



# MINUTES OF THE SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LIMITED LIAISON MEETING



Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025  
Roots Hall Stadium 16:30

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## 1. Present and Apologies:

The meeting was opened by Trust Chairman, James Schooley (JS), who welcomed Tom Lawrence (TL) and Rylee Doe (RD) from SUFC and Kay Fogg (KF) from the Shrimpers Trust.

Apologies for absence received from Rhys Ellingham (RE) (SUFC) and Paul Yeomanson (PY) (Trust).

## 2. Actions Carried Forward and Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025:

- Match Day Parking – RD updated attendees that, at the School's request, he is due to have further dialogue with them when they return in September.

### **ACTION – RD to report back further in September**

- Resolution regarding the £40k loan – TL advised that this is now nearly finalised, and that the repayment document is with the Trust

### **ACTION – Trust to agree terms**

- Shrimpers Bar improvements/re-decoration – Sam Duckworth (SD) from the Trust had circulated a document detailing proposals for the Shrimpers Bar to include more durable flooring and various other things to make it functional for outside use.

### **ACTION – All to go away to consider proposal and to seek costings regarding flooring**

- Baby changing – RD advised that this is still an outstanding item

### **ACTION – RD to talk to SUFC re possible grant**

- Defunct speakers to be removed from North Bank – TL confirmed that the speakers in the North Bank should all be working.
- Football Governance and Fairgame – with TL and Mike Paterson (MP) to progress away from this meeting.

## 3. Wembley feedback and discussion:

TL confessed that it had been a “painful” experience with the difficulties experienced with regard to ticketing. While it had been a fantastic day, the whole experience in the lead up had over shadowed things somewhat.

The Trust had found their side of the coach operation to be a little difficult on the day, but the majority of people had provided positive feedback and certainly, the coach companies involved had been commended. The only negative feedback really was the use of double decker vehicles which had no toilet facilities. There

had been a few comments that people had witnessed others ignoring the “no alcohol” guidelines, but it was agreed this was difficult to police once moving, especially on the single person crewed vehicles.

#### **4. Roots Hall improvements/plans/problems – Facilities update:**

TL advised that the Club hopes to be able to access a grant up to £400k from May '26, from the Premier League Fund, part of the Football Foundation to help assist with some ground improvements. He added that planning permission has been passed for the floodlight improvements.

During the close season so far, the Club have introduced a required checkerboard system in the front six rows of the East Stand. Improvements have been made to the drainage system from the showers in the dressing rooms, as a legionella risk had been identified, and the drains all around the ground have been improved. The car park has been marked up with spacing and mitigation measures have been introduced regarding the windows of the Captains' Suite.

Pitch renovations at Roots Hall and the training ground have cost c.£70k with a full strip back required at Roots Hall as the subterranean levels of the current surface were inadequate for re-growth. Irrigation issues at the training ground remain, two pitches are in use currently. More work is needed within Roots Hall itself to get the other three stands up to a required level to accommodate fans when the East Stand goes.

Toilet improvements over close season – The Club have been focused on obtaining the safety certificate, which was still outstanding at the time of the meeting. The year end budget to end July '25 of £125k, for ground improvements, had already been exceeded threefold. Although some target enhancements had been made, the toilet facilities remain problematic – and is something to be worked on.

**ACTION – Club to try to implement some improvements to toilets**

Lighting issue – West Stand, Block S, row K/L – Clarification required from Emersons as to whether this strip lighting issue has been resolved.

**ACTION – RD to check the facilities spreadsheet and/or clarify with Emersons**

Car park exit via Fairfax Drive post-match – TL advised that the SAG group have said this exit cannot be utilised by cars after matches.

Issue raised re queuing in the East Stand for food/toilets – Club have agreed to look into this and maybe instal a “Keep Clear” box and improve signage.

**ACTION – RD to look into this further with RE**

#### **5. Youth Team sponsorship:**

JS has been in dialogue with Dale Spiiby (DS) from SUCF regarding the Trust sponsorship, which the Trust have agreed to continue.

The formal agreement between the Club/SUCF and the Trust will continue to include use of a hospitality box, split three ways – one third to SUCF, one third to the Trust's social inclusion and one third to SUEPA. RD confirmed that the Club

would be happy for the SUEPA allocation to be swapped for four tickets in the Blues Legends' Lounge, as long as the guests also "worked" some of the other hospitality areas, as the Club would be able to re-sell the box on these occasions.

#### **6. Junior Blues:**

KF showed this year's new sign up gift to those in attendance. This would be being launched on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, with a photo shoot at Roots Hall ahead of the Luton friendly. She said that they were also in discussion with Hollywood Bowl at Basildon's Festival Leisure Park concerning possibly holding the Christmas Party there.

TL mentioned that the Club, as part of a wider membership programme, are considering taking administration of the Junior Blues back in house. TL confirmed that the Club would formally consult with the Trust and others at the appropriate time – TL was just giving an early heads up. KF said she would need to see the proposal before commenting.

#### **7. SUEPA & History & Heritage Update:**

Andy Leeder (AL) provided a proposal regarding the proposed Club Museum. This has also been sent to Justin Rees.

#### **8. Meet the Blues Day:**

TL mentioned that, now that we have vacated Boots & Laces – there wasn't an obvious place to run MTBD from – and that offsite options had to be considered. RD advised that the venue for this has been selected, and it was proposed that MTBD would be being held at Southchurch Park. Clare Campbell (CC) from the Shrimpers Trust is doing a lot of groundwork via the cricket club there in putting this event on, but additional safety considerations and the requirement for a Special Events Notice (which has a run in process) have meant locking in a date (following a much shorter than usual close season) has meant we are behind the curve, but, 17<sup>th</sup> August was a possible date for the event – failing that we will look to run a MTBD lite, most likely at RH in the October half term.

There are difficulties in bringing outside catering in, even ice-cream vans, as the café in the park is a long standing business with an excellent relationship with the cricket club. CC is in discussion with them and already offering to speak with the Council in good time for next year to ensure it is better organised.

The Trust were asked if they might consider sponsoring this event in the future.

**ACTION – Trust to take this idea away for consideration**

#### **9. Any Other Business:**

- **RON POUNTNEY:**

A request had been received from, long standing supporter, Ken Jarvis, for the Club to reinstate Ron's complimentary "for life" season ticket. RD advised that he has already actioned this as soon as he saw the Agenda for the Meeting, and that Ron has now accepted his ticket.

- **SEASON TICKET RE-SALE:**

Despite more requests this year, for the Club to look into the possibility of season ticket holders being able to offer their tickets for re-sale, TL confirmed that, despite the ticketing system having the capability, and that

the Club would consider it – a note will be produced and circulated with the FAB in the first instance

- **SHAREHOLDERS AS A PRIORITY CATEGORY:**

During the lead up to Wembley, through the Play Offs, there were several calls from some shareholders for the Club to return to giving them a high priority category on ticket allocations. TL said that he had looked into it, and couldn't identify any paperwork from the time of the share issue which talked about a benefit of ticket priority, he said that the Club would continue its review and put out some communications with regards to shareholders and ticket priority once the position had been fully considered.

**ACTION – TL to discuss internally and Club to issue statement (possibly via JR?)**

- **DISABLED SEASON TICKETS:**

KF had received a communication from a supporter who had had his entitlement to a category of disabled season ticket removed, due to changes in the way they are now allocated, and being to do with the level of PIP they qualify for. She suggested that the Club should look into this and contact those people affected as it is clearly causing confusion and some anger.

**ACTION – Club to look into this**

- **SQUAD PHOTO:**

Simply, is there going to be one this year? TL confirmed that he could see no reason why there would not be a squad photo this year.

- **CLEAN UP DAY**

The Club is waiting for the safety certificate to be issued before they can invite people in to help get Roots Hall ready again. They would like to do one but are aware time is running out.

- **HARDSHIP TICKETS**

JS asked if the Trust could still have 4 tickets to issue in hardship cases for each home match in the South Lower. TL confirmed that he would be happy for this to continue. KF suggested that maybe the Trust could actually "buy" these tickets to provide a little income to the Club as the Trust are not currently making any donations to them.

**ACTION – To go back to Trust with this suggestion**

- **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

JS asked for this to be revived for consideration. TL agreed to circulate old version to all parties.

**ACTION – TL to circulate.**

- **REMOTE ACCESS FOR THESE MEETINGS**

Due to locality issues, it had been asked if the Club would be happy for a Trust Board member to have occasional remote access to the Liaison Meetings to allow more Board members to participate. TL confirmed that he had no issue with this.

- **SUPPORTERS' SURVEY**

RD asked if the Trust would mail the Club's current supporters' survey out to its members. JS replied that he saw no issue with this and that he would consult the Trust Board and revert.

**ACTION – JS to speak to Trust Board**

- **QUALITY OF RECENT MEDIA WORK**

KF commended the recent media work, including the Wembley videos and kit launch videos, and said how good everything has been recently. Kudos to the media team.

Meeting closed: 17:55

Next Meeting due early September