



SOUTHEND UNITED EX-PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

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

NEWSLETTER – Issue 06 – June 2019

WELCOME

Welcome to our sixth Newsletter, issued exclusively to you, our SUEPA members. The last one was distributed in February, so with the season now ended (pewh that was close!) we thought it about time we got in touch with you all again. Since the last Newsletter we've held four SUEPA events at Roots Hall, all very different and with some great new memories created.

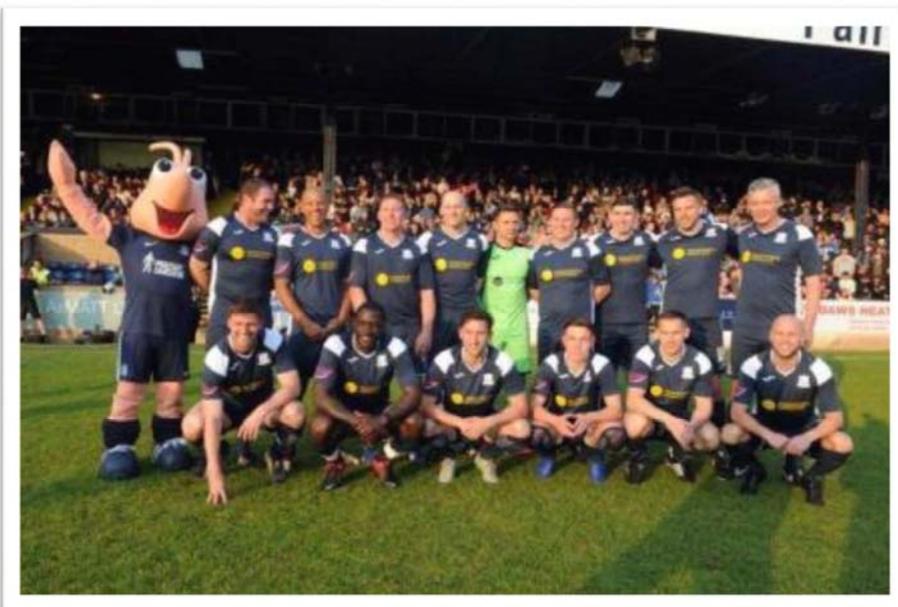
In this Newsletter we cover:

- Membership update, where we highlight who has recently joined;
- Our SUEPA events on 2 March, 16 March, 30 March and 22 April;
- Our 'Quickfire Five' Q&A, this time with both Peter Goy and Joe Pigott being under the SUEPA spotlight;
- Meeting up with a man who played in the first ever game at Roots Hall in 1955;
- 2019/20 – what might it hold for SUEPA?;
- 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

Closing in on 200!



We are now up to 188 members following the four ex-Shrimpers previously not in SUEPA (Lee Bradbury, Luke Guttridge, Wayne Gray and Duncan Jupp) who were at the Sid Broomfield Trophy (2006 team) game last month joining our merry band.

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It was another case of our new joiners since our February Newsletter really spanning the Shrimper generations. Charles Ademeno, another from the 2006 team era, must be one of our youngest members – sadly he could not take part in the abovementioned Trophy game, perhaps he feared he'd end up having to do all of the running!

Ben Abbey, Michael Timlin (signed up at a Shrimpers Trust event he attended), Warren May and Billy Paynter are also now SUEPA members.



We were delighted too to get in touch with Big Dave Cusack, Danny Greaves and Neil Townsend and see them all take part at one of our events in March. And finally, it was wonderful to bump in to 1960's Shrimpers Derek Ewing and Micky Wright in the Legends Lounge at a match and sign them up too.



Overall, we now have 19 goalkeepers, 46 defenders, 69 midfielders, 49 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.

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SUEPA EVENTS

A radio presenter, a pub head-shave, our biggest event yet, and a day out with Big Roy ending with his own show were the headline themes from our latest four SUEPA events – quite a variety.



First up on 2 March was Derrick Parker who was back at Roots Hall as part of the Radio Sheffield commentary team when Barnsley were in town. It was great to have one of our 'team of '79' back on the pitch (and you'll see from the pic that Sammy Shrimp was equally delighted). Things were a little different back on 10 January 1979 when a record 31,033 packed our humble home to see us hold Liverpool to a draw in the snow, a game in which Derrick starred and

came up against Ray Clemence who sadly denied him a goal that night. This March things were a little more low-key as our current team were on a downward spiral, but at least Derrick kept his listeners happy as Barnsley left with the points.

For the following game v AFC Wimbledon on 16 March, the whirlwind that is Peter Daley was our guest. Peter remains an icon for Shrimpers fans for scoring the clincher at Layer Road back in 1990 that virtually relegated our Essex neighbours out of the Football League and at the same time ensured our promotion from Division 4 was on track. As with all of our visitors, Peter met many old friends on the day – it seemed that Paul Clark had a score to settle with him when Clarkie scrambled out of his BBC Essex commentary box to grab him! David Crown helped Peter relive a memory from the post Peterborough promotion party, and when we got to the Spread Eagle after the match Peter ended up losing his hair by kindly agreeing to take part in a charity fund-raiser the pub was holding (the odd beer or two helped in the decision-making process for that one). A truly memorable visit which didn't see Peter get home to Kent until around 3.00 am!



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We ended March with something that had been months in the planning – a reunion of players from the Dave Smith era (1976-83). There are 31 players from that time currently in SUEPA, all were invited, and though Dave Smith himself could not sadly join us it was wonderful that 20 could make it back, some returning for the first time in over 40 years. Lots of hugs, memories re-told, old fan friends greeted, and those still working at the club from those days re-united with the former players they used to help. To get on the pitch for a presentation before kick-off the group entered the pitch at the North-East corner to make their way to the centre – on seeing them the whole crowd stood up to give them an impromptu standing ovation as they made their way along the pitch perimeter. The odd tear was shed. After the match we had a Q&A session in the Shrimpers Bar, and to round things off a number gathered for a meal at the Park Inn in town when more stories were told over a jar or two. Every SUEPA event we have held to date has encouraged us to do more, this one was no exception.

[Note: from left to right for the group picture are Neil Townsend, John Walker, Keith Mercer, Adrian Owers, Peter Silvester, Neil Freeman, Glenn Pennyfather, Danny Greaves, Phil Dudley, Dave Cusack, Frankie Banks (stooping), Mervyn Cawston, Peter Abbot and then in the front row Ron Pountney, Garry Nelson, Jeff Hull, Tony Hadley, Dave Young and Alan Moody]



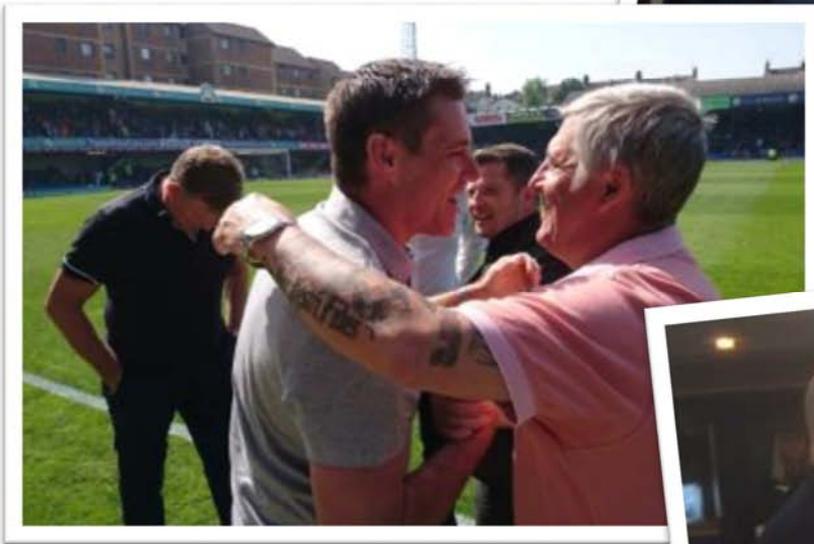
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Finally, to finish off the 2018/19 season we hosted Roy McDonough and three of his former teammates (Jason Cook, Andy Dixon and Dave Martin) on 22 April for the Burton match. It was a beery day – we met Roy in the Spread Eagle, made our way to the pitch via the Shrimpers Bar before kick-off, at half time went to the Legends Lounge Bar, at full time met more fans in the Far Post Bar, and then finished things off at The Palace Theatre (which has a bar!) where Roy was giving a talk to coincide with the re-launch of his book in paperback (if you haven't got a copy yet, type 'Red Card Roy' in to Amazon and treat yourself, it's a great read). As ever, lots of old friends re-united, Tilly leaping out of the stand to say hello, and not for the first time Dr Singh popping up to shake hands and invoke memories of cortisone. The stand-out moment though had to be at the Palace Theatre when Roy talked about the fans and in particular Ginger (who back in the day had a bit of a

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reputation). Roy believed Ginger was deceased and said 'RIP' for him on stage. Imagine his face then when at half-time Ginger came up to say hello!



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 Goy (1960-64) and Joe Pigott (2015-16) respond to our usual five questions.

First, over to you Peter

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

To be honest nobody. There weren't any goalkeeping coaches, so I had to fight for some handling practice. The routine was get your running done and then Harry Threadgold and I would do some goalkeeping and handling together (no gloves then!)



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

I think the biggest character at Southend while I was there was Lou Costello who could play anywhere, and did! Fullback, centre half, centre forward a very skilful player, but he didn't like training.

2. 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 I played with at Southend was John McKinven, our left winger. He had that rare gift that he could beat people both ways and was a great crosser of a ball, a Stanley Matthews style of player.

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

The best story I have is when I played my second game for the Arsenal, we beat Birmingham 2-1 to finish third in the then First Division and wages were £20.00 with a £4.00 win bonus. In my pay packet was £22.00 (£2 short). When I went to see the Manager George Swindon he said it was too much money for you young lads, I said it was in my contract for a £4 win bonus. He got rather annoyed and said that I'll have to give it to you then then! I said thank you.

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

On finishing my playing career Alex Smith and I tried to make the Football League as referees. I reached Class 1 status and did reserve matches in the then London Midweek League. So after a long playing career we proved that you can't make it to the top level in refereeing (too old!).

Next up, **Joe**

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

I'd probably say the person who was the biggest influence during my time at Southend was Barry Corr, he was just someone that I looked up to. Great goal scorer and team player. His work rate was immense.



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

We had lots of big characters in our team so it's hard to choose one but I'd probably have to say Michael Timlin. Tim's communication on the pitch was first class, he was always talking and organising. Off the pitch he was a great fella as well.

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?*

Best player I've seen in a Southend shirt would have to be Jack Payne. Easily the best finisher I've seen in my time. He has so much ability.

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

Playing under Phil Brown was always funny. You just can't repeat some of things that used to happen! *[Editor note: we need to find out more!]*

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'm still playing now at Wimbledon. Unfortunately I scored the winning goal not too long ago at Roots Hall. Thankfully we both stayed up and my goal didn't play a part in sending them down, so it was the perfect ending.

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A LITTLE TRIP BACK TO 1955

Roots Hall (the second time around – we can't find anyone who recalls it in its first incarnation before World War One) opened in 1955. It was built following a herculean effort of a small team led by Sid Broomfield who himself sadly passed away aged 94 back in March this year.

On the morning of the first game against Norwich City at the start of the 1955/56 season Sid was still busily fitting turnstiles, and indeed all of the ground's terracing took a further five years to complete. That match back on 20 August 1955 remains a special event for the club, and in our 3-1 win one of the goal scorers that day was Dickie Dowsett, our oldest SUEPA member. A few months earlier, Dickie was also part of a unique club tour of Malta which is the subject of a book written by Paul FitzGerald, Chairman of the Shrimpers Trust.

Dickie lives with his wife in Bournemouth in a house he moved in to back in 1966, not far from another of our Shrimpers Trust Board member's Andy Leeder. So, armed with a supply of Paul's books for signing, Andy visited Dickie in his home last month and relived with him times from his playing days which included spells with Spurs, Bournemouth, Southampton, Crystal Palace and Weymouth. The Malta book brought back many fond memories for Dickie who cheerfully signed a good supply of them which are available via the Shrimpers Trust website. It was great to see you Dickie!



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2019/20 – WHAT MIGHT IT HOLD FOR SUEPA

18 months on since we started and we are feeling quite pleased with how things have gone, but there's always room for improvement and perhaps the biggest challenge is to keep the momentum going.

The pace at which new members are joining has naturally slowed down – there is only a finite pool – but we are constantly looking to grow and a number of us (our small group of 'SUEPA Agents') quite enjoy the challenge of the search.

Having now held 10 SUEPA events at Roots Hall and loved every minute of it, with the full support of the club and under the umbrella of the supporters group The Shrimpers Trust, we remain committed to do more of the same. As soon as the fixtures are published we will look to plan with the club a series of further events for the season ahead. We would also welcome requests from you, our members, wishing to visit Roots Hall, to get in touch and we will then see what we can do to help and plan your day with you.

We are also now at the initial stages of planning with the club something quite exciting – a 'Southend United Celebration Evening'. This will look to commemorate all that is good about our club and involve us all (the club, players and staff past and present, and the fans) in something which we hope will be entertaining for all. A venue in Southend has been identified to host the evening which will include a drinks reception and meal. The plan will be to hold this during late Autumn this year and as soon as details are announced these will be publicised.

Our aim remains to help ex-players/coaching staff to re-connect with each other, the club and the fans and create new memories along the way. We thank you for being part of SUEPA and look forward to taking our little organisation forward with you.

FOLLOWING AND CONTACTING SUEPA

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

We do have a SUEPA Twitter page (*currently 1,248 followers*) and a SUEPA Facebook page (*currently 749 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

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 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, Dave Cusack, Andy Dixon, Phil Dudley, Derek Ewing, Tony Hadley, Steven Hammell, Andy Harris, Steve Hatter, Johnny Herd, Mark Hone, Lewis Hunt, Duncan Jupp, Frank Matthews, Warren May, 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, Neil Townsend, John Walker, Shane Westley, Che Wilson, Micky Wright 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, Luke Guttridge, 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, Michael Timlin, Sanchez Watt, Alex Woodyard and Anthony Wordsworth.

STRIKERS

Ben Abbey, Peter Abbott, Charles Ademenio, Brett Angell, David Allaway, Lee Barnard, Mike Beesley, Ian Benjamin, Gary Bennett, Billy Best, Lee Bradbury, 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, Wayne Gray, Danny Greaves, 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, Billy Paynter, Joe Piggot, Peter Silvester, Derek Spence, Blair Sturrock, Andy Thomson, Neil Tolson and James Walker.

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COACHING / BACKROOM

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

