



**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2010**  
**Southend United 2-2 Brentford**

**Blues XI:** Steve Mildenhall, Simon Francis, Pat Baldwin, Jean-Yves M'Voto, Johnny Herd, Jean-Francois Christophe, Anthony Grant, Alan McCormack, Franck Moussa, Francis Laurent and Scott Vernon.

**Francis Laurent netted both goals as a superb second half showing from Southend United earned them a draw against a strong Brentford team. Former Blues striker Charlie MacDonald put the Bee's ahead and Carl Cort put them 2-1 up, but Shrimpers bounced back both times through Laurent.**

Brentford started the brighter of the two sides and they dominated the opening 25 minutes of the game as Southend looked tired and not interested. On-loan Millwall forward Lewis Grabban went close early on before Brentford did take the lead.

After a similar mistake early on, Brentford cashed in on the defence mistake, and went ahead through Charlie MacDonald who once scoring muted his celebrations. Former £7m man Carl Cort played in MacDonald, who looked yards offside, who then placed a low shot underneath Steve Mildenhall.

Southend hardly threatened but went close through Simon Francis after he shot over from the edge of the box. Southend added more pressure but Brentford cleared everything that came their way.

The second half was much better from the Blues. Up-tempo play and they kept the ball on the ground that made Brentford work harder. Scott Vernon had a shot drift harmlessly wide of the target before influential midfielder Alan McCormack lined up a shot from 25 yards which just went over the bar.

Just before the hour mark Southend were level through Francis Laurent. Franck Moussa did well on the wing to play in the Frenchman who showed great skill to fire a shot from close range past on loan Arsenal keeper Szczesny.

Moussa was impressing on the wing after his suspension and went mighty close to giving the Blues the lead when Laurent's quick feet set up an opportunity for the Belgian who just couldn't keep his effort down.

The Bee's, fresh from beating Huddersfield Saturday, got on level terms just 6 minutes later through former Blues defender Leon Cort's brother Carl. Despite Southend being on top, the striker curled home a wonderful effort, to silence The Hall.

Just 20 seconds later, Southend were level, when Laurent poked home from close range. Franck Moussa was again involved as his cross fell into the path of Laurent who placed home.

Blues kept pushing and went close through Christophe but his shot went wide of the goal. Southend are back in action on Saturday at home against Brighton where three points is a must.