



## NEWSLETTER – Vol. 16 Iss. 01. – September 2020

### THE INTRODUCTION – Paul FitzGerald

**Welcome to the new season, well, I say “welcome” in a very different sense to normal obviously!**



The appointment of our new manager appears to have gone down very well in most quarters and it's nice to see some positives after such a long period of negatives, which I was going to dispatch quickly. However, since drafting these notes we have made another appalling start to the season and another of our regular visits to the high court.

This particular visit appears to have unnerved fans more than usual. On this appearance it was HMRC who asked for the further adjournment because the debt had been reduced. It probably would have been reduced further had Cardnet not refused to hand over the season ticket money. Whilst this might be understandable, I fail to see

how this situation can continue. Like many of you I paid my season ticket money expecting the Club to benefit. Cardnet therefore have my money and are not releasing it.

I have spoken to Ron Martin several times over the last few days and we have also exchanged a number of emails. He states that we should not worry, I remarked that fans will, and he accepted that. Ron assures that the issue is timing and he has told me that significant sums will be available in the very near future covering the HMRC debt as well as the expected ongoing costs during these uncertain times.

His BBC interview did cover several of the issues that concern us all and whilst it's good to hear his thoughts, the Trust Board is still very concerned. Our response to his interview is on our website and the fund-raising campaign we mention is detailed below.

In many ways the Global Pandemic masked the earlier non-payment of salaries and probably saved us a points deduction from the over eager EFL - who seem perfectly happy to ignore the fans and do nothing to sort out the rampant disregard for corporate governance within the game whilst enjoying nice fat salaries....goodness, how did I become so bitter? Maybe it is when reading this type of report referring to the recently departed EFL Chief Executive ***“In a move that has attracted criticism from inside and outside the game, Harvey received £510,000 severance, in addition to his £495,000 annual salary.”***

In line with most other companies, your Trust has seen very little in the way of income recently. We do not have any of our regular events planned and are not sure when we will be able to schedule them.

Likewise away travel....after 21 Consecutive years and something like 540 games we will not be running coaches until it is safe to do so.

Our lack of income means we either reduce our ability to help our club and related causes, or we re-double our efforts and/or find new methods....and so, to that end:

Firstly, I would encourage you all to rejoin when your membership is up for renewal – every single member makes a difference and it is only through your support that we are able to continue with our support of the Youth Academy. I'm sure you will all agree that this is something we can all be proud of.

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Our Quid A Goal scheme “took a hit” last season, firstly because we were, frankly ahem, rubbish but also of course, because of a smaller number of games played. This scheme is however up and running and COVID free. If you’ve not got involved before, we’d be really happy to accept new pledges + of course, we are very grateful for our regular pledgers, You’ll get your name in the matchday programme regularly and all money raised will be put to good use and for this year, each pledger will be entered into a draw for some goodies.

Recently, we have entered into a relationship with a Retro shirt supplier and plan to launch a new shirt on a regular basis. We will also consider special edition shirts based on SUFC designs, but maybe to celebrate specific occasions, look out for this in weeks to come. First up in the Retro format is the famous Custard Splat<sup>1</sup> which at the time raised a few eyebrows, but now appears to be seen as a classic. You can order one of these through our website in a fabulous number of sizes and even have it personalised if required.



Home / World Items / Europe / England & Wales / League Two / Southend United 1996-98 home - Champions, League One (tier 3) 2006; Champions, League Two (tier 4) 1981

Southend United 1996-98 home - Champions, League One (tier 3) 2006; Champions, League Two (tier 4) 1981

£31.50 - £35.00

AGE:

SIZE:

SLEEVES:

NAME (optional)

NUMBER (optional)

<sup>1</sup> Without Olympic logo due to copyright reasons.

**If you'd like to get involved in our activities, have an idea or have any comments on anything the Shrimpers Trust does, or does not do – please feel free to contact me at [pfitz666@aol.com](mailto:pfitz666@aol.com)**

## SOUTHEND RE-UNITED

**The club's continuing financial struggles in extremely challenging times has led to many fans offering help. Indeed, some have instigated their own funding initiatives.**

Whilst we have been assured by the club chairman, Ron Martin, that the debt currently outstanding with HMRC will be paid in full, we do believe it appropriate for help to be given to the club at least regarding ongoing operations. With this in mind, we are pleased to now launch our funding help campaign, 'Southend Re-United'.



In an ever-changing situation it may prove that the club becomes eligible to receive financial assistance from elsewhere, either from the government or from within the game itself. However, any such help is perhaps unlikely to fully replicate the revenue that the club might expect to generate in normal times, and meanwhile the many costs associated with running a club in the EFL remain.

As fans we support our club through thick and thin, and the present situation is possibly as 'thin' as it has ever been in our 114 year proud history since that meeting between Oliver Trigg and co at the Blue Boar on 19 May 1906. Many fans have already purchased 2020/21 season tickets perhaps more in hope of being able to attend than expectation, donated ticket money from last season, provided sponsorship, and much more. But nothing can replicate the revenue brought in by normal match day income, and attendance has currently been reduced from an average of 6,932 in our last full season to zero.

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The Covid19 pandemic has led to many challenges we know regarding family incomes, but for those who are able and that wish to help support our club through these un-precedented times 'Southend Re-United' provides fans with the opportunity to donate whatever they can to help seek to maintain a professional football club in Southend. Indeed, this desire is at the very heart of the objectives of the Shrimpers Trust.

Whatever you can donate will be ring-fenced into a separate pool within the Shrimpers Trust, which itself is wholly independent of the club's own operations and finances. It is then our intention, during November, to use whatever has been accumulated to help support the club's ongoing finances, and the best way of doing this will be agreed with Ron Martin at that time.

We will keep fans informed of the progress of this campaign, and we will keep its need and purpose under constant review.

Shrimpers fans have always been united in their support for the club we all love. 'Southend Re-United' brings us together as one at a time when we are not currently able to go to Roots Hall and show our support in person.

**The online donation page can be found here**  
[www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/home.asp?page\\_id=845](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/home.asp?page_id=845)

## AWAY TRAVEL

Be Part Of It  
www.southendunited.co.uk

**SHRIMPERS TRUST**

**OFFICIAL AWAY SUPPORTERS TRAVEL**

**ORGANISER FOR SOUTHEND UNITED F.C.**

07892 905338 | travel@shrimperstrust.co.uk | www.shrimperstrust.co.uk

facebook.com/sufcofficialawaytravel | twitter.com/shrimperstrust

**Members will be aware that currently all League 2 fixtures are being played without Away Fans.**

As an update for supporters the Trust is not in a position to confirm any plans for coach travel to Southend United away fixtures. We are currently seeking clarification as to plans/restrictions that will apply within League 2 Clubs in terms of accommodating away supporters. It will be appreciated that this is a complex process, with many facets requiring consideration.

Once we have the necessary information available, we will issue a further update to supporters.

However, at this point it is confirmed that the safety and well-being of supporters is paramount and therefore the Trust will not be running any coach travel to away games until it is deemed safe to do so. In addition, we need to consider the financial impact of having to run our coaches below capacity. There is a balance here of keeping fares at an affordable level, whilst not running travel at a loss so impacting the Trust's ability to fund and support other worthwhile causes in and around Southend United Football Club.

We at the Trust are all keen to provide our supporters with Away Coach travel as soon as practically possible and appreciate everyone's patience whilst we work towards a solution.

Regards,

*Lesley Hicks*  
Away Travel Co-ordinator.

## SHRIMPERS TRUST AGM

**Due to the current restrictions in place this year's Trust AGM due to be held in November has been postponed.**

The AGM will be re-arranged after consultation with the FCA and when it is safe to do so.

Details will be advised when a new date has been arranged.

## MEMBERSHIP

### Life Membership (Total 256)

**Welcome to New Life Members Keith Baker, Sheila Bronson, Lew Carey, Sam Dudley, Gordon Grout, Laurence Imich, Harrison Lane, Brian Illsley, John Illsley, Christopher James, Martin Muttay Alfred Rivett and Kevin Yates.**



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

**Jack Allen, Kevin Allcock, Dan Armstrong, Mark Austin, Darren Bailey, Gary Baglow, Keith Baker, Keith Barnard, Michael Blight, James Brittain, Sheila Bronson, Jonathan Burton, Daniel Cable, Lew Carey, James Clarke, Steve Clayton, Gino Corsini, Stephen Cowdrey, Anthony Crewsdon, David Crewsdon, Dave Cross, Jamie Day, Luke Dennis, Liam Druce, Sam Dudley, Paul Duncan, Mark Edwards, Alison Ellicot, Sean Ellis, Ronnie Ellis, Richard Feather, Greg Fidgeon, Michael Figg, Joe FitzGerald, Jon French, Michelle Gargate, Jamie Green, Alex Grocott, Thomas Guy, Lee Harlow, Trevor Harp, Nick Hart, Peter Hawkins, Terry Hazlewood, Trevor Higgs, William Hill, Lewis Hobday, Matthew Holland, Kristian Hood, Clive Howell, Joe Imich, Laurence Imich, Christopher James, Luke Jarvis, Raymond Jervis, Harrison Lane, Adrian Latham, Jack Lawrence, Chris Lee, Tom Livermore, Tony Maddocks, Richard Mander, Keith Maple, Ian Masters, Nigel Meyer, Gareth Millington, Glen Minney, Jason Mitchell, Anthony Moore, Richard Moreton, Andrew Mountier, Martin Muttay, Neil Parish, David Patten, Chris Peace, Ben Perry, Geoffrey Phipps, Andrew Polkinghorn, Edward Pursell, Brian Quinn, Derek Reeves, Alfred Rivett, Tony Rogers, James Schooley, Mike Schooley, Stephen Seaman, Geoff Seawert, David Shields, Darren Short, Martin Simper, Leigh Simpkins, Gregory Simpson, David Smith, Garry Smith, Mike Smith, John Stallan, Gareth Stoten, Mark Sturman, Dominic Todd, Garry Trim, Richard Walker, Tom Warren, Paul Wells, Austin Wilks, Peter Williams, William Wilcox, Steven Williams, James Wood John Wood, and Andy Young.**

**\*\*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) \*\***

## FUNDRAISING

### 100 Club

The latest winners in the scheme, pulled out of the hat during weekly draws since the last newsletter were **Graham Hart, Richard Harrington, James Cornwall, Matt Eva, Philip Endell, John Clench, Jack Bond, Valerie Fane, Richard Coxell, Andy Bunker, Gordon Grout, Donna Stone, John Walton, Mike Smith, David Mason and Shane Chapman.**

The nature of the 100 Club means the more people that sign up, then 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](mailto: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 £31 per week at the present time.

### Quid-a-Goal

**Our Quid a Goal scheme is now up and running for the 2020/21 Season.**



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 2020/21, some of the 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, Ted Smith, Jack Payne, Dru Yearwood, Elvis Bowomo and Charlie Kelman 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. A £0.25 per goal pledge would therefore most likely not cost you more than £20.00 come the end of the season. 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.

An entry form has been included with this newsletter and they are also available from the Fundraising Page on the Trust Website or from the Trust Information Stand in the Shrimpers Bar, and as mentioned in the newsletter intro all those that make a pledge will be entered into a prize draw for some goodies.

## 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.

**SHRIMPERS TRUST**  
OFFICIAL AWAY SUPPORTERS TRAVEL  
ORGANISER FOR SOUTHEND UNITED F.C.

07892 905338 | [travel@shrimperstrust.co.uk](mailto:travel@shrimperstrust.co.uk) | [www.shrimperstrust.co.uk](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk)

[facebook.com/sufcofficialawaytravel](https://www.facebook.com/sufcofficialawaytravel) | [twitter.com/shrimperstrust](https://twitter.com/shrimperstrust)

**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.**

29<sup>th</sup> September 2020