

Junior Blues

NEWSLETTER – Issue 001 – July 2022

INTRODUCTION

Hi everyone, welcome to the first **Junior Blues** newsletter of the season 2022/23 season! It's been such a long time since we were able to bring you a newsletter, there were a lot of problems which meant it just wasn't possible.

Similarly, we are aware that many of you who signed up to the Junior Blues at and around the time of "Meet the Blues Day" last year feel a little disappointed that despite having a fantastic free sign up gift, there wasn't a lot else that came your way.

Here at JB HQ, we've taken that all on board, and we're delighted to announce that, for this season, all those who signed up last season will get the coming season absolutely FREE! More info on membership is inside this newsletter.

Now, onto other things. **MEET THE BLUES DAY** will be taking place at Boots & Laces, as usual on 31st July! At the Club, we've got the new management team (aka "The Three Amigos") in place and it's great to see Kevin Maher and Mark Bentley back at the Club, alongside Darren Currie. They're working hard to get our players ready for the season ahead, in the hope that we will be challenging for promotion come the end.

As is usual at this time of year, we've sadly said goodbye to a number of players – Leon Davies, Rob Howard, Josh Coulson, Miles Mitchell-Nelson, Reiss Chandler, Ashley Nathaniel-George, Abu Ogogo, Erin Kinali, Lewis Gard, James Dunne, Will Atkinson, Matt Rush, and long-time Junior Blues Ambassador, John White, plus the loanees – Harrison Neal, Joe Gubbins and Kenny Clark.

We have though, made a number of good signings – Gus Scott-Thomas, Louis Lomas, Cav Miley, Harry Taylor, Dan Mooney and Wes Fonguck. If you've caught a pre-season game yet, you'll know they all look to be exciting players to watch!

Hopefully see you all very soon, Take care
Sammy



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JOHN WHITE



We were all very sad to see John end his professional career at the end of last season. He's always been a big supporter of the **Junior Blues** and always on hand at any events we've had in the past.

John, who signed for Blues in June 2013 and memorably captained the side to a League Two Play Off final win against Wycombe Wanderers in 2015, was given a big send off by supporters with a Testimonial Match held at Roots Hall on 22nd May, as part of the "Rivals Unite" day.

John asked if we would be able to provide **Junior Blues** as ball boys and girls for his special game, and of course, we were only too pleased to find some of our members to do this. What John didn't know though, was that members of his old junior football Club had already been lined up to do this as a surprise to him, and in fact, our **Junior Blues** were ball boys and girls for the Southend v Orient game, which kicked off earlier on in the day.

Everyone had a great time, enjoying both games and getting the chance to meet lots of players. Thank you to those **Junior Blues** who took part, and we all wish John the very best of luck as he moves on to Braintree Town FC.



NEW JUNIOR BLUES AMBASSADORS TEAM

Following on from John White's departure, we're pleased to announce that a team of three Southend United players will be taking over this role between them.

This means you can expect to see these guys in particular at all Junior Blues events, that they will be helping us promote our events and that they will always try to give you, our members, a bit of their time when possible. We're grateful to the three of them for putting themselves forwards.

First up is our GK #2, commonly known as "Collin the Keeper" after his heroics in a cup game last season – **Collin Andeng-Ndi**



Second is midfielder **Jack Bridge**. Jack is on his 2nd spell with the Club, having risen through the junior levels in the Academy.

And, finally, someone who has already proved to be a big hit with you all last season – our pocket rocket, forward **Callum Powell**.



NEW MANAGEMENT TEAM

Kevin Maher returns as Head Coach to the Club where he made 454 appearances, scoring 25 goals across 11 seasons. A former Club captain, and central midfield dynamo, “King Kev” is a Club Legend!

Darren Currie is Assistant Head Coach, and had a career spanning a number of Clubs including Barnet, Wycombe, Brighton, Ipswich and Luton.

Mark Bentley is First Team Coach, and comes most recently from the manager role at Canvey Island. “Benno” played alongside Kevin Maher in midfield for Southend for two seasons.

The “Three Amigos” were brought into the Club in October 2021, after Phil Brown was relieved of his duties as manager, and have brought a culture change into the Club, hard work and determination being key, and want that connection with supporters of all ages, as was evidenced at the Junior Blues “Meet the Players Day”, held in the Easter holidays.



JUNIOR BLUES PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Your **Junior Blues** Player of the Year, as voted by members, was Super Steve Arnold!

Steve has become a huge favourite with fans, young and old, and he also won the Shrimpers Trust’s “Player of the Year” award!

He was presented with his award at the Shrimpers Trust End of Season Awards Night back in May, by **Junior Blues** member **Harley Norton**, who had a great evening mixing with all the players and getting lots of photos!

JUNIOR BLUES MEMBERSHIP

We are offering our usual £10 annual membership for our premium **Junior Blues** members. For this you will receive an exclusive free gift (which is currently the scarf, pictured), the chance to present a “Player of the Month” or “Player of the Year” award, priority booking for exclusive **Junior Blues** events such as “Meet the Players Day”, Christmas Party and other exclusive access events. You will also be able to access exclusive offers from our **Junior Blues** partners, such as free travel to one away game during the season when travelling with the Shrimpers Trust. You will also receive a birthday message, newsletters and be eligible to take part in “Flying the Flag” before kick offs.



Membership for the coming season will be **FREE** to all Junior Season Ticket Holders. As part of your free membership, you, along with any remaining members of the old Shrimpers Trust Southend Junior Shrimpers scheme, will receive regular newsletters, a birthday message and the chance to attend exclusive **Junior Blues** events once the priority period for booking has passed. You will also be eligible to take part in “Flying the Flag” before kick offs.

NEW FOR THIS YEAR – we are offering a sibling discount membership of £5 per sibling if resident at the same address, and, as previously mentioned, everyone who joined up to the full scheme this last season will be automatically renewed at no cost. Unfortunately this does not include another free gift though!

You will be able to sign up at “Meet the Blues Day”, which takes part on Sunday, 31st July at Boots & Laces, or in the Shrimpers Bar before any home game. A membership form is enclosed for you, and you will also be able to sign up online via the Shrimpers Trust website (soon) and in person in the ticket office.





BECOME A JUNIOR BLUE FOR JUST £10 A YEAR!

JUNIOR BLUES BENEFITS

- **NEW** SOUTHEND UNITED GIFTS FOR THE 22/23 SEASON
- VIP INVITE TO MEET THE PLAYERS DAY
- BIRTHDAY & CHRISTMAS MESSAGE
- INVITE TO JUNIOR BLUES CHRISTMAS PARTY
- 10% DISCOUNT ON SUCET SOCCER SCHOOLS
- SHRIMPERS TRUST OFFER FREE TRAVEL TO ONE AWAY MATCH PER SEASON FOR ANY MEMBER
- 10% DISCOUNT FOR ALL JUNIOR BLUES MEMBERS AT CURRYS
- 20% DISCOUNT ON FIFA 23 FOR ALL JUNIOR BLUES MEMBERS FROM CURRYS

Gifts can be collected from the Blues Box Office at Roots Hall Stadium, visit the club website for more information.

Junior Blues Partners:



MORE JUNIOR BLUES PARTNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED ON THE WEBSITE IN DUE COURSE.





BECOME A JUNIOR BLUES MEMBER!

MEMBER BENEFITS:

- Regular Newsletter
 - Birthday card or message
 - Christmas card
 - Chance to be part of the 'Fly the Flag' team as the two teams walk out on a home matchday!
 - Opportunity to attend Junior Blues events
 - Discounted travel with the Shrimpers Trust
 - Discounts at our Junior Blues partners
 - SUFC discounts where applicable
- *With National League guidelines

CHILD FIRST NAME:		
CHILD LAST NAME:		
FULL ADDRESS OF THE CHILD:		
POSTCODE:		
BOY <input type="checkbox"/> GIRL <input type="checkbox"/> DOB:		
EMAIL:	PARENT EMAIL: <input type="checkbox"/>	CHILD EMAIL: <input type="checkbox"/>
PHONE:	PARENT NO. <input type="checkbox"/>	CHILD NO. <input type="checkbox"/>
FAVOURITE PLAYER(S):		
WOULD YOU PREFER A BIRTHDAY CARD OR VIDEO MESSAGE FROM A BLUES PLAYER?		
CARD <input type="checkbox"/> VIDEO MESSAGE <input type="checkbox"/>		

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN BEING A FLAG BEARER BEFORE A SOUTHEND UNITED HOME FIXTURE?



AMOUNT DUE ETC. PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM TO:
JUNIOR BLUES, SOUTHEND UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB, STADIUM WAY, SOUTHEND, ESSEX, SSO 1NE
Southend United FC, Junior Blues will be notified via email if you are successful and you will receive a copy of the Junior Blues kit list.
If you require further information please email juniorblues@southendunited.co.uk

For more information: 08444 770077
tickets@southend-united.co.uk | www.southendunited.co.uk/juniorblues

MEET THE BLUES DAY



We are pleased to confirm details about Meet the Blues Day.

Southend United's annual family fun day will once again take place in anticipation of the 2022/23 season on Sunday, July 31 at Boots and Laces Training Ground.

Supporters can come along to watch training, meet the coaching team and the first team players and enjoy a day out with all the usual activities including bouncy castles, charity stalls (including Shrimpers Trust tent), food, drink, ice-cream and also purchase a new home and away kit.

Running schedule:

10:30am – Open to Public

11am – First Team training session – Main Pitch

12:30pm – Academy Foundation Phase Training Session – Main Session

13:30pm – Ladies Training Session – Main Pitch (1 Hour)

2:30pm – Legends Walking Football Game – Main Pitch (1 Hour)



SAMMY'S WALL OF FAME

Have you had your photo taken with Sammy at a game?

If you have, then send it in and you will be featured on “**Sammy’s Wall of Fame**” gallery on the official Southend United Football Club website, as seen here:

<https://www.southendunited.co.uk/fans/sammys-wall-of-fame/>

Simply email media@southend-united.co.uk and they will do the rest!

Sammy #06



