

Junior Blues

NEWSLETTER – Issue 007 – December 2023

INTRODUCTION

Hi everyone,

Well, we're very much still on that rollercoaster ride of not quite knowing when the full sale of the football club will go through to the consortium led by Justin Rees, and our players are having to play under ridiculous pressures with a teeny tiny squad and little chance of being allowed to sign anyone with the restrictions imposed by the National League.

Still our boys go on to perform heroically on the pitch with battling performances week in, week out. That's the best of reasons to give them your loudest roars of encouragement from the stands!

Unfortunately, **Daniel Kanu** has been recalled by Charlton and **Nick Hayes** has gone back to Ipswich after his emergency loan finished. **Dan Mooney** has recently had his contract mutually terminated and we expect him to pop up elsewhere soon. Good luck to all of them in their future careers.

We've had our **Junior Blues Christmas Party** and our **Meet the Players Day** since our last newsletter, and photos from both of these are included. I hope those of you who came along remembered to tell the players you saw how brilliant they are and how proud we all are of them!

Don't forget to share your photos if you have them taken with me at a match, they might be added to my "Wall of Fame"! Full details below:

<https://www.southendunited.co.uk/fans/sammy-the-shrimp>

Oh, one final thing, don't forget to check your email inboxes on Christmas Eve for a very special message!



Hope you all have a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a **HAPPY NEW YEAR**,

Sammy



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SHRIMPERS TRUST

PLAYER OF THE MONTH



The **Player of the Month** award for September, was won by **Harry Cardwell**. He was presented with his award by **Junior Blues** members, **Freddie Jackson** and **Oliver Colquhoun**

October's **Player of the Month** award, was won by **Noor Husin**. **Junior Blues** member, **Faith Cox** presented him with his award.



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JUNIOR BLUES EXCLUSIVE MEET THE PLAYERS' DAY – 26th October 2023

We held another very successful EXCLUSIVE Meet the Players Day for our members during October half term, with almost 70 of you all signed up to attend!

The weather had been VERY wet in the lead up to this event and we were unsure if it would go ahead at one point, but fortunately it was dry enough on the day. We watched a shortened training session, did a quiz, enjoyed lunch and tours round the changing rooms, then had plenty of time for photos and autographs with our players.

Thank you to everyone who came along, the players, management and helpers, just one small thing – our left over lunches, which are provided free of charge at this event, are usually given away to homeless charities at the end, so it was disappointing to see that the excess rolls had been taken.



JUNIOR BLUES CHRISTMAS BOWLING PARTY – 14th December 2023 🎅

Last Thursday saw our annual **Junior Blues** Christmas Party, which was held again this year, at Kingpins on the seafront. This event sold out within a few hours of putting it online for sale so, we are really sorry if you missed out on this occasion.

We were delighted to welcome 35 members along, to enjoy a game of bowling alongside **Jack Bridge, Oli Coker, Harry Cardwell, Jack Wood, Wes Fonguck and Brooklyn Kabongolo**, and everyone was delighted when **Callum Powell** turned up as well, as we haven't seen him for some time since his injury!

Everyone had a great time playing alongside the players, who gave out gifts at the end, before the children went on

to have their meals.

Thank you everyone who came along and Kingpins for looking after us!



ONCE UPON A CHRISTMAS TIME..... 🎄



Eight years ago, twin babies – a boy called Austin and a girl called Ella – were born at Southend Hospital. That Christmas, they had a visit from Southend United management and players, and Ella is shown here being held by then manager, Phil Brown.



Fast forward to 2023, and we were delighted to find out from their proud mum, that Ella and Austin were both at the **Junior Blues** Christmas Party, and here's their photo below, with Callum! Guess Southend United has been in their blood right from the beginning!

TRAVEL



Book a place by visiting the Trust website at www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/travel.asp or call Lesley Hicks on 07892 905338.

Online bookings now require payment to be made at the time of booking.

For the forthcoming season, **Junior Blues** will once again be entitled to one free travel per season to a league game of their choice, on the official travel coaches organised by the Shrimpers Trust, as long as they are with an accompanying adult and travel for the fantastic bargain price of just £10 at other times!

***All under 18s must be accompanied.**

A full set of Away Travel Terms and Conditions can be found at www.shrimperstrust.co.uk

Next matches:



BARNET FC

SATURDAY, 30th DECEMBER 2023

Adult, Student & OAP members - £10

Non-members - £15

Junior Blues/Under 18s - £10



EASTLEIGH FC

SATURDAY 13th JANUARY 2024

Adult, Student & OAP members - £19

Non-members - £24

Junior Blues/Under 18s - £10

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TOP TRAVELLER

Every year we run a competition for the Junior Blues to see who travels the furthest with the Shrimpers Trust, with an exclusive prize at the end of the season for the one with the highest miles tally.

Top traveller results so far are as follows:

1st place	Evie Mae Oliver, who has travelled 1,442 miles
2nd place	Lucas Monk, 466 miles
3rd place	Jake Wilson, 160 miles
4th place	Stanley Carswell-Jones, 148 miles
5th place equal	Danny Axcell, Jack Cooke, Ben Davies & Aaliyah-Mae Lovell all on 100 miles

So well done to Evie Mae, who was also last year's winner!

Can anyone catch her? Lots still to play for in the months ahead!

SOCIAL MEDIA

You can follow the [Junior Blues](#) on social media, with dedicated platforms on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

This is the best place for up to date news..... for announcements of events and whether we are looking for flag bearers so PLEASE make sure you or your parents/carers are following us! We also post pictures of our flag bearers here in reasonably quick time – sometimes even LIVE!

You (or your parents/carers) can find us and give us a follow here, it's where information can be found quickly about events, flag bearers etc:



<https://www.facebook.com/thejuniorblues>

<https://twitter.com/JuniorBlues2>

BIRTHDAYS

SENDING BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR JUNIOR BLUES WHO HAVE HAD BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER:

16 – Owen Argyle; Rylee Ball; Cormac Compton; Ted Crombie; Thomas Moreton; Simbarashe Nyamwa; Evie-Mae Oliver; Tia Parker; Joshua Ramsey; Ronnie Reeves; Charlie Thompson; Annabelle Webb & Harry Wright

15 – Logan Gordon; Owen Harris; Thomas Lloyd; Alfie Murdoch; Ryan Tear & Shay Tear

14 – Callum Freemantle; Grace Locke & Beauden Wright

13 – Leon Brooks; Lauren Cockell; Abigail Darkin; Charlie Dixon; Will Manley & Jamie Saw

12 – Mitchell Drew-Bennett; Rocco Kilbey; George Lawrence & Blake Sees

11 – James Blackman; Tom Clayton; Alfie Davison; Harvey Diggins; Bradley Greenslade; Alfie Mac Lewis Lola-Mae Nice; Harley Norton; Sophie Robins; Malachi Ruddy; Tabitha Simpkins & Jake Turner

10 – Julian Elliott; Charlie Macdonald; Jake Reid; Matthew Saw; Teddy Turnidge & Jack Whiteley

9 – Kit Binns; Thomas Blackman; Jasmine Hampton; Jack Land & Max Wren

8 – Harry Clarke; Lilah Galpin; Kaya Guzowski; Austin Smith; Ella Smith & Callum Southgate

7 – Ella Nye

5 – Brook Boyce; Amelia Hutchins & Ivy Monk

4 – Lyra Hollington & Poppy Johnston

3 – Holly Byford & Meredith Simpkins

2 – Dottie-Mae Watson

And, finally, Jesse Gargate who has his 1st birthday!

