

## NEWSLETTER – Vol. 5 Iss. 06. – July 2010

### THE INTRODUCTION – Paul FitzGerald

Over the last week or so – the reign of Ron Martin seemed to have become more and more untenable and yet – following numerous discussions and/or meetings with Sainsburys, The Echo, club representatives (Ex Ron), several sources “close” to the club, a representative of the consortium, Supporters Direct and numerous fans both inside and outside of the Trust, including historically active protesters – if I were a gambling man – I’d say that Ron is still the only horse to back.

Incredible you might think, but based on spending more time on this than I have at work in the last week – that is my view. The man holds most of the cards still and despite his appalling timing and apparent lack of man management skills – unless he allows the club to go into administration – nothing much is going to change. However change it might because if our chairman does not come up with a convincing story within 14 days then watch this space.

Of course football is about results and we’ve been bereft of them for some time – Ron’s decision to cut costs and indeed release Tilly and Brush is perhaps not surprising if the results were solely down to them. Sadly, that was obviously not the case and whilst a lot of fans probably want Ron to go - the reality is, is that he’s not going to sack himself! The appointment of Paul Sturrock and now the possibility of actually fielding a team sometime soon, is of course a welcome light at the end of a very dark and long tunnel. Sadly with an embargo in place the signings are not actually going to be able to play as I understand it – so where’s the Qatar Investment Authority Sainsburys when you need them.....er.....again.



This week the HMRC petition has come and gone (for 14 days) and we now look ahead to the Charterhouse Commercial petition not forgetting courtesy of Ron’s chums, the echo of several more creditors.

I am aware that there are a number of members who think that the Trust has been letting things go on around them, but this is not the case. To keep you informed, I will give a flavour of what has been going on behind the scenes.

- A letter was sent to Sainsbury's explaining our position and this has resulted in a number of interesting conversations with their property team.
- We have been working closely with Supporters' Direct in reviewing the way forward including if the situation arose, would we follow the Exeter City route and take over the day to day running of the football club?
- There has been contact, including a meeting with a representative of the ‘consortium’, supporters, ShrimperZone, etc. again to discuss and plan for options should Southend United go into administration.
- Letter being sent to Chief Executive of Southend Council to clarify the position in respect of the deed of covenant on Roots Hall and whether becomes “null and void” should Southend United fold and Sainsbury's take over Roots Hall “lock, stock and barrel”

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- Contact made and interesting conversations held with the 'consortium' interested in purchasing Southend United should the club go into administration. They also seem to be using message boards to gain support amongst the fan base.
- Dialogue held with both Ron Martin and Geoffrey King in respect of funding and repayment of Trust loan and other debts. We have agreed to roll-over until beginning of August but you have an opportunity to structure what we do next and a poll organised alongside this letter seeking your views. Closing date is 14.30 on Saturday 7th August 2010. – **Details on the last page of this Newsletter.**

As ever, if anyone ever wants to comment on any Trust matter or indeed, anything Southend United related, I hope by now they will have my contact details, I do try to reply to all e-mails. ([pfitz666@aol.com](mailto:pfitz666@aol.com)) I don't post on SZ so don't expect a response there – whilst that medium is superb, I find I would just simply not do any work and that at present would not be good....

## TRUST STATEMENTS

**The Trust recently issued some Statements on it's website regarding the Club and it's finances, and in particular the Trust Loan to the Club.**

These statements have been reproduced below for those of you without internet access.

### 1st July 2010

The Shrimpers Trust regrets to inform both its members and supporters of Southend United Football Club that the Trust's £60,000 loan to the Club, originally agreed in December, has not been repaid, despite an extension to the end of June 2010.

The Trust is naturally disappointed that, like other known debts, the loan has not been repaid. We are particularly frustrated that, having been informed by the Club that the repayment was not likely to be met, Chairman Ron Martin has chosen not to discuss the matter personally with representatives of the organisation.

As such, the Shrimpers Trust is not prepared to further extend the loan without additional conditions being attached; these conditions are currently being discussed and Trust members will be informed as soon as they are agreed.

Meanwhile, the Trust is also following up on several lines of investigation with a view to clarifying the Club's immediate financial position, including the latest petition served by HMRC, whilst also endeavouring to clarify some information printed in Monday's Echo newspaper which we believe to be erroneous.

The Trust continues to maintain a dialogue with other concerned groups interested in safeguarding the future of Southend United F.C. and is looking into a number of options in this regard. These include the potential for supporting and publishing a letter that fans may use to encourage Sainsbury's to consider our plight. A further statement will be made in the near future.

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### 28<sup>th</sup> June 2010

The Shrimpers Trust shares the concerns of the fanbase about the future of Southend United FC following the feature on the club's finances in Monday's Echo.

At its last committee meeting, the Trust resolved to contact Sainsbury's to enquire about their role in the club and this process is nearing completion.

In addition to this, the Trust is expecting to discuss the matter with the Club's Chairman, Ron Martin, when he leaves hospital, and the Board of Directors when the next Liaison Meeting between the Club and Shrimpers Trust takes place on Wednesday.

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Furthermore, the Trust feels that it is imperative at this time that the fanbase stick together. We are already in the process of entering discussions with other concerned groups to help decide upon the best way forward.

## FUNDRAISING

### 100 Club

The latest winners in the scheme, pulled out of the hat during weekly draws since the last newsletter were Richard Cunningham, Tim Wilson, Mike Smith, Gary Crowe, John Clench and Peter Brock, each winning around £29.00.

The nature of the 100 Club means the more people that sign up, then the bigger the weekly prize. To register your interest, you can still contact Alan Perry at [alanperry4@hotmail.com](mailto:alanperry4@hotmail.com) or by calling 01702 476 458 and put yourself in with a chance of winning the weekly prize. 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 £29.00 per week at the present time.

### Quid-a-Goal

We are now taking pledges for this Season's Quid A Goal Scheme.

Once again for this season part of the funds raised from the QAG scheme will be given to the Southend United Community & Educational Trust (SUCET) to help fund their Bodycare Programme. This programme is delivered young children of both Infant and Junior school age to help them get a healthy start in life with the benefits of physical activity and healthy eating being covered as well as mental and social health.

An application form has been enclosed with this Newsletter which can be returned either by post to the address shown or handed in at the Trust Stand at Meet the Blues Day on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July or at the Trust Info Stand in the Shrimpers Bar prior to any home game.



## NEW MERCHANDISE

The Trust will be launching two new items of Merchandise at this Year's Meet the Blues day on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July, at Garon Park Leisure Centre.

The first item is a unique timeline print depicting key moments in SUFC's history since it's founding in 1906.



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A limited number of these prints will be available for sale at MTBD and will be available in two formats.

**Framed:** Mounted behind glass with a black frame measuring 64 x 24 cms (25 x 9.5 inches) at a cost of **£30.00**.

**Un-framed:** Supplied with a mount only measuring 56 x 20 cms (22 x 8 inches) at a cost of **£15.00**.

Prints will also be available to order from the Trust Shop on our Website [www.shrimperstrust.co.uk](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk) after MTBD and can also be ordered at the Trust Info Stand prior to any home game.

The second item of new merchandise is a unique football shirt shaped keyring featuring both the home and away colours for SUFC's forthcoming season and with the Shrimpers Trust legend printed on the shirt.

A bargain priced at just **£1.50**

Again this keyring will be available from the Trust Shop online at [www.shrimperstrust.co.uk](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk) or from the Trust Info Stand in the Shrimpers Bar prior to any home game.



### MEMBERSHIP

#### Life Membership

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

**John Bromley, Lee Harlow, Colin Moore, Gary Quinn, Sandra Riley, Benjamin Tywman and Matthew Wedge**

\*\*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**, 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) \*\*

### FORTHCOMING TRUST EVENTS

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

#### **MEET THE BLUES DAY**

**Garon Park, Southend on Sea**

The Trust will be in attendance at this year's MTBD and will be selling items from its range of merchandise and will also be taking Away Travel bookings and New and Renewal Membership Applications



**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

#### **CHINESE NIGHT**

**East, 33 Alexander Street, Southend on Sea – 7.30pm for an 8.00pm prompt start**

For further details contact Alan Perry

(Tel: 01702 476458, email: [alanperry4@hotmail.com](mailto:alanperry4@hotmail.com))





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Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2010

## QUIZ NIGHT

The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall – 7.15pm for an 7.45pm prompt start

For further details contact Alan Perry

(Tel: 01702 476458, email: [alanperry4@hotmail.com](mailto:alanperry4@hotmail.com))



Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2010

## Race NIGHT

The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall – 7.00pm for a 7.30pm prompt start

For further details contact Paul Yeomanson

(Tel: 01702 302373, email: [info@shrimperstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@shrimperstrust.co.uk))



## I'M ALL IN !!!

The Shrimpers Trust is currently in negotiations with Rendezvous Casino about holding our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Shrimpers Trust poker tournament there on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October, please keep the evening free in your diaries.

If you are interested in coming this year or want some more information please e-mail [jphfitz@aol.com](mailto:jphfitz@aol.com).



Watch this space for further developments....

## AWAY TRAVEL



As the new season approaches, hopefully with a full squad, no loan players and nothing hanging over the club, we have new grounds to travel to, including Accrington Stanley, Morecombe, Burton, Stevenage and Aldershot along with other teams we haven't been to for a quite a few seasons.

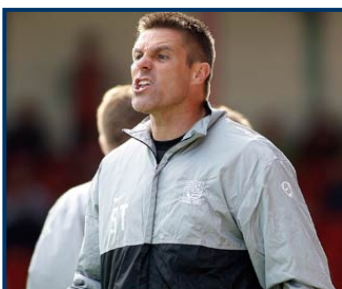
Unfortunately the 3 longest journeys are one after another in February and March but they are often the best games for those of us who go to the away games.

However, with us being in League 2 we won't have loads of police, can go to the pubs near the grounds and, for those of us that like standing, several grounds with terraces.

We will be taking bookings for the first two Away Games at Aldershot and Bradford from Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July either by phone on **07892 905338** or in person at Meet the Blues Day. You can also book online in the Travel Section of the Trust Website [www.shrimperstrust.co.uk](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk) .

We look forward to seeing everybody on our coaches soon.

## WELCOME AND FAREWELL



### Goodbye Tilly ...

It is sad to see Steve Tilson depart from Southend United after so many good times with us, winning promotion in to the championship following successful years in League 2 and 1.

He also gave us something to smile about with three visits to the Millennium stadium in the LDV and the playoff final as well as keeping us in the football league in the first year.

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That a side it has been drying up recently and it is probably best for both the club and for Steve Tilson that they parted ways. All the best to Steve in the future and a massive thank you for your efforts, I personally will not be surprised if I see him managing a team at a higher level within the next few months.

On a more positive note, welcome to Paul Sturrock as the new boss. I don't think that anyone really expected as high profile a manager when Tilson departed. One thing I have taken out of the appointment, is that I am hoping he knows something that we don't and he is actually going to get some money to spend, I can't see how, but one can dream!

Prior to joining the Shrimpers, Sturrock had most recently been at English Championship club Plymouth Argyle in a business support role, having been relieved of his managerial duties, until he quit the club. His former posts included spells as manager of Sheffield Wednesday, Southampton, Plymouth Argyle, Dundee United, Swindon and St. Johnstone. He was also a Scotland international footballer. Sturrock announced in July 2008 that he was suffering from a mild form of Parkinson's disease.



Let's try and stay positive for the start of the season and get behind the lads. Regardless of your opinion on the decision to put Steve Tilson on gardening leave, Paul Sturrock is a highly regarded manager and to get him into the set up here is somewhat of a coup.

**COME ON YOU SHRIMPERS!!!**

## SUMMER SUNSHINE

**Calling all Blues fans – We are eager to see where you have been showing off Southend United or Shrimpers trust gear on your travels.**

If you have any holiday snaps, whether it be Las Vegas or the M25, please send them into us at [newsletter@shrimperstrust.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@shrimperstrust.co.uk) and we will include in the next newsletter and upload them to the Trust's Facebook Page.



## WORTH A PUNT

With the new season coming up and expectations are lower than previous years for the Shrimpers to put on promotion push however, success has come at unexpected times in previous years and could this be the case again.

<b>Coral</b>	<b>33/1</b>
Betfair	29/1
888sport	28/1
Sportingbet	28/1
Betdaq	25/1
William Hill	22/1
Stan James	22/1
Ladbrokes	20/1
Paddy Power	20/1



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Bookies rate Southend joint 9<sup>th</sup> in the odds table with Gillingham, Bradford and Rotherham being most fancied for the title. Accrington Stanley and Barnet are the league outsiders who are available at 100/1 to lift the league 2 trophy.

Source: <http://www.oddschecker.com/football/english/league-two/winner>

*10<sup>th</sup> July 2010*

## YOUR VOTE COUNTS

With the Club having defaulted on the agreed dates for the repayment of the £60k loan and with a new re-payment date yet to be confirmed we want our Members input as to how we are to proceed.

The options considered are laid out below – the Trust Committee recommends option 2 at this moment in time but that may alter depending on the clubs actions of the next 14 days. We would like our members to consider these options and respond.

Could you therefore complete and return the following voting slip, and return it to us by **14.30** on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2010**.

There are several ways to return your voting slip, **by post** to: **Loan Vote, The Shrimpers Trust, PO Box 5830, Southend on Sea, Essex, SS1 9FD**, by copy and pasting into an **email** and sending it to [info@shrimperstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@shrimperstrust.co.uk), **by hand** to a Committee Member at **Meet the Blues Day**, or **by hand** at the Trust Info Stand in the Shrimpers Bar prior to the **Home Game v Stockport on 7<sup>th</sup> August**.

✂ -----

<u>Please choose 1 option only</u>		Please ✓ here
1	<b>Roll the loan over indefinitely with no conditions</b>	
2	<b>Roll the loan but with conditions – we'd like members to think about this but here's some ideas:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After default of the next date – sue the personal guarantor – ie. Ron Martin</li> <li>• Increase the Interest element (0% at present) and assign to Ron Martin personally</li> <li>• Provision of a Shrimpers Trust Bar &amp; Restaurant with no rent and all profits to the Trust in the New Stadium</li> <li>• Use of the Bentley on match days to transport members to and from Roots Hall</li> </ul>	
3	<b>Sell/assign the loan to a 3<sup>rd</sup> part for recovery</b>	
4	<b>Support the next petition for a Winding up Order with a view to taking the club into administration and allowing/encouraging a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party to take over from the administrator</b>	
5	<b>Sue Ron Martin as personal guarantor</b>	

<b>Comments re Option 2 Conditions:</b>	
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<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Membership Number:</b>	