



SOUTHEND UNITED EX-PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

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

NEWSLETTER – Issue 07 – November 2019

WELCOME

Welcome to our seventh Newsletter, issued exclusively to you, our SUEPA members. The last one was distributed in June, and with things having been, shall we say, a 'bit tricky' on the pitch, we thought it was time to lighten the mood a little and update you all regarding some great things that have happened, and are about to happen, SUEPA-wise.

We've already held two SUEPA events this season, have lots more planned, and are on the cusp of coming up to something we hope will prove to be quite a hit, so please read on!

In this Newsletter we cover:

- Membership update, where we highlight who has recently joined;
- Our SUEPA events on 10 August and 12 October;
- Our 'Quickfire Five' Q&A, this time with Dave Barnett and Brett Angell being under the SUEPA spotlight;
- Fancy a game of football? We have two opportunities for you to put your boots back on, plus an idea for the future;
- The Southend United Hall of Fame Evening on 22 November 2019;
- Current schedule of SUEPA Match Day Events for the 2019/20 season;
- 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

We've now smashed through the 200 barrier!

We are now up to 208 members, with a further 19 having joined since our last Newsletter all representing a hugely diverse part of the club's history.

First of the 19 to join us back in the Summer was Dave Cunningham, who was with us during the mid '70's including playing in that epic 2-2 FA Cup Third Round match v QPR in 1975. We'd been on the trail of still-local-lad Dave for some time, the club's PA announcer Mickey Gee finally securing for us Dave's SUEPA signature.

In fact, since our last Newsletter we've had a further three ex-Shrimpers who played in that QPR match join and are now only missing Malcolm Webster (known to have recently retired as

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goalkeeping coach at Ipswich) and Tony Taylor (who we know earlier this decade was working as Technical Director of the Burlington Youth Soccer Club in Ontario, Canada). So, if any of you know how we might contact either Malcolm or Tony please do get in touch – holding a reunion of that '75 team who played against QPR would be wonderful!



The other three from that team to have joined us are certainly spread far and wide, and also took a fair bit of tracking down. Dave Worthington is currently working as European Scout for Everton and spends a lot of the year in Spain and Portugal reporting on talent prospects there (Editor's note: a favourite memory of Dave is of him frequently pumping his fist at the crowd to urge the support on, a spirit we could certainly do with now). Willie Coulson was located after a fan sent us a newspaper report which referenced him attending a fete in Australia mentioning an estate where he was resident so we wrote to the sales office of that estate who kindly forwarded the message on. Stuart Brace was found to be a little more local - down in Devon - though the search to find him had been going on for some time. Various reports of Stuart playing cricket in the West Country ultimately led us to the Plymouth Argyle Former Players Group who managed to put us in touch with Stuart albeit via an out of date address (so, thank-you to the Devon Sorting Office!). Phew, just writing this makes us worn out reading about the efforts of our SUEPA Agents.

Another recent joiner from that same era was keeper Alan Mayer who came over on trial from the US thanks to Peter Silvester, and whose joining SUEPA created quite a bit of interest from his American fan club and helped to expand the number our SUEPA Facebook followers! Bob Worthington, thanks to brother Dave, is also now on board and Bob, oh yes, we do still remember that howitzer v Argyle!



We've also had a bit of a '60's influx – Derek Tharme (1962/63), Colin Flatt (1966/67) and Eddie Clayton (1967/68 – 1969/70) are all now on board, as is our most recent joiner Tony Hafford. And Tony, with us during the Ernie Shepherd managerial era and who played in our Mid-Week League team, is a wonderful example of us sometimes looking too far away to expand our membership as every time we go down the players'

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tunnel with our SUEPA match-day guests Tony is the steward who greets us!

A man with a big address book is of course Barry Fry and we were pleased to have our former manager join us in July, so naturally we asked him if he was in contact with any of his former charges which led us to getting in touch with Andy Edwards (who followed Barry out of Roots Hall to both Birmingham and then Peterborough).

We've also now brought in to the SUEPA fold Andy's former team-mate Christian Hyslop which brings us now very close to doing one of our favourite things at SUEPA in looking to complete a key match-day team line-up. Saturday 4 May 1991 is one of the great days in the history of Southend United when we of course secured promotion for the first time ever to the second tier by beating Bury. Sloppy played that day and all we now need to do is to get his co-full back Dean Austin from that match to join SUEPA. We are aware that Dean is an active 'Tweeter', but if anyone knows how to get in touch with him more directly we'd love to hear. We are also delighted to have Morrys Scott and Paul Smith, two other members of the 1990/91 squad, join us.

Andy Rammell, Jon O'Brien and Ryan Cresswell came on board thanks to the efforts of our SUEPA Agents tracking down Shrimpers via various social media channels – if you are online we will find you!

And finally, we are again indebted to SUEPA member Steve Parmenter, who through his footballing travels, signed up another two former Shrimpers for us in Jamie Southon and Mark Stimson.



Overall, we now have 22 goalkeepers, 53 defenders, 74 midfielders, 53 strikers and six former coaching/backroom staff in the SUEPA squad. You will find a full current member list at the end of this Newsletter.

SUEPA EVENTS

We kicked-off the season in great style by having Stuart Parker as our guest for the first home game of the season against another of his former clubs Blackpool (where he now lives).

Stuart had not been back to Roots Hall for over 42 years since leaving the club in 1977 following a very successful period as our 'number 9'. Returning to where he enjoyed the most prolific goal scoring time of his playing career, Stuart had a great, and emotional, come back with us back in

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August. Being warmly greeted on arrival by his old team-mates Paul Clark and Frankie Banks was a joy to see, and the reception he got on the pitch just before kick-off was fantastic.

Many old stories were re-lived, and more than once 'that' last minute winner he scored against Cardiff in the fourth round of the FA Cup in 1976 got mentioned as fans took the opportunity to say hello to Stuart both pre and post kick-off in the Legends Lounge.

Perhaps the visit is best summed up by Stuart's brother Russell Parker, who after the match posted on the SUEPA Facebook page "You guys did a tremendous job and are a credit to Southend and to football people". We were quite chuffed with that.



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On 12 October we had two former players as our guests for the day who were schoolboy friends, team-mates in the same Shrimper squad and now, aged 68, remain great friends and still see each other every week.

Dave Barnett first came to Roots Hall as an apprentice in July 1968 and made his debut away at Darlington on 5 May 1969. He was part of our 1971/72 Division Four promotion season, and over five seasons made a total of 66 appearances. His friend Ken Reynolds was part of our 1970/71 squad and is pictured with Dave in the team picture shown here for that season (Ken is first right in the middle row, Dave being three places to his right). Ken did not make a first team appearance for us, instead playing in what was then a very competitive Midweek League reserve team which we are sure many of you will recall (maybe a decent reserve team league is something we could do with again now?).

Together with Peter Hunt (front row far right), Dave and Ken look to get a couple of games of golf in every week – a friendship forged in a Blue shirt which is still going strong nearly 50 years later!



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 Dave Barnett (1968-73) and Brett Angell (1990-94) respond to our usual five questions.

First, over to you Dave

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

Ernie Shephard: He signed me as an apprentice in 1967, he was a great coach and manager. He gave me my first team debut at Darlington when I was 17, I was sub, I came on for Sammy Macmillan just before half-time and went in 2-0 down. We came out and went on to win 2-3, my first win bonus!

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

Dennis Booth: he was a great character, so funny, he used to impersonate so many people, always joking, a great person to have in the dressing room.

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?*

Billy Best: There were some great players around in the late '60's and '70's but he was a fantastic goal scorer and every game he put in 100%, a great example to the younger members of the team. He was quick, and brilliant in the air for a smaller striker.

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

Every summer we used to have our photo taken with the cast of a Cliffs Pavilion theatre show and on this occasion Dickie Henderson, a well-known personality, came to the ground and all the players had to pick him up in the dressing room and make out to throw him in the large bath. They took the photo and then we then actually threw him in the bath! He took it really well, dried off and we gave him a Blues track suit.

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



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After I stopped playing full-time I went into shipping and worked at Tilbury Docks as a Shipping Manager for over 30 years. I'm now 68 and have fully retired. I still come down to Roots Hall when I get time but always fit in two or three games a season.

Next up, Brett

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

I would say the management and coaching staff that I played under all had a big influence into my football development at Roots Hall, all were slightly different in their approach which gave myself a broader experience both good and bad and this provided me with some great experiences and knowledge which I have tried to incorporate in some parts in my own coaching career.



Dave Webb and his First Team Coach Kevin Locke worked very well on the identification and development of upcoming talent that were hungry to prove a point and gelling very well together with more seasoned professionals to develop a squad that I think was potentially one of the strongest that has ever represented Southend

Although I never played for Colin Murphy when he came in to replace Dave Webb he gave me a lot of support when it was diagnosed I would be unable to play for the next six months due to injury.

Barry Fry then came in to attempt to keep us in the championship and I felt he was very much like Dave in his identification of potential talent. He was different to Peter Taylor who I felt was the best coach out on the training ground that I had during my time at the club.

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

Dave Martin was larger than life character, very vocal with that cockney twang with a smile on his face who always apparently knew a man who could get hold of something if it was needed for the house/partner. Sometimes on the field his tackling could be a little late so he was always good for at least a couple of suspensions a season which masked his ball playing ability!

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?

Tough one this!

Chris Powell and Dean Austin both developed greatly while with the club before moving onto higher accolades. Both players had very good ability to get forward and provide good quality crosses into the box of which I remember benefiting from on a more than a few occasions but also both were very good defenders with a very consistent level of performance to their all-round game.

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The most naturally gifted player I played with was Stan Collymore, who like the others also moved onto higher accolades but had power and pace in abundance and was always looking destined to play far higher than Championship standard. We only played around ten games together, but I think between us in those games we scored around 12 goals which culminated in Southend staying in the division with a win against Luton on the final game at Roots Hall. It could have been very interesting had we played a full season together.

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

Sorry the memory is struggling to recall any, I can't believe it is nearly 30 years since playing at Southend where did the time go!

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

For the last ten years I have been living in New Zealand working for Central Football Federation and in the last five combining that role with coaching Hawkes Bay United in the National League. So unfortunately I have not been able to get back to Roots hall to watch a game but have been keeping up to date with the current situation and very much hope that the season will turn round and the good times will return, but I will definitely like to attend a game when next back in England.

TIME TO PUT YOUR BOOTS BACK ON?

Ever thought it might be nice to have the opportunity to put your boots back on and once more and get involved in Southend football again?

Well, we have two opportunities for you in separate charity events coming up in 2020:

Event 1: The Essex Charity Cup (words below by Shrimper fan Rylee Doe)

The Essex Charity Cup was created in 2016 when I was 13 years old. It was originally a game between school mates, who all dreamed of playing on the pitch we go every two weeks to watch. After watching Soccer Aid, I was inspired to do the same but was put off at the thought of it not doing well. The first charity match was for Prostate Cancer UK and we managed to raise £782, beating our target of £300. It



was at this point I knew I could make something of it, every year I have added to the games to improve the popularity and raise as much funds as possible. In 2017, we raised over £1,800 for Macmillan and in 2018 we raised over £1,600 for Great Ormond Street Hospital. I originally planned

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to make the 2019 match my final one, and worked tirelessly to get auction and raffle prizes, whilst boosting awareness to as many as possible. To my amazement, we raised £4,000 for MIND and Samaritan's. I am now doing one final match before I go to university.

Next year I am hosting a match at Roots Hall again but there is one slight twist - it will now be played between Southend and Leyton Orient fans. I am so thankful to have the support of both clubs to boost this game to as many people as possible. The match will be raising funds for two charities. The first charity is the Justin Edinburgh Foundation. On the pitch, Southend and Orient are rivals, but off the pitch we can achieve so much. I want to unite the fans of both clubs to raise money for a man who achieved so much, not only in his footballing career, but in his life as well. Secondly, the Essex Charity Cup will be raising money for Havens Hospice. Havens are a charity local to Essex who are adored by many. The work they do day in day out is amazing and I want to support them in any way possible.

I am looking for an ex-player to manage the Southend United side, and help raise as much money as possible for the two charities. Not only this, but there is also the opportunity for one player to make a special appearance on the pitch for the final 15 minutes of the game, (or even be the referee). There is so much potential for this match, and with so much work being done already, why not get involved?

This will be a 90 minute match, followed by a penalty shootout before a raffle, auction, prizes and words from the two charities at the end. People who have been to the matches have described it as the best night of the year and I am certain we can go one further.

When? Tuesday 5 May 5:30-10 pm

Where? Roots Hall

If you are interested in managing/playing/refereeing or would like to get involved in any other way/donate and auction prizes, please contact me at ryleedoe@outlook.com. Anything is greatly appreciated as we work towards the biggest night of my life.

Rylee Doe (call: 07804240095)

Event 2: Carli Lansley Memorial Match

On 1 June 2017 Southend United season-card holder Carli Lansley passed away from Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome (SADS) at the age of just 36. Carli used to watch Southend with her husband Karl and her children Jessica and Ethan. In February 2018 the family started the Carli Lansley Foundation and the aim of the charity is to provide free ECG screenings to young people (aged 14-35) in the Southend area. Since the formation of the charity the football club have been incredibly supportive in numerous ways, including Roots Hall being the venue for the first ever ECG

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screening day in memory of Carli. 106 young people were screened and five were referred to their doctors for further investigation.

On Sunday 5 July 2020 the charity is hosting a fund-raising football match at Len Forge Centre, Eastwood near Southend (kick-off 12.00). The players will all come from a local team (Kingston Athletic) that Karl ran from 1991 to 2006. The idea is for this match to be a joint SUEPA/Foundation venture. We are looking for four to six ex-players to take part in the match, maybe playing just the first-half, before remaining during the second-half to sign autographs, pose for pictures, etc.



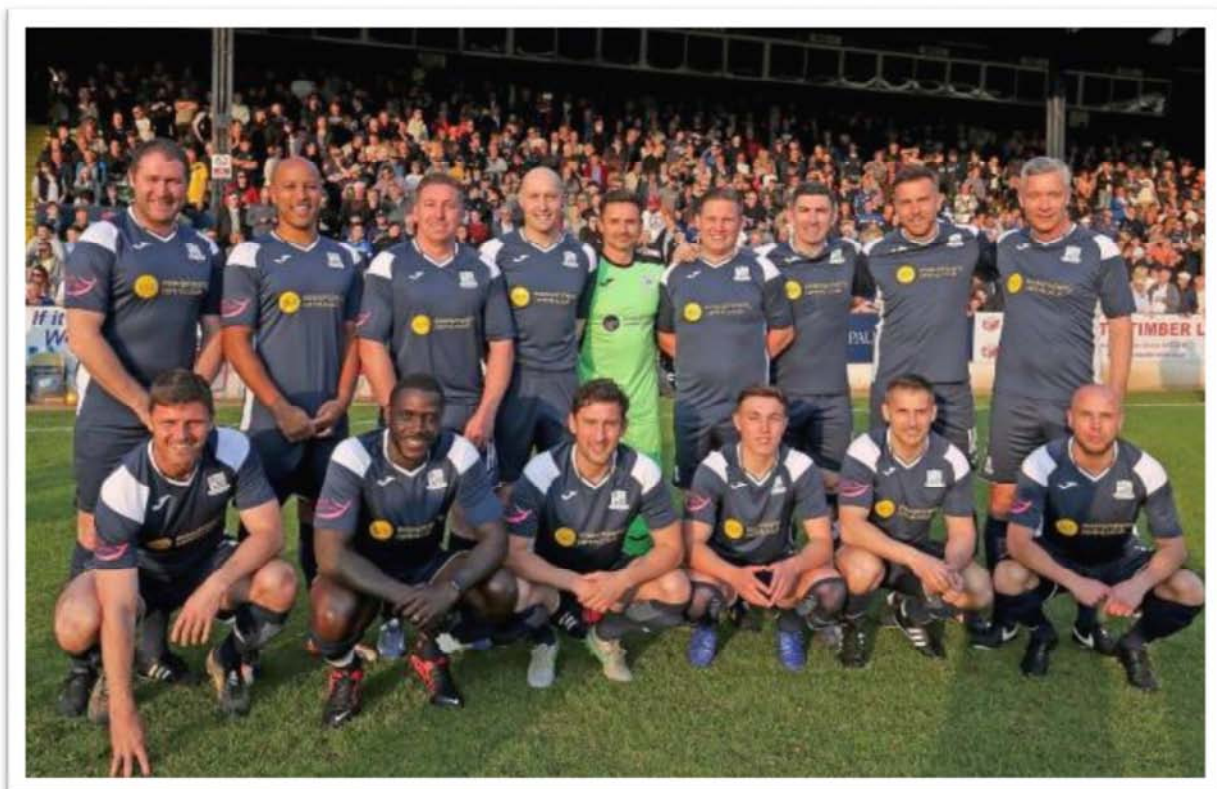
Carli Lansley Foundation

Keeping young hearts healthy

Registered Charity No. 1180262

If any of you fancy a run-out for 45 minutes in aid of a local cause please contact: info@carlilansleyfoundation.org.uk

And Finally

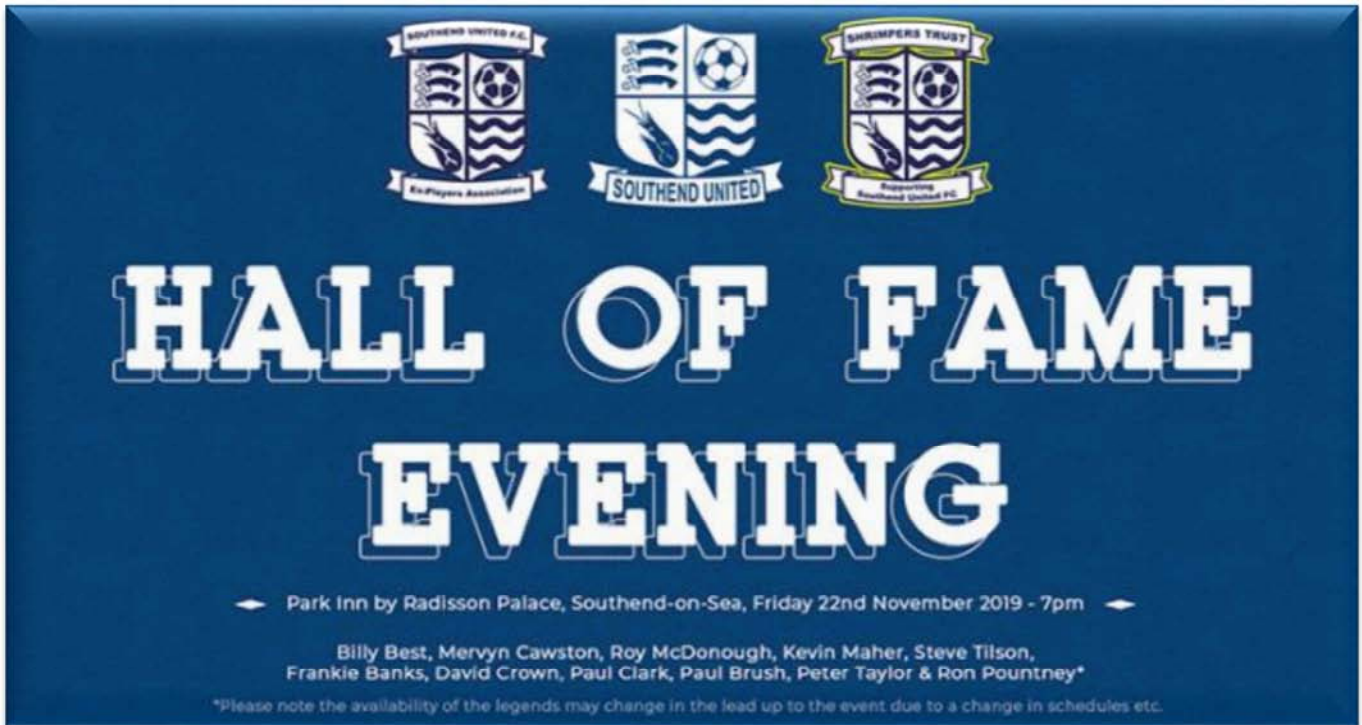


SUEPA is considering creating a charity squad (SUEPA United?!) to take part in three to four games annually to support more local causes. At this very early stage we are just looking to gauge the level of interest. If this idea appeals to you, however young you might be, please let us know so we can decide if the idea of a 'charity squad' is feasible by contacting: suepassoc@gmail.com

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THE SOUTHEND UNITED FC HALL OF FAME EVENING

We mentioned in our last Newsletter that we were working with the club to hold a 'Celebration Evening'. Well, under the revised 'Hall of Fame' title we are delighted to confirm that this will now go ahead on Friday 22 November 2019 at The Park Inn in Southend.



A key part of the event will be the inaugural club Hall of Fame. A nomination process saw many of you put forward as candidates and it was a difficult process to select the final candidates, but we are delighted that we now have 11 ex-Shrimpers due to be attending the event.

The Shrimpers Trust, under whose umbrella SUEPA sits, has worked closely with the club to set up what we feel will be a wonderful evening. Not only will there be the Hall of Fame, but also two special club/SUEPA videos created for the event will be shown, there will be live music with some club-themed tracks, a meal and drinks, a special fan award, and much more.

We would love to invite you all, but space is limited. However, costs have been contained to enable ticket prices to be kept at what we feel is a good-value price of £54, so if you are interested in attending please do call the club ticket office on 01702 304147.

If you are attending and wish to stay overnight in Southend to make it a longer stay, we have obtained a discount with the Park Inn for bookings. If you are interested please email us at suepassoc@gmail.com and we will provide you with further details.

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SUEPA MATCH DAY SCHEDULE FOR 2019/20 SEASON



With two events held so far and the Hall of Fame Evening also coming up we are on target to at least match the seven SUEPA events held last season. This season we currently have the following scheduled:

- Saturday December 14 2019 v Rotherham: Mel Capleton and Adrian Clarke will be our guests for this one.
- Saturday January 4 v Gillingham: Scott Forbes is our guest
- Saturday February 1 v Lincoln City: Mark Hone, also a former Imp, will be coming to this one and we'll also be saying hello to our former manager Steve Thompson who is due to be on BBC Lincs commentary duties at the match that day. We'll also be hooking up with some of the good folk who run the Lincoln City Former Players Association.
- Saturday February 22 v Burton: Gary Jones is coming to this one, and is planning to bring his young daughter to watch her first ever football match!
- Saturday March 7 v Bristol Rovers: we are looking to make this a 1960's themed event and Mike Beesley is the first to be signed up as our guest for the day. If you were at Roots Hall in the Swinging '60's and would like to join us do get in touch.

If you are interested in attending any game at Roots Hall as our guest please do get in touch. We are not able to run a SUEPA event at every match but will be pleased to see if we can accommodate you and do what we can to make your trip back to Roots Hall a memorable one.

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FOLLOWING AND CONTACTING SUEPA

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

We do have a SUEPA Twitter page (*currently 1,329 followers*) and a SUEPA Facebook page (*currently 782 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

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, Tony Hafford, Ian Joyce, John Keeley, Alan Meyer, Steve Mildenhall, Jon O'Brien, 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, Ryan Creswell, Dave Cusack, Andy Dixon, Phil Dudley, Andy Edwards, Derek Ewing, Tony Hadley, Steven Hammell, Andy Harris, Steve Hatter, Johnny Herd, Mark Hone, Lewis Hunt, Christian Hyslop, 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, Mark Stimson, Derek Tharme, Adam Thompson, Neil Townsend, John Walker, Shane Westley, Che Wilson, Bob Worthington, Dave Worthington, Micky Wright and Dave Young.

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MIDFIELDERS

Andy Ansah, Will Atkinson, John Baber, Nicky Bailey, Mark Bentley, Jack Bridge, Peter Butler, Paul Byrne, Paul Clark, Adrian Clarke, Eddie Clayton, Jason Cook, Jimmy Corbett, Willie Coulson, Dave Cunningham, 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, Paul Smith, Jamie Southon, Peter Taylor, Stuart Thurgood, Steve Tilson, Michael Timlin, Sanchez Watt, Alex Woodyard and Anthony Wordsworth.

STRIKERS

Ben Abbey, Peter Abbott, Charles Ademeno, Brett Angell, David Allaway, Lee Barnard, Mike Beesley, Ian Benjamin, Gary Bennett, Billy Best, Stuart Brace, Lee Bradbury, Drewe Broughton, Stan Collymore, Barry Corr, Harry Crawford, David Crown, Martin Curruthers, Liam Dickinson, Dickie Dowsett, Lawrie Dudfield, Freddie Eastwood, Colin Flatt, 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, Andy Rammell, Morrys Scott, Peter Silvester, Derek Spence, Blair Sturrock, Andy Thomson, Neil Tolson and James Walker.

COACHING / BACKROOM

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



'Creating New Memories'