

NEWSLETTER – Vol. 8 Iss. 01. – October 2012

THE INTRODUCTION – Paul FitzGerald

Is it a football club? Is it a property development company?.....no, it's a disaster!

Yet another interesting week, with the news that long time SUFC fan and Chief Executive, Gary Lockett, wakes up and realises he was working for Ron Martin all along and it wasn't in fact a dream. The rumour mill then went into overdrive with news that anything from HMRC were about to close us down - to the lollipop lady had lost her lollipop. In fact, it looks like this was just a bit of a bust up. Both men however, were reluctant, understandably, to be explicit about the precise reasons for Gary standing down as Chief Executive.



It was interesting and perhaps reassuring, that Gary stated that the club were in no worse position now, than when he took the hot seat. Of course we are in a dreadful financial position, but there was no specific financial trigger that caused the change of title. Gary is staying on as Non-Exec Director, which I believe is good news for the club and indication that the grim reaper is not in the county quite yet.

Ron says "it's all in hand" when questioned about a successor, which suggests a return for Geoffrey King, but he then denies the same when pressed.

It's pretty difficult to see who is likely to take a non-paid position such as this unless a) they have invested a lot of money b) they are a mucker of the chairman or....c) they are barking mad. Please form an orderly queue if you are one of these.

Other unwelcome news from the club is the confirmation that staff, once again, had not been paid, although at the point of writing I believe they are currently up to date.



It is clear that the club continues to lose a significant amount of money each month and as such an injection is required from somewhere. If that injection does not come from within the Club's operations then it needs to come from elsewhere. When pressed on this point the Chairman reminded me how bright the future was looking. The trouble with the future is that we're not quite there and one wonders how poor Nigel Brunning copes every day.

I ask Ron whether he is happy with the "Martin Out" chants heard recently and he confirms that it is not pleasant. I suggest it might be time therefore to raise his head for the first time for a significant period and try to explain what the status is, as fans might be more sympathetic if they felt informed. He finally agrees to meet, even though he's "very busy". That meeting (as yet dateless) will take place with one of the ShimperZone owners. If you'd like any questions posed to Ron then send them to me (contact details below) or John Crickson.

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At the end of my intro in every newsletter I place my e-mail address and invite comments on any Trust matter. I'd like to re-iterate that offer. I really am happy to take questions, suggestions or criticisms. I do my best to respond to every e-mail sent to me.....as ever you can contact me on pfitz666@aol.com and hopefully by the next time I write, the future of our beloved club will be clearer to some of us.

TRUST STATEMENT – 24th September 2012

In light of recent issues surrounding the financial situation at Southend United FC, the Shrimpers Trust would like to make the following statement:

The Trust regularly meets with directors of Southend United through monthly liaison meetings. The most recent of these took place last week, with Club Chief Executive Gary Lockett and Trust Chairman Paul FitzGerald and Vice-Chairman Paul Yeomanson all present.

At the meeting various aspects of the Club's finances were discussed, with Gary happy to confirm that some elements were true, whilst others were merely rumour.

As is normal, the minutes of Liaison Meetings have to be signed off by both parties before being published, and can be found on the Shrimpers Trust website, www.shrimperstrust.co.uk, once this has occurred.

However, further to the Liaison Meeting we can confirm that The Shrimpers Trust have requested a meeting with Club Chairman Ron Martin, and that The Trust have suggested to the Club that we may be able to help, but that this would be subject to the approval of the Trust membership, who would be balloted accordingly.

The Trust do appreciate that it can be frustrating for supporters when there is a lack of information disclosed about serious issues regarding Southend United. However, fans can be assured that the Trust Committee, and particularly the Executive Board, is working hard behind the scenes to ensure that supporter opinion is represented.

To that end we welcome input, not just from our members, but from all Southend United supporters. The email address of our Chairman, Paul FitzGerald, is freely available and is advertised in all our newsletters (it is pfitz666@aol.com);

Paul will respond as work and family commitments allow.

Alternatively, you can get in touch using the 'Contact Us' tab from the home page of the Trust website, www.shrimperstrust.co.uk, or by visiting us in the Shrimpers Bar before the game on any home matchday.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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

Trust Members can now vote for the Shrimpers Trust SUFC Player of the Month for *SEPTEMBER 2012* by logging into the Members Area of the Trust website, 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



THE SHRIMPERS TRUST IS LISTENING

Since Gary Lockett stepped down as CEO of Southend United there has been a lot of questions asked of the Trust, everyone is entitled to their opinion and we are here to represent our fans, if you have views, opinions, questions or constructive feedback please get in contact with us and we will do our best to tell you our position.

If you think we are taking the wrong direction and you want to help, please, please, please, get involved!! We are all volunteers and always welcome new blood on to the committee.

5P COLLECTION CARD FUNDRAISER



With this newsletter you will find enclosed another 5p Collection Card.

This new Fundraising Initiative that the Trust started in July has so far raised over £100 toward our on-going support of the SUFC Youth Team.

All you need to do is stick your spare 5p coins on the card (sellotape will do) and return it to the us either to the Trust Info Stand in the Shrimpers Bar or by post to **The Shrimpers Trust, PO Box 5830, Southend on Sea, Essex, SS1 9FD**

FORTHCOMING FUNDRAISERS

CURRY NIGHT

Monday 8th October 2012

The Pipasha, Eastwood Road North, Leigh on Sea

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.

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



BINGO NIGHT

Thursday 25th October 2012

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

The Shrimpers Trust are holding a Bingo Night at Mecca Bingo, Greyhound Trading Estate, Sutton Road, Southend on Thursday 25th October 2012.

Tickets for an evening's Bingo will cost just £8.00 and includes the late evening 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).

If you cannot make it this early then arrive by 7.15pm for the main session at 7.30pm.

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

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



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QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 24th November 2012
The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall

The Shrimpers Trust will be holding a Quiz Night in the Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall on Saturday 24th November 2012.



The doors open at 7.00pm with commencement of the quiz at **7.30pm sharp**.
The cost will be £10.00 for adults and £6.00 for under 16's.

Included in the price will be a choice from 5 meals (*Chicken & Chips, Chicken Nuggets & Chips, Sausage & Chips, Fish & Chips or Vegetarian Spring Roll & Chips*). The meals are provided by the Fish House and will be served at around 8.45pm.

Ideally we need tables of 8, but if you would be happy to join others who will come in parties of less than 8 please let us know.

For further details or to book a table contact Alan Perry (01702 476458 or alanperry4@hotmail.com)

ONE FOR THE LADIES - BODY SHOP EVENING

Monday 26th November 2012
The Platinum Suite, Roots Hall



The Shrimpers Trust are holding a Body Shop Fundraising evening on Monday 26th November 2012 in the Platinum Suite, Roots Hall, Southend on Sea.

The Bar will be open from 7.30pm with the demonstrations starting at 8.00pm.

We welcome Members and Non Members alike so why not come along and sample some of the fantastic range of Body Shop products.

There will also be a Raffle during the evening where you will get the chance to win some fantastic Body Shop prizes.

Please note that payment can be made by cash or credit/debit cards. Cheques are not accepted.

For further details contact Kay Searle: (01268 569697 or sjs@shrimperstrust.co.uk)

FUNDRAISING

100 Club

The latest winners in the scheme, pulled out of the hat during weekly draws since the last newsletter were Chris Hyland, Darren Posnack, Chris Karkoswki, Rick Napper (*twice*), Steve Stone, Mike Smith, Phillip Conway, Richard Coxell, Richard Cunningham, Nigel Rickard, Peter Brock 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 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

Our Quid A Goal scheme is now up and running for the 2012/13 Season.

The total raised so far after 11 Games is £213.50

The aim of the scheme - like most of the Shrimpers Trust's activities is to raise money for Southend United Football Club and make sure that there is a club for us to be supporting in the foreseeable future. In particular, some of the money raised from this Season's "Quid a Goal" scheme will be donated to the Southend United Centre of Excellence, in particular to the Under 18's as part of our on-going support for SUFC's Youth Team.



This is how it works:

Those who support the scheme with a pledge have their name and details of their pledge displayed in the United match program each week and are detailed on this web site.

We ask you to pledge £0.25, £0.50, £1.00 or more under various headings such as clean sheets, various players scoring goals, or team goals. This does not have to cost you a fortune as you can easily judge in advance how much your pledge will cost you come the end of the season.

For example, the Blues rarely manage more than 80 goals in a season from 1st team matches. A £0.25 per goal pledge would therefore most likely not cost you more than £20.00 come the end of the season. If funds are tight how about £1 for every goal scored by our full backs? The 08/09 season would have cost you £3.00. If you chose to do £0.50 per point and we finished up with 80 points. At the end of the season we will write to you thanking you for your support of this initiative and asking you to send us a cheque for the amount of £40.00.

Last year this scheme raised more than £2,000 from the 60+ people that helped us. This includes support by some of the Southend United's directors.

If you would like to help raise funds for this worthy cause you can do so by completing the QAG Entry Form which can be found on the Trust Info Stand in the Shrimpers Bar. Entry forms are also available from the Trust Website www.shrimperstrust.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to New Life Members (Total 210)

Edward McNally, Jack & Jean Robertson, Jeff Shillingford, Paul Manning and Tony Quildam.



Life Membership of the Trust currently costs £100.00 if you have an email account or £125.00 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.

You can also join up as a Life Member in the Membership Section of the Trust Website www.shrimperstrust.co.uk, and postal applications will also be accepted at **Shrimpers Trust, PO Box 5830, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 9FD.**

Welcome to New Members since the last Newsletter

Nick Bailey, Nathan Bull, Mick Butler, John & Stuart Byford, Sean Caldwell, Stephen Carruthers, Ben Clarkson, Alan Cook, Robert Eves, Dave Freeman, Tony Jones, Derek Leer, Reece Newman, Keith Newquist, Jayne Quildam, Peter & Matthew Scudder, Stephen Tobias and Azmi Yucel.

***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**, by email to membership@shrimperstrust.co.uk 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 ***

COMMITTEE CORNER

The Shrimpers Trust committee have continued producing blogs to allow you folks into our lives and hopefully make us all more approachable, these can be found on the website.

Last week it was the turn of Alec Trott who talks about his early days playing football and a random meeting in the snowy hills of Norway.

All of the Committee Blogs including Alec's can be found in the Committee Corner section of the Trust Website at www.shrimperstrust.co.uk.

WHERE'S BILEL ... AND RYAN HALL FOR THAT MATTER!



I did not expect this to be a returning feature, however, with Bilel and Ryan Hall missing we appear to have two of our very own Wallys!

The former fans favourite and Wally number 1, Bilel, is currently on trial with the Blue of Birmingham City but does not yet know if he will be signing, surely he is running out of championship clubs though!

Bilel stated in the Evening echo that "It's going well for me at Birmingham but I'm unsure what will happen at this stage,"

And on to Wally number 2, Ryan Hall. After failing to get his move to the more successful seaside outfit of Blackpool, what is in store next for the winger? I am sure many Southend fans will be hoping he mysteriously appears in our next starting 11 and Paul Sturrock appears tight lipped about the future of the player.

FANCY A FLUTTER

So the Shrimpers have made a reasonable start to the season, but are we over performing or under-performing, here are the latest odds surrounding promotion and relegation.

Winner – 16/1 at Blue Square
To be promoted – 9/2 at Blue Square
To be relegated – 50/1 at Bet 365

Bearing in mind the last time our players didn't get paid we massively underperformed and were relegated from league 1. The odds above are far too high, however. If you want a bit of insurance or you believe we are going to go into administration, then maybe that's the bet for you.

If you like to look at spreadbets etc, I have included some stats as to our average goals per game, for and against, this might help you to make an informed decision.

Current Form (6 games)			
Rank	6th	5th	12th
Record (W-D-L)	4-1-1	3-0-1	1-1-2
Goals (F-A)	12-7	6-3	6-7
Attack			
Rank	8th	11th	8th
Average goals	1.50	1.50	1.50
Failed to score %	38%	25%	50%
Since Fts	1	3	0

Defence			
Rank	6th	3rd	12th
Average goals	1.25	0.75	1.75
Clean sheets %	13%	25%	0%
Current CS	0	0	0
Goals Supremacy			
Rank	8th	6th	12th
Avg supremacy	+0.25	+0.75	-0.25

SUBWAY SUPPORTS SUFC



In support of their local club Subway will be donating 10p to Southend United FC every time a selected Sub and regular drink is purchased from their participating shops in Southend.

Subs that qualify for this deal are - Sweet Onion Chicken Teriyaki, Subway Melt, Chicken & Bacon Ranch Melt, Steak & Cheese, Veggie Patty, Chicken Temptation, Chicken Pizziola.

Please pass the word to family and friends whilst it is not much, the more subways purchased the more the club will benefit.

BARBER'S BLURB – TERRACE TALK MONTHLY ROUND-UP

Hello there all and welcome to the first Barbers Blog of the new season. In a slightly different format this season, I will be reviewing each game throughout the month, before producing a blog that will share my views on the goings on at Roots Hall Stadium.

I'd firstly like to welcome everybody back to Roots Hall and I hope you all had a happy and healthy summers break, it seems to have flown by with Euro 2012 and The Olympics in London, along with our pre-season schedule, it seems sport has not stayed away!

I think our pre-season campaign was rather mixed emotions. Obviously everybody would like to win every game they take part in, but we all know that pre-season is about getting game time under your belt and getting fit. The standard of opposition we faced was much greater than previous years and even though the West Ham game came much too soon for us, throughout the rest of pre-season we competed against Championship teams as well as a decent display on our Madrid tour. The defeat to Spurs doesn't need to be mentioned! However, their young players look a fantastic bunch of talented individuals and the future for Tottenham Hotspurs does look bright.



That then brings us to the first official game of the season, Peterborough away in the Capital One Cup. It was a tough draw for us as Ferguson Jnr. has a reputation of playing attractive, attacking football and they did reasonably well in The Championship the season just passed. To be honest, in the opening 10 minutes of the game, we contained ourselves well and were not outplayed but we gifted them three soft goals within the first half hour of the match and any side would struggle to overturn that margin. Despite a better second half performance and hitting the bar twice, Boyd added a fourth to complete the rout, and a disappointing opening start to the season.



The game that followed as Accrington Stanley at home. Not the most attractive game we could have for the opening league match, but this is League Two. It was a very similar story to what us Southend fans have become custom to. We had all the game, dictated the possession, without really having a shot on goal, then they catch us 15 minutes from time, with a scrappy goal and they collect all three points. Typical.



The trip to Oxford United soon followed, Tuesday night away games, are ones I look forward to, decent atmosphere and action under the floodlights. Cannot beat it. Another story us Southend fans are used to are poor referees and I don't think he was right to dismiss Timlin, which immediately put us on the back foot, despite looking the better side before the red card. We eventually succumbed to a 2-0 reverse, which was not deserved at all.

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The last game of the month saw us visit Sixfield, normally a guaranteed victory, but not this time. After setting off in a minibus and sitting in traffic for what seemed an eternity, we arrived at the ground and had a nice lunch in TGI Friday's, washed down with a few pints of lager, then onto the game.

The first half was a very poor game if the truth be told and it was a typical bottom division game. However, the second half came to light and we twice took the lead, before being pegged back and eventually falling behind before Cresswell lashed home a 95th minute equaliser to send The Blues off with their first point of the season. And the first point we hope leads to a promotion push!

Before I leave you, I would like to name my Blues player of the month, and this month it goes to Gavin Tomlin. He has looked lively and has got a great first touch, his only downside was his decision making in the final third, but I believe once he nets his first goal he will go on to fire us up the league.

Until next time, all the best!

1st October 2012