



# SHRIMPERS TRUST

## NEWSLETTER – Volume 2 Issue 11



### THE INTRODUCTION – Editor Robert Craven

**I CAN'T SPEAK for anybody else, but I'm already getting really excited about next season as we approach the day when we learn who we face, and when...**

I spoke last month of what it meant to be travelling to places like Leeds United, Sunderland and Birmingham City in 2006/7, and my enthusiasm still has not waned.

Thursday 22nd June has been earmarked in my diary for some time, and those trips to Elland Road, the Stadium of Light and St. Andrews I'm sure will be the ones that every is looking for intensely come ten o'clock on that morning.

The first day of the season will be another popular day, and I suppose I'll only be disappointed if it takes us to Queens Park Rangers or Luton Town. Anywhere else and I'll be delighted.

Of course, we could be at home for the third season in succession, and the trick seems to be to lose on that opening day (a 2-0 reverse to Cheltenham Town in 2004/5 preceded our Play-Off success ten months later in Cardiff and a 2-1 loss to Port Vale didn't stop the Shrimpers bandwagon rolling to the title last time out). Most pundits generally say that you want to make a winning start to a season as a newly-promoted club, but perhaps that is not the case with our beloved Shrimpers!

The new season will see a number of new faces at Roots Hall, a result of the loss of a number of players from our successful double campaigns. I believe that it is only fair that we pay homage to them for a short while and the part that they played in Blues' promotions.

Bart Griemink did not feature very often in 2005/6, but he shared the sticksman duties with Darryl Flahavan as United finally got out of the basement division the previous time out.

The Dutchman always struggled with injuries, and in the end his knees just could not take any more professional football. His best moment in a Southend shirt was the penalty save at Bury in December 2004 that secured a 1-0 win in the final minute.

Andy Edwards was also released as United brought in cover in his own position. 'Eagle'

returned to Roots Hall, like Spencer Prior, in the summer of 2004 and along with 'Spinner' and Steve Tilson, shared in both of the club's double promotions.

Like Griemink, he was slightly more than a bit-part player in his first season back, but the form of Adam Barrett and Prior and, last winter, the arrival of Efetobore Sodje from Yeovil Town ensured that he would not win his place back, and after an unsuccessful loan spell at Grays Athletic, Edwards' career appears to be coming to a disappointing end.

Manager Steve Tilson described the decision to release Carl Pettefer as the hardest that he had to make. The hardworking utility man was an ever-present in the 2004/5 season as Blues featured in 49 League matches as well as reaching the final of the LDV Vans Trophy.

However, 'Petts' constantly struggled with injuries last season and, just as he looked set to stake a claim to feature in the second half of the season with a recall against Blackpool, he was savagely hacked to the ground (as he had been at the tail end of 2003/4 against Huddersfield Town by David Mirfin) and missed a further six weeks.

In many ways, Pettefer epitomised the Tilson regime. Signed on loan from Portsmouth in March 2004, he played against Colchester United that evening with many supporters not even knowing that he had been captured.

Pettefer could never be described as attacking, but he was dependable, and he represented a pragmatic signing. He got stuck in, doing a lot of the jobs that classier players such as Mark Gower or Freddy Eastwood did not want to do.

A similar sort of player was Mark Bentley, who decided to reject a new deal to secure a first team place at Gillingham, who will surely be seeking promotion next season. 'Beno' was another typical Tilson player, hard tackling and resourceful, a capture from non-League football and Dagenham & Redbridge.

Ironically, he netted two goals against the Gills in the League game at Priestfield, a fixture that Southend should have lost. Instead, they won 2-1 and Bentley had secured a share of the club record seven consecutive wins, a



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record that was broken eight days later at home to Nottingham Forest.

Bentley will be joined in Kent by a man who will go down in Shrimpers folklore. After failing to make the grade at a number of clubs, right full-back Duncan Jupp arrived after a reserve run-out at Norwich City, a 4-2 defeat.

The Canaries were on their way to the Premiership at the time, and Steve Wignall snapped him up. It was to prove a shrewd move. Jupp is in the style of recent full-backs, attacking to the point of recklessness at times, but there was one single moment when the Scot wrote himself into Southend United history.

Leading 1-0 into the second half of extra time in the League Two Play-Off final at the Millennium Stadium, Blues needed a second goal to kill off the Red Imps once and for all. I will always remember imploring Freddy Eastwood to square the ball, only to look on in horror as I realised that it was 'Juppy' racing onto the loose ball. I needn't have worried as he stroked the ball beneath Alan Marriott with aplomb.

Another legend, Shaun Goater, is the last of the six to receive a mention. He won't go into the history books because of his deeds with the Shrimpers, although he was far from mediocre in his season with the Seasiders. He will go in there because of his services to the national game.

Awarded an MBE, rightly, because of the way in which he has represented his country, Bermuda, and the work he has done there, the legions of Manchester City fans that turned up to Southend matches this season paid tribute to the legacy he left there, as well as at Rotherham United, Bristol City and Reading.

He may be remembered as the man who left the field to make way for Wayne Gray, who scored to secure the title for the Shrimpers on the last day of last season, but I will take away the memory of seeing a true footballing legend, and a gentleman, representing the club. His standing ovation truly stretched all around a full-to-capacity Roots Hall on the last day of the campaign, and it was well-deserved.

Perhaps it is a little unfortunate that many Southend United supporters have been denied

the chance to say goodbye to 'the Goat' as a match in his honour is being played in his native Bermuda instead of at Roots Hall – what a great pre-season match Blues versus Bermuda would have been!

Hopefully the Goat, who will play a half for the Shrimpers and a half for his country, will be given an excellent send-off by supporters within Bermuda, and the club's players will enjoy an excellent pre-season break on the island.

On the subject of last year's success, the Trust have produced a commemorative badge to celebrate the League One championship. Priced at £2.50, it features a shrimp brandishing the League One trophy, and is available from the Shrimpers Trust website before the season starts, or from the Trust stands once we are underway. And also on promotion, the more eagle-eyed readers would have noticed that I erroneously put Saturday 30th April, not 29th April, as the day we sealed Championship football. You'd think I'd remember that, of all dates!

The 'rebuilding process' has already begun with the acquisitions of Steve Collis from Yeovil Town and Simon Francis of Sheffield United. I have to profess that whenever I have seen Collis, I have not been overly impressed, but he has been keeping the extremely highly-rated Chris Weale out of the Glovers side, so he should act as excellent back-up to Darryl Flahavan.

Francis is a capture that is a little more exciting. After representing the England Under-21 side that Tilly helped to coach under Peter Taylor, he comes having won promotion to the Premiership with the Blades last season, even if he spent much of it on loan at Grimsby Town and Tranmere Rovers.

Whilst with the Wirral-based club he played his part as a segment of a very well organised back line that helped secure a point against the Shrimpers at Prenton Park, and I hope that Tilly can continue to look for signings as promising as his.

A sign of the success that the club have had in recent years is the capture of two national firms as sponsors for 2006/7. Insure&Go will be the main club sponsor on Southend United's



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centenary season shirts, with Haart, the estate agents, the back-of-shirt advertisers.

Away from the Shrimpers, the 2006 FIFA World Cup is now underway (which also means that the Shrimpers Trust prediction competition is in its opening gambits), with England making a winning, if not totally convincing start.

However, I'm an optimistic sort of person, and I don't see the point in overly criticising a side that has scored three goals and not conceded any in its opening two games, has qualified for the Second Round and was just seconds away from sealing the group after the second round of qualifying matches.

This is being written before the clash with Sweden, on which the smart money seems to be on the draw that would ensure Sven Goran Eriksson's homeland's progress in second place, though that would represent a chance missed.

England have won eight consecutive matches, a post-War record, including in that run a vital qualifying success over Poland and a 3-2 win over the team most people (myself included) fancy for the competition as a whole, Argentina.

There is no-one that England should fear, as long as they can find a place for Steven Gerrard in an attacking role. I was horrified to hear former England skipper Jimmy Armfield on BBC Radio 5 Live suggesting that the Liverpool talent should play at right-back in the absence of Gary Neville, not because he wouldn't do a good job there but because it could stifle further his attacking qualities.

People have said that taking the likes of Aaron Lennon and Theo Walcott was a huge risk, and pointed a lack of preparation. If you look at the England cricket team, as I did against Sri Lanka at Lord's yesterday, there you will see a side lacking preparation for a World Cup (in West Indies in 2007). By that scale, Sven has operated a military regime!

We will wait and see with the footballers, but I have every faith that they can beat anyone in Europe, and on a good day, Brazil or Argentina as well. Hopefully a success in Germany will precede another superb season for the Shrimpers – I know that I haven't taken a break from football for a long time now.

**Up The Shrimpers,**

**Rob**



Above is a sneak preview of the new Shrimpers Trust website. We will be relaunching [www.shrimperstrust.co.uk](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk) very shortly, a move that will hopefully make it even easier to find out all the latest news from the Trust. If you want to know the latest schemes that we are instigating, the progress of the Shrimpers Trust Kids or buy items from the Shrimpers Trust shop, then this is the place to go.

It will be your first recourse if you want to know the progress of our fundraising ideas, if you want to travel on the Shrimpers Trust coaches and need a pick-up time or a price or want to read interviews that the Trust have conducted with people inside Southend United Football Club. We are retaining the name [www.shrimperstrust.co.uk](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk), so keep clicking there over the next few weeks and you'll soon notice a change!



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### THE SHRIMPERS TRUST KIDS

Norhalne Cup Tour sponsored by the Shrimpers Trust

The Shrimpers Trust helped make it possible for 30 of Southend United's Under-13 and Under-15 players to travel to Denmark at the end of May to take part in the Norhalne Cup, a prestigious event involving some of Europe's top sides. Blues Youths participated in the elite section of the tournament, which hosted over 520 teams in total.

Both teams started brightly in the tournament, the Under-15s racking up an 8-0 victory against UNA of the Netherlands to follow a goalless draw with Landskrona of Sweden in their opener, whilst the younger age group recorded a 1-0 success over Boo FF from Sweden in their first game before a 1-1 draw against Stormvogels/Telstar of the Netherlands left them top of the group to progress to the next stage, the highest-ranked of three groups of six.

On day two, the older teenagers defeated both VPU 21 Alba of the Ukraine and Aalborg from the host nation by a goal to nil to head the table with ten points from their four matches. Unfortunately, in the next round, they found themselves up against Rushden & Diamonds, drawing 1-1 before a dramatic 4-3 penalty shoot-out reverse. This left the Shrimpers alongside AIK Stockholm and ADO den Haag as winners in the play-off section.

The Under-13s started their group slowly, with 0-0 draws against FC Honka of Finland and Rushden, but picked up by beating Lyngby of Denmark 1-0. Another goalless game ensued against ADO den Haag, but their excellent defensive record was broken by Latvians FHK Leipajas Metalurgs, who won a dead rubber 3-1 at the end and denied United third place of the 18 teams who took part in total.

Meanwhile, the Shrimpers Trust have agreed to withdraw their sponsorship of Mark Gower after two successful years in order to support Joel Ledgister, who has been awarded a professional contract in order to remain at the club for next season. The Trust will sponsor Joel's home and away shirts for 2006/7.

### THE TRUST – What We've Done

#### Committee Meeting Minutes (15/05/2006)

The Trust have been offered two places on the proposed Southend United Youth Development Association committee, and this was the first matter up for discussion. There were some areas that the Trust were not happy with, but it was agreed that this was a good opportunity to get involved and represent the club's supporters. Our ideas will be presented to Geoffrey King.

The Player of the Year Night was thought to have been too hot and the venue too crowded. An alternative, more suitable venue may now have to be sought in future, although 2006/7's event appears to have been resolved (see Centenary Meeting below). Two such places would be Boots & Laces and the Maritime Rooms at the Cliffs Pavillion, although the downside potentially to the latter would be that Trust members may have to be charged an entry fee, something that has been avoided in the past and which we strongly believe in.

#### Committee Meeting Minutes (05/06/2006)

Our last meeting centred mainly on how the Trust could increase its presence in the local community. One such area you will have already read about is the relaunch of the Shrimpers Trust website at [www.shrimperstrust.co.uk](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk), but it was also agreed to get involved further with local newspapers and the media. We are always grateful to our members for new ideas in this respect, so please get in contact with any of us if you have any ideas as to how we can get involved more and attract more support.



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In line with the Centenary celebrations, Dave Goody and Peter Miles will be giving a lecture on Southend United to our members during next season along the lines of one that they performed at Southend Museum during May. We are also looking into the feasibility of producing a 'Legends' shirt designed by Trust member Simon Dodd.

### Liaison Meeting Minutes (10/04/2006)

The afternoon began with Southend United revealing that the 30 silver shirts provided for the touring Kingsfield Casuals side in June were ready for collection. Trust member and Kingsfield secretary Brian Jeeves takes a group of people from south Essex to Germany each year to spread the word of Essex football and enjoy a good time, as well as playing in a weekend tournament. This year's tour coincides with the 2006 FIFA World Cup.

SUFC chairman Ron Martin has revealed that he is willing to hold a Question & Answer session with Shrimpers Trust members. The Trust have provided the club with a list of dates, but at this stage, we have not heard back from Ron. However, a date has been set for Meet The Blues Day, which will be held at Boots & Laces on Sunday July 30th. The Trust will once again have a presence at the event, and more information on our role will be available in the next newsletter.

*\*\*Full Minutes of the Trust's Liaison Meetings with Southend United are available to download from the Shrimpers Trust website, [www.shrimperstrust.co.uk](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk)\*\**

### Centenary Meeting (31/05/2006)

The club have come up with the strapline, 'A Century United' for the Centenary, which will be used in all connected areas. It has already been showcased on the club website, [www.southendunited.co.uk](http://www.southendunited.co.uk) and in the Season Card brochure for the forthcoming campaign. The Trust's opening chance to use this will come in the First Day Cover. The winners will enjoy seeing their work in print thanks to the designing help of Sheila Wright.

Another Centenary initiative to be headed by the Trust will be the official Centenary badge. Club shop owners *Just Sport* decided that there would be no profit in producing an enamel badge to celebrate 100 years of Southend United, so the Trust will be manufacturing and selling the badges, with all proceeds helping to raise funds for us.

Much has been made recently of the Centenary match being against Portsmouth. There are obvious reasons to be disappointed about this – Pompey are not a 'big' club, the game will take place on a Wednesday, there is no real historic link as there is with Hertha Berlin or even Swindon Town (the Robin's reserves were our first ever opponents in the Southern League in 1906) – but the positives are that Harry Redknapp's side will be a first team, and that the club will be inviting players who have performed for both clubs including Jimmy McAlinden to the night.

Plans are in place for an End of Season Ball inside a large marquee on the Roots Hall pitch at the end of the season. This marquee will also be used for the Players Player of the Year Night and the Trust's End of Season Review evening. The Ball will be a black tie event and will set fans back £25 a head.

### Quiz Night

Massive apologies to all involved in April's Quiz Night for the lack of a mention in last month's newsletter. Quizmaster Guy Rickard, marksman brother Nigel and fundraising guru Alan Perry all helped to raise over £650 for the Trust in another successful evening hosted in the Shrimpers Bar.

Without evenings such as this, as well as our twice-yearly Race Nights and other get-togethers like Curry Evenings, then Trust members would not have the opportunity to get involved in a hands-on experience. The schedule for next year's events should be available by the start of the new season,



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so please keep your eyes peeled on the new Trust website for news of how you can make your presence known.

Remember, the Shrimpers Trust are always delighted to see new faces at these evenings, and are always willing to test new initiatives as well. If you have an idea for an event that would bring Trust members together, please get in touch with our Fundraising Officer, Alan Perry, at [alanperry4@hotmail.com](mailto:alanperry4@hotmail.com) or by phone at 01702 476458.

### 100 Club

We are still 17 people short of our initial target of having a century of 100 Club members going into Southend United's centenary season, but those people who have won over the last month or so have each pocketed over £40. As the figures get closer to a ton, then the prize fund will climb towards £50.

Recent winners have included John Chapman, Martin Leonard and Wally Despy, so to join the winners list, please contact Alan Perry on [alanperry4@hotmail.com](mailto:alanperry4@hotmail.com) or call him on 01702 476458.

### Quid-a-Goal

A massive thank-you to all who have already honoured their pledges for the 2005/6 season Quid-a-Goal campaign. So far we have raised over £3700 of the £4717 total, so we are three-quarters of the way towards our target, with hopefully the remainder to follow during the course of the summer.

Don't forget that on your letters from organiser Alan Perry is a chance to contribute to the 2006/7 campaign with a new pledge. 70 people have done so already, with the money raised next season will be going solely towards the club's youth department. After helping the likes of Joel Ledgister and Reiss Noel last season, it is an opportunity to really help Southend United produce quality youngsters to push for first-team places in the Coca-Cola Championship.

### New Life Members (total: 108)

There are no new life members this month. The price of life membership is £75 or £100 depending on whether you receive your newsletter through email or by using post.

The Shrimpers Trust would like to welcome the following new members this month:

Alan Cornish, Kathryn Herson, Paul Marshall and Owen Powell

## THE NEWS – Away from Home

### Brighton & Hove Albion

Devastated by news that John Prescott's 'Yes' decision last year was based on faulty factual evidence and that plans for the new stadium in Falmer will have to be reconsidered, Brighton fans have clubbed together to form the Seagulls Party. Following in the footsteps of the Valley Party in southeast London fifteen years ago, when Charlton Athletic followers received 14,000 votes, the Seagulls Party have registered with the Electoral Commission with the intention to field candidates at forthcoming elections. 5,000 Lewes residents signed a petition within one week against Lewes District Council, who had raised concerns to the Secretary of State.

**Up the Shrimpers!**  
**Rob Craven (17 May 2006)**