



## South East Poolies News - January 2020!



Welcome to the first newsletter of the new year and my apologies that there was not an edition in December. Over the past couple of months we have had large numbers of SEP members getting together at both Woking and Oxford, each a fantastic occasion for different reasons. We have also been busy planning the Pool and Darts evening prior to the Bromley game, which will see us host the HUFCSA. It's great to see that at this stage of the season we are looking up rather than down, a rare treat for Poolies.

In this edition we have a 'Pools and Me' from Alan Fisher. Alan is well known amongst SEP members for combining his love of Leicester City FC with that of Pools. As a LCFC Season Ticket Holder, he travels from the south coast for most of their home games. When he gets the opportunity between games, he passionately supports HUFC and is always a very welcome addition to our numbers at games.

Also welcome to the legendary John Honour, who received a SEP t-shirt from Baz Trippet (pictured) during his recent visit to Johns bar in Tenerife.

### SEP V's HUFCSA - Pool & Darts

**Date** Friday 17th April

**Location** Jordans Snooker Club, 2 Rainham Shopping Centre, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 7HW

**Time** 1900hrs until late

**Cost** FREE entry, there will be a buffet with a donation of £3 per person

As mentioned, we have been working hard to organise this event planned for the night before the Bromley away game. HUFCSA will be travelling to Rainham on the Friday, before we then head to Bromley as a group on the Saturday morning. There is a direct train to Bromley from Rainham station and this takes around 30 minutes. The snooker club have put aside an large area for us to use and will

provide a buffet at £3 per person. Former World Youth Pool Champion, Jordan Church will be also play some exhibition games on the evening (don't worry he won't be playing for us as a ringer!).

For those wanting to stay over, there is the following hotel options.

\* Rainham Premier Inn. This is a 5 minute walk from the snooker venue and no more than 10 minutes walk from Rainham Railway Station.

\* Gillingham Premier Inn. Around a 7-8 minute taxi drive or 35 minute walk from the snooker club.

\* Medway Services Travelodge. A cheaper option at around £35.99pn, located right next to the M2 motorway and a 8 minute taxi ride to the snooker club.

For those not staying the night there is plenty of parking which is free after 1800hrs and Rainham (Kent) Railway Station is less than 5 minutes walk.

The Corner Flag (HUFCSA) have been brilliant hosts to us over the years and we plan to do all we can to return the favour with a fantastic night. The night is open to ALL Hartlepool United supporters and not just members. If you are planning to come, could you please let me know so that I can give the snooker club a rough idea of numbers.

Thank you to Jordans Snooker Club for hosting the evening and to Leigh Allen for working hard with them to organise it.



### **Pools and Me - Alan Fisher!**

Why am I Poolie? – I started following the 'Pools back in 1966/67 after reading a newspaper article about Brian Clough sweeping the terraces and doing odd jobs even though he was the manager!!! I decided there and then this was my type of club.

My first game was away at Notts County (nearest ground to Leicester to get to) in 1968 during the promotion year under Gus McClean, we won 3-0.

My first game at the Vic was in November 1971 for a First Round FA Cup Match v Scunthorpe. I drove up from Leicester in my old 3 gear 1959 Ford Popular in a blizzard to watch a 0-0 draw!!!! Still waiting to make my second visit!!!

Most memorable game? Well two stand out for me. The first obviously the play off final in Cardiff. What an amazing, if disappointing, occasion. The second when

the Poolies played Leicester in the League in 2008. Russ Green (top man) arranged for my son Ben to be the Poolies mascot. A very proud day to see him walking out in his Poolies shirt. Both games remind me of how proud I am to be a supporter of the Poolies.

My favourite player's? Too many but a few are Joe Allon, Len Ashurst, Ambrose Fogarty, Ritchie Humphreys, Dimi, Andy Linighan, Tommy Miller, Tony Parry, Joel Porter, Ken Simpkins, George Smith(gk) and Barry Watling.

Best away games? A couple at Brighton at the awful Withdean Stadium when Russ Green arranged for me to a 'director ' for the day and sit in the laughable directors box. I did get nice hospitality however in the portakabin directors lounge where I got to chat with Des Lynham and Fatboy Slim. More recently any away games with the South East Poolies.

For me the future is to have a Hartlepool team to support regardless of league. To continue belonging to a great group of people known as the South East Poolies. No better illustrated by their generosity and support of good causes e.g. charities and of course on a personal note their reaction and support after the tragic death of Leicesters owner. Proud to belong to such a great group of people.

### **Alice House Hospice Collection**

At the Woking away game before Christmas we held a bucket collection to raise funds for the Alice House Hospice in Hartlepool. The response from Poolies was unbelievable with £360 raised for this fantastic organisation.

A few people asked us why we were doing it when our membership is mainly away from the town. Most of our members have a link to the town in some way and this includes having family members still living there. When you live away from your family, its important to know that they will be looked after when they really need it. Alice House do an amazing job and it was great to hear the stories from so many Poolies about how their loved ones were looked after by them.



Thank you to everyone who donated or helped with the collection. Whilst a special thanks goes to Ben Forbes for liaising with them and presenting the cheque at HUFC.

### **Membership Renewals**



From Sunday 2nd of February all 2019/20 memberships will be half price for the remainder of the season! If you are yet to renew, are interested in joining or know someone who would like to join then please follow the link below. Our prices haven't increased in a decade and all membership money goes to HUFC in some way. Prices are as follows;

Adult - WAS £10, NOW £5

Child - WAS £5, NOW £2.50

Family - WAS £15, NOW £7.50 (Includes 1 adult and up to 3 children)

To purchase a 2019-20 membership or view our promotional video visit our [website](#).

### **Merchandise**

The pint glasses have arrived and look fantastic, a huge thanks must go to **Glass Scribe** who worked closely with us to produce these. In the coming year we will potentially have whisky glasses available from the same company.



It looks like i have found a reasonable priced supplier for the mugs, so hopefully we will have some progress on these over the coming week or so.

If you are interested in purchasing any items please go [click here](#).

### **Finances**

We are already ahead of where we expected to be financially, but we also now hold quite a bit of clothing stock. This sells slowly throughout the season, which once everything goes will leave us with a much larger amount as indicated in the pending section. We plan to raise funds during the Pool and Darts Evening as well as the usual football cards at upcoming away games.



## General

A group of us went to watch Chatham Town v Sheppey United over the Christmas period and witnessed a thrilling 3-2 game in front of a mammoth 928. It was a fantastic day, which as usual proved exactly why football is so special. This was followed 1 week later by a trip to Oxford in the FA Cup, which was quite simply another level. A large group of SEP members joined a very boisterous away following to make an atmosphere that was rightly praised by many including the Oxford United fans. It once again showed the potential of our amazing little club and if we can get things right on the pitch, watch what happens! A special mention to Mark and Shay Braham, who not only dragged a large group of mates along, but also held a collection for the young Brentford supporters who had recently been killed in a car accident near to Heathrow Airport.

If you have any ideas, suggestions or even better want to add any articles, then please just get in touch or [email](#).

Thank you all for your time,

Never Say Die

Stu Miller

[www.southeastpoolies.com](http://www.southeastpoolies.com)



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