

## NEWSLETTER – Vol. 7 Iss. 04. – January 2012

### THE INTRODUCTION – Paul FitzGerald

It's been a little while since the last Newsletter but I'm delighted to say that several requests from my Xmas list were delivered and consequently as I write this we are back in the leagues' most comfortable position - and long may it continue!

It's particularly good to see Bilel back on the pitch despite his "issues". It's difficult to remember such a character on the pitch and around the ground and I really hope his undoubted passion becomes a huge positive for us going forward.



Team	Home					Away					GD	PTS	
	P	W	D	L	F.A.	P	W	D	L	F.A.			
1 Southend	25	7	4	2	21	8	9	0	3	29	17	24	52
2 Cheltenham	25	9	3	2	19	6	7	2	3	20	15	18	52
3 Crawley Town	25	10	1	2	29	11	5	5	2	18	18	18	51
4 Swindon	25	8	2	1	25	7	6	2	6	15	13	20	46
5 Hereford	25	9	3	0	26	6	4	3	6	17	18	13	45
6 Oxford Utd	25	5	1	2	21	12	6	3	5	15	13	11	41
7 Luton	25	7	1	1	19	8	5	2	7	22	23	10	41
8 Torquay	25	6	1	2	25	17	5	3	4	13	14	7	41
9 Burton Albion	26	6	4	3	16	15	5	3	5	23	25	-1	40
10 Accrington Stanley	26	7	1	5	20	16	3	8	2	14	13	5	39
11 Rotherham	25	6	2	4	18	13	4	5	4	24	25	4	37
12 Macclesfield	26	3	4	6	22	19	6	5	2	20	13	10	36
13 Nuneaton	26	4	2	4	14	14	6	4	4	14	14	0	34

Off the pitch - money is clearly no longer a problem for the club, as new players a plenty have arrived and partial travel costs repaid for Aldershot. No doubt it won't be long until we hear about a 4th stand!

In the last newsletter I wished John Walton good luck with his completion of the 92 Club – this he did on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2011 with his visit to Deepdale, the home of Preston North End – congratulations! Looking back, Mark Chatterton achieved the same feat earlier in the year and I promised I'd mention that too...then promptly forgot - apologies Mark and well done.

The Xmas Draw was held in early Jan (due to the way home games fell) and once again I'd like to thank Steve Stone for his magnificent efforts in selling raffle tickets on our behalf. Steve take a bow, in fact several, we really do appreciate what you do for us here

As we started detailed planning of a charity walk, we discovered that long time Trust Member Bob Mays was a long way down the line with his own preparations for a Walk to Oxford with match ball on behalf of "Help for Heroes". In the circumstances we have decided to shelve our plans temporarily – Bob has agreed to provide full details which we will publish in our next newsletter and we have offered any help and we hope that our members will support Bob and his party of 8 on their mission for this very worthwhile cause.

At a home game recently, I was approached by one of the "silent majority" as he called himself - Ian Poulton. Ian came to see us at the Trust stand in the Shrimpers Bar, to drop off raffle tickets and told us his opinions of the Trust. It's odd sometimes when we communicate with members to know whether anyone reads what we write or whether what we write is interesting....we are always looking for feedback whether that is face to face or via e-mail (pfitz666@aol.com) so thanks Ian for taking the trouble etc. it was appreciated.

And finally at the last AGM (full details below) Mr Trust - Paul Yeomanson, agreed to become Vice Chairman, which we are all delighted about. However, we have agreed that Paul must stand down as Membership Secretary as it's simply not possible to do everything that Paul does now and more. This leaves a vacancy and I'm hopeful that among our members there is someone who could spare a few hours a week doing this important task. The role is very well paid (shome mishtake Ed) and I'm told that everyone who performs it is next in line for honours (although I am still waiting for mine).



League one here we come.....

## SHRIMPERS TRUST AGM

The Shrimpers Trust held their Annual General Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November in the Shrimpers Bar at Roots Hall. Formal proceedings were followed by an interactive and informative Q&A session held with Southend United's management partnership of Paul Sturrock and Graham Coughlan.

### Formal Proceedings:

In his **Chairman's Report**, which opened the meeting, Paul FitzGerald said how refreshing it was that the last 12 months had seen improvements both off and on the pitch.

He highlighted that there had been the final closure of matters surrounding the loan made to the Club by the Trust, designed to overcome a potential transfer embargo. Following a vote by the membership the Trust had also assisted towards the funding of the pre-season tour to Scotland. Paul advised that in this last year the Trust had reached a significant milestone in terms of donations it had made towards helping to fund specific Club activities as well as other worthy causes. Monies contributed had exceeded £100,000 over the last six years. Paul said that this was something that the Trust and its members should be extremely proud of.

At the last MTBD the Trust had conducted a supporters' mini survey in order to get feedback from the Club's fan base on how they felt it was doing. In September of this year a Supporter' Forum was held. This was open to both Trust and non members and was designed to build on previous feedback, as well as provide an opportunity for the Trust to strengthen working relationships with other Southend United supporter groups. Some useful feedback was taken away, giving the Trust some areas to work on, including events, communication and the general running of the Trust. There were actions from this that were still ongoing.

Paul highlighted that one of the specific areas in which the Trust continued to make a difference was in its involvement with Southend's Youth Team structure, where it had again this year provided key sponsorship and funding. Paul emphasised that the Trust was keen to do more to support the Football Club but this was dependant on the support of the members and trying to find yet more imaginative ways of raising funds. He added that any ideas and involvement were always very welcome.

There were a number of changes to the **Trust Committee**. *Bryan Woodford* who had been Vice Chairman for a number of years had made the decision to stand down from this post and from the SUSCT Board. Bryan would however be remaining on the Committee. *Paul Yeomanson*, who would be well known to Trust members, was confirmed as taking the Vice Chairman role. It was added that having now undertaken the role of Membership Secretary for a period of 10 years, Paul would be looking to handover the Membership Secretary role at the next AGM. The Trust would therefore be seeking a new Membership Secretary to take over within the next 12 months.

*Trevor Bashford* had taken the decision not to stand for re-election as Company Secretary. As a founder member of the Trust, Paul FitzGerald thanked Trevor for his hard work and contribution over the years. *Lesley Hicks* was to take the Secretary role.

At the recent Supporters' Forum *Gareth Pummery* had volunteered to join the Committee and had therefore become a member of the group during the last year.

In his **Treasurer's Report**, Darren Posnack advised that with regret this was the 4<sup>th</sup> successive year that the Trust had to report a loss. Darren reiterated the Chairman's previous statement in that the current position could not be reasonably sustained. Whilst providing events on the field continued to go well and it might therefore be expected that this upturn be reflected via increased Trust income, the current position remained of concern. The key was to generate funds so there was more money coming in than was being spent.

On this note as part of his Chairman's Report Paul FitzGerald had already advised that the Trust would be giving consideration as to whether or not it continued as main sponsor for the Youth Team in 2012/13.

As part of the **Membership Report**, numbers were reported to have dropped for the 5<sup>th</sup> year running, with total membership standing at 1050, which was 149 down since the last AGM.

### Q&A with Paul Sturrock & Graham Coughlan:

In his candid and at times witty responses to questions raised by the floor, Paul Sturrock demonstrated a wealth of knowledge and experience in football management and showed his undoubted love and passion for the game. The strong working relationship shared between the manager and his deputy Graham Coughlan would be a clear takeaway for supporters.

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Paul FitzGerald extended a warm welcome to Paul and Graham before kicking off the Q&A session, asking Paul whether in his opinion the **East Fife tour** had been a success. Sturrock outlined that with a number of new players signing pre-season for the Club, the tour had provided an opportunity to bring the whole squad together allowing them time to get to know each other and bond together as a unit. He outlined that the players had trained hard and worked well together and that the experience had certainly added to pre-season preparations. Overall he felt the tour to have been of benefit, adding that the fans had also had a good time!

Those present were keen to show their appreciation for the **excellent job** that Sturrock has done since joining the Club in 2010. On receiving this positive feedback Paul was quick to acknowledge the contribution made by his deputy and was also extremely complimentary towards the team of support staff he had

working around him, all of which he reported were extremely hard working and committed individuals. He added that the strong work ethic demonstrated by the backroom team was being mirrored by the players.

For the remainder of the session, Paul and Graham took a range of questions from supporters, covering topics as diverse as the team's playing formation and tactics, through to Bilel Mohsni's anger management programme!

When quizzed concerning his **tactics** and what was described by a supporter as Southend's failure to dominate play and finish teams off, Sturrock was quick to point out that statistics would support the fact that we do take control of games and a clear indicator of this would be the relatively few goals that the team was currently conceding. When discussing team formation Paul opening admitted that the key objective for him was to win every match and that unfortunately this did not necessarily allow for attractive football. Graham Coughlan added that he would much rather the team be successful than a "pretty" side. Paul finally added here that in the last few games Southend had not played particularly well and whilst the team had scored some excellent goals in matches such as the game against Dagenham, it was largely due to the tenacity of the players as a whole that we had managed to grind out results. Commenting on the teams current unbeaten run Sturrock added that inevitably at some point the unbeaten run would end, but the important thing was to keep it going as long as possible and then start all over again.

The forthcoming **January transfer window** was discussed with Sturrock admitting that he would be surprised if at this point there wasn't interest shown in some of his players. However he re-assured supporters that he was part of the decision making process here and would get an opportunity to influence any decision that might be made to sell a player. He was also hopeful that Southend would be able to come to an agreement with Swindon Town to enable Michael Timlin to join the Club in January, describing Michael as one of the more vocal members in the team who had a good awareness of the game around him. On a similar note Graham Coughlan added that in his opinion Mark Phillips was also proving to be a key player for Southend this season, saying that it did however pain him to have to admit this, as it was Mark who was keeping him out the team!

The consensus of those present at the Q&A session was that **Bilel Mohsni** was a real talent, however few supporters could help but get frustrated by his at times inability to control his temper when on the pitch. Paul informed everyone that in order to find an outlet for this aggression, Bilel had been introduced by Tara Brady to cage fighting. Whilst Mohsni as a result would turn up for training battered and bruised, it was worthy to note that he was actually very good at it! It was added by Paul and Graham that whilst managing Bilel was not without its challenges, his infectious enthusiasm and abilities in being able to effectively play in most positions made him a very important part of the current squad. He was a player who was able to influence and therefore change a game and was described by both as an individual who just wants to play, loves the shirt and will always give his all. Recognition was also paid to Bilel's qualities off the pitch which were shown by the way in which he interacts with supporters. His ease of style and genuine manner having made him a fans' favourite.



Paul Fitzgerald commented that **raising funds** which could then be used to support the Club wasn't without its challenges and that the Trust was keen to get the players involved in fund raising events. The management duo said that they would be very happy to support this initiative and it was agreed that Paul FitzGerald would catch up with Paul and Graham off line so as to agree the best way of making this happen.

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As the final discussion point of the evening Sturrock spoke briefly about his **playing career** north of the border and gave supporters an insight into his early career as a football manager, describing himself in his first appointment as St Johnston's manager as a "nightmare". He confirmed that he had since calmed down considerably and a learning he had taken was that the best time to constructively discuss things that hadn't gone well in a game was not in the dressing room after the game when emotions could be high, but when the team returned for training and everyone had calmed down. He said that he currently shared a good relationship with most other managers. Paul added that having been in the management game for a while now he was appreciative of the pitfalls and was keen to provide good guidance to Graham, who he described as having the makings of an excellent manager.

The Trust Chairman wrapped the evening up by thanking Paul and Graham for taking the time to come and speak to supporters, making the point that it was a shame that more fans hadn't attended the session. In his open exchanges with supporters Paul Sturrock however hadn't appeared put off by the low turnout, finally adding that "it was always good to talk to the fans".

## ALDERSHOT TOWN

**The Shrimpers Trust along with many supporters was disgusted with the attitude of Aldershot Town following the recent Abandoned game (in particular the issue around refunds). The letter below was sent to them last week - no response as yet.**

A copy of the letter plus additional concerns has been sent to the Football League, Supporters Direct and the Football Supporters Federation.

### Letter to Aldershot Town FC:

I refer to the recent incident at Aldershot Town FC and subsequent information noted in the press, the Aldershot and Southend United Official websites.



In the view of the Shrimpers Trust, where a ticket has been purchased for a particular league fixture, it is likely to be an express term (and if not, an implied term) of the contract of purchase of such a ticket as between each spectator and Aldershot Town FC that the game is played in such a manner that it will be recognised as being a viable game by the Football League. In circumstances where the reason for calling off the game has arisen entirely as a result of Aldershot's own failure to ensure that its ground was adequately lit, with the game subsequently being (in the eyes of the Football League) declared a nullity, it follows that Aldershot Town's breach has either wholly or substantially deprived each ticket-holder of the benefit of his or her ticket. Accordingly, Aldershot Town FC is in repudiatory breach of its contract with each ticket-holder for that game; and as the injured party, each ticket-holder may now elect whether to rescind his or her contract with Aldershot Town, or whether to affirm and seek damages.

The proper analysis of the game that took place on Boxing Day was that it was the equivalent of one half of reserve team football. Bookings which were given during the game were recognised (as would be by the FA, and in consequence the FL, when given in any reserve team fixture), but in all other respects the game had no status (and/or is a nullity) in the eyes of the Football League. The Shrimpers Trust notes that Aldershot Town's normal charge for reserve team fixtures is £3 for adults and £1 for concessions. Accordingly, for the 45 minutes of football that took place on Boxing Day, it would in theory be appropriate that anyone who has proof of entry into the EBB Stadium on Boxing Day be asked to pay a further £1.50 (or 50p, if their tickets were concessionary), as befits the status of the half-game that took place that day.

However, each ticket-holder attending the game incurred wasted travel-costs as a result of Aldershot Town's breach of contract. Such wasted travel costs have arisen as a direct consequence of Aldershot Town's breach (the failure properly to provide lighting) and, as such, are clearly claimable from you under the first limb of Hadley v. Baxendale. Such travel costs will, almost certainly without exception, exceed the theoretical £1.50 / 50p owed by each ticket-holder to Aldershot Town for the 45 minutes of football played on Boxing Day.

Accordingly The Shrimpers Trust proposes that (in circumstances where fans would be affirming and seeking to come to the game when it does eventually take place) if the travelling supporters of Southend United do not put in a claim to Aldershot Town for the wasted travel costs incurred as a result of Aldershot Town's failure adequately to provide lighting for the game that took place on Boxing Day (resulting in the game being declared a nullity by the FL), Aldershot Town should in return agree to admit free of charge any Southend United fan in possession of a ticket for the game that should have taken place - but that did not happen - on Boxing Day, to the 2011-12 Football League fixture at the EBB Stadium between Aldershot and Southend, whenever that game takes place. Once the game has been fixed, it seems to the Shrimpers Trust that ticket-holders should be allowed a reasonable time - say, 14 days - in which to elect whether or not to affirm or

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rescind, since only once the game has been fixed will they know whether or not they will be in a position to affirm. Any fan choosing to rescind ought, in our view, to be entitled to a refund at that point in time.

We urge you to agree to this proposal, since it is not only clearly the right thing to do from a press and publicity perspective, but it is also right as a matter of legal and contractual analysis. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Letter to the Football League:

As you are aware the Aldershot vs Southend United fixture on Monday 26th December 2011 had to be abandoned at half-time as a result of floodlight failure. Naturally there were many frustrated and angry fans especially among the away supporters having seen Southend United take a 1 – 0 lead and Aldershot reduced to ten (10) men.

From a Southend supporter's perspective, the initial reaction was the lack of professionalism shown by Aldershot FC at half-time when announcing the game had been abandoned. There was a considerable amount of confusion before finally stating the match was abandoned and no obvious apology made to the watching fans. This made a total mockery of the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds" published by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport commonly referred to as the "The Green Guide". In paragraph 16.31 of the guide it states that "It is therefore crucial that any information imparted to spectators is clearly given, accurate ....."

Prior to the game being abandoned, Aldershot Town FC had already displayed a lack of professionalism in the tickets issued to Southend fans. The tickets were described by one supporter as "a flimsy piece of mauve paper that was blank on the back and nothing on the front." There was no terms or conditions printed on the tickets.

This again would appear to breach "The Green Guide" which in paragraph 16.30 states: - Wherever possible, the written information provided for spectators should be used as a means of communicating safety related information..... a clear plan of the ground should be provided on the rear of the ticket. That part of the ticket retained by the spectator after passing through a ticket control point or turnstile should clearly identify the location of the accommodation for which it has been issued. Colour coding of tickets, corresponding to different sections of the grounds, should be considered. As stated in Section 7.9, the design of the ticket should also ensure that the key information printed – such as turnstile, block, seat and row number or, in the case of racecourses, enclosure – is clear and easy to read for the spectator, turnstile operators and stewards."

The Shrimpers Trust is seeking compensation for the Southend United supporters that travelled on the day from Aldershot. For your information a copy of the letter sent to Aldershot Town FC is attached to this letter.

In relation to the actual match, Southend were in the "driving seat" and would have been firm favourites to secure all three points. Instead the match will have to be replayed with Aldershot allowed to field 11 men from the start. Secondly, the rules dictate that booking of Liam Dickinson in the match meant he missed the next match against AFC Wimbledon even though the game has been abandoned. This situation is further compounded by the fact that two Southend players (Mohsni and Gilbert) that were serving a match ban and would have been eligible for the AFC Wimbledon match also missed that game as their punishments were deemed to be uncompleted. The rules appear to be contradicting themselves by saying the game counts for the Dickinson booking but not for the two suspended players – is that fair? As a result Southend United had to prepare for their next match with AFC Wimbledon without three players, Dickinson, Mohsni and Gilbert who are all suspended as a result of a game that officially has no standing!

Can the Football League explain how Southend United have been totally disadvantaged against teams around them seeking promotion to League One when they are the innocent party in this farcical incident?

What has caused more anger among Southend fans is the fact that Aldershot Town's Chief Executive, Peter Duffy, has declared in the press that they were aware that there were problems with the floodlights before the match had kicked off. In the local Southend paper – The Echo- he is stated as saying: -

"In consultation with senior members of the match day operation and safety team the referee advised that the match would not be able to continue without full lighting being operational."

"We fully support this procedure as health and safety has to be our primary concern. "

"But it is evident prior to kick off that a problem was being experienced when the pylons were powered on."

Mr. Duffy appears to be hiding behind health and safety regulations to disguise Aldershot Town's incompetence in the way they handled this incident – was it a primary concern? If the "pylon problem" was identified before the game then the risk to health and safety of the fans already existed!

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Surely his “safety team” have failed in their duty by allowing supporters to enter the ground rather than to disperse them outside of the ground before the kick off. Allowing a large number of people into a confined area knowing that the risk to their personal safety has increased is arguably a breach of health and safety rules in itself.

The Green Guide states in paragraph 17.2 - All electrical and mechanical installations at a sports ground are liable to gradual deterioration, particularly those situated in outdoor or exposed environments. It is therefore vital that management ensures that such installations are properly maintained by competent persons with the appropriate skills and experience. Has Aldershot FC complied with this advice?

It also states in paragraph 3.17: - Ground management should assess the risk of any incident occurring at the sports ground which might prejudice public safety or disrupt normal operations; for example, fire, power cuts, bomb threats, delayed starts or crowd disorder..... Such incidents often arise with little or no warning and may not be capable of being dealt with by the management operating under normal conditions. Management should therefore prepare contingency plans to determine specific actions and/or the mobilisation of specialist resources.

Surely floodlight failure qualifies as an incident as described, so did Aldershot FC have a contingency plan, was it put into operation and should it have been implemented before the game was allowed to start?

A cynic may look at the situation and conclude that Aldershot FC's decision making was driven by the financial implications / pressures of the match day rather than a genuine concern for the safety of the supporters attending the game from the outset.

In summary, Aldershot FC has acted in a totally unprofessional manner and the Shrimpers Trust would like to know what action is the Football League going to take on this miserable incident? I would be grateful to know your views on the matter.

## DARLINGTON FC: BACK FROM THE BRINK

**Just after midday on Wednesday 18th January 2012, Darlington Football Club was pronounced dead. Over 128 years of history wiped out after the club fell victim to administration for the third time in ten years. This time, it seemed, there was no way out.**

Twitter was awash with comment, with the excellent updates from the Northern Echo's Peter Barron particularly addictive following. Players emerged from a crisis meeting to announce the news to supporters and media alike. Manager Craig Liddle, like his team made redundant 48 hours earlier in a final cost-cutting move by the administrators, explained that he was "sick to the pit of my stomach."



Help Save  
Darlington FC

Liddle, a legendary figure at the Quakers since making his debut in 1998, had heroically turned up to take training with the youth team on Tuesday morning, offering his services free of charge in the process, his burgeoning reputation growing still further in his defiance at the club's demise.

Darlington dropped out of the Football League in 2010 but, under the stewardship of Mark Cooper, they won The FA Trophy twelve months later in May 2011. Cooper acrimoniously left in October, then-chairman Raj Singh pointing the finger at his former boss and his relatively expensively-assembled side for Darlington's financial ruin.

The truth, of course, is very different. Singh need turn his clock back less than a decade to view the source of the club's woes.

Local businessman George Reynolds was a convicted criminal, a safe-breaker. He boasted that this particular leopard had changed his spots and, in a time before The FA's much-maligned Fit & Proper Persons Test, there was nothing to stop him taking over.

There was nothing to stop him from moving Darlo lock, stock and barrel out of the dilapidated but homely Feethams in the town centre.

Nothing to stop Reynolds constructing a new stadium, a white elephant of a 25,000-capacity ground self-servingly named after the egotistic owner, far away from anywhere. With Newcastle United, Sunderland and Middlesbrough all close by, the decision was pure folly.

In 2005, Reynolds departed with the club, somewhat predictably, in administration, ready for another period enjoying life at Her Majesty's Pleasure. He left behind a legacy, but not one of a Premier League or even a

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Championship, club playing in front of packed stands. Although the Darlington Arena has 25,000 seats, the capacity is now restricted to just 10,000, with one stand effectively operating as the world's largest dug-out. Never have more than 11,600 fans entered the ground.

Against that backdrop of unsustainability, it is no wonder that the club have lurched from one financial crisis to another. And this January the death-knell appeared to sound once and for all.

The Supporters' Trust has saved around £50,000 but, as the administrators desperately sought backers, they were understandably unwilling to part with that cash without a viable long-term strategy in place. Rather, they worked a contingency plan to set-up a phoenix club, with Trust Board members being forced to step down as a result of the abuse they received for their decision.

Wednesday, midday again: Players, staff and fans alike were welling up with tears. Local and national press were beginning to write the obituary of Darlington FC. But, behind the scenes, there was one last roll of the dice; the Darlington Football Club Rescue Group (DFCRG) had a final proposal to put to the administrators.

With the help of backing from individuals, the Supporters; Club and £10,000 from the Supporters' Trust, the DFCRG had cobbled together £50,000 - enough to keep the club afloat until the end of January and see them through their next three matches.

The Blue Square Bet Conference will allow the nine previously unemployed players and their youth team counterparts to participate on a non-contract basis for those matches. Liddle, a veteran of more than 300 appearances over seven years for the club between 1998 and 2005, has registered as a player in case of emergency. It's all systems go, with the Northern Echo, sponsors of the stadium, drumming up support.

Darlington FC is on a life-support machine. The groundswell of backing from all across the country has been overwhelming for all of those volunteering to keep the club running in these dark days. The Quakers need all the help they can get, not just to get through the next few weeks, but beyond.

They are not the only club in trouble. Kettering Town and Northwich Victoria, both famous non-League outfits, appear to be similarly approaching the brink. The Shrimpers Trust have written to the Darlington Supporters' Trust, offering any support and help we can give. We are, most certainly, not alone in that respect.

Football has to wake up, and quickly. Less than a 100 places separate the FA Premier League from the Conference; still less to League Two, where the Shrimpers currently reside. However, the two are worlds apart. The Football League is working hard, with wage-capping being introduced in League One from 2012/3 to join League Two, in a bid to enhance sustainability, but yet greater strides need to be made.

Southend United faced a winding-up petition a little under two years ago, and I remember then the relief at our reprieve. We didn't get as close as Darlington did to folding-up completely, but there are many clubs who continue to struggle and it is imperative that the game's authorities and custodians start to listen to football supporters.

Because, as Wednesday's dramatic events proved, without us, there would be no clubs.

\*If you wish to donate to Darlington FC and help them, you can send a cheque to Darlington FC Supporters Club at 6 Somerset Grove, Darlington, DL1 2LL. A back account is being opened by the DFCRG, and details of this will be available soon; it is advisable to check the Northern Echo website, [www.thenorthernecho.co.uk](http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk) for the latest details.

General donations can also be made to the Darlington Supporters' Trust through [www.darlotrust.co.uk](http://www.darlotrust.co.uk).

## FORTHCOMING FUNDRAISERS

### CHINESE NIGHT

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2012**  
**East, 33 Alexandra Street, Southend on Sea**

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

The evening begins at 7.30pm and the cost will be £15.00 per person for an 'all you can eat' buffet.

We welcome Members and Non Members alike so why not come along for some good food and chat.



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## BINGO NIGHT

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012

Mecca Bingo, Greyhound Trading Estate, Sutton Road, Southend on Sea



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

The Shrimpers Trust are holding a Bingo Night at Mecca Bingo, Greyhound Trading Estate, Sutton Road, Southend on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

Tickets for an evening's Bingo will cost just £10.00 and includes the late evening Dark Binglo Rock & Roll Bingo Session.

The early session starts at 7.00pm (if you are not already members you would need to arrive by 6.45pm or complete and return a Membership Application Form prior to the Event).

There will be no need to buy additional tickets on the night as your ticket will cover all three sessions.

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## CURRY NIGHT

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2012

The Pipasha, Eastwood Road North, Leigh on Sea

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

The evening begins at 7.00pm and the cost will be £12.00 per person for an 'all you can eat' buffet.

We welcome Members and Non Members alike so why not come along for some good food and chat.



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## RACE NIGHT

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall

For further details contact Paul Yeomanson: (01702 302373 or [info@shrimperstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@shrimperstrust.co.uk))

With 7 Brand New Horse/Dog Races plus a 'surprise feature' race and novelty race if times allow, this is a great event for all the family.

Admission is by Ticket Only and will cost just £2.00 and can be purchased in advance from the Trust Information Stand in the Shrimpers Bar prior to every Home Game.

Tickets can also be purchased from the Trust Online Shop.

Alternatively you can pay on the door on arrival.

So why not come along for a fantastic night of entertainment.



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## FUNDRAISING

### 100 Club

The latest winners in the scheme, pulled out of the hat during weekly draws since the last newsletter were James Haddow, Steve Stone, John Walton, John Clench, Valerie Fane, John Smith Richard Harrington and Richard Cunningham each winning around £28.00.

The winner of our Christmas Draw was Graham Hilder, who scooped an impressive £275.00.

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 Northampton Town is £1311.50**

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)



## MEMBERSHIP

### Welcome to New Life Members (Total 202)

**Ken Fletcher and Clare Winyard.**



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).

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

**Andy Archard, John Austin, Hayley Beale, Robert Flindall, Jayne Gibson, John Gray, Ian Hemmings, Paul Holland, Ray Hunt, Steve James, Stephen James, Rhys Miles, Martyn Mumford, Neil Parish, Ben Randall, Chris Reeder, Rith Rickard, Matt Selfe, John Shelley, Nicky Shelly, Brett Stamp, John Taylor, Lee Virrels, Paul Wellington and Claire Winyard.**

\*\*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) \*\*

## OVERNIGHT TRIP TO MORECOMBE – FRIDAY/SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2012



**We will be leaving at 10.00 am from Roots Hall on Friday 24th February and will be staying in Lancaster overnight, which is approximately 5 miles East of Morecambe, so you will have plenty of time in the morning to visit Lancaster's Historic City, after spending the previous evening enjoying the buzzing nightlife you come to expect with a University City.**

The coach will cost in the region of £30, if you would like to book on this journey, please ring Clare Brooks on the designated Travel-line number 07892 905338.

Payment for the trip will need to be made once your place has been confirmed.

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You will need to book your hotel in Lancaster yourself. Those that have booked already are staying at the Travelodge, Lancaster Central where rooms are currently priced from around £19.00.

We will of course still be running our normal matchday service on Saturday 25th February with the coach departing from Roots Hall at 7.30 am and then picking-up at our normal stops. Further details will be published in due course in the Travel Section of the Trust Website.

## WE WANT YOUR FOREIGN COINS

**So you come back from holiday and you put all your foreign currency in your man draw? Or you didn't get rid of your old British coins before they went out of circulation? Well bring them to us and we can bank them into Shrimpers Trust coffers as a donation.**



We appreciate that, in this economic climate that a lot of people will not be in the fortunate position to make monetary donations but why not give us your old foreign coins which are unused and we can put them to use.

This also applies to lower denomination of foreign bank notes, so if you're feeling generous, bring those to us too!

From the next home game we will have a bucket in the Shrimpers Bar for your foreign currency, come and see us and dispose of it. Alternatively, you can send the currency to **The Shrimpers Trust, PO Box 5830, Southend on Sea, Essex, SS1 9FD** or pass to your favourite committee member.

Thanks in advance and up the Shrimpers!

## BARBER'S BLURB – TERRACE TALK MATCH REPORTS

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011**



**Oldham Athletic 1 (Taylor 58)  
Southend United 0**

A dream trip to Anfield in the third round of the FA Cup is over after a defeat to Oldham Athletic at Boundary Park. Lifelong Oldham fan Chris Taylor smashed home the winning goal on the stroke of the hour to give the League One side the honour of playing Liverpool in the greatest cup competition in the world.

As soon as we arrived in Oldham the snow was falling down and the bitterly cold wind was blowing in and around the ground, we knew this was going to be a difficult night, in these conditions, but from the opening 35 minutes of the game I was really confident of getting through.

Bilel Mohsni had the first chance of the game when he collected a pass from Harris and from 35 yards the midfielder tried a great curling effort which was heading for the top corner only for the goalkeeper to pull off a world class save.

Southend continued to be on top and went close to scoring again through veteran striker Neil Harris. The former Millwall man received the ball with his back to goal before turning and unleashing a dipping strike that was brilliant tipped around the post and out for a corner.

The hosts came mighty close to opening the scoring but Taylor's flicked header went wide of Daniels' goal before The Blues nearly scored again through Harris. Ryan Leonard launched a long throw into the box and the striker rose the highest to direct a header on goal only to see the keeper claw it out of the top corner and deny Southend once again.

Bilel Mohsni then got sent off for his second booking of the game and the target was to stay level until the break and regroup. Manchester City loanee Luca Scapuzzi volleyed a shot on goal but Daniels was more than equal to the effort.

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In the second half Southend struggled to have any attempts on target as they just couldn't manage to get hold of the ball. Matters got worse for The Shrimpers when Oldham took the lead.

Kuqi crossed the ball and Taylor chested the ball down before smashing a shot past Daniels from 10 yards, which ultimately gave the home side the rewarding, trip to Anfield.

Up The Blues!  
Scott Barber

**Blues Team:** Luke Daniels, Sean Clohessy, Mark Phillips, Chris Barker ©, Peter Gilbert, Bilel Mohsni, Ryan Leonard, Anthony Grant, Michael Timlin, Neil Harris and Blair Sturrock.

**Barber's Blues M.O.T.M:** Sean Clohessy

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**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2011**



**Southend United 0  
Bradford City 1 (Oliver 88)**

Southend United suffered a shock home defeat and their fourth loss on the bounce as Luke Oliver prodded home an 88th minute winner for the lowly Bantams. Paul Sturrock's side are looking a shadow of their former selves and this latest setback has been a real kick in the teeth.

The game started poorly in all honesty but the visitors did look the better side on the ball as Southend struggled to keep possession at times. The visitors had the first chance of the game when Flynn whipped in a free-kick which evaded everybody before Daniels clawed it out of the bottom corner.

Ryan Leonard dragged a poor shot wide when maybe a pass would have been the better option but down the other end Ravenhill smashed a volley out of the ground after being setup by former Hull and Colchester star Craig Fagan.

Liam Dickinson then went close for Southend as he picked the ball up with his back to goal, used his strength well, to worm his way past the backline before unleashing a dipping strike that flew just over the crossbar. That proved to be the last action of a drab first period.

The pace of Bradford on the break was worrying and with Craig Fagan and Wells linking up well they nearly took the lead when Wells headed wide after great play from Fagan.

Sturrock brought Grant and Sawyer into the game and it was the latter that nearly opened the scoring when he headed Ryan Hall's dangerous cross over the bar in the 70th minute of the game.

Anthony Grant and Liam Dickinson both went close to opening the scoring for The Blues. Grant saw a 30 yard strike saved well by the keeper before Dickinson lashed a 20 yard free-kick which the goalkeeper was also equal too.

But in the 88th minute Southend were shocked when after a goalmouth scramble the ball fell to the big centre half Oliver who found space to clip home from 6 yards. Harris went close in the dying seconds for The Blues but it was too little too late after another poor performance.

Up The Blues!  
Scott Barber

**Blues Team:** Luke Daniels, Sean Clohessy, Mark Phillips, Luke Prosser, Peter Gilbert, Michael Timlin, Ryan Leonard, Kane Ferdinand, Ryan Hall, Neil Harris Liam Dickinson.

**Barber's Blues M.O.T.M:** Mark Phillips

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Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011



## **AFC Wimbledon 1 (Midson 7)**

**Southend United 4 (Hall 30, Stuart OG 51, Phillips 64, Harris 79)**

Southend United ended 2011 on a high as they demolished AFC Wimbledon away from home. After an early penalty miss from Harris and falling behind to a Jack Midson goal, Southend clawed their way back into the game and dominated proceedings, to claim a vital victory at the top of the division.

Things looked bright for The Blues when they had Michael Timlin fouled just inside the area and the referee pointed to the spot. Up stepped Southend striker Harris but he saw his penalty well saved by the goalkeeper Brown before the follow up was totally messed up by the Blues players.

It went from bad to worse as The Blues then fell a goal behind courtesy of a strike from former forward Jack Midson. He notched his 12th league goal of the season when he ran onto a bad mistake from Phillips to hit a shot firmly across goal and into the far corner.

Ryan Leonard then tried his luck from long range as Southend tried to get back into the game but the former Plymouth man saw his shot easily saved by Brown in the Wimbledon goal.

Jolley then got sent off after a nasty lunge on Timlin before Blues equalised just before the break. Sean Clohessy's good run and cross went into the box and the goalkeeper could only push the ball into the path of Hall who tapped in his 10th goal of the season.

Moments after the break Southend were in front thanks to an own goal from former defender Jamie Stuart. Michael Timlin collected the ball on the edge of the box before he released the ball to Ryan Hall. The midfielder then saw his shot rebound off Brown onto Stuart before it flew into the back of the net.

Southend were soon out of sight once the third goal went in and Mark Phillips scored it. The central defender rose the highest to power home a header from 8 yards after a stunning cross from Sean Clohessy. It was his 7th goal of the season.

Neil Harris complete the rout when he beautifully lobbed home from 12 yards to notch his 6th of the season as Southend made sure they ended the year in the automatic promotion places.

Up The Blues!  
Scott Barber

**Blues Team:** Luke Daniels, Sean Clohessy, Mark Phillips, Chris Barker ©, Luke Prosser, Michael Timlin, Ryan Leonard, Anthony Grant, JP Kalala, Harris and Hall

**Barber's Blues M.O.T.M:** Ryan Hall

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Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2012



## **Southend United 1 (Timlin 37)**

**Dagenham & Redbridge 1 (Woodall 87)**

Southend United started the year with a draw and ended the festive period unbeaten after a 1-1 result against Dagenham and Redbridge. Michael Timlin fired a stunning strike from 30 yards just before the break before Woodall drilled home a leveller minutes before the final whistle.

The game started quietly from Southend United's point of view as Daggers looked the brighter of the two sides. Dominic Green's free-kick found West Ham loanee Montano but the striker could only guide his effort straight at Luke Daniels.

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The visitors were much the better side and somehow they failed to score when Nurse was unmarked from 6 yards out. Montano found his strike partner but Jon guided his header well wide of the target as the home fans breathed a sigh of relief.

Ryan Hall saw a 25 yard free-kick saved well by Lewington before Leonard saw a thirty yard free-kick smash off the top of the crossbar as Southend looked to get back into the game. Just as the half was running to a close Blues did take the lead through Michael Timlin.

Leonard launched a long throw into the box before it was cleared out only as far as Timlin who unleashed a stunning thirty yard volley into the far corner of the North Bank goal to send Southend fans into full voice.

After the break Benyon and Dickinson linked up well before the latter saw his powerful shot fly over the bar. At the other end Montano went close once again when he got on the end of a long throw only to see his effort fly inches wide of the post.

Sean Clohessy then cleared off the line from a Nurse header before the inevitable happened. Bingham collected a loose pass from Timlin and the striker released his partner Woodall who kept his cool to drill home from the edge of the box.

Southend could have won the game when Anthony Grant was clear through on goal but the midfielder saw his tame effort saved by the legs of Lewington.

Up The Blues!  
Scott Barber

**Blues Team:** Luke Daniels, Sean Clohessy, Mark Phillips, Chris Barker ©, Luke Prosser, Michael Timlin, Ryan Leonard, Anthony Grant, Ryan Hall, Elliot Benyon and Liam Dickinson

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

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**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2012**



**Southend United 3 (Phillips 8, Dickinson 29, Owen O.G. 55)  
Port Vale 0**

Southend United climbed to within one point of Crawley Town at the top of the division after easily dispatching a very poor Port Vale outfit by three goals to nil at Roots Hall Stadium.

It was Southend's third game unbeaten after a win away at AFC Wimbledon before following that up with a 1-1 draw at home to a resurgent Dagenham & Redbridge. The form is slowly coming back to Paul Sturrock's side as they look to get promoted to League One next season.

However it was the visitors that had the first attack of the game when dangerous striker Marc Richards but that was easily saved by returning goalkeeper Glenn Morris. From that moment on Southend looked strong and they went on to dominate the game.

In the 8th minute of the match Mark Phillips got on the score sheet for the 8th time this season. The centre-half rose highest unmarked to glance in a header from a Ryan Hall corner to put The Blues well on their way to three points.

Southend were so much in control it was unreal and striker Elliot Benyon went close to scoring his first for the club when his clever run and curling finish drifted inches wide of the post. David Martin and Ryan Hall linked up well too with the latter giving plenty of options on the left hand side.

Liam Dickinson then extended The Shrimpers' advantage in the 29th minute after another stunning cross from Hall. The winger launched a ball into the box from the right touchline and the big centre forward out-jumped the flatfooted defence to guide his header into the far corner.

Ryan Hall then collected a pass from Benyon before beating the defence for pace only to see his first shot saved by the keeper and his rebound forced wide after being put under pressure from the opposing centre half.

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Port Vale had a half chance just after the break but the game was completed in the 55th minute when Owen poked the ball into his own net. The defender amazingly prodded the ball past his own keeper after Gilbert collected the ball from new boy Martin.

David Martin went close with a volley just after the 3rd goal before McDonald was sent off for a foul on striker Benyon.

Up The Blues!  
Scott Barber

**Blues Team:** Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Mark Phillips, Chris Barker ©, Peter Gilbert, JP Kalala, Michael Timlin, David Martin, Ryan Hall, Elliot Benyon and Liam Dickinson.

**Barber's Blues M.O.T.M:** Michael Timlin

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**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2012**



**Northampton Town 2 (Johnson 10, Berahino 43)  
Southend United 5 (Martin 41, Dickinson 65 pen & 85, Mohsni 81 & 90+1)**

Southend United came from 2-1 behind at the break to demolish Northampton Town 5-2 at Sixfields on Saturday. Substitute Bilel Mohsni joined Liam Dickinson as the pair both netted twice and David Martin, who struck home, joined them on the score sheet with his first Blues goal.

In the first attack of the game the hosts took the lead and it was against the run of play because Southend were knocking the ball around confidently and I just couldn't see The Cobblers scoring the first goal of the game.

Peter Gilbert helped a long throw into the box on its way and it fell kindly to the Northampton captain, Johnson, to prod home past Morris and the other Blues defenders from no more than five yards out. The Shrimpers cranked up the pressure and went close to scoring through Mark Phillips and they went even closer in the 22nd minute when Martin had a goal ruled out for a foul.

However, five minutes before the break, Southend were level when David Martin scored his first goal since moving from Derby last week. The winger waited at the back post and Sean Clohessy's looping cross found the midfielder who took a touch before smashing a shot across goal and into the far corner.

West Brom loanee Berahino then raced clear moments before the break before clipping past Morris to give the hosts an undeserved lead. However, the second half was all Southend's. They were awarded a penalty in the 65th minute when Hall brought down Dickinson and the big striker struck the ball superbly into the top corner of the goal.

Substitute Bilel Mohsni then started and ended the move which involved him winning a superb header in the air from a Ryan Hall Cross to guide the ball past the keeper and put Southend in the lead for the first time in the game.

Liam Dickinson then smashed home from 8 yards after great work from Jack Sampson, who picked up a quick throw in from Mohsni, before the Tunisian nodded home from 5 yards after Hall missed a corner from his namesake Ryan.

Up The Blues!  
Scott Barber

**Blues Team:** Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Mark Phillips, Chris Barker ©, Peter Gilbert, JP Kalala, Michael Timlin, David Martin, Ryan Hall, Elliot Benyon and Liam Dickinson.

**Barber's Blues M.O.T.M:** Bilel Mohsni

21<sup>st</sup> January 2012