



# SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING 13<sup>th</sup> December 2012

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## 1. Present

Steve Kavangh (SK), Paul Yeomanson (PY) and Paul FitzGerald (PF). Apologies for absence from Bryan Woodford (BW).

## 2. Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

PF stated that as Gary had departed, all actions were either completed or, if on-going, were part of the current agenda.

## 3. Club Finances

No significant change. SK confirmed the club continues to lose money and therefore requires funding from the chairman.

The recent case of players and staff not being paid on time was discussed. Expected due funds did not materialise on time leaving cashflow short once again. Whilst players have now been paid (some staff have not) they had been kept informed at all times and have been very supportive.

PF mentioned a point made at the recent AGM, where it was revealed that the average spend per supporter at home games is 98p. A discussion followed on how this might be improved. Ideas to be sought from supporters – Action **SK/PF**.

## 4. New Stadium

SK reiterated the AGM point that the council meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> December is very important to moving ahead. SK also stated that the Short term club finances are also affected by the lack of Stadium progress as the club are unable to really push on the marketing side until positive action such as a “spade in the ground” is seen.

## 5. Trust Representative on SUFC Board

SK acknowledged the note PF had sent to Ron Martin after the club's AGM. PY also mentioned a proposal document which had been postponed following Gary Lockett's change of role. **PF/PY** to resurrect and send for comments.

## **6. Safe Standing**

PY provided Safe Standing information to SK and explained that the Trust had been pushing this for some months. Following Ron Martin's comments that he would look at the options for the new stadium, it was felt now would be a good time to consider this seriously. **PY** to contact the FSF to set up an initial meeting with SK.

## **7. Trust AGM – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

The AGM date is now set and SK has agreed to attend. Nearer the time consideration will be given to making this an optional Pie/Pint type evening to a) encourage attendance and b) provide income for the club. **PF/PY** to consider/action

## **8. MAC donation**

SK reiterated his thanks for the Donation. A cheque presentation will be held on the pitch on 15/12/12 to a grateful Paul Sturrock

## **9. Ball Boys**

PF stated that he had been approached by Richard Bayley – he has run the ball boy operation for many years. The hats used by the boys are old, worn and have a very old sponsor on them. PF suggested that if each director were to donate 10 pounds then the Trust committee individuals (ie Not from Trust funds) would match that which would hopefully be enough to fund a new hat. **PY** to provide pricing

## **10. Matthew Pointer**

SK stated that Matthew would be presented to the crown on 15/12/12 and present his cheque to St Lukes Hospice in February when a bucket collection for St Luke's Hospice would be taking place as already arranged. If timing suits Matthew will also be presenting the Player of the Month award. **PY** to arrange POTM.

## **11. Shrimpers Bar**

PY mentioned again that the Bar is not clean nor organised before most home games. On-going problems exist with hot water and toilet facilities. If the club want more revenue through this outlet then some effort to make them decent must be made. **SK** agreed to look into all complaint/issues

## **12. Liaison Meetings – The Future**

**SK** confirmed that the Fans Forum does not replace the need for Trust Liaison meetings as they have different purposes. Meetings will be held approximately monthly going forward

### **13. AOB**

SK stated that he had spent some time looking at the Blues Lottery which had been left without much attention for some time. He felt a re-launch with a new constitution and board was the way forward. Specifically he wanted an independent Chairman so that the funds were ring fenced for funding the Youth Academy operations. 2-3 Trust committee members would be invited to serve alongside a couple of Club representatives. **PF** to confirm the outline Trust agreement and to consider an independent chair. Mick Maddocks was put forward as one possible candidate. **PF** to confirm.

A discussion was held around the younger supporters and agreement was reached that it would make sense for the Club/Trust to work together. A suggestion was that the Junior Shrimpers be rebranded/relaunched by both the Club and Trust. The Trust would administer the section to minimise costs. **PF/PY** to discuss with Kay Searle (the current Junior Shrimpers administrator).

PY raised a concern from a supporter that some match day tickets had been issued blank i.e. with no ground regulations printed on them. SK was aware of this issue, but stated that ground regulations do not have to be printed on a match ticket provided they are on display in the stadium, which they are.

PY asked SK if they would consider selling Family Tickets for the North Bank. SK advised that this would not be possible as the Family Tickets had to be sold for a designated area.

PF presented SK with approximately 50 Raffle Ticket Books for the Trust Xmas Draw and asked whether he could get the Directors and staff to contribute. Members get three books and it was suggested that the directors could maybe do 4! **SK** to Action.

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