

SOUTHEND UNITED EXAPLAYMERS ASSOCIATION

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

NEWSLETTER – Issue 11 – December 2020

WELCOME

Welcome to our eleventh Newsletter, our last one having been issued in September. SUEPA Newsletters are now of course issued to all Shrimpers Trust members as well as the 287 former player/coaching staff members who are currently part of SUEPA.

First off, we wish everyone a happy Christmas, and in these continuing uncertain times let's all hope that 2021 brings us back to normality and some positive news for the club.



Much of this newsletter was drafted on the evening (10 December) that Southend Borough Council ruled on land deals relating to the club's new proposed ground at Fossetts Farm. Thankfully, they ruled in the club's favour and, whilst there remain more hurdles to overcome, we are seemingly now much closer to diggers starting to break earth. The whole development is complex, involving many homes as well as the new stadium, so whatever happens the club will still be at Roots Hall for some time yet. Lets just hope the team can turn things around on the pitch so by the time the removal vans turn up at dear old (and very crumbly) Roots Hall we can still be playing in the EFL.

However, enough of that, in this newsletter we will focus on what we do best - all things SUEPA, which many have said continues to be a beam of positivity in troubled times for our club.

Since September we've seen another big jump in our membership, helped push a top new Shrimpers Trust initiative regarding retro shirts (some great pictures from that, see later), helped former players get in touch with each other (which in many ways is what we are all about), and made good progress with some of our existing initiatives.

So, in this Newsletter we cover:

- Membership update, focusing on who has joined since September;
- The SUEPA Christmas Competition;
- The Shrimpers Trust Christmas Appeal Off The Streets;
- Top ten targets, what happened, and setting some new ones;
- Updates on The Bobby King Appeal and our Working with the PFA initiative;
- Retro shirts;
- Stand By Me;
- Quickfire Five with Micky Stead;
- How to keep up to date with SUEPA news, contacting your old team-mates and SUEPA;
- The full current SUEPA membership list.

MEMBERSHIP

Since the last Newsletter we have added a further 25 to the SUEPA family to bring our total membership number up to 287, well on our way to our next target of 300. It is impossible to mention everyone (one day we'll write a book), so we'll cover just a few here together with a story or two.

One person we had been looking to sign for a while had been a keeper who, back in the 1982/83 season, made just one appearance for us, but what a memorable one it was. Barrie Delf became a hero for a day in a tremendous 3-1 home win versus Sheffield United back in March '83, plucked just a few hours before kick-off by Dave Smith from the Leigh Ramblers Third team where he had been playing as a striker ... you couldn't make it up! Steve Phillips scored a hattrick and the only goal Barrie let in was a penalty - from former Shrimper Colin Morris. Barrie went on to play over 300 times for Grays (in goal!) and has since been inducted into their Hall of Fame. A top account of Barrie's day at Roots Hall is on the following link (well worth a read):

https://thefootballadventurer.blogspot.com/2011/05/barrie-delf-southend-legend.html?fbclid=IwAR34QPdu4sHJ9ZFCo-Dym5ll4203yaENJOKRsVbXDifddygjsDCCejP30P0

Barrie joining us meant that every squad member for 1982/83 is now part of SUEPA, and a similar feat - which we are also very proud of - was achieved when at the recent home match versus Forest Green Rovers we asked the Southend United Media Manager Matt Mundy (that's a lot of M's!) to sign up the vegan's manager Mark Cooper. Mark was part of our 1989/90 Division Four promotion winning squad (as was Dean Austin who joined us in October) and his signing now means that we have five complete squads in SUEPA (the others being 1978/79, 1980/81 and 1981/82).

We have had two others in current football management roles join us recently too - Barnet boss Peter Beadle (with us on loan in the 1993/94 season), and Mark Warren who we caught up with at the home of the Fenmen of March Town where he has been assistant manager for two seasons now. We just had to remind 'Wozza' of his winner for us at The Vetch in 2003 when we only had eight men on the pitch: "I remember that game well, away to Swansea, an unbelievable match for sure. We had a fantastic squad that year, but in my eyes totally under achieved, apart from our push to the LDV final at the Millennium Stadium." Mark becomes the 17th member of that LDV season squad now part of SUEPA.

One manager who needs no introduction is Dave Webb, and thanks to Steve Tilson putting us in touch with our former four-time boss we recently had a great catch up with Webby who of course took us to second tier glory for the first time ever back at the start of the '90's. Dave said that he keeps a keen eye on all of his former clubs, and from the comments we received on our SUEPA Facebook and Twitter pages we know that there are a great many who would love to see him back at Roots. When life gets back to normal another match day reunion event beckons we think

You wait ages for one 'Rogers' and sure enough another is straight behind them or so the old saying goes (sort of). The lovely folk from the former player group 'Argyle Legends' gave us a bit of help last month when we signed up both Andy and Alan Rogers, common to both the Greens and the Shrimpers, both were wingers, both are still living in the West Country, and both were keen to point out that they are not related to each other! Andy has recently retired from being a probation officer, whilst Alan ran a hotel in Plymouth for many years (lots of football guests over that time including SUEPA member Paul Sturrock).

Bringing things a little more up to date, we have been delighted to see some recent Roots Hall leavers become part of SUEPA. Steve McLaughlin (now at Mansfield), Isaac Hutchinson (now at Derby, and at aged 20 our youngest member) and the one and only Ben Clarkson (now at West Ham) have joined our ranks. But despite this influx of youth the average age of a SUEPA member must be 'reasonably mature', so with Ben now on board we do at least have someone to help keep our SUEPA squad super fit. We are pleased too to have John Gowens, with us under nine different manager eras from Murphy to Newman, who can also now help in the SUEPA treatment room - and with John at Daggers and Ben just up the road at West Ham they are not far away if we need them!

From time to time we put out an appeal on our Facebook page to see if we can have any help tracing a particular person. A recent appeal to find Steve Lamb worked a treat (he still lives locally), as did another for Tommy Horsfall. Now, your Newsletter Editor freely admits to going a little misty-eyed when recalling one of his earliest Shrimper memories in seeing Tommy's wonderful debut goal under the Roots Hall lights back on 6 April 1973, but a potential lead to contact Tommy via the Cambridge United groundsman (we'll try anyone) had previously come to nothing. However, on seeing our Facebook appeal one of our top 'SUEPA Agents' managed to find a clue as to the broad area in which Tommy lived, joined the community Facebook page for that town, put out another

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appeal but on that page, and within an hour he was speaking to the great man himself! It was wonderful to find out that Tommy still has a picture of that goal which had been presented to him by the club.



Other joiners since September have been Micky Engwell, Gary Parkinson (see 'The Gary Parkinson Trust' for news on how Gary is doing in his brave battle against 'locked-in syndrome'), Adrian Burrows (now a driving instructor in Exeter), Steve Collins, Peter Cawley, Ian Selley (now involved with Sandhurst Town), David Chambers (now living in New Zeland), Neville Roach (amongst many other things, now a DJ!), Jamie Forrester (now working for an artificial grass company), Shane Wardley (helping the academy kids at Needham Market FC), and last but not least Bobby Bennett (recently retired and now an avid Solihull Moors fan).

THE SUEPA CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

With the festive season fast approaching we thought we'd try and create a little bit of cheer by running what we consider to be a unique and fun competition with a fantastic prize for Shrimper fans. At the same time we'll be raising money for a good cause too.

What we've done:

We have enlisted the help of four SUEPA members - Roy McDonough, Glenn Pennyfather, Steve Tilson, and our President Adam Barrett. Their collective knowledge of life and times at Roots Hall is immense, and between them they have amassed well over 1,000 appearances in a Shrimpers shirt.

Each were asked to sit down independently at their homes for just 15 minutes and write down the names of as many former Southend United players as they could think of in that time frame without reference to any books, internet, etc. They then submitted their answers to us which now remain secret from everyone. Their responses have been checked – spelling mistakes were forgiven ('Anton Otulakowski' your surname is always a challenge!) as long as it was clear who was intended.



What you have to do, how and how much:

We want you to say who you think wrote down the most names (Adam, Roy, Glenn or Steve) and also how many names that person came up with.

You should state your entry on the SUEPA competition post on either the SUEPA Facebook page or the SUEPA Twitter page (or you can email us at suepassoc@gmail.com). Each entry costs £5 and you can enter as many times as you like – all entry fees are paid online at the Shrimpers Trust website at: http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/shop.asp?catid=19

Where your money will go:

We will be paying 50% of the monies raised to Little Havens Hospice who care for children and young people up to the age of 19 from Essex and the London surrounding boroughs who have been diagnosed with a complex or incurable condition.

The other half of the monies raised will be used by the Shrimpers Trust to help support the club we all love, Southend United.

The prize:

Now, a unique competition deserves a unique prize. So, we've put together a bumper bundle from our SUEPA Santa, with perhaps the 'headline' prize being a genuine Southend United shirt from the early 1970's which we understand was worn by England international (and manager), our very own Peter Taylor. Our checks lead us to believe this shirt was used in reserve games and/or training sessions. It is around 50 years old now but still in great condition.

We didn't want to stop at that though so we've put together a collection of books all with a Southend United theme and some great goodies from the wonderful 'Stadium Photography' to make up a prize that any Blues fan will surely love. There is only the one 'bumper bundle' prize, and it's 'winner takes it all'.



Closing date:

All entries must be made on the SUEPA Facebook and Twitter pages (and paid for!) by no later than 23:59 hours on Sunday 20 December 2020. We apologise if for some of you this newsletter has not reached you in time.

Announcing the prize winner:

We will announce the prize winner on SUEPA and Shrimpers Trust Facebook/Twitter pages by Tuesday 22 December 2020. The winner will then be contacted and the prize will be posted out to them.

In the event of more than one person guessing the answer correctly (or making the same best 'nearest guess') then lots will be drawn to determine the winner. The decision of the competition organiser at SUEPA will be final.

Good luck everyone!

THE SHRIMPERS TRUST CHRISTMAS APPEAL - OFF THE STREETS

Some of you might know that for the last couple of years around this time The Shrimpers Trust (of which SUEPA is part of) have collected food for charities that work with the homeless. Last year it was Harp, who very pleased they were to receive our help.



This year, of course, we are unable to do a food collection, or at least not in the same way, so the Shrimpers Trust have decided to support their current scheme by collecting online donations to pass on to the charity to help buy shelter accomodation. Fans have been very generous in the past and we hope they will consider this a worthwhile cause, at this, especially tricky time for the homeless.

If you could spare the cost of a Match Day Ticket or Pie/Pint, the money collected will go a long way towards making a life (or two) easier. You can find out more and access the online donation link at: http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/home.asp?page_id=849&nid=1942

TOP TEN TARGETS



In past newsletters we have put out requests for help to locate former Shrimpers, and many have been found and joined up.

So, you might recall from our last newsletter that, going forward, we thought we'd run a 'Top Ten Targets' feature where we list the names of former Shrimpers who we would like to get in touch with. Then, in our next newsletter, we will report on how successful we've been. So, how well have we done?

Well, the answer is 'not very'! Whilst as already mentioned we've had another very successful period in adding to our membership, none of those mentioned in our September newsletter have yet to be traced. We are not giving up though, so if anyone has a clue as to the whereabouts of Micky Tuohy, Kevan Hurst, Lil Fuccillo, Duggie Price, Ray J Smith, Peter Johnson, John Cornwell, Adam Federici, Anthony Grant and Nathan Jones, do please do let us know.

We will though also set another ten new targets, and hoping this does not jinx any chance of contacting them, they are:

• **Mike Harrison:** with us for the 1972/73 season, he played in that wonderful League Cup match v Chelsea at Roots Hall (see picture on next page), and recent SUEPA joiner Bobby Bennett remarked that he'd love to get in touch again with his old pal.

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- **Dean Neal:** leading the line for us over three seasons in the mid 80's.
- **Paul Moran:** played just one game on loan for us in the 1990/91 season and we believe he lives in the Enfield area. Paul, with John Cornwell, are the only two players from that season not yet part of SUEPA.
- **Nicky Nicolau:** with us at the start of the Tilly managerial era. Tilly let us have a number for Nicky but it failed to deliver a ringing tone!
- Jamal Campbell-Ryce: it would be good to catch up with our flying winger from the mid noughties.
- **Michael Kightly:** last seen at Roots Hall in that epic end-of-season nail-biter v Sunderland two seasons ago. Now a player's agent?
- Mike Lapper: our American centre back made a great impact in Ronnie Whelan's side.
 Presumably now back in the USA?
- Ronnie Whelan: ok, we've tried, and tried, and tried again, and we are sure our amiable Irishman would love to be part of SUEPA, but our attempts to date via various Irish media outlets have gone unanswered. And sadly Liverpool FC don't yet deem responding to an email from SUEPA a top priority! Is anyone still in touch with Ronnie who could help?
- **Gary Borthwick:** in the mid 70's Gary appeared in a 'Seasons Greetings' team pic. We don't believe he ever played a first team game for us but presumably he played a reserve game or two and so of course is eligible to be part of SUEPA. He is another person Bobby Bennett would love to contact again too.
- **Bobby Howlett:** Bobby made just a handful of appearances for us in the 67/68 season but we were reminded of him the other day after seeing a Tweet from @SUFCHistory who posted up a picture of him saying it was his (72nd) birthday. It would be good to contact him and wish him a belated happy birthday ourselves.

If anyone can help us get in touch with any of the above we'd love to hear from you - see the end of this newsletter for our contact details. Similarly, if any SUEPA member would like to get in touch with a former Shrimper who is not currently one of our members do let us know and we'll see what we can do.



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SUEPA UPDATES

Just updating you on a couple of our initiatives we mentioned in our last newsletter:

After the success of our appeal, great progress has been made to renovate Bobby King's back garden to make it a more useable space for him and his wife Kathleen. Work on a retaining wall has been completed, soil added, and now we await the Spring so we can go full steam ahead and plant it up (with a blue and white theme of course).

Thanks to local traders who gave materials at zero or a much-reduced cost, we have plenty of funds left over to make a real splash of colour when the time comes. A great big thank-you must also go to Bobby's gardener Vicky who has helped organise it all, and also to Shrimper fan Paul Taylor who willingly gave up his time to build a superb retaining wall.



Another current SUEPA project remains ongoing, namely our hope to work with the PFA to set up a national network of former player groups. Our PFA contact Paul Raven (a former player for the Baggies who is also involved with the WBA former player group) has said that our proposal will be considered by the PFA Board in the New Year. Whilst waiting we've been canvassing opinion amongst other former player groups and every response received was in full support of the proposal, a message we have passed on to Paul. We'll keep you posted.

RETRO SHIRTS

Launched as a Shrimpers Trust initiative, SUEPA have taken ownership of this great little idea to give Shrimper fans something that is really proving to be rather good, namely the chance to buy an iconic Shrimpers shirt from yester-year.

Teaming up with Chablais Sport GB, we kicked things off back in September by making available a copy of the club's iconic (though some might say lurid!) 'Custard Splat' shirt of the late 90's. We've then followed that up by releasing the shirt from our record-breaking 1980/81 Division Four championship winning campaign.

Both shirts have proved to be extremely popular, especially 'the Splat', and at £35 each (including postage, and if wanted a name and number on the back) we think they are quite reasonably priced. Further, the Shrimpers Trust receives a donation from Chablais Sport for every shirt sold to aid the work the Trust does in supporting the club. All sizes, from baby grow up to 'super athlete' 7XL are available. Curious or interested? The link is:

https://world-retro.com/?s=southend&post_type=product

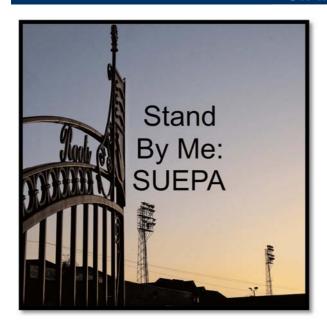
And, of course a big thanks goes to our SUEPA models Adrian Clarke and Derek Spence (one of them importing a little help in the hair department, we'll leave you to guess which one).





In the New Year the current plan is to run a poll to see which shirt is the most popular choice for our third Retro Shirt offering.

STAND BY ME



With all of the difficult times faced by the club of late we thought it would be pertinent to show our support, so we've released another one of our SUEPA Videos, entitled 'Stand By Me'.

So, if you've got a spare four minutes, and like a few nostalgic pics of better times all set to the tune of a stirring number by Oasis, do try the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssqZzpTsMDQ&t=35s

Do let us know what you think, and if you've not seen them before there are another four SUEPA videos waiting for you on the SUEPA YouTube channel!

QUICKFIRE 5!

This time we are delighted to have Micky Stead respond to our usual five questions.

Over to you Micky



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

 Dave Smith, fantastic manager, but mad. (Editor note: Dave, if you are reading this, now you know!)
- 2. Who was the biggest character you played with and why did they stand out?
 Roy McDonough. Could carry the team forward, and a great influence on 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?

 Mervyn Cawston, fantastic goal keeper, and Ronnie Pountney was a top club man.

- 4. Can you tell us any funny stories from your playing days either whilst at Southend or elsewhere?
 - I've just seen Steve Collins join the group. It reminded of an afternoon when Frank Lampard Senior took us for defending training. Frank said to Steve "Run at me with the ball, I'll show you what to do." Steve nutmeged him, and smashed the ball from 25 yards into the top corner. Frank said "fuck it" and walked in, leaving Steve and me standing in the middle of Roots Hall laughing!
- 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 was a messenger for the Co-op Bank, then went on to be a black cab taxi driver ('save our black cabs'). I've only been back a few times, never to a game although Frankie Banks did invite me a couple of times (Editor note: when life gets back to normal Micky and we can resume our match day events another invite will be coming your way for sure).

FOLLOWING AND CONTACTING SUEPA

We will continue to issue regular Newsletters - our usual aim is to issue them quarterly so expect another SUEPA Newsletter just before Easter.

We do have a SUEPA Twitter page (currently 1,681 followers) and a SUEPA Facebook page (currently 1,056 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 then please do 'follow' us:

On Twitter: @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: <u>suepassoc@gmail.com</u>

Alternatively, we can be reached by post at SUEPA c/o The Shrimpers Trust, PO Box 5830, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 9FD

And, as a reminder, any SUEPA ex-player/coaching staff member can ask to get in touch with any of their former team-mates in SUEPA by just asking us to pass on a message. We cannot disclose contact details without permission, but are always happy to pass on a message to ask them to contact you, something we have done to help re-unite a number of former Shrimpers already.

THE FULL SUEPA SQUAD TO-DATE

GOALKEEPERS

Terry Alderton, Cameron Belford, Daniel Bentley, Derek Bellotti, John Burridge, Mel Capleton, Mervyn Cawston, Steve Collis, Barrie Delf, Rhys Evans, Darryl Flahavan, Neil Freeman, Danny Gay, 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. Martin Thomas and Ray White.

DEFENDERS

Dean Austin, Frankie Banks, Dave Barnett, Adam Barrett, Mark Beard, Tony Bentley, Graham Birks, Paul Brush, Adrian Burrows, Guy Butters, Peter Cawley, Peter Clarke, Steve Collins, Mark Cooper, Graham Coughlan, Ryan Creswell, Dave Cusack, Andy Dixon, Phil Dudley, Andy Edwards, Derek Ewing, Kevin Fallon, Ricky Footman, Andy Ford, Tony Hadley, Steven Hammell, Andy Harris, Sam Hart, Steve Hatter, Johnny Herd, Mark Hone, Lewis Hunt, Christian Hyslop, Duncan Jupp, Bobby King, Warren May, David McSweeney, Tamika Mkandawire, Alan Moody, Taylor Moore, David Morley, Bilel Moshni, Rob Newman, Terry O'Donnell, Danny O'Shea, Gary Parkinson, Chris Perkins, Mark Phillips, Chris Powell, Spencer Prior, Chris Ramsey, Ian Riley, Paul Roberts, Leo Roget, Osei Sankofa, Pat Scully, Damon Searle, Owen Simpson, Alex Smith, Efe Sodje, Michael Spillane, Micky Stead, Mark Stimson, Derek Tharme, Adam Thompson, Neil Townsend, John Walker, Shane Wardley, Mark Warren, Shane Westley, Charlie Williamson, Che Wilson, Bob Worthington, Dave Worthington, Micky Wright, Steve Yates and Dave Young.

MIDFIELDERS

Andy Ansah, Scott Ashenden, Will Atkinson, John Baber, Nicky Bailey, Tony Beanland, Mark Bentley, Dennis Booth, Jack Bridge, Peter Butler, Paul Byrne, David Chambers, 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, Brian Ferguson, Ken Foggo, Scott Forbes, Steve Goodwin, Mark Gower, Phil Gridelet, Luke Guttridge, John Gymer, Julian Hails, Derek Hall, Mark Hall, Ryan Hall, Dean Holness, Tommy Horsfall, Scott Houghton, Jeff Hull, Peter Hunt, Carl Hutchings, Isaac Hutchinson, Neil Jenkins, Kevin Johnson, Leon Johnson, Terry Johnson, Matt Jones, Bobby Kellard, Danny Kerrigan, Steve Lamb, Micky Laverick, David Lee, Ryan Leonard, Alan Little, Martin Ling, Adam Locke, Kevin Maher, Mike Marsh, Dave Martin, Stephen McLaughlin, Alan McCormack, Jermaine McGlashan, 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, Alan Rogers, Andy Rogers, Damien Scannell, Barry Silkman, Malcolm Slater, Nicky Smith, Paul Smith, Jamie Southon, Peter Taylor, Stuart Thurgood, Steve Tilson, Michael Timlin, Mark Tinkler, Lars Unger, Paul Vickery, Sanchez Watt, Alex Woodyard, Anthony Wordsworth and Josh Wright.

STRIKERS

Ben Abbey, Peter Abbott, Charles Ademeno, Brett Angell, David Allaway, Lee Barnard, Peter Beadle, Mike Beesley, Ian Benjamin, Bobby Bennett, Gary Bennett, Billy Best, Stuart Brace, Lee Bradbury, Tes Bramble, Drewe Broughton, Richard Cadette, Stan Collymore, Leon Constantine, Jim Conway, Barry Corr, Simon Cox, Harry Crawford, David Crown, Martin Curruthers, Liam Dickinson, Lawrie Dudfield, Freddie Eastwood, Mickey Engwell, Jamie Forrester, Graham Franklin, Colin Flatt, Paul Furlong, Bill Garner, Shaun Goater, Terry Gray, Wayne Gray, Danny Greaves, Chris Guthrie, Gary Jones, Ken Jones, Francis Laurent, Jason Lee, Stuart Leslie, John Linford, Roy McDonough, Keith Mercer, Jack Midson, David Mooney, Gary Moore, Lee Nogan, Derrick Parker, Stuart Parker, Matt Paterson, Jack Payne, Billy Paynter, Steve Phillips, Joe Piggot, Andy Polycarpou, Andy Rammell, Mark Rawle, Neville Roach, Morrys Scott, Ian Selley, Peter Silvester, Derek Spence, Scott Spencer, Blair Sturrock, Andy Thomson, Neil Tolson, James Walker and Mario Walsh.

COACHING / BACKROOM

Micky Buxton, Ben Clarkson, Barry Fry, John Gowns, Lee Harrison, Steve Parmenter, Dave Smith, Paul Sturrock, Steve Thompson, Gary Waddock and David Webb.

