



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING 9th July 2012

1. Present

Gary Lockett (GL), Paul Yeomanson (PY) and Paul FitzGerald (PF). Apologies for absence from Bryan Woodford (BW).

2. Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 8th May 2012.

All actions were either completed or, if on-going, were part of the current agenda.

PF mentioned that the handling of the unfortunate accident to Alison Crowe was not in his opinion acceptable. Taking eight days to contact someone was unlikely to appear sympathetic and it was suggested that the Trust could have been used effectively in this case and possibly in the future.

3. Club Finances

No significant change. GL explained that several areas of the club were being reviewed but no extreme costs saving measures were expected, in fact, a couple of areas needed more investment, notably marketing.

Brian Wheeler joined the meeting for a few minutes and was welcomed back.

Several new ideas were discussed which the club will be considering and potentially launching, over the course of the season, A package for the Fair Play Walk was discussed and is being considered. Also, as part of the general idea of getting the club more into the community, the possibility of auctioning a player's (or management) time for some well-defined purpose.

4. New Stadium

No significant change, GL reiterated that he hoped that the Club would be playing in the new stadium by the beginning of the 2014/5 season.

5. Trust Representative on SUFC Board

GL confirmed that this matter has now reached the giddy heights of having its' own agenda item within AOB of the Football Club's Board Meetings

GL also confirmed the matter was due to be discussed this week.

PY outlined a proposed mechanism to provide a candidate should a Trust representative be invited.

6. SUFC AGM

In response to a question from PF, GL confirmed that the club accounts and AGM are late and that he was discussing the matter internally.

7. Pre-Season Tour

GL summarised the arrangements for the Pre-season tour in Spain. A previously received e-mail requesting a Trust donation toward costs was discussed and a general discussion was held

GL re-iterated earlier comments that he did not know what the Trusts "agenda" was. PF explained, again, that there was no negative agenda. The Trust is merely a bunch of volunteers who have raised and donated a significant sum of money (over 100K) to the club over the last 5 years. The Trust had always made it clear they sought formal representation and influence over the money raised. PF clarified that this was money the club would not have raised itself and there was, and is, no intention to have any conflicting fund raising events.

GL questioned the need to have 50K in the Trust bank account at a time when the club really could do with the money. PF responded that the club could always do with the money and that if funds were not maintained, that donations such as those requested recently could not be considered.

PF agreed to consult again with the committee over the request to release more funds.

8. Youth Team Sponsorship

PY confirmed the sponsorship/donation details for the youth team. GL questioned whether money could be better used and mentioned specifically that a different sponsor could have been found for the youth setup thus freeing up potential cash for other areas. PF mentioned that this had previously been discussed and that the Trust would willingly have stepped aside if a new sponsor had been found.

9. Trust Events

PY provided GL with a list of proposed Trust events and GL confirmed that players would be available as required. One clash was noted PY to update.

10. Trust Away Travel

PY outlined the Travel costings for the year and his intention to find a sponsor. GL agreed to speak to Andrews Taxis and effect an introduction.

11. Matthew Pointer

PF detailed who Matthew is and what he is doing for charity currently (He is 10 years old and is running a 5K every month for St Lukes Hospice) and asked for the club's support at a game to be arranged. GL confirmed that subject to final details, he would ensure the club helped.

12. Twitter

PY asked that some of the players help re-tweet Trust events to ensure greater coverage. GL confirmed that he was happy to ensure this happens. Final details to be arranged.

13. AOB

PY brought up the subject of Safe Standing at the new stadium and offered to put GL in touch with the company promoting one of the styles. GL acknowledged the offer, but was not interested at this time.

PY mentioned an initiative that the Trust were working on for the end of the season that had been very successful at Colchester – 7 a side Tournament. GL was happy to consider when more details are known – the main proviso being the pitch and in particular no delay or conflict with relaying.

GL stated that the Blue Belles were to be replaced.

PY advised that Scott McLachlan, a Portsmouth Fan, will be walking to the 92 Football Clubs, starting in August to raise money for Prostate Cancer UK. The walk will take 7 months to complete and it was agreed that the Trust and the Club would work together in making arrangements for when Scott arrives at SUFC.

PY asked if the Invoice for the Youth Team Sponsorship could be re-issued, as the original one was dated outside of the current financial year. Once received PY would arrange for immediate payment.

14. Date of next meeting – in approximately 6 weeks time. (Exact date and time to be decided).