



# SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LIMITED LIAISON MEETING



Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016

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## 1. Present and Apologies

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

## 2. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2016:

Follow up on actions:

- **Fairfax Drive entrance** –KF continuing to monitor.
- **Shrimpers Bar exterior lighting** – SK reported there is an on off switch which seems to be at the root of problems. It's now been isolated and should now mean the light is left on.  
**ACTION – Trust members to check after next Board Meeting and inform DJ or SK**
- **Charges for parking at away games** – it was noted SK has not yet been given a list, however, a list is to be compiled and given to SK of all clubs who charge for parking for consideration next season.  
**ACTION – CC to produce for SK**
- **Online ticketing issues** – KF to raise with DM and PF to see if issues raised have been resolved and to seek responses from other supporters of any issues  
**ACTION – KF/PF to collate any outstanding issues**
- **Local Promotions**  
**ACTION – SK to report back further**
- **West Stand Ladies' Toilets** – KF continuing to monitor

## 3. Club Finances

SK reported that finances were much as normal. Wages and HMRC payments are up to date. KF asked if Dan Bentley and Jack Payne's moves over the summer have been finalised financially. SK advised that the situation with regard to Jack's move to Huddersfield Town has been resolved to the Club's satisfaction and that the situation with regard to Dan's move is ongoing.

## 4. New Stadium

SK advised that matters are progressing.

## 5. Junior Blues

With the impending "enhancements" to membership of the Junior Blues, SK confirmed that the Club is to take a more pro-active part in the running of the Junior Blues hence forward, whilst acknowledging the huge part the Trust have played so far and recognition of the part PY and KF have had in its organisation. It is fully intended that the Club and the Trust will work together to assure the success of the Junior Blues is continued. It was noted that RM sees all aspects relating to community involvement as vital to the Club, and that this includes the Junior Blues.

**ACTION – KF to liaise with DM ahead of Meet the Blues Day and the re-launch**

## 6. Shrimpers Bar

SC raised the issue of the condition of the Shrimpers Bar. SK acknowledged that it is not ideal and it was agreed that ways to improve this be considered.

**ACTION – Trust to seek assistance from amongst members and supporters**

## 7. Any Other Business

- PF raised the WIFI and comms in the Shrimpers Bar, and advised that he and PY would be meeting with the people behind this imminently. Our feedback would be that the performance hasn't been great but we would be happy to continue for another year as there

is no cost involved. SK advised that the EFL are intending to bring in in-stadia WIFI in the near future.

- SK raised the issue of the next Fans Forum, which he is keen to have in the very near future as he wants to have full discussion regarding the very public backlash concerning changes to competitions. He outlined some key facts regarding some of the points already raised:
  - The Football League (formerly JPT) Trophy competition was dying, it has no sponsor and only three of the six games were taken up by Sky.
  - After accepting the change to accept Premiership “B” teams, a change was foisted upon Clubs to allow U23s.
  - To allow U21 teams in the EFL would need a 90% vote in favour by existing Clubs and this is highly unlikely.
  - In the event of a proposal to add a 5<sup>th</sup> league, the same 90% vote in favour would be required.
  - It is already the case that a Premiership game cannot be played on the same night as a Europa Championship game. The Football League Cup currently attracts interest because of Premier League Clubs’ involvement. This interest would disappear if Premiership teams withdrew and, even worse, the competition lost its place in Europe for the winners.
  - If the EFL sides show a willingness to try and adapt it will stand them in better stead in the long run especially given the FA’s stance on the England team and fixture congestion. All Clubs are clear that B teams is a line in the sand.
- SC asked if it was true that the Club was charging Canvey Island FC a £500 appearance fee. SK responded that different pre-season games work out differently, some work on gate receipts, for example, Braintree. Others, our basic expenses were covered but no “appearance fee” were charged.
- SC also asked about the tickets for the Gillingham game, why they were being put on sale already even though they’re not ready and will have to be posted. SK advised this was down to changes to tickets arising from re-branding meaning that the Club doesn’t have the new tickets as yet.

#### **11. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

11th August 2016 at 4.15 p.m.