

## NEWSLETTER – Vol. 6 Iss. 03. – December 2010

### THE INTRODUCTION – Paul FitzGerald

#### Out with the old in with the new....

But hang on it's not New Year yet! Welcome to Tara Brady, officially appointed as Chief Executive of our football club on 6th December and goodbye (partially) to Geoffrey King, he of the same title. On the merry go round that is Southend United's Board I make that the 6th company appointment / termination in 12 months. The commercial side (which I understand Tara will be responsible for) being a particularly poisoned chalice it would seem. Let us hope that this is a case of 3<sup>rd</sup> time lucky. I was hoping to include a message for our members from Ron and/or Tara but the timing was against us. Look out for a website update on this.

The Trust held it's AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> November - Rob Craven's excellent write up is below. I'd particularly like to welcome two new committee members, Gary Crowe and Lesley Hicks (Lesley contacted us after seeing a plea in the previous newsletter and it proves there is at least one reader!). After the formal session, the captain Craig Easton spent a good while answering questions about himself and the club and was generally noted as an all round good bloke.

I was lucky enough to experience a terrific Youth team performance last month against Brentford in the FA Youth cup and am extremely disappointed that I am away for the 3<sup>rd</sup> round against Coventry on 14<sup>th</sup> December – If you have nothing planned for that night I'd urge any fan to go down to Roots Hall to cheer on the excellent bunch of youngsters Ricky Duncan has assembled.

Ron has recently set up a new company and the Echo appeared quite interested/excited but it has always been Ron's plan to do. He had told the Trust on many occasions that he wanted a separate Board to run the new stadium, far away from the footballing side. The fact that he has chosen to do this now is interesting from a timing point of view and is hopefully a sign that real apparent progress on FF is not far away.

The "enabling development" that has always been suggested would bring extra revenue to the football club, is presumably going to be within this vehicle. Additionally, of course, we must not forget that the football club may be the first tenant. Ron stated in open forum that the rent charged at FF to the football club would be at an affordable level and bearing in mind the club hasn't paid any rent for many years one would assume that they have not been able to afford any...suggesting that the affordable level of rent is in fact zero. I'm sure Ron will be addressing this situation in the fullness of time.



**As suggested, in the last newsletter, the final unfinished matter with regards the Trust Loan was completed recently and we'd like your opinions on it – see the last page of this Newsletter for further information.**

As ever, if anyone ever wants to comment on any Trust matter or indeed, anything Southend United related, don't hesitate to contact me, I do try to reply to all e-mails. ([pfitz666@aol.com](mailto:pfitz666@aol.com))

## SHRIMPERS TRUST AGM – Report by Rob Craven

Southend United club captain Craig Easton took time out of his schedule to attend the Shrimpers Trust Annual General Meeting on Thursday 11th November and, after the formal business of the evening had been concluded, he answered questions from the assembled supporters.

Having watched on intently to the reports from Trust chairman Paul FitzGerald, treasurer Darren Posnack and membership secretary Paul Yeomanson, Easton then saw the existing Officers voted back on before the Trust Board and General Committee - including new members Gary Crowe and Lesley Hicks - followed suit.

The 31-year-old moved onto the top table himself at around 8:50pm and answered questions for an hour. Having explained the general format for training during the week, including regeneration sessions after a match and a double-session on non-matchday Tuesdays, Easton soon settled into his stride.

Asked about Tuesday's narrow 1-0 Johnstone's Paint Trophy defeat to Charlton Athletic, the former Leyton Orient midfielder talked about the role of the midfield in the reverse: *"Even in the Torquay [United] match, sometimes we dropped too deep. I was saying to the other players on Tuesday night that we were doing that, but Charlton are a good side; they have got good forwards and it was a new defence for us,"* he stated.



Easton was quick to quash any rumours of dressing room unrest after team-mates exchanged frank views to each other on the field in the home win over Rotherham United: *"There was a wee bit the other day; Bilel [Mohsni]'s a bit mad! I can tell you now that 99% of the time, it only lasts as long as you saw on the pitch and that's the end of it. Sometimes it'll carry on a bit in the dressing room, but I'll be honest and I say I don't mind a little bit of that; it shows the team spirit we have."*

*"Both the gaffer [Paul Sturrock] and Tommy [Widdrington] are good man-managers, and the players will respond to them. The team-talks are good and myself, Graham Coughlan and Chris Barker all chip in. It's a great dressing room and the lads all get on together. That's a good thing because, on the pitch, when you're covering for a mate, you can make an extra tackle. Working hard is a minimum requirement, and only twice this season has the gaffer thought we could do more."*

*"We brought in two lads in a position we needed to strengthen, and obviously we have Matt Paterson as well. We felt it was a chance at Macclesfield [Town] to see what the boys could do. For Barry [Corr] and Blair [Sturrock] it's an incentive to get their place back in the team. Everyone wants to play football, including Barry, and he'll respond,"* the Scot declared later in the evening.

Over a number of seasons, the influx of loan players to Roots Hall has increased, and Easton acknowledged that this was now part of the game before explaining that it can work to a squad's advantage: *"You come into a squad and train; it's really easy. Football's that kind of game, so someone will usually know you. The two lads at Macclesfield last week did well and they'll be healthy competition for Barry and Blair. That game was good as we were in a hotel, so we could have a laugh and a joke and bond a little,"* he said.

*"Any club that I have been to have used loan signings, and I think that it will happen more and more; that seems to be the way that football is going. [Nathaniel] Jarvis and [Wade] Fairhurst didn't make an impression, but maybe these two lads will. At Orient when I was there the gaffer brought in a lad, Ryan Jarvis, and he scored a few goals at the end of the season to help us stay up."*

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When quizzed about his decision to join the Shrimpers, the one-time Dundee United youngster was quick to praise his manager, going on to reveal that he could have signed for a Scottish Premier League club before electing to move to south-east Essex.

*"I was only saying to the gaffer the other day that it must be hard for you as fans, but the lads who have come in are all committed; we don't want to play in League Two. I don't want to play in League Two. The gaffer has done well to bring players in," he claimed.*



*"I was told by a few people not to touch Southend with a bargepole. I came down, and in training there were only eight players there, but I knew the gaffer and the players started coming in. Graham Coughlan said to me that the gaffer would get players in and he did."*

*"It's testament to the gaffer that people want to come to play down and play for him. He's had a lot of success, and it was his draw that attracted them. I've worked with him three times now. It was a hard choice for me; Terry Butcher wanted me to go to Inverness, and I've played for him before at Dundee United, but I felt it was a bigger challenge here."*

With widespread changes to personnel in the squad, it may have taken some time for the players to get to know each other, but Easton insisted that putting points on the board was now a priority: *"I don't want to make excuses about gelling; we've had three months together now, so its consistency. Are we good enough? I look around and we have the players, and the gaffer thinks that as well. I hope Granty [Anthony Grant] stays with us, and big Bilel at the back. If we can add one or two, and I'd love to see Josh Simpson stay, we've got as good a squad as anyone in this League. I'd take our squad over any other in our League."*

*"5,500 haven't seen us at our best; those that have been to Chesterfield and Bradford have seen a different team. Anyone that has consistency will get promoted; I'd love to have a magic wand, but we'll keep working hard. You might get a few more Torquay United's and then the standards slip, but we'll keep on working on consistency."*

One man that Easton knows very well is former loanee Michael Timlin and he was pleased with his temporary addition: *"When I got injured, the gaffer said he was bringing Michael in and I knew that he would do a good job. I've played with him at Swindon, and I've spoken to him and he didn't want to go back; he was enjoying his time here. There is a difference between the two changing rooms."*

In addition to the well-documented success over Torquay, Blues put in excellent pre-season displays against higher-division opposition in Derby County and West Ham United at Roots Hall, and Easton, who opened his goalscoring account for the club in another impressive performance at Wolverhampton Wanderers in the Carling Cup, believes that Southend are capable of more in front of their own supporters.

*"League Two is like that, maybe we need to pass the ball a bit more. The Derby and West Ham games were very different to League Two games, and any time we have done well it's been against the better teams. We have the battlers for those other games," he proclaimed.*

*"We've played our best football away. Statistics show that a lot of teams' away form is better than their home. You are more focussed to do a job when you go away, and at home you probably try a few things. You go away, you're tighter, at home there's expectation, and when you go away it's the same for them. I was talking to Terry Butcher the other day, and Inverness are unbeaten since last November away. Dundee United are the only team in the top half of the SPL, including Rangers and Celtic, whose home form is better than their away."*

*"To get a goal at the moment, we seem to have to get a decent one. Sometimes you have to get scrappy ones. I was speaking to the gaffer about it the other day, and we will be working on it. I*

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*normally just play in midfield, but we've got players like Granty and I think Josh Simpson will get some. Everyone needs to chip in, not just the strikers. I hope we can keep a hold on Granty."*

*"Anyone that scores goals moves on as they are a sought-after commodity. At Swindon, Billy Paynter did well and moved on to a Championship side. It's hard to get them, but I think there are goals in Barry and Blair. Blair has had a few assists."*

*"We've been working on getting into the box. We know that bodies in the box are what we need; Blair's not going to score goals when he's out on the wing. Tommy put a crossing and finishing session on the other day and it was a great session. We do work on it all the time. We've got to get in front of the goalkeeper - we do it in training and when it happens it's great. On DVDs we can look at things like that, and these coaching points are brought up. Players do get told if they get it wrong, whether that's being offside from short corners or foul throws."*



As the evening drew to a close, Easton ended on a light-hearted note by disclosing that the squad had been keeping an eye on ITV2's *The Only Way In Essex* as he spoke about his return to the county: *"I've been here before, in Buckhurst Hill, for a couple of years. We've been watching that programme; Peter Gilbert comes into training every day and tells us what's going on! I've settled in well, I'm living in Leigh-on-Sea and my wife likes it."*

The Shrimpers Trust would like to thank Craig for his time and his willingness to answer all questions put to him, as well as Paul Sturrock and Southend United FC for allowing him to participate. Thanks also to everyone who attended the recent AGM.

### XMAS DRAW



**Don't forget that there is still time to get your Draw Tickets back to us.**

The Xmas Draw is one of our major fundraisers of the season so please try to sell the tickets if you can.

Please return Ticket Stubs and your Payment to: **Xmas Draw, Shrimpers Trust, PO Box 5830, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 9FD** or to the **Promoters Address on the Ticket**. Please make Cheques Payable to **The Shrimpers Trust**.

Alternatively you can drop them off at the Trust Info Stand in the Shrimpers Bar prior to any Home Game.

**Closing date for entries is 30 minutes prior to kick off at the Home Game v Barnet on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2010.**

### FUNDRAISING

#### 100 Club

The latest winners in the scheme, pulled out of the hat during weekly draws since the last newsletter were Andrew Perry, Ron Alexander, Graham Truman, David Mason, Neil Whitehead and Bryan Woodford each winning around £28.00.



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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 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 24 matches is £641.50**

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](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk)

## MEMBERSHIP

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP



**Life Membership of the Trust currently costs £75.00 if you have an email account or £100.00 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](mailto:membership@shrimperstrust.co.uk).

**And if you become a Life Member now you have the chance to win a 'Blues Lounge' Package for two at a home game of your choice next season.**

**The winning Life Member will be drawn when our Life Membership reaches 200 (currently 186).**

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

**David Allen, Richard Bailey, Anthony Cameron, Andrew Doe, Graeme Lee and Victoria Lee.**

**\*\*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

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 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](mailto:alanperry4@hotmail.com))



**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

### **RACE NIGHT**

**The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall – First Race 7.30pm**

For further details contact Paul Yeomanson

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



## POKER NIGHT REPORT

**So the 3<sup>rd</sup> Shrimpers Trust poker tournament is now over for another year and was a success yet again, especially considering we all got a slightly earlier bedtime than the previous years.**



Congratulations to Gareth Fletcher for his victory and to the three runners up, James Shacklock, Rosemary Davies and Brad West who all finished in the money!

Thanks to everyone who came and supported the Shrimpers Trust and hope you had a top night regardless of whether you finished in the money or just came to support your partner or friends. Also a special thanks to the casino staff who ran the proceedings on the night and helped to arrange the tournament.

Remember the Trust have managed to secure a deal whereby members will be able to enjoy the Elements restaurant at Rendezvous Casino at a cheaper rate – For more information check out the Members Area in our website.

**UP THE SHRIMPERS AND WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN SOON!**

*Jon-Paul FitzGerald*

## SUFC EGGHEADS

**On Monday 21st November, an episode of Eggheads featuring myself and other Southend United supporters finally aired.....a mere 10 months after having been filmed! And those 10 months have been torture for the team as we were sworn to secrecy as part of our contracts.**

It was in the winter of 2008/9 that a group of us, playing regularly in a Sunday night quiz on the popular online Southend United fans' forum, ShrimperZone, began to discuss the idea of putting together a team to take part in Eggheads. Co-ordinated by Paul Cox, of Milton Keynes, a team was eventually entered and invited to audition in London in June 2009. The team consisted of Paul, myself, Harry Roberts from Canvey, Ian Crossman from Southampton, Richard Reade from Glasgow and reserve, Scott Clough from Hutton, so we were a fairly far flung lot, and those auditions were actually the first time we had met Ian face to face although the rest of us had managed to meet up at various matches and club and ShrimperZone events in the past.

Having sailed through the auditions, we were quickly accepted and immediately invited to attend for filming, which we had to decline as it was just too short notice. That, unfortunately, signaled the

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end of filming of Eggheads in London prior to moving to the BBC studios in Glasgow, and it was this change that meant we had to endure a very long wait to be called to film.



Eventually, we got the call just before Christmas 2009 and were asked to be in Glasgow for filming on 20th January. Opting to travel the day before, 5 of us were put up in a very pleasant hotel prior to filming the show. We were told to report to the BBC at 9 o'clock in the morning, and were met and put through our paces. We'd been told to bring at least three changes of tops so that they could decide who was wearing what, the instructions were to "think box of Smarties"!!! Unfortunately we weren't allowed to wear anything with logos on, so no SUFC branded tops of any kind. They actually film five Egghead shows a day and with the addition of two newer members, this allows the Eggheads themselves to be rotated so it meant we

didn't know who we were going to be up against. We were due to go to the recording studio at 11 o'clock but the show prior to us had over run, meaning it was an extra hour to wait.

Entering the studios, the three men on the team we were to play, Chris, Barry and Pat came straight over to us and shook our hands and had a bit of a chat. The two ladies, Judith and Daphne joined a bit later. They were all very nice, Judith has quite a good sense of humour! You're not told until Jeremy Vine announces it, how much you're playing for so it is a genuine look of surprise, or it was, when he announced we were playing for £21,000.

First round was Geography with Ian taking on Pat, then Film and TV with Richard taking on Chris before I got lumbered with the one none of us really wanted, Art and Books, and took on Barry. We all lost our rounds, before Harry came in taking Judith on at Sports and taking her to "Sudden Death" before beating her, meaning we had Paul and Harry in the final General Knowledge round. They did really well, but unfortunately not well enough and before too long, we'd lost.

Still, we had an amazing experience, not one many football supporting groups can boast and we were able to get some pics with the Eggheads at the end. We've not been able to tell anyone how we did though because if you win, apparently you don't get paid until your show airs to keep the suspense going!

*Kay Searle*

## BARBER'S BLURB – TERRACE TALK MATCH REPORTS

Saturday 23rd October 2010



**Bury 1 (Skarz 40)**  
**Southend United 0**

### **How We Started: (4-4-2)**

Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Graham Coughlan, Chris Barker ©, Peter Gilbert, Michael Timlin, Anthony Grant, Josh Simpson, Ryan Hall, Blair Sturrock and Barry Corr.

### **Ground Review:**

Gigg Lane is a bog-standard League Two ground with only one-tiered stands. Normally these smaller grounds create a great atmosphere but the acoustics at this ground were very poor.

For a club of Bury's stature it is enough, but it could do with a few licks of paint and the posts holding the stands up did block most supporters' views that were not directly behind the goal.

**Joe Skarz's glancing header 5 minutes before the break condemned Southend to their 3<sup>rd</sup> straight defeat as they slipped down to 18<sup>th</sup> position in League Two. Despite a much better performance after the break, Blues could not take any of their many chances, to make it 3 defeats on the trot.**

The game started pretty even with both sides knocking the ball around well. However, in just the third minute, Southend were under pressure when AJose went down under the challenge of Chris Barker. The Man Utd. youngster did make the most of the very little contact present.

From the resulting spot-kick Glenn Morris produced a stunning save to deny Ryan Lowe and push the ball behind for a corner. From that moment Bury wanted revenge and only a world class save from Morris kept the scores level.

Just before the half-time whistle the referee made Bury take the free kick again after their first two efforts being judged not to be legal, and from the curling free-kick former Huddersfield defender Skarz glanced a header into the bottom corner of the goal.

Despite Bury being in front there was nothing between the two sides if the truth were told. In the second half Southend were much better with every player demanding the ball.

Josh Simpson should have done better and so should Clohessy when he opted to try and lob the keeper when a hard low effort perhaps would have been better.

A free flowing move from Southend nearly ended with a stunning goal. Grant, Timlin, Hall and Gilbert were all involved but Barry Corr couldn't keep his header down and the chance had gone.

Michael Timlin saw his 25-yard volley saved well by the rookie goalkeeper as Bury looked to hang on. Nathaniel Jarvis also saw an effort go close but his shot smashed into the side netting as Southend slumped to yet another defeat.

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Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2010



**Southend United 1 (Sturrock 4)**  
**Rotherham United 0**

### **How We Started: (4-4-2)**

Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Bilel Mohsni, Chris Barker ©, Peter Gilbert, Ryan Hall, Michael Timlin, Anthony Grant, Josh Simpson, Barry Corr and Blair Sturrock.

**An early goal from Blair Sturrock ensured Southend ended a run of three straight defeats against high-flying Rotherham at Roots Hall. Blair chested home from close range, to score his 3<sup>rd</sup> of the season and get Blues back on track.**

Southend were looking for a dominant performance at Roots Hall and supporters were treated to an early goal. Midfielder Josh Simpson made a good burst down the right and after playing a neat one-two with Clohessy he delivered a great ball to the near post that Sturrock converted well with his chest.



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Rotherham looked to respond but the Blues backline stayed strong throughout the half. It was Southend that nearly added to the score though but Blair Sturrock saw his 20-yard shot drift wide of the goal.

Timlin and Grant then exchanged passes but Anthony Grant's effort flew over the bar and out of the ground. Glenn Morris then saved well from a Kevin Ellison volley but it really should have been two-nil to Southend just before the break.

Blair Sturrock controlled and turned well but saw his shot deflect up and onto the bar, and Barry Corr dragged the rebound wide. This was better from Southend though, more dominant at home, which is what we have been wanting to see.

The second half started in the same manner as Southend were on the front foot. Striker Barry Corr was the first to go close when he saw his brave header go inches wide of the post.

Returning centre-back Bilel Mohsni then also nodded inches wide after good play from Peter Gilbert. Despite dominating the game I felt we needed a second goal but we just couldn't seem to get it.

Barry Corr saw another header go wide and Ryan Hall's lashed volley went harmlessly wide of Andy Warrington's goal. Warrington then made a great save to deny Corr the goal he deserved.

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## Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2010



**Macclesfield Town 2 (Daniel 8, Brown 47)**

**Southend United 2 (German 33 pen., Corr 76)**

### How We Started: (4-4-2)

Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Graham Coughlan, Bilel Mohsni, Luke Prosser, Craig Easton ©, Anthony Grant, Josh Simpson, Sofiene Zaaboub, Jack Midson and Antonio German.

### Ground Review:

Moss Rose is a typical League Two/Conference level type ground. The open terrace for away supporters behind one of the goals and behind the other goal was another terrace, but this was covered.

The stand to our left was covered and just one tiered and away supporters could go in there if they wanted to. To the left was the main stand, which was very old fashioned.

With a very low gate, it was hard to tell whether the acoustics were any good, but these structures normally are.

**Two substitutes combined to make sure Southend United were in the hat for the second round draw, even if they could only manage a draw, despite being the better side by a country mile. Ryan Hall crossed for Barry Corr to superbly convert for his 6<sup>th</sup> of the season and that cancelled out Brown's goal just after half-time. The Shrimpers Trust coach arrived just in time to see Antonio German's penalty after a fatal accident on the M6.**

I cannot report on the first 25 minutes of the game after not being in attendance after the fatal accident on the M6 but the coach groaned when we found out we were 1-0 down, fortunately by the sounds of things, Blues were outplayed for the first 20 minutes, so what we saw was really pleasing.

The first action we witnessed was to see French-Algerian Sofiene Zaaboub get chopped down in the box and the ref awarded a penalty to us. Up stepped highly rated QPR loanee Antonio German and he superbly dispatched the penalty, left footed, into the top corner of the net.

After the goal it was all Southend, but did not really force any chances on goal. We won a few corners in succession and a dragged shot from midfield just went wide, but we looked comfortable.

However, 2 minutes into the second half, Macclesfield were back in front. A free-kick to the back stick was missed by Mohsni and Clohessy and Brown had the simplest of tasks to nod across goal and past Morris into the far corner.

That seemed to wake Southend up again and from that moment we clearly dominated the game. However, it wasn't until the introduction of Ryan Hall that we looked likely to score and we did within 10 minutes of his introduction.

He beat his man for skill and pace, before placing a peach of a ball into the penalty area for Barry Corr to power home his 6<sup>th</sup> of the season and see Blues go into a replay at Roots Hall Tuesday week, where the winner will be away at either Cambridge United or Huddersfield Town, who tied 0-0 in their first round match.

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Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010



**Southend United 0  
Charlton Athletic 1 (Racon 28)**

## **How We Started: (4-4-2)**

Rhys Evans, Sean Clohessy, Bilel Mohsni, Luke Prosser, Peter Gilbert, Craig Easton ©, Ryan Hall, Anthony Grant, Josh Simpson, Barry Corr and Blair Sturrock.

**A wonderful solo effort from Thierry Racon sealed a victory for Charlton in a closely matched area quarter-final tie. The Frenchman hit a dipping left footed strike past Rhys Evans to end Southend United's dream of reaching the final at Wembley.**

After a good performance and a fairly good result against Macclesfield in the FA Cup on Saturday we returned to home soil to try and get closer to the final at Wembley Stadium.

Charlton named former Blues duo Simon Francis and Alan McCormack in their starting line up and that signaled the intent of Phil Parkinson's side in this fixture. The game started brightly for Southend as they looked to attack when possible and they had a few sights on goal through Blair Sturrock, but the strikers' shots were comfortable for Rob Elliot.

Charlton started to dictate play after that and they looked dangerous on the attack with Pawell Abbott and Lee Martin looking the most likely to score, but they did not threaten Evans in the Blues goal.

However, on the 28<sup>th</sup> minute a moment of magic from a quality player. Racon picked up the ball after Blues failed to clear their lines and the Frenchman cut in from the right to hit a sweet shot into the far corner past Evans.

Blues looked livelier after going behind and had the perfect chance to score before the break when Josh Simpson was put through after a quality-passing move. However, the midfielder opted to shoot into the side netting when maybe on reflection he should have crossed to the unmarked Barry Corr who was 6 yards out.

Southend dominated the second half and they really should have taken something in front of goal. Barry Corr looked really slow when on the ball and with more alertness he would have scored.

Corr had a half-hearted appeal for a penalty turned down as Charlton hung on to their win and they progress into the semi finals.

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Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2010



**Southend United 1 (Mohsni 65)  
Accrington Stanley 1 (Ryan 26)**

## **How We Started: (4-4-2)**

Glenn Morris, Bilel Mohsni, Sean Clohessy, Luke Prosser, Peter Gilbert, Josh Simpson, Anthony Grant, Craig Easton ©, Sofiene Zaaboub, Jack Midson and Antonio German.

**After the disappointment of being dumped out of the JPT in midweek Blues were back at Roots Hall to try and kick start their home league form this season.**

To be honest from the first whistle Southend looked the better side with most of the ball, but the old saying possession doesn't win you games proved to be true as Southend fell behind.

Luke Prosser dived in and conceded a free-kick on the edge of the box and Accrington took the lead through a sweet free-kick taken by Jimmy Ryan that curled into the top right hand corner of the goal.

That seemed to wake Southend up and the last 25 minutes of the game were explosive.

Bilel Mohsni scored his first goal for the club as he powered home a stunning header in the 65<sup>th</sup> minute after a good ball in from the left wing by Sofiene Zaaboub.

In the 76<sup>th</sup> minute Anthony Grant got chopped down which saw the Accrington right back Peter Murphy get sent off, but Southend were unable to take advantage of the extra man

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Blues pushed and pushed for a late winner and they thought they had scored when Harry Crawford tapped home but he was judged to have been in an offside position when prodding home a Sofiene Zaaboub free kick.

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Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010



1<sup>st</sup> Round Replay

**Southend United 2 (Simpson 87, Corr 105)**  
**Macclesfield Town 2 (Sinclair 61, Nsiala 99)**  
(AET) **SUFC Lost 5-3 on Penalties**

## How We Started: (4-4-2)

Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Bilel Mohsni, Luke Prosser, Peter Gilbert, Josh Simpson, Anthony Grant, Craig Easton ©, Sofiene Zaaboub, Barry Corr and Jack Midson.

**Southend suffered FA Cup heartache on Tuesday night at the hands of Macclesfield Town. The visitors won 5-3 on penalties after the scores were level at the end of extra time.**

After a disappointing result on Saturday but a relatively good performance Blues were hoping home advantage would count in the first round of the FA Cup.

Macclesfield took the lead in 61<sup>st</sup> minute when Peter Gilbert lost control of the ball and Sinclair rounded Morris to easily stroke home from close range. This prompted Paul Sturrock to make a double substitution with Ryan Hall and Blair Sturrock replacing Zaaboub and Midson.

Southend continued to pressurise the Macclesfield Goal but to no avail. The Blues brought on a third striker in the 80<sup>th</sup> Minute with Antonio German replacing Prosser.

Macclesfield should have killed the game off late on, but for a superb double save by Morris, which was compounded when Southend equalised just three minutes from time when Josh Simpson prodded home from 10 yards after Hall's initial shot was deflected into his path to ensure the tie went into extra time.

It was the visitors that took the lead in the first half of extra time when Nsiala volleyed home superbly into the top corner. Southend were the still the better side but had to wait until the 105<sup>th</sup> minute before scoring and that was through top scorer Barry Corr who stroked home after Ryan Hall's shot was well saved.

That took the tie into penalties and with only one playing missing from the spot, which was Barry Corr who turned from hero to villain in a matter of minutes, Macclesfield progressed into round two courtesy of Nathaniel Brown's penalty that although saved by Morris the ball spun back past the Blue's keeper into the net ending SUFC's interest in the FA Cup at the 1<sup>st</sup> Round for the second season in a row.

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Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2010



**Shrewsbury 1 (Wright 49)**  
**Southend United 1 (Grant 87)**

## How We Started: (4-4-2)

Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Graham Coughlan, Bilel Mohsni, Peter Gilbert, Craig Easton ©, Anthony Grant, Josh Simpson, Louie Soares, Jack Midson and Blair Sturrock.

## Ground Review:

The Greenhous Meadow is a typical blue print of any new grounds with a capacity of 15,000. Almost identical to Colchester's and Chesterfield's stadiums, this is a look I am not impressed with, and I'd much rather visit old traditional grounds which at least have history and acoustics to create an atmosphere.

**Anthony Grant made up for an early miss by securing a well-deserved point away at The Shrews. Former Blues striker Matt Harrold set-up Mark Wright's opener for the hosts, but Grant's stunning volley made sure both teams took a point.**

I was quietly confident we would get something from the game today as I know we perform much better away from home than we do at Roots Hall. The performances away from home have shown glimpses of what this team can do when they are on song.

The opening stages were very cagey but you could see that the hosts were up for it and they looked dangerous when going forward. However, despite looking dangerous, they hardly created any shots on goal to trouble Glenn Morris.

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Down the other end, Southend, were playing ok. A few neat patches in spells and a few openings on goal, but Sturrock's shot was well saved.

It wasn't until the second half that the game came to life. The half was less than 5 minutes old when Shrewsbury took the lead. Striker Matt Harrold won the ball in the air and it was his back header down to winger Mark Wright that made the goal and put the ball on a plate for the former MK Dons winger to smash home a half-volley into the far corner.

To be fair Southend did actually dictate from that point and saw wave after wave of possession but yet again failing to come up with a shot on goal. That was until the 87<sup>th</sup> minute and the introductions of Corr and Crawford proved to be significant, when the latter won the ball back before playing it to Easton who curled a wonderful cross to the back stick where Anthony Grant coolly guided home a side footed volley into the top corner.

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Tuesday 23rd November 2010



Stevenage 1 (Long 26)

Southend United 1 (Corr 84)

**How We Started: (4-4-2)**

Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Graham Coughlan, Bilel Mohsni, Peter Gilbert, Craig Easton ©, Anthony Grant, Josh Simpson, Louie Soares, Jack Midson and Antonio German.

**Ground Review:**

This was my first visit to Stevenage's ground and I really enjoy these types of clubs. A welcoming family orientated clubhouse, set in a small area, traditional stands which some had terracing in them. This is what I call a proper football ground, where there is character and feels about the place, rather than it being 'too clean' and 'plastic'.

**Barry Corr climbed off the bench to secure Blues another away day point after another decent away performance. Stacy Long put the hosts in front with fortunate goal before Corr scored a sublime individual goal 6 minutes from time to earn Southend a decent point.**

After a professional and pleasing performance and result again Shrewsbury it was vital Southend continued the hard work into this game at Stevenage. I was very confident we would secure something from the game as I believe we play enough football up to the area, that sooner or later the balls will fall for us in the box.

For the first 25 minutes it was all Stevenage. They were causing all sorts of trouble down the left hand side, with Clohessy and Simpson being overrun on most occasions, however, they did not force many chances on goal, only one of note that Morris was equal to.

Just minutes later the hosts took the lead through Stacy Long. Coughlan blocked the initial shot but the rebound fell into the path of Long who rounded Morris to easily tuck home.

That sparked Blues into life and from then on it was constant pressure. First Coughlan was inches away from scoring after his diverted a Simpson shot wide before Simpson saw a good header pushed away. And seconds before half-time Bilel Mohsni saw his header cleared off the line.

The second half continued in the same manner and Southend wasted glorious chances to get back in the game and they both fell to Blair Sturrock. The striker glanced a free header wide before seeing his left footed shot blocked by the defender Ashton.



*Well that's it for this year and all that remains is for the Trust Board and Committee to wish you all very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.*

12<sup>th</sup> December 2010



## TRUST LOAN – YOUR VOTE COUNTS

With the Club finally paying the outstanding interest (just over 4K) on the 60K Loan, we want our Members input as to how we are to proceed.

When the Trust made the loan to the football club in December 2009 we made it clear that we did not want interest included. However Ron Martin insisted it was in the agreement. The circumstances around the repayment of the loan are well documented and members will know that the attitude by the Football Club Chairman on this matter was not deemed appropriate by the Trust committee hence our request to honour the signed agreement.

It was not our intention that the Trust should benefit financially from the Loan. The Trust Committee therefore believes that an equivalent amount to the interest received should be donated back or spent and wanted to ask members for their opinion.

The options being considered are laid out below – the Trust Committee recommends a split to spread the funds across several options but would welcome member's opinions  
If you have an opinion on this and would like to vote please complete and return the following voting slip, and return it to us by 14.30 on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2011**.

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 at the Trust Info Stand in the Shrimpers Bar prior to any Home Game up to and including the Game v Chesterfield on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

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<u>Please choose any number of options and add a percentage (e.g. 50% Youth 30% SUCET 20% Subsidise Away Travel)</u>		<b>Please state %</b>
1	Donate to the Youth Set up	
2	Donate to the Southend United Community and Educational Trust (SUCET)	
3	Keep the money for general Trust funds	
4	Subsidise Away Travel	
5	Donate to local charities	
6	Hardship Fund for SUFC Staff made redundant recently	

<b>Comments or Conditions:</b>	
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<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Membership Number:</b>	