

Trust Statement – 2nd April 2024

The Shrimpers Trust was disappointed to learn of complications concerning the ongoing sale process for Southend United Football Club announced by the consortium seeking to acquire the Club.

The consortium's statement, issued on the evening of Tuesday 2nd April, cites the completion of Southend-on-Sea City Council's due diligence process and outstanding consent from the Martins' finance partner as hurdles to be cleared prior to completion of the transaction.

It should be recognised that the Council is undertaking important and responsible work to ensure the appropriate use of public finance, and that this is subject to a rigorous and robust process; we call strongly for the cessation of personal attacks on Councillors whilst the process continues.

The statement also disclosed that a creditor is petitioning for the football club to be wound-up. We call on Stewarts Law to reconsider their position, given their previous defence of Southend United FC as a significant asset within the local community, and will be attempting to reach out to them to speak directly on this matter.

We share the concern of supporters that the never-ending cycle of financial anxiety, potential court appearances and an associated existential threat to Southend United FC has yet to be broken, and the dark clouds hanging over Roots Hall as a consequence of Ron Martin's tenure as owner have not completely lifted.

We thank the consortium for providing clarity and detail on the current situation. We urge all relevant parties to work proactively and efficiently to bring matters to satisfactory close as quickly as possible to ensure the football club's future is secured without detriment to the outstanding work undertaken by so many employees to this point.

The Shrimpers Trust will continue to seek the appropriate advice to help guide and inform our position as this situation develops, and we will endeavour to communicate with our members and the club's supporters throughout this period.

The Shrimpers Trust Board.