



SHRIMPERS TRUST

NEWSLETTER – Volume 3 Issue 5



THE INTRODUCTION – Paul FitzGerald

1-0 aux bleus superbes

It's a funny old game – after such a positive run of results the wheels came off somewhat in Bristol and then up steps a young Frenchman the like of which we have never seen. I don't think I've been so excited about a full debut since Sir Stanley Collymore mesmerised us with his turns and power. Well....step forward Francis Laurent...no pressure of course but if you could just do that every week young man that would be great – happy days!

A crowd of just over 10,000 on a cold Tuesday were treated to what to me was probably the best game of football I can remember in a long long time – 1-0 didn't do the game justice but the result did and Dirty Leeds were sent home wondering what hit them. To be fair to them they did look a good side – not good enough though – ha!

On Trust matters we have our AGM (details further down) coming up on Wednesday 26th November and it would be great to see as many of you there as possible. We have enclosed a calling notice and agenda for your perusal.

On the planning front Ron Martin has agreed to post a regular bulletin on progress or indeed lack of it regarding Fossetts Farm. The Trust is to present questions to Ron and he will answer them alongside any information he wishes to publish. If you would like us to ask Ron something specific about the new stadium or any aspect of the development please forward your questions to info@shrimperstrust.co.uk I know I have a few.

In a similar vein as many of you will know the Trust holds regular Liaison meetings with Geoffrey King, Garry Adamson, Helen Norbury and Derek Wilshire – these meetings cover anything to do with the football club, including administration, ticketing, marketing, communication, facilities and complaints. We are always happy to raise issues with the club from our members, so again feel free to send us any comments at any time to info@shrimperstrust.co.uk.

One specific issue that the club would welcome feedback on is Meet the Blues day – what would fans like to see changed or improved for next year, any suggestions at all that would make the event more attractive etc would be very welcome

As part of the continuing sponsorship of the Youth Setup – Mark Bonner and Luke Hobbs gave an excellent 2 hours training to a group of Junior Shrimpers. This was the first time we have held such a session and whilst the numbers were a little disappointing the session itself was enjoyed by the boys. We plan to run another and I would hope that the opportunity to be trained by professional coaches would be an attractive thought to the aspiring young footballers amongst us.

The recently held poker night was a great success although again numbers were not what we hoped they would be. Nevertheless the event attracted several people who had not attended a Trust event before – including the winner who wasn't even a Trust member – but is now! We plan to run another in the New Year although the format may change slightly as an event lasting over 5 hours put several committee members' stamina to the test!

TRUSTING IN US

Shrimpers Trust increase involvement with Club

The past twelve months has seen the Shrimpers Trust further enhance its involvement in Southend United's Youth Department.

Following on from the early success of sponsoring the travelling costs of Joel Ledgister, a promising winger, and Reiss Noel, a commanding centre-half, soon after Ricky Duncan's return to the club in 2005, last summer saw the Shrimpers Trust commit a sum of £5,000 in each of the following two seasons to help finance the highly-successful European Tour Programme.



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The Trust then made an additional commitment early in 2008 in order to see their logo emblazoned on the front of the Under-18s' shirts until May 2009. This team has also reached notable heights, finishing inside the top four in both of Duncan's first two campaigns in charge and defeating Academy outfits Derby County and Stoke City in an historic run to the last sixteen of the F.A. Youth Cup last term.

Monthly Shrimpers Trust SUFC Youth Team Player of the Month awards are handed out on the Roots Hall pitch throughout the season, with the winners automatically nominated for the Tom Grace Memorial Shield for the Youth Team Player of the Year at the organisation's End of Season Review evening.

Three members of the Trust committee have recently been elected onto the Youth Development Association committee, which helps to monitor funds raised through the Blues Lottery for the Centre of Excellence. Trust spokesman Robert Craven said, *"The Shrimpers Trust is delighted to help Ricky Duncan and his backroom team produce the future stars of Southend United. The progression of the likes of Franck Moussa and Charles Ademeno in Ricky's short time at the club shows that there is a great deal for supporters to be positive about, and that fans can have an influence in shaping the team of tomorrow."*

The Trust's backing for Southend United does not end there though, and money raised from this season's Quid-a-Goal initiative will go towards the Southend United Community & Educational Trust team headed by Steve Goodsell. In the past, we have also committed large sums of money from this scheme to Club Physiotherapist John Stannard, whilst last season we helped Paul Brush complete his FA Pro-License with the donation of £1000.

The value of the Trusts contribution to the Club was echoed by the Clubs Director of Commercial Services, Garry Adamson:

"Since I came to the club I have really enjoyed working with the Trust. Not only do they do a good job in representing supporter views, their support of the Youth Department is extremely important to us. "For example, this extra cash helps us to buy the latest equipment which helps the players develop and also helps to attract youngsters to come to Southend. We hope to continue our positive relationship for years to come which will help us towards our aim of playing academy football in the short term."

This article first appeared on the Shrimpers Trust website, www.shrimperstrust.co.uk, where you can find out all the latest news from the Trust

BLUES' COUNTRY

As you will know, the Club recently launched the new Blues Country campaign with the aim of turning the whole of South Essex blue!

As part of the Blues continuing ambition to develop links with all sections of the local community including supporters, schools, businesses and local sports clubs the campaign seeks to make everyone in the area more aware of the Club and to develop a sense of local pride.

To help to achieve this, the Club have developed the '**This is Blues Country**' logo which will now be displayed in Club communications this season.

As well as the new logo on various Club communications residents of Blues Country will see mobile billboards on the roadside reminding people that 'This is Blues Country' when they drive into the area.

As well as the new logo and signage there a number of other activities planned and supporters are urged to join in. To that end we want to develop a Blues Country Army of volunteers to help us to spread the word. We want to ensure that wherever we possible there are Southend United messages all over the area. This is all the more important as we have received information that Chelsea plan to target South Essex to try and gain new supporters. This move from them as well as Spurs (new shop in Chelmsford), Arsenal and of course West Ham means that future generations are under threat of being lost to Southend United forever.





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If you are willing to help out by distributing posters in your local area we would be very grateful. Ideally we like a handful in each of the major areas of Blues Country. To volunteer, please write to Garry Adamson at garry.adamson@southend-united.co.uk

We have also inserted a Blues Country car sticker for your use so please display with pride!

Thanks

Garry Adamson

MERCHANDISE

Pint Beer Glass and Bottle Opener Key Ring

The Trust has just taken delivery of their new Beer Glasses and Bottle Opener Key Rings.



Both items have the Trust Logo and the legend 'SHRIMPERS TRUST' printed on them and can be purchased online at www.shrimperstrust.co.uk or from the Trust Info Stand in the Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall on any match day.

With the Pint Glass priced at just **£6.00** and the Key Ring at **£1.50** these make ideal Xmas Gifts along with many other items in our Merchandise Range.

For a limited period if you purchase two or more Beer Glasses from the Trust Info Stand the price will drop to just £5.00 each and if you purchase three or more from either the Trust Info Stand or Website you will receive a Beer Bottle Opener Key Ring **Free !!!!**



The Southend United Miscellany

Well known Southend United Fans and Historians Dave Goody and Peter Miles have published a new book about Southend United - **The Southend United Miscellany**.

The book is a 100-page, A5 paperback, featuring hundreds of interesting facts and snippets about Southend United. The book has over 200 photos/illustrations, 173 in black/white and 34 in colour, and priced at just **£7.99** plus Postage & Packing if required.

The book is the culmination of a lot of hard research work, and resulted from many conversations with Southend United fans over the years.

The book is available from the Trust Website www.shrimperstrust.co.uk, from Trust Info Stand in the Shrimpers Bar on match days or you can order by post by completing the enclosed Order Form and returning it with your payment.

It is also available from Waterstones in Southend High Street, and also directly from the publishers at www.shrimperpublishing.co.uk, from the start of November, **however if you buy the book through the Shrimpers Trust we will receive a commission for each copy sold.**

The Southend United Miscellany



Dave Goody and Peter Miles



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THE TRUST – What We've Done

Southend Carnival Torchlight Procession – Saturday 23rd August 2008

For the third time in four Years the Shrimpers Trust once again entered the Southend Carnival Torchlight Procession which was held on Saturday 23rd August 2008.

We would like to thank the following people for volunteering to help collect money for the Carnival Association's nominated Charities and for promoting the Shrimpers Trust and Southend United Football Club.

Connor Barton, Lee Bird, Andrew Bloxham, Richard Brown, Marie-Louise Haverty, Darren Posnack, Trevor Stanbridge, James & Liam Sullivan, Alec Trott, Pauline & Simon Webber and Bryan Woodford.

Thanks must also go to [Southend United](#) for their support and to the [Bluebelles](#), [Sammy the Shrimp](#) and [Elvis J. Eel](#) for helping on the night.

We would also like to express our gratitude to [Ian Bridge](#) and [SBC Leisure](#) for providing the Trust Liveried Coach for the event.

This article first appeared on the Shrimpers Trust website, www.shrimperstrust.co.uk, where you can find out all the latest news from the Trust

Play Your Cards Right - Poker Night – Saturday 13th September 2008

Well it's Monday and I have just about woken up after the Shrimpers Trust Poker Tournament. It lasted an amazing 5 hours and 27 minutes, not including breaks!

The eventual winner was [Stephen Ellison](#) (who took home a tidy £195), who was followed by [Ian Findlay](#), and our chairman, [Paul FitzGerald](#) in Third (Fix!). I finished on the bubble ... Typical!!!

The final tournament lasted for a good couple of hours and the bubble place took a long while to be decided as the underdog in each hand came on top on every occasion.

The night started in an odd fashion as on our arrival a fox ran into the casino lobby and tried to get into the lift which was fairly amusing and sure to set up an entertaining evening.

On the night we had four Arsenal fans join our poker game, however, none got close to the prize money much to their disgust, it just goes to show that our fans are so much better than "The Gooners".

The [Rendezvous Casino](#) staff were amazing; everyone from the waitresses in the café to the dealers, especially in putting up with Steve Dadds, Paul Forsyth, Piers Hewitt who were the life and soul of the event and had the whole attendance in stitches at times. One of the highlights had to be when Piers' Pocket Kings were folded by another player (without Piers knowing!!!)

Also hats off to Paul Y and co, who stayed to the very end despite not playing in the tournament itself!!!

We are looking to hold another Poker tournament in the New Year but would welcome any feedback in what you would like us to do differently or how we can get more people in attendance.

I hope everyone who was in attendance had a brilliant night and hope you will join us again for our next fundraising event.

Finally I would like to thank all the staff and management at the [Rendezvous Casino](#) for hosting the event and for their support and hard work on the evening.

This article first appeared on the Shrimpers Trust website, www.shrimperstrust.co.uk, where you can find out all the latest news from the Trust

Quiz Night – 11th October 2008

11th October was our most recent Quiz Night and another great success. Eleven tables and more than ninety people attended to boost the Trust funds by a further £600.

Paul Yeomanson did a terrific job taking over the quizmaster duties for the first time, following the retirement of the dynamic duo Guy & Nigel Rickard who have been the quiz hosts for the past 5 years. Thanks again to them for terrific help to the trust for so long.



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The winner of the Heads or Tails contest came from Alan Perry's table for the third time on the trot and the winners of the quiz were the same as for the last 4 or five quizzes but a great time was had by all. Excellent half time fare was supplied by The Fish House as usual and if you have not attended these occasions in the past don't forget the best teams are usually those represented by several generations so even your 10 year old can help if the question relates to Spongebob Square Pants !!!! This is a great family night out which is probably why it is so well supported by United fans and quiz fans alike.

Why not come and join in the fun at our next Quiz Night on Saturday 31st January 2009 (see below for further details).

FUNDRAISING

100 Club

The latest winners in the scheme, pulled out of the hat during weekly draws since the last newsletter were: **Phillip Conway, Clare Brooks, Paul Claydon, Martin Cranmer, Richard Cunningham, Jack Bond, John Clench, Mike Roles and Andy Thorne**, each collecting around **£35.00**.

The nature of the 100 Club means the more people that sign up, then the bigger the weekly prize. To register your interest, you can still contact Alan Perry at alanperry4@hotmail.com or by calling 01702 476 458 and put yourself in with a chance of winning the weekly prize. Remember, the more people that sign up to the scheme, then the higher that prize will be. By setting up a standing order for just £5 a month (or just £60 a year), you put yourself in with a chance of winning over £30 per week at the present time.

Quid-a-Goal

This Season's Quid A Goal scheme is now up and running and with numerous pledges made so far the current running total after 18 matches is £785.11

For this season part of the funds raised from the QAG scheme will be given to the Southend United Community & Educational Trust (SUCET) to help fund their Bodycare Programme. This programme is delivered young children of both Infant and Junior school age to help them get a healthy start in life with the benefits of physical activity and healthy eating being covered as well as mental and social health.

If you would like to help raise funds for this worthy cause you can do so by visiting the Trust Info Stand in the Shrimpers Bar prior to any Home Game or by completing the form printed in this season's SUFC Match Day Programmes.

Application forms are also available for download from the Trust Website www.shrimperstrust.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP

Life Membership (total: 156)

This newsletter we would like to welcome three new Life Members, **Joe Easteal, Peter Hill and Mark Sykes**. If you are interested in joining this group please contact our Membership Secretary, Paul Yeomanson via email at membership@shrimperstrust.co.uk. You can also join up as a Life Member in the Membership Section of the Trust Website www.shrimperstrust.co.uk, and postal applications will also be accepted via **Shrimpers Trust, PO Box 5830, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 9FD**.

The Shrimpers Trust would like to welcome the following New Members:

Audrey Barcan, Jeffrey Barcan, Peter Childs, John Crickson, Graham Dartnell, Paul Dean, Scott Dean, Gary Edmonds, David Foong, Kevin Gordon, Colin Hunt, Barry Kear, Carole Kenny, Stephen Lansley, James Lench, Lee Maynard, Barry Roberts, Matthew Roper, Dave Sargant, Adam Snith, Lee Smith, Stephen Smith, Doreen Stevens, Andrew Stibbards, Howard Studd, Steve Thorn, Charlie Warman, Hannah Warman, James White and Alex Young.

Please note that the Shrimpers Trust would like to know if any of its members' addresses change, or if they have a new email address so that newsletters and other correspondence can be sent to the correct address. Please send any change of address details to **The Shrimpers Trust, PO Box 5380, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 9FD, or alternatively fill in our on-line contact details form which can be found in the Membership Section of the Trust Website, www.shrimperstrust.co.uk ***



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2008/09 SEASON TRUST EVENTS

Race Night – Saturday 22nd November 2008

The Trust will be holding the first of their Race Nights for the 2008/09 Season on Saturday 22nd November 2008 in the Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall, first Race at 7.30 pm.

With 8 Brand New Horse Races plus a novelty race if time allows, this is a great event for all the family.

Admission is by Ticket Only which cost £3.00 and can be purchased in Advance from the Trust Stand in the Shrimpers Bar prior to every Home Game.

You can also purchase tickets online using our PayPal Facility at www.shrimperstrust.co.uk

So why not come along for a fantastic night of entertainment. Book early to avoid disappointment as numbers are limited.

Trust AGM and Q&A Session – Wednesday 26th November 2008

The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall - 7.30pm for an 8.30pm prompt Start

We are pleased to announce that Southend United FC Chairman Ron Martin and Chief Executive Geoffrey King, along with Steve Tilson will be in attendance after the formal business of our AGM to field a Question & Answer session. For your chance to quiz them on the club's current financial state, Fossetts Farm and their hopes and aspirations for the club both on and off the field make sure that you come along!

Forthcoming Events for 2008/2009

The following is a list of further events confirmed for 2008/2009. Full details will be published in future Newsletters and on the Trust Website.

Thursday 27th November 2008

RAYLEIGH LIGHTS

Rayleigh High Street – 4.15pm to 6.30pm

Wednesday 3rd December 2008

CURRY NIGHT

The Maharaja, London Road, Benfleet – 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm meal

£12.00 – All You Can Eat Buffet

For further details contact Alan Perry

(Tel: 01702 476458, email: alanperry4@hotmail.com)



Saturday 31st January 2009

QUIZ NIGHT

The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall – 7.30pm for an 8.00pm prompt start

£8.00 Adults, £5.00 U18's – Includes Fish & Chip Supper

For further details contact Alan Perry

(Tel: 01702 476458, email: alanperry4@hotmail.com)



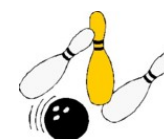
Thursday 12th February 2009

BOWLING NIGHT

The Kursaal Bowl, Southend – 7.00pm

For further details contact Alan Perry

(Tel: 01702 476458, email: alanperry4@hotmail.com)





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MATCH REPORTS – Bashford's Banter

Saturday 30th August 2008 – Walsall Town (Away) – Result (L) 5-2

What will be, will be!!!!!! Summer football returned at last and we actually saw some sunshine!!! Major road rage on the journey to the game – when will car drivers realise that coaches are bigger than them!!!!!!

A game of two halves – now where have I heard that before? Walsall showed their attacking intent right from the beginning of the game with a shoot on target policy albeit in the early stages most shots went high, wide and trickled to Mildenhall. One team change Sawyer starting in place of the unluckily suspended Moussa and the bench strengthened by the return from injury of Walker and Scannell. Where were our new French mercenaries? Southend “took the lead” after 15 minutes when a Sawyer cross was “touched in” by Revell only for an eagle eyed linesman / assistant referee (whatever their title is nowadays) to flag for offside. In the 21st minute Walsall hat-trick hero Demontagnac got his first shot on target fortunately for us he was denied by the post, but two minutes later we were 1-0 down when a cross from the right was not cleared by the Southend defence, fell to Reich who volleyed home. Very worrying was that the German attempted to celebrate with the non-existent fans in the away end – we had been moved to the side. Southend were playing well and the fluency seen against Brighton returned and we equalised in the 33rd minute when another fine cross from Sawyer was headed on by Grant and Kanu-Robson scored. Both sides continued to attack and Southend created one of the best efforts but Revell hit his shot straight at the Walsall keeper.

What was put in the players' tea at half time? I think both sets of players were drugged one team with “uppers” and the other “downers”. Half way through the second half we were 4-1 down. On 48 minutes Grant headed into his own net from a Reich cross; in the 50th minute a poor Clarke back header fell to Jabo who was tackled by Mildenhall and the ball fell to Demontagnac for his first goal and on 69th minutes Demontagnac headed home his second from a Palmer cross. Before that Betsy are some good play down the right wing hit the post but in the 84th minute it was all over when cross come shot from Demontagnac from out by the left hand corner flag flew into the net. A wonder goal, a fluke or a goal keeping error only Demontagnac or Mildenhall will know. Southend continued to attack and in the closing stages Walker collected a long clearance, passed to Barnard and it was 5-2. Two second half substitutions Walker for Revell and Scannell for Robson-Kanu. Too little too late!!!!!!

Crowd: 3,843. League position: 19th.

Team: Mildenhall, Francis, Clarke, Barrett, Harding, Betsy, Grant, Sawyer, Robson-Kanu (Scannell), Revell (Walker) and Barnard. Substitutes Not Used: Joyce, Sankofa & Furlong.

Tuesday 2nd September 2008 – Orient (Home) - JPT – Result (L) 2-4

Match Report Not Available

Crowd: 3,499.

Team: Mildenhall, Francis, Clarke, Barrett, Sankofa, Betsy, Grant (Christophe), Sawyer, Robson-Kanu (Scannell), Walker (Laurent) and Barnard. Substitutes Not Used: Masters & Furlong.

Saturday 6th September 2008 – Carlisle United (Away) – Result (L) 2-1

It seems like only yesterday (i.e. early April) that hundreds of Southend fans made the long journey to Carlisle to see Southend win a vital promotion game in Cumbria. In atrocious “summer” weather conditions (i.e. torrential rain and wind) a reduced number of fans set off for Carlisle not knowing whether the game was on or off. These who made the circa 750 mile return journey were rewarded with a much improved Southend performance and all agreed that we did not deserve to lose our third league game on the trot but this is why we follow football !!!!!!!!!!!

For the second Saturday running it was a game of two halves with all three goals scored by the side with the wind behind them.

Steve Tilson gave league debuts to Freedman and Christophe that, on the day, appeared to improve the balance of the team. A wonder curler from the experienced Freedman after 22 minutes gave Southend the lead – reward for some good play in the early stages of the game when we by far the better side. Ben Williams in



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the Carlisle goad was far busier than our own Mildenhall who was very confident with everything that Carlisle through at him. As always the travelling fans got behind their team and certainly made more news than the home fans. They got behind Mildenhall, who had received some unnecessary abuse in the previous Tuesday's "Mickey Mouse" cup game Vs Orient. If only some of the chances that we created had been scored!! Kanu-Robson cautioned after 34 minutes for "a player running into him". Whether the correct player was cautioned is debatable.

As already stated a game of two halves and for the second week running Carlisle came back from 1-0 down to win. They made good use of the wind and rain and played the ball "on the floor" but our boys still looked dangerous on the break. Christophe cautioned after 50 minutes closely followed by Horwood and Thirwell of Carlisle. The equaliser came on 63 minutes, the referee awarding a penalty following a foul by Peter Clarke and Graham scored from the spot. Both sides continued to push forward looking for the winner and on 79 minutes after some good play down the left, a cross, which Southend had opportunities to clear found its way to Cleveland-Taylor who hit an unstoppable shot past Mildenhall. Southend continued to push forward looking for the equaliser but with no luck – the Carlisle defence held firm. Three substitutes made Walker for Robson-Kanu (76 minutes); Furlong for Barnard (86 minutes and Furlong for Betsy (86 minutes).

A better performance and on journey home all agreed that we at least deserved a point and Carlisle were "lucky" but unfortunately statistics do not lie and show a record of 5 games played; 1 win; 1 draw and three consecutive league defeats. No need to panic because we were in a similar position last season and look where we ended up!!!! We must not lose faith with Steve Tilson, Paul Brush and the current squad of players.

Good luck to Matt Harold at Wycombe Wanderers. Will miracles happen and he starts to score goals like a number of our ex strikers?

As one who is normally critical of the stewards and security personnel at Carlisle I would like to complement them for allowing the Southend fans to move "to the left" (i.e. closer to the field of play) and for moving one of disabled fans and his father from sitting in an area fully exposed to the elements into a seating area under cover. If only the seven year old muppet and his dad who threw a brick at one of the supporters' coaches had the same brains.

Crowd: 6,561. League position: 22nd.

Team: Mildenhall, Francis, Clarke, Barrett, Harding, Betsy (Revell), Grant, Christophe, Robson-Kanu (Walker), Freedman and Barnard (Furlong). Substitutes Not Used: Masters & Sankofa.

Saturday 13th September 2008 – Hereford United (Home) – Result (W) 1-0

The tide has hopefully turned after our second home win of the season. Sunshine returned to Root Hall after weeks of rain

- The team gained three points to move away from the lower regions of the table
- Brian Dear retired after many years of loyal service to Southend following his playing career with West Ham United – now who will tell the story of the famous hat-trick?
- The Board aka Uncle Ron declare the fans cannot criticise Tilly and Brush but...
 - Who picks the team?
 - Who trains the players?
 - Who makes substitutions at the wrong time?
 - Who buys season tickets?
 - Who buys match day tickets for home and away fixture?
 - Who buys the club merchandising?
 - Who has the right to freedom of speech or has this been taken away by the Board's interpretation of the Human Right Act?

Saturday saw Southend United make a bright with numerous opportunities being created before we scored the only goal of the game:

- 4th minute and Walker cuts in from the left and shoots just wide
- 6th minute and a poor back pass sees Freedman denied by the Hereford goalkeeper
- 9th minute and a cross Francis sets up a goal attempt for Barnard which again is just
- Numerous corners and good runs from mid-field from Betsy, Sawyer and Walker but to no avail.

The goal came on 29 minutes when, after good work by Betsy down the right, a cross from Francis was laid back by Freedman and Barnard fires home his first home league goal of the season. The fans were now



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expecting a cricket score but Southend being Southend let Hereford back into the game and pushed forward by ex Shrimper Ben Smith Hereford created some chances of their own but stubborn defending and good goal keeping kept them to nil.

Hereford started the second half strongly but never looked like scoring. They were one of the weakest teams seen at Roots Hall for many a year but as Southend dominated, the fans became frustrated because no goals arrived and there is always the worry bead that, as seen in recent weeks, Southend will implode and give away silly goals. An injury to Mildenhall ten minutes from the end had Blues fans "holding their breath". Fortunately he played on, the ten players in front of him kept Hereford at bay, although if I was the Hereford manager I would be "throwing the tea cups around" at the lack of chances created with an immobile goalkeeper in place. Two late chances from Done and a back pass from Christophe, for which he could not stop apologising, were the sum today of normal play and six minutes of injury time.

Hopefully the injury is not serious as Mildenhall was starting to win over the doubters after their mindless chanting against Orient in the "Mickey Mouse" cup.

Tilly made two changes in the starting line-up with Walker and Sawyer returning and Grant and Robson-Kanu dropping down to the bench. Three tactical, time wasting substitutions late in the game Grant for Sawyer; Robson-Kanu for Walker and Scannell for Barnard helped run down the clock, put some fresh legs on the field and protect a 1-0 lead. Francis was the only Southend player cautioned when he took a booking on the half way line to prevent a Hereford breakaway.

I know we are not allowed to challenge any body at the club but it would be nice to answer the following questions:

- Why no goalkeeper on the bench?
- Why are we paying Ritchie Foran but not playing him?
- As some of the loan players will return to their clubs shortly, albeit playing well, why was Moussa not in the "16"?
- Other than Sankofa and Herd where is our defensive cover should any of the back four be injured or suspended?
- After all the rain in recent weeks why do we waste money and use the sprinkler system in watering the pitch before the game and at half time – a waste of resources?
- Will we now be allowed to eat chips now that Brian Dear has retired?

Good luck to Gary Adamson, the Club's Commercial Director after a recent operation.

Crowd: 6,393. League position: 16th.

Team: Mildenhall, Francis, Clarke, Barrett, Harding, Betsy (Revell), Christophe, Sawyer (Grant), Walker (Robson-Kanu), Freedman and Barnard (Scannell). *Substitutes Not Used: Revell & Sankofa.*

Saturday 20th September 2008 – Crewe Alexandra (Away) – Result (W) 3-4

Two wins on the trot. Hopefully our season will now get underway and we can challenge the "big boys" Leeds United, Leicester City and Millwall for some silverware and hopefully promotion in May 2009.

What a fantastic advertisement for attacking football with seven goals, more goal attempts than seen all season (including the 5-2 drubbing at Walsall) but what a nightmare for the two managers with some school boy defending offset by some world class tackles. At times the football was like "a hot potato / stick of dynamite" that no-one wanted to hold and use as a creative implement.

A measly crowd of 3,574 (I bet Crewe take more than that to Anfield in mid-week) saw a fantastic match in beautiful sunshine. Even though the Southend fans had a nightmare journey with traffic jams from Northampton (M1) to Stoke (M6) the journey was worthwhile. Even referee Mr Bratt joined in the fun with only one yellow card and that was to Kevin Betsy for a tired, late challenge from behind in the last few minutes of the game. No doubt wasted a bit more time!!!!

Cries of "USA, USA, USA" from the travelling fans greeted the announcement of Ian Joyce for his league debut in English football, the only change to the team that started against Hereford the previous week. What an introduction when in the first few minutes Crewe hit a post and the rebound fired straight at him for a comfortable save. Where was the defence? Only minutes later Southend were one nil up when Freedman capitalised on a sloppy back pass to fire the Blues into the lead. After 21 minutes the travelling Blues Army were ecstatic when Francis's cross from the right wing was deflected into his own net by Baudet, the Crewe



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central defender for a 2-0 lead. By 26 minutes Crewe had pulled a goal back when O'Connor's shot, which appeared to be going miles wide hit Peter Clarke and flew into the back of the net leaving Joyce totally stranded. Play was end to end and there were chances for both sides:

- a Zola bicycle kick just over the bar
- a fantastic last ditch tackle from Clarke denying Grant a scoring opportunity
- shots from Sawyer, Christophe and Freedman all going close

The equaliser came on 42 minutes when Pope ran onto a long ball from the busy O'Connor and slid the ball past Joyce. A suspicion of off-side but no complaints from the away team. No doubt Tilly asked a few questions at half time in respect of marking (i.e. how did Pope escape his marker?).

The second half started in the same vain as the first with chances for both sides (i.e. Zola hit over the bar when easier to score, and a great run from Sawyer saw his shot cleared off the line). On 66 minutes Southend's bad habits returned, a corner from the right was not cleared and this time Zola did not miss the opportunity provided and Crewe took the lead for the first time. This was short lived because within three minutes the score was level and Freedman had his second goal of the game and third for the season. Both sides made substitutions ahead of a barn storming finale, Revell for Barnard, Robson-Kanu for Walker and "Snoop Dog" Grant for Sawyer. Southend were now a strong attacking force but to keep everyone interested the visiting kept giving away silly free kicks in their own half. Two minutes from the end another shot from the effective Freedman was deflected to Grant and he gratefully accepted his first Southend goal but more importantly made the score 4-3 to the visitors. Some clever play by Scottish international Freedman kept the ball in the corner for a large proportion of the time remaining and at last Mr Bratt blew the final whistle and the away fans and players were in raptures – even Uncle Ron came onto the pitch!!!!!! **A great day for football supporters but a bad day for managers.**

Crowd: 3,574 League position: 12th.

Team: Joyce, Francis, Clarke, Barrett, Harding, Walker (Robson-Kanu), Christophe, Sawyer (Grant), Betsy, Freedman and Barnard (Revell). Substitutes Not Used: Sankofa & Scannell.

Friday 26th September 2008 – Orient (Home) – Result (W) 3-0

Three wins on the trot, including second consecutive home victory with a clean sheet, and we have climbed the league table to the dizzy height of 8th place. Things starting to look better with an encouraging mix of youth and experienced heads – long may this continue.

Friday night football returned to Roots hall for the first time this season and a bumper crowd, including a large number of supporters from East London (and one Orient fan from Spain), of 9,261 was there to see a thrilling but one sided game of football. By the time our third goal was scored the, a large of away supporters had deserted the North Bank.

What a fantastic performance from the Shrimpers. The whole team performed magnificently, dominating every aspect of the game despite the thugery of a number of Orient players who from the word go were determined to kick Southend off the park. A poor refereeing performance, where have I seen or heard that before, did not help the game. A couple of early yellow cards for poor tackles on Freedman and his colleagues might have allowed the game to flow even more than was actually seen on the night.

Steve Tilson made two changes from the starting line-up at Crewe – Federici, on loan from Reading, replacing Joyce in goal and Robson-Kanu for Walker on the left side of mid-field. One other change on the bench was the return of Alan McCormack from injury replacing Scannell. Federici, albeit hardly troubled looked very confident and dominated the penalty area – not sure why Joyce was replaced after a competent performance against Crewe and could not be blamed for any of the Crewe goals. Still Tilly knows best and felt he needed some experienced whilst Mildenhall injured. What a debut a 3 – 0 home win but more importantly for a goalkeeper a clean sheet.

Another fantastic advertisement for attacking football from the home team who were 1-0 up after 46 seconds when Barnard scored after some great mid-field which ended with a pin-point cross from Freedman. 12 minutes gone and Southend were 2-0 when Freedman set up Sawyer, who still of play reminds me of Stevie Gerrard – they even appear to have similar hair-cuts!!!!!! Such was Southend's dominance that it is impossible to right about every flowing move or pin-point cross or telling pass. Only complaint, if one allowed, is that we did not score more goals, what a greedy so and so I am. A third goal from the hard working Freedman made it 3-0 after 70 minutes and allowed Tilly to make three substitutions simultaneously – Revell for Freedman; McCormack for Sawyer and Grant for Robson-Kanu. A hoodoo dating back to 1987 was broken with our first home win since that date over our East London neighbours.



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Crowd: 9,261. League position: 8th.

Team: Federici, Francis, Clarke, Barrett, Harding, Betsy, Christophe, Sawyer (McCormack), Robson-Kanu (Grant), Freedman (Revell) and Barnard. Substitutes Not Used: Sankofa & Walker.

Saturday 4th October 2008 – Yeovil Town (Away) – Result (W) 1-2

Four wins on the trot, including second consecutive away victory and up to the dizzy heights of seventh in the league table.

I salute the Southend United fans who in their hundreds stood on an open terrace at the mercy of the worst weather seen since we travelled to Carlisle; I salute the Southend United players who in a swirling wind and torrential rain played exceptionally to collect three points; I also applaud the Southend United fans who decided to sit in the stands – they had more sense than the majority. Pity that Yeovil Town did not use common sense and move all the travelling fans into one of the half empty stands – would have saved the stewards and travelling fans getting soaked!!!!!! The support from the terrace and stands was “out of this world” and great to see all the players and staff show their appreciation at the end.

This was not a day for the soccer purist. Gone were the opportunities for the mid-field players to make telling cross-field passes or long balls from the back for the front runners to run onto, the wind dictated the play and it was a game of hard graft and short passes on the ground. Southend made one change to the starting 11 with Alex Revell replacing the injured Dougie Freedman, who appeared on more TV programmes this weekend than Simon Cowell, and Damien Scannell returning to the bench.

Yeovil started brightly and striker Gavin Tomlin looked dangerous but the defence and Adam Federici stood firm. Chances were always going to be at a premium and Southend got their break in the 24th minute when Brown fouled Lee Barnard to give away a penalty. The defender was yellow carded and Barnard coolly slotted home the spot kick. This was the break that Southend required and the fans thought that soon after we should have received a second penalty when Brown again appeared to have fouled Barnard but this was waived on by referee Hill. Yeovil continued to attack and two great saves from Federici, one in each half kept the home side at bay.

The second half followed the pattern of the first with dogged mid-field play and heavy tackles in worsening conditions. This led to bookings for Christophe, Harding and McCormack of Southend and Roberts and Peltier of Yeovil. McCormack was introduced in the 53rd minute, replacing the injured Christophe, and immediately fired a long range effort just wide and in one of his first tackles was cautioned – welcome back Alan!!!!!!!!!! The game was end to end but with few goal scoring chances, albeit Yeovil did hit a post until 86th minute when a wonder goal from Robson-Kanu, after great work down the right, put the Blues 2-0 up. Southend being Southend decided they wanted to make the last few minutes interesting and in the 88th minute, with the home fans steaming out of the ground, Schofield fired home a shot from the right to make it 2-1. With 2 minutes of normal play and four minutes of added time to go. Southend decided, quite rightly, to run down the clock and keep the ball in the corner. It was now that referee Hill and some of the Yeovil players “lost their heads”. Goal scorer Schofield was dismissed for a rash challenge that looked nothing more than a booking, and Roberts for dissent, being his second bookable offence (he should have been sent off in the first half for an “off the ground” tackle on Harding). The boys in blue ran down the clock and gained three hard earned points. Steve Tilson made two other substitutions in the 80th minute Grant for Sawyer and Walker for Barnard. A great victory in appalling weather conditions – still it was a pleasant but soggy journey home.

Crowd: 4,008. League position: 7th.

Team: Federici, Francis, Clarke, Barrett, Harding, Betsy, Christophe (McCormack), Sawyer (Grant), Robson-Kanu, Revell and Barnard (Walker). Substitutes Not Used: Sankofa & Scannell.

Saturday 11th October 2008 – Stockport County (Home) – Result (D) 1-1

After the rains and the winds of Yeovil, sunshine returned to Roots Hall for the visit of fellow in-form side Stockport who had a great win over Oldham the previous weekend, so on paper in good game predicted. For the circa 7,000 home fans, and no doubt the hand full of away fans, joy turned to gloom when it was noted that the infamous Trevor Kettle was the referee – more about him later.

Same starting eleven as per the previous week, with Mildenhall and Freedman still out injured, and one change on the bench with Laurent replacing Scannell. Southend started brightly against a young, enthusiastic



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Stockport side with Betsy, Robson-Kanu and Sawyer all going close. The early football was fluent but surprise, surprise the first goal came via route one. In the 19th minute, a long clearance from Federici was headed on by the hard working Revell, the new target for the Roots Hall boo boys, for Barnard to coolly slot home. Southend continued to play well albeit Stockport were gaining in confidence and a fine shot from Pilkington was well saved down low by the ever improving Federici.

Stockport started the second half brightly with Baker replacing Rowe up front for the start of the second half and but it was super-sub McSweeney who replaced Kane after 63 minutes who made all the difference, His first touch was a ferocious drive from 25 yards that whistled into the top corner of the net to make the score 1-1. Minutes later, Mr Kettle decided to take centre stage. The game had been competitive but not dirty and up to the 67th minute no one had been cautioned or even lectured by the bumbling referee but all that changed. As Stockport cleared the ball Dan Harding tackle that man McSweeney. To most people in the crowd he appeared to win the ball and at worst the tackle was no more than a yellow card if he caught the man before the ball. Mr Kettle, who had a different interpretation to the 7,000 + crowd and produced a straight red. The players were astounded, Tilly and Brush incensed and even our Chairman found his way from the box to the dig-out to remonstrate with the fourth official – if that was one of us we would have been escorted from the ground and received a banning order (i.e. one law from the true fans and another for club directors!!!!!!). Still good luck to him. This incident was identical to the sending off at Oldham last season when the same incompetent official sent off Gary Richards for winning the ball – still which was rescinded on appeal, hopefully Dan will be as lucky.

The remaining 23 minutes was one way traffic, with Southend relying on the counter attack but the defence held firm. Tilly upset the home fans on 71 minutes when he replaced the lively Sawyer with Osei Sankofa. First time in ages I can remember Tilly being booed albeit his substitutions are frequently challenged. Two minutes later McCormack was introduced in place of Barnard (guess what the boo boys wanted Revell substituted). In the dying seconds Mr McCormack, who has yet to play a full game, received his second yellow card of the season for disputing a free kick awarded to Stockport on the edge of the penalty area when again Southend appeared to win the ball cleanly? Blues held on and the fans continued to barrack Mr Kettle, a clown extraordinaire. How will the FA's respect campaign ever work when referees like Messrs Kettle, Hill and Singh are allowed to officiate without any common sense between them – they just play to the assessor in the stand!!!!

Crowd: 7,125. League position: 9th.

Team: Federici, Francis, Clarke, Barrett, Harding, Betsy, Christophe, Sawyer (Sankofa), Robson-Kanu, Revell (McCormack) and Barnard. Substitutes Not Used: Grant, Laurent & Walker.

Saturday 18th October 2008 – Swindon Town (Home) – Result (W) 2-1

The first game of the season I have needed my warm jacket and arrived at the ground somewhat apprehensive to find both Barnard and Freedman out of the line up. The game was end to end stuff and very entertaining and Swindon will leave Roots Hall very encouraged by their performance, following a poor run of results. They were unable to gain a deserved draw as following Alex Revell's header and the inevitable Billy Paynter's return to the Hall goal, Francis Laurent headed a fine goal for his debut first team score. Finger nails were being bitten around the ground as the Blues headed for the corner flag to hold up play every time they got the ball with 3 minutes of normal time and 4 minutes of extra time being played. They held on though and the 3 points lifted them to a play off spot for the first time this season. (Report by Alan Perry)

Crowd: 7,965. League position: 6th.

Team: Federici, Sankofa, Clarke, Barrett, Francis, Betsy, Christophe, Sawyer (McCormack), Robson-Kanu (Grant), Revell (Laurent) and Walker. Substitutes Not Used: Scannell & Furlong.

Tuesday 21st October 2008 – Scunthorpe United (Away) – Result (D) 1-1

Match Report Not Available

Crowd: 4,324. League position: 6th.



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Team: Federici, Sankofa, Clarke, Barrett, Francis, Betsy, Sawyer, Christophe, Robson-Kanu (McCormack), Barnard (Walker) and Revell (Laurent). *Substitutes Not Used: Grant & Scannell.*

Saturday 25th October 2008 – Bristol Rovers (Away) – Result (L) 2-4

Match Report Not Available

Crowd: 7,055. League position: 10th.

Team: Federici, Sankofa, Clarke, Barrett, Francis, Betsy (Scannell), Christophe, McCormack (Grant), Robson-Kanu, Walker (Laurent) and Revell. *Substitutes Not Used: Joyce & O'Keefe.*

Tuesday 28th October 2008 – Leeds United (Home) – Result (W) 1-0

Sacre bleu, un tres bonne "superstar" unveiled to the Southend United football fraternity. After a couple of substitute appearances Francis Laurent made his first start of the season and what a start it was until he was substituted after 78 minutes "tres knackered". Has Tilly unearthed a new Stanley Collymore?

Winter came early to the South of England with games at Walsall, Luton, Northampton and Wycombe either postponed or abandoned due to heavy snow. Southend United fans saw a fantastic team performance that "warmed the cockles of one's heart".

Steve Tilson made three changes to the side that started at Bristol Rovers – Dan Harding returned from suspension in place of Osei Sankofa; the fit again Lee Sawyer replaced Alan McCormack and Monsieur Laurent replaced the out of sorts James Walker. The three replaced players joined "Snoop Dog" Antony Grant and Damien Scannell on the bench.

What a fantastic start by Southend and Laurent in particular who caused all sorts of problems with his pace – but this was not a one man performance with every member of the squad playing an active and vital role.

- 10th minute: Revell to Laurent and the Frenchman's shot was well saved by Ankergrén in the Leeds goal;
- 11th minute: Southend had the ball in the back of the net but disallowed for off-side
- 12th minute: a great through pass from Sawyer to Laurent who produced another great save by the Leeds keeper.
- 16th minute: Telfer fouls Laurent just outside the penalty area and a wicked free kick from Dan Harding flies into the top of the net and Southend have the lead.
- 17th minute: another shot from Laurent saved by the Leeds keeper and Robson-Kanu just wide with the rebound - only way traffic at present.
- 41st minute: despite some good one touch football from Leeds their first shot came in the 41st minute and Federici equal to the challenge
- 42nd minute: Francis and Betsy combine well down the right but Robson-Kanu's effort straight at the keeper
- 44th minute: Leeds becoming more influential and a pin point shot from young Leeds starlet Delph brilliantly saved by Federici
- In the dying seconds of the first half Telfer pulled down Laurent in the penalty box but appeals turned down by referee Miller.

The second half saw Leeds attempt to dominate the game but the back four, mid-field and goal keeper held firm. Southend remained dominant on the counter attack:

54th minute: another Harding free kick pushed away by Ankergrén for a corner.

64th minute: Revell just wide after being put through by Laurent but shot just wide.

Leeds continued to play attractive football but Southend held firm. All the home players run themselves into the ground and with another big game on Saturday, Tilly wisely introduced three substitutes – Scannell for Laurent (78 minutes); Grant for Sawyer (82 minutes) and he immediately clashed with "fat boy" Leeds substitute Andy Robinson; McCormack for Revell (83 minutes).

Game well refereed by Mr Miller who cautioned four Leeds players (Michalik, Snodgrass, Robinson and Becchio).

Crowd: 10,132. League position: 7th.



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Team: Federici, Francis, Clarke, Barrett, Harding, Betsy, Sawyer (Grant), Christophe, Robson-Kanu, Laurent (Scannell), Revell (McCormack). Substitutes Not Used: Walker & Sankofa.

Saturday 1st November 2008 – Colchester United (Home) – Result (D) 3-3

After the thousands of Leeds fans that made the trip Southend on a Tuesday evening we saw a greatly reduced away following from our near neighbours – still which sums them up as a club!!!!!!!

Winter cold and snow turned into torrential game and supporters saw a fantastic high scoring game, albeit both managers would challenge that comment. Still Southend are attracting a lot of interest for some high scoring games (i.e. Walsall 2 – 5; Crewe 4 – 3; Orient 3- 0; Bristol Rovers 2 – 4 and now Colchester 3 – 3).

The Blue Voice made a fantastic effort in humiliating our Essex neighbours with a wall of sound, flags and blue and white posters.

A question that has been posed before for which no answers – what has Ritchie Foran done wrong? He is back at Darlington on loan but we have been paying his wages but not giving him a game despite having five loan signings in the team!!!!!! One day all will be revealed!!!!!!

The same sixteen as per the Leeds game and in early stages Southend totally dominated rushing into a 2-0 lead which had the home fans in raptures.

- 45 seconds: great play involving Robson-Kanu and Laurent saw Revell's attempt just over the bar
- 8th minute: a deep free kick from Harding, eluded everyone, especially local lad Dean Gerken in the Colchester goal, for Peter Clarke to head home at the far post
- 13th minute: looked as though the game was all over when a great run from Sawyer saw Laurent slide home from short range to make it 2 – 0.
- 14th minute: a sign of what was to come with Scott Vernon just wide;
- 26th minute: great play down the Colchester right saw Vernon again just wide
- 35th minute: back 4 strike again with an Adam Barrett foul / cuddle just outside the home penalty area. Jackson's free-kick took a wicked deflection to make it 2-1.
- 43rd minute: Southend now on the back foot and Izzet missed a simple chance when easier to score. Still Tilly and Brush can read the riot act at half time to sort things out.

Enforced change at half time with the injured Harding being replaced by Osei Sankofa. Again the fans ask why change the format with Francis moving to left back and Sankofa on the right? This changes the balance of the team. Still no doubt the management understand why they made the change but did not work last season and could have cost us this game.

- Colchester now totally dominant and we were struggling to gain ownership of the football. How long could we hold out and would we stop trying to defend and playing the attacking style of football that earned three points Vs Leeds?
- 72nd minute: a soft goal conceded when Mark Yeates, who was pulling Colchester's strings, waltzed into the Southend penalty area and despite four attempted tackles was allowed to easily slide the ball home for an equaliser.
- 81st minute: Substitute Wordsworth unmarked and allowed to put Colchester in the lead. My big challenge to referee Mr Russell is why was the goal scorer not sent off for two consecutive yellow card offences (i.e. 1) taking off shirt and 2) jumping into the crowd)?
- 96th minute: From one of many late corners the ball was stabbed home by Christophe to give a well deserved equaliser. From previous corner Fedrici headed the ball into the arms of his opposite number.

Two further substitutes used to try and break the stalemate – McCormack for Robson-Kanu (79 minutes) and Scannell for Laurent (76 minutes).

Another good refereeing performance, this time from Mr Russell, albeit he appeared to be lenient on one of the two visiting players who persistent in infringing after being booked. Cautions included Jackson, Coyne, Hammond, Washi and Wordsworth. Second consecutive game no Southend cautions.

Crowd: 8,920. League position: 7th.

Team: Federici, Francis, Clarke, Barrett, Harding (Sankofa), Betsy, Sawyer, Christophe, Robson-Kanu (McCormack), Laurent (Scannell), Revell. Substitutes Not Used: Grant & Walker.

9th November 2008