



# SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING

## Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2014



### 1. Present and Apologies

Steve Kavanagh, Paul Yeomanson and Kay Fogg were present. Apologies for absence received from Paul FitzGerald and Shane Chapman.

### 2. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Follow up on actions:

- Clare Brooks to undertake a survey amongst travelling support to Accrington. Following on from this, SK expressed concern that, for the second consecutive year, SUFC are 2<sup>nd</sup> from bottom for visiting supporters. It was agreed that PF and PY would seek a meeting Rob Tinlin at Southend Borough Council to discuss, and to attempt to secure some support in marketing the club and the town to attract more visiting support.  
**ACTION – PF and PY to progress**
- Memorabilia – Ricky Duncan has now taken on responsibility for “gathering” items from our players for the Trust to benefit from. PY enquired as to what happens to unsponsored loan players’ tops, and it was agreed that the Trust would be given the opportunity to take these to raise funds. A specific request for a Dan Bentley shirt was made.  
**ACTION – SK to pass this request on to RD**
- The situation with Chris Powell is now resolved and it was agreed that the Trust would try to secure Chris’ availability at a future Q&A session, on Sunday at MTBD, where he is expected to be playing in Steve Tilson’s legends team.
- PY agreed to forward the list of fund raising events.  
**ACTION – PY to forward list to SK**

### 3. Club Finances

SK confirmed that wages and HMRC payments are up to date. The club is doing its best to keep football in the town affordable for all, and will continue with the successful schemes and initiatives in school from last year. These have proved to not only be popular but also to bring additional revenue as youngsters want to return.

The club enjoyed a 20% increase in gates last season, proof that the brand of football is attractive and that plans to “grow the support” are working.

### 4. New Stadium

Nothing further to add at this time.

### 5. Youth Team “Donation”

PY passed over the cheque for £10,000 sponsorship of the Youth Team from the Trust and congratulations on securing the Category 3 Academy status. SK thanked the Trust on behalf of Ricky Duncan and SUFC, for the donation.

## 6. Junior Blues

All agreed that the recent meeting between all parties had been useful. Plans for six Junior Blues to help launch the new kit are well in hand, and it was agreed that a mascot package would be given to one of those who sign up at MTBD – to be drawn at random. This will be marketed both by the Club and the Trust in the short time available before MTBD.

KF asked SK if there was any news on whether two Junior Blues would be able to make a presentation to Freddy Eastwood before he leaves the Club. SK agreed to talk to Phil Brown to see if something could be arranged.

**ACTION – SK to talk to PB**

## 7. Roots Hall/Prospects Car Park

SK advised that, historically, the Roots Hall car park has been over-subscribed and that certain things have been allowed to “develop” over time. A line has now been drawn to enable car-parking to move forward in a sensible logistical way.

Cars will now have to display a form of identification issued by the Club to be able to park at Roots Hall. The only exception to this will be for disabled visiting supporters, for whom a certain number of spaces will be reserved.

**ACTION – PY to talk to DJ concerning Trust passes**

## 8. Shrimpers Bar

PY advised that Trust members had spent the day on Tuesday cleaning and generally “sprucing up” the Shrimpers Bar to make it more appealing to both our own and visiting supporters.

## 9. Any Other Business:

- SK will be attending the next Trust committee meeting, on 4<sup>th</sup> August, and it is hoped that Ryan Murrant, the Club Liaison Officer, will come to a later meeting.
- PY asked if SK knew anything about a “Museum” planned for the new stadium. SK advised that PF should direct any questions on this direct to RM as he is not in a position to know.

**ACTION – PF to raise with RM**

- Issue concerning the way stewards at Burton behaved towards a female Trust member were noted, but it was felt too much time had now passed to be able to follow it up.
- PY asked if it would be possible for two Trust committee members to have their DBS checks renewed through the Club, with the Trust funding them. SK advised this would need to be checked through Helen Norbury, who is currently on holiday.

**ACTION – PY to contact HN after 28<sup>th</sup> July**

- PY enquired about the advertising in the toilets, and asked if the Trust could advertise in these periodically, and also about linking the Trust website directly to the Club's.

**ACTION – PY to email TB, and to copy SK in**

- PY passed over a copy of Fleetwood Town's Away Fan Guide for information, and also discussed their competitions before matches.

**ACTION – SK to pass to TB for reference**

- Trust member John Rodwell, who had been a supporter for 68 years, passed away in February this year, and his son has recently contacted the Trust to say he heard nothing from the Club after him emailing. SK advised that the Club very carefully monitors any information of this kind, and always responds. He apologised for what must have been an oversight on this occasion.

## 10. Date of next meeting - tba