



# SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING 21<sup>st</sup> January 2009

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## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008.

GK informed the meeting that Spencer Prior had expressed a preference for his testimonial to be held at the end of this season with dates of 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> May mentioned. HN said that he had been speaking with a couple of his former clubs including Norwich City and they may be interested in participating. The matter has still to be discussed with Steve Tilson.

HN said that the reason she was given for the door closures in the Shrimpers Bar not being a permanent fitting was because the door does not fold back completely against the wall. She said that Dave Jobson felt that removable door stops were a better option.

GA mentioned that Elvis the mascot was now around 8 years old hence the 'smelly' state of the costume head. Arrangements were being made with Prestige Dry Cleaners to remedy the situation, after liaising with Rainbow (specialist mascot company) to ensure that no damage would be caused.

GA said that after discussion with Dave Scriven it was felt undesirable to advertise Trust events on the club web-site as it could distract from club matters and they may not always endorse Trust events.

PY told the meeting that it had been agreed that the club could have access to the Trust member database.

GK asked how supporters had judged the success of the soup, which was now available in the Shrimpers Bar before matches. Both PY and BW felt it had been well received.

## 3. FA Cup 3<sup>rd</sup> Round v Chelsea plus replay

PY complimented the club on the way the cup tickets had been distributed and said that he had seen first-hand how hard the people in the Ticket Office had worked to try to ensure that it was a success. GA said there was one particular problem and it was still being investigated why certain match tickets had to be presented in the machine twice before they were accepted

## 4. Stockport County Stewarding

PY mentioned that he had received several complaints about the way our fans had been treated by the stewards at Stockport County on 17<sup>th</sup> January. A letter was being sent to

Stockport with a sample of the letters of complaint. GK said that he would also speak with Stockport.

#### **5. Blues to U's Sponsored Walk to Colchester**

BW asked whether the walking team could receive complimentary tickets for the match and HN said that she would ask CUFC but, in any event, the club would ensure that they would obtain tickets. BW also requested the loan of a two-way radio system from the club to assist in communication between the walkers and the support group during the walk, which was agreed. GK also offered to speak with CUFC to see whether they would assist the walking team by allowing them to use one of their bars inside the hospitality areas once they had completed the charity walk from Roots Hall.

PY asked whether the walking team could start from the centre-spot at RH at 7am on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February. GK felt that the grounds-men would be there by that time so did not anticipate that being a problem.

#### **6. Bowling Night – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

PY requested that some of the players attend the Trust bowling night to help boost income and GK said that he would ask the players. However, since the meeting, the event regrettably has had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

#### **7. Fossetts Farm**

GK said that there was no further news.

#### **8. Shrimpers Bar**

PY asked whether the Trust could gain access to the Shrimpers Bar for half a day during the week 16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> February to re-arrange some of the framed club shirts and mount new ones, including the youth team shirt recently provided by the club to acknowledge mark the Trust's sponsorship. GK agreed.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

PY informed the meeting of the problems encountered by travelling fans at the recent match with Leyton Orient at Brisbane Road. He said that supporters were forced to walk for around 25 minutes from New Spitalfields Market, where the coaches were told to drop off passengers, to the Orient stadium. The walk included travelling down poorly lit alleyways in residential areas and no allowance had been made for supporters with disabilities.

GK said that the Orient Stadium Manager was Chris Baker, a former Blues employee and he would contact them on supporters' behalf to discuss the matter.

GA said that the club would be receiving an allocation of 1,900 tickets for the Colchester away game on 21<sup>st</sup> February. These will be sold to SCH on a first-come-first-served basis.

#### **10. Date of Next Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009**