said that players would not be able to attend for too long that evening given its likely close proximity to a play-off match. Following a request from PY, GA agreed to ask Dave Scriven to locate film of the identified goals of the season.

5. West Stand

PY and BW had both received complaints from supporters in the West Stand about the Gents toilets and the inability to exit the facilities quickly at half time during a match. It seems that there is only one exit so people can get in but cannot easily get out. There have been reports of a visit to the Gents taking the whole of the half time break. GK said he will follow this up.

PY had also received a complaint about the length of time it took to leave the West stand after a match with health and safety concerns mentioned. GK said that he was surprised as a recent visit from the authorities about such matters gave the stand a clean bill of health.

6. Trust Book

PY thanked GK for passing Sean and his presentation of pictures to the Trust, as it seems his ideas meet requirements. PY asked whether it was in order for anyone to take pictures of the Roots Hall ground for possible inclusion in the book but HN said that this would contravene regulations if pictures were taken during a match. It would be preferable for persons to be nominated first so that permission can be granted.

7. Youth Team Donation

PY mentioned that the Trust was still awaiting a youth team shirt with the The Shrimpers Trust sponsorship shown for display in the Shrimpers Bar. GA said that this will be arranged. PY asked that the logo be changed for next season to make it more noticeable on the shirts and GA said that providing it was within the required guidelines for size this would not be a problem.

8. Who's Who of Britain's Business Elite – Young Business Leaders Edition

PY brought to the attention of the meeting that Darren Posnack, Trust Treasurer, appeared in the latest edition of the above publication.

9. Liaison Meeting Time

PY mentioned that PF had asked whether it was possible to defer the Liaison meetings until 4.15 in future as he requires more time to attend. Everyone was in agreement.

10. Any Other Business

GA mentioned that he and the Chairman had a recent meeting with The Blue Voice (TBV). The Chairman is supportive of the principles of TBV but would prefer that they speak through the Trust in future as he only has the time to speak with one supporters' organisation. PY mentioned that a TBV representative is already on the Trust committee and therefore the opportunity is already there for them to route any requests to the club. The Trust has also assisted TBV by providing a financial donation for equipment (flags etc) and purchased their badges.

The persons who have been enjoying regular contact with the Chairman in the past are however not Trust members and, although they have been asked to join, it would appear they wish to remain independent.

11. Date of Next Meeting

21st May 2008.