



NEWSLETTER – Vol. 16 Iss. 02. – December 2020

THE INTRODUCTION – Paul FitzGerald

Goodness me, it's only a few weeks since the last new newsletter and much of what we wanted to happen, has not, and plenty that we did not want, has!

Sadly, the optimism and enthusiasm of our new manager and his entourage, have not turned our fortunes on the pitch around, in fact, as I write this the opposite is true (post Bolton).

There is some sympathy for Mark, as the fortunes off the pitch, never quite seem to get to what was probably the expected starting line when he joined us. Certainly, there is no shortage of effort and, in fact, performances are much improved, but at the end of the day, the League Table does not lie.

Whilst the football club chairman once again found the money to pay what we owed previously to HMRC, thus preventing the HMRC from winding us up, he has, so far, not found the money to pay them what we owe now.....

SUFC are not alone of course, and there are some suggestions that upwards of 20 clubs are in a precarious position, waiting on the deliberations of the Government, the EFL and, of course, the Premier League, which the government believe, should bail the lower clubs out.

The "Ron out" brigade shout ever louder, as results go against us, with the bulk of those shouting loudest, citing years of mis management.

There is not really a "Ron in" brigade currently. However, it is worth remembering, that, the last time I checked, there was not a queue at the gates, of people willing to step in and pump money into an overspending, underperforming football club.

The only asset that the club has (and this goes back to before Ron Martin's ownership) is the franchise that allows a football club to exist in the borough. The football club is entirely dependent on its owner and the long awaiting development. Even if Ron were to sell up, he wouldn't be selling the property element...so, like it or not, we are stuck with what we have, for a little longer.

I say "a little longer" because at the time of writing we are expecting a 2nd significant announcement regarding the Stadium (the first arriving on 19th Nov). Of course, we've been here before, several times, so until it turns up, the doubts will remain! However, it has to be said, the signs from the council are positive and the full council meeting on the 10th is perhaps one of the most important meetings EVER for our football club.

Ron Martin Q & A

The unrest that many feel (in particular with the embargo and the results) led to the Trust organising a face to face Q & A (socially distanced of course) at Roots Hall. Representatives from all formal supporters' groups were invited by the Trust and 30 or so attended. Interpreted minutes have been widely reported by others, so I won't repeat everything that happened, but I list a few points that may be of interest, that have not been completely reported elsewhere, that I have seen.



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The purpose of this meeting was 3-fold...to get answers, to show the depth of feeling and finally, to improve communication going forward.

Chris Phillips was refused an invite (by Ron), despite my protestations. Imagine my frustration then, on the night, as Ron asked whether he was in attendance.

Yes, we owe HRMC more money and it's down to the clubs to agree a payment plan – but there is no danger of another winding up order for a while.

Ron, stated he couldn't be expected to remember everything, after being asked why the promise (by end of September) to repay away ticket money owed to fans for the last 2 away games of last season had not been paid. (The following morning it was paid)

Much discussion about embargo/players etc. etc. and then the commitment to clear embargo for the January window – a question "Won't that be too late?" – then much more discussion about the team.

"All wages up to date" - "No chance of points deduction."

"4 more players coming soon – plenty expected to leave, even some who joined recently".

The meeting signed off with the commitment that further sessions would be held in the coming weeks.

Key expectations from the meeting were:

- Good news from the council VERY soon
- A phone call to clear the embargo
- Some signings
- Fans patience

So...what has changed since that night?

Some news appeared on the club website, and in the press, and the **council** have held their meeting. However, despite an apparent overwhelmingly positive view, we now wait for the full Council meeting (mid December).

The **embargo** has not been cleared.

Signings would be pointless - we can't even play the players we have signed.

Patience has worn thin due to the unfulfilled expectations

Ron Martin really is his own worse enemy. With 30 vociferous fans in front of him, he suggests a simple phone call, is all that is needed to rid us of this embargo mess. Four weeks on from that, it's clear that the phone call turned out to be anything but simple. In fact the rules have changed several times since his intentions were made public, but his inability to clarify or communicate with the fans, means that most, just think he lied in the first place.

Ron's note to me, yesterday says "it was a phone call to HMRC to enter into a Time to Pay (TtP) agreement. We no longer need this to lift embargo and expect, temporary embargo to be lifted this week" it has taken four weeks to get to a point, where an explanation is forthcoming? I'm sure there are very good reasons (financial) that have changed his strategy, but where does that leave his credibility with the fans?

On a zoom call today (29th Nov) with Ron, I put these points to him and he acknowledged the need to communicate more and has promised to make public the reasons behind the delay within the next day or so.

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CHRISTMAS APPEAL – OFF THE STREETS

Some of our regular readers/members will remember that for the last couple of years around this time we have collected food for charities that work with the homeless, last year it was Harp and very grateful they were too. This year we have chosen "Off The Streets", we have had a relationship with them for a little while and some of their guests were recipients of our hospitality, via our Community scheme, part funded by Aviva. This year, of course, we are unable to do a food collection or at least not in the same way, so we have decided to support their current scheme (see details below), Southend Supporters have been very generous in the past and I hope they will consider this a worthwhile cause, at this, especially tricky time for the homeless. We have decided, that as we have been unable to reasonably run the POTM award so far this season, that we will donate the missing months from last season, together with this season's so far, as a Trust donation. We hope to encourage other fans' groups to join us, so that we can make a real difference.

If you could spare the cost of a Match Day Ticket or Pie/Pint the money collected will go a long way towards making a life (or 2) easier – please donate what you can.

<http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/shop.asp?catid=15>



HELP US TO HELP OTHERS END 2020 WITH A SMILE ON THEIR FACE AND HOPE IN THEIR HEARTS.

2020 has been a tough year for so many of us in many different ways and for a lot of us we will look back on 2020 with sadness, regret, thinking about lost opportunities and how we haven't been able to achieve all we hoped. Sadly, one thing hasn't changed and that is the number of rough sleepers on our streets.

We are approaching the coldest months and unlike previous years, we will not have any churches opening their doors to some of the most vulnerable in our society. (They are running a befriending service though if you want to volunteer).

We wanted to change that at Off the Streets and we want to end 2020 changing someone's life. Hence, we have paid for 6 rooms for the months of December and January and we will put rough sleepers into them. Whilst in them, we will work intensely with them to help find permanent accommodation and then continue that help once they are housed as we always do. Once they have moved into permanent accommodation we will place another rough sleeper into the hotel and so on and so on.

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This is your chance to help - would you like to sponsor a room for 1 night or for a week or even a month, you will literally change someone's life.

Any donation will help us to help people get off the streets this winter but ...

1 night costs roughly £40-£50 per person

1 week costs roughly £280 -£350 per person

1 month costs roughly £1200

We will not be sending anyone to the street at the end of January but anyone who is still in the rooms will move directly to our new shelter we hope to have opened then and we will carry on supporting them

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

2020 may have been hard for us all but let's help it end in hope and a fresh start for those who have been hit the hardest.

RETRO SHIRTS NO 2 IN A SERIES

Regular readers will know, we have recently 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. The second in the series (the first being the Custard Splat from 1996-98) is from our first ever championship winning season of 1980/81 when Dave Smith's men set record after record, to clinch top spot in Division Four.

It can be accessed at: www.world-retro.com

You can order one of these through our website, in a fabulous number of sizes, and even have it personalised if required.

Just type 'Southend' into the search box, and it will take you straight to the SUFC Retro Shirts page.

All sizes are available, from Babygro to Adult 7XL.

An adult shirt is priced at just £35 (including carriage & packing) and delivery, is normally within 3 weeks from placement of your order.

The Trust will receive a donation from every shirt sold.

Unfortunately, due to image/copyright regulations etc., we cannot use any original manufacturers logos on the shirts.



TRUST AGM

It's customary for the Trust to hold its AGM around this time. However, due to COVID restrictions, it's not currently possible to hold the AGM in the usual, face to face format.

Whilst an option that we have considered is completing the process virtually, it was felt that this might be difficult to effectively organise, and furthermore, would disadvantage our members who do not have on-line access, or the facilities to use an online process.

The decision has therefore been taken to postpone the process, with a view to this being held at Roots Hall in the New Year / when safe to do so.

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In advance of the delayed meeting being held, members are able to view the draft minutes to the 2019 AGM held 25th November, and to also obtain a copy of the draft accounts for year ending 30th June 2020. These documents are available from the Members' section of the Trust website.

If any member has any queries, or wishes to obtain further information regarding the process we have followed in such exceptional circumstances, they should contact Lesley Hicks: Society Secretary at secretary@shrimperstrust.co.uk

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

THE 'BIG' CHRISTMAS QUIZ

The image shows a quiz form titled "Christmas 2020 Quiz" with the theme "Pop Song Titles". It lists five prizes: 1st Prize (£150), 2nd Prize (Four seats in the Blues' Centre Circle Lounge), 3rd Prize (Bottle of Champagne), 4th Prize (Signed SUFC shirt), and 5th Prize (Box of sweets). A yellow circle indicates an entry fee of £1.50. The form is sponsored by MSPFX Foreign Currency Services and includes fields for Name, Address, Postcode, Email, and Tel. It also specifies a closing date of Saturday, 9th January 2021 and a return address: PO Box 5830, Southend on Sea, SS1 9FD.

The Shrimpers Trust are once again running a 'Big Quiz' this Christmas with a first prize of £150.

The theme for the quiz is 'Pop Song Titles' and the entry fee is £1.50.

As well as the £150 first prize you could also win Four Seats in the Blues' Centre Circle Lounge with Match Tickets* conditions apply, a Bottle of Champagne, a Signed SUFC shirt and a Box of sweets.

Copies of the quiz can be purchased using a Debit/Credit Card from the Trust Online Shop here www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/home.asp?page_id=846 (there will be a 50p surcharge for buying online to cover costs and postage).

All entries must be received by Saturday, 9th January 2021. Please note that only original answer forms are acceptable and

that photocopies are invalid as entries to this quiz.

The Trust would once again like to thank MSPFX Foreign Currency Services for their sponsorship of the quiz and Southend United FC and Alan Perry for their donation of prizes.



GREETINGS CARD

We now have our own greetings card which can be used for any occasion.

Especially made for the Shrimpers Trust/the Southend United Ex-Players Association by 'Stadium Photography' the front cover is a montage of various images of Roots Hall.

Inside is blank for you to personalise your message as appropriate.

Each card comes with its own envelope and retails at just £1.50 (plus postage) and can be purchased from the Trust Online Shop here

www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/shop.asp?catid=6



MEMBERSHIP

Life Membership (Total 257)

Welcome to New Life Member Gary Lockett.



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

Dave Allen, Ewan Brown, Stuart Byford, Therese Dangerfield, Mark Dobinson, Andrew Emptage, Kerry Fairless, Jamie Forsyth, Wayne Hickey, Niki Johnson, Mark Kendrick, John Lambert, James Leeder, Gary Lockett, Matthew Rice, Gareth Rowe, Nicholas Rubin, Glenn Taylor, Richard Thompson, Glen True, Chris Ward, Scott Wheeler and Stephen 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 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 ****

FUNDRAISING

100 Club

The latest winners in the scheme, pulled out of the hat during weekly draws since the last newsletter were **Mike Roles, Graham Hilder, Paul Manning, Chris Karkoski, Richard Harrington, Lesley Hicks, Philip Endell, Paul Yeomanson and Mrs C.A. Harvey.**

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 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 current total after 19 games is £274.00



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 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 Bwomono 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.

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.

Entry forms can be downloaded here

www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/n_images/client/pdf/quidagoalflyer20-21.pdf and as mentioned in the newsletter into all those that make a pledge will be entered into a prize draw for some goodies.

SHRIMPERS TRUST MERCHANDISE

Christmas is nearly upon us so why not buy your SUFC Supporting family members or friends something from our range of Trust Merchandise for their Xmas Stocking?



2020/21 SHIRT KEY RING



This two sided football shirt key ring is in the SUFC home & away colours for the 2020/21 season with the Shrimpers Trust youth team shirt logo.

Priced at **£1.50** the Key Ring can be purchased from our online shop here www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/shop.asp?catid=6

SEASON CARD HOLDER

This Oyster Card style Season Card Holder comes in Navy with the Trust Logo and Web Address printed in full colour on the front.

Priced at **£2.00** the Season Card Holder can be purchased from our online shop here www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/shop.asp?catid=6



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 here www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/shop.asp?catid=6

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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 can be purchased from our online shop here www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/shop.asp?catid=6



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: £25 (Was £45)

Blue Spinel Cufflinks: £45 (was £75)

Plain Pin: £15 (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.

This items of Jewellery are exclusive to the Trust and can be purchased from our online shop here www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/shop.asp?catid=14

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

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 | www.shrimperstrust.co.uk

facebook.com/sufcofficialawaytravel | 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.

29th November 2020