



## Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009 Southend United 1-3 Southampton

Blues XI: **Steve Mildenhall, Simon Francis, Adam Barrett, Osei Sankofa, George Friend, Franck Moussa, Anthony Grant, Alan McCormack, Francis Laurent, Lee Barnard and Dougie Freedman.**

**Southend United slipped to their second consecutive home defeat at the hands of a very decent Southampton side. All goals were scored in the first half and the Saints had Trotman and Lallana to thank as they secured their first away win of the season.**

The Blues started the game just the way they ended against MK Dons, as they looked slow and lethargic and this led to Southampton taking the lead in controversial circumstances.

A corner in the 6<sup>th</sup> minute was headed towards goal by Rickie Lambert and it was superbly saved by Mildenhall who then grasped the ball with both hands. The next thing we saw was Southampton players running away in jubilation after former Colchester United loanee Neal Trotman had bundled the ball over the line. This led to uproar from all the Southend players, but the referee stayed with his decision.

Southend looked to get back on level terms and Lee Barnard shot straight at Davis and then down the other end Steve Mildenhall continued his fine run of form after he saved well one on one from Lallana before turning his second attempt around the post.

However in the 27<sup>th</sup> minute Southend United were level. George Friend returned to the starting line up for tonight's game and he lined up a 25-yard free kick. He then hit one of the sweetest strikes you will see this weekend and his effort curled with pace past Davis and into the top corner off the bar.

Just 5 minutes the scores stayed level as Southampton added their second goal of the evening. Simon Francis failed to clear properly and it fell to Morgan Schneiderlin and it was from his shot that Adam Lallana deflected past Mildenhall and into the back of the net.

It was the former England U21 star that increased the Saints lead before the interval. Davis punted a long goal kick up field and Lambert beat Barrett to the ball and his flicked header was raced onto by Lallana who coolly slotted past Steve Mildenhall to all but secure the points.

Southend really needed to score early on in the second half to really put themselves back in contention. French winger Francis Laurent headed over as the Blues did try and create something.

The hosts had a lot of possession but they just couldn't break down this Southampton team however they thought they had got a goal back when Simon Francis' header was heading for goal until former Blues loanee Dan Harding cleared off the line.

There were a few half hearted shouts for a penalty when Lee Sawyer and Simon Francis went down in the box but it didn't seem to be Southend's night.

George Friend blocked well down the other end from Papa Waigo N'Daiye who is on loan from Fiorentina. From Southend's point of view the pitch seemed small, as they couldn't find enough space to produce a shot on goal.

Striker Roy O'Donovan, who has gone 4 games without a goal, saw his shot tipped around the post from Kelvin Davis. Davis seemed the busier keeper on the night as Mildenhall did not really have much to do throughout the match.

The final whistle blew and Southampton celebrated their first win on the road this season, however Southend United, looked at their 3<sup>rd</sup> league defeat in 4 games, in my opinion they really miss Jean-Yves M'Voto.