



Saturday 29th August 2009
Swindon Town 2-1 Southend United

Blues XI: **Steve Mildenhall, Simon Francis, Jean-Yves M'Voto, Adam Barrett, John White, Franck Moussa, Alan McCormack, Jean-Francois Christophe, Anthony Grant, Lee Barnard and Alex Revell.**

Journey: 7 out of 10.	Stop start journey there but made superb time on the way home.
Stadium: 7 out of 10.	The best ground visited so far in the league this season.
Food Quality/Service: 8 out of 10.	Reasonably priced food and luckily got there early before the crowd.
Programme: 7 out of 10.	Good coverage on the Blues and one of the best programmes so far this year with good content.
Performance: 7 out of 10:	Slow start but confidence grew and the performance for a team with 10 men

Southend's unbeaten league record was ended in Wiltshire and it was more than likely down to referee Mr. Russell. When you have a man sent off for diving when he clearly didn't, you find it difficult playing 10 against 11 but when you play against 12, it is near on impossible.

Blue started slowly and Swindon looked more dangerous on the attack, but Southend had a few chances to take the lead and the stand out effort from the Shrimpers was after a decent move, Lee Barnard swivelled and hit a thunderous volley on the turn, which was palmed over by Lucas.

The Mr. Russell came out to play for Swindon, only thing that was missing was the red shirt, but I think Danny Wilson would have let him off after the game, it was a truly great performance against Southend from the man in the middle.

He awarded a free-kick on the edge of the box that was never a foul, which lead to the first goal as John White flicked the ball onto Cuthbert drove a shot across Mildy and into the far corner.

Jeff then went down under the challenge of a Robins player, he looked up to see that he didn't get a free-kick, picked himself up to help the team only to see Russell show him his second yellow card. Shameful refereeing.

Second half was much better from Southend, a lot of passion and a performance to match. However, the same thing couldn't have been said about Russell, the Blues were dominating and against the run of play Swindon scored their second. First of all Francis got cut down in the build up, the ball fell to Grant who then got chopped down from behind, still no foul, which left Tope Obadeyi, on-loan from Bolton, to smash between Mildy's legs, I was fuming, all the fans were fuming, Tilly was fuming along with the players, but everything still went against Southend.

Damian Scannell did pull a goal back for the Blues with a good turn and strike into the top corner and with the final few minutes approaching it was all Southend. Just before the goal and just after the Blues had a couple of penalty appeals. Lee Barnard was been wrestled to the floor by two defenders, nothing given, then Franck Moussa charged into the box and hacked down, nothing given yet again from Russell.

I thought over my report for a few days before writing it because there are so many things I could have against the referee but they are not publishable. He was truly awful. I give him out of ten in the ratings. 0.5 points for turning up and the other 0.5 for allowing the Blues goal to stand.