

The Mariners Voice



August 2009

Issue 1

Newsletter of the South Shields FC Supporters Association

ONWARD AND UPWARD



WELCOME TO THE NEW SEASON.

It seems to have been a long time in coming, but here we are again at last, so welcome to the new season to all our supporters, followers and friends, old and new to Filtrona Park and South Shields FC., and another Northern League first division campaign.

Whatever be those time honoured clichés as ‘Hope springs eternal’, or with ‘Guarded optimism’, as a new season has always been invariably greeted since the beautiful game came into being, one thing is sure, we are no different in our neck of the woods from the rest of the footballing world. Hopes and dreams we all share, and also a measure of optimism and confidence. But whatever, we are indeed ready for this new season, prepared, recharged and renewed, and come what may, we will compete and attempt to raise our sights and work hard for success, both on and off the field. So it is that all our hopes and aspirations for this season, in the league table with ambitions of a middle and upward placing and also to enjoy the excitement and thrills of cup runs, that we wish the team well in all their efforts week in and week out.

To the team management and staff, club committee and helpers, and our Supporter’s Association, a most sincere thank you for the great work by all concerned in the various departments so involved in the preparation of both team and ground as a united effort for this new season. In particular the Herculean example of club chairman Gary Crutwell for a massive amount of work undertaken, with many 10 and 12 hour days in a two week holiday period given up and also many full weekends and evenings for field work and around the ground in general, we are all most sincerely grateful for his efforts.

This season we hope to increase our growth, public support, and association membership numbers, and to expand in all these areas for the benefit of the club, and to continue to enhance its image and profile in the community and beyond. Let there be no doubt that the commitment is absolute, and our motto “Onward and Upward” is indeed our byword. For the team, the object of our support and co-operative and combined efforts, we hope for a good measure of success and continued improvement in ability and stature, and look forward therefore with both pleasure and anticipation to an enjoyable, eventful and fruitful season.

COME ON THE MARINER’S!

IMPORTANT ITEMS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.THE SUPPORTER'S ASSOCIATION

The Supporter's Association membership is steadily increasing, and the hope is that this will reach a significant number of active and also affiliated members. The more members that can be attracted will advantage the effort that can be made on behalf of the club in numerous directions. So, do PLEASE actively seek to recruit amongst family and friends, and help to swell our numbers. Remember IF you never ask, we will never get. The numbers game really is of paramount importance, and we do most definitely hope to eventually reach a membership of no less than 500. So please do your level best.

THE WEEKLY CASH DRAW

This scheme can become a real money spinner and guaranteed earner for the club's coffers, so it really is up to ALL of us to PLEASE apply ourselves and get out and about and sell these tickets to the people we know at home, work and the pub, club, corner shop etc etc. Remember the more we can sell, the better the prize (and eventually prizes), and it directly helps the club's weekly budget. All members do try and sell a couple of books each and more if you possibly can, your help is needed to build this scheme up.

CLUB COMMITTEE VACANCIES.

The committee needs more members to please come and join to help with all the jobs that are necessary and important in the running of the club. So if YOU would like to please consider this request, contact Phil Reay, Secretary on 07847 173235 or Chairman Gary Crutwell on 07947 480054, who would be pleased to welcome you.

SEASON TICKETS.

Full details have been posted on the club message board and in the local press recently, application forms are currently available on request from the club shop and the newsletter editor direct with SAE please to Robert F. Wray, 6, Windsor Drive, Cleadon, Sunderland SR6 7SY, Tel. 0191 537 2633 and /or e-mail – bobandlindawray@hotmail.co.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Wednesday, July 15th

The election of officials and committee.

M. Viney	Chairman
T. Casson	Secretary
D. Leadbitter	Treasurer
Committee including:	
J. Prendergast	Membership Secretary
R. Scott	Club Shop
R. Wray	Newsletter.

A GUIDE TO THE NORTHERN LEAGUE.

Now available from the club shop is the updated and completely revised new edition of the 1990's production of this popular handbook. It lists all current 42 member teams of the league, with 50 pages of individual club items of interest, with also input from South Shields FC and all ground's travel directions. It will be welcomed as an informative and useful aid for the Mariner's travelling support and of interest to others. Produced by the Supporter's Association, it is priced at £2.50.

CLUB SPONSORSHIP.

Does any reader with an interest in SSFC have any connections with local, regional and national businesses that may consider a sponsorship deal, to assist the club's material wellbeing, with such diverse items as pitch advertisement boards, sponsor a game and have wine / beers and a buffet lunch and watch a game, sponsor a player, items of kit, the match ball, a match day programme advert etc etc? If you are such a person and if you have any contacts and connections that may be hopefully interested in such a sponsorship, please give this request your favoured consideration and contact the club chairman Gary Crutwell on 07947 480054 or club secretary Phil Reay on 07847 17323, who will be pleased to provide all the current sponsorship deal details on offer. Thank you indeed for any much welcomed assistance.

TRANSPORT HELP FOR SUPPORTER'S TO AWAY GAMES.

Car drivers who attend away games and have spare seats available, and who would be kind enough to please carry fellow supporters without transport, would you like to leave your name, address and telephone number at the club shop, and also those wishing for transport assistance please leave the same details, subject to personal agreement, perhaps arrangements can be satisfactorily concluded? Vocal support at away games is both crucial and important and any such assistance as here requested wherever possible would be greatly appreciated. Last season SSFC was one of the best away supported teams in the league, if we can possibly help each other in this manner we will maintain this and also help the team with hopefully increased support and encouragement, thank you.

THE GOAL BUSTER, GROUND P.A. SYSTEM AND NEXT NEWSLETTER.

Steve Franchi will be doing this again. 75 tickets on sale £2 each, on Saturday, August 8th, game to start the following Saturday. Prize £100, for the first team to score exactly 11 goals and NOT bust. One payment per game. If unable to attend, Steve will draw for you, and collect monies later, same arrangement available for later games, with random team selection. Contact 07952 658291. An updated list of teams, scores and players see on the club shop window every Saturday home game, the final result will be on the message board and info for the following game. Do please give your support, many thanks.

The P.A.system has been repaired, and info/news of games, players, teams, officials, fixtures etc plus music for your pleasure will be available for interest and 'atmosphere'. The next issue of 'The Mariner's Voice' will be published in early October.

CHAIRMANS MESSAGE BY MICK VINEY.

THE WAY OF THE MARINER.

A new season lies ahead of us. This is a time of renewed hope and belief for many of us. A time at which we look ahead and dream (as do fans of all clubs). To dream of victories and of success, of challenging for honours and prizes. We all dream, some believe, and some doubt, but we all dream.

Success is such a strange concept. What is success? Are we only successful if we win a trophy? If so, then most clubs are abject failures every single year. Are we a success only if we are challenging for trophies until the latter days of a season? If so, once again, most clubs fall short on this. Are they ALL failures? Or is success relative to each club? To one 3rd may be a failure, to another 15th is perhaps a success.

The Japanese word ***Kaizen*** means “continuous improvement with small steps” it's used in industry and commerce to enable organizations to grow and improve by allowing each of its members to identify the ways in which their own part of the process / system can be streamlined or improved. It calls, not for wholesale or radical changes. No series of fresh starts. Just a constant improvement at all levels of the organization / process /
CLUB.

Consider how the concept of Kaizen would look if applied to our club. Every one of us, supporters, players, team management, and club management would look at our own contribution and decide how we can **each** do just a **little** better. Tiny little improvements, made consistently act like compound interest. Each small gain is built on the previous ones, meaning a year of modest monthly 2 % improvements will produce a massive 26 % growth, and in anybodies book improving by more than a ¼ every year is a huge success.

Kaizen changes the focus. While we still dream of trophies, and in time challenging for titles. While we still set individual and team goals, both long and short term, they stop being the only definition of success. Using Kaizen, success is not a destination, it's a journey. A journey this regime began a few short years ago. Our league position has improved year on year. Our finances and subsequent player budgets have grown, year on year. Our attendances have improved year on year.

We have a long way to go, but let Kaizen be the way of the Mariner, and lets enjoy the journey.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP REPORT.

It is tempting with the new season fast approaching at the time of writing to direct my comments instantly to the immediate future. Initially I am going to resist this temptation however and spend a little time to reflect on the close season.

As most of you are aware by now, considerable time and effort has been given to the pitch improvement programme. The club chairman and his small but workmanlike committee led the initiative ably assisted by a number of supporters. I am pleased to say that all the effort has been rewarded with a pitch that is looking good and a drainage system which appears much improved.

On a personal note it was most gratifying to witness this sort of joint effort within the club, action certainly does speak louder than words! Well done to all concerned and long may this type of joint initiative continue.

In the previous passage you will notice my reference to “small and workmanlike committee”. I would like to stress the importance of helping the committee to grow and expand. I would ask you all to give some serious thought to how you can contribute to either the club committee or the supporter’s association committee. Anyone who would like to discuss this further should contact chairman Gary Crutwell or myself.

Touching on the new season I feel it is too early to speculate or predict how we will fare on the pitch as our squad has yet to be finalised and honed. Some of us may be optimistic, one of us may be pessimistic, and some will remain realistic. My own view is that we stick together, give the best support possible and believe that a positive outcome is possible.

What I can say with a degree of certainty is that the SSFC Supporter’s Association continues to grow and gain momentum. It is with this in mind that I would like you all to give consideration to recruitment ideals. You can put your thoughts in writing or simply come and discuss. I am sure that together we can help SSFC edge closer to its goals. Until next time – onwards and upwards.

Yours in sport,

Membership Secretary John Prendergast.

PS.

1. We require two volunteers to help stage a “Hit The Crossbar” competition during the half time break. The competition will be staged over the course of the season. Anyone interested in volunteering please contact any supporter’s association committee member.
2. Arrangements have been put in place for the operation of a travel club. Two volunteers are required to carry out basic duties. Anyone interested please contact me.

FROM THE CLUB COMMITTEEBY THE SECRETARY PHIL REAY

The new season is almost upon us as the close season comes to an end, not that we have had much of a break as major works have been carried out on the pitch to hopefully reduce the number of postponed games due to a waterlogged pitch. A lot of time has been spent to give the lads a decent surface to play on, thanks to all of the members of the supporters association who turned out to lend a hand, looking at the pictures on the blog spot I have to say I was not always convinced we would get the work done in time and have a first class surface to play on. In addition I would like to thank the league sponsors **skilltrainingltd** who have provided the labour and expertise to build a new wall from the dressing rooms to the pitch. As we approach the start of a second season in the first division of the **skilltrainingltd** Northern League I feel it is a good time to take stock of the distance we have travelled over the last four seasons.

Whilst last season did not pan out the way we had hoped following a very successful promotion season we did retain our place at the top table; the scenes were not as jubilant as those on the last day of the 2005-06 season when we retained our Northern League status but I feel the achievement was non the less significant. We now look to build on last season and hopefully learn from the experience, no one at the club wants to be in a fight for survival come April 2010. The pre season build up has allowed the management team to take a look at a new group of players and put together a squad of players capable of moving us towards the higher echelons of the league, the results may not have been what we had hoped for but we will not be judged at the end of the season on the results in pre season friendlies.

The new players coming to the club look to be settling in well and proving popular with supporters, Gavin Barton is looking sharp and will be a handful to opposition defences, Craig Armstrong looks useful on the flanks; players returning to the club also look to be in good form, David Graham as always gives his all for the club, Hal Graham looks to be back to full fitness following some time out due to injury and surgery and Richard Paxton looks strong at the heart of the defence. Also club captain Lee Paul Scroggins is looking sharp and it is to be hoped that he will stay healthy this season and play a bigger role in the coming campaign than he was able to in the last campaign when injury robbed us of his presence for half of the season. In addition to the new players we still have Duncan O'Brien and Jonny Wightman to come into the squad in September, in all I feel that there is cause for optimism as the squad looks stronger than last season.

During the close season we also held a successful "Talk In" with the management and committee, there were no taboo areas and all questions were answered openly and honestly, on a personal note I feel this is a better forum for debate than on the internet, it is hoped that we can arrange another such evening mid season. As ever I remain optimistic about the future and am looking forward to the season starting on the 8th August with the visit of Chester Le Street.

Onwards and Upwards.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SOUTH SHIELDS FOOTBALL CLUB

PART 2.

BY THE EDITOR BOB WRAY

As before, the new club made its home at its old ground of Horsley Hill, now owned though by greyhound racing interests. The new club, nicknamed the 'Babes', did well enough in the few years prior to the Second World War, with numerous players of league professional experience in its ranks, particularly Bill Tabram. A reserve team was entered into the Wearside League, and several players went on to league clubs.

Under manager Ernie Hoffman, goalkeeper with the club in its early league days and a former England amateur international, the club's main achievement was the winning of the North Eastern League championship in 1938 – 1939. Football was restricted again in the Second World War, with calls on players for military service etc, and it was a case of clubs largely having to 'make do' with guest players to help fill out representative sides.

Following the war, South Shields returned to competitive soccer as before at 'the Hill', though the early post-war period was not attended by any particular success. One bright note of 1947 though, that did eventually receive its richly deserved inclusion in the Guinness Book of Records, was the extraordinary achievement of Chris Marron in scoring 10 goals for Shields in an FA Cup preliminary tie at Cleadon Recreation Ground: a league career followed. On-going problems at Horsley Hill with the management led the club to seek a new ground of its own and be independent.

A search was eventually successful at Simonside, and 15 acres of land were leased to the club by the purchaser, local auctioneer and club president Councillor Edmund Hill. This transaction included the manorial hall built in 1740. Prior to this, the club played for a season at Gypsies Green, then little more than a 'hollow in the hillside' and the Cleadon Recreation Ground. The club played its first game at Simonside Hall in December 1950, and at this time adopted the nickname of the 'Mariners' from a suggestion by secretary Councillor Robert Bainbridge.

Manager Charlie Thomas spent some 15 years with the club in three spells between the late 1940's and early 1970's, and it is recognised that from the mid 1950's, for a few years, it was acknowledged as one of the better non-league clubs in the country. The development of Simonside Hall, backed by the endeavours of a supporter's club with a recorded 13,000 membership, produced positive dividends and gradually the ground facilities were upgraded with two grandstands, floodlights and other improvements, including a new social club, with the Hall providing dressing rooms, showers, offices and living accommodation.

The emergence of a solidly backed and supported team, with an average home gate of 7,000, saw several albeit unsuccessful applications for league membership. A record attendance of 20,500 gave an indication of growth potential. Numerous friendlies were played against Scottish league opposition and also prestigious representative games.

FA Cup exploits, such as the ‘remembered with relish’ demolition of Crewe Alexandra 5-0, added to a quite enviable reputation. At one time the club ran four teams, Simonside Hall was indeed a busy place.

One particular disappointment occurred in 1958 with the demise of the old-established and celebrated North Eastern League, with a mixture of league reserve and senior non-league sides. At the instigation of Sunderland and Middlesborough, a new league formed, exclusively for league reserve sides, the North Central League, which resulted in resignations and the non-league clubs that were left in ‘no-man’s land’ had to find other viable leagues to accommodate them. So it was that South Shields and a few others were obliged to go further afield and join the Midland Counties League. The prospect of greatly extended travel was at least tempered by the pleasure of entertaining the likes of the so-called ‘Posh’ – Peterborough United.

The decade to follow witnessed the Mariners in five different leagues: 1958–1960 Midland Counties, 1960 – 1962 Northern Counties, 1962 – 1964 back to a revamped North Eastern League, 1964 – 1968 North Regional League. The period 1963 – 1969 saw a managerial change with Alf McMichael, Newcastle United’s Irish international, in the chair and his team won a welcome piece of silverware in the 1967 North Regional League championship. A major change in the non-league set-up came about in 1968 with the formation of the Northern Premier League, part of the soccer ‘pyramid’, with Shields a founder member. This innovation was intended to operate as a ‘feeder’ league to a ‘national’ league with automatic promotion to the football league. The GM Conference later fulfilled that function. The club was a member for six reasonably successful years, without making any significant impact.

It had been considered for quite some time by the club board of directors that the underlying reason for what was seen as insufficient match attendances was the distance of the ground from the town centre area. Events were therefore set in motion which culminated, in 1974, with the total loss of the club, ground and all effects. This highly controversial episode has to this day, left numerous unanswered questions. Some £270,000 was realised from the sale of Simonside Hall, as reported in the Shields ‘Gazette’, and the sale was concluded before a deal on Horsley Hill was finalised and signed. There was great rancour because the 1962 disbanded supporter’s club had actually bought the ground from Edmund Hill for the club as a home in perpetuity, together with general and widely held public feelings that the move back to Horsley Hill was flawed from the outset.

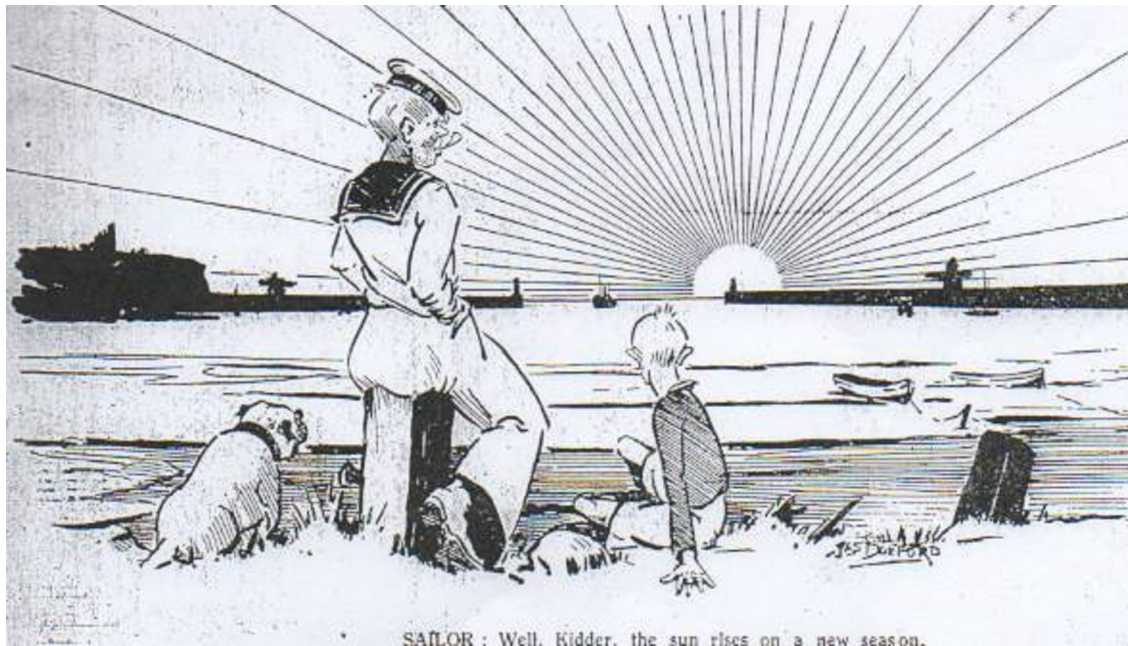
Business interests were in conflict between the various parties involved, agreements changed with circumstances, and ultimately between club, council and the Horsley Hill proprietors. The whole venture witnessed both the fine grounds of Simonside Hall and Horsley Hill being rapidly transformed into housing estates and the club went to Gateshead for the second time in 44 years. The principal personalities in this tragedy have now departed from the scene, but the repercussions of this lamentable exercise have echoed down the years since. The football follower in South Shields is left with the sobering thought, what if? There is no telling just how much Simonside Hall could and no doubt would have been eventually developed, perhaps these years later the club would have progressed even to the football league itself, as Peterborough, Wigan and others.

The late Charlie Thomas told the writer that Simonside Hall's projected development was indeed to eventually evolve into and accommodate a 40,000 capacity stadium for a return to the football league. South Shields road and metro links have in the years since changed local transport greatly, and there is indeed very much to regret that those wrong decisions by the board of directors, however misguided, wrongly advised or taken in blind faith were ever even countenanced, considered and implemented.

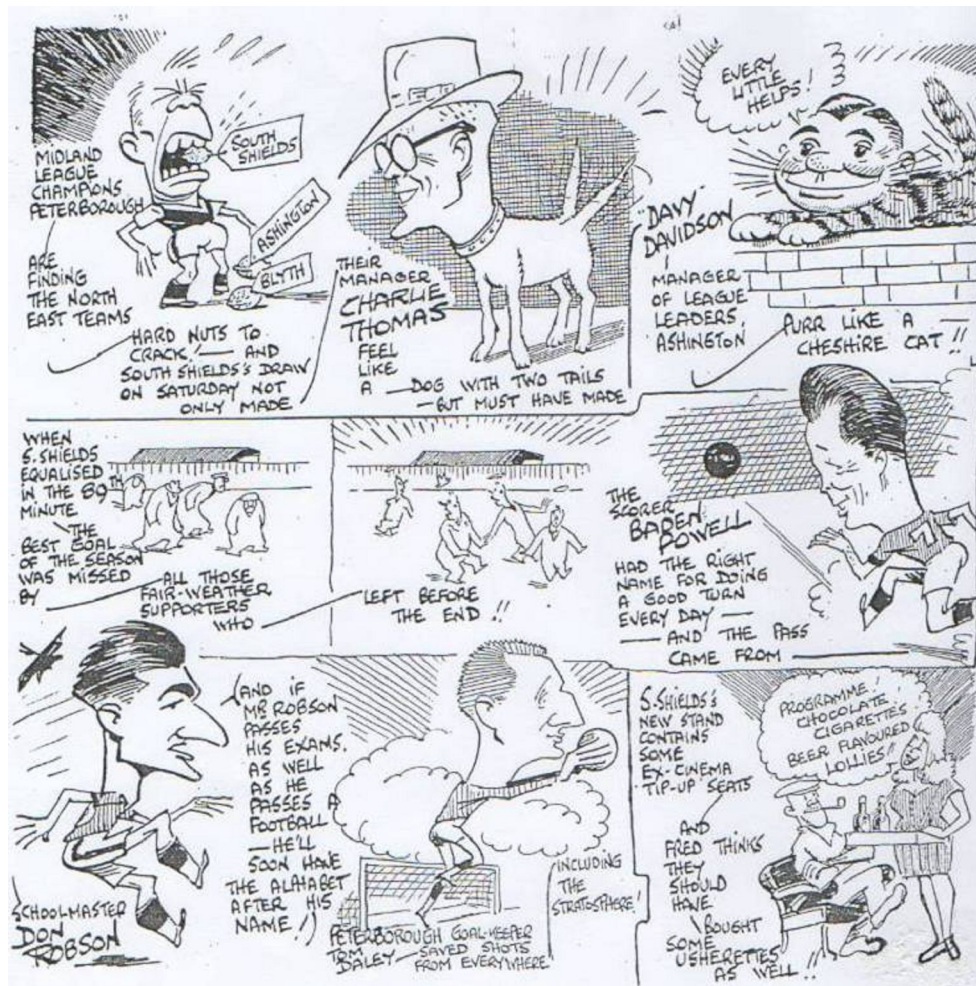
Reformation on this occasion quickly followed and a new club, South Shields Mariners FC was born, though competing in very different circumstances to its predecessor. It had to overcome the immediate problem of starting with nothing: neither committee, money, players, manager, ground etc, and a league that would accept it of reasonable stature. This was all achieved in good measure and initial progress was quite remarkable, only the lack of ground facilities prevented this being maintained.

A ground to develop became a long running issue and over the course of 18 years, more than a dozen possible sites were examined, but for various reasons always without success. So the club remained a member of the Wearside League, and seemingly unable to leave the council-owned Jack Clark Park. In 1992, the redundant and vandalised sports club and ground of Filtrona FC became available for purchase and after protracted negotiations, was bought by club chairman John Rundle and family, and so at last a home for the club was realised. Thereafter upgrading and development of Filtrona Park took place, and the winning of the Wearside League resulted in promotion to the Northern League in 1995. Managers of note during the mid 1990's were Bobby Elwell, Peter Feenan (with two consecutive promotions) and Bobby Graham. Since that time the club has remained a member of the league, and last year returned to the first division after an absence of eight seasons. These years in the Northern league have not been witness to anything other than moderate success, and in 2006 John Rundle relinquished chairmanship of the team to an independent committee. As for present intentions, sustained and gradual progress and success as a Northern League Division 1 club is the first priority, with a long term ambition of a return to the Unibond League, with all the required ground facilities, strength, standing and ability of the team, financial wellbeing and sponsorship, and local support and backing in place. To that end, the immediate future may be advantaged by a successful buyout of the ground and social club facilities in order to promote and underwrite the next envisaged step on a long road back. South Shields Football Club in all its various guises has suffered numerous real trials and tribulations outside of normal problems over the course of its history since its first appearance some 120 odd years ago, but has risen like a phoenix to ultimately survive.

By dint of continuing effort and endeavour, on and off the field, with steady improvement in all areas of its activities, the raising of its image and profile in the community and beyond, it is the declared intention to restore the club to its former position of strength and respectability in North Eastern non-league footballing circles. To that end the commitment of all involved with the club is absolute.



1928 SSAFC new season cartoon from a football magazine, Tyne harbour background



South Shields v Peterborough United, Midland League 1959, score 0 - 0.

1919-20

SECOND DIVISION							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Tottenham	42	32	6	4	102	32	70
2 Huddersfield	42	28	8	6	97	38	64
3 Birmingham	42	24	8	10	85	34	56
4 Blackpool	42	21	10	11	65	47	52
5 Bury	42	20	8	14	60	44	48
6 Fulham	42	19	9	14	61	50	47
7 West Ham	42	19	9	14	47	40	47
8 Bristol City	42	13	17	12	46	43	43
9 South Shields	42	15	12	15	58	48	42
10 Stoke	42	18	6	18	60	54	42
11 Hull	42	18	6	18	78	72	42
12 Barnsley	42	15	10	17	61	55	40
13 Port Vale	42	16	8	18	59	62	40
14 Leicester	42	15	10	17	41	61	40
15 Clapton Orient	42	16	6	20	51	59	38
16 Stockport	42	14	9	19	52	61	37
17 Rotherham Co	42	13	8	21	51	83	34
18 Nottm Forest	42	11	9	22	43	73	31
19 Wolves	42	10	10	22	55	80	30
20 Coventry	42	9	11	22	35	73	29
21 Lincoln	42	9	9	24	44	101	27
22 Grimsby	42	10	5	27	34	75	25

1938-39

NORTH EASTERN LEAGUE							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 South Shields	38	28	4	6	141	50	60
2 Workington	38	26	5	7	121	59	57
3 North Shields	38	25	7	6	112	62	57
4 Sunderland Res.	38	23	5	10	121	55	51
5 Middlesborough Res.	38	21	5	12	128	76	47
6 Gateshead Res.	38	21	5	12	109	71	47
7 Ashington	38	20	6	12	107	87	46
8 Horden C. W.	38	16	11	11	72	45	43
9 Blyth Spartans	38	15	9	14	96	95	37
10 Darlington Res.	38	14	8	16	95	94	36
11 Consett	38	12	11	15	84	113	35
12 Spennymoor United	38	12	7	19	87	104	31
13 Hartlepool Utd. Res.	38	12	6	20	77	92	30
14 Carlisle United Res.	38	12	4	22	98	101	28
15 West Stanley	38	11	6	21	75	104	28
16 Jarrow	38	11	5	22	69	104	27
17 Walker Celtic	38	11	5	22	56	103	27
18 Throckley	38	10	7	21	63	133	27
19 Hexham	38	8	8	22	66	143	24
20 Annfield Plain	38	7	5	26	55	132	19

1957-58

NORTH EASTERN LEAGUE							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 South Shields	34	27	3	4	107	42	57
2 Middlesborough Res.	34	22	5	7	92	33	49
3 Ashington	34	22	5	7	79	48	49
4 North Shields	34	16	9	9	66	44	41
5 Workington Res.	34	17	5	12	73	59	39
6 Sunderland Res.	34	17	4	13	84	50	38
7 Gateshead Res.	34	15	8	11	82	72	38
8 Carlisle United Res.	34	16	4	14	66	57	36
9 Blyth Spartans	34	14	7	13	66	66	35
10 Horden C. W.	34	13	9	12	58	59	35
11 Hartlepool Utd. Res.	34	15	4	15	72	61	34
12 Spennymoor United	34	13	8	13	70	72	34
13 Consett	34	13	6	15	68	63	32
14 Annfield Plain	34	9	7	18	57	96	25
15 Darlington Res.	34	7	8	19	56	92	22
16 Stockton	34	7	5	22	60	107	19
17 West Stanley	34	8	2	24	47	97	18
18 Whitley Bay	34	3	5	26	35	120	11

1968-69

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Macclesfield Town	38	27	6	5	82	38	60
2 Wigan Athletic	38	18	12	8	59	41	48
3 Morecambe	38	16	14	8	64	37	46
4 Gainsborough Trinity	38	19	8	11	64	43	46
5 South Shields	38	19	8	11	78	56	46
6 Bangor City	38	18	9	11	102	64	45
7 Hyde United	38	16	10	12	71	65	42
8 Goole Town	38	15	10	13	80	78	40
9 Altrincham	38	14	10	14	69	52	38
10 Fleetwood	38	16	6	16	58	58	38
11 Gateshead	38	14	9	15	42	48	37
12 South Liverpool	38	12	13	13	56	66	37
13 Northwich Victoria	38	16	5	17	59	82	37
14 Boston United	38	14	8	16	59	65	36
15 Runcorn	38	12	11	15	59	63	35
16 Netherfield	38	12	4	22	51	69	28
17 Scarborough	38	9	10	19	49	68	28
18 Ashington	38	10	8	20	48	74	28
19 Chorley	38	8	9	21	46	75	25
20 Worksop Town	38	6	8	24	34	88	20

Flashback to former leagues of yesteryear.

YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE IT.

Injury time is about three minutes longer when you are winning than when you are losing.....!

It is said in Ireland, that if it looks like raining before a match, they play the extra time first.....!

“ I could manage England part time, and still walk the dog ”- Brian Clough 1993.

“ Even when they had Moore, Hurst and Peters, West Ham’s average finish was about 17th, it just shows how crap the other eight of us were. “ – Harry Redknapp on his playing days

Joe Kinnear once said that he liked being manager of Wimbledon, because he didn’t think that there was much of a challenge being manager of a club like AC Milan

Barry Fry once said “Everybody wants to take on the best, and I do too, I want to pit my wits against all of them, Manchester United, Real Madrid, Juventus and Fray Bentos

One time Leeds United boss Jimmy Armfield reckoned that the three toughest jobs were football management, lion taming and mountain rescue.....

SOME FOOTY LIMERICKS.

Little Jack Horner once took a corner
and belted the ball so high,
with the keeper upset, it went straight in the net,
so he said, “ What a good boy am I”.

A striker from somewhere in Kent
took free kicks that dipped and then bent,
in a match on the telly
he gave one some welly
and the keeper the wrong way he went.

The wonderful wizard of Oz,
retired from football because,
when he tried to run fast,
his legs didn’t last,
‘cos he wasn’t the wizard he was!

When you have read this newsletter, please do NOT just ‘bin it’, but pass it on to any interested family member, social friend, work colleague or acquaintance, for their information and interest they might become a Supporter’s Association recruit

South Shields F.C.



Supporters Association

Application for Membership 2009 – 10 Season

This supporters association is an independent organisation of supporters which aim to:

- Act as a collective voice, representing the views of supporters in discussions with the club and others.
- Act as a body to help promote and to support South Shields Football Club on and off the pitch.
- Provide members with benefits.
- Provide a travel club to assist supporters attend away fixtures.
- Arrange social, fund raising, and other events.
- Keep members informed of developments through regular newsletters and other means.

Member Details

Name

Address

Postcode Tel No:.....

E-mail Address Mobile No:.....

(N.B. E-mail address for ease of contact purposes only, for games, team info, meetings, minutes etc. NOT to be passed to any third parties).

Subscriptions for 2009 – 10 season.

£5.00 Adults.

£2.00 Juniors.

Please return this form to: John Prendergast
Membership Secretary
40 Westhope Road
South Shields
NE34 6JT
Tel: 0191 4546850 (Monday to Friday)
Tel: 0191 4200338 (Evenings & Weekends)

Please make cheques or postal orders payable to: **South Shields F.C. Supporters Association.**

If you are able to interest your family members, social friends, neighbours, work colleagues and acquaintances etc. for Association, recruitment and membership, it would be much welcomed and sincerely appreciated.