

NEWSLETTER – Issue 20 – December 2023

WELCOME

Welcome to our 20th Newsletter. Wow, that feels like a landmark of sorts as we approach our sixth birthday on 10 January 2024.

As we write, the club deal with Justin et al is still waiting to get over the line and we wish to place on record our sincere gratitude to every SUEPA member that sent in their 'Message to Ron' videos – without exception they were all heartfelt, each was unique, they received massive coverage (they were even mentioned on Talk Sport) and we believe that they helped to make a difference. Our focus at SUEPA is always about care, celebrating the past and creating new memories – we leave the 'political stuff' to our mother ship The Shrimpers Trust, but sometimes it is just too difficult to stand by. So, thank you.

So, to all things SUEPA. Our Newsletters are issued to all Shrimpers Trust members as well as the now amazing 460 former player/coaching staff members who are currently part of SUEPA.



It is such a strange time; everyone is seemingly working on the assumption that all will be well - the alternative is just unthinkable. We've now met, and are in regular contact with, Justin – he is very supportive of what we do so we look forward to working with him with some hope and potential excitement.

Things at SUEPA continue at pace, and from being mentioned in Parliament, to moving things forward with the PFA, to engineering some great reunions, to making plans with the club on a top idea, to being on the verge of selling out our next event, to continuing to expand our membership, it's been SUEPA busy.

Our Newsletters are issued to all Shrimpers Trust members (and with Trust membership having exploded in recent months we welcome many more new readers to this scribe for the first time) as well as the now 476 former player/coaching staff members who are currently part of SUEPA.

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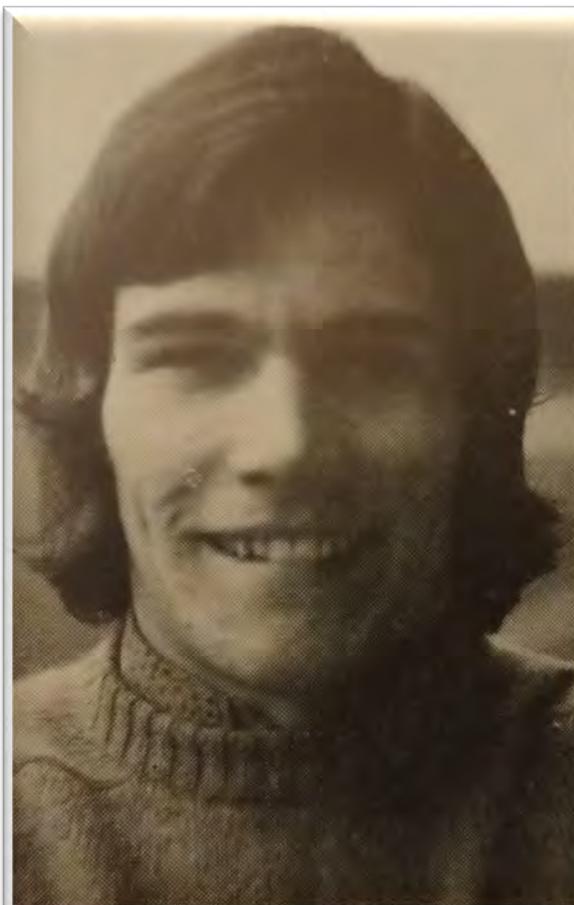
In this Newsletter we cover:

- **Spud U Like?**
- **Membership update, including one real surprise, focusing on who has joined us since our last Newsletter in August;**
- **Tims returns;**
- **Meeting your former bosses;**
- **Reunions can mean so much;**
- **Alfred Dickie Donoven**
- **News bits – SUEPA in Hansard, PFA progress, bumping in to Merce, James making progress, Football Content Awards, Woody is a Claret, fundraiser Lee, Foggy family time;**
- **RIP Norman Liggitt, Roy Walsh, Pat Wright and Colin Murphy;**
- **Statto time;**
- **How to keep up to date with SUEPA news, contacting your old team-mates, and SUEPA;**
- **The full current SUEPA membership list.**

That's perhaps enough for now. So, calm down that over-excited five-year-old (that's us) looking forward to Christmas with just a bit too much adrenalin, set up the web cam to see who is eating all the chocolate off the tree, find last year's half-drunk bottle of Eggnog and pour a glass to remind you why it was only partially downed before, find the mince pie stash being saved for the festivities and carefully put the pack back minus a couple hoping no one will notice, put on your favourite Shrimper scarf, kick the dog off your favourite seat, and read on

Andy Leeder
SUEPA Organiser

SPUD U LIKE



An Evening With Peter Taylor
(hosted by Glenn Pennyfather)
Saturday 10 February 2024 (7.00 pm) at
The Essex Bowls Club, Westcliff
an evening of stories and memories with a host of
Peter's former teammates and the players he used
to manage



We are thrilled to announce our next big event – “An evening with Peter ‘Spud’ Taylor” which is happening at the Essex County Bowling Club (Westcliff) on Saturday 10 February 2024 (after the York match scheduled at Roots Hall that afternoon).

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Following the huge success of our Dave Smith tribute event earlier this year we thought we'd do something similar, and we are pleased to see that this event is yet another SUEPA sell-out.

The event, which starts at 7.30 pm (arrivals from 7.00 pm), will be hosted by Glenn Pennyfather and we have a host of former players from both Peter's time as player at Roots Hall in the early 1970's and from his mid-1990's managerial period in the SUFC hot-seat lined up to come along. This list currently includes Ray Ternent, Micky Beesley, Dave Barnett, Kenny Reynolds, Peter Hunt, Dave Worthington, Graham Bressington, Phil Gridelet, Paul Sansome, Dave Regis, Andy Thomson, Shane Westley, Harry Willis, Adam Locke, Steve Tilson, Mark Hone, Declan Perkins, Andy Ansah, Mick Bodley, and Mr Southend United himself Frankie Banks.

From feeding our two Billy's and dear old Gary Moore with crosses, to FA Cup heroics at Crystal Palace, to playing with Hoddle & co at Spurs, to managing England, and taking on over 20 other managerial posts, there are stories by the bucket load to share and enjoy.

All profits on the night will go to the Shrimpers Trust, and a sizeable donation will be made to the Bobby Moore Prostate Cancer Fund.

Tickets are just £15 and that includes a half-time pizza snack. There is a pay-bar where, as you would expect, we've arranged an extension. Although the event has sold-out we are running a reserve list for if we get any returns so if you would like to join us, please do get in touch and we will see what we can do – the best way of contacting us for this is via email at suepassoc@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Since our last Newsletter we've added 19 new members to the SUEPA family and now have 476 current members, getting ever closer to that magical 500 figure.

As ever all our new joiners get a hearty welcome and a mention in this section, so here goes



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At the back

No new keepers so our squad there remains at just 47, but defensive numbers are boosted by five new faces, and we now have 133 forming a solid wall for those free kicks.

First to join the SUEPA ranks this last quarter was Jaden Crowhurst. One of quite a few whose departure from Roots Hall was forced by the situation the club found itself in, Jaden made two appearances for us last season and we wish him all the very best as he now makes his way in the game with Canvey Island FC.

Former Cambridge United defender Leon Davies connected with us via Instagram. He was with us during the latter part of the 2021/22 season (16 appearances) before moving on to Braintree Town where he was a virtual ever-present last campaign.

Back to the turn of the millennium, we now also welcome on board Steve Broad. Making 65 appearances and scoring twice, the former Chelsea full back (who once captained John Terry) had injury problems towards the end of his time with us and left the game to become a cabbie (which must be one of the most popular occupations for our former players after hanging up their boots).

Another to come to us after a bit of searching on Instagram is Jakub Sokolik. The Czech U17 international defender loved Roots Hall so much on loan in 2014 from Liverpool that he came back twice more, the latest in 2016. He then played for Plymouth and Torquay.

There have been six previous Players of the Year still alive who have so far eluded a SUEPA invitation – well, make that five* now. Our 2012/13 Player of the Year Sean Clohessy has now joined us after a LinkedIn connection. The full back made over 150 appearances for us (four goals) and was a firm fans favourite. He finished playing in 2021 and is now a train driver. Welcome on-board Sean (pun apologies).

*{ *in case you are wondering, the remaining four we've yet to make contact with are Keith Dublin (1996/97), Nathan Jones (1999/2000), Simon Francis (2009/10), Mark Oxley (2017/18) and Elvis Bwomono (2019/20) ... so if anyone reading this is able to put us in touch with any of them please get in touch, our email is suepassoc@gmail.com }*

Middle of the park

Our midfield has seen six new additions to boost that area of the park up to a SUEPA squad of 159.

We finally connected with Harry Bunn via LinkedIn after following him around a bit and never quite making contact. With us on loan from Bury for the 2018/19 season, he made 28 appearances netting five times. Harry, who has a BA in Business Management via the Open University, has since been at York, Kilmarnock, Scunney and Buxton, and is now at Hyde United where we are pleased to see that he has been turning out some MOM performances.



Our next signing was a surprise. Peter Woods was a Shrimper from February 1972 to July 1973, and all previous attempts to trace him had drawn a blank. Indeed, we had wondered whether he might have passed away as we did find a link to someone of the same name and age who had died in 2011, but we weren't sure. We then back in September received an email from a SUEPA follower who said that Peter was alive and well, told us his location, we looked up his number, and bingo.

So, we can now truly say that we have every former player still alive from the 1971/72 season as a SUEPA member, and also in our ranks every one of the players who took part in that famous League Cup tie at Roots Hall in 1972 v Chelsea.

Peter was somewhat surprised to receive our call but happy to chat during which he retreated to his 'den' where he now keeps all his old football memorabilia (luckily his daughter had recently

persuaded him during a clear out that all such things should be preserved – rightly so).

Peter was born in Sale in 1950 and played in various local junior teams attracting the interest of Manchester United who signed him up on 'associated schoolboy' terms – that gave them first choice on signing him for the club at a later date which they duly did. Peter stayed with the Reds for six years, becoming a full-time apprentice and then a full-time pro at a time of course when the club was full of legendary names and winning the European Cup v Benfica in 1968. He vividly remembers his debut for the reserves at the age of 16 up at Blackpool playing

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with the likes of Jimmy Rimmer and Noel Cantwell. Ultimately the left-sided man never made the first team and so left for Luton Town in April 1970 with a bucket-load of memories to treasure including being an England schoolboy international.

It wasn't long though before Southend came calling and we snapped him up in February 1972 initially on loan and with the move then becoming permanent after Arthur Rowley offered the Hatters a £7,000 fee. He made his debut at Roots Hall on 25th February in the number 10 shirt as part of a wing and attack line-up that included Billy Best, Gary Moore and Bernie Lewis. We ran out 2-0 winners and Peter kept his place in the team during our first ever promotion season until he picked up an injury seven games out away at Northampton. He still though has cuttings from that time which he recalls as being great days, and added that the first team dined out on their success for quite some time afterwards at the Peterboat in Leigh where they rarely had to buy a drink!

Appearances the following season were restricted to just 14 as a mix of injury and the form of others kept him out of the side. He did though come on as sub for Bob Bennett in that famous September 1972 cup tie at Roots Hall v Chelsea in front of over 24,000, and Peter recalls Peter Bonetti being in great form for the Pensioners.

Peter was happy at Southend but said that John Lattimer came to see him in his garden in July 1973 saying that Arthur wanted a word and, not long after that, after making a total of 26 Shrimper appearances, he found himself up at Doncaster Rovers where the manager was his old Man U teammate Maurice Setters. Peter made 55 appearances for Rovers including one in an FA Cup tie up at Anfield where Donny came away with a 2-2 draw despite being bottom of Division Four at the time.

It was during his time at Belle Vue that he took up some part-time work in the building trade and ultimately that proved to be his long-term career path, ending in having a senior role for a building supplies company from which he took retirement 13 years ago. During his early building trade days he also played part-time for Goole Town and then had a spell helping out at Thorne Colliery FC.

We finished a thoroughly enjoyable call with Peter leaving to go and explain to his wife why he had gone missing for 20 minutes chatting away about football to some total stranger. Well, Peter, we hope you see us as a stranger no more as we welcome you in to the ever-growing SUEPA family.

"Cagigao Cagigao" as Queen once mused - well, muse no more, as Francis Cagigao is now part of SUEPA. The midfielder was with us 1991-93 and went on to do great things working with Arsen Wenger for 21 years. This year he was appointed as Global Director for Galatasaray (which must be a fantastic place to be at on match days – if you haven't seen it on TV for a European match look it up next time they are on – it's just, well, wow).

Twitter (ok, X) still from time to time comes up trumps, and that proved to be the case for Nico Cotton who, after coming up from the youth ranks, proudly made his one appearance for us in October 2017 when he came on as sub on 3 Oct 2017 in a 1-0 win v Reading. In catching up with Nico, now at Canterbury City, he said:

"The reason I signed for Southend United as an U12 is because of the coaches. Mark Bonner (until recently the Cambridge United first team manager) and Luke Hobbs (Arsenal Academy head of coaching) were my coaches at Cambridge United. When they joined Southend, I came with them.

I was at Southend United for nine seasons. When I was a U16 I signed a two-year scholarship. I then had a third-year scholar (the season the first Southend U23 team was launched) and then I signed a two-year professional contract. I left at 21 and since then I have played non-league football for Lewes (Isthmian Premier) Eastbourne Borough (National League South), Haywards Heath (Isthmian Southeast), Ramsgate (Isthmian Southeast), Hythe Town (Isthmian Southeast), and now I'm at Canterbury City (SCEFL Premier). Away from playing football I coach for Millwall - I run their development centres in Kent and their sixth form football academy at a senior school in Canterbury, Kent."

It was back to LinkedIn to catch up with our next joiner Stuart O'Keefe. With us as a youth, Stuart made 10 appearances before signing for Crystal Palace in 2010 where he made 50 starts in a Premiership-bound team. Via Cardiff & Gills, Stuart is now at our National League rivals Aldershot.

What is the most stunning ever SUFC strike? Well, Nathan Ferguson might have some justification to claim that one, and in the week before his current team Wealdstone were due to visit Roots Hall at the start of this month we caught up with him via Instagram. Want to see that goal? Well, in those dark Covid days without spectators, the TV cameras thankfully were there to witness it:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUR_wquhdC8

Up front

Our striker squad has been healthily boosted by eight new additions to take our front line up to 121. We should be able to score the odd goal or two now.

Chris Wreh was yet another SUFC leaver due to the transfer embargo. Joining us from Banbury, last season he notched up four goals in 29 appearances and is now with our National League rivals Hartlepool United.

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Likewise, Henry Sandat left the club over the Summer after making a fantastic full first team start back in February with the winner v Gateshead. Now at Hull City, he should have a top future in the game, and we welcome him to the SUEPA ranks.

On the same day back in August that Henry joined we also welcomed England C international Jake Hyde to the SUEPA ranks. The experienced front man scored five in 21 appearances for us last season and is now at Yeovil, his 15th club, with fellow former Shrimper Rhys Murphy and now also Frank Nouble who has also become part of SUEPA and was very complimentary about the work we do.

Fellow striker Aaron Cosgrave connected with us via Instagram also back in August. With us on loan from AFC Wimbledon last season making 11 appearances, the former West Ham youth has also played for Chelmsford, Dover, Welling, Lewes, Havant and Kings Lynn, and is now at Halifax Town.

There are many loanees amongst the SUEPA ranks and few had as big an impact as Leon Clarke. Smashing in eight goals in a 16 game 2008-09 loan spell from Sheff Weds (five in his first five matches), Leon went on to score 150+ times in 523 career appearances and is currently with his 22nd club Kettering and now looking to get in to coaching.

Another loanee striker Ben Reeves played a memorable part in our club history as it was his strike v the O's that got us to our first ever Wembley final in 2013 in a top night when Roots Hall was really rockin'. The Northern Ireland international striker is now part of SUEPA – he was with us on loan from Saints scoring two in 13 appearances, and most recently has been across the river with Gills.

And finally, as we continue to network with whoever we can, it was thanks to some help from Leamington FC's media manager that we made contact with Tyrone Barnett who became our 476th member. Making 20 appearances (five goals) at the end of the 2015/16 season, Tyrone has smashed in goals all over the place in a 19-club career which we are pleased to see is still going strong.

TIMS RETURNS



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Saturday 21 October saw our first SUEPA Guest Day of the current campaign, and what a day it was, that 5-0 win v Solihull maybe being a little reward for us all who have kept the faith during such dark times and stuck with it.

Michael Timlin, who shook so many hands and had pics with countless numbers of you, was our guest and is such a great ambassador for the game. The love he has for our club shone through it all.

The Q&A's were good too - the trial of the first ever one at half-time pitch side seemed to work, and after the final whistle at the Far Post for our '5:05 Q&A' the atmosphere was excellent.

We are pleased to report that baby number three, a boy, arrived in the Tims household shortly after his return to Roots Hall on 2 November and all are doing well. Congrats Tims on your hattrick!

MEETING YOUR FORMER BOSSES



Our latest guest, for the Chesterfield match (another stonking win), was our former midfielder Nicky Smith who clocked up over 70 appearances from 1987 to 1990 during which time the YTS man was part of two promotion-winning campaigns.

Nicky, who after leaving Southend went on to make over 500 appearances for other Essex and Suffolk clubs and is now part of the Essex police force, played under a few managers during his time at Roots Hall and two of them were there for the Chesterfield game for Nicky's return. He caught up with both David Webb (back at Roots Hall to see his son Danny who is currently Assistant Manager at Chesterfield) and Paul Clark (who as ever was in the BBC Essex commentary box). Nicky left them both with a caution to maintain future good behaviour.

REUNIONS CAN MEAN SO MUCH



We know from our Roots Hall match days that reunions are just so great, not only for former players, but for fans too, and we are always happy to see what we can do when we receive a request for help.

In speaking to Spud about preparation for his forthcoming evening event, he mentioned that he was going up to the Northeast the following week and wondered whether we had a contact number for his old pal Terry Johnson. The two were inseparable during their early 1970's playing days but had since lost touch. Now, like Spud, Terry is a SUEPA member, but we were not sure that his email address remained valid and didn't have a phone number for him. However, during a chance meeting with Alan Foggon back in February we recalled that Foggy was in regular contact with Terry and so ten minutes later we were able to give Spud the contact details he needed. The pair were able to meet up and had a great time, and as an aside the pic of the two of them that we put up on our social media channels had more likes than any other pic we've ever posted ... there continues to be a lot of love out there for our former players.

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Then, last month we received a message from SUEPA follower Steve Smith, who told us that he was a childhood friend of SUEPA member Ray White who joined SUFC as an apprentice keeper in 1966 and who, after making 10 first team appearances, left for Bristol Rovers in 1968.

Steve and Peter were great friends as kids, being school pals at Blenheim Primary and then Eastwood School for Boys, racing home from lessons to play football in Eastwood Park and generally doing what kids did back then (playing outdoors), but had then lost touch.

Seeing that Ray was a SUEPA member, Steve asked if we could put him in touch, so we sent Ray a message and, on a Saturday last month, they met up at Ray's house before Steve went to the match at Roots Hall. Many great memories were of course re-lived, and Ray surprised Steve by also inviting his twin brother Peter along.

So, if you are a SUEPA member reading this and would like to meet up with one of your former teammates, please do get in touch. We will always treat contact details with the utmost care and will only pass them on with the person's permission – the only thing we ask in return is a pic or two from the resulting reunion that we can then share with others.

ALFRED DICKIE DONOVAN



SOUTHEND UNITED F.C. 1932–3

H. Footman (Ass. Trainer), Hatfield, Woolton, Moore, Whitelaw, Whelan, Robinson, Dixon, Randle, Reiley, T. Wilson, J. Wilson, Hall, Donovan, W. Cartwright (Trainer), E. J. Bennie (Man.), Curran, Barnett, Joyce, Samuel, Pike, Lewis, Robson, Clenshaw, A. L. A. Woodhouse (Dr.), Morfitt, Shankley, Bennett



Left to Right (Back Row): A. Footman, Stevenson, Moore, Kelly, Whitelaw, Robertson, Woods and Robinson

Trainer: W. Cartwright; Trainers: Clenshaw, Jackson, Halliday, Williams, Wilson; (P): Wilson; (F): Shankley, Smith and Young; Mr. S. Dixon

In response to one of our social media posts back in September, SUEPA follower Richard Davies said that his wife's granddad, a former Shrimper player, would 'turn in his grave if he knew what was going on at Southend United right now'. We decided to make a few enquiries to find out more about one of our past players and spoke to his wife Tracey. We found a true SUFC legend.

It turns out that the player in question remains to this day still 15th in the SUFC all-time goal scorers list with 58 goals from 332 appearances and played for us at Wembley some 83 years before that JPT 'Wembley final debut' v Crewe Alexandra in 2013.

Alfred 'Dickie' Donovan was born in Bulwell, Nottinghamshire on 20 June 1900. Queen Vic was still on the throne, the second Olympic games was on in Paris (some things never change), the first scary German balloon named after Mr Zeppelin flew over Lake Constance, and the Siege of Mafeking (look it up, it was quite bloody) finally ended as part of the Second Boer War. Oh, and Oliver Trigg was still six years away from holding a meeting in his Blue Boar public house to provide you with the reason why you are reading this missive.

Dickie began his football career with Bulwell Rangers shortly after WWI in 1919 and then signed up for Notts Forest a year later making his league debut v Leicester in 1921. But with first team appearances limited he signed for Mansfield Town in 1922, and with 36 and 37 goals in the next two seasons, was the Stags leading scorer. Tracey still treasures a medal he received commemorating this.

After 87 goals in 119 apps, our manager Ted Bernie tempted Dickie to the newly improved Kursaal in May 1925, paying Mansfield £500 for his services (that's a shade under £40,000 in today's money). Sunderland at the same time smashed the world record transfer fee by splashing out £6,500 on Burnley's Bob Kelly.

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His first appearance for us on 5 September 1925 in a 2-2 draw v Reading in Division Three (South) in front of 8,450 – next game he scored as we won at Brentford and then we can only assume injury struck as he didn't play again until March (missing an FA Cup tie v his old team Notts Forest) but then played out the rest of the campaign. Next season Dickie was second top scorer behind the prolific Billy Hick, and until his retirement from league football at the end of the 1934/35 season Dickie was a consistent name on the team sheet. Though his tally of 58 goals is impressive, his scoring rate slowed for us as first he was put on the wing and later converted to the sweeper position. He bagged a hatrick at Dulwich Hamlet in the first round on the 1926/27 FA Cup competition. He scored two more trebles – indeed one was a 'four' in a 6-1 win v Crystal Palace (ah an FA Cup win - 'those were the days my friend' as the song goes).

Dickie became club skipper at the start of the 1926/27 season, and his time as a Shrimper was generally a very successful one as we usually finished in the top-half of the league. In the 1931/32 season we finished third just four points behind champions Fulham. We would not get as close to tier-two football again until Benji stuck one in the Bury net some 60 years later.

Dickie was part of the first SUFC team to play at Wembley. Clapped-out Orient were forced by the Football League to play at a new venue due to a bad injury to a Torquay player in a home match caused by the close proximity of the pitch barrier to the playing surface. So, the O's hired out the Empire Stadium, perhaps thinking that the attraction of the Shrimpers would need a decent capacity. Some 1,916 turned up on 6 December 1930 and the white horse was stood down, but nevertheless, and despite the 3-1 defeat, it must have been some experience.

At the start of Dickie's last season with us we moved into a new ground, the dog-track encircled pitch at the Southend Stadium. Dickie played in the first match there, a 2-1 win v Aldershot, but appearances were restricted during his Shrimper swansong to just seven, the last of which was in a 0-0 home draw v Gillingham on 30 March 1935. His playing days ended in local football with Gaslight of Rayleigh.

Tracey says that her granddad never once got booked and was proud of never retaliating despite the strong physical manner of the game back then. Dickie's mum however wasn't quite so restrained, she once took exception to her son being kicked by an opponent and ran on the pitch to whack the offending player with her handbag. Wonder what the Roots Hall stewards would think of that today.

After finishing playing Dickie worked for the local council and spent the rest of his life living in Southend. Tracey remembers him as being diminutive and surprisingly given his football skills a bit bow-legged, and a chain-smoker as were many from that era, who remained keen on the game and saw his two sons have football trials (Tracey's dad for Southend, his brother for Spurs). Dickie passed away in 1978.

Thank you to both Richard and Tracey, we are thrilled to learn something of a player from our long and varied past. Long of course may it continue yet and hopefully in another 100 years Shrimper fans will be finding out about how the boys of 2023 performed miracles and with the fans brought our club back from the brink to play at Wembley once more v Clapped-out Orient.

NEWS BITS



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SUEPA spoken about in Parliament!

We are quite proud of this one (ok, more than a little proud, we've dined out on it quite a bit since).

Local MP Anna Firth has been instrumental in raising the plight of our club at all levels and she has also been involved in 'football and dementia' debate. Back on 12 September the latter was debated in Parliament, and if you click on the following link it should take you to just the right part in the debate with the Speaker introducing Anna.

<https://parliamentlive.tv/event/index/ac0b2671-370d-4e27-af87-7065cb664076?in=12%3A48%3A50&fbclid=IwAR3xSkPsa7qd3LsYp3Ooah9IRyzVAXGxDvriASUsHrqtDa24T07BdUJMeQk>

Bear with it, the link takes a few seconds to load, and the clip lasts then a few minutes, but we are grateful to Anna for bringing attention to just some of the work that we do.

PFA progress

Anna's speech touches on our previous contact with the Professional Footballers Association, and we have mentioned in past newsletters our efforts to work with the PFA to take forward our idea of establishing a national association of former player groups. Well, it has been a slow burn for a number of reasons, but we are pleased to report (thanks in part to some help from SUEPA member Peter Clarke) that things took a positive step forward last month when we met with the PFA's Chief Operations Officer in Manchester to seek to establish a clear way forward. Nothing concrete yet, but watch this space.

Who's that looking at my stall?

SUEPA friend Dave Shields runs a fantastic 'Stadium Photography' business and showcases his work at a number of trade fairs during the year. Back in August Dave got speaking to someone browsing his pics and discovered that he was none other than our 1981-82 leading scorer Keith Mercer.

Dave first watched Southend in that epic 1979 FA Cup match with Liverpool, so memories of Merce's goals for us might have tested his memory somewhat, but a great and unexpected Shrimpers chat was had.

You can catch Dave at our 'Evening with Peter 'Spud' Taylor on 10 February 2024 where he will have a stall, or see his work online at <https://footballstadiumphotography.co.uk/> Dave is a Shrimper through and through but his work covers all EFL clubs and many more besides.

James Walker update

We've kept in touch with James since our benefit match for him back in May (see our last Newsletter), and indeed had a kickabout with him at his Westcliff care home back in September. We are pleased to say that James continues to show signs of steady progress and has been able to keep up regular therapy sessions which have only been made possible by your donations.

James, who was 36 last month, will be visiting Roots Hall with his family for the Bromley match on 16 December under the Shrimpers Trust's fantastic 'Social Inclusion' scheme. We hope that James will join us on the pitch for what should be an emotional introduction to the crowd shortly before kick-off, and we will report in full on how the day went in our next Newsletter.

Football Content Awards

Well, we learned about these a bit last minute and, never being shy about having a go, decided to put ourselves forward for the 'best in social media' award. Whether that was the right avenue to go down is debateable as there is so much more to what we do, but it seemed the most appropriate of the categories available.

In the end we were not successful in getting a nomination for the awards ceremony at Anfield last month, but we would like to say thank you to everyone that voted for us in the online poll, and also too to offer our huge congratulations to Chris Phillips (Echo Sports Editor) who on the night won a Gold Award – a fantastic achievement and so richly deserved. Other notable mentions also go to Pip (D1versity) for his nomination (Pip has helped SUEPA in the past with his entertaining video blog approach), and to Shrimpers TV for their bronze award.

Next year maybe

Woody is a Claret

There are many former Shrimpers playing the game at all levels in the football pyramid, and it was great back in August to catch up with SUEPA's Woody at Weymouth. The now Chelmsford City man was out injured having come off injured at their last match and then duly forgetting his plight as he sprinted down the touchline to celebrate City's last-minute winner and did his hamstring. Top man! We are pleased to report though that Woody is back now playing regularly again for the Clarets who are going well this season in National League South with a little bit of help from another SUEPA member Mickey Spillane who is their Assistant Manager.

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Fundraiser Lee

Some people are just bonkers, but Lee takes that to another level.

Serial fundraiser Lee Clark, whose Farke Knights Team provided the opposition for our Southend Legends team in our Match for James back in May, has the daunting ambition of raising over £1 million for charity during his lifetime. The 40-year-old recently completed a sponsored walk up Mount Kilimanjaro (a circa 19,000ft hill in Tanzania) and is now over one-third of the way to his lifetime monetary target.

The man is relentless – he has projects galore lined up for 2024 and is currently dressing up as Father Xmas and taking part in various festive fundraising activities – he is perhaps the best Santa look-a-like that we've seen. His work to has recently been recognised in the Pride of Britain awards.

You can check Lee out on his Facebook fundraising page <https://www.facebook.com/lee.n.clark> and we are sure he would welcome any support you can give. A more enthusiastic person you could not wish to meet.

We recently invited Lee's Farke Knights to Roots Hall under the Trust's Social Inclusion scheme in recognition for their efforts, and as a further bonus presented Lee with all the unwashed socks and shorts from the Match for James back in May (which, although fermenting nicely, were received with grateful thanks as the Knights need regular kit supplies to keep their good work going).

Foggy family time

Back in February we caught up with Alan Foggon as he was near 'SUEPA HQ' in Dorset visiting family, with the highlight being a trip to Dean Court to see his beloved Newcastle United take on Bournemouth. Well, Foggy was back again last month as the Premiership fixture (it still seems strange to mention the Cherries in that context when once upon a time they were regularly being beaten by the Shrimpers) came round once more. Alan was there with his two brothers and a couple of old NUFC mates who had made the trip down with him and a good evening was had by all. Sadly this time Alan's match day was spoilt by an uncharacteristic poor Newcastle performance, but there's always next season

Paying Tribute



We sadly have learned of the passing of four Shrimpers since our last Newsletter.

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We were informed back in August that our former defender **Norman Liggitt** had passed away earlier this year. Norman only played once for us in the 1962/63 season (a 0-0 draw at Roots Hall v Barnsley) after joining us from Middlesbrough where he had been an apprentice. Norman married a local lass and then never left the Southend area, although on leaving us he did play for Kings Lynn for a bit and then Canvey Island. After hanging up his boots he worked as a plater in the steel industry. We met Norman late last year and he recalled being in the same team as Frankie Banks who Norman is sitting next to in the front row of the team pic shown here, so we arranged for Frank to pop round and see him too.

We have also learned from **Roy Walsh's** daughter back in August that Roy had sadly passed away. Roy started his playing career at Ipswich Town and the inside forward made eight apps for the first team and had just started to 'settle in' when his dad had a 'disagreement' with one of the Town coaches (who found themselves knocked to the ground) and at the end of the season Roy was handed a free transfer.

So, Roy then came to Roots Hall and made his Shrimper debut in a second round League Cup tie at home to Darlington playing alongside fellow SUEPA members Bentley, Birks, Baber and Beesley, but then that was it for our Dedham lad and Ernie Shepherd transferred him to Chelmsford City for £1,000. Roy then went on to play for Cambridge City and Haverhill before his uncle brought him in to the Dedham Old Boys set up where Roy spent a long and successful time both playing and managing alongside his sales agent job. When we spoke to him back in November 2022 we learned that Roy had sadly been suffering from poor health for a very long time, but we had an enjoyable chat (during the England v Iran World Cup match) and Roy still loved his football, staying in touch with many of his Dedham football mates. Roy's daughter said that he was a wonderful dad and a really kind man (which came across in our chat), and that lots of people paid respects at his funeral.

Back in September our former manager **Colin Murphy** passed away after a long illness during which time we had sought the help of the Lincoln City Former Players Association to try and make contact with Colin but he was sadly too unwell at the time to receive our invite. Forever remembered by Shrimpers as the manager who brought us Stanley Victor Collymore, and also his often long and somewhat bemusing programme notes, Colin principally achieved managerial success in two spells at Sincil Bank. He also managed a variety of other teams including the national team of Vietnam. His autobiography "Murphy's Mission" was published last year and is available from online retailers.

Finally, we recently learned that SUEPA member **Pat Wright** passed away aged 82 back on 16 April this year. Pat only joined us back in December 2022 and we had a great chat with him when he told us he had loved his time at Roots Hall and we talked about his time in football. He was with us on loan from Derby County at the end of the 69/70 season making 11 appearances, playing in a run which did enough to help save us from re-election. After stopping playing he coached all over the world and ran for many years his own coaching school. The following is a link to a 2013 article about Pat which is worth a read: <https://www.expressandstar.com/.../pat-aged-72-still.../>

RIP Norman, Roy, Colin and Pat, forever Shrimpers.

STATTO TIME



We like to play around with a few figures from time to time and the larger we get the more fun there is to be had (well, statistically speaking).

We recently updated a review of our membership coverage based on SUEPA members who have made a first team appearance (we also of course have a number of reserve team player members and coaching/backroom staff members). The graph here looks on a decade by decade basis, at players who made their debut in each ten year period, with the darker blue column showing total players still alive and the lighter blue representing the number of those players who are SUEPA members.

So, from the 1950's there are (as far as we are aware) six players who made their SUFC debut in that decade who are still alive, of which two (Alan Dicks and Bill Punton) are SUEPA members. The four players from this time who are as yet untraced are William Anderson, Jimmy Thomson, Terry Kent and Tony Forrester – despite

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extensive attempts we have yet to have any success in tracing these four gentlemen or indeed verifying whether they are still alive (William Anderson would now be the oldest at age 97).

The SUEPA membership coverage rate overall for first team players is an impressive 61%. Were we to be successful in getting to our next target of 500 members with all 24 further additions being first teamers, that coverage would increase to almost 65%. A 100% coverage is impossible (two former players we traced declined to join for a start) but over time maybe a target of 70% is achievable.

Thanks to the heroic efforts of SUFC fans/historians Peter Miles and Dave Goody, we now have a record of when every player made their club debut since 1906. That throws up some interesting opportunities regarding allocating each player their unique 'legacy number', and we are currently in the process of discussing an exciting project along these lines with the club.

What is also striking from the graph is the increase in the number of players used as we move in to the 1990's and beyond. In the club's post WWII history from 1950 up to the end of the 1980's the number of players making their debut each decade varied little (between 66 and 77) but the advent of greater freedom of contract, increased monies in the game (the Sky effect etc) and perhaps more frequent managerial changes has led to an explosion in player turnover. Dave Smith in his 1980/81 record-breaking promotion campaign used just 17 players throughout that season. Under a transfer embargo this season King Kev has already used 21. Maybe not a totally fair comparison, but the trend is obviously upwards, and it will be interesting to see where the current decade takes us.

FOLLOWING AND CONTACTING SUEPA

This is our 20th Newsletter over a five-year period, so we've kept up with our promise to issue them quarterly (knew that Essex Comprehensive School Maths O-Level would come in handy one day), and the next one will be due out around Easter time. Surely by that time the club will know its fate?

As we hope you all know by now, we are active on social media. We still can't stop calling it Twitter, but 'X' as it's now known leads the way with 2,688 followers, up a steady 7% since August. Catch us at: [@SUEPAssoc](https://twitter.com/SUEPAssoc)

Our **Facebook** page – where we can waffle on without text restriction – has 1,728 readers (up 8%). Catch us at: www.facebook.com/SUEPAssoc

We are also now paying **Instagram** a bit more attention, with followers now up by a significant 66% to 386. Catch us at: www.instagram.com/suepassoc

And, last but not least, **LinkedIn**, which is proving to be extremely useful in not only contacting former Shrimpers but also allowing us to see some of the great work being done within the football community as a whole as well as sharing our own efforts. Our 'connections' here are up since our last Newsletter by a very respectable 25% to 718, a free one-month trial of the LinkedIn Premium service having been put to good use. Catch us at: www.linkedin.com/in/southend-united-ex-players-association-14a823183

You can then use any of these social media outlets to send us a private message, or you can contact us via **email** at: suepassoc@gmail.com

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 many former Shrimpers already.

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THE FULL SUEPA SQUAD TO-DATE

GOALKEEPERS

Terry Alderton, Steve Arnold, 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, Patrik Gunnarsson, Tony Hafford, Tony Henriksen, Kelvin Jack, Glen Johnson, Ian Joyce, John Keeley, Brian Lloyd, Don McKay, Alan Meyer, Steve Mildenhall, James Montgomery, Glenn Morris, Paul Newell, Jon O'Brien, Andy Petterson, Gerry Peyton, Sean Rafter, John Roberts, Ryan Robinson, Simon Royce, Paul Sansome, Harry Seadon, Paul Smith, Neville Southall, Jim Stannard, David Stockdale, Callum Taylor, Martin Thomas, Malcolm Webster, Ray White and Andy Woodman.

DEFENDERS

Ryan Auger, Dean Austin, Gavin Axcell, Pat Baldwin, Gary Banks, Frankie Banks, Dave Barnett, Adam Barrett, Mark Beard, Tony Bentley, Graham Birks, Andre Blackman, Darren Blewitt, Mick Bodley, Martyn Booty, Steve Broad, Kenny Brown, Paul Brush, Adrian Burrows, Guy Butters, Peter Cawley, Peter Clarke, Tom Clifford, Sean Clohessy, Ben Coker, Steve Collins, Simon Coleman, Mark Cooper, Leon Cort, Graham Coughlan, Ryan Creswell, Jaden Crowhurst, Garry Cross, Dave Cusack, Leon Davies, Timothee Dieng, Andy Dixon, Dorian Dervite, Phil Dudley, Bob Duncan, Steve Dyer, Andy Edwards, Derek Ewing, Kevin Fallon, Anton Ferdinand, Ricky Footman, Andy Ford, Peter Gilbert, Jamie Gray, Tony Hadley, Greg Halford, Steven Hammell, Mick Harmston, Andy Harris, Mike Harrison, Sam Hart, Steve Hatter, Frank Haydock, Johnny Herd, Shaun Hobson, Mark Hone, David Howell, Lewis Hunt, Barry Hunter, Chris Hutchings, Christian Hyslop, Mads Ibenfeldt, Richard Jobson, Duncan Jupp, Jean-Paul Kalala, Bobby King, Harry Kyprianou, Kacper Lapota, Mike Lapper, Harry Lennon, Danny Lunan, Scott Malone, Daniel Matsuzaka, Warren May, John McMahon, David McSweeney, Robert Milsom, Tamika Mkandawire, Alan Moody, Taylor Moore, Luke Morrish, David Morley, Bilal Moshni, Brian Myton, Teddy Nesbitt, Rob Newman, Terry O'Donnell, Danny O'Shea, Gary Parkinson, George Parris, 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, Jakub Sokolik, Michael Spillane, Micky Stead, Kevin Steggles, Mark Stimson, Ray Ternent, Derek Tharme, Adam Thompson, Neil Townsend, Michael Turner, John Walker, Shane Wardley, Mark Warren, Martin Warwick, Shane Westley, John White, Charlie Williamson, Che Wilson, Bob Worthington, Dave Worthington, Mark Wright, Steve Yates and Dave Young.

MIDFIELDERS

Marlon Agyakwa, Andy Ansah, Scott Ashenden, Barry Ashworth, Will Atkinson, John Baber, Nicky Bailey, Chris Barnard, Sam Barratt, Tony Beanland, Mark Bentley, Jon Benton, Kevin Betsy, Dennis Booth, Gary Borthwick, Terry Bradbury, Graham Bressington, Zak Brunt, Harry Bunn, Peter Butler, Paul Byrne, Francis Cagigao, Jamal Campbell-Ryce, David Chambers, Jean Francois Christophe, Paul Clark, Steve Clark, Adrian Clarke, Eddie Clayton, Conor Clifford, Jason Cook, Nico Cotton, Jimmy Corbett, Regis Coulbault, Willie Coulson, Dave Cunningham, Tony Currie, Peter Daley, Gary Deegan, Lyle Della Verde, Miguel DeSouza, Alan Dicks, Scott Donnelly, James Dunne, Mark Dziadulewicz, Craig Easton, Terrell Egbri, Dave Elliott, Nathan Ferguson, Gerry Fell, Kane Ferdinand, Brian Ferguson, Ken Foggo, Scott Forbes, Lil Fuccillo, Lewis Gard, Antonio German, Anthony Grant, Phil Gridelet, Mick Gooding, 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, Rob Howard, Jeff Hull, Peter Hunt, Kevan Hurst, Michael Husbands, Carl Hutchings, Isaac Hutchinson, Neil Jenkins, Kevin Johnson, Leon Johnson, Terry Johnson, Matt Jones, David Keefe, Billy Kellock, 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, Jae Martin, Danny Maye, Stephen McLaughlin, Alan McCormack, Jacob Mellis, Jermaine McGlashan, Colin Morris, Franck Moussa, Harrison Neal, Garry Nelson, Terry Nicholl, John Nielsen, Kevin O'Callaghan, Iain O'Connell, Stuart O'Keefe, Ricky Otto, Anton Outulakowski, Adrian Owers, Jack Paxman, Derek Payne, Carl Pettefer, Glenn Pennyfather, Declan Perkins, Adem Poric, Ron Pountney, Bill Punton, Ken Reynolds, Gareth Risbridger, Martin Robinson, Alan Rogers, Andy Rogers, Lee Sawyer, Damien Scannell, Tony Scully, Barry Silkman, Josh Simpson, Nicky Smith, Paul Smith, Jamie Southon, Gavin Strachan, Anthony Straker, Andy Sussex, Peter Taylor, Stuart Thurgood, Steve Tilson, Michael Timlin, Mark Tinkler, Andy Turner, Lars Unger, Paul Vickery, Sanchez Watt, Myles Weston, Harry Willis, Peter Woods, Alex Woodyard, Anthony Wordsworth, David Worrall and Josh Wright.

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STRIKERS

Ben Abbey, Peter Abbott, Charles Ademeno, Simeon Akinola, Brett Angell, David Allaway, Lee Barnard, Tyrone Barnett, Peter Beadle, Mike Beesley, Ian Benjamin, Bobby Bennett, Gary Bennett, Billy Best, Norman Bleanch, Stuart Brace, Lee Bradbury, Tes Bramble, Drewe Broughton, Steve Brown, Richard Cadette, Ken Charlery, Leon Clark, Kenny Cocker, Stan Collymore, Leon Constantine, Jim Conway, Barry Corr, Aaron Cosgrave, Simon Cox, Harry Crawford, David Crown, Martin Curruthers, Marcus Dackers, Liam Dickinson, George Duck, Lawrie Dudfield, Freddie Eastwood, Mickey Engwell, Jackie Ferguson, Eddie Firmani, 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, David Heaver, Tom Hopper, Noel Hunt, Jake Hyde, Nathaniel Jarvis, Graeme Jones, Gary Jones, Ken Jones, Steve Jones, Charlie Kelman, Francis Laurent, James Lawson, Jason Lee, Stuart Leslie, John Linford, Matt Lund, Charlie MacDonald, Roy McDonough, Sammy McMillan, Keith Mercer, Jack Midson, David Mooney, Tommy Mooney, Paul Moran, Dean Morgan, Shamir Mullins, Rhys Murphy, Lee Nogan, Frank Nouble, Derrick Parker, Stuart Parker, Matt Paterson, Jack Payne, Billy Paynter, Steve Phillips, Joe Piggot, Andy Polycarpou, Ken Price, Andy Rammell, Mark Rawle, Ben Reeves, Dave Regis, Alex Revell, Neville Roach, Theo Robinson, Matt Rush, John Russell, Jack Sampson, Henry Sandat, Morriss Scott, Ian Selley, Peter Silvester, Derek Spence, Scott Spencer, Blair Sturrock, Andy Thomson, Neil Tolson, Micky Tuohy, James Walker, Mario Walsh, Danny Webb, Jason Williams, Chris Wreh and Micky Wright.

COACHING / BACKROOM

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



‘Creating New Memories’