

NEWSLETTER – Vol. 18 Iss. 02. – February 2023

THE INTRODUCTION – Paul FitzGerald

The grass is always greener

I write this introduction on Feb 5th , another court case looms and finances at the club are as bad as I've ever known. The infamous "bridge" that Ron Martin has talked about has not materialised, despite assurances it would. Some staff remain unpaid from December, players and staff from January.....and let's not even talk about suppliers.

Could it in fact get any worse...sadly yes. Southend United faces the very real prospect of being wound up on 1st March, unless the magic man can either find some serious money, or manages to convince a judge that he will find it soon.

"Final" as used by the previous judge, sounds pretty frightening of course, but it doesn't really mean anything. HMRC are not going to wind our football club up if there is a reasonable prospect of them getting paid at some point in the future – therein lies the issue!

Of course, because of the myriad of Ron Martin companies, it is tricky to trace the true financial situation of the group, not least because accounts are, or have been, late / very late or probably out of date by the time they are filed. What we do know though from the Gazette, is that Martin Dawn Plc has also come to the attention of HMRC, presumably for the same reasons.

Contrast this mess then, with our nice "shiny" new training pitches - I hope some of you have taken the opportunity to visit. My visit was some weeks back and it really was an interesting 30 mins or so - I never knew piles of sand and mud could be so interesting! Now, of course, the original contractors have finished and the grass is growing nicely.



NEWSLETTER – Vol. 18 Iss. 02. – February 2023

The well documented problems off the pitch, saw a number of significant financial transactions occur since our last newsletter, between the Football Club on the one hand and the Shrimpers Trust, PG Site and a unified Supporters' Group on the other. This resulted in sizeable amounts of money (in excess of 100K) being made available to Southend United! The generosity of supporters at this difficult time is to be applauded. The campaign attracted national support and I'm sure the powers that be, are extremely grateful to this support, not only from Southend fans, but also from several other clubs – most notably, Wrexham.

The Trust played a part in all three of the transactions above, but most notable of course, was our £40,000 loan. The Shrimpers Trust exists to help the football club and based on information given to us at the time, the Board decided to act - the money was used to pay salaries to staff. This is not a decision the board took lightly and some people have taken exception to this (I was even called to task from a close relative) However, the Trust had the money to help and it would have been an odd decision not to have helped when the club really needed it.

The repayment date (set by the Club) has now passed and obviously we are disappointed with this, however, following certain assurances, we are considering a reasonable extension as we do not wish to further burden, nor complicate matters for Tom Lawrence.

Some months back we reported that we were working with SUFC staff to purchase player rehabilitation equipment. It has taken a while to get this over the line, and we are now in a position to purchase the equipment - at the exact same time as numerous calls to withhold any more funding. If we did this, then we would have gone back on our agreement, and unlike the owner we will not be known for broken promises.

This campaign alerted one of Southend's MP's (Anna Firth), who reached out and confirmed her support and delight at the efforts of fans and sponsors. Anna went on to summarise her support of the club with regards to other "pressing matters".

Trust business has taken over my life recently with work suffering as a consequence.....the situation is not helped by rumours, often inaccurate, and infighting amongst supporters creating a toxic atmosphere. The sad thing is we all want the same thing. By the time we send out our next newsletter, SUFC's predicament should be clearer. In the meantime, check our website and social media channels for the most up to date news.

Only good news from here on down.....

A Cup run...when's the last time we had one of those...ok it's the FA Trophy, but you can only beat what is put in front of you and the burgeoning crowds, suggest it's not just me getting excited.

In the league we continue to perform like a team that deserves to be in the play-offs and if we can get past the 1st March (which I'm sure we will) then let's hope for a great run in!

Of course, good results mean excellent news for our Quid a Goal Scheme, which has really caught the imagination this year, with our sales supremo surpassing all previous records. Thanks to all those who have pledged this year.



Continuing the positive there, our first Social Inclusion guests of the season, "The Badgers Den", were treated to fine performance, on and off the pitch, on their visit during the Scunthorpe game. Thanks to all those that made this visit so special.

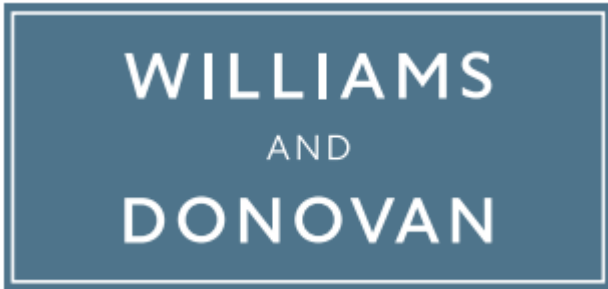
Badgers Den offer bespoke day opportunities for young people & adults with learning disabilities, they specialise in growing independence, teaching life skills, spending



NEWSLETTER – Vol. 18 Iss. 02. – February 2023

time with friends, socialising and accessing the community.

I'd like to re-iterate my thanks to all our sponsors and individuals who have donated to this. If there is any doubt at the difference this project makes, take a look at the Badgers Den Facebook page.



On this very subject, I am delighted that we have a new partner, step forward Williams and Donovan Estate & Letting agents, the latest company to support this great scheme. Lloyd Brooks, Benfleet Director said "Williams & Donovan were delighted to make a donation towards the Shrimpers Trust's social inclusion project.

As an office of football fans ourselves, we understand the value of giving this opportunity to attend a football match to people who don't ordinarily get the chance to go themselves for whatever reason, and it's great that the Trust is providing them with this experience." Thanks very much Williams and Donovan.

If you are interested in this project, either as sponsor or helper, please don't hesitate to contact us for more information. Or if you know of our group who might be interested in being our guests, please send us their details.

Our Ex-players association reached its 5th Birthday on 12th January, Happy Birthday to us and a loud shout out to Andy Leeder for making it what it is today. With membership now standing at 443 and a really special event to look forward this month...keep up the great work Andy.

There are now FIVE fantastic prints of Roots Hall painted by Shrimper fan Keith Bird - two more, both of the North Bank in its heyday, have recently been added to two of the West Stand and one of our dear old South Bank. All five will be on sale for the first time at our sell out Dave Smith Tribute Event on February 18th. A little while after that, we will then take stock and make them all available online, as well at the Shrimpers Trust stall on match days in the Shrimpers Bar. The prints are just £15 each and put together, give a fantastic record in a unique personal style of our home.



NEWSLETTER – Vol. 18 Iss. 02. – February 2023



Precious shared old memories relived - and new ones created – at the Solihull Moors game for Chris Barnard on his first return to Roots Hall, since he played for us in 1966. Accompanied by the lovely folk of Down Hall Residential Care Home, it was just such a fabulous day, and is what SUEPA is all about. ❤️

Chris was with us as an apprentice back in the 1960's and made his first team debut away at Newport County in the first round of the League Cup. He impressively scored a brace in a 2-2 draw, then notched another in the replay at Roots Hall, as we ran out 3-1 winners. His league debut was shortly afterwards up at Oldham on 17 September 1965 when he came on as sub for Andy Smillie – it was only the second time ever, that we had used a substitute (subs were introduced at the start of the 1965/66 season for injuries only).

He is fourth left in the back row of the 1964/65 squad picture below.



The Shrimpers Trust held it's AGM on Monday 14th November.

A good crowd attended, presumably not to hear me work through the formal agenda and give my chairman's address. In fact, because Tom Lawrence and the "Management Team" were in attendance for a Q & A session, we decided to keep the formal part as brief as possible.



NEWSLETTER – Vol. 18 Iss. 02. – February 2023

A few summary points from the chairman's report.

- 500 Ukrainian Refugees helped to a place of safety from the proceeds of our Scarf Appeal
- Retro Shirts – There are now 16 in our range.
- Problems with the administration of the Junior Blues are being addressed, and with that now back with the Shrimpers Trust, we are hoping to “push on”! If you'd like to know more about membership of the Junior Blues – go to: <https://www.southendunited.co.uk/fans/junior-blues/> or contact Kay on juniors@shrimperstrust.co.uk
- SUEPA – now the biggest Ex-players association in the UK (443 Members). Andy Leeder is in discussion with the PFA to set up a national network, with Southend United at the heart of it.
- Please welcome Ben Humphreys and Gary Williams, elected to our Board during the AGM – our thanks to Rylee Doe and Alec Trott for their efforts on our behalf.
- Those standing for election (after standing down by rotation), including me, were all re-elected
- Social Inclusion project – successfully continues with new groups engaged and a recent new sponsor (Williams and Donovan)
- Membership levels were fairly static during the year under review, but I am delighted to say, have increased somewhat over the last few weeks.

At the Q & A, Tom and Kevin were as entertaining as ever, and in Tom's case, no punches were pulled by the audience in their questioning. What was clear to all there, was that being Southend United's CEO, in the current situation is somewhat tricky and whatever you think of Tom's management style – I'm not sure too many people would swap seats at present.



We've had a great response to our plea for Memorabilia, thanks to all who have responded. This is the last call then, for this particular campaign, but in reality, we are always grateful for any donation that might improve our financial situation!

If you are able to donate any sports memorabilia which is surplus to requirements, we'd be very grateful anything that might be suitable to include in one of the following:

- ✓ Auction Evening
- ✓ Programme & Memorabilia Fair
- ✓ On line Auction
- ✓ eBay Sale

It can be anything that is sports related, so our call to fans is not solely limited to Southend United memorabilia.

So, please, have a search of those cupboards, turn the house upside down and donate what you can.

Items will be very gratefully received in the Shrimpers Bar before any home game. If you have any queries or wish to discuss how to get your donation to us, please email Lesley at secretary@shrimperstrust.co.uk giving a contact phone number and we will happily arrange.

NEWSLETTER – Vol. 18 Iss. 02. – February 2023

The Shrimpers Trust try our best to represent the views and interests of all fans, but we accept we will not please everyone. We are an elected group of volunteers who act on your belief on what is best for the Football Club, whilst being accountable to our membership. We are always looking to diversify our board and membership, and should you wish to get more involved please contact me at pfitz666@aol.com

We would love to have you involved!

VOTE NOW – PLAYER OF THE MONTH - JANUARY 2023



Voting is now open for the Trust's SUFC 1st Team Player of the Month for January 2023.

All you need to do is login to the Members Area of the Trust Website, go the Player of the Month Voting page and cast your vote for one of the following six nominated Players:

Jack Bridge, Harry Cardwell, Jason Demetriou, Ollie Kensdale, Cav Miley and Harry Taylor.

Voting closes at midnight on Wednesday 15th February 2023, with the presentation taking place prior to kick-off at the home match vs Gateshead on Saturday 18th February 2023.

SHRIMPERS TRUST XMAS DRAW RESULT

The delayed Shrimpers Trust 2022 Xmas Draw took place prior to the game vs Eastleigh on Saturday 28th January 2023.



The winners are as follows:

	Prize	Ticket Number	Name
1st	£500.00	3461	Malcolm Shaw
2nd	£250.00	3378	Martin Simper
3rd	£100.00	8567	Kenneth Additer
4th	Meal for 2 in the Blues Lounge	10824	M. Eva
5th	Bottle of Champagne	11244	Jim Harrington

All the winners have been notified and the Trust would like to thank all those that bought and sold tickets helping us to raise over £1,700.

THE BIG XMAS QUIZ - RESULT

Over 150 of the 2022 Christmas Quizzes were sold.

56 entries were received by the revised closing date of which 14 were 100% correct.

So well done **Andy Beard, Lynn Beard, Liam Buckler, Clare Chapman, Shane Chapman, Deborah Davidson, Darren Eldridge, Paul Franklin, Dave Longbottom, Gaye Overall, Darren Posnack, David Turner, Mark Walden and Bryan Woodford.**

The draw for the 5 prizes was undertaken prior to the home game on 4th February by SUFC Manager Kevin Maher and the prize winners are as follows:



1st prize of £150 cash

2nd prize of 4 seats in the Centre Circle Lounge

3rd prize of a bottle of champagne

4th prize of a signed SUFC Ball

5th prize of a box of sweets

Clare Chapman

Mark Walden

Shane Chapman

Bryan Woodford

Dave Longbottom

The answers and a full list of entrants with their mark and overall position can be found on the Trust Website.

Look out for the next Big Xmas Quiz later this year.

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

SHRIMPERS TRUST REBRANDING

The Shrimpers Trust brand in its current form has been in place for around 20 years and the Board decided it was time for an update.

As part of this rebranding, we will be launching a brand-new website in March, which will be more user friendly, will be easier to navigate and will have all the normal information you require be it Away Travel, Membership, Latest News and much, much more.



NEWSLETTER – Vol. 18 Iss. 02. – February 2023

The Trust Shop will have a totally new look as will the Members Area.



You will have noticed that SUFC's U18's are already using our new logo on their shirts as we continue to be the main shirt sponsors in a deal that takes us to the end of the 2023/24 Season.

Also, for those of you renewing your membership of the Trust or joining as a new Member you will notice that your new Membership Cards have been re-designed to incorporate our new logo and branding.



We are also going to be launching a new range of merchandise, and initially we have a new pin badge and trolley coin keyring for sale.



These are both now available for purchase from the Trust's Information Stand in the Shrimpers Bar on match-days or from our Online Shop.

MEMBERSHIP

Life Membership (Total 289)

Welcome to New Life Members Gary Williams, Ben Humphrey and Justin Slowley.



Life Membership of the Trust currently costs £100.00 or £70 if aged 70 or over. An email account is required for Life Membership.

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.**

NEWSLETTER – Vol. 18 Iss. 02. – February 2023

Welcome to New Members since the last Newsletter

Chris Austin, Daniel Coxell, Raymond Crudgington, Emrys Davies, Ian Fulton, Marc Grayston, Andrew Hackling, Colin Hall, Jean Hall, Jamie Hennelly, Matthew Holland, Tina Hurley, Jan Johansson, Daniel Johnson, Alan Joscelyn, Mark Lambert, Michael Lovett, Peter Martin, David Matthews, Jerry Oliver, Oliver Pacey George Perkins, Scott Perkins, Aiden Pond, Justin Slowley, Damien Wager and Jemma Watson.

***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 **Philip Conway, John Whitehead, Shane Chapman, Lesley Hicks, Gordon Grout, Bryan Woodford, Andy Thorne, Teresa Perry, James Hummerston, Robert Askew, Jenny Yeomanson, Paul Richards, Tony Gardener, Steve Stone, Charles Ball, Vicky Shipp, Paul Manning and Gareth Rowe.**

Congratulations to Philip Conway who also won £350 in the 100 Club 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 have been included with this newsletter 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 07901 845012.

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 2022/23 Season.



The total after the game vs York City played on 4th February is £2,738.50.

This is how it works. Those who support the scheme with a pledge have their name displayed in the United match programme on a regular basis.

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 (you can choose anything reasonable!). 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 (21/22 League goals - 45).

NEWSLETTER – Vol. 18 Iss. 02. – February 2023

A £0.25 per goal pledge would therefore most likely, not cost you more than £15.00, come the end of the season. If funds are tight, how about £1 for every goal scored by our full backs? 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.

If you would like to join our Quid a Goal scheme please complete and return the enclosed and we will do the rest.

FORTHCOMING FUNDRAISERS

RACE NIGHT

Saturday 18th March 2023
Shrimpers Bar, Southend

The Trust will be holding a Race Night on Saturday 18th March 2023 in the Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall, first Race at 7.30 pm.



With 8 Horse/Dog Races and novelty race if times allow, this is a great event for all the family, with **Cash Prizes** for each race plus chances to win **Bottles of Wine**, **Goodie Bags** and loads more including **A £30.00 Meal Voucher for Manoly's Thai Restaurant**.



This year as well as raising funds for the Trust 50% of the Nett Proceeds will be donated to Run Free, the Podcast about Mental Health and Sport.

Run Free was created by Chris Phillips and Eddy Cooper in May of 2020. The idea behind the project is to increase the awareness of mental health issues, and to showcase how participation in sporting activities can act as a coping mechanism. The podcast is designed to tackle stigma surrounding mental health issues, whilst balancing those serious discussions with interesting and fun sporting content, including interviews with special guests, race reviews, and hilarious stories from friends and listeners alike. Both Chris and Eddy have experience with mental health issues and sport is a massive part of helping them live with these issues. They hope that through the podcast they can help others with similar struggles find some sort of positive outlet through sport, or at the very least create a more comfortable environment to talk about mental health problems.

Admission is by Ticket and will cost just **£3.00** and can be purchased in advance from the Trust Information Stand in the Shrimpers Bar prior to every Home Game or from the Events Section in the Trust's Online Shop.

For further details or to purchase tickets contact Paul Yeomanson Tel: 01702 302373 or Email: info@shrimperstrust.co.uk

The Trust would like to thank the following companies for their support:



NEWSLETTER – Vol. 18 Iss. 02. – February 2023

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 15th April 2023
The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall

The Shrimpers Trust will be holding their final Quiz Night of the 2022/23 Season in the Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall on Saturday 15th April 2023.

The doors open at 6.30pm with commencement of the quiz at **7.00pm sharp**.
The cost will be £14.00 for adults and £10.00 for under 16's.



Included in the price will be a choice from 5 meals (*Chicken & Chips, Chicken Nuggets & Chips, Sausage & Chips, Fish & Chips or Vegetarian Spring Roll & Chips*). The meals are provided by the Fish House and will be served at around 8pm.

Ideally, we need tables of 8, but if you would be happy to join others who will come in parties of less than 8 please let us know.

For further details or to book a table contact Alan Perry (07901 845012) or alanperry4@hotmail.com

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.

You can also follow shrimperstrust on Instagram and you can connect with us on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/company/75033660

THE 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 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.