



# SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011

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## 1. Present

Tara Brady (TB), Paul FitzGerald (PF), Bryan Woodford (BW) and Paul Yeomanson (PY). Helen Norbury (HN) had given her apologies.

Paul Sturrock (PS) joined the meeting after it had begun to briefly discuss team matters.

## 2. Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

TB had identified that the reason Lottery winners had not been mentioned on the Club's website was due to an oversight by a member of staff. This is now being rectified. Matter closed.

Discussions continued regarding the shortage of programme sellers at matches and TB asked PY to make a proposal to increase availability of programmes. Initial thoughts were outlets in the Ticket Office and top of the stairs behind the East Stand near the turnstiles.

PY said that a Club representative at the Southend Children in Care Awards was no longer required as alternative arrangements had been made. Matter closed.

PY informed TB that the Hospitality Box available to the Trust would be used by a charitable cause on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April at the Burton Albion home game. Matter closed.

## 3. Club Finances

PF reminded TB that some months ago he had stated funds were available for the Club to complete this season. Now that the season is near its end, PF asked what arrangements were in hand for next season. TB informed the meeting that relating financial facilities were fully expected to be in place for next season otherwise interim measures would be taken to provide the funds required.

## 4. New Stadium

TB was asked about the latest status for the new stadium, bearing in mind that the Southend Echo had reported that the Chairman had said we would be in the new stadium for season 2012/13 that very morning. TB said that tenders for the construction were due in July and once these were agreed, matters should move quicker and further monies should be available to the Club.

## **5. SUFC AGM**

PF asked TB to clarify what was meant in item 4. of the Notice of AGM which was recently despatched with 2009 SUFC accounts. The proposal seemed to allow Directors to have additional authorities and PF asked what the reason was behind this amendment. TB said that he would clarify. TB to respond.

## **6. 2011/12 Season Tickets**

TB was asked to clarify the fees for purchasing season (cards) tickets by Direct Debit and the associated charges which were far higher than last season. TB advised that as the funds were needed the only way to release the money to the Club was by using this system, and pointed out that several other Clubs use the same company.

TB also mentioned that there would be an announcement made tomorrow (12<sup>th</sup> April) regarding a discount offer for the Club Shop for those supporters who are renewing their season tickets.

BW also asked why it cost £5 administration charge to purchase via the Club's Official website and £1.50 by telephone. TB to investigate the fees but later advised that the £5 on-line charge was an error as season cards are not available via the internet.

## **7. Next Season**

At this stage, Paul Sturrock joined the meeting and the subject moved to football matters and preparations for next season.

PS said that he was currently looking at several players for next season and was hoping to arrange pre-contract arrangements to ensure that they would join us. No firm decisions had been made on who would be moving on at the end of this season.

BW asked whether the team would go further afield for pre-season games this year given his many contacts. PS said that the players would be going to play in Scotland, probably in a four team tournament, and also play an SPL club in a separate match.

Other pre-season friendlies will include Great Wakering (A) and Ipswich and Crystal Palace, both at home.

## **8. New Physio Equipment**

PY said that he had heard that the Club's physio' equipment was in need of replacements &/or additions and the Trust Committee had agreed to help. PS said that by coincidence he had been discussing the need for new equipment at Boots and Laces with Laurence Bloom (LB) and Ben Clarkson that morning. Both TB and PS were grateful for the gesture. PS asked PY to contact LB to find out what was needed (actioned).

Due to the unexpected but nevertheless interesting discussions with PS we had now run out of time. Other outstanding matters will be dealt with by email or brought forward to the next meeting.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011 – 16.15pm.**