



# SHRIMPERS TRUST

## NEWSLETTER – Volume 2 Issue 13



### THE INTRODUCTION – Editor Robert Craven

**CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL has arrived at Roots Hall! There was a buzz of excitement around the ground on Saturday 5 August when Stoke City visited the club to kick off the new Coca-Cola Football League season...**

Of course, Blues got off to the perfect start when Freddy Eastwood's penalty kick eluded Steve Simonsen on the quarter-hour mark and that was enough to seal a 1-0 victory.

Things got even better two weeks later when sorry Sunderland were the visitors and they were easily dismissed 3-1 thanks to goals from Adam Barrett and Lee Bradbury. Most of the squad have talked this year about making Roots Hall a fortress, and with two wins in two, that is certainly the case at the moment.

Unfortunately, United's run on their travels has not been quite so impressive. Defeats at Crystal Palace, Queens Park Rangers and Leicester City mean that by the time Blues travel to West Bromwich Albion, it will be six-and-a-half months since the last away League win, at Colchester United in League One.

It will just be a case of picking up even a draw, just to get off the mark away, so that Tilly and his men know that they are capable of doing so. A win would be much better, of course, but a single point would be a start.

The danger at the moment is that, despite a strong start to the southeast Essex season, if one of Sheffield Wednesday or Norwich City win at the Hall, then the squad will start to doubt their ability to stay up.

Staying in the Championship and consolidating is the aim for this season, and anything more lofty can be discounted. The opening month of the campaign has shown the depth of squads that Blues will be up against, but the manner that the Shrimpers have managed to live with those sides, even in defeats to Palace and Leicester, means that great heart should be taken.

The deadline day capture of another local boy, Matt Harrold, swelled the squad to 23, and proved to be the seventh forward on the Southend books. Steve Tilson now has plenty to choose from to partner Freddy Eastwood.

The retention of Eastwood's services after August 31 was key to Southend maintaining Championship status. Blues are not a one-man team, but Eastwood is undoubtedly the star, and most of the national newspapers have been touting him as the man to keep us up.

Michael Ricketts has been disappointingly injured since scoring twice in the pre-season friendly at Great Wakering Rovers with an Achilles problem, and the sooner he gets back to full fitness, the better.

That is not because the Shrimpers' other forwards are incapable, but because he has a proven track record of scoring goals, even at a higher level than the Championship.

Lee Bradbury started the campaign alongside Freddy, and although he acts as an excellent foul for the Epsom-born striker, he will not score a lot of goals.

Billy Paynter was brought in after a disappointing time for himself at Hull City, and although he started brightly, running into lots of spaces to create room for Eastwood to manoeuvre, his finishing once again has left a lot to be desired. That is not to say that, if he gets one, he won't click into action as we have seen Peter Crouch do for Liverpool and England.

Gary Hooper was an interesting acquisition. The ex-Grays Athletic youngster was released by the Conference club in the summer, and joined United after trialling with Barnet. Similar to Eastwood in style, the 18-year-old has a lot to learn, but the fact that Reading were eyeing up his talent (given their track record in nurturing Dave Kitson and Kevin Doyle from the lower levels) is an excellent sign.

Hooper and James Lawson are not ready to start forty games a season yet, but they are good talents for the future. Harrold should be almost the finished article, having had an education at Brentford and Yeovil Town. He will not be adverse to rough-and-tumble style, having spent time on loan at Dagenham & Redbridge and having played for Harlow Town after being released from the Shrimpers' own SCORE set-up.

It could be another masterstroke by Tilson and Brush, who have been tailing Harrold, like they



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had Peter Clarke, for a matter of months. Like Adam Barrett, he joins Blues after growing up in the area, and so will have that extra-special aspect of local pride to add to his game.

It may smack initially of a panic signing, and perhaps United could have done with another central midfielder to put more pressure on Kevin Maher and Luke Guttridge in the centre of the park, at least in the short-run, but if he enjoys half as much success as Barrett at Roots Hall, then he will be a fine signing.

The squad now has a good balance between young and old, between local and national, between those with experience at Championship level and those who have something to prove. Let's hope that the mix is right.

What is important is that Southend United stabilize, and in many ways, find their level. We spent six years in the second tier of English

football last time around, and if we can do that again, it means that other aspects of the club, such as the Centre of Excellence under Ricky Duncan's stewardship, can plan for the future with a base behind them.

Ricky has told the Shrimpers Trust the way that getting to the Championship has meant that he is now on the lookout for better players. If we suddenly find ourselves nose-diving towards League Two, some of his hard work will have been wasted.

And could there just be a new stadium at Fossetts Farm on the way as well? If Southend United are in the Championship, the mooted 21,000-capacity would be fine, if it's back to the basement, then 15,000 will more than suffice.

**Up The Shrimpers,**

**Rob**

### THE INTERVIEW – Jamie Forshaw

**Back in July, the Shrimpers Trust were afforded access to interviews with Ricky Duncan and his youth team. And before anyone else had spoken to creative midfielder Jamie Forshaw, the Trust were on the case, even quizzing him on his international ambitions just six weeks before he was called up to trial for the Scottish Under-16 side...**

#### **Player Profile**

**Age: 15**

**Position: Central midfielder**

**Previous clubs: Norwich City, Cambridge United**

Jamie Forshaw almost epitomises the sort of footballer that Ricky Duncan has brought to Southend United in the twelve months since he returned to the club. A first-year scholar, he has spent time with Norwich City, and like a number of his team-mates, enjoyed a spell at Cambridge United with the current Head of Youth Development,

"Ricky Duncan is a great manager," he gushes, but the youngster is not content to stop the praise there. "He's a great person and likes the right sort of players." If Forshaw were not so sincere, you would imagine that his boss had put him up to the task. Instead, he is full of heartfelt gratitude for his manager.

"My first impressions here were excellent – it is a really welcoming place to come, and all the coaches and players treat you well," he says. "I'm a pacy player I suppose, who likes to push forwards as much as I can. Definitely I have to try and hold down a regular place in the Under-18 side this season."

However, it is a mark of the confidence within his short 15-year frame that Forshaw is not content to settle with that, "I have to maintain my place there, but that won't be easy. It will be tough to get in, and even then there are a number of good players who are even younger than me who are capable of playing at that level. I'm certainly looking forward to the challenge."

I ask Forshaw if there is anyone he models his game on. "I try to play my own game," is the worthy retort. "My all-time hero is Pele, I suppose. He was a fantastic player." And although there is



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caution in his voice, you sense that he would love to represent either one of the countries he is eligible to play for.

“I’d love to play internationally. I’m half-English and half-Scottish, so I could play for either team. I don’t consider myself one or the other, so it would be an honour to perform for either. I’ve seen Ricky Byrne make it into the Republic of Ireland Under-17s side, and that has been a great spur for me and the rest of the lads.”

“Being in the Coca-Cola Championship makes Southend a much more noticeable club, and that attracts better players. We are on the up.” Forshaw is a youngster with an old head on young shoulders – aware of his surrounds, but at the same time, knowing that he is capable of making an impression. Let’s hope that he does so.

### THE SHRIMPERS TRUST KIDS

#### Blues’ Youths Results

Sat 12 Aug | Puma Youth Alliance League | Luton Town (a) | W3-2 | Henry 2, Moussa

Sat 19 Aug | Puma Youth Alliance League | Brentford (h) | D1-1 | Henry

Sat 02 Sept | Puma Youth Alliance Cup | Colchester United (h) | D2-2 | Ademeno, Obaze

SOUTHEND UNITED’s Under-18 side are now unbeaten in thirteen competitive matches after starting the 2006/7 campaign with a win and two draws, despite showing some indifferent form.

Blues’ Youths are certainly displaying battling qualities as they maintain a run that is in danger of becoming a lead weight on their shoulders. The season began at Luton Rugby Club as Ricky Duncan’s outfit defeated Luton Town 3-2 and that was followed up by home draws against Brentford (League) and Colchester United (Cup).

Rhys Henry proved himself to be the star of the show in Bedfordshire as he netted twice in a second period that contained all five goals in total. The front-runner ran fully eighty yards to sneak the Shrimpers in front minutes after the half-time break, concluding the run with a smart finish. When Belgian Under-18 international Franck Moussa doubled the advantage by heading home a Lee Smyth corner, a first half that had seen Southend under intense pressure in treacherous wet and windy conditions had largely been forgotten.

But the Hatters’ bulky centre-forward partnership refused to let their team lay down, and initiated a response that saw two scrambled goals inside eight minutes. Ashley Harrison-Baker netted the first from close range after Blues failed to clear their lines, and Elliot Osborne-Ricketts burst into the box to fire in the second. But Henry was not finished, and he shot low into the bottom left-hand corner with a little under a quarter-of-an-hour remaining after Jamie Forshaw had battled hard to win possession.

Brentford have long been nemeses of Southend at youth team level, and so a 1-1 draw against the Bees was not a result to be frowned upon. However, when you consider the amount of chances created by the young Shrimpers, it was a case of two points dropped. Jamie Forshaw had three chances one-on-one with the visiting goalkeeper alone, blazing two over the crossbar and smacking the other against the outside of the stanchion.

Just three minutes had passed in the second period when Karle Carder-Andrews made Blues pay with a free-kick which left Joe Welch groping at thin air. Thankfully United showed great resolve to continue to dominate possession, and their reward was gleaned when Franck Moussa teed up Henry for his third goal in two matches.

The Puma Youth Alliance Cup began on the first week in September, and local rivals Colchester United were the visitors for a spicy clash. Johnny Herd was fortunate to remain on the pitch after over-committing to a tackle, and by that time the U’s were ahead thanks to Tom Devaux’s close-range finish. Ashley Westwood was unfortunate not to add a second when he shot was tipped by



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Joe Welch onto the stanchion at the foot of the far post, and despite the whole ball crossing the line, both referee and his assistant missed the incident.

James Lindie helped to level matters when he raced down the inside-left channel to unselfishly square, with strike partner Charles Ademeno doing the rest from five yards. Southend improved on a bitty performance in the second half as they held onto the ball for longer periods, though it was a corner from Lee Smyth that led to the second as David Obaze leapt highest to head home. However, the lead lasted just six minutes before Tom Webb equalised for Colchester, seizing on a large open space in the Blues defence to strike in from six yards.

### THE TRUST – What We've Done

#### Committee Meeting Minutes (06/08/2006)

Scott Peters, one of our newest Committee Members, revealed that he is planning to undertake a weight loss project to raise money for Bosom Pals. You will be able to follow Scott's progress throughout the season on the Shrimpers Trust website, and when the scheme gets underway, you can sponsor Scott through the Trust.

The re-launched Trust website is in good health, despite being hacked into twice within the last month. Visitors' figures are up, as is the amount of articles appearing on the new-look site. Please visit [www.shrimperstrust.co.uk](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk) to go and see for yourself.

#### Liaison Meeting Minutes (19/07/2006)

Geoffrey King explained the club's position over disabled supporters. He said that in the past, the club had allowed free access for people claiming the higher and medium bands of Disabled Living Allowance (DLA), and had increased disabled attendances in line with the club's recent success. NADS (the National Association of Disabled Supporters) had recommended that disabled supporters should pay a concessionary rate, but that their carers still entered for free, and that only those claiming the higher level of DLA should be admitted as disabled supporters. GK admitted that perhaps the club had not come across in quite the right light in the media over the issue.

The issue of away tickets was again raised, looking at rewarding those who had supported the club through the lean period of League Two. Of course, Season Ticket Holders currently have a priority period for purchasing away tickets, but at some grounds, there could be a mad scramble for tickets. An away fan club, or an aspect of the Autopay system, where those who wanted to go to all away games could do so with first refusal, was mooted, but at the moment the status quo remains in place.

The Trust will be liaising with Ray Davy over a possible bucket collection after the fiasco surrounding the Trust attempting to collect for Rotherham United last year. We will be approaching Mr Davy in order to gain a date in the collection calendar in case another club hits hard times during 2006/7.

SUFC would like it to be pointed out once again that Roots Hall is a non-smoking stadium. GK said that people found smoking in the vicinity of the ground would initially be dealt with politely by stewards, but if continually found flaunting the rules, the club would come down hard.

*\*\*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)\*\**

#### Meet The Blues Day

Sunday 30 July saw the Shrimpers Trust man a stall at the annual Meet The Blues Day at Boots & Laces, SUFC's training ground on Eastern Avenue. The day was a success, with one of the principal events, as ever, being Shrimpers Trust members' opportunity to obtain player's signatures in our marquee. This was packed at one stage, but our thanks go out to all the players who took the time



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to please everyone, especially Freddy Eastwood, who made sure that everyone who wanted his autograph left with it.

The Trust raised £867 through its initiatives on the day, over £100 more than last year. This included money spent on merchandise in the Trust marquee, as well as our Beat The Wall competition and Alan Perry's raffle. Our thanks to everyone that helped or visited us on the day, and also to Steve's Van Hire, who helped to ship all of our stuff to the venue free of charge. To find out what the company can offer you, visit [www.steves-selfdrive.com](http://www.steves-selfdrive.com) or call 01702 612 047.

### Torchlight Parade

On the evening of the 3-1 victory over Sunderland, the Trust participated in the annual Southend Carnival closer, the Torchlight Parade, championing the cause of Southend United Football Club and the Shrimpers Trust whilst raising money for worthwhile local and national charities. The Trust handed out flyers advertising recent and upcoming initiatives, as well as sticks of rock and pin-badges for the children present. Southend United also donated a small collection of giveaways.

The Trust owe a massive thank-you to the following volunteers for making the evening such a success:

Ashley Abrams	Phil Alsford	Chris, Rosemary, Thomas & Ben Berry
Colin & Steve Brind	Peter & Billy Brock	Clare Brooks
Adam Duffill	Nick Green	Mike Leonard
Tony & Lee Leverett	Paul & Glen Marshall	Alan & Andrew Perry
Darren Posnack	Warren & Anna Saddler	Lee Tanner
Bryan Woodford	Paul & Jenny Yeomanson	SBC Leisure & Junior (Dave Taylor)
SX Sports	The Blue Belles	Brian Dear.

### Shrimpers Trust Events List

#### Saturday 9 September: Shrimpers Trust Quiz Night

Venue: The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall | Time: 7:30 for an 8:00 p.m. start | Contact: Alan Perry on 01702 476458 or at [alanperry4@hotmail.com](mailto:alanperry4@hotmail.com) | Tickets: £8 including choice of supper from The Fish House.

*Additional information: 9 tables booked at time of going to press – please contact Alan Perry as soon as possible to register your interest*

#### \*STAR EVENT: Thursday 14 September: First 100 Years of Southend United Football Club

Venue: The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall | Time: 7:30 for an 8:00 p.m. start | For more information: email [info@shrimperstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@shrimperstrust.co.uk) or visit [www.shrimperstrust.co.uk](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk) | Tickets: Free to Shrimpers Trust members (£2 for non-members)\*

*Additional information: Peter Miles and Dave Goody (authors of the definitive history of Southend United F.C.) take a look through the history of the club, from its formation in 1906, through the early pioneers and the first successful seasons in the Southern League, the grounds the team have played at, the highlights and hurrahs of our favourite team and some of the most famous and well-loved players. Includes many rare photographs of players, programmes and medals. A must-see event for any Shrimper, the talk premiered at Southend Central Museum last May.*

#### Thursday 19 October: Shrimpers Trust Annual General Meeting

Venue: The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall | Time: 8:00 p.m. | For more information: email [info@shrimperstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@shrimperstrust.co.uk) or visit [www.shrimperstrust.co.uk](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk)

#### Saturday 21 October: Shrimpers Trust Race Night

Venue: The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall | Time: 7:30 for an 8:00 p.m. start | Contact: Paul Yeomanson at [info@shrimperstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@shrimperstrust.co.uk) or at the Shrimpers Trust stand | Tickets: £3 (available at the Shrimpers Trust stand from the home game against Sheffield Wednesday onwards, and on [www.shrimperstrust.co.uk](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk) from this weekend)



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David Mason, John Clench, Phillip Conway and Matthew Walker have all scooped just over £40 with our weekly prizes during the first month of the 2006/7 Centenary season. With the club celebrating 100 years in 2006/7, organiser Alan Perry would dearly love out very own 100 Club to number 100 people, so please get in contact with him on [alanperry4@hotmail.com](mailto:alanperry4@hotmail.com) to register your interest. The precedent has been set, as an older version of the 100 Club once totalled over 1000 members!

### Quid-a-Goal

After pledges totalling over £4000 last season, Alan Perry is still looking for people to come forward to contribute money to our Quid-a-Goal scheme. The concept is simple – you pledge one pound for every goal that Southend United score this season! Alternatively, you can select more daring statements, such as a pound-a-point or per individual player netting – whatever suits your own needs.

This season, Quid-a-Goal has again primarily been put towards John Stannard's physiotherapy needs, but with the club's physio himself having acknowledged that we have just about seen to his every need, from 2006/7 we will be pushing the scheme towards the club's youth department. Already we have put money towards Joel Ledgister's lodgings, and he has been rewarded with a professional contract for the club's Centenary campaign.

Reiss Noel is the second major recipient of our money from the current campaign as we helped to finance his rail fares from Stratford in East London. Reiss has accepted a second-year scholarship for the current campaign, and will hope to play a full part this term once he recovers from his current ankle injury.

### New Life Members (total: 113)

Our Life Membership figures have risen again this month with the additions of: **Jerry Alford, Peter Darke and Kevin French**

The Shrimpers Trust would like to welcome the following new members this month (total 1333):

Marc Allen, Steve Bacon, Gary Barber, John Barber, Mike Bennett, Richard Bradford, Tom Breakey, Robert Bryans, David Butt, Robert Carter, Dean Chenneour, Mr T Chenneour, Ben Clarkson, Thomas Cochrane, Richard Collins, James Cooper, Terry Cornwell, Alex Dagiiesh, Chris Daniels, Michael Davis, Michael Davis, Jacqueline Dean, Max Drury, David Eastwick, Paul Elmy, Gerry Evison, Neil Faraday, Ian Foster, Stephen Fox, Alan Goddard, Ken Guiver, Teresa Guiver, Adam Halvey, Andrew Harper, Darren Harris, Stan Hawksworth, John Healy, Leigh Hitchcock, Gary Jackets, Perry Keevence, Simon Kingdom, Paul Kitchener, Stephen Lansley, John Lengden, Carol Lloyd, Dave Longbottom, Dave Lovell, Matt Lovell, Paul Lowry, Steven Luck, Garry Maskell, Sean McGhie, Geoffrey McGlashan, Kerr Mellia, Andrew Mills, Steve Morris, K.G. Page, Benedict Paul, Dave Paul, Nick Pavitt, Mike Rand, Aaron Reed, Paddy Richardson, Thomas Rockett, Joseph Rutter, Jeff Sharp, Gemma Shepherd, Matthew Shute, Joan Simmons, Mrs J Smeeton, Matt Street, Tracey Suckling, Fiona Summerfield, Chris Sutton, David Tipper, Mike Topping and Gary Widdecombe.

## THE NEWS – Away from Home

### Crawley Town

Nationwide Conference club Crawley Town appear to be safe from extinction after a last-ditch bid to rescue the club by the Majeed family-owned SA Group of fifty pence in the pound to the club's administrator, Rob Sadler. The Majeed's were in charge of the Sussex outfit when they went into administration in June with debts of £1.4 million.

At the start of the month, Sadler had extended a deadline for winding-up the club to allow a third bid to be entertained by creditors. Having been docked ten points for falling into administration by



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Conference officials, Crawley have battled back after picking up three wins and a draw in their opening five matches, but if the latest bid had been rejected, they would have been forced to resign from the Conference.

### Wrexham

Just before the start of the new Coca-Cola Football League season, a deal was struck between administrator David Acland and local car dealership owner Neville Dickens for Wrexham F.C. to be taken out of administration. The news came days after *FourFourTwo* magazine featured the Red Dragons and Rotherham United in an article on clubs in crisis.

## THE MATCHES – Blues in Review

### sat 5 aug: stoke city (h) w1-0 [championship]

Three months almost to the day after the Shrimpers sealed the League One Championship with a single-goal triumph over Bristol City, one goal was all that it took to defeat Stoke City in Blues' Coca-Cola Championship opener. The Potters were mid-table in 2005/6, and so this represented a decent scalp as Steve Tilson's men adjusted favourably to a higher standard of football.

It helped that in Mamady Sidibe and the hapless Vincent Pericard, City possessed two of the more immobile and inept forwards in the division, but nonetheless Spencer Prior and Adam Barrett saw them off comfortably. At the other end, Lee Bradbury won a penalty which was easily stroked home by Freddy Eastwood, who immediately proved that he was capable of adjusting to the Championship, if only from twelve yards.

### tue 8 aug: crystal palace (a) l1-3 [championship]

It's easy this Championship lark, isn't it? At least, that is what the 1500-strong Shrimpers army thought at half-time after Freddy had rifled Southend in front against Peter Taylor's Palace via the inside of Gabor Kiraly's right-hand post. Given that Lee Bradbury had been denied by the pyjama'd custodian and had nodded wide after just thirty seconds, that the visitors to Selhurst Park had dominated the chances in the first half and, apart from one spectacular save, Darryl Flahavan was virtually redundant, it was a fair assumption to make.

But we were dealt our first lesson in the second period, and our first warning of things to come. Before all that, always beware of an ex-Shrimper. Old players always know exactly where your weaknesses are, and Leon Cort is no exception. The tall central defender popped up to head home seven minutes after the break, and seven minutes later it was 3-1.

Dougie Freedman, the veteran forward, pounced on some indecision at the back between Prior and Barrett to steer past Flahavan for the second, and Mark Hudson made it three when he headed home from a corner. The problems were obvious, and although Simon Francis and Eastwood went close before the end, defensive inadequacies had cost Blues dear...

### sat 12 aug: queens park rangers (a) l0-2 [championship]

Things didn't get any better on United's second visit to London in five days. The first half was a complete write-off, and by the time the players left the field for the break, Southend were two-down and out of it. The only cheer the Blue Army got was when Dexter Blackstock tumbled over for a booking after just 13 seconds of his QPR debut.

The young striker got his revenge when won a free-kick that was smashed into the top corner of the net by evergreen Martin Rowlands after 31 minutes. Blackstock and Gareth Ainsworth both brought out the best in Flahavan before the 'keeper was carried off with a bloodied nose – the result of Ray Jones' bustling challenge. The effect was for the loose ball to be smashed in by Nick Ward.



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Steve Collis was almost a spectator as he made his competitive debut for the Shrimpers, and had Luke Guttridge pulled one back when presented with the perfect opportunity just before the hour, things could have been different, but he was foiled by Welsh international Paul Jones, and a couple of speculative Jamal Campbell-Ryce efforts aside, his goal was barely threatened.

### **sat 19 aug: sunderland (h) w3-1 [championship]**

Back to Roots Hall and the rut was stopped as last season's regular Premiership whipping boys were dealt a fourth straight defeat by Championship opposition in the 2006/7 campaign. Luckily Roy Keane's revolution hadn't arrived – it is hard to believe that such a spineless display would be tolerated under the demonic Irishman.

In my opinion, Sunderland didn't look too bad until they fell a goal behind on the stroke of half-time to Adam Barrett. It was a great moment for the home-town boy to put his defensive toils aside and nod his team in front against highly-fancied opposition.

With Eastwood having been involved in all three of Southend's goals thus far in the campaign – he had set up Barrett for the first with a foraging run – it was relief to know that Blues aren't completely reliant on him when Peter Clarke nodded back for Barrett to slide in and head in the second. Lee Bradbury added the third, again with Eastwood's assistance, although a more sour note was tasted with Jon Stead's consolation, and the withdrawal of Spencer Prior through injury on the occasion of his 500<sup>th</sup> League appearance.

### **tue 22 aug: AFC Bournemouth (a) w3-1 [Carling Cup]**

It was a relief to get two albatrosses off of Southend's back with this League Cup win over the Cherries. United's pathetic record in the competition, having lost seven consecutive first round ties, was well-documented, and just as menacing was an away drought stretching back to the 3-0 derby demolition of Colchester United at the start of March.

A first half dominated by Blues saw just one goal, an individualist effort by Mark Gower cutting in from the left to hit a searing strike into the top right-hand corner. Sadly, wastefulness in front of goal cost the Shrimpers just after the break when Steve Fletcher hit his obligatory goal to level matters.

A contentious handball (at least the home fans thought so) gave Freddy Eastwood the chance to put Blues back in front, and he coolly stroked in his second spot-kick of the campaign. His fourth goal in all was added minutes later, racing clear of the defence before finishing with aplomb. Game over.

### **sat 26 aug: Leicester City (a) 1-0 [Championship]**

Southend, as has been the pattern in the Championship this year, held possession for much of this fixture, but failed to make it tell as Luke Guttridge and substitute Mitchell Cole skied sitters and another replacement, Spencer Prior, headed inches over seconds after coming on against one of his old clubs.

The defining moment came after 37 minutes when Patrick Kisnorbo gambled on a header from (you guessed it) a corner, and helped the ball past Darryl Flahavan. Other than that, Leicester, in their own Walkers Stadium, rarely forced Flahavan into a meaningful save and could have been punished had referee Carl Boyeson awarded Kevin Maher a late penalty.

**Up the Shrimpers!**  
**Rob Craven (3 September 2006)**