



Trust Statement – 12th October 2021

We love the club, you idiot!

At the last supporters' group Zoom meeting with Ron Martin, he told one of our board members that he loved the football club in a ranting response to a perfectly reasonable question. It is now apparent, following the article by Chris Phillips in the Southend Echo, that our club has been placed under a transfer embargo by the National League, and this presents further evidence that Ron Martin's love of this football club is simply not equal to that of the fans.



Subsequently, Matt Slater of The Athletic has reported that the balance to HMRC to clear the embargo is in excess of £200k. The club, through a statement released this lunchtime, have confirmed the embargo is in place. We are angry and upset that our beloved football club has been left in this embarrassing position once again. We are not naive enough to fail to understand the current financial impact on the footballing world of the Covid-19 pandemic, especially with the lack of matchday income over recent weeks, but we have been here before and the club has seemingly not learnt any previous lessons. This is truly concerning.

We learnt in recent days that Charlie Sayers, a promising young defender who had already appeared for the first team in the National League at the age of just 17, had been sold to Tottenham Hotspur. This is not the first time that a youngster - albeit on this occasion one recruited relatively recently - has left the club at a reduced price in a bid, presumably, to raise money towards an outstanding tax bill. This is another sign of the ongoing poor management of the football club at the highest level. The club has continued with its recruitment of backroom staff, which it is now obvious it cannot afford; we believe the new recruits have been set up to fail and have simply presented further cost to the business without being allowed to deliver the success they are striving for.

Where is Ron Martin? For someone who claims to love the football club he has not been seen on matchdays since supporters protested against his ownership. Ron is clearly unwilling, or unable, to attend football matches at the current time. We do not believe he is a fit and proper owner of Southend United Football Club and he continues to run the club with a flagrant disregard for league rules, whether that be within the EFL or the National League. This is completely unacceptable and we will seek clarity from the National League regarding the current position and the possibility of further sanctions.

The Shrimpers Trust believe that we need a United fan base during this troubling period. We acknowledge that not every fan supports the Trust's wider objectives. We do all support Southend United, though, and we are seeking to engage with ALL viewpoints within our fan-base with ALL cards on the table regarding potential actions.

We shall continue to offer our full support to Kevin Maher, the backroom staff and the team on the pitch, however, we do not support the continued actions (or lack of actions) from the owner of the football club. Ron Martin is ultimately responsible for our continued demise, by seemingly not supporting the club he protests to love.

The Shrimpers Trust Board