



THE INTRODUCTION – Paul FitzGerald

One of “Sod’s” many laws, is that nothing good ever happens if Millwall are involved and the song they sing about themselves, could not have been truer in our last game of the season....I really hoped they would not go up, although on the other hand, at least we won’t see them for a year or so!

Say what you like about the play offs but that was some roller coaster -but it was not to be and our summer is longer than many of us would have liked. The damage was done in the recent games where we discarded several good chances. Ron Martin thought the (“very happy”) ex-groundsman might be to blame, as he noted at the recent General Meeting. He also noted that “we don’t get together often” and for a second, seemed almost fond of us shareholders, but then presumably remembered it was his decision to change the occurrence from Annual to Biennial!

He was on good form at the meeting, as “the plans” were to be submitted the following day and (unlike many previous occasions) they actually were. Questions were asked about the large costs apportioned to the club for the Stadium development not owned by the club, but these were dismissed as good practice accounting entries. The club will presumably never be in a position to re-pay the accumulated debts all owed to our Chairman, but the existence of them does preclude us from ever making a real profit and would legitimise any flow of funds in the other direction should Ron’s famous “enabling development” ever come to fruition and for the record I really hope it does.



Ron of course, will not be here for ever, a point he made himself at the meeting and it does beg the question – what would life be like with a different owner hopefully post new Stadium?

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End of season = award ceremonies and celebratory dinners. The player awards have already been well documented, however (unusually for me) I attended both the Player Sponsor night (Rendezvous Casino) and the Gala Dinner (big tent Boots and Laces). The player sponsor night was nothing short of a disaster in terms of food – the chef for the evening (apparently under the watchful eye of the head of Caesars) forgot to turn the oven on, not once, but twice when attempting to cook the fish. The Management were suitably embarrassed and sympathetic, offering a nice donation to the Trust funds on top of a free meal. In contrast, the dinner in a tent was a great success and our Club's commercial team and catering staff must be roundly applauded for their efforts in preparation and on the night, for making it such a good occasion.



Since the last newsletter, the Trust's walk to Charlton has come and gone, largely without incident – the nearly 60Km taking its toll on the knees, hamstrings and other parts of the body aside. Money raised is still being finalised but expected to be in the order of £10,000 (50/50 split with Little Havens) which is a great achievement and I'd like to thank all those involved and everyone who sponsored us. There were many highlights for me, not least the arrival at The Valley, but also the good humour of my fellow walkers, especially several in some pain.

Charlton Athletic's hospitality was excellent, although the provision of a shower would have been helpful. I made some new acquaintances during the walk and hope that they become friends over the longer term – their efforts were very much appreciated

Thank you all for your continued support. 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.

AMBLE TO THE ADDICKS - WE MADE IT!

Whilst the vast majority of Southend supporters traveling to the Away game vs Charlton Athletic used the more conventional methods of transport, 11 Trust members/supporters joined by Southend United's Commercial Director, Danny Macklin had decided to walk the 35.7 miles from Roots Hall Football Stadium to The Valley in order to raise funds for the Shrimpers Trust and Little Havens Hospice.



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After 13 hours of continuous walking with blistered feet and very tired legs, we are pleased to confirm that the 'Ambles' team arrived safely at their destination.

With sponsorship money received to date together with some pledges which are yet to be collected the Trust are delighted to confirm that the overall sum raised by 'Amble to the Addicks' will top the £10,000 mark. This is a fantastic result.

On Sunday 30th April prior to the game vs Bury FC members of the 'Ambles' team presented a cheque for £5,000 to Sally Bridger from the Little Havens Hospice.



The Shrimpers Trust would like to take the opportunity to extend a massive thank you to the walkers and support team who gave up their time and completed this physically challenging event.

Also thanks go to all the local business, fellow Supporter Groups, plus the Southend United supporter community as a whole for their encouragement and generous contributions.



In aid of
Little Havens Hospice
Registered Charity Number 1022119

and



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AMBLE TO THE ADDICKS

Saturday 8th April 2017 - www.shrimperstrust.co.uk

Sponsored by: **MSPFX**
Foreign Currency Services

If you would still like to make a donation you can do so by visiting the Amble to the Addicks JustGiving page www.justgiving.com/ambletotheadicks

SHRIMPERS TRUST PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Shrimpers Trust held their 2016/17 Player of the Year Awards on 25th April in the Shrimpers Bar at Roots Hall. Trust members were joined on the night by Phil Brown and his management team plus the Southend United 1st team squad. Youth team coach Dave Huzzey and his under 18's squad also attended.

The evening, hosted by David Crown included a number of presentations made to members of both the first and youth teams, culminating in the Trust's 2016/17 Goal of the Season and Player of the Year awards.



Goal of the Season:

The Martin Cramner Goal of the Season award, named in memory of lifelong Southend United supporter Martin who had passed away at the start of the 2010/11 season aged 40, was presented by his wife Zoe Cranmer.

The contenders for this award as voted by Trust members were Stephen McLaughlin vs Bury (A), Simon Cox vs AFC Wimbledon (H), Nile Ranger vs AFC Wimbledon (H) and Ryan Leonard vs Oxford United (H).

Striker Simon Cox was confirmed as winner of this award with his second half chip from the edge of the area in the home game vs Wimbledon during the Christmas break.

Youth Team Player of the Year:

Meanwhile, Elvis Bwomomo was the worthy recipient of the Tom Grace Memorial Shield, which is presented each season to the Youth Team Player of the Year in memory of Tom Grace an avid Southend United supporter and a junior member of the Trust who sadly passed away at the age of 15 in July 2007. Tom's family were guests of the Trust and his father, Len, helped Dave Huzzey present the awards.

Runners up for this award were Dru Yearwood and Lewis Gard.

Winner Elvis, a delightful young man said that he was accepting the award "on behalf of the academy", confirming it had been a good season for him and the rest of the under 18's squad, he took the time to also pay tribute to the hard work and support given to him and his colleagues by the Youth team coaches.



Dave Huzzey was invited to say a few words and he thanked the Shrimpers Trust members for their financial backing to the Youth set up again this term. Huzzey spoke of another fine campaign for the Under-18s, with it being worthy to note that 9 of the Youth team had been offered contracts by Southend United.

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Junior Blues Player of the Year:

The Junior Blues Player of the Year as voted for by the Trust's under 16 members was presented to Southend United striker Simon Cox by Junior Blues member Benny Mahoney. Ben had been selected at random from entries received to present the award.

Top Traveller Awards:

For the 2016/17 regular season the Trust had again run coaches to all away league and cup fixtures, having covered some 7,538 miles so far.

There were currently three supporters Peter Garland, Lesley Hicks and Nicola Slater who had travelled with the Trust to all these games. With the possibility of playoffs still being on the cards additional mileage could be added and it was therefore confirmed that the customary Top Traveller Awards would be made at a later date.

Current Top Junior Traveller Callum Turp (5,656 miles) would also receive his award at the same time.

A thank you was extended to all supporters who had travelled with the Trust so far this season and that the Trust looked forward to welcoming everyone back ready for the new season.

Player of the Season:

Manager Phil Brown presented the main award of the evening. Those nominated were Simon Cox, Anton Ferdinand, Ryan Leonard, Nile Ranger and Adam Thompson.



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2nd runner up went to defender Adam Thompson, 1st runner up was striker Simon Cox. Blues versatile midfielder Ryan Leonard was voted by Trust members as their Player of the Season for 2016/17, with Ryan proving to be a very popular winner.

Phil Brown on behalf of his management team and the players took the opportunity to thank supporters for their continued support over the last season.

The evening was wrapped up with thanks to Phil, Dave and the rest of the management team plus all the players for taking the time to attend the evening. On behalf of everyone Phil and the 1st team squad were wished the very best of luck for the forthcoming game on Sunday vs. Bury.

Thanks were also given to Trust members who had attended on the night and to the various people who had helped organise the evening.

It was noted that the auction held (Ted Smith's goalkeeper gloves & Ambles Walkers Pack including shirt signed by the players etc.) raised a commendable £210.00. The raffle and door donations added a further £131 to Trust funds.

FUNDRAISING

100 Club

The latest winners in the scheme, pulled out of the hat during weekly draws since the last newsletter were **Wally Despy, Steve Stone, Peter Brock, Mike Roles, Charles Ball, Matt Eva, Alec Trott, Paul Manning, Rob Warman, Paul Yeomanson, Teresa Perry and Chris Karkoski.**

The nature of the 100 Club means the more people that sign up, the bigger the weekly prize.

100 Club Application Form and Standing Order Form are available from the Fundraising Page on the Trust Website or from the Trust Information Stand in the Shrimpers Bar so why not join up and put yourself in with a chance of winning the weekly prize.

For further information, you can contact Alan Perry at alanperry4@hotmail.com or by calling 01702 476458.

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 2016/17 Season.



The total at the close of the season is £2,103.00. 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 229)

Welcome to New Life Members **Richard Bailey and Callum Reavell.**



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.**

Welcome to New Members since the last Newsletter

Darren Bentley, Ray Bentley, Andy Bunker, Roger English, Shirley English, Linda Everett, Steve Halfteck, Mark Hicks, Jordan Jenkins, Brett Joiner, Michael Joiner, Christopher Nice, Tom Spence, Kevin Verner and Ricky Wicker.

****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 ****

SHRIMPERS TRUST MERCHANDISE

Now in stock is the New Shrimpers Trust Fridge Magnet.

The Plasticised 'Sammy The Shrimp' Fridge Magnet features the Trust Shrimp in a Navy SUFC Kit with the Shrimpers Trust website address at the bottom.

Priced at £2.00 the Fridge Magnet can be purchased from our online shop at www.shrimperstrust.co.uk



Shrimpers Trust Baseball Cap.



The Navy 5 Panel Cap has the Trust Logo printed on the front panel, is manufactured from 100% cotton and has a Rip-Strip™ size adjuster at the back.

Priced at £8.00 the Baseball Cap can be purchased from our online shop or from the Trust Information Stand in the Shrimpers Bar prior to any home game.

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Shrimpers Trust Ballpoint 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.



Or why not splash out on one of our sale items in our Exclusive Sammy the Shrimp Jewellery.



Manufactured in Sterling Silver with Blue Spinel the items are available as a Pin or Cufflink Set which come in their own presentation box.

Each of the items are priced as follows:

Blue Spinel Pin: £35 (Was £45)

Blue Spinel Cufflinks: £55 (was £75)

Plain Pin: £25 (was £35)

The Pin measures 24.5mm high x 21mm wide and is also available in a plain Silver version and the Cufflinks measure 20mm high by 17mm wide.

These and other items in our merchandise range can be purchased online in the Trust Shop at www.shrimperstrust.co.uk

Please note 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**

SHRIMPERS TRUST ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Follow us on twitter @shrimperstrust and like and follow us on Facebook "ShrimpersTrust" to keep up to date with all our latest news and events.

We now also have a dedicated Away Travel Facebook Page "sufcofficialawaytravel" where you can find all the latest details on the Official Away Travel for Southend United.

25th May 2017