



DEEP FROM THE HEART Notes from the Chairwoman

In this issue:

- **Notes from the Chairwoman**
- **The Pacific Coast Blues on Film**
- **Left Field Book Review**
- **5 Questions For....**

Well, it sure isn't any fun to write this after last week's results, but I always try and look on the bright side. This is our blip, a huge ugly blip and best to get it over and done with. I would rather have a really horrible time for one or two matches than a big one that goes over four or six. So I am going to stay positive, put the blip behind me and bring it on!

There is so much going on, we are still fighting on three fronts. At the end of the day, following Chelsea has never been about winning every match; it's just more fun when we do.

So on to news...

As some, or maybe most of you know, Setanta will be off the air the first of March. But in some markets it is being replaced with the new FSC Plus or whatever they are calling it. So the good news is that there is another HD channel to watch our beloved Chelsea on. The bad news is that FSC basically has a monopoly for the balance of the season. The worst news, ChelseaTV is off the air in America for the time being. So with that I have made a number of pleading, crying and non-stop demands from the Club as to what they are going to do. I can't tell you that they have a solution worked out. But I can tell you they are investigating a new partner in America for ChelseaTV and will keep me, and consequently you, informed as it progresses. They know how much we love our ChelseaTV and are looking to bring it back to us. Maybe in the end it will be a partner that actually listens to us more and gives us more programming. I can also tell you that are doing a major upgrade to the online subscription service for ChelseaTV in the late spring/early summer, and I think it could involve more on-demand options. At least they know that is my major beef,

and they sound like they hear all of us. And I did hear that you can go month to month with ChelseaPlus for just 3.99 pounds, which seems like a bargain to me, and that allows you to have access to the archive, to the live broadcasts and to live radio Chelsea on all first team matches. At that price, it might be worth a test for a month if you have thought about it and wondered if it is worth it.

Speaking of radio – now streaming live as a video webcast – congratulations to the OC Hooligans for the immense turnout they had for the recent Arsenal match that Steven Cohen covered for World Football Daily. I got a copy of the video and I must say, I was SO IMPRESSED! Everyone at the Olde Ship looked like they rocked that place. The numbers were huge, and the support was monumental. I have to tell you, I don't think they could find a better bunch of supporters, a more vocal and spirited bunch anyplace else outside of Nevada Smith's. Though I am heading down to Cuatro's for the last match of the season to do a little comparison. But my real point is, it blew Steven Cohen away, and you guys all blew me away as well. GOOD ON YOU GUYS! If you haven't seen the video, go look for it; it is EPIC!

We also have the Dallas Cup less than a month away. I have been talking to the organizers of the event, and they are thrilled to have us back along with our U19 team. They really are hoping we come out strong, and they are hoping we bring the celery as well! (They seemed to really miss us last year.) They are also trying to help us have some special access to the team. So if you want more information, go to the members section of the board, follow the directions and you will be in the

continued on Page 2



Congratulations to Petr Cech, who was voted Czech Republic Footballer of the Year for 2009!

The 27-year-old goalkeeper previously won the award in 2005 and 2008 and finished ahead of Galatasaray forward Milan Baros and Bordeaux midfielder Jaroslav Plasil in this year's election.



continued from Page 1

know about what is happening; it is quite exciting. And I have to tell you, my hat goes off to the organizers from the Dallas Cup; they went out of their way to bring our boys to North Texas. They are sponsored by Nike now, so as we are an Adidas club, the money to fund Chelsea's team to come is coming out of the proceeds from the ticket sales and some other sponsorship and fundraising they have done. So my hats off to them, and I hope we get a huge crew down there to support our team as well as the Dallas Cup. I have to tell you the competition is going to be tough – the US is bringing their U19 squad in its beginning prep for the U19 World Cup, and I think they said Chile and Japan are doing the same. Some of the other teams (there are 16) are going to be tough, too. Our work is cut out for us, and our little boys will really need us there to sing them to victory. So please check out the thread in the members section and let me know you are coming so we can make this a great event for us and for our team.

The spring tour is decided, and it will be for the Stoke match. If you haven't bought your ticket and are looking to attend, DON'T DELAY! Time is running out. If you have any questions, just email me at beth.wild@chelseainamerica.com. It should be loads of fun!

We still have no further info on the summer tour. But it is still going forward; there is lots of speculation, but until we hear the dates, venue, etc from the club, all I know is it is on. It will be on the east coast and it will be after the World Cup. So start saving those pennies.

We also have joined the US Megastore in a partnership to advertise them and help them in exchange for them helping us with some funding for technology and things like that we need. The Megastore has finalized the agreement with Chelsea and will be able to produce "exclusive for America" items that will start showing up on their website later in the spring and the summer. And the list of things they are working on is fantastic! I CAN'T WAIT! As they said when they started, when it got to a certain level of sales they would be able to do things, and they are making good on that

promise. Their business is growing and with that comes the opportunity for them to do more things from our wish list. It will never be the UK Megastore, but they are trying, and I hope you all understand that your support of them allows them to do more things from the wish list we gave them. Shortly I will be able to announce a CIA/US Megastore member exclusive of some items with both our name and the Chelsea crest on it! We cannot do apparel as it is a violation of our club charter with Chelsea and also a serious legal no-no, and we have in the past been able to order a couple of things from the UK at a huge expense in shipping and a lot of headache for me, so this should make it so much easier. They have been working for over a year with Chelsea to make this happen for us, so look out for specific news in a few short weeks.

We also want to thank the US Megastore for the support they give to our Twitter contests. Last month there was a trivia contest through the month for a signed first team photo, a more than \$50 value, available only if you are following on us on Twitter. And believe me I think I heard the "OH YEAH!" from Jeremy in Kansas when the winner was announced. I know he was thrilled and very thankful to the Megastore.

Don't forget there are loads of things you get for your membership and loads of things we are doing. If you aren't taking advantage of them, we can't make you, but you are losing out. We have:

- The bulletin board, the best and fastest way to stay in touch with all things Chelsea, and a great way to meet other members
- The Twitter (CFCinAmerica), a great and fun way to stay in touch and the quizzes and games are really fun and wonderful
- The many pages on Facebook we have; so many groups have Facebook pages, so check that out
- The Podcast, if you don't listen you are missing out (we are actually quite highly rated as an amateur sports program) and by all means if you find yourself with nothing else to do on a Monday night, CALL IN!

We have folks involved in the newsletter,

continued on Page 4

Footy CHAT.
INSPIRING Legends!
APPOSITE Gossip?

Tune in & join the
Chelsea In America
Podcast.

Mondays
8:30 PM Eastern
chelseainamerica.com

CONTRIBUTORS:

A big thanks to everyone who helps make the CIA Bluesletter possible!

Editor: Jamie Edwards
Chairwoman: Beth Wild
Logo and Graphics: Raciél Diaz
Dates to Remember: Tel Stevens
Proofreaders: Dorothy Cooper and Sarah Drake

CIA Crest done in collaboration with Who Are Ya Designs – www.whoareyadesigns.com

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



THE PACIFIC COAST BLUES GET A VISIT FROM WORLD FOOTBALL DAILY

by Julie Carlson, photos by Sarah Drake

On Sunday, Feb 7th, while the rest of the country was gearing up for the Super Bowl, I was getting ready for a match that was much bigger in my book. Don't get me wrong, I grew up watching a variety of sports, and do have a healthy appreciation for the American variety of football. (Super Bowl Sunday is practically a national holiday after all.) But I was definitely more excited to see Chelsea take on Arsenal in a classic London derby. It was a big match to begin with, but there were a couple more factors that contributed to my excitement.

First of all, I have a young cousin who's an Arsenal fan. Now, he's probably really more of a Seattle Sounders fan, but lately he's been doing quite a bit of smack-talking, so I was really hoping to put him in his place. Second, we got word that World Football Daily would be down at The Olde Ship in Santa Ana where a lot of us So Cal folks go to watch matches. They would be there to videotape and interview folks and whatnot. Now let me say that I've never listened to WFD or its predecessor, World Soccer Daily, so I really don't have an opinion regarding its more controversial figure, Steven Cohen. So it wasn't really WFD that had me excited. My excitement was more for the opportunity to show people who support those other clubs what true support is like (and boy did we show 'em!), and to let more Chelsea fans know about Chelsea in America.

When I arrived at about 7:30am, there were already at least 30 people there, and about that many more would arrive before kickoff. The sing-song had



already begun, and as I found a place near some of our regulars, I noticed that there were indeed several new faces present. There were a couple of them near me, so we introduced ourselves to Martin, who wore a Chelsea shirt, and Sam, who wasn't wearing a Chelsea shirt, but was at least wearing blue.

Just before the match started, we looked up to see all the signs in support of JT, and sure enough, we saw the Kent Blues! I always consider that a good omen. Once the match got under way, the singing intensified. I have to say that I don't think we had a full minute between songs the entire match, except for halftime. I don't recall how soon the celery started flying, but I do know that I got my first beer shower (or maybe just a splash) after Drogba headed in that first goal. We were seriously going mental!

Just after that, Sam leaned over to me and admitted he was actually an Arsenal fan, but he had a huge grin on his face anyway. He simply could not get over the atmosphere at the Ship. He said he was originally from North London, and that he thought it was just like being in a London pub on match day. (I haven't yet had the privilege of being in a London pub on match day, so I'll have to take his word for it. The thought since crossed my mind that maybe it's been a while since he's been back there, but I'll take the compliment anyway!) I could tell he was having a great time, and even could not help but laugh as we sang to Fabregas, "How wide do you want the goal?" I did have to be honest with him (and you all) that we aren't quite so loud and boisterous every match. But it was

normal for a big match, and not simply because the guys from World Football Daily were there.

Speaking of WFD, they were pretty impressed with our support as well. They also joined in the fun, with Cohen laughing in the midst of being pelted by a bit of celery. (I swear I didn't hit him on purpose!) They even went so far as to claim that we were the best supporters club in the country. Now, I normally take those kinds of superlatives with a grain of salt. (He hasn't seen every supporters club in America, so how can he compare?) But I tend to think he's right. Chelsea in America IS the best supporters club in the country!

Well, you all know how the match ended, so I suppose I don't need to describe Lampard's great run to set up another Drogba goal. After another beer shower (and that one was indeed a shower), and several more songs, both traditional (you name it, we sang it) and original (you'll have to ask Danny "Blue Celery" about some of those), Chelsea went on to win the match. The folks at the Ship were great, not even minding having to mop up all the spilled beer and flattened celery. (One employee even got in on the fun by tossing coasters into the fray.) I must have hung around for at least an hour after the match to revel in the excitement.

Like many other Americans, I later attended a Super Bowl party with friends, but I couldn't help sitting there thinking, "It's as quiet as the Emirates in here!"

P.S. In case you're wondering, my cousin has indeed been put in his place!





GRAEME LE SAUX: LEFT FIELD

A Book Review by Chris Cruz

How would you describe a man who played for Chelsea in the late 80's and didn't get along with his teammates? A man who was so upset with his treatment at the club that after getting taken out of a match he took off his shirt and hurled it at his manager? A man who let in a vital goal in the 1998 World Cup? A man who was taunted by fans, teammates and the press about his supposed homosexuality? Would this man be considered a pariah, an outcast, disloyal, a "poof"?

How would you describe a man who played for Chelsea in the late 90's and was respected and counted on by his teammates? A man who was named club captain and PFA representative? A man who helped Blackburn to the Premiership title, and helped lead Chelsea to multiple cup wins? A man who represented England on 36 occasions, including all of England's matches in the 1998 World Cup? Would this man be considered a hero, a class footballer, a Chelsea legend?

Interpreting a player's career and legacy is not as simple as black and white descriptions. Graeme Le Saux may have been all of the things listed above, but he was also a very complex and complicated man who struggled to deal with the perceptions of others and the life of a footballer at a time when the game was changing.

When Le Saux debuted for Chelsea at the end of the '88-'89 season, Chelsea were in the old Second Division, foreigners on the squad were few and far between, and the club included strong personalities like Graham Roberts and Peter Nicholas. Rather than hanging out and drinking with the lads, Le Saux preferred to hang out in Covent Garden and listen to indie music. When Le Saux's career at Chelsea ended, he was playing with the men of the foreign revolution – Zola, Desailly, and Hasselbaink to name a few. Not only had training methods changed, but so had the social culture and team spirit of the club. Not only did he fit in, but he was a leader.



Le Saux adeptly describes the scope of his career – from a youngster growing up on the small island of Jersey near France, through to his two stints with Chelsea, his time with Alan Shearer and Chris Sutton at Blackburn, his England career and even the end of his career with Southampton – and the roller coasters that entailed. As Le Saux notes, he "threw himself into football" and has "come out the other side." For better or worse, he doesn't avoid the tough and complicated issues in his life and openly discusses his views on British footballing culture.

Perhaps Graeme Le Saux was born five to ten years too soon. Perhaps this Guardian-reading left-back wouldn't have had to endure homophobic attacks from Robbie Fowler and Paul Ince.

Perhaps he could have been part of Chelsea's championship squads. Or maybe it's the other way around. Maybe Le Saux's success on the pitch helped Chelsea – and other clubs – adapt to the inevitable influx of foreign players and the new ideas that came in the late '90s.

Le Saux may never be deified amongst Chelsea supporters like Zola, but after reading this book I think you too will feel that Le Saux is a true Chelsea legend.

He even says – much to the chagrin of many Blackburn supporters – "I achieved a lot with Blackburn . . . but Chelsea is the club that I feel the most affection towards... I am as proud to be associated with them now as I ever was."

continued from Page 2

the new birthday card campaign, graphics, surveys, marketing and heaven only knows what else, and it all is for the member to get more out their membership. If you aren't involved and want to be, just let us know. There is lots going on, and it can't happen without volunteers, and it is all happening because members are asking for more things.

That is about everything I can think of, and I know Jamie is going to have my head for making this so long. But... well... there is a lot going on. So keep the faith, keep that Blue Flag flying high, and stay tuned because it ain't over yet.

COME ON CHELSEA

CAREFREE

FA YOUTH CUP INFO

from chelseafc.com

The dates have been announced for the two-legged FA Youth Cup semi-final versus Blackburn Rovers.

A place in the Final for a second time in three seasons is at stake and the Under 18s play away first.

That match will take place on Wednesday 17 March at Ewood Park with a 7pm kick-off.

The second leg is at Stamford Bridge on Monday 22 March. Kick off is again 7pm.

If the score (on aggregate) is level after 90 minutes of the second leg, a period of 30 minutes extra time will be played. If the score is still level, penalties will determine the result. Away goals do not count as double in this competition.

Supporters who cannot make it in person can watch both legs live on ChelseaTV. Coverage starts at 6.30pm.

The Chelsea Youth team have defeated Charlton, Nottingham Forest, Portsmouth and Watford to reach this stage.



5 QUESTIONS FOR... Pacific Coast Blue Sarah Drake

How did you become Chelsea, and when?

The thing is... I don't know exactly how I came to Chelsea. I know it was initiated a couple months before they won the league in 2005. I remember that I found Fox Soccer Channel one day (a day that completely changed my life), and I kept returning to it like I had been watching it for years. It was a really natural transition, and I fell in love with the game right away. The summer before this I made a friend who was a Newcastle fan, and she told me a lot about them and Alan Shearer. Other than that I knew nothing about, not just English soccer, but the whole world of soccer. Although I knew I did not like Man U (that was with me from the very start). I could have very easily taken up my friend's team, but of course I had to be different and pick a team of my very own. Best decision of my life.

I had these little "rules" or more like guidelines that I had set while picking a team: 1. I didn't want the obvious, popular team (Basically I didn't know what or who the "Top 4" were, but I didn't want a team like that). 2. I didn't want the team that won the league that year. 3. I wanted a team outside of London, in a town that was more obscure (basically I wanted cool points when I explained to people where my team was from). 4. Had to have a great fan base. Well, hmmm. 1 out of 4 isn't too bad, yea? Chelsea obviously doesn't fit what I was looking for, but I guess Chelsea wanted me, and in the end it got me. There are a few little, insignificant instances here and there where Chelsea stood out. I didn't know much, but I knew I favored that "cool blue team." Everything was new and different, and I was a bit out of my element. Then I saw Jose Mourinho, and loved him immediately. I am not usually easily attached to arrogant people, but he could own it in front of a camera. Turns out he managed that cool blue team I kind of liked. Sold. Then guess what game was next? Bolton. Away. I watched it thinking, "Boy are these guys enthusiastic!" I then realized why, they won the league for the first time in 50 years.



I'm going to be honest, I thought about leaving Chelsea. The rule I had about not picking the winning team was massive! I am not a super anti-conformist, but I love to go against the grain. The moment that thought crossed my mind though, something in me shot it down. Not only shot it down, but almost made me sick thinking about switching to another team. Then Mr. Mourinho popped up on the screen and he was mentioning how "this team is a team of champions", it was a "very, very special club," and "I want to stay here for a very long time." His liberal use of the words "champions" and "special" made me smile, and reaffirmed that I was with the team I was supposed to be with. He was right. I mean even though he didn't stay for a long time, it is a team of champions, and most importantly it is a very, very special club.

What is your favorite Chelsea memory?

I have a few, so let's go in chronological order shall we? I came in on the tail end of the 04/05 season, so I didn't enjoy it as much as others. However, the 05/06 season was my first full season, and winning the league that season will stay with me for a long time. I remember the Man U game and I remember that I had these huge headphones on, because I was watching it in my dorm with my two roommates sleeping. I probably looked ridiculous yelling and singing at my computer then jumping around like no one's business, all while trying my very best to make no sound. The fact that it was against Man U (the team that embodies evil and everything that's

wrong with the world, in my opinion) just makes it that much better.

Then there is the first time I went to the Bridge (Fun fact: It was the day that Michael Ballack signed with us). I "strolled down Fulham Road" and there it was. I was home. I took a tour, spent way too much money in the megastore, and I remember that I spent time just looking at it, taking it all in. The next day tops that though, it was the victory parade for winning the

league. It was the first time I saw that these guys were actual people, and not these little guys running around on my computer screen. A London cabbie told me the perfect spot to go, and I worked it out so I could see the parade go by twice. It was truly two extremely blue days, everything Chelsea.

Another thing that stands out (for obvious reasons) is later that summer when they came to train in LA for the MLS All Star game. I didn't know in advance when they would be here or where they would train, but when I caught wind of it I drove down the very next day (I lived in Northern California back then) with a friend. We still didn't know when they were training, but we did know it was at UCLA. We were planning on staking out UCLA all day the next day, but on an off chance we drove past ULCA around 5pm that day, just in case. Low and behold they were there!!! I was literally clawing at the door to get out. With the car not completely stopped, I jumped out, yelled to my friend to "Go find a parking spot and come find me!" and basically had to control myself to not climb the fence and tackle them out of excitement.

Watching them train was really great, but when they went from the field to the locker room they had to run a gauntlet of fans. I got signatures and pictures from pretty much everyone, including Mourinho and Abramovich. I gave Terry a jersey to sign and I looked down to watch him sign it, but all I heard was "Hello, how are you?" I looked up and there he was, staring me straight in the

continued on Page 6



continued from Page 5

eye. The other players were polite and great, but Terry was the one who really stopped, looked me in the eye, and spoke to me. He said something else, but I can't really remember. There was also Cech on the second day who was last out of the locker room, and the whole team was late for an Adidas thing so he ran past all the fans. I was disappointed, because I had a shirt with Cech on the back that they all had signed except for Cech. When he was almost past the fans I yelled, "Cech, please!!" and he stopped, turned around, and came all the way back to sign my shirt. Now I know those 2 instances are really minor and insignificant, but since it came from them it remains one of the best memories.

Lastly, there's the time I saw a game at the Bridge. Need I say more? It was August 25, 2007 against Portsmouth, and Lampard scored around the 30th minute. I could be wrong, but that's what I remember. I also believe we went to top of the league that day. Just the whole match day experience remains magical. The grass was green, the sky was blue, and I didn't have to get up at ungodly hours to watch it. I was home. I sat in the "middle of the Shed." It was

the first time I heard that song, so now whenever I hear it, I think of that day. Mourinho didn't stay too long after that game; a few games later he and Chelsea were no more. I have a picture of Mourinho standing on the sideline, and in the background Avram Grant is sitting with the staff and staring at Mourinho. It's pretty creepy. Then again what picture of Grant isn't creepy? The game wasn't the best to be honest, but that didn't matter. Not at all. I can't wait to go back.

Who is your favorite first team player?

If I already have to have an all time favorite I would say Terry. I am still new, so I hesitate to pick an all time favorite just yet. Otherwise I go through a cycle of favorites where Essien, Lampard, and Drogba show up the most. Drogba is doing really well right now, so he might be my flavor of the month, so to speak. I don't know. I am one of those people where you ask them for their favorite movie and they give you a whole list. I could do that with Chelsea players.

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

Well I'm pretty happy with the squad,

but there are a few players that I wouldn't mind seeing in blue. Messi or Tevez would be nice, despite the fact I can't quite picture them in our jersey. I would like to see Per Mertesacker at Chelsea. Besides from being freakishly tall, he is a good central defender who is known to get some goals here and there. Plus I like Werder Bremen, so getting a player from them would be a plus for me. I would like to see an American on the team someday. Obviously not now, because we just do not have the talent, but someday would be nice. Really I just want anyone who can just fit in nicely with the team.

What is your favorite Chelsea song?

I love this question. How can anyone choose!? Celery, 10 Men Went To Mow, Didier Drogba Tra La La La La, CAREFREE! There are so many that I love. Carefree is a sign that I was supposed to be Chelsea all along. That could be my all time favorite. Every line to Carefree is just perfect, and being carefree sums me up pretty well. It gives me the warm-fuzzies whenever I sing or hear it. It's actually my ringtone! Although my new favorite is the Bouncy. Is it "The Bouncy" or just "Bouncy?" Whatever it is, I love it. Besides being lots of fun to do, it helps me get out of my shell a bit.

BOSINGWA OUT FOR THE SEASON from chelseafc.com

Ray Wilkins has announced Jose Bosingwa will miss the World Cup, and is due to have another operation on his knee injury, keeping him out of the World Cup.

The Portuguese defender has not played for Chelsea since limping off against Aston Villa in October, and will now have to sit out this summer's tournament in South Africa as well as the rest of the club season.

'Bosingwa will be out for the season and have another operation, so that's him unfortunately, and he'll miss the World Cup as well,' Wilkins said, adding that the injury 'just needs clearing up.'

In other injury news Ricardo Carvalho is a doubt for the weekend after withdrawing from Portugal duty in midweek, but Wilkins is optimistic that



the centre-half could be involved against Stoke on Sunday.

'We have been very fortunate that most players have come back in fine form from the internationals during the week, and there is only Riccy Carvalho that has a slight problem with his hamstring, a little bit of tightness but we'll have a

look at that today and see if he'll be okay for Sunday,' said the assistant manager, before discussing the rest of the absentees.

'Michael Essien is doing well, there has been a slight complication which means it needs a couple of weeks longer but he's out [in France] with Ashley [Cole] now and they're both doing extremely well, so from that point of view we're delighted with their recovery.

'It's difficult to give a timescale but hopefully he'll be fit as soon as possible because when we lose players of that quality it is damning on any side,' Wilkins said.

'Petr [Cech] is doing very well indeed, he was doing some half-squats yesterday in the water, and he's coming on very well.'