



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING Thursday, 18th September 2014



1. Present and Apologies

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

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th July 2014

Follow up on actions:

- **(Outstanding)** Memorabilia – Ricky Duncan has now taken on responsibility for “gathering” items from our players for the Trust to benefit from. A specific request for a Dan Bentley shirt was made. - **ACTION – SK and PY to speak to RD**

3. Club Finances

SK confirmed that wages and HMRC payments are up to date. SK further explained that the situation is likely to remain tight for the foreseeable future and especially in League 2. He explained that most League clubs outside of the Premier league run at a loss and many are propped up by a single owner investing money, as is the case with Southend United.

PF requested that the outstanding sums owed to the Trust be cleared immediately. SK rang down during the meeting and requested this. - **ACTION - SK** to ensure payment is made

SK re-iterated that the clubs wants to grow attendances and asked for the Trust’s help. Specifically first time attendees, the “Community Corner” i.e. how to improve the engagement within the local area, as well as with away fans – **ACTION – PF** to contact the wider committee for input

PY Reported that some away fans do now visit the Shrimpers Bar (The Trust invites the relevant away Trust) however SC reported that some fans had been turned away by officious stewarding. – **ACTION – SK** to contact Dave Jobson to ensure all Stewards are aware.

4. New Stadium

SK could give no further news and after some discussion, explained he did not want to personally speculate on what might be happening. SK explained Ron Martin is in charge of that aspect of the business, SK runs the Club and he explained that the

Trust probably knew as much as he does given their direct communication with, and questions they ask of Ron Martin.

5. Junior Blues

PY requested that the August Birthday communications be looked at, as an e-mail had been received suggesting they were not sent (September's have been). PY offered to address this on behalf of the club, if signed cards can be provided. - **ACTION – SK** to arrange for the cards to given to **PY**

PY also mentioned that the winner of the mascot package from “Meet the Blues” day had not been contacted. - **ACTION - PY** to provide **SK** the details so that he can address.

PY suggested that the proposed Junior Blues meet in October be switched to Boots and Laces, as time is short and nothing appears to have been firmed up. - **ACTION – PY** to provide **SK** with the relevant details for Sue to arrange

6. Pie and Pint night

A Trust member had written stating how much he enjoyed the previous evening. The group agreed to consider a follow up. - **ACTION – SK** to talk to Phil Brown about potential contacts – **PF** to ask Trust members for opinions/guests

7. Trust Banner

The Trust has two new banners, one of which they would like to display on a fence in Roots Hall car Park – **ACTION - PY** to speak to Dave Jobson

8. Academy Match day

Ricky Duncan wanted to involve the Trust as main sponsor. - **ACTION – PY** to talk to Rob about Trust involvement and Dave Jobson about positioning a banner.

9. Waxing of Players

A trust member has offered her services, to potentially raise money in a pitch based leg waxing. After some discussion SK requested that the idea is detailed for club consideration – **ACTION - PY/KF**

10. Shrimpers Bar

PY reported that the Bar was on the face of it clean for the recent home games - but for the quiz night (after moving some tables) it was clear that more effort is required. - **ACTION – PY** to liaise with Sharon

SK provided some information regarding CI-Connect. This is a local company who would like to run a trial in the Shrimpers Bar. They will provide a new television and Public Access WiFi. It was felt that the Trust could manager this. - **ACTION – SK** to contact CI-Connect and arrange a meeting with PF/Trust

11. Tea Bars in South Stand

Following the announcement during the Portsmouth game that outlets were open in two places in the North Stand, several supporters had complained about facilities in the South. SK explained that they really had explored all options (opening existing, providing mobile facilities, temporary arrangements) for improving facilities, but costs were just too high at this time as key facilities either didn't exist in areas such as running water or the area was shut for Health and safety reasons.

12. Any Other Business:

- PY stated that Trust flyers had been sent with recent SUFC communications after a temporary hiccup;
- Fans Forum on Monday 22nd September - **ACTION** – PY to talk to Sharon about Radio Mic's;
- PF stated that following the receipt of an Album chronicling the Malta tour of 1955 – that it was the Trust's intention, together with Dave Goody, Peter Miles and possibly Peter Baker, to create a book. - **ACTION** – PF to contact Helen to see if any records exist in SUFC's archives ;
- SK stated that ongoing problems with ticketing, had led him to review the system in situ. SK had also met with other Clubs using the system, which was a useful exercise.

13. Date of next meeting – 27th November