

## **SUFC HISTORY PROJECT GROUP ('THE GROUP') - MINUTES OF MEETING**

**DATE:** 10 March 2025 (by video conference)

**GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT:** Andrew Leeder (Chair), Paul FitzGerald, Michelle Gargate, Sam Duckworth, Peter Miles, Richard Coxell

**MINUTES DISTRIBUTION:** the Group, Trust Board members, Justin Rees, Tom Lawrence, Rylee Doe, club website

**APOLOGIES:** James Schooley, Dave Goody, Paul Napper

### **1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 20 JANUARY 2025**

Agreed.

Since the last meeting, Richard Coxell, Dave Goody, Peter Miles and Paul Napper had been invited and had agreed to join the Group to provide further resource and ideas.

### **2. MATTERS ARISING AND OTHER POST-MEETING ACTIONS**

**2.1 Funding** – the SUEPA Fund balance remained at circa £1,600, of which £600 was committed to the Box corridor project. One key boost to the Fund could be the Shrimpers Tales book (see (3) below).

**2.2 Box corridor project** – the first batch (of at least 10) should now be delivered to the club by the end of the month. AL continuing to work with Dave Shields on this.

**ACTION - AL**

**2.3 Sid Broomfield** – SD advised that the family of Sid (possibly to also involve relatives of others who were key to the building of Roots Hall) remained keen to meet the club and that they held some club-related memorabilia. AL mentioned that the next Former Players Club meeting on 28 April 2025 might provide a suitable opportunity for this. SD undertook to liaise with Sid's family and Justin Rees on this.

**ACTION – SD/AL**

**2.4 Legacy numbers** – AL had met with Rylee on 17.02.25 to cover a number of SUEPA-related matters. A meeting to specifically kick-off the legacy project (to also involve DG/PM) would now be arranged for June.

**ACTION - AL**

**2.5 Memorabilia cataloguing** - this item would be carried forward to the next meeting, an initial action being for AL to review and populate a spreadsheet that had been provided by PF.

**ACTION - AL**

**2.6 Museum** - the idea of a train carriage (or a bus – which had some appeal given likely lower cost and greater flexibility) was still under review with the club as a potential interim measure prior to a possible more permanent facility in a redeveloped Roots Hall. AL mentioned that he had outlined a proposal to Justin Rees to take him on a tour of other club museums which it was now hoped would happen at the start of next season.

**ACTION - AL**

**2.7 Website** – PF had met with AL since the last meeting to discuss initial ideas and had spoken to the providers of the Trust website (Ecom) to consider initial costings. Noting that the ultimate aim might be to have a facility perhaps similar to the excellent Exeter City history website, a more modest approach to start off with and test things could be to have a 'bolt on' to the existing Trust website. The Group considered this to be a sensible approach – PF was currently waiting on Ecom for a costing outline though it was hoped that this could be quite modest.

Further work undertaken by PF had identified that a maximum grant of £1,500\* could be available from Sporting Heritage to help fund certain projects and, after discussion, the Group agreed to move forward on this with a 'racial history' theme which it was felt met a number of objectives set out in the grant application process. It was noted that a number of club former players could have some good input here, and that Trust Board member Paul Hill via his racial equality work could be a useful source for help.

It was noted that, aside from website development, use of roller display banners to highlight club history themes, and possibly an idea put forward by SD regarding playing cards, could be other areas relevant for grant funding.

The deadline for the Sporting Heritage grant application was 31 March 2025, and PF undertook to move this forward.

\*larger grants could become available, especially relating to a museum project, from a number of sources, and setting up a charitable status to facilitate this would be another route to explore.

**ACTION – PF**

- 2.8 Match programmes** – noting that currently any programme held by the Trust is available for purchase, at the next Trust meeting a request to 'hold back' one copy for each match would be put forward. Some Trust cataloguing work was already under way. SD mentioned that he had a storage facility if needed.

**ACTION - MG**

- 2.9 History presentation to groups** – PM/DG already had some presentation material and were happy to be involved in the WI presentation on 17.09.25. As noted at the last meeting, a discussion would be had with the Community Foundation regarding the possibility of rolling this out to schools or other local community groups

**ACTION – MG/DG/PM**

**3 SHRIMPERS' TALES**

Since the last meeting AL had proposed publishing a book of fan stories of watching the club, and preparation was now underway for this. A publisher had been found, and circa 40 volunteer writers had indicated that they would like to participate. It was hoped that this could provide a significant boost to the SUEPA Fund. AL was working on this project with PF, the current target being to have copies for sale during August.

**ACTION – AL/PF**

**4 INTERVIEWING PAST PLAYERS**

AL had set up a meeting with 94 year-old Jimmy Thomson on 15 May 2025 (at Jimmy's home in Scotland) to record his playing memories – Jimmy had scored our winner in an FA Cup tie v Liverpool in 1957. Material from this could have a number of uses, including for a history website, and might then act as a springboard to develop it in to a project to interview for posterity many other former players.

**ACTION – AL**

**5 CHRIS BARNARD**

Following the sad passing of former player Chris in January, AL had delivered the eulogy at his funeral, and Chris's care home had put on a fantastic display of the memorabilia Chris had kept throughout his career which they had agreed would be donated to SUEPA. This included such items as Chris's initial club contract, many programmes relevant to Chris's career and

a great photo library. AL was aiming to pick up the memorabilia from the care home on 28 April 2025.

**ACTION – AL**

**6 AOB**

None.

**7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be determined (held on a ‘need’ basis but possibly within the next two months).