



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING 1st October 2008

1. Present

Geoffrey King (GK), Garry Adamson (GA), Helen Norbury (HN), Paul Yeomanson (PY), Paul FitzGerald (PF) and Bryan Woodford (BW). Derek Wilshire (DW) had given his apologies.

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

GK said that documentation concerning the purpose of the Youth Team Lottery and distribution of Lottery proceeds had been revised following suggestions from Lottery Board members and would shortly be distributed.

GK stated that Spencer Prior's benefit match would now be held next season.

PF expressed his disappointment that the Club and Players did not support the Trust's very enjoyable poker night at The Rendezvous Casino, despite giving the earlier impression that they would. HN stated that it was difficult to ask the players to attend on a Saturday evening and in future it would be club policy to decline any similar requests on that day.

Due to the unavailability of many Trust Board Members, PY informed the meeting that the Trust AGM had been moved from 14th October to 26th November. Ron Martin (RM) had agreed to attend for a Q & A and it was hoped that GK, Steve Tilson (ST) and Paul Brush (PB) would also be present.

3. FA Cup Draw / Billy Best

BW mentioned that he had been reminded by Dave Brabbing, a long serving supporter, that it was 40 years ago this year that Billy Best scored hat-tricks in consecutive rounds of the FA Cup (1st and 2nd rounds – and BW was there to witness). Billy is now 65 years old.

Dave felt it would be a great idea and gesture to commemorate this achievement by Billy being involved in the Cup draw and/or on TV. HN informed the meeting that after BW's email Dave Scriven had already alerted his contacts at the FA and was awaiting their response.

HN also said that, if not the whole team from that year, Billy would be invited as guest of the club to attend the 1st or 2nd round Cup match, providing of course that it was at home.

It was agreed that the Trust would pay for overnight hotel accommodation for Billy and his wife.

4. Blues to U's Sponsored Walk

BW informed the meeting that matters were progressing well regarding the sponsored walk to Colchester in aid of the Trust and Havens Hospices. HN had made contact with Col U and they have agreed that we may use their logo in advertising and put a relating article in their match-day programme. It was agreed that the walk will be formally announced during the game against Oldham in November. Adam Barrett, a Little Havens Ambassador, will be involved in some form.

5. Ron

PF had wondered whether RM was away on business as he had not responded promptly to recent outstanding issues, which was unlike him. GK stated that he was around but had just been very busy.

6. Lottery

PF mentioned that there was a lack of clarity over the reason for delays in the receipt of Lottery membership cards – several Trust members had not received their cards after several weeks of submitting their membership forms and cheques/DD instructions.

GA informed the meeting that a member of staff in the Lottery administration company had recently suffered bereavement and this had created a back-log in processing applications. This sad event, together with a marked increase in recent membership applications from 61 – 380 had caused a delay in the distribution of membership cards. It was agreed between GA and GK that the club would send a letter to recent applicants to dispel any concerns.

7. The Blue Voice

GK said that he was due to meet with Lee Smith of TBV to discuss the way forward for their support.

8. Distribution of Matchday Posters

GA stated that he was hoping to locate volunteers to put up Blues posters in their offices or place of work. In return, the club may be able to provide a free match ticket. PY gave an offer to include such a request in the next Trust Newsletter and send the 'Blues Country' car stickers to the Trust membership, which GA readily accepted.

9. Fossetts Farm

PY mentioned that he had received a request from a lady to commemorate her late husband's support for the club by having a permanent 'memorial' for him and similar fans at the new ground. GK said that there are no plans for a 'memorial wall' with a person's name on it. HN could, however, see the financial merits of selling bricks on the walkway to the ground inscribed with persons' names. It was felt too early in the development to discuss further.

10. West Stand

PY said that a few people were seen climbing over the external wall into the area behind the West Stand at the last home match. GK mentioned that Dave Jobson was aware of this and several individuals had been caught at the Leyton Orient match and appropriate steps would be taken to prevent an occurrence.

11. Shrimpers Bar

PY asked that, to reduce the high room temperatures in the bar, the club provides fittings to enable internal doors to be held open before matches. GK agreed.

12. Southend Carnival Torchlight Procession – 23rd August

PY said that there had been some confusion over arrangements for the procession vis a vis the Bluebelles and Sammy and Elvis' costumes.

Despite the initial offer of support from the Club at an earlier Liaison Meeting the Trust members present felt that the support for this event from SUFC could have been better. Several issues were brought up including the arrangements for the collection and return of the Mascot outfits and arrangements for ensuring members of the Bluebelles could get home safely after the event. PY thanked the club for providing and paying for the Mascots and Bluebelles. BW pointed out that they and the other volunteers had given up their time to promote the Trust and the Football Club and, in turn, bring more supporters and added revenue to the club.

GK made it clear that the club had no interest in the Carnival procession so any arrangements were down to the Trust.

The Trust will now reconsider its future participation in the procession.

13. Any Other Business

BW thanked the club for agreeing that the Trust could 'raffle' future Mayor Brian Smith's season card for next season with the proceeds going to the Trust and the Mayor's Charity.

GA informed the meeting that 3 'special event' home matches had been agreed.

Colchester Utd – Poppy Day – players' shirts will have poppies in the material and then be auctioned after the match.

Swindon Town – kids will have free entry

Stockport County – tickets will be cheaper on-line to purchase - £15

PF said that he was disappointed that the Trust was not informed of Brian Dear's retirement as the Trust wished to thank him for all his past assistance. GK mentioned that Brian wanted it 'low key'. PY said that the Trust would now make appropriate arrangements to acknowledge his service.

PY asked if the club would once again donate a prize for our Xmas Draw. GK agreed to this and GA advised he would email PY soonest with details on the item.

14. Date of Next Meeting - 22nd October 2008