



# SOUTHEND UNITED EX-PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

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

## NEWSLETTER – Issue 05 – February 2019

### WELCOME

**Welcome to our fifth Newsletter, issued exclusively to you, our SUEPA members. The last one was distributed in November so it's been a while, but as a result we have quite a bit to report! Since the last Newsletter too we passed our first birthday (on 12 January) so we also take a bit of a reflective look at what we've achieved with you and our hopes going forward.**

In this Newsletter we cover:

- Membership update, where we highlight who has recently joined;
- Our SUEPA events on 15 December and 2 February;
- Our 'Quickfire Five' Q&A, this time with Chris Guthrie being under the SUEPA spotlight;
- Planned events coming up for the remainder of the 2018/19 season, including news of our biggest re-union planned to date;
- One year on, where we've got to and our future hopes;
- 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

**Getting to 200 members is now firmly in our sights, having reached the 174 mark with born and bred Shrimper Paul Clark coming on board. Paul joins Alan Little, Chris Powell and Steve Tilson in being in that select SUEPA member group of having both played and managed the club.**

Our signings over the last three months have really spanned the decades, right from Alan Dicks who came to Roots Hall over 60 years ago in 1958 right through to those still playing - Anthony Wordsworth, Joe Piggot (both AFC Wimbledon) and Carl Pettefer (Wimborne Town). Ask any Southend fan about a classic commentary line and "Still Myles Weston going forward, Myles Weston to the byline, gets the cross in, Piggot shoots and scoooooooreeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!" will still, nearly four years on, get most of us a little misty-eyed. Joe, we will forever be grateful!



## NEWSLETTER –Issue 05 – February 2019

Midfielders and strikers have been the dominant theme for our recent joiners, with Nicky Smith, Adam Locke, Phil Gridelet, Chris Guthrie (more on him later), Peter Abbot, Martin Carruthers, and our very own Great Dane John Nielsen joining the SUEPA clan. Mel Capleton also became our 19th keeper.

As ever our SUEPA Agents have tracked down Shrimpers in a variety of ways. It was known that Chris Guthrie had once played for Newcastle United and that they had their own former players association, so we made contact with St James Park and a few phone calls later by those kind folk in Geordie-land we were speaking to Chris direct. Nicky Smith meanwhile was simply spotted at Roots Hall at a recent game taking in a game as part of his 50th birthday celebrations - no one is safe! We always appreciate some help though – if you are still in touch with one of your former Roots Hall team mates who is not currently a SUEPA member then do please do let us know.

Overall, we now have 19 goalkeepers, 40 defenders, 67 midfielders, 43 strikers and five former coaching/backroom staff in the SUEPA squad. You will find a full current member list at the end of this Newsletter.



# NEWSLETTER –Issue 05 – February 2019

## SUEPA MEMBERS BACK AT ROOTS HALL

For the home game v Accrington Stanley on 15 December we re-joined former strike partners James Walker and Lee Barnard. Their time as fellow Shrimpers is closely linked, James scoring on his Southend debut in 2008 in a match in which Lee also scored. As always when former players come to visit, old friends were re-joined, memories were re-lived and new memories were created. Theo Robinson even halted his run-out to the pitch to greet James and Lee!



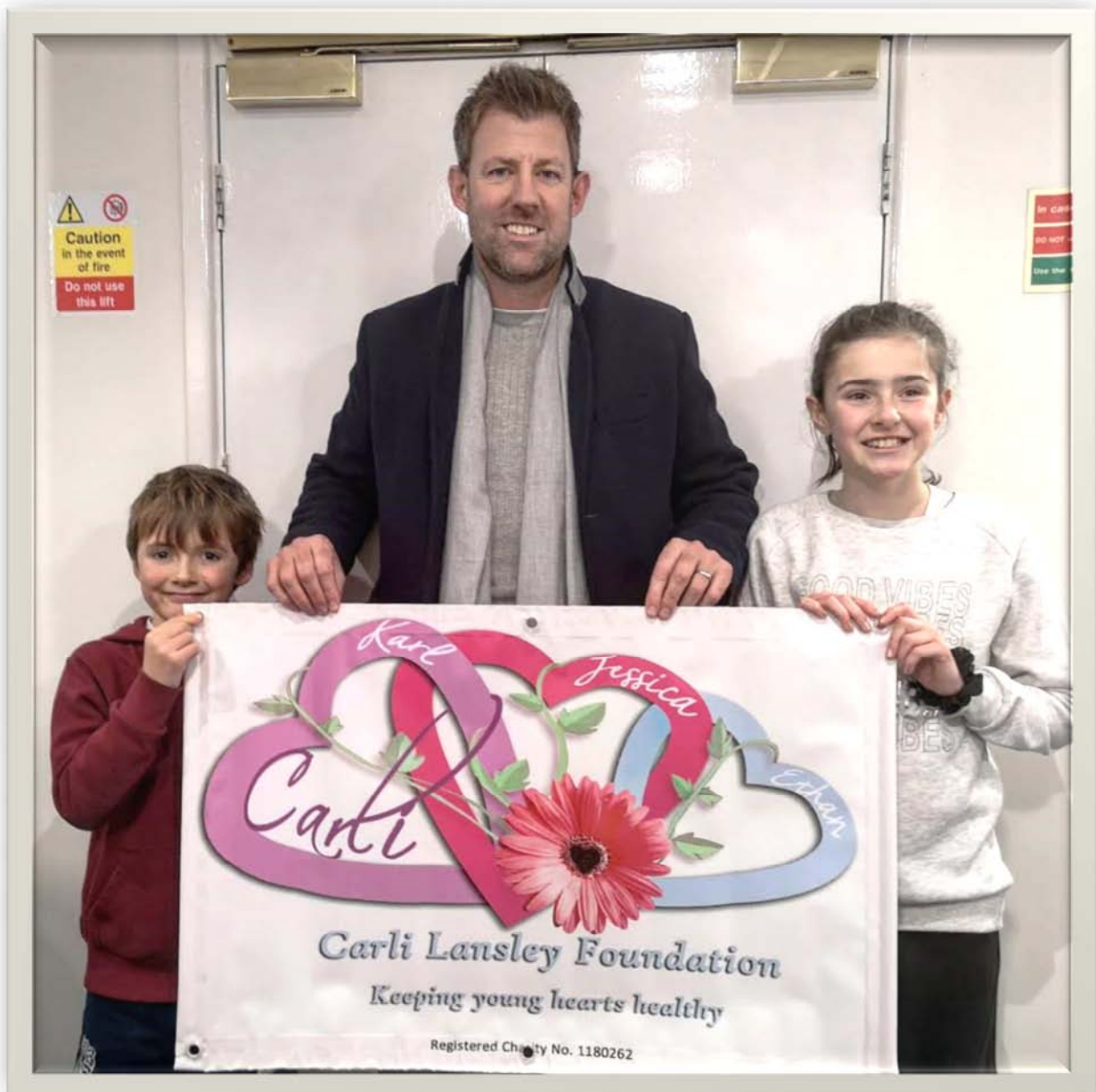
Then on 2 February for the match v Bristol Rovers we had something a little bit different. Drewe Broughton returned to Roots Hall and first spent time in the club shop, meeting fans and selling copies of his recently published book, 'And Then What ..?'



Usually there is a pre-match meal in the Legends Lounge, but on this occasion we smuggled in some fish and chips to fuel him up before the usual on-the-pitch introduction before kick-off. It was a great day, Drewe sold out his book supply but, more than that, met so many fans who we suspect without exception relived with him his goal that took us to our first ever national final at the Millennium Stadium in 2004.

## NEWSLETTER –Issue 05 – February 2019

One thing Drewe was also more than happy to do was to help with some publicity for the Carli Lansley Foundation, a fund set up by Blues fan Karl after tragically losing his wife to Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome (SADS) in 2017. Karl and his two young children are season ticket holders at Roots Hall and their fund supports the charity CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) with the focus on paying for screening programmes in the Southend area. In his busy life Karl still finds time to sit on the Shrimpers Trust Board, and SUEPA is proud to help him in any way we can raise the profile of his fund raising in memory of Carli. SUEPA President Adam Barrett is a patron of the Carli Lansley Foundation.



# NEWSLETTER –Issue 05 – February 2019

## 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 recent SUEPA joiner **Chris Guthrie** respond to our usual five questions.



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

Gary Moore because of his experience as a centre forward.

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

Dennis Booth and Peter Taylor – they were real comedians, good team mates and great lads.

*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?*

Peter Taylor. He was lightning quick and had two good feet.

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

After leaving Southend I went to Sheffield United. My first game was in Gibraltar and we stayed at the Gibraltar Rock Hotel. One of the players came into my room and said to look out of the window and there was my entire footwear, shoes, football boots, trainers etc floating in the sea. Everyone thought it was funny at the time .... except me!

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

Worked as a coach at Newcastle United and also did some modelling. Although I haven't been back to Roots Hall, I always look for the results and any news about the club.

## FUTURE EVENTS

### The following will be taking place:

- Saturday 2 March v Barnsley: ever one to spot an opportunity, we found out that Derrick Parker will be at Roots Hall as a co-commentator for Radio Sheffield for this match between the two teams he notched up over 100 appearances each for in the 1970's/80's. So, we've arranged for Derrick to escape from the commentary box pre and post-match for a few 'hello's' and, as the Roots Hall commentary box is not the most palatial, perhaps a welcome stretch of the legs!
- Saturday 16 March v AFC Wimbledon: Peter Daley will be our guest for this match. Now, Southend may not have had (so far!) a trophy-laden history, but we do like to reminisce about those oh-so-sweet moments from our past which stick had a special impact. So, like Drewe's 2004 goal, Peter can expect a few 'I was there' tales from fans more than willing to re-live his Easter Monday 1990 goal at Layer Road which all but put a final nail in Colchester United 's league tenure coffin.
- Saturday 30 March v Shrewsbury Town: this should be our biggest event yet. We've invited all SUEPA members who worked under Dave Smith during his time in the Roots Hall hot seat from May 1976 to August 1983. So, if that was you then you should by now have received your invite, if you have not then please do get in touch! So far we've had a great response and we currently expect somewhere between 15 and 20 SUEPA members to be there. With so many coming we've a few things planned and we hope some nice surprises to help make the day (and evening!) go with a swing.
- Monday 22 April v Burton: Roy McDonough is in town! With 'Red Card Roy' now out in paperback and sales in five-figures, Roy has a talk evening at the Palace Theatre in the evening but will also be coming to the match at Roots Hall earlier in the day for a meet the fans session, and maybe a beer or two .....

## ONE YEAR ON

**SUEPA was established on 12 January 2018 – no birthday cake appeared in SUEPA HQ last month but we did make a little fuss on social media by announcing getting to our first birthday in tandem with memories of a 40 year special anniversary in Southend's history when on 10 January 1979 some 31,033 turned up at Roots Hall to watch us hold European champions Liverpool to a draw in the snow. It is with some pride that 10 of the 12 players that night, and manager Dave Smith, are SUEPA members. We'd love to complete the 'set' – Steve Yates and Micky Stead, where are you?!**

## NEWSLETTER –Issue 05 – February 2019

We are also quietly pleased that we are finding different ways to welcome back Shrimpers to Roots Hall. And we'd like to do much more, every SUEPA member to us is special and we'd like to think has a little part of our proud club still held dear to them. Not every plan we have hatched so far has come to fruition, but we will continue to strive to create new memories and hold new events into next season and beyond. We know that the Essex Riviera may now not be on everyone's doorstep, but we've found that many of our visitors have made their return into a longer stay by visiting both old friends and old haunts. So, if you haven't heard from us and ever fancy coming back then please do get in touch, and we'll aim to help make your visit a special one.



### FOLLOWING AND CONTACTING SUEPA

**We will continue to issue regular Newsletters – our next one is scheduled to be issued in May.**

We do have a SUEPA Twitter page (*currently 1,156 followers*) and a SUEPA Facebook page (*currently 665 followers*) 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](https://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](mailto: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**

# NEWSLETTER –Issue 05 – February 2019

## THE FULL SUEPA SQUAD TO-DATE

### **GOALKEEPERS**

Terry Alderton, Cameron Belford, Daniel Bentley, Derek Bellotti, John Burridge, Mel Capleton, 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**

Andy Ansah, Will Atkinson, John Baber, Nicky Bailey, Mark Bentley, Jack Bridge, Peter Butler, Paul Byrne, Paul Clark, Adrian Clarke, Jason Cook, Jimmy Corbett, Peter Daley, Alan Dicks, Craig Easton, Dave Elliott, Gerry Fell, Scott Forbes, Mark Gower, Phil Gridelet, John Gymer, Julian Hails, Derek Hall, Mark Hall, Ryan Hall, Scott Houghton, Jeff Hull, Peter Hunt, Carl Hutchings, Neil Jenkins, Leon Johnson, Terry Johnson, Bobby Kellard, Danny Kerrigan, Micky Laverick, David Lee, Ryan Leonard, Alan Little, Martin Ling, Adam Locke, Kevin Maher, Mike Marsh, Dave Martin, Alan McCormack, Colin Morris, Franck Moussa, Garry Nelson, Terry Nicholl, John Nielsen, Iain O'Connell, Ricky Otto, Anton Outulakowski, Adrian Owers, Carl Pettefer, Glenn Pennyfather, Declan Perkins, Ron Pountney, Ken Reynolds, Damien Scannell, Malcolm Slater, Nicky Smith, Peter Taylor, Stuart Thurgood, Steve Tilson, Sanchez Watt, Alex Woodyard and Anthony Wordsworth.

### **STRIKERS**

Peter Abbott, Brett Angell, David Allaway, Lee Barnard, Mike Beesley, Ian Benjamin, Gary Bennett, Billy Best, Drewe Broughton, Stan Collymore, Barry Corr, Harry Crawford, David Crown, Martin Curruthers, Liam Dickinson, Dickie Dowsett, Lawrie Dudfield, Freddie Eastwood, Jim Fryatt, Paul Furlong, Bill Garner, Terry Gray, Chris Guthrie, Gary Jones, Ken Jones, Francis Laurent, Jason Lee, John Linford, Roy McDonough, Keith Mercer, David Mooney, Gary Moore, Lee Nogan, Derrick Parker, Stuart Parker, Matt Paterson, Joe Piggot, Peter Silvester, Derek Spence, Blair Sturrock, Andy Thomson, Neil Tolson and James Walker.



# NEWSLETTER –Issue 05 – February 2019

## **COACHING / BACKROOM**

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

