



SOUTHEND UNITED EX-PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

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

NEWSLETTER – Issue 04 – November 2018

WELCOME

Welcome to our fourth Newsletter, issued exclusively to you, our SUEPA members. Apologies for the delay since the last one (in July), we have been busy and at present have many possible projects 'on the boil' – more on that later.

In this Newsletter we cover:

- Membership update, so you can see who has joined;
- Our 'Shot-Stoppers Saturday' SUEPA event that we held in October;
- Do you still fancy testing out your football skills in a Shrimpers shirt? If so we have some news you could be interested in;
- Our 'Quick-fire Five' Q&A, this time with Peter Clarke and our 150th member Iain O'Connell under the SUEPA spotlight;
- Future planned events;
- The latest SUEPA video (!!);
- 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 161, with none other than our former manager Dave Smith being the latest to join. Shortly before Dave too we had Dickie Dowsett sign up to SUEPA to become at age 87 our oldest member – Dickie made a scoring debut in the first ever match at Roots Hall in 1955.

Securing a signing for SUEPA often requires a bit of effort in following up leads - persistence is a good quality to have and the handful of our 'SUEPA Agents' who are helping us grow our membership base often need detective-like qualities. The signing at the end of October of mid-'60's winger Malcolm Slater is an interesting one



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which happened all of a sudden when we received a message from Southend United to call the Safety Officer (Alistair) of Rochdale! He had called to say he had come across Malcolm at the weekend with his family in a Bath pub and in a chance discussion at the bar got chatting about football. Malcolm talked at length and fondly about his time with Celtic and the Shrimpers but it was apparent that he had lost touch with the club, so Alistair took it upon himself to call Roots Hall. Alistair (and what a top guy he is) had no contact details but recalled where his son Alex worked, so with that information we searched him up, got his employer to pass a message across, and ended up having a great chat with Alex about his Dad and signed Malcolm up for SUEPA. Some great comments recalling Malcolm's time as a Shrimper came in on our Facebook page when (as we do with all new-joiners) we announced his signing which is lovely to see - hopefully some time we'll have the opportunity to invite Malcolm back to the club.

We are always on the lookout for new members – at Roots Hall in October we spotted Leo Roget who was visiting for the day and had popped on to the pitch to do the half-time draw. A quick dash by a SUEPA Agent as he disappeared back down the players tunnel secured his signing – apologies for the surprise Leo!

Overall, we now have 18 goalkeepers, 40 defenders, 59 midfielders, 39 strikers and five former coaching/backroom staff in the SUEPA squad (Dave Smith's assistant Mickey Buxton being another recent recruit in the last category). You will find a full current member list at the end of this Newsletter.



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SHOP STOPPERS SATURDAY

For the home game v Oxford on Saturday 6 October we celebrated some of the great keepers that we've had at Roots Hall over the years.

Peter Goy (1960-64), Derek Bellotti (1971-74), Neil Freeman (1976-78) and Mervyn Cawston (1978-84) all returned to Roots Hall for a great welcome from the fans. An added bonus was that they were joined by Peter's old team mate Ken Jones, who remains in our top 50 all-time scorers list and was ready to give them all some shooting practice but we had to get off the pitch for the match to start!

Our events are now starting to follow a tried and tested theme – park up at the ground at 1.00 pm, meet up and have a meal in the Legends Lounge with the fans, get introduced to all on the pitch just before kick-off, watch the match from the East Stand, and retire to the bar afterwards when there are always a number of folk around appreciating the opportunity for a picture and an autograph.



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STILL FANCY A GAME?

No, despite the club's current injury crisis they haven't asked us to put out an appeal for players! However, on Sunday 10 March 2019, kick-off 3.00 pm, a charity match will be held at Roots Hall to raise monies for the Magic Moments Children's Charity and the Southend United Community & Educational Trust.

A number of celebrities have already agreed to attend, with EastEnders star Danny Dyer and former X-Factor winner Shayne Ward agreeing to be captains of the two teams. SUEPA member Terry Alderton has already signed up to be part of it but the club would love to see a few more former Shrimpers once more gracing the Roots Hall turf.

Are you interested? If so, please contact Rhys Ellingham, Head of Commercial at Southend United, on 01702 304135 or by email at rhys.ellingham@southend-united.co.uk

Go on, the pitch is looking good these days!



Further details regarding the match can be found at:

<https://www.southendunited.co.uk/news/2018/october/celebrity-charity-football-match/>

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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 both **Peter Clarke** and our 150th member **Iain O'Connell** taking time out to respond to our usual five questions.

Over to you first Peter

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

I have to say that the biggest influence on me while at Roots Hall has got to be Tilly. I felt he not only gave the lads a real freedom to play and enjoy their football but also gave us a structure to get the best out of the group collectively.

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

There were a plenty of characters in my time at Southend for many different reasons but I will have to go for Ads (Adam Barrett) - he was a great lad, someone who made me feel welcome as soon as I arrived. He was a fierce competitor on the pitch who always wanted to win and great company off it too.

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?

I've got to go for Freddy Eastwood, simply because of his goal-scoring ability; he scored all types of goals.

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

Shall I just say that during my time there we had a really close group of players who enjoyed each other's company off the pitch as much as on it.

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

At the minute I'm still playing for Oldham and have been back to Roots Hall on a few occasions as an opposition player.



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Now for **Iain**

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

The biggest influences for me at Southend were my two youth coaches Paul Heffer and Kevin Locke, both great coaches. Also my parents, who ferried me everywhere and supported me so much.

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

The biggest character has to be shared between Big Roy and Chris Ramsey. I don't have to say much about Roy McDonough do I?! I was Chris's boot boy - fantastic man and very, very, funny!

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?

The best player for me was Steve Tilson. A good friend whose left foot was like a wand.

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

Too many to mention and don't think you would be able to print them!!! Anyway, I do remember a Christmas party one year where we all went out in fancy dress during the day and then came back to Roots Hall to have a shower and get changed for the night out. Paul Newell was looking for a hair dryer and decided to look in Buster's cupboard. After attempting to dry his hair with Busters 'hairdryer' he complained that there was something wrong with it and it was actually burning his hair - it had left him with a couple of bald patches! In the morning Buster was in his usual jolly mood and suddenly shouted out "who the f?@% has been using my paint stripper!" The joys of alcohol!

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

I still come down occasionally to Roots Hall but have four boys - three of them play football so my time is limited!

FUTURE EVENT IDEAS

Following on from our first event of the season at Roots Hall on 6 October we currently have the following events in the planning stages:

- On December 15 against Accrington an event is scheduled with a special theme, we are currently waiting on some more information before announcing this one.
- Possibly during the spring the return to Roots Hall of a former manager. If this happens it is likely to be a big event and beforehand we will be getting in touch with those of you that played for him.
- At a date to be announced the re-uniting of a couple of prolific strikers.
- At a date to be announced an event centring around Roy McDonough and the recent launch of his book 'Red Card Roy' in paperback.

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We also on November 17th welcomed Efe Sodje back to Roots Hall – we will report on that in our next Newsletter.

We will provide more details on our social media sites as and when the above get finalised. If you would like to return to Roots Hall please get in touch and we will see what we can do. The events we have held to date have created new memories for all involved which is what SUEPA is all about.

It was lovely for instance to see Neil Freeman last month catch up with still-local boys Ronnie Pountney and Paul Clark for the first time in 40 years.



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THE LATEST SUEPA VIDEO!

Some of you may recall that when we reached the 100 member landmark in the summer we released a picture video with the 'Welcome Home' song playing in the background.

Well, having now got to 150 members and also with a few SUEPA events now under our belt we've just released 'So Good To Be Back Home Again' on YouTube which celebrates the reunions held to date. You can access this via the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJY4rwITwI8&t=10s>



FOLLOWING AND CONTACTING SUEPA

We will continue to issue regular Newsletters and our next one is scheduled to be issued early in the New Year. 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, Paul Brush, Guy Butters, Peter Clarke, Graham Coughlan, 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, David Morley, Danny O'Shea, Mark Phillips, Chris Powell, Spencer Prior, Chris Ramsey, Leo Roget, Osei Sankofa, Pat Scully, Damon Searle, Alex Smith, Efe Sodje, Michael Spillane, Adam Thompson, John Walker, Shane Westley, Che Wilson and Dave Young.

MIDFIELDERS

Brett Angell, Andy Ansah, Will Atkinson, John Baber, Nicky Bailey, Mike Beesley, Mark Bentley, Jack Bridge, Peter Butler, Paul Byrne, Adrian Clarke, Jason Cook, Jimmy Corbett, Barry Corr, Peter Daley, Dickie Dowsett, Craig Easton, Dave Elliott, Gerry Fell, Scott Forbes, Mark Gower, John Gymer, Julian Hails, Derek Hall, Mark Hall, Ryan Hall, Scott Houghton, Jeff Hull, Peter Hunt, Carl Hutchings, Neil Jenkins, Leon Johnson, Terry Johnson, Gary Jones, Ken Jones, Bobby Kellard, Danny Kerrigan, Micky Laverick, David Lee, Ryan Leonard, Alan Little, Martin Ling, Kevin Maher, Mike Marsh, Dave Martin, Alan McCormack, Colin Morris, Franck Moussa, Garry Nelson, Terry Nicholl, Iain O'Connell, Ricky Otto, Anton Outulakowski, Adrian Owers, Matt Paterson, Glenn Pennyfather, Declan Perkins, Ron Pountney, Ken Reynolds, Damien Scannell, Malcolm Slater, Peter Taylor, Stuart Thurgood, Steve Tilson, Neil Tolson, James Walker, 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

Micky Buxton, Buster Footman, Steve Parmenter, Dave Smith and Steve Thompson.



'Creating New Memories'