



# SOUTHEND UNITED EX-PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

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

## NEWSLETTER – Issue 09 – May 2020

### WELCOME

**Welcome to our ninth Newsletter, issued exclusively to you, our SUEPA members. The last one was distributed in February and we had planned to wait until the end of the season before the next one but .....**

It goes without saying that we sincerely hope that this newsletter finds you and your family safe and well in what are unprecedented difficult and worrying times for everyone.

As always there is a full member list at the end of this newsletter, so if you see someone there you'd love to catch up with for the first time in years then maybe now is just the right time to do so. We were thrilled to help Terry Nicholl and Stuart Parker recently get in touch to relive some great times at Roots Hall. Doing this is what SUEPA is all about. Below are pics of both at a 'meet the fans day' back in the mid '70's with Southend fan Kay (right) and her little sister with Terry and then Stuart, and it was Kay who helped put them back in touch all these, ahmmm, decades later!



You just need to send us an email ([suepassoc@gmail.com](mailto:suepassoc@gmail.com)) or you can give our main administrator Andy Leeder a call on his mobile 07739 556007 and we'll see what we can do. Go on, give it a go!

Anyway, in this Newsletter we cover:

- A message from our President;
- Membership update, where we highlight who has recently joined;
- Our SUEPA events on 15 February, 22 February and 7 March 2020
- Off to Blackpool - Derek's got a book pile;
- A SUEPA new video;
- SUEPA in the news;
- With the fans;
- Our 'Quickfire Five' Q&A, this time Barry Corr being under the SUEPA spotlight;
- The Southend United Hall of Fame Evening – another update;
- Happy birthday Tony;
- Get well soon Bobby;

## NEWSLETTER – Issue 09 – May 2020

- Everyone loves the Doc;
- Working with other former player associations and now leading the way with the PFA;
- Would you like to relive an old match?
- A reminder of how to keep up to date with SUEPA news and how to contact us;
- The full current SUEPA membership list.
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Well, that is quite a bit, so let's get on with it .....

### A MESSAGE FROM SUEPA PRESIDENT ADAM BARRETT



***"I hope everyone is safe and well and my prayers go out to anyone who is suffering with this terrible virus. It has been unprecedented times and it's amazing how the country pulls together, especially key workers and NHS staff who are all true heroes, we all can't thank you enough.***

***Lockdown has been very strange but has given us time to take stock of what's really important. Obviously I've been off work as all football has been suspended which has been strange but it has given me some real quality time with my wife and children so I'm very lucky, my wife is a teacher so has still been going into to work as some of her pupils parents are key workers which has given her some normality.***

***On a separate note it's great to SUEPA going from strength to strength and to have 229 members so far is fantastic and shows what It means to ex-players and how much their time at the football club meant to them,***

***hopefully the list of members will keep growing.***

***We are all looking forward to getting back to work and hopefully resume the season but we must make sure it's done safely, I'm looking forward to coming back to Roots Hall and hopefully it's not too long, Thank you for all your support stay safe and well.***

***Regards***

***Adam"***

### MEMBERSHIP

**Since the last Newsletter we have added a further 15 to the SUEPA family to bring our total membership number up to 229 - well on our way to our year-end target of 250.**

We now have three new shot-stoppers to bolster our goalkeeping pool up to 25, so we should be ok if an injury crisis hits. Simon Royce was someone we have been trying to make contact with for ages but finally secured his signature via a Facebook contact. Our other two keepers date back a bit further - Ray White (what a picture!) was with us from '66 to '68, but even further back we are delighted to now have on board Peter Heathcote (fifth left, back row in team pic), who now aged

## NEWSLETTER – Issue 09 – May 2020

87, and amongst all of our 229 members, played longer ago than any, being a keeper for us in the 1951/52 season. His wage back in those Grainger Road days was £7 a week!



## NEWSLETTER – Issue 09 – May 2020



It has been said many times, but anyone who has donned a Shrimpers shirt in a competitive match, whether first team or reserves, is very welcome to join SUEPA. It was particularly pleasing therefore to have Ricky Footman, Stuart Leslie and Terry O'Donnell sign up to SUEPA of late - none made the first team but each has happy memories of being part of the Roots Hall set up and each has also been following our fortunes on the SUEPA Facebook page. We also caught up with Ricky in Blackpool back in February when he kindly donated us three rare old first team shirts from the 1970's - we've yet to decide what to do with those but a fund-raising initiative beckons and we might see if one day we can check with their wearers (Messrs Worthington D, Taylor

and Laverick be warned!) whether they still fit.

SUEPA continues to span the decades, and the joining of Chris Perkins, Leon Constantine and Tes Bramble (the noughties), Regis Coulbault (the '90's, and adding to our overseas membership), and Martin Robinson (the '80's) exemplifies this. We'll have to find a rainy day some time and see which Shrimper decade is represented in SUEPA the most, our hunch is that it is probably the '70's and this group were added to recently by the signing up of Andy Ford and Kenny Foggo.

It's always enjoyable when we get to speak to our members on joining and reminisce about days gone by. We got in touch with Kenny Foggo via the West Brom former players group and had a good catch up, not least recalling that match up at Derby in '76 ..... "Foggy crosses, Moody scores, goal!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Oh, bugger, disallowed!" Not all of our memories have a happy ending, but as Shrimpers we can perhaps all recall more than a few 'what might have been' moments.

The '60's contingent also continues to get ever bigger, with Graham Birks and our latest recruit Jim Conway adding to those ranks. Our last match day event focused on that decade - more of that in a moment. It is worth noting though that one of our 'SUEPA Agents' who look to track down former Shrimper's has a particular interest in the '60's which was a time when he was a terrace regular home and away, and despite still being a season ticket holder today has a particular fondness for those times as maybe we all do for the days of our youth. Dave can recall huge amounts of detail from those times gone by and many of you who are members from that era know him well - he is a true fan. One of the many joys of SUEPA is re-connecting fans with former players which those of you who so far have been to one of our match day events will certainly know that to be the case.

## COMETH THE HOUR ..... THE RETURN OF SCOTT FORBES

**We all love an FA Cup goal, and if the celebration is equally memorable well, you have the perfect combo.**

Those who were at Roots Hall on 10 December 2000 will recall with glee not only Scott Forbes' pile-driver but also how he celebrated in front of the West Stand afterwards. Sadly he declined to recreate the moment when he was our match day guest v Coventry on 15 February! Perhaps though it was the presence of the large family contingent Scott brought with him to make it a fun return that made him a little shy. Next time Scott .....



## NEWSLETTER – Issue 09 – May 2020

### SO GOOD TO BE BACK ..... WITH GARY JONES

**It was great to catch up with our former striker Gary Jones at Roots Hall on 22 February when we played Burton. Gary is certainly still looking very fit, and it was wonderful that he made a top effort to come along, travelling from his home in Doncaster for the day.**

Gary is pictured here with match day hosts Frankie Banks and David Crown, plus Shrimper season ticket holders Jo Joscelyn, husband Alan, her good friend Lynn Tobin and her son Tyler, who we invited along for a quick drink after learning of their epic two day storm-delayed return from the away match at Blackpool. Top Shrimpers everyone, cheers to all!



### THE SWINGING '60'S RETURN TO ROOTS HALL

**To round off a busy match day event period for SUEPA and, as it turned out, the last match played before lockdown, we held a '60's reunion day for the game on 7 March v Bristol Rovers. Mickey Beesley, Dave Barnett, Kenny Reynolds, Peter Goy, Derek Tharme and Peter Hunt were our guests and we were also joined by match day host Frankie Banks who made his Shrimpers debut back in 1962.**

## NEWSLETTER – Issue 09 – May 2020

For Derek the day was particularly poignant - it was his first time back to Roots Hall since he left (after a career-ending injury) in 1963. And our SUEPA Agent Dave who we mentioned earlier presented Derek with a scrapbook full of pictures and programmes from his time as a Shrimper in the 62/63 season. It was quite an emotional day.



## NEWSLETTER – Issue 09 – May 2020

### A SUEPA AWAY DAY, DEREK'S GOT A BOOK PILE!

**On 8 February we had our first ever SUEPA Away Day - at Blackpool. Guest of Honour at Bloomfield Road that day was our 1980/81 Player of the Year Derek Spence, so we caught up with him and also another former Blackpool and Southend striker Stuart Parker.**

The Tangerines now have some great facilities in their much-revamped stadium, and Derek was well-martialled (i.e. kept to time!) by the host in an interview in the main sponsors lounge before the match. He did though manage to get in a plug for his book which we told you about in our last newsletter.

We had hoped to get Derek down to Roots Hall in March and had set things up for him to sell a few copies in the club shop before the scheduled match v Bolton, but sadly now as we all know that had to be postponed. It's now the first thing on our list when football properly gets going again, but if you haven't yet got your copy and fancy a very entertaining 'lockdown read' then copies can be purchased on Amazon, just type 'From the Troubles to the Tower by Derek Spence' in the Amazon search box and you'll find it. Or, if you are in the Fleetwood area, give Derek a call, he has a garage full of them!





## CHECK OUT THE LATEST SUEPA VIDEO

Have you got a spare four minutes and 50 seconds? Good. Check out our latest SUEPA video (our fourth) which you will find on YouTube at

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrAqMjk\\_gkFY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrAqMjk_gkFY)

A warning though - "SUEPA: Coming Home" is quite emotional. There's a steady build up, then after a minute it really cranks up into a montage of what our match day events are all about. Turn the volume up, and enjoy.



## SUEPA IN THE NEWS

We've been on the publicity trail of late. Not shy of our achievements we thought we'd tell a few folk about SUEPA and have made the news pages of both the Football League Paper and the footie magazine 'Late Tackle'.

What was pleasing was that after these articles appeared in February we were contacted by fans of Leyton Orient FC asking for advice on the setting up of their own former players group which we were more than happy to help them with. We remain convinced that a former player group is a 'win win' for all concerned, so the more groups like ours there are the better we think (and see later re an initiative we are hoping to progress with the PFA).



## WITH THE FANS



At our match day events we always let fans know who is coming and are very happy to facilitate a meet up. Back in January we were contacted by Shrimper fan Mike Schooley asking us if we could put him in touch with '60's SUFC sharpshooter Mike Beesley, saying that 'I used to caddy for him at Belfairs GC, back in 1969, when I was a strapping 12 year old'. We said we could do better than that as we had 'Beeso' lined up as one of our guests for the Bristol Rovers game!

Mike explains: "Mickey kind of took over the father role for me, by taking me to my first ever football match. It was a Wednesday night reserve match and the whole first team were there as they were expected to be. From that moment, I was hooked and my first first team match was the 1-3 home defeat to Grimsby in September '69. We stayed in touch for a long time. I bought my first full set of golf clubs from him when he was at HW Stone Sport & Leisure at Thames Drive. I also caddied for him at two Evening Echo Pro Ams at Boyce Hill."

Saturday 7 March was their first meet up for a couple of decades. A SUEPA re-union, lovely.

## QUICKFIRE 5!

**This time we are delighted to have Big Bad Barry Corr respond to our usual five questions.**

**Over to you Barry .....**

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

Paul Sturrock took me to Southend, he had a huge influence on my career and I would run through walls for him. Even now! Also, Ben Clarkson was a big influence, in my five years at Southend I made more appearances than I did at the rest of my clubs put together. He kept me on the pitch and is still my good friend.



## NEWSLETTER – Issue 09 – May 2020

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

Bilel Mohsni. I'm not sure I need to say why. One of the best players I've played with, and a really nice guy. But don't make him angry, you wouldn't like him when he's angry!

*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'll go from our promotion season. Dan Bentley was and still is an exceptional GK. And in my opinion Ryan Leonard was our best and most important player that season.

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

There are many but as I'm sure you often get from players, lots I can't mention! Me and Luke Prosser swimming in the estuary with only our medals around our necks after the play-off win was quite funny.

*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 now coaching at Cambridge United having completed my coaching badges and finishing a degree in psychology. I have been back a couple of times and always look out for Southend's results.**

### THE SOUTHEND UNITED FC HALL OF FAME EVENING – ANOTHER UPDATE

**It perhaps will not come as a surprise for you to learn that the Hall of Fame evening, re-scheduled from late last year to 10 July 2020, has had to be postponed due to the virus lockdown situation.**

We are determined to work with the club to arrange a new date for this event when we can and make it a huge success. Much cheaper ticket prices have already been agreed, and the basis of a great evening for former players and fans with many memories and live music remains at the core of it. All is there to put in to action when things return to normal. We'll keep you informed.

## NEWSLETTER – Issue 09 – May 2020

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TONY

**It was Tony Bentley's 80th birthday towards the end of last year and, after our first momento got lost somewhere between Southend and Nova Scotia, finally in February we managed to send something across the pond successfully to mark the milestone of our former full back who served the club so well throughout the 60's.**

Pictured here is Tony with friends and family meeting up in a local hostelry to mark the event (that is, the postal system finally working ok).



### GET WELL SOON BOBBY

**We were concerned to learn that, towards the end of February, Bobby Kellard, who played with Tony and made over 100 appearances for us at the beginning of the '60's to start off a distinguished career in the game, had suffered a stroke.**

We had been hoping to see Bobby, who still lives in Southend, at our SUEPA event day v Bristol Rovers at the start of March, but his son Bobby Junior told us about his admittance to hospital. Frankie Banks and a few other of his former Shrimper team-mates paid Bobby a visit in hospital and by all accounts they made quite a racket during their time seeing him reliving times gone by at Roots Hall!

Bobby is now out of hospital convalescing and we all wish him a speedy recovery.

## EVERYONE LOVES THE DOC

**Everyone loves Dr Sinha! He first started chasing Southend United players with a cortisone injection needle in the 80's and still watches his beloved Blues to this day. Every time we have a guest he relishes meeting his former charges, and on us pointing him out in his Directors Box seat make a beeline to see him.**

To a man all seem to have fond memories of him, well apart from maybe those injections!



## NEWSLETTER – Issue 09 – May 2020

### WORKING WITH OTHER FORMER PLAYER GROUPS, AND NOW SUEPA LEADING THE WAY ....

**We network with a number of former player groups of other clubs in doing what we do, often to exchange ideas and to seek mutual help in tracking down players. It can be quite enlightening seeing what other associations are up to, many of whom have been established for a decade or two, so we still feel like 'the new kids on the block' with a lot to learn. Certainly some are very 'structured', run by committees and holding huge events, whereas others are more 'home-spun'. We'll let you guess where we might sit!**

What SUEPA has had though is a phenomenal start, and as far as we can tell our growing membership list puts us right up there in terms of reaching out. We continue to feel though that there is much more we can do. To some extent this depends upon our own resources (as a reminder we are part of the club supporters group The Shrimpers Trust), but also we do need to find ways of working with other associations to continue to share ideas and different ways of working.

To this end, and teaming up with the Blackpool FC Former Players Association, via Derek Spence we have written to the PFA seeking their views on introducing a network of ex player groups across all EFL clubs (and maybe beyond). Not all clubs have such a group, whereas others are perhaps less contactable than they might be. We strongly feel that there could be a lot to gain from having the PFA encourage and make more accessible groups like ours, indeed we see it dovetailing neatly with the PFA's own work with former footballers.

Of course, recent events regarding coronavirus are likely to mean that the PFA's attention is elsewhere at the moment, though in many ways in such times former player groups can help in reaching out to their members to perhaps make them more meaningful than ever.

We will keep you posted regarding any developments in this area.

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO RELIVE AN OLD MATCH?

**Our friends at @SUFC\_History (who can be found on Twitter with well over 2,000 followers) have recently started up a YouTube video library of Southend United matches and are steadily working through an extensive collection of old VHS cassettes to make them available to all.**

Already on their YouTube channel you will find Peter Daley's wonder goal (and celebration!) from 1990 at Layer Road, that barn-storming win v Spurs in 1989, and even the 1975 visit of Bobby Charlton's Preston North End to Roots Hall complete with a classic Stuart Brace strike. More are being added weekly, so why not check it out?

Also, one of our SUEPA Agents has run off a number of DVD's of that win v Manchester United from 2006 (we still have a 100% record against them!), our 2015 play-off drama v Wycombe and a 5-0 thumping of QPR from 2007. So if you fancy a free copy to settle down to over a beer during lockdown and an up-beat viewing (we don't run-off DVD's of heavy defeats!) then just get in touch and we'll get a copy over to you.



# NEWSLETTER – Issue 09 – May 2020

## FOLLOWING AND CONTACTING SUEPA

**We will continue to issue regular Newsletters - our usual aim is to issue them quarterly but current lockdown etc events might change things a little. At the moment we intend to issue our tenth newsletter in the Summer, hopefully by which time things will be a little clearer and the world a little safer.**

We do have a SUEPA Twitter page (currently 1,435 followers) and a SUEPA Facebook page (currently 962 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**

## 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, Peter Heathcote, Ian Joyce, John Keeley, Alan Meyer, Steve Mildenhall, Jon O'Brien, Sean Rafter, Simon Royce, Paul Sansome, Neville Southall, Jim Stannard and Ray White.

### **DEFENDERS**

Frankie Banks, Dave Barnett, Adam Barrett, Mark Beard, Tony Bentley, Graham Birks, Paul Brush, Guy Butters, Peter Clarke, Graham Coughlan, Ryan Creswell, Dave Cusack, Andy Dixon, Phil Dudley, Andy Edwards, Derek Ewing, Ricky Footman, Andy Ford, Tony Hadley, Steven Hammell, Andy Harris, Steve Hatter, Johnny Herd, Mark Hone, Lewis Hunt, Christian Hyslop, Duncan Jupp, Warren May, David McSweeney, Tamika Mkandawire, Alan Moody, David Morley, Terry O'Donnell, Danny O'Shea, Chris Perkins, Mark Phillips, Chris Powell, Spencer Prior, Chris Ramsey, Leo Roget, Osei Sankofa, Pat Scully, Damon Searle, Owen Simpson, 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.

# NEWSLETTER – Issue 09 – May 2020

## **MIDFIELDERS**

Andy Ansah, Will Atkinson, John Baber, Nicky Bailey, Tony Beanland, Mark Bentley, Dennis Booth, Jack Bridge, Peter Butler, Paul Byrne, Paul Clark, Adrian Clarke, Eddie Clayton, Jason Cook, Jimmy Corbett, Regis Coulbault, Willie Coulson, Dave Cunningham, Peter Daley, Alan Dicks, Craig Easton, Dave Elliott, Gerry Fell, Ken Foggo, 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, Martin Robinson, Damien Scannell, Malcolm Slater, Nicky Smith, Paul Smith, Jamie Southon, Peter Taylor, Stuart Thurgood, Steve Tilson, Michael Timlin, Lars Unger, 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, Stuart Brace, Lee Bradbury, Tes Bramble, Drewe Broughton, Stan Collymore, Leon Constantine, Jim Conway, Barry Corr, Simon Cox, 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, Stuart Leslie, John Linford, Roy McDonough, Keith Mercer, David Mooney, Gary Moore, Lee Nogan, Derrick Parker, Stuart Parker, Matt Paterson, Jack Payne, 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. Paul Sturrock and Steve Thompson.

