



# **SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING 18th February 2009**

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## **1. Present**

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

## **2. Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2009.**

GK mentioned that a reply was still awaited from Stockport County regarding the complaint about their stewarding of the recent match versus SUFC, although our correspondence had been acknowledged.

GK also said that Leyton Orient had been unhelpful over the concerns raised about coaches being forced to drop-off supporters a long distance from their stadium in Brisbane Road.

## **3. Blues to U's Sponsored Walk to Colchester United**

HN stated that in view of Colchester Utd being unwilling to provide the walkers with complimentary tickets for the match, the club would provide them free of charge.

BW thanked the club for this generous gesture and also for the considerable and much appreciated assistance given to the Trust Committee during the preparation for this Charity Walk.

## **4. Colchester Tickets – Allocation**

GA said that the sale of tickets for the Colchester away match had appeared to go smoothly with only a few comments being received which related to a proposal for an allocation of tickets for people who regularly support the team at away matches.

## **5. Scunthorpe Match Postponement**

PF asked why the match had only been called off shortly before kick-off when it seemed apparent earlier in the day that the match would not be played due to the bad weather (snow) conditions. GK said that it was the referee's decision but the pitch was considered playable by the club.

PF felt that the car park had been dangerous to the public due to the icy conditions, to which GK disagreed. After further discussion an impasse was reached.

## **6. Pridmore's**

PY asked about the betting facility in the Shrimpers' Bar which had been missing for several weeks. GA said that Pridmore's had withdrawn their facility but Better Bet would replace them and it was hoped that supporters would be happier with this arrangement.

## **7. West Stand Gents Toilets (North End)**

GK said that the lack of lighting in these toilets had already been resolved following recent repairs.

## **8. Access at Front of Main Stand/Reception on Match Days**

PY said he had noted that stewards were now guarding closed gates either side of the Main Reception on match days which prevented access across the length of the East Stand. GK confirmed that this control would stay in place so that access would only be given to persons with bona fide business to the Main Reception and Office areas.

BW mentioned that one of the stewards in question was seen to be wearing a West Ham hat and, while not wishing to be over-sensitive, felt that this was inappropriate for someone working for SUFC. HN said that she had also noticed the hat and had subsequently brought it to the attention of Dave Jobson.

## **9. FSF (*Football Supporters Federation*) Meetings at Roots Hall**

PY asked whether the club would mind if the FSF could hold one of their quarterly regional meetings in the Shrimpers Bar (20 – 30 people) one Sunday. GK had no objections.

## **10. Football League/HMRC Tie Up**

PY asked for further details regarding the publicised possible new arrangement between the Football league and HMRC.

GK said that Lord Mawhinney, Chairman of The Football League, wanted to share information with the Gov't body in order to be aware and act earlier to try and help and prevent clubs from proceeding into administration or, in the worst cases, closure. There could also be practical penalties, such as preventing the inward transfer of players, for clubs who fail to properly manage their finances.

## **11. Season Ticket Holders – Lost Match Incentive**

PY said that Gillingham FC provide their season ticket holders with 2 tickets to a game at the club's choosing, in the event that they lose 2 consecutive games and asked whether SUFC would consider doing something similar. GA stated that he would prefer if it was something more positive e.g. tickets for a game following two victories but it was something that could be looked into.

## **12. Youth Lottery**

PY mentioned that the winners of Week 27 had not been published and GA said this would be rectified.

### **13. Trust Sign on East Stand**

PY said that the Trust was happy to pay for a new Trust sign on the East Stand but, to keep costs down, it would be preferable if the club waited until the cost of a "cherry picker" could be shared with other advertisers. GA agreed and said that it might be desirable to wait until the end of the season when advertisers will be reviewed.

### **14. What Do The Trust Get For Their Money?**

PF said that the Trust wishes to continue to support the club financially but needs to constantly fundraise and in order to attract supporters to fundraising events, the attendance of first team players helps considerably. However, it has been previously been made clear that players are not too enthusiastic about attending certain events.

GK suggested that the Trust committee get together with a few of the players namely, Adam Barrett, Dougie Freedman and Johnny Herd and try to reach agreement on some suitable events that they would be willing to attend. GK would try to arrange a suitable date.

### **15. Any Other Business**

PY asked whether there were any objections to Brian Jeeves launching his book in the Shrimpers Bar on 7<sup>th</sup> March. No objections were raised.

GA said that the season card prices for next season were to be announced on the Club's website later that evening and prices would be the same as this season.

GK said that the Courage representative had been in to see the club and as a result there will be some changes in the beer available. For matches on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April, 18<sup>th</sup> April and the last game of the season, Deuchars Real Ale will be available along with bottled Old Peculiar.

### **16. Date of Next Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009**