



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING 27th April 2009

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 18th March 2009.

GK mentioned that nothing more had been heard from Stockport regarding the stewarding complaints following the recent away game.

GK said that further proposals were to be considered by the Football League regarding the sharing of information with Government agencies. These would include details on liabilities on National Insurance and PAYE, but not VAT. The question of VAT on Agents fees is to be considered by the European Court.

After receiving feedback on the meeting between the Trust and players to identify appropriate events involving them to help raise funds, GA suggested that Lords Golf Club be considered as a possible venue as the players were frequent visitors.

GK informed the meeting that the Football League Trust would be taking up the matter of Chelsea's increasing encroachment into local schools, considered to be SUFC's territory.

3. Home Game v Leicester

GK played the police video of disturbance in the West Stand during the recent Leicester game which failed to show any Blues fans fighting amongst themselves, as he was earlier informed by the police authorities.

GK also mentioned that the problems in the East Stand Black Section were caused by Leicester fans in a box which had been booked by Virgin Media. Although other Leicester fans in other boxes were well behaved the club has made the decision not to sell match-day boxes to away fans in the future.

4. Roots Hall Catering

PY said that the new caterers were occupying the Shrimpers Bar before the match for meetings and leaving the bar in an untidy state. GK said that this had been mentioned to the catering company and they have been asked to leave promptly and ensure that the bar is left tidy.

The question of food for sale was discussed as hot pies and sausage rolls are available but there are no longer any filled bread rolls. It was recognised that the caterers should determine what the customers want and HN suggested that they carry out a survey of preferences by providing comment cards for completion.

5. Spencer Prior Benefit Match

GK said that due to expected reduced attendance, only the Far Post Bar would be open for this match.

6. Shrimpers Trust POTY & Season Review – Thurs 7th May

PY mentioned that Ricky Duncan would be bringing the Youth Team, which the Trust had supported throughout the season, to the evening.

7. Shrimpers Bar

PY said that the Overhead Projector was still faulty and this was needed for the above POTY night. GK said he would follow this up.

BW mentioned that the official site recently made an error by referring to real ale being available in the “Shrimpers Trust Bar”, instead of the Shrimpers Bar. While the need for signing-in as a member of the Trust to enter the bar had been recently removed, it was felt that altering the name of the bar would give added focus to the Trust and in turn help to increase membership and generate further income through fundraising activities which could ultimately be passed on to the club. GK said that this would be discussed.

8. Shrimpers Trust Beer Festival

PY said that the Trust had met with CAMRA regarding the possibility of holding a beer festival and asked whether Boots and Laces would be available at the end of June/early July as a venue. The intention was that the event would be in a marquee and from Friday lunchtime until Sunday lunchtime with 20 guest beers. GK said that he would investigate the availability of B & L and revert.

9. Meet the Blues Day

PY asked whether the club would be holding a Meet the Blues Day again during pre-season. GA said that this would go ahead but the date and whether it will be at B&L or RH was currently uncertain, particularly as there is a Youth Tournament on 25th and 26th July. GA suggested that we should discuss this out our committee meeting to try to freshen up the format and content of this year’s event.

10. Away Travel 2009/10 Season

PY asked whether the club would promote the Trust as their official coach travel to enhance the existing links between the two entities and recognise the financial support provided. GK said that he would discuss this internally within the club.

11. Fossetts Farm

In answer to the question “when will building start on the new stadium (and relating works)”, GK could only say “in the late summer”.

12. Any Other Business

PY mentioned that discussions were to be held regarding the Trust's possible continued financial sponsorship of the Youth Team next season.

13. Date of Next Meeting – 20th May 2009