



NEWSLETTER – Issue 0016 – July 2025

INTRODUCTION

Hi everyone, hope everyone is doing ok and looking forwards to the summer holidays coming up VERY soon. With the summer holidays just round the corner, it also means that the new season is also not very far away.

All the drama of last season, and that heart breaking Wembley Play Off Final seem a dim memory now, but what an incredible few weeks that was – squeezing into the Play Offs at the last ditch with a point away at Gateshead, and then, beating Rochdale and Forest Green Rovers to secure that unforgettable day out at Wembley.

WHAT. A. DAY!!! Sadly, it wasn't to be though, and we find ourselves staying in the National League again for the coming season.

Unfortunately, the end of any season means we inevitably say goodbye to some of our players, and this year, we bid **Jack Wood** and **Danny Waldron** farewell. Jack has always been a big favourite with us all at the Junior Blues, with a huge smile always on show, and we wish him well in his new club – Walton & Hersham FC. Danny joins Brackley Town, and we also wish him well. **James Golding** and **Ben Goodliffe** both returned to their parent clubs, Oxford United and Colchester United, respectively. The only other one we have yet to find out about is **Macauley Bonne**, and we understand that discussions are ongoing as to whether he is going to accept a new contract with us.

We've welcomed some new signings in, and there is some information about them in this newsletter for you, so you can get to know them too.

Have a great summer, and hopefully I'll get to see some of you soon – maybe at one of the pre-season games, or perhaps at Meet the Blues Day this year.



Big love
Sammy



Junior Blues
c/o The Shrimpers Trust
PO Box 5830, Southend on Sea
SS1 9FD
Email: juniors@shrimperstrust.co.uk
Website: www.southendunited.co.uk/juniorblues



NEW SIGNINGS

Four new signings have made their way into the Club so far, during the close season.

First off, it's a very warm welcome back to **Ben Goodliffe**, who has now signed on a two year deal from Colchester United. Ben, who is 26, started his career as a youth team player at Spurs, before moving on a youth contract to Boreham Wood, then on to Wolverhampton Wanderers in the Championship, on a 2 year deal, where he made 12 appearances, before being loaned out to Dagenham & Redbridge. After being released by Wolves, Ben joined Sutton United, where he made 155 appearances and scored 8 goals. After Sutton, Ben joined Colchester, before being loaned to us, and playing such a memorable part in our end of season excitement. He loved his time here and we're delighted he's now signed up on a permanent contract!



Our first signing during the close season though, was one few of us expected – other than, perhaps, **Leon Chambers-Parillon**, who used to be a teammate of his at Slough Town! Step forward 23-year-old striker, **Slavi Spasov**. Slavi is a Bulgarian national, who began his career at Oxford United, having been there for 5 years. During that time, he was loaned out to various clubs, including Woking FC and Banbury United. In 2023, he signed for Hungerford Town before moving on to Slough Town in December 2023, where he made 62 appearances and scored 21 goals. Welcome to the Shrimpers, Slavi!

NEWSLETTER – Issue 0016 – July 2025



A few days later, and we were welcoming in **Sam Austin**, 28, a versatile, attacking midfielder, from EFL League Two side, Notts County. Beginning his career at Burton Albion, he joined Kidderminster Harriers in 2016, where he stayed for six seasons, making 186 appearances and scoring 18 goals. He joined Notts County in 2022, playing in an extraordinarily successful promotion winning side in his first season there, and making a total of 104 appearances, and 10 goals. His experience at this level and in chasing promotion will, hopefully, pay dividends for us this season. We welcome a player of his experience!

Our final signing, at the time of writing, is 23 year old left wing back, **Harry Boyes**, who began his career originally at Manchester City, before joining Sheffield United's youth academy. From there, Harry became a first team player at Sheffield United, spending 5 years on their books, but never making his debut. Instead, he has spent his career on loan at various clubs, including Solihull Moors, Forest Green Rovers, Lincoln City, Wycombe Wanderers and Fleetwood Town. Having played at National League and EFL League One level, Harry brings a lot of experience to the side, and will provide welcome back up for Nathan Ralph and Jack Bridge. Again, we think he'll be a huge asset and we are thrilled to welcome him to the Club!



PLAYER OF THE MONTH



The March **Player of the Month** award was won by our pocket rocket midfielder, **Keenan Appiah-Forson**, who received his award from **Junior Blues** members – **Teddy** and **Barnaby Baker**.

And the winner of our **Player of the Month** award, for April, was our defensive rock – **Harry Taylor**! **Junior Blues** member **Lucas Monk** presented him with his award at the Shrimpers Trust End of Season Awards Night.



EASTER FUN!

It seems ages ago now, but we had a great afternoon playing Adventure Golf alongside a bunch of Southend United players back in April. The afternoon was a big success, and the players all really enjoyed themselves.



Thank you to Caddies for looking after us so well – we WILL be back – and also, a huge than you to those players who gave up their afternoon to spend it with our **Junior Blues** – our two **Junior Blues** Ambassadors, of course, **Jack Bridge** and **Oli Coker**, plus **Gus Scott-Morriss**, **Harry Taylor**, **Nick Hayes**, **Tom Hopper**, **Keenan Appiah-Forson**, **James Morton**, **Leon Chambers-Parillon**, **Charley Kendall** and **Macauley Bonne**.



NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAY OFF FINAL – WEMBLEY, 1st June 2025

Wembley is a memory for us all now, an incredible day, one to be so proud of our players and management, but one in which we just, sadly, fell short at the very end. Playing two matches which went to extra time, and then having to go to extra time again in the Final, inevitably had an effect on legs which had given their all, and two sucker punch goals from Oldham in such a short space of time so close to the end, meant our boys just had nothing left to give.

One lucky **Junior Blues** member who had a dream come true that day though, was **Oliver Colquhoun**, who was the lucky winner of the mascot package competition, a competition which had to be put together by the Club, in such a short space of time.

Our **Junior Blues** were invited to send in video messages to wish the players good luck in their Wembley Final, and Oliver was selected from amongst the many wonderful entries received, to walk out as a mascot at Wembley alongside **Ben Goodliffe**.

Oliver himself says: “Oh my goodness, I wasn’t even sure if we were going to make it to the playoffs but watching them at Roots Hall and knowing we were going to Wembley was the BEST feeling. Then finding out that I get to walk with them onto the pitch was a moment I would NEVER forget. We didn’t get to pick who we walked out with, but I didn’t care as they are all amazing. I got to walk out with Ben **Goodliffe**, and he was great. He was talking to me and made me feel calm. At the end of the match I saw you were all on the floor feeling down but we’re all so proud of you that day and I’m looking forward to cheering you on next season.’

Well said Oliver, congratulations on winning, and thank you to everyone who took part.



JUNIOR BLUES PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Our **Junior Blues Player of the Year**, as voted by you, our members, was won by **Gus Scott-Morriss**. Gus was presented with his award by **Junior Blues** member, **Harry Blenes**, at the Shrimpers Trust End of Season Awards Night, and was randomly selected from among all those members who voted, to present the award.

Well done, Gus, and well done to Harry, as well.

TOP TRAVELLER

A huge well done to all the **Junior Blues** who took part in our Top Traveller competition last season, there were more of you taking part than there has been for many seasons!

We don't think it will come as a surprise to anyone that the competition was won by **LUCAS MONK**, who travelled a total of 7,868 miles!

As Lucas's prize wasn't ready to present him with at the Trust End of Season Awards, he was invited to present our final Player of the Month award to **Harry Taylor**, and he'll be getting his actual award presented pitchside, very soon!

Final places as follows:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 2 nd | Lewis Philpott | 4,510 miles |
| 3 rd | Gio Dos Santos | 3,830 miles |
| 4 th | Danny Axcell | 3,466 miles |

And, in joint 5th place, all on 2,142 miles we have **Toby Joscelyn**, **Lily Neil** and **Toby Neil**!

NEWSLETTER – Issue 0016 – July 2025

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

We have had a lot of new members sign up recently, and have been waiting for delivery of the new sign up gift – these are now due very shortly and we hope to have everyone's sign up gift with them by the end of the month. We're really excited about the gift this time! 😊

We'd like to point out that your **Junior Blues** membership does not run by season. If you would like us to check when your membership runs out, then please drop us a quick email to juniors@shrimperstrust.co.uk and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

Membership can be renewed at any time during the season, so, if you want to take advantage of the free sign up gift and the free coach travel to any one away game on a Shrimpers Trust coach as early as possible, then you can renew by doing so on the Shrimpers Trust website by following the link below:

<https://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk/junior-blues/junior-blues-join-here/>

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>

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

NEWSLETTER – Issue 0016 – July 2025



SENDING BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR **JUNIOR BLUES** WHO HAVE HAD BIRTHDAYS IN MAY AND JUNE AND HAVE THEM IN JULY:

16 – Lewis Buffin; Nathaniel Copping; Declan Dear; Thomas Duffy; Zach Graham; Oliver Jeeves; Jordan McMahon; Bailey Search; George Smith & Benjamin Trott

15 – Matilda Davis; Lucie Fossett; Thomas Hamilton; Harry Hruska; Aaliyah-Mae Lovell; Harvey Moss-Bowler; Fynn Parks & Stanley Stubbs

14 – Teddy Kent; Arthur Higgins; Lilly Neil & Oliver Wilson

13 – Freddie Bishop; Jack Corkett-Hurley; Archie Crickson; Noah Hanshaw; Oliver Matthews; Cayenn Saricicek & Harry Wing

12 – Tommy Neil & Laura Walton

11 – May Bacon; Charlie Budden; Finley Geroage; Ed Gray; Amelie Mara; Ed Potts; Thomas Richards; Kai Sebis; Jensen Stoffell; Finn Tremain & Darcie Vine

10 – Alife Bearcroft; Rufus Chapman; Milo Clark; Albie Clarke; Oliver Colquhoun; Nathan Cox; Ellis Hall; Oliver Ibbotson; Phoebe Lowry; Isla Meredith; Cesar Neagoe; Thomas Palmer; Harvey-Thomas Perry; Thomas Prieststaff; Oliver Rix; Tom Shrobbree; Zayn Siddiq; Dulcie Summers; Carter Turner & Jack Yeo

9 – Aslan Ercan; Harley Hill; Freddie Jerman; Lucy Maslen; Lucas Monk; Harry Pedder; Molly Pummery; Penny Stoffell & Elliott Williams

8 – Jacob Benge; Buddy Champion; William Garland; Alex Jackson; Alexander Kingston; George Moore; Jaxon Parkin; Max Power; Katy Rickard; Amani Siddiq; Olly Smith; Dylan Spencer; Toby Spencer; Teddy Tremain; Henry Ward & Hayden Watson

7 – Harry Blenes; Christopher Dearie; Ralph Mayhew-Burton; Tate Morley & Ezra Wilson

6 – Henry Galbraith; Eliza Steward & Nancy Stoffell

5 – Jesse Crickson; Isla-Rose FitzGerald & Jacob Hardie

4 – Arthur Moore; Obanioluwa Iwalehin-Ikuesan & Freddie Wood

3 – Jacob Doe & Nova Hollington

2 – Jude Steward & Ace Turner-Pankhurst

1 – Hallie Johnson.....and welcome to the world, Tobias Gallagher!

