



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LIMITED LIAISON MEETING



Thursday, 20th August 2015

1. Present and Apologies:

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

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th June 2015:

- Pie and Pint night arrangements – still ongoing (with PY)
- Family Excellence survey still to be re-visited (with PY)
- Signage for disabled access to the Shrimpers Bar – SK believes this has been done
ACTION – PF/SC Check Saturday
- Supporters' Group "shopping list" being held on to for start of new season. Tom Brooks has this in hand – still ongoing
- Ladies' toilets/tap issues in West Stand – SC has spoken with the Stadium Manager. Lack of water pressure seems to be the main issue, Update 20th – Kay reports that the new lighting is excellent however water is still a problem
ACTION – SC to investigate further with Dave Jobson
- Fairfax Drive Exit – KF reported this was blocked at the last home game
ACTION – KF to monitor during season
- Signed ball, slight problem at MTBD
ACTION – PF to progress
- #askRon – PF has suggested this to RM
ACTION – PF to contact RM
- Friends of the Academy – PF reported that he has produced a document in draft, based on the Ipswich model. The idea is for this to be self-sustaining.
ACTION – Trust (PF/RC) to continue with plans for this
- Jackie Smith's seat – still not resolved, SK explained that ALL seats in the stadium had been cleaned by Community Youth workers. He promised that he would specifically check West, Block U, Row E, Seat 121
ACTION – SK to investigate

3. Club Finances

SK reported little change – a discussion was had around staffing levels and in particular the appointment of a new Commercial director which all felt was good news. Danny Macklin (previously with Essex County Cricket Club)

A meeting will be arranged with Danny to discuss Trust involvement in several projects as soon as he is settled in

4. New Stadium

SK reported that as far as he was aware the project is progressing well but suggested that Ron Martin be contacted for further information

5. Junior Blues

KF, via PF, reported that additional potential partners had been identified and that she was working with Sue Page on these. SK Confirmed that soccer schools are still supposed to be pushing JB membership. SK asked that the proposed Dates/Events for October half term and the Christmas Party be sent to him as soon as possible to ensure Phil Brown is happy. SK also stated that Danny Macklin would get involved in this and in particular they would try to find a different contact at Adventure Island.

ACTIONS:**SK - to check Soccer Schools****KF/PF - to forward proposed dates to SK****SK – New contact at Adventure Island****6. Youth Team Contract**

SK explained that, as previously discussed, Ricky Duncan is hopeful that an outside sponsor may become the Shirt Sponsor. A decision is expected within two weeks. PF/SK agreed to park the discussion until such time as this is finalised.

ACTIONS: (All Outstanding from previous)**SK – to follow up the promised Dan Bentley gloves****PF – to diarise to push for items in tandem with regular committee meetings****PY – to follow up other memorabilia with Liz, and to copy SK in****7. Meet the Blues Day**

Despite some negative feedback, PF reported that from the Trust's point of view the day went well. There was some confusion between a couple of SUFC representatives regarding the JB's but generally we felt that Dale in particular was very helpful and tried to ensure we were looked after.

SC requested that the date be set earlier in future. KF, via PF, requested that the club look into more activities for children.

SK reported that Danny Macklin would assume responsibility for this going forward and that he is hoping to completely revamp the day

8. Auctions

PF explained that the Trust had been looking at new ways of raising money via auctions and had come to the conclusion that the best opportunity to raise money would be to auction a few items at SUFC events, specifically requesting that we do this at the sponsors evening. SK agreed

9. A Perry Sponsored swim

SC asked that Alan Perry's sponsored swim be covered in the programme – SK was happy to accommodate and requested that detailed be sent to Warren

ACTION – PF to arrange**10. Seat on the Coach to Col Utd**

PF asked whether it would be possible to auction 2 seats on the coach to Colchester to aid fund raising as had been done previously a few years back. SK felt that Phil Brown may not like this but would ask

ACTION – SK to ask Phil Brown**11. Any Other Business:**

Coventry - SC asked why the game had been moved to Monday night. SK explained that Coventry do not have 100% control over their stadium and requested a change when the fixtures came out this was rejected and SK heard no more. He therefore assumed it was OK. He then got a call saying that they would not have been able to fulfil the fixture on the Saturday but as both teams had a bye in the JPT could it be switched. SK was aware that The League would adjudicate if we couldn't agree and there was no valid reason to block the Monday night (Monday during the day was not an option). SK was happy to consider refunds for train travel for anyone that had bought a ticket already where a refund was not possible before the revised fixture.

- **Prices for Friendlies** – KF, via PF, stated that the price for Orient was too high and questioned why. SK explained that the Orient match had been put on whilst he was on holiday and generally in a hurry. He did not disagree with the point but felt in fact it probably had not made too much difference to the attendance in this case
- **Shrimpers Bar** – PF Explained his frustration at the new licensing requirement to use Plastic "glasses" and limit numbers in the Shrimpers Bar on match days. Also the lighting outside the Bar and in particular the stairs leading to the car park is non-existent – all felt this had changed for the worse recently.

ACTIONS:

SK - to provide contact details for PF to arrange a joint meeting with the Licensing authority.

SK – to check with Dave Jobson re lighting

- **Away Colours** – SC asked that the planned away shirt colour be posted on the Website and social media so that travelling fans are aware in advance.

ACTION – SK to ask Amanda/Warren to do this at the same time as the Referee is informed

- **Pitch Hire at Roots hall** – PF explained that a Trust member was very keen to run a football tournament at Roots hall and felt that it could be a good fund raiser for the Trust. SK outlined a few sample costs and explained who uses the pitch currently and what they do.

ACTION – SK to provide costs

- **New ticketing system** – PF asked whether the Season Ticket problems had been resolved. SK reported that a fair number of tickets had not worked and was working hard with the vendor to ensure a repeat does not occur. PF/SC both noted that as it is holiday season it is highly likely that some tickets had not yet been tested and they should expect more failures. SK stated that tickets would no longer be taken from supporters if there is a problem and that they would be contacted during the following week.

- **Waxing Challenge** – All agreed that the preferred approach would be to send outstanding money direct to the charity

ACTION – PF to collate and send

12. Date of next meeting –

ACTION – SC to liaise with Steve re date for next meeting