



# SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011

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## 1. Present

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

## 2. Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

PY mentioned the lottery winners and said they were still not regularly being updated but as of yesterday they were up to date. TB explained the very manual nature of the process and said he would continue to monitor (via PY if necessary).

TB said that as the programme sellers are no longer employed by SUFC that they should be making their own decisions but take input from fans.

PF mentioned the problem regarding the Trust box/Children in care and the embarrassment that had caused all concerned but also stated the club had tried very hard to rectify this and was appreciative.

PY mentioned that Laurence Bloom and he had been liaising about the Physio equipment which the Trust has now paid for. PY will arrange a photo session/interview with Laurence and Ben once the equipment arrives to show members how their money is being used.

## 3. Scottish Tour - July

PF explained that there were mixed feelings regarding this amongst the committee and that a members vote was going ahead with an end date of Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>.

TB re-iterated the rationale and explained Paul Sturrock's passionate belief that this would make a difference.

HN/TB stated that arrangements were still being finalised and hoped to publish full details soon.

TB stated that the cost to the Trust, if the Members vote is positive would now be less than the original £10k requested.

## 4. Club Finances / New Stadium

TB was asked about the latest status for the new stadium and the July date for Tenders was discussed again. TB explained that progress was still being made but was conscious that providing dates is something that has caused issues in the past and re-iterated that anything can happen in Property Development.

TB reminded PF/PY that the Tender for contractors was a joint decision between the developer and Sainsburys and therefore some level of discussion and/or conflict would be expected as both would favour their "favourite".

## **5. SUFC AGM**

TB stated his surprise at some of the questions at the AGM. In particular he thought the meeting was well balanced compared to other experiences he is aware of and felt some potentially probing questions were badly worded and better questions could have been delivered.

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

TB mentioned the current renewals and stated that they were down on last year which all agreed was not surprising. He also mentioned that a survey had been undertaken with 100 Shareholders who had not renewed so far to ascertain reasons. Not one had mentioned the increase in money.

PF mentioned, in response to a discussion (and question from several members), that the vouchers for the discount in the club shop had turned up that morning.

## **7. Police Liaison**

PY asked about the new Essex Police Liaison officer. HN stated James Crabb was responsible and that contact details would remain the same. HN also explained that this role is only 50% of James's workload, unlike Dickie Spooner who was a Full Time Liaison Officer. The Trust will be inviting James to a Committee Meeting soon.

## **8. Subsidised West Stand Seating**

PY stated that several complaints had been received from members in the West Stand regarding the Club's end of season policy of giving tickets to groups of youngsters many of whom seemed pretty uninterested in the actual game and spent a lot of time running around. TB agreed to review this and consider placing in other areas of the ground.

## **9. Stewarding**

PY mentioned an incident at the last home game where a steward kicked the ball back into the crowd after it had been retrieved much to the annoyance of Craig Easton and indeed many of the crowd. TB said he would check with Dave Jobson but stated that Dave Jobson takes a dim view of such behaviour.

## **10. Any other Business**

PY mentioned that MTBD now clashed with the Essex cricket festival at Garons Park and explained that many supporters would probably have a conflict. TB had been made aware and he & Junior Garrod were considering what options the club have.

TB Confirmed that the club's accounts were late again following a question from PF who had been asked by the echo to comment.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2011 – 16.15pm.**