



# SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010

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## 1. Present

Geoffrey King (GK), Ian Riddoch (IR), Helen Norbury (HN), Bryan Woodford (BW) and Paul Yeomanson (PY). Paul FitzGerald had given his apologies.

## 2. Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

There were no matters arising.

## 3. Match for Martin

PY thanked the Club for the loan of the Reserves and Youth Team kits for the match to commemorate Blues fan Martin Cranmer, who passed away in August, aged just 40. Several former Blues players participated and it was enjoyable afternoon. PY also expressed gratitude to the Club for the signed match ball which helped in raising over £900 for Little Havens Hospice on the day. PY also asked if a message of thanks could be passed onto Craig Easton & Blair Sturrock for attending the match.

## 4. Club Finances

GK stated that Club finances were in good order and an agreement had been reached with Steve Tilson and Paul Brush for a settlement of their contracts following their respective appointments at Lincoln City FC. PY mentioned that one Trust member had still to receive his season card refund, which GK agreed to investigate.

## 5. New Stadium

Matters were progressing satisfactorily with Sainsbury. Letters enclosing Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO's) had been sent to the remaining shops in Victoria Avenue. Further letters with CPO's are due to be sent to them later this week. Overall, matters are progressing but it is not expected that work will commence on the new stadium until early 2011.

## 6. SUFC AGM

A date for the AGM has still to be set but much of the preparation had already been completed.

## 7. VAT Increase from January

GK said that ticket prices would increase in January when VAT increases to 20%. An increase is unavoidable but it is not yet known how much this will be.

## **8. North Bank**

PY said that he had been asked why away fans were seated in the North/East corner of the stand instead of behind the goal. IR stated that the corner was easier for stewarding, cleaning the stand, access and also the toilets and catering outlet were adjacent. PY also asked if Home Fans would be able to use the North Bank for selected matches this Season. GK advised that this would be looked into.

## **9. Shrimpers Bar**

PY stated that the Shrimpers Bar was regularly in a mess e.g. rubbish on the floor, when he arrives before a match. GK said that the Bar should be left in a tidy order by previous users and he would follow this up.

## **10. Bars & Catering**

IR mentioned that the 'Happy Hour' was introduced to try to attract more people earlier to the bars. Unfortunately, this has not been very successful and it is not yet known how long this arrangement will continue. PY said that someone had asked whether vegetarian food could be offered and IR said that a vegetarian Pukka pie was available for purchase. PY also asked why draught beer was not available in the West Stand. IR stated that it was not possible to keep draught beer cool enough in the West Stand bar and much has been wasted. In the winter, when the outside temperatures are much lower, it may be looked at again.

## **11. Rayleigh Lights – 25<sup>th</sup> November**

PY said that the Trust would have a stand in the town when Rayleigh switches on its Christmas Lights and asked whether any players would be attending, as they have in previous years. HN said that a formal request for players to be in attendance had been received from Rayleigh Council but a reply had yet to be given.

## **12. Any Other Business**

PY said that he had received comments regarding the recent 2 for 1 ticket deal for the Crewe match i.e. a good idea but where is the benefit for season card holders? IR said that while he understood such a comment, season card holders already receive a discount on their match day price and priority for cup games. He added that we are in a difficult economic recession and the Club has to try to do all it can to increase attendance and relating revenue. He hoped season card holders would appreciate this view.

PY asked whether Trust regular away travellers, who may not be season card holders, could purchase a small number of match tickets in the event that the Club is drawn away to a small non-league club, with very limited capacity for away fans, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Round of the FA Cup. GK was sympathetic but said he would wait to see the outcome of the draw.

PY asked if the date of the next round of the FA Youth Cup was known but this date was still awaited by the Club.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

17<sup>th</sup> November 2010