



Friday 21st August 2009
Southend United 0-0 Millwall

Blues XI: Steve Mildenhall, Simon Francis, Matt Heath, Adam Barrett, John White, Franck Moussa, Jean-Francois Christophe, Alan McCormack, Anthony Grant, Lee Barnard and Dougie Freedman.

Friday football is something Southend fans are going to get quite familiar with this season as no more than seven games have been switched after police had ordered to play games under floodlights.

A fantastic atmosphere inside Roots Hall for this fixture against one of the most in-famous clubs in British football, Millwall. No changes were made after the 1-1 draw at Wycombe and it was Southend who looked most dangerous in the opening exchanges.

Lee Barnard, who is in great goal scoring form at the moment, collected a neat through-ball from clever striker Dougie Freedman, before attacking the Millwall defence and then unleashed a powerful strike that Forde in the Lions' goal tipped over the bar.

A really frantic end to end game, saw some lovely touches from Freedman and several other players in a Blue shirt, also Macca was in tremendous form as he carved out a few chances for the Blues attackers, but they couldn't find the break-through that their dominance and quality deserved.

Just before the half-time whistle, the influential McCormack nearly gave the Blues the lead. The ball dropped to him on the angle of the penalty box, 18 yards out, and he struck a beautiful crisp volley that flashed past the Lions goal.

The second half was more of the same, Mildenhall in the Shrimpers goal was hardly troubled, and Southend continued to play attractive football.

Substitute Alex Revell, who replaced Freedman, within minutes of coming on nearly gave Blues the lead. A collected a ball on the edge of the box before striking a low drive that drifted agonisingly wide of the goal.

It was Revell who nearly scored again, when a beautiful ball in from Francis was headed superbly by Revell but it rebounded off the post to Lee Barnard, who was standing in an offside position.

Marks-man Neil Harris came on the field shortly after, and the Southend fan, nearly broke Southend hearts when his header went wide of the post. Millwall had a few more chances when former Orient striker Alexander's looping header hit the crossbar before Tony Craig blazed over.

Another great performance from Southend United, however they are still without a win, but that will soon change on this evidence.