

Aston Villa Stars turning out for Paul Birch

Monday, 14 July 2008

A star-studded line up is anticipated to take the field when the Aston Villa Old Stars football team play a Sutton United FC X1 in support of former Aston Villa and Wolves star Paul Birch, who is courageously fighting bone cancer. The entire proceeds from this match are going to 'The Paul Birch Trust' that has been initiated by the Aston Villa Former Players Association and they call on all football fans to come along and support this most deserving cause.

Paul Birch enjoyed a 19-year career as a professional footballer making 462 first-class appearances until his retirement in 1999. Between 1980-1991 he played over 200 games for Aston Villa, which included playing in and winning the European Super-Cup Final against the mighty Barcelona. He quickly became a fans favourite at every club he played for due to his consistent high standard of performance of which determination and total commitment were the ever-present foundations.

Neil Rioch, former Aston Villa player and founder & chairman of Aston Villa FPA said, 'this football match is very special to all Aston Villa former players, as I'm sure it is to all football fans, because Paul Birch is one of life's very special people.' He went on, 'with this condition preventing him from working for the past eight months and having a 10-years old daughter to support, life for Paul couldn't be any tougher, but typically, he is showing the same qualities he did as a footballer in battling this dreaded disease. This match and a series of other events are planned to help generate the funds that will ease the burden and ensure a better quality of life for Paul and his family.'

Sutton United Chairman Mike Long adds: 'We are delighted to be able to welcome the Aston Villa Old Stars football team to our ground and support what is a very worthy cause. We look forward to contributing to both a successful fundraising event and entertaining game of football.'

The match takes place at the Sutton Utd FC ground in Hollyfield Road, Sutton Coldfield on Sunday 27th July, kick-off 2.30pm. Stalls, kids attractions and competitions will also be a feature on the day.

Entry to the ground is by match programme priced £2 in advance or £3 at the gate on the day. Match programmes are on sale at the following outlets

- Aston Villa FC club shop at Villa Park
- Aston Villa FC ticket office at Villa Park
- Sutton United FC ground in Hollyfield Road, Sutton Coldfield

For further information, please contact:

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