



## THE INTRODUCTION – Paul FitzGerald

**I hope you are enjoying the break and looking forward to the Euros. Our team's season rather petered out and I can't help thinking the uncertainty around our manager cannot have helped. Phil Brown is an interesting, charismatic character and that often provides an entertaining environment. However, there is clearly another side which we have seen this season with acrimonious player departures noted.**

It will be interesting to see how our squad shapes up this summer and presumably without a couple of star turns. Both products of our excellent youth setup, Dan Bentley and Jack Payne, look likely to leave. I feel for Dan and wonder whether he stayed too long with us, although I'm glad he did – I just hope he finds a club that matches his potential. Jack on the other hand, ought (in my opinion) to stay another year – whether it's him, his agent (or indeed something else) it's still a sad situation. Wherever they both end up, they've done us proud and I wish them both the best of luck going forward.

That said, with one door closing, so another opens and we have replacements waiting for their chance - and what an opportunity for a couple of them.

And on the subject of changes – the Trust has a new travel coordinator (who many of you will already know) Lesley Hicks has taken on this role in addition to her Company Secretary duties. This is not the easiest of roles, bearing in mind we are all volunteers. Clare Chapman (nee Brooks) has been doing this for the last 9 years. I'd like to add my personal thanks to her for her not inconsiderable efforts over this time, ranging from trips on a cold Tuesday "up North" with a handful of intrepid travellers, to the hundreds of supporters shipped successfully to Wembley on several occasions. Clare take a bow.

Ex Player Dave Barnett (joined SUFC in 1969 as an apprentice and stayed with us until 1973) contacted us via the website and came to see us at the Oldham game. He left a collection of cuttings, programmes and paper work from his time with the club. I spent a good few hours going through and reminding myself of those days. Particularly interesting was Dave's contracts – it would be inappropriate to be specific, but the structure and detail was fascinating. I'm sure Dave was very pleased to get his extra pound as the crowd reached 8,000, which it did many times in those days.



I'm sure many of you will have seen the new football league proposals. Shaun Harvey FL Chief Executive claims that existing clubs will not be disadvantaged financially, but it's difficult to see how that can happen with fewer games being proposed. In fact, I would have thought the opposite would be more desirable for most clubs in our position. I can just imagine these proposals being discussed at the SUFC Board with Ron at the helm.

Talking of Ron.....I did hope that the involvement of British land would inject some acceleration into the development of the new stadium, which in case you've forgotten (due to the time lapse) has been due to be built every year since 2008 with plans "soon to be submitted to the council" at least 3 or 4 times a year since 2006. Ron was not available for comment when I contacted him recently.

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Good luck to the Southend contingent - Simon Bryant, Riyan Dublin, Roy (Jay) Flemming, Alex Grocott, Michael Markscheffel, Gavin Markscheffel, Jarek Mankus, Joseph Rutter and Brad Warren heading to Amsterdam by bike for the annual charity ride in aid of prostate cancer. There is still time to donate to this worthy cause by visiting [www.justgiving.com/Stephen-Kavanagh5](http://www.justgiving.com/Stephen-Kavanagh5) and clicking on the Southend United team where every rider is listed.

**And finally..... The Trust committee is always looking for new blood – so, if you would like to get involved in any of our activities at any level, please don't hesitate to contact us. Thank you all for your continued support - As ever, you can contact me at [pfitz666@aol.com](mailto:pfitz666@aol.com) if you'd like to comment on anything the Trust does or does not do.**

### AWAY TRAVEL - TIME FOR A CHANGE

**It is with some sadness that I have taken the decision to hand over the mantle of running our executive coaches as the official away travel for the club to someone else.**

I have been doing it for 9 years and have really enjoyed my time. The people who come on our coaches are so lovely and I have made so many friends over the years.

We have had such fun and laughter despite some very disappointing games and I am so glad we have all been together for such a long time. We have seen so many awful away games and so many great ones. I am so grateful for Lesley, Alec and Alan running coaches when we have more than one and also for all the many people who did the same for Wembley. You know who you are.

I am pleased to be able to let you know that Lesley is taking over from me and I wish her lots of luck (not that she needs it), I think she knows what she is letting herself in for. I will be there for her like she was for me and will still go to away games on the coach but now I can go to breakfast before getting on like lots of you do.

Let's hope we have a better season next year and hope everyone has a lovely summer.

*Clare*

### PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS – TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> MAY 2016



**Southend United's mercurial magician Jack Payne collected a clean sweep of the awards on offer for the first-team at the Shrimpers Trust's Player of the Year Awards for the 2015/16 season.**

Payne, dubbed the club's 'Mini Messi' during his time with the Academy, a nickname that has stuck after his progression into the senior set-up, became the first player ever to win all three awards on offer by claiming the silverware for the Shrimpers Trust Player of the Year, the Junior Blues Player of the Year and the Martin Cranmer Goal of the Season at the Awards Evening on Tuesday 3rd May.

The playmaker, who has scored nine times in 34 appearances during the current campaign, collected the main award from Blues boss Phil Brown having fought off competition from defender Adam Barrett and goalkeeper Daniel Bentley who, like Payne, emerged through the club's youth

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system. Speaking before picking up the award, Payne paid tribute to the Trust's continued efforts to raise funds for the Academy.

As well as being a firm favourite with Shrimpers Trust members, Payne was also favoured by the younger generation as he scooped the Junior Blues award. He was presented with the shield by Junior Blues member Ollie Nicks in front of the assembled gathering in the Shrimpers Bar beneath Roots Hall.

And the 21-year-old ensured that he went home with all the senior awards from the moment that he slalomed his way through the Sheffield United defence in front of the Sky television cameras to win the Goal of the Season award. That effort emerged ahead of rival strikes from Ryan Leonard, in the away game against the Blades, and Michael Timlin at Oakwell against Barnsley.

The Goal of the Season award is dedicated to the memory of lifelong Southend supporter, Martin Cranmer, who was one of the founder members of the Southend United Independent Supporters Club and was a Shrimpers Trust Life Member. Martin passed away six years ago at the age of 40, and his widow Zoe was on hand to present the award again this year.

Meanwhile, Harry Phillips was the worthy recipient of the Tom Grace Memorial Shield, which is presented each season to the Youth Team Player of the Year. He received the prize from youth team coach Dave Huzzey, who also handed out the runners-up awards to prolific forward Dan Walker and towering central defender Abdul Salami. All three will return to Southend with the Under-21s next season.

Tom Grace was an avid Southend United supporter and a junior member of the Trust who sadly passed away at the age of 15 in July 2007. It was decided by the Trust to rename the Youth Team Player of the Year Award the Tom Grace Memorial Shield in his memory. Tom's family were guests of the Trust and his father, Len, helped Dave to present the awards.



Dave was invited to say a few words by the event's host, David Crown, and he thanked Shrimpers Trust members for their financial backing to the youth team again this term. Huzzey spoke of another fine campaign for the Under-18s, who finished second in the Football League Youth Alliance South East Conference and reached the Third Round of The FA Youth Cup as well as moving eight players into the Under-21s for next season.



Later in the evening Phil Brown also thanked the fans for their support up and down the country throughout 2015/16. They included the seven top travellers - Chris Diani, Lesley Hicks, Gaye Overall, Darren Posnack, Warren Sadler, Nicola Slater and Terry Slater who have each completed 8,728 miles following the Shrimpers this season.

That septet, along with the top Junior Blues traveller, Callum Turp, who has journeyed an incredible 4,066 miles supporting Southend in 2015/16, will receive their prizes at a later date following the final match of the season against Bury at Gigg Lane on Sunday.

Brown also spoke about the fantastic commitment of a number of members of the squad since he arrived at the club a little over three years ago. He spoke of his delight at bringing Kevin Maher

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and Adam Barrett back to the club, and vowed that he would be plotting Blues' promotion from League One next term. He also talked glowingly about the work done at the club's Academy in bringing players through.

As the evening drew towards a close, Carmel Orford was named as the first recipient of the Shrimpers Trust Unsung Hero Award. Carmel, who was unable to attend due to a prior commitment, earned the award for her tireless commitment to the Academy and work at Boots & Laces.

The 72-year-old has been at the club for around eleven years, primarily working at the training ground looking after the youth team, a role which includes preparing their meals. She has also been landlady to several of the youth team players, including this year's Player of the Year Jack Payne.

Carmel worked in the lodgings where the Under-18s stayed together for several years, and she also organises Christmas and Easter quizzes for the boys, as well as raffles. She will be presented with her award at a later date.

Other prizes to be handed out included the Shrimpers Trust Player of the Month Award for April, which was handed to Ryan Leonard by Junior Blues member Jessica Lansley, and the PFA Community Champion Award, which was given to Ben Coker by Southend United's Community & Educational Trust representative April Smith.



A raffle for the Trust raised over £100, a sum that was matched by the auctioning of a pair of Jack Payne's signed and match-worn football boots. A pair of Daniel Bentley's signed and match-worn goalkeeping gloves raised in excess of £50. The Shrimpers Trust would like to thank everyone who attended and contributed to the evening.

**A full set of pictures from the POTY awards can be found on the Trust's Facebook page.**

## SHRIMPERS TRUST DREAM TEAM

Pos	Team	Name	Week	Total
1	Bold Beavers	Paul Yeomanson	8	2004
2	Panic Attackers	Paul Batt	5	1948
3	Sammy The Shrimp	Derek Stevenson	5	1942
4	Hugo L Gruff XI	Jon-Paul FitzGerald	8	1904
5	ShrimperUSA	Mark Emmett	8	1821
6	Shrimpers United	Andrew Perry	15	1705
7	Oasis United	Darren Posnack	5	1656
8	SouthendNil	Paul FitzGerald	8	1617
9	Jan's Top Tips	Jan Halls	-3	1601
10	Shrimpers Trust	Edward Short	10	1483
11	Benjis Boys	Ben Clarkson	2	1446
12	Barry's Boy's	barry walton	4	1436
13	Halls of Fame	Alan Halls	5	1427
14	Brown's Blues	David Clenshaw	6	1381

**After a long, hard season, the Shrimpers Trust dream team reached its conclusion on FA Cup weekend, and with Paul Yeomanson firmly in the driving seat prior to kick off, the "accolade" of champion was all but won.**

There was to be no surprise on final day, as the "Bold Beavers" picked up a solid 8 points to ensure the trophy was his after pipping both Paul Batt and Derek Stevenson, finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively.

My side finished down in a disappointing fourth place securing champions league football, but more importantly securing FitzGerald family bragging rights.

A big congratulations to our worthy winner, Paul Yeomanson, who picked up the £35 prize.

Thanks you to everyone who entered, we will be looking to run the competition again next season

and look forward to seeing you again then.

## EURO 2016 - PREDICTION COMPETITION



**With the season drawing to a close it is time to start thinking about the Euros, but who is going to win it or make a big impression? Is the strange season going to continue following in Leicester's footsteps with an outsider stepping up their game, maybe a Northern Ireland, Wales or even England!!**

Well, you have your chance to put your football knowledge to the test and compete against your friends and family for the ultimate accolade, The Shrimpers Trust Euro 2016 prediction champion!

The competition is open to everyone and not restricted to trust members (or one entry per person) so feel free to pass this on to work colleagues, friends, family, whoever, the more the merrier!

The entry fee is £5 per entry with half going towards the prize pool and the other half to trust funds. The prize pool is then split with 60% going to the winner, 30% to the runner up and the remaining 10% to third place. Obviously the more entries we get, the bigger the prize pool gets!

An entry form which includes the competition rules has been included with this newsletter.

**Closing date for entries is Thursday 9th June 2016.**

## FUNDRAISING

### 100 Club

**The latest winners in the scheme, pulled out of the hat during weekly draws since the last newsletter were John Cornwell, Lesley Hicks, Steve Stone, John Smith, Peter Hall, David Mason, Philip Conway, Roy Rice, Richard Harrington, Mike Roles, Valerie Fane, Richard Cunningham, Tim Wilson, Chris Hyland, Peter Brock and Darren Posnack.**

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](mailto: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.

### Quid-a-Goal



**Our Quid a Goal scheme is now finished for the 2015/16 Season.**

**The total at the close of the season is £1796.50. Thank you for generous pledges!**

Alan Perry is in the process of writing to all those that took part with the amounts owing for each pledge.

Details of next Season's QAG Scheme will be included in our next Newsletter.

## MEMBERSHIP

### Life Membership (Total 225)



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](mailto: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](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk), and postal applications will also be accepted at **Shrimpers Trust, PO Box 5830, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 9FD**.

### Welcome to New Members since the last Newsletter

**Ann Child, Alex Grocott, Bob Hadwen, Andrew Leeder, Pete Murphy, Francis Potter, Tom Ross, Luke Rourke, Perry Rourke, Joel Shilling, Christopher Sims, Abbie Summers and Harry Taylor.**

*\*\*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](mailto: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](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk) \*\**

## WALKING HADRIAN'S WALL - BOB'S STORY

**Trust Member Bob Mays and several of his friends have walked the length of Hadrian's Wall to raise money for Parkinson's.**

This is his story of his Hadrian's Walk:

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016, 14 individuals left Essex and travelled to Bowness on Solway in Cumbria, there we stayed overnight.

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016, we left Bowness for Brampton, and after a slight detour due to flooding damage walked 26 miles to our next destination. We trekked over numerous fields, had to shoo cows out of our way. Several casualties after such a long walk but only 1 serious that prevented further participation. One of our team was so tired, he fainted whilst eating his evening meal such was his exhaustion. He was one of our fittest members too.

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May, we left Brampton to Once Brewed, a distance of 18 miles. This proved the most difficult of the 4 days. A further 4 dropped out half way through. The terrain was extremely hilly, the climbs appeared never ending. The climbs were so extreme at times, I was grateful the weather was kind although on this day it was extremely hot. The scenery was a joy although to be fair at times we were too tired to appreciate such a view. I have never been so happy to reach our next destination.

On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May, we left Once Brewed for Corbridge, a distance of 21 miles. We were told Day 3 would not be so bad, all I can say, they lied. From some of the pictures you will see how high we were, the steps to climb up mountains were so narrow and high it was an extreme effort to reach the top. Then we would hit fields running alongside the wall, we would content ourselves by reaching the top and finding another upon another and another. Then came what you would believe to be the easy part of walking down. NO, the descents were so steep and due to my condition with balance I had to ask for assistance of a colleagues shoulder to hold onto. On arrival at our destination, during our evening meal I fell asleep whilst eating.

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On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> may, we left Corbridge for Wallsend, our last day of 21 miles. Again we were told there were no hills, they lied. This proved the most boring route mainly tracks and roads and once we arrived in Newcastle we walked next to the Tyne for about 7 miles, at this stage we just wanted to finish the challenge. We had abused and swore at Hadrian's Wall enough and we had stopped caring. With a few miles to go, we lost another team member, and with a mile to go 2 more dropped out, such was their fatigue and injuries they were suffering from. I decided to put my head down and moved ahead of the team and headed for the finish. Those that had pulled out were waiting for me at the end, all I can say I was so overwhelmed with exhaustion, elated that I had completed the walk and just fell into a friends arms crying my eyes out.

One of our walkers has had to go to hospital and has been diagnosed with sever shin splints and now in plaster.

The team as a whole were superb, the achievement was magnificent. How some of them completed the walk is beyond me such were their injuries. The local community, fellow walkers and even soldiers we met on the walk all thought us mad to attempt such a venture in just 4 days. The normal is 6. So anyone wanting to take on this challenge, take heed, do it in 6 days not like my team.

At the last count we raised over £1300 for Parkinson's so for those that donated thank-you. Those that pledged please contact me for instruction on placing your donation and I will arrange.

**If you would like to support Bob & his team (retrospectively) and raise more funds for Parkinson's UK you can still do so by going to their Just Giving Page which can be found here <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/James-Harrington3>**

## ROOTS TO THE 92



**Trust Member, SUFC Exile and the SUFC Fan of the Year for the 2015/16 Season Andrew Leeder has put in writing his journey from Roots Hall to Bloomfield Road.**

A 45 year journey taking in 125 grounds, each with unique memories if not always unique football. Visiting any home for the first time is an adventure. It's the people you are with, the atmosphere created and the vista before you that makes each time special. A 5-5 draw or last minute winner can help, but getting pissed on by Jocks, questioned about being a peeping tom or driving 500 miles to see a postponement can all equally be part of the experience. The predictable thing about following football is that you never know what will happen next.

His ground-hopping is covered in date order, taking you through the changing face of football from the park bogs and weed-infested terraces of the early '70s, to the mass lawnmower races that now start up on manicured lawns immediately after a Premier League game has finished. If a ground was part of the 92 at the time I visited, it is in the book.

So wonderful monuments to bygone days like the Baseball Ground and Maine Road are in. As are the lower-league modern day 'it's all we can afford' abodes of Morecambe, Burton, Crawley et al. Each has its place

and the Football League is undoubtedly richer for the historical memories, and also the variety on offer from Goodison through to Bootham Crescent.

His aim in writing the book had been for it to be something that a fan of any club can relate to. He has avoided giving detailed match reports – as he suspected that even the most dedicated Blue Nose will not be remotely interested in how dominant they were at corners against Plymouth in 1984.

Nor has he sought to provide minute detail of the facilities at Scunthorpe, Sunderland, Oxford, or wherever – there are a host of books and websites that do that perfectly adequately. Instead, his desire has simply been to describe what it felt like to be there and to cover his experiences along the way – to paint a picture as he saw it.

**Andrew's book can be purchased online from the Roots To The 92 website by using this link <http://rootstothe92.co.uk/>**

Alternatively it will be available from the Trust Marque at this year's Meet The Blues Day on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July.

## SHRIMPERS TRUST ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Follow us on twitter @shrimperstrust and like and follow us on Facebook "Shrimpers Trust" to keep up to date with all our latest news (including match reports) and events.

28<sup>th</sup> May 2016