



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING 31st October 2011

1. Present

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

2. Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 30th August 2011.

All actions were either completed or if ongoing were part of the agenda

Outstanding from previous meeting – **PY/TB** to arrange a date for Neil Harris & Chris Barker to meet representatives to explain and aid fund raising

3. Club Finances

No significant change - TB explained the continuing loss of around 70K a month

4. New Stadium / Prospects

TB was asked about the latest status for the new stadium. Whilst not prepared to commit to a specific date, TB was hopeful that a significant milestone could be reached very shortly with just a small number of minor issues to be resolved.

The remaining issues regarding Flats/Shops and indeed Prospects, although an irritation, are not preventing the next stage from commencing and TB/Ron Martin are prepared to let them run their course and be picked up by the CPO if necessary.

5. Trust AGM – Thursday 24th November

PY confirmed that date and the attendance of Paul Sturrock and Graham Coughlan. TB was relieved to hear that he was not required.

6. Shrimpers Bar

PY mentioned the on-going lack of water in both the Gents and Ladies toilets. **PY** to discuss with Dave Jobson. The broken projector was discussed and **TB** is to retrieve the quote from Dave Jobson to consider.

7. ½ Time Draw Tickets – Shakespeare Drive (South Stand)

PY mentioned that a Trust member had complained at his inability to buy Draw tickets from the entrance he used. **TB** to check (TB checked and sorted)

8. The 92 Club – John Walton

PF explained that long time Trust supporter was approaching the end of his 92 club target and that the Preston vs Southend game would be the finale. **TB** to ask Helen Norbury to contact Preston to see if they would provide free tickets to celebrate this.

9. Any other Business

TB was reminded that he had not responded to the Board representation paper provided. **TB** apologised and said he would review and arrange a separate meeting/discussion

TB mentioned that a contact at his team (Portsmouth) had mentioned the FA's requirement to appoint an official club liaison officer. PY/PF explained that the requirement was a small part of recommendations that had been published by the Government following the governance enquiry. PF/PY agreed that the recommendations were aimed at clubs with poor relationship with fans. It was felt that the Football authorities are working through the Governments document and will address all the issues in due course.

TB expressed his frustration at the difference in crowd numbers between the discounted game and the following, a difference of approximately 4,000 fans. A discussion about the potential reasons for this and the lower attendance figure followed. TB also mentioned that he had received some negative feedback about the special offer from some Season Ticket holders and is conscious that whatever he tries to do will likely upset some supporters. All agreed that a key objective was to get more supporters in the ground and that clearly if the team kept up the current form this would help tremendously

TB gave an update on the Pink Shirt saga and mentioned the quandary of next season being conscious that if the Pink shirts did arrive close to Christmas that some fans may feel cheated if a news shirt was introduced next season. At present Nike have not announced their kit style/colours and will not until February

PF mentioned that he had met with the Essex Community Foundation (ECF) an organisation that helps charitable organisations meet their goals. The attraction to the Trust was that although not officially a charity if funds were directed through the ECF into charitable organisations then Donations from individuals would attract tax relief. At present the main charitable donations from the Trust are to SUCET - the Youth setup is not a Charity. Nevertheless TB thought it worth exploring as the football club do also work with charities and it may be that some reorganisation may be possible. **PF** to write a brief summary to Nigel Brunning and TB

10. Date of Next Meeting – TBA