



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING 23rd July 2008

1. Present

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

2. Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 23rd April 2008.

GA has written to all participants of the Youth Team Lottery Board inviting them to the inaugural meeting – 31st July

GK was sympathetic to the issues regarding access to the toilets in the West Stand but stated that any building work is to be kept to a minimum as the new stadium would take priority.

GK stated that Spencer Prior's benefit match, which was partly in aid of Little Havens, has been moved to next summer – date to be confirmed. PF asked for an update on Frankie Banks's testimonial – GK to talk to Ron Martin

3. Fossetts Farm

GK gave an update on progress and stated that funding is now being discussed with various parties, further news expected in around 3 months.

GK mentioned the high costs of using consultants. PF suggested that Trust members would generally speaking be very happy to help and that if any specific skill was required that he would ask the membership for help.

GK confirmed that the deal with Sainsbury's meant the club were obliged to leave Roots Hall in 2010.

4. Club Finances

GK outlined the clubs position and stated that the summer was a difficult time normally and specifically that the expected "war chest" for new players would not be forthcoming until funding was in place for the Fossetts Farm development.

5. Pre Season Friendlies

All present agreed that the pre season friendlies were "disappointing"

6. Youth Team Donation

PY stated that the next cheque would be signed off at the Trust Committee Meeting on Monday 4th August.

PY mentioned that Ricky Duncan would like some Trust Committee Members at the planned team photo shoot on August 5th.

PY asked that copies of the heads/shoulder of the players be available for the Trust as they are used in the Player of the Month awards. GA to contact Dave Scriven.

PY requested that a date be provided for the Junior Members Training Day – October Half term was suggested – PY to discuss with Ricky Duncan.

7. BBC Essex

The cessation of full away commentary was discussed and GA confirmed that Southend United had not tried to increase the cost to BBC Essex for this season. PF stated that the BBC were alluding to the fact that they were and are still trying to contact the individual responsible

All present expressed their disappointment with BBC Essex's actions.

8. Away Travel

PY briefly explained the plans for the coming season

9. Match Day Parking

GK confirmed that the Trust would continue to receive one free parking space on match days.

10. Shrimpers Bar

PY reported that further minor damage had been caused to the Trust stand. GK promised that HN would contact Simon Bell to ensure the support centre are aware.

11. Southend Carnival Torchlight Procession – 23rd August

PY requested that the Sammy the Shrimp, Elvis and the Blue Belles be in attendance if possible. GA to confirm attendance.

SUFC to provide Silver Shirt for all volunteers, and arrange for Trust Logo to be printed on them.

PY to arrange with Dave Jobson - the use of the car park at Roots Hall for collection/drop off point for volunteers.

12. Shrimpers Trust Poker Championship – Sat 13th September

PY outlined the plans for the poker championship at Rendezvous Casino. GA to talk to the players and see how many are interested.

13. Shrimpers Trust AGM – Tuesday 14th October

PY requested that GK and Ron Martin be available for a Q & A after the formal part of the Trust's AGM. GK to revert

14. Team Card

PY mentioned the on-line discussions about giving supporters loyalty points based on purchasing away tickets from Roots Hall. GA explained that this would not be possible as the club receive little revenue from away ticket sales. GA went on to explain in more detail how the card works and what sort of benefits may accrue. He also explained that the club are working hard to bring on board more retailers – mentioning specifically Thomson's who provide a discount to Southend United Supporters as well as providing the club with valuable revenue.

15. Stop and Search at home games

PY said that he had been approached by a concerned supporter – with regard to knife crime and asked PY to speak to the club. GK confirmed that ALL stewards are required to go through appropriate training and need to qualify before they are allowed to steward at Southend. He also confirmed that "stop and search" would not be in place this season

16. Any other business

GA to confirm whether Franck Moussa's home shirt is available for SUFC Exiles sponsorship.

PF mentioned the London Olympics and asked whether this was an opportunity for the club to share in the expected revenues by providing facilities. GK stated that several local MP's had approached the club and that it was an area of interest.

DW asked when the fixture lists would be available. Expected later in the week.

PY expressed his concern that the time of the MTBD event had been changed and the fact that the Trust had not been informed.

17. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as **20th August 2008**