



SHRIMPERS TRUST



NEWSLETTER – Vol. 5 Iss. 01. - October 09

THE INTRODUCTION – Paul FitzGerald

The Fab Four – October 2009

So....here we are October 2009 and one or more of the four individuals/organisations featured on this page will be forming our destiny over the next few weeks. In the 2nd week of October we await the council's announcement on the revised development plans for Roots Hall and then on October 28th if nothing else changes we are taken to the brink of extinction due to yet another unpaid debt.



Frankly I'm getting bored with our visits to the high court, once is scary enough but we seem to find no end of imaginative reasons for make another guest appearance.

On the plus side with the exception of his timing estimates, Ron has not let us down yet and I'm sure he'll be working all hours to ensure his dream does not slip away now.

The actual football is of course a welcome distraction to what is or isn't going on off the pitch and following a good run of recent results it was with some eager anticipation that I took my seat for the Oldham game.

Well after that, frankly you have to wonder why you bother when clearly the players had more important things on their mind than stringing more than one pass together and actually having a shot on target. You have to hope that the players are shielded largely from state of the club's finances but I guess you'd have your head in a very different place to not know something was amiss.....



Hopefully most of you will have taken a look at our new website (Take a bow Paul Yeomanson). We have had some positive feedback which is always welcome and are always happy to consider anything our members think worthwhile – so if you haven't taken a look yet – please do, you may be surprised. We are hoping to grow the member section over the coming months with more offers exclusively for you!



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“IT’S TIME FOR CHANGE” – NEW TRUST WEBSITE LAUNCHED



“It’s Time For Change” was one of Barack Obama’s election slogans as he bid to become the President of the United States of America during 2008.

Well, the Shrimpers Trust has certainly taken that on board, as you will have noticed simply by typing www.shrimperstrust.co.uk into your internet browser. The time for change had come, and this is the bold, clear result of many hours of hard work behind the scenes from Paul Yeomanson. A BIG THANK YOU for his efforts in driving this forward and making it a possibility.

There comes a time when the status quo becomes outdated by rapid advances and that was the story with the old model, which contained much of the information that we wanted to convey to our members and the supporters of Southend United but not in the format that we craved.

Now getting to the major facets of the Shrimpers Trust website could not be easier - simply scan your eyes to the top of the page and you will see links to our ‘**Away Travel**’, ‘**Trust Shop**’ and ‘**Membership**’ sections.

That is not all. On the main left-hand navigation bar, you can find out all the latest news from the Trust, upcoming fundraisers and other events we are involved in, as well as dedicated areas for our coverage of the club’s Youth Department, minutes from our Liaison Meetings with Southend United F.C. and the Shrimpers Trust Hall of Fame.

But enough about us: this new website is about you - our members. A dedicated membership section will help Trust members unlock added content and receive discounts from local firms including Rendezvous Casino, Alpine Insurance and more. We want you to become more involved in the issues that affect the Trust, so please feel free to contact us.

The Shrimpers Trust online shop, complete with our full range of merchandise, has been revamped, and has a more commercial feel, with enhanced payment methods to make purchases much easier.

Over time, we will be seeking to bring you even more exclusive content, so please ensure that you keep revisiting the brash, new Shrimpers Trust website.

SHRIMPERS TRUST POKER TOURNAMENT 2009

So the 2nd Shrimpers Trust poker tournament is now over for another year and was a success yet again, especially considering we all got a slightly earlier bedtime!



We were joined by several more seasoned poker players on the night in order to increase the prize money and ultimately increase monies raised for the Shrimpers Trust coffers, however, I am pleased to say none of these made the top three.

Whilst the event was arranged by the Shrimpers Trust, Andrew Zelkin could have fooled us all as he took the lead in coordinating the event much to the initial disgust many of the tournament participants.

After an hour the rebuys were over and I unfortunately was on my way to the blackjack table, after being knocked out by, yes you guessed it, that annoying bloke. Open ended straight draws never come in, lesson learnt! Another man to go out at the early stages was Trust Chairman, Paul FitzGerald...the cards were obviously against the FitzGerald’s on the day!!



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As the tournament went on Andrew turned from annoying to entertaining although I am not convinced he meant it. It certainly made my 3 hours of spectating that much more comical.

Without a doubt the Star of the show was Sue Marden who at one point was down to 200 chips and came back to finish runner-up after hitting a number of miraculous poker hands including two four of a kind hands and a flush without even knowing it!!!

This year's bubble was part of the Southend United Ticket Office Manager, Matt Fletcher who was another victim of the star of the evening. I suppose the last couple of years we have all been getting used to just missing out of the top positions!!! Your wooden spoon is in the post!

The winner of the event was Steve Marden, who picked up a tidy £160 narrowly defeating Sue and Stephen Spaul who finished second and third respectively. Oh and hang on all of the top three were part of the Yeomanson party hmmm, first year the Chairman finished 2nd and the next year the membership secretary's party takes the top three places.



Thanks again to everyone who came and supported the Shrimpers Trust and hope you had a top night regardless of whether you finished in the money. Also a special thanks to the casino staff and in particular Paul Yeomanson, who ran the proceedings on the night and helped to arrange the tournament.

After the great success of the event the Trust have managed to secure a deal whereby members will be able to enjoy the Elements restaurant at Rendezvous Casino at a cheaper rate – more details can be found in the Membership Area of the New Trust Website.

TO TRUST OR NOT TO TRUST? – THAT IS THE QUESTION

As someone that's sat through all the trials and tribulations of our club during the past twenty five years of supporting The Blues I'm amazed that some still so vehemently mistrust our current Chairman and his intentions. I've spoken to and listened to them on many occasions. All, in one way or another, believe that anything that Ron Martin does or say's is done with an ulterior motive behind it and almost seem to relish the thought of being proven right at some stage. Why is this? Why, when we are closer than we have ever been to finally achieving that oh so elusive goal of a brand new stadium are these supporters still so mistrusting?

Is it because Ron Martin is a property developer and that the widely held belief of a property developer at the helm of a football club is a certain recipe for disaster? Well, let's look at that in a little closer detail shall we. I think Mr Martin would be the first to admit that when he first became involved with Southend United FC he was first and foremost a property developer and had no real love for the club or its supporters and saw Roots Hall and its surroundings as a means to an end to make a killing on the property market. History and the leagues are littered with examples of exactly this. Where we at Southend United differ from many others is that Mr Martin now has a genuine love for the club. It's grown on him. He's got 'the bug' that so many of us caught standing on the North Bank terracing on a cold November evening all those years ago. I would even go so far as to say that having a property developer at the helm of a club can actually be a positive as far as the future prospects of that club are concerned. After all one is dependent upon the other in order to make money and succeed. If Mr Martin was content for Southend United to continue plying its trade yo-yoing between Leagues 1 & 2 then I could possibly understand their discontent and would myself mistrust his motives and intentions but this is clearly not the case. Since day one his clear intent has been to secure the club a new home and put into place the means by which the club can move forward and progress and become an established CCC league side.



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Is the mistrust of Mr Martin born out of fear of change? A fear of losing the memories of what it's like to make that pilgrimage to Roots Hall twice a fortnight? It has to be said that of those that I've had discussions with about Mr Martin and his tenure to date at the helm of the club a fair few number of them seemed to hold views akin to this. Don't get me wrong, I too will be sorry to leave Roots Hall on that final Saturday but surely we all have to look to the future and even the most sceptical of supporters can see that it doesn't lie at our current home, however much we may like that to be the case.

Is he mistrusted by a small minority because he's always been quite open and frank with the supporters regarding his intentions towards the future of the club? (Arguably too open in my opinion but that's perhaps a subject I'll come back to at a later date) After all, the more open you are with certain people the more you open yourself up to criticism. There have been a few statements made concerning players, signings, finances etc that have never born fruit, that coupled with his openness certainly doesn't help and considering how quiet Mr Martin has been of late perhaps this is something he has taken on board and a lesson he's learnt.

Is it down to just plain old human nature? Everyone's different. Everyone is going to have an opinion about something that differs from the next persons. You only have to read some of the match reports on the various on line forums to see proof of this.

Is it a mixture of all the things I've mentioned that make this small but quite vocal minority see things the way they do? Who knows, I've thought about it on numerous occasions and I'm still none the wiser. One thing for certain though, at this present time we as supporters have no choice but to put our faith and trust in those at the helm of our club. For better or for worse they are the ones that are calling the shots off the field of play and we can but wait and see how things pan out.

UP THE BLUES
Phil Alsford

THE FANS NEED A STRONG VOICE! – JOIN THE FSF

The fact that you have chosen to read this article suggests that, at the very least, you have an interest in Southend United. Being on the Shrimpers Trust website would also indicate you are a true football fan and care about what is happening at the club. I would also suspect that you have strong views about how the game of football is developing and the apparent lack of respect shown to football fans. Putting aside the performances on the pitch, how do you feel you are treated by the club? Where do you go to if you have an issue (good or bad) with SUFC? If you are communicating with a football organisation / club, are you satisfied with their attitude and response?

For any local issues I would naturally advocate using the Shrimpers Trust which SUFC recognises as their official point of contact with the supporters. But who can represent your viewpoint if there is a very serious problem and / or the issue extends to other football clubs or organisations?

For this very reason the Shrimpers Trust is a member of the Football Supporters Federation (FSF) which represent the football supporter at all levels of the game. The FSF is growing in stature and is recognised by all the major football organisations in England and Wales and now has a representative within the Football Association. It has established a forum through which fans can address any football issues and the conclusions of which can be used to lobby and influence football organisations and government.

At a national level the FSF is addressing: - (1) Club Governance and Ownership. (2) Diversity. (3) Ticket Pricing and Distribution. (4) Safe Standing and (5) Policing and Stewarding. But if you were an individual FSF member you could have an input into what is discussed nationally. The FSF can also provide you with advice on how to deal with most football related issues and provide direction on appropriate legal advice.



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Membership to the FSF is now free and I would strongly recommend that you join the FSF as an individual member and become part of a larger voice for the football fan to ensure we are heard by those organisations who believe they run football in this country. You can join the FSF by logging on to their website – www.fsf.org.uk or ask for details through the Shrimpers Trust.

You have a chance to be involved with the FSF as the Shrimpers Trust are hosting the FSF Southern Division Quarterly Meeting at 12 noon to 5.00pm, Sunday 15th November 2009 in the Shrimpers Bar at Roots Hall (free entry), where current and topical football matters are discussed with representatives from other clubs in the region. You will not be surprised to find that the moans and groans of Southend United fans are no different to most other clubs. However by joining forces in the form of the FSF we may force football clubs or organisations to take positive action for the people that have made the game what it is today i.e. the football fan!

John Freemantle.

LETS ALL LAUGH AT.....

So whilst there may be a lot of doom and gloom around Roots Hall it could be worse ... LETS ALL LAUGH AT;

1) John Barnes

I just cannot see why any football club would employ this man, as a football manager. Granted he was a world class footballer but when he brought in Jason McAteer this was only going to add to his woes. I wonder if he raps to the players at half time. Hardly inspiring!

I hope he turns it around there because he is a decent bloke but I just can't see it happening. Write to at newsletter@shrimperstrust.co.uk if you disagree or to rub it in if I am being proved wrong!



2) Roy Keane

A man who used to install fear into the likes of Patrick Vieira and other world class centre midfielders.. O how the mighty has fallen! 1 point from 9 games need I say more. At the start of the season, Ipswich were tipped for the premiership, I think everyone including Roy Keane thought they had money, I guess this highlights how well Tilly and Brush have done with so little resource. Surely not long before Keano packs his bags and walks out again (Keegan-esque) and takes his frustrations out on his dogs.



3) Sol Campbell

Aw Sol, aren't you so poor and hard done by!! Apparently, he was promised big names signings such as Roberto Carlos and Benjani – Well Sol, your former club signed Ade Akinbiyi on the day you left – was this not the kind of transfer you were after? :) On signing for Nott's County, Campbell still maintained that he could make the England World Cup squad – Perhaps he has invented a time machine to take us back to 1998? Good luck making the squad whilst your without a club, mate.. Maybe if Steve McClaren was still in charge.



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4) Portsmouth

A year ago Portsmouth were one of the most up and coming clubs having recently lifted the FA Cup under the guidance of Harry Redknapp. They have lost all their top players, other than David James and he is only still there as he can pick up his pension next year! I personally can't watch Portsmouth anymore, so I could not tell you quite how bad they have been and it is all because of that bloomin' cow bell does not stop ringing – listen out for it next time – Horrible!



Hopefully, we will still be able to laugh at these and some others in next month's addition!

FORTHCOMING TRUST EVENTS

Thursday 12th November 2009

SHRIMPERS TRUST AGM

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

Saturday 21st November 2009

RACE NIGHT

The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall – 7.00pm for a 7.30pm prompt start

For further details contact Paul Yeomanson

(Tel: 01702 302373, email: info@shrimperstrust.co.uk)



Thursday 26th November 2009

RAYLEIGH LIGHTS

Rayleigh High Street – 4.15pm to 6.30pm

Wednesday 9th December 2009

XMAS PARTY with the PLAYERS *(the full SUFC 1st Team & Youth Team Squads will be there!!)*

Lords Golf & Country Club, Rayleigh – 7.30pm to 12.30am

Disco, Childrens Entertainment, Buffet and Memorabilia Auction

Tickets:	£25.00 Adult Members	£30.00 Adult Non-Members
	£15.00 Under 16 Members	£20.00 Under 16 Non-Members
	Under 8's Free	

For further details contact Lara McSweeney

(Tel: 01702 389580, email: greenfingerslara@yahoo.co.uk)



FUNDRAISING

100 Club

The latest winners in the scheme, pulled out of the hat during weekly draws since the last newsletter were: Wally Despy, Peter Hall, Phillip Endell, Bryan Woodford, Simon Dodd and Gary Crowe each collecting **£34.00**.

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 around £34 per week at the present time.



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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 **12** matches is **£478.25**

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 Members (Total 174)

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 at **Shrimpers Trust, PO Box 5830, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 9FD.**

Welcome to New Members since the last Newsletter

Ian Belfield, Robert Bryans, Alex Bunny, Mark Chatterton, Peter Chatterton, Derek Collingwood, Jack Dickens, Stephen Dickens, Stephen Ellison, Carl Foster, Luke Foster, Paul Fuller, Liam Glover, Mick Godfrey, Ian Lawrence, Andrew Lench, Philip Miles, Alan Siggers, Thomas Siggers, Christian Seymour, Paul Seymour, Alan Shaw, Yvonne Sills, Martin Tegerdine, Michael Tillson, Diana Toomer, Ian Toomer, Patricia Tyler, Michael Ward, Robert Whiteman and Doug Yates.

****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 ****

WORTH A PUNT?

In previous editions I predicted that MK DONS would win League 1 and that whilst Jermaine Beckford would win the golden boot, Lee Barnard was worth a punt at 29/1 especially with an each way bet.

Well if you have followed my tips to date, it is certainly looking like they have got legs, please see below standings of League 1 and goal scoring chart.



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1	Leeds United	8	22
2	Charlton	8	20
3	Bristol Rovers	8	18
4	MK Dons	8	17
5	Colchester	8	14
6	Huddersfield	8	14
7	Swindon	8	13
8	Southend	8	11

Player	Team	TOT
Forster	Brighton	7
Baker	Stockport	6
Barnard	Southend	6
Beckford	Leeds	6
Lisbie	Colchester	6
Burton	Charlton	5
Jackson	Gillingham	5
Johnson	Leeds	5

SHRIMPERS TRUST LONGSHOT OF THE MONTH: LEICESTER CITY TO BE RELEGATED FROM THE CHAMPIONSHIP @ 18-1

Whilst Leicester have started life in the Championship well, they failed to perform in that division before with the same group of players, if they go on a bad run of form they could end up in the lower reaches of the championship.

BARBERS BLURB – TERRACE TALK REPORTS

Friday 21st August 2009 Southend United 0-0 Millwall

Blues XI: Steve Mildenhall, Simon Francis, Matt Heath, Adam Barrett, John White, Franck Moussa, Jean-Francois Christophe, Alan McCormack, Anthony Grant, Lee Barnard and Dougie Freedman.

Friday football is something Southend fans are going to get quite familiar with this season as no more than seven games have been switched after police had ordered to play games under floodlights.

A fantastic atmosphere inside Roots Hall for this fixture against one of the most in-famous clubs in British football, Millwall. No changes were made after the 1-1 draw at Wycombe and it was Southend who looked most dangerous in the opening exchanges.

Lee Barnard, who is in great goal scoring form at the moment, collected a neat through-ball from clever striker Dougie Freedman, before attacking the Millwall defence and then unleashed a powerful strike that Forde in the Lions' goal tipped over the bar.

A really frantic end to end game, saw some lovely touches from Freedman and several other players in a Blue shirt, also Macca was in tremendous form as he carved out a few chances for the Blues attackers, but they couldn't find the break-through that their dominance and quality deserved.

Just before the half-time whistle, the influential McCormack nearly gave the Blues the lead. The ball dropped to him on the angle of the penalty box, 18 yards out, and he struck a beautiful crisp volley that flashed past the Lions goal.

The second half was more of the same, Mildenhall in the Shrimpers goal was hardly troubled, and Southend continued to play attractive football.

Substitute Alex Revell, who replaced Freedman, within minutes of coming on nearly gave Blues the lead. A collected a ball on the edge of the box before striking a low drive that drifted agonisingly wide of the goal.

It was Revell who nearly scored again, when a beautiful ball in from Francis was headed superbly by Revell but it rebounded off the post to Lee Barnard, who was standing in an offside position.



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Marks-man Neil Harris came on the field shortly after, and the Southend fan, nearly broke Southend hearts when his header went wide of the post. Millwall had a few more chances when former Orient striker Alexander's looping header hit the crossbar before Tony Craig blazed over.

Another great performance from Southend United, however they are still without a win, but that will soon change on this evidence.

Tuesday 25th August 2009 Carling Cup 1st Round Hull City 3-1 Southend United

Blues XI: Steve Mildenhall, Simon Francis, Matt Heath, Jean-Yves M'Voto, Adam Barrett, Franck Moussa, Alan McCormack, Jean-Francois Christophe, Anthony Grant, Alex Revell and Lee Barnard.

Journey: 8 out of 10.	Great journey, no hold ups and got there in plenty of time after a comfortable 30 minute stop at Grantham.
Stadium: 8 out of 10.	By far the best grounded attended so far this season, wonderful arena for the Premier League
Food Quality/Service:	N/A. Didn't purchase food from the ground.
Programme: 6 out of 10.	For these games the programmes are not as full as they normally would be on a League or FA Cup game, but included some decent interviews.
Performance: 8 out of 10.	Dominated the game for most of the match, with a bit of luck, we would have won the game.

Southend United's Carling Cup run came to an end in Yorkshire against Premier League outfit Hull City, but with a bit of luck Southend would have joined the big boys in round three.

A great journey up with followed by witnessing one of the best rainbows ever scene. A rainbow split up into 2 separate parts, before we drove by the end of the rainbow, which got many of us taking pictures on our phones. Unfortunately Southend United or we didn't find the pot of gold.

Hull made 11 changes but still boasted a very strong squad, whereas Blues made 2 changes, John White (rested) had his place taken by strong defender Jean-Yves M'Voto whilst Dougie Freedman was swapped with Alex Revell in attack.

Blues took a little while to get going and just before half-time Hull City took the lead thanks to academy graduate Tom Cairney's wonderful left-foot curling effort.

That seemed to spark the Blues on and Alex Revell had a shot go well wide of the target after good work from Simon Francis. Southend continued to impress as they had most of the ball. However, despite their dominance they nearly fell further behind when Barmby put a through ball for USA star Jozy Altidore but Matt Heath came across with a superb sliding challenge.

However, Hull City did extend their lead on 42 minutes, when the referee awarded a free kick that never was 25 yards out and Altidore drove a low shot beyond Mildenhall. Steve would be wondering how he didn't get down to it, but to be honest he saw it late.

The Shrimpers continued to impress and did get a goal back on 45 minutes when young Belgian star Franck Moussa hit a superb volley past Warner and good work by Revell.

The second half was all Southend United and Hull had Warner to thank after he denied Grant, Revell and Barnard as Blues looked for an equaliser. Simon Francis got up and down the wing all night and he delivered another Beckham like ball and Lee Barnard was centimetres away from getting his 5th of the season.

Hull brought on Brazilian star Geovanni and he smashed home a half-volley past Mildenhall to end the game, but everyone who witnessed that game could see that Hull City did not have a shot inside the 18 yard box and that Southend ran them all the way and could have and maybe should have put their name into the draw for Round Three.



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Saturday 29th August 2009

Swindon Town 2-1 Southend United

Blues XI: Steve Mildenhall, Simon Francis, Jean-Yves M'Voto, Adam Barrett, John White, Franck Moussa, Alan McCormack, Jean-Francois Christophe, Anthony Grant, Lee Barnard and Alex Revell.

Journey: 7 out of 10.

Stop start journey there but made superb time on the way home.

Stadium: 7 out of 10.

The best ground visited so far in the league this season.

Food Quality/Service: 8 out of 10.

Reasonably priced food and luckily got there early before the crowd.

Programme: 7 out of 10.

Good coverage on the Blues and one of the best programmes so far this year with good content.

Performance: 7 out of 10.

Slow start but confidence grew and the performance for a team with 10 men was superb.

Southend's unbeaten league record was ended in Wiltshire and it was more than likely down to referee Mr. Russell. When you have a man sent off for diving when he clearly didn't, you find it difficult playing 10 against 11 but when you play against 12, it is near on impossible.

Blue started slowly and Swindon looked more dangerous on the attack, but Southend had a few chances to take the lead and the stand out effort from the Shrimpers was after a decent move, Lee Barnard swivelled and hit a thunderous volley on the turn, which was palmed over by Lucas.

The Mr. Russell came out to play for Swindon, only thing that was missing was the red shirt, but I think Danny Wilson would have let him off after the game; it was a truly great performance against Southend from the man in the middle.

He awarded a free-kick on the edge of the box that was never a foul, which led to the first goal as John White flicked the ball onto Cuthbert who drove a shot across Mildy and into the far corner.

Jeff then went down under the challenge of a Robins player, he looked up to see that he didn't get a free-kick, picked himself up to help the team only to see Russell show him his second yellow card. Shameful refereeing.

Second half was much better from Southend, a lot of passion and a performance to match. However, the same thing couldn't have been said about Russell, the Blues were dominating and against the run of play Swindon scored their second. First of all Francis got cut down in the build up, the ball fell to Grant who then got chopped down from behind, still no foul, which left Tope Obadeyi, on-loan from Bolton, to smash between Mildy's legs, I was fuming, all the fans were fuming, Tilly was fuming along with the players, but everything still went against Southend.

Damian Scannell did pull a goal back for the Blues with a good turn and strike into the top corner and with the final few minutes approaching it was all Southend. Just before the goal and just after the Blues had a couple of penalty appeals. Lee Barnard was been wrestled to the floor by two defenders, nothing given, then Franck Moussa charged into the box and hacked down, nothing given yet again from Russell.

I thought over my report for a few days before writing it because there are so many things I could have against the referee but they are not publishable. He was truly awful. I give him out of ten in the ratings. 0.5 points for turning up and the other 0.5 for allowing the Blues goal to stand.

Friday 4th September 2009

Southend United 3-0 Leyton Orient

Starting XI: Steve Mildenhall, Simon Francis, Jean-Yves M'Voto, Adam Barrett, Johnny Herd, Franck Moussa, Alan McCormack, Anthony Grant, Damian Scannell, Francis Laurent and Lee Barnard.

After a media fuelled week of financial meltdown behind the scenes, the Blues registered their first league win of the season against local rivals Leyton Orient.

Southend United entered this evening's game with a lot of praise for their displays; however, they had not registered a win in the Coca Cola Football League campaign, but right from the first whistle the crowd were behind the team.



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The first 30-35 minutes were very cagey, as both teams looked really nervous which was not like the Southend United that we had all previously seen this season, maybe as it was a local derby they were a little cautious. Southend United did have the best chances of the first half and had a penalty shout when Scannell went down in the box, but the ref told Damian to get back on his feet.

Francis Laurent, looking his fittest since various injuries, had a fierce strike pushed over by Glenn Morris after a good run from the French forward. Just before half-time midfield engine Alan McCormack received a neat pass from Laurent but Morris comfortably saved his shot.

Orient rarely threatened and their only real chance of the half came when former Chelsea midfielder Jimmy Smith had a free kick palmed away by Mildenhall.

The second half was total dominance from the 'One Team in Essex' and it belonged to Lee Barnard who notched his first professional hat trick to deliver Southend's first league win of the season.

His first came after he was brought down in the penalty box and he duly stepped up to take it. However, it was not as simple as that. Barnard took the penalty and it flew into the top corner of the goal, however it was ruled out as Scannell entered the area before Barney struck the penalty. The second time was the same result but in the opposite corner and the Blues were one up.

Barnard then notched his second goal of the game that put the game behind Orient. Centre-half Adam Barrett latched onto a through ball but his right-footed shot was blocked however it came straight back to him and he clipped a beautiful right-footed cross for Lee Barnard who put his header back where it came from and into the corner of the goal.

He completed his hat-trick in the 90th minute when he picked the ball up and ran at the defence, he then cut inside onto his left-foot and unleashed a shot that took a wild deflection off Luke Ashworth which gave Morris no chance to complete the rout.

Friday 11th September 2009 Southend United 0-0 Leeds United

Starting XI: Steve Mildenhall, Simon Francis, Jean-Yves M'Voto, Adam Barrett, Johnny Herd, Franck Moussa, Alan McCormack, Jean-Francois Christophe, Anthony Grant, Francis Laurent and Lee Barnard.

Southend United unbeaten home form continued as they held Leeds United at Roots Hall. With a crowd of over 10,000 in attendance the atmosphere was electric and the result meant that Leeds United still have not got a victory at Roots Hall in their history.

Leeds arrived at Roots Hall with 6 wins out of 6 this season in the league and it looked to be a very tough night in store for the Shrimpers. Leeds started stronger and nearly took the lead when Johnny Herd completely missed a ball into the box and winger Robert Snodgrass diverted the ball over the bar.

However, Southend United were not being out-played in any department of the match and were overall throughout the match were the team most likely to get a goal.

Franck Moussa dragged a shot wide of the target and the impressive Francis Laurent skilfully got passed the Leeds left-back Hughes to win a corner which Adam Barrett narrowly headed over the bar. The impressive Laurent was at it again, this time firing a fierce shot at the Leeds goal but former Cheltenham 'keeper Shane Higgs did enough to palm away the shot.

The clearest chance of the half fell to the Blues when Moussa's cross was deflected into the path of the on-running Anthony Grant but he somehow got the ball over the bar from 5 yards out with an open goal gaping.

The second half continued in the same manner with Moussa having a shot blocked by Kisnorbo, who scored against the Blues for Leicester in the Championship season, and then Lee Barnard got pushed in the box and the referee pointed to the penalty spot.



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Up-stepped Barnard looking to score his 8th of the season and take him to the top of the scoring charts but his powerful free-kick was brilliantly saved by Higgs, maybe the penalty was a decent height for Higgs but he still did well to push the ball away from danger.

Down the other end captain Adam Barrett who was superb on the field of play, made a world class last-ditch challenge to block Beckford after M'Voto had slipped. As the game was coming to a close Freedman and Scannell came on and Freedman looked lively but he couldn't muster up a chance for the Blues, but it was Leeds who nearly snatched all three points from the game.

Jermaine Beckford was only 6 yards out when the ball fell to him; he turned and smashed a close range shot which Mildenhall kept out with a stunning reaction save.

Mike Grella had a header go just wide but a draw was maybe a fair result, even though Blues could have pinched all three if Barney converted the penalty, however Southend United are the first team to take ay points off Leeds this season and all the signs are there for Tilly and Brush that Southend can compete at the top end of the table this season.

Saturday 19th September 2009

Brighton & Hove Albion 2-3 Southend United

Blues XI: Steve Mildenhall, Simon Francis, Adam Barrett, Jean-Yves M'Voto, Johnny Herd, Franck Moussa, Jean-Francois Christophe, Alan McCormack, Anthony Grant, Lee Barnard and Roy O'Donovan.

Journey: 4 out of 10

Stadium: 2 out of 10

Food Quality/Service: 8 out of 10.

Programme: 7 out of 10

Performance: 7 out of 10

Terrible traffic on the way but made really good time on the way home. The worst stadium in the Football League. Miles away from the pitch and uncovered, awful!

Over the top priced food, but the service was pretty decent.

Decent sized programme, only 50 pages though for the £3, a little over priced.

A few defence mix-ups but other than that a great performance to grind out a result.

Southend United had tricky French striker Francis Laurent to thank after he netted 3 minutes into injury time to fire The Shrimpers to 8th in League One.

Southend United had the best possible start when within 8 minutes, thanks to Lee Barnard's clever header. Simon Francis short throw-in to debutant Roy O'Donovan who produced a clever flick to set up Francis to curl a beautiful first time cross into the box where Barnard cleverly guided a diving header past Kuipers.

Brighton did get themselves on level terms thanks to leading marks-man Nicky Forster. Forster did threaten earlier when he flashed a shot well wide of the target from the edge of the box. However, he did score when he took advantage of a defence slip-up, which left him one on one with Mildenhall, and he coolly lifted the ball over the top over the goalkeeper.

However, this fast and furious game produced another goal when debutant Roy O'Donovan was on hand to tap home from close range after Barrett headed back across goal from Moussa's left flank cross.

Steve Mildenhall then produced a fine save to tip over the dangerous Forster's header but the veteran goal getter then scored his second. He got the better of Jean-Yves M'Voto who slipped and was replaced due to his injury, and Forster placed the ball past Mildenhall to equalise.

Just before they scored, the hosts came mighty close to getting another goal. Dicker saw a long range strike deflected onto the post and out for a corner.

In the second half, Forster came close to scoring his hat trick but Blues custodian Mildenhall was on hand to keep out his effort.

There were not many chances produced but Blues did have a spell when they pegged Brighton back into their own half when they had 5 corners in just under 2 minutes, but couldn't muster up a chance on goal.



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Deep into injury time, Laurent who replaced O'Donovan, picked the ball up on the left wing before taking on three defenders with pace and skill, but when everyone thought he took it too far, he still managed to bend the ball past Kuipers and into the far corner of the net.

Instead of running across to the fans with pace, he modestly strolled over with a smile on his face, as Shrimpers knew we had picked up a vital 3 points in which could be a very promising season. Also debutant George Friend showed a few neat touches during his first game.

Saturday 26th September 2009

Southend United 0-1 Oldham Athletic

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

Southend United slumped to their first league defeat at Roots Hall to a very average Oldham Athletic side. Pawel Abbott's 76th minute penalty gave the Latics all three points.

The Shrimpers gave new boys Roy O'Donovan and George Friend their home debuts and Osei Sankofa came in for the injured Jean-Yves M'Voto to fill in the back four.

Right from the first whistle the game did not look like it would be a fantastic match and both teams were giving the ball away. It was the visitors who had the first real effort on goal. Pawel Abbott caught Mildenhall off guard from 30 yards after Barrett's poor pass but Mildy did get enough to tip his attempted lob over the bar. Before that, Parker had the ball in the net but his effort was ruled out for off-side, a let off for the Blues.

Shortly after, Southend new boy O'Donovan collected a pass from winger Franck Moussa, but had his shot saved by former Luton goalkeeper Dean Brill. The Shrimpers went close again when Simon Francis' 25 yard free kick curled narrowly wide of the left goalpost.

It was the Blues who then had a goal disallowed. Another superb cross from Francis was whipped into the Oldham box, goalkeeper Brill was routed to his line and left-back George Friend was on hand to tap home from close range, but the referee blew his whistle after an alleged pull on a Latics defender.

The second half was hard going as both teams failed to muster up a real attempt on goal early on. Lee Barnard had a half chance after the ball fell to him in the box, he turned and fired a shot which went past the angle of the bar and post.

Oldham then had a few chances on goal, Leeds loanee Alan Sheehan had a long range shot just drift over the bar and then Simon Francis sliced over as he tried to block Parker's cross cum shot.

Lee Sawyer and Francis Laurent entered the field of play as Blues looked to take the lead but it was Oldham who scored the first goal. Keigan Parker raced onto a through ball and attacked full-back Friend and the Athletic forward looked like he was running the ball out of play so George Friend came across to let the ball run out for a goal kick, and legs tangled and the linesmen waved his flag so the referee pointed to the spot.

Former Huddersfield and Darlington striker Pawel Abbott stepped up and smashed a penalty past Mildenhall to give the away side the lead, which if I am being honest, neither side deserved.

As the final whistle grew closer, Southend had a chance to clinch a point, when Scottish striker Dougie Freedman played a wonderful through ball for Francis Laurent who couldn't repeat his magic from last week as his shot flew over the bar.



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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!

3rd October 2009