



SHRIMPERS TRUST

NEWSLETTER – Volume 2 Issue 6



THE INTRODUCTION – Editor Robert Craven

WELCOME TO another edition of the Trust Newsletter, which encompasses our activities over the past six weeks...

The 'Magnificent Seven' became 'Eight In A Rush With Tilly And Brush'. Yes, the club record fell, and Steve Tilson and Paul Brush will be added to the pantheons of Shrimpers history as the men who masterminded our longest sequence of victories in succession.

Never ones to miss out on this kind of opportunity, the Trust have sanctioned a couple of merchandising arrangements to commemorate the great run. We hope to be able to present the management duo, who are incidentally set to sign new three-year deals with the club, with a commemorative set, on the pitch at Roots Hall over the coming weeks.

The sets, which include a tankard with the winning run inscribed on the exterior, and a programme from the Nottingham Forest fixture, as well as an authenticity certificate, were also available to the Trust membership, priced at £20 without the programme, and £30 for the signed item to be included.

And continuing from this, Paul Yeomanson has additionally managed to gain a run of t-shirts, which proudly proclaim, '8 In A Rush With Tilly And Brush' - © Bryan Woodford for the motto - on the front and the list of beaten sides on the reverse. These are priced at £13 and are will be available at the Shrimpers Trust stand for the fixture with Milton Keynes Dons on December 3.

Paul has also been busy liaising with the Bermudan Football Association, where the General Secretary, David Sabir, is now a life member of the Trust.

David has already sent a consignment of white badges (£5), gold badges (£6.50) and small pennants (£6.50), which will also be available for that home FA Cup tie, providing that the committee members have not snapped them all up at the meeting on Monday night!

On Ebay there is also a chance to bid for a Shaun Goater-signed large Bermudan FA pennant, also this auction runs out very soon. Many thanks to David and Shaun for their co-operation.

Unfortunately, since that Forest fixture, things have gone a little bit pear-shaped for third-placed Blues. Indeed, we have managed just a couple of wins since that televised encounter, with Freddy Eastwood smashing in a memorable hat-trick at Bristol City and then following that up with a sublime finish at Barnet seven days later in the first round of the FA Cup.

But with defeats to Doncaster Rovers, Rushden & Diamonds (quashing our hopes of another LDV run), Swansea City, Forest themselves and then Port Vale this afternoon, United are five points off of the pace set by Swansea and Huddersfield Town.

True, Lee Trundle could get injured, or be sold off in the January transfer window, and that could send the Swans into freefall, but it is looking increasingly likely that those two clubs will be at the head of the table in May as the class acts in the Division. And if anyone should catch them, then it is more likely to be Chesterfield or Brentford than our Boys In Blue.

Maybe it is this afternoon's defeat at Vale Park which leads to this disappointing proclamation, but it seems like our level in League One for 2005/6 will be at best a top ten finish. Which, in itself, is not a bad return at all. Especially when you consider that I would have been happy with 20th in August.

After the little glitch at the end of last season, when we nearly blew our promotion hopes with a sloppy run in, and having guided the team clear of relegation twelve months earlier, this now represents a new challenge for the Dynamic Duo.

The expectation that has surrounded Roots Hall recently has been palpable - five-figure crowds for games against Forest and Swansea, despite both being covered extensively by the national media. We have been in that spotlight, that glare, also, and that may have played a part recently.

There was a genuine belief a few weeks ago that maybe, just maybe, we might be able to fight our way into an automatic promotion spot if the run ran on. Failing that, the Play-Offs were always a fall-back. But now, after three straight defeats, and seemingly a return to the



SHRIMPERS TRUST

NEWSLETTER – Volume 2 Issue 6



good old days, we may be looking at mid-table mediocrity. Which might not be an altogether bad thing.

If we moved up into the Championship next year, how would we survive there. Even Ron Martin, the club chairman, believes that Roots Hall is too small for the second tier of English football at this stage. If we were to spend an extra twelve months in League One, it could help us expand, on and off the pitch.

But that is ahead of us. As are a series of demanding away trips. Yes, December and January could barely be any worse: get Huddersfield out of the way, and we're off to Hartlepool (for an evening kick-off in midweek!). Once that's gone, it's Blackpool. After that, Oldham. And then Tranmere. It should test the thirteen Trust members who have so far travelled on every coach trip this season.

Help is at hand, though, and the Clifton Hotel in Blackpool have asked the Trust to advertise the fact that, if Blues fans quote 'Football Offer' when calling 01253 621 481, they can benefit from an offer that boasts just £23.50 per night, per person at the establishment.

The Trust would also like to hear from anyone who would like to advertise in the posted Newsletter format to help us with the cost of posting out this publication. Get in touch through all the usual mediums.

And, to briefly return to travel issues, we must make it clear that our coaches have a strict no alcohol policy. It is against the law for supporters/coaches to travel with alcohol on board, and anyone attempting to board the coaches will not be permitted to make the journey with us.

Turning to more positive thoughts, you can read some of the Question & Answer session with the Head of Youth Development at Boots & Laces, Ricky Duncan, further into this Newsletter. His young protégés have been struggling in the Youth Alliance League, but they have already battled past Barton Rovers (3-1) and Swindon Town (3-2) at Roots Hall to reach the Third Round stage.

I make no apologies for visiting Layer Road last season on County FA business to watch

Colchester United's wonderful run to the quarter-finals of the competition, where they went out to local rivals Ipswich Town in front of nearly 3,000 spectators.

I only hope that if Blues' Youths managed to get to that stage, that our supporters would turn out in their droves. A lot would have to be made of the clash, in the local schools, around local businesses and the ground itself, as well as massive publicity on the club's website.

That is what the U's did, and it is a great way of bringing in the new generation, not just on the pitch as they progress, but also on the terraces, with entry at the initial stages just £1 for Under-18s.

The teenage Shrimpers travel to Hillsborough in Round Three to tackle Sheffield Wednesday, an Academy side. The match takes place on 7 December, kicking off at 7:30, and plans are being made for a contingent of travelling supporters to make the trip to Yorkshire.

It seems quite poignant at this moment, as we touch on the subject of Southend's youth set-up, that we remember George Best, who passed away on Friday. Although like many others he had his foibles, he managed to become one of, if not the, greatest footballers the world has ever produced.

It was sad that by the time he played against the Shrimpers, for Bournemouth in the early 1980s, his best days were behind him, but then equally it is worrying to imagine what he would have been capable of against Southend when he was in his late-60s pomp. I am pleased to report that, like football fans nationwide, Blues travellers observed the minute's silence at Vale Park impeccably. Rest In Peace George.

So, from the past, we turn to the future, and look ahead to a crucial few weeks that will make or break Southend United's 2005/6 campaign.

Your support is vital, home and away over the festive period, so attend as many matches as possible, and pay us a visit in the Shrimpers Bar to warm up before each Roots Hall encounter!

Up the Shrimpers,

Rob



SHRIMPERS TRUST

NEWSLETTER – Volume 2 Issue 6



THE MAIN EVENT – Shrimpers Trust AGM 2005

SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB TRUST held their annual general meeting on Thursday 20th October 2005 at the Shrimpers Bar, underneath Roots Hall...

The formal business of the evening, attended by a somewhat disappointing 25 or so committee and regular members of the Shrimpers Trust, lasted about an hour, and was largely hosted by the chairman, Trevor Bashford. 'Bashers' explained that he spent much of his time in Belfast, and that himself and the rest of the committee were all volunteers, having welcomed all of those present. He playfully dedicated the evening to the moron who almost sent the new Shrimpers Trust coach out of commission some five days earlier.

Both Chris Berry and Paul Yeomanson were thanked for the newly-liveried coach, and Trevor said that the idea had originally set out as a joke, but had concluded with the Trust now having the first personalised supporters transport in the country. Nigel Rickard was also appreciated for having obtained coverage in the Sun newspaper.

Trevor started to look back at the 2004/5 season, a fantastic year football-wise thanks to the efforts of both Steve Tilson and Paul Brush. Even as a man who had been through numerous promotions, our chairman explained, last year was the most emotional. The fans that turned up that day, numbering around 6,500, were the genuine fans, and Trevor only felt sorry for those that were on holiday or could not afford it after the previous trips to Cardiff.

Nationally, football is still suffering from the involvement of property developers. Wrexham and Brighton & Hove Albion, who have subsequently obtained planning permission from the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, for their Falmer stadium, are the most high-profile cases, and it remains a worry that Colchester United could move into their new ground before us.

Trevor declared that supporters are starting to take a bigger interest in the ownership of football clubs, with the fans of Brentford and Notts County leading the way. He added that he would love to see the Trust have representation on the Southend United board. Returning the ground issue, he was supported by others in the belief that there are great opportunities at Roots Hall, rather than Fossetts Farm, and that he would like to see Southend become a greater community-based club.

There are still gripes with away clubs, he continued. Supporters were forced to stand in the rain at Yeovil Town because of a lack of seating at Huish Park last season, and at Swindon Town, followers paid £23 for the privilege of not even being able to sit where you wanted. What makes this worse is that away fans are treated so well at the Hall.

There was a whole host of thanks to members of the committee: Alan Perry for his fundraising; Paul FitzGerald for talking to Ron Martin and from getting vital information from Southend United and Delancey to help safeguard the future of the club; Terry Jeffreys for following governance; Darren Posnack, the new treasurer; Paul Yeomanson, who resides in the Shrimpers and spends all of his spare time at the club, for raising money through merchandise and running our website; Nigel Rickard and Rob Craven for producing the Newsletter; Chris Berry and family, for running the away travel; Jon-Paul FitzGerald for the Hall of Fame and representing the younger members; the out-going Paul Napper as Press Liaison Officer; the departing Kevin Feasey for producing the end of season review; and all other committee members and supporters of our events who had attended through thick and thin.

Alan Perry then arose to speak about his fundraising initiatives. His aim, he said, was to support the football club and league football in the area. The lack of success at the start of the 100 Club, he explained, was soul-destroying, but there are now double the number of subscribers at 80, and it has raised £2,000 in the 12 months that it has been running.

Quid-a-Goal, he continued, was the single most profitable venture. It raised £3,750 in its first season, and £3,950 last year, with some people, most notably the Southend United players, still having debts. 146 people had subscribed in 2004/5. The two raffles had raised a further £3,500,



SHRIMPERS TRUST

NEWSLETTER – Volume 2 Issue 6



and the various Quiz, Racing, Curry and Bowling Nights were becoming better attended with more members joining the Trust. He ended by thanking all who attended these, and by mentioned Paul Yeomanson and Terry Jeffreys efforts in design and production of merchandise.

Darren Posnack read the Treasurer's Report, starting by reiterating that Quid-a-Goal was our biggest earner. Nearly £5,000, he continued, had been raised for Southend United FC and local charities. However, overall monies raised from fundraising and merchandising were slightly down, although this was more than offset by lower costs. The main source of income, he commented, was through membership.

In conclusion, he brightly declared that it had been a terrific year for the Trust, and that money in the bank had increased considerably. When quizzed on the safeguarding of physiotherapy equipment purchased for the club in the aftermath of John Gowens departing with the old gear, he explained that they had been donated directly to the club. The look of accounts was confusing, he admitted, by their were in a transitional design which would not appear next year.

The Membership Secretary's Report was read out in Paul Yeomanson's absence by Terry Jeffreys, with Paul unfortunately unable to attend due to family reasons. In a short speech, Terry asserted that adult membership was up by a "remarkable" 266 to 1274 from the last AGM, and that thanks to Chris and Rosemary Berry, there were 158 Junior Shrimpers, making an overall total of 1432. Contrary to announcements last year, there would be no increase in membership fees in 2006.

The formal business of the evening concluded with the following re-elections: Trevor Bashford as chairman, Paul FitzGerald as vice-chairman, Terry Jeffreys as Company Secretary, Paul Yeomanson as Membership Secretary and Club Liaison Officer, Darren Posnack as Treasurer and Alan Perry as Fundraising Officer. Trevor was also elected the new Press & Publicity Officer.

Five committee members were standing down from 2004/5, and all were thanked for their hard work in their absence. These were Paul Napper, Kevin Feasey, Nigel Rickard, Craig Fillyard and Joe Elliott. The other existing committee members, Chris Berry, Richard Coxell, Robert Craven, Jon-Paul FitzGerald and Lee Tanner, were re-elected, and were joined by Phil Alsford, Lee Bird and Bryan Woodford, both of whom had been co-opted during the year.

This article first appeared on www.shrimperstrust.co.uk - online members can click on the link to access the article, which includes pictures of the main speakers. If you would like to receive this Newsletter electronically, please email terry.jeffreys@btinternet.com.

TRUST AGM – Ricky Duncan Q&A

SOUTHEND UNITED'S new Head of Youth Development, Ricky Duncan, answered questions from the floor on all aspects of the club's Boots & Laces-based enterprise after the formal business of October's AGM was completed...

The former Centre of Excellence coach, who had worked under Peter Trevivian during his first spell with the Shrimpers, before coaching the Under-17s and Under-19s with the help of Steve Tilson, recently returned to the club after a highly-successful four-year spell with Cambridge United's youth team.

"I was asked to come back during the summer by Steve," he explained, having established that he had worked with Kit Carson, Luke Hobbs and Dan Ashworth whilst with the U's. "Luke will be joining me here shortly, and it will be his job to help the recruitment process. At Cambridge, we had three boys who came from Basildon, Billericay and Shoebury. We have to shut down this corner of south-east Essex."

He continued to bemoan the neglect of the club's youth system in his absence. *"There were four or five scouts for the youth set-up last time I was here," he said. "Now there are none. Instead, West*



SHRIMPERS TRUST

NEWSLETTER – Volume 2 Issue 6



Ham United will ring up and say, 'We've got a player who is not good enough for us, would you like a look?'"

However, with Tilson and Ron Martin at the helm, youth football is more important now for the Shrimpers, especially setting out in Coca-Cola League One with a squad of just twenty. *"The first team is sorted, so youth is the priority now for Steve and Mr. Martin. Luke will be arriving here soon and one of his jobs will be to set up Advance Centres so that any kids we want will be within travelling time."*

"I'm trying to get in the next two years where we should have been as a base. This is a development process that takes five or ten years, so it's not going to be a quick fix. As long as I can produce my target of one player for the first team every season, that buys me the time," he explained.

Results in the League in 2004/5 have not been good, but they are not Duncan's number one priority: *"I want to win, and I want to play well and win well,"* he declared. *"But at the weekend we lost 2-0 [to Queens Park Rangers] with a goal at either end of the game. In between we were very good. As long as we have the best player on the pitch, in my eyes, that is OK."*

At the Abbey Stadium, conditions were not nearly so conducive to producing good talent as they are at Roots Hall. *"Lee Turner, the club's goalkeeping coach, works with Joe Welch here, and Spencer Prior is driving me bonkers as he can't work with the youngsters until he gets his coaching license!"*

"We're lucky at Boots & Laces in that Steve Tilson can see the youth-teamers in training, and can call them over to work with the first team at any time. It doesn't matter what year of your scholarship you are in, if you are good enough, then you're in. And as long as players at all ages keep performing, then they will stay here," he explained.

And having a local lad as the manager is the best thing that Southend United could have, Duncan continued: *"The best thing about having Steve at the club is that he is youth-minded. Every change of manager is a hindrance, and he goes, the philosophy behind him will go. My task is to set up the youth department as a separate entity, and Ron Martin now agrees with me on this."*

Unfortunately, at this stage, the club can't put a lot of investment into the youth set-up. *"I've spoken to Ron, and he cannot commit any more than the £138,000 grant. When I arrived I did a business plan, which was accepted as a base. Safe & Secure Ltd. have sponsored the youth team to the tune of £10,000-a-year."*

"If there was one thing that I could change at the club, though, it would be to improve the knowledge of directors and supporters about the Centre of Excellence. The Cup runs enhanced our policy at Cambridge, where we reached the fifth round of the FA Youth Cup."

With Southend drawing Barton Rovers at home in that competition this year, it offers Duncan an ideal opportunity to do likewise at Roots Hall. *"I've spoken to BBC Essex to try and get them to do a couple of interviews with the players in the lead up to the game, but I hope we can get to the third round, because that's where the big boys come in. We have to publicise things better in newspapers and on the website."*

As well as attracting supporters, Duncan wants to bring in more youngsters. *"We want a presence in the town, so we have invited some amateur clubs in to play us,"* he commented. *"Luke Hobbs will be in charge of getting in touch with the local papers, and we will be initiating a tour programme. If our team are playing the likes of PSV Eindhoven and Anderlecht, then they will be more likely to sign for us. Kit Carson will be organised one this season to Denmark in May."*

Who is the next big name that supporters should be looking out for at the club, after the almost immediate success of third-year scholar and now two-year professional James Lawson? *"James*



SHRIMPERS TRUST

NEWSLETTER – Volume 2 Issue 6



Lindie is a very talented striker," Duncan proclaimed. "He was taken to Chelsea, and I went along with him when he played against Northern Ireland in a trial match. He is only 15, but we have signed him up as a scholar, and he did not want to go at this stage in his career anyway."

So, how much money will help Duncan to produce the calibre of players that he managed with Cambridge United? *"At the moment, the ball-park figure is £100,000-a-year, on top of the grant. Of course it's about the coaches as well as the money, but to build an Academy would cost half-a-million pounds. What we have at the moment is not enough for the Championship."*

"As we go up the divisions, the budget for the first team has to go up as well. The sky is the limit for the things that you can reach – even as a Third Division club we flew an Irish lad over for three days every week at Cambridge. I am confident that we will get more funding though. Southend United had an ideal opportunity to close the youth set-up when [Ross Maclaren] left, but they didn't. That means that they must care."

And it was this closing statement that offered the greatest outlook for the future of the youth department under Ricky Duncan. Like the sponsor's name on their shirts, Blues' Youths future is Safe & Secure under him.

This article first appeared on www.shrimperstrust.co.uk - online members can click on the link to access the article, which includes pictures of Ricky Duncan. It has also appeared in the official Southend United matchday programme. Our thanks once again to Ricky Duncan for attending the evening, and look out over the coming months for new Trust initiatives to help Ricky achieve his goals at Southend United.

GREETINGS FROM BERMUDA

The Shrimpers Trust are proud to announce that we have forged a special relationship with the Bermuda Football Association (BFA), and as part of this have entered into a Marketing Agreement to Promote & Sell BFA Merchandise in the UK.

As well as the Merchandising Agreement, David Sabir, General Secretary of the BFA sent the following message to us:

"It is often said that football transcends all boundaries, regardless of race, religion or social status. The universal language that is football reaches the far corners of the earth, touching lives, bringing people together who have never met before.

This establishment of this relationship between Southend FC and the Bermuda Football Association via the Shrimpers Trust is a clear indication that there are no barriers in football, just opportunities for achieving a common goal.

On behalf of the Bermuda Football Association, simple known as the "BFA" I would like to extend sincere appreciation for the tremendous friendship shown to us. Indeed, our football family will take on a new look, a new face and a new beginning for the Good of the Game!

Equally, we really appreciate the manner in which Southend supporters have embraced our "son of the soil" Shawn Goater. He is an idol and hero to many young boys and girls, men and women in Bermuda and throughout the UK.

I also want to express my gratitude in advance to the Shrimpers Trust membership for supporting the merchandising program of the Bermuda FA. To Paul Yeomanson, for being a true football fan and a tremendous voice for Southend FC.



SHRIMPERS TRUST

NEWSLETTER – Volume 2 Issue 6



I look forward to a wonderful relationship between the Bermuda FA and Southend FC. As a show of my support and appreciation for our new beginning I have registered to become a life member of the Shrimpers Trust. Best wishes and much success for the remainder of the season.

“Long Live Southend FC.”

Warm regards,
David Sabir
General Secretary
Bermuda Football Association”

THE TRUST – What We’ve Done

Committee Meeting Minutes

These will return next month, having decided to focus on the AGM during this Newsletter, with a full resume of the discussions having taken place over the past few months.

Liaison Meeting (21/09/2005)

Geoffrey King confirmed that the club were producing, after all, ‘Feed The Goat’ and ‘Freddy’ shirts to sell, so naturally the Trust have stood down from their situation where we would have been in place to come up with our own designs. On a lighter note, Alan Perry can now be found in the East and West Stands with his fundraising hat on. And, talking of lighters, the club is pleased that the number of ‘illegal’ smokers is reducing at the Hall.

Jeff Allen’s contract with SUFC as matchday announcer was terminated seemingly abruptly on the day of the Tranmere Rovers match and, as ever, there appears to be two sides to the story. The club line is that he was informed a fortnight before he turned up for that fixture. Carl Bailey, of the Lights Entertainment Group, set up the replacement, who was truly dire and employed (in the past tense) on a temporary basis.

If you lose your season ticket, expect to pay £25 for a replacement, with the new-fangled technology now in place at Roots Hall. It is very good, but is it THAT good? Apologies were also dished out by Mr. King regarding the ticketing fiasco before the Tranmere match, which he hopes, largely, will not be repeated, with the help of supporters purchasing tickets during the week prior to the match. There is an Under-7 scheme where a member can gain free entry to a match with a full-paying adult – forms should be downloadable from the official Southend United website.

And a pat on the back from GK regarding the supporters who travelled to Glanford Park – he was the proud recipient of a letter from South Humberside Police proclaiming that Shrimpers followers were “the best behaved fans that have visited Glanford Park this season.” That was after three games, so hopefully we will still hold that record in May!

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

100 Club

Carl Barker (£42.50), Bryan Woodford (£42.00), Zoe Cranmer (£42.00), Trevor Bashford (£42.00 – no this is not a fix!), Peter Hall (£42.50) and Gary Crowe (£42.50) have all won the 100 Club draw recently. You will be able to see from the winning figures that participation is up, but email Alan Perry (alanperry4@hotmail.com) or call him on 01702 476 458 for more details on how to become a winner! Over £40 is on offer every week, with the Christmas Bumper Draw less than a month away!



SHRIMPERS TRUST

NEWSLETTER – Volume 2 Issue 6



Quid-a-Goal

The grand total stands just below the £2000 at the end of November, with the Trust ready to collect £1878.50 should all of the pledges come in. There is also good news on the 2004/5 tally, where the players have finally forked out – about time too!

Race Night

On 22 October, the Trust held its second Race Night, almost a year on from the last such occasion in the Shrimpers Bar following the 1-1 draw with Barnsley. Paul Yeomanson drove the event on, and despite a slightly disappointing turn-out for a variety of reasons, £639.50 was raised for the Trust as everyone had another great night.

Bowling With The Blues

In November, Alan Perry organised a highly-successful night at the Kursaal Bowl in Southend, with Freddy Eastwood, Luke Guttridge, Mitchell Cole and James Lawson all in attendance as the player's representatives. The night, where fans had a chance to mingle with their heroes as well as discuss the televised Weymouth vs. Nottingham Forest FA Cup tie, raised £345.

New Life Members (total: 100)

David Sabir – incredibly, by pure coincidence, our latest recruit as a Life Member of the Shrimpers Trust is none other than the President of the Bermudan Football Association. Mr. Sabir has been our port of call for all things Shaun Goater-related since the international superstar joined the Shrimpers, and it is with great pride that we are able to welcome him to our own family.

The Shrimpers Trust wish to welcome the following new members:

Malcolm Adams, Tom Bannon, Bo Bodiford, Malcolm Brennan, Melissa Burton, Reg Burton, Andy Deanus, Andrew Finlayson, Charlotte Fitch, Seth Friedman, Mark Gilbert, David Gough, Neil Hensey, Rick Howes, Kay Jennings, Adam Johnson, Mary Kelly, Mathew Little, Anthony Livermore, Michael MacLeod, Adrian Matthewman, Mr. P. McCamley, Trevor Moriss, Jodie Ogle, Kevin Ovens, Anna Sadler, Warren Sadler, Russell Short, Lynsey Sims, Tim Sims, Sam Snell, Ian Stammers, Liam Stoker, Tony Sutton, Liam Sweeney, Sarah-Jane Thomson, Mick Todd, Sarah Louise Willats

COMING UP – The Trust Events Schedule

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 the evening. This is the last event before Christmas (although you will, of course, find your Xmas Draw raffle tickets included with this Newsletter – electronic members will receive a separate mailing), and we are proud to announce that Southend United legend Sandy Anderson, at 71, will be one of our guests. The Scot was a PE instructor at the Garrison in Shoebury, and made a Blues record 452 League appearances, adding a further 31 in Cup competitions.

THE NEWS – Away from Home

Brighton & Hove Albion

After a decade of trying, Brighton & Hove Albion's Supporters Club were finally able to announce in late October that the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, had allowed planning permission for the Seagulls' new stadium in Falmer, just outside of Brighton. It had been a long struggle after departing from the dilapidated Goldstone Ground, but the end is in sight for the south coast club.



SHRIMPERS TRUST

NEWSLETTER – Volume 2 Issue 6



Derby County

Following on from the last Newsletter, The Rams Trust have called upon the Co-Operative Bank to help resolve the desperate financial state of the Pride Park club. Nick Sellors, the Trust spokesman, revealed: *"These unknown people with no proven track record in business have had two years to turn things around and yet the debt is now an estimated £42m having risen from around £31m in October 2003 when the Co-op Bank handed them our club. RamsTrust calls on the Bank to take action to restore Derby County Football Club to its own community."*

Leicester City

The Foxes Trust are helping to lead dialogue with other Trusts, and with the Stand Up Sit Down movement, on the subject of stewarding. A group of Leicester supporters were reportedly unfairly picked on by stewards for standing and singing at the back of a Walkers Stadium stand. They are collating opinions from supporters on what they believe to be acceptable behaviour from supporters before a meeting with the club and police.

Remember, if you have an opinion on stewarding at home or away matches, you can contact any committee member of the Shrimpers Trust, and the issue can be raised at our regular liaison meetings with Southend United.

Wrexham

Wrexham Supporters' Trust have taken over the Red Dragons' retail and merchandising activities for the next three months. Trust Secretary Lindsay Jones stated, *"Fans will not see a great difference straight away. Our immediate priorities are to employ staff, set regular opening times, introduce new lines, revamp the online offer and produce a Christmas catalogue. Merchandising is hugely important to football clubs and due to the constraints of administration Wrexham has fallen behind in this area. The Trust has been very successful with our own merchandise and we hope to bring that expertise to bear on the clubs offer. The outcome of the court case will determine whether we can continue with this after Christmas."*

Supporters Direct

Phil Tooley (22%), Richard Lillicrap (15%), Rob Bradley (14%) and Tony Taylor (10%) have been elected to the board of the Supporters Direct movement, and will serve for the next three years.

THE MATCHES – Blues in Review

sun 9 oct: nottingham forest (h) w1-0 [league one]

There is a certain irony in the fact that our review starts with this, the eighth successive win in a row, setting a new club record, and that it came against Nottingham Forest, the fallen former European Cup winners, and that our season took a stark turn for the worst five weeks later with a 2-0 defeat at the City Ground.

The Shrimpers had the SKY TV cameras in town for this Sunday afternoon stroll, and despite recent form on the box in Cup competitions, form was good in the bread-and-butter League format – two wins and a draw in the successful Play-Off run. For one young lady, it was all too much as she bared all immediately after the half-time break, which was probably still less than what the BlueBelles expose week-in, week-out. She won't be seeing football at the Hall for the next three years.

On the pitch, the general consensus was that this wasn't the greatest fixture anyone will ever have witnessed, but it was played at the by now usual zippy League One pace, and all it required was one strike from sharpshooter Freddy Eastwood to put Blues on course for victory over Gary Megson's men. The dream continued...



SHRIMPERS TRUST

NEWSLETTER – Volume 2 Issue 6



sat 15 oct: doncaster rovers (a) 10-2 [league one]

...and back to earth – at the peculiarly-named 'Earth Stadium' – with a resounding thud. Southend never had the best of records at Belle Vue, and the new incarnation of that typical northern football ground did not prove to bear any better fortunes.

Over 600 Shrimpers made the trip to South Yorkshire, but they were met by an abject performance, with even Shaun Goater well below average. Everyone knew that the run could not go on forever, and finally it met the buffers as an unstoppable effort from the edge of the penalty area by Ricky Ravenhill was followed by a decent run and finish from Jonathan Forte.

tues 18 oct: rushden & diamonds (a) 10-1 [ldv vans trophy first round]

The chance to get straight back on the winning bandwagon arrived at Nene Park in what has been a wonderful competition for the Shrimpers over the past five years. Indeed, Blues supporters making the trek to Northamptonshire could do so in the knowledge that their side had not lost an LDV clash against a side in an equal or lower division since the turn of the Millennium.

But Steve Tilson's men were in the mood to end that kind of streak and particularly in a poor spell either side of the interval, got themselves into a position from which they found it impossible to retrieve the situation. Darryl Flahavan had already made a succession of brilliant saves, mostly from point-blank range and including a double effort from former Shrimper Drewe Broughton, when he was eventually beaten by Greg Pearson.

It said something that Drewe got the biggest applause of the night from the travelling contingent when he was substituted, and that the run of the balls was not with United when their own replacement James Lawson was unlucky with two middle-distance drives. No Millennium Stadium journey for Chris Berry to organise this time around.

sat 22 oct: barnsley (h) d1-1 [league one]

This was really the time that Southend needed to return to form, and a draw was just rewards for a battling display against the Tykes, who were perhaps unfortunate not to glean more from the game. You knew what sort of game lay ahead when James Lawson was booked for 'simulation' inside sixty seconds, and Jamal Campbell-Ryce followed during the first half.

Eventually, the referee allowed the match to flow long enough for the hosts to win a penalty, and Shaun Goater dusted himself down to slot in himself. Four minutes later, Barnsley were level, thanks to a curling free-kick by Jacob Burns that Flahavan had no chance to save once the ball had arced over his wall, Marc Richards claiming the final touch.

sat 29 oct: bristol city (a) w3-0 [league one]

When you're going through a slightly tough patch, you need one player to stand up to the plate and in this case, that man was Freddy Eastwood. The Shrimpers Trust coaches took a variety of routes into Bristol, with mine following the scenic, if slightly more lengthy trip along the river. There were worries that the new coach might get targeted by City's thuggish element, but by the end of the day, their team had been so comprehensively outplayed that there was no point in the fans seeking retribution.

On the trip up, most of the debate centred around a rumour that Darryl Flahavan was injured, having been suspected of breaking a finger in training. With Bart Griemink only just returning to training himself, my advice was being sought on a possible youth team replacement in Joe Welch. As it was Spencer Prior was back-up to a semi-fit Griemink.

By the time that the Dutchman had turned a dangerous free-kick around the post, the Robins were 3-0 down with 20 minutes to go and half of Ashton Gate had departed. It was a scene reminiscent



SHRIMPERS TRUST

NEWSLETTER – Volume 2 Issue 6



of the North Bank when Queens Park Rangers were dumped out of the LDV. Of Freddy's three strikes, the best by far was the last, a stinging, swerving half-volley from just outside the penalty area. The hat-trick also propelled him towards his rightful place in the top scorers chart in the national papers.

sat 5 nov: barnet (a) w1-0 [fa cup first round]

The north Londoners had just returned from Old Trafford, where goalkeeper Ross Flitney's dismissal after just eighty seconds had helped the League Two outfit crash to a 4-1 defeat. This time the shotstopper endured another torrid eighty seconds as Shaun Goater's smart turn helped King Freddy of Eastwood to fire in with the aid of a deflection.

It killed the rest of the first half, with only the momentary lapses of concentration from Bart Griemink keeping the 2,000-strong away contingent awake. Flitney gave a masterclass in goalkeeping after the interval, turning an Eastwood effort onto the crossbar, saving twice at point-blank range from Goater and even having the fortune to see an Eastwood goal ruled out for offside. Adam Barrett was also lucky as he cleared off of the goalline – replays suggest the ball had already crossed.

sat 12 nov: swansea city (h) l1-2 [league one]

Blues had not lost at home since the 2-1 reverse to Port Vale on the opening day of the season, but Lee Trundle managed to inflict misery on the Shrimpers by scoring one, setting up the other for the ridiculously overweight Adebayo Akinfenwa and generally running the show, so much so that the officials even whistled to his merry tune.

The second half saw Southend fight back, and Mitchell Cole twice floated the ball into the arms of Willy Gueret, then Eastwood nodded past the post from all of half-a-yard out. He did manage to slam the ball into the net for his fifth goal in three games, but it was too late for United to stage a remarkable fightback in front of Garth Crooks, Five Live and anyone else that was interested in the side that day.

sat 19 nov: nottingham forest (a) l0-2 [league one]

Oh dear. According to the League paper, Jamal Campbell-Ryce touched into his own goal from Nathan Tyson's cross. The rest of the media gave it as Che Wilson, whilst the City Ground announced decided that loanee front man Tyson deserved the goal on his debut. Whatever way you look at it, Blues were 1-0 down just after the break.

It came after the visitors best moves of the match, having paid too much respect to Forest, and former England Under-21 forward Tyson in particular, during the first 45 minutes. Unfortunately, in front of 20,000 baying Forest fans, with all the great tradition behind that club, Blues wilted, and for the first time since a dreadful first period against Port Vale on the first day of the season, did not look like they thought they deserved to be in League One. Nicky Southall decided the result with the second.



SHRIMPERS TRUST

NEWSLETTER – Volume 2 Issue 6



sat 26 nov: port vale (a) 1-2 [league one]

It was written in the stars. Ex-Southend heroes (well, one anyway), booed to the hilt, until he scored. And then our injury-ridden former roadrunner touched in the second to compound the misery on a miserable, grey, bleak, northern day. Where did it all go wrong?

Never boo a former striker. They always come back to haunt you. And so, obviously, did Leon Constantine, who did grab the money and ran to Barry Fry's Peterborough United after single-handedly keeping Southend in League football. We would do well to remember that. His goal, on 18 minutes, was marked by yet more slack defending, a worryingly regular occurrence in recent weeks.

Husbands' effort was just the same, and so, ten minutes into the second half, Blues were chasing the game. Steve Tilson brought on Jay Smith, James Lawson and Shaun Goater in one foul swoop, and finally a bit of effort, a bit of fight, was put in. But Lawson's volleyed cross and Smith's diving header in the last minute were too little, too late. United must pick up points in December.

Up the Shrimpers!

Robert Craven (26/11/2005)