



Trust Statement – 9th November 2022

The Shrimpers Trust notes the decision of the High Court to adjourn the winding-up petition served upon Southend United Football Club by HM Revenue & Customs.



Whilst progress on the field in 2022/23 has exceeded the expectations of many supporters following a difficult start to life in the National League last season, it is disappointing that the hard work undertaken continues to be undermined by financial issues away from the pitch.

The decision today means a dark cloud will continue to hover over Roots Hall and the people that inhabit the stadium, the club offices and the training ground for another 56 days. It amounts to a stay of execution.

Club Chair Ron Martin has less than two months to make good on his promise to the authorities and deliver in the same way the recruitment team, the coaching staff, the players and the unsung heroes behind the scenes have continued to do during a challenging period.

We appreciate times are tough and the club is faced with significant cashflow issues. We know that work has already started on a new training ground and the dream of constructing a new stadium appears closer than ever.

But the dream will remain just that if there is no football club in Southend-on-Sea for us to unite behind. We expect better from the Club Chair; no more excuses, no more delays. Own your responsibility and sort out the mess that threatens the very existence of Southend United FC.

We have been liaising with Ron Martin and Tom Lawrence more so than normal over the last 14 days for obvious reasons and whilst the outcome of the petition was not unexpected, it is clear that clarification of financial commitments for the November payroll and of course the HMRC debt need to be forthcoming immediately and we look forward to hearing from them.

If you have any questions for the Trust please feel free to contact us via our website, <http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk> or by email on info@shrimperstrust.co.uk

The Shrimpers Trust Board