

## NEWSLETTER – Issue 15 – May 2022

### WELCOME

**Welcome to our 15th Newsletter, and we start off with an apology as our last one was issued just before Christmas. All we can say in excuse is – it's been busy! That should be something you'll see from the coming pages.**

SUEPA Newsletters are issued to all Shrimpers Trust members as well as the 365 former player/coaching staff members who are currently part of SUEPA.

So, we are now at the end of another season – one we all went in to in something of a daze after EFL relegation amidst a Covid spectator ban, and the start in our new surroundings clearly wasn't great. But thanks to some SUEPA recruits with Kev and co (we'll take all the credit), things eventually turned around and we now look forward to 2022/23 with renewed hope. Dialogue with the club on SUEPA matters is also much improved, thanks in no small part to CEO Tom Lawrence who totally buys in to what we are all about, and we think we've delivered.

The Shrimpers Trust, of which SUEPA is just one part is, if you need reminding, run by a small group of fans who are volunteers and do what they do in their spare time for the love of the club they support. The season just gone has been a challenge like no other, but we believe we can look proudly back on our achievements, and the feedback we have received from our SUEPA members, and fan followers, has been fantastic. We always strive to improve, so if you do feel that there is something SUEPA could do better, more of, you have an idea of what we might do, or you'd like to get more involved (as a former player member or fan follower), then PLEASE do get in touch - we are very approachable!



Anyway, with this Newsletter reaching you in late May it might just be warm enough to get the deckchair out. So, check it's stable and the material is still secure, ignore all the jobs to do staring at you in the garden, pour yourself a cold one, ignore the dog looking at you wanting a walk, and settle down to a read for a few well-earned minutes.

In this Newsletter we cover:

- **Membership update, focusing on who has joined us since December**
- **Our tributes to Peter Heathcote, Neil Campbell and Geoff Barker;**
- **An interview with our SUEPA President Adam Barrett;**
- **More on our dialogue with the PFA – things take a new turn;**
- **It's been good to see you – who has been back to their Roots;**
- **Look who we found at Home Park;**
- **Ukrainian refugees – a positive tale with SUEPA input;**
- **Everyone loves the Doc;**
- **A surprise for Stuart;**

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- **Worthy's Scrapbook;**
- **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

### To 350, and beyond!

**Over the period since our last Newsletter, we've had 26 former Shrimpers come to SUEPA, another fantastic increase. On a recent rainy-day we had a bit of a statto-fest and worked out that we now have 50.4% of those still alive who once played for the Southend United first team as SUEPA members. Well, we are impressed!**

### *Between the sticks*

Four keepers have joined us to boost our shot-stopper squad to 37. First up was former 2018 loan keeper David Stockdale who was at Wycombe last season, and also at the back end of December we caught up with Paul Smith who was spotted visiting Roots Hall by one of our keen-eyed SUEPA Agents who was manning the Programme Hut. Paul was with us for four years from 2012, and then subsequently as academy coach (a role he now has at Colchester United). Shrimper fans when recalling past goalkeeper displays are almost guaranteed to mention Paul's fabulous display away at Brentford in the FA Cup in 2013.



Our keeper influx at the end of 2021 was on a bit of a roll as, after Paul, our very next signing was on Boxing Day as the then Bromley manager Andy Woodman was invited to join by the club Media Manager during his post-match interview! With us in 2000 making 19 apps, Andy played for 12 different clubs before moving in to coaching in 2006.

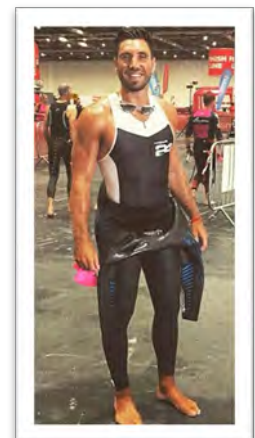
Then, on December 29th, James Montgomery completed our new keeper quartet – he made four appearances for us on loan during 2020/21, and this season just gone re-joined Gateshead for a third time and won a National League Champions medal. Congrats James!

### *At the back*

The defence saw the largest squad influx with nine new members, bringing our back line up to 109, enough to form quite a formidable free-kick wall.

We caught up with Ryan Auger via Twitter, who was with the club as a youth and made one first team appearance for us in 2013. Ryan is now at Bury Town.

Our landmark 350th signing ended up coming to us a few hours before midnight on New Years Eve via what was then our brand new SUEPA Instagram account. Garry Richards was with us in the 2007/08 season making 14 appearances before signing for Gillingham who he helped to win promotion during the following campaign. Garry is now a fitness trainer.



Gavin Axcell came to us via a Facebook contact, and we'll let him take up his Shrimper story himself: "I was offered a formal apprenticeship by Dave Smith and Frankie Banks but had a falling out with assistant manager Brian Beckett and left the club (I was a hothead and have bitterly regretted it ever

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since!). A few years later I was present at a training session that Steve Tilson arranged at Chelmsford Prison, he had taken the first team squad there to enable Tony Adams to train with them. Working there as a Prison Officer I was invited to train with them and, afterwards, Tilly asked if I would be interested in a trial. His interest quickly waned when he found that I was 27 years old!

Sid Broomfield, former Groundsman, was related to my Grandmother, though I'm not sure how. I remember one pre-season, some of the youth team were gathered on the pitch at Roots Hall preparing to train with the first team and Sid called me over and, in front of everyone, told me to get a proper job! You can imagine the stick I took!"

On SUEPA's fourth birthday on 10 January Leon Cort signed up (thanks to a chat we had with his old team mate Leon Constantine with who he remains great friends). With us 2001/04 making 161 apps, Leon has the rare distinction of notching a hattrick as a Shrimpers defender, and of course went on to play in the Premiership and be the subject of a £1.5 million transfer from Stoke to Burnley.

Back to the '70's, and we were also pleased to welcome to SUEPA our former full back Chris Hutchings. With us as an apprentice in 1974/75 he played regular reserve games for us before having a top playing (Chelsea, Brighton, etc) and managerial (Bradford, Wigan, etc) career, and we understand is now enjoying retirement on the golf course!

Also now part of SUEPA is Jamie Gray (now Hennelly), who was with us for seven years until 2004 when the then second year scholar left us despite several impressive reserve team appearances. He then went on to Cambridge United and a number of non-league clubs, and is now Director of an acoustics firm.

As the season drew to a close, we were quick to sign up John White as he was released by Southend United, and he was only too pleased to maintain an association with the club that he served so royally for nine years. His testimonial on 22 May proved to be a fitting tribute and we look forward to seeing what he can do next season for Braintree Town for whom he has just signed up for.

At John's testimonial we bumped into Mark Wright, best known these days for appearing in the first three series of 'The Only Way is Essex', but it was a footballer that Mark initially wanted to be and after a youth career taking in West Ham, Arsenal and Spurs, it was at Southend United that he first signed on professional terms in 2005. He made the first team bench three times under the Tilly managerial reign, but a year later moved in to night club promoting and playing semi-professionally for a long period. He ultimately made his full senior debut for Crawley aged 33 in 2020, coming on as sub and playing alongside his brother (and fellow SUEPA member) Josh in a famous 3-0 victory v Leeds. Mark left Crawley at the end of the 2020/21 season - many will have seen him play in the annual BBC Soccer Aid matches over the years, and he has appeared in numerous TV dramas and documentaries. We are struggling to think of any former Shrimper players who have taken a similar career path - yes, we know that Kevin O'Callaghan and the late great Bobby Moore appeared in 'Escape to Victory' but we'd suggest that neither looked on that as being a step to earning their Equity card!

### ***Middle of the park***



Our midfield squad is the most numerous with six new joiners boosting it up to an impressive 112.

Jack Paxman was another who we got in touch with via Twitter and another former Shrimper youth player. Jack is now at Ebbsfleet, who went oh so close to getting promotion to the National League this season.

Again via Twitter, and shortly after leaving us, Zak Brunt signed up to SUEPA. The Sheffield United midfielder was loaned to us for the first half of the season just gone, putting in some top performances before moving on to Notts County to help progress what we are all sure will be a top career. And he showed some real style of course with 'that cross'!

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Another defender loanee to join SUEPA, but a good few decades before, was John McMahon. The full back was loaned out to us during the 1970/71 season by Preston early on in his career before going on to make nearly 300 appearances for North End including in the following season after being with us (clearly boosted by it!) he was their Player of the Year. John ended his playing days at Tranmere in 1984.

Another recent joiner from the 1970's era is Alastair Love. With us during the 1974/75 season making 11 appearances (including the FA Cup replay at QPR), the midfielder went on to Newport, Partick, Ayr and Falkirk before becoming a publican. Ally is now enjoying life in retirement in his native Scotland.

It was only in April that we finally caught up with Steve Clark, who we signed from West Ham in 2002 and over two seasons he clocked up over 50 appearances in a Shrimpers shirt scoring once. The midfielder then played for a number of National League clubs, and part way through last season took up the managerial reigns at Sporting Bengal. We were delighted to meet Steve just a few weeks ago which you can read about later in this Newsletter.

A recent addition in the middle of the park is Anthony Grant, who was another that we caught up with at the John White testimonial. Anthony played over 150 times for us from 2008 to 2012, being one of the 'famous four' professionals that Luggy only had on the books as he started his Roots Hall managerial reign in 2010. Anthony has now played for 12 different clubs in his professional career, most latterly Scunthorpe during the second half of the season just gone.

We also finally secured SUEPA membership for Ricky Holmes at the same testimonial. Ricky is by confession a Southend fan who started off in our youth set up in 2002 and who then finally returned to Roots Hall for the 2020/21 season after having a long career with the likes of Chelmsford, Portsmouth and Charlton. This past season he has helped Farnborough to Southern League Play Off success and is now signed up for them for 2022/23 as they move in to tier six of the football pyramid in National League South.

### ***Top of the park***

The strike force now numbers 92 having been boosted by six new additions.

Brandon Goodship, who departed Roots Hall at the end of the 2020/21 campaign after 60 Shrimper appearances, became a SUEPA member after we made contact via Twitter ... and shortly before we played Weymouth, the club he re-joined after leaving us.

At the end of January we caught up with Geordie lad Alan Foggon, who in joining us completed our clean sweep of the 1977/78 promotion squad. We had a lovely chat with him (disturbing his dog-walking!) and recalled together many of the Shrimpers he played with. He is still in touch with Dave Young (who was one of our guests at our 'Smithy's Army Day' event in 2019) and is a regular at St James's Park to watch his first ever team Newcastle United. It was the Geordie boys' former players group that kindly helped us get in touch with Alan after much previous searching. Alan played for us towards the end of a career which saw him achieve a clean sweep of the four North East power houses (so, including Hartlepool), win a Fairs Cup, and play for Man United plus in the US. He notched up 26 appearances for us scoring just once, but played his part in our Division Four promotion season including that 4-2 comeback win v Newport which will forever remain in the memories of the 5,840 at Roots Hall that evening. The following 'Foggon The Time' article from 2020 is a good read about Alan's career: -<https://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/.../foggon-tyne-wear-tees...>

Sometimes our increasing presence on LinkedIn reaps rewards and it was via that route that we finally caught up with Dave Regis. The striker was with us from 1994 for two years scoring nine in 38 apps, and if you fancy a treat watch him bag a last-minute winner for us in this:

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=mGiWU5bKzYU>

During our work we are in regular contact with Southend Echo Sports Editor Chris Phillips who, though he has his own very extensive contacts book, knows that SUEPA is a growing source of former Shrimpers who he might not know how to contact when wanting to pen an article with an angle on a forthcoming match. But it was Chris who recently helped us by putting us in touch with Steve Brown.

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Chris's excellent article at the start of April in the run up to Southend's game v Notts County gives all you need to know about him so here is the link:

[https://www.echo-news.co.uk/.../20039924.thirty-years.../...](https://www.echo-news.co.uk/.../20039924.thirty-years.../)

To complete a successful bit of 'SUEPA-hunting' at John White's testimonial we signed up both Neil Harris and Matt Harrold. Neil, another who like Ricky Holmes has always been a Southend fan, had a fantastic playing career mostly with Millwall in two separate spells before coming to Roots Hall for the last two years of his playing career in 2011. Since he has forged a top managerial career, initially at Millwall and more recently with Cardiff and currently Gillingham. We'll let you find the You Tube link to his interview after the last match of the 2021/22 season ... lets just say that he holds nothing back! Matt started his playing career with us as a youth in 2001 before going on to make his professional debut with Brentford and then boomeranging back to Roots Hall in 2006 for two years notching over half a century of appearances. He ended his playing career with Orient in 2020 where he is now a coach, and told us he often pops back to where it all started to see Southend play – once a Shrimper always a Shrimper!

## ***Backing us up***

Finally, one further joiner to the backroom team to bring our coaching/management membership up to 15.



We caught up a couple of weeks ago, via an introduction from Frankie Banks, with Ronnie Hanley, our reserve team manager in 1987/88. Prior to then he was a hugely successful non-league manager notable with Basildon United, for whom he blooded a 17-year-old Steve Tilson in his side. More recently Ronnie has been coaching at Hornchurch and a year ago he enjoyed a great day out at Wembley when The Urchins beat Hereford to win the FA Trophy.

## **OUR TRIBUTES TO SUEPA MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY**

### **Peter Heathcote**

We were truly saddened to learn from his family that Peter passed away after a short illness on Easter Sunday. He was well known to a huge number of people in the Essex football scene and loved by all. Peter, aged 89, was to our knowledge the oldest surviving Southend United footballer, and also we believe was the last Shrimper alive who had played for the club before its move to Roots Hall in 1955, having played for us twice in goal during the 1951/52 season.

His wage back in those Grainger Road days was £7 per week, but he left us in 1952 tempted by the £14 per week Gravesend were offering him, staying there for ten years before taking up coaching including a short spell back at Southend in the Arthur Rowley years.

20 October last year marked the 70th anniversary of Peter's Southend debut away at Watford when, in a visit to see him last year (and what a pleasure it was to spend an all-to-short hour in his company), he recalled 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 recalled in those times playing in front of crowds in excess of 20,000 as the

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UK came out of the devastation of fighting a world war with the population eager to gather and watch sport.

Whilst at Gravesend he 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. Those he played with included the former Arsenal striker (over 300 apps for the Gunners) and Division One title/FA Cup winner Jimmy Logie.

Peter came back to Essex via a spell at Dartford and spent many happy times coaching and helping local teams including Chelmsford City, Southend Manor and others.

It was only a couple of months ago that Peter agreed to be our 'SUEPA model' for one of the latest additions to the Shrimpers Trust Retro Shirts range, the 1910/11 shirt - which he wore with great enthusiasm and style. Indeed, at Peter's funeral on 16 May it was this picture of him wearing that shirt that was shown during a service where it was 'standing room only' as friends and family paid their respects.



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### Neil Campbell

Like everyone we were shocked to learn of the sudden death of SUEPA member and our former striker Neil Campbell, who played for us in the 1999/2000 season. Aged just 45, we understand that Neil was taken ill at a restaurant and subsequently passed away on May 1st.

Neil only became part of the SUEPA family a year ago. He also played for York, Scarborough, Barrow, Doncaster and Leigh RMI, and at the time when we got in touch with him last year, he was connected to Northern League Division One outfit Thornaby FC.

Many remember the goals Neil scored away at Leyton Orient in Alan Little's first game in charge for us.



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## Geoff Barker

We were sorry to learn via Hull City fan tweets during February that SUEPA member Geoff Barker, with us on loan from Hull in the 1970/71 season making 26 apps in a Shrimpers shirt, had passed away aged 73 after we understand having battled with Parkinson's Disease for a long period of time. Geoff also played for Darlington, Reading and Grimsby and then was player-manager for Bridlington Trinity and Grantham Town.

It was a lovely moment for Geoff when, in 2019, and 50 years after his Hull City debut, his grandson Matty Jacob signed his first professional contract with the Tigers. Another defender, Matty broke into City's first team squad during the latter months of 2020.



## AN INTERVIEW WITH ADAM BARRETT

**Long time Southend fan Dave Bishop has been writing a series of articles over the last year or two for the club programme focusing on both fans and former players. They really are a great read, and we think they deserve a wider audience, so in this Newsletter we share Dave's recent article on his interview with SUEPA President Adam Barrett.**

Now, Dave loves to write and once he gets started .... well, let's just say he keeps going. We did think of making his Adam article a mini-series, but with our newsletters only issued every few months you would lose the thread. So, to fit it in we've taken a picture of both double-pages and show it below. For those of you viewing this online you should be able to enlarge the type, for the few of you that receive the newsletter via post apologies as you might need to squint a bit!

# ADAM BARRETT AN APPRECIATION

DAVE BISHOP SPEAKS TO BLUES LEGEND ADAM BARRETT

"I was my greatest pleasure to catch up with Adam Barrett recently and speak to him about his present role as assistant manager at Millwall and a long and successful playing career which saw him play 335 games for 10 clubs in all competitions between 1996 and 2017 – including two spells at Roots Hall from 2004-2010 and then 2015-17, during which he previously represented Southend United in 354 of those matches.

Certainly one of the most popular and indeed greatest players to have played for the club and a true Stripes legend. Adam grew up watching Southend from the North Bank terraces but it was at Leyton Orient where his career began as an apprentice professional, where he soon progressed to captain the youth team (under Paul Bush) and reserves.

"Tommy Taylor was manager of the O's at that time and the club liked to send the first-year pros out on loan to countries like Finland to gain experience, but then that group that had been the year before had told me that it hadn't been that good and it wasn't really worthwhile going. There was a year's contract on the table and to be honest, I thought I had done well enough to earn a better deal than what was being offered and coupled with that and what I had heard about the others' bad experiences going out on loan, I decided to leave Leyton Orient and went on trial at Brighton. I was offered a two-year contract there, but they were in the middle of experiencing severe financial problems at the time and it was conditional on them being able to sort these off-field issues out, which sadly never happened.



"I went up to take part in the exit trials in Blackpool soon after and there was a lot of interest in me from some big American universities, several who offered me scholarships to go and play for them over in the US. I joined Prescott University in Phoenix, Arizona and although the coaches were great, and it was a great experience, I came back after five months away and asked my agent (who I hadn't spoken to at all since I left England) to find me a club in this country and not long after, he got in contact to say that there had been interest from Plymouth Argyle and that they wanted to sign me.

"I'll be honest, I didn't even know where Plymouth was at that time but I was really pleased to get the opportunity to join them and I made my Football League debut v Southport United as a substitute at Home Park on 30th March 1999 in a 5-0 win. Ironically, on the opening day of the 1999/2000 season, I made my first Argyle start at Roots Hall and scored the opening goal in our 2-1 defeat by Southend. I must have had 30-40 friends and family in the main stand that day and I can remember they all jumped up cheering when I scored which a few Southend fans were not too pleased about, and my nan ended up having a big row with a couple of them apparently," he remembered with a laugh.

"I was voted Young Player of the Year at the end of the season and really enjoyed my time at the club. Paul Sturrock came in when Kevin Hodges was sacked. I was then sent off and received a three-match ban and found it difficult to get straight back in the team afterwards. Paul was great with me, but I wanted to play and while looking back now and thinking I was probably a bit too hasty in wanting to leave, Mansfield Town came in for me and I was happy to sign for them.

"Billy Dearden, the Stags manager, was a great guy and I loved playing for him. Despite a great start and winning my first promotion in my last season there, injury blighted my time at the club including a spell of eight months out at one point, which was a real shame. ITV Digital went bust that summer too and with the television money they had previously paid no longer being available to clubs, it was a very bad time for me to be out of contract.

"I signed for Bristol Rovers in July 2002 and I was delighted when manager Ray Graydon appointed me as captain as soon as I arrived at the club. I was only 22 and I loved the responsibility of captaining the side. Rovers are a great club with a huge

fanbase and with a lot going on off the field and a big turnaround of players at that time, it was a big learning curve for me, especially as it was probably the first time in my career I had ever experienced criticism."

After 99 games in his two seasons at 'The Gas', Steve Tilson – looking for a replacement for centre back Carl Cort, who had left Southend to join Hull City, brought Adam to Roots Hall on a two-year deal. "Bristol Rovers had offered me a two-year extension on more money than Southend were offering but as soon as I knew of the interest, it was never in question I wasn't going to sign."

"I loved my time at Rovers but the chance to play for the team that myself and my family had always supported was a dream come true and the next few years were such a brilliant time to be involved at Southend. The town really got behind us and I gave the fans a massive boost too. Great memories and magical times for sure.

"It was without a doubt the most enjoyable time of my career – I was named Player of the Year in 2004/05, PFA Fans Player of the Year and in the PFA Team of the Year two years running from 2005 to 2006. So many great players and characters in those teams and it was a true pleasure to come into work under Tilly and Brnshy. The town really got behind us and I gave the fans a massive boost too. Great memories and magical times for sure.

"Unfortunately, as has been well documented, during the 2009/10 season Southend were not relegated but beset by financial problems off the pitch too, something which led to the players not being paid and that was a sad and unsettling time for everyone involved.

"As much as I love the club, obviously with a young family at the time I had to look after their interests and the situation eventually got so bad that it pretty much led to virtually the whole playing staff putting in 14 days' notice – something which meant that unless we were paid what we were owed in full, we'd be allowed to leave on free transfers.

"After all that had gone before and everything we had achieved, it was such a sad way for things to end.

"Once everything was tied up and I finally left Southend, there was interest from a few clubs and at one point it looked like I would be joining Charlton Athletic, but this deal was held up as it was dependent on them selling Nicky Bailey first, but in the meantime George

Burley came in with an offer to take me to Crystal Palace and I decided to sign for them instead.

"It was a disappointing time for me at Palace really. I had a really good pre-season but after starting well and winning three 'man of the match' awards, we went to Middlesbrough, where I suffered a broken nose and concussion. After that it was pretty much stop start and things never really took off for me there unfortunately.

"Lee Bradbury came in and signed me for Bournemouth and made me captain too. A top club but the move was probably at the wrong time in my career unfortunately. My wife and kids were settled where we were and my mum was ill too – I really needed to be close to home and the travelling proved to be a big strain for me. Not only that but I ruptured my hamstring and I have to say that when Martin Allen came in for me (having tried previously to sign me when he was manager of Notts County too) with an offer for me to join him at Gillingham, it was an ideal opportunity for me to sign for a club that were not only nearer to my family but obviously on the 'up and up' too.

"The 2012/13 season at Gills was undoubtedly one of the most enjoyable seasons in my career. Martin made me captain and we won the League 2 title by four points from Rotherham United. Not only that but I was Player of the Year and voted into the L2 Team of the Year which capped everything off perfectly really. The fans really took to me, we had some top-class players and a great team spirit at the club. Captaining Gillingham to the title is certainly one of the top highlights in my career for sure. I loved my time there and the next season I played in every game too.

"When Martin left, Gills appointed Peter Taylor and he told me that although he didn't want me to go, with me at the age I was then (34-35) he was looking to try to bring younger players into the side. While he assured me I was still part of his plans, I wouldn't be playing as regularly as I had been. I have known Pete a long time and I didn't have a problem at all with that but I still wanted to play, so when AFC Wimbledon got in touch and wanted to take me on loan to King's Meadow, I was happy to sign and had a very enjoyable six months there. My last match being against Liverpool in the FA Cup, when we acquitted ourselves well, losing a close fought 1-0 game.

"Dons made me an offer to go there permanently but once I heard of Southend's interest in taking me back to Roots Hall, there was only one place I wanted to go. Not only that, after the way everything ended the first time, it just felt to me that I had always had unfinished business at the club still.



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"I was really happy to come back to Southend but it was a strange time and I sat in the stands for around ten weeks after signing before making my second debut as substitute against Cheltenham Town on 10th February 2015. It got to the point that I even announced that I would be retiring at the end of the season as I wanted to be the one taking control of my career. If I wasn't actually going to be selected anymore.

"Things did change however and when Luke Prosser was injured, I was recalled to the side and formed a pretty solid partnership at the back with Cam Bolger from then on. It is strange how things turn out sometimes – from the time when I seemed to be almost completely out of contention, I then won a PFA Player of the Month award and the team went on a run that found us at Wembley in the Play-Off Final against Wycombe Wanderers.

"What a day. I am so glad it came in the latter stage of my career. I was determined to take everything in and it was all so emotional. My mum and father-in-law were both really ill and we knew that it would probably be one of the last games they would both ever see. When Pigs equalised, it was almost like the whole stadium shook. Pure elation but I remember in the middle of all that thinking 'we haven't won anything yet' – an utterly amazing moment though.

"When it came time for the penalty shoot-out, I remember standing there thinking about my family and thinking 'don't mess it up or people will remember you for that forever.' Marcus Bean took the penalty before me and scored and then it was then my turn. My mind went blank and I fully focused. I didn't look at anyone and I felt confident I decided to hit it as hard as I could and it was such a relief to see it hit the back of the net. The rest as they say is history. Such a brilliant day.

I decided to play on and did pretty well and even got the armband back the next season. I have to say that it wasn't really something I sought for, I was looking for as at that stage of my career, I was just happy to help and pass on my experience to the younger players.

"I actually started the 2016/17 season as captain but after the 3-0 loss away at Rochdale found myself frozen out of the team after that. It was sad the way it was handled and although Leyton Orient had wanted to take me on loan, I always wanted to finish my career at Southend and I announced my retirement that February.

"It was always strange when I played against Southend for my other clubs – especially at Roots Hall where obviously I'd have to change in the away dressing room, something which never really felt right at all. I remember scoring for AFC Wimbledon in a cup match against Southend and didn't celebrate and always made a point of clapping the fans whenever I played against them too.

"I had what can only be described as an interesting relationship with the Colchester fans over the years. They didn't like me at all and scoring against them in our 3-0 win at Roots Hall in 2016 is a very good memory," he laughed.

"Probably the best goal I ever scored was the volley at Southampton in the Championship season as my son was born the week before as well. Obviously, the goal against Chelsea in the FA Cup and although he was past his peak by then, he is undoubtedly the best player I ever lined up with."

"Gazza is the best player I ever played against in my career. He was at Everton at the time and was my favourite player growing up. I played with Edgar Davids at Crystal Palace and although he was past his peak by then, he is undoubtedly the best player I ever lined up with."



"I have been at Millwall for over five years now and am assistant manager to Gary Rowett. It is a great club and I love it there. The fans are passionate and demanding and certainly not afraid to let you know how it is and I like that. It is a very intimidating place to go for an away team, but I have to say that I always enjoyed playing there.

"When Neil Harris resigned, I was caretaker manager for three games – v Leeds United, Brentford and Cardiff. City and Millwall have been brilliant in supporting me throughout my coaching career to date. I hold my UEFA Pro licence now and obviously want to be a manager in my own right one day. It has certainly been a great apprenticeship so far."

"The best XI I ever played in? I played with a lot of good players in my career but this is my choice –

- 1. Darryl Flahavan, 2. Nathaniel Clyne, 3. Che Wilson, 4. Nicky Bailey, 5. Simon Francis, 6. Spencer Prosser, 7. Mark Gower, 8. Kevin Maher, 9. Shaun Goater, 10. Freddy Eastwood and 11. Wilfried Zaha. Substitutes – Peter Clarke, Dougie Freedman, Darren Ambrose & Edgar Davids. Manager – Steve Tilson.



## ADAM BARRETT – THE SOUTHEND UNITED RECORD – BY PETER MILES

LEAGUE – 302+4 SUB/31 GOALS

PLAY OFFS – 8/0

FA CUP – 16/1 GOAL

LEAGUE CUP – 10/1 GOAL

FOOTBALL LEAGUE TROPHY – 14/0

TOTAL – 350+4/33 GOALS

1ST DEBUT – V ROCHDALE (A5 SUB) – 14TH AUGUST 2004

2ND DEBUT – V CHELTENHAM TOWN (A5 SUB) – 10TH FEBRUARY 2015

354 GAMES PUT ADAM IN 8TH PLACE ON THE ALL-TIME APPEARANCES LIST FOR SUFC

"One of the saddest things about leaving in the way I did is that I never really got a chance to say goodbye to the fans. I'd like them to know it was always an honour and a privilege to play for Southend, a club I love and grew up watching as a kid. To put that shirt on, wear the badge and play for the fans for so long is something that is and will always be very special to me. The supporters took to me from day one. I had a good start when I came in, scored a few goals and to me of all the clubs I played for in my career, the most special rapport I had was with them and through all the good and bad times they were always there for me.

"They know I always gave my all for the club and them and a massive thank you to each and every one of you who supported me over the years."

Adam Barrett – Legend, leader and Southend all-time great. Nothing more need be said.

By Dave Bishop

dcbbishop14@hotmail.com

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## WORKING WITH THE PFA – A NEW DIRECTION?



**We have been reporting for some time now that slow but steady progress is being made in taking forward our idea of the PFA creating a national forum of former player associations.**

In January, following a further zoom meeting including this time with the Assistant CEO of the PFA, it was agreed that we should draft a questionnaire which could be issued to all clubs to gather information and views, which we subsequently provided.

Then, at the start of February, the PFA announced the creation of a new department, led by Dawn Astle and Rachel Walden, focusing exclusively on former player care for neurodegenerative disease. Given the care-focus of this new initiative, it was felt that this department might be an appropriate home from which our national forum idea could be set up, and we then had a zoom meeting with Dawn in March.

Dawn we are pleased to say was very supportive of our ideas, seeing a clear link between her own work and the 'on the ground' knowledge that former player associations could provide regarding player experiences and needs.

This new PFA department needs to be resourced to do the work it wants to undertake and adding the running of a national association of former player groups into the mix, whilst perhaps in many ways key, needs to be carefully thought through so that it can be properly run. We now await further news from the PFA, but in the meantime we've maintained contact with Dawn as she kindly agreed to be our 'model' for the latest Shrimpers Trust retro shirt, our 1969/70 season 'old West Brom' top. Dawn's own links with her dad's former club that he served with such distinction just made it ideal to get Dawn to help, and of course as announced in our last Newsletter for every retro shirt sold £1 is donated to the Jeff Astle Foundation.



**The link to the current full range of our retro shirts can be found at:**

**[https://world-retro.com/?s=Southend+United&post\\_type=any](https://world-retro.com/?s=Southend+United&post_type=any)**

## GETTING BACK TO YOUR ROOTS

**Since our last Newsletter we've hosted five great SUEPA match day events at Roots Hall.**

We kicked things off on February 26th with a bit of a double-header. Bobby Bennett, who as a Solihull season ticket holder who we had met earlier in the season when we played The Moors at their place, was keen to get back at Roots Hall for the first time since he left some 48 years before. With him was his old team-mate and still local lad Dave Barnett. Also in town for the match was Phil Gridelet, who of course added some style to our midfield during our mid-'90's championship years. Phil brought his young son Dexter with him, and they both had a great time catching up with old friends and making plenty of new ones.



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Then on March 19th for the Altrincham match it was black cab driver Micky Stead's turn to show his family the place where he made nearly 350 appearances from 1978 to 1985. It was quite an emotional day for Micky, another former Shrimper who had not been back for many years, and he was bowled over by the welcome he received.

On April 15th when we hosted Wealdstone it was another occasion when our guest was someone we had met earlier in the season at our away game and who was then eager to get to Roots Hall for the first time in almost half a century. George Duck only played a handful of games for us, but went on to become Wealdstone's all-time record goal scorer, and brought with him fellow former Wealdstone players John Moreton and Hughie Lindsay. Now, we knew that Hughie had played at Roots Hall back in 1960 for England in an amateur international, and purely by chance at the start of the year we had received from the friend of a recently deceased Southend fan a collection of old programmes, amongst which was the one from that game back in 1960 – which Hughie and others had actually signed! So, imagine the look on Hughie's face when we presented to him that programme! Sometimes it's the little things that can mean so much.



The following weekend for the visit of Halifax we hosted our biggest event of the season, and another with a bit of a 1970's theme, when Dave Worthington, Andy Ford, Kenny Foggo, Ronnie Pountney and Tony Hadley were our guests. Initially it had been intended for them to meet up back in February for a 'Friday-nighter' v Grimsby, but though we made it to Roots Hall, Storm Eunice had made a few holes in the East Stand and the game was called off. Well, this time the weather was calm and for all five the day had a bit of a 1975/76 FA Cup run theme as they all played their part in our great run that season to get to Round Five only to go out (unjustly!) to then Football League champs Derby County.



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Finally, for our last match of the season v Torquay on May 15th, Steve Phillips returned to Roots Hall. Still eighth in our all-time club goalscoring charts, and ahead of Legends Lounge host David Crown as he was duly reminded, Inchy made the most of his day and was still to be found in the Blue Boar at 10 pm! Earlier too he lapped up the applause of the crowd as he was introduced to all just before kick-off, walking past the centre circle for the traditional wave to all four corners of the ground all the way to the opposite side much to the delight of the West Stand inhabitants.

We look forward to hosting many more match day events next season and are pleased to say that club CEO Tom Lawrence has already given his full support to them continuing.

### CATCHING UP WITH A PLYMOUTH ARGYLE SEASON TICKET HOLDER

**Our SUEPA members are spread far and wide across the country (indeed, the globe) and many get their footie-fix these days by watching other clubs. One such person is Stuart Brace, who we caught up with at the end of April at Home Park.**

Stuart has lived in Plymouth since he left us back in 1976, moving back to his roots and having started his playing career for Argyle back in 1960. His footballing life never though really got going with Argyle, nor with Watford where he went next, but the goals came in a short spell at Mansfield and then things really took off (via a loan spell at Posh) with Grimsby where he notched 81 goals in 206 league games, playing with the likes of Dave Worthington and Gary Moore and winning the Division Four title for the Mariners (ahead of us) in 1972.

Grimsby manager Lawrie McMenemy promised him a raise at the end of the 72/73 season which he thought he had earned with another 20 goals or so but then Lawrie left for Southampton and that promise got forgotten. Lawrie did though let Stuart know that Arthur Rowley was looking for a striker and so in October 1973, although tempted by an offer from Torquay which his wife favoured as it would take them back west, he found himself at Roots Hall.



And what a start he made, scoring on his debut v Hereford, notching a double in his next home match and then a hattrick next time out at home in a 5-2 win v Huddersfield. He also scored in the next two home games and ended up as our top scorer that season with 22 in a partnership with Chris Guthrie and then also Peter Silvester where Stuart profitably fed off the two big men.

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He is another player though not to have been overly impressed with the managerial style of Arthur Rowley. "You were either in or out with him which Dennis Booth warned me of when I arrived, and Dennis told me he was currently 'out' and so off he went! Whilst I was at Southend, I did end up playing in the same cricket team as Arthur which was a bit worrying as I didn't want the others to think he was favouring me, which he certainly wasn't. I also ended up doing a bit of sports coaching at Thorpe School, taking over a role that Tony Bentley had previously done."

Stuart's scoring exploits never quite matched that first season at Roots Hall but he was a regular in the 1974/75 season scoring 12 in 52 appearances including notching the opener in the televised game v Bobby Charlton & co (PNE) and one of the goals in a pulsating 2-2 FA Cup game v QPR. The following season he was more in and out of the team but played in every one of the matches in our 1975/76 FA Cup run including getting the winner v Brighton in Round Three, but found himself out of the team towards the end of the season which ended in relegation and the sack for Arthur.

"After that we wanted to finally get that move back west so I ended up playing for Falmouth Town for a bit before becoming a rep for a quarry firm where I ended up staying for 30 years and playing plenty of cricket in my spare time."

Stuart has been an Argyle season ticket holder for the last ten years and it was a pleasure to briefly meet up with him and relive a few of those memories of his times as a Shrimper. To this day Stuart remains 28th in our all-time scorers list with 43 goals in his 128 apps, a decent strike-rate by anyone's measure.

### UKRAINE

**It has been impossible to watch the news in recent months without being horrified by the atrocities being committed by Russia in Ukraine.**

The Shrimpers Trust has for over a year now utilised the services of World Retro (for retro shirts) who are based in Poland, and early on we were in contact with them about the situation in their neighbouring country (where some of their business had been conducted). We learned that they were keen to help with the refugee crisis and were looking to facilitate the bringing of refugees to the UK. What World Retro have since set up is run by a small team of volunteers, identifying eligible refugees near the border, helping them with the often all-too-complicated visa process, sourcing temporary accommodation in Poland, then once the paperwork is in order, taking them to the airport, putting them on a Whizz Air flight, and arranging for them to be met on landing in the UK to be taken to their place of sanctuary wherever that might be. The only cost not met by this process was the flight, for which a specially discounted rate of £15 was negotiated, and that is where we came in.

The plan agreed was for World Retro to manufacture some specially designed scarves which included a Ukrainian symbol and the logos of World Retro, Whiz Air and The Shrimpers Trust, and for us to then sell these scarves at £20 each to cover the cost of manufacture, postage, and the flight.



With SUEPA at the forefront in this unique campaign we are pleased to report that we've managed to help fund bringing over 500 refugees to the UK. Sales were mostly online, but we also sold a large number at the Halifax home match on April 23rd with former players Peter Daley, Steve Clark and a small group of fan volunteers forming the sales team. We also know that many SUEPA and Shrimpers Trust members have shown great support by buying the scarves, and we are grateful to all who took part.

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The conflict of course continues, and there will undoubtedly be the need to bring refugees to a place of safety for a long time yet. Some of the tales we have been hearing from those that we've helped have been horrific. If you would like to purchase a scarf it is not too late, they remain available at: <https://world-retro.com/product/ukraine-refugee-travel-scarf/>

### EVERYONE LOVES THE DOC

**When former players return to Roots Hall there is perhaps one familiar face that they were not expecting to see, who is always ready to give them a warm welcome.**

Dr Sinha was the club doctor for 32 years until 2008 when he finally retired from the role then aged 75, and to this day still attends every match with his family getting a prime view from the Directors Box. We know that there has been many a past player who the Doc has helped, and he loves to see them when they come back to visit, even if they only remember him chasing after them to give them a cortisone injection!

So, when you are next at Roots Hall and remember the Doc do let us know and we'll introduce you. No need to worry, his medical bag and needle supply are these days firmly left at home!



## A SURPRISE FOR STUART



With help from our good friend and Shrimper fan Dave Shields, who runs a football photography business ( do check him out: <https://footballstadiumphotography.co.uk/> ), we caught up with former Shrimpers Dave Worthington and Andy Ford at the postponed Grimsby match to send on its way a special 1975/76 FA Cup run print of their former team mate Stuart Parker who has been going through some tricky times.

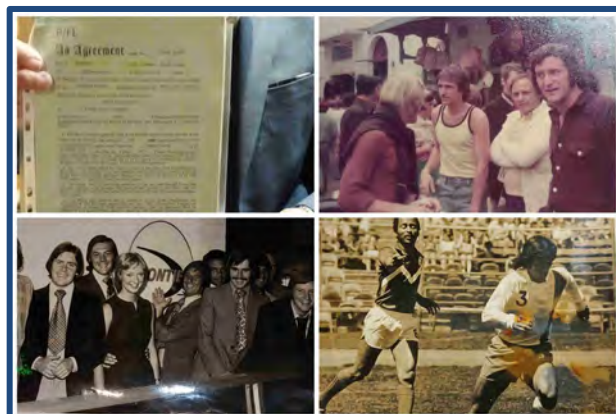
We then posted the print up to Blackpool where it reached Stuart via the ever-helpful Derek Spence. He loved it.

SUEPA doing what SUEPA does ❤️

## WORTHY'S SCRAPBOOK

The day of that postponed match v Grimsby we found ourselves at a bit of a loose end and so with Dave Worthington and Andy Ford we soon found a local pub for a meal, a beer or two, and above all a great catch up on a few old memories.

Now, Worthy has collected a few mementoes during his time in football, and he brought along some of his old Shrimper and USA ones, including his 1972 Southend United contract, a pic of the team on tour in Tunisia (in which shown are Stuart Brace, Andy Ford, a Roots Hall market guy the players all used to do business with (!) and Malcolm Webster) and a couple of snaps from Dave's time in the US with Denver.



We always love to receive old pics. so do if you have any please contact us, and the quirkier the better!

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## FOLLOWING AND CONTACTING SUEPA

**We will continue to issue regular Newsletters - our usual aim is to issue them quarterly (even though we sometimes lapse by a few weeks) so expect another SUEPA Newsletter sometime around the start of the 2022/23 season.**

We do have a SUEPA Twitter page (currently 2,152 followers) and a SUEPA Facebook page (currently 1,364 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](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)

**We are also on LinkedIn, just type our name in to the search box to find us. And yes, we can now be found on Instagram, so instantly feel we are 'on trend'!**

**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, Kelvin Jack, Ian Joyce, John Keeley, Brian Lloyd, Don McKay, Alan Meyer, Steve Mildenhall, James Montgomerry, Glenn Morris, Jon O'Brien, Sean Rafter, John Roberts, Simon Royce, Paul Sansome, Paul Smith, Neville Southall, Jim Stannard, David Stockdale, Callum Taylor, Martin Thomas, Ray White and Andy Woodman.

### DEFENDERS

Ryan Auger, Dean Austin, Gavin Axcell, Pat Baldwin, Frankie Banks, Dave Barnett, Adam Barrett, Mark Beard, Tony Bentley, Graham Birks, Darren Blewitt, Kenny Brown, Paul Brush, Adrian Burrows, Guy Butters, Peter Cawley, Peter Clarke, Ben Coker, Steve Collins, Simon Coleman, Mark Cooper, Leon Cort, Graham Coughlan, Ryan Creswell, Dave Cusack, Timothee Dieng, Andy Dixon, Phil Dudley, Steve Dyer, Andy Edwards, Derek Ewing, Kevin Fallon, Anton Ferdinand, Ricky Footman, Andy Ford, Peter Gilbert, Jamie Gray, Tony Hadley, Greg Halford, Steven Hammell, Andy Harris, Mike Harrison, Sam Hart, Steve Hatter, Frank Haydock, Johnny Herd, Mark Hone, Lewis Hunt, Chris Hutchings, Christian Hyslop, Richard Jobson, Duncan Jupp, Jean-Paul Kalala, Bobby King, Harry Kyprianou, Harry Lennon, Scott Malone, Daniel Matsuzaka, Warren May, John McMahon, David McSweeney, Robert Milsom, Tamika Mkandawire, Alan Moody, Taylor Moore, Luke Morrish, David Morley, Bilel Moshni, Teddy Nesbitt, Rob Newman, Terry O'Donnell, Danny O'Shea, Gary Parkinson, Chris Perkins, Mark Phillips, Chris Powell, Spencer Prior, Luke Prosser, Chris Ramsey, Gary Richards, 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

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Townsend, John Walker, Shane Wardley, Mark Warren, Martin Warwick, Shane Westley, John White, Charlie Williamson, Che Wilson, Bob Worthington, Dave Worthington, Mark Wright, Micky Wright, Steve Yates and Dave Young.

## **MIDFIELDERS**

Andy Ansah, Scott Ashenden, Will Atkinson, John Baber, Nicky Bailey, Tony Beanland, Mark Bentley, Dennis Booth, Gary Borthwick, Zak Brunt, Peter Butler, Paul Byrne, David Chambers, Paul Clark, Steve 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, Lil Fuccillo, Anthony Grant, Phil Gridelet, Steve Goodwin, Mark Gower, Luke Guttridge, John Gymer, Julian Hails, Derek Hall, Mark Hall, Ryan Hall, Lee Hodges, Ricky Holmes, 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, Alistair Love, 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, Jack Paxman, 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, Steve Brown, Richard Cadette, 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, Anthony Flood, Alan Foggon, Jamie Forrester, Marc-Antoine Fortune, Graham Franklin, Paul Furlong, Bill Garner, Shaun Goater, Brandon Goodship, Roy Goulden, Terry Gray, Wayne Gray, Danny Greaves, Chris Guthrie, Neil Harris, Matt Harrold, Tom Hopper, Noel Hunt, Nathaniel Jarvis, Gary Jones, Ken Jones, Charlie Kelman, Francis Laurent, Jason Lee, Stuart Leslie, John Linford, Charlie MacDonald, Roy McDonough, Sammy McMillan, Keith Mercer, Jack Midson, David Mooney, Dean Morgan, Shamir Mullins, Lee Nogan, Derrick Parker, Stuart Parker, Matt Paterson, Jack Payne, Billy Paynter, Steve Phillips, Joe Piggot, Andy Polycarpou, Andy Rammell, Mark Rawle, Dave Regis, Alex Revell, Neville Roach, Jack Sampson, Morrys Scott, Ian Selley, Peter Silvester, Derek Spence, Scott Spencer, Blair Sturrock, Andy Thomson, Neil Tolson, James Walker, Mario Walsh and Jason Williams.

## **COACHING / BACKROOM**

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



**'Creating New Memories'**