



# SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012

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## **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 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

The Club AGM (lack of) was raised and noted by GL

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

## **3. Club Finances**

No significant change. GL re-iterated that the club continues to lose money and therefore requires funding from the chairman. Those funds are not always received in a timely fashion. Rumours of another transfer embargo were discussed. GL confirmed that when funds are needed elsewhere, that the club does occasionally go into embargo. Staff and salaries were also discussed. GL confirmed that "Occasional staff" were paid on the day they work, cash flow challenges do affect the payment of the salaried staff.

## **4. New Stadium**

No significant change. PF asked whether GL had met with Sainsbury's representatives and expressed surprise that he had not. GL explained that Ron Martin presented the development status each month to the Board.

## **5. Trust Representative on SUFC Board**

GL again questioned the purpose of the Trust and stated that recent outbursts on an independent forum by a committee member had made the board re-consider their positive stance towards a representative on the board. PF and PY both expressed dismay at this and argued the principle of freedom of speech. A heated discussion followed, after which both parties agreed to differ and re-consider their options.

## **6. Blues Player**

PY reported on the problems regarding "Blues Player" and the Website generally. GL stated that the club were aware of several issues and were progressing with the company responsible. The problems are not SUFC specific and GL was hopeful that they would be resolved soon. PY to forward any complaints received.

## **7. Club Website**

As above

## **8. Season Tickets?**

PY asked GL if the earlier problems with Season Tickets not working had been resolved. GL advised that all the issues regarding this matter have now been resolved and that Season Tickets should now be operating correctly.

## **9. Youth Team match at Roots Hall**

PY outlined the discussions from within the committee and Ricky Duncan, regarding potentially holding a youth team game at Roots Hall after a 1<sup>st</sup> team fixture. The idea would be to encourage support of the youth setup, as well as to maximise use of Roots Hall and associated match day revenues. GL to consider and revert. – Action GL

## **10. MTBD**

PY suggested that the club consider having a Beer Festival around the time of the next MTBD. With the infrastructure in place and enough time to advertise, the Trust felt that it would potentially be a good revenue earner.

## **11. Away Travel / Coach Parking**

Several Clubs had started charging coach organisers for parking at their grounds. PY requested that the club help the Trust apply pressure to have this removed on the grounds that bringing a significant number of ticket buying supporters to games should be encouraged,, not discouraged. GL agreed to investigate and stated that if the clubs refused that he would ensure that reciprocally they were charged the same amount – which would then be handed over to the Trust. – Action GL

## **12. Car Wash**

A suggestion to consider Match Day Car washing by a local charity group was discussed but dismissed as not viable for Safety and Administrative reasons

## **13. Shrimpers Bar**

PY complained about the Channel Loss and quality of the signal recently in the Shrimpers Bar, explaining that supporters may be tempted to drink elsewhere if this is not resolved. GL commented that he was aware of a specific problem on one day, but not about the general poor signal, so would investigate – Action GL

## **14. Trust Events**

PF suggested that it might be good to see the club support some of the Trust events on a regular basis. A discussion followed on this and PY is to circulate the trust event timetable on a regular basis. – Action PY

## **15. Georgia Shipley**

PY had been approached by the parent of a local model who wanted to arrange a shoot at Roots Hall. This would be part of a calendar focusing on the Southend area and sold to raise funds for Cancer Research. GL said he would need to know a few more details but expressed reluctance, as agreeing to one, may encourage many others which would involve resource with no revenue attached. – Action PY to forward further details to Brian Wheeler and Dave Scriven.

## **16. AOB**

PF/PY requested that Ron Martin be available for a Q/A session immediately following the Trust AGM. The Trust is prepared to fix a date to suit the Chairman of the football club as they feel it important that the supporters should be given the chance to hear the latest update on the FF Project. - Action GL

GL re-opened the discussion on Trust Board representation and asked for a proposal on how the Supporter Representative would work in practice and agreed to present to the board at the next available Football Club board meeting. - Action PF

## **17. Date of Next meeting - tba**