

The Mariners Voice



March 2009

Issue 3

Newsletter of the South Shields FC Supporters Association

ONWARD AND UPWARD



THE MARINER'S VOICE NEWSLETTER

The 'Mariners "Voice"' is the periodic newsletter of the SSFC Supporters Association, and is intended to be published usually as a bi-monthly, or as occasions require for the general information of members, and others interested in the wellbeing and progress of the club on and off the field. The new editor as and from this issue is Bob Wray, 6 Windsor Drive, Cleadon, Sunderland, 0191 537 2633, e-mail address bobandlindawray@hotmail.co.uk ~ welcomes contributions, articles, opinions, comments etc etc from members, supporters and readers. It is intended to include several additional subjects as items of interest beyond those currently available in following issues to increase the appeal of the "Voice", for example – a player biopic, football cartoons, crosswords and quizzes, a 'bygone days' snapshot feature, old programme extracts etc etc. Your ideas, suggestions and hoped for assistance could be both useful, interesting and informative as possible publication material and are sincerely requested by the editor and very much appreciated.

THE CLUB WEEKLY CASH DRAW

The club now operates a weekly cash draw scheme, the details are as follows: Tickets are £1 each, available from Gary Crutwell, the promoter and club chairman on 07947 480054, and the club shop on match days and Bob Scott 0191 489 4035 and 07920 554377, and also from Tyneside Gas Supplies, Portberry Street, South Shields, 0191 454 7244. The prize is currently £100, and this will be reviewed in line with ticket sales increases. It is drawn on Sunday evening and the result is printed in the Shields' Gazette in the Monday edition following the SSFC match report, and also on the club website, click on South Shields Football Club, and locate under Forum message board. Please support this important fund raising venture, all profits are to assist club funds for team finance etc. This is your opportunity to directly help the club by selling to family and friends etc on a regular weekly basis. Please enquire for all details as required for ticket supply and monies pay-in before Sunday draw. Thank you indeed for your appreciated support.

THE NEW SUPPORTERS BOOK PUBLICATION

An updated and completely revised new issue of the original 1990's production "GUIDE TO THE NORTHERN LEAGUE" will be published in the near future by the Supporters Association and will be made available for sale at the club shop and other outlets. This publication lists all Northern League member clubs with useful, informative and interesting individual club stats, and ground travel directions etc etc. and other supporting items that readers will find both an attractive and welcome useful relevant addition of facts and figures. Purchase price only £2. You may order your copy in advance with payment and your details from the club shop.

FREE INSURANCE POLICY COVER AVAILABLE NOW

The club has been made aware of a new free life insurance plan, and has received details, and wishes to encourage all supporters and club enthusiasts to please consider their participation in this new offer. It is a completely and absolutely free bona fide offer available to all club supporters between the ages of 18 to 48 years. At the conclusion of the initial two year period all policy holders will be offered the option of withdrawal from the scheme without obligation, cost or penalty – or to continue the policy as a paying contributor on the terms then made available. There are no hidden clauses, small print, catches, risk or bank details involved!!!! It is entirely free for the period stated. The club will be the recipient of a cash award for a mass submission of members to the scheme, and will potentially benefit most considerably by your inclusion. This is a venture designed to avoid expensive media advertising and mail shots etc by the insurance broker acting on behalf of major high street brand name companies, directly to the general public via a group activity, namely in this case SSFC.

A sliding scale of payments from £200K (two hundred thousand) at age 18 years decreasing to £100K (one hundred thousand) at age of 48 years, would be paid in the event of the signatories death occurring within the two years of the free offer.

If this advantageous special offer is taken up in sufficient numbers, it could be considerably enhance the club's financial wellbeing for the next season and would be translated into positive club player activities etc. Further details as/if deemed necessary are available from the club chairman with application forms. The Supporters Association sincerely urges and strongly recommends all those within the age group specified to positively consider this outstanding offer, and also to please bring it to the close notice and interest of others in their family and circle of friends and colleagues etc – free life insurance without obligation for two years – in exchange for which the club could, should and would benefit IF it attracts the response in the numbers hoped for.

The company concerned is Best Advice Mortgage Network, which is based in North Tyneside, and a courtesy call would be made to all applicants. A contact telephone number is therefore required with the completion of the form.

Contact: Gary Crutwell, Club Chairman 07947 480054 or TGS 0191 454 7244.

INCREASE THE SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Help to expand the membership of the Supporters Association, currently approaching 200, please network and recruit your family members, neighbours, work colleagues and associates, social friends and acquaintances both in the community and beyond. Numbers really do matter, the bigger the membership, the stronger the force to positively advantage the support of our town team and club. There was a time 50 years ago when the then SSAFC Supporters Club actually had a membership of over 13,000! It really did buy the Simonside Hall Ground, and the old hall which dated from 1720 and 15 acres of land by dint of mass endeavour and selfless enterprise. Of course times and social habits have changed very much in the years since, but we as a body working together can emulate those pioneers to some extent, so we do most sincerely and earnestly ask you all to really try and help us to become a real driving power and force behind the club. Please spend a little time and effort and spread the word and the membership application forms around the town wherever you go. How nice it would be to have 1,000 members, remember anything is possible if we try... work together for the cause.

FORTHCOMING AND FUTURE SOCIAL FUNCTIONS ETC

The Supporters Association has plans for future attractive social functions and events designed for fund raising and also to help to raise its public image in the community at large. Details will be released in due course.

THE REMAINING CLUB FIXTURES

Here is the list of all the remaining club fixtures, now allocated dates, for the interest and information of members, supporters and readers.

March 21 st	South Shields	v	Consett	Saturday	3.00pm
March 24 th	South Shields	v	Bishop Auckland	Tuesday	7.30pm
March 28 th	Newcastle Benfield	v	South Shields	Saturday	3.00pm
March 31 st	South Shields	v	Chester Le Street	Tuesday	7.30pm
April 4 th	South Shields	v	West Auckland	Saturday	3.00pm
April 9 th	South Shields	v	Sunderland Nissan	Thursday	7.30pm
April 11 th	Spennymoor	v	South Shields	Saturday	3.00pm
April 15 th	South Shields	v	Penrith	Wednesday	7.30pm
April 18 th	South Shields	v	Ryton	Saturday	3.00pm
April 25 th	Bedlington Terriers	v	South Shields	Saturday	3.00pm
April 28 th	South Shields	v	Bedlington Terriers	Tuesday	7.30pm

STEVE SUTTON FAREWELL PRESENTATION

A most pleasant presentation took place at Filtrona Park on Saturday March 7th, when SSFC ex-solicitor Steve Sutton was the delighted recipient of a glass tankard, inscribed and also decorated with the club logo, from the Supporters Association. He and his wife Edna are emigrating to Vermont, USA, and this was in appreciation of his 50 years of enthusiastic support for his home town club. Prior to the match against local rivals Dunston Federation, he was honoured with a souvenir photograph taken with the captain and team on the pitch in front of the main stand. During half time in the crowded club main function suite an address was given by association member Bob Wray in his tribute with an informative resume of his career, and also an outline of his parents and grandfather's close involvement with SSAFC at Simonside Hall and Horsley Hill. Thus it can be readily appreciated the extent of Steve's family club influence, which as a direct consequence has formed a lifelong major part of his sporting interests.

He was also presented with a club polo shirt by SSFC Chairman Gary Crutwell and a framed 2008-2009 SSFC team photograph by the Supporter's Association Chairman Mick Viney also with a 'Bon Voyage' card signed by friends and colleagues.

A Shields 'Gazette' photographer was in attendance and the proceedings were recorded for both the newspaper and souvenirs for Steve. A generous round of warm applause was accorded him by the Shields and the Dunston supporters and Steve was greatly pleased with the presentations and the sentiments expressed on his and Edna's behalf and the good luck and best wishes of all concerned.

THE PENRITH SUPPORTER'S TRIP

A report will appear in the next issue of the "Voice" with details of the March 14th trip to Penrith by members of the Supporter's Association for this Northern League fixture, which at the time of writing has attracted full passengers on both buses made available, and is much looked forward to...

A GAMES SOCIAL EVENING – WITH A DIFFERENCE

A social evening at the Dunes Tenpin Bowling Alley at the Ocean Beach Amusement Park will be held in the near future, and full details for games, meals and bar facilities for members wishing to participate will be announced in due course. Watch this space...

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

As I write this (March 9th) we have three very tough games bearing down on us, Tow Law, Penrith and Consett. A couple of months ago I think most people around the Northern League would have had us on a thrashing to nothing in those games. Even within the hallowed walls at Filtrona not many would give us too great a chance. Sure we'd have hope, and sure we'd show up in our numbers and support, but now we can truly begin to believe. These games are going to be tough, have no doubts about that, but Tow Law, and Consett, and Penrith will also know that they face a tough challenge when they face the Mariners.

Our league position is still an uncomfortable one. The teams beneath us at the bottom have also been picking up points and are breathing down our necks. Waiting for a slip up. But not so very long ago we celebrated a Christmas in danger of being isolated at the bottom on a miserable 7 points. Since then we've amassed a further 18. A very respectable rate of return in our first year back at this level.

Our current form is excellent. Sitting 4th in the form table. It shows just how the season may have been, had Studsy not annoyed lady luck so early in the year, but it seems like he's apologised and she certainly smiled on us against the Fed.

We can win nothing this season, a fight to the end is our lot this year. So let's fight together, and more than that. Let's fight to the end of the season with a smile, with a laugh. Consolidation of our first division status with a few laughs along the way, that seems like a good season to me.

Mick Viney

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT – JOHN PRENDERGAST

As the run in to the 2008-2009 season fast approaches I felt it would be helpful to take stock of our efforts off the field, focusing particularly on the endeavours of our members from both an individual and collective perspective.

There is no doubt in my mind that our chairman Mick Viney has helped the association enormously offering innovation and leadership, developing in the process a deserved reputation as one who is never afraid to put his hand in his pocket when the South Shields FC cause calls for it.

Another association member who has made a massive contribution is "Mr South Shields" himself – Bob Scott. As well as running the club shop and making club merchandise available outside of match days, Bob has provided manual help on the ground during the pitch improvement programme. More recently Bob has taken on the role of weekly ticket draw co-ordinator.

Moving on I would like to talk about administration where Terry Casson has worked tirelessly to produce a whole range of work that has served to bolster promotion, organisation and communication.

Pressing on swiftly I need to mention three of our more mature members, who between them have delivered not dozens not hundreds but thousands of posters and leaflets to the far flung corners of South Shields. If we were awarding George Wood, John White and Tony Richardson a token of recognition for their efforts it would surely be a new pair of shoes!

It's not on foot that our next member covers most of his ground but more so on his motor bike. I am referring of course to none other than Stephen "Rama" Ramsey. He has been and continues to be a fantastic servant to the supporters association, always willing to volunteer, always with a smile on his face. If there was a special award for generosity and hard work this guy would be a prime candidate.

Speaking of hard work I feel I must give special mention to Bob Wray an ex South Shields committee member who has transferred his considerable skills and knowledge to our current organisation to real effect. carrying out each task with military precision Bob has made a huge contribution and is a great credit to South Shields Supporter's.

While our nickname continues to be the 'Mariners' there are those in the Northern League who believe our supporters should be named "the locusts" due to the fact that we devour huge amounts of pies, hot dogs, burgers, chips and other hot food they dare to lay down within the walls of their grounds. When our lads start chanting "attack, attack, attack, attack, attack", I'm never sure whether they mean the opposition or the bait hut! On the subject of bait huts or canteens as they are more commonly referred to, I feel our own Janet Honeyman deserves special mention. For many years now Janet and mother Marian have made a challenging job look relatively easy, I am pleased to report that Janet has two new apprentices in the way of Helen Beattie and Janice Porter, I feel both ladies should be complemented on their efforts to date.

On the financial side Dave Leadbitter and Matty Laidler have done a great job as joint treasurers, keeping up to date records of our income and expenditure, a vital role in any organisation.

As I sit here writing this report I realise that I could go on and on with the list of accolades. Colin Porter, Brian Lawson and Dave Smith for example have all made ongoing contributions with fund raising, promotional projects and social events.

However this is not meant to be a comprehensive account of who has contributed what, but more of a window shot of how things are growing and emerging within our supporters association. As a group I feel we are beginning to develop a real sense of community spirit, in a purposeful and harmonious manner.

Collectively we have promoted the club's activities through the distribution of calendars, fixture lists, posters, leaflets and of course our newsletter. Furthermore we have made steady progress with our fund raising activities through social events, table top sale, Great North Run sponsorship, travel club and the goal buster, where father and son team of Stephen and Peter Franchi have done an excellent job. As a result of the aforementioned we are currently holding a bank balance of £3,000.

I would summarise by saying we have succeeded in putting down a solid foundation on which we can build and expand.

On the subject of expansion I would be pleased to hear from supporters, of your thoughts and ideas in relation to recruitment for next season. Our final count for this season is 184 members, probably the biggest supporters association in the Northern League. We now need to look at ways of taking these figures to the next level. I look forward to hearing from you.

Come on you Mariners.

At half time in the club main function suite during the midweek game against "Tow Law", association members led by chairman Mick Viney present Steve "Ramma" Ramsey with a well signed birthday card, which was followed with a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday", hearty cheers and congratulatory handshakes. Happy Birthday Steve from all concerned and most sincere thanks for all the sterling work you do with a very willing heart and a big smile, it is all greatly appreciated.

FROM THE TEAM MANAGEMENT

Welcome to today's game I hope you enjoy it and we win of course.

First of all I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Supporters Association for all the hard work they have undertaken over the past months on and off the pitch, it is very much appreciated by the management staff and players for the continued support through thick and thin. This type of support is what every team needs when the chips are down, and you do not disappoint with your continued support at away games as well. As for those so-called supporters who are just out to upset or single out players or who always have negative point of view no matter how the team performs. If any of you want to point the finger I will be more than happy to answer any questions you like after a game, instead of posting views on the internet to stir up players and supporters. I am well aware the internet is a great way to get the opinions from all supporters about games and events, news etc, but when it is used to detrimental effect it causes problems and in my own personal opinion I think this has been the case over the past few months. Gary and I can take criticism all day from supporters but when players come on the internet to apologise or answer the critics, that's not healthy for the players or the team morale. Therefore if supporters would like the opinions from myself and Gary, we are willing to answer any questions, through the match programme or a question and answer evening. I will leave it up to the supporters association to come to a decision, and hopefully this type of thing won't happen again.

The past few weeks has seen a much needed improvement on the pitch, I put that down to the attitude, team spirit and desire of the squad as a whole. As a squad its hard to keep everyone happy and motivated, but with players getting sent off or can't make it for work commitments etc, Gary and myself have to call upon everyone in the squad to play their part and so far they have done themselves proud. But the job isn't done yet, we all have to pull together, players, management and supporters to ensure survival and keep us in division one. I would like to mention all players who in recent weeks have shown us all how good they are. But results speak for themselves. Or do we think we have played just as good or better and got beat by the odd goal? The difference in my opinion is that lately everyone has worked their socks off from 1 to 16, there has been no passengers, and there will be none from now on. I would like however to mention the back three and goalkeeper against Dunston, I thought it was a die for the cause performance – brilliant.

I also would like to mention young Stephen Ramsey, who in recent weeks has been a revelation, his work rate and goals have shown Gary and myself what we have always thought, that he is a very talented lad who has a good future in the game ahead of him if he continues to listen and work hard. I can also see young players like Glen, Tony and Ben doing well if they also continue to work hard and listen. We have a young team that is brimming with potential that most clubs don't have, as they prefer to pay high wages for stars who stay around when the goings good and can't wait to leave when it gets tough. That's not the ambition Gary and myself have in mind, we have to grow these young players into good players. That will no doubt get the attention of the high profile clubs with the big money. But with that comes a kind of player you don't see these days, a player who wants to stay with a club which has developed him over the years and of a club which has looked after him week in and week out, and paid him a decent wage. A club which has supporters who cheer him week in and week out whether he's having a good game or bad one either home or away. Not a club which is paying him £150 and is being watched by ten people, two dogs and the tea lady. Also when he's not playing well they get rid of him to the highest bidder and the next star arrives in his place. That's what has been happening for too long a time up and down the leagues as far as Gary and myself are concerned, and it's not going to happen here, we have a long term goal. All this being said the player also needs a manager who he trusts and respects to make this a reality, we have this at South Shields. It maybe in its early stages but that's what we are going to achieve with the help and continued support of all the supporters and committee. Thank you for always loud support rain or shine.

Justin Perry
Assistant Manager

FROM THE CLUB MANAGEMENT

Despite our league position it is good to see the level of support give to the lads remains consistent, we are second only to Whitley Bay in the table of average home crowds, a testament to the loyalty of our faithful band of supporters who have stuck with us in good times and not so good times. As a result we continue to be one of the teams clubs most like to welcome as we take on average 60 supporters to away games and in many cases our travelling support outnumbers the home support.

The season has been long and hard and we find ourselves at the wrong end of the table but our recent results have given us more than a glimmer of hope that we will retain our first division status.

Three consecutive away victories at Billingham Town, Washington and Morpeth combined with a superb victory at Filtrona Park over high flying Dunston Federation make the table look a lot healthier to the Filtrona faithful than the turn of the year.

I was particularly impressed with the performance against a Dunston side that had gone 22 league games without defeat, three goals a clean sheet and of course three points: it was galling to listen to the comments of the Radio Newcastle team, who rather than offer praise for the victory suggested the only reason for the victory was the number of games Dunston have played in recent weeks.

Despite their negativity I am sure I was not the only Mariner who enjoyed a celebratory drink on Saturday night.

We now look to a demanding schedule of games in the final run in to the end of the season as the league look to have the season end in April: however I am sure that with the level of support we give to the team we will remain out of the bottom three come the end of the season.

To ensure our survival we continue to strengthen the playing squad especially with the inevitable suspensions and injuries that are to come but as ever when South Shields enquire about a player clubs can only see £ signs and asks for ridiculous amounts as a transfer fee and we will not be held to ransom by anyone.

Off the field the committee continues to work towards attracting new sponsors to the club and applaud the work of the supporters association who are working towards the same goal. We need to maximise every potential source of income to enable us to compete in the first division of the Northern League.

Once the season ends we will again be looking to make improvements to the ground, the playing surface and the structures within the ground to ensure we meet the ground grading criteria set by the Football Association, if anyone has any spare time to assist all help is welcomed. It would be good to see as many supporters as possible helping out as they did when we improved the drainage at the turn of the year.

I continue to be the eternal optimist and I am sure we will be playing in the top flight of the Northern league next season – my motto remains the same.

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

Phil Reay
Secretary
South Shields FC

Shields' halcyon days are revisited in print

BOOK REVIEW

SOUTH SHIELDS FC
The Football League Years
A Complete Record of a forgotten club

By George Thompson, £8.95
 Yore Publications.

LAST season may not have been the best of campaigns for South Shields Football Club, culminating in relegation to the Northern League Second Division.

But now fans of the Mariners have the opportunity to look back on the days when the likes of Manchester United, Chelsea and Leeds United all came to town - and were beaten.

Exiled Geordie George Thompson has painstakingly chronicled South Shields Football Club's years as a league side.

The book actually takes its starting place as the period between 1908-1915 when Shields were a North Eastern League outfit - complete with full statistical records for those seasons.

After the Great War, Shields joined the Football League after it decided to expand to 44 clubs.

Eventful

Thompson devotes a chapter to each eventful league campaign, recalling times both happy and sad.

You can relive the 1923-24 campaign when Manchester United were defeated at Horsley Hill and how the home fans took exception to the attitude and approach of the visiting Red Devils - nothing changes it seems!

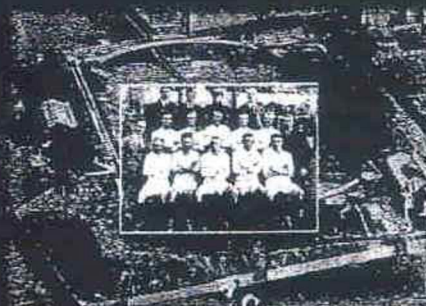
And the 5-1 mauling of Chelsea in north east hurricane conditions is also recorded for posterity. Heady stuff.

There's a full statistical record of every season up until the controversial move to Gateshead, plus an exhaustive Who's Who of those who represented Shields during their greatest times.

The thoughts and scribbles of Mariners

SOUTH SHIELDS F.C.

The Football League Years



George Thompson

Complete Record of a forgotten club

fans are also included by Thompson in a special letters section.

Former South Shields official Bob Wray, of Cleadon Village, proved a great help to Thompson in producing the book, loaning photographs for the publication.

Bob shelved his own plans to produce a history of South Shields dating from its origins in the late 1880s right up to the present day after resigning from the Mariners three years ago.

But he was delighted to help Thompson, saying: "From a personal viewpoint I'm pleased to see such history preserved in this manner for posterity."

"It's a well researched, most readable, fascinating book and highly recommended."

■ For further details contact Yore Publications at 12 The Furrows, Harefield, Middlesex UB9 6AT.

This book may yet be obtainable from Yore Publications, and is certainly well worth an enquiry should you be interested in a copy for your bookshelf or a present for a friend etc



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FIXTURES, 1924-25.

LEAGUE—Division II.

SATURDAY, April 11th, 1925.

MANCHESTER UNITED.

STEWART Goal		JONES Left Back	
4 MOORE Right Back	5 BARNES Centre Half-Back	6 GREENWOOD Left Half-Back	7 LOGGHEAD Inside Left
8 BENTON Right Half-Back	9 PATE Centre	10 THOMAS Outside Left	
11 SPENCE Outside Right	12 SMITH Inside Right		
Referee: W. MURTHEN. Linesmen: E. WOODS and J. W. TATTERSALL.			
13 TROTTER Outside Left	14 THOMPSON Inside Left	15 O'BERRY Centre	16 SMITH Inside Right
17 HUTCHINSON Left Half-Back	18 WILSON Centre Half-Back	19 NEVILL Right Half-Back	20 MATTHEWSON Outside Right
21 ROSSON Left Back	22 L. RICHARDSON Goal	23 RIDLEY Right Back	

Kick-off - - 3 p.m.

SOUTH SHIELDS.

1921-22

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Liverpool	42	22	13	7	63	30	57
2 Tottenham	42	21	9	12	65	39	51
3 Burnley	42	22	5	15	72	54	49
4 Cardiff	42	19	10	13	61	53	48
5 Aston Villa	42	22	3	17	74	55	47
6 Bolton	42	20	7	15	68	59	47
7 Newcastle	42	18	10	14	59	45	46
8 Middlesbrough	42	16	14	12	79	69	46
9 Chelsea	42	17	12	13	40	43	46
10 Man City	42	18	9	15	65	70	45
11 Sheffield United	42	15	10	17	59	54	40
12 Sunderland	42	16	8	18	60	62	40
13 WBA	42	15	10	17	51	63	40
14 Huddersfield	42	15	9	18	53	64	39
15 Blackburn	42	13	12	17	64	57	38
16 Preston	42	13	12	17	42	65	38
17 Arsenal	42	15	7	20	47	58	37
18 Birmingham	42	15	7	20	46	60	37
19 Oldham	42	13	11	18	38	50	37
20 Everton	42	12	12	18	57	55	36
21 Bradford City	42	11	10	21	48	72	32
22 Man United	42	8	12	22	41	73	28

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Mottis Forest	42	22	12	8	51	30	56
2 Stoke	42	18	8	16	44	52	52
3 Barnsley	42	22	8	12	67	52	52
4 West Ham	42	20	8	14	52	39	48
5 Hull	42	19	10	13	51	41	48
6 South Shields	42	17	12	13	43	38	46
7 Fulham	42	18	9	15	57	38	45
8 Leeds	42	16	13	13	44	38	45
9 Leicester	42	14	17	11	39	34	45
10 Wednesday	42	15	14	13	47	50	44
11 Bury	42	15	10	17	54	55	40
12 Derby	42	15	9	18	60	64	39
13 North Country	42	12	15	15	47	51	39
14 Crystal Palace	42	13	13	16	45	51	39
15 Clapton Orient	42	15	9	18	43	50	39
16 Nottingham Co	42	14	11	17	32	43	39
17 Wolves	42	13	11	18	44	49	37
18 Port Vale	42	14	8	20	43	57	36
19 Blackpool	42	15	5	22	44	67	35
20 Coventry	42	12	10	20	51	60	34
21 Bristol City	42	12	9	21	37	58	33
22 Bradford PA	42	12	9	21	46	62	32

How we were !!!

Then ... and some years later !

SOUTH SHIELDS A.F.C.

SIMONSDALE HALL
SEASON 1973-74

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME
5p

versus

MORECAMBE

F.A. CHALLENGE TROPHY
SEMI-FINAL

Saturday, 30th March

Kick-off 3 p.m.

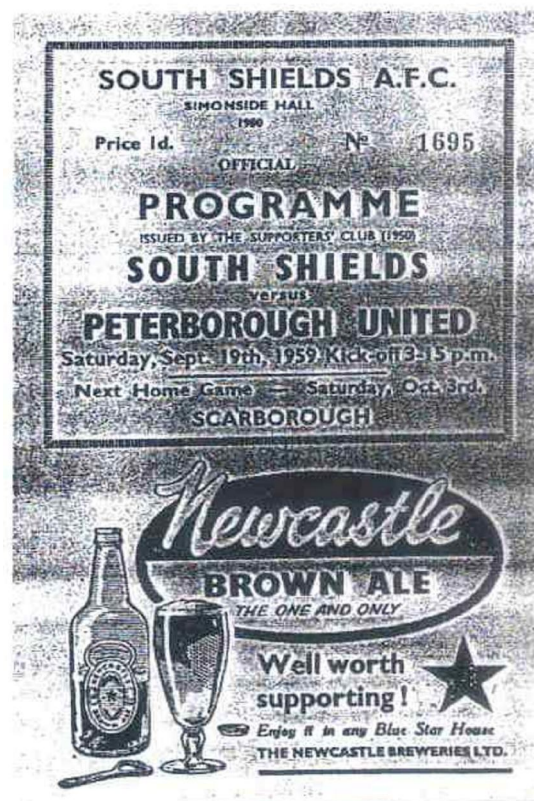
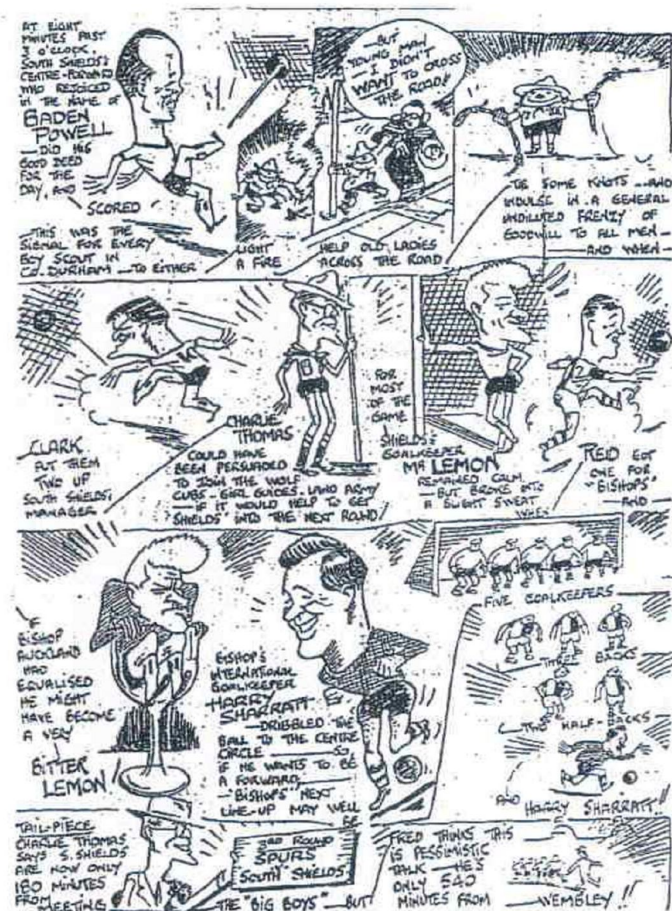
Shields had hammered Morecambe in two League games, only to lose this one for the Wembley Final.

1974-75

NORTHERN ALLIANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 South Shields	32	26	4	2	118	29	56
2 Marine Park	32	22	6	4	69	21	50
3 Morpeth Town	32	19	6	7	91	50	44
4 Alnwick Town	32	13	9	10	67	57	35
5 Percy Main Amateurs	31*	12	9	10	74	58	34
6 Alston	32	16	2	14	70	77	34
7 Seaham Red Star	32	15	3	14	55	39	33
8 Wallington	32	14	5	13	59	56	33
9 Belford	32	12	8	12	84	74	32
10 Wallsend Athletic	32	12	7	13	57	64	31
11 Workington Res.	32	10	10	12	57	58	30
12 Newcastle University	32	12	5	15	47	61	29
13 Bede College	32	11	6	15	36	51	28
14 Bedlington C. W.	32	10	3	19	48	84	23
15 Throckley Welfare	32	6	8	18	59	89	20
16 Stockton	31*	6	7	18	43	92	19
17 Sunderland Greenwell	32	4	4	24	37	111	12

*Stockton did not fulfil a fixture at Percy Main



A cartoon feature report of the 1962 Shields v Bishop Auckland FA Cup Qualifying Round tie at Simonside Hall

Peterborough, known as the "Posh" were then Midland League champions and regarded as the best non-league club in the country.



A 1947 cartoon bemoaning the non-availability of the Horsley Hill ground for Shields North Eastern League fixtures on account of the severe arctic winter weather which had brought with it record heavy snowfalls for weeks on end. Seems somewhat familiar...?

THE GOAL BUSTER

This draw operates on a member first random selected team to score exactly eleven goals, and not to pass that total, the cash prize for the winner is £80. Steve Franchi is the draw organiser, he can be contacted on mobile number – 07952 658291. Tickets are sold during a home game at the start of a new draw sequence by him and colleagues, on the basis of first come first served. Some Supporters Association members and club enthusiasts and members of the public at the game were unable to buy a ticket for the current draw, which was quickly and completely sold out, and the game was able to commence that day, with members selected team goal scores tallied. A list of the draw teams and members names with all the current goals scored up to date is posted on the downstairs bar window by the SSFC Club shop during every home game for the interest and information of all. It is hoped to increase the total number of teams involved to 100, thereby increasing the prize, also to interest more supporter participation and to further advantage the Supporters Association fund raising. There is only the initial ticket cost of £2, and it is therefore a one-off purchase per game.

THE CLUB SHOP

The club shop has a wide selection of SSFC merchandise available, please contact Bob Scott who will be pleased to provide full details on request with any item on display and purchase price lists etc. The shop is open on all match days, and enquiries are also welcomed on mobile number – 07920 554377 or your club support wear home and away, also as fashion wear and for that special present - and available for all ages and sizes.

YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS - FOR EASE OF CONTACT

For ease of contact, the association would welcome and appreciate the email addresses of those members who are online, if you have not been recently invited to provide this, please contact Terry Casson with these details for our update, to 0191 287 1123 and 07597 175880 ASAP, thank you. This is for internal usage only and will not be made available to any third party. Information of interest concerning match details etc and supporters association news updates will be provided on a frequent basis. If you move house or change your telephone number etc please inform us ASAP to update our records, thank you.

All Supporters Association members are most cordially invited to attend meetings and to participate in decision making and to contribute to debate and to offer their own views, opinions, suggestions, ideas and comments etc etc to assist in the promotion, well-being, advancement, material and welfare and public image of the association in all its activities, endeavours on behalf of the football club in all respects. Please visit the club website or phone the “Voice” editor for meetings dates and related information.

TRANSPORT HELP FOR NON DRIVERS TO AWAY GAMES

For the attention, interest and information of car drivers who regularly attend away games and have spare seats available, and who would please carry fellow supporters without transport who wish to attend these games. May we please have your details – name, postal and e-mail address, landline and mobile phone numbers as appropriate in order to facilitate arrangements on behalf of would-be extra passengers, subject to personal agreement etc? Vocal support at away games is both crucial and important and any such kind assistance wherever possible would be greatly appreciated. If you can and will please oblige, please give your details to John Prendergast SSFC Supporters Association Membership Secretary/Travel Club Co-ordinator, day phone 0191 454 6850 (the Furniture Den) or evenings 0191 420 0338, thank you for your support and interest.

WE ASK FOR YOUR HELP

There are immediate and pressing vacancies for new aspiring club committee members, to assist in the day to day running of the club on and off the pitch, and to provide help with numerous and 'behind the scenes' necessary activities. If you have some spare time available and wish to become involved as a member, please contact the club secretary Phil Reay on 0191 536 9159, who will be pleased to make further details known to you.

A list of interested supporter volunteers and others is currently being drawn up to assist the club committee on various groundwork activities as and when required. Please contact the club chairman Gary Crutwell on 07947 480054 or phone TGS on 0191 454 7244, or speak to any committee member or Supporters Association representative or leave your details at the club shop, your assistance with this important work would be greatly welcomed and sincerely appreciated, thank you.

YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE IT

"He's the only man I know who could start an argument with himself" – Sir Bobby Robson on Craig Bellamy.

"I never heard a minutes silence like that" – Glenn Hoddle

"95% of my language problems are the fault of that stupid little midget" – Gianfranco Zola on Dennis Wise

Interviewer to Gordon Strachan – "In what area do you think the other side were better than you today?"
Strachan – "Mainly that big green one out there"

"The ideal board of directors should comprise three men, two dead and one dying" –Tommy Docherty

"At last England have appointed a manager who can speak better English than the players" – Brian Clough on the appointment of Sven Erikson

Just to show that there are no hard feelings and that 'shades of 1966' happen in Germany also, a 'Wembley goal' (Wembleytor) is one that is awarded even though the ball did not cross the line

"You, my old son may be the only friend I have left in the world - said Scotland's manager Ally McCleod patting the head of a stray dog during the ill-fated World Cup in Argentina 1978. The dog promptly bit his hand!

South Shields F.C. Supporters Association

DO YOUR BIT AS A MARINER'S SUPPORTER TO HELP AS AND WHEN AND WHERE YOU CAN TO POSITIVELY ASSIST ALL THE EFFORTS AND ENDEAVOURS ONGOING TO RAISE THE IMAGE, WELLBEING AND ADVANCE OF THE CLUB TO THE STANDARDS AND LEVEL OF FORMER TIMES, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE, IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER FOR THE CAUSE, WITH RALLYING CRY "ONWARD AND UPWARD" WITH RESOLUTION, DETERMINATION AND FAITH IN OUR UNITED ABILITY TO SUCCEED, OUR HOPES, ASPIRATIONS AND AMBITIONS WILL BE REWARDED AND REALISED

Want to have your say?

<http://forum.southshields-sanddancers.co.uk/boards/viewforum.php?f=59>

When you have read this newsletter and do not intend to keep it, PLEASE do not 'bin it' but pass it on to any interested friend or acquaintance for their information and possible interest, they could be a potential recruit for the association. Do please help to encourage more new members.