



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING 27th March 2014

1. Present and Apologies

Steve Kavanagh (SK), Paul FitzGerald (PF), Shane Chapman (SC) and Kay Fogg (KF) were all in attendance.

The Meeting was chaired by PF.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on

The Trust survey has now been circulated and the results compiled into a report, which will be scrutinised at the next Trust Committee Meeting on 7th April. SK has been forwarded a copy of the points relevant to the football club.

PF and PY are following up the subject of Board representation with Supporters Direct.

SK had followed up on the subject of away tickets, with the ticket office having been given clarified guidance with regard to sending away tickets through the post. Further to this, SK advised that some clubs in our division seem to be disregarding official guidelines with regard to the sale of away tickets to other clubs. The rules state that tickets should be given to the opposition (away) side 5 weeks in advance of a match. The away side is then entitled to a small percentage of the advance ticket sales. Naturally, by not supplying tickets to the opposition (away) side, the home club is then getting 100% of ticket sale money by making matches "pay on the day" to away fans. This would also seem to be a money saving exercise for some clubs by not wanting to go to the expense and cost of having to print and sell away tickets and SK is keen to take this up with the Football League. SK asked if the Trust would take this matter up specifically with the Rochdale supporters' group/Trust, and asked if we could also survey regular away supporters as to how welcome they are made at other grounds.

FURTHER ACTION – PF to contact Rochdale Trust/Supporters. PF to discuss with PY about surveying our away supporters.

Memorabilia, as discussed at the last meeting. PF is now in touch with Rob Kane, who is in charge of kit, and is to liaise with him about things for the Trust to auction.

ACTION - PF to liaise further.

Perfect Pals – Barry Jacobs (the leader of Perfect Pals) is now in touch with SUCET, and PF is copied into correspondence.

SK reported he had discussed with Dave Jobson the situation regarding the closure of the central gates in the car park, and that the closure is down to Health and Safety. SK to ask Dave Jobson to review this again. KF noted that she believed you can now exit via Fairfax Drive.

Toilets in the West reported as being satisfactory.

3. Club Finances

Season ticket prices for next season have just been released and SK hoped that supporters appreciated the changes from previous seasons, in not pressing supporters for their money too early.

All wages and HMRC commitments were reported as up to date, and the obvious emergency loan signings made recently were indicative of the fact that the club is not under any embargo.

4. New Stadium

No further news to add to what the Chairman has already said in the press.

ACTION – PF to contact RM by email to follow up on assertions made

5. Junior Blues

Trust representatives stated that they were disappointed with the numbers. SK said the Club was also disappointed with the numbers given that those who have joined find it a very worthwhile and enjoyable membership, KF agreed with this and there was a general discussion about such reactions and the difficulties they create. It was agreed that SK would sit down with KF, PY and Tom and Ryan from the club to discuss plans for the forthcoming year and to get review the membership with co-operation from all quarters.

ACTION – KF to facilitate a meeting between those involved and to discuss with Chris Phillips advertising Junior Blues through the press

6. Chris Powell Q&A

It was agreed that, since Chris' departure from Charlton, we would let things settle down a bit before approaching him to come along. SK reiterated that Chris is keen to come down and that he holds Southend United in great affection, and he would continue liaising with him on our behalf but agreed now is not the right time.

7. Player of the Year Award Night

It was agreed that we would all work towards Wednesday 30th April as the end of season awards night.

ACTION - SK to speak with Phil Brown about full player availability

8. Fundraising Events

Item withdrawn, to forward plan for the future.

9. Shrimpers Bar

Concerns raised about misperception conveyed in publications and by stewards that the Shrimpers is only for Home supporters. SK supported entirely the promotion by the Trust that the Bar is open to away fans and said he would ensure that stewards were aware of this, he noted it states this on our website already.

ACTION – SK to liaise with stewards over Shrimpers Bar access for away supporters

PY had raised objections to how the Trust stand is mistreated during the week, and how it is constantly requiring repairs.

ACTION – PF to raise formal complaint

10. Prospects Car Park

Representation from Trust member, James Mutimer, concerning the lack of space for people who have paid out for allocated parking in this car park as it seems to be full with Myles Hire vehicles.

ACTION – SK to discuss with Dave Jobson and stewards

11. Meet the Blues Day

No consideration as yet, but expected to be the weekend of 19th/20th July. SK confirmed that boots and Laces would be around for a few years more yet, even allowing for the commencement of building works.

ACTION – SK to look into the arrangements for Meet the Blues Day 2014 and confirm date when possible

12. Trust Survey

As mentioned already, Committee has yet to meet but will be analysing results at meeting on 7th April. SK confirmed that he was happy for the emailed response he had made to PF to be circulated to members in response to the survey.

ACTION – PF to arrange for the email response from SK to be circulated

SK suggested we also survey our membership on the subject of Junior Blues, as to why the take up is so bad, when everyone seems to think it's great value, once they're signed up.

It was agreed that Ryan Murrant would be invited to the next liaison meeting as the club's official liaison officer.

ACTION – KF to take survey idea back to Trust committee for "fine tuning"

ACTION – SK to invite Ryan to next liaison meeting

13. Any Other Business

PF asked if there were plans for the club's next AGM. SK advised that this would be up for discussion at the next Board meeting. He encouraged PF to email RM on the subject.

ACTION – PF to contact RM

PF asked if there was any news on the Academy application. SK advised that the audit had only taken place a few weeks previously, and that things seemed to go well. Everyone from the Chairman down is 100% behind the application. The club is hoping to have achieved Cat 3 status, and to be able to push on towards Cat 2 in the future. The outcome is not expected until mid June.

Sponsored bike ride for Prostate Cancer, promoted by the Football League – disappointing response from supporters. Board member Michael Markscheffel is now supported by 3 other companions, but there has been a lack of sponsorship.

ACTION – Trust to promote and invite sponsorship in forthcoming newsletter

ACTION – SK to forward some relevant information to PF

Stagger to the Dagers – PF asked SK to chase the outstanding monies from within the club. This had been indicated at £10 per staff/squad member

ACTION – SK to follow up on the Trust's behalf

14. Date of next meeting – 29th May 2014