

## NEWSLETTER – Vol. 8 Iss. 04. – May 2013

### THE INTRODUCTION – Paul FitzGerald

#### What happened to the fireworks?

As I sit on my sofa penning this note I wonder what happened – hardly a dreadful season - but as usual with our beloved club, a season that promised so much, delivered so little with the final games fizzling out before our eyes.

The excitement of Wembley was certainly welcome, but I rather think (as many others do) that it was probably our undoing. Nevertheless, a good day out it was and let's hope we might one day win this darned trophy!

My work situation has altered recently (meaning an occasional away trip is now very much on the cards) so imagine my surprise at York, where the players did not actually get off the coach, despite it being mathematically possible to still achieve a play-off position!

In fact, since Ron got his knife out, the reality is we've been frankly useless - although to be fair to Phil Brown, we were fairly useless for weeks before that. 7 games in April - 1 win.....6 games in March - 1 win.....

It will be interesting to see what happens to the players out of contract over the coming few days. One thing that is certain, is that several of Ricky's starlets have made the step up from youth and from a Trust point of view that is particularly good to see, confirming what many of us hope for, i.e. a worthwhile youth structure that can produce talent for our first team.

So goodbye then to the loan Players – some good some less so – a particular mention for young Britt – it didn't quite happen for him in the second half of the season, but in his first proper season, his goals were very welcome and I hope he finds himself a decent position for next season.

The recent lack of anything approaching form did not however dampen the enthusiasm of Trust members at last week's Player of the Year awards, where Sean Clohessy picked up the main trophy. This event like so many, takes some organising and effort from committee members and others. I'd particularly like to thank Scott Wallace for his efforts in producing the material used on the night.

We sort of expect committee members to do their bit and as usual they didn't disappoint (Clare, Kay and Paul) but it's great that we can count on others to help out – we really could not operate and achieve so much if we did not get the support of our members. You only have to see the number who ran coaches for the Wembley trip on the Trust's behalf to fully appreciate this. Thanks to all of you who did that for us.

On the new Stadium front – it was supposed to be all steam ahead following the council meeting - at least I'm sure that's what was inferred many times....so hopefully by the time you read this contractors will be on site and the local B&Q will have had a run on spades!

An update on the MAC Appeal – we are now over £900... I'd like once again to thank all those who have donated and can confirm that we are meeting with Phil Brown shortly, to re-establish (after Paul's departure) what will be available to those who participated, in the form of regular prize draws.

Enjoy your summer break – pre-season will be upon us before we know it.

We always appreciate your feedback and if you have any questions or comments on any Trust matter .....you can contact me on [pfitz666@aol.com](mailto:pfitz666@aol.com) – I try to reply to every e-mail sent to me.

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## MAC APPEAL

The Trust committee would like to thank everyone who sent in donations to the Mac Appeal. As Paul mentioned above we nearly reached the target of £1000.

The first draw took place last week and everyone who has so far sent a donation was included, and if you donated more than £10 each additional £10 was treated as another entry.

And the following four donatees have won a Lunch for two with Phil Brown and Graham Coughlan and the Club's Training ground.

**Gary Warren, Gary Luckman, Ray Johnstone and Ray Johnstone** (Ray gets to take 3 people with him as he was drawn twice.)

Winners will be contacted shortly to make arrangements.

Watch this space as more draws will be taking place in the near future.

## JPT FINAL TRAVEL – A BIG THANK YOU

It wasn't to be, but what a day out SUFC and its Supporters had last Sunday, our first trip to Wembley for a Cup Final.

The Shrimpers Trust committee would like to pass on their thanks to the following for their help during the build-up to the JPT Final and to those that helped with the massive task of getting 29 coaches with over 1,500 supporters from Southend and Basildon to Wembley and back without delay or incident.

SUFC CEO Steve Kavanagh and his staff, the Club Shop and its staff and in particular Tom Brooks for collating & sending on messages to us, Candice Lovell and her staff in the Ticket Office and Dave Jobson and his Stewards.

All those from the Committee who gave up their time to sell tickets in the club shop, plus a special mention to Kevin Fogg whose help was invaluable throughout the weeks leading up to the final and on the day and to Tom Searle for also giving his time.

To Rex Palmer and the Lions for providing the catering at Roots Hall for the masses on the Sunday and parents from the Starlight Twirlers for Face Painting our younger supporters.

Andy Thorne at Outstanding Branding for supplying the pennants given to our coach operators.

Carly, Kim & Ian from SBC Leisure for sourcing the 29 coaches used and for the help sorting out the coaches at Roots Hall.

Arran, Darren & Lloyd from EcomUK for processing all the ticket sales from our online shop on a daily basis, and at times during peak periods, on an hourly basis.

A special thanks to the following for looking after a coach and helping out at Roots Hall on the day:

Phil Alsford, John Austin, Scott & Peter Barber, Lee Bird, Clare Brooks, Tom Brooks, Olive Bridge, David Cardy, Shane Chapman, Stuart Compton, Paul FitzGerald, Kay & Kevin Fogg, Jason Freemantle, Roger French, Mark Giles, Lesley Hicks, Derek Jacques, Jack Kipling, Paul Lucas, Lara McSweeney, Gaye, Keith, Matt & Dean Overall, Alan Perry, Warren Sadler, Adam Smith, Paul Smith, John Spooner, Dave Taylor, Alec & James Trott and Paul & Jenny Yeomanson.

And finally thanks to you the supporters for making the day what it was.



## JPT FINAL TRAVEL – MEMBERS DRAW

As advertised during the build-up to the JPT Final all Members who travelled with the Trust to Wembley would be entered into a prize draw to win an Executive Box for 10 people at an SUFC Home Match during the 2013/14 Season.

**The draw has now been made and the lucky winner is Member Number 2516, Ian Wilkins from Thorpe Bay.**

Ian will be contacted once the 2013/14 Season fixtures are published to make the necessary arrangements.

## SHRIMPERS TRUST PLAYER OF THE YEAR



**Sean Clohessey, Ryan Cresswell, Kevan Hurst and Jack Payne were the winners at the 2012/13 Shrimpers Trust End of Season Awards night, held in the Shrimpers Bar at Roots Hall on Tuesday 23rd April.**

Defender Clohessey held off competition from second-placed Cresswell and Gavin Tomlin, in third, to claim the main prize, the Shrimpers Trust Player of the Year Award for 2012/13, with Hurst and Barry Corr also among the five nominees. The award is voted for by members of the Shrimpers Trust, and was claimed by the former Gillingham and Salisbury City right-back for the second season in succession.

"It's a good feeling to win this award again - I'm might win the club one, too, at the weekend!" Clohessey quipped. "Thanks to all the fans who voted for me. Obviously the highlight of the season was getting to Wembley, but we wanted to get promoted, so it was disappointing that we didn't. Next season that's what we want to do."

Also doubling-up was second-year scholar Jack Payne. The diminutive playmaker took home the Tom Grace Memorial Shield for the Southend United FC/Shrimpers Trust Youth Team Player of the Year after heading the goalscoring charts for the Under-18 side this term. Payne has been injured for the final month of the campaign, but his outstanding performances during the early part of the season meant that he beat Mitchell Pinnock and Ted Smith to the shield, which he also won in 2011/12.

Tom was an avid Southend United supporter and a junior member of the Shrimpers Trust. He sadly passed away at the age of just 15 in July 2007, and it was decided to rename the Youth Team Player of the Year award in his honour. Tom's brother, Nick, was on hand to make the presentation.

Afterwards, Blues' Head of Youth, Ricky Duncan, explained: "It's a players' vote, and although Jack's been injured at the back end of the season, this just shows you what he did at the front end. Hopefully he'll be fit soon and will get a chance to show what he can do."



"Getting players through the system to be offered professional or development contracts is what we're here for; it's what all the staff at the club work for. Next season is already looking really good, and a lot of the new scholars have played for the Under-18s already. Speaking to Luke Hobbs, we've got some good talent for the next four or five years as well."

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The Southend Junior Shrimpers Player of the Year Award was claimed by Cresswell in his first season with the club. The ex-Rotherham United centre-back received the award from lucky SJS member George Huckfield, who was chosen at random from the entries made by our Under-16 members.

Midfielder Hurst had two of the three nominations for the Martin Cranmer Goal of the Season Award. His outstanding strikes against Brentford in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy in December and against Rotherham in npower League Two in March sandwiched Ben Reeves' last-ditch JPT effort against Leyton Orient, the goal that sent Southend United to Wembley for a national cup final for the first time in the club's history. It was Hurst's effort against Brentford that scooped the prize, which was presented by Martin's widow, Zoe.

The award is named in memory of Martin Cranmer, who sadly passed away at the age of 40 just before the 2010/11 season. A lifelong supporter of Southend United, he was one of the founder members of the Southend United Independent Supporters Club and was a Life Member of the Shrimpers Trust. He travelled all over the country to support the Blues.

At the end of the night, assistant manager Graham Coughlan said a few words to the Trust members in attendance: "I'm filling in for the gaffer tonight, but I'm sure that both Paul Sturrock and Phil Brown would've liked to have thanked the supporters. The essence of football is winning, so it's a shame this is not a promotion party. I'd like to congratulate all the winners, the youngsters and the older ones. You fans are dedicated and loyal to the cause, and hopefully we can bow out with a win on Saturday."



Also recognised were the Shrimpers Trust's top travellers. Eight supporters have trekked the complete 9,010 miles following the first-team to every away match on the Trust coaches this season. Tom Brooks, Brian & John Illsley, Gaye Overall, Darren Posnack, Warren Sadler and Terry & Nicola Slater will all receive an award to recognise their commitment at a later date. Mia Moss-Bowler, who has clocked up 3,236 miles, is our top Junior traveller, and she will also receive an award later in the year. The Trust committee would like to thank Clare Brooks for her sterling work in organising the Away Travel this season, and also all those who helped out on the JPT Final trip.

During the evening there was a raffle and also an auction, with the latter raising £350. Warren Sadler successfully bid £200 for a signed JPT Final matchball, whilst Paul Lucas went home with a signed, framed and authenticated Freddy Eastwood picture after dishing out £150. Warren and Paul's efforts in raising money for the Trust are greatly appreciated.

The Shrimpers Trust would like to thank Graham Coughlan, the first-team squad, Ricky Duncan and the youth team squad, plus the backroom staff, for attending the evening, and all the members for coming to support the event. We'd also like to extend our gratitude to Scott Wallace for putting together the footage used, Scott Barber for filming the evening, Richard Smith for taking the photographs and all the committee members who helped set up.

Further pictures from the Awards Evening can be found on the Trust's Facebook page and video highlights can be seen on the Trust Website.

## SO LONG, FAREWELL, AUF WIEDERSEHEN, GOODBYE



It is that time of the season where a cull takes place and this year is no exception. From A Shrimpers Trust point of view, the saddest to see leave is Alex Woodyard.

As a product of the youth set-up where we are heavily involved, we saw Alex grow into a first team regular, winning Shrimpers Trust player of the month.

It is sad to see anyone leave and I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mickey Spillane, John Spicer, Alex Woodyard, Elliot Benyon all the best following the expiration of their contracts.

Bilel Mohsni of course, has also left after his contract was terminated, I personally am still sad to see the Frenchman leave, however, more for entertainment purposes than football reasons. Before going AWOL and the famous deal to West Ham where we got a tiny bit greedy, there is no doubt he was a class act with spells of idiocy. Since coming back in, in Paul Sturrock's last ditch attempt to make something happen this season he looked a shadow of his former self.

## FUNDRAISING

### 100 Club

The latest winners in the scheme, pulled out of the hat during weekly draws since the last newsletter were **Neil Whitehead, Clare Brooks (twice), Jim Hummerstone, Andrew Haddow, Lesley Hicks, Alec Trott, Paul Strutt, Lorraine Posnack, Graham Hilder** and most importantly ME (**Jon-Paul FitzGerald**).

The nature of the 100 Club means the more people that sign up, then the bigger the weekly prize. To register your interest, you can still contact Alan Perry at [alanperry4@hotmail.com](mailto:alanperry4@hotmail.com) or by calling 01702 476458 and put yourself in with a chance of winning the weekly prize. Remember, the more people that sign up to the scheme, then the higher that prize will be. By setting up a standing order for just £5 a month (or just £60 a year), you put yourself in with a chance of winning around £28.00 per week at the present time.

### Quid-a-Goal

**Our Quid A Goal scheme is now finished for the 2012/13 Season and it is forecast that we will raise just over £1300.**

We would like to thank all of you who took part and Alan Perry will be writing to you to confirm the amounts owed from your pledges.

Details of next Seasons QAG will be announced in our next Newsletter.

## MEMBERSHIP

### Welcome to New Life Members (Total 216)

**Liam Ager, Jon Binns, Mike Mayfield, Patick O'Connor and Robert Russell.**



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](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

**Liam Ager, Trevor Barr, Eric Beatwell, Jon Binns, David Bishop, Kelly Bishop, John Blyth, Anita Blyth, Trevor Blyth, Margaret Blyth, Jack Broadbent, Richard Brown, Brian Burgess, Tony Barr, Sophie Carter, Graeme Childs, Brian Clark, Paul Clark, Paul Claxton, Helene Claxton, Georgina Coe, Donald Cook, Peter Cowell, David Croll, Patricia Croll, Chris Downes, Samantha Emmerton, George Felton, Pamela Felton, Helen FitzGerald, David FitzGerald, Steve Fleming, Jason Freemantle, Stephen Furby, Alex Furby, Derek Gibson, Aaron Grant, Clive Haylock, Liam Hepworth, Tom Hesketh, Joyce Hesketh, Susan Hicks, Ray Holden, Aaron Holmes, Racheal Hornsby, Paul Howard, Jack Howard, David Jones, Martin Kateley, Lucy Lawrence, Mark Lee, Peter Ling, Howard Matthews, Diane Matthews, Mike Mayfield, Peter Mercer, Keith Parsons, Tom Raffan, Chris Raynor, Michael Rumsey, Yvonne Rumsey, Charlie Anne Sanders, April Smith, Katherine Stead, Nicola Stott, Mark Wadsworth, Bernie Wells, Adrian Wilkins, Ian Wilkins, James Witham and David Woodcock.**

*\*\*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](mailto: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](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk) \*\**

## SUFC EXILES

Following an invitation from Steve Kavanagh, the SUFC Exiles are delighted to be involved in the Club's Fans Forum. As a result, we are now able to put issues directly to management where they uniquely affect Shrimpers outside the Southend area, be that in the UK or across the world. We were also able to provide advice and support to fans who made a special effort to get to Wembley and some of our members met up by the iconic arch before the match.

The Exiles have been given extra momentum by the interest shown in us by the Club – we now have a Twitter and Facebook presence to complement our traditional email group. We also have a growing range of merchandise – in addition to Exiles mugs, you can now buy limited edition Wembley T-shirts to commemorate that special day. Perfect for the long hot summer ahead – or the cold damp British one!

End of season often coincides with relocation for many people, particularly for students. If you're leaving Southend this summer, or if you're already away from your spiritual home, look us up and keep flying the SUFC flag, wherever you may be!

SUFC Exiles – We Sing in a Foreign Land  
[sufcexiles-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:sufcexiles-owner@yahoo.com)

John

## EXILES COFFEE MUG

**A limited edition Coffee Mug has been commissioned for all SUFC Supporters that live outside the Borough of Southend, be it Basildon, Bolton or Brisbane.**

The SUFC Exiles Mug has the Club Crest on one side and the Exiles logo on the other and is dishwasher proof.

The mug costs just £7.99 plus £2.00 postage & packing for UK deliveries (International Postage Rates available on request).



To order please contact Andy Thorne at [andyt@outstandingbranding.com](mailto:andyt@outstandingbranding.com)

These mugs are also available through the Trust by contacting us at [info@shrimperstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@shrimperstrust.co.uk)

**All profit will go towards the SUFC Exiles Player Sponsorship Fund.**

## LOYAL SUPPORTERS

**What makes a loyal supporter? And who actually cares?**

Following on from our first Wembley cup final where it has to be said the atmosphere was not great, I saw many, many comments on forums, Facebook, twitter about the reason it being so poor was that all the "day trippers" or because the "loyal" supporters were unable to generate the noise due to the sheer number of people.

This is my personal opinion, but this is a very short sided view of things. I look as the 31,000 + fans as potential supporters.

What makes a loyal supporter? I am sure the definition of this differs depending who you speak to. I have a great deal of respect of those who manage to get to the vast majority of away games, I get to about 3 or 4 away games a season due to cost and simply time I get to think! I have a season ticket, in the eyes of those travelling away, am I loyal? I certainly have never thought about supporting Colchester or Leyton Orient!



The dictionary definition of the word loyal is:

"Faithful to one's oath, commitments, or obligations: to be loyal to a vow.

If we were to stick with our so called loyal fans then any prospect of becoming a bigger club are miniscule, you don't see too many premier ship clubs with 4,000 fans!

The more the merrier in my book, it was a shame we did not capitalize on getting a win and maybe few extra fans through the door in the future.

If you have any thoughts on this, please send them to me at [newsletter@shrimperstrust.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@shrimperstrust.co.uk)

12<sup>th</sup> May 2013