



SOUTHEND UNITED EX-PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

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

NEWSLETTER – Issue 13 – September 2021

WELCOME

Welcome to our 13th Newsletter, our last one having been issued back in May. SUEPA Newsletters are issued to all Shrimpers Trust members as well as the 323 former player/coaching staff members who are currently part of SUEPA.

The continuing trials and tribulations of the club are left to other scribes, here we focus on everything SUEPA. As we write, our SUEPA match day events are just about to get going again which we are really pleased about – that 1960's reunion event in March 2020 seems such a long time ago now.

Plenty has been happening though and this Newsletter is a bit longer than usual to fit everything in. So, pour yourself a suitable liquid refreshment, settle down, and here goes

So, in this Newsletter we cover:

- **Membership update, focusing on who has joined us since May;**
- **Tributes to former Shrimpers who have passed away and news of a tribute service for another;**
- **SUEPA at Meet The Blues Day;**
- **To Russia With Love;**
- **Catching up with John Roberts and Eddie Clayton**
- **Out and about, meeting former players away from Roots Hall;**
- **News bits and pieces;**
- **How to keep up to date with SUEPA news, contacting your old team-mates and SUEPA;**
- **The full current SUEPA membership list.**

Andy Leeder
SUEPA Organiser

MEMBERSHIP

Still on the up!

Since the last Newsletter we have added a further 16 to the SUEPA family though sadly two members have passed away (see next section), so we now stand at 323 members.

With the season resuming the club's Media Manager Matt Mundy stepped in to help us join up Harry Lennon at the Wrexham match, and then Anton Ferdinand who was on BT Sport pundit duty when Stockport visited. It's great to be working with the club on SUEPA matters and build up something we can all be proud of.

We've also reduced our average age a little recently (now, that's a stat to work out on a rainy day ...) by being quick off the mark to snapple up, via a bit of Twitter networking, Harry Kyprianou and Kenny Coker after they left us just before the new season started. Lee Sawyer came via that route too and he might also justifiably say he is still a mere youngster albeit those heady days of him playing for us before that wonderful Chelsea FA Cup tie on 3 January 2009 and then him being on the bench for Chelsea in that match do seem a little while ago now!

Peter Gilbert also popped up via Twitter, our 2010-12 full back in the early part of the Luggy era now enjoying life as a coach at West Brom. Another still in the game, who we got in touch with

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after a bit of detective work by one of our SUEPA Agents, is Neil Campbell. Our 1999/2000 season striker is currently assistant manager at Northern League Division One club Thornaby FC.

It looks like we will also soon be able to field a 'Down Under' XI! With the likes of Willie Coulson, Spencer Prior and Derek Hall (plus others) already enjoying life in Australia, a bit of detective work led to us first catching up with Adem Poric, our 1997 on-loan midfielder currently acting as coach for Gold Coast Knights FC (what a great team name that is!) in Queensland. We've also finally managed to sign up keeper John Roberts thanks to a little bit of networking with the Chesterfield Former Players Association (one of the native Aussie's other former clubs) - more from John later in this Newsletter.

We've also further added to our defensive line-up since May. Simon Coleman, with us at the turn of the millennium and making over 100 appearances in a Shrimpers shirt, came up on an internet search as working at a school in Yorkshire so we got in touch; Geoff Barker (on loan to us in the 70/71 season and now retired) was tracked down by one of our SUEPA Agents via a Facebook link; and we contacted another loaneer Richard Jobson who we found at the PFA where the former £1 million man now works as Assistant Chief Exec. Our three central defender signings are pictured here from their Shrimper days:



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The close season saw us sign up the first female member to become part of SUEPA. Amy Rogers, who worked in the physio team until the end of last season, was delighted to receive our invite which came via a LinkedIn contact, and the reaction to her joining us on our social media pages was just lovely to see. Amy, as you will note from our MTBD item later in this Newsletter, also took part in our Summer retro shirts catwalk.

For our final three signings it was a case of once more going 'back to the '70's'. More on one of these, George Duck, later in this Newsletter. Joining us a week or so before George was his fellow teammate and wing man Bernie Lewis. With us for the 70/71 and 71/72 seasons scoring seven in 63 apps, with Bernie and Terry Johnson (and at times a young Spud Taylor) on the flanks feeding Best, Moore & Garner, we certainly had some strike force back then!

We had a great chat with Bernie who was surprised to learn how we had eventually tracked him down which was initially thanks to one of our SUEPA Agents spotting a contact for Bernie's stepdaughter on a Cardiff City chat forum (we will look everywhere!). Bernie was born in Aberfan, and with life turning full cycle, he now lives in the very same house that he was born in! Initially he played for Cardiff but came to us from Watford and quickly impressed with his rapid wing play. He recalled playing in that wonderful FA Cup game v Aston Villa in 1971, but ultimately after asking Arthur Rowley for a raise he ended up being tempted by the better wages offered by Chelmsford City at the end of our 1971/72 season.



Bernie was then part of the Clarets team that finished top of the old Southern League only to lose out to Hereford (who impressed the romantics in the then annual Football League re-election voting shambles with their on the field parka pitch invasions v Newcastle) in elevation to Division Four. He then went to Romford for a couple of seasons and finished his UK playing days at Hornchurch. When in his late 50's Bernie (now aged 76) and his wife moved out to Tenerife for a decade where he still played in some local matches with others several decades younger - "They told me I still tackled like I was playing football in the 1970s!" Bernie recalled. So, with Bernie now joining we have every player in SUEPA still alive who played in that famous Shrimpers win in 1971 v Villa.

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And, last but not least, we were also delighted to welcome on board Brian Lloyd. With us for the 69/70 and 70/71 seasons, Brian made 52 apps for us before moving to Wrexham where he had a successful time (including coming back to Roots Hall a few times and winning on each visit!). Brian joining us completed the line-up of the nine players still alive from the following iconic 1969/70 season team picture – if only they'd smiled!



Brian did not miss a game for the Racecourse Ground men for over five years (he then went on to have two year stints at Chester and Stockport where he did not miss a game either). He also won international caps for Wales, including one in a centenary match where Spud Taylor scored against him.

In a lovely long chat with Brian about his times in football, Brian recognised that, unlike during the rest of his career, he did not always have the best of times playing for us, though noting that trainer Lawrie Leslie was not as helpful as he could have been and Brian was surprised that someone like him, who had had a good career as a keeper himself, never sat down with him to coach on the art of goalkeeping. Indeed, Brian recalled that Lawrie often decided that a good tactic was to aim a cold water hose at everyone!

Brian always had an interest in design, and whilst at Southend worked in an architect's office after training. When he moved to Wrexham he took to renovating old houses in his spare time. At the end of his playing career Brian then forged a successful career in architectural design (in which he has won awards), and to this day (now aged 73) still works, often getting his 'hands dirty' helping with the construction in a hands-on approach to his job. Still living in North Wales, Brian maintains a keen interest in the game and regularly watches Wrexham play, so we've inked Saturday 30 April 2022 at the Racecourse in the diary for a SUEPA Away Day.



Jackie Bridge: Jackie, who was the oldest SUEPA member, passed away on 17 September 2021 at the age of 89. With his passing goes another part of our history as Jackie was one of the few former Shrimpers left who had played for us prior to the club's move to Roots Hall.

With us as an apprentice from 1950 up until he left us for Gravesend & Northfleet in 1956, Jackie made 56 apps in a Shrimpers shirt scoring three times. He made his debut at the age of 20 in the 1952/53 season wearing the no. 11 shirt in a 1-0 victory v Newport at The Stadium in front of 6,000. He made a further 12 apps that season, keeping his place for the last ten matches. His first goal was also against Newport the following season and he remained part of the Southend squad through to and including our 1955/56 debut season at Roots Hall when he played in the no. 6 shirt, his last appearance as a Shrimper being away at Shrewsbury on 23 April 1956.

Jackie went on to have a long career in non-league football, playing for Gravesend until 1964, then Sheppey United, Gravesend again, Sun FC and finally Great Wakering Rovers from 1969-71.

Colin Flatt: Colin, who passed away on 7 September aged 81, joined us from Orient at the start of the 1966/67 season, and the centre forward made 24 apps for us that campaign scoring eight goals before leaving us in June 1967 for Wisbech Town. He also played for Romford and Barnet.

He took a little while to get established in the team during his year with us, competing up front with the likes of the prolific Ray J Smith, plus John Baber, Derek Woodley and Eddie Firmani. However, his first goal came in a 2-1 win at Rochdale on 3 Dec 1966 and then the goals started to flow. Colin played in our final game of the season, his last in a Shrimpers shirt, at home to Stockport on 13 May 1967.

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Duggie Price: christened Dudley Price, and still 31st in our all-time leading scorer list with an impressive 42 goal haul from just 94 apps, passed away on 10th August 2021 aged 89. Speaking to his son-in-law recently (we had been sent a copy of his funeral notice in a paper by a Swansea City historian contact), we understand that Duggie died after a short illness following a fall, but always enjoyed his football - "he would watch it all day if he had the chance!" we were told.

Duggie was not a SUEPA member, we had tried to trace him (not least as he was the only player alive in our top 50 all-time goalscorers who we had yet to sign up to SUEPA) and we had been told by someone that he was living in South Africa which turned out to be false - he had never been there!

Duggie was born in Swansea on 17 Nov 1931 and signed for his hometown team on youth terms in 1950, and became a full-time professional in 1954 where he went on to score nine goals in 33 apps before Eddie Perry snapped him up for us in January 1958. Duggie made his debut alongside our all-time leading scorer Roy Hollis at Layer Road on 11 Jan 1958, and it did not take the youngster too long to find his scoring boots as he netted the first in a 2-2 draw away at Southampton two games later. Six more goals followed in a total of 21 apps that season, including a brace in a 5-1 thrashing of Coventry and another double in the last game of the season as Northampton were dispatched 6-3 at Roots Hall to see us finish seventh in the final season for the regionalised third tier.

Hope was around for the start of the 1958/59 season, the squad being bolstered part way through by the signing of current SUEPA member Alan Dicks from Chelsea ... with a young Frankie Banks joining the ranks as a junior!

After a pre-season tour (remember those?!) in Holland and Austria, Duggie found himself out of favour at the start, but in a season where the Shrimpers consolidated rather than progressed, he notched six from 29 apps, one of those strikes being against a certain Mr Gordon Banks playing for Chesterfield.

It was the 1959/60 season where Duggie really found his scoring boots, bagging 29 in 42 apps including nine braces (three of those coming in the last three matches of the season). Duggie also took part in the first Roots Hall match under floodlights against Mansfield on 7 September 1959. Duggie started the first two games of the 1960/61 season with new manager Frank Broome now in charge, but with big Jim Fryatt then coming in Duggie found himself moving away from Roots Hall to Hull City where he netted a return of 26 goals in 76 apps before ending his professional career at Bradford City with 21 goals from 62 apps from 1963 to 1965. He then returned to Wales, playing for Merthyr Tydfil.

After finishing playing Duggie had a variety of jobs including being a milkman, and was friends with Welsh legend Ivor Allchurch who he had played with whilst at Swansea.

Malcolm Slater: we paid tribute to Malcolm, who passed away on 20 January 2021, in our last Newsletter. At the time the family said that they would hold a tribute service to him in the Southend area at a future date, and with the easing of lockdown restrictions this has now been arranged, with details as follows for those who would like to attend:



Jackie, Colin, Duggie and Malcolm will be sorely missed by many, and all remembered fondly for their contribution to the history of our club. RIP gentlemen, forever Shrimpers.

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SUEPA AT MEET THE BLUES DAY (MTBD)

For many years the cub has held a MTBD just before the new season starts, and SUEPA were delighted to make our MTBD debut at the latest one in August with a stall in the Shrimpers Trust marquee.

We ran a 'keepy-uppy' competition where everyone who achieved 15 consecutive keepy-uppy's, were entered into a draw to win the original artwork of a superb new print of former players that the Trust had recently commissioned. For anyone interested (and of course we'd love to have all 323 of you on it but the artist baulked at that!), mounted copies of the print are available from the Shrimpers Trust website – at just £15 they are certainly selling really well.



It was great to see a few of our former players in attendance on the day, including Derek Spence, Keith Mercer, Ronnie Pountney, Spud Taylor, Luke Morrish, Amy Rogers, Barry Silkman, Frankie Banks and Steve Tilson. Some took part in a Walking Football match, Tilly with his sprints clearly having a different definition of 'walking' to everyone else!

Also, we had a bit of fun in the middle of the day by holding a catwalk of seven of the eight shirts now available in the Trust's Retro Range (Shane, we promise to catch up with you and your Laing shirt soon!). Derek, Ron, Tilly and Amy are seen below with Shrimper fans Simon, Michelle and Dave enjoying what could maybe be the start of a wonderful modelling career!



TO RUSSIA WITH LOVE

We have been busy of late on our SUEPA Facebook page recalling memories of a Shrimpers trip half a century ago, something that 15 of our SUEPA members took part in. We have now written this up further, and submitted the following article to the editor of the quarterly retro football magazine 'Backpass' (we'll let you know in our next Newsletter if it makes the cut!):

"To many of us in 1971 the Soviet Union was a land of mystery, somewhere to be treated with a fair degree of caution. After all, just four years earlier they'd invaded Czechoslovakia, and the tension of the Cuban missile crisis was still fresh in everyone's minds.

Yet, we all loved international celebrity Yuri Gagarin for his space-hopping, and there were some early signs of political détente brewing which were to lead in May 1972 to President Nixon palling up with that old furry hat wearer Mr Brezhnev to sign a treaty limiting the super-powers to just 200 weapons of mass destruction each. Shortly before that however, and perhaps paving the way for global international peace, in July 1971 the players and officials of Southend United found themselves on a BEA flight to Moscow as guests of the Russian Football Association.

Now, this was really something quite extraordinary. Yes, UK football teams were not exactly strangers to football the other side of the Iron Curtain, but typically that was in European competition. Southend United had never won anything to remotely even give them a sniff of being in the draw for a competition that, bar a few Welsh Football League outposts, involved them going beyond English borders. Yet goal-poacher supreme and manager Arthur Rowley, fitness guru Lawrie Leslie, and bespectacled cuddly chairman Bill Rubin, now found themselves as ambassadors leading a team of talented but mostly unknown professionals on a four-game tour. The Southend mayor had held a reception for them the day before, wishing them good luck and making sure everyone had a good meal inside them.

Scroll forward half a century and memories of this long-forgotten sortie were re-awakened when, out of the blue, the Southend United Ex Players Association ('SUEPA' to its friends) received an email from an official of FC Shinnik Yaroslavi. The Shrimpers' final 1971 tour opponents were looking to mark the 50-year match anniversary with a few memories, but with just three of their players still alive from their 1-0 win they wanted to know if any of the Essex men were still around who might add to the story and recall their trip.

SUEPA, part of the club supporters' body The Shrimpers Trust, is thriving, and in difficult days for their team the Southend United former players group is one football band from the Essex Riviera that is on the up. Having been formed just over three years ago they currently have 325 former player/coaching staff members, and love nothing better than a reminiscing session. Log on to their Facebook page and you will read through a bundle of happy recollections and positive news. Further, they are in touch with all bar two of the 1971/72 squad who are still alive, and so promptly set about sending out emails seeking memories of the Russian adventure.

Back to 1971. It was hot in the Moscow suburbs, and the first words uttered by the interpreter for on touch down were "In the rack above you are bottles. And here is an opener." Clearly the hosts had done their research on English football teams. A Moscow film festival though immediately changed things, as on arrival the team found their hotel, like everywhere else in the capital, fully booked, and the team had to take a coach trip to the chemical works centre of Kalinin on the banks of the Volga where they were due to play the following day. The hostel they found was by all accounts fine, and on arrival at the ground Arthur tasked the translator with diplomatically suggesting that their hosts cut the grass. A neater pitch may have helped but it was not sufficient to avoid a narrow defeat. Undeterred, the Shrimpers, minus striker Gary Moore who was shipped back home with a virus infection and so had made a 4,000 mile round trip for a one-nighter, moved on to their next manufacturing outpost.

Tula Metallist were next up, and fielding three former Russian internationals the home team won 2-1 in front of 14,000, who were entertained at half-time by a cycle race. Former England manager Peter Taylor, then a young winger just breaking through I to the first team, fondly remembers his

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goal, "I still have a picture of that with Keith Lindsay jumping on top of me!" Australian born keeper John Roberts recalls "Fans were shy as we were often some of the first westerners they'd come across, except for a group of students in Tula who wanted us to talk forever so they could practice their English albeit they had some difficulty with some of our different accents!"



The Shrimpers were playing to win but the conditions and travelling it seems were taking their toll - next up for the venue of the third match it was a flight to scorching Sochi (if you can recall the name but don't know why think 'Winter 2014 Olympics'). Keith Lindsay succumbed to heat stroke in training, and the Shrimpers kept up their 100% record with a 2-0 defeat. Still, it was by the coast and the tourists drew comfort from having a dip in the Red Sea and their town having the longer pier.

Finally it was back to Moscow, two days of luxury at The Hotel Sputnik, a bit of sightseeing, shopping and the final match. Full back Ray Ternent recalled the locals mobbing Chairman Bill in Red Square who had a camera that instantly printed out faded colour pictures which seemed to impress. Dave Elliott remembered "All the shops seemed to have the same goods to sell. Some players sold their jeans to hotel staff, only to find when they had the Roubles they couldn't find anything to buy and you were not allowed to take money out of the country!"

The scheduled match against Moscow Locomotive had been cancelled due to a fixture pile up for the Parovozy ('the Steam Locomotives', the host's nickname, in case you were wondering) so Yaroslavi that stepped in as opponents for the final game. A coach trip 180 miles north-east of the capital to the tyre manufacturing hub of Europe and an overnight return after the game to catch the plane home was not ideal, but defender Dave Barnett remembers the great welcome that they received. "Their fans were fantastic, so enthusiastic" Dave recalls, but it was again the hosts who won through albeit only by a single goal in another tight match.

Goal scorer Billy Best sums up the tour. "It was an amazing trip. Such a difference to what we were used to. The trappings of so much wealth with all the gold buildings in Moscow, yet going down the road in the coach you'd see women washing clothes in the river. Although we lost all four games, they were all by narrow margins - let's just say that there were a lot of changes to their teams and players were definitely brought in to make sure they got the result, especially as we were being promoted as an 'international team' during the trip. We played before some big crowds, and I remember that we were always given roses before games - you became an instant hero by giving these to spectators before kick-off. We had an interpreter with us, a rather mysterious man who always travelled up front in the coach wherever we went. At one point we were stopped for speeding by the police, but he got out and sorted things very quickly. I don't think that there was much doubt he was a government official or KGB, we were never told but we were certainly followed wherever we went. It was though a great tour, and the hospitality we received was fantastic in every way. A wonderful memory."

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It was a weary team that arrived back in Southend 11 days after departing, defeated but not downbeat as it had truly been a great team-bonding experience. And Arthur Rowley was clutching a contract committing a Russian side to visit Roots Hall. FC Zenit Leningrad duly turned up in November that year to enjoy the splendours of Roots Hall in front of 3,988, the first Russian team to visit England since Moscow Dynamo's immediate post-war tour to packed houses at the end of 1945. In the match programme Arthur acknowledged the value of the trip to Russia and that they had all returned full of confidence, something that was borne out in results that season as the Shrimpers achieved their first ever Football League promotion.



The Shrimpers have yet to return to Russia. This pre-season they kicked off their friendly campaign with a more modest five-mile trip to Great Wakering Rovers."

CATCHING UP WITH

John Roberts

Here we catch up with our former shot-stopper John Roberts where he responds to a few questions we put to him:

1. You came to Roots Hall from Bradford City in January 1971 having previously played for clubs in North England. What led you to come down to Roots Hall? And where did you live during your time with us?

I had played for Blackburn on loan from Apia. They in turn loaned me to Chesterfield for a year where I played every game. At the end of that year they tried to negotiate a transfer from Apia but it proved too difficult. Bradford City stepped in and I went there and we got promotion, but I copped a bad knee injury and spent the next year in and out of the first team. Towards the end of the year they paid out my contract and I joined Southend on a three month contract. We lived at Eastwood while we were there.



2. Your debut for us was in a 0-0 draw away at Stockport on 19 February 1971, so not a bad start! Overall, how did you feel you performed during your time at Southend (and by the way we have seen some very favourable comments from fans who remember those times!)?

I remember the Stockport game well and I remember the comments from my old manager at Bradford Jimmy Wheeler who was at the game. I had a pretty good run at Southend but went to see Arthur halfway through the year to try to get released which he refused. I won't go into the reasons.

3. The team back that was full of great characters - Tony Bentley, Ray Ternent, Joe Jacques (who we understood never took any prisoners!), Dave Elliott, Terry Johnson, Billy Best, Gary Moore, Bill Garner, Phil Chisnall and the young and upcoming Peter Taylor. What are your memories of the players from that time, who was the biggest 'character' and were there any that you particularly bonded with?

When I first went there Tony Bentley and Mick Beasley made me welcome, and when I left I nearly joined Mick at Dover where he was playing. When I went to Northampton I saw Billy Best a couple of times and Garry Moore when I was travelling in Wales. Peter Taylor was always going to be a special player, and who would have thought how far he would go as a coach. Brian Albesson was just the nicest bloke and was great to play with.

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4. Perhaps the most memorable match from that time in the early 1970's that many fans still recall today is the 1-0 win v Aston Villa in the first round of the FA Cup. Do you have any memories of that day?

Strangely enough I don't have many memories of the Villa match. The match that sticks in my mind was the Bournemouth game when we got knocked out.

5. You were a key part of the club's first ever promotion season in 1971/72 (before then we had never been promoted), what made us such a good outfit that campaign?

I remember the promotional year very well and being replaced by Derek. Coming back for the last few games and playing in the match at Scunthorpe which sealed promotion. I seem to remember playing Gillingham twice once away and once at home. I maybe wrong as the passing of 50 years does nothing for the memory!

6. Why did you leave Southend at the end of the 1971/72 campaign and have you ever been back since?

At the end of 71/72 season I learnt from the paper I had been given a free transfer, I left Southend and have never been back. I had a few options and I was about to join Micky Lill at Germiston in South Africa when Dover stepped in and I actually signed for them but that was cancelled when Dave Bowen came in for me to go to Northampton. I had a very happy year as cover for Alan Starling, I was looked after very well and kept a house there for many years. Then I had a couple of months at Bath before coming back to Australia for a couple of years before returning to live in Northampton for six years, then coming back to Australia. I worked for Sugar Australia as National Business Manager and retired at 59, 18 years ago. Since then we have travelled a lot and, as my wife is English, when we have come to Europe we have incorporated a trips to the UK.

7. Do you have any funny stories from your time at Southend or from your times with any other club in your footballing career that you can share with us?

Funny stories...well it wasn't at the time, but it is now. When we got promotion the bonus was all based around the last ten games. I only played in three of those so I got virtually nothing. I went to see Arthur and he agreed with me it was unfair as I had played the previous 30 games. He said come and see me tomorrow and I will have something for you. I went back the next day and he gave me a roll of notes with an elastic band around that would choke a donkey. As the outside note was five pounds I thought wow he has really looked after me. When I got home and undid it there were 90 ten bob notes inside!

Life has been very kind to me and other than having two knee replacements I have come out reasonably unscathed from my football days.

Eddie Clayton

Adopting a different format, we caught up with Eddie on the phone to chat about his times playing with the late great Jimmy Greaves, his two seasons as a Shrimper, his time at Margate including that huge defeat at Bournemouth, and his life after hanging up his boots.

Eddie, who was at Spurs for ten years from 1957 and played many times alongside or just behind Jimmy, remembers his teammate as "someone who just enjoyed the game, had no ego and was a lovely bloke he just seemed to glide over those old muddy pitches, he was different class."

Eddie stayed friends with Jimmy after their football careers took different paths, frequently playing golf together until Jimmy suffered a stroke a few years back.

Of his times at Roots Hall, Eddie fondly recalled playing with the likes of Billy Best and John Kurila. "When John won player of the season in 1968/69 he wanted to give the award to me as he reckoned I deserved it, but I had missed the last few games of the season through injury and I finished runner-up" Eddie recalls. "Injuries in the end did it for me at Southend really and it took me a long while to



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recover after leaving. Away at Wrexham my shoulder was dislocated, and it was their trainer who popped it back in after the game! Ernie Shepherd and Frank Walton wanted me to play when unfit and in the end I'd had enough by the time Arthur Rowley came in and so I signed briefly for Ashford before moving on to Margate in 1970."

"I had a good time there though, together with John Baber, who encouraged me to come to Margate, I was in the team that lost 11-0 to Bournemouth when Ted MacDougall scored nine! And it was one of the first games for our new manger (Les Riggs)!"

It was whilst at Margate that Eddie started to study for a degree in teaching and ended up forging a career after he stopped playing as a PE teacher for kids with special needs. Now happily settled with his wife just north of London Eddie still regularly gets a game of golf in, and has visited the new Spurs stadium where he was interviewed on the pitch before a match.

Due to unforeseen circumstances Eddie was unable to make our "'60's reunion" event just before lockdown but we hope to get him back to Roots Hall soon.

OUT AND ABOUT

Steve Dyer: we popped in to the Stocks Inn (Wimborne Minster, Dorset) back in May and had a catch up with landlord Steve Dyer who played for us in early 70's before moving on to Weymouth. Lots of old memories talked about including the first cup tie at Derby ("Leighton James skinned me in the first half, but a 'tackle' just after half time quietened him for the rest of the match!"). If you are ever in the area, the pub (and Wimborne itself) is well worth a visit.



Bobby King: back in July we popped in to catch up with former Shrimper Bobby King and his wife Kathleen at their home in Rayleigh - you might recall we recently helped to transform their back garden in to a more useable space. The visit also served to help out a Glasgow Rangers fan who had got in touch with us for an autograph request he never thought he'd be lucky with to complete his collection!

Some lovely stories, including from Kathleen re how she first met Bobby by getting on the wrong train and Bobby coming to the rescue with a twenty pound note as she had no money for the half a crown trip back to Edinburgh, what a gentleman!

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Peter Heathcote: after seeing Bobby we went a few miles down the road to spend an hour in the company of Peter who has the notable distinction (as far as we are aware) of being the Southend United player still alive who played for us the longest time ago. His two apps in goal for us were back in the 1951/52 season - which even pre-dates the building of Roots Hall.

Indeed, 20 October this year will mark the 70th anniversary of his debut away at Watford when he recalls travelling with the team thinking he was just going to be the kit man only to be told in the dressing room that he was playing (and he kept a clean sheet)!

Peter had started his playing days just after the war in the Leicester youth team, reaching two national youth finals playing against Swansea (when their team featured the mighty John Charles) and also a final at Maine Road. He recalls in those times playing in front of crowds in excess of 20,000 as the UK came out of the devastation of fighting a world war with the population eager to gather and watch sport.

His time in the end as a Shrimper was relatively short, making the 1952/53 squad picture but then finding himself on his way to Gravesend & Northfleet where he spent ten great years, earned two benefit seasons, and played with a number of famous footballers who found themselves at the Kent club as the wage cap for footballers at the time meant that often playing in non-league circles and having a second job could be more lucrative. Peter recalls that his starting wage at Gravesend of £14 per week was much more than he was on at Southend, and such princely sums attracted others to Stonebridge Road such as the former Arsenal striker Jimmy Logie (over 300 apps for the Gunners and a Division One title/FA Cup winner).

As many others have said before, Peter recalled that playing back in those times was a bruising affair, and one picture hanging proudly on his living room wall showed him going up for a challenge when the second after the picture was taken "I ended up knocking out their centre forward!"

Peter came back to Essex via a spell at Dartford, and he spent many happy times coaching and helping local teams including Chelmsford City, Southend Manor and others. Peter has stayed in touch with many of those who he made friends with over the decades including Steve Tilson, and though now Peter's mobility is limited he still oozes a great enthusiasm for the game.



George Duck: in joining us recently, with the exception of Brian Myton who played one substitute appearance, every squad member of our 1971/72 season who is still alive is now a SUEPA member.

Following a long chat on the phone remembering his times in football (see our Facebook page for full details), we arranged to meet the Wealdstone record goal scorer at the end of August on the occasion of Southend's visit to Grosvenor Vale in the National League.

Pictured left in the centre with former Stones keeper John Morton and 83 year old 1966 FA Amateur Cup winner Hugh Lindsey, lots of great stories were told of their times in the

game. Post-match the only Southend official noticed in the Boardroom was Brian Dear - George introduced himself to Brian as the young apprentice in the late 60's that used to clean Brian's boots (at Millwall)!

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Dave and Bob Worthington, Alan Little and Kevin Johnson: when Southend played at The Shay on 11th September we caught up with the ex-Shrimper/Shaymen quartet at Halifax Town's centenary celebration of their ground tenure.

As always, many old stories remembered, and Bob was very happy to recall his 35 yarder for us v Plymouth! Some hard tacklers here, Kevin liked to get stuck in during his playing days, Alan always enjoyed a slide tackle, Dave certainly never took any prisoners/was a great motivator, and Bob took up Rugby Union after finishing with football! All now live in Yorkshire, but we hope to tempt them down to Roots Hall again sometime soon.



NEWS BITS'N PIECES

Lou Costello: Lou, a Shrimper from 1957 to 1965, passed away back in 2012, so when we received a request from the carer of a nephew of his it came somewhat out of the blue. Jacqui wanted to know whether we had any pictures of Lou from his playing days and we were only too pleased to oblige. Jacqui then got them printed up and gave them to Lou's nephew (Gary), and he is pictured below with one of them. One of our SUEPA Facebook page followers (Tom) saw what had been done and then took it upon himself to order from eBay a couple of old Southend match programmes which were then passed on to a thrilled Gary. The world needs more Jacqui's and Tom's.



Top Ten Targets: well, we had a couple of nibbles, but no successes from the target list in our last Newsletter, and from the 30 former players we've previously listed in this feature in previous Newsletters there are now 26 that remain undetected. So, for now we'll give this a bit of a rest, but we will continue in our efforts and one thing is for certain – we don't give up!

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Working with the PFA: we have mentioned before our bid to work with the PFA and the Blackpool Former Players Association to create a national network of former players groups. To date this has not moved forward but we remain in contact with the PFA and, now that their new management structure has had a bit of time to settle in, we hope that there will be something to report by the time of our next Newsletter.

SUEPA Scrapbook: we continue to receive from various sources pictures from the past to put up on our SUEPA Facebook page so please do keep sending them in. Here's a great one that was sent to us of Jim Stannard, Roy McDonough and Buster Footman having a bit of a bad hair day!



Happy 88 Dave: it was Dave Smith's 88th birthday on 22 September and a quick mention of this on our SUEPA Facebook page led to a barrage of best wishes, so we sent the great man a card with a few of them in. Squads under Dave's reign at Roots Hall were fairly small and certainly quite settled, one season there was only one addition to the previous campaign - something difficult to imagine happening now. SUEPA membership levels from those seasons are high, and we've calculated that an impressive 45 of you will have played under him during your time as a Shrimper - we do love a stat! On behalf of all of your former players and Shrimper fans Dave, we hope you had a great day!

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FOLLOWING AND CONTACTING SUEPA

We will continue to issue regular Newsletters - our usual aim is to issue them quarterly so expect another SUEPA Newsletter Christmas/New Year holiday period (we try not to be too precise!).

We do have a SUEPA Twitter page (currently 1,856 followers) and a SUEPA Facebook page (currently 1,226 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](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

We are now also on LinkedIn! Just type our name in to the search box to find us.

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, Bart Griemink, Tony Hafford, Peter Heathcote, Kelvin Jack, Ian Joyce, John Keeley, Brian Lloyd, Don McKay, Alan Meyer, Steve Mildenhall, Glenn Morris, Jon O'Brien, Sean Rafter, John Roberts, Simon Royce, Paul Sansome, Neville Southall, Jim Stannard. Martin Thomas and Ray White.

DEFENDERS

Dean Austin, Pat Baldwin, Frankie Banks, Geoff Barker, Dave Barnett, Adam Barrett, Mark Beard, Tony Bentley, Graham Birks, Paul Brush, Adrian Burrows, Guy Butters, Peter Cawley, Peter Clarke, Ben Coker, Steve Collins, Simon Coleman, Mark Cooper, Graham Coughlan, Ryan Creswell, Dave Cusack, Andy Dixon, Phil Dudley, Steve Dyer, Andy Edwards, Derek Ewing, Kevin Fallon, Anton Ferdinand, Ricky Footman, Andy Ford, Peter Gilbert, Tony Hadley, Steven Hammell, Andy Harris, Mike Harrison, Sam Hart, Steve Hatter, Frank Haydock, Johnny Herd, Mark Hone, Lewis Hunt, Christian Hyslop, Richard Jobson, Duncan Jupp, Bobby King, Harry Kyprianou, Harry Lennon, Scott Malone, Warren May, David McSweeney, Robert Milsom, Tamika Mkandawire, Alan Moody, Taylor Moore, Luke Morrish, David Morley, Bilel Moshni, Rob Newman, Terry O'Donnell, Danny O'Shea, Gary Parkinson, Chris Perkins, Mark Phillips, Chris Powell, Spencer Prior, Luke Prosser, 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, Ray Ternent, 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.

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MIDFIELDERS

Andy Ansah, Scott Ashenden, Will Atkinson, John Baber, Nicky Bailey, Tony Beanland, Mark Bentley, Dennis Booth, Gary Borthwick, Peter Butler, Paul Byrne, David Chambers, Paul Clark, Adrian Clarke, Eddie Clayton, Conor Clifford, Jason Cook, Jimmy Corbett, Regis Coulbault, Willie Coulson, Dave Cunningham, Peter Daley, Gary Deegan, 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, Danny Kerrigan, Steve Lamb, Micky Laverick, David Lee, Ryan Leonard, Bernie Lewis, 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, Adem Poric, Ron Pountney, Ken Reynolds, Martin Robinson, Alan Rogers, Andy Rogers, Lee Sawyer, Damien Scannell, Barry Silkman, Josh Simpson, Nicky Smith, Paul Smith, Jamie Southon, Peter Taylor, Stuart Thurgood, Steve Tilson, Michael Timlin, Mark Tinkler, Lars Unger, Paul Vickery, Sanchez Watt, Myles Weston, Alex Woodyard, Anthony Wordsworth and Josh Wright.

STRIKERS

Ben Abbey, Peter Abbott, Charles Ademenno, 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, Neil Campbell, Kenny Cocker, Stan Collymore, Leon Constantine, Jim Conway, Barry Corr, Simon Cox, Harry Crawford, David Crown, Martin Curruthers, Liam Dickinson, George Duck, Lawrie Dudfield, Freddie Eastwood, Mickey Engwell, Jamie Forrester, Marc-Antoine Fortune, Graham Franklin, Paul Furlong, Bill Garner, Shaun Goater, Roy Goulden, Terry Gray, Wayne Gray, Danny Greaves, Chris Guthrie, Noel Hunt, Gary Jones, Ken Jones, Charlie Kelman, Francis Laurent, Jason Lee, Stuart Leslie, John Linford, Roy McDonough, Sammy McMillan, 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, Alex Revell, 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

Phil Brown, Micky Buxton, Ben Clarkson, Barry Fry, John Gowens, Lee Harrison, Steve Parmenter, Amy Rogers, Dave Smith, Paul Sturrock, Steve Thompson, Gary Waddock and David Webb.

