



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING 3rd December 2008

1. Present

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

2. Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 1st October 2008.

GK reiterated that it was the intention that Spencer Prior's benefit match would be held next season.

GK said that Ron Martin had expressed his disappointment that so few Trust members had attended the Trust AGM after he and Steve Tilson had given their time for a Question and Answer forum. He said that unless more people attended Ron and Steve wouldn't support future meetings and greater publicity should be given to increase numbers. BW stated that, in fact, though perhaps small in number the amount of people attending was up on last year and the Trust experienced the same apathy as the club when organising such events (e.g. shareholders meeting). However, the point was understood.

BW thanked the club for all they did to ensure that Billy Best and Gary Moore attended the 2nd Round of the FA Cup versus Luton town and celebrate their 'double hat-tricks' achievement 40 years ago. He said that both had thoroughly enjoyed themselves, especially Gary who hadn't been back to Roots Hall for 37 years.

BW said that he was still waiting to hear from Colchester Utd's Supporters Club to see whether their members would be accompanying the Trust on their 'Blues to U's' walk to the Weston Homes Community Stadium in February.

GK referred to the comment on persons climbing over the wall behind the West Stand and informed the meeting that, although perhaps unrelated, 8 people were ejected from this stand during the match versus Oldham.

PY mentioned that the agreement to provide arrangements to hold doors open in the Shrimpers Bar to aid ventilation had only resulted in removable door stops being given instead of the required more permanent 'hook & eye' requirement. HN is to speak with Dave Jobson on the matter.

GA acknowledged the assistance which had been given by the Trust in distributing lottery application forms and car stickers to its membership along with their monthly newsletters.

3. FA Cup 3rd Round v Chelsea

GK confirmed that the match would be held on Saturday 3rd January 2009. Tickets would be priced at £24.50 and £11.50 and the club will have an allocation of almost 6,000. Priority will be given to Season Card Holders, Team Blues and Shareholders, persons on club data-base and then general sale, in that order. Tickets can be purchased on-line, by telephone

and in person at the ticket office. There was some discussion about whether persons attending the Huddersfield home match should receive some level of priority but this was not felt to be fair to the fans who have given their previous support to the club.

PY said that 15 supporters' coaches had been provisionally reserved for the match and it was agreed by GK that these could all commence the journey to London from the Roots Hall car park.

4. Blues to U's Sponsored Walk

BW said that arrangements were continuing and since the walk was announced on the pitch at half-time during the Oldham match on 22nd November there had been considerable interest and sponsorship received.

5. Lottery

PY mentioned that he had been asked by the club to be a 'mystery shopper' and give his experience of contact by the club call centre. He voiced a very favourable view which was welcomed by all.

6. Mascots

PY again raised the matter of the poor and unhealthy state of the club mascot costumes, Sammy and Elvis. As the Trust had experienced during the summer Torchlight procession, the heads of the costumes have a revolting smell due to their use over a prolonged period. GA asked whether the costumes could be cleaned but it was felt by PY and BW that they may be beyond recovery. GA will investigate.

7. Fossetts Farm

GK to continue to source funding for the stadium and considerable progress has been achieved so that a start on site is envisaged in March 2009.

8. Trust Section on SUFC Website

PY asked whether the club would advertise Trust events on their official website in order to generate more interest from supporters. This is something to which other clubs have agreed. GA said that there is already a link to the Trust website and Dave Scriven has enough problems publicising club and sponsor information in the space available. However, GA asked PY to find out which other clubs had a similar arrangement.

9. Club Badges

PY requested that the Trust be permitted to reproduce the club's badges over the past years in a picture which can be framed and sold to raise funds for the Trust. GK agreed.

10. CRM/Trust Database

PY said that the club had requested access to the Trust current membership database which had last been shown to the club in 2001. He said that our members would need to be balloted before this could be released.

11. South Stand Tea Bar

PY stated that he had been asked to congratulate the club on re-opening the South Stand Tea Bar as it was much appreciated by supporters. BW then referred to refreshments in general and said that, although it was nice to have hot food in the Shrimpers Bar before a game the food available is now limited to pasties and sausage rolls with no bread rolls e.g. ham or cheese on offer and it would be good to have both options. PY also suggested that a 'winter warmer' menu including a pot of chilli or soup could also be considered. GK said that he would follow this up.

12. Family Stand Attendance Rewards

PY referred to an item discussed in February this year concerning rewarding supporters in the Family Stand and enquired what had been progressed. GA said that these supporters would soon be receiving a £20 credit on their Team Card account and this will be supplemented by a further £20 in March.

13. Any Other Business

PY asked whether he could install more storage in the Shrimpers Bar as the current arrangements are full to capacity. GK agreed.

PY showed the meeting the publication regarding Stadia 'Banning Orders' for the past season. The club had the best record in League 1 with only two persons being ejected. GA said that this should receive publicity to show what a 'family safe' club we are.

PY asked about Trust tickets for Leicester and HN said these would be forthcoming. PY also asked in advance whether they could be provided for Hartlepool and MK Dons matches.

BW asked GA about Football Aid as he was informed that through this organisation the public can play for a SUFC XI, which includes club players, at Roots Hall for a fee. GA said that Football Aid is a Charity and both they and the club benefit from the arrangement. Steve Tilson had recently agreed our participation.

14. Date of Next Meeting – 21st January 2009