SUPPORTING SOUTHEND UNITED FC and THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTER - Vol. 20 Iss. 01. - October 2024

INTRODUCTION – James Schooley

It has been quite some time since we sent out a full newsletter. As I sit here and begin to write my first one as the new Chair of the Shrimpers Trust, I think it would be fair to say that a lot has happened since that last issue, and it's still difficult to digest it all!

On 19th July 2024, the day that we had all been waiting for finally came around, and our beloved Southend United passed into the hands of its new custodians, COSU, led by Justin Rees. Granted, we are not completely free of the shadow of the Martin family, as they retain ownership of Roots Hall for just a little bit longer.

It feels fantastic, though, to be moving into a new era, with hopes and dreams of having a club which is well-run, cares about good governance, becomes a beacon of the local community once again, and engages with the supporters as much as possible. It certainly feels like things have got off to a positive start in that respect – we are thankful to COSU for all that they have done and look forward to working with them for the benefit of the club and the community.

We would of course all love for things on the pitch to take a giant leap forward immediately, but it doesn't always work out like that. I think it's safe to say that the protracted takeover saga went on just a little bit too long to avoid adversely affecting this season's plans. It has been a shame to lose some really important players through outward transfers, injuries and other issues, and it will take some time to rebuild, but if anybody has earned our patience, it's Kevin Maher, Darren Currie, Mark Bentley and John Still. The way that they held things together in the dressing room and on the pitch in the face of adversity last season should never be forgotten, and the plaudits are deserved – let's now give them the chance to begin raising standards without being hamstrung by events off the pitch.

Oh, and if I never again have to read or hear the phrases "due diligence" or "decoupling", I will be a happy man!



I am delighted and honoured to be taking over as Chair of the Shrimpers Trust. I'd like to thank Paul FitzGerald for his many years of service on the Trust Board, 17 of which have been as Chair, and to propose a knighthood for having to manage a relationship with Ron Martin for some two decades! They are big shoes to fill, but I'm looking forward to the challenge of leading the Trust into a new era, and helping it to evolve and modernise, whilst continuing to be a voice for its 2,000 members, as its relationship with the club also evolves now that the new custodians are in place.

Paul and myself are in the middle of a fairly long handover (to be expected when he's been in the role for 17 years!), which will culminate around the time of our AGM in January 2025. If you have any questions, thoughts or concerns for either of us, you can often find us in the Shrimpers Bar before home matches.

Finally, and speaking of the Chair of the Shrimpers Trust, we were all very sad indeed to hear of the passing of Trevor Bashford. Trevor was a true Shrimper, and a well-known and friendly face in the stands at Roots Hall, and on away coaches. It has been heartwarming to read so many tributes to him, especially from supporters who were so warmly welcomed, and even looked after, by Trevor when they first attended Southend matches as youngsters.

Trevor was also a former Chair and committee member of the Shrimpers Trust. He played a hugely important role in its creation and is a big reason why it continues to thrive in 2024.

"Bashers" will be a big, big loss and everybody at the Shrimpers Trust sends their condolences to Irene, Zoe and the rest of his family and friends. RIP, mate.

The Shrimpers Trust Board try our best to represent the views and interests of all fans, but we accept we will not please everyone. We are an elected group of volunteers who act on our belief on what is best for the Football Club, whilst being accountable to our membership. We are always looking to diversify our board and membership, and should you wish to get more involved or would like more information please contact me at chairman@shrimperstrust.co.uk

We would love to hear from you.

James Schooley

A MATCH FOR MICKY



On Sunday 20th October we hosted a benefit match at the Len Salmon Stadium (Bowers & Pitsea) to support Micky Stead.

Micky Stead is one of our club greats, nearly 350 appearances from 1978 to 1985, he played his part in perhaps the most memorable night at Roots Hall ever and was a key player in our record-breaking 1980/81 campaign. However, back in April, he suddenly found himself in hospital where he stayed for three months, much of it in intensive care, and now finds himself recuperating but without the prospect of being able to return to work to earn a living.

Despite the less-than-ideal weather, the event was well attended, and we are extremely grateful to those who joined us in showing their support, including the SUFC management team, many ex-players, David Kreyling and Tom Arnold from COSU and a contingent from Tottenham Hotspur (inc Glenn Hoddle and Micky Hazard).

We'd like to thank everyone who sponsored, donated, bought a ticket and of course to everyone who helped make this event so special.



For those who could not attend but still wish to contribute, we would like to invite you to join our efforts to help Micky during this difficult time. Your generosity can make a meaningful difference in his life, as he navigates the challenges brought on by his illness.



The atmosphere at the match was filled with camaraderie, and it was heartwarming to see the community come together for such an important cause. We shared stories, memories, and laughter, all in honour of Micky, who has given so much to the sport and its fans.

If you are interested in making a donation, it would be greatly appreciated. Every contribution, no matter the size, will go directly to Micky to help support him as he continues his recovery.

Making a donation online

https://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/product-category/micky-stead-donations/, or by Scanning the QR Code to the right.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to help a valued member of our SUFC family.



SUPPORT OUR SOCIAL INCLUSION INITIATIVE!

For the past five years, our Social Inclusion scheme has successfully supported both our community and football club, growing steadily each year. This season, we aim to invite guests to every game, which brings along financial considerations.

Initially funded by a generous grant from Aviva and our own contributions, we've also received support from dedicated partners like Karen Dovaston of Dovaston Law, Nitin Khandhia of BTMK Solicitors, Ken Adamson of Greenhouses, Stuart Leslie of Safe Fire Protection, and Jacqui Dallimore of the Roslin Beach Hotel.

As we near the depletion of our funding, we are eager to continue and expand this project and that's why we are appealing to you. Why not join the family of Ernie Crump and our previous supporters in making a difference for those less fortunate in our community.

Recently, James Joscelyn presented a cheque of £365 to the Shrimpers Trust, collected at his grandad Ernie Crump's funeral to support our social inclusion efforts. Ernie, a lifelong blues fan, enjoyed a special day at Roots Hall with his family before his passing. We honour his memory and his generous spirit.

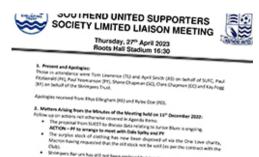


If you believe in the value of our project and can contribute, we would be immensely grateful. Please follow this link to donate https://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/product-category/donations-si/ or visit our website for more information. Every pound you donate will make a meaningful impact. If you require an invoice, please let us know.

If you are unable to donate, we encourage you to explore our brochure located on our website here https://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/SocialInclusionV5-compressed.pdf and share it with others. We would love to hear your thoughts!

Thank you for your support!

LIAISON MEETINGS



We have our next liaison meeting with the club on 7th November, please reach out if you have anything you wish for us to raise.

The agreed minutes of previous meetings are available on our website by following this link

https://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/latest-news/liaison-meeting-minutes/

FOOTBALL GOVERNANCE BILL

We were delighted to attend Roots Hall last week to discuss the football governance bill with Sports Minister, Stephanie Peacock

You can view part of our discussion between chairman, James Schooley and the minister on 'X' by following the link below.



https://x.com/dcms/status/1849847958612676946?s=46

XMAS DRAW

Enclosed with this newsletter your 2024 Xmas Draw Tickets.

The Trust Xmas Draw is one of our biggest fundraisers, which also offers our biggest prizes of any of our fundraisers.

So, if you want to be in with a chance of winning the 1st prize of £500, please return your completed ticket stubs and payment to:

Xmas Draw
The Shrimpers Trust
PO Box 5830
Southend on Sea
Essex
SS1 9FD



Alternatively you can hand your tickets in at the Shrimpers Trust Info Stand in the Shrimpers Bar prior to any home game.

Draw to be held at half time during the game vs Ebbsfleet United on Thursday 26th December 2024.

If you would like to receive some more tickets, and would like us to send some out to you please email us at info@shrimperstrust.co.uk

If you receive your copy of this Newsletter by email, full details on how to buy the draw tickets online will be emailed out to all Members later this week.

COMING SOON - THE 'BIG' CHRISTMAS QUIZ

It's back !!

The Big Christmas Quiz will be on sale shortly both online via our website and in the Shrimpers Bar prior to any home game from Saturday 9th November.

The theme this year is 'Light's, Camera, Action' and is priced at just £2.00 (£3.00 if purchased online to cover postage).

Further details will be emailed to you all shortly.



MEMBERSHIP

Life Membership (Total 384)

Welcome to New Life Members Nigel Groves, Nina Binns, Nathan Meredith, James Larby, Arthur Hughes, Bernard Hogan, Dave Oram, Peter Garland, Philip Stace, Christopher Hunt, Mark Wallaker, Tony Thomas, Derek Cox, Simon Worrall, Kenneth Page, Mary Burry, Adrian Villa, Jason Seymour, John Potton, Aaron Reed, Dan Smith, David Gracie and Theo Chaiyasit.



Life Membership of the Trust currently costs £100.00 or £70 if aged 70 or over. An email account is required for Life Membership.

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

David Adams Snr, Katie Askew, Cheryl Baker, James Baker, Paul Bacon, Rebecca Barrell, Steven Barrell, Billy Bates, Stuart Bates Joel Beecham, Nina Binns, Christine Blighton, Harvey Bond, Scott Breens, Mary Burry, Eddie-Richard Cadywould, Martin Carter, Callum Turner-Case Theo Chaiyasit, Robert Chapman, Yann Charilaou, Doug Cheesman, Peter Clark, Jeffrey Clifford, Neill David Collins, Callum Connolly, James Cunningham, Jack Dickenson, Kristoffer Drake, Lisa Emmerton, Samantha Emmerton, Scott Emmerton, Ginny Fisher, David Fitzgerald, Conor Gordon, Fiona Gordon, Greg Gordon, David Gracie, Nigel Groves, Diane Grew, Tom Grew, Gaylyn Groombridge, David Hammond, Andrew Hampshire, Stephen Harvey, Cheryl Hickling, Marc Hitchman, Bernard Hogan, Christopher Hunt, Paul Javin, Jo Joscelyn, Toby Joscelyn, David Lagden, Kerry Lagden, Daniel Lemel, Susan Liddall, Patsy Littlejohns, John Lovett, Dom Maguire, Louisa Mara, Liz Mason, Aaron Mayfield, George McFarquhar, Terry Meadows, Nathan Meredith, Gordon Mint, Nathan Mint, Dani Moore, Danielle Moore, Lisa Mulqueen, Michael Mulqueen, Ian Nelson, Jim Nott, Kirsty Nye, Katie Olive, Dave Oram, Lyndia Osborne, Stephen Palmer, George Perkins, Tim Perl, Robert Perrin, Robin Port, Peter Power, Garry Smith, Paula Reynolds, Louise Richards, Alice Ross, Ben Rudd, Stuart Rushton, Jason Seymour, Martin Thorn, Michael Torode, Alfie Treacher, Charlie Treacher, David Treacher, Freddie Treacher, Sarah Treacher, Adrian Villa, Mark Wallaker, Maxwell Watson, Oliver-Lee Watson, Charlie Weekes, **Graham Wheatley** and **Paul Wilson**.

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 ***

FUNDRAISING

100 Club

The latest winners in the scheme, pulled out of the hat during weekly draws since the last newsletter were Tony Gardner, Tom Lee, Jenny Yeomanson, Mike Smith, John Onslow, John Whitehead, Vicky Shipp, Alect Trott, Mrs C.A. Harvey, Andy Bunker, Paul Strutt, Trevor Hardy, John Watson, Teresa Perry, Mike Roles, Matt Eva, Tim Wilson, Chris Karkoski, Richard Cunningham, David Mason, Philip Cockerton, Andrew Perry, Anthony Pearce, Carol Champion, Richard Coxell, Andrew Leader, Charles Ball, Jon-Paul FitzGerald, Gordon Harvey, C.R. Napper, John Walton, Philip Endell, Robert Askew, Bryan Woodford, Gordon Grout, Paul Manning, Lee Morris, George Short, Graham Hilder and Paul FitzGerald.

The nature of the 100 Club means the more people that sign up, then the bigger the weekly prize.

100 Club Application Form and Standing Order Form have been included with this newsletter so why not join up and put yourself in with a chance of winning the weekly prize.

For further information, you can contact Alan Perry at alanperry4@hotmail.com or by calling 07901 845012.

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 £31 per week at the present time.

Quid A Goal

Our Quid a Goal scheme is now up and running for the 2024/25 Season.



The total after the game vs Tamworth played on 26th October is £1,977.30.

This is how it works. Those who support the scheme with a pledge have their name displayed in the United match programme on a regular basis.

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 (you can choose anything reasonable!). 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.

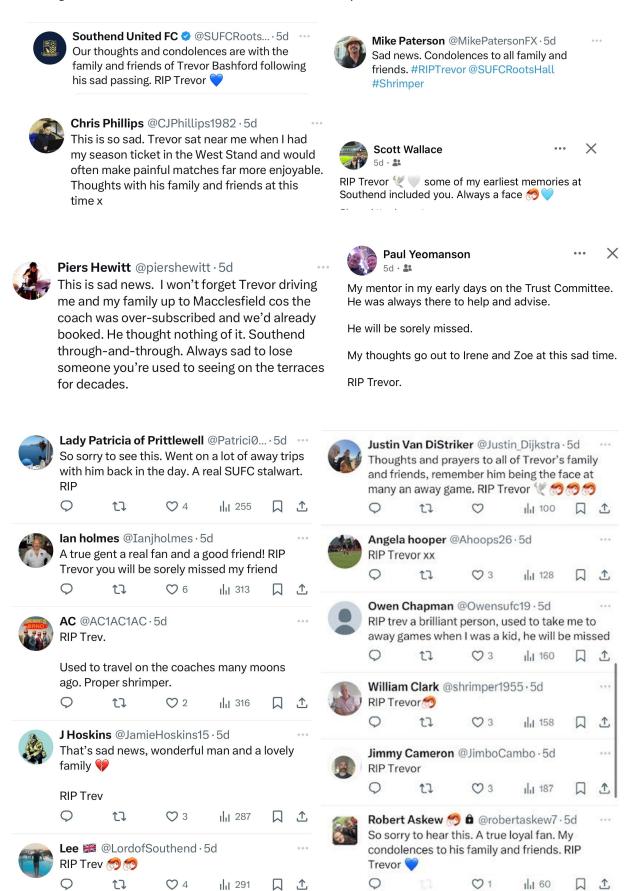
For example, the Blues rarely manage more than 70 goals in a season from 1st team matches (23/24 League goals - 70).

A £0.25 per goal pledge would therefore most likely, not cost you more than £15.00, come the end of the season. If funds are tight, how about £1 for every goal scored by our full backs? 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 asking you to send us a cheque for the amount of £40.00.

If you would like to join our Quid a Goal scheme please complete and return the enclosed form and we will do the rest.

TRIBUTES TO 'BASHERS'

The following are some of the Tributes on social media paid to our former Chairman Trevor Basford.





SHRIMPERS TRUST ON SOCIAL MEDIA









Follow us on 'X' (formerly known as twitter) @shrimperstrust and like and follow us on Facebook "ShrimpersTrust" to keep up to date with all our latest news and events.

You can also follow shrimperstrust on Instagram and you can connect with us on Linkedin at www.linkedin.com/company/75033660



We also have a dedicated Away Travel Facebook Page "sufcofficialawaytravel" where you can find all the latest details on the Official Away Travel for Southend United.