

# A miss communication

## *A verbatim exchange of emails from August to November 2015...*

**From:** Peter Varney  
**To:** Roland Duchâtelet  
**Cc:** An De Hert; Katrien Meire  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19th  
**Subject:** Charlton Athletic FC

Dear Mr Duchatelet,  
 We have not met but I was the Chief Executive Officer at Charlton Athletic FC from 1997 to 2008 and Executive Vice Chairman from January 2011 to July 2012. I am now Chief Executive Officer of KEH (Kuwaiti European Holdings) Sports Ltd and in October we will be submitting a planning application directly to the UK Government for the construction of the London Paramount Entertainment Resort on the Swanscombe Peninsular in Kent for which we now own the bulk of the development land. This is a £2.5 billion scheme and the Resort will host 51 rides, the biggest water park in Europe and a Theatre and Restaurant District as well as a BBC programme zone. I have an interesting investment proposal to discuss with you in relation to Charlton Athletic. I am in Europe quite often so would like the opportunity to meet you for a coffee in Brussels. If you are happy to meet perhaps you could propose a few dates. Best regards  
 Peter Varney

34 days later...

**From:** Katrien Meire  
**To:** Peter Varney  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 22nd  
**Subject:** Re: Charlton Athletic FC

Good morning Peter,  
 I hope all is well with you. Mr. Duchatelet has asked me to be in touch with you and asked me to meet you regarding this

*On message: Meire talks to fans. But she couldn't find a moment over three months to meet Varney*

opportunity.  
 Let me know your availabilities. Best regards,  
 Katrien

**From:** Peter Varney  
**To:** Katrien Meire  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 22nd  
**Subject:** Re: Charlton Athletic FC

Hi Katrien,  
 I am in the USA from 9th to 28th October so it would suit me better if the meeting could be before I go. Can I suggest either 28th or 29th September at a time to suit you? I am happy to come to The Valley if that helps but could we meet in the Chairman's Suite/Boardroom as I would prefer not to come into the main office area. Best regards  
 Peter

**From:** Katrien Meire  
**To:** Peter Varney  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 22nd  
**Subject:** Re: Charlton Athletic FC

Hi Peter,  
 For me the 28th and 29th are not possible since I'm in Belgium those days.  
 Katrien

**From:** Peter Varney  
**To:** Katrien Meire  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 22nd  
**Subject:** Re: Charlton Athletic FC

Katrien,

I suggest you give me dates/times which suit you up to 9th October and we'll go from there.  
 Regards  
 Peter

**From:** Katrien Meire  
**To:** Peter Varney  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 24th  
**Subject:** Re: Charlton Athletic FC

Good morning Peter,  
 I can do Monday 5th of October, we don't need to meet at the Valley, we can meet elsewhere. Best regards,  
 Katrien

**From:** Peter Varney  
**To:** Katrien Meire  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 24th  
**Subject:** Re: Charlton Athletic FC

Hi Katrien,  
 I have a meeting at 11am I have to attend at Ebbsfleet. Can I therefore suggest 2pm? If you are based at Charlton that day can I suggest either the Brands Hatch hotel on the A20 or the Hilton Hotel at Dartford Bridge or the Devonport House Hotel in Greenwich or alternatively I can get to St Pancras in London in 15 minutes from where I am so we could meet in the St Pancras Renaissance Hotel there. Let me know what suits. Regards  
 Peter



**From:** Peter Varney  
**To:** Katrien Meire  
**Sent:** Monday, October 5th  
**Subject:** Re: Charlton Athletic FC  
 Katrien,  
 Can I assume that today is no longer convenient?  
 Regards  
 Peter

**From:** Katrien Meire  
**To:** Peter Varney  
**Sent:** Monday, October 5th  
**Subject:** Re: Charlton Athletic FC  
 Peter,  
 Unfortunately, I'm no longer available. Could we reschedule when you're back from the USA.  
 Best regards,  
 Katrien

**From:** Demi King  
**To:** Peter Varney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 7th  
**Subject:** Meeting with Katrien  
 Good Afternoon Mr Varney,  
 Hope you are well, Katrien has asked me to arrange your meeting with her in mid-November with a proposed date of Tuesday 10th November or Tuesday 17th November. Once you have decided whether either date would suit you, could you kindly e-mail me so that I can confirm a time and place for the meeting,  
 Many Thanks,

**From:** Peter Varney  
**To:** Demi King  
**Sent:** Friday, October 9th  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting with Katrien  
 Demi,  
 Just to confirm 10th November is preferred.  
 Regards  
 Peter

**From:** Demi King  
**To:** Peter Varney  
**Sent:** Friday, October 9th  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting with Katrien  
 Afternoon Peter,  
 Thank you for confirming your preferred date. Once I have confirmed a time with Katrien I will send you an e-mail with all the details,  
 Many Thanks,  
 Demi-Louise

31 days later...

**From:** Demi King  
**To:** Peter Varney  
**Sent:** Monday, November 9th  
**Subject:** Meeting With Katrien  
 Afternoon Peter,  
 Unfortunately Katrien is unable to attend your meeting with her tomorrow. I will liaise with Katrien when I am back at The Valley and re-schedule it for some time in future. Sincerest apologies,  
 Kind Regards,

**From:** Peter Varney  
**To:** Roland Duchâtelet; Katrien Meire  
**Sent:** Monday, November 9th  
**Subject:** Re: Charlton Athletic FC  
 Dear Mr Duchatelet/Ms Meire,  
 As you are aware 3 meeting dates have been arranged to discuss the investment proposal I wrote to you about on 19th August and all 3 meetings have been cancelled either the day before the scheduled meeting or on the day itself. The message I received tonight was that tomorrow's scheduled meeting will be re-arranged 'for some time in the future'.  
 As it is now almost 3 months since I wrote to you I think it is not unreasonable to assume the board of CAFC has no real interest in receiving the proposal but if I am mis-understanding your position please let me know as I have an alternative option that can be progressed.  
 Regards  
 Peter Varney

**From:** Roland Duchatelet  
**To:** Peter Varney  
**Cc:** Katrien Meire; Hilde Noels; Richard Murray  
**Sent:** Monday, November 9th  
**Subject:** Re: Charlton Athletic FC  
 Dear Mr Varney,  
 I think the meeting has been postponed because there is some urgent work to be done tomorrow. I am sure Katrien will propose a new date asap.  
 Roland.

**From:** Peter Varney  
**To:** Roland Duchatelet

**Cc:** Katrien Meire; Richard Murray  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18th  
**Subject:** Investment Proposal  
 Dear Mr Duchatelet,  
 It is 3 months today since I first wrote to you and I must assume from the email trail below there is no interest in a meeting taking place which of course it is your absolute right to decline but I think it would have saved us all a lot of time if this had just been said to me from the outset.  
 Regards  
 Peter Varney

**From:** Katrien Meire  
**To:** Peter Varney, Roland Duchâtelet  
**Cc:** Richard Murray  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18th  
**Subject:** Re: Investment Proposal  
 Dear Mr. Varney,  
 Apologies if you feel we have wasted your time. As said before, other urgent matters came up whenever we were due to meet.  
 Best regards,  
 Katrien

**From:** Peter Varney  
**To:** Katrien Meire; Roland Duchâtelet  
**Cc:** Richard Murray  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 19th  
**Subject:** Re: Investment Proposal  
 Dear Ms Meire,  
 What I find surprising is that I have simply asked to meet Mr Duchatelet or you concerning a major investment proposal for your club and in a 3 month period it has not been possible for you to meet for a coffee for 30 minutes to hear what I have to say. Even in this latest reply you are clearly not interested to meet and indeed after Mr Duchatelet said I would be contacted asap to arrange a meeting I had to contact you again 9 days later. Clearly I am missing something here but it is for you and Mr Duchatelet to decide who you wish and do not wish to meet and I think your message is now clear.  
 Regards  
 Peter