



# **SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011**

---

---

## **1. Present**

Tara Brady (TB), Paul FitzGerald (PF), Bryan Woodford (BW) and Paul Yeomanson (PY).

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

TB said that it had not been possible for the team to wear the shirts with the Shrimpers Trust logo during the recent Scottish Tour for logistical reasons i.e. the opposition had complained about the colour clash with the pink (cherry voltage) shirts.

PY said that members' opinions had not been sought regarding the preference for financial prudence against investment in players, as there had not been a Trust committee meeting, in which to discuss it, since this matter was raised by TB.

PY once again raised the matter of an untidy Shrimpers Bar on match day when he arrives to set up the Trust stand before the match. TB will follow this up.

## **3. Scottish Tour**

TB was asked whether he felt that the pre-season tour to Scotland had been worthwhile to the team for preparation for the current campaign. TB felt that in terms of getting players together and playing against the right quality opposition it had been a success but acknowledged that the location was poor, with little for players and supporters to do, pre and post match, so the club may have a re-think next season.

## **4. Club Finances**

TB had nothing new to report with cashflow continuing to be tight. TB reiterated that as soon as the Sainsbury 'deal' had been agreed and signed, the club will be able to finance more appropriately.

## **5. New Stadium/Prospects**

TB said that Sainsbury's had asked the owners of Prospects for an extension of the deadline to complete the purchase of the property. However, the vendor was being difficult which is frustrating for the club and the supermarket. TB restated that the whole project is complex and preparation and completion of contracts is time consuming. He felt that the extension request, while further delaying matters, was understandable and it was hoped that the owner(s) of Prospects will be more amenable and patient.

## **6. Youth Team Budget**

TB mentioned that as with all the club finances, the budget for the youth team is currently under review and discussion. As the Trust is a strong supporter of the youth team, it was hoped that the outcome would not be detrimental to the excellent quality of the set-up we have seen in recent years.

## **7. Players Complimentary Tickets**

TB said that following a review, players would now be receiving two complimentary tickets per match instead of the previous 70 for the playing staff.

## **8. Q&A with Paul Sturrock, Graham Coughlan & Chris Barker – Date to be arranged**

PY asked whether such a Q&A could follow the Trust's annual AGM later this year. TB asked PY to come back with some proposed dates and he would try to arrange it.

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

TB asked PY to contact Dave Scriven to arrange a suitable date/venue.

## **10. Any Other Business**

The subject of a Trust representative on the Club Board was brought up by TB. Such a position had been agreed with the Chairman over a year ago and TB required clarification of the precise role sought and the benefit to the Trust. The Chairman had shown a preference for the Trust representative to be on a committee discussing football matters, whereas the prime reason for supporter involvement at Board level would be to oversee/assist in the overall running of the club and this would continue to be the main aim of the Trust committee.

TB said that currently, there is a fortnightly formal meeting on football matters and the Board meetings in which finances are discussed are generally very short and often sensitive due to the cashflow and stadium project. TB will give further thought to where the Trust could participate and contribute.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2011 – 16.15pm**