



Tuesday 24th November 2009
Tranmere Rovers 2-0 Southend United

Blues XI: Steve Mildenhall, Simon Francis, Sean Morrison, Adam Barrett, Scott Malone, Franck Moussa, Jean-Francois Christophe, Alan McCormack, Francis Laurent, Lee Barnard and Dougie Freedman.

Journey: 8 out of 10.

Made good time there and back but did face dangerous driving conditions on the way home.

Stadium: 7 out of 10.

A good ground, very decent for League One, however, one small stand to the away fans left disappointed me

Food Quality/Service: 7 out of 10.

£3 for a bottle of beer, but got served in time and it was OK.

Programme: 6 out of 10.

Not a patch on Southend's programme, but did have decent coverage of the home team and the opposition.

Performance: 6 out of 10.

Disappointing first half but improved in the second. The weather conditions did not help.

Southend United left a blustery Prenton Park in Birkenhead on Tuesday evening without a point. A goal in either half from the hosts ensured the Blues left empty handed, however, the Blues stay in 11th position despite the defeat.

It took the hosts just under 10 minutes to put the ball in the net. A short corner caught the Southend defence napping; it was delivered towards the back post that Gornell headed back across the goal for Goodison to power home a header from close range.

The Shrimpers looked to hit back straight away and went close from Morrison. Simon Francis' corner was met by Morrison but his header was cleared off the line by Man City loanee Logan and the league's top scorer Barnard could only smash the ball over the bar.

The Blues, wearing their yellow kit, found it hard to carve out any other clear-cut opportunities as they battled against the wind. Tranmere midfielder Welsh tried his luck from distance but his effort flew harmlessly over the cross bar.

The hosts ended the strongest and also started the strongest in the second. Southend goalkeeper Mildenhall did well to save from Craig Curran. The Blues keeper got down well to his left to push around the post.

Debutant Scott Malone was impressing and it was his corner that forced Southend first real chance of the second half. The Wolves loanee saw his corner from the left floated into the box and Blues skipper Barrett saw his powerful header saved well by Daniels.

As Southend were attacking, Tranmere caught them on the break, and scored their second goal of the game. Logan's ball caught out Morrison and Gornell turned well and fired past the stranded Steve Mildenhall.

Southend had to attack and nearly took the lead when Freedman fed Laurent but the Frenchman screwed his shot well over the bar. Alan McCormack was the next to try his luck but his 25-yard dipping volley just went wide.

Lee Barnard has an effort cleared off the line as Southend added the pressure and Damian Scannell lost control when he was one on one with Daniels after a mazy 35 yard run.

Sean Morrison saw his header go over after he met Malone's corner but Tranmere hung onto the vital three points in their battle at the bottom. This just goes to show how tight and competitive the league is this year.