



## Trust Statement – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022

Further to the report in the Southend Echo on Friday 30th September that Southend United FC have been placed under a transfer embargo due to a missed payment to HMRC, the Shrimpers Trust remain in dialogue with the football club.



Almost a year ago to the day, supporters voted overwhelmingly that they had no confidence in club chairman Ron Martin. Today, we reiterate the Trust's position that Mr Martin is not a fit and proper owner of our football club.

Supporters are tired of the constant cycle of missed payments to staff and to HMRC, and the incessant strain that puts on Southend United's relationship with authorities and regulators. Furthermore, we are extremely frustrated that this threatens to undermine the progress of the most exciting playing and coaching group to represent our club for some time.

We recognise the sentiments of the statement released by Save Our Southend this morning, and the intention not to adversely affect on-field activity at the National League fixture against Yeovil Town this afternoon. The Shrimpers Trust supports the sit-in protest at Roots Hall for 15 minutes after the final whistle and Board members will be participating.

The Trust will also be continuing to work together with other supporter groups in the coming days and weeks to determine the best strategy to ensure supporters' voices are effectively heard to bring about meaningful change at Southend United FC.

We will issue further statements as this situation develops.

The Shrimpers Trust Board