

NEWSLETTER – Vol. 16 Iss. 04. – June 2021

THE INTRODUCTION – Paul FitzGerald

So much has happened since our last newsletter, it's difficult to know where to start!

Following our expected relegation from League 2, it would be fair to say that there has been an outpouring of emotion from fans. Most fans blame the football club chairman, Ron Martin, for the torrid few years we've had. That emotion found many forms, including organised protests at the football ground. Our demise also encouraged ex player, Stan Collymore, to become involved and the subsequent outpourings from him, led to the hope that in some way he might have helped become our saviour. Stan, of course, then disappeared from the scene as quickly as he arrived, following a disagreement with Ron

Subsequent to this Ron appointed (1st June) ex Gillingham CEO, Tom Lawrence. Tom used to watch SUFC as a lad and early communications from him are very positive.

Since the departure of Steve Kavanagh in September 2016, we have been consistent in our view that a CEO is required in the successful operation of our football club. It has been an obvious void in the club and one, that we believe, has been a contributing factor to our exit from the football league. This opinion has been communicated regularly with Ron Martin, been backed by other supporter groups via the various Zoom calls and prior to that, the physical meetings at the football ground and even further back, at the last Football Club AGM.

Hopefully, many of you will have seen Tom on our recent Zoom call, this being the 4th we've hosted.



If you've not seen it and would like to, go to the Trust's Facebook page and follow the link (older versions are also still available).

Also, hopefully Ron's appearances on the recent Zoom calls will have shown fans that there is some contrition for the situation we are currently in. I sense a new start, goodness knows we need it after such a terrible few years.

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The rebuild starts here and it's time, I think, we all need to look forward, not back - a point made to Ron when he started explaining his view of the reasons for our demise. Frankly, we are not that interested in the reasons, which would largely be disputed anyway - what we all want to know is, how we intend to move ahead in an upward trajectory from this point forward!

The next call is expected to include Phil Brown, Tom and Ricky Duncan, likely focussing on the football strategy as signings are made and the squad make up becomes apparent. No doubt there will also be plenty of lively discussion about Season Tickets and Refunds!

Meet the Blues Day

There are plans for this to go ahead, just before the start of the season. Tom Lawrence is keen to make it more appealing to supporters with a variety of stalls, and possibly some 5-a-side games.



We will obviously be there en masse subject to restrictions, please drop by, take a look at what we do and say hallo!

Social Inclusion

Whilst we are disappointed that Stan Collymore's presence was temporary, he has left the Trust with a valuable legacy. We explained our Social Inclusion project to him and he used his contacts and social media power to raise awareness and a significant amount of money. Bearing in mind that we lost our Aviva Grant after the rules were changed, we still planned to continue, but maybe at a reduced capacity, the funds received/expected from Stan's involvement surpass 11K and this will make a big difference as you can imagine.

We are still accepting donations and if you feel you'd like to contribute, you can do so here http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/home.asp?page_id=859



First out of the blocks with the Stan connected donation was Karen Dovaston of Dovaston Law, to whom we are very grateful. We'll be featuring more on those donating later as the project progress, but for now THANK YOU Karen.

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We're not looking back as I said... however, the Trust is still in receipt of around 3K, which was offered to Mark Molesely to buy some training equipment. For whatever reason the equipment planned was never bought and of course, Mark and his gang have left. We will be transferring the offer to Phil Brown in the coming weeks and hope that the fans efforts in raising this money will make a difference to the players in some practical form, as we approach the new season.

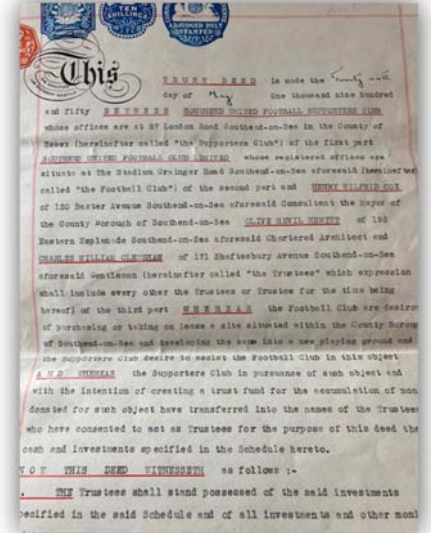
Covenant on Roots Hall

Ever since Southend United submitted plans to Southend Borough Council for a new stadium at Fossetts Farm, there has been speculation about the existence of a covenant on the land at Roots Hall.

Despite having a copy of the Title deeds of Roots Hall and the original Trust Deed from 1950 (see image) - we have never been convinced that such a covenant exists.

Consequently - the Shrimpers Trust have been in discussions about the matter with a high-ranking Council official, and we understand there is a contractual obligation in place, that ensures Roots Hall does not close until the new stadium is ready to open.

This news confirms there is a requirement that no demolition work will start on Roots Hall until our football club has a new home.



Liaison Meeting

As we finally see some light at the end of this dreadful period, the Trust Liaison meetings have resumed and as such, we'd like to re-iterate our offer to pose any question regarding your football club to those in the know.

Subjects covered on 10th June included: -

- Junior Blues where the new season gives us an opportunity to reset/restart this group.
- Southend United Ex-players association – early thoughts on how to encourage that this year
- Social Inclusion – Budgets and donations (awaited) allowing a larger scale project than previous
- Season Tickets Past and present – a lively discussion!
- The State of the Stadium – Furlough and non-use have led to certain areas of the stadium needing some serious TLC

The plan is to meet in person every 6 weeks or so to cover all aspects of the Trust/Club business and to get answers to supporter's questions.

SUEPA – Southend United Ex-Players Association

Signings for SUEPA continue to flow with membership numbers now standing at 317.

Yet another significant milestone has been reached with Amy Rogers joining the ranks, following her recent departure from SUFC. We wish all her all the best for the future.

Amy joins the likes of Ben Clarkson and John Gowens as our SUEPA physio's.

We all hope to resume our activities in the not too distance future and are discussing this with the football club at present.

SUEPA, formed by the Shrimpers Trust at the Crouch Vale Brewery Tap Room in January 2018, looks to re-connect former players with each other, the club and the fans.



Retro Shirts

We currently have 5 Shirts in our Retro Range partnership with Chablais Sport including the very first shirt from 1906-1910 and are planning the next one, any thoughts on what you'd be interested in would be welcome.



Southern United 1985-86 home shirt –
Champions, League One (tier 1) 2006;
Champions, League Two (tier 2) 1985
£31.50 – £35.00



Southern United 1976-78 home shirt –
Champions, League One (tier 1) 2006;
Champions, League Two (tier 2) 1985
£31.50 – £35.00



Southern United 1906-10 shirt –
Champions, League One (tier 1) 2006;
Champions, League Two (tier 2) 1985
£31.50 – £35.00



Southern United 1980-81 Division 2 –
championship shirt (home) –
Champions, League One (tier 1) 2006;
Champions, League Two (tier 2) 1985
£31.50 – £35.00



Southern United 1960-68 home –
Champions, League One (tier 1) 2006;
Champions, League Two (tier 2) 1985
£31.50 – £35.00

As before, there is a full adult size range, junior shirts, a babygro, options to have either long or short sleeves, and, if required (at no extra cost) a name and number on the back.

You can order one of these through our website, in a fabulous number of sizes.

Once through to the Chablais site, 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.

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

TRUST AGM

PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF THE 2020 AND 2021 AGM OF THE SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LIMITED

We advised members in November 2020 that due to COVID restrictions, it would not be possible at that time to hold the 2020 AGM. The decision was therefore taken to postpone this with a view to this being held at Roots Hall in the New Year / when safe to do so.

However, taking into account current Covid requirements any scheduling of this meeting would now likely not be able to take place until July/August at the earliest.

Having given matters full consideration it is proposed that the Trust amalgamate the 2020 and 2021 AGM's and hold one meeting later this year (November).

Board member elections will be held as part of this amalgamated AGM. In the meantime, all existing Directors will continue in post.

We do not envisage that any Trust members would have any objection to the proposed amalgamation of AGM's. However, if you have any queries or wish to make any comment regarding the process we intend following in such exceptional circumstances, please do not hesitate to contact Lesley Hicks: Society Secretary at secretary@shrimperstrust.co.uk.

Alternatively contact Lesley at The Shrimpers Trust, PO Box 5830, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 9FD.

Regards,

Lesley Hicks

Society Secretary

June 2021.

WELCOME TO TOM LAWRENCE

The Shrimpers Trust is pleased to note the appointment of Southend United's new CEO Tom Lawrence.

Like many fans, we were pleased by the recent interest of club legend Stan Collymore and we understand that Stan played his part on introducing the new CEO to Southend United, thus showing his contribution was a positive one. We once again thank him for his contribution to this appointment.

Not only does Tom bring an impressive legal background and football league knowledge to the table he is also a Southend United fan! We look forward to regular dialogue in both the immediate future and long term.

As a Trust, whilst we do not yet know Tom on a professional level, several of the team have had the opportunity to meet with him at one of our fundraisers when walking to Gillingham. He helped make that day particularly memorable and we can see from that experience, the impact Tom will have at our football club.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish Tom all the best in his new role.



MEMBERSHIP

Life Membership (Total 265)

Welcome to New Life Members **Richard Coxell, James Harrington, Lesley Lawrence, Christopher Mills and Matthew Walker.**



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

Ken Adamson, Richard Ager, Nick Aston, John Austin, Russell Baker, Philip Boulton, Stephen Burton, David Cousins, Stephen Graham, Sherif Harding, James Harrington, Paul Hill, Tim Hobden, Paul Lowry, Christopher Mills, Karl Ramsey, Steve Smith, Howard Studd, Matthew Walker and Graeme Yetts.

***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 **Rob Warman, Gordon Harvey, Coral Perry, John Freemantle, Andy Thorne, Carol Champion, Philip Conway, Tony Gardener, Richard Cunningham, John Clench, John Onslow, Jenny Yeomanson, Paul FitzGerald and Andrew Leeder.**

Congratulations also to Simon Dodd who won £325 in the Xmas Draw.

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.

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Quid-a-Goal

Our Quid a Goal scheme is now finished for the 2020/21 Season.



The total at the close of the season is £1,636.00. 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

SHRIMPERS TRUST MERCHANDISE

2020/21 SHIRT KEY RING

WHEN IT'S GONE IT'S GONE!



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 £1.00 the Key Ring can be purchased from our online shop here www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/shop.asp?catid=6

SEASON CARD HOLDER

Buying a Season Ticket for the new season? – Why not treat yourself to the Trust's 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



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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

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



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](https://www.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.

18th June 2021