



Tommy
Houser
HAUSER



Fever Pitch

SAFC NASA
Fanzine

Vol 1 Issue 3
February '17



Welcome to Issue 3 of '**Fever Pitch**' - the *Sunderland AFC North America Supporters' Association Fanzine*. This edition, we catch up with former Sunderland striker, Tommy Hauser in 'A moment with', chat with the lads from down under in our "Where Are Ya?" segment, introduce a *Rock-a-Billy Hall of Famer* as Pete Hardy tells us who he is, and welcome SAFC Ladies Captain Stephanie Bannon in her new regular feature "Captain's Column"....



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Pitt's Bit



SAFC



Ritchie Pitt – Sunderland's No.6

youngsters. In turn this has limited Moyes's options to change tactics when needed.

“Statistics tell us that in past seasons the teams that struggle to score goals usually end up in the bottom three...”

The transfer window has now ended and whilst I think we got a very good price for Van Aanholt which will help reduce the club debt I don't think the signings of Lescott, Oviedo and Gibson will improve the goals output we so badly need.

“We may have to give an opportunity to some of the younger players..”

Statistics tell us that in past seasons the teams that struggle to score goals usually end up in the bottom three so I would have thought a priority would have been a striker. If Defoe picks up an injury for any length of time we would really struggle to find a stand-in striker, especially as Anichebe is out for the next two months.



I desperately hope I am wrong but I cannot see this squad picking up enough points in the second half of the season. We may have to give an opportunity to some of the younger players and hope their energy and enthusiasm will help create enough chances for Defoe to win us some games.

I am reasonably happy with our defense but our midfield badly lacks creativity and if we are to survive then we have to get midfield men into scoring positions.

Here's hoping for a great second half of the season and another season in the Premiership to look forward to..... Keep cheering the lads on from afar

Ritchie

Happy New Year to all North America based Sunderland fans!

Having watched most of our home games and some of our away games I am not surprised that we have languished in the bottom three for most of the season. We are [far] too reliant on Defoe to score our goals with very little in the way of contributions from midfield.

I do have some sympathy with the manager as he has had to contend with an horrendous injury list. Five long term injuries to players in the first team along with one of the smallest squads in the Premiership has meant that for some games our bench has been filled with



his·to·ry 'hist(ə)rē/

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



Colin Suggett (white jersey) of the Vancouver Royals outmaneuvers Golden Gate Gales goalkeeper Ton Thie to score in the second half of yesterday's United Soccer Association opener in San Francisco's Kezar Stadium. Between them is Gales' inside left Piet de Zoete (10). Golden Gate won, 6-1. (AP Wirephoto.)

Heard the one about Sunderland AFC coming to North America to play in the United Soccer League as the Vancouver Royal Canadians ...?

Following the 1966 broadcast of the England held FIFA World Cup held, US-based promoters came together to start up two professional soccer leagues – the United Soccer Association (USA – sanctioned by FIFA and the United States Soccer Federation) and the National Professional Soccer League (not sanctioned).

Due to a timing issue the USA were unable to recruit their own players, so, they resorted to importing full teams from other nations, placing them in U.S. and Canadian cities.

After a comfortable 17th place finish in the old First Division (the then top flight league containing 22 teams), Sunderland AFC would travel across the pond and represent the Vancouver Royal Canadians for the inaugural, 1967 USA season.

Sunderland were supposed to have represented Washington, DC. However, basing clubs on the basis of where the organizers thought they would attract the biggest crowds, the red and whites were eventually sent to represent the City of Vancouver. Aberdeen, as The Washington Whips went to America's capital.

Wright, Martin, Kinnell, Harvey, Baxter, Mulhall, Gauden, Shoulder, Todd, Suggett, Hughes, Parke, Forster, Herd, Irwin and **Montgomery all traveled.

Colin Suggett would be the first to score for the Vancouver side in what was a 6-1 defeat at the hands of the San Francisco Golden Gate Gales (Holland's ADO Den Haag).

George Herd scored the Royal Canadians only goal in their second league encounter, where they drew 1-1 with the Detroit Cougars (Northern Ireland's Glentoran of Belfast).

Their first victory came in the third match of the season against Dallas Tornado (Scotland's Dundee United). The lads rattled four passed them including a brace from Mulhall (Martin and Suggett with the others).

Vancouver would make it two in a row with a 1-0 victory over Ireland's Shamrock Rovers (representing Boston Rovers), but would then go on a three game losing streak – 5-1 loss to Los Angeles Wolves (Wolverhampton Wanderers who would claimed the 1967 USA Championship); 4-1 loss to Houston Stars (Brazil's Bangu Clube); 4-2 loss to Toronto City (Scotland's Hibernian).

**Initially, Monty didn't travel with the squad. He had stayed in the UK to receive treatment for a back injury.

Due to poor string of results, his treatment was cut short and he joined the lads for the final six games of this twelve game season.

The 73' cup final legend made an immediate impact on the team. Prior to his arrival, Vancouver had conceded an average of three goals per game. With Monty between the posts, this dropped to 1.4. He helped the Royal Canadians go five games undefeated as they closed out the season.



Sunderland team, ready to board the plane to fly to the USA
Wright, Martin, Kinnell, Harvey, Baxter, Mulhall, Gauden, Shoulder, Todd, Suggett, Hughes, Parke, Forster, Herd, Irwin

Four consecutive draws were followed by victory in their final encounter of the season. 2 – 2 against Toronto City with goals from Gauden and Mulhall; one all with Washington Whips – two in two for Gauden; a 2 – 2 tie with Chicago Mustangs (Italy's Cagliari); 1 – 1 with New York Skyliners (Uruguay's Cerro Porteno); topped off with a 3 -1 win over Cleveland Stokers (Stoke City).

The team was managed by Ian McColl and averaged 7,019 spectators per game over the season.

Thanks to Ryehill Football, Wikipedia, Fun While it Lasted , and Paul Days for the background information.



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SAFC NASA Heroes Tee - Gabbiadini (back - Marco #10)

SAFC NASA Heroes Tee - Monty (back - Monty #1)

Vancouver Royals - SAFC 1967 (back - SAFC '67)

*Shipping & handling costs will be based upon final destination and shall be provided at the time the payment request is sent.



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F.A. CUP FINAL
1973

SAFC NASA
Heroes Tee - Montgomery



SAFC NASA
Bitmap Tee



NASA
SAFC NASA
Official Tee



Vancouver Royals
Sunderland AFC 1967



NASA
SAFC NASA
Heroes Tee - Gabbiadini

Who Are Ya?

Highlighting SAFC NASA Regions & Supporters



Pete Hardy - Region 6A

Rock-a-Billy Hall of Famer and former Sure Shots bass player, Pete Hardy, tells us "We he is!"...

Name?

Pete Hardy

Age (Mental/Physical)?

56 and still mental

Where do you currently live?

[Little River, South Carolina](#), 10 miles from Myrtle Beach (America's version of Benidorm lol)

Where were you born?

Chilton, County Durham, lived there until I was 6 then moved to Newton Aycliffe.

When were you committed (and to which asylum)?

Probably around 9 or 10, wasn't really sporty as a kid but it was the done thing at my junior school to paint your football team on your haversack flap.

I chose Sunderland as it was the "County Durham" team, none of this Teesside or Tyneside crap for me.

Favorite current player?

Has to be Defoe, God knows where we would be without him!



John Kay – Hard as Nails!

All-time favorite player?

John Kay, I loved his dedication, nothing flashy he just got stuck in. I was at the game against Birmingham when he broke his leg and rowed the stretcher off the pitch.

Earliest/most significant memory of SAFC?

First game watched/attended?

I was a late starter, I worked a lot of Saturdays in my job as an Electrician. Also, I was playing bass in a band and my Saturdays were always tied up.

My first game was against Millwall in January '92, we won 6-2 and I was hooked.

Great year to start attending games, I got to go to the [FA cup Final](#). After that it was every game possible even Anglo Italian cup games.

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

I know it's an easy pick but I have to say Kevin Phillips, we need the goals and he certainly gave us them.

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

Yes, every time we are on TV. As far as I know I'm the only Sunderland Fan in my area so I don't get a chance to go to a bar to watch games. Where I live is a big college 'football' area so that tends to be the only sports shown in bars

Expectations for the rest of the season?

Unfortunately there can only be one answer for that this season, avoiding relegation. Beating Boro would be a bonus though!



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.



Where Are Ya?

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

Melbourne Mackems

Troy from the Melbourne Mackems gives us info from the lads down under...

Where are you based?

Melbourne, Australia

Story behind how you formed?

The [Facebook] page is run by two of us (one of whom will be in Sunderland in the next couple of weeks) she created it as an avenue to find other Mackems in Melbourne and across Australia, much to our surprise there was quite a few, either expats or just born & bred in Melbourne like ourselves.

How long have you been established?

The page has been running just on two years now.

Jermain Defoe, the bloke is a genius!



Overview of members, numbers?

Overall the page has around 335 "likes" I suppose, we don't have an official membership to quantify anything else.

Do you meet, how regularly, where?

We do meet, however not as much as we would like, it is difficult given the time slots, most kick off times are 2AM, so it can be challenging in that aspect.



Aaron Mooy (Center) in action for the Socceroos

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

Aaron Mooy. He played for our local team here, Melbourne City, before Man City signed him up and he went on loan to Huddersfield in the English championship.

He's tearing it apart for them, beautiful to watch, an assist machine and can score goals.

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

Nothing to note as yet, as above, the catch ups have been limited. Hopefully over time they can become more frequent and we can have a better answer for you!

All-time favorite player?

I've been supporting the lads for around 10 years, it would have to be Jermain Defoe, the bloke is a genius. If not him we'd have been doomed 2 years ago. That goal in the home derby of 2015 was out of this world.

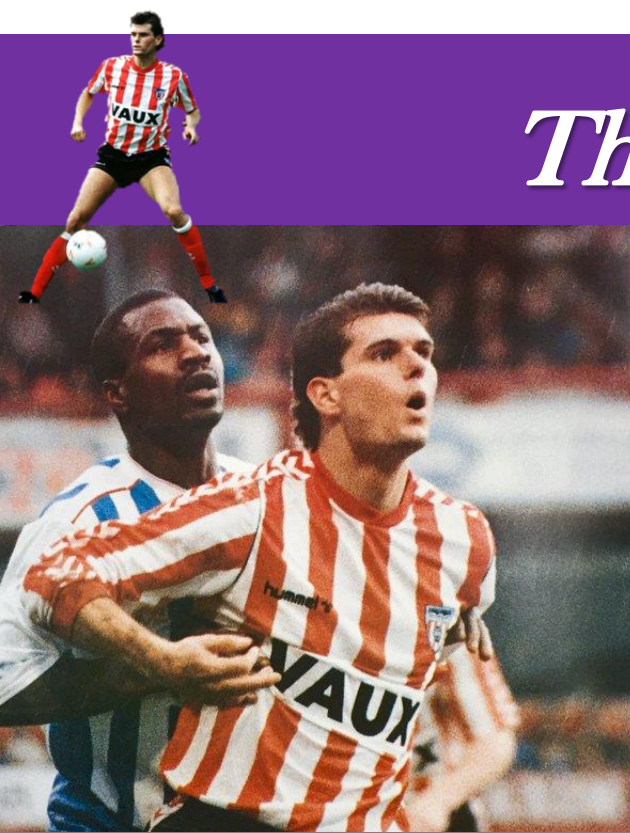
Group attendance at games?

Our most recent catch up was against Arsenal at home back in October, we had solid numbers that night of around 10-15, albeit heavily outnumbered by Gooners.

SAFC NASA sends their thanks for the updates and wish the Melbourne Mackems all the very best with this venture! Ha'way!

A moment with ...

Thomas 'Tommy' Hauser



"U Boat" – Tommy Hauser, our German Sub!

Thomas Hauser was affectionately known to us Sunderland fans as "U Boat". The German Sub finished his time on Wearside with 39 of his 65 appearances coming from the bench – scoring a total of 11 goals.

Tommy boasts a couple of notable accolades from his short time with the Black Cats which include having scored Sunderland's last goal of the 80's and first goal of the 90's, as we'll as becoming the first non-British born player to represent Sunderland at Wembley (in front of a 72,873 crowd at the 1990 play-off final).

Having started his professional career in Switzerland with [FC Basel](#) (where he was part of the team that won the Uhrencup twice (1983 and 1986) and scored more than 30 goals in all competitions), he was transferred to local rivals BSC Old Boys at the end of the 1987-88 season after the former were relegated to Swiss Nationalliga B.

Hauser only played with them for six months before transferring to Sunderland for a fee of £200,000.

Coming on as a sub for [Marco Gabbiadini](#) in the 2-0 league win over Hull City (02/25/1989), Hauser would only have to wait a few weeks to make his full debut which came in a league encounter against Chelsea.

Over the 89/90 season, U Boat had a habit of scoring what proved to be crucial goals for the club. His first ever goal for the Black Cats in a [2-2 draw away to Swindon](#) (12/02/89). The most memorable being a [brace against Brighton & Hove Albion](#) in a 2-1 win, the [equalizer against Port Vale](#) at home in a 2-2 draw, and after scoring within six minutes of coming off the bench against [Hull City](#).

The big German would record ten games for Sunderland in England's top flight, managing

one goal in an away defeat to Southampton.

He went on to make a further 13 appearances for the club the following season managing another tally in the League Cup.

Unfortunately, his career was cut short due to injury.



Sporting the mullet! Photo op in Roker Park's Main Stand

A moment with ...

Thomas 'Tommy' Hauser (cont.)



EFC coach Thomas 'Hasselhoff' Hauser (right) with SC Freiberg coach Christian Streich and his father Helmut (left) at St. Jakobspark for the FC Basel v Liverpool match.

goals which helped us in the promotion race.

Unfortunately, through some bad long-term injuries, I believe that I never really had the opportunity to show my best in the time with Sunderland. But when called to play in the red and white striped shirt I always tried to give two-hundred percent for the club and the fans.

To finish my story, I am proud having had the luck to play for such a great club with such a big history in England.

I am now managing the first Team of amateur level club [TUS Efringen](#) - Kirchen in Germany.



Rock on, Tommy!

For the last five years, I have ran a company which is building up a chain of pump stations



TuS Efringen-Kirchen First Team

in Switzerland. Each year, the company tries to extend the net of stations, which is a one of the main parts of my daily working process I am responsible for apart from the turnovers of current stations.

Further, I am living settled and happy with my girlfriend in Basel."

SAFC NASA would like to thank Thomas for taking time out to provide us with this insight. We wish you all the very best for the future!

Club career statistics

Club performance		League		Cup		League Cup		Total	
Season	Club	League	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps Goals
1988-89	Sunderland	Division Two	13	2	0	0	0	0	13 2
1989-90	Sunderland	Division Two	19	6	2	0	6	0	26 6
1990-91	Sunderland	Division One	10	1	0	0	2	1	12 1
1991-92	Sunderland	Division Two	12	0	0	0	1	1	13 1
1989-92	Sunderland Total		54	9	2	0	9	2	65 11

Gerrin U-Boat lad!

Since the end of his playing days, Hauser moved back to Basel, becoming a youth team trainer of Old Boys, with former FC Basel goalkeeper Louis Crayton.

Here's what Tommy had to say about his time with Sunderland.... *"It was a wonderful experience for me to play for such a big club in England with such passionate supporters.*

I was lucky to be the first ever German to score for Sunderland in the top flight.

A highlight for sure was the Wembley game and the [subsequent] lucky promotion after. That very season I had scored some important



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.



Brighter Futures across the globe

**SAFC NASA's
Official Charity**

Short's Short

Ellis says...



Things can
only get
better!

Premier League, Champions League, and a whole lot of nonsense from supporters of all EPL clubs. New podcasts and/or articles daily.

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.



Association Updates

Latest details from the Committee, and regional announcements ...

Early 2017, SAFC NASA announced the addition of two Regional Representatives to California. Their inclusion shall increase gathering opportunities in the Golden State. Read on...



Allan Dodds joins the representative team and is the main point of contact for Region 9F - San Diego [and surrounding area].

By the sounds of it, you'll find Doddsy in the [Shakespeare Pub & Grille](#) most weeks but best times are had at one of his official gatherings.



Our veteran representative for the state of California is Jesse Burch. The only American-born fan of the three is the main point of contact for Region 9 - Los Angeles [and surrounding area].

Gatherings are held at the [Fox & Hounds](#) (Studio City) and [Ye Olde Kings Head](#) (Santa Monica).



Region 9E - San Francisco [and surrounding area] is supported by Tom Veitch. This is the latest addition to the Golden State.

The official bar of choice has a rich soccer history. So, if you in/around the area or just visiting, stop by [McTeagues Saloon](#) and catch up with other Mackems!

Check out [NASA's events page on Facebook](#) for latest gathering information



Association Updates (cont.)

Latest details from the Committee, and regional announcements ...



Adam Dietrich, IL, becomes 300th Member of the 16/17 season!

WE DID IT!!!!

SAFC NASA Hits 300!

In July, 2016, the committee set out specific criteria which was delivered to the Regional Reps in order to secure more opportunities for members with the belief that where offered, participation and membership would increase.

We're very proud to announce that we have reached the 300 member target set at the start of the season. As an association, we're still in our infancy but this is a massive boost for us all. We're very proud to have achieved this landmark and would like to thank you all for your support!

Monday, January 30, 2017, Sunderland AFC North America Supporters Association set a new record for season members when Adam Dietrich, Illinois, USA, became the 300th of the 2016/17 campaign.



In celebration of this milestone we contacted our record setting, US born, 300th member and asked him "**Why SAFC?**":
"I became a Sunderland supporter a few years ago [completely] by chance. I was

living in London and attending local matches with colleagues without any allegiances, often picking my support based on whoever had invited me.

Then, on a whim, a few American visitors invited me to the North East to see old friends and check out a Sunderland match. Because a friend worked for the club, we got to tour the Stadium of Light and awkwardly rub elbows with the club's more elite guests.

The experience was incredible, but I truly became a supporter the night before as we wandered from pub to pub and heard the passion that locals had for their club.

Naturally, the Black Cats were sitting in the relegation zone at the time, but it didn't matter. The community's connection to their club was more authentic than anything I'd seen in London - and while Mackems might not appreciate the comparison, it felt like the hardcore football fanaticism that I'd experienced in the States. I was hooked."

Who are your favorite current players?

"There isn't anything like watching Jermain Defoe right now. He's as clinical with his opportunities as anyone in the world and we are unbelievably fortunate to have him.

I also love the progress that Didier Ndong has been making. For months, the talking heads said we overpaid, but his energy and development will make him a fan favorite for years to come.

My personal favorite, though, is Jordan Pickford. He carried us to start the season and saved us some valuable points, but his local flare and outspoken passion for SAFC remind me of why I became a supporter.

Where do you think we'll end up this season?

The next few months will be interesting. Injuries have put us back into the relegation zone, but as they work in the January signings and players return from ACON and the training room, I think we'll see another spring of survival heroics. Either way, it's always exciting to be a Sunderland supporter.

Of course, the membership train doesn't stop there! If you live in North America, support the lads, and are interested in helping us to become the largest overseas supporters branch, then get signed up.....



Important Dates

March - members can expect to receive an email from the SAFC NASA with voting info for 2017/18 Committee and SAFC Player of the Year awards.

May 20-21 - AGM - Washington, DC, USA

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 - Joel Altre-Kerber -
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 7C - Adam Dietrich - acdietrich@gmail.com
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 9E - Tom Veitch - tm_veitch@yahoo.com
Region 9F - Allan Dodds - dodds.allan@gmail.com
Region 9G - VACANT
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), Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana
*Region 6A - North Carolina, South Carolina
*Region 7 - Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania (West - Pittsburgh and Surrounding Areas), Tennessee
Region 7A - Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, *Illinois (non Chi and surrounding areas)
Region 7C - Chicago (and surrounding areas)
*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 - Los Angeles, California
*Region 9E - San Francisco, California
Region 9C - California (Sacramento and North) Oregon, Idaho, Montana
Region 9F - San Diego & South California
*Region 9A - New Mexico
*Region 9B - Arizona, Utah
Region 9G - Nevada
Region 9D - Washington
Region 10 - Alaska



Mexico

*Region 11 - Mexico



4th Annual General Meeting
Washington, DC
May 20 & 21, 2017





4th Annual General Meeting

May 20 & 21, 2017 – Washington, DC, USA

This year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in Washington, DC.

The North East of England has had long standing connections with USA's capital, Washington, DC. Did you know that the ancestral home of the family of George Washington, [Washington Old Hall](#), is a manor house located in the [Washington area of Tyne and Wear](#)?

....or that in June, 2016, Sunderland City Council renewed its [Friendship Agreement](#) with the seat of the U.S. Government? Sunderland is the only non-capital in the world to have such an agreement with Washington.

How about the [former] partnership of Sunderland AFC and the most successful MLS team in the leagues history, DC United?

DC more than meets the necessary criteria as set out by NASA's committee for hosting the AGM. So, factoring in accessibility (very easy to get to and around), that DC United hosts Chicago Fire that very weekend, and in Ireland's Four Courts we have both a wonderful host venue and superb supporters, *this is expected to be a one to remember!*



Host of the 2016/17 AGM – Cracking Beer & Bait!

The final schedule for the AGM is being compiled and we're currently working with the club to secure a special guest for the 'talk-in' (which to date has featured Ritchie Pitt, Stan Cummins and Reuben Agboola).

Friday, May 19, 2017

*For those arriving early, we plan on having a small social in Arlington, Virginia, on the Friday evening.

Saturday, May 20, 2017

*City tour in the A.M. (for those interested) followed by:

*12pm - 2016/17 AGM @ [Ireland's Four Courts](#). This shall include all of the usual updates and plans from the committee as well as the 'talk-in' (guest to be announced).

*4pm - DC United vs. Chicago Fire

*8pm-onwards - Saturday night social

Sunday, May 21, 2017

*10am - Chelsea vs. Sunderland AFC @ Ireland's Four Courts. Final game of the 2016/17 season.

*1pm - Washington Social. Tour of DC's finest establishments.

Accommodations

I can confirm that there are a few of us who have already booked up, staying in the Rosslyn/Iwo Jima area of Arlington, Virginia.

This is conveniently located for the AGM host venue and is also on the Metro system. So, you can travel all over the city without any concerns.

Please continue to check the associated [event page on Facebook](#) for updates!

We look forward to seeing you in the City of Magnificent Intentions (as dubbed by Charles Dickens). Ha'waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaay!!!



SAFC NASA
4th Annual General Meeting
May 20-21, 2017



Captain's Blog

Updates on SAFC Ladies and The FA WSL (Women's Super League)



SAFC NASA sponsored Sunderland Ladies Captain, Stephanie Bannon, talks about club changes, squad additions and what to expect for the season in this new, regular feature

It has been a bit of a rollercoaster of a ride for the Sunderland Ladies team. Last season we didn't quite reach the heights of the previous season and we failed to meet the high standards that we set for ourselves.

However, when the pressure was on, we managed to perform and secure our survival in the top flight of women's football. As a squad we were tested and I believe that we all rose to the challenge, our seventh place finish being the reward we deserved.

Since the end of the season the football club has adapted and changed things slightly, this has seen a couple of players leave to go and seek new challenges elsewhere.

In turn this has opened the door for new players.



Ladies new signings – Preuss (left) has represented Germany at U20 level, Bruinenberg (right) brings Champions League experience

We recently welcomed two new players, [Dominique Bruinenberg](#) from Holland and [Anke Preuss](#) from Germany. Both players come with great experience and are excellent signings for us. We have also managed to



Abbey Joice – Sunderland's Messi

keep hold of key players such as; [Abbey Joice](#), Hayley Sharp and Keira Ramshaw who have all extended their contacts with Sunderland, which is great.

Around the league...

Last season's Champions Manchester City were unbeaten in the league, which I guess they will be looking to continue into the Spring Series. They are definitely showing their commitment to this by signing two-time *World Footballer of the Year* [Carli Lloyd](#) from the USA. This is an excellent signing, both for them and the league, I cannot wait to welcome her to Hetton.

Chelsea are also showing no signs of giving up on the title chase, they have signed Lloyd's USA teammate Crystal Dunn, who I am sure will be a great addition to their squad. The most successful ladies team around,

Arsenal Ladies, have also shown their intent this season, by bringing back Kim Little from the USA, signing World Cup and Olympic gold medalist Heather O'Reilly and of course our own Beth Mead has joined them.

The other teams in the league are, I'm sure, quietly going about the business of preparing for the Spring Season. Liverpool, Birmingham, Reading and Notts County are always tough teams to play against.

Stepping up this season are the newly promoted Bristol and Yeovil. We know exactly what it is like to be promoted into FA WSL 1 and the passion and hard work teams show when they have a point to prove.

In some ways we will be feeling exactly the same as those promoted teams, ready to prove a point that we belong in this league and we can compete. We are under no illusions about how tough it will be and how we will need to be at our best week in and week out. We are working hard in pre-season to make sure we can give it our best and we cannot wait for the Spring Series to get started.



SUNDERLAND AFC LADIES



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