



SHRIMPERS TRUST

NEWSLETTER – Volume 2 Issue 20



THE INTRODUCTION – Editor Robert Craven

I would like to start this latest edition of the Shrimpers Trust Newsletter by apologising for the amount of time that has passed since the last mail-out.

I think I mentioned a few issues ago that it is easier to write about Southend United when things aren't going so well, and you can struggle to write about the Shrimpers as they embark on a long unbeaten run.

Well, I've found that conveying my thoughts in writing on the 2006/7 season is actually extremely difficult – and that doesn't mean that I think that we did well!

Since that last day at Southampton, when we enjoyed taking the lead thanks to an unbelievable left-footed half-volley from central defender Adam Barrett, only to end up crumpling to a 4-1 reverse, I have wanted to forget football altogether. Believe me, that is tough when you work for the Essex County Football Association!

It took me three weeks to muster the courage to travel to Roots Hall to renew my season ticket, not because I was having second thoughts about doing it, but because I just didn't want to have to return to the scene of so many painful memories over the past ten months.

It's easy to look back at the momentous 1-0 Carling Cup win over Manchester United, the so-called 'Match of the Century', but I will be scarred all summer by painful memories of David Healy's last-minute equaliser for Leeds United and Barnsley and the already-relegated Luton Town running amok at the Hall.

I would like to think that I have a reasonably positive outlook on Southend United, but it's difficult to be optimistic at the moment about a prospect of an immediate return to the second flight of English football.

In fact, it would probably do Steve Tilson and the squad a lot of good to have a season of rebuilding and stabilising in Coca-Cola League One. That's not me selling the side short and settling for mediocrity, but having suffered relegation for the first time in nearly a decade, I don't fancy going through it again, even from the Championship, in a couple of years' time.

I'm reminded at this point about an interview that I took part in at the first LDV Vans Trophy final against Blackpool at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium.

I had been tracked all day by a reporter from the BBC's Look East programme, and in by the gusty riverside, he asked me what it felt to have lost 2-0 to the Seaside.

I replied, 'It was just nice to be here, to enjoy the occasion, the reach a national cup final for the first time in our history. Our real final was the previous month against local rivals Colchester United.'

And I've remembered saying that for the past three years, and when I think about it, yes it was nice, but it was also painful – the early offside goal that virtually consigned us to defeat after a minute, Che Wilson being skinned consistently at left-back, Drewe Broughton's silver boots.

Now I've been left to put a brave face on 2006/7 as well. The same confusion bounds around in my brain, the good memories battling against the bad ones.

For every Manchester United there is a Hull City, for every Preston away a Luton at home. West Brom at the Hall versus Sunderland away. Birmingham away or a 2-0 defeat at Barnsley in the League? Oakwell in the Cup opposed to Coventry in the Championship.

So at the moment it's tough to assess everything. It is much easier to put it to the back of the mind, to go to the County Ground and watch some cricket (I can't say that I'm blessed by watching sporting success this year!).

But in a little while, it will be time to contemplate all that has happened, and put last season into some sort of context. And what we all set out to do at the start of the campaign was to enjoy our time in the semi-spotlight, the fourth biggest League in Europe.

Having enjoyed the journey getting there, and at least some of the performances whilst we were there, it is now time to look forward to what life back in League One will be like, alongside former greats like Nottingham Forest and Leeds United.



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Yes, as well as the likes of Yeovil Town, Bristol Rovers and Leyton Orient, there will be two-time European Cup winners Forest and Leeds, who reached the final back in the 1970s.

It will be hard to get out of the division in the positive direction, with that pair, relegated Luton and the likes of Yeovil, Swansea City and Oldham Athletic among the early favourites to go up with the bookmakers.

What will the squad look like? We know that Spencer Prior has retired and makes his move to Australia twelve months after he originally expected to do so.

Efetobore Sodje was another elder statesman of the rearguard, a colossus at times whose number was definitely up by the tail-end of the campaign. Age, it seems, has caught up with the Shrimpers rearguard.

James Lawson joins the ranks of the underachieving graduates of the Centre of Excellence, something we hope is now being corrected by the excellent work put in by Ricky Duncan and his team.

Lawson never fulfilled the potential of his first few matches in the first-team, and made no impression in the Championship. He never quite had the ability of Michael Kightly, whom it is no surprise to see now settling the world alight at Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Disappointingly, it is also the end of the road for the first two Shrimpers Trust kids, Joel Ledgister and Reiss Noel. Speaking to the Trust informally at the end of the season, Duncan said that he expected both to find alternative employment at other League clubs, and it will be interesting to follow their progress. We certainly wish them well.

David Cowley and Callum Kearns will also be on their way having signed terms as first-year professionals at Roots Hall last summer. With both it is probably a case of being taken on at slightly too high a level, and had they arrived on the scene a year later, their prospects would have been much better.

That is the hope for Franck Moussa, the Belgian Under-18 international midfielder, and Charles Ademeno, the burly centre-forward, both of whom were snapped up as pros in the closing weeks of the previous campaign.

They should get the chance to impress in League One, with Moussa in particular an excellent prospect, with Kevin Maher and Alan McCormack almost certain to spend some time out of the team suspended. He filled in well for the club captain at the end of the last term. We wait to see who else will be recruited to bolster the squad next year.

This is a period of new beginnings, and the Centre of Excellence will be welcoming new recruits to bolster a squad whose Under-18 team missed out on the South-East Conference title of the Youth Alliance on the last day of the season thanks to Queens Park Rangers' victory at Brighton & Hove Albion.

Here at the Shrimpers Trust, we bade a fond farewell to our Travel Supremo of the previous eight years, Chris Berry, at our End of Season Awards evening. In all, nearly 24,000 people travelled on 530 coaches during that period, including in excess of 100 last year, and two trains to Cardiff. Oh, and a taxi to Grimsby, but it's probably best not to mention that one!

It was a phenomenal effort, and the entire Berry family can be very proud of those achievements in that time. We wish them well in their retirement from Trust Travel duties.

There will, of course, be further announcements regarding arrangements for the Shrimpers Trust Travel in 2007/8 over the course of the summer, so look out for the next edition of the newsletter and the website at www.shrimperstrust.co.uk.

I mentioned new beginnings, and I was fortunate enough to be at Wembley on 1st June for the first international fixture at the new ground against Brazil.

The result almost summed up the entire season, with a lot of hope that England could pick up momentum ahead of a crucial European Championship qualifying match in Estonia, and John Terry heading the Three Lions in front.

But, despite threatening to create further chances, and Stewart Downing testing Helton with a vicious shot, Diego struck a killer blow in injury time with an equaliser. There was late disappointment after much hope. And where have we heard that before?

**Up The Shrimpers,
Rob**



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SHRIMPERS TRUST INTERVIEW – Ben Clarkson

Sometimes, everything just falls into place. On other occasions, unforeseen circumstances can change matters at a moment's notice. For a long time, it appeared that our long-touted interview with Shrimpers Trust member and Southend United's assistant physiotherapist would not take place at all.

At first, we had arranged a double-headed interview with Media Manager Dave Scriven (you can read our interview with him on our website www.shrimperstrust.co.uk), but an injury to Adam Barrett meant that Ben was called away on the afternoon to take the Belfairs-raised centre-half to a specialist in London.

Then, some weeks later, we agreed on another date, this time immediately after an Under-18s fixture at Boots & Laces. It transpired that this match would clash with me obtaining a rather nasty bug and being left in bed all day, unable to make the appointment. So, at the third time of asking, we set up the interview for the aftermath of the Reserve team clash against Milton Keynes Dons.

Both Paul Yeomanson and I winced each time one of the young Southend United second-string side went to ground and Ben was signalled to enter the field, not just because of the consequences of the injury picked up, but as it may also scupper our best-laid plans as well.

There was no need to worry, and we took up our position in the home dugout soon after four o'clock. It is a familiar place for Ben to be situated and, as with all kinds of circumstances, it seems that timing is everything.

"I used to help out over at the Centre of Excellence a few years ago, and when I came back from University, there just happened to be a position available," Ben reveals. "I applied for it, and I was lucky enough to get it – I certainly didn't think that it would all happen that quickly."

If the role of physiotherapist at Southend United was not his dream job, then Ben does admit that it ranked rather highly: *"It was always something that I was interested in, I suppose. I wanted to get into sports journalism or physiotherapy, and that built up gradually. I had a work placement here, and I really enjoyed that. Steve Tilson was the Head of the Centre of Excellence at that time and he really encouraged me."*

Given that his line of work was always an ambition, and Ben is a lifelong fan of Southend United, would he consider a move to the likes of Arsenal or Chelsea in a similar position? *"I think that I am the same as anyone else – I would a job in the Premiership, or even England, but I would prefer to achieve this whilst still at Southend United. That said, I do want to go as far as I can."*

At the moment, Ben is just starting out on that long road, and soaking up the experience of working for the club that he supports. *"It is strange to be on the inside. There are things that you don't understand as a fan that you see behind the scenes."* And the feelings on his first couple of days? *"It was fantastic just to be able to sit in the dugout. I was nervous, and just in awe of the players – they were my heroes. It took a few months for me to get settled in, and it was surreal to be sitting in the dugout at matches instead of being up in the stands."*

Head Physiotherapist John Stannard, a beneficiary of Shrimpers Trust funds through our Quid-a-Goal scheme, has involved Ben from the very beginning, and he has picked up valuable experience throughout. *"I've been in the dugout for all the home games and away ones at places like Norwich City and Tottenham Hotspur. I help John out with the rubs and stretches before the match. During the games, I sit on the bench with him and he relays information to me and vice-versa. We work together."*

Indeed, Ben's role is not so much assistant and co-physiotherapist with Stannard: *"I work closely with John on home matchdays, and we both treat both sets of players [the first- and youth teams]. I've covered three matches this season, but haven't managed to get on the pitch yet!"*

Is that something that he would have relished or dreaded, I asked. *"You don't really want to get on, and I was really nervous before those first team games,"* he replies. *"But it was the same before my first Reserve and Youth team matches. I reckon the biggest one I've covered was Ipswich Town reserves in front of a few thousand people."*



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“John has been in football for years and he’s been at a fair few clubs, so everything that he knows is football-related, and that has been a fantastic aid. He’s willing to help me, and that’s good as I need direction on certain matters. Hopefully I will continue to learn more and more over time. I’m probably the youngest physio working in the Football League – there wouldn’t be anyone who has got to where I am any quicker.”

And that meteoric rise means that Ben missed out on the Shrimpers’ Coca-Cola Championship season from a supporters’ perspective. *“I had renewed my season ticket for this season,”* he states. *“I missed the start of some matches when I was working with the youth team, but I have been at most fixtures. I was really looking forward to watching this season, particularly places like Sunderland and Leeds United.”*

“Those two League matches I had to stay behind with injured first team players, and on a couple of other occasions I have had to miss games through training. When you are working, you are a member of staff, and as a result, I have only been to a few away matches as a fan.”

If you were sitting down reading this thinking that you would trade all those sacrifices in to have been sitting in the dugout during that Carling Cup success over Manchester United, then think again. *“Probably the worst moment of the season was when Freddy Eastwood scored that goal against Man U,”* Ben says. *“I had just taken Lewis Hunt away down the tunnel when Freddy curled the free-kick in and all I heard was the roar of the crowd.”*

How do those facilities, both at Roots Hall and at Boots & Laces, compare with other clubs? *“I think that compared to how things were three years ago when I was helping out here, it is fantastic, but obviously when you compare them to some of the other Championship clubs, there are a bit basic. There are always little bits and pieces that you can pick up, but for this size of club, things are not bad at all. It is all relative.”*

Are the players easy to work with? *“There do get on with it – it is better than working in hospitals. I had to do a year’s worth of voluntary work as part of my University course, covering all the key areas, and the players certainly want to get back to fitness; they have a target. Stefan Gaisie in the youth team was the hardest to pick up – he was out for seven months and at times was really low.”*

“There have been a ridiculous number of breaks and fractures this season,” Ben continues. *“John tells me that normally there are only one or two, but we have had five or six this year. The ‘biggest’ injury that we have had to deal with is still Stef, but Joel Ledgister’s brother broke his leg in his first game.”*

After a tough first ten months in the job, Ben is not even guaranteed to have a quiet summer. *“We are meant to have a certain amount of holiday to take, but I can’t book anything up in case someone gets injured. I’m available 24 hours during a standard week, and during the season we get Thursdays off as that is the day that the youth team go to college. There are double sessions every other day and the hours are fairly long – compared to the players it is a longer working week!”*

But don’t think that Ben is complaining. All through the interview, he retains a cheery disposition, the spirit of a young man who is enjoying his employment. *“It can be a bit stressful, and the club is never off of your mind. I used to build up my week to football – now I just don’t have time to steam off or calm down!”*

“But my best moment has to be just getting the job, being able to work for my club. Being in the dressing room after the Manchester United game was surreal, as was being in the tunnel, with the likes of Rooney and Ronaldo walking past you, and Sir Alex Ferguson exchanging pleasantries. These are people you just see on the TV!”

“Of course, getting relegated is disappointing, not just as it affects my job but as a fan, but all the players are now focussed on getting in a good break and forgetting the disappointment. Just to have been in the fourth biggest League in Europe, it was unbelievable for a club of our size to compete, and the quality of players means we should be quite good next year.” We will all wait and see.



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THE SHRIMPERS TRUST KIDS

Blues' Youths Results

Thurs 12 Apr | Puma Youth Alliance League | Colchester United (h) | W1-0 | Lokando

Sat 14 Apr | Puma Youth Alliance League | Portsmouth (h) | W2-0 | Hopkins 2

Southend United's Under-18 side were unfortunate to miss out on the PUMA Football League Youth Alliance South-East Conference title after winning eleven of their thirteen matches in 2007. Indeed, Blues have lost just once since the turn of the year, a 3-0 defeat against third-placed Gillingham, and the only draw was 2-2 against Queens Park Rangers, the eventual champions thanks to their final-day victory at Brighton & Hove Albion.

The 2006/7 campaign was a bright spot again for the youthful Shrimpers under the stewardship of Ricky Duncan, who has overseen the development of Franck Moussa and Charles Ademeno, both of whom were offered professional contracts as the season drew to a close, and appear to the future of the club.

Judging from the rapid progress of some of the youngsters involved in the side at the end of this term, the Blues' Youths conveyor belt is starting to move into full swing. One such player, Peggy Lokando, netted the only goal of the game as Southend defeated local rivals Colchester United in the penultimate fixture of the season, rearranged to take place at Boots & Laces.

Lokando's strike arrived just three minutes before half-time in the Essex derby as he jinxed around the challenges of three Colchester defenders to drive the ball into the corner of the net. James Lindie, Lokando's strike partner, had further chances to extend the lead, but could not convert, and the hosts were fortunate as the U's rattled the woodwork on three separate occasions.

As well as the introduction of 14-year-old Julian Okai in the final fixture of the season, a 2-0 win over Portsmouth, a number of youngsters continued to catch the eye. Both full-backs, Johnny Herd – he of the extraordinary long throw – and Dan Harvey, were competing in their third match inside five days, a remarkable achievement at their age, and coped admirably, whilst young central midfield pairing Luke Thurlbourne and Richard Priest suggested that Moussa has left a fine legacy in the middle of the park.

Both goals came from central defender Tom Hopkins, the first when he touched Herd's throw into the net in the opening half and the second as he thrashed home after the break. The Shrimpers Trust hope to catch up with Ricky Duncan over the summer to review the season, and look forward to the youngster's pre-season tour of Denmark, which is being partly funded by the Trust's donation of £1,500.

The Trust have shown their long-term commitment to the Centre of Excellence at Southend United, and hope that by aiding the club's participation in Denmark, more youngsters of the ilk of Moussa and Ademeno can be unearthed. Duncan, speaking to the club's official website, www.southendunited.co.uk, said, "I'd like to thank the Shrimpers Trust for their support. I want the supporters to feel a part of what we are trying to do here and continue to build links between the two."

Meanwhile, the club's Under-15 and Under-14 sides have recently been on tour in Denmark playing in the prestigious Norhalne Cup, finishing in the third and fourth places respectively. The Under-15s were placed in a five-club group, requiring a top two finish to reach the semi-finals, an achievement they completed with relative ease, topping the table after two wins and two draws. Kyle Asante and a Femi Orenuga penalty ensured a 2-1 win over Boo FF of Sweden in the opener, despite Shane Stamp's red card, and Asante crossed for Max Kent to score the only goal of the game against Halmstads of the same country. Further Swedish opposition in the form of Husie claimed a 1-1 draw, Asante levelling, and the final match ended 0-0 against AGF of Denmark. AIK Stockholm scored a late goal in the semi to knock Blues out, though Justin Hazell and Asante again ensured a 2-1 win over AAB of Denmark for the Shrimpers to finish third.

The Under-14s beat AAB 2-0, Ryan Auger and Okai scoring, before Auger and Connor Ward helped United win 2-1 against Brommadojfama of Sweden. Malmo won 1-0 in the final game, and Southend lost their semi 2-1 despite Okai's goal against FHK Liepajas. The 3rd/4th place game was lost 1-0 versus Malmo.



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THE TRUST – What We've Done

Shrimpers Trust Back Brush

As well as helping to fund Southend United's youth team pre-season tour of Denmark, the Shrimpers Trust have also committed £1000 to the Shrimpers' assistant manager Paul Brush to aid his participation in obtaining a UEFA Pro License.

The course will start in June and last for around twelve months, and throughout that time Paul will keep us updated on what topics are discussed and what work has to be completed on the course. Paul has also agreed to attend a Question & Answer session with Shrimpers Trust members at the start of the 2007/8 season – keep your eyes peeled in the usual outlets for more details of this.

Liaison Meeting Minutes (April 2007)

Earlier recommendations regarding away travel by the Shrimpers Trust saw Geoffrey King reveal that he would be speaking to club chairman Ron Martin about the possibility of setting up an Away Travel Club, or introducing an away season ticket. Further announcements are expected over the next few months.

Southend United were also alerted to some individuals continuing to smoke in the South Stand, a matter that would be taken up by Geoffrey King with Stadium Manager Dave Jobson, who would also be consulted about the ticker-tape reception instigated by some supporters in the South Upper being met by over-zealous stewarding. He would also talk to the Club Shop staff about introducing a 'summer scarf'.

King stated that whilst the club were disappointed that the Government had decided to call in the proposals for a new ground at Fossetts Farm, discussions would still be taking place in the background. He said that there is likely to be a delay of a year if the plans do eventually get given the go-ahead.

Full Minutes of the Trust's Liaison Meetings with Southend United are available to download from the Shrimpers Trust website, www.shrimperstrust.co.uk. The archive goes right back to the very start, over five years ago, and includes meetings right up to April 2007

Quiz Night (14 April 2007)

Another fantastic evening was enjoyed by all, with Quizmaster Guy Rickard and brother Nigel taking care of the scoring duties. The Shrimpers Trust would like to thank the pair once again for their continued hosting of these events at the Shrimpers Bar, where another large sum was raised by the large gathering. We hope to be able to announce a date for the first Quiz Night of 2007/8 sometime during October.

Roots Hall Football Programme Directory Annual Memorabilia Fair (29 April 2007)

Paul Yeomanson, Paul FitzGerald and Phil Alsford attended the FPD Annual Memorabilia Fair which takes place every year in the Shrimpers Bar at Roots Hall. The trio looked over the Shrimpers Trust Stand, and were able to raise £105.50 through sales of Trust merchandise.

Curry Night (1 May 2007)

Our new Curry Night home of The Maharajah, at the bottom of Bread & Cheese Hill on the London Road in Benfleet hosted the final Curry Night of the 2006/7 season. A number of Trust committee members were present, as was Southend United F.C.'s Chief Executive Geoffrey King, and we thank all for their attendance and support for the event.

Shrimpers Trust Player Of The Year Awards Evening (9 May 2007)

Our annual End of Season Review evening, incorporating the prestigious Shrimpers Trust Player of the Year Award, took place on Wednesday 9 May 2007 in the Shrimpers Bar at Roots Hall. Kevin Feasey once again put together an excellent highlights package, which notably took in action the early season wins over Stoke City and Sunderland, the 1-0 Carling Cup victory over Manchester United, the twin trips to White Hart Lane to take on Tottenham Hotspur and the 5-0 win against Queens Park Rangers.

The eight top travellers of 2006/7 were also presented with mementos of their achievements. The seven adults, who travelled an incredible 8976 miles throughout the campaign, were Tom Berry, Terry Boulter,



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Clare Brooks, David Ford, Lee Tanner, Hazel Wayland and Peter Wayland. Ben Berry was the top junior traveller, completing 8825 miles.

There followed testaments to Chris Berry and his family, who have organised Shrimpers Trust travel for the past eight seasons, and have now retired from those duties as of the end of the 2006/7 campaign. Trust chairman Trevor Bashford presented Chris with a framed signed Southend United shirt, which also included the programmes for his first match, against Oxford United, and last, at Southampton, as Travel Supremo. Trevor, as well as Police Liaison Officer Dickie Spooner, Kim Bridge of SBC Leisure and Brian Wheeler of SUFC, then said a few words about Chris' time with the Trust. Chris' wife, Rosemary, was presented with a signed picture of Darryl Flahavan by the Shrimpers' shotstopper, and Brian Wheeler also gave the pair season tickets for the 2007/8 season as token of the club's appreciation.

The first award of the season was for the Southend Junior Shrimpers' Player of the Season, and was picked up by Flahavan for his goalkeeping heroics throughout the campaign. Despite the amount of goals conceded during 2007/8, Blues would have been cut adrift long before the end of the term had it not been for the former Southampton trainee. The Goal of the Season award was won by Alan McCormack for his unbelievable strike at his former club Preston North End, a dipping 20-yard volley that brought the scores level as the match approached stoppage time. That set up another fine strike, Kevin Maher's winner, just minutes later and gave Southend a genuine chance of survival. Adam Barrett's volley at Southampton was given a commendable mention, given that it was scored after voting had closed.

The evening finished with Steve Tilson and Paul Brush saying a few words to the gathered membership, and assuring all that the squad would bounce back in 2007/8. That was only after the main event, the 1-2-3 in the Shrimpers Trust Player of the Season awards. In third was midfielder Mark Gower, who reached double figures in terms of goals scored and performed well right across the midfield, including a stint in the centre of the park. Second placed was earned by Darryl Flahavan, which left just the winner to be announced to the backdrop of a short clip of his displays last season.

The winner was, of course, club captain Kevin Maher, who led the side excellently throughout the campaign, and also scored important goals against Barnsley, Queens Park Rangers and Preston North End, the final two being braces. He proved himself a leader of the side, as he had in his previous two seasons, and turned the boo-boys onto his side.

****AVAILABLE FOR PRE ORDERING NOW****: A Century United – The Centenary History of SUFC



In August "**A Century United – The Centenary History of Southend United**" will be published, fully endorsed by Southend United Football Club - and you can have your name printed in it !!

By becoming an advanced subscriber, your name will be printed in the book that details the rise of Southend United, from their humble beginnings in 1906, right through to the present day.

This unique book is an A4 hardback with nearly 300 pages, containing over 500 photos, the majority never having been used in any Southend United book before - content also includes special chapters on the Managers, Grounds, Southend Invicta and Programmes.

To become an advanced subscriber, ensuring your name is included in the official centenary history book, just complete and return the enclosed flyer and send with your remittance to the address shown, or alternatively you can pre order using the Trust Website www.shrimperstrust.co.uk.

Please note that the deadline for Pre Orders has been extended to 8th June.

****AVAILABLE NOW****: The Team We Call United DVD

The Shrimpers Trust made 'The Team We Call United' DVD available last December, and copies have been selling well. However, there are still some DVDs to be bought, and if you would like a copy of the recording, which was made by the Bushell brothers in the late 1960s, please visit our website, www.shrimperstrust.co.uk or come to the Shrimpers Trust Stand in the Shrimpers Bar on a matchday next season. Alternatively complete and return the Order Form on the back page of this Newsletter.



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100 Club

There have been a number of winners in the weekly 100 Club draw since the last Newsletter, and they are as follows: Terry Jeffreys, Dave Barlow, Graham Hilder, Chris Karkoski, Rich Napper, F. Mclean-Brown, Darren Posnack and Chris Harris. Each have pocketed over £35, but we need more members to keep the prize money as high as possible. Of course, if we reached 100 members, then the prize would be £50 a week, and remember, at Christmas, the winnings are multiplied ten-fold.

To register your interest, you can still contact Alan Perry throughout the summer on alanperry4@hotmail.com or by calling 01702 476 458 and put yourself in with a chance of winning the weekly prize. Remember, the more people that sign up to the scheme, then the higher the prize.

Quid-a-Goal

The 2006/7 season saw our Quid-a-Goal money solely directed towards Ricky Duncan and the Centre of Excellence at Southend United, and we are delighted to announce that through the pledges of over 150 people, a total of £3266.30 has been reached. Thank-you to everyone who has committed money to this scheme, and you can follow the progress of that money in this newsletter and on the Trust website, www.shrimperstrust.co.uk.

Please get in touch with Alan Perry via the usual methods (01702 476 458 or alanperry4@hotmail.com) or download a form from our website to make a pledge for the 2007/8 Quid-a-Goal campaign, of which further details will be available during the summer.

Life Membership (total: 132)

David Clark, Steven Hurren, Jennifer Sherstone and Graham Wallis are the latest individuals to become Life Members of the Shrimpers Trust. If you are interested in becoming a Life Member, please contact Paul Yeomanson at info@shrimperstrust.co.uk or by meeting him at the stand in the Shrimpers Bar on any home matchday during next season.

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

Paul Bassett, David Cardy, Ian Churchyard, Lynn Cufley, Paul Harvey, Linda Kidd, Bernard Payne, Jeremy Robinson, Aubrey Shinn, Katherine Anne Stead, Vi Thorne, David Westaway and Ian Wilkins.

THE MATCHES – Blues In Review

sat 14 apr: barnsley (h) 11-3 (championship)

This is where the wheels fell off. The omens were all there for a successful day – five days earlier Preston North End had been dramatically defeated 3-2 at Deepdale, the Under-18 side had moved to the top of their table in their last game with a 2-0 win over Portsmouth, and Barnsley had been the venue for Blues' *Ring Of Fire*-inspired F.A. Cup victory in January. So where did it all go wrong?

The first ten minutes had actually seen Blues start brightly, but the Tykes took the lead a quarter-of-an-hour into the match when Daniel Nardiello picked his spot and curled the ball past Darryl Flahavan. And if that was not enough, Southend were stunned when Flahavan, so many times the club's hero during 2006/7, misjudged Kyel Reid's corner and allowed it to sail over his head and into the top corner of the net.

The second goal, and the manner in which it came, quashed the fans' hopes. This was a must-win match against a club within reach of the Shrimpers with a win. And Blues were 2-0 down after half-an-hour. Nardiello made matters even worse six minutes after half-time as he added a third from a corner, and although Southend suddenly sprung to life, Mark Gower scoring off of the post at the third time of asking, it was a familiar tale of too little, too late.

sat 21 apr: plymouth argyle (a) 11-2 (championship)

Blues went down at Plymouth after veteran front man Barry Hayles hammered another nail in the Shrimpers coffin with a last-minute winner at Home Park. It was another story of United contending for long periods, most noticeably in the first half after Peter Clarke had nodded an equaliser from Steve Hammell's cross.



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Clarke had slipped up to allow Peter Halmosi to cross for the impressive Sylvain Ebanks-Blake to give the Pilgrims the lead with a simple finish from close range. Lee Bradbury diverted just wide and Freddy Eastwood and Simon Francis both tested Luke McCormick either side of Clarke's leveller, but as the half drew to a close, Flahavan became overworked with a string of oh-so-familiar saves.

And after the break the visitors lost their urgency, allowing the former Southampton shotstopper to continue to court the spotlight. However, there was nothing he could do in the closing stages as Hayles latched onto a fine through ball and touch the ball into the net.

sat 28 apr: luton town (h) 11-3 (championship)

Luton Town were already down by the time they arrived at Roots Hall, and though this game mattered only in terms of players' contracts to the Hatters, as well as the much vaunted 'personal pride', they still inflicted a disastrous defeat on the Shrimpers, ensuring that there truly was no way back for Blues in 2006/7. As it happened, Hull City did enough in their fixture against Cardiff City to condemn Southend United to relegation, but the manner of defeat against Luton rendered that fact useless.

Blues were behind on 21 minutes when Calvin Andrews had plenty of time to beat Darryl Flahavan, and although Richie Foran should have scored from Steven Hammell's cross, the moment that United were finally sunk could be pinned down to Matthew Spring's fantastic dipping volley. It brought a standing ovation from some in the South Stand located directly behind the strike.

Lee Bradbury scored a consolation as once again Southend woke up once they had fallen two goals behind, but Besian Idrizaj gave Luton further cheer with a late third. It was goodbye to the Coca-Cola Championship, and the only consolation was that everyone could enjoy the final day of the season at Southampton...

sun 06 may: southampton (a) 11-4 (championship)

...and enjoy it everyone did! It seems strange to write that after another crushing defeat, but May 6th was all about celebration. That started with a rousing minute's applause for former Southampton and England midfielder Alan Ball, who had sadly passed away a week-and-a-half earlier, and continued in the summer sunshine as Adam Barrett hit a fine half-volley into the corner of the net to give the visitors the lead.

Sadly, that was where the excitement on the pitch finished. Saints needed the points to make sure that they made the play-offs, and Kenwyne Jones levelled on the half-hour mark. Jones and Leon Best were now a constant threat, and a mixture of their own profligacy and Darryl Flahavan's heroics saw Blues go in level at half-time.

It took just three minutes for Southampton to take the lead, Best tapping in after Peter Clarke's desperate attempted clearance fell into his path. But as the match entered the last 20 minutes, the 3,200-strong travelling army roared on their troops. In matches gone by, it would have inspired them, but this was Southampton's day, and as the Blue Army cheered and joined Saints supporters in song, Best and Jones completed braces.

Both teams were applauded off of the pitch, and both sets of supporters spent a further 45 minutes clapping each other through mutual respect and with good wishes for the play-offs and for the following season. It was, at least, a happy way to end 2006/7.

Up the Shrimpers!

Rob Craven (3 June 2007)



SHRIMPERS TRUST

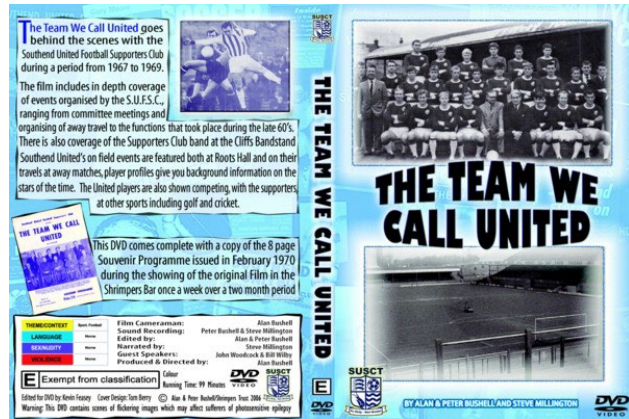
NEWSLETTER – Volume 2 Issue 20

The Team We Call United



The Shrimpers Trust in conjunction with Alan & Peter Bushell are pleased to announce that the long lost film, *The Team We Call United*, made in the late 60's by members of the Southend United Football Supporters Club is now available on DVD.

The Team We Call United goes behind the scenes at Southend United during a period from 1967 to 1969, and includes Player and Manager Profiles, Training at Roots Hall and Priory Park, Home and Away Match Footage, along with players social events including Cricket at Priory Park and Golf at the Thorpe Hall Golf Club.



The DVD also includes in depth coverage of events organised by the S.U.F.S.C. including Away Travel, Open Days & Social Functions, along with footage filmed in the Old Supporters Club Shop on the London Road, and the The Southend Supporters Club in Windermere Road. There is also footage of the Supporters Club Band playing at the Cliffs Bandstand.

With a section on the history of Southend United including it's formation at the Blue Boar and footage of some of the grounds SUFC have played at including The Kursaal, Grainger Road and Roots Hall this DVD is a must for any Southend United Supporter.



Priced at only **£10.00** plus postage & packing the DVD runs for 99 minutes and comes with a copy of the 8 page Souvenir Programme issued in February 1970 during the showing of the original film in the Shrimpers Bar at Roots Hall.

The *The Team We Call United* DVD is **Region Free** and can be ordered by completing the order form below, alternatively the DVD can be purchased via the Trust Website, www.shrimperstrust.co.uk using our PayPal facility or from the Trust Info Stand in the Shrimpers Bar prior to any home game.

For overseas postage costs please email info@shrimperstrust.co.uk advising name & destination we will then issue a PayPal invoice for the correct amount payable.

To order your copy complete the Order Form below and return with your payment either to the Trust Info Stand in the Shrimpers Bar or by post to *Paul Yeomanson, Shrimpers Trust, PO Box 5830, Southend on Sea, SS1 9FD. Cheques/Postal Orders Payable to SUSCT.*

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Name: Tel No.

Address:

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I wish to order copies at **£10.00** each plus **£2.50** postage and packing (if required) of *The Team We Call United* and enclose my Payment of £

Signature: