

## NEWSLETTER – Vol. 7 Iss. 02. – September 2011

### THE INTRODUCTION – Paul FitzGerald

Nine Points from fifteen.....

**Not a bad start you could argue but oh for a half decent performance against Burton and we'd be excused for raising our expectations a notch. Still no sign of last season's top scorer and a shaky start for the other strikers in terms of goals means it's very good news that a few others are chipping in and congratulations to Mark Phillips at being current joint top scorer!**

Personally I'm so pleased to see Lee Sawyer getting a start even if it was because of an injury and just hope the clearly gifted player can go on to become a great player whilst wearing a Southend Shirt.

Sorry to see wunderkind Lyle Della-Verde off to Fulham without most fans probably even seeing him.....there has to be something wrong there surely. I just hope that the powers that be have negotiated a good financial package that not only helps us going forward but also rewards and accrues to Ricky Duncan's budget....



 Financial news from the club continues to show the juggling necessary when it comes to paying bills and with on-going issues with Sainsbury's and Mr Bates at Prospects the new stadium project just seems to be no closer. Ron always said the deal/development was complex and I don't doubt that for one minute – but there must be a point where the time taken, let alone market conditions erodes the potential profit to such a degree that the whole venture is at risk of not being viable. Ron will do everything in his power to make this happen, he needs to, Sainsburys on the other hand need to report to shareholders – so their excel spreadsheet probably has different calculations to Ron's.

Ron's written promise of a Board appointment in July 2011 for the Trust has occupied some of our time recently. Some fans have suggested that the 18 month timeline between that announcement and it NOT reaching fruition is hardly a surprise and many have suggested far worse – far be it for me to comment on that...however the subject is being discussed and further news will be relayed when we have concluded those discussions.

As mentioned in my last newsletter members of the committee spent time at Meet The Blues day asking fans what they thought of the Trust, thank you very much if you were one of those fans – we have collated the information and as a direct result intend to hold a fans forum (full details below) followed by a Q & A with Ricky Duncan.

By the time you read this Meet The Blues day will have come and gone and I hope many of you will have been approached by members of the committee to comment on what we do and what we don't do – this really is your Trust and we very much want members to have their say.

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))

## SUPPORTERS FORUM and RICKY DUNCAN Q&A



At the recent MTBD the Trust conducted a supporter's mini survey as we are keen to get feedback from the Club's fan base so we can work to improve the way we do things. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took the time to speak to us.

Supporters told us that there were a number of areas where it was felt we could do things differently and better. The key areas highlighted for focus related to how we communicate and update supporters concerning Club & Trust activities, together with the liaison role we undertake with Southend United. We were also told that our Committee members needed to be more accessible and visible.

**In order to be able to build on the feedback from the survey the Trust will be holding a Supporters Forum on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at 7.30pm in the Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall. The invitation is open to everyone, as we are keen to hear from the full spectrum of the Southend United fan base. So you don't have to be a Trust member to attend.**

The evening will also include a Q&A session with Ricky Duncan, Head of Youth, when supporters will get the opportunity to quiz Ricky and find out more about Southend United's Youth Team structure, including the Trust's involvement as a key sponsor.



We are looking for constructive feedback from all supporters as to how you feel the Trust is doing. We want to know what is currently working for you and what we need to change.

We are in addition keen to strengthen our working relationships with other Southend United supporter groups.

As we all know Southend United remains in a precarious financial state and arguably the lack of information from the Club on this subject has led to there being mistrust of the Club on the part of a large number of supporters. It is perhaps fair to say that this situation has manifested itself in relationships between some supporters and the Shrimpers Trust.

The Trust wants to work to address this and so would particularly encourage those fans who may have become disenchanted with the Trust and/or other supporter groups to engage with the Supporters Forum initiative. The Trust is genuinely seeking to create positive links with all supporters, in order that we are best placed to represent you and that we are together able to meet any challenges that arise going forward.

The Trust acknowledges that it does not have all the answers and understands that there will never be total agreement on all SUFC matters between supporters. However it is clear that we do all have one common objective – IE to help Southend United achieve success! So at this time when Paul Sturrock would seem to have shaped a useful squad who are working together to gain promotion to League 1, it surely makes sense that as supporters we also work together to the same aim.

We very much look forward to seeing as many supporters as possible on 19<sup>th</sup> September. This is your chance to have your say and to play a key part in how we shape the Trust going forward. We really do need your feedback and involvement, so if you can, please take the time to come along.

If you are however not able to attend on the night, but have a particular item that you wish to raise, it would be helpful if you could ask another supporter to raise this matter on your behalf.

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## 2011/12 SUFC SEASON TICKET DRAW

Congratulations to Andy Thorne from Sevenoaks, Kent who wins a 2011-12 SUFC Season Ticket after his ticket was drawn out of the hat by Luke Prosser at half-time during Saturday's game vs Burton Albion.

We would like to thank all those that took part in the draw raising £340.00 for Trust funds.



## SHRIMPERS TRUST PLAYER OF THE MONTH – VOTE NOW !!!

Trust Members can now vote for the Shrimpers Trust SUFC Player of the Month for **AUGUST** by logging into the Members Area of the Trust website, [www.shrimperstrust.co.uk](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk)

To do so you will need your Membership Number and Password. If you don't have these to hand don't worry, just hit the forgotten password button on the login page and we will send you a reminder.



And whilst in the Members Area why not update your contact details so our database is up to date

## AWAY DAY FANS PICTURES



Ever thought of yourself as the next David Bailey, well now's your chance.

We are looking for pictures taken by fans of Southend Supporters at Away Games this Season which will be published on the Trust pages in this Season's SUFC Matchday Programme.

**All you need to do is take the picture at an away game and email it to [info@shrimperstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@shrimperstrust.co.uk).** We will then select a picture a forthcoming programme and will advise you if yours is the one to be published.

## WORTH A PUNT?

So it is that time in the season where we all have our bets placed and hoping that come the end of the season we will be reaping the benefits of backing our team to win the division.

And with a good start to the season, this is still looking like a good bet.

Below a list of the best value that can be found on Southend to win the league 2 title:



**ToteSport – 25/1**  
**Betfred – 25/1**  
**Coral – 22/1**  
**Bet365 – 22/1**  
**Betfair – 21/1**  
**William Hill – 20/1**  
**Paddy Power – 20/1**

If you are looking for a bit of value in your bet, Cheltenham town could be a good outside punt especially following their recent 3-1 win against Crawley. BETDAQ are still offering a whopping 119-1, and skybet at 100/1.

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## POKER NIGHT – I'M ALL IN !!!

The Shrimpers Trust are pleased to announce details of their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Poker Championship to be held at The Rendezvous Casino at the Kursaal, Southend on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011.



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 there will also be a trophy for the winner.



Due to the relaxing of certain regulations you no longer need to be a Member to enter the Casino, however it is recommended that you join prior to the evening as not only will this speed up your entrance, it will also save you around 10% on Bar Prices during the evening. Please note that there is strict minimum age limit of 18 and age checks will be made on the night, so make sure you have photo ID with you.

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.

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.

Bookings can be made at the Trust Information Stand in the Shrimpers Bar prior to any Home Game.

You can also book your place online as a Player or Non-Player by Credit/Debit Card in the Online Shop on the Trust Website, [www.shrimperstrust.co.uk](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk)

Passes will be handed out on you arrival at the Casino.

Please note that we are unable to accept bookings on the night, and all Players must be confirmed by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

**For further details please contact Jon-Paul FitzGerald on 07824 398236 or email him at [jphfitz@aol.com](mailto:jphfitz@aol.com).**

## FUNDRAISING

### 100 Club

The latest winners in the scheme, pulled out of the hat during weekly draws since the last newsletter were Paul Manning, Peter Hall, Richard Coxell, Jon-Paul FitzGerald and Jack Bond 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](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.

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## 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 the away game vs Port Vale is £136.50**

Once again for the 2011/12 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 completing the QAG Entry Forms that are available from the Trust Stand in the Shrimpers Bar.

Application forms are also available for download from the Trust Website [www.shrimperstrust.co.uk](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk)



## FORTHCOMING TRUST EVENTS

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 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 17<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

### **QUIZ NIGHT**

The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall – 7.30pm for a 7.30pm prompt start  
£8.00 Adults, £5.00 Children – includes Fish & Chip Supper

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



**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

### **BINGO NIGHT**

Mecca Bingo, Greyhound Trading Estate, Southend on Sea – from 6.30pm

For further details contact Clare Brooks  
(Tel: 07980 363092, email: [travel@shrimperstrust.co.uk](mailto:travel@shrimperstrust.co.uk))



Several other Fundraising Events are being planned for the forthcoming season including Race Nights, Curry Nights and a Body Shop Evening.

Plus coming very soon will be a Fans Forum with Paul Sturrock, Graham Goughlan and new club captain Chris Barker.

**Details will be advised in forthcoming newsletters and on the Trust Website.**

## 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.



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 199*).

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

**Matt Bellman, Malcolm Bird, Ian Bush, Robson Carroll, John Crickson, Tom Finch, David Ford, Darren Graham Perry & Peter Harrington, Sue Miller, Neil Oakley, Gareth Pummery, Clare Rankin-MacLean, Malcolm Roberts, Yvonne Sills, Anthony & Jacqueline Smith, Elliot Tarling Ian Williams and Mark Withers.**

\*\*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) \*\*

## TRANSFER WINDOW - CLOSED

**It is always a nerve wracking experience, but this summer's transfer window is now closed and the Shrimpers have managed to keep hold of their most important players (until January at least).**

Kane Ferdinand, Ryan Hall, Bilel Mohsni and Anthony Grant have all been linked with moves with other clubs but nothing has materialised and with the late capture of former Blues loanee Michael Timlin from Swindon, who comes in on loan for 4 months it means that we have a stronger squad albeit dampened by injury in the final third.

Another Striker would have been nice as it is difficult to see where the goals are going to come from whilst waiting for Barry Corr to return from injury, however, overall pleasing to keep hold of our best players.

## YOUTH TEAM – A MATCH TO REMEMBER

**Away v Leyton Orient - Saturday 20th August 2011**



**An astonishing display from Southend United's Under-18 team saw them fight back from an early two-goal deficit to record a 7-3 victory over Leyton Orient at the Whitbread's Sports Ground in Woodford Green.**

Despite Blues having been rocked by those initial strikes, the result of the fixture ultimately hinged on a quarter-of-an-hour period leading up to half-time when Ricky Duncan's team scored four times and had a further strike ruled out for offside.



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*"We showed a lot of character to come back from 2-0 down. Our heads did not go down and I believed, at that point, that if we scored next we'd probably go on to win,"* said Shrimpers Head of Youth Ricky Duncan, who was sent away from his technical area for contesting the disallowed goal.

After an even start, it was Southend that fashioned the first opportunity after seven minutes as Seedy Njie planted his header from a Mitchell Pinnock header just past the post. The forward was left ruing that miss two minutes later when the O's took the lead themselves, Afie **Obafemi** seizing the ball from Aaron Tatham as the central defender faced his own goal before rounding Luke Chambers and rolling into an empty net.

Sean Grace blocked a fierce Njie shot as the visitors sought a quick response, but Chambers was forced to make an impressive stop at the other end as George Wickings looked to fire home Obafemi's lay-off. That proved to be a portent of what was to come in the 18th minute as Billy **Lobjoit** brought down Sam Conway's pass before guiding it underneath Chambers with the goalkeeper getting the merest touch to the ball.

The young Shrimpers were struggling to find any rhythm to their passing at this time and, in sweltering conditions, at times they appeared fractious, but slowly and surely they edged back into the game. Jack Payne flashed an Anthony Furlonge pass inches wide before a good interchange on the edge of the penalty area saw Pinnock's reverse pass find the diminutive playmaker again, this time Jack Dekanski making ground to cover.

Captain Michael Hyland could have elected to find Pinnock on the left when he received Payne's square pass on the edge of the area in the 27th minute, but instead he arrowed a shot into Yilmaz Aksoy's gloves. However, the pressure was mounting on the Orient back-line and, just after the half-hour mark, Blues had narrowed the gap to a single goal. Paxman was the provider, finding **Njie** 15 yards from goal, and he coolly slotted past Aksoy.

Four minutes later, the Seasiders were level. Marlon Agyakwa's trickery on the right flank saw him cross for Paxman and, when his header drifted out to the left, Pinnock collected and centred the ball into the six-yard box, where **Njie** slid in to beat Dekanski and turn home.

Agyakwa was inches away from getting his head to a Pinnock cross shortly afterwards, but Southend did not have to wait long to grab the lead as their third goal arrived six minutes before the break. This time Hyland threaded the ball into the path of **Paxman**, and he dragged it inside to cut onto his left foot and stroke into the bottom right-hand corner.

Within sixty seconds, Blues believed they had contributed a fourth, a rampaging Pinnock run culminating in Njie controlling the cross before thrashing the ball into the net via the underside of the crossbar. The referee consulted his assistant and, after a protracted discussion, deemed the forward's knee to have been in an offside position. Words were exchanged between the official and Duncan, who was then dismissed having contested the decision.

That did not deter the relentless Shrimpers, though, and they were soon celebrating a 4-2 half-time lead as Paxman scored his second of the morning. The midfielder had already found Njie, whose slightly heavy touch allowed Sean Grace to steal in, but **Paxman** was alert to nab the ball off of Harry Lee's toes and fire into the bottom left-hand corner.

By contrast, the second period started slowly, Payne heading a Pinnock cross narrowly wide and Chambers grabbing a speculative Nash effort above his head. The gloveman made a more impressive save after Lee's 30-yard free-kick was deflected away from him before Pinnock latched onto an Agyakwa cross on the break and beat Aksoy, only for Dekanski to get back and clear off of the line.

On 70 minutes, Blues got their fifth. Jack **Payne** controlled a long ball on the edge of the penalty box, proceeding to leave the Orient defence dumbfounded by twisting one way and then another, holding off a defender and then converting to continue his record of having scored in every game this season.

Agyakwa was unfortunate to see Aksoy's right leg deflect a strong drive wide and the O's custodian also pawed away a Furlonge effort before the hosts scored their third in the 83rd minute, **Konway** heading home a pinpoint Nash corner.

Four minutes later, trialist Shamir Mullings netted his second goal of the campaign after being introduced as a substitute. This time Furlonge set it up, his free-kick from deep being lofted to the back post, where **Mullings** rose to an improbable height before nodding imperiously into the net.

Incredibly, there was still time for Dekanski to clear a Payne effort off of the goal-line during the regulation 90 minutes before Blues delivered a seventh in stoppage time. Payne and Mullings were involved in a sublime build-up, the latter cushioning the ball into the path of **Paxman**, who fittingly rounded out the scoring by completing his hat-trick with an angled shot past Aksoy.

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Lobjoit went on to strike the post for the O's, but Duncan was delighted with his team: *"When we go forward like that, we can beat anyone. If we can just tighten up our defence, then I think this side could be very special. Seedy is scoring goals now, Jack Paxman has got a hat-trick and Shamir's goal was outstanding,"* said the boss.

## BARBER'S BLURB – TERRACE TALK MATCH REPORTS

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2011



**Southend United 1 (Mohsni 14)  
Hereford Town 0**

Hello and welcome back to another season supporting The Mighty Shrimpers! I hope you all enjoyed your summer break away and it was good to see many Blues fans in Scotland supporting the team and having a decent break away.

After attending all the pre-season games and seeing a mixture of promising youngsters and decent first-team squad players, it was about time we got back to 'serious' football, back at the home of Roots Hall Stadium.

The past week seemed to have dragged somewhat, so I was delighted when the day was finally here, getting back into my seat in the West Stand to cheer on the team I love. After having a few drinks in the bar before the game and seeing the usual old faces it was time to take 'that walk' along the top of the stand and down the steps into my seat. The excitement was building.

"The teams are in the tunnel" the P.A. announced and I knew this was it; my enjoyment was back, cheering on the Blue and the White Army! The team was announced and the referee blew the whistle, we were underway!

With Liam Dickinson not fully fit and Blair and Barry both injured it was Bilel Mohsni's chance to shine upfront alongside Blues fan Neil Harris. It was Southend that took the lead though, with their first attack of the match.

A long ball from Luke Prosser was controlled expertly by Harris who in turn sprayed the ball out wide for Ryan Hall, the winger cut back onto his left foot before placing a stunning cross into the penalty area which Mohsni did well to climb above the Hereford defence and power home a header into the bottom corner. Get in!

The popular defender/striker proved to be a threat all afternoon and once Hall, Johnson and Harris had gone close to scoring the big Tunisian saw another header saved brilliantly by the Bulls stopper. The referee looked at his watch and blew his whistle for half-time, the general chit-chat between the fans was good as that was a decent display, and after purchasing a drink and a chocolate bar, it was back to my seat for the second half.

During the second period Blues were not as dominant as they were in the first half, however, they still played neat football with Harris going close on three occasions, Mohsni seeing an acrobatic volley ruled out for offside and new-boy Liam Dickinson smashing the cross bar.

The visitors hardly threatened but when they did they saw the impressive Blues backline blocking everything that came their way. Luke Prosser and Mark Phillips have come a long way since this time last year and things are looking positive this season, just 45 more games to go until it all starts again!

Up The Blues!  
Scott Barber

**Blues Team:** Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Mark Phillips, Chris Barker ©, Luke Prosser, Jemal Johnson, Jean-Paul Kalala, Anthony Grant, Ryan Hall, Bilel Mohsni and Neil Harris.

**Barber's Blues M.O.T.M:** Luke Prosser.

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Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2011



**Southend United 1 (Phillips 32)  
Leyton Orient 1**

**Leyton Orient win 4-3 on penalties.**

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We were back at Roots Hall tonight for the first round of the Carling Cup against rivals Leyton Orient. There seemed to be a little buzz outside of the ground tonight with most fans looking forward to playing against the O's for the first time in a while.

I was looking forward to the match, not just because it was a derby, but just to watch the Shrimpers back in action so soon after the win against Hereford and a chance to test ourselves against a team from a higher division.

As he stated before the match, Paul Sturrock made a few changes to the team, bringing in Graham Coughlan, Kane Ferdinand and Liam Dickinson. For the first 20-25 minutes Orient bossed the game and they played some neat football.

Former Blues striker Alex Revell won the ball by the West Stand touchline before curling a cross for young Newcastle loanee Michael Richardson to head home unmarked.

The lead didn't last for long and after getting the ball down and playing some football Blues were level through Mark Phillips. He evaded the Orient backline before planting a header over Butcher after a stunning cross from Ryan Hall.

Southend continued to be the better side in the second half and our chances improved when Tehoue got shown a straight red card for attacking Prosser and Coughlan. Liam Dickinson and Lee Sawyer came the closest to netting a winner before the match went to the dreaded penalty shoot out.

After witnessing a really good performance, even though the lack of finishing worried me slightly, all my confidence was taken away when I knew the outcome would be penalties.

In front of the half-filled South Stand the penalties took place, we unfortunately lost by 4 penalties to three, after former Spurs and Grays Athletic loanee Lee Butcher saved from Dickinson and JP Kalala.

Overall a very positive performance, however, we must pick ourselves up for Saturday's game at Accrington Stanley. Who are they I hear you ask?

Exactly!

Up The Blues!  
Scott Barber

***Blues Team:** Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Mark Phillips, Graham Coughlan, Luke Prosser, Jemal Johnson, Jean-Paul Kalala, Kane Ferdinand, Ryan Hall, Liam Dickinson and Neil Harris.  
**Barber's Blues M.O.T.M:** Ryan Hall.*

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**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2011**



**Accrington Stanley 1  
Southend United 2 (Dickinson 2 pen, Hall 68)**

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August, the date for the first away game of the season, a nice short trip to Accrington! I was really looking forward to getting back on the road to watch my club as it is a great experience and I always enjoy catching up with the faces in the crowd.

The day started with a trip to the café with my mates where we tucked into a full English with a cup of tea to go with it, once we finished that, it was time to depart for the coach and embark on our five-hour trip to the Stanley.

We arrived at the ground about 1.20pm and on our arrival we headed straight to the pub where we all had a few drinks before the game began. Talking about the game, no sooner had it started, Blues were in front.

Great ball from Prosser played in Hall who in turn whipped in a delightful cross that Leonard attacked, only to be pushed in the back. Up stepped Liam Dickinson to clinically dispatch the ball.

For the rest of the first half we were much the better side but the same old story was evident, not finishing teams off when dominating, and we paid the price just before half-time. A free-kick was whipped in which Morris could only fumble and Proctor was on hand to stab home from 4 yards out.

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During half-time the thoughts on the terrace were “How the hell aren’t we winning this game?” We were miles on top and even though the hosts got back into the game during the second period, I still felt comfortable that we would come away with all three points.

And in the 68<sup>th</sup> minute we did take the lead. Liam Dickinson helped on a clearance from Morris superbly and that allowed Ryan Hall to latch on to brilliantly place a shot into the top corner of the goal.

Glenn Morris made two decent saves to make sure we got all three points and that we fully deserved and we now head into the Crawley game full of confidence.

Up The Blues!  
Scott Barber

**Blues Team:** Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Chris Barker ©, Graham Coughlan, Luke Prosser, Anthony Grant, Jean-Paul Kalala, Kane Ferdinand, Ryan Hall, Liam Dickinson and Ryan Leonard.  
**Barber’s Blues M.O.T.M:** Liam Dickinson.

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Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2011



**Crawley Town 3**  
**Southend United 0**

A trip to big-spending Crawley Town was the away game this evening where Blues would come face to face with former players Josh Simpson and Ben Smith. The Red Devils who have been tipped for a promotion spot this season would prove a tough test for us.

The coach departed Roots Hall at 3.30pm and we then headed to collect the rest of the supporters. A 2 coach journey tonight, a lot more than the away game at Accrington on Saturday!

We arrived at the ground quite early and we waited to go into their clubhouse to have a few drinks before the match. Once in the ground a group of us then queued up for nearly 30 minutes for food, and by time we got to the counter it was time for kick off, come on you Blues!!!

The first half was pretty uneventful to be honest. We did look decent going forward without creating much and pretty solid when called upon at the back. Liam Dickinson saw his header go close but that was kept out by the ‘keeper Shearer.

The so called ‘top strike-force’ including Tubbs didn’t threaten the Blues goal at all in the first half, so going in at half-time on level terms was a fair score line.

What happened in the second half? Well you tell me. It was a complete shambles. Crawley came out of the blocks straight away and that caught us by surprise but what happened next really did catch Southend by surprise.

Sean Clohessy backed off the full-back Howell before the defender attempted the cross the ball into the box but it looped over Glenn Morris and into the top corner.

Southend seemed to collapse after that and after two minutes of entering the field of play, Bilel Mohsni, caught Barnett late and the referee had no option other than to point to the spot.

Up stepped Matt Tubbs to send Morris the wrong way and to leave Blues with a mountain to climb. A few minutes later the Crawley striker got on the end of a cross from the left to power a header past Morris at the near post. Well and truly beaten!

Up The Blues!  
Scott Barber

**Blues Team:** Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Chris Barker ©, Graham Coughlan, Luke Prosser, Anthony Grant, Jean-Paul Kalala, Kane Ferdinand, Ryan Hall, Liam Dickinson and Neil Harris.  
**Barber’s Blues M.O.T.M:** Hard decision as all the players under performed, however, the one player I think that played fairly reasonable again, was Luke Prosser.

# NEWSLETTER – Vol. 7 Iss. 02. – September 2011

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2011



**Southend United 0  
Burton Albion 1**

After the disappointment of Crawley on Tuesday night it was great to be back on home soil to try and put that result right. Unfortunately the opposite happened, the performance was terrible, well first half anyway.

The Shrimpers Trust awarded the top traveller's of last season with a box to watch the game from. It was a totally different atmosphere because I usually like to be in and around the fans to get a buzz for the game etc, but it was enjoyable with the buffet and drinks available.

Shame the performance wasn't very good. The first half was diabolical from Southend to be honest with you and fair play to Sturrock he came out and admitted he got the formation wrong, and when we did change to 4-3-3 we did perform slightly better.

A poor defensive header from Bilel Mohsni led to the ball falling to Calvin Zola, who turned a loan move to Blues down last season, and the striker turned and curled a stunning shot into the top corner of the goal.

That is all the opposition really offered in an attacking threat, but we didn't look like creating any chances. The Brewers were quick to pressure us when they lost the ball and Albion had two players around a Southend player whenever he got the ball.

The second half was a great improvement, we started to create chances. Full back Sean Clohessy got the most joy down our right hand-side whipping crosses into the area, however, nine times out of ten a Burton defender was there to clear the danger.

Liam Dickinson and Bilel Mohsni had half chances cleared away and Mohsni also headed clean over the bar when well positioned. Neil Harris nearly scored his first competitive goal for Southend when a lovely move and cross from Sean Clohessy found the Blues striker who did everything right and made a great connection only for the Burton keeper to pull off a stunning save.

The goalkeeper was called into action in the dying minutes when he made a fantastic save to tip over a stinging Ryan Hall drive to make it two frustrating Blues displays in a week.

Up The Blues!  
Scott Barber

**Blues Team:** Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Bilel Mohsni, Chris Barker ©, Peter Gilbert, Ryan Hall, Jean-Paul Kalala, Anthony Grant, Kane Ferdinand, Neil Harris and Liam Dickinson.  
**Barber's Blues M.O.T.M:** Sean Clohessy.

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Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2011



**Port Vale 2  
Southend United 3 (Phillips 5, Dickinson 10, Leonard 29)**

This result today goes to show that a week is a long time in football. Last Saturday fans were moaning about the defeat, and in fairness it was disappointing, but calling for Sturrock's head, really?

We were back on the road today, up to Stoke, to watch Southend try and claim a positive result at a very tough place to come. Most people I know were not that confident that we could claim a good result, but I, ever the optimist, was confident we could and I was not wrong.

What a start! Inside the opening ten minutes of the game the 'Voltage Cherry Barmy Army' were two goals up. The first coming from a brilliant Lee Sawyer corner which was powered home by Mark Phillips for his 2<sup>nd</sup> goal in as many games for Southend.

The second wasn't too far away, five minutes in fact, and it came from the left foot of summer signing Liam Dickinson. The big striker netted his 2<sup>nd</sup> Blues goal as he curled a left-footed effort into the bottom corner of the net.

Port Vale did get back in the game when Morris came rushing out from his goal line and Loft clipped the ball into the open net but Blues soon restored their 2 goal advantage when Ryan Leonard let fly from 30 yards, his shot took a deflection, on its way into the goal.

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Just seven minutes into the second half and Vale were back to within a goal of Southend. Dickinson got on the wrong side of his man and dragged him to the floor. The referee pointed to the spot and Loft sent Morris the wrong way to notch his second of the game.

The Valiants put a lot of pressure on the Blues goal, but the defence stood strong, and we counter attacked well and went close on a few occasions. The referee blew his whistle and the game was over, a great away victory for Southend and it certainly made the journey worthwhile.

The joy and emotions were clearly evident at the final whistle as Mohsni and his teammates celebrated the victory with clenched fists, group gathering and applauding the supporters.

Up The Blues!  
Scott Barber

**Blues Team:** Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Mark Phillips, Chris Barker ©, Luke Prosser, Ryan Leonard, Lee Sawyer, Anthony Grant, Kane Ferdinand, Neil Harris and Liam Dickinson.

**Barber's Blues M.O.T.M:** Lee Sawyer.

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Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011



**Southend United 1 (Dickinson pen. 25)**  
**Crawley Town 0**

Tonight saw the return of the JPT Trophy and also the return to Roots Hall Stadium. Hopefully tonight's showing will be similar to the one we witnessed at Port Vale on Saturday and not like the shocking second half against Town a few weeks ago.

A big crowd wasn't expected tonight so only the East Stand and the North Bank (away fans) was open. I was quite shocked but on the other hand delighted that Paul Sturrock named the same team that played at the weekend, but it did come with a cost.

Striker Neil Harris pulled up holding his groin thus leading to him not being able to take the penalty as the teams taker, Dickinson neatly dispatched of that in the 25<sup>th</sup> minute though.

So Harris was taken off injured and another injury soon followed. Lee Sawyer, who performed so well at the weekend, was subbed at half time and replaced by Ryan Hall.

Leading goal scorer Liam Dickinson the produced a rash tackle which unfairly earned him a straight red-card, leaving all three players likely to miss Saturdays match at least.

Crawley did include former Blues player Ben Smith in their side and he was lucky to avoid getting a red card after he clattered into Bilel Mohsni. The defender/striker produced a fine piece of skill before being cut to the ground.

The Red Devils did enjoy the lions share of possession and according to their managers claims on the touchline could have had several penalty decisions. Steve Evans needs to calm down and stop applauding sarcastically to the officials, it will get you nowhere!

Southend are now one step closer to Wembley and Crawley aren't. Maybe it is time for them to realise they are just a normal club in the league and not a team anybody should be scared of!

Up The Blues!  
Scott Barber

**Blues Team:** Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Mark Phillips, Chris Barker ©, Luke Prosser, Ryan Leonard, Lee Sawyer, Anthony Grant, Kane Ferdinand, Neil Harris and Liam Dickinson.

**Barber's Blues M.O.T.M:** Tough decision between Phillips and Grant, but as Phillips one most things in the air and played confidently from the back, I'll hand it to **Mark Philips**.

1<sup>st</sup> September 2011