

NEWSLETTER – Vol. 6 Iss. 01. – August 2010

THE INTRODUCTION – Paul FitzGerald

What a difference a day makes.....August 2nd and the subsequent assumed repayments of debts to several 3rd parties, consequently our beloved club taking it's place at the Npower table – seemingly the darkest hours are over....or are they?

Some will remember last month when I mentioned the apparently untenable reign of Ron Martin. The echo picked up on my newsletter introduction and decided to randomly print a few words completely taken out of context. I mentioned this slight oversight on their part to the Editor and without even a thought of an apology (in fact he refused) offered me 200 words to set the record straight – what's the point I ask if you change what I write!!



Anyways....of course Ron did win the one horse race and that win with the added prize money would seem to have eased our short term worries or so you'd think. However, clearly all is not quite as it seems – why would it be? As I pen this on

August 18th, the Revised agreed Trust Loan repayment date has passed and yet again no contact from the club. As I write, we have been scouring the French countryside for the Bentley and expect the loan to be repaid by the end of the week (27th August). The results of the survey of our members on this point are detailed below.

THIS AGREEMENT is made the 16th December 2009

BETWEEN SOUTHEND UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB (Company registration number 00088767) whose registered office is at Torrington House, 17 Holywell Hill St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 1HD ("the Borrower") of the first part

and **THE SHRIMPERS TRUST** of 45 Audley Road, Great Leighs, Chelmsford CM3 1RS ("the Lender") of the second part

and **RONALD MARTIN** of [redacted] Beulfleet, Essex IPW ("the Guarantor") of the third part

WHEREAS at the request of the Borrower and of the Guarantor the Lender has agreed to advance monies to the Company as a loan subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement

WHEREBY IT IS AGREED as follows:-

- THE LOAN**
THE Lender shall lend to the Borrower and the Borrower shall borrow from the Lender the sum of SIXTY THOUSAND POUNDS ("the Principal Sum")

Matters on the pitch hardly seem important after the recent weeks – but to his credit Paul Sturrock has put together a squad and I am looking forward to the season with a mixture of enthusiasm and trepidation. I will also look for the progress of many of the departed players who I think deserve a fair bit of sympathy for the way they have been treated over the last year and would hope that they get a good reception if we are fortunate to be playing against any of them!!

I found myself in Italy recently and with a few minutes spare turned the telly on to find Gary Hooper scoring for Celtic from a fabulous cross off Charlie Mulgrew. I return to find he's then scored in a Champions League game – is that our first? Maybe the qualifiers don't count but I was pleased for the lad. AND what's this on Wednesday....OMG Zoltan Litptak deemed too useless for Southend...debuting for Hungary and keeping Master Rooney completely in check....what a fine piece of business that was....

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)

Enjoy the Season.

MARTIN CRANMER – 1970-2010

It is with great sadness that we have to announce that Blues Supporter Martin Cranmer passed away after suffering a heart attack in the early hours of Friday 6th August whilst on holiday in Ibiza. He was aged 40.



Martin was a lifelong Supporter of SUFC, one of the founder members of the Southend United Independent Supporters Club and was a Shrimpers Trust Life Member. He travelled all over the country to support the Blues. His passion for football was only rivalled by his love of Music and he would often post links on his facebook page to really obscure and often forgotten hits from days gone by.

Our thoughts go out to his wife Zoe and all of his family and friends at this difficult time.

CLUB LOAN – MEMBERS VOTE – THE RESULTS

With the Club having defaulted on the agreed dates for the repayment of the £60k loan we asked you our Members how you wanted us to proceed.

The following is a breakdown of the Voting, and you will see that over **78%** of those that voted wished the Loan to be rolled over with conditions. As we go to press, members of the Trust Board are in discussions with SUFC regarding the payment of the Loan.

Poll Questions:

1. Roll the loan over indefinitely with no conditions
2. Roll the loan over but with conditions
3. Sell/assign the loan to a 3rd part for recovery
4. Support the next petition for a Winding up Order with a view to taking the club into administration and allowing/encouraging a 3rd Party to take over from the administrator
5. Sue Ron Martin as personal guarantor

Option 2 Conditions:

- A. After default of the next date – sue the personal guarantor – i.e. Ron Martin
- B. Increase the Interest element (0% at present) and assign to Ron Martin personally
- C. Provision of a Shrimpers Trust Bar & Restaurant with no rent and all profits to the Trust in the New Stadium
- D. Use of the Bentley on match days to transport members to and from Roots Hall

Poll Result (please refer to Questions/Comments above):

Total Recipients: 1016
Total Votes Returned: 110 (10.83%)

Question	Votes	%
1	2	1.82
2	86	78.18
3	3	2.83
4	9	8.18
5	10	9.09

Conditions	Votes	%
A	17	19.32
B	26	29.55
C	41	46.59
D	4	4.55

NEWSLETTER – Vol. 6 Iss. 01. – August 2010

Additional Comments Received:

Above conditions if not paid back "within the next fortnight", also a new date to be agreed (September?) and perhaps further conditions (eg higher interest) if this is not met. Good luck!

and also no maintainance, repairing or other fees usually associated with renting or leasing a property

don't think this is will be granted, sufc will lose a huge lot of cash ! so may be the 2nd choice would be a better bet

I as a Trust member from the beginning feel that before The Trust lent Mr Martin our money we should have been balloted for our opinion.

I thought this was already personally guaranteed by Ron ??

I'm assuming we can't afford court costs so sueing is not a realistic option. We either go into a phase where we try to bring Ron down which would probably mean option 4 on Q1 or we go for a long term right solution which is why I've ticked option 3 on Q2. But none of this is easy!

In my view, both SUFC and Ron's company will go down the pan very shortly. The new stadium is pie in the sky, and has only ever been a device to get SUFC out of Roots Hall so it can be sold. I favour suing Ron for the money as guarantor, but there is little chance of the Trust getting its money back. The focus now should be on preparing for the worst case scenario, which is that SUFC will go out of business and will need to be reformed, hopefully under fan/community ownership. Inevitably the club will be homeless, so will have to play at some substandard venue like Canvey for the foreseeable future. The Trust needs to be in the driving seat as all this unfolds, to prevent the club being hijacked by more cowboys and to at least give some hope for a brighter future. Sorry to be so gloomy, but I think the Trust needs to get real now, and unhitch itself from the Ron Martin wagon. There is a chance to finally get the club into the hands of fans.

Interest to be added to the loan on a daily basis, so the longer it takes to repay the more interest be added.

Maybe request row writes off a substantial amount of personal debt the club 'owes him'

Other option to for ST to have a member on the Club board

Re: Bentley - will it collect members from the Highlands of Scotland? Seriously, the other condition (which may be in place?) has to be Trust representation on the Board, and sooner rather than later.

Request 2 Free Lifetime Debenture Season Tickets to commence when new stadium is built. Each Season then the Trust can raffle off 1 season's use amongst it's membership.

Ron has to go!

SUSCT representation on the board of directors of SUFC

To implement a coalition between SUFC Board and Shrimpers Trust for all future club decisions.

Unfortunately I believe that the only way to get Ron to pay up would be to sue him personally. To increase the interest element would, I believe, be difficult and unlikely to resolve the issue quickly AND further more if the trust sues it will be entitled to statutory interest anyway

I suggest conditions attached should be Trust representation on the business board of the club in addition to the football side

I agree to charging interest at a worthwhile market rate and assigned to Ron Martin. After all the £60k should have been repaid. The Trust have been more than tolerant

Provision of a Bar/Restaurant with no rent and profits to the Trust, excellent idea, but only if you cannot secure the Bentley on matchdays. As I live in Suffolk this would be a godsend

As the aim of the Shrimpers Trust is to 'help not hinder' I am in favour of extracting a favour from Ron Martin and seek to gain terms on a Trust Bar & Restaurant with a minimal rent for 5 years. The profits will still benefit SUFC during this time

The loan should not be rolled over indefinitely, so a final date must be set for this season. Ron martin to be sued if loan not repaid

Perhaps some form of share and windfall scheme in any future success that the club enjoys having helped them through these tough times

The Trust should never give Ron Martin a loan again

I agree with the first 3 options (well actually all 4 but seriously ☺) Representation at board meetings while the loan is outstanding

If option 2 goes ahead then definitely we should sue/increase interest. Ron not showing the Trust respect

The Trust to be allocated a block of seats in the new stadium free of charge for their use

NEWSLETTER – Vol. 6 Iss. 01. – August 2010

FUNDRAISING

100 Club

The latest winners in the scheme, pulled out of the hat during weekly draws since the last newsletter were Clare Brooks, Nigel Rickard, Philip Endell, Charles Ball, Mike Smith and Gordon Harvey, each winning around £28.00.

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 or by calling 01702 476458 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 £28.00 per week at the present time.

Quid-a-Goal

This Season's Quid A Goal scheme is now up and running and with numerous pledges made so far the current running total after 3 matches is £90.00

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 to 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.

If you would like to help raise funds for this worthy cause you can do so by visiting the Trust Info Stand in the Shrimpers Bar prior to any Home Game and pick up an entry form.

Application forms are also available for download from the Trust Website www.shrimperstrust.co.uk



MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to New Life Members (Total 184)

Andy Haddow

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

Anthony Bird, Daniel, James, Kay & Norman Burton, Phillip Camp, Peter Collier, Gary Collinson, Sam Dowsett, Katie Groom, Andy Haddow, Chris Hoskyn, Michael Kirby, William Lindsey, Paul Manning, Brian Meyers, Keith Passingham, Daniel Smith and Grant Sonn.

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 **

FORTHCOMING TRUST EVENTS

Saturday 4th September 2010

QUIZ NIGHT

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

For further details contact Alan Perry

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



Thursday 23rd September 2010

Q&A with PAUL STURROCK and TOMMY WIDDRINGTON

The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall – 7.30pm for an 8.00pm prompt start

This is a **Members Only** Event; Admission is **Free of Charge** by Ticket which are available from the Trust Information stand in the Shrimpers Bar.

For further details contact Paul Yeomanson

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



Saturday 2nd October 2010

POKER NIGHT

The Rendezvous Casino at the Kursaal – from 7.00pm

For further details see below or contact Jon-Paul FitzGerald

(Tel: 07824 398236, email: jphfitz@aol.com)



Thursday 11th November 2010

TRUST AGM & Q and A

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

For further details contact Paul Yeomanson

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



Monday 29th November 2010

CURRY NIGHT

The Pipasha, Eastwood Road North, Leigh on Sea – 7.00pm for a 7.30pm meal

For further details contact Alan Perry

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



I'M ALL IN !!! – SHRIMPERS TRUST POKER CHAMPIONSHIP

The Shrimpers Trust are pleased to announce details of their 3rd Poker Championship to be held at The Rendezvous Casino at the Kursaal, Southend on Saturday 2nd October 2010.

The evening starts with registration from 7.00 pm with meals being served between 7.45 and 8.15 pm. The Championship will commence at 8.30 pm with a short tutorial prior to this for those players not familiar to Texas Hold'em.

The initial Buy In will be **£20.00** which includes a Meal in our exclusive dining area, and if you do get knocked out early you will be able to Re Buy (during the first hour) for just **£10.00** (only 1 Re Buy permitted per player).

The Poker Championship will be overseen by Casino Staff and the final table will be dealt by them. The Tournament Stats will also be displayed on various Television Monitors in the Playing Area.



The pot will be split between the top 10% of players based on final standings and the Rendezvous Casino is also providing a stylish trophy for the winner.

And if Poker is not for you, but you still wish to come along for an evening out, you can do for just **£10.00** which entitles you to all of the above including the Meal except obviously joining in the Tournament.



NEWSLETTER – Vol. 6 Iss. 01. – August 2010

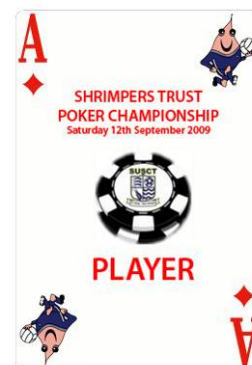
Places in the Shrimpers Trust Poker Championship are limited to 90 and a further 40 non playing guests will be allowed so book now to ensure your place.

An entry form is available on our website www.shrimperstrust.co.uk, or alternatively bookings can be made at the Trust Information Stand in the Shrimpers Bar prior to any Home Game or by visiting the Trust Online Shop. (Please include names of all Players/Non Players in options box when booking online).

A trendy Shrimpers Trust VIP pass will be handed out to you on your arrival at the Casino.

Please note that we are unable to accept bookings on the night, and all Players must be confirmed by **Friday 24th September**.

For further details please contact Jon-Paul FitzGerald on 07824 398236 or email him at jphfitz@aol.com.



ROB CRAVEN TALKS TO RICKY DUNCAN

There have been a number of changes at Roots Hall over the summer, but one man integral to the future of the football club remains in southeast Essex: Ricky Duncan.

The Shrimpers' Head of Youth is now entering the sixth season of his second period in the job, having presided over the development of first-team players Johnny Herd, Franck Moussa, Stuart O'Keefe and Harry Crawford.

In addition to the progression of those players, Duncan's teams have never finished outside of the top six of the Football League Youth Alliance South-East Conference - claiming the title for the only time in the club's history in 2008/9 - and have three times reached the third round of the FA Youth Cup, including an historic run to the last sixteen of the competition in 2007/8.

And the former Cambridge United coach is now looking forward to working with a new first-team management team in the guise of Paul Sturrock and Tommy Widdrington: *"I've had the opportunity to sit down and have a couple of chats with Paul already, and I've also spoken to the chairman, and they both believe in youth development,"* Duncan says.

"It's now up to me to make sure that the players that we bring through are up to the standard that is required for the first-team. I can see that Paul is going to be supportive of the set-up as he has already spoken to the lads on the training ground and, as we get to know each other even more, I'm sure that we keep developing youngsters."

After a brief stint as reserve-team coach, Duncan is now able to focus solely on the Youth Department at Boots & Laces, with Graham Coughlan the new player/coach for the second-string: *"It was a tough time for everyone at the end of last season, and on occasions the young players were playing three times a week,"* he reveals.

"There are obviously a lot more players at the club now, but I think there will still be an opportunity to bring the Under-18s onto the bench and into the team for the reserves. It has to be a learning environment for the young players; it's not all about winning matches, and hopefully it will be about their education and learning from the older members of the team."

Blues' Youths have enjoyed an excellent educational experience during pre-season, tackling foreign opposition both on tour and in the Youth Tournament at Roots Hall, as well as taking on four Academy teams.



NEWSLETTER – Vol. 6 Iss. 01. – August 2010

"I'm happy with how pre-season went," Duncan states. "We've played Charlton Athletic, West Ham United and FC Twente and, although we'd've liked to have won some games, we've taken on tough opposition and got used to a new system. We've played with a lot of movement and the pattern of our play has been good, but we've just lacked a finisher at times."

"In the fortnight leading up to the start of the season we played two more Academy sides in Norwich City and Stoke City. At Norwich we lost 3-0 to a good team; it was a tough game to play after a lot of football in a short space of time and we had a bad spell of ten minutes or so either side of half-time, but other than that I was happy with how we played and the changes that we made."

"We also went up to Stoke last Friday and only lost that match 1-0. I didn't think we played too well in the first half, but in the second we were camped inside their half and we just needed some better finishing in front of goal to have got some reward," he adds.

One teenager who is important to Duncan's plans is front man Duane Ofori-Acheampong. The tall centre-forward netted four times in five starts during 2009/10, and his coach now expects progression from his protégé: *"Duane had to go back to Ghana for a couple of weeks, and we missed his presence up front while he was away,"* confirms Duncan.

"He is a massive player for us in the system that we are playing with one up top, one behind and two out wide, and we did miss him. But he came back and did the bleep test with us on Thursday and got to Level 14:6, which shows that he has been working hard and that he has a good professional attitude. We have a good group of players here."

Amongst that group are a number of new scholars, and the Centre of Excellence coach is keen to see them involved from an early stage: *"I like to play the younger lads as soon as I can, and all of the outfield ones except Rhys Mackay got onto the pitch in the first match against Millwall. They are all good players, and I like to get them involved in the Under-18s quickly as that will help them make the progression into senior football."*

At the other end of the scale were the youngsters awarded development deals with the Shrimpers at the end of their two-year scholarships, and Duncan was keen to bring supporters up-to-date with the progress of flying forward Kyle Asante: *"Kyle is coming on very, very well after his injury. Hopefully he will be able to start taking part in training soon and getting involved again in the next couple of months."*

"Marcus Milner got injured in the friendly at Norwich and he will be out for around six weeks, whilst Ade Osifuwa is very young for a third-year; we're looking to maybe get him out on loan at a club to help his development. Merrick James-Lewis has been involved with the first-team and he has stepped up his game, but Jamie Dennis has decided to get himself a full-time job and play football part-time, so we wish him well."

In recent weeks, former Under-18s stars Craig Calver (Yeovil Town) and Franck Moussa (Leicester City) have signed for alternative clubs, and Duncan admits that those moments were bittersweet occasions for him: *"It is a real achievement that these players are signing for higher division clubs, but you don't want to see them leaving, so it is good in one way, and bad in another. We would like to see the club benefit financially from players moving on but, on the other side, it does show that we'll give them opportunities in the game, and we'll keep on doing that."*

"We have benefited from some players moving away from the club and Medi Abalimba is pushing on at Derby County whilst Michael Ngoo has been called up to the England Under-19 squad after his performances at Liverpool. All of that shows how good the staff are here in the Youth Department; not just me, but everyone, from Luke Hobbs to Liz Orford to the Under-8s coach, everyone."

"With these individuals involved in Academies and Football League Clubs, it shows what we are doing is good. We also have players here involved in international football: Luke Chambers is off tomorrow to play for Wales against Estonia and George Smith will be linking up with the Republic of Ireland again. There was also an England scout here at Boots & Laces today. That's how far we have come in five years, and that's an achievement all of the Youth Department can be proud of."

NEWSLETTER – Vol. 6 Iss. 01. – August 2010

Duncan, though, is now looking to the future, and he is confident of individual and group success in 2010/11: *“I’d like to get another player up into the first-team, and I’d like to see Merrick James-Lewis continue to make inroads there. As a team, we’ve targeted a top-three finish in the League, and we’d like to get through in the FA Youth Cup as well, but we’ll carry on playing attractive football in an entertaining environment - I don’t want to get bogged down by results.”*

With the positive atmosphere at Boots & Laces already in place, the results, it seems, will look after themselves.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

After so many departures over the close season, we take a brief look at where some of your former heroes (and villains) are now plying their trade.

Steve Tilson – Dover (Temporary basis)
Steve Mildenhall - Millwall
Adam Barrett – Crystal Palace
Alan McCormack – Charlton
Franck Moussa – Leicester
Francis Laurent – Coventry (Trial)
Jean Francois Christophe – Wrexham (Trial)
Simon Francis – Charlton
Lee Barnard - Southampton



It is interesting to note that most of last seasons flops are now signed up to a higher level of football. I would like to wish all the staff good luck on behalf of the Shrimpers Trust, in particular, Steve Tilson and Adam Barrett who have been very loyal servants to Southend United football club.

ZOLTAN LIPTAK IS AN INTERNATIONAL



Once of Southend United, Zoltan Liptak made his full international debut against England last month for his National Side, Hungary following an impressive run of form in the previous year for his current club.

Before joining Southend, Zoltan had a trial with League One side Huddersfield Town in January 2007, but the supposed end-of-season loan transfer collapsed mysteriously.

On 24 July 2007, then Shrimpers manager Steve Tilson made the decision to sign the defender following an impressive friendly display against Witham Town.

He was signed from Hungarian second division side Lombard-Pápa TFC for a fee of £52,000.

After failing to make the first team at Southend United, Lipták was sent on Stevenage Borough for one month and made his debut live on TV against Altrincham in the 2–1 win on 26 November 2007.

After joining Ujpest FC briefly in June 2008 he returned to England, this time on loan to Championship team Southampton. He made his first appearance for them against Preston North End, a game which they won 3–1. The loan was terminated at the end of April 2009.

Zoltan looked like one of Hungary’s more accomplished players in their defeat to England, or was that just a below par Rooney? It is always nice to see a former Shrimper on the international stage, although it does make you wonder whether he could be the next Kightly/Hooper. Time will tell.

BARBER'S BLURB – TERRACE TALK MATCH REPORTS

Saturday 7th August 2010



**Southend United 1 (Sturrock 90+5)
Stockport County 1 (Donnelly 83)**

How We Started: (4-3-3)

Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Mark Phillips, Luke Prosser, Chris Barker, Craig Easton ©, Anthony Grant, Josh Simpson, Scott Spencer, Louie Soares and Barry Corr.

Blair Sturrock climbed off the substitutes bench to rescue a point for Southend United after Stockport had taken the lead in controversial fashion that saw Blues boss Paul Sturrock get sent to the stands.

So after a disappointing World Cup for England and all the comings and goings at Southend United, the football season is back at the home of football, Roots Hall. With 17 new players confirmed just 24 hours before kick-off, a new managerial team and a positive but busy pre-season, the Mighty Blues kicked off their campaign at home to Stockport County.

Southend looked the better team through and went close through Barry Corr, Josh Simpson and Louie Soares, as Stockport hardly threatened. With a brand new team, it was the same old problem for Blues as they dominated possession and looked the far better side, but could not finish off the moves.

More chances came for Southend in the 2nd half, but it was County that took the lead in controversial circumstances as the linesman on the far side put his flag up for off-side only to put it down which allowed the move to continue and Donnelly fired home. There were protests galore from Blues players and manager Paul Sturrock as he entered the pitch to air his fury at the official before being sent to the stands.

However, Southend did get the equaliser they deserved, when Blair Sturrock turned and hit first time inside the 6 yard box after Barry Corr knocked down a Sofiene Zaaboub corner

Tuesday 10th August 2010



**Southend United 3 (Paterson 31, 104, Corr 88)
Stockport County 2 (McAllister 2, Sproule 82)**

AET

How We Started: (4-4-2)

Glenn Morris, Josh Simpson, Graham Coughlan, Luke Prosser, Chris Barker, Craig Easton ©, Anthony Grant, Sofiene Zaaboub, Louie Soares, Matt Paterson and Blair Sturrock.

A brace from Matt Paterson saw Southend overcome Championship side Bristol City in awful conditions at Roots Hall. Paterson scored one from the spot in normal time before heading home a Ryan Hall cross in extra-time.

So with the West Stand closed, I took my seat in the East, just looking forward to a decent game of football in the Carling Cup first round. England goalkeeper David James was sat just a few meters away to my left on the bench as he was given a rest, unlike the Bristol back four during the course of the match.

It was not the greatest start by The Shrimpers when Jamie McAllister blasted home a free-kick from the edge of the box to give The Robins the lead. The advantage lasted 30 minutes, as Southend

NEWSLETTER – Vol. 6 Iss. 01. – August 2010

with a change of formation, won a penalty after Jamal Campbell-Ryce fouled Anthony Grant and Matt Paterson smashed home the penalty.

The Shrimpers dominated the second half and went close through Louie Soares, Matt Paterson and Anthony Grant who saw several fantastic strikes saved by former Blues academy goalkeeper Dean Gerken.

Despite Blues dominating, City took the lead with just 8 minutes to go when Ivan Sproule placed home past Morris at the near post via a deflection after great work from Albert Adomah. However, Southend were level 6 minutes later when Scott Spencer's fantastic run and cross was met powerfully by Irish forward Barry Corr to send the tie into extra-time.

Southend United continued to dominate in extra-time and eventually won the tie when Matt Paterson smartly headed home Ryan Hall's fantastic cross.

Saturday 14th August 2010



**Aldershot Town 1 (Morgan 80)
Southend United 0**

How We Started: (4-4-2)

Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Mark Phillips, Luke Prosser, Chris Barker, Craig Easton ©, Anthony Grant, Josh Simpson, Louie Soares, Barry Corr and Blair Sturrock.

Ground Review:

My opinion of the EBB Stadium is that it is a 'cosy' tight ground that creates a great atmosphere, in the away end at least, and with only 3 sides it makes it a different environment for league football. The walk through the woodland to get to the stadium, the rickety turnstiles to get into the ground, the stand-alone portable food stall and the terracing made it a unique experience.

Marvin Morgan scored another controversial league goal against Southend as Paul Sturrock tasted defeat for the first time as Blues' manager. Former Shots winger Louie Soares came closest for Southend but his effort was cleared off the line.

The Shrimpers were looking to get at least another point on the board away at Aldershot Town at the EBB Stadium. The Shots had former Blues midfielder Luke Guttridge in their starting line-up who wanted to help the hosts score their first goal of the season.

Southend United started brightly and went close when Barry Corr controlled well before hitting a volley on the turn that just went wide. The visitors looked the more likely side to score the first goal and Peterborough loanee Josh Simpson drove a low drive wide of the goal.

Former Aldershot winger Louie Soares had a great chance to score but his effort was cleared off the line, whereas Simpson and Easton also forced saves from Jamie Young in the Shots goal.

The hosts hardly threatened in the first half, however, Marvin Morgan went close when he dragged a shot wide of Glenn Morris' goal. The Blues fans were in great voice as they tried to cheer Southend onto victory, and despite dictating most of the attacks they failed to really test Young. Blair Sturrock also had a penalty appeal turned down as Southend game forward.

However, with just 10 minutes left the home team took the lead through last seasons leading marksmen Marvin Morgan. Former Cheltenham Town forward Spencer saw his shot saved by Morris, and as the Blues keeper got the ball in his hands it seemed to have been kicked out of his control by Morgan who then turned and fired home from 6 yards.

Matt Paterson came within inches of connecting with Ryan Hall's cross but Aldershot held on to be the first team to take all 3 points from Blues boss Paul Sturrock.

19th August 2010

Page 10 of 10