



SOUTHEND UNITED EX-PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

Supported by Southend United F.C. and The Shrimpers Trust

NEWSLETTER – Issue 01 – February 2018

WELCOME

Well, we are off to a fantastic start and are so pleased that you have decided to be part of SUEPA.

Following our launch on the Southend United website on 12 January we already have 81 members, and expect this to grow significantly as we move forward.

We are also thrilled to see such a diverse membership, from players who joined the club as long ago as 1959 right up to those who left in recent times. Three former managers, a physio and a kit man also help to complete our SUEPA squad so far. On joining, Kevin Maher said: "I think it's a great idea to put a group together for the ex-players of the club and I would be delighted to be a part of it."

Fan interest has been high with over 750 followers on our Twitter page. Our Facebook page too has consistently been receiving five-star reviews, Shrimper fan Tom Lee saying "What a wonderful place to relive one's youth! All those games and memories brought back to life. A fabulous idea."

Our aims are simple - to reunite ex-players (and coaching staff) with each other, the club and the fans. We would like your help in making this a continued success and we look forward to receiving any ideas as well as any links to former team mates you think would also like to join up.

We hope you enjoy this first Newsletter, please read on

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT ADAM BARRETT

Having an ex-players association for Southend United is a great initiative and long overdue. I am honoured to be President and am looking forward to seeing SUEPA grow from what has been a great start.

Being with the club was a huge part of my life for many years giving me so many wonderful memories, and SUEPA will be a great way of staying in touch with many friends from those times.

Thank you for joining SUEPA, please do give it your support, and if you are in touch with an ex-Shrimper who is not currently a member please encourage them to join.

All the best, Adam.



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OUR MEMBERSHIP TO-DATE

So far in our squad of 81 we have seven goalkeepers, 22 defenders, 33 midfielders (including two former managers), 17 strikers and three members of the backroom/coaching team.

So, we should be able to field a good team even if there is an injury crisis! A full member list appears at the end of this Newsletter.

Bobby Kellard from 1959 is our earliest playing Shrimper though Frankie Banks is the person whose association with Roots Hall is the longest having joined as an apprentice back in 1962 and who still to this day can be found at the ground on match days.

We are also proud to have the club's record appearance holder (and leading penalty taker) Alan Moody (504 apps 1972 to 1984) among our membership, and with Kevin Maher, Ronnie Pountney and Daryl Flahavan, we now have four of the all-time top 10 Shrimper shirt-wearers in SUEPA.

Billy Best is the SUEPA leading marksman having notched 123 goals from 247 apps 1968 to 1973 (Billy is also second in the all-time Shrimpers goal-scoring list behind the late great Roy Hollis). Fellow SUEPA members David Crown, Gary Moore, Roy McDonough, Alan Moody and Glenn Pennyfather all topped the 40-goal mark.

And, if we move away from just statistics, we'd like to credit one of our youngest members, Johnny Herd, with perhaps the greatest Southend long-throw of all time – any Shrimper who was at Stamford Bridge on 3 January 2009 will remember it well!

EX-SHRIMPERS AT ROOTS HALL



Over the past year a number of ex-Shrimpers have come back to Roots Hall. Some of you, of course, such as Johnny Walker, Ronnie Pountney and Dave Barnett are regulars, whilst others - Frankie Banks, David Crown and Kevin Maher - still work at the club.

But the club has also held events too where former players have come along to greet the fans and be re-united with old friends and colleagues.

Both Billy Best and Mark Bentley stepped back on to the pitch before a match last year, and in April we re-united the early 1980's striking partnership of Keith Mercer and Derek Spence who received a wonderful welcome in front of a near-capacity crowd last April.

Our largest ex-Shrimpers gathering came back on 2 September 2017 when Alan Moody was joined by ex-team mates Paul Clark, Ronnie Pountney, John Walker and Tony Hadley, with even our former groundsman Sid Broomfield popping in to say hello to complete a very memorable day.

Our hope is to have many more such events in the future and work with the club on this - their recent 'evening with Stan Collymore' was a great success.



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WHAT NEXT FOR SUEPA?

We would like your feedback – what would you like to see?

As a broad estimate there are perhaps a thousand or so ex-Shrimpers still living who have donned the Southend United shirt or who have been part of the backroom staff, and we would like to have as many as possible join the SUEPA family and create new memories.

Our immediate goal is to grow our membership - are you in touch with any ex-team mates? If so, do please do tell them about SUEPA and ask them to get in touch (see below). SUEPA is free to join, we keep your contact details confidential, and we sincerely want all who become members to be part once more of this great club of ours.

We would also like to hold regular get-togethers. Our initial thoughts are that this might include visits to Roots Hall on a match day of:

- ***Two or three ex-team mates, something which the club has hosted before on a number of occasions in 'Southend United legends' events.***
- ***A group of ex-team mates, perhaps with a particular theme, for example those who were part of a famous game, a cup run, or a squad from any one season.***
- ***Thinking further afield, on a key club anniversary, or maybe as part of the club's plans for a new stadium when we get towards the last game at Roots Hall, a much larger celebration is held which involves everyone.***

We already have had some of you saying that you would like to return to Roots Hall and we will do our best to accommodate this, so please do get in touch if you have any ideas. Also, we note that a number of you currently live overseas so when you are next back in the UK why not get in touch and take the opportunity to visit – just get in touch and we will do the rest.

SUEPA has the backing of the club and they will be pleased to consider any initiative with us.

GETTING IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER

As well as holding events and keeping you all informed of our progress, we are happy to put old friends back in touch with each other.

We do not disclose your contact details to any other party without your permission, but if you see someone on our membership list who you would like to get back in touch with then please let us know (see below for our contact details).

We will then pass on your contact details to them, say you would like to get back in touch, and invite them to give you a call.

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FOLLOWING AND CONTACTING SUEPA

We will issue further Newsletters and anticipate that our next one will be sent out during April. These will normally be distributed via email.

We do have a SUEPA Twitter and Facebook pages on which we post up details of new joiners and any other news, so if you wish to see what is happening on a more frequent basis please do 'follow' us:

On Twitter: [@SUEPAssoc](#)

On Facebook: www.facebook.com/SUEPAssoc

You can then use either of these social media outlets to send us a private message, or you can contact us via email as follows:

Email address: suepassoc@gmail.com

Alternatively, we can be reached by post at SUEPA c/o The Shrimpers Trust, PO Box 5830, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 9FD



Shrimpers Trust Board members/SUEPA organisers with our President at Roots Hall before the Wigan match on 10 February (from left to right) Paul Fitzgerald, Paul Yeomanson, Adam Barrett and Andy Leeder.

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THE FULL SUEPA SQUAD TO-DATE

GOALKEEPERS

Cameron Belford, Derek Bellotti, John Burridge, Mervyn Cawston, Steve Collis, Darryl Flahavan and Jim Stannard.

DEFENDERS

Frankie Banks, Dave Barnett, Adam Barrett, Mark Beard, Guy Butters, Peter Clarke, Andy Dixon, Phil Dudley, Tony Hadley, Andy Harris, Johnny Herd, Mark Hone, Lewis Hunt, Frank Matthews, David McSweeney, Tamika Mkandawire, Alan Moody, Danny O'Shea, Mark Phillips, Spencer Prior, John Walker and Che Wilson.

MIDFIELDERS

Andy Ansah, John Baber, Mark Bentley, Peter Butler, Paul Byrne, Adrian Clarke, Jason Cook, Jimmy Corbett, Peter Daley, Dave Elliott, Gerry Fell, Julian Hails, Derek Hall, Carl Hutchings, Leon Johnson, Bobby Kellard, Danny Kerrigan, David Lee, Ryan Leonard, Kevin Maher, Dave Martin, Alan McCormack, Colin Morris, Garry Nelson, Terry Nicholl, Ricky Otto, Anton Outulakowski, Glenn Pennyfather, Ron Pountney, Ken Reynolds, Peter Taylor and Steve Tilson.

STRIKERS

Lee Barnard, Ian Benjamin, Gary Bennett, Billy Best, Drewe Broughton, Stan Collymore, David Crown, Liam Dickinson, Lawrie Dudfield, John Linford, Roy McDonough, Keith Mercer, Gary Moore, Stuart Parker, Derek Spence, Blair Sturrock and Andy Thomson.

COACHING / BACKROOM

Buster Footman, Steve Parmenter and Steve Thompson.



‘Creating New Memories’