

Southend United Supporters Club



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SUSC NEWSLETTER NUMBER SEVEN

OK. No messing. No beating about the bush. You cannot deny all knowledge having read this. There is nothing subliminal about the following message. It is smack in your face. And here it is.....

SOUTHEND UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB QUIZ NIGHT, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 30, BOOTS & LACES, KICK-OFF 7.30 for 8pm. Yes, sirree - a key fund-raiser for us and an event not to be missed, as those at the last gathering will testify. Except this time we hope MCRE of our members will be present, along with our guests from St Christopher's Special Needs School and North Bank Utd FC. The entry fee is a little higher than normal at £3.50, but that is for a VERY good reason. Half the proceeds will be going to the St Christopher's School fund for a respite care centre for children with disabilities. There will also be a buffet provided, plus the usual prizes, raffle etc. Maximum of eight to a table - and even John Main is threatening to take one. The questions are done and should prove an entertaining test for all levels from Dennis Wise to Stephen Hawking. So please support the quiz and, if you can, bring along a new disciple for the Supporters Club. Hallelujah brother! It may be another fiver on top, but what a bargain.

A meagre £3.50 for a night out these days has to be good value. Yet as we move into the nuts and bolts of SUSC NEWSLETTER NUMBER SEVEN, it must be said your committee balked at the prospect of lashing out £35 per head, plus VAT of course, to attend an Evening with Bruce Grobbelaar. Even the chance to make it £31, still plus VAT, if we could cobble together a table for 10 for this 63rd United Sportsman's gathering failed to enthuse - which is a shame when United's Local Charity Fund stands to benefit. But I imagine the reaction has been the same from 99.9 per cent of ordinary Blues fans. Quite simply, that sort of ticket price is out of the question. As for Bruce, his sock drawer, the Short Man, Heng Suan Lim and FA fines.....I'm saying nowt.

Right on to less contentious themes - like points in the bag, moving up the table and Kentucky Fried Chicken at Corley Services!

Our home form so far has been satisfactory without setting the world alight - until, that is, Saturday v Halifax. Heavens, only Blues could make us sweat after taking a 3-0 half-time lead. But four goals in the onion bag and a rise to fourth - it would have been third but for Rochdale's 90th minute winner at Rotherham - is great stuff. Bring on Bazza! Just one thing that intrigued me before the Orient game. Why was Leo wearing what looked like a large nappy in the pre-match kickabout? But, of course, more relevant to SUSC have been our away trips.

(SUSC QUIZ NIGHT, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 30, BOOTS & LACES, KICK-OFF 7.30 for 8pm - "I'm mad for it" - Liam Gallagher)

Unfortunately, Trevor reported to our last committee meeting on August 19 that some of the behaviour on the Rochdale coach journey was as bad as Blues' performance on the Spotland pitch. It did not take us long to agree the following. Our coach travel is provided to give everyone travelling with SUSC as pleasant and stress-free a journey as possible. Anyone who wants to make life unpleasant for the majority will, in future, be given one formal warning. If they choose to ignore it, they will be invited to seek alternative transport at, inevitably, much greater cost - to future away fixtures. QED. Swansea was a long haul to see luck desert us. There were one or two grumbles that we did not

arrive at Vetch Field until 15-minutes before kick-off. Sadly, until Supreme allow us access to a coach that can fly over traffic jams there is not much we can do about unexpected hold-ups. If you missed your pre-match pint or three that much, our apologies. We were also slightly delayed at South Mimms Services for long-time devotee Martin Penton, who was prepared to dash from Chelmsford to meet the coach when a last-minute seat became available. So be fair before you criticise. After all, isn't that what SUSC is supposed to be all about? Macclesfield was a winner all round. No problems and a fine victory. The team seemed to appreciate the banter at Corley and during the overtaking on the M6. As I heard someone say, it did not seem possible that those same players were being booed at one stopover late last season. And, yes, the celebratory KFC went down a treat. Thanks, as usual, to Chris Berry - surely a dead ringer for ex-Chelsea star and Newcastle No.2 Steve Clarke - and Clare for all their efforts on the bookings front.

Membership applications seem to be flying in from all over the world, which is great news for Kathryn who likes nothing better than getting to grips with a new member. Oops. Double entendre there. Naughty. There are now loyal Blues fans signed up in Sweden, Canada, America, China, Germany, Spain and the four corners of the UK. All we need are plenty more from Southend.....

Our player sponsorship - or is that kiss of death - has finally settled on Neville Roach. It is an extra burden for him in the light of the disasters that have befallen the previous recipients of our generosity. And even though Nev has been quietly effective of late, sure enough he was out v Halifax. Sorry mate.

(SUSC QUIZ NIGHT, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 30, BOOTS & LACES, KICK-OFF 7.30 for 8pm. "I'd love to be there, but Posh always reads me my Beano on Thursday nights" - David Beckham)

A review of the Question and Answer session with Alan Little will be in NUMBER EIGHT. As work prevented me from attending on August 26, I need to get the overall picture from our next committee meeting on September 22. This lot is being knocked out on the 19th.

Trevor has had his hands in the till. But only, I hasten to add, to count up how much is in it. SUSC funds continue to look rosy - i.e. we are solvent - and long may it continue. At least our cash looks safer than that at Boots & Laces, which had four break-ins in one two-week period recently. Money went from the fruit machines and police are looking for a two-arm bandit. A Mr A Johnson might be worth interviewing, as he was allegedly once an expert at this type of crime. Either that or Alan Little is getting more desperate than we thought for cash for those new players. (Message to Alan's legal team - only joking!)

Richard Coxell attended a meeting with John Main and Peter Storrie on August 9, with numerous matters of interest arising. The club have agreed to do all our photocopying of the newsletter, correspondence etc for nothing. It is much appreciated. But panic not. This will remain a publish and be damned treatise and NO ONE is safe. Plans for the new ground should be available for viewing very shortly, with the venue based on the training ground behind Boots & Laces. Peter Storrie shared our disquiet over the quality of the programme against Plymouth - especially as even his own name was misspelt. He has had a 'word' with the parties involved and there does seem to have been a marked improvement, though it is by no means perfect. Anyone who thought they might fancy becoming a Blues shareholder can forget it for the time being. The club is currently a Private Limited Company, so shares can only be offered to those who already hold them. Bit like having a government you can never get rid of. The current cost of converting to a Public Limited Company would outweigh the income raised. As for the future - maybe. Blues' new Club Call number is 09068-121105 - though at 60p a minute you might need to consider a bank loan before ringing. Pity the old 0839 number got on the fixture card. Richard, great report.

The New Shrimpers Club is now open on match days, pre and post games. Sadly for Jerry Moss, his dream of generous supplies of Old Peculiar and Dog's Bollocks, (sic) being on tap has not been realised. But after making my first visit on Saturday, I rate it a credit to United, with multiple TVs, reasonably priced food and drink and, most important, a good atmosphere. It gives you that sense we really are moving forward, that at last there is some genuine purpose at Roots Hall, after years of stagnation. If the Royal Bank of Scotland are prepared to sponsor the new Family

Stand, something must be going right. They would not have touched us with a barge pole a while back. There is even an Arriva double-decker bus now going around town in Blues livery. Wonders will never cease.

I know some fans are still angry about the new ticket-buying arrangements. More on that in NUMBER EIGHT, but you can always let Peter Storrie know how you feel by the usual methods.

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Sammy the Shrimp has certainly livened up a bit. Excellent. But if he gets much closer to the Pulse Cheerleaders I fear he might reveal what should remain secret parts of his crustacean anatomy.

Have you all returned your SUSC Prediction Competition forms? No, I thought not. We would be really grateful if you would make the effort. The closing date is September 30. There is money to be had by the victor, so get cracking. Forms can be posted to Trevor or handed to any committee member - along with your £1!

Our SUSC website is very close to take-off, thanks to superb work by our computer wizard Keith 'Scorch' Symmonds and Herr Coxell. A bit of final tinkering and we will shortly be on-line to the world.

Ever heard of Greig Stevens? Neither had I until I read in the Echo that he had won £5.4million on the Lottery. This local lad immediately decided to splash out on a season ticket for United. Just the usual problem - it was Manchester United. More money than sense, you saddo.

Love him or hate him - and by the time he left us I think most of our supporters fell into the latter category - it was a shame to see Gary Poole has had to pack in the game through injury at 31. Unfulfilled potential.

When will the SUSC flag be flying, I hear you ask? Never fear, Trevor has it in hand, if not yet in his hands. Hopefully, our name will soon be even more famous around the grounds of the Third Division.

(SUSC QUIZ NIGHT, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 30, BOOTS & LACES, KICK-OFF 7.30 for 8pm - "What's a quiz night?" - Kelly Brooke)

Any comeback on the above assorted ramblings can be e-mailed to me at nigel.rickard@the-sun.co.uk Exiles info and deeper philosophical discussion should be directed at Richard Coxell at richardcoxell@netlineuk.net Otherwise contact any of the usual suspects at the usual addresses and telephone numbers. For travel to Carlisle and Cheltenham that means Mr Berry on Southend (01702) 558978 / Mobile 0403-898698 or Clare on Southend 469959.

Final thought. It seems York City fans have nicknamed United the Donkey Sanctuary. We'll see who the asses are at the end of the season.

NR

PS 1) In NUMBER EIGHT: Alan Little Q & A review, Main and Storrie tackle the triumvirate of terror and Brighton tickets - the latest.

2) Wayne Gollin. That's three in a row, so back where you belong!

To Help - Not Hinder