



## **Trust Statement - Letter to the National League – 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**The Shrimpers Trust Board has this morning written to Mark Ives, General Manager of the National League, regarding the ongoing saga at Southend United following our conversations with him on 10th and 12th July.**

In summary, following yesterday's statement from the owner, Ron Martin, we have little faith that he will be able to resolve the matter before the next adjourned court hearing in 42 days. We have therefore requested that the National League do the following:

1. Set a public deadline for a date before the commencement of the new season by which Southend United FC must pay all debts to HMRC and football creditors, including all club employees, in line with National League rules around the club's licence;
2. Help to bring the matter to a swift conclusion without immediate sanctions, which would only serve to punish the supporters and employees of the club whilst having little impact on the outgoing owner.

As emotionally difficult and worrying as it would be for many supporters to see a public, hard deadline, it is our opinion that the can cannot be kicked further down the road. Setting such a date would provide much-deserved clarity to supporters and employees of the club. It will leave everybody, including the club's ownership, in absolutely no doubt about the expectations and requirements. It will also provide a degree of certainty upon which the owner can be publicly held to account, rather than keeping such deadlines secret and hiding behind Non-Disclosure Agreements.

We recognise that the National League has a duty to protect the integrity of its competition, whilst satisfying other members who are acting in good faith.

For these reasons, it is time for this matter to be brought to a swift conclusion with a clear public deadline and consequences.

The Shrimpers Trust Board