



Joint Supporters Group Statement – 27th January 2023

The supporters groups of Southend United note Wednesday's statement from the club. Acknowledgement of the outcome of last week's HMRC court hearing (albeit a week late) is appreciated, but we have gained little confidence over the last week that the current situation is likely to be resolved in the immediate future.

Whilst reports of the Shrimpers Trust being told that club owner Ron Martin is not going to pay the HMRC debt are wholly inaccurate, it is clear from his statement that this is a possibility.

As a consequence, and due to the serious position we believe the club is in, the supporters groups will be meeting on the evening of Monday 30th January to discuss all possibilities. With no guarantee of a positive outcome from next month's final court hearing, we face the very real possibility of no longer having a football club to support and should therefore prepare for the very worst.

We once again urge Ron Martin to consider accepting external investment. It might mean giving up 'a slice of the pie', but we appear to be fast approaching the time where there will be a choice between either that or no pie at all, for anybody. We all lose out. If you truly love the club then do whatever it takes to keep it alive before it's too late.

To this end, we would like to invite any potential interested investors to come forward to us. Our door is open and we are happy to offer our help and to be intermediaries between you and the wider fanbase.

A further update will be issued following next Monday's meeting.