



SOUTHEND UNITED EX-PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

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

NEWSLETTER – Issue 03 – July 2018

WELCOME

Welcome to our third Newsletter, issued exclusively to you, our SUEPA members. We had a hectic end to the 2017/18 season with two SUEPA events, and look forward to hosting many more next season as our membership continues to grow.

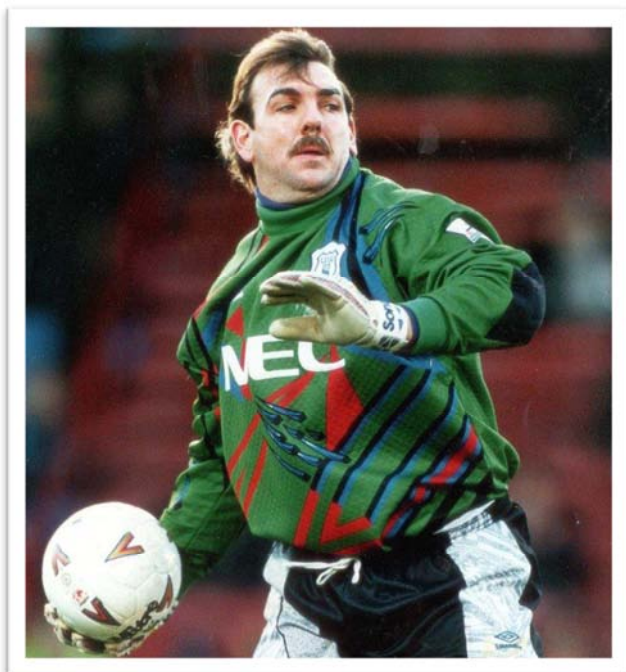
In this shorter 'Summer edition' Newsletter we cover:

- Membership update, so you can see who has joined (including a successful end to an appeal made in our last Newsletter);
- Our 'Powell's Pals' SUEPA event that we held in April;
- Our 'Friends Reunited' event that we held in May;
- Future event ideas;
- Our 'Quickfire Five' Q&A, this time with Julian Hails;
- A reminder of how to keep up to date with SUEPA news and how to contact us;
- The full current SUEPA membership list.

Please read on, we hope you enjoy this edition and, as always, your ideas and comments will be gratefully received.

MEMBERSHIP

At the time of writing our membership now stands at 135, with Welsh international record holder and former Shrimper loanee Neville Southall being the latest to join the SUEPA family.



New members continue to join from a variety of sources – we bumped into Mark Hall at a game at Roots Hall in April and quickly signed him up, John Gymer made contact via our Twitter page, Mark Gower and Freddy Eastwood were 'snapped up' when they attended a club supported fund raising event in May, and Jim Fryatt and Lee Nogan responded to requests one of our 'SUEPA agents' had sent out to them. We are certainly reaching out far and wide – with Shrimpers like Dave Elliott and Jim Fryatt in North America, Spencer Prior in Australia, Peter Butler in Africa, and Roy McDonough in Spain, we now have a truly international presence. We just now need to find ex-players in Antarctica, Asia, and South America to have all seven continents covered!

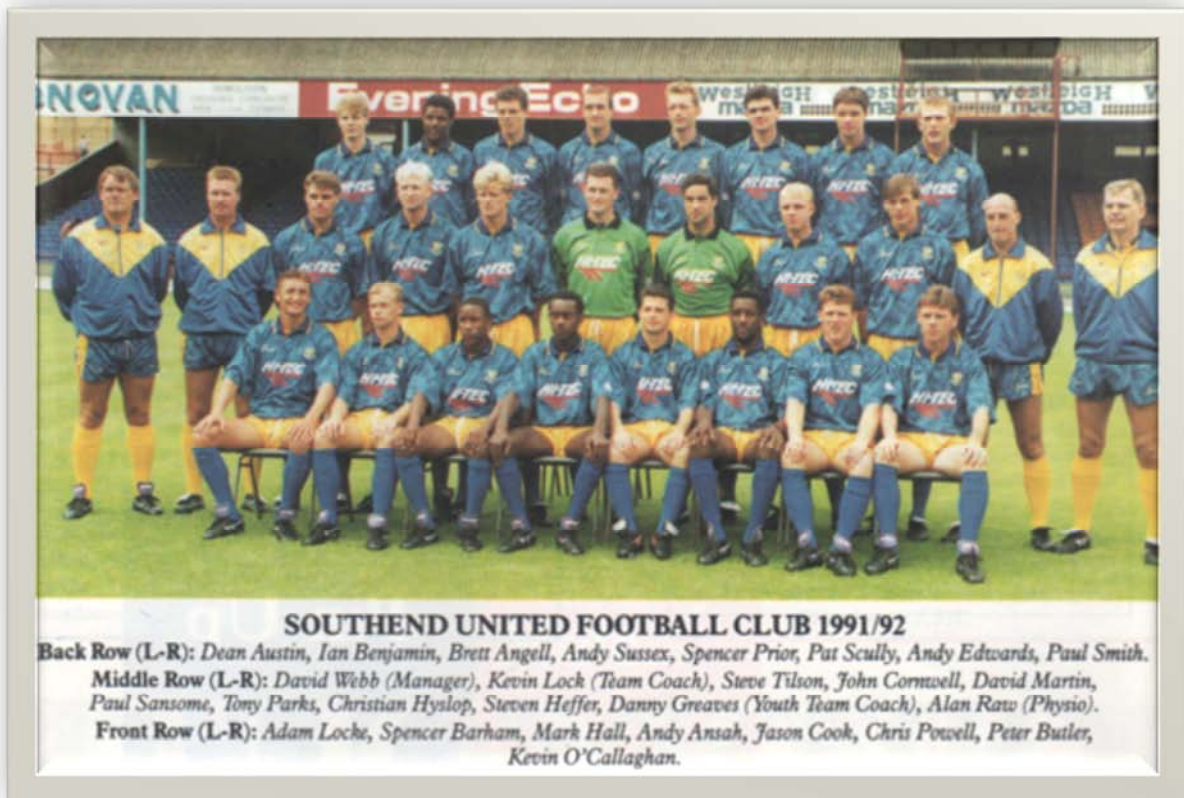
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You might also recall that in our last Newsletter we put out an appeal to locate Bill Garner. Well, we are delighted to say that he was finally tracked down thanks to a member of the club's current coaching staff who kindly supplied us with a telephone number for Bill and we then did the rest. So, we now have the iconic late '60s/early '70s striking partnership of Best, Moore and Garner on board. With their ex team mates Peter Taylor and Terry Johnson supplying the crosses we truly now have a potent attacking force on board from that Roots Hall era.

Someone else we would dearly love to contact is our former manager Dave Smith who we understand now lives in Devon. If you are in contact with Dave please do get in touch – many of the players he signed up for Southend are now part of SUEPA and it would be lovely to see a renewal of old friendships from that time.

Another ex-manager we'd love to get on board is Dave Webb – our three times former leader is an integral part of the club's history and, as with Dave Smith, it would be great to see him again at Roots Hall. If you are in touch with Dave do see if you can get him to join us – it's free, fun (we like to think!) and also we believe important that the club, fans and ex-players/coaching staff all celebrate together our past history.

Overall, we now have 18 goalkeepers, 32 defenders, 52 midfielders, 30 strikers and three former coaching/backroom staff in the SUEPA squad. You will find a full current member list at the end of this Newsletter.



POWELL'S PALS

To help celebrate Chris Powell's return to Roots Hall, for the penultimate home game last season we arranged a little get together of some of his old team mates who had played with him during his spell with us from 1990 to 1996. It was all kept as a surprise for Chris who only found out just before kick-off as Julian Hails, Dave Martin, Ricky Otto, Paul Sansome and Steve Tilson were introduced to the fans on the pitch. Paul Byrne had been due to join the party too but, unfortunately, missed his flight!

For Julian and Ricky in particular, it was a day to remember as they had not been back to Roots Hall for many years – Ricky, who had left us for Birmingham in 1994, had some doubts about the reception he might get but he needn't have worried as, like every returning Shrimper, he received a rapturous welcome in the April sunshine.

The planned Q&A session after the match had to be aborted (the microphone was being used elsewhere lesson learned!) but they got to meet plenty of fans in the bar, and also had a good catch up with Chris in his office – Chris was the only one not having a beer due to the small matter of being due to run the London Marathon the following day!



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FRIENDS REUNITED

For the final home game of last season we arranged for two old friends, one a fan and one a player/Roots Hall legend, to attend and meet up once more. Both are part of the club's fabric and long history.

Tony Bentley joined Southend from Stoke in 1961 (in a deal that then enabled Stoke to re-sign Stanley Mathews!), and over the next decade Tony notched played 417 times which puts him fourth in our all-time appearances list.



During his time at the club Tony struck up a friendship with long-time fan Ray Sorrell, who has been supporting Southend since our days at the Kursaal back in the 1930's.

It was great to see them receive another great reception from the fans and Tony, who now lives in Novia Scotia, met up with many friends from his time at the club.

FUTURE EVENT IDEAS

At present we are considering with the club a number of future SUEPA event possibilities and hope to make the 2018/19 season a memorable one for re-uniting old friends. Option themes include:

- Team mates from a particular era
- Team mates who played together in a key match in the club's history
- A playing partnership
- A pie and pint informal evening

We are very happy to consider any event format and if you have ideas of your own please do get in touch (see below for our contact details), we will be pleased to hear from you. All events arranged will be publicised in advance and then reported on in future Newsletters.

QUICKFIRE 5!

We plan to issue out requests from time to time asking you if you could respond to a set five questions which we will then include in a future Newsletter. Don't feel too relieved if you have not had an email from us yet, we will get to you at some stage

This time we are delighted to have **Julian Hails** taking time out to respond to our usual five questions. Over to you Julian

1. Who had the biggest influence on your playing career at Roots Hall and why?

Peter Taylor was the best coach I ever played for in my career and he was the main reason I signed for the club. When I left Fulham I had quite a lot of interest from clubs including some quite well known managers:- Neil Warnock (Huddersfield); Sam Allardyce (Blackpool); Dennis Smith (Oxford) all got in touch, but I loved Pete's training sessions and his coaching style so I chose Southend.

2. Who was the biggest character you played with and why did they stand out?

There were so many but one of the biggest is sadly no longer with us. Jeroen Boere perhaps wasn't everyone's 'cup of tea' but he had a huge influence within the dressing room. 'Yosser' just didn't care if his jokes upset people. For example, I remember him asking manager Ronnie Whelan if we could have a minute silence for Simon Royce's cat who had just died that morning. I roomed with him once and while I was having a long soak in the bath he shouted in that unmistakable Dutch accent 'F***in hell Hailsy, you dissolved in that bath yet?' To have the confidence and intelligence to be able to 'take the mickey' in his second language was admirable. I really liked Yosser and was very sad to hear that he had passed away.

3. Who would you say was the best player you saw in a Southend shirt during your time at the club and what made them so special?

Hard to pick just one but I would have to say Ronnie Whelan as he was the complete midfield player; he read the game brilliantly, could mix it physically, but also had great vision and passing ability. Had he not got injured during my first season with the club I am sure we'd have done better, and Peter Taylor would have had much longer in the job. A close joint second would be Chris Powell, the best defender I ever played with, and Mike Marsh, incredible touch and ability on the ball.

4. Can you tell us any funny stories from your playing days either whilst at Southend or elsewhere?

We were playing Crystal Palace at home on a Sunday afternoon and it was shown live on ITV on 'The Big Match'. We were warming up about half hour before kick-off when George Graham, suited and booted, walked across the pitch to take his place in the commentary box alongside Brian Moore. In those days the TV pundits had to climb a very dodgy thin ladder to get to the TV gantry. We all looked over to see George try and negotiate the climb up and there were a few comments about him not having to do that at Old Trafford or Anfield. At this point, Paul Byrne got involved,

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who as well as being a brilliant right winger, was also a bit mad. He decided to try and 'ping' a few 40 yarders at George as he was climbing the ladder to make his ascent even more tricky. As dangerous as it was, it was also very funny, and maybe it says a bit about Byrney's crossing ability that George made it to the top safely.

5. What did you do after hanging up your playing boots and do you ever get back to Roots Hall to see a game?

Although I did my FA coaching badges towards the end of my career I felt I needed a new challenge when I retired through injury, so I took a PGCE at University of Hertfordshire and became a secondary school teacher. This has been the ideal second career for me as I can combine my love of coaching sports like football and tennis with teaching maths, a subject I always enjoyed at school.

FOLLOWING AND CONTACTING SUEPA

We will continue to issue regular Newsletters and our next one is scheduled to be issued during the Autumn. These will normally be distributed via email.

As mentioned we do have a SUEPA Twitter account and a Facebook page 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](https://twitter.com/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

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THE FULL SUEPA SQUAD TO-DATE

GOALKEEPERS

Terry Alderton, Cameron Belford, Daniel Bentley, Derek Bellotti, John Burrridge, Mervyn Cawston, Steve Collis, Darryl Flahavan, Neil Freeman, Peter Goy, Bart Griemink, Ian Joyce, John Keeley, Steve Mildenhall, Sean Rafter, Paul Sansome, Neville Southall and Jim Stannard.

DEFENDERS

Frankie Banks, Dave Barnett, Adam Barrett, Mark Beard, Tony Bentley, Guy Butters, Peter Clarke, Andy Dixon, Phil Dudley, Tony Hadley, Steven Hammell, Andy Harris, Steve Hatter, Johnny Herd, Mark Hone, Lewis Hunt, Frank Matthews, David McSweeney, Tamika Mkandawire, Alan Moody, Danny O'Shea, Mark Phillips, Chris Powell, Spencer Prior, Chris Ramsey, Pat Scully, Efe Sodje, Michael Spillane, Adam Thompson, John Walker, Shane Westley, and Che Wilson.

MIDFIELDERS

Andy Ansah, Will Atkinson, John Baber, Nicky Bailey, Mark Bentley, Jack Bridge, Peter Butler, Paul Byrne, Adrian Clarke, Jason Cook, Jimmy Corbett, Peter Daley, Craig Easton, Dave Elliott, Gerry Fell, Scott Forbes, Mark Gower, John Gymer, Julian Hails, Derek Hall, Mark Hall, Ryan Hall, Jeff Hull, Peter Hunt, Carl Hutchings, Leon Johnson, Terry Johnson, Bobby Kellard, Danny Kerrigan, Micky Laverick, David Lee, Ryan Leonard, Martin Ling, Kevin Maher, Mike Marsh, Dave Martin, Alan McCormack, Colin Morris, Garry Nelson, Terry Nicholl, Ricky Otto, Anton Outulakowski, Adrian Owers, Glenn Pennyfather, Declan Perkins, Ron Pountney, Ken Reynolds, Damien Scannell, Peter Taylor, Steve Tilson, Sanchez Watt and Alex Woodyard.

STRIKERS

David Allaway, Lee Barnard, Ian Benjamin, Gary Bennett, Billy Best, Drewe Broughton, Stan Collymore, Harry Crawford, David Crown, Liam Dickinson, Lawrie Dudfield, Freddie Eastwood, Jim Fryatt, Paul Furlong, Bill Garner, Terry Gray, Francis Laurent, Jason Lee, John Linford, Roy McDonough, Keith Mercer, David Mooney, Gary Moore, Lee Nogan, Derrick Parker, Stuart Parker, Peter Silvester, Derek Spence, Blair Sturrock and Andy Thomson.

COACHING / BACKROOM

Buster Footman, Steve Parmenter and Steve Thompson.



'Creating New Memories'