



Bluesletter



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DEEP FROM THE HEART Notes from the Chairwoman

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Want to contribute or make a suggestion? Send Jamie an email at newsletter@chelseainamerica.com!

What a start to the season – from the utter elation of beating that north London team to the debacle that was last Saturday. Well, you know it is all part and parcel of being a Chelsea supporter. The ups and the downs, and though we have been utterly spoiled the last few years with the strength and winning ways of our team, we should never forget how lucky we are at this time in our history. Let us also never forget that in our darkest days of playing less than stellar football, and losing more than we won, Chelsea supporters were renowned as the loudest and best supporters in the land. So now in these great times, let us all remember that history from our side of the stadium and bring to our team and our club the loudest and finest support in the WORLD! Yes, on this continent as well. We were all amazed at the support we mustered for the summer games, and let us continue from there.

Today I was surprised to get the new US email with a note from our captain with a note of thanks for the support from the summer and also his acknowledgement that he knows we are here doing it every week. We can't let him and the team down. There were also some links for deals on the US Megastore, contests and more. So if you didn't get it, you might wonder why? First, always check your spam folder in case some silly setting someplace mistook Chelsea info for spam. If you are a True Blue member, you should have gotten it. And if you are a CIA member, there is an extra step. There is a form you need to return to me or to the club that will do the trick – one of the benefits of registering your "affiliate" status as a CIA member with Chelsea. It only takes a moment, and, along with a contest each month, the new US newsletter will be delivered to you. I have sent a couple of announcements out via email and there is a thread on the board as well to the form and what

to do. So if you missed it, here it is from the Announcements part of the CIA members only part of the board.

You can access this form at http://www.chelseainamerica.com/true_blue_bronze_data_form.doc and once filled in you need to print, sign and return it to Chelsea. You have several options for doing this as follows:

Mail it to the address on the form. Complete, sign, scan and e-mail back to supportersclubs@chelseafc.com
Fax it free to 800-829-0633
Mail it to 2235 Mistletoe Blvd., Fort Worth, TX 76110

Once it gets to the club either directly or through me, they will enter your name in the database and you are through. It might take a few days.

We are now over 300 members strong and yet only a handful have filled in their form and gotten it back to the club, just so you know. Also if you are a True Blue member, or not, but a CIA family member, do fill it out for your spouse and kids. For the kids, all you need to do is give their names and their age, and that is it. With more than 300 members we could be one of the largest clubs in the world, but it will take you going through the paces of sending in your affiliate form. So it's up to you.

I also want to remind everyone about all that is available to you. There is the board and the IM on the board. Don't forget all our different Twitter accounts, and don't forget the podcast, both to participate in and listen to. All of this is run and monitored by fellow members that are taking their free time to help out, so please, let them know how much you appreciate it by participating.

On another note, I want to remind all of

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TEL'S SEASON IN QUESTION: 2003-4

This month I thought I would do a season that wasn't too long ago. It was a season where Chelsea would be a force to be reckoned with. The season in question is 2003-04.

After having to start the season early in the Champions league qualifying rounds, Chelsea opened up with an away game at Liverpool. This was the first game of the "NEW ERA" with Roman Abramovich having bought us during the close season. Things could not have got off to a better start as Veron (remember him?) gave us a 25th minute lead. In the 79th minute, Bridgey brought down Diouf. Owen stepped up to take the penalty only to send it wide, but to our dismay it had to be retaken as Carlo had moved from his line. This time Owen made no mistake: 1-1. With 2 minutes left, JFH fired one into the top far corner to give us a precious win at the Bindippers.

Our next game was a 2-1 home win over Leicester, with goals from Mutu and an own goal. This game end up with 3 sending offs - Geremi went for us. The last game in August was vs. Blackburn at home, which ended in a disappointing 2-2. Goals from Mutu and a JFH penalty.

September saw us start with an emphatic win over our old rivals Spurs. After going behind to a Zamora goal, goals from Lamps & Mutu within two minutes of each other put us in front. Another from Mutu and one right at the end from Jimmy gave us a 4-2 win.

Our following match was a stroll to newly promoted Wolves where we took the points in a 0-5 win, Crespo managing to grab a brace. Villa were our next opponents at the Bridge. Jimmy got us the only goal in a hard fought game.

So going into October we had 16 points from a possible 18. Things were going well as we headed up North to Boro, and thanks to a goal in the 88th minute from sub Crespo we stole the points, winning 1-2. Next up was a trip to Birmingham and even though this was a 0-0 it did put us top of the

League over Arsenal. Le Arse just happened to be our next opponents, but unfortunately we went one down in the 5th minute only for Crespo to get one back 3 minutes later. Henry scored the winner due to a howler of a mistake by Carlo. Thankfully, we ended October with a 1-0 home win over Man City.

November saw us start away at Everton, and thanks to a 49th minute goal from Mutu we came away with all three points. After our exploits in Europe, which we'll review later, we had a home game against Newcastle, who always seemed very generous when they come to the Bridge. And this was to be no exception as we hammered them 5-0; goals from Lamps, Johnson, Crespo, Duff and Eidur sealed a great win.

Next up was a tricky away game at Southampton, but again we came away with all three points with a Melchiot right footer in the bottom corner. The end of November paired us up with Manchester United, and once again we thrashed them 1-0 thanks to a Lamps penalty.

Since our loss to Le Arse in October our defense were holding strong and nobody had scored since Henry - five games in total. But that was about to end as we had a trip up to Dirty Leeds. After going 1 down it was thanks to Mutu that we sneaked out with a point. It was two weeks before Christmas, and we had a home game against Bolton. Things started well with Crespo giving us a 22nd minute lead, but in the 90th minute JT scored an OG to give Bolton all three points. Things got back to normal as we walked to our next away game down the road at Fulham, and a goal from Crespo just past the hour got us all the points. Next up was a 4-2 away defeat to Charlton and two days later it was a home this time vs. Pompey. Three goals in the last 25 minutes made for a happy journey to the pub.

Our first game of the New Year saw us entertain Liverpool, but things didn't go quite to plan, and we lost 0-1. This was our fourth defeat in seven games;

the title was slipping from sight. Birmingham were up next in a poor game that ended 0-0.

Thankfully February arrived and results took an upturn with victories against Blackburn and Pompey away and a home win vs. Charlton, which saw us take all 9 points. But we still had to play our nearest challengers to second place, Le Arse, who were the visitors. Things couldn't have started better with a goal in the first minute from Eidur. But within 20 minutes we were 1-2 down and that's the way it stayed. The title wasn't going to happen this season as we were now 9 points off the top. Ah well, we'd see what next season brings. The end of February saw us sneak a 0-1 win at Man City.

In March, we started with a 0-2 win at Bolton with two goals in the last 19 minutes from Terry and Duff. A home win against Fulham, 2-1, saw us keep in touch for second place. Next up was a home game vs. Wolves, They were 1-2 up with 20 minutes to go, Then after Lamps scored, it was time for a bit of history Jimmy came off the bench to claim a hat trick, scoring all three goals in 13 minutes. He is the only Chelsea player to have scored a hat trick after starting on the bench.

April had us travelling to 3 Point Lane and yes, you guessed right, we took all three points thanks to a Jimmy goal in the 38th minute. We kind of lost the plot slightly for the rest of April: a 0-0 at home to Boro, a 3-2 defeat at the dreaded Villa and a 2-1 defeat in Geordie land.

In May, we started with a resounding 4-0 win over Southampton; this was a massive step in pipping Manure Nited to second place. Next up was a trip to the House Of Horrors and with 10 men they couldn't stop us nicking a point and in doing so automatic qualification to the Champions League. Our last match of the season was a meaningless affair against a very poor Dirty Leeds. A 20th minute goal from Gronkjaer would send the fans home happy till the start of the new season.

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In the League Cup, we beat Notts County 4–2 at home, Reading away 0–1, but lost to Villa 2–1 away in the quarterfinals.

In the FA Cup, we beat Watford in a replay at the Bridge 4–2, and then it was off to Scarborough for a 1–0 win. The fifth round was where it ended with a 2–1 defeat at The Library.

The Champions League started with an away win at Sparta Prague, but we then lost at home 2–0 to Besiktas. We then saw off Lazio at home 2–1 and 0–4 away – Carlo's best game for us by the way. We struggled to get a point against Sparta, but it was enough for the next round. Our last group game was to exact revenge for losing 2–0 at home to Besiktas, and we promptly beat them 2–0.

Next up was VFB Stuttgart, where we sneaked a 1–0 away win and drew 0–0 at the Bridge, enough to put us in the last eight. We were team up against Le Arse, the first leg being at home. After taking a 53rd minute lead through Eidur, we gave it up 6 minutes later after Ashley Cole put in a great cross for Pires to level. The game at The Library was one to go down in History, with THAT goal from Wayne Bridge.

The semi final vs. Monaco was a bit of an anticlimax as Rainieri basically screwed it up big time with his team selection. Thankfully we got an away goal, which was the only good thing to come out of this game. The next leg was at the Bridge; we only needed to win 2–0, right? It started great, 2–0 up heading to half time, but a lapse in concentration saw Monaco get an all-important away goal. Morientes scored on the hour to send us spiraling out at the semis. How sad!

Stats:

Leading Scorer: Hasselbaink 18

Leading Appearances: Lampard 56

Average Home Attendance: 41,234

Player of the Year: Frank Lampard

A BOOK REVIEW BY RENE RODRIGUEZ: **Black and Blue: How Racism, Drugs and Cancer Almost Destroyed Me by Paul Canoville**



"I never said I was an angel. I'm just human but please try not to let this happen to you."

These words sum up a life that has been more rough than smooth. Black and Blue tells the gripping story of how Paul "Canners" Canoville, Chelsea's first black player, struggled to survive in a world that does not accept you for who you are. Unfortunately, racism was the least of his problems. Growing up with no father and a strict mother who showed very little affection towards him and his sister June, by his mid-teens he was interested in sports, music, drugs, girls, clothes and petty theft.

Despite family conflicts, he started playing for non-league Hillingdon Borough and eventually signed for Chelsea in December 1981. His experience at Chelsea was supposed to be a dream come true, but turned out to be nightmare. He made his debut during a time when racism and violence shadowed the terraces in the form of the National Front skinheads.

It's a story that relates to anyone who has been subjected to discrimination, and it is a lesson to those who witness it and do nothing. He doesn't shy away from the unpleasant truths about Chelsea. He recounts the racist abuse he took from fans of his own club and a confrontation he had with a unnamed

player at Chelsea. He also describes Chelsea's inability to respond to the racism or how to support him. Paul was sold to Reading in August 1986, and in October of that year he suffered a dislocated knee injury that eventually ended his professional career at the age of 24. A crack addiction, premature fatherhood and the emptiness of life without football contributed to his downfall. But he suffered another blow when he was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, not once but twice. He underwent a course of chemotherapy and is now in remission from cancer.

Battling back from everything that the world threw at him, it is a life marked by much uncertainty as by determination. His story defies belief yet is able to find something positive out of it. Though Paul is not entirely comfortable being hailed a pioneer, Canoville's role at Chelsea is one that cannot be ignored. "How there would be no black champions, no Drogba or Essien, today without a Canoville. Not a Hasselbaink, not a Gullit." For this achievement alone, we should all be grateful.

Black and Blue will take the reader through a roller coaster of emotions. You will laugh on one page then shed a tear on the next. This is not a book just for Chelsea supporters, but to anyone who loves and supports football. It's compelling to see someone who had a more difficult life off the pitch than on it. It's refreshing to read a player's biography that is not hampered with their playing days, their achievements and how they were caught up in some sort of scandal, but actually has an important story to tell.

For Paul Canoville, his story is a must read.

Ed. note: Be sure to check out Paul Canoville's Legends Podcast at chelseainamerica.com!



5 QUESTIONS FOR... Southeast Blue Paul Peltz, Jr.



How did you become Chelsea, and when?

I first started following Chelsea in 2003. I had just really gotten back in to football after about a 10 year break from the sport. I had played for about ten years as a kid and as many kids do in the US they kind of stray off from the sport as other things grab their interest. What brought me back was the 2002 World Cup. The US Men's National Team played very well and were unlucky to be bounced out by a Ballack goal and a no-call given on a hand ball by Frings in the box. So after all the hype I started to get in to MLS a bit and supported the New England Revolution. This got me turned on to Fox Soccer Channel and I found out that a new cable provider in my area had just recently picked them up and so I switched over to them so I could get it. This opened me up to a whole new world of football! I started seeing English Premier League games as well as the MLS games, and what a difference those English teams were compared to the MLS. I immediately got absorbed in to the EPL and started watching more and more often. At this point I had no affiliation with any team and I wanted to follow a team so that it would make watching the games more interesting. I knew I didn't want to just pick a ManU/ Arsenal/Liverpool team and jump on their bandwagons, and I had watched enough of Chelsea at that point that I liked their players and I saw a lot of promise in them. I met my now wife Mary Anne in 2006 and got her hooked on Chelsea as well, and luckily she supports them too and we feed each other's Chelsea addiction!

What is your favorite Chelsea memory?

Every time I get to see my beloved Chelsea live is my favorite memory! I've been lucky enough to attend the last four Chelsea Summer Tours, starting with the DC United match in 2005. Each time I get to see my Chelsea it is a special memory for me because it is so rare. There is no better feeling then going to a game and singing and partying with fellow Chelsea supporters. The game just isn't the same unless you are singing and supporting our boys. My next wish is to go watch a game at the Bridge. I've only been over to England once and when I was in London it was an international week so there were no club games. I was so very disappointed, but still stopped by the Bridge for some photos and spent too much money at the Megastore! My wife and I are planning on finally making our first game on the Spring Trip next year though. We're going to try and get to as many games as possible and are scraping our pennies together now.

If you could have any player from any other team play for Chelsea, who would it be?

I really like the squad the way it is now, so I don't think I'd like anyone to ruin what we have going with our current squad. The only thing I'd like to see Chelsea do is sign an American some day. The best Americans we've got that would have a shot are goalkeepers though, and I don't see Cech going anywhere anytime soon. The only other player with a chance would be Onyewu, and for him to get some time training with JT he could really become something special. Those are just dreams though...

What is your most treasured piece of Chelsea "stuff"?

That would probably have to be my two signed jerseys I have. The first one is my 04-05 kit that I have about 10 signatures on from the Chelsea v DC United game and my other is the 05-06 kit that I got signed with about as many at the MLS All Star Practice Session in

Chicago. The only problem is that I now don't have those two kits to wear anymore! I've been checking out the <http://classicfootballshirts.co.uk/> site and waiting for them to get both kits in my size so I can replace them.

What is your favorite Chelsea song?

Hmm...Favorite song... This is one of the things I love most about Chelsea and football in general. I love the songs and the passion, but if I had to pick one song that I love to sing the most, it's probably Gianfranco Zola just because it is so fun to sing. I sing to just about every song though when I hear them coming through the TV and support them as much as possible. Some other favorites of mine are Chelsea Alouette, Follow Follow Follow, Who's that Team We Call the Chelsea, and last but not least is Bouncy!

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you that were members last season that the time is running out to renew for this year and keep your permissions for avatars and signatures on the board. By the end of October, if you have not renewed you will have your permissions, avatars and signatures removed. Unfortunately, the board space costs money, and those avatars and signatures eat up the most space, so paying for the space comes from membership. You can still post but without graphics and you will find some topics restricted. Also you all need to know that come the first of 2010, we will close down membership to CIA as Chelsea will do for True Blue, so time is running out. Once the new year hits, my hands are tied on the True Blue thing. With all it takes to get the cards done and all of that, we all need a rest and release to be able to get ready for the end of the season stuff and the start of the next season. So please do not wait.

Okay, once again this has gone on too long. Be sure to remember our history, wear your colors with pride, sing with passion and get in there with your fellow Chelsea supporters and send your energy and belief all the way to SW6!



INTRODUCING: THE SOUTH BAY BLUES

by Mitch Ivers

For those of you that don't live on the west coast, I envy you several weekends out of the year. Most of you have the "early" kickoffs at 6:45am and 7:45am while we are at the pub ready for kickoff at 4:45 in the morning. For a few of us in the South Bay (Los Angeles County, California), this was tough seeing as how we had to drive to Lucky Baldwin's or The Olde Ship to be with proper Chelsea, both about 40 minutes to an hour away. Even the 7am games required a 5:30am wake up! Thus came about the idea of the South Bay Blues. Raciel (RaDragon), Kyle (BreadnButters), and I (Imaballrlikezola) came up with the idea a while back and were waiting until after the 2009 Chelsea Summer Tour to start something. A few months and a couple of pints later, we have found a host pub in Torrance called "The Crest", which also hosts a local Scottish Rangers supporters club.

We started small with five founding members; RaDragon (Raciel), BreadnButters (Kyle), Numbersix



(Michael H.), Imaballrlikezola (Mitch) and Amedeau11 (Andreas). Before our first meet up, we have done some recruiting and attracted a handful of others to join us in SBB.

Our first match day viewing at the pub as the newly formed South Bay Blues (SBB) was on September 12th versus Stoke City. We had our founders there, as well as some new potential supporters. A few OC Hooligans from

The Olde Ship and some Pasadena Blues from Lucky Baldwin's came by to show their support. Overall, we had a dozen Chelsea there; not bad for our first go round! We are working hard to establish ourselves and get a good following to every match; we even have our own logo and t-shirts to help cement our brand of Blues brothers and sisters on this side of California.

The South Bay is an area in Los Angeles County just south of the City of Los Angeles consisting of Santa Monica, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, Torrance, Palos Verdes, Lomita, San Pedro, Wilmington, Carson, Gardena, Hawthorne and Long Beach. If you find yourself in our area, we'd love for you drop by and have a pint with us. Check us out at www.SouthBayBlues.com for the latest meet-up information. We would also love for you to follow us on Twitter (@SouthBayBlues) and become a Fan of our Facebook page. Come on you Blues!

TWEET, TWEET: CHELSEA IN AMERICA ON TWITTER

by Monique Mork

Well I think it's pretty safe to say that most of you have at least heard of Twitter, even if you have not participated yet, but how is Chelsea in America using Twitter to help the Blues out there?

First of all a quick overview for those of you who have not yet got into the latest social networking craze... We all know what cell phone text messages are, but the problem with them is they are largely one to one and you need to know a person's phone number to be able to send them a text. Think of Twitter as a way for somebody to broadcast anything they have to say without knowing or having to know specifically who is listening, and for anybody out there to choose to listen to whatever "broadcast" they fancy, and you also have the option of getting these "broadcasts" on your PC or even as a text message to your phone.

But, we have all heard about people

Twittering frivolously about what they are having on their toast or the fact that their dog just had a drink of water, but there is also a lot of interesting and valuable information out there if you are selective. Some people like to follow a news or sports organization, or perhaps somebody that offers useful information like school closings etc. but at the end of the day *you* get to choose who you follow and you make that decision based on the quality of their Tweets.

And so to CIA and our use of Twitter... We first started during the summer tour when we realized that once people started travelling, they would most likely be away from their PC so not be able to get important updates or information, but they did have a phone. So, we simply encouraged people to sign up with Twitter and "follow" us (making sure they selected the option to get our Tweets to their phone). Voila! As news broke about practice session changes, or

hotel beer specials were announced, we were able to get that out to anybody who was interested, and it proved to be a big success.

Now that we are back in regular season mode we are still able to use Twitter to get information out to people, and have a little fun along the way. We send out Tweets about when and where to catch games each week, the occasional bit of interesting news or trivia, and with support from our friends at the US Megastore we also run a regular Chelsea quiz. I am sure our use of Twitter will continue to evolve, so if you want to find out what all the buzz is about, surf on over to Twitter.com, create an account and "follow" 'CFCInAmerica' using the link twitter.com/cfcinamerica.

If you have any questions about, or ideas for the CIA Twitter service you can get us at Twitter@ChelseaInAmerica.com