

NEWSLETTER – Vol. 17 Iss. 03. – April 2022

THE INTRODUCTION – Paul FitzGerald

Oh well, that “dare to dream” moment didn’t last long. After the start we had to the season, most fans would probably accept the position we are in now. But, as is the case so often, that flicker of optimism when looking towards the upper part of the league table, has well and truly disappeared with our last few results.

The Trust held its latest Liaison meeting with the club on 13th April, the following subjects amongst many were covered: - Youth Team Sponsorship/Donation; Junior Blues; Shrimpers Bar; Social Inclusion; SUEPA / Retro Day / Scarves and Fossetts Farm. Minutes will be available on the website shortly.

SHRIMPERS TRUST SUPPORT FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES - YOUR HELP NEEDED PLEASE

Like many, we at the Shrimpers Trust discussed how best we can help those in need, not just by words of support but by meaningful action. That's why we have partnered with our friends and retro shirt suppliers World Retro, who are based in Poland. The incredible sacrifice and support shown by the Polish people, and indeed that of World Retro, has been inspiring, helping huge numbers of refugees fleeing their war-torn home.

Lots is being done by many different agencies to help feed and clothe the incoming refugee population, and it seems that all of Poland is geared to doing what they can, but the refugees need to be moved on to suitable places for their new temporary homes. World Retro have worked astonishingly hard to focus on making this transportation process work for those eligible to come to the UK, devising a plan to move them from the Ukrainian border to a Polish airport, working with airline Wizz Air to provide seats to fly them to the UK, and then, for the new arrivals to be greeted and taken to their new homes over here. All of this work is done by volunteers and funded for by them - aside from the relatively modest cost of the flight, and this is where we come in.



In working with World Retro, we designed a unique scarf which is available to purchase for £20. This money is being used to fund the cost of bringing one refugee to safe passage in the UK. So, for EVERY scarf purchased YOU are helping to bring ONE person to a place of safety away from the horrors of the war that is ravaging through their country.

It would be true to say that the response so far from Southend Supporters has, as usual, been excellent, but we planned to do one last push

However, these “best laid plans...” were in tatters, as our scarf courier UPS let us down spectacularly this week (15th April) We had a plethora of individuals, including 3 ex-players lined up to help us sell our newly designed scarf to help Ukrainian refugees.

Latest expectations are that the scarves will arrive for the Halifax game.

The scarves will be on sale around the ground when we receive them and those already ordered should be with the buyer shortly.



We cannot do everything, but we can do something, and we hope to soon see many of these scarves being proudly worn at Roots Hall and beyond. So please, if you can, purchase a scarf and show your support.

<https://world-retro.com/product/ukraine-refugee-travel-scarf-southend/>

Social Inclusion

Despite the result in our match vs Notts Country, a good time was had by our guests Vibrance. (they offer supported living services where people with learning difficulties are supported to learn new skills so they can reach their full potential.)

The group followed the reasonably well trodden path of others, before them. i.e. tour of the ground, meet the players, and watched the game from the comfort of a hospitality box.

Next up (23rd April) are Southend Youth Voice.



We try to make the day more than just a football match for our guests, to create a lasting impression. The groups are usually welcomed around midday and given a tour of the stadium, as well as being given the chance to meet the manager and players, depending on timings. There are photo opportunities throughout, and food and soft drinks are provided, along with the match day tickets, either in the stands, or in executive boxes, depending on the cause.

We hope that by offering easy access and an enjoyable environment, that we will make a real difference to a number of lives.

I'd like to re-iterate my thanks to the following for their donations, which has helped us get to this point (We'll feature more on these companies as the project progresses):

- **Karen Dovaston** of Dovaston Law, Specialist Family Law Solicitors
- **Nitin Khandhia** – for and on behalf of BTMK Solicitors
- **Ken Adamson**
- **Stuart Leslie** at Safe Fire Protection
- **Jacqui Dallimore** at the Roslin

The Shrimpers Trust have run a Social Inclusion Project since 2019. Our aim is simply to bring people together and provide the opportunity to attend Roots Hall for those who would not ordinarily be able to do so, for whatever reason.

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

If you would be interested in participating in the scheme or have a recommendation of a worthy cause please contact karllansley@aol.com or jphfitz@gmail.com

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John White Testimonial / Essex Charity Cup

Details of long serving John White's testimonial are now confirmed and will take place in conjunction with the Essex Charity Cup's Rivals Unite day at Roots Hall Stadium on Sunday 22nd May 2022.



The event, which is raising funds for Justin Edinburgh 3 Foundation as well as supporting John's testimonial, will include all three professional sides from the South East.

Blues will be fielding two sides on the day- first a mixture of fans and legends in an 11.30 kick-off against their Leyton Orient counterparts before a Southend Legends team will take on Colchester Legends in the 14.00 kick-off. Ryan Leonard, Barry Corr, Darren Currie, Mark Phillips, Neil Harris, Anthony Grant, Nile Ranger and many more to be announced.

We hope that there will also be live music pitch side, as well as a number of other activities for all the family, before finishing at 4PM where fans can watch the final day of Premier League action.

There will also be an auction as well as a raffle which will help to raise vital funds.

John White has been an ever-present member of the Blues squad, making 287 appearances since joining in 2013 from local rivals Colchester United. Whether it was captaining Blues to promotion at Wembley, scoring that vital goal against Sunderland to keep us in League One, or his volley in the Essex Derby, White has solidified himself as a fan favourite and written himself into Southend United history.

On his testimonial, White said "I am so excited to see the fans come out for what will hopefully be a wonderful day of family fun combined with two very special football matches.

I can't wait to see as many people as possible there and put on a great show with plenty of familiar faces from the past and present."

Essex Charity Cup founder Rylee Doe said, "I can't wait to get this event on. It's been a long time coming, having originally planned the event in January 2020. I hope fans from all three clubs can come together and have a fantastic, family-orientated day and really show the power of football."

Charlie Edinburgh, founder of Justin Edinburgh 3 Foundation, added "This is set to be a fantastic occasion, and this is testament to the efforts of Rylee, everyone at the foundation cannot thank him enough for all of his efforts to make this an event not to miss.

It has been an extremely difficult period for charities in the last 18 months and every ticket sold will make a huge difference to the work we do as a charity whilst coming together to remember my father through the game he loved so dearly."

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Tickets, which are on sale now, can be found by clicking

<https://ww2.theticketsellers.co.uk/tickets/rivals-unite-2022/10053666>

Tickets will also be on sale from the Shrimpers Trust bar before home games in the coming weeks.

There is an early bird period running until April 28th in which Adults will cost just £10, before rising to £12 until May 16th. Tickets will also be available on the day at a price of £15, whilst those under 18 can go for just £5.

For more information, follow @EssexCharityCup or email ryleedoe@outlook.com

A Game for Barks

A WHOLE host of Southend United favourites will be reuniting at Roots Hall in May, to remember former Shrimpers skipper, Chris Barker.

Barker - who captained Blues at the club's first ever Wembley cup final, tragically took his own life in 2020.

A match to raise money for SECE Mind will now be taking place in his memory.

The event is being organised by Chris Phillips, who said: "Chris is someone who meant so much to so many people and we've been wanting to do this game in his memory for quite some time now. Obviously, it's not been possible to play it until now and we're hoping it will be a day to really remember Chris. We all wish this game was taking place in different circumstances and what happened is so sad, but the response we've had has been fantastic. That's testament to the impact Chris had on people on and off the pitch and every penny we raise will be donated to SECE Mind."

The match will take place on Saturday 28th May and will see a Southend side made up of Barker's former Shrimpers team-mates, taking on a side made up of those he played alongside at other clubs.

Tickets for the match, which kicks off at 3pm, can be purchased on our website, or in the Shrimpers Bar on match days, priced £5 adults and £1 for under 16's.



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And finally, serial fund raiser Bob Mays is off on another adventure, the last he claims - if you can help him, he'd be very grateful and as usual, it's for a great cause.



WEST HIGHLAND WAY

The West Highland Way stretches 96 miles from Milngavie to Fort William, taking in a huge variety of scenery along the way, from countryside parks to loch-shores and open moorlands to steep mountains.

9th—17th May 2022

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Bob-Mays5>

PARKINSON'S^{UK} CHANGE ATTITUDES. FIND A CURE. JOIN US.



Participants:

- ROBERT & PIPPA
- FRANK & DEBBIE
- KEITH
- SAMANTHA
- KAREN & BOB
- STEWART
- DEAN & JACKIE
- PETER & TRACEY
- BOB & DAVID
- NIGEL
- MARGARITA & KENNY
- ADRIAN



SHRIMPERS TRUST PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall
Thursday 12th May 2022, 7:00 p.m. (7:30 p.m. start)

Admission is for Members Only.

Tickets will not be issued however Membership details will be checked at the door on arrival.

The Annual Shrimpers Trust POTY Awards will this year be hosted by SUFC Legend and Match Day Host David Crown.

Along with the main Player of the Year the Awards will include the Junior Blues Player of the Year, the Martin Cranmer Goal of the Season and the Shrimpers Trust Youth Team Player of the Year with the winner receiving the Tom Grace Memorial Shield.

And as Trust Members, you have the chance to vote for your 1-2-3 for our Player of the Year Awards, and also choose the best goal of the campaign.

All you need to do is complete the Voting Slip printed below and return to the Trust Info Stand in the Shrimpers Bar to any Committee Member at any Away Game or Post it to **POTY 21/22, Shrimpers Trust, PO Box 5830, Southend on Sea, SS1 9FD**, alternatively you can vote for your 1-2-3 & Goal of the Season by email, including POTY 21/22 in the Subject Box and send to info@shrimperstrust.co.uk

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SHRIMPERS TRUST PLAYER OF THE YEAR 2021/22 VOTING FORM

A) My vote for the 2021/22 Shrimpers Trust Player of the Year goes to:

1.....;

2.....;

3.....;

B) My Shrimpers Trust Goal of the Season for 2021/22 was scored by:

.....VS.....

Please return as soon as possible to, but no later than **Thursday 5th May 2022**:

POTY 18/19, Shrimpers Trust, PO Box 5830, Southend on Sea, SS1 9FD

You can also email your vote to info@shrimperstrust.co.uk

or hand your voting slip in at the Trust Stand in the Shrimpers Bar or to any Committee Member at any Away Game.