



SHRIMPERS TRUST

NEWSLETTER – Volume 2 Issue 4



THE INTRODUCTION – Editor Robert Craven

2005 PROMISES TO BE a great year for sport in England. The Open Championship at St. Andrews. The All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon. An Ashes series starting at Lord's on Thursday. And Southend United versus Colchester United at Roots Hall!

At the time of writing, Tiger Woods has just seen off the plucky challenge of perennial underachiever Colin Montgomerie to win the Open by five shots at the home of golf. A fantastic finish it was not, a showcase of sporting superiority - most certainly.

Likewise Roger Federer at Wimbledon at the start of July. The Swiss caressed, touched and passed his way through Wimbledon with the consummate ease that accompanies such a worthy champion. Even Andy Roddick, the American Ace, had no answer in a one-sided final. But Wimbledon is about more than just one match, and Britain has found its successor to Tim Henman in Andy Murray. A further victory at Rhode Island and a Challenger tournament success on Sunday show that he is no flash in the pan.

On Thursday, once many of you have received this Newsletter, old adversaries will have clashed again at the splendid home of cricket for a tiny urn, the contents of which are disputed. Whether it is the remains of some bails signifying the death of English cricket or a wedding veil is inconsequential. It is sporting drama at its very best, and now with the added bonus of the top two sides in the world competing. England, I hope, have every chance this time around.

And so to the Shrimpers. There was an article on *Jack-Army.net*, a Swansea City unofficial website, a couple of weeks ago, ridiculing the Essex derby. It's not City v. United, 'Pool v. the Toffees or Arsenal v. Spurs, and certainly nowhere near Celtic versus Rangers. But for local pride, it's every bit as big as Cardiff v. Swansea...just without the manic Welshmen!

For me, like so many more young Southend supporters, my first taste of the meeting between North and South in the county of Essex was the 2004 LDV Vans Trophy area final. And there are still so many happy memories from that first game under the floodlights at Layer Road.

Thomas Pinault stroking the U's into the lead after a matter of minutes, sending the ball careering into the top right-hand corner of the net and just inches from my nose in a packed and crowded Terrace One at the Layer Road End/Hut/Shed.

Then there was Leon Constantine's leveller, and Drewe Broughton's aerial effort, a header on the

stroke of the half-time whistle. But the abiding memory of it all will be Tesfaye Bramble's tame shot, creeping through Simon Brown's clown-like hands, through a gaping hole in between his legs and rolling, almost in slow-motion, towards the net.

Then there is the second leg, so far the only time that I've seen the two sides compete at the Hall. The dejection of Kemal Izzet's early equaliser, tying the scores up at 3-3 on aggregate.

The dejection as Drewe Broughton missed chance. After chance. After chance. And then another moment of pure ecstasy. In a season of largely failure - at least until Steve Tilson and Paul Brush took over the managerial reigns - reaching the club's first national cup final was a massive pinnacle.

That it was Broughton to deliver the decisive blow was perhaps a little ironic given that he had missed so many opportunities - probably six or seven - in the first half alone. But when Sam Stockley lay prone on the floor, Broughton it was to fire past Brown and settle the result.

I know that Chris Phillips' colleagues in the Press Box frowned when he leaped to his feet to celebrate the most famous goalbound poke in Southend history, but also realise that had I been in that situation, I would have done exactly the same. And I know that every one of you would as well.

And it was exactly the same situation in the first round of the same competition last season. Before the draw, it was definitely a case of people commenting that they did not want to progress in the LDV for fear of it affecting Blues' League position. When Jimmy Corbett netted the winning penalty, there was no less celebration than there was at Macclesfield Town when Southend went top of Coca-Cola League Two for the last time in 2004/5.

Like it or lump it, the rivalry against Colchester United is all that we have. Don't try and persuade me that we have any type of true animosity to West Ham United. No, we don't like their supporters parading around Southend High Street in claret-and-blue tops, but they are the big club in the area. And before the U's, it was nominally Charlton Athletic, Gillingham or Ipswich Town, basically because they were in the same region and the same Third Division (South).

So, at high noon on Monday 29th August 2005, expect a packed Roots Hall for the first clash between the two clubs in a League encounter for sixteen years. I would say sit back and enjoy the ride, but I know that's impossible!



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In fact, that game is one of the many anomalies amongst the fixture list dished out for the 2005/6 by the Football League. It was supposed to be a three o'clock kick-off, but has been moved back on police advice. Perhaps that will end up being an inspired decision, unlike many others.

And so I give you the Shrimpers' festive schedule. On Saturday 17 December we travel to the Gulfran Stadium to tackle Huddersfield Town. Nine days later is just about the only sensible choice as Milton Keynes Dons visit the Hall.

Now, it transpires that the Football League made a slight mistake here. Either they thought Lincoln City were dead certainties to be promoted - but that's ruled out because the fixtures were basically drawn up two years ago. Maybe they failed their Geography 'O' Levels, and thought that Southend was a name to represent the southern end of Southport.

Or, and I am led to believe that this is the case, they thought that Wednesday 28 December 2005 was a Bank Holiday. Because, I ask you, who made the decision to give us an away trip to Hartlepool United at 7:45 p.m. midweek on a December evening? You would think that Boxing Day Bank Holiday and the next day, Tuesday, to compensate Christmas Day would have been logical.

Not satisfied with this, the Shrimpers are faced with further 'local derbies' against AFC Bournemouth (New Year's Eve at home), Blackpool (January 2 at Broomfield Road), Oldham Athletic (January 7 at Boundary Park) and Tranmere Rovers (January 21 at Prenton Park) in the next three weeks. Our ongoing travel supremo Chris Berry is sure going to enjoy his Christmas!

I suppose the one thing that makes all that palatable is the opposition. At least we are in League One, and there are matches against the U's, the Gills and Nottingham Forest to compensate. I don't think Chris will have much trouble filling a few coaches to the City Ground!

Talking of attendances, the published record of Shrimpers supporters at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium for the League Two Play-Off final was 6,500. The number of 'fans' present at the club's open-top bus parade was 7,000, according to the club's own figures. So who were the 500 'supporters' along the seafront on Sunday? I know I only saw one West Ham shirt all day, and he was ridiculed.

But the day as a whole was a massive success. The sun shone, which was a massive bonus for everyone present. I doubt a tenth of the number of people

would have turned up if there had been heavy rain and black clouds hanging around the Pier head.

At the time that the event was announced, although it was totally necessary owing to player's holidays and the like, the thought of a July procession did appear foolish. Even at the pre-season fixture at Chelmsford City 24 hours earlier, there was a distinct lack of enthusiasm.

And of course the likes of Tesfaye Bramble, Drewe Broughton, Jimmy Corbett and Nicky Nicolau were not present as they have since departed Roots Hall. It was fortunate that only Mitchell Cole, an exciting new signing, had hit the arrivals lounge in SS2 and that the squad bore a large resemblance to the Play-Off-winning crew.

But this was a celebration, and one that the town as a whole could be proud of. Although initially inviting all the Roots all staff onto a second coach was a little self-indulgent, it was made up by the invitation for a local Under-14s girls' side, St. Bernard's, who had competed in a national final at Villa Park, to join the parade. It was a shame that they were not permitted by their headteacher.

It was a chance for the supporters of Southend United to say thank-you for the promotion to League One and a chance for the players of Southend United to say thank-you for the support given to them. To those ends, it was necessary.

Support, of course, is what football is all about, so it is only right that I give a plug to a couple of rewarding sources. Firstly Ken 'McNasty' Jarvis of ShrimperZone/Spread Eagle/Lumpy Boys fame is attempting to lose weight by going on a sponsored slim. Sponsorship forms are available from him at leensee100@hotmail.com or from behind the bar at the Spread.

Meanwhile, website-hopping, TheShrimpers-Online are hosting a Family Fun Day at Wat Tyler Country Park on Sunday 31 July. The excitement all begins at one o'clock, and proceeds from the day will be going to Little Havens hospice.

That is a worthy cause, and one that the Football Club have been at pains to help over the past few seasons. Another is the Special Care Baby United at Southend Hospital, and Keith Roe is donating the money made from his new book, 'Press On' to this area.

The 324-page effort is an absolute must for any Shrimpers supporter, especially someone who is concentrating on the early years, the war period and other such unique moments in the history of the club. Contact Keith at keithandcherylroe@tesco.net



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if you are interested in a copy, now in its second run and retailing at £15.

The latest boom in football appears to be the women's game. I was glued to England's fortunes in Euro 2005, and it wasn't just because Rachel Unitt at left-back was a little bit tasty!

As with so much in the English game, the ladies fought gallantly but bowed out heroically in a nailbiting 1-0 defeat to Sweden at Ewood Park, but the effect that the tournament (inevitably won by Germany) has had on the country has been enormous.

And Southend United's Ladies side also have the chance to cash in. True, they are a long way behind Unitt's Everton, Faye White's Arsenal and even Karen Carney's Birmingham City, but they did win promotion, like their male counterparts, to the Essex County Women's League Division One. Best of luck to Lisa Hart's charges in 2005/6.

Meanwhile, Jose Mourinho's revolution at Chelski continues. Shaun Wright-Phillips is the latest man to sign up to the Abramovich Army and joins England counterparts John Terry and Frank Lampard.

Thankfully Liverpool's Steven Gerrard has more sense and stayed at Merseyside.

Whilst at the Chelmsford pre-season game - my reports from all the friendly games will be in the next issue - and then the parade, even after six weeks it struck me how much I was looking forward to this season.

True, Cole, from Grays Athletic remains our only acquisition. We definitely need another striker, and the appearance of Wayne Gray's cousin as a trialist doesn't count. There have been few departures in the summer, and even fewer arrivals. But this proves that Steve Tilson has created a largely stable squad, one that should be able to build on a decent base.

Yes, I'm definitely looking forward to the new challenges of 2005/6 and witnessing how the Shrimpers react. I hope you are too!

I hope that you enjoy reading my summer resume, and if you have any comments or suggestions, please get in touch at robertcraven173@hotmail.com,

Rob

COMING UP – MEET THE BLUES DAY

The Date: Sunday 24th July 2005

The Time: 11:00

The Venue: Boots & Laces

ANOTHER TWELVE MONTHS have passed, and it's pre-season again. That means one thing - Meet The Blues Day!

Once again, the Trust will have a large presence at the Boots & Laces extravaganza, with Paul Yeomanson attempting to work out how to put his massive marquee up. Odds are he'll do it better than the club's effort!

This season will see the Trust stall set up further away from the main action, as manager Steve Tilson wasn't best pleased last year with the training areas getting cut up by people trampling on the ground and worse still parking cars on the pitches.

This should work in our favour though, despite a large distance between the stall and the main pitch at Boot & Laces. The goal for our 'Beat The Wall' competition will be set up on the second pitch down, behind the marquee, and could prove to be a special event.

The likes of Mark Gower, Kevin Maher and Freddy Eastwood will attempt to show Blues' fans how it is

done by curling free-kicks goalbound at Bart Griemink and Darryl Flahavan. Then it's over to you guys!

At just £1 a go, you can attempt to beat the special training wall purchased for the club by the Trust and also a nominated shotstopper, with the prize for hitting the back of the net a signed football by the Southend United squad.

Of course, this is not the only signed item available. There will be an auction for the chance to buy a framed photograph of the 2004/5 promotion-winning squad as well as smaller photos of the side. And the players will be dropping in to autograph whatever you want after their public training session.

We will have a collection of old programmes and shirts available to raise money for the Trust, and our fundraising guru Alan Perry will be strutting his stuff with the annual raffle, where the major prizes are match tickets to a Blues game of your choice.

And, as if that is not enough, pin badges and coffee mugs should be available to buy, along with the usual range of merchandise, with all proceeds going to the Shrimpers Trust.



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THE TRUST – What We've Done

Committee Meeting (13/06/2005)

It was again proposed by Chris Berry that a scheme be put in place that would see long-term travellers rewarded for their efforts on away coaches. As such, those that are in the Top 20 leading up to the eighth away game of the 2005/6 campaign will receive that journey free of charge. The next 10 would get that trip half-price. Now you have the incentive, get out there and get on to the phone to Chris to book your spot on our coaches for this season.

Printing and postage remain two of our major outlays, and as such, we are promoting the possibility that this very newsletter be sponsored, at least in it's dispatch. If you are interested - remembering that this Newsletter goes out to over 1000 members every five to six weeks across a wide spectrum of public life - then please do get in touch.

Unfortunately, I have had to tender my resignation from the Centenary Committee due to my work commitments in Chelmsford. As a result, the Trust will be represented by one of Darren Posnack and Bryan Woodford in my absence at these meetings although I will still take an active part in ideas for celebrating this very special occasion. Once again, contact us if you have any suggestions of things that you would like considered.

Bryan Woodford and Lee Bird were both formally invited onto the Trust Committee, and I am pleased to announce that they were delighted to accept. Both Bryan and Lee will be valuable members of our team, and we hope that they will be officially recognised as such at our Annual General Meeting in October.

Committee Meeting (04/07/2005)

Paul Yeomanson reported that he had supplied Brian Jeeves, a Southend United supporter, with fifty small LDV pennants and fifty old Junior Blues badges to dish out on his club's close-season tour of Germany. It is a regular and historical pilgrimage to Deutschland, where Brian is able to spread the word about the Shrimpers.

A group of football fans in Scotland are attempting to complete all 136 English and Scottish League grounds in just 80 hours. They will be visiting Roots Hall at precisely 19:32 on August 19, and if you want to be there, I'm sure that they will appreciate the support. The Trust will be donating £50 to their cause, which is a special school in Aidrie.

The Shrimpers-Online team have organised a Family Fun Day for Sunday 31 July, and the Trust will be donating a sweatshirt to their raffle, which incidentally has a PC as it's first prize. All proceeds are going to a worthy cause in Little Havens Hospice. We are also looking into the feasibility of holding a Poker Night, and have confirmed Mark Gower as our sponsored player for 2005/6.

Liaison Meeting (18/05/2005)

The meeting of May 18 followed just a fortnight after the previous meeting with the club, proving that we continue to liase closely all through the summer. The Trust were represented by Paul Yeomanson and Terry Jeffreys.

Apparently, the rail company are reluctant to give any compensation after the train fiasco in the LDV Vans Trophy final, so anyone inconvenienced there can give up on receiving any money from the club in turn. Maybe not unexpected, but nonetheless a token gesture may have been nice. In addition, I'd like to know if anyone has yet received their pictures with the LDV Vans Trophy, and if they have, does it feel a little flat looking at it now? The chance to have your photo taken with the Coca-Cola League Two Play-Off Trophy must be one of the biggest pulls to Meet The Blues Day...at least we definitely won that!

The Shrimpers Bar was a no-smoking zone for the Player of the Year Awards evening, and the night passed off well. A few people were of course a little put out by having to go outside to smoke, but many took it in good heart. The idea has apparently gone down well in Ireland, where alcoholic takings are up under an improved atmosphere, but since I'm not a smoker, I wouldn't like to say how much it affects those that do. What I do know is that without extractor fans in the Shrimpers Bar, the situation could not continue as it was.



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The season ticket deadline extension from June 1 to June 19 was originally a no-no. Geoffrey King was in favour, but when he broached the subject with Ron Martin, the big man disagreed. Thankfully, in the end, with the extra expense of the Play-Off final, the 'amnesty' was created. Indecently, we welcome Ron to the position of chairman of the Football Club, and hope that we will be able to work closely with him to achieve the best for Southend United.

The reason that we have a new shirt for 2005/6 away from home? The shirt supplier does not have enough material for what we require. Correct me if I'm wrong, but there's a Nike tick on our shirts, and with their multi-million pound budget, surely they don't run out of colours? And if they do, it can be rectified in three months, can it not? Never mind, there's always the special replica retro 1955 kit to look forward to...oops, that one's "not available within the time constraints" either. With due deference to former Trust committee man Mike Smith on ShrimperZone - did they not have time to prepare for this anniversary?!

Liaison Meeting (22/06/2005)

The Liaison meeting of June 22 was always going to be a bit special: Mr. Berry was there! He was joined by Terry once again and Bryan Woodford, making his duties debut as it were for the Trust. Welcome aboard!

The shop will be open for business on July 31 according to Geoffrey King. Just in time for the new season, just out of time to cash in pre-season, but certainly better than nothing. And to pay SUFC their dues, they have cleverly set up the shop with attractive screens and the ticket office will be accessible only after walking through racks and racks of improved stock goods. A wonderful initiative, and one that shows that there is sense in the Commercial team at Roots Hall.

Now for the news direct from the horses mouth. PC Richard Spooner was welcomed to the convention, and after much discussion, the edict on signing in at the Shrimpers Bar is as follows on a matchday:

Home Fans:

- * A signing-in book and up-to-date membership list must be accessible on the door.
- * Trust members producing their membership card on entry would be allowed in
- * Members can bring guests, who have to be counter-signed in by the member
- * Members who forget their card will be checked on the list and counter-signed by a Trust member
- * Non-members are not allowed entry. However, they can sign in on the day and join up, and can then countersign non-members.

Away Fans:

- * The Trust can, at our discretion, invite the chairman of a visiting club's Supporters Trust to the Shrimpers Bar
- * This chairman must verify the members of the said Trust/Club and bring a copy of the invitation
- * Members of the Trust/Club must sign in using their membership cards but can counter-sign non-members

Extra Information:

- * The capacity of the Shrimpers Bar is 200
- * The Trust can charge non-members supporting Southend United or their opposition, and members of visiting clubs and nominal fee, which will go towards Trust funds.

I hope that clears the matter up once and for all!

The Trust have supplied a training wall for the Club, which will be unveiled at Meet The Blues Day and should be publicised heavily in the local press. This wall will provide the fulcrum for the 'Beat The Keeper' competition on the day itself, and with then be available for Steve Tilson to use during training sessions.

Next year's programme will be swelled to 84 pages, it has emerged from this meeting. This means that the price has also increased, to £3, but the extra 50p. made on each publication will be put towards recruiting an assistant to former Trust committee member Dave Scriven in producing these and also on the website. Having seen the new effort at the Millwall game on Tuesday, it is well worth the excess.

Car parking at Roots Hall and in it's surrounds increases to £75 this year. This is because of higher costs in hiring the Prospects Car Park and also the School playground at the back of the West Stand. Season ticket holders will be informed. The 'U Choose' season tickets were not that popular after all last year, but they are available on request this time around.



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There are many ground improvements to be made. Windows have been fitted in the Far Post Bar and apparently all the toilets have been refurbished. The catering stand at the bottom of the southwest corner is being re-opened and one is also being added in the West Stand.

Meanwhile, re-decorating may start taking place in the Shrimpers Bar now that our presence has been confirmed. A new lick of paint and furnishings may not go amiss, and I know that there are plans afoot for the walls. Watch this space, or better still that space, in the near future for more details.

*** Full details of these meetings are available online at www.shrimperstrust.co.uk ***

100 Club

Email Alan Perry at alanperry4@hotmail.com or call him on 01702 476 458 for more details on how to become a winner in the 100 Club. Alan has been a busy man, writing to all people who put money into the Fighting Fund, asking if they would like to earn a little more return on their dosh. But of course, you do not have to be a Fighting Fund contributor to sign up, and Alan will be doing his best to attract you. For my part, here are the latest winners, remembering that the more members there are, the bigger the prizes:

- * Nigel Rickard (yes, the very same, my predecessor on this Newsletter) - £37.50
- * Peter Hall - £37.50
- * Tim Wilson - £37.50
- * Phillip Conway - £37.50
- * Paul Brice - £37.50
- * Chris Karkoski - £38

Quid-a-Goal

Over £4500 will have been raised should everyone who has pledged to pay up for 2004/5 do so, and the early signs are very good. I'm sure that if you have not paid Alan Perry yet, then you soon will be doing so, and you are in good company as he has contacted Steve Tilson on behalf of the Shrimpers squad! But please make Alan's life a lot easier by stumping up the cash over the next couple of weeks so that he can concentrate his efforts on 2005/6's total.

So far the running total collected stands at £3408 and 25 pence precisely, but that leaves over £1100 left to collect, from 45 people. Don't make me name and shame you! Also, you have the chance to pledge for this season, and the more general Quid-a-Goal nominations the better (and I know that I can talk - I've put down fifty pence per game that Mark Bentley doesn't get booked). It makes it simpler for Alan and also Dave Scriven at Southend in terms of designing a page in the programme.

LDV Pennant Around The World

You can keep up to date with the latest progress of the Shrimpers Trust/ShrimperZone pennant via the interactive map at www.shrimperstrust.co.uk. The last venue that it reached was Mexico City, where it was greeted by Steve James outside the Angel of Paseo de la Reforma, and after visiting Oceania and the Americas, it is heading back to Europe for its final leg. After a minor hiccup, it is currently in Germany.

New Life Members (total: 90)

Bob Folwell

The Shrimpers Trust wish to welcome these new members since the last Newsletter:

Michael Ablitt, Hannah Beard, Richard Becker, Thomas Berry, Alf Bilby, Luke Bowyer, Tom Brooks, Christopher Brown, Donald Buchanan, Georgina Bullough, Matt Canning, Luke Chapman, Robin Drain, Adam Duffill, Karen Gentry, Nick Grace, Nick Green, Nicholas Hammond, Nick Hardy, Darren Hines, Chris Horton, Stephen Johnson, Matthew Law, Matt Lawrence, Simon Newell, Liam Newman, Lucy Nisbet, Gary Patterson, Lloyd Poulton, Steve Russ-Aldridge, Liam Smith, Lindi Smith, Ben Thompson, Chris Wilson.



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THE NEWS – Away from Home



Football Supporters Federation

The FSF are encouraging all supporters in the Football League to monitor closely ticket prices at away games. As such, if you feel that the Shrimpers support is being unfairly treated at an away ground with regards to extortionate ticketing - Oldham Athletic and Port Vale have already raised prices for travelling fans as they consider the away end to have a superior view - please let us know. We will then pass on the information to the Football League and the FSF.

Notts County

The Magpies have recently received a huge cast boost from their own fans. Notts County Supporters Trust announced in late June that they would be providing the football club with a further £50,000 to help make sure that they are able to compete in season 2005/6. Since April 2003, the Trust have contributed £300,000 to the club coffers, and the latest instalment is protected in that it is represented by an interest-free loan to the Meadow Lane outfit.

The chairperson of the Supporters Trust, Keri Usherwood was rightly buoyant over the fans' role in helping keeping their club afloat. *"Eighteen months ago the Trust raised £250,000 to help save our Football Club. Thanks to members' donations and continued fundraising, we are now handing over a further £50,000 - money that will further the progress being made towards building solid financial foundations."* He continued, *"Notts County is a football club owned by supporters and these supporters hold the key to the Club's future. Through the Trust, we have a vital mechanism to both protect our Club and to support the rebuilding process following the disaster of the 18 months in administration."*

Club chairman and Supporter-Director Steve Thompson was extremely grateful for the generosity of his supporters: *"We have made no secret of the fact that financially the next season or so will continue to be tight and so the Trust's £50,000 investment is extremely welcome, and further cements the important role fans can play in helping Notts County move forward."*

Stockport County

On Friday 8 July, the long-awaited takeover of Stockport County by the Stockport County Supporters Trust officially took place. Hatters supporters signed a deal to buy the club from previous owners Cheshire Sports. The contract was taken over for a 'nominal amount' and sees the future of County and Sale Sharks at Edgeley Park secured. There is even provision for the Trust to acquire the ground if the need arises.

Trust chairman Norman Beverley declared after a slight hitch in negotiations that it was *"the most significant day in the club's history since the formation of Stockport County as Heaton Norris Rovers in 1883"*. He went on to add, *"The club now belongs to thousands of fans who care deeply for Stockport County, rather than one owner who can decide to pull the plug at any time."*

COMING UP – Trust Activities Schedule

Aside from those events already mentioned in detail above, we will also be involved in the following activities:

Southend Carnival Torchlight Procession (20/08/2005)

We're carrying the torch (literally!) for Southend United in the 'other' procession in August, on the evening after the clash with Huddersfield Town. The procession will be travelling along Southend seafront - a route we all know well now - and we will be handing out all sorts of goodies, from membership forms to sticks of rock and button badges. We've even invited the BlueBelles along!

Quiz Night (17/09/2005)

Contact: Alan Perry (01702 476 458 or alanperry4@hotmail.com) for more information

Pit yourself against your fellow Shrimpers supporters in a bid to become the Brains of the Blues! The Shrimpers Bar hosts this event on the evening of the League Two clash against Tranmere Rovers. The cost is £8 for adults and £5 for children under the age of sixteen, which includes a meal from the famous Fish House.



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Shrimpers Trust Annual General Meeting (20/10/2005)

A 7:30 start for your forum to voice your views. How do you think we are all doing on the Trust committee, and what else so you think we can do for you? This is your opportunity to air your opinions, so come and join us in the Shrimpers Bar.

Race Night (22/10/2005)

Contact: Paul Yeomanson (01702 302 373 or p.yeomanson@blueyonder.co.uk) for more information

Admission this evening is by ticket only, so you must purchase one in advance. They will be available from the opening Saturday of the League Two season, against Port Vale, priced at £3 for entry to the Shrimpers Bar, Once then, you will have the opportunity to participate in a unique night of racing and enjoyment, following on from our successful opening attempt last year.

Bowling Night (14/11/2005)

Contact: Alan Perry (01702 476 458 or alanperry4@hotmail.com) for more information

For just £10 (plus a £1 shoe hire) you can meet a number of your favourite players (Alan is working hard on securing a few star names) and enjoy another fun evening. This is a great chance for youngsters to get together a team and obtain autographs, but it is equally pitched at adults, who will also have a great time at the Kursaal Bowl in Southend.

Curry Night (07/12/2005)

Contact: Alan Perry (01702 476 458 or alanperry4@hotmail.com) for more information

A tenner will enable you to choose from an all-you-can-eat buffet and mingle with fellow Southend fans for a more adult evening. On the last couple of occasions, Alan and other committee members have been able to invite a couple of surprise guests to the event, so you never know who might turn up!

Until next time, Up the Shrimpers!

Robert Craven (19/07/2005)