



SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LIMITED LIAISON MEETING



Thursday, 29th September 2016

1. Present and Apologies

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

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th July 2016:

Follow up on actions:

- **Fairfax Drive entrance** – SK reported that, following the incident after the Millwall game, in which several supporters, including children, were hurt, there is to be a full review of the area, including the right of egress.
- **Shrimpers Bar exterior lighting** – Trust members advised that the lighting on the stairs from the Bar area up is still not on when it should be.
ACTION – SK to follow up with DJ
- **Local Promotions** – SK advised that this continues to be of concern and that he is strongly of the opinion that visiting supporters should not be discriminated by over the price of their ticket against what home supporters are paying. He will continue to lobby but it was agreed that, pending his departure, the Trust would take up the initiative and engage with other Trusts across the Leagues on this matter.
ACTION – Trust to discuss at next Board Meeting
- **West Stand Ladies' Toilets** – KF continuing to monitor, the taps still do not release at times.
- **Shrimpers Bar Wifi/CI-connect** – PY advised that the Wifi in the Shrimpers has now been switched off and that nothing further has been heard from the meeting with CI-connect in July. SK reminded us that, as mentioned last meeting, the FL are in the process of installing in stadia Wifi. Bradford City are already up and running.

3. Club Finances

SK reported that finances were much as normal. Wages and HMRC payments are up to date. Income streams have been healthy over the Summer with the benefit of transfer fees paid. Following a question from KF, SK advised that the fee for Jack Payne's move to Huddersfield is now paid in full, however, there is no news on the tribunal for Dan Bentley's fee.

4. New Stadium

SK advised that he was not party to any new information.

5. Junior Blues

KF advised that previous differences seem to have now resolved themselves, with mutual respect being shown on both sides. Plans for the Junior Blues match on Saturday seem to be in hand. SK commended both parties for resolving the differences, commenting that it is important to acknowledge the hard work of the Trust in running this over the last few years, whilst the Club seeks to regain working control of the scheme.

SC said he'd been asked about Junior Blues who have Season Cards and where they stand with the "free tickets" for the Junior Blues game. It was pointed out that this is exactly the same as for adult Season Card Holders when the Club runs local promotions for Cup Games and others.

ACTION – KF to continue to liaise with DM, RE and CL

6. Shrimpers Bar

It was agreed that the improvements in the Shrimpers Bar have greatly enhanced the area. It now looks larger, cleaner and brighter. It was agreed that both the Club and the Trust will publicise their thanks to the suppliers who provided a service in the works undertaken – that is Alan Chennery Carpets Ltd; Thundersley Cleaning Services Ltd and Talis Projects Ltd.

However, concerns were raised about conditions behind the bar, in particular surrounding the bin and broken dishwasher. SK advised that, now this has been brought to his attention, he will ensure this is rectified.

PY also mentioned that SUCET's use of the area should be supervised. We have already found fresh chewing gum on the floor, when we came into the bar on Tuesday evening, tables and chairs moved, and the screen lowered and generally messed with.

ACTION – SK to discuss SUCET use with DS; SK to oversee the replacement of the dishwasher and ensure the waste area is maintained. PY to prepare note to thank suppliers and forward copy to RE.

7. Blues Lottery

PY raised the matter of the meetings of representatives from the Club and the Trust behind the running of the Blues Lottery. The Trust representatives were Rob Craven and Bryan Woodford, and PY would check to see if RC wished to continue. SK advised that the Club representatives will need to be re-appointed due to the fact that one has already left and that he, himself, is due to be leaving soon. He added that a new Committee needs to focus on re-direction as it seems to have stagnated a little as meetings have had to be cancelled recently.

PY asked if some of the new flyers could be made available in the Shrimpers Bar, and if the names of winners could go on the website instead of just the winning number.

ACTION – SK to raise the winners' names with RE. PY to discuss with RC if he wishes to remain. New committee to be set up asap.

8. Any Other Business

- Fans Forum response/Whole game solution – SK confirmed that the removal of the B team option is significant and irreversible, however, other options will need to be considered. These may include regionalising the lower leagues; changing the leagues to 20 or 22 clubs; questioning if Clubs like us want more money from the Premier League, and should we then become reliant on that.

He suggested it is important that the Trust now needs to make sure that supporters' voices are heard, particularly in light of his leaving, as there is no-one else currently at the Club with the background knowledge of this. He encouraged the Trust to survey fans, not just Trust fans, and to encourage other Trusts to do the same.

- Reciprocal Car Parking – we understand that MK Dons have made 4 fans' coach parking spaces available to us for our game there on 22nd October and have requested similar for the return.

ACTION – PY to liaise with CL

- The Youth Team Sponsorship contract has been agreed and will be signed on Saturday.
- SC asked for clarification of Brian Horton's role at the Club. SK advised that officially he came in as "Technical Advisor", but his remit covers more than just the 1st team. The previous day, for instance, he had travelled with the youth team to Exeter.
- KF asked whether any negotiations with those players out of contract next Summer had begun. Whilst not at liberty to reveal specific names publically, SK advised that one or two had already had new contracts agreed and that others would have clauses activated to extend their contracts. Largely this would be left to his successor to handle.
- Finally, SK thanked the Trust members and the supporters at large for their support over the four years he has been with the Club, the anniversary of which was actually the following day. He said he'd received some very nice messages. He didn't actively seek to leave the Club but an opportunity arose which he could not refuse. He emphasised that he has enjoyed his time at Southend and working with the Trust in particular over the time, adding that he felt that we have come a long way in that time. On behalf of the Trust, PY thanked SK for all his help over the years, particularly for being available when needed. He wished him well – apart from when we play Millwall, naturally!

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

27th October 2016 at 4.15 p.m.