



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

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## 1. Present

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

## 2. Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

TB stated that he had spoken to Dave Jobson about the Stewarding incident but as he had not witnessed it he felt nothing could be done. PF/PY agreed that as so much time had passed it was probably not worth pursuing

## 3. Scottish Tour - July

TB outlined the current cost (10K) but said more expenditure was required however it was in line with revised expectations.

PY agreed to pay the Shrimpers Trust's second donation soon after seeing the costs itemised.

TB/PY agreed that a proposed Fans Forum on the Saturday night was probably not appropriate.

PY stated that 5 committee members were making the trip.

TB Agreed that the players would wear the Shrimpers Trust shirts for one game or he would arrange for other shirts to be donated to help recoup some of the costs. **Action TB**

## 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 although the current news re Prospects was an unexpected irritant, however a statement from Sainsbury's was expected to feature in the local press imminently which should calm any fears that Sainsbury were becoming impatient.

The Tenders for construction were expected in July.

TB explained the current financial situation and mentioned that is was reviewing all areas of the football club for potential further savings.

The youth setup was discussed and TB explained that it currently ran at a 260K loss. PF reminded TB that if the management had handled the non payment of wages in a more appropriate manner that money might have been received for 2 ex players who came through the youth ranks – therefore providing some cash. TB agreed that ALL future

revenues for youth players when sold on should accrue to the youth and specifically mentioned Michael Ngoo at Liverpool

The recent press article surrounding the Chairman's club and one particular individual was discussed, with TB explaining the issue in detail. Player comps and other free tickets were discussed and TB agreed to revert by the next meeting. – **Action TB**

PY asked when the next AGM would be – TB - not currently being considered.

## **5. FSF – Safe Standing Campaign**

PY explained that the company making Safe standing terraces were currently doing roadshows and The Trust had requested they visit SUFC. TB stated that he was a fan of standing and that he would be happy to see the presentation but not until the detailed planning was more advanced

All agreed to revisit in a few months

## **6. Season Tickets**

TB Stated that he was happy with the take up of Season tickets all things being considered.

## **7. SUCET**

TB confirmed that Interviews were being carried out to replace Steve Goodsell who had recently left his role.

## **8. SCMP**

The previously distributed report from John Freemantle was discussed. TB Explained the clubs adherence and mentioned the issues and loopholes expected to be exploited by other clubs. TB stated that the issue is related to several e-mails and letters he had and explained his frustration. On the one hand fans want the club to not lose money on the other they expect investment greater than available income. **Action PF** to ask committee members for their opinions.

## **9. Trust away travel**

**PY** to liaise with **TB** regarding the use of a Box or the Platinum suite as part of the awards given to last Season's Top Travellers. **PY** to consult with Clare Brooks regarding this matter.

## **10. Away ticket allocation for games with limited capacity**

PY asked whether the clubs policy for several away games this season had been considered bearing in mind SUFC would be playing several new clubs this season for the first time. TB asked that PY provide more details on the issue and outline what had happened in the past – **Action PY**

## **11. Q & A with Paul Sturrock, Graham Coughlan & Chris Barker**

A date of Thursday 25th August was proposed. TB asked for 3 potential dates. – **Action PY / TB**

## **12. Meeting with Chris Barker & Neil Harris**

PY/PF explained that the meeting with Adam Barratt and Dougie had been extremely positive the previous (+1) season but circumstances led to their promises not being fulfilled. Ideally each player would donate an item to the Trust to help raise funds. TB agreed and asked for 3 dates – **Action PY / TB**

## **13. Shrimpers Bar**

PY/PF Asked TB to look into airflow or air conditioning in the Shrimpers Bar as both felt that the atmosphere on even relatively mild days is poor and on hot days is bad – which must be affecting custom and therefore takings – **Action TB. PY** also asked if hot drinks could be provided on a Match Day. **PY** to liaise with Sharon Munroe-Baxter.

## **14. Any other Business**

TB was reminded that Ron Martin had announced that a representative of the Trust be appointed to the Board at the end of the previous financial year (July 2011) and that ignoring this was not an option. **Action TB** to discuss with Ron

## **15. Date of Next Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2011**