

## NEWSLETTER – Vol. 6 Iss. 05. – April 2011

### THE INTRODUCTION – Paul FitzGerald

#### They think it's all over.....

Hope springs eternal of course, but even the most optimistic amongst us have probably realised that our season is over. As I write this, the morning after losing to the bottom team, even my younger son's hopes are extinguished. The one bright light at present being the emergence of yet more youth players graduating into the first team highlighted last week by the offered contracts, something Ricky and his team can be very proud of, as indeed we as sponsors are too. This of course is just as well as the club's management's inability to sign senior players is either poor management or excellent management, depending on whether your job includes preparing the accounts.



This brings me onto the 5 envelopes arriving at the FitzGerald household this week. The club announced its AGM is to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> April and I hope all shareholders will take the opportunity to quiz the management on the finances (The Accounts cover the period up until July 2009) and development plans. The introduction by our Chairman is as you would expect as upbeat (apart from some bizarre grammar) as it can be and covers additionally the more recent period. However, those of us who remember in detail the period under review and since, may wish to reflect on some of the content and maybe remind our Chairman that on

occasions we have long memories and the continued suggestion that it's everyone else's fault is perhaps not how most supporters will remember the last sorry period of our history.

Then we move on to the recently announced ticket prices for next year which have upset many people. The club are in a very difficult place with regards to finances and I know that a lot of thought and indeed advice was sought before the decision was made. The Trust was consulted initially and gave an opinion – that opinion was considered and ignored seemingly and we have made our feelings known.



The government's review into football governance continues and for those interested, the article below makes interesting reading. I can't help thinking the review will have absolutely no impact on the English game, but we can but hope.

There are plenty of Trust events to look forward to over the next few weeks – further details are below and it would be great to see some of these events well supported for obvious reasons. The recent bowling night with the players was very successful with Craig and the gang clearly a lot more interested in the supporters than the previous bunch.

Southend Supporters can, and do, great things and two more to step up to the plate are Claire Langley and George Girling – their efforts to raise money for the Essex Air Ambulance, a very worthy cause, can be supported and viewed at [www.virginmoneygiving.com/clairelangleygeorgegirling](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/clairelangleygeorgegirling)



Having just returned from the Alps with my two sons - I hear that avid Southend and Trust supporter Howard Studd (of drum and quip fame in the South Upper) will be unavailable for the rest of the season after a nasty accident in the mountains - one wonders whether those of a certain age should retire gracefully at this point! Get well soon Howard.

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))

### FOOTBALL GOVERNANCE

#### Parliamentary inquiry may demand clubs get licences and involve fans.....

*David Conn – guardian.co.uk*

The parliamentary committee inquiring into the running of football is considering whether a licensing system could be introduced for English professional clubs similar to the ones operated in Germany and by Uefa. Clubs would need a licence, probably under the auspices of the Football Association, to compete in the Premier League, Football League and Conference. Licences would be granted if clubs fulfil a range of criteria, which could include being financially responsible, transparent about their ownership and involving supporters in their decision-making.

Dave Boyle, the chief executive of Supporters Direct, was asked by Damian Collins, a Conservative member of the House of Commons culture, media and sport committee, sitting at Burnley Football Club, whether he believed a licensing system should be introduced. Boyle argued it should. He pointed to Germany, where since the Bundesliga was formed in 1963 no club has fallen insolvent, whereas here, since the Premier League broke away from the Football League in 1992, there have been 55 club insolvencies.

The committee has visited Germany where, according to the Labour MP Paul Farrelly: "There was more of a collective ethos than is evident here."

Collins challenged Leeds United's chief executive, Shaun Harvey, about the club's ownership, which is mostly held by the Forward Sports Fund, registered in Nevis, West Indies, owned by three offshore trusts administered in Switzerland. Harvey told the committee he did not know who the owners of those trusts are. Asked by Collins whether the Leeds chairman, Ken Bates, knows who the offshore trusts' owners are, Harvey replied: "Not to my knowledge."

Collins suggested that anonymous ownership gave rise to "a legitimate concern over transparency". Harvey replied: "You are entitled to your own conclusion."

He explained that Leeds have complied with Football League rules, which require clubs to name publicly all individuals owning more than 10% of the shares. Leeds have said none of the trusts' beneficiaries hold more than 10%, so have not named any individuals. That answer, Harvey said, was: "True and accurate."

John Whittingdale, the Conservative chairman of the committee, intervened, saying: "It is true, accurate – and rather uninformative."

The committee is examining whether to recommend reforms to football's governing bodies and rules in England and Wales, and how to "enhance supporter involvement in decision-making". The inquiry follows the coalition government's pledge to "support the co-operative ownership of football clubs by supporters". Farrelly said the government had asked the committee to work out how this could be done.

Barry Kilby, the Burnley chairman, giving evidence, said the club's directors are Burnley supporters, who have paid considerable money to own shares, and he could not see a supporters'



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representative joining the board without having bought a stake. John Bowler, the Crewe Alexandra chairman, said: "A number of us have concerns about foreign ownership of clubs", and he is actively trying to encourage a supporters' trust to buy 25% of the shares and elect a director to the board. Bowler believed that would further embed the club in the community.

Malcolm Clarke, chairman of the Football Supporters' Federation, said fans have "a wide range of skills" and could contribute greatly to their clubs. A member of the FA council, he argued the FA needs to be reformed because the council, a body of 118 representatives, has no real power and is bypassed by the FA board.

### RICKY DUNCAN & KANE FERDINAND Q&A

**The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2011 - 7.30pm for an 8.00pm prompt start.**



**The Shrimpers Trust are pleased to announce that we have re-arranged the Question and Answer Evening with the Blue's Youth Team Coach Ricky Duncan and Youth Team Captain and current 1st Team Player Kane Ferdinand.**

The Q&A will now be held in the Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall on *Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2011*. Doors open at 7.30pm with the event starting at 8.00pm prompt.



Admission is free of charge, and is open to Members and Non-members of the Trust.

So if you have a question about any aspect of the SUFC Youth set up including the U18's current FA Youth Cup run or if you want to know what it's like to break into the 1st Team why not come along.

If you require any further information please contact Paul Yeomanson: Tel: 01702 302373 or email: [info@shrimperstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@shrimperstrust.co.uk)

### SHRIMPERS TRUST PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2010/11

**The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2011 - 7.30pm for an 8.00pm prompt start.**

**Members Only Event - Admission by Ticket Only (free)**

**Tickets available from the Trust Info Stand in the Shrimpers Bar or by contacting Paul Yeomanson (01702 302373 or [info@shrimperstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@shrimperstrust.co.uk))**

This Season along with the SUFC 1<sup>st</sup> Team Player of the Year the Annual Shrimpers Trust POTY Awards will also include the Goal of the Season (The Martin Cranmer Memorial Cup), the SJS Player of the Year and the Shrimpers Trust Youth Team Player of the Year with the winner receiving the Tom Grace Memorial Shield.

*(There is no charge for Admission this year, but as always please note that this is a Members Only Event)*

And as Trust Members, you also have the chance within this newsletter to vote for your 1-2-3 for our Player of the Year Awards, and if once you have come up with those selections, choose the best goal of the campaign. All you need to do is complete the Voting Slip printed at the end of this Newsletter and return to the Trust Info Stand in the Shrimpers Bar or Post it to **POTY 10/11, Shrimpers Trust, PO Box 5830, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 9FD**, alternatively you can vote for your 1-2-3 & Goal of the Season by email, including **POTY 08/09** in the Subject Box and send to [info@shrimperstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@shrimperstrust.co.uk).

## FUNDRAISING

### 100 Club

The latest winners in the scheme, pulled out of the hat during weekly draws since the last newsletter were **Danny Collins, Tim Wilson, Lorraine Posnack, Gary Crowe, John Clench, Richard Coxell** and **Darren Posnack** 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 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 44 matches is £1,427.00**

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

## MEMBERSHIP

### Welcome to New Life Members (Total 193)

**Graham Lipscombe, Andy Knowles, John Nixon and Lee Venus.**



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.

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).

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

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Steven Chitticks, Liam Harris, John Nixon, Richard Smith, Liam Stoker, Brian Taylor and Lee Venus.

\*\*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

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011

### CHINESE NIGHT

East, 33 Alexandra Street, Southend on Sea – 7.30pm for an 8.00pm meal  
£15.00 – All You Can Eat Buffet



For further details contact Alan Perry  
(Tel: 01702 476458, email: [alanperry4@hotmail.com](mailto:alanperry4@hotmail.com))

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2011

### QUIZ NIGHT

The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall – 7.00pm for a 7.30pm prompt start  
£8.00 Adults, £5.00 U18's – Includes Fish & Chip Supper



For further details contact Alan Perry  
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Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2011

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Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2011

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## BARBER'S BLURB – TERRACE TALK MATCH REPORTS

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011



Southend United 3 (*Corr 50, Ferdinand 59, Easton 90+1*)  
Wycombe Wanderers 2 (*Pittman 31, Rendell 89 pen*)

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

Rhys Evans, Sean Clohessy, Chris Barker, Mark Phillips, Peter Gilbert, Craig Easton ©, Anthony Grant, Kane Ferdinand, Ryan Hall, Blair Sturrock and Barry Corr.

Southend United got their play-off hunt back on track after coming from behind to beat high flying Wycombe at Roots Hall. Pittman put the visitors in front before Barry Corr powered in a header from 8 yards before he was joined on the score sheet by youngster Kane Ferdinand. Southend missed the chance to go two goals ahead when Sturrock saw his penalty saved and Wycombe nearly snatched a point when Rendell tucked home his spot kick in the last minute. However, Captain Craig Easton was on hand to fire home a stunning strike seconds after the restart.

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After the cancellation at the weekend Blues were back in action at a wet Roots Hall. Tonight's visitors were high flying Wycombe Wanderers who were sitting 3rd in the league table. Former Blues winger Kevin Betsy was named on the bench.

Southend started slowly and Wycombe were by far the better side but neither side mustered up any chances on goal. That was until the 31st minute when Pittman played a neat one two with Rendell and the striker coolly dispatched the ball past Evans.

The second half was much better from Southend with the halftime team-talk working wonders. Within 5 minutes of the restart Blues were level. Barry Corr powered Ryan Hall's telling corner home for his 13th goal of the season. That was soon followed by a first goal in senior football for Kane Ferdinand. The youngster, recently capped for his country, guided his effort into the bottom corner from another fine Hall cross.

Blair Sturrock then saw his penalty well saved by the goalkeeper before Easton conceded a penalty for a harsh handball. Rendell tucked it away nicely as it looked for the entire world Wycombe would nick a point only until Easton controlled and hit a volley all in one movement to secure another impressive victory.

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**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2011**



**Torquay 1 (Kee 73)**  
**Southend United 1 (Corr 81)**

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

Rhys Evans, Sean Clohessy, Chris Barker, Graham Coughlan, Peter Gilbert, Craig Easton ©, Anthony Grant, Kane Ferdinand, Ryan Hall, Blair Sturrock and Barry Corr.

**Barry Corr's 14th goal of the season ten minutes from time earned Southend United a deserved draw away at Torquay. Billy Kee had fired the hosts in front from close range but Corr was on hand to power home a strike from a tight angle and snatch a point for the Blues.**

Paul Sturrock had to make one change to the starting line up against Wycombe as Mark Phillips was missing through injury so the fit-again Coughlan came into the back four to partner Barker at centre-back.

The pitch was very poor and the ball bobbed about all over the place so it was hard for either time to get their passing game going. Sights on goal were few and far between as neither side were able to muster up a real decent effort to test the opposition keepers.

Southend started the brighter of the two sides after the break and after losing Anthony Grant to a head injury the introduction of Lee Sawyer swung the game into our favour.

However, it was against the run of play when the hosts took the lead, pace and power from Zebroski got him away from Coughlan and the ball to Kee was inch perfect which made the ex-Leicester strikers chance much easier as he tucked it into the bottom corner of the goal.

Blues were not out of this by a long stretch and had shouts for a penalty turned down when Clohessy was tripped in the box. Guy Brantson nearly sliced a Sawyer cross into his own net before Barry Corr got the better of the veteran centre-back to slam the ball home.

Good play from Easton and Hall in the build up lead to Corr getting away from his man at the far post. The Irish striker got a clean connection on the ball and it flew into the top corner of the goal.

During the last five minutes of play both teams could have won the match and Blues' best chance fell to young striker Kyle Asante who raced onto a superb pass from Sawyer only the fire into the side netting.

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**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011**



**Southend United 2 (Easton 11, Hall 16)**  
**Barnet 1 (Kabba 88)**

**How We Started: (4-3-3)**

Rhys Evans, Sean Clohessy, Chris Barker, Graham Coughlan, Peter Gilbert, Craig Easton ©, Miguel Comminges, Lee Sawyer, Ryan Hall, Blair Sturrock and Louie Soares.

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**Southend United moved to within one point of the play-off places after beating Barnet at Roots Hall. Two early strikes sealed the win one from Craig Easton and the other a beautiful curled finish from Ryan Hall. Blair Sturrock set up both goals to push Southend up to 9th in the league, a point off the play offs with a game in hand.**

After a decent point away from home at Torquay on Saturday, Southend were back in action at home, against Barnet. Even though they are at the foot of the table they were unbeaten in their last six games away from home.

With injuries to Grant and Ferdinand plus fitness doubts over Barry Corr Sturrock made a few changes to his side. Comminges, Sawyer and Soares came into the side, all having a point to prove.

In the first 20-25 minutes of the game Blues were unplayable. Knocking the ball around with class and ease and almost went ahead when Blair Sturrock's great header was pushed out by Cole only to see Ryan Hall miss the rebound.

It wasn't long before we took the lead and it came through captain fantastic, Craig Easton. A free-flowing move ended with Sturrock cutting the ball back across goal for Easton to tap home from close range. Just five minutes later and Blues doubled their lead. Evans' long ball forward to superbly flicked on by Sturrock into the path of Hall who danced around the Barnet defence before slipping a delightful finish into the far corner of the goal.

Despite being in control Southend took their foot off the gas and Barnet got a consolation 2 minutes from time when Kabba headed home unmarked. Blues now move closer to the play-off spots, just one point away.

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**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2011**



**Southend United 1 (Corr 34)  
Northampton Town 1 (Johnson 27)**

**How We Started: (4-3-3)**

Rhys Evans, Sean Clohessy, Graham Coughlan, Chris Barker, Peter Gilbert, Anthony Grant, Craig Easton ©, Lee Sawyer, Ryan Hall, Barry Corr and Blair Sturrock.

**Southend United moved up to 8th position in League Two after coming from behind to secure a draw against Northampton Town at Roots Hall. Barry Corr powered home his 15<sup>th</sup> goal of the season after Johnson had put the visitors ahead. Blues are now just one point and one place shy of the play-offs with a game in hand over Gillingham, who they face next Tuesday.**

Influential midfielder Anthony Grant and top goal scorer Barry Corr returned to the starting line-up as Blues hosted draw specialists Northampton at Roots Hall. After a win on Tuesday night against Barnet, Southend were closing in on the play-offs, and anything but a defeat would move Blues up a position in the league.

On a very heavy pitch, unusual for Southend, the game took a little while to get going. The Shrimpers were much the better side but neither team got an effort on goal that troubled either keeper.

Against the run of play The Cobblers took the lead through Johnson. Lee Sawyer gave the ball away in midfield which allowed Johnson time and space to unleash a swerving low drive that moved away from Evans in the Blues goal.

Just 8 minutes later Southend were level. After a decent move Peter Gilbert had a powerful shot on target which the goalkeeper turned around the post for a corner. Ryan Hall's delivery was met by a bullet header from Corr to deservedly put Blues level.

Anthony Grant and Ryan Hall both went close towards the end of the first half for Southend but neither effort troubled the keeper. Northampton looked content for a point and they sat back for most of the second half.

In all honesty the second half petered out to a non-event with very little action from both sides. The leggy Blues nearly saw all three points taken away from them when Francis Laurent flashed a shot just wide of the post.

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**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

**This week is a special blog where I report on what we got up to on our overnight stay in Blackpool ahead of Saturday's clash away at Morecambe.**

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So we set off bright and early from Roots Hall stadium on a fresh Friday morning at 10am. We had the usual pick ups, collecting supporters from The Elms pub before moving onto the Watermill and the Fortune of War. In total there were 21 supporters that embarked on the overnight stay in the north.

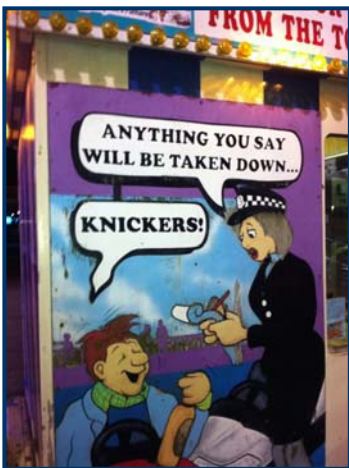
The journey was really good and we arrived at Norton Canes services around 1pm and had an hour long stay there to allow each person to grab some grub for their lunch. I plumped for the fish and chips at £5.99 which I thought was pretty decent value considering a slice of bread with a bit of ham and cheese would have set you back £4.60!

After finishing our food we headed back to the coach with approximately 2 hours left of the journey. To pass the time we watched a DVD and the choice was comedian Frankie Boyle's stand-up which I thought was hilarious! Some of the subjects and jokes were right on the edge of offensive, in fact some where, but it is how each individual interpreted them!

We arrived at the Blackpool Travelodge around 4:15pm and we all found our rooms. Some people realised they would get closer than they really would have wanted but it was all part of the fun. I shared with Darren and had to kip on the floor as the Travelodge didn't know I existed but it wasn't too uncomfortable!

At 5 o'clock we met in the lobby to check out where we were going to eat. We found a bar on the seafront about 10 minutes from where we were staying which suited well. The drinking commenced from there on before we started to feel hungry.

Dinner was then ordered. I decided on the lasagne which was not bad, a little lumpy, but you can't grumble as it was pub food. After we finished our meal we headed along the seafront to find a bar/club where our drinking would continue.



After finding that Blackpool seemed rather dead and most bars empty as a group we decided on trying to find the Walkabout Bar. It turned out to be a good 30 minute walk! As the others continued to walk we got distracted by one of the Blackpool piers and decided to go out on it.

Looking at the big wheel, dodgems, spinning cups, I decided I was not going to go on the rides whatever the others decided due to the fact I had just eaten a huge meal!

Dean and Tom went on some ride which we all watched; however, Adam and I had our concentration elsewhere looking at the comical signs around the pier.

Dean seemed to have found himself a Blackpool admirer going by the name of 'Becks' but after we shook her off we continued on our quest to find the walkabout bar. We got collared by a seafront dart stall which the bloke running it conned us into three games when he let on two games were for free. Our hopes of winning the £25 free beer vouchers failed and we ended up with a blue cuddly toy!

At around 9.40pm we arrived at the walkabout bar ready to continue our night. The rest of the overnights were in the corner drinking so we duly fitted in. I mean it would be rude not too!

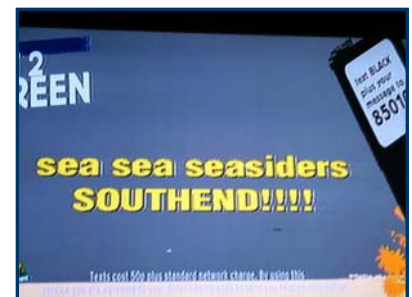
Adam texted the big screens in the bar with a Southend United related message which got a cheer from the 21 of us there!

After dancing the night away and drinking a variety of drinks most headed home leaving Tom, Adam and Dean in Blackpool. The rest of us hopped in a cab back to the travel lodge and sat in the lobby.

A few of us fancied some 'Southend chips' so we hunted around the back streets of Blackpool trying to find some. We came across a Morley's where our night of fun would continue!

We discovering that they only had French fries, Gaye asked them if they had any 'Southend' chips, meaning the chunky chips from a normal chippy. The man behind the counter said they did, despite not knowing in the slightest what we meant! Gaye had a laughing fit and walked out the shop before Darren got in a mess with his veggie burger sauce.

Keith got an apple pie with all the warm apple down the bottom of the pastry which took him by surprise. After we had all calmed down we took a slow walk back to the lodge where we all had one last drink before going up to our rooms.





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The next morning at 9.45am we were ready for breakfast. After the pub we stayed in the night before and another bar we tried not being open we went to McDonald's for their breakfast menu. That went down well and we moved onto the Pleasure Beach where Darren got what he really wanted...a ride on the big one!

£10 for a ride that lasted no longer than a minute, that ruled me out, and the others joined me in watching as Gaye, Dean and Darren rode it. Once that had finished we got on the coach for our hour long country drive through to Morecambe.



**Morecambe 2 (McCready 28, Drummond 63)**  
**Southend United 1 (Corr 50)**

### **How We Started: (4-3-3)**

Rhys Evans, Sean Clohessy, Chris Barker, Graham Coughlan, Peter Gilbert, Craig Easton ©, Anthony Grant, Louis Soares, Ryan Hall, Blair Sturrock and Barry Corr.

**It was a dire game in which the only highlight was Barry Corr's 16<sup>th</sup> goal of the season, but apart from the match, it was a great weekend away.**

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**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2011**



**Southend United 2 (Hall 15, 55)**  
**Gillingham 2 (McDonald 5, Akinfenwa 18 pen)**

### **How We Started: (4-3-3)**

Rhys Evans, Sean Clohessy, Chris Barker, Graham Coughlan, Peter Gilbert, Craig Easton ©, Anthony Grant, Lee Sawyer, Ryan Hall, Blair Sturrock and Barry Corr.

**Southend United and Gillingham played out a great game of football at Roots Hall stadium on Tuesday night and the result left both teams still in with a shout of promotion from League Two. Ryan Hall scored two fantastic goals during a sensational performance and after the week he has endured you have to give him credit.**

Tonight's game was between two teams gunning for promotion and with five points the gap between the two sides anything but a defeat would have been a positive result for Southend. Lee Sawyer returned to the starting line up in place of Louie Soares and Ryan Hall kept his place in the side despite his on going personal problems.

The game started quick and fiery and it was the Gills that put the ball in the back of the net first. A loose ball from the Southend midfield invited Gillingham to attack and they just carved through the Blues backline releasing former Witham and Maldon striker Cody McDonald to fire low past Rhys Evans.

The Shrimpers responded and within 10 minutes they were back on level terms. Blair Sturrock won a free-kick on the edge of the box which was taken by Ryan Hall. The winger took the free-kick and fired it past the goalkeeper with immaculate placement and power.

The lead was short lived as Gillingham re-took the lead through Akinfenwa who very nearly joined Southend in the summer. The decision was a dubious one as the linesman flagged for a foul when it seemed a very soft tackle and it was also outside the box. Akinfenwa stepped up and took the penalty that nestled into the bottom corner of the South Stand goal.

The second half proved to be another great half with Ryan Hall scoring a superb solo goal after great work by Sturrock. Both sides also hit the post in a very entertaining game of football.

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**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2011**



**Lincoln City 2 (Grimes 38, 76)**  
**Southend United 1 (Sturrock 60)**

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

Rhys Evans, Sean Clohessy, Chris Barker, Graham Coughlan, Peter Gilbert, Craig Easton ©, Lee Sawyer, Kane Ferdinand, Ryan Hall, Blair Sturrock and Barry Corr.

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**Ashley Grimes netted in each half to ensure Steve Tilson recorded a victory against his former side and leave Southend 7 points shy of the play-offs. Blair Sturrock netted a great half volley to draw Blues level but individual errors cost Southend again.**

The build up before the game was about the opposition management team. Steve Tilson and Paul Brush worked wonders in their opening years in charge of Southend United and they got a resounding reception from 1060 travelling Blues fans.

The game started slowly in all honesty on a very poor pitch against a poor side, it was going to be a hard fight, to get anything from this match. Southend were much the better team on the ball but neither side recorded any shots on target.

An individual error from Rhys Evans gifted Lincoln the lead on 38 minutes. A long range strike was fumbled by the former England U21 and Chelsea stopper into the path of Grimes who finished confidently first time. Barry Corr then wasted a glorious chance just before halftime when he could only fire into the side netting.

Blues were still in charge of possession in the second half but it took until the hour mark for them to get the equaliser. A free-kick into the area was latched onto by Blair Sturrock who fired a sweet half volley past the goalkeeper and into the roof of the net much to the delight of the travelling army.

But Southend's chances of getting something out of the game were dashed when Grimes latched onto a long ball, looking marginally offside, before curling a shot that took a deflection off Graham Coughlan before bouncing off the bar down onto the line then into the back of the net.

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**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011**



**Crewe Alexandra 1 (Miller 65)  
Southend United 0**

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

Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Chris Barker ©, Graham Coughlan, Luke Prosser, Anthony Grant, Lee Sawyer, Kane Ferdinand, Ryan Hall, Blair Sturrock and Barry Corr.

**Southend United's play-off hopes are hanging by a thread after a narrow 1-0 defeat against Crewe last night. The Shrimpers still 7 points shy off the top seven and with tonight being one of the games in hand it was a massive opportunity lost. They will have to brush themselves down and start again come Friday night at Roots Hall against Hereford.**

After a defeat against Lincoln on Saturday it was vitally important that Southend got something from tonight's match. There were three changes from the defeat at Sincil Bank with Morris, Prosser and Grant replacing Evans, Gilbert and Easton.

The game started slowly with a strange atmosphere too. It felt like it was a reserve game rather than a football league match. Despite looking the better side on the ball, Southend nearly found them selves behind. David Artell powered a header against the bar inside eight minutes.

It was a really scrappy game but Blues had Morris to thank when he saved well after a point blank header on his goal from Artell. The ever-running Lee Sawyer raced onto a through ball from Clohessy before delivering a great ball for Corr but as he was about to strike on goal the defender pinched it off his toes. That was the closest Blues game in the first half.

Southend started brightly at the beginning of the second half with top scorer Barry Corr curling an effort wide of the goal before Chelsea loanee Rhys Taylor saved well from a fierce Ryan Hall strike. Blair Sturrock also saw an effort saved by Taylor.

Crewe did take the lead in the 65th minute through Miller. Donaldson battled his way through the defence before seeing his shot saved well from Morris but the rebound fell to Miller who took his time before firing into the bottom corner.

Ferdinand went close for the Blues late on who now stay 7 points away from the top seven.

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**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2011**



**Southend United 4 (Crawford 36, 95 pen, Corr 65, 67)  
Hereford United 0**

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

Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Chris Barker ©, Graham Coughlan, Johnny Herd, Anthony Grant, Lee Sawyer, Kane Ferdinand, Ryan Hall, Blair Sturrock and Barry Corr.

**Southend United got themselves back in play-off contention after a crushing defeat of lowly Hereford United at Roots Hall. Harry Crawford and Barry Corr both helped themselves to a brace as Blues moved to within 4 points of the top seven and with a game in hand and matches against Port Vale and Wycombe to come, it is back in our hands again.**

After the disappointment of losing another defender to injury at Crewe Southend recalled Johnny Herd to the starting line up but the former Youth defender hobbled off after just 18 minutes with an injury. Harry Crawford replaced Herd with Ryan Hall dropping to left-back.

It was the substitute Crawford who got the first goal of the night. It was the strikers first goal since last May and he took it superbly. He controlled a ball from Blair Sturrock before looping a composed finish over the on-rushing goalkeeper to send Blues in 1-0 up at the break.

Hereford hardly threatened in the first half and the closest they came was when former Blues loanee Waide Fairhurst saw his low drive tipped around the post. In the second half it was more of the same from Southend and in the 65th minute Barry Corr notched his 17th of the season.

Lee Sawyer burst through the midfield and had a shot on goal, which was saved by the keeper, but the ball rolled into the path of Corr who side-footed home from close range.

Just 90 seconds later and Corr was celebrating again. A whipped cross into the box by Clohessy was helped back into Corr's path by a superb Sturrock header which released Corr to nod across goal and into the back of the net.

Harry Crawford then scored from the spot after Colbeck had been sent off for a foul on Clohessy. With results going Blues way on Saturday it is now back in their hands.

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**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2011**



**Stockport County 2 (Tansey 28 pen, Rowe 90+ 1)  
Southend United 1 (Asante 81)**

## How We Started: (4-3-3)

Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Chris Barker ©, Graham Coughlan, Ryan Hall, Anthony Grant, Alex Woodyard, James Stevens, Louie Soares, Blair Sturrock and Harry Crawford.

**A last gasp striker from Stockport winger Danny Rowe all-but sealed the end of Southend United's playoff hopes at Edgeley Park. An under strength Blues team thought they had rescued a point when Harry Crawford teed up Kyle Asante for his first senior strike but Rowe popped up to smash home in the dying seconds.**

When travelling to the game Southend manager Paul Sturrock knew that he would have to field an under strength side. Lee Sawyer missing, Ferdinand on international duty and with a whole host of other injuries, leaving him with having to give some boys their debuts. Woodyard got his second appearance of the season, Stevens started alongside his U18 team-mate, with both being offered deals to stay on. Nesbitt joined Smith in the travelling party alongside Kyle Asante and Harry Crawford who had both previously played for the youth team.

On a dumpy pitch, after rugby last night, Blues needed to get something from this game to stay in touch of the playoffs. With the gusting wind not helping matters it certainly wasn't a pretty sight for the spectators.

Stockport took the lead in the 28th minute from the penalty spot. The tricky winger Rowe danced his way into the penalty area before being caught by Clohessy. The youngster went down too easily but the referee judged it to have been a foul. Tansey stepped up and stroked the ball past Morris.

Blues manager Paul Sturrock decided to change things round at half time bringing on young left back Teddy Nesbitt for James Stevens allowing Ryan Hall to push further on. Despite Stockport having most of the game in the first half they didn't seem to create much and with Hall's attacking mentality Southend looked a lot more lively.

Ryan Hall's involvement soon took place in the game and within minutes of the restart his low drive was deflected wide for a corner. From that set piece youngster Nesbitt got his head to the ball and headed just wide of the far post.

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The Shrimpers came so close to scoring on two occasions in quick succession. Ryan Hall saw a powerful effort blocked by Brown before Glennon saved well from Louie Soare's rebound.

In the 81st minute Southend were back in the game when Kyle Asante, who replaced Soares, netted his first professional goal. Sturrock played the ball to Crawford who took on two players before laying the ball into the path of Asante who clipped a left-footed effort into the bottom corner of the goal.

With Blues pushing for a winner and Nesbitt flashing a cross across the goal Stockport nicked the ball off Southend and caught the visitors on the break allowing Rowe to smash home a half-volley past Morris.

*3<sup>rd</sup> April 2011*



## **SHRIMPERS TRUST PLAYER OF THE YEAR 2010/11 VOTING FORM**

A) My vote for the 2010/11 Shrimpers Trust Player of the Year goes to:

1.....;

2.....;

3.....;

B) My Shrimpers Trust Goal of the Season for 2010/11 was scored by:

.....VS.....

Please return as soon as possible but no later than **23<sup>rd</sup> April 2011** to:  
**POTY 10/11, Shrimpers Trust, PO Box 5830, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 9FD**  
or email your vote to [info@shrimperstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@shrimperstrust.co.uk)