



Fever *Pitch*

SAFC NASA

Fanzine

Vol 1 Issue 2
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Welcome to Issue 2 of **'Fever Pitch'** - the *Sunderland AFC North America Supporters' Association Fanzine*. This, holiday edition, we're all about 'Special Features'. Ritchie Pitt's Road to Wembley, A moment with ... Stephanie Bannon, and SAFC NASA Region 4C's partnership with PDL's Reading United AC. Enjoy!



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Pitt's Bit

[SPECIAL]



SAFC



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Ritchie Pitt – Sunderland's No.6

On the night of the Reading replay, Stokoe had agreed that Keith Coleman and I would go out on loan to Arsenal for a month, so, we travelled with the team to Reading and Dave Smith (Bertie Mee's assistant) was going to collect us after the match.

The short version of what happened next was Stokoe told me I was to play against Reading [less than an hour before kick-off] so I would be cup-tied for the duration of that season.

Having won the replay 3-1, Keith and I went off to Arsenal. This was a great experience, training and playing with that great Arsenal team (who we were later to meet in the Semi Final).

My loan spell was cancelled after one game at Arsenal as David Young had twisted his ankle against Sheffield Wednesday, so I was brought back and put straight into the squad against that would face Middlesbrough at Roker Park the following week. We won 4-1.

Next up, the [5th Round FA Cup tie at Maine Road](#) against Manchester City in which I played! We drew 2-2 which was enough to bring them back to Roker Park for a replay.

Afterwards, in the dressing room, I sat and couldn't stop crying...because I was so happy and relieved that I had proved to myself and Stokoe that I could play well against one of the top teams in the country...Franny Lee and I had a physical battle in which I more than held my own.

In the [replay at Roker Park](#) there was over 56,000 supporters in the ground. A match we went on to win 3-1, and a one which was voted "Game of the Century" by supporters.

It was a fantastic night and featured some of the best goals scored at Roker Park by Billy Hughes and Vic Halom.

The Quarter Final tie against Luton Town was another full house [at Roker Park] and resulted in a solid 2-0 win...the highlight for me was when [Billy Hughes took a corner on the left and I headed it down for Ron Guthrie to score our second.](#)

It was unusual for me to go up for corners as Dave Watson was much better in the air and Arthur Cox told him to go up for set pieces and me to stay back and organize our defense so we didn't get caught on the break. In this instance Dave had been up for 2 or 3 free kicks and corners and told me to go up as he was shattered so I was pleased to get the chance.

The [Semi Final against Arsenal at Hillsborough](#) was very special for me. I was playing against the players I had met a couple of months earlier and if things had turned out differently I could have been playing AGAINST Sunderland instead of for them.



It's been a 'fair few year' since Sunderland last won anything of note. Sure, we've been crowned Champions of England's second tier on several occasions, but nothing compares the that glorious day in May, 1973.

Read on as we relive the journey to the FA Cup Final through the eyes of our Honorary Life President, Ritchie Pitt.

"Bob Stokoe and I had a love/hate relationship. I loved the club and he hated me as soon as he arrived.

Within the first few weeks of his appointment, he told me that I did not feature in his plans and wanted me out of the club as soon as possible. He then tried to sell me to [Lincoln City](#) for 15,000 pounds (I would have been Graham Taylor's first signing as a manager).

As a consequence, I was not selected for the 3rd Round FA Cup match against Notts County nor the 4th Round FA Cup match against Reading.



Pitt's Bit

[SPECIAL]



SA70

Arsenal had a team full of talented players and we thoroughly deserved to beat them 2-1 on the day [with goals from Billy Hughes and Vic Halom]. Arsenal had signed Jeff Blockley when my loan spell was cancelled and Vic gave him a hard time throughout the match.

For me this was the match I enjoyed the most...more than the final itself...as winning meant that we knew we were going to have a fantastic experience of playing at Wembley in an FA Cup Final regardless of the result.

The week of the Cup Final was a truly memorable experience. We travelled down to London the previous Sunday and stayed in the Selsdon Park Hotel in Croydon as we had a match against Leyton Orient on the Monday night.

It was an uneventful 1-1 draw but I somehow managed to get booked which meant I would be suspended and miss the first 2 games of the following season.

We were also the first Cup Final team to attend the Football Writers Dinner on the Thursday night.

The TV interviews on the Saturday morning were hilarious as my pal Steve Smith had given Vic Halom a "laughing policeman" toy. He in turn had given it to Billy Hughes and every time David Coleman (British sports commentator and TV presenter) asked one of us a question Billy would set off the laughing policeman which had us all in fits of laughter.

In contrast when the [Leeds United](#) team were being interviewed they were standing in suits and very regimented and serious.

The journey by bus to the stadium was awesome. I couldn't believe how many supporters we saw and I swear the whole of Sunderland was in London that day wearing red and white.

Leeds United were a team full of International players and (as it turned out) we were the only 20th Century winners of the [FA Cup](#) without an international player in the team, although some of our players became internationals later.

I was the only member of our team to have even played at Wembley as I had played against Scotland for the England Under 15's.

One of my vivid memories will always be walking out of the tunnel. The Leeds supporters were behind us and all we could see was red and white everywhere. It made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up and brought tears to my eyes.

I can still picture just about every aspect of the game...even now over 40 years later. My tackle on Allan Clarke in the opening minutes set the tone for the game and showed Leeds that we were not going to be a pushover.

The goal after 30 minutes by [Ian Porterfield](#) with his right foot (which was usually just for standing on) and the [Jimmy Montgomery](#)'s magnificent double save in the second half. We were put under a lot of pressure by Leeds in the second half but we defended really well and deserved to lift the trophy.

When we went up to collect the trophy we went up in the order we always came out onto the pitch...Bobby Kerr first as captain, then Monty, then me.

When Bobby collected the cup he turned and lifted it up in the air and I have never heard so much noise...the roar from our fans was deafening.

Bobby had given me the base of the cup to carry (not to Monty as he might have dropped it!!!!) and forgot to collect his medal. As we were leaving he suddenly realized he hadn't got a medal so turned round and shouted for me to get it for him...so I carried 2 medals down the steps.

The lap of honor was an [amazing experience](#) and by the time we got back to the dressing rooms it was over an hour after the final whistle.

One of the reporters who had travelled with us, Bob Cass, came in the dressing room to congratulate us and we threw him in the bath with all his clothes on...he had to travel home in Vic Halom's tracksuit!!!

I sometimes look at my medal and wonder how in the space of 3 short months I went from nearly signing for Lincoln City to being an FA Cup winner for the team that I had loved and supported since my 2 uncles took me to Roker Park at 6 years old.

As it turned out I only played a few more games for Sunderland before I injured my knee and had to retire at the age of 22, but I would not have exchanged my fantastic experience of 1973 for anything."

Many thanks to Ritchie for a wonderful look back at the '73 FA Cup final.

Tyne Tees Television (UK) produced the following documentary made before, during and after the Cup Final - [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#), [Part 4](#)



Pitt's Bit **EXTRA TIME**



SATC

Hi to all you Sunderland fans.....in my previous notes I said that we needed to start the season well by gaining points in the first 10 games. Unfortunately we have made a disastrous start to the season and find ourselves rooted to the bottom of the table. As I write this I am about to leave the house and go to the [home game against Arsenal](#) and it is difficult to see how we can improve our points total in the lunchtime match.

I have some sympathy for David Moyes as he had limited time to prepare his team for the season and although he made 10 signings I don't think they have improved the team. The injuries to senior players have also contributed to the poor start and we can only hope that when we have a fully fit squad that the performances will improve.

Mannone, Denayer, Cattermole and Borini have all missed a good pre season and it is going to take time for them to reach match fitness. We all hope that results pick up quickly otherwise we might be too far behind by the time the January window arrives.

The past few years have seen consecutive relegation fights and we seem to be a club that has an annual struggle to survive. We should be better than that with the stadium, the fantastic support from the fans and the backing the club has had from Ellis Short. We have spent enough money on players to be comfortably out of the bottom part of the league, but apart from Defoe and the 3 players that Sam brought in last January I don't think we have signed players that have actually improved the team. Consequently we continue to struggle while other teams improve. We need stability in the managers chair and I think Moyes will get it right if he is given the time.

There have been some bright spots in the opening games, the brightest being the performances of our young goalkeeper [Jordan Pickford](#). He has produced some very good saves and is going to be an excellent Premiership player, hopefully with Sunderland. Kone had a poor start, possibly due to having his head turned by a move to Everton, but his performances have improved and his partnership with O'Shea is a solid one.



“Jordan Pickford has produced some very good saves and is going to be an excellent Premiership player”

Our problem is that if Defoe doesn't score who else will? Our lack of goals is a major worry and is one that we have to solve if we are to escape again this season.

We have to approach the rest of the season with a positive attitude to every game. Draws are not going to get us out of trouble so we have to pick attacking players and encourage them to get forward as often as possible to create chances both for themselves and Defoe. We have to keep in touch with the rest of the league and hope that we can make some signings in January that will improve the confidence of the players and improve results.

Fingers crossed for a good result today and in the coming fixtures.

Ritchie



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Join Sunderland AFC contributor Cory Martin (Region 1 Representative) as he previews/reviews matches and club happenings each week.

Click the **Premier League Punditry** logo (above) to be taken to their site.

A LOVE SUPREME



THE INDEPENDENT SUNDERLAND SUPPORTERS' MAGAZINE & WEBSITE

247 NEWS & BLOGS · MATCH REPORTS · AWAY GAME TRAVEL & FAN MERCHANDISE · ALL FROM OUR HQ NEXT TO THE SOL



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Blue House Field, Raich Carter, FA Cup Finals, Peter Reid, Ha'waaaaaaaaaaaaay!



What is it with seasons that end in *6/*7???

2016/17 is proving less than successful for the Black Cats (thus far), so we're going to look back through the archives to see if there's any truth in the rumors that seasons ending in the years *6/*7 are indeed unlucky ones and whether history can predict how we'll fair this campaign.

Heading back to

[The] 1976/77 season saw the signing of Barry Siddall from Bolton Wanderers, the introduction of Gary Rowell, a team haul of 16 goals scored in three games, the resignation of Bob Stokoe, the Coventry City scandal, and the inevitable relegation from the top flight.

Thirty years ago, yes, the dreaded 1986/87 season. The demise of Lawrie MackemEnemy, the return of Bob Stokoe, the introduction of Bob Murray, a [play-off loss](#) and relegation to the third tier of English football. . The worst ever season in Sunderland's history? Arguably, yes.

Alright, twenty years then 1996/97 season. First year back in the Premier League under the guidance of Peter Reid. We beat [Chelsea](#), Arsenal and Manchester United. Welcomed Sir Niall Quinn, Allan Johnston, Alex Rae and Chris Waddle into the team (who scored in the last ever league game at Roker Park). Top goal scorers (Craig Russell and Paul Stewart) only managed four that year. Joining us in relegation were Middlesbrough and Nottingham Forest. Down to the then Football League First Division we went.

So, I go back ten years, yes, the 2006/07 season.

CHAMPIONS of Football League Division One!

Wait, what now? A season ending in *6/*7 and we weren't relegated.....

2006/07 - KEANO! ([Season Review](#))

The introduction of Roy Keane to the club had a very dramatic effect, bringing masses of change on and off the field.

Having started the season in true Sunderland form (0-4), the announcement of Keane's acquisition resulted in our first victory of the season as we beat the Baggies (West Brom) at the Stadium of Light with goals from Whitehead and Collins.

Keane brought a different style of management and very clear expectations. His recruitment proved the difference and saw Stan Varga, Ross Wallace, Graham Kavanagh and David Connolly (right - who went on to score 13 goals in his first season) join the club.

Hitting form in November of that season, Sunderland went to win 21 (and draw 6) of remaining 31 league games. This included a 17 game unbeaten streak!

January loans of Jonny Evans (Man. Utd.) and Márton Fülöp (Spurs), further strengthened the squad.

Sunderland fielded no fewer than 28 different players that season, including the Trinidadian trio, Dwight Yorke, [Carlos Edwards](#) and Stern John.

Promotion was confirmed in the final away game of the season where Sunderland ran out [5 - 0](#) victors over lowly Luton Town.

The lads would be joined in the top flight by



Sunderland's David Connolly, top goal scorer of the 2016/17 Season

Birmingham City and Derby County. Dirty Leeds were relegated to League One.

So, what is it with seasons that each in *6/*7???

- 1896/97 15th Top Flight (Relegated)
- 1906/07 10th Top Flight
- 1926/27 3rd Top Flight
- 1936/37 8th Top Flight (won the FA Cup)
- 1946/47 9th Top Flight
- 1956/57 20th Top Flight (avoided relegation by 3 points)
- 1966/67 17th Top Flight (avoided relegation by 7 points)
- 1976/77 20th Top Flight (Relegated)
- 1986/87 20th Second Tier (Relegated)
- 1996/97 18th Top Flight (Relegated)
- 2006/07 1st Place Second Tier (Champions)
- 2016/07 TBC - Was 2006/07 the tide of change or a blip in a fifty year 'tradition'?



Who Are Ya?

Highlighting SAFC NASA Regions & Supporters

Allan Dodds - Region 9

Name?

Allan Dodds

Age (Mental/Physical)?

69, nudge nudge, say no more.

Where do you currently live?

[Encinitas](#), in coastal San Diego County, four blocks from the Pacific. Don't like to be far from the sea. In the blood.

Where were you born?

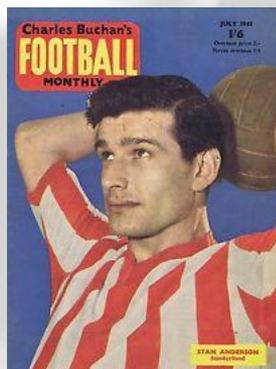
[Roker](#), Sunderland, two blocks from the North Sea. The floodlights of Roker Park illuminated my boyhood bedroom. SR6 was my 'Hood. I now own a flat on the sea front and visit for 6 weeks every year. Blue Bell on Friday night.

When were you committed (and to which asylum)?

Very early, before 10, reserve games at Roker Park in the main stand with my Dad and two Uncles, one of whom always had sucky bullets (candy) in his pockets. Fulwell end on the fence once going by myself with mates.

Favorite current player?

[Defoe](#), I guess, out of respect for him being a proper professional with a good career behind him yet willing to put in a proper shift for us. I had low expectations when he first agreed to come. So good for him. Contrast that with the likes of Fletcher.



All-time favorite player?

[Stan Anderson](#). A captain as well as a good player. They don't exist any more.

Earliest/most significant memory of SAFC?

Relatively close and uninterrupted view of Cloughy when he crumpled. Others have said you could

hear the pop and I maintain I did.

First game watched/attended?

Cannot really remember, but pretty sure [Don Kitchenbrand](#) was playing up front so was probably a reserve game. First time I heard my Dad swear.

Name one player, from any era, that you would like to see wearing a Sunderland shirt today, and why?

Either [Raich Carter](#) or my Dad. My Dad Henry played on the flanks in the same apprentice team, and Carter gave him his nickname which was Ches, apparently the name of an English winger at that time. "Here Ches, have the ball". It stuck and in the shipyard that was my Dad's name.

Do you watch the matches regularly, if so, where do you like to watch?

The imaginatively named [Shakespeare Pub, San Diego](#). Every week. The west coast mackems usually get in for at least one game a year, but than

that I am the only regular in red and white in a right mix of others. Drop in at 7 am on Saturdays.

Expectations for the season? I always wish for a positive goal difference at the end of the season.



Allan (Right) with fellow NASA member Butch Kamena (Left) at the Sunderland vs. Sacramento Republic pre-season match 2015

Thanks to Allan for providing this information. From what I understand, he is more than willing to buy any Sunderland supporter a beer if you show up at the Shakespeare to watch the game. He is indeed a great man!

SAFC NASA salutes you! Ha'waaaaaaaay!



Where Are Ya?

Featuring Sunderland AFC Supporters Groups from across the globe.....

Bulgaria Sunderland Supporters Branch (BSSB)

Danny Dimitrov, Chairman of the Bulgarian Sunderland Supporters Branch, talks about the group's history and provides other interesting information....

Where are you based?

Most of us live in [Sofia](#), the capital of Bulgaria. But we have members in all parts of the country. We also have Bulgarian supporters who are living in England.

Story behind how you formed?

In the past it was quite difficult to find fellow Sunderland fans in Bulgaria but with the development of social medias we discovered that there are many of us who madly support Sunderland AFC.

The first ever meeting was between myself [Danail Dimitrov] and Radoslav Karaasenov back in 2005. By chance, we found each other's comments below a Sunderland related article, exchanged a few emails and then organized a meeting. After a few beers and a lot of talk about our favorite club, we vowed that one day we will establish an official branch where we'd find other people like us who love Sunderland.

Year after year we got in touch with other Bulgarian Mackems and as a result we formed under the name of [Bulgarian Sunderland Supporters Branch - BSSB](#) on May 24th 2013.

We now watch games together regularly and organize different events for branch members. We were also extremely proud that our branch was officially recognized as a Supporters Group by Sunderland AFC on 24th of May 2013 - one of the most important days in the Bulgarian history. ☺

How long have you been established?

3 and a half years.

Overview of members, numbers?

Our members are mainly Bulgarians but we also have English support from those who moved to live in Bulgaria from the North-East. Currently we have 117 members.

Do you meet, how regularly, where?

Yes, we meet often. Always when there is a game which will be on TV we organize a meeting. We have 2-3 favorite places in Sofia.

Which 'home country' player would you like to see playing for Sunderland, past or present?

Unfortunately, no one from our present footballers have the skills to compete in Premier League. 15 years ago, Sunderland were linked with a move for [Georgi Ivanov - Gonzo](#) - Bulgarian striker who played for Levski Sofia at that time. I was praying for it to happen. He would have been a great fit for our team. Strong, passionate striker with good scoring abilities. Unfortunately, it didn't happen and we are still waiting for the first Bulgarian player to play for Sunderland.



BSSB's Dan Dimitrov (left) with SAFC NASA Region 7 Member Todd Jenkins (center) and SAFC NASA Chair Derek Aspinall (right) sharing a pint at The Moon Under Water, Leicester Square, London

Special things that you like to do as a group (quirky)?

Drinking beer and singing songs for our favorite team!

All-time favorite player?

Grant Leadbitter, Kevin Phillips, [Kevin Ball](#), Nail Quinn and many more ...

Group attendance at games?

Our Last visit to the SOL was for the derby on October 25th, 2015. We won 3:0! Normally we have 2 or 3 visits per season but we are looking to increase this soon. We are now considering to arrange a trip away to Crystal palace in February next year.



We're on a mission to become
the largest Sunderland AFC
Supporters' Group in the World.
Join the North America
Supporters Association (NASA)
in our big push! Check out the
Events page for 3M gatherings.

m³

Mackem. Membership. Mission.

3M gatherings are scheduled at the regional level and present the opportunity to introduce new fans to SAFC. Current members are requested to bring like-minded soccer/football fans to these events and help promote the North America Supporters Association.



A Love Supreme

We catch up with the lads from A Love Supreme (ALS) to talk about their 25+ years relationship with Sunderland fans and why ALS continues to receive accolades as the best fanzine the UK has to offer

How did ALS get started?

In the late 80s a group of us used to go to the matches together and we noticed that fanzines were popping up at away games and most teams seemed to have one except us, so we started one off!

Is there a driving force behind the ideas, or collaborative effort?

The idea is that people use ALS to air their views so people just send ideas in and we publish them. To start with it was just a few mates, but it soon grew and folk from all walks of life started sending articles in. We don't have an agenda other than to publish the fans' views.

Does ALS feel that there's more that could be provided for Sunderland fans? Local or worldwide? Do you feel that there's more that the club could do for fans?

In short yes. The fans don't ask for much and when players do come along to social events the fans love it even if they are playing terribly, which is often the case.

How much interaction do you have with SAFC staff? How much access are you granted to off-field (behind the scenes) activities?

It depends really. We have in the past but it doesn't

really help us, because the closer you get to the club/players, the more you get complaints about articles you have published that they feel are unfair.

We used to have press passes etc., but prefer to sit with friends and family now. There are some staff who work at the club who have worked for ALS in the past and some who are friends and that helps bridge the gap, but we like our independence. Also in the past we have had friendships with players, mainly players we knew from school and who were Sunderland fans growing up, but now players come and so quickly and are normally from all over the world.

Love some of the t-shirt ideas, but what's been the shortest run for a player specific t-shirt i.e. t-shirt was produced, player left the team soon after?

We did a Dwight Yorke t shirt and for some reason it just didn't sell.

What are the high-points and low-points for ALS?

Really hard to say over 27 years. Winning the league and going up usually makes things nicer.

We've won a lot of awards like best fanzine and our 5 a side team was really successful and lots of people come over and chat and ask you what you think of the team, so it's quite sociable.

Worst, just people being unhappy with the team and kicking off at you about it cos they want to have a go at someone!

Have you noticed a recent trend in fan comments re the team's performance? Any worse than previous seasons, i.e. are fans reaching a breaking point? Do you get general feedback from long term fans, maybe on how things are going recently?

Things are pretty bad right now, but it's all relative. When we went down to the Third Division it was much worse.

Special thanks to ALS for providing an insight into their wonderful fanzine.



A Love Supreme may seem an unlikely title for a football magazine. Rather than try and explain it they leave us to consider the following passage. *"True supporters care. They care enough to argue vehemently but often perceptively about the team, the players, the issues; they care enough to commit themselves to the cause of the club; they care enough to turn up week after week to support the team; they care enough to criticize, among themselves, their own players. The opposite of love, after all, is not hate, but indifference."* ALS ISSUE ONE.

A moment with ...

Stephanie Bannon



O Captain! My Captain!

Sunderland Ladies' captain Stephanie Bannon is the longest serving member of the team, and has been the club captain for 10 years. An integral part of the Sunderland back four, Bannon is a steely defender and has enjoyed much success with the Lady Black Cats.

Our Steph

Where were you born? How did you become interested in soccer?

I was born and raised in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. My brother is a goalkeeper and he was always wanting someone to play with in our back garden as kids and my dad wasn't very good so it was left to me. I guess from then on I didn't look back and carried on playing. I played for my school team and was later picked up by Sunderland AFC.

Have you always played defense?

I used to play right wing when I was younger and then moved to right back. I have always seen

myself as a defender and I guess I just moved to center back as I got older ha-ha!

How did you feel when you were named Captain of The Lady Black Cats at 18?

I was very surprised when I was told I was going to be named captain, I remember the day like it was yesterday. We lost some big players in the likes of Steph Houghton and Jill Scott following relegation and the manager at the time, Mick Mulhern, told me he was ready to re-build the team around me and wanted me to lead the group. I was honored, shocked, surprised but excited for the challenge ahead.

What do you believe has been your biggest personal accomplishment as a player?

When rejected from the Super League we went on to win the FA Women's Premier League three years running, I felt this was vital and a massive achievement as it showed that we were good enough to be up there and competing with the rest. People had rejected us and we came back stronger from it. But my biggest achievement is getting to an [FA Cup Final](#), I believe this is what girls dream of and to do it as massive underdogs was even better for us. Its not every day where you make FA Cup Finals, and although the result didn't go our way it was an experience I will never forget.

After your many years of wearing the "Captain's Armband", how satisfied were you when The Lady Black Cats were promoted to the FSWALI in 2015?

You always want to play at the highest level possible with the club you have grown up playing for and supporting. We always had ambitions and hunger to be in the top fight of the women's game,

the backing from Sunderland Football Club give us a great foundation to allow us to progress. It was where I believed the club should be and deserved to be and I am proud and humbled to be able to say that I was captain and apart of the team that got Sunderland promoted.

It is known that you are also a P.E. Teacher and that it is another one of your passions. What has being a P.E. Teacher taught you about soccer and what has being a soccer player taught you about teaching P.E.?

PE teaching is my main job and what I do day in day out. Being a teacher you have to be very organized and this is something that I look to transfer onto the pitch, in addition never giving up on the students, not all students like PE and therefore it's my job to be resilient and provide opportunities for them to be able to succeed. In football it doesn't always go how you plan or how you want it to go but never give up and keep trying to do the right things is vital. When playing football you show passion and pride and I believe I take this into teaching and am very proud of both my jobs.

What does your daily training regimen consist of? How do you mentally prepare for a game? Do you have any rituals?

I currently train 4 times a week, I wake up at 6 am daily, I go to work as a PE teacher and then travel straight to Sunderland from work. I train four football sessions lasting 90 minutes a time and two strength and condition sessions per week. The training can change and vary depending on what day of the week our game falls and if we have a game or have a week off. I like a nap on a Saturday afternoon if we play Saturday night. I have no regular routines, just what I feel right on the day.

Do you play any other sports or have any other hobbies besides soccer?

I don't really have time to do much else along with work and football, however on the odd occasion I like to attend spinning classes. When I was younger I used to play [field] hockey and swimming, but unfortunately the times I trained for swimming clashed with football and I was left with no choice but to pick one or the other.

You and your fellow Lady Black Cats were recently involved in, "Girls Football Week." What impact do you believe being involved in programs and promotions for girls, help with the overall development of football for the ladies?

I believe that younger girls have role models now, when I was younger it wasn't as common and therefore male players were always role models. I firmly believe the game is transitioning and the more girls that play football, the better it will be.

What is the best advice you can offer for aspiring youth players that want to play in the FSWALI level someday?

Always work hard and believe in yourself. Listen to your coaches and be committed. Never give up when things don't go to plan and always try your best.

After your football career what do you see yourself doing in the future?

I will continue life as a PE teacher and hope to inspire as many as possible. I hope to stay in and around football but I am unsure to what capacity. I take each day as it comes and see what happens and where I end up will take care of itself.

NASA Charity

Information on SAFC NASA's Recognized Charity



SAFC NASA's Honorary Life President, Ritchie Pitt, attended our association's inaugural AGM, spreading great news about a charity that he and [massive Sunderland fan, and former Olympian] Steve Cram have been raising money for.

COCO International works with communities in remote overseas regions to alleviate the poverty preventing children's education. COCO stands for Comrades of



Children Overseas, a name taken from the famous Comrades Marathon in South Africa which both our Co-Founders (Steve Cram MBE and Jim Panton) ran back in 1999. They both realized the impact fundraising could have on the lives of people blighted by poverty and believed that education provided the answer to overcoming poverty. From here COCO was born.

COCO is the only charity recognized by SAFC NASA. All monies raised through auctions and raffles being presented to them.



Tarkin' Slang

Featuring Mackem Slang Terms

Gadgie

Man. As in "Look at that gadgie with the git big hat on - he's nee marra o' mine" - "Look at the man with the big hat - he's no friend of mine."

Fact fans: This word was possibly derived from the Romani "gadje" meaning non-Roma or "gorgio" meaning fellow.

Netty

Toilet. A glossary of northern English words suggests that the etymon of netty is the Modern English needy and need. Need to go??

Bait

Food. From Middle English baiten, beiten, from Old Norse beita ("to bait, cause to bite, feed, hunt").

Clarty

Muddy or dirty. Late 17th century (as a verb in the sense 'smear, plaster'): of unknown origin.

Clammin'

Hungry. As in "I'm like clammin' for me bait" - "I am hungry"

Dinnit

Don't. As in "I dinnit like that netty - its propa clarty" - "I don't like that toilet because it is dirty'.

Gansey

A jersey or sweater. As in "Me mam's got us a canny Christmas gansey like" - "My mother bought me a nice Christmas sweater".

So, putting this all together in a *very random sentence*

"See that gadgie in th' red gansey? He's just went inter th' netty with he's bait. That's propa clarty man. A' was clammin', but not now! Dirty get!".

Regions & Reps

Current List of SAFC NASA Regions and Representatives

The regionalization of SAFC NASA started in 2013 (see right). All regions feed up under one NASA banner.

Each area is supported by a NASA representative. This 'point person' is responsible for gathering information from their associated state(s) or province(s) and communicating updates both regionally and to SAFC NASA, ensuring latest level details are available to SAFC fans (published online (Facebook/Website) or at [SAFC NASA Gathering](#) venues etc.). They promote events, helping to build our fan-base throughout North America.

Current NASA Region Reps are:

Region 1 - **Cory Martin** - cmartin@shoppersdrugmart.ca
Region 1A - **Martin Bates** - mrgolfasb@rogers.com
Region 2 - **Dan McGarvey** - dan.mcgarvey@yahoo.ca
Region 3 - VACANT
Region 3A - VACANT
Region 4A - **Gavin Frater** - gavinfrater@gmail.com
Region 4B - **Gavin Frater** - gavinfrater@gmail.com
Region 4C - **John Ellington** - ellingtonjohn@hotmail.com
Region 4D - **Alex Shahin** - bigalshahin@aol.com
Region 5 - **Andy Cooke** - cookeam@gmail.com
Region 5A - **Gavin Dodd** - gavddodd@gmail.com
Region 6 - **Paul Whillians** - paul.whillians@hotmail.com
Region 6A - **Stephen Mearman** - mearman79@gmail.com
Region 7 - **Jim Gardner** - jgardne3@columbus.rr.com
Region 7A - VACANT
Region 8 - **Matt Wheeler** - mattgwheeler@gmail.com
Region 8A - VACANT
Region 8B - **Lucas Kuhlman** - ldkuhlmann@yahoo.com
Region 9 - **Jesse Burch** - jjburch@pacbell.net
Region 9A - **Adam Churchill** - adamchurchill81@gmail.com
Region 9B - **Graeme Pritchard** - graeme.a.pritchard@gmail.com
Region 9C - VACANT
Region 9D - **Brian Hunsicker** - brian.hunsicker@gmail.com
Region 10 - VACANT
Region 11 - **Ivan Sandoval** - ivan.sandovalp@gmail.com

Canada

*Region 1 – (Atlantic Provinces) Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick
*Region 1A - Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba
*Region 2 – British Columbia, Yukon NT, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Nunavut

USA

Region 3 - Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire
Region 3A - Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island
*Region 4A - New Jersey
*Region 4B - New York City (I-84 and South)
*Region 4C - Pennsylvania (Philly and Surrounding Areas)
*Region 4D - Upstate New York (North of I-84)
*Region 5 - Delaware, Maryland
Region 5A - Washington D.C., Virginia (N of I-64)
*Region 6 - Virginia (South of I-64 inc. Richmond), Florida, Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana
*Region 6A - Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina
*Region 7 - Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania (West - Pittsburgh and Surrounding Areas), Tennessee
Region 7A - Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois
*Region 8 - Missouri, Kansas, North of Austin - Texas (inc. Austin, Dallas), Oklahoma, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wyoming
*Region 8A - South of Austin - Texas (inc. Houston & San Antonio)
*Region 8B - Iowa
*Region 9 - California (South of I-80), Nevada
*Region 9A - New Mexico
*Region 9B - Arizona, Utah
Region 9C - California (North of I-80) Oregon, Idaho, Montana
Region 9D - Washington
Region 10 – Alaska

Mexico

*Region 11 - Mexico



Proud Sponsor of.....

Stephanie Bannon (Capt.)

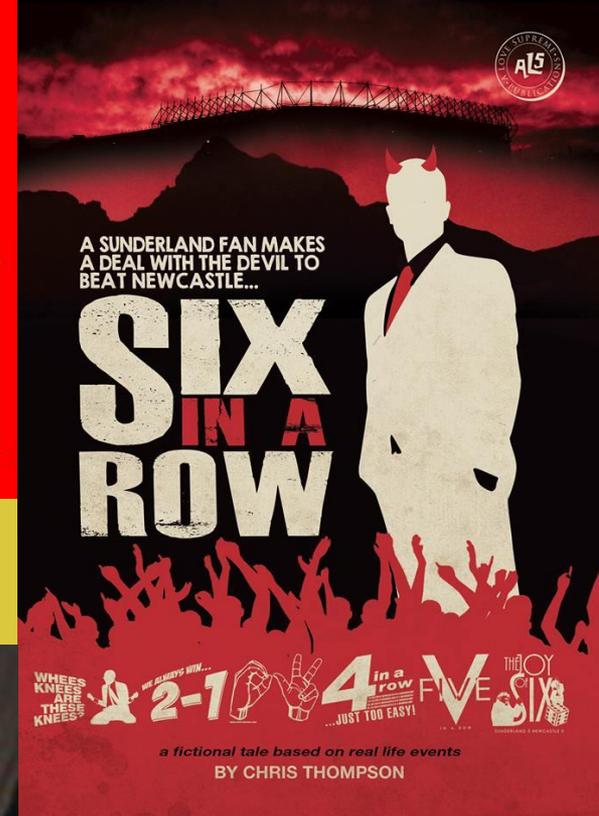
Sunderland A.F.C. Ladies

2018 Pilgrimage

We've been talking about this for a couple of years! So, here you have it. SAFC NASA is planning a pilgrimage to the Stadium of Light at the back end of the 2017/18 season.

Working with the club, we plan on making this a most memorable trip for all who travel.

The more, the merrier! More details to follow.



Short's Short

Ellis says...

**Those Chicken
Balti Pies are
the mutts nuts!**





Reading United

No, the other one

SAFC NASA 4C Philadelphia – Power in Partnerships

Not all organizations need partners – but SAFC NASA 4C Philadelphia seems to have hit the jackpot by attracting multiple community leaders to join the ranks of the *Red and White Army*.

SAFC NASA 4C is “headquartered” out of Reading, Pennsylvania, a gritty working class town that some would say has seen better days. Reading is not a city where you would expect to see many Premier League fans much, less fans of Sunderland.

Quietly over the years, a small band of SAFC fans worked together to introduce the uninitiated locals to the best football club with the best fans. Soon friends and neighbors of this initial group would show up at a 4C NASA event for food, fun, and football – many would join and become members.

One of those newer 4c members is Mike Gehret. Not too long ago, Mike was working at his Subway Restaurant franchise in nearby Wyomissing, Pennsylvania. He had been asked to co-sponsor a local soccer club, Reading United A.C. Reading United plays in the Premier Development League (PDL), the fourth tier of the American Soccer Pyramid, in the Mid-Atlantic Division of the Eastern Conference.

Mike is a man who understands business, community, and partnerships. He picked up the phone and within 48 hours he invited SAFC NASA 4C to join him at the table as he worked out his sponsorship arrangement with Reading. “I know this can be a good partnership,” Mike said at the time.

His goal was to increase 4C’s visibility in the community and introduce Reading United to a wider audience.



As usual, Mike was correct. After a meeting over Subway sandwiches, the two groups decided to forge a local partnership.

Reading United Ownership Partners, and now 4C members, Denise Strohmayer and George Gadebusch are very pleased with the first year results. Our partnership has given an opportunity for both organizations to provide benefits to the community through the common love of soccer.

Strohmayer sees the partnership like this, “Regardless of differing levels within the soccer hierarchy, Reading United and NASA formed an immediate bond allowing us to jointly create and support local fund raising events to benefit such worthwhile organizations as in [lan’s Boots](#), [Keystone Warriors](#) and the yearly [Berks County Hometown Heroes](#) event and we look forward to even greater collaboration in the future.”

Gadebusch understands the collective power of partnerships. “We recognize that sports bring so many community people together and that presents a unique opportunity to help in ways that go far beyond what is happening on the field,” said Gadebusch.

4C’s Jody Widing knows all about the need for help from the community. She is a staff member at Bridge of Hope Berks County, an organization seeking to end and prevent homelessness for women and children with the help of trained mentoring groups. Jody knows that a little money can go a long way in her fight against homelessness. SAFC NASA 4C, along with Mike Gehret, recently partnered for a fundraising event at Subway for Bridge of Hope. Money in the organization’s coffers will help do good things in the community.

SAFC may not be the best known club in America but, in one little city, its supporters are working together to enjoy football and perhaps make the world a little better.

