



# SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013

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## 1. Present and Apologies

Steve Kavanagh (SK), Shane Chapman (SC), Paul Yeomanson (PY) and Kay Fogg (KF)

Paul FitzGerald (PF) sent his apologies.

SK apologised for having had to postpone the last two planned dates for meetings.

PF will have commitments on Thursdays for the foreseeable future so it was agreed to look into future dates being re-arranged to an alternative and more mutually convenient day.

**ACTION - SC to liaise with Helen regarding future dates**

## 2. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013

SK requested the Trust's help in garnering information from supporters on Friday night football. We have had more matches on Fridays than expected this season, and numbers do not bear up to those from previous seasons. Last season, with only two Friday night matches, support was up by 400 or 500. This season, numbers seem to be down by a similar amount.

It was suggested this could be circulated around membership, websites etc with feedback required by February, to be able to coincide with preparations for next year's season card promotions.

SK also asked that we include feedback from supporters on the whole "Back to your Roots" York for a fiver promotion and game.

PY reported that the Junior Blues continues to grow in strength and that there has been some very positive feedback from parents and members. The "Meet the Player" day was a great success, and plans are underway for the Christmas Party at the Kursaal Bowl on 9<sup>th</sup> December, with the information for this going out this weekend.

PY confirmed that the shirts mentioned in last meeting's AOB have now been received. SK confirmed that problems mentioned with car parking last meeting have also now been resolved.

**ACTION - PY to organise survey, meeting to be organised with Ryan Murrant**

### **3. Club Finances**

No real change recently.

### **4. New Stadium**

No further news but SK remains confident. Mention was made that the Echo reported last week that, despite withdrawing from other commitments, Sainsbury had come out publicly to confirm their commitment to the Roots Hall development.

PY asked what the hold up is? SK said that the “list” of outstanding matters is diminishing and there are only a few items now outstanding.

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

The barriers to this happening that were raised by RM at the last AGM need to be addressed by the Trust. It was agreed that the Trust would seek the advice of Supporters’ Direct on how to continue to attain this.

**ACTION - PY/PF to discuss with Supporters’ Direct**

### **6. Corporate Sponsorship/Youth Team Sponsorship**

PY explained the awkward situation at the 1<sup>st</sup> Round Youth Cup match, SK advised that he could not see why or how the instructions given were misinterpreted and apologised. Trust representatives have been invited as Mick Maddocks’ guests for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round match. SK did note that contractually the wording was ‘Directors Box’ and not ‘Boardroom’ passes and this was agreed.

### **7. Ladies’ Toilets in West Stand**

KF advised of the continued problems with water leaking through the roof and collecting in puddles on the floor, and also that one toilet seat had been broken off. SK said he would refer the matter to Dave Jobson.

### **8. Blues Player**

Discussion was held about the number of complaints received both by the Club and the Trust about the continued poor service by the suppliers of Blues Player.

SK advised that he was meeting with the new FL Executive next week and would raise the matter there as it was clearly unacceptable.

**ACTION - Trust representative to prepare a formal generic representation to complain about the service from Blues Player**

## **9. Any Other Business**

PY reminded SK about seeking some memorabilia from Chris Powell, which SK said he would follow up at a suitable time.

SK thanked the Trust for providing funding for mats as requested by Phil Brown very recently. It was suggested that in future, it might be possible to “barter” with him on any other requests!

SC raised a matter requested by Darren Posnack, concerning “Perfect Pals” of Southend (brochure attached). Darren wondered if the club could get involved with accommodating the members of this club at a match in the future. KF had also recently sent Ryan Murrant information concerning a similar initiative by Wrexham FC. SK was happy for this idea to be further investigated.

PY enquired about arranging for Trinity U11s, who are being sponsored by the Trust in the name of the Junior Blues, to be presented on the pitch before the Cheltenham game on 30<sup>th</sup> November, and as to some complimentary tickets. SK confirmed that each of the squad players plus one parent would be issued a complimentary ticket, additional adults at a cost of £10.

**ACTION - PY to liaise with Tom Biggs on this**

**10. Date of next meeting - tba**