



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LIMITED LIAISON MEETING



Monday, 12th October 2015

1. Present and Apologies:

Those in attendance were Steve Kavanagh (SK); Paul FitzGerald (PF); Paul Yeomanson (PF); Shane Chapman (SC); Kay Fogg (KF) and guest, Kevin Fogg (KF2)

2. Matters Arising or Outstanding from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th August

- Pie and Pint night arrangements – still ongoing with PY
ACTION – PY to investigate possibilities
- Family Excellence survey – still ongoing with PY
ACTION – PY to attend
- Signage for disabled access to the Shrimpers – sign now in place
- Supporters' Group "Shopping List" – SK has now received this. There are a number of items on the list which have been raised at liaison in the past and responded to, however, SK will meet with the group in the not too distant future
ACTION – SK to attend meeting
- Ladies' toilets in the West – still an ongoing problem. KF suggested we forget about the water and install hand sanitiser instead. SK to raise with stadium manager
ACTION – SK to raise with DJ
- Fairfax Drive exit – ongoing monitoring, obviously issues around a couple of recent games
- Signed ball for Liam – all done and passed over by Phil Brown
- #askRon – PF still chasing
- Friends of the Academy – ongoing with PF
ACTION – PF to liaise with RC
- Jackie Smith's seat – all done, checked by SK
- Junior Blues – SK to follow up contact with Adventure Island. The Club is now on the Council's tourism board which will hopefully benefit us long term
ACTION – SK to follow up with adventure Island
- Dan Bentley's gloves were passed over. PY to contact Liz with regard to auction items and memorabilia for this season
ACTION – PY to contact Liz
- Seat on the coach – Phil Brown had turned down the idea of offering a seat on the team coach to a supporter
- Shrimpers Bar – PF was still awaiting details of the licensing authority and for a meeting to be set up with them. Further issues had arisen with the stringent implementation of licensing restrictions, resulting in regulars being turned away at a recent match. SK advised that the Club is subject to scrutiny from the licensing board at present and, as a result, new dedicated smoking areas had been identified as well as limits being imposed on bars. All Trust members in attendance agreed that the lighting situation on the stairs had not improved.
ACTION – SK to follow up lighting with DJ

3. Club Finances

SK reported that finances remain as usual. Salaries are paid up to date. The costs surrounding the players continue to increase whilst revenue streams remain pretty much the same or with only slight increase. The two do not correlate. Discussion about the increased numbers attending Saturday's game against Port Vale ensued, with conclusion being that we may have benefitted from a lack of Premiership games locally. Danny Macklin is now in situ as the new Commercial Director, and the position of a sales executive to work with Danny has been advertised, with little response as yet.

In response to a question about comparison of season card take up this year as compared to last, SK replied that we have 3,409 SCHs this season, an increase of 403 on last season.

4. New Stadium

With the emergence of new plans and news of major new financier, British Land being involved, SK was enthusiastic in discussions on the re-designed new stadium. The exhibition on 23rd and 24th October will give supporters the opportunity to view the plans and talk to specialists, including British Land's architects. The Saturday times have been brought forward to 10 a.m. to allow supporters travelling to Gillingham the opportunity to view.

The Club is developing in other areas and the stadium now needs to catch up. Roots Hall is not a viable entity and the supporters need to be encouraged to get behind the new plans. Sainsbury's are still involved but SK was not sure of the level of their involvement. The Club does not owe them any money.

5. Youth Team "Donation"

The contracts were in production and due to be signed off, with a reduction in the amount of donation "up front" reflecting the loss of exposure from advertising the Trust in matches already completed this season. Funds raised from "Quid a Goal" had been allocated towards the Youth Team this season.

ACTION – PF and SK to finalise

6. Junior Blues

KF and PY would be attending a meeting with Danny Macklin on Wednesday. KF added that she was continuing to work with SP on the JB partners. The JB exclusive Meet the Players day would be taking place on 27th October at Boots and Laces. KF requested the attendance of Sammy and Elvis for approx. one hour. It was also suggested that a feature involving an SUFC player signing their own child up would be good.

ACTION – KF to raise this matter with DM

7. Shrimpers Bar

After the recent team photo where chairs had just been "dumped" in the bar, PY reported that it had been much better recently, although the stand had been moved again. A request is to be made again to SUCET that, if they wish to play table tennis, they do so at the other end of the bar.

The new screen in the bar may have been tampered with resulting in issues with the WIFI. This is to be looked into.

ACTION – PY and KF to discuss with DM

SK advised that the FL interactive website deal expires in 2017, so there is speculation as to what will happen after this. Some larger clubs may want to go their own way, smaller clubs, like ours, would suffer. SK discussed some of the benefits being looked at, which might include a PPV live stream for supporters overseas, and in stadia free wifi.

8. Any Other Business:

- Anthem – SK advised that, following a request from a supporter, Sweet Caroline had been tried with little response within the ground right at the start of several matches. The Trust have passed this to the Supporters' Group Forum for consideration.
- Ticketing issues – there were a number of issues surrounding ticketing for Saturday's game. DM has already been tasked with looking into this, with SK responding to a specific supporter.

ACTION – SK to follow up

- Colchester away – SC raised issues and concerns with regular away supporters concerns about obtaining tickets. SK would co-ordinate.

ACTION – SK/SC to liaise

- Charges for parking – SC raised concerns that coaches were charged £20 each to park at Crawley. Coach parking charges are currently reciprocal.

ACTION – PY to provide a list of Clubs who charge for parking

- West Stand – KF raised concern about the difficulties at the back of the stand in the lead up to, and during half time where people are stationary, either in queues or just standing watching making it difficult to pass through to toilets.

ACTION – SK to raise with DJ

10. Date of next meeting - TBA