



## Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2009 Brighton & Hove Albion 2-3 Southend United

Blues XI: **Steve Mildenhall, Simon Francis, Adam Barrett, Jean-Yves M'Voto, Johnny Herd, Franck Moussa, Jean-Francois Christophe, Alan McCormack, Anthony Grant, Lee Barnard and Roy O'Donovan.**

**Journey: 4 out of 10**

**Stadium: 2 out of 10**

**Food Quality/Service: 8 out of 10.**

**Programme: 7 out of 10**

**Performance: 7 out of 10**

Terrible traffic on the way but made really good time on the way home. The worst stadium in the Football League. Miles away from the pitch and uncovered, awful!

Over the top priced food, but the service was pretty decent. Decent sized programme, only 50 pages though for the £3, a little over priced.

A few defence mix-ups but other than that a great performance to grind out a result.

**Southend United had tricky French striker Francis Laurent to thank after he netted 3 minutes into injury time to fire The Shrimpers to 8<sup>th</sup> in League One.**

The Blues had the best possible start when within 8 minutes, thanks to Lee Barnard's clever header. Simon Francis short throw-in to debutant Roy O'Donovan who produced a clever flick to set up Francis to curl a beautiful first time cross into the box where Barnard cleverly guided a diving header past Kuipers.

Brighton did get themselves on level terms thanks to leading marks-man Nicky Forster. Forster did threaten earlier when he flashed a shot well wide of the target from the edge of the box. However, he did score when he took advantage of a defence slip-up, which left him one on one with Mildenhall, and he coolly lifted the ball over the top over the goalkeeper.

However, this fast and furious game produced another goal when debutant Roy O'Donovan was on hand to tap home from close range after Barrett headed back across goal from Moussa's left flank cross.

Steve Mildenhall then produced a fine save to tip over the dangerous Forster's header but the veteran goal getter then scored his second. He got the better of Jean-Yves M'Voto who slipped and was replaced due to his injury, and Forster placed the ball past Mildenhall to equalise.

Just before they scored, the hosts came mighty close to getting another goal. Dicker saw a long range strike deflected onto the post and out for a corner.

In the second half, Forster came close to scoring his hat trick but Blues custodian Mildenhall was on hand to keep out his effort.

There were not many chances produced but Blues did have a spell when they pegged Brighton back into their own half when they had 5 corners in just under 2 minutes, but couldn't muster up a chance on goal.

Deep into injury time, Laurent who replaced O'Donovan, picked the ball up on the left wing before taking on three defenders with pace and skill, but when everyone thought he took it too far, he still managed to bend the ball past Kuipers and into the far corner of the net.

Instead of running across to the fans with pace, he modestly strolled over with a smile on his face, us Shrimpers knew we had picked up a vital 3 points in which could be a very promising season. Also debutant George Friend showed a few neat touches during his first game.