



THE INTRODUCTION – Paul FitzGerald



Just checking my Sky Planner at the weekend for something to watch ... yes, it's still there! I've recorded Southend games before, of course, but not sure I've replayed a specific moment, so many times – I wonder if it's possible to wear a hole in my Skybox? Actually, there was of course more than one moment: Firstly, bless Joe....after a struggle to find the net for a little while, just when you thought it was all over, there he was – not sure it will ever be as famous as "who put the ball in the Bury net?" but we really couldn't care less – what timing! Then, of course, an amazing finale with, who else, our Daniel coming up trumps, as he has done consistently for us over the last few years. I thought that might be his last game for us, but it looks not – how brilliant is that?

Now, in the quiet period, we have time to reflect on quite a season. On the pitch, well things definitely improved, as ever, we did it the hard way and goodness me, it was gone (as were several disillusioned fans, half way down Wembley way!) A night time game, many years ago against Newport, taught me a valuable lesson, or rather a group of nearby supporters who retired to the Crooked Billet a tad before our heroes scored 3 goals in no time at all!

Whoever introduced the annoying play offs – what a crazy idea.

It seems no time at all until the first game of the new season and it really is no time at until the lads jet off to Spain for their pre-season workout. Timely then, to relate that the book I have been compiling with help from Peter Baker, Peter Miles and Dave Goody, a pre-season tour to Malta in 1955, is complete and available. This is not something I've ever done before and it was an interesting challenge – I hope some of you will be interested and buy it – it really is a very specialist subject, but for anyone interested in SUFC history, I hope it has done the Tour and records justice. All receipts go to Trust funds which in turn will head off to our support of the Youth Academy.



Off the field nothing much has altered. Ron Martin said at the AGM that revised plans would be submitted by the end of June. When most of you read this, that date will have come and gone and I confidently expect to read about the exciting new development.....although of course I will be on holiday and miss it anyway. Let's hope there will be no more reasons for delay.

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As the season approaches and the facilities at Roots Hall continue to deteriorate, I am minded to remind Ron of the statement he made openly at the AGM, where he said he was happy to put increased funds into the club should we gain promotion. No doubt Phil Brown is enjoying the bulk of that, because it does not appear that our current stadium is seeing any of it.

Whilst our home is not updated (apart from a new ticketing system), fortunately certain “important” documents have been and I’d like to draw your attention to this clause in our updated ground regulations:-



Mobile telephones and other mobile devices are permitted within the Ground PROVIDED THAT (i) they are used for personal and private use only (which, for the avoidance of doubt and by way of example only, shall not include the capturing, logging, recording, transmitting, playing, issuing, showing, or any other communication of any Material for any commercial purposes); and (2) no Material that is captured by a mobile telephone or other mobile device may be published or otherwise made available to any third parties including, without limitation, via social networking sites. For goodness sake.....good luck with policing that...!!

Meet The Blues day is also approaching – I hope many of you will find the time and energy to get down there for this annual event. This year will see the opportunity for fans to have a picture taken with the play off Trophy in the Trust marquee, as well as the normal popular playing signing.

Finally, I’d like to wish Helen Norbury all the best for the future. Helen leaves as club company Secretary this week and one wonders with all the shenanigans that have accompanied our club over the last years whether she could write an interesting book! Helen has done a great job for Southend United through the years and I hope you will join me in wishing her well, for her planned garden and family phase and for the future generally.

The Trust committee is always looking for new blood and ideas – so if you would like to get involved in any of our activities at any level, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

As ever, you can contact me at pfitz666@aol.com if you’d like to comment on anything the Trust does or does not do.

ONCE UPON A TIME IN MALTA



In 1955 Harry Warren Southend United's manager at the time together with a passionate supporter Peter Coombes (stationed in Malta) arranged for our club to play in a Pre-Season Tournament at the historic Empire Stadium against the top three Maltese teams (from 1954/55 season), namely Floriana, Hamrun Spartans, Sliema Wanderers. Later added were the Maltese FA and Catania, the Italian club from Sicily.

The relatives of Peter Coombes have donated an album describing the tour, using a combination of photos, newspaper cuttings and handwritten team sheets.

The Shrimpers Trust has chronicled the tour in an A4 sized book.

Our book uses Peter's Album as its base, but also contains supplemental, previously unseen material, obtained via extensive research from a variety of other sources


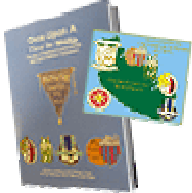

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The book is published by the Trust, not in an attempt to make money, but to immortalise this part of our history, so that others can enjoy its contents.

To celebrate the Tour, the Shrimpers Trust has commissioned an enamel badge which it hopes will appeal to Southend United supporters as well as fans of the other tour participants.



The book and the badge can be purchased separately, however a discount will be applied if purchased together with prices as follows:

	<p>Once Upon A Time In Malta <i>(book only)</i></p>	<p>£9.99</p>
	<p>Once Upon A Time In Malta <i>(book & badge)</i></p>	<p>£11.99</p>
	<p>Commemorative Badge</p>	<p>£3.00</p>

Both the book and badge will be on sale from the Trust Marquee at Meet the Blues Day on Sunday July 19th and then prior to any home fixture from the Trust Stand in the Shrimpers Bar.

Once Upon A Time In Malta and the Commemorative Badge can also be purchased online using a Credit/Debit Card from the Trust's web shop at www.shrimperstrust.co.uk.

MEET THE BLUES DAY – SUNDAY 19th JULY

The Shrimpers Trust will once again be attending SUFC's annual Meet the Blues Day on Sunday 19th July.

As well as being able to join the Trust or renew your Membership we will have our full range of Merchandise available to purchase along with our usual supply of old programmes.

And this year there will also be an opportunity to have your picture taken with the League 2 Play-off Winners Trophy which will be on display in the Trust Marquee.



Under 16's will be able to join the Junior Blue's on the day to benefit from some great unique events throughout the Season.

Details of our Away Travel arrangements for the first two away games vs Fleetwood & Doncaster will also be available and bookings can be made on the day.

Again as in previous year the Player's and Management will be signing autographs in our Marquee during the afternoon.

And finally we are pleased to announce that as well as the usual cash and cheque payments we can now accept Credit/Debit Cards for all purchases including Merchandise & Memberships.



Further details regarding Meet the Blues Day can be found on the SUFC Website.

FUNDRAISING

100 Club

The latest winners in the scheme, pulled out of the hat during weekly draws since the last newsletter were **Gary Crowe, Lesley Hicks, Teresa Perry, Paul Manning, Lorraine Posnack, Philip Conway, Paul Yeomanson, Bryan Woodford, John Cornwell, Mike Smith, John Onslow, Andy Thorne and Albert Chittock.**

The nature of the 100 Club means 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 or by calling 01702 476458 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 that prize will be. By setting up a standing order for just £5 a month (or just £60 a year), you put yourself in with a chance of winning around £28.00 per week at the present time.

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Quid-a-Goal

Our Quid a Goal scheme is now up and running for the 2015/16 Season.



Last season the total raised was £2,000.00, which was slightly up on the 2014/15 season's total of £1,872.00.

The aim of the scheme - like most of the Shrimpers Trust's activities is to raise money for Southend United Football Club and make sure that there is a club for us to be supporting in the foreseeable future.

For the season 2015/16, money raised from this 'Quid a Goal' scheme will be donated to Ricky Duncan's Youth department to help ensure that players of the quality of Daniel Bentley and Jack Payne continue to be nurtured and made available to the first team.

This is how it works:

Those who support the scheme with a pledge have their name displayed in the United match program each week and are detailed on this web site.

We ask you to pledge £0.25, £0.50, £1.00 or more under various headings such as clean sheets, various players scoring goals, or team goals. This does not have to cost you a fortune as you can easily judge in advance how much your pledge will cost you come the end of the season.

For example, the Blues rarely manage more than 70 goals in a season from 1st team matches (14/15 League goals - 54). A £0.25 per goal pledge would therefore most likely not cost you more than £20.00 come the end of the season. If funds are tight how about £1 for every goal scored by our full backs? The 14/15 season would have cost you £1.50. If you chose to do £0.50 per point and we finished up with 80 points. At the end of the season we will write to you thanking you for your support of this initiative asking you to send us a cheque for the amount of £40.00.

Last year this scheme raised more than £2,000 from the 40+ people that helped us. This includes support by some of the Southend United's directors.

If you would like to help raise funds for this worthy cause you can do so by completing the QAG Entry Form which has been included with this newsletter and return to us either by post to the address shown on the form or by handing in at the Trust Info Stand in the Shrimpers Bar prior to any home game.

Entry forms are also available from the Trust Website www.shrimperstrust.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to New Life Members (Total 225)

Nigel Bedford and Kurtis Douthwaite.



Life Membership of the Trust currently costs £100.00 if you have an email account or £150.00 if you prefer to receive Trust Mailings by post.

If you are interested in joining this group please contact our Membership Secretary, Paul Yeomanson via email at membership@shrimperstrust.co.uk.

You can also join up as a Life Member in the Membership Section of the Trust Website www.shrimperstrust.co.uk, and postal applications will also be accepted at **Shrimpers Trust, PO Box 5830, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 9FD.**

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Welcome to New Members since the last Newsletter

Helen Allen, Coral Ambrose, Kenneth Bailey, Dave Barlow, Paul Batt, Arthur Bentall, Kelly Bishop, Chris Bowman, David Connor, Karli Day, Ronald Dixie, Kurtis Douthwaite, Jason Galliano, Alan Halls, Jan Halls, Len James, Barry Kear, Trevor Lovell, Francis McGhee, Scott Murray, Michael Penn, David Randell, Pearline Shaw, Phillip Spooner, Tony Thomas, Barry Walton and Joan Walton.

****Please note that the Shrimpers Trust would like to know if any of its members' addresses change, or if they have a new email address so that newsletters and other correspondence can be sent to the correct address. Please send any change of address details to **The Shrimpers Trust, PO Box 5830, Southend on Sea, SS1 9FD**, by email to membership@shrimperstrust.co.uk or alternatively fill in our on-line contact details form which can be found in the Membership Section of the Trust Website, www.shrimperstrust.co.uk ****

FORTHCOMING FUNDRAISERS

CHINESE NIGHT

Monday 24th August 2015

East, 33 Alexandra Street, Southend on Sea

The evening begins at 7.30pm and the cost will be £15.00 per person for an 'all you can eat' buffet.



We welcome Members and Non Members alike so why not come along for some good food and chat.

For further details contact Alan Perry: (01702 476458 or alanperry4@hotmail.com)

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 12th September 2015

The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall

The Shrimpers Trust will be holding their first Quiz Night of the 2015/16 Season in the Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall on Saturday 12th September 2015.



The doors open at 7.00pm with commencement of the quiz at **7.30pm sharp**.
The cost will be £10.00 for adults and £6.00 for under 16's.

Included in the price will be a choice from 5 meals (*Chicken & Chips, Chicken Nuggets & Chips, Sausage & Chips, Fish & Chips or Vegetarian Spring Roll & Chips*). The meals are provided by the Fish House and will be served at around 8.45pm.

Ideally we need tables of 8, but if you would be happy to join others who will come in parties of less than 8 please let us know.

For further details or to book a table contact Alan Perry (01702 476458 or alanperry4@hotmail.com)

MERCHANDISE

As well as the 'Once Upon A Time In Malta' Book and Badge we have added a couple of new items to our range of Merchandise.



First up is a new Trust Pen.

With a Blue, Yellow & White body the Plastic Push Button Ballpen has the Trust Logo printed on the main body and has a unique Magnet Clasp printed with a football design.

This unique pen is exclusive to the Trust and will cost just £3.00.

The second new item of Merchandise is the 2014/15 Sky Bet League Two Play-off Winners Pin Badge.

Following the theme of our other Play-off Final and Football League Promotion designs, the Hard Enamel Badge features Sammy the Shrimp in his yellow kit holding the Winner's Trophy.

Priced at just £3.00 this is a must add item to any SUFC supporters badge collection.



And don't forget we are still selling items from our current stock including the limited edition 'Sammy the Shrimp' Jewellery and the set of four Brite-Mat low profile, non-slip base drinks Coasters featuring four iconic SUFC programme covers.



To purchase these and other items in our new range please visit us in our Marquee at this season's Meet the Blues Day on Sunday July 19th, alternatively you can purchase any of our Merchandise online in the Trust Shop at www.shrimperstrust.co.uk



There will also be some fantastic reductions on some of our current range of Merchandise including shirts, badges and other souvenirs - so get in quick.

Please note that that as well as the usual cash and cheque payments we can now accept Credit/Debit Cards for all purchases including Merchandise & Memberships.



Payments powered by **PayPal**

BLUES LOTTERY

The newly restructured Blues Lottery is now into its third season and after the Club's Academy was granted Category 3 status in the EPPP audit it is even more important to support the Youth Development of Southend United for the 2015/16 season onwards.



The scheme has existed and been supported by a number of loyal supporters for a number of years but its existence has suffered from a lack of vitality and vision.

Numbers have dwindled and the restructuring is intended to address concerns of fans and to help drive the investment in the Academy and help produce more future stars, similar to Dan Bentley, Jack Payne and Ted Smith.

By investing in the lottery the aim is you can win a cash prize and at the same time have ownership of the youth as they develop and feel in some way you have assisted in their development.

The Shrimpers Trust already supports the Youth Team in various ways and would ask you to consider joining the Blues Lottery to help develop the SUFC stars of the future.

A Blues Lottery application form has been enclosed with this Newsletter and further details can also be found on the Club Website here <http://www.southendunited.co.uk/fans/blues-lottery>

3rd July 2015