



# SHRIMPERS TRUST

## NEWSLETTER – Volume 2 Issue 23



### THE INTRODUCTION – Editor Robert Craven

**There's just something about a stoppage time goal, whether it is a late leveller or a last-gasp winner.**

It signifies a spirit within a club, a never-say-die attitude; a willingness to succeed. It is an emphatic end to a match, a full stop on a fixture. It's the last word on a game, and usually the first one you read as well when you pick up the next day's newspapers.

And then there's the emotion that surrounds it. Somehow it is inconsequential how bad the preceding 90-plus minutes have been: when that ball hits the back of the net, you are lifted to another level inside.

You don't know what you should do – do you shout to the rooftops, punch the air with elation or plant a smacker on the person standing next to you? Normally, if at all possible, you will end up running around the place like a lunatic.

No matter what your club, what it's level or where you are in the League, every football fan feels the same when you grab a last-minute goal.

Over the past few years, as Southend United supporters, we've enjoyed a fair few special moments in the dying stages of games. Personally, I look no further than Tesfaye Bramble and Leon Cort earning the Club's first away F.A. Cup replay victory for over 70 years at Victoria Park in 2002/3.

Blues had trailed 1-0 going into the last couple of minutes, but Bramble hit a low 20-yard shot into the bottom left-hand corner of Hartlepool United's goal as we looked on, and before we had recovered our places in the stand, we were heading down the front again to engulf Cort after the big defender had nodded into the net from close range.

Lo and behold, the Shrimpers pulled off the feat again twelve months later in travelling to Park Lane, home of non-League Canvey Island, and Jay Smith's last-ditch effort from the edge of the penalty area to seal a comeback 3-2 win was equally as ecstatic.

But perhaps the greatest of them all came in a League fixture just a few weeks later at Swansea City's old Vetch Field ground. Going into the last

minute, Southend had seen three players dismissed with Paul Brush also sent to the stands, but Mark Warren still popped up to poke into the Swans goal, with the Shrimpers having just eight men on the field. True, there was time in this case for Swansea to grab a consolation, but it was still the goal that made the game safe, and it had the same feeling.

And so we can now add to this great pantheon of impressive strikes Leon Clarke's leveller at Bristol Rovers recently.

The Sheffield Wednesday loanee had netted in each of his first four matches for his new team, itself a club record for a debutant.

Each of those matches, all in Coca-Cola League One, had resulted in Southend winning, propelling United to third place in the fledgling League table.

However, both runs were set to come to a end in what should be the Seasiders' last visit to the Memorial Stadium in it's current guise. A 12th-minute Richard Walker penalty kick had handed the hosts the initiative in increasingly treacherous conditions, and although Blues had fought back well in the second half, it looked as though it would be a case of too little too late.

Clarke, though, had other ideas. His eyes locked on a loose ball bouncing around in the Pirates' penalty area, and he stabbed it into the bottom right-hand corner of Steve Phillips, as though thrusting a dagger through the collective hearts of Bristolian hearts, condemning them to yet another home game without a win. Let's not forget they had thrown away a 2-0 lead to lose 3-2 to Leyton Orient just three days earlier.

And what was better was that the strike was in the fifth minute of injury time. Like every last-minute goal, there was no way back.

**While the on-field situation appears to be in good order**, it is imperative that the Club also receive the best possible support off it as well.

The Planning Inquiry into the proposed new stadium at Fossetts Farm is continuing apace as I write these notes, and whilst it would appear that there is no substantial opposition to the plans, that does not mean to say that we, as supporters



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of Southend United Football Club, should be getting complacent.

It is imperative that we continue to voice our support for the stadium, for the future of the Club and for the development of the town of Southend and south-east Essex as a whole.

At the risk of sounding like Club Chairman Ron Martin, this really is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for fans to make a real difference to the experience of watching Southend United.

Over the past 20 years, SUFC have constantly been seeking to relocate away from Roots Hall, but this is the closest that we have come to obtaining the move.

The Shrimpers Trust have shown their support and stood steadfastly behind Southend United Football Club in their submissions. Our Vice-Chairman, Paul FitzGerald, even lodged an impassioned plea with the Inspectorate during the first week of proceedings.

But we all have an individual responsibility not to let the initiative slip. Please try to keep the mood around the town positive about the Club at this time, and if you need any assistance, just think back to how well we have represented the area during three trips to Cardiff and it's magnificent Millennium Stadium.

From our perspective, it appears that things have gone reasonably well so far. But in footballing parlance, we don't want to be conceding any late equalisers at this stage.

**Fossetts Farm may represent the future of the Club in terms** of its off-field development and potential, but on it that lies with Ricky Duncan and his Centre of Excellence.

You can follow it's progress every week by clicking on our website [www.shrimperstrust.co.uk](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk) and following the links to the 'Youth Department', which contains regular reports.

You should also, by now, be aware of the Tom Grace Memorial Shield, an award for the Youth Team Player of the Year to be presented at our End of Season Review Evening.

This award will be constituted of eight monthly winners, the first of which will be unveiled on the pitch at Roots Hall at some stage of the League One match against Tranmere Rovers.

Be sure to give the first nominee an extra special roar when he is given his monthly prize, as he will form part of the future of Southend United Football Club.

And then in the days that follow, make sure that you visit our website and keep your eyes on the local media as we get the views of Ricky Duncan and the player himself on his progress in the Club's Under-18 side.

**You will notice, whether you received this Newsletter by** post or email, that it is accompanied by the notice of our Annual General Meeting.

Now I understand that many people do not find AGMs particularly exciting occasions, but we hope that the post-formal business Question & Answer session will be something that attracts you to the event.

We are extremely pleased to announce that Paul Brush, assistant to Steve Tilson during the Club's most successful period, reaching two national finals in the LDV Vans Trophy and securing successive promotions to the Coca-Cola Championship, will be in attendance.

Brush is still the man by Tilly's side as the pair look to plot their way into the second tier of English football for a second time, and this is your chance to quiz him on how they have achieved the magnificent feats of the past four years.

It is also an opportunity to ask him about his bid to earn his Pro-License, which has been partly funded by the Shrimpers Trust, and the expertise that the ongoing course has given him.

And alongside Brushy on the evening will be Blues' newly installed Reserve Team Coach and former scout Dean Austin.

Austin was at the Club during the original glory days of the late 80s and early 90s, and also represented Tottenham Hotspur at the highest level of the English game.

This is your chance to quiz the pair – please come along, all Trust members are welcome.

**Up The Shrimpers,**

**Rob**



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### THE SHRIMPERS TRUST KIDS

#### Blues' Youths Under-18s Results

Sat 08 Sept | Football League Youth Alliance | Gillingham (a) | L1-4 | Priest

Match Report: [http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/default.asp?page\\_id=356](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/default.asp?page_id=356)

Sat 15 Sept | Youth Alliance Cup | Leyton Orient (a) | L1-2 | Henry (pen)

Match Report: [http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/default.asp?page\\_id=357](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/default.asp?page_id=357)

Sat 22 Sept | Youth Alliance Cup | Gillingham (h) | D0-0

Match Report: [http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/default.asp?page\\_id=365](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/default.asp?page_id=365)

Sat 29 Sept | Youth Alliance Cup | Colchester United (a) | D2-2 | Morris, Lindie

Match Report: [http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/default.asp?page\\_id=394](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/default.asp?page_id=394)

**With a difficult start to the season negotiated, Southend United's Under-18s side have started to slowly build a base for the rest of the campaign.**

Everyone, inside and outside of the club, will have been shocked by the opening to the term, with thumping losses accrued, and the last of those arrived at the start of September when Blues' Youths travelled to Gillingham.

Despite the hosts hitting the woodwork in the opening exchanges, United took the lead thanks to Richard Priest's second goal of the season, a glancing header from a Dan Harvey cross. Unfortunately the Gills flew into action thereafter and by the half-hour mark had taken a 2-1 lead.

At half-time Ricky Duncan introduced new Swedish signing Frederik Ljungström, and both he and fellow strike partner Rhys Henry forced Chris Kiely, son of former Charlton Athletic goalkeeper Dean, into magnificent fingertip saves as the Shrimpers laid siege on the hosts' goal. Sadly, in the closing stages, the Kent club raced down the other end, and a lob and clinical finish both beat Nathan McDonald to make the scoreline look decidedly one-sided.

A week later, Southend opened their Football League Youth Alliance Cup Group 2 campaign with a narrow 2-1 defeat to Leyton Orient in east London as yet another late goal against the run of play cost the youngsters dear.

Luke Thurlbourne hit the post early in the second half as all of the available second-year scholars played on a difficult surface, but shortly afterwards an Orient forward poked home a rebound to give the homesters the lead. United hit back when Tashan Adeyinka was held back and Henry converted the penalty kick, thought his was wiped out just three minutes from the end when hesitant defending allowed the O's to snatch a winner.

A 0-0 draw at home to Gillingham appears to have initiated a resurrection, although on the day, the most that there was to report was the return of striker James Lindie, who went closest with a low effort beaten away by Kiely at his near post, and the debut of Ade Osifuwa, a former Arsenal trainee, at centre-back.

An entertaining 2-2 draw at Colchester United concluded the month, with Blues twice fighting back from a goal down. Josh Oakley gave the U's the lead, the second time contentiously from the penalty spot, but first Jack Morris slammed in and then James Lindie poked past the otherwise immaculate Jack Smelt to earn a share of the spoils.

Once again the Shrimpers Trust would like to place on record it's thanks to Mark O'Keefe for additional match information supplied over the past month.

*\*\*Remember, the Shrimpers Trust have sponsored the Centre of Excellence to the tune of £10,000 over the next two years. We could not do this without our members' support, and the Quid-a-Goal scheme has already raised in excess of £5,000 over the past two seasons to allow us to help Ricky Duncan. To check on the progress of the Under-18 side and for further content, including interviews and full reports on all of the above matches, click onto [www.shrimperstrust.co.uk](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk)\*\**



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### THE TRUST – What We've Done

#### Fossetts Farm – Planning Inquiry

The Shrimpers Trust have been heavily involved in supporting Southend United's proposals for a new stadium at Fossetts Farm, and you can read all about the process on our website, [www.shrimperstrust.co.uk](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk).

Trust Vice-Chairman Paul FitzGerald made a presentation on behalf of the organisation during the first week of proceedings, and you can read his notes, including annotations of the Inspectorate's questioning, on the website.

And whilst visiting our designated 'Fossetts Farm' page, you can also read the transcript of Trust member Gary Peck's Proof of Evidence, submitted by the Trust to aid the Club's proposals before the Inquiry even got underway.

The Trust would like to thank both Paul and Gary for their efforts during the past few months, and also the Trust members who joined us as we viewed the start of proceedings on Tuesday 25th September after a march en masse from Roots Hall to the Civic Centre in Southend.

Meanwhile, you can, of course, find out more about how you can help the club, not just by visiting our website, [www.shrimperstrust.co.uk](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk), but also by clicking onto [www.southendunited.co.uk](http://www.southendunited.co.uk), the Club's official website.

#### Liaison Meeting (19 September 2007)

In the main business of a short meeting, Garry Adamson from SUFC has revealed that the Club are constantly monitoring the online ticketing system due to issues raised by supporters. They have been told that modifications may take up to 12 months to be implemented, but Garry will continue to pursue the supplier.

Paul FitzGerald on the Trust side stated that we would shortly be implementing a Code of Conduct that all committee members would be required to sign.

Matters that are currently under consideration before future meetings include an amalgamation of Southend United's Junior Blues and the Trust's Southend Junior Shrimpers sections to allow youngsters the benefits of both initiatives and the placing of a Shrimpers Trust membership form in a forthcoming issue of *Blues News*.

*\*\*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). The archive goes right back to the very start, in September 2002, and includes meetings right up to September 2007\*\**

#### Shrimpers Trust Events List

##### Quiz Night

Venue: The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall | Date: Saturday 13 October 2007 | Time: 7:30 p.m. for an 8:00 p.m. start | Admission: £8 adults, £5 concessions (includes fish-and-chip supper) | Contact: Alan Perry on 01702 476 458 or at [alanperry4@hotmail.com](mailto:alanperry4@hotmail.com)

Teams consist of eight people each, but individuals or smaller groups can be accommodated if contact is made in advance. A choice of suppers from The Fish House are available, including fish, sausage, chicken, chicken nuggets or vegetarian options – please place your order with Alan as soon as possible as places are running out quick for this event There will also be a fundraising raffle.

##### **\*\*STAR EVENT\*\* Shrimpers Trust Annual General Meeting**

Venue: The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall | Date: Thursday 18 October 2007 | Time: 7:30 p.m. for an 8:00 p.m. start | Admission: Shrimpers Trust members only

The AGM of the Shrimpers Trust this year takes place on Thursday 18 October 2007. You can come along to the formal part of the meeting – remember, as Shrimpers Trust members, this is your opportunity to give



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us face-to-face feedback on what we are doing. Please see the formal notice of the Annual General Meeting attached to this Newsletter.

After the formal part of the evening, we will be hosting a Question & Answer session with Paul Brush and Dean Austin. This is your opportunity to quiz Southend United's assistant manager and reserve team coach, so if you have any tactical questions to ask, any queries on their playing careers or want to know how Paul's Pro-Licence Coaching award is going, then this is your chance.

### Race Night

Venue: The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall | Date: Saturday 17 November 2007 | Time: 7:30 p.m. | Admission: £3 (this event is by ticket only) | Contact: Paul Yeomanson at the Shrimpers Trust Stand or via PayPal via the website at [www.shrimperstrust.co.uk](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk).

The first Race Night of the 2007/8 season will take place on Saturday 17 November, on the evening of the Coca-Cola League One meeting with Cheltenham Town. If you are a local businessperson, why not sponsor a race? Contact Paul for further details. On the night, there will be further opportunities, other than simply betting on races, to win by becoming an owner, so make sure you come along to get involved.

### 100 Club

The latest winners in the scheme, pulled out of the hat during weekly draws during September were: Paul Brice, Bryan Woodford, Nigel Rickard, Neil Whitehead and Donna Stone, each pocketing £33.50. You can still join in and put yourself in with a chance of winning the bumper Christmas prize of ten times the usual weekly amount. By setting up a standing order for just £5 a month, you put yourself in with a chance of winning over £30 at the present time – and the more people that sign up, then the bigger the weekly prize.

To register your interest, you can still contact Alan Perry at [alanperry4@hotmail.com](mailto: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 will be.

### Quid-a-Goal

Quid-a-Goal is back for the 2007/8 season, and we are still welcoming any pledges that members would like to set up. The money raised from the scheme this season will be solely directed towards Ricky Duncan and the Centre of Excellence at Southend United.

At the end of September, the Shrimpers Trust had raised £921.55 through pledges for the 2007/8 season. Remember, you don't have to simply pledge a pound a goal, you can make it a little more interesting by sponsoring goals scored by a particular player or for clean sheets. All contributions are welcome.

Please get in touch with Alan Perry via the usual methods (01702 476 458 or [alanperry4@hotmail.com](mailto:alanperry4@hotmail.com)) or download a form from our website, [www.shrimperstrust.co.uk](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk) to make a pledge for the 2007/8 Quid-a-Goal campaign.

### **\*\*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](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk) or come to the Shrimpers Trust Stand in the Shrimpers Bar on a home matchday at any stage during the 2007/8 season.

### **\*\*AVAILABLE NOW\*\***: Blues News Subscription Service

In late August, Southend United F.C. launched a new monthly newspaper dedicated to the Club. The publication features interviews, match reports, coverage of community schemes and a couple of articles penned by Robert Craven of the Shrimpers Trust.



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The Trust are now making available a subscription service to the newspaper for our ex-patriot community across the world only. If you are interested in receiving the paper, please email [info@shrimperstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@shrimperstrust.co.uk) (with *Blues News Subscription* in the header) with details of your name, address, country of residence and Shrimpers Trust membership number. We will then give you a quote for postage, packing and PayPal costs based on where you live. The newspaper costs £1, and the first issue, which was free, will have been sent with Issue 2. For further information, please go to our website, [www.shrimperstrust.co.uk](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk).

### Life Membership (total: 136)

This month we would like to welcome to **Morgan Jones**, the latest recruit to our ever-swelling number of Life Members. If you are interested in joining this select band, please contact Paul Yeomanson via email at [info@shrimperstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@shrimperstrust.co.uk) or by meeting him at the stand in the Shrimpers Bar on any home matchday during the 2007/8 season. Postal applications can also be accepted via Shrimpers Trust, PO Box 5830, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 9FD.

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

Michael Arthur, Dan Bacon, Kevin Bloss, Andrew Cockerell, Jack Douglas, David Francis, Barry Hall, Gary Horn, Tom Johnson, Loukas Kasparian, Ian Molyneux, Chris Nice, Chris Phillips, Chris Pither, David Pither, Jack Ranger, Malcolm Roberts, Chris Rushton, Lewis Salmon, Tom Salmon, Liam Scanlan, Philip Stace, Lisa Stoves, Kevin Turner, Ben Wilson and Dan Wilson.

## THE MATCHES – Blues In Review

### sat 08 sept: gillingham (h) w3-0 (league one)

It was like a re-union at Roots Hall as Simon Royce, Efetobore Sodje and Mark Bentley came back to Roots Hall as heroes, especially in the case of the latter duo, who had both served the club as they won promotion from Coca-Cola League One in 2005/6. Duncan Jupp sat the fixture out through injury, and his absence at the back was sorely missed as Blues ripped the Kent defence to shreds.

United unveiled their new loan signing Leon Clarke, who marked his debut with two assists and a wonder strike to inspire his new side to a comfortable 3-0 triumph. After the late disappointment of matches against Brighton & Hove Albion and Dagenham & Redbridge, it was no surprise to see the Shrimpers race out of the blocks again, Clarke slipping the ball into the path of Nicky Bailey for his third goal in five games.

That was all that Southend managed in the opening period, but Clarke was at it again shortly after half-time, setting up Alan McCormack as the midfield again proved fruitful. Then, with just an hour gone, Clarke grabbed his hat-trick with a sublime chip over Royce that dipped under the crossbar and left the custodian flapping ten yards from his goal. It sparked immediate comparisons with Freddy Eastwood, whilst Kevin Maher and Mark Gower were denied by the woodwork as Gillingham were fortunate not to concede a rugby score.

**match in a sentence: Old boys sent packing by debutant Clarke**

### sat 15 sept: oldham athletic (a) w1-0 (league one)

Even the appearance of our old friend Mr Trevor Kettle couldn't dampen Southend spirits as Blues recorded a second win in a row, their first on their travels. Kettle was true to form, finding fault in an inch-perfect, ball-winning challenge from Garry Richards on the stroke of half-time to send the defender off and compromise the strong position that the visitors to Boundary Park had built up.

Leon Clarke could have headed the Seasiders in front, but directed his effort wide, though he made no mistake with his next attempt, showing his intent and thirst for goals by racing onto Matt Harrold's pass and firing beyond Mark Crossley. Just as United appeared set to dominate, they were undermined by Richards' dismissal – later overturned by a Football Association commission – and in the second half were forced to hold onto their lead, though the closest Oldham came to levelling was when substitute Neil Eardley's long-range effort cannoned off of the post.

Steve Collis was equal to everything that the Latics could throw at him the final half-an-hour, however, marshalling his six-yard box with confidence, and even a late Michael Ricketts free-kick, an instance sure to strike fear into all Blues supporters, passed without anxiety.

**match in a sentence: Kettle's whistle drowned out by Blues roar**



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### **sat 22 sept: doncaster rovers (h) w3-2 (league one)**

Southend hadn't scored against Doncaster Rovers in five attempts spanning ten years, and predictably lost the lot, including an F.A. Cup match when the Yorkshire side were rooted to the bottom of the Conference. It is fair to say that they were a bogey team – which is exactly why it was so satisfying to pick up three points at last!

It all seemed so simple when Adam Barrett popped up to blast Blues ahead on 25 minutes, the shot being the first real effort for either side. But by half-time, Donny were in front thanks to two huge slices of fortune. First Gareth Roberts' free-kick was deflected past Steve Collis by Barrett's outstretched boot, and then Lewis Guy was lucky as Collis saved his initial effort, only for the ball to bounce back onto his shin and spin into the net.

If United had been abject in the first half, they dominated the second, and got their just rewards when Matt Harrold flicked Tommy Black's cross into the path of Alan McCormack, who stooped down to nod past Neil Sullivan. And the former Scotland international goalkeeper was reaching into his goal again when Leon Clarke was brought down and stepped up to blast the ball into the centre of the goal. Harrold was annoyed that he did not have the chance to net from 12 yards, but he had played his part.

**match in a sentence: Yorkshire club undone by Essex terriers**

### **tues 25 sept: blackpool (a) 11-2 (after extra time; league cup third round)**

The League Cup was the competition that saw Blues beat Manchester United in 2006/7, but they missed out on another trip to White Hart Lane and Tottenham Hotspur after being sunk by a late Michael Jackson winner. Matt Harrold had given United the lead, having resumed penalty-taking duties in Leon Clarke's absence, as early as the 6<sup>th</sup> minute after fit-again Charlie MacDonald was brought down.

It proved to be too early a strike as slowly but surely 'Pool came back into the game. They had plenty of chances to level, but left it until the 80th minute when Wes Hoolahan fired into the box and Scott Vernon claimed the last touch, sending the match into an additional thirty minutes. In ever-colder conditions for a vociferous support, they were denied a penalty shoot-out when Steve Collis claimed that he was fouled trying to claim a corner, but Michael Jackson headed in two minutes from time.

**match in a sentence: Jackson hands it to Seasiders, but it's far from a thriller**

### **sat 29 sept: port vale (a) w2-1 (league one)**

Sometimes it is not so much the manner that you do something as the fact that you have done it, and having failed to win at Vale Park since 1967, the Shrimpers finally laid yet another hoodoo to rest. Long stretches without wins at Carlisle and Swansea already dismissed under Steve Tilson, this was just the latest in a long line.

In all honesty, the first half could easily have been a non-event, but in their only two really threatening moves, United scored on both occasions. Eric Odhiambo was restored to the starting line-up alongside Leon Clarke, but it was Mark Gower who set up the latter to curl an unstoppable shot into the top right-hand corner just after the half-hour mark. If that was a surprise, then Alan McCormack's strike, on the stroke of half-time, was a hammer blow to a shaken Vale outfit. McCormack netted after neat build-up play from Kevin Maher, Gower again and Odhiambo.

The second period was marginally better, though ironically in the hosts' only real spell of pressure, Lewis Hunt's clumsy challenge and Luke Rodgers' ability to make the most of any contact earned the former Shrewsbury Town man the chance to pull one goal back on the hour and make it nervous for Blues.

**match in a sentence: Blues win ugly as managerless Vale fail to win again**

### **tues 02 oct: bristol rovers (a) d1-1 (league one)**

I have written about the closing stages of this fixture at length in my editorial, and the incidents detailed there just about sum up the match. In terribly wet conditions in constant drizzle, both teams struggled to create many clear-cut opportunities.

In Southend's case, this was mostly the result of man-of-the-match Peter Clarke stopping Rovers from breaking into Steve Collis' area – and when the goalkeeper was beaten, his central defender was positioned on the line to nod away. Walker gave the Pirates the lead from the spot, but the night belonged to Leon Clarke for his 95th-minute intervention.

**match in a sentence: Last-gasp leveller helps turn down the Gas**

**Up the Shrimpers!**

**Rob Craven (3 October 2007)**