

The Mariners Voice



December 2009

Issue 3

Newsletter of the South Shields FC Supporters Association

ONWARD AND UPWARD



BEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS, AND A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO OUR ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, MARINER'S SUPPORTERS, CLUB COMMITTEE, TEAM MANAGEMENT AND PLAYERS, SPONSORS AND ALL FOLLOWERS, ENTHUSIASTS, FRIENDS AND READERS.

To the club officials, committee, team management, staff and the players, supporter's association, and all associated with the club, a most sincere thank you for all efforts to promote and advance the wellbeing of SSFC. All these endeavours as a united effort can be seen in the excellent public image of the club. The profile of the club in the local community and beyond continues to improve and rise, and in this context grateful thanks is extended to the Shields 'Gazette' for excellent coverage. Together with the current form and success of the team and all the much welcomed good comments and plaudits it is attracting from numerous quarters, we of the supporters association add our appreciation for the ability of the team and the playing standard now being displayed, we have pride in our club and much to be now thankful for.

Two great games which featured recently at Filtrona Park exemplified the great spirit and confidence in abundance of the team with a sterling brand of all out attacking football which was a pleasure to watch, and such games as these against FA Vase winners and possible league champions Whitley Bay and famous name club Bishop Auckland are indicative of a team in fine form., long may it continue.

As we enter the second half of the season, it is the hope that this effort can and will be sustained, and that SSFC will achieve a high league table placing by season's end. Much has been said and written about where the club now is, and there is little doubt in this writer's opinion that it could be the start of a new era, now that the town has a team to be proud of. It is hoped that this will be translated into increased support, additional crowd attendances and greater financial sponsorship. An announcement also concerning the future ownership of Filtrona Park is hopefully anticipated, and this event would be the catalyst for re-generation in all matters concerning the club.

So it is therefore, with all these thoughts in mind, we look forward with much optimism to 2010 and of a bright future that could be before the club. To continue the steady improvement and growth on and off the field, to enjoy the fruits of our united endeavours, and hopefully to see the re-emergence of our club as a major player once again in northern non-league football.

AN OMNIBUS EDITION – WELL ALMOST.....!

A super bumper special 19 page Christmas issue for your reading pleasure, full of interesting topics, items, features, articles and information, with SSFC and Supporter's Association official's reports, a Penrith weekend write-up, an analysis of high scoring and multi-consecutive past victories, a forthcoming fixtures list and league tables, the 'blast from the past' section with our first time inclusion of a team photograph gallery selection, match programme covers, a tribute to Charlie Thomas, with also a portrait and the North Eastern League 1957 - 58 champion team photograph, a cartoon from the 1950's and our Football League record, past Shields 'Gazette' sports writers, and to conclude with a few jokes and quotes, plus the Club Shop merchandise selection list and a Supporter's Association membership application form to please pass to a friend, - all of which it is hoped will be very much enjoyed, and that 'Yule' (!) have a good read

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY.

With cash prizes to the value of £100 as an inducement to encourage entries, please do get into the spirit of the evening and get 'dolloed up' in fancy dress for real festive fun. It is hoped that a well known local personality will be the adjudicator, and also we may get a visit from 'you know who' as we enter the Christmas Festive Season.....

THE CLUB SHOP.

The shop is now well stocked with a comprehensive selection of SSFC merchandise, all of which can be considered as ideal choices for Christmas presents for family and friends at home and abroad and are available in various sizes and colours. Also stocking fillers as the Supporter's Association publication 'A Guide to the Northern League' are yet available and priced at only £2.50, and which is an indispensable and handy pocket sized booklet for Mariner's supporters, full of interesting information, a resume of SSFC history, official's articles, member club stats, records, items and all ground directions etc.

THE CLUB WEEKLY CASH DRAW.

We ask all members and supporter's to please buy tickets to directly help the club's player budget finances, for themselves and also if possible for their own family members, social and work friends and colleagues. Priced at £1 each, and available from the club shop or by contact with chairman Gary Crutwell on 07947 480054, or Bob Scott on 07920 554377. Your help would be greatly appreciated with this fund raising activity.

CLUB COMMITTEE MEMBERS WELCOMED.

The committee urgently needs volunteers from amongst the club supporters to please volunteer their services to help with the various jobs that are important in the running of the club on and off the field. Please contact the chairman on 07947 480054 or the secretary Phil Reay on 07847 173235, enquiries are much welcomed and appreciated

SUPPORTER'S ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP.

The association is actively promoting a recruitment drive, and all interested in joining can obtain membership application forms at the club shop on match days and 'The Furniture Den' at the top of Stanhope Road, 0191 454 6850 daily, and 0191 4200 338 evenings.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE BY MICK VINEY

As I write this a few weeks before publication it's difficult to be completely current. "Today" as I write and reflect we are preparing to meet Billingham Sythonia, having beaten the Bay and thrashed Bishop Auckland and we are happily sitting in 4th position in the league. Very happy days indeed.

We have made superb progress under this club committee's stewardship, and under this team's management. There have been, and maybe still are, some dissenting voices, but I believe that the vast majority of Shields supporters would join me in congratulating them on the great work they have done.....SO FAR!

These are very good times to be a Shields supporter. Sitting in a fairly lofty position in the league has quite naturally, had some discussing the possibility of progressing up the pyramid. Would we take it if we were to be successful enough to finish high enough? Would we decide like so many before us to remain in our comfort zone, or as big fish in a little pond?. Many have taken this decision, and it's a decision that they are entitled to take as we each have our own reasons and criteria.....and of course finances.

I believe that progression is not just a nice option when offered, but is VITAL. To rest on your laurels at any level of sport, or indeed life inevitably leads to decline. Many clubs before us have progressed to a level, and become complacent expecting to remain where they are....only to suffer a further descent back down. We ARE progressing. We ARE growing and now is the time to look at how to continue that journey.

I believe this management team WOULD take promotion if it were offered and IF we could fulfil the eligibility criteria. I have had a look at this criteria and can see that as things stand we simply don't qualify. No matter what happens on the pitch. To progress beyond this level we need at least an additional stand, a separate toilet block and we need ownership of the ground or security of tenure. In short, as we have none of these, what we actually need is a lot of money.

Money is always an issue in any organisation at any level. Some teams have wealthy benefactors that buy success or progression for their clubs. We do not! Nor do we have an additional revenue stream such as a clubhouse. But what we do have is ambition, potential and a largely untapped local community. We supporters need to be the driving force in taking this club back to its own community. We need to get out and spread the word. We need to be talking about OUR club in the pubs in OUR town, in the way people talk about Sunderland and Newcastle, Manchester United and Arsenal. We need to have almost an evangelical approach talk to the unconverted. We need to continue to create interest in OUR club. We need to simply talk to everyone. To create and build interest.

The club for their part need to continue to seek improvement and success on the pitch. If we are currently unable to progress upwards through the pyramid, then we must ensure we gain success in cup competitions and use this revenue to fund our eventual progression. Whitley Bay gained tens of thousands of pounds in their Vase win. That success has boosted their gates by 67% this season, further filling the coffers. That sort of income is exactly what we need to get to the next stage of the South Shields FC evolution and it IS achievable. If we can't be promoted then we have to treat these cup games as vital. This is where the non-attending public will have their interest tweaked. We are doing so well in the league, now we have to match this in the cup competitions.

Between us all, fans, managers and players we can push Shields on. We each have to play our part. We fans need to tell the community about OUR club, create the interest and get people in for the first time.....and the team need to provide the product that makes them want to come back. **ONWARDS and UPWARDS. TOGETHER.**

SUPPORTER'S ASSOCIATION REPORT

This time last year we found ourselves rooted to the foot of the Northern League Division 1 table. We currently occupy 4th spot with a real possibility of a top half finish. For me this represents a real step forward, progress that has been brought about as a result of much hard work from the management team, the club committee and not least of all the supporters. A major contributory factor for our progress is the togetherness demonstrated by the aforementioned. We appear to have everybody singing from the same hymn sheet – maybe on second thoughts almost everybody.

I am delighted to inform you that our membership continues to grow, at the time of writing our number stand at 219.

As our numbers have grown along with our improved league position then so do our expectations, and maybe every now and then we need to remind ourselves of how far we have come in the last three seasons and that patience is indeed a virtue. It disappoints me deeply to hear people criticise players the instant they make a poor pass or perhaps a weak tackle, when the overall picture is so positive. It's good to have ambitious expectations, but keep them real.

Whilst our cup form has been disappointing, many of our league performances have been enjoyable and successful and for this time we should give credit and enjoy the good times.

Should we succeed in finishing higher than eighth in the league this season it would provide us with our highest finish since the club was reformed in 1974, so on the barometer of good times that would rate very high!

This just leaves me to wish all our supporters a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Successful New Year.

John Prendergast,

Membership Secretary.

ASDA BAG PACKING EVENT

The association has arranged this fund raising event for Tuesday, December 29th at the South Shields store, and is asking for both boy and girl volunteers, aged 12 to 16 years to please help with the bag packing on the 15 check outs. This represents the possibility of a most considerable injection of funds and we most sincerely ask for junior association members, their friends and all others with an interest in SSFC to please contact John Prendergast 0191 454 6850 day & 0191 4200 338 evenings and Bob Wray 0191 537 2633 with name, address and telephone contact details as soon as possible. The supporter's association would be most grateful for this sincerely requested assistance,

without which the event will not of course be possible to arrange in order to comply with the requirements of ASDA Ltd. Thank you for all hoped for forthcoming assistance.

FROM THE CLUB SECRETARY, BY PHIL REAY

The season has certainly been eventful to date with a series of highs and lows, great victories and disappointing defeats, but without doubt a much improved season in comparison to our first in Division 1.

We are now seeing the benefit of the hard work put in during the close season as we have yet to have a game postponed despite having some horrendous weather in recent weeks; of course the hard work put in after each game by Chairman Gary Crutwell and the ever youthful Gerry O'Reilly has also helped as they restore the pitch replacing divots and rolling the pitch to provide a surface fit for the players to play attractive passing football.

We are, at the time of writing, in the middle of a purple patch with 8 consecutive victories which has included some impressive scalps and some fine performances; for me the stand out game was probably the way the lads bounced back from the 6-3 defeat at Whitley Bay to defeat Penrith away 1-0. It has to be said that visits to Penrith always seem to be memorable whether it be for the performance or the social side of the trip or as with this year both.

The disappointing part of the season has been our inability to reproduce our league form in cup games, the defeats against Jarrow Roofing and Ryton were very disappointing, however there may yet be a reprieve in the League Cup as Ryton played an ineligible player and will be removed from the competition, as yet we have not had confirmation of this. It is not the way we would like to progress but we will take it, on a personal note I have to say I feel very sorry for Ryton secretary Ken Rodger who was very upset when he rang me out of courtesy to tell me of the error made by Ryton. Who'd be a secretary?

However whilst cup form could be better we will not win all games and even the best teams have dips in form, Spennymoor Town with all of their money went out of the Durham Challenge to Jarrow Roofing and League Cup at the hands of Bishop Auckland. The squad has seen a few changes during the season as Studs and Justin have made some fine tuning, I think this has been the secret of our success, instead of making wholesale changes they have brought players in to strengthen and improve squad whilst allowing others to leave. Niki Lawson has proven to be a superb acquisition and David Meechan is settling into the squad.

The coverage we are getting in the Gazette continues to be superb, special thanks to Iam Burn for providing the photographs that have illustrated both the Gazette and the match programme. The continued work of the Supporters Association is greatly appreciated by the club as you spread the word around the town hopefully the work will bear fruit in the shape of more members and increased gates on match days.

We all wish that stalwart of the association Geordie Wood a speedy recovery from his recent heart attack and a return to Filtrona Park. In addition we also wish Dick Bailey all the best as he embarks on his treatment to remove the tumour on his vocal cord. We currently sit proudly in 4th position in the League, our highest for quite some time and of course we must be safe from relegation. What a difference a year makes, this time last season we were rooted to the bottom of the table with the prospect of relegation a real threat, at Christmas we had the following record:

P W L A D F A G P
t

South Shields	1	1	3	8	3	1	2	-	1
	6					5	5	1	1
								4	0

We have certainly gone “onwards and upwards

SSFC SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION (THE SOCIAL SIDE)

BY SSFC COL.

I was asked to write a small piece in OUR newsletter showing the social side of being an SSFC supporter .What better way than to describe a most memorable weekend in Penrith supporting OUR beloved football team. As well as the team bus with players and supporters onboard , there was also a minibus with 14 supporters who had made arrangements for an overnight stay in the Norecroft Guesthouse in Penrith. The day started with a pickup next to our house at 10:30am on Saturday morning, before heading down the A1 . No sooner had the journey started, when sweets and drinks (soft) were handed around, a quiz was soon up and running (boys v girls) and as the girls were outnumbered Les was transferred over to the girls. He was supplied with a Flo (Mrs. Cap) headscarf and curlers so as not to be confused. The girl’s team eventually won after being informed that bottles of wine were the 1st prize (supplied by John and Helen). Suddenly we were heading over the A66 towards Penrith, the weather was fantastic, a sunny dry crisp autumn morning., The first sighting of Penrith’s new ground Frenchfield Park came into view on the outskirts of town. We arrived at the guest house at 12:00pm and were allocated rooms, the standard was absolutely first class. It was a quick unpack, and a cup of tea and off to the ‘Robin Hood’ to meet up with fellow supporters who were already in fine voice. A few ‘Speckled Hens’ later and we were off for our first ever visit to Frenchfield Park, and arrived at the ground at 14:30pm.

We entered the new clubhouse and were greeted by the large gathering of happy SSFC fellow Supporters. Everyone was in agreement, what a splendid hospitable clubhouse it was, with fantastic views over the pitch .The game kicked off in magnificent autumn sunshine, it was shirt sleeve weather, and the Shields away support was again magnificent, outnumbering the home fans considerably. The match itself proved to be tough as expected with Shields eventually securing their first win at Penrith for many years. The supporters cheered the lads on from start to finish, eventually applauding the team off the pitch. It was back to the clubhouse for more sing song and banter, eventually returning to the guesthouse at 7:00pm. Then a shower and change and out on the town , a few drinks and table booked for 9:00pm in the ‘Bengal Tiger’ restaurant’. Then more wine, and a fantastic curry. Off to bed at midnight, and up at 8.3am for a hearty breakfast. The minibus set off at 10:30am and stopped at Barnard Castle for coffee and cake. We set off again at 12:pm and were back in sunny Shields at 1:15pm. What can I say about a fantastic weekend, I can sum it up in one sentence. It was the people who made the weekend, not the excellent result, not the first class guesthouse, but the fellow supporters, what a **great bunch**.

PAST HIGH SCORING GAMES AND MULTI-CONSECUTIVE WINS.

Following the 8:1 defeat of Bishop Auckland on November 14th, it was thought that readers would appreciate an article with information concerning other large scoring games in recent years, so with sincere thanks to Steve Leonard for archive assistance, the following has been collated for interest. SSFC have never scored more than eight goals in any Northern League Division 1 game, and only on one occasion in Division 2, but did on several earlier occasions in the Wearside and Northern Alliance leagues since the 1974 reformation.

1995 - 96 NL Div.2.

SS 10 – 1 Norton and Stockton Ancients. Hallam 3, Wright 3, Palmer 2, Mulvain 2.

1994-95 Wearside League.

Silksworth 1 - 11 SS. No scorer details available.

Wolviston 1 - 8 SS. “

1991 – 92 Wearside League.

SS 8 - 1 Hartlepool Town. “

SS 8 - 1 Wolviston. “

1984 – 85 Wearside League.

Murton 0 – 14 SS. Taylor 5, Davies 3, Wright 2, Doig, Hedley, Dickinson, Banks.

SS 9 – 2. Murton. Banks 3, O’Connor 2, Doig 2, Whittle 2.

1982 – 83 Wearside League.

Wingate 1 - 8 SS. “

1980 – 81 Wearside League.

Washington 1 – 8 SS. “

SS 10 – 1 Annfield Plain. “

1976 – 77 Wearside League.

SS 10 – 0 Annfield Plain. “

Hartlepool Reserves 3 – 11 SS. “

1975 - 76 Northern Alliance.

SS 8 – 2 Greenwells. “

Throckley Welfare 1 – 10 SS. “

1974 – 75 Northern Alliance.
SS 8 – 2 Workington Reserves.

In recent weeks on two occasions SSFC have won 5 consecutive games, the previous example of this was in 2007 – 08. There have been numerous similar examples of this instance, here following are the highest numbers of such consecutive wins.

2007 – 08. NL Div. 2 (6 consecutive wins)

29 Jan	SS 3 – 2 Thornaby	E.Armstrong Cup	Fitzpatrick, Johnson, D. Graham.
02 Feb	SS 5 – 2 Birtley	League	Johnson 3, Feasey, Scorer.
05 Feb	Hebburn 0 – 3 SS	League	Crew, Johnson, Feasey.
09 Feb	SS 4 – 0 Prudhoe	League	Fitzpatrick, Johnson, Crew, Feasey.
12 Feb	SS 3 – 2 Darlington RA	League	Brocklehurst, Scroggins, Crew.
23 Feb	Crook 1 – 6 SS	League	Crew 2, Johnson, Scroggins, Feasey.

1995 – 96. NL Div 2. (12 consecutive wins)

28 Aug	Norton 3 – 4 SS	Lge	Holmes, Whelan, Power, Redmond.
02 Sep	SS 2 – 0 Hebburn	Lge	Redmond, McElwee.
06 Sep	Northallerton 0 – 1 SS	Lge	Power.
09 Sep	Brandon 1 – 3 SS	Lge	Redmond, McElwee, Holvey.
16 Sep	SS 2 – 1 Alnwick T	Lge	Holvey, McElwee.
23 Sep	Darlington CS 0 – 4 SS	Lge	Power, Gibson, Whelan, Anderson.
26 Sep	SS 2 – 1 Easington	Lge	Whelan 2.
11 Oct	Hebburn 0 – 2 SS	Lge	Redmond, Whelan.
14 Oct	Esh Winning 1 – 3 SS	Lge	Whelan, Holmes, Holvey.
17 Oct	SS 3 – 1 Horden	Lge	Anderson, McElwee, Holmes.
21 Oct	SS 3 – 0 Ryhope CA	Lge	Holvey, Whelan, McElwee.
24 Oct	SS 1 – 1 B'ham Synthonia	Lge Cup	Whelan (SS won 3 – 0 on penalties).

1994 – 95 Wearside League (9 consecutive wins (League Champions).

Notable wins were:

Apr 24	SS 4 - 1 Jarrow Roofing	Thompson 2, Milner, Collins.
Apr 29	Silksworth 1 – 11 SS	Thompson 5, Moat 3, Clark, Hallam, Gibson.
May 08	Hartlepool BWOB 0 – 5 SS	Clark 2, Hallam 2 , Holvey.

1992 – 93 Wearside League (15 consecutive wins (champions).

Notable wins were:

Mar 27	Marske United 1 – 6 SS	Harkus 2 , Heron, Robson, Bensley, Warnes.
Apr 14	SS 6 – 0 Roker	No scorer details available.
Apr 17	Hartlepool Town 1 – 3 SS	Thompson, Coady, Harkus.
Apr 24	Windscale 0 – 2 SS	Warnes, Thompson.
May 03	SS 2 – 1 Hartlepool Town	Harkus, Warnes. Shipowners Cup Final.

1975 – 76 Northern Alliance (15 consecutive wins (champions).

Notable wins were:

Nov 08 SS 7 – 1 Wallsend Athletic Robson 2, Graham 2, Young, McDonald, Hunter.
 Nov 15 SS 7 – 0 Newcastle Univ. Young 3, Parker 2, Robson, Compton.
 Nov 22 Workington Res. 0 – 6 SS Young 2, Robson 2, Parker, Graham.
 Nov 29 SS 7 – 0 Belford Parker 5, Madden, Hunter.

FORTHCOMING CLUB FIXTURES.

December 19 ^t	Saturday	Consett	A
December 29 th	Tuesday	Bishop Auckland	A
January 2 nd	Saturday	Chester-le-Street	A
January 9 th	Saturday	Ryton	H
January 16 th	Saturday	Norton and Stockton	A
January 23 rd	Saturday	Morpeth	H
January 30 th	Saturday	Ashington	A

Division One														
Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Spennymoor Town	21	10	2	0	34	8	7	0	2	28	10	44	53
2	Whitley Bay	21	10	1	1	43	9	6	1	2	25	10	49	50
3	Ashington	22	7	3	2	25	16	7	1	2	19	9	19	46
4	South Shields	23	8	1	3	31	21	7	0	4	23	22	11	46
5	Dunston UTS FC	21	5	0	3	20	8	7	2	4	26	13	25	38
6	Consett	21	3	2	4	15	20	9	0	3	23	14	4	38
7	Tow Law Town	22	6	1	3	22	22	6	0	6	22	28	-6	37
8	Newcastle Benfield	20	5	1	4	17	12	6	1	3	21	15	11	35
9	Bedlington Terriers	20	8	0	2	25	10	2	3	5	11	15	11	33
10	Penrith	19	5	0	3	14	9	4	4	3	27	24	8	31
11	Billingham Synthonia	21	5	2	4	19	14	4	2	4	18	18	5	31
12	Shildon	19	6	1	3	19	17	3	1	5	16	18	0	29
13	West Allotment Celtic	22	2	1	7	12	20	7	0	5	17	18	-9	28
14	Norton & Stockton Ancients	19	2	1	5	10	16	5	2	4	22	23	-7	24
15	Bishop Auckland	21	1	2	4	12	18	5	2	7	25	35	-16	22
16	Billingham Town	22	3	0	9	17	35	4	1	5	17	17	-18	22
17	Esh Winning	20	3	3	6	14	23	2	0	6	14	21	-16	18
18	Chester-Le-Street	20	4	0	6	27	37	2	0	8	13	24	-21	18
19	Horden C.W.	18	3	1	6	9	18	2	1	5	12	19	-16	17
20	Ryton	19	3	1	7	17	21	2	0	6	9	16	-11	16
21	Morpeth Town	16	1	0	7	6	22	1	2	5	13	23	-26	8
22	West Auckland Town	19	1	1	9	12	37	0	1	7	12	28	-41	5

The Skill Training Ltd Northern League Division 1 table at the end of November

NORTH EASTERN LEAGUE							
1914 - 1915							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 South Shields	38	31	4	3	160	34	66
2 Middlesbrough Reserves	38	28	5	5	151	34	61
3 Newcastle United Reserves	38	26	6	6	132	43	58
4 Darlington	38	25	4	9	109	37	54
5 West Stanley	38	24	4	10	79	44	52
6 Sunderland Reserves	38	18	9	11	86	50	45
7 Hartlepool United	38	16	11	11	74	57	43
8 North Shields Athletic	38	19	5	14	67	63	43
9 Ashington	38	15	11	12	60	63	41
10 Sunderland Royal Rovers	38	17	4	17	74	79	38
11 Spennymoor United	38	12	9	17	40	82	33
12 Shildon Athletic	38	11	9	18	70	61	31
13 Blyth Spartans	38	11	9	18	49	72	31
14 Hebburn Argyle	38	12	6	20	49	73	30
15 Jarrow Croft	38	10	10	18	45	95	30
16 Houghton Rovers	38	11	4	23	43	125	26
17 Carlisle United	38	8	7	23	51	120	23
18 Newcastle City	38	8	5	25	42	87	21
19 Gateshead Town	38	8	3	27	51	121	19
20 Wallsend Park Villa	38	6	3	29	44	136	15

This particular season is considered by football writers and researchers to have been South Shields Football Club's finest in its entire history.

SOUTH SHIELDS

ASSOCIATION
FOOTBALL
CLUB
LTD.



SIMONSIDE
HALL
SEASON
1971-72

F.A. CUP - 2nd ROUND

SATURDAY, 11th December 1971

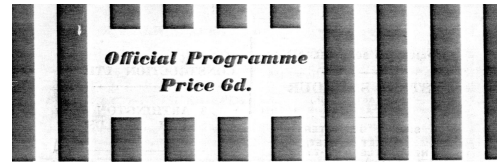
Today's Visitors

NOTTS COUNTY

Kick-Off 2.15 p.m.



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME - - - - - 2½p.



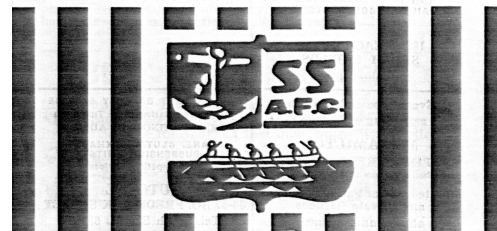
Official Programme
Price 6d.

SOUTH SHIELDS
Association Football Club Ltd.
Simonside Hall, Season 1970-71

Today's Visitors

WIGAN ATHLETIC
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE

SATURDAY, 5th DECEMBER
Kick-off 3-0 p.m.





Games to be recalled at Simonside Hall

CHARLIE THOMAS, 1908 – 2001.

THE CAREER OF A TRUE FOOTBALLING LEGEND.

A TRIBUTE BY THE EDITOR, BOB WRAY.

Charlie Thomas was a greatly respected name in local football, who went on to an eminent career with the Football Association. This tribute is dedicated to the memory of a quiet, thoughtful gentleman of outstanding talent and ability as a shrewd, astute and resourceful club manager and skilled administrator. He was truly a wonderful servant to our national game, which was indeed his life. Charlie was widely recognised as the north east's senior citizen of the game. His name was a household word in local football circles, and for the game he loved, his life long enthusiasm was undiminished and wholehearted. He was indeed a legend in his own lifetime, and one of nature's gentlemen. By any standards his was a quite remarkable career in both management and administration, and his achievements will not be forgotten by all who knew him. His memory will remain for all who love football in the local fraternity and his work with gratitude and affection.

He was born in Benwell, Newcastle in 1908, and at an early age moved to Ouston. His first team was Birtley St. Joseph's School X1, where he played right half. After school

days he played for Ouston Juniors and later for Ouston United. As a youth of 16 years of age came his first administrative appointment with his local side, where he achieved much success. In those days he earned his living selling insurance, following eight years in the local coal mine, he also sold his garden produce for club funds. He gained a commendable reputation for talent spotting, and his recommendations often guaranteed a professional career. Sunderland AFC got more than their fair share of Charlie's discoveries, the best known being Fred Hall during the late 1940's, via Blackburn Rovers. His father took him to watch Newcastle United as a boy, which was the start of his support for the club. Sir Bobby Robson as a then 15 year old, was known to Charlie and they developed a life long friendship. Charlie was then a scout for Birmingham City, and tried to persuade him to sign for them, but Bobby chose Fulham instead. A career that spanned seven decades took Charlie from inconspicuous surroundings to national level.

During the Second World War he served with the RAF in India, where he attained the rank of Squadron Leader. He was appointed manager of the RAF India Command football team, which was composed mostly of league players, and was also President of the joint committee of the three services, Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

It is with South Shields Association Football Club that he is best locally remembered, which he managed in three appointments, between 1947-51, 1954 – 63 and 1970 -74, the latter as assistant manager, then manager and lastly as general manager. The late 1950's and early 1960's was a halcyon period in the club's fortunes, and debatably the most memorable game in the club's postwar career was the magnificent 5 : 0 FA Cup first round replay victory against Fourth Division Crewe Alexandra on Wednesday afternoon of November 19th, 1958 in front of a crowd of 12,000.

The club was later to achieve a record ground attendance of 20,500, and another huge gate was the 19,500 for the FA Cup visit of York City, managed by Shields-born Sam Bartram. These were indeed unforgettable days and due in great measure to the expertise and managerial skills of Charlie. During his working life, his football activities were part-time, from 1945 on his RAF demobilisation he was employed at the Tyne Dock Engineering Company (TDE) ship repair yard in South Shields as industrial relations manager.

He was personally responsible for the acquisition of a complete floodlighting system from Sunderland AFC for Simonside Hall, and many hundreds of British Railways redundant wooden track sleepers with which to form terracing, from the rail salvage depot on Simonside's Newcastle Road, which at that time was located immediately opposite to the Simonside Hall ground. His ultimate ambition was league status again for South Shields, and its home eventually developed to accommodate a capacity of 40,000. Neither were realised, but to his great and lasting credit his service with the Mariners will be always remembered with gratitude and affection. He also scouted for several league clubs, and numerous Shields players enjoyed league careers, including the iconic Chris Marron, free scoring centre forward with the all-time FA Cup 10 goals individual record in a preliminary round tie. Charlie was the recipient of several offers of league club managerial appointments, which were always declined, as he put it, 'to avoid ulcers'.

He was the President of 10 county leagues, and held no less than 27 senior positions, particularly in Durham, and was the proud recipient of an illuminated address presented to him in 1983 on the occasion of his 20 years FA Council membership. During these years he also served on the International Committee and the Senior Committee, and was

an FA Vice President, and accompanied many FA teams abroad, both at junior level and the full international side. Throughout his long career, his involvement in the game was supported totally by his long suffering wife Ellen, who predeceased him, and who was a football widow for many years. His presence and advice was always well remembered by the many who knew him as a good and most knowledgeable friend and trusted mentor, and he was always involved and deeply interested in what the FA was doing at grass roots level. Sir Bobby Robson knew Charlie better than most, having been associated with him from his own early days as a junior in County Durham, and through his career to his time as manager of Ipswich and later right up to the top as manager of England, and said that he was “ quite simply a real football fanatic, and he served the game in a lifetime of devoted service with distinction and honour. But above all he was a man whose first love was at grass roots level and with the youngsters, and was always involved and interested in what the FA was doing at the foundations and base of football. He was very proud to be a member of the senior committee and was always very supportive of me as the manager of England, I think he liked having a fellow Geordie in charge of the national team ! He was a lovely man who loved football beyond anything, and was a great servant of the game “. Charlie’s long and eventful life and career in football management and administration over seven decades was indeed a wonderful record of which he was most justifiably proud. From his origins with a local Durham pit village team to the pinnacle of the game with the Football Association at national level, brought him success, and much deserved recognition at all levels for distinguished service.



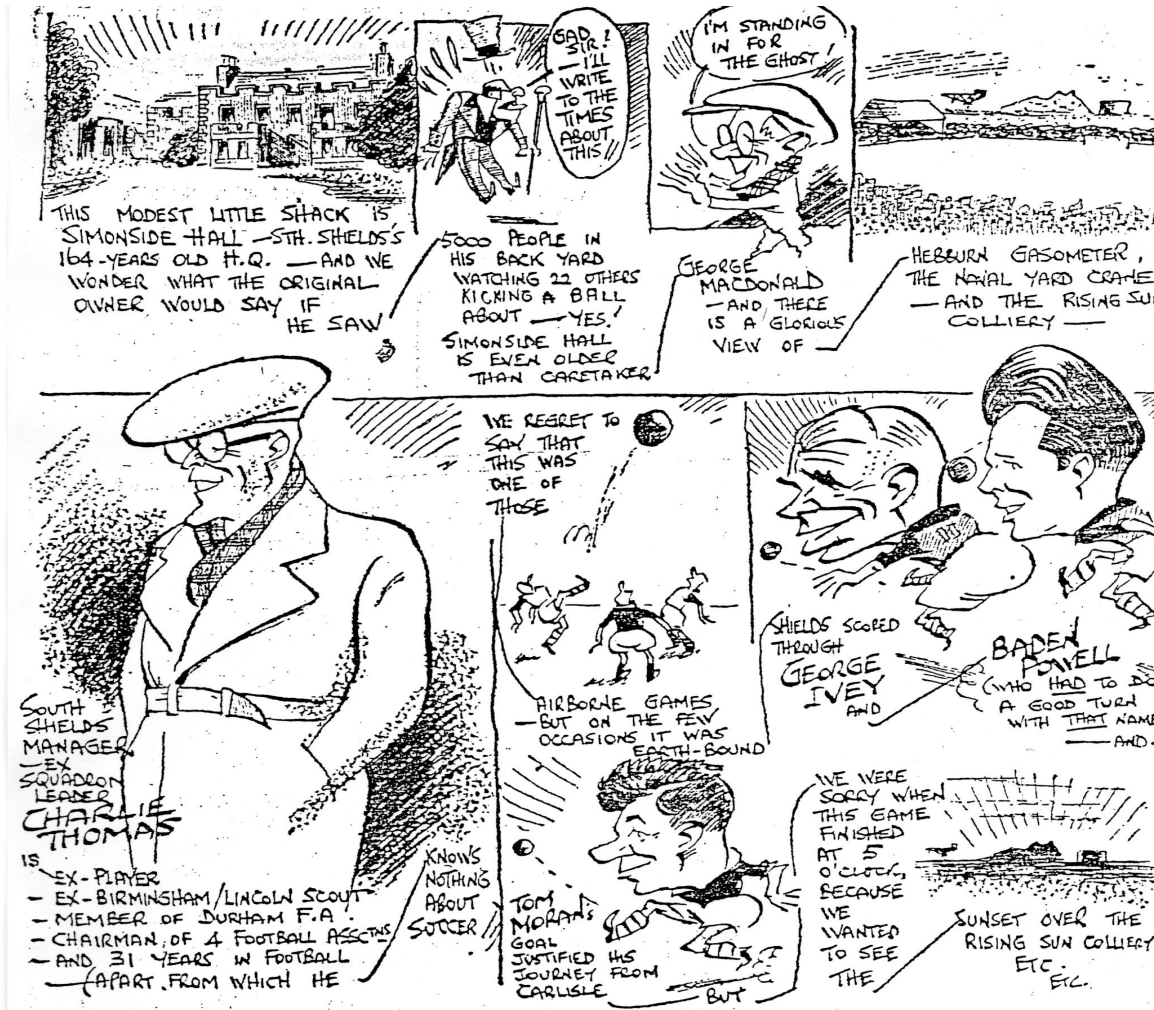
Charlie Thomas



SOUTH SHIELDS AFC. 1957 - 1958.
North Eastern League Champions.

Back row.
H.Milne (coach) R.Shields, N.Crickett, J.Burn, J.Edger, D.Toase, A.Fraser.
Front row.
B.Powell, A.Monkhouse, B.Owen (capt.) C.Thomas (manager) D.Robson, J.Evans, G.Ivey.
Team colours - red/green shirts/socks, white shorts.
Photograph date not known, venue Simonside Hall, source Charlie Thomas, Gateshead.

This team was widely considered to be one of the country's best in non-league football



From a mid 1950's newspaper.

SOUTH SHIELDS SECOND DIVISION RECORD									
YEAR	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	FINAL LEAGUE POSITION	F.A. CUP ROUND REACHED
1919/20	42	15	12	15	58	48	42	9	1
1920/21	42	17	10	15	61	46	44	8	2
1921/22	42	17	12	13	43	38	46	6	1
1922/23	42	15	10	17	35	44	40	13	3
1923/24	42	17	10	15	49	50	44	9	1
1924/25	42	12	17	13	42	38	40	9	1
1925/26	42	18	8	16	74	65	44	10	5
1926/27	42	11	11	20	71	96	33	19	5
1927/28	42	7	9	26	56	111	23	22	3
SOUTH SHIELDS THIRD DIVISION (NORTH) RECORD									
1928/29	42	18	8	16	83	74	44	10	1
1929/30	42	18	10	14	77	74	46	7	1

South Shields AFC Football League record.

SHIELDS 'GAZETTE' SPORTS WRITERS WE REMEMBER.

Bill Bawden, 1923 – 1985, he worked for the Northern Press for 46 years, and began work with the Shields 'Gazette' as a copy boy in 1937, and was for more than 30 years the sports editor. He began writing football reports for the Shields Wednesday League and eventually moved to the sports desk. He was a founder member of the Sports Council in South Shields and an originator of the borough's annual Sports Week, and in the year of his death became the recipient of the Vaux special award for outstanding service to sports reporting. After service in the RAF during the Second World War, he became sports editor of the Shields Evening News in 1949, and in 1953 returned to the Gazette as sports editor., until he retired in 1983. He was president of the South Shields Sunday Football League. Recognised as a distinguished journalist, who made a remarkable contribution to the sporting life of our town, he is well remembered as a great friend of SSFC.

Dick Kirkup, 1932 – 1986, after working for the Northern Press on the north side of the River Tyne for some years, he joined the Shields Gazette in 1961 and succeeded Bill Bawden as sports editor in 1983. A founding member of the North East Branch of the Football Writer's Association, other close interest were boxing, darts and cricket. He had a great knowledge of the local sports scene, as well as national and international sports. A 1986 newspaper comment said that he was 'gold' to an evening newspaper. He wrote authoritively and with style, and had flair for layout, presenting sporting news and pictures attractively. He was very popular with South Shields FC players and like his long term colleague Bill Bawden was a great friend of the club and his articles over the years were always an excellent account of match reports or club topical matters of interest. He made a valuable contribution to local sport over a quarter of a century, and

had a host of friends involved in all local sports activities, and was also a valued member of the BBC Radio Newcastle's sports team.

SPORTS GAZETTE
for
BEST REPORTS

FOR FULL COVERAGE
OF THE "MARINERS"
MATCHES READ THE
DICK KIRKUP COLUMN

**FOR BEST REPORTS . . .
and PICTURES**

Sports Gazette
(GREEN FINAL)
Tonight!

★
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL TEAM
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SPORTS PAPER

SPORTS GAZETTE

YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE IT.

Managers love using mixed metaphors and like pundits and players manage to combine poor grammar with the inability to complete words or sometimes understand what they mean, take these examples

"If you can't stand the heat in the dressing room, get out of the kitchen" – Terry Venables

"The tide is very much in our favour now" – Kevin Keegan.

"Samassi Abou don't speak the English too good" – Harry Rednapp.

A FEW QUOTES.....

"There are more hooligans in the House of Commons than at a football match" – Brian Clough.

"That's going to happen a lot, teams will be at their most dangerous when we have the ball! – former Southampton manager Dave Jones.

"A game is not won until it is lost" – David Pleat.

"There's nobody fitter at his age, except maybe Raquel Welch" – Ron Atkinson on Gordon Strachan.

"I've told the players we need to win so that I can have the cash to buy some new ones" – Chris Turner, when manager of Peterborough United motivating his squad.

"One day someone will end a football game scoring more than Brazil, this might be the time when they lose" – Sir Bobby Robson.

"I have mixed feelings, like watching your mother-in-law drive over a cliff in your car!" – Terry Venables.

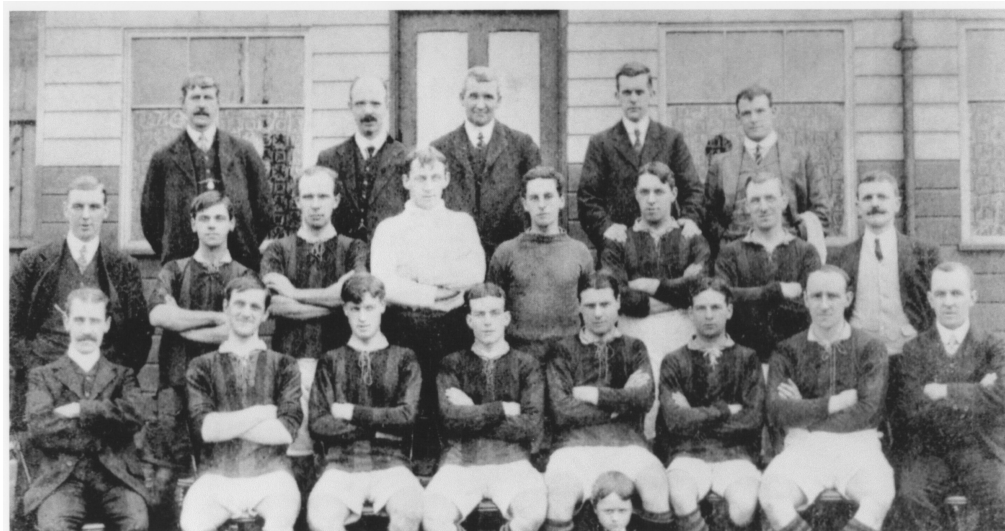
“ A true football fan is one who knows the nationality of every player in the Republic of Ireland team” – musician Ken Bolam.

AND FINALLY..... ONE LAST LIMERICK FOR 2009.

We all know a chap called D. Ord,
who used to write things on our board,
well he got himself banned,
and that's just real grand,
cos' he don't get in touch anymore!!!

Please do your bit as a Mariner's supporter to help as and where you can to positively assist all the efforts and endeavours ongoing to help raise and advance the image, profile and wellbeing of both club and association to the standards we all aspire to of former times. Nothing is impossible, if we all work together for the cause, with the rallying cry of our motto “Onward and Upward”, with resolution to succeed, then our hopes and ambitions can and will ultimately be realised and rewarded.

When you have read this newsletter, and do not intend to keep it, please do not just ‘bin it’, but give it to any interested family member, neighbour, social friend or work colleague, they might join the association... many thanks.



SOUTH SHIELDS AFC 1912 - 1913
North Eastern League.

Back Row: R.Davidson(Assistant Trainer), R.Rigby, J.Tinmouth, R.Anderson(Director), J.Rowley(Trainer).
Middle Row: W.Dodds(Director), S.Ripley, E.McConnell(and Ireland), A.Cartledge, T.Smith, E.Hall, J.Grieve, A.McGillivray(Financial Secretary).
Front Row: J.Tinn(Secretary), T.Oates, J.Young, T.Ashbridge, I.Thornley(and England), G.Portlock, A.Bridgett(and England, Capt./Player Manager), J.Foord(Chairman).
Team Colours - red/green shirts/socks, white shorts. August 1912 Horsley Hill.



SOUTH SHIELDS AFC 1964 - 1965
North Regional League
Back Row: R.Rutherford, C.Lambton, T.McGregor, C.Lemon, B.Thompson, A.Burridge.
Front Row: B.Robinson, L.Smith, B.Elwell(Capt.), G.Luke, N.Cardew.
Team Colours - white shirts/socks with blue trim, white shorts. Photograph September 1964. Simonside Hall.

From our photograph gallery of history and heritage.

SOUTH SHIELDS FC.

THE CLUB SHOP HAS THE
FOLLOWING MERCHANDISE
ITEMS NOW IN STOCK,
IDEAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT
SUGGESTIONS.

AVAILABLE IN VARIOUS SIZES, COLOURS AND WITH CLUB
LOGO

- | | | |
|----|---|------|
| 1. | Car registration plates, with the SSFC logo and the text 'Support the Mariners, made to order – per pair total. | £30. |
| 2. | Fleece lined jackets, heavy duty, ideal for cold weather wear, colour claret. | £39. |
| 3. | Nylon jackets, shower-proof with hood, colour claret. | £20. |
| 4. | Adult replica SSFC shirts, ideal also for fashion wear. | £30. |
| 5. | Junior replica SSFC shirts, “ | £25. |
| 6. | Adult V neck long sleeved woollen jumpers. | £14. |

- | | | |
|-----|--|------|
| 7. | Polo shirts, colours black and navy blue. | £12. |
| 8. | Polo shirts, colour claret, special offer. | £8. |
| 9. | Woollen hats, colours claret and sky blue. | £5. |
| 10. | Club scarves. | £6. |
| 11. | T – Shirts, colours white, black, navy blue. | £10. |
| 12. | Car stickers (to promote your club). | £1. |
| 13. | Pens black or white. | 80p. |
| 14. | SSFC Key Rings. | £2. |

For sales enquiries outside of match day
shop opening times, please phone
Bob Scott on 07920 554377.

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.

