



Tuesday 26th September 2009
Brentford 2-1 Southend United

Blues XI: **Steve Mildenhall, Simon Francis, Adam Barrett, Osei Sankofa, George Friend, Franck Moussa, Jean-Francois Christophe, Alan McCormack, Anthony Grant, Lee Barnard and Roy O'Donovan.**

Journey: 5 out of 10.	Made good time arriving in London, but horrendous traffic in the Capital but seeing the sites passed the time.
Stadium: 5 out of 10.	Traditional British League ground, maybe atmosphere would have been better with a larger crowd.
Food Quality/Service:	N/A
Programme: 6 out of 10	OK programme but didn't find it that interesting.
Performance: 5 out of 10.	An acceptable first half performance followed up by a disappointing second.

Southend United suffered their second defeat within 2 days after conceding two penalties late on in the match. Osei Sankofa and Franck Moussa were the culprits after Simon Francis' freak early goal gave Blues the lead.

Southend United manager Steve Tilson told his players he wanted a reaction from Saturday's defeat against Oldham and he named the same starting eleven. For the opening few minutes Southend looked lively and took the lead in bizarre circumstances.

Simon Francis stepped over the ball as he looked to cross the ball into the penalty area. At first viewing it looked like the cross was over hit as goalkeeper Nikki Bull came to grasp it in mid air. However, the former Aldershot goalkeeper carried the ball over the line, which gave Southend the perfect tonic after a very poor performances Saturday.

Former Shrimpers striker Charlie MacDonald had the hosts' first chance but his header was saved by Mildenhall before the Blues shot stopper saved well from Myles Weston as Southend looked to weather the partial storm from Brentford.

In the second half there were very limited chances for either side, in which proved to be a very disappointing half for Southend. However, it was Southend who had the first chance of the second half, when Lee Barnard scuffed his shot and it travelled over the bar.

In the 67th minute Osei Sankofa, who was having a decent game up till this point, brought down Weston and the referee pointed to the spot. This could have been avoided as the ball was heading out of play, all Sankofa had to do was the shepherd the ball out for a goal kick, instead he dived in. O'Connor stepped up and smashed in past Mildenhall, who is yet to save a penalty.

Moussa and Laurent had shots on goal and both were tame. Moussa's flew harmlessly over the bar and Laurent's shot was soft and straight at Bull. In injury time, when a point seemed satisfactory, Franck Moussa dived in and it looked like he won the ball, but the referee, like all officials seem to do against Southend, award a decision against them, and O'Connor smashed his second penalty down the middle to end the match.

To add to a disappointing night, a group of supporter's including myself got lost walking to the coach. The police told the coach drivers that they would direct fans to the coaches and when we all dispersed from the ground, there was not a policeman in sight directing supporters.

However we all arrived back on the coach, 50 minutes late! But there were a few singing on the coach and they were still in high spirits ahead of a strip to Stockport!