



26th July 2023

SUPPORTERS GROUP STATEMENT

The supporters' groups of Southend United FC welcome confirmation from the National League that the Club has been issued with a license to compete in the 2023/24 season.

The opportunity for representatives to discuss the Club's situation with the General Manager, Mark Ives, earlier this month was much-appreciated. We acknowledge the patience and diligence of the League in dealing with the Club, and welcome the setting of defined requirements concerning Southend United's ongoing obligations towards the competition ensuring its fairness and integrity.

We have spoken extensively about our fears and anxieties for the Club's future over the summer. Whilst our rivals have been able to announce new signings and embark on prolonged pre-season campaigns, our players and staff have been waiting for their wages. This is morally reprehensible, and is likely to have a significant impact on the 2023/24 season.

The payment of all football creditors was the minimum required action from the Club's Owner, Ron Martin. Now he must continue to pay his staff in a timely fashion, as well as discharging the debt owed to HMRC by 23rd August 2023, regardless of whether the Club receives another stay of execution in the form of an adjournment from the High Court. A failure to do so will result in sanctions that would further undermine the incredible work being carried out by the football department.

We are grateful for the work being undertaken by Club staff to ensure the season is able to kick-off at Roots Hall against Oldham Athletic on Saturday 5th August, and by our local MP, Anna Firth, and Southend City Council. The efforts from all involved behind the scenes to protect the future of the Club have been impressive, with a sense of Southend United's importance to the local community growing considerably.

We reiterate our belief that the Club remains under existential threat under the stewardship of Ron Martin, and only a meaningful change of ownership, together with increased supporter involvement, can provide a successful and sustainable future for Southend United Football Club. We would also like to remind supporters that a responsible and lawful demonstration will be taking place against the Owner in Benfleet between 10:00am and 3:00pm on Saturday 29th July.