



ANNUAL REVIEW

2025-26



Chairperson
James Schooley

Vice Chairperson
Chris Hunt
Paul Yeomanson

Treasurer
Chris Hunt

Board Members
Phil Alsford
Stuart Byford
Clare Campbell
Dean Crawley
Sam Duckworth
Paul Hill
Gary Jackets
Mike Paterson
Lynn Scarlett
Tyler Tobin

Membership Secretary
Paul Yeomanson

Shrimpers Trust
PO Box 5830
Southend-on-Sea
Essex SS1 9FD
membership@shrimperstrust.co.uk

Design: Stuart Byford (stuartbyford.com)

Photos: Shrimpers Trust, Southend United, Graham Whitby Boot

CONTENTS

04	Chair’s Report
06	Treasurer’s Report
07	Membership Report
08	Current Board Members
09	Departing Board Members
10	Liaison and Representation
12	Fundraising Overview
13	2025-26 Season Awards
14	Youth Team Sponsorship
16	Junior Blues Overview
18	Southend United Ex-Players Association
21	Southend United Museum
23	Southend United History Group
25	Shrimpers Heritage
26	Match of the Dames
27	Shrimpers Hustings
28	Social Inclusion Report
30	The National Game Report
32	Away Travel Report
34	In Memoriam

CHAIR'S REPORT

Much like our football club, the past year has been one of change and growth for the Shrimpers Trust. As Southend United professionalises and evolves, and the new Independent Football Regulator's licensing conditions transform fans from passive observers into active participants in club governance, the Trust must professionalise and evolve too.

SUFC's restructure and changes in key personnel have given an opportunity for a bit of a relationship reset. We look forward to building those new relationships, continuing to represent members and supporters, and being a critical friend to the Club whilst supporting it and our local community.

Looking back over the last twelve months, it fills me with immense pride to see what we have achieved together. The detailed reports in the pages ahead tell the full story of the year, but I want to highlight a few stand-out moments that show just what our Trust can do when we pull together:

History and Heritage

Opening the Southend United Museum at Roots Hall was a landmark achievement and a privilege for several of our Board members to lead on, making SUFC the very first National League club to establish its own official museum.

Community

From taking 12 coaches to Wembley for the FA Trophy Final to running and supporting inclusive community initiatives like Social Inclusion and Match of the Dames, we continue to believe in the power of football to bring the local community together.

Academy sponsorship

We continued our sponsorship and commitment to the Youth Academy, helping five scholars earn professional contracts as part of the new Developmental U23 group.

Giving supporters a voice

We've continued fighting your corner, putting our unique experiences of being a Supporters' Trust for a club in peril to good use, and feeding them into the Independent Football Regulator and the FSA to help safeguard heritage and financial sustainability.

None of this happens by magic - it happens because of you. Every membership renewal, Quid-a-Goal pledge, 100 Club contribution and merchandise purchase keeps the Trust moving forward, and ultimately helps Southend United.

I'd like to place on record my thanks to my incredible colleagues, both current board members and those who have departed during the past 12 months, who do such wonderful work and bring such positive energy to everything that we do.

As you read through the detailed contributions that follow, I hope you feel as proud as I do to be part of this community. Our work to grow and modernise is far from over, and I'm sure that 2026-2027 will be another year of evolution.

Thank you for your incredible support of both Southend United and the Shrimpers Trust, and here's to a successful 2026/27 season on the pitch!

James Schooley
Chairperson

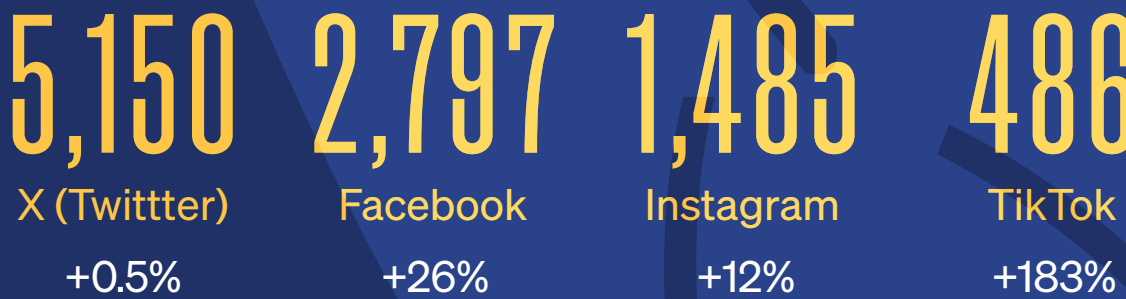
Trust in Numbers



2025 Social Media



Current Social Media



Treasurer's Report

We finished the year with £52,108 across all our accounts, up £10,944.

A good deal of that is already spoken for. Over £10,000 was already committed to the construction of the museum, which has got under way since the year end. £3,000 of Trust funds set aside, plus the proceeds of the floodlight casing sales.

The day-to-day account finished almost exactly where it began, £192 to the good on £35,062 of income. That's deliberate. Money raised by Southend supporters is meant to go back into supporting Southend United and into the town through our community projects, not sit in our bank account.

Highlights

Quid A Goal raised £8,273, our single biggest fundraiser. You pledge 25p, 50p or a pound for every goal, clean sheet or point and settle up at the end of the season. It very nearly paid for the youth setup on its own. £8,273 raised against the £8,800 we put into the academy through the Community Foundation. That's what your pledges did, and I'm pleased to say we've renewed for this season.

The 100 Club turned over £5,040, paid out £2,763 in prizes and returned £2,278, closing at £6,907. At £5 a month it asks very little, nobody has to organise an event for it, and it arrives every single month. It's the quiet engine room of our fundraising and every new entry counts, so do think about joining.

The Christmas Draw and Christmas Quiz added £1,195 between them, with scratchcards, the raffle and eBay topping up the rest. Fundraising altogether brought in £17,394 against £4,161 of costs — a net £13,234.

SUEPA finished £4,859 up, largely on the £7,525 raised selling the old floodlight casings, and Junior Blues £2,071 up on membership and a well-supported Christmas party.

Away travel deserves a paragraph to itself. We put £80,786 through the books across 35 away trips and finished £3,822 up, but take Wembley out and the other 34 journeys finished £73 up on £61,538 of turnover. That is running at cost, for members and non-members alike. Worth saying too that we book and pay for every coach before a single seat is sold, so the risk sits with us: three trips lost over £1,000 each this season. Landing a whole year within £73 of break-even takes some doing, and the travel team have earned their stripes again.

One thing I'd like to fix: PayPal fees cost us £3,007 this year. That's money you raised going to a payment processor, so we'll be reviewing that.

So, thank you. To everyone who sold a raffle ticket, filled a coach, ran a quiz or simply paid their fiver a month: it adds up to rather a lot.

Total funds at 30 June 2026	£52,108 (up £10,944)
Fundraising, net of costs	£13,234
Away travel, 35 trips	£80,786 through the books
Youth sponsorship paid	£8,800

Chris Hunt
Treasurer

Membership Report

During the last season, 190 members lapsed, with many having originally joined during a period of heightened supporter mobilisation around the Club's ownership and future.

A survey of lapsed members was commissioned to better understand the reasons behind non-renewal. The findings suggest that lapsing is driven less by dissatisfaction with the Trust and more by gradual disengagement.

Most respondents had not made a conscious decision to leave, with many having forgotten to renew, intended to do so but not got around to it, or not realised their membership had expired.

The research also showed that former members continue to view the Trust and its role positively, but are less clear about the difference their own membership makes and how their individual contribution supports the Trust's work.

These findings have identified a number of clear priorities for the year ahead:

- Making the Trust's impact more visible
- Demonstrating more clearly how individual membership contributes to that work
- Strengthening communication throughout the membership year
- Improving renewal activity before members lapse

The Trust will use these findings to shape future member engagement and retention activity, with the aim of giving supporters stronger reasons to remain connected and involved.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS



James Schooley
Chairperson



Chris Hunt
Vice-Chairperson
& Treasurer



Phil Alsford



Clare Campbell



Sam Duckworth



Gary Jackets
SUEPA



Lynn Scarlett
Match of the Dames



Paul Yeomanson
Vice-Chairperson
& Membership Secretary



Stuart Byford



Dean Crawley



Paul Hill



Mike Paterson



Tyler Tobin

DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS

We were sorry to lose the following people from the Trust board over the past year:

Kay Fogg

Kay served on the Shrimpers Trust board for 17 years after joining in 2009. She took charge of the Junior Shrimpers almost immediately and became the Junior Blues Co-ordinator when it launched in 2013. Alongside her husband Kev, Kay helped inspire a passion for Southend United in generations of young supporters.

As Club Liaison, Kay worked tirelessly to ensure fans' feedback and matchday concerns were heard by the Club.

While we are sad to see her leave the board, Kay will remain a familiar face at Roots Hall as she continues co-ordinating the Junior Shrimpers in its transition back to the Club.

Andy Leeder

Andy is the author of *Roots to the 92* and *The Southend United Pioneers*, and joined the Shrimpers Trust board in 2017. He quickly made an impact by co-leading the Moody Blues campaign which raised £11,500 for former captain Alan Moody after life-changing surgery, and hosted a tribute event for him at Roots Hall.

Following that success, Andy, together with the Shrimpers Trust, founded SUEPA in January 2018. He has since dedicated immense effort to growing its membership to more than 500, and organising events including matchday player visits, "An Evening With..." nights, coffee catch-ups for former players, benefit matches, and the Southend United Pioneers event.

Andy will continue to be a visible face at Roots Hall and in the museum, and his passion for Southend United's history and heritage remains.

Michelle Gargate

Many knew Michelle as the former landlady of the Blue Boar, and she joined the Trust board in 2023. She did some excellent work in our Community work-stream, in particular leading on our Social Inclusion provision and being a helping hand for SUEPA events.

Michelle stepped down from the Trust board in July 2026 after accepting a well-deserved job offer from Southend United to become their Operations Manager. She has already got off to an excellent start in her new role and we are certain that she will make a positive difference.

John Austin

Whilst not a board member, John served as Society Secretary from 2024. During this time he strengthened our relationship with the FSA, and undertook a much-needed review and update of all of our policies. His work was in the background but no less pivotal than any other work that our board members do, and we owe him a debt of gratitude for helping us to improve and modernise our governance.

The Shrimpers Trust board would like to place on record its respect and thanks to Kay, Andy, Michelle and John for all of the amazing work that they have done over the years, and we wish them all the best for the future.

LIAISON AND REPRESENTATION

As a supporter-led organisation with a democratically accountable board, a central pillar of the Shrimpers Trust's work is maintaining a structured dialogue with the Southend United's leadership while providing robust, transparent representation for the membership base.

The Trust has, for some years now, chaired a Liaison meeting with Club management. These meetings take place every six weeks or so and provide a forum in which the Trust can fulfil its position as a "critical friend" of the Club.

Liaison meetings have continued in earnest across the past year, and we have raised member and supporter concerns, and discussed and offered advice on operational matters and developments.

Much of our engagement with the supporter base and membership has been virtual, and we urge you to continue to bring to our attention any matters which you would like raised with the Club, either in Liaison meetings or via other channels. We have a presence on all the major social media channels as well as ShrimperZone, and we publish agendas and minutes and field messages from all.

You can also now drop in for a chat with us in person in our new base in the Southend United Museum on matchdays!

The Future

Although this report covers the past year, it would be remiss of us not to mention the future of Liaison and representation, considering the extensive changes to Southend United's management structure over the summer.

Having given time for those changes to bed in, we held our first Liaison meeting with the new General Manager Cath Honey, the new Operations Manager Michelle Gargate, and Rylee Doe in September. The meetings will continue as before with these personnel, and we are well on the way to building a strong and collaborative relationship.

To maintain full transparency, detailed outcomes and discussions will be documented in meeting minute. We know that full minutes can often be a chore to read, though, so we are looking into how we can communicate outcomes and discussion points on our digital channels in a snappier and easier-to-digest way. Watch this space!

Fan Advisory Board

The Shrimpers Trust holds a seat on the Fan Advisory Board (FAB), which is currently taken by the Trust Chair.

FAB meetings are different to the Liaison meetings, in that they include members of the Southend United/COSU boards, and deal with bigger picture and longer-term strategic topics as opposed to supporter concerns about isolated matchday issues.

The FAB has continued to find its niche and its feet over the past year and intends to improve its work on supporter engagement.

Get in touch

If you'd like anything raised in Liaison and FAB meetings, drop us a line on social media or at info@shrimperstrust.co.uk

FUNDRAISING OVERVIEW

Our main fundraising schemes were our 100 Club, Quid a Goal and the Christmas Draw.

The 100 Club had on average 38 members, and a weekly price of around £38. Tom Lee was the winner of our Christmas Draw winning £275.

Our Quid a Goal scheme for this season was the best yet with 155 supporters making pledges amounting to around £8,000.

The Trust Board would like to thank Alan Perry for his continued efforts in running both these fundraising schemes for us.

Our Christmas Draw raised just over £1,000 with a top prize of £500.

The Trust also held a quiz night which raised over £600 and the Christmas Quiz which raised just over £200, with thanks to MSPFX for their continued sponsorship.

2025-26 SEASON AWARDS

The 2025-26 Shrimpers Trust Player of the Year Awards were presented at the Southend United Gala Dinner and Awards night on Monday 18th May 2026 at the Cliffs Pavilion.

Congratulations to the following winners

Tom Grace Memorial Shield for
Youth Team Player of the Year
Nikolay Zlatev

Southend United Ladies
Player of the Year
Molly Lee

Junior Blues
Player of the Year
Keenan Appiah-Forson

Martin Cranmer Goal of the Season
Andy Dallas vs Gateshead

Southend United Player of the Season
Gus Scott-Morris

YOUTH TEAM SPONSORSHIP

Last season the Trust continued its 20th year sponsorship of Southend United's academy and youth setup, which is run by the Southend United Community Foundation. We were front-of-shirt sponsor on the U17 and U19 shirts, and the money paid for what those squads use every week, video analysis cameras, GPS vests, coaching software, footballs, bibs and cones, right down through the U9 to U16 centre of excellence.

The Foundation asked us for £7,000, the same as the year before. Your Board looked at what they were trying to buy and voted to cover the whole list instead: £8,800. The first show of hands was ten to nil.

The reason is worth stating plainly. When the club dropped out of the EFL the academy lost its Elite Player Performance Plan funding, and the young players coming through are the ones who pay for that. Supporters filling the gap isn't charity, it's keeping a pathway alive for when we go back up.

So what did the money produce? The Foundation's own review of the season makes good reading:

- Five academy players were awarded professional contracts — Jack Stone, Joshua Barrett, Nikolay Zlatev, Julius Nwike and Mitchell Ward. Nwike made the first-team bench against Forest Green, and Joe Poxon and Harrison Lamb have been training with the first team and U23s.
- An U23 development squad was created, completing the pathway from U9 through to senior football for the first time in years.

- The U17s finished runners-up in their league and the U19s third — a fifteen-point improvement on the previous season — with the U19s reaching the League Cup quarter-finals.
- The FA Youth Cup run reached the Fourth Round Proper, with five wins, four consecutive clean sheets, victory over League One Swindon Town and a memorable tie against Wrexham at Roots Hall, giving our young players the opportunity to experience playing in front of a sizeable crowd.
- Nikolay Zlatev scored 40 goals and Sisanda Maguranyanga 34 — 74 between them.
- At the centre of excellence, our youngest players tested themselves against Tottenham, Brighton, PSV Eindhoven, Juventus and Braga, and the U11s won the Ferdinand Floodlit Cup.

For 2026/27, our support rose to £9,500 and expanded to a third age group, with Trust branding on the U17, U19 and U23 strips.

Every member contributed to this achievement. Thank you.



JUNIOR BLUES OVERVIEW

At the end of the 2025/2026 Season there were 464 Members of the Junior Blues. It has been another successful season for the Juniors, with two key events during the October and Winter school holidays.

Our members also presented the monthly Shrimpers Trust Player of the Month, and one, Joshua Orazulume, won a competition we ran to walk out as a mascot at the IZUSU FA Trophy Final on 17th May.

This is our last season of running the Junior Blues as it moves in house at SUFC and is being rebranded as the Junior Shrimpers.

The Trust Board would like to thank Kay Fogg for her work over the past seasons as the Junior Blues Co-ordinator.



October half term party

A fantastic afternoon was enjoyed by all at Caddies, with a spooky theme adding to the occasion. We would like to extend our thanks to Jack Bridge, Nick Hayes, Cav Miley, Gus Scott-Morriss, Tom Hopper, Andy Dallas, Keenan Appiah-Forson, Slavi Spasov, Adam Crowther and John White for taking the time to join us and make the event so memorable.

Thanks also to the Community Foundation for loaning us John for the afternoon and to George and his team at Caddies for looking after us so well.



Christmas party

Our annual Christmas Party was once again generously sponsored by C2C, whose representatives joined us on 11 December at Hollywood Bowl in Basildon, a new venue for the event.

We would also like to thank Jack Bridge, Oli Coker, Nathan Ralph, Cav Miley, Andrew Dallas, Tom Hopper, Keenan Appiah-Forson, Collin Andeng-Ndi, Harry Boyes and Josh Walker for giving up their time to join the festivities and enjoy a game of bowling with our younger supporters.

SOUTHEND UNITED EX-PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

It has been another strong year for SUEPA. Membership now stands at 533, and the group retains its position as the largest former players association of any men's football club in the world.

Seven SUEPA match day events were held over the course of the season, each bringing many former Shrimpers back to Roots Hall to meet the fans and catch up with old teammates. Alongside these, our regular SUEPA Former Player Club meetings continued throughout the year.

Among the highlights was an evening with former club captain Dave Worthington to promote his autobiography. We also hosted 'This Is Your Life Steve Tilson', a celebration of his fantastic achievements in front of his family, friends and fans. It proved to be another sell-out SUEPA event, raising money for charity as well as for future SUEPA projects.



Left: Andy Leeder
Right: Keith Bird

SUEPA also published *The Southend United Pioneers*, a book celebrating the lives of the men who founded the Shrimpers 120 years ago, featuring bespoke portraits of the former players by artist Keith Bird. On 26th September, some 40 grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren of the pioneers returned to Roots Hall as our guests to mark the occasion.

Further afield, Southend United was the only non-Premier League club represented at a meeting of former player club organisers held at the Premier League's headquarters in London in May.

Finally, during the close season, responsibility for the day-to-day running of SUEPA passed from Andy Leeder to Gary Jackets.





SOUTHEND UNITED MUSEUM

On Friday 14 September 2026, the Southend United Museum was officially opened, with the ribbon cut by Steve Tilson, at a ceremony attended by former players, volunteers, Daniel Cowan (Leader of Southend-on-Sea City Council) and Tony Cox (Mayor of Southend-on-Sea).

We are the first National League club to have our own museum and believe we are one of fewer than ten clubs outside the Championship to have one. Working together with our club and its fans, something truly special is now in place at Roots Hall.

The museum was part-funded by the sale of the floodlights, co-ordinated by SUEPA and a financial commitment of £3,000 from the Shrimpers Trust.

Following visits to the museums at Charlton Athletic, AFC Wimbledon and Exeter City by SUEPA Lead Andy Leeder and Southend United Chairman Justin Rees, plans were set in motion to fulfil a long-standing ambition of the Shrimpers Trust: to establish a museum at Roots Hall celebrating Southend United's 120-year history.

The museum, which shares its space with the BTMK Box Office, was designed and brought to life in just a few short weeks during the summer of 2026. This remarkable achievement was made possible through the dedication and hard work of Shrimpers Trust Board members and a team of volunteers, with the design process led by our in-house design lead, Stuart Byford.

We would like to thank the following individuals for their invaluable contributions to making this long-standing ambition a reality:

Peter Brooks, James Brown, Stuart Byford, Lee Coughlin, Richard Coxell, Michael Day, Sam Duckworth, Paul Hill, Chris Hunt, Gary Jackets, Graham Lee, Andrew Leeder, Mike Paterson, Ron Pountney, Del Reeves, Simon Ridgwell, James Schooley, Tyler Tobin and Paul Yeomanson.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the Dons Trust for the sale of the display cabinets and to the National Football Museum for their ongoing support.



Above: Steve Tilson opening the museum





Clockwise: Southend Mayor - Tony Cox, Leader of Southend City Council - Daniel Cowan
Former Captain - John White, Former Players - Mike Beesley & Frankie Banks

SOUTHEND UNITED HISTORY GROUP

The Southend United History Group operates as a sub-committee of the Shrimpers Trust, working on a range of projects dedicated to researching, celebrating and preserving the club's history.

This year was tinged with huge sadness, as on 1st March we learned that Peter Miles had passed away. Peter was a truly great Southend United historian who did so much to research our club's history and preserve it for the benefit of others. He is sorely missed by us all.

Over the past year, the group has completed a number of projects. We brightened up a corner of the East Stand, with 26 iconic Roots Hall match day prints now lining the box corridor.

We also continued our legacy numbers project, which records in chronological order the first team debut of every player since the club's inaugural match on 1st September 1906.

The group also oversaw the sale of the original Roots Hall floodlight casings, with the net proceeds providing the foundation of the funding needed to bring the club's new museum to life.

Among the museum's exhibits is a replica of the Division Four trophy, secured by the group to commemorate the club's first-ever championship in 1980/81. It now sits proudly in a dedicated display, celebrating one of the most significant achievements in Southend United's history.

MUSEUM OPENING TIMES

The Southend United Museum is situated in the BTMK Box Office and has the same opening hours as the club shop.

Monday	10am-4pm
Tuesday	10am-4pm
Thursday	10am-4pm
Friday	10am-4pm
Matchdays	10am-3pm



Become part of the Southend United Historical Society

To mark its 120th anniversary, Southend United is proud to launch the Southend United Historical Society (SUHS)

Established in partnership with the Shrimpers Trust, this new charity will preserve and celebrate the club's heritage for generations to come.

The Trust has been entrusted by the Club to lead on the formation of this new group, establishing a charter, terms of reference and independent board of trustees. This work starts with an open invitation to those already involved in Southend United-related history projects to get involved.

SUEPA and the Southend United Museum will continue to be managed by the Trust whilst SUHS is formally established, with the long-term vision being to bring them both together under one umbrella.

If you are passionate about the history and heritage of Southend United and would like to volunteer to help to bring it to life - whether as a historian, technician, IT expert, media guru, administrator or coordinator - please contact us at suhs@shrimperstrust.co.uk

SHRIMPERS HERITAGE

This year saw the launch of Shrimpers Heritage, a trading card series designed to celebrate the people, moments and stories that have helped shape Southend United. At the heart of the project is a series of collectible trading cards, giving supporters, particularly younger generations, an opportunity to discover more about the personalities who have contributed to the history of our football club.

The next stage of the project will see the Trust working alongside Southend United, the Southend United Community Foundation and Show Racism the Red Card (www.theredcard.org) to take anti-racism education into local primary schools.

Using football and the connection young people have with their local club, the workshops will explore racism, stereotyping and discrimination while encouraging pupils to think about the role they can play in creating an inclusive community.

This project was funded by the National Lottery Sporting Heritage Fund (www.heritagefund.org.uk).



MATCH OF THE DAMES

Match of the Dames is a Football Community Interest Company which was founded last season in Altrincham by Anne Morris. The project is designed to encourage more women and girls to attend National League football matches, particularly those that have never been to a live game before. The aim is to strengthen connections between clubs and their communities.

For the 2026/27 season, Southend United has been selected as one of five National League clubs to participate, alongside Altrincham, Brackley Town, Hartlepool United and Solihull Moors. The initiative will take place across eight matches throughout the season.

- Up to 25 matchday tickets are donated from the club to 'Match of the Dames' for any women/girls who have not attended a match before.

- Attendees are supported through a dedicated WhatsApp group, helping them connect and meet ahead of each match, with refreshments provided by a local independent café or restaurant.
- Attendees are provided with a Match of the Dames scarf.
- Any excess funds raised through sponsorship are ringfenced for the benefit of community projects.
- The long-term ambition is to develop a model that can be adopted by clubs of any size, in any league, to help attract and engage more female fans.

Lynn Scarlett
Match of the Dames Organiser

To find out more or sign up for Match of the Dames, visit www.matchofthedames.co.uk or email hello@matchofthedames.co.uk



SHRIMPERS HUSTINGS

Ahead of the Southend-on-Sea local elections, the Shrimpers Trust launched **Shrimpers Hustings**, a special podcast designed to give supporters the opportunity to hear directly from candidates standing for election to Southend City Council.

Candidates were invited to discuss the issues of particular interest to Southend United supporters and the wider community. The interviews were brought together and released by the Trust ahead of polling day, allowing supporters to hear directly from those seeking to represent them before casting their votes.

The project reflected an important part of the Trust's role beyond matchdays. Southend United and its supporters are an integral part of the city, and decisions made locally can have a significant impact on the club, its supporters and the community around Roots Hall. Shrimpers Hustings provided a platform for constructive conversation while helping supporters make their own informed decisions at the ballot box.

You can listen back to the podcast and subscribe for future content on all major podcast services.



SOCIAL INCLUSION REPORT

The Shrimpers Trust Social Inclusion initiative aims to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of the community through football, particularly for those facing social or economic challenges and who might otherwise not be able to access live sport.

As part of our ongoing commitment to social inclusion and community engagement, we are excited to host key community partners in our hospitality box throughout the football season, allowing members of the local community to enjoy a matchday experience, network, and deepen their connection with the Shrimpers Trust, Southend United and the wider community.

The scheme reinforces the message that football and sports are a shared experience for everyone, regardless of background, ability, or circumstance.

Some of our guests since our last AGM have included:

One Love Project

A charity offering practical and emotional support to the growing number of vulnerable adults and families in Southend.
www.theoneloveproject.co.uk

Southend YMCA

Charity delivering safe and effective services which address the needs and aspirations of children and young people and helps to transform their lives.
www.southendymca.org.uk

Little Heroes ASD Support

Supporting families of children who are autistic or awaiting a diagnosis in Southend.
www.littleheroesasd.co.uk

Supporting Carers and Families Together

Helping to relieve the social, emotional, mental, physical and educational needs of Carers and their families in Essex.
www.scaft.org

Porters Soccability

An Essex FA-affiliated Soccability football team offering people of all disabilities, ages and gender an opportunity to join a football club.
www.porterssoccability.com

The Association of Foster Carers and Adoptive Parents in Southend-on-Sea (AFCAPS)

Dedicated to supporting foster carers, adoptive parents, and the children and young people in care.

Just Ride

An inclusive, traffic-free community cycling program for all ages.
www.justridesouthend.com

Off the Streets

Southend-based homelessness charity.
www.offthestreetsessex.org.uk

Our scheduled guests for the remainder of the 2026/27 season include:

Sudden Cardiac Arrest UK (SCA UK)

Supporting survivors of Sudden Cardiac Arrest and their families to cope with possible life-changing physical and mental consequences.
www.suddencardiacarrestuk.org

HARP (Southend)

Local charity aiming to reduce rough sleeping and provide safe and secure long-term housing.
www.harpsouthend.org.uk

Southend Hospital Radio

Providing a free 24/7 radio service for patients and visitors in Southend Hospital since 1977.
www.southendhospitalradio.co.uk

The Shrimpers Trust Social Inclusion initiative has made meaningful strides toward creating a more inclusive community.

We look forward to expanding our impact, engaging more individuals, and fostering an even more inclusive environment for all.

The Shrimpers Trust relies on the generosity of donors to continue the work of our Social Inclusion Programme. Your support enables us to expand outreach efforts to engage more individuals. Every donation, no matter the size, plays a crucial role in transforming lives and creating a more inclusive society for everyone. Together, we can help ensure that no one is left behind.

If you are, or know of, a charity that would like to make use of the space, please contact info@shrimperstrust.co.uk



THE NATIONAL GAME REPORT

Independent Football Regulator (IFR) (www.footballregulator.org.uk)

July 2025 saw the introduction of the Independent Football Regulator (IFR), a new body that will oversee the top 5 divisions of English football. Its primary objectives are as follows:

- Protect and promote the financial soundness of regulated football clubs
- Protect and promote financial resilience of English football
- Safeguard the heritage of English football.

The Shrimpers Trust has worked across UK Parliament in the foundation of this body, including meetings with Sports Ministers from the previous Conservative and current Labour Government, feeding into consultations, roundtables and All-Party Parliamentary Group for Football (APPG) groups. More information on this journey can be found in our published paper *Dereliction and Decline* (www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/product/dereliction-and-decline) which was taken into consideration in the foundation of this body.

We also attended an event hosted by the APPG for football at the House of Commons, alongside other supporters trusts from clubs across the football pyramid to meet with the IFR CEO Richard Monks and deliver our story. The Minister for Sport, Stephanie Peacock, was also present.

Southend United have been selected as one of 12 clubs to pilot the new football licensing regime and we were pleased to meet with the clubs Governance consultants, Indigo (indigogovernance.com), who will be supporting the club in this work.

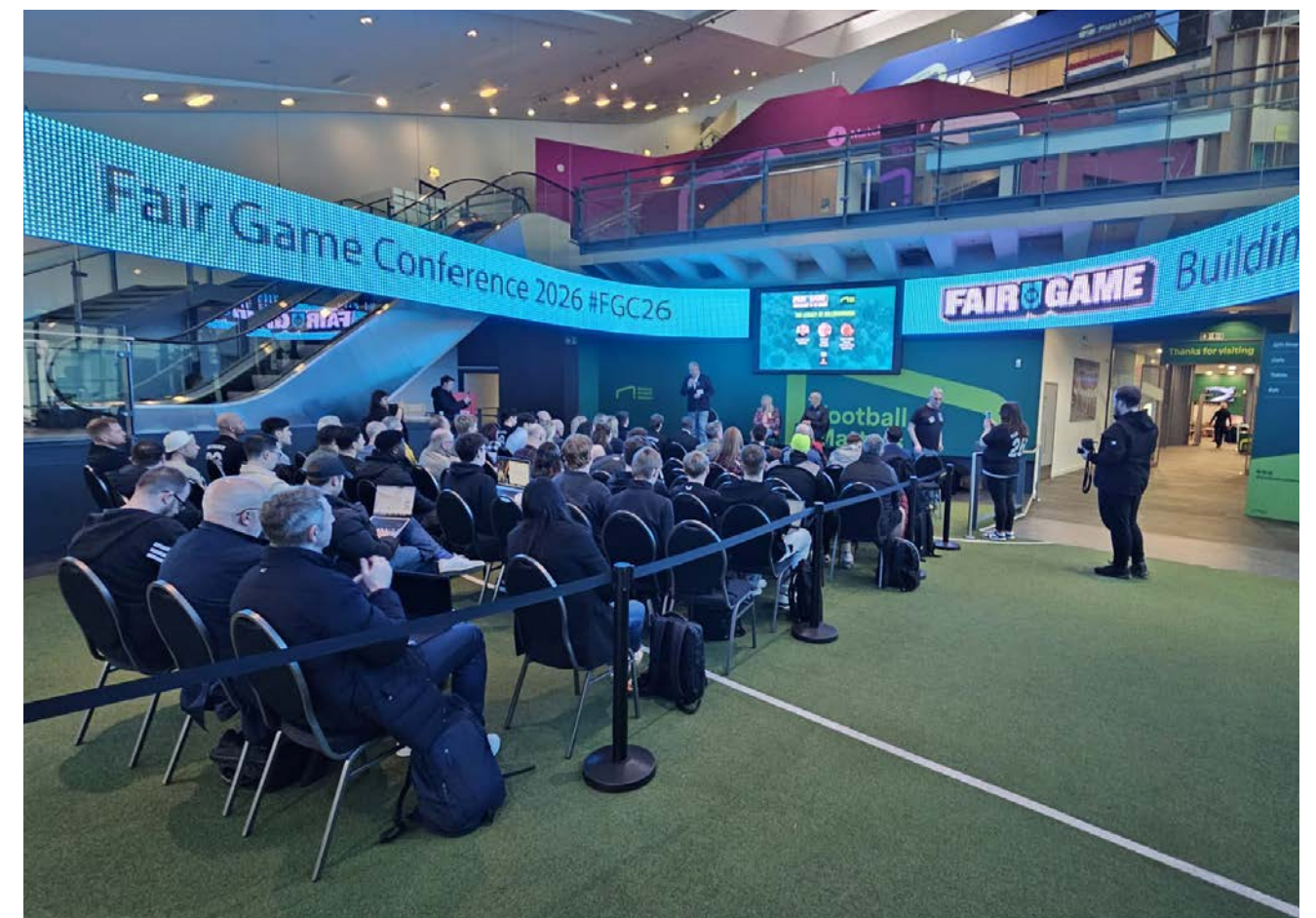
Alongside other supporters trusts across the country, we welcome the introduction of the IFR and the extra scrutiny and security it should add to the footballing pyramid. We offer our thanks to all Parliamentarians who have championed its introduction following on from the Fan Led Review of Football Governance.

The Football Supporters Association (www.thefsa.org.uk)

The Shrimpers Trust also continues to enjoy a good and productive relationship with the Football Supporters Association (FSA) receiving some sound advice from them on matters arising during the year as well as feeding back to them on our work in other areas. The Trust Board members have also utilised the excellent training courses offered by the FSA to help improve our scope of knowledge and assist us in our various roles.

Fairgame (www.fairgameuk.org)

The Trust have continued a close working relationship with lobbying group Fairgame UK and attended the Annual Conference this time held at the National Football Museum (www.nationalfootballmuseum.com), Manchester in March. Mike Paterson was invited onto a discussion panel with a theme of clubs that have experienced rogue ownership and was keen to share our experience with clubs across the pyramid. Mike sits on the Fairgame National Advisory Council which meets regularly to discuss how best to lobby/assist the IFR and others where necessary while also addressing a whole range of issues including online harms, sexism and racism.



AWAY TRAVEL REPORT

During the 2025/26 season, the Trust organised coach travel to 34 matches, including three fixtures postponed at short notice and the trip to Wembley. In total, our coaches covered an impressive 11,722 miles, carrying 545 individual supporters throughout the season.

Four supporters travelled with the Trust to all 34 matches: Sarah Franklin, Lesley Lawrence, Jeff Shillingford and Gary Williams. Our top Junior Blue traveller was Lucas Monk, who made 28 trips with us, covering 9,380 miles.

Wembley (again)

Once again, the Trust played a key role in getting supporters to Wembley for the FA Trophy Final. Twelve coaches and buses took 839 supporters to the game, with ten departing from Roots Hall and two more leaving from the Watermill in Basildon.

The Trust Board would like to put on record its thanks to Lesley Hicks for the work she does on behalf of the Shrimpers Trust and SUFC in getting our supporters to and from matches. We also thank everyone who helped throughout the season by running additional coaches, as well as those who helped before and after the Wembley trip.

If you have any enquires regarding away coach travel, please contact us at:

07892 905338
travel@shrimperstrust.co.uk



TRAVEL TO AWAY GAMES ON THE TRUST COACHES

If you are traveling to an away game, why not join us on the Shrimpers Trust coaches.

As the official Away Supporters Travel Organiser for Southend United, the Trust will take at least one coach to every away league and cup game.

Coaches depart from Roots Hall where supporters are able to park courtesy of Southend United. We then pick up from the Elms in Leigh, followed by Hadleigh Church, Tarpots Corner Benfleet, the Watermill in Basildon and finally the Fortune of War, Laindon.

Whether you are a first time or regular away supporter, are travelling as a family, with friends or alternatively on your own and want to avoid the need to drive and the headache of parking, you are welcome to come and join us on the Trust coach.

If you have any enquires regarding away coach travel, please contact us at:

Tel: 07892 905338

Email: travel@shrimperstrust.co.uk

 **Shrimpers Trust**

IN MEMORIAM

Peter Miles

A devoted Shrimper, Pete was a highly regarded club historian and author who gave countless hours to safeguarding Southend United's past, making sure the club's story was recorded and passed on for future generations of fans. He was the go-to person for any question about the club's statistics, with an extraordinary depth of knowledge and painstaking records that made him an invaluable resource.

Pete was a great supporter of the youth team too, and could regularly be found at Boots and Laces, Garon Park, Roots Hall and further afield, keeping a close eye on their development. His passion for football stretched well beyond Southend United, though. A true lover of the game, he took in matches at every level of the football pyramid, both in this country and overseas.

Richard "Dick" Spooner

Richard dedicated 36 years of service to Essex Police, retiring as a Detective Constable in January 2011. During a distinguished career spanning Southend and Basildon, he undertook a wide range of duties, including major criminal investigations, intelligence work and service with the Regional Crime Squad.

For Southend United, however, he became a particularly valued figure through his work as a Football Intelligence and Planning Officer. He was responsible for gathering intelligence on high-risk football supporters, coordinating and briefing officers for matchday operations, and working closely with the club on policing and safety arrangements. Richard also played an important role in steward training, helping to ensure that those working on matchdays understood their responsibilities in keeping supporters safe and maintaining Southend United's family-friendly atmosphere.

His contribution behind the scenes helped support the safe running of football at Roots Hall and the relationship between the club, its supporters and the police.



James Walker

A product of Charlton Athletic's Academy, James also represented the likes of Hartlepool United, Bristol Rovers, Leyton Orient, Notts County, Yeovil Town and Gillingham joining us in 2008 making 54 appearances and scoring 8 goals.

James made five appearances for England under -17s missing out on a bronze medal at the Under-17s Euro 2004 thanks to an agonising penalty shootout loss to Portugal. He then went on to notch a brace in the third place play-off after defeat losing to Spain.

James then featured for the England U18s before switching his international allegiance to Antigua & Barbuda in 2012. He claimed one cap for the Caribbean minnows, coming off the bench in a World Cup qualifying defeat to Guatemala.

After leaving professional football, he continued his football career playing for numerous non league teams including Canvey Island, East Thurrock United and Maldon & Tiptree, while teaching P.E at Ramsden Hall Academy, a special needs school in Billericay.

Sadly while playing for Tilbury in 2019 he suffered a massive cardiac arrest which resulted in significant physical and mental impairments that he never recovered from, passing away at the tender age of 38.

