



# SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST LIAISON MEETING



Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015

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## 1. Present and Apologies

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

## 2. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015

- The Pie and Pint Nights are to be held over to next season
- The Family Excellence survey is to be re-visited, hopefully before the start of next season to try and implement any suggestions

**ACTION – PY to progress**

- Disabled access to the Shrimpers Bar is in fact available. KF suggested a sign might be put up outside explaining that disabled access is available on request.

**ACTION – SK to discuss with Stadium Manager**

- Supporters' Group "shopping list" has not been forthcoming.

**ACTION – PF to liaise**

- Ladies' toilets in the West – KF reported these have been much better of late but the ongoing issue with taps remains.

**ACTION – SC to take up with Stadium Manager**

- New kit to be available in ladies' fit.

**ACTION – SK to follow up**

- Fairfax Drive exit, reported as having been blocked a couple of times since last meeting.

**ACTION – KF to provide photos**

- Trust End of Season Awards – despite repeated requests, the required footage was not available in good time to prepare for the Trust event.

**ACTION – SK to follow up**

## 3. Club Finances

Following on from the recent AGM at which finances were discussed, SK reported that the Club's accounts to the end of June 2014 have just been filed with Companies House.

Some discussion ensued regarding the payment of interest on loans made by Directors of the Club.

## 4. AGM/New Stadium

Nothing further to add from what was disclosed at the AGM.

## **5. Luton match**

SK advised that the match officials have reported the Club to the FA, as is their duty. Following on from the earlier incident in the season, there will inevitably be consequences which the Club will need to act on.

Travelling supporters and random supporters in the West Stand were subjected to searching before the game, and it was hoped that this would prove effective. However, those responsible circumnavigated the searching to “smuggle” the offending items into the ground.

It is expected that, as a direct result of the incident, there will no longer be free migration to W block, and that, in order to properly identify seat holders, tickets must be purchase in the block in future.

The Club is co-operating with officials in identifying the culprit/s at this time.

SK also advised that Simon Dobbin, the Cambridge supporter who was seriously injured in an attack following our home game against them, is making small signs of progress and that he is in frequent touch with his family. There is a possibility that Essex Police will be working with the family and the Club on educating supporters on the dangers involved in such violent behaviour.

## **6. Play off travel**

The Trust will be able to use the Shrimpers Bar as a base should it be necessary to sell coach travel for the Play Offs or a Wembley final. If the Club need to sell tickets for the Play Offs, tickets for both legs will be on sale to priority customers from 9.30am Monday morning.

## **7. Junior Blues**

Following on from a recent discussion, SK advised that he was suggesting that Sue Page, in the Commercial Department, become involved in re-negotiating with the existing partners. It was agreed that the Trust committee would be asked to come up with other potential business partners.

**ACTION – KF to email SK re Sue Page’s involvement**

**PF to circulate Trust committee**

KF suggested we have a “Junior Blue” themed match next season, maybe with special concessions for Junior Blues to “bring a friend”, and to have face painting etc for the youngsters. SK agreed this was a good idea and to take it further once the fixture list becomes available.

**ACTION – SK to progress**

SK highlighted Nottingham Forest’s webpage and how he hopes to emulate some of the ideas on there, for instance, having a direct link for children to access Junior Blues’ information, and also for travel.

## **8. Any Other Business:**

- **Waxing** – KF to progress urgently with Suze Newton via email.
- **Hawkwell Athletic** – following a request for player appearance received from a Trust member via a Trust committee member, SK advised they contact the Community Trust or directly via reception.
- **End of Year Awards, (i)** – following the auction of Dan Bentley’s gloves, one generous supporter pledged £80 for the donation of a signed ball to be given to a supporter. SK advised that the balls for this season have all now been allocated. It was agreed, however, that this would be held over for the start of next season.

**ACTION – PF to let the young man’s mother know**

- **End of Year Awards, (ii)** – PF shared the Trust’s disappointment that Phil Brown was not able to make the evening, particularly as time had been allocated in the schedule for him to speak. Earlier notice would have enabled something else to be allocated instead. KF raised the issue of “extra” non Trust members who were in attendance.

**ACTION – SK to liaise with those involved**

- **#AskRon** – PF shared the idea of a “Question and Answer” session with RM, with questions being collected and submitted in advance by the Supporters’ Group.

**ACTION – PF to approach RM**

- **Friends of the Academy** – PF re-visited this subject from last meeting and a short discussion followed.

**ACTION – PF to draw up draft proposals**

- **Supporters Liaison Officer** – PF asked who holds this position now.

**ACTION – SK to advise**

- **Advertising** – SC raised the subject of a lack of promotional material through the town advertising when forthcoming matches are. SK agreed but pointed out that the majority of potential sites would probably cost substantial amounts but asked for good sites so it could be considered,

**ACTION – ALL to consider possible sites**

**9. Date of next meeting – to be re-arranged as 28<sup>th</sup> May is now no longer possible**

**ACTION – SC to liaise and circulate**