



SHRIMPERS TRUST



NEWSLETTER – Vol. 5 Iss. 02. - November 09

THE INTRODUCTION – Paul FitzGerald

By the Skin of our teeth – November 2009

With 5 minutes to go, Ron Martin, never shy in putting on a show, shrugged off the government, poo poo'd Sainsbury's and left the white knight in the starting tower blocks as he handed over the money owed to HMRC



Our leader who has previously been more than happy to share his thoughts, changed tack completely as he scrambled to find where he'd left that elusive pile of fivers. However, find them he did, although at the time of writing he hasn't explained precisely what that means to the football club.

His total silence during this period was perhaps understandable - but his refusal to accept that fans might wonder what was going on and the subsequent lack of clarification has not done much to alleviate those fears. For someone who clearly does care what others think, we think this is a very strange way to behave.

The Trust have now re-established contact and have offered further help, as clearly the Club is not out of the woods by any means and cash flow continues to be a major concern. When we have more news on this it will be posted on our website.

Many of these and other concerns were voiced at the Trust AGM which had a larger than normal turn out for obvious reasons and we were delighted to see Sir Teddy Taylor in attendance. Full details of the AGM are available on our website and are summarised below

The Trust has received much support over the last few weeks from many quarters including other Trusts and some quite famous names and we've also received a share of criticism – we take on board all comments and consider them carefully. As ever we will not please everyone all the time, but we do try!

In all of this we had our duo Tilly and Brush and a dozen or so players trying to go about their business with continuing uncertainty about their future, not to mention their salaries. I think it's a miracle we are where we are in the league and would like to personally congratulate the playing staff and indeed the club staff for their loyalty and attitude during this particularly difficult period

XMAS PARTY WITH THE PLAYERS

The Shrimpers Trust in conjunction with Southend United F.C. are pleased to invite supporters to a Christmas Party at Lords Golf and Country Club with the SUFC 1st Team Squad, the U18's and both Management Teams, on Wednesday 9th December 2009 from 7.30 p.m. to 12.30 a.m.

This informal evening includes a buffet, disco and auction, and it is intended that a children's party will run alongside in a separate room, with their own buffet and entertainment. Further details will be advised shortly.

There will also be the chance for you to be photographed with your favourite player(s), with the prints being available on the night.



Tickets are priced as follows:

- £25 for Adult Trust Members
- £30 for Adult Non Members
- £10 for Under 16 Trust Members
- £15 for Under 16 Non Members
- Children Under 5 by arrangement only

Tickets are limited and are on sale NOW and will be strictly on a first come first served basis and can be purchased using a Debit/Credit Card from the Online Shop on the Trust Website www.shrimperstrust.co.uk.



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Tickets can also be purchased from the Shrimpers Bar prior to the Home Game v Norwich on Tuesday 1st December.

Applications will also be accepted by post.

Please send your Cheque/PO and a covering letter stating quantity and type of ticket required along with your postal address and phone number to:
Xmas Party with the Players, The Shrimpers Trust, PO Box 5830, Southend on Sea, SS1 9FD.

Please make Cheques/Postal Orders payable to 'The Shrimpers Trust'

All proceeds to the Shrimpers Trust.

Any queries, please contact Kay Searle on info@shrimperstrust.co.uk

Dress Code - Smart Casual

SHRIMPERS TRUST PLAYER OF THE MONTH – VOTE NOW

Trust Members can now vote for the Shrimpers Trust SUFC Player of the Month for November by logging into the Members Area of the Trust website, www.shrimperstrust.co.uk

To do so you will need your Membership Number and Password. If you don't have these to hand don't worry, just hit the forgotten password button on the login page and we will send you a reminder.

And whilst in the Members Area why not update your contact details so our database is up to date.



SOUTHEND UNITED IN CRISIS – TRUST STATEMENTS

The Shrimpers Trust posted several statements on it's website about the financial plight that our Club found itself in recently. These statements have been reproduced below in chronological order.

25th October 2009

As we approach another momentous week for the club with our appearance at the High Court looming and the seemingly unlikely scenario that funds will be received in time to pay our outstanding debt to HMRC. - you have to wonder how we've got here again. The Owners of the club believed that Lord Mawhinney's deal with HMRC enabled them to postpone the money that any other company would have paid as part of normal business practice the exception being when that company could not pay and would probably be heading into administration.

This gamble as it clearly was, has backfired, Lord Mawhinney's "deal" now looks a bit silly to say the least and our club is once more taken to the brink on the back of Financial problems that most of us fail to understand.

The Trust is doing it's best to gather what information it can and decipher the facts but as per Ron's statement yesterday he is not able or willing to provide information to us that is commercially sensitive – I don't think I can ever remember feeling so frustrated and can only hope Ron's "open and honest" non news is just that.

I spent some time on the phone to Ron on Thursday and he promised a statement would be forthcoming – personally I thought his statement was at best odd and at worst totally inadequate and told him so. Sadly he has not felt the need to re-issue which frankly I'm amazed at.

Rest assured that we are trying to figure out what is going on and as soon as we do will relay what we can to fans.

26th October 2009

The Trust are devastated that Southend United FC have reached this position. All the information received from the Club over the last few weeks suggested that this course of action was not likely.



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The Trust will be doing everything in its power over the next few days to establish what, if anything, is possible to prevent the Club going into administration and what the fans can do to help. Further statements will be issued accordingly.

27th October 2009

The Shrimpers Trust has been working tirelessly since the news broke on Tuesday afternoon that Southend United FC faced the spectre of administration.

It is vital that the response to this announcement is swift, and the Trust have already sought advice from Supporters Direct, the supporters' trust initiative. Contact is also being made with other trusts who have sampled the situation that the Shrimpers now find themselves in.

The Trust has been overwhelmed by the reaction of supporters and appreciates all of the offers of help made so far, whether directly or indirectly, and continues to monitor the various supporters' messageboards. We will make further statements regarding precise action that can be undertaken, and we will be seeking volunteers to help us with this, so please visit our website, www.shrimperstrust.co.uk, for the latest details.

At 10:00pm tonight we have given up for the night waiting for Ron Martin to provide some information promised to us. As it stands the Trust plans to organise several fundraising initiatives including a collection on Friday night - this is against Mr Martin's wishes.

The Chairman of the Trust has spoken to Mr Martin again personally today and he has made several statements which may or may not ease supporters' minds however, mindful of the timing, the Trust has decided to move ahead with this statement and its plans whilst hoping the Club Chairman will provide more information in the morning.

As soon as more verifiable information is known the Trust will post more news.

28th October 2009

Further to the statement issued by the Shrimpers Trust on the evening of Tuesday 27th September, the following information was discussed with Southend United Chairman Ron Martin earlier this evening (27.10.09) and he has just provided (11:35pm) the following bullets which have been slightly edited for context. Where possible, Mr Martin's own words have been used in quotes to relay the sentiment.

Mr Martin is making progress on clearing the debt but Monday night's "precipitous action by HMRC has meant condensing potentially six or seven weeks work into one and they are not issues to be rushed."

Mr Martin would like to "do the honourable thing and discharge the debt rather than the Club seek to escape it through administration," and he does not want the fans to raise money on the back of Tuesday's announcement as he says, "Supporters pay for their season ticket and there shouldn't be any further necessity to put their hands in their pocket." He told Trust chairman Paul FitzGerald that he would wish to reimburse any further investment.

Mr Martin is meeting with the potential administrator tomorrow "out of courtesy at their request. It's not formal and means little." He applauds supporters for being proactive and the next few days will determine whether that is needed.

Supporters will need to make their own mind up about some of these comments but from a Trust perspective we intend to continue with our own plans until such time as either the Debt is cleared or we are required to take some action in Administration.

28th October 2009

Further to the statement issued earlier, the Shrimpers Trust would like to update fans on its current position (Wednesday 28th October, 23:00).

The Chairman of the Football Club, Ron Martin, was contacted early this morning by Trust Chairman Paul FitzGerald and, after some debate, agreed to a daily status call.

At 22:00 on Wednesday, Mr Martin discussed the day's events with Paul. Understandably, Mr Martin has been busy with his lawyers and other interested parties as well as meeting with the potential administrators as a courtesy.



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Mr Martin has re-iterated that it is still his intention to pay the outstanding debt and not avoid it by going into Administration. He understands supporters' frustrations but is unable to provide any further information at the present time due to commercial concerns.

As stated before, Mr Martin does not wish supporters to have to donate money but understands their wishes and concerns and therefore will not stand in the way should supporters want to do this.

Both parties have agreed to talk again tomorrow (Thursday).

Many supporters will have seen plenty of activity and progress in the press and other media in the highlighting of our plight and the pledges of support are encouraging. We have welcomed new members today and designed potential merchandise, whilst new Facebook groups have been created, plus an official Twitter account (twitter.com/shrimperstrust) which we will grow with your help over the next period.

We have also received several unusual offers of help and we will try to deal with all of them when we can, although this may take some time. Please bear with us if an e-mail or offer goes unanswered for a while.

As mentioned before, we have a regular dialogue with Supporters Direct who are advising on several issues, one of which is fundraising.

In response to fans' wishes - and after much discussion on the right timing with various parties - we intend to start fundraising tomorrow (Thursday 29th) via our website and then make a decision about Friday's game after advice from the Police, Council and the Football Club.

The Trust would like to thank all those that have offered help and those that have helped already, and would hope that we can all work together to save our club.

29th October 2009

The night is young as they say – but to be honest it could be younger....The Chairman of the football club has not made contact today - despite assurances that he would and despite several attempts to reach him.

Supporters may choose to draw their own conclusion from this. The Trust finds this disappointing and unlikely to help the situation. One wonders what the other SUFC directors make of all this – tomorrow I guess it's time to find out.

During last night's call, Mr Martin asked whether any statement needed to be made. Bearing in mind there are now 4 working days left before the next High Court Hearing, the Trust was in no doubt that there was.

Many rumours have been noted from various sources today and the Trust will not comment on them – but the undeniable fact is, that if Mr Martin does not find 690K by next Tuesday (and then presumably a lot more soon after) that our club will be placed in Administration.

We will attempt to contact Mr Martin again tomorrow (Friday).

On a more positive note - the Trust continues to work with various parties to highlight the plight of the Football Club and to seek advice for planning/funding purposes

The Save Our Southend United Appeal has been successfully launched, it has elicited a good number of donations totalling over £1000 within an eight hour period, this is a tremendous start, for which we are very grateful.

However, sadly as previously stated, any monies raised are unlikely to make a significant difference to the debt owed by our club and will make no difference at all to the HMRC. However, many individuals have contacted the trust with a variety of ideas and practical offers of help - ideas ranging from benefit gigs, football matches, merchandise and auction goods are amongst them - All of these are being progressed

Several more unusual ideas have been proposed and we are considering all of these too.

Supporters Direct are continuing to advise and many individuals, including several celebrities, have offered to help.

After much discussion, we have decided to go ahead with a bucket collection at tomorrow's game and hope supporters will give generously to this – let's hope the players appreciate what we are doing and reward us with three points to give us all some temporary respite from the gloom.



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31st October 2009

The Shrimpers Trust is interested to see that Ron Martin, Chairman of our football club has made another statement regarding an "indebtedness" and the possibility of it being paid. Sadly, once again, Mr Martin has not returned calls, despite initial assurances that communication would be daily.

The Trust considers Mr Martin's failure to speak directly with our own Chairman, Paul FitzGerald, counter-productive and urges him to make contact as soon as his schedule allows. There are a number of questions which remain unanswered and, in particular, we would like to seek clarification on the total indebtedness that Mr Martin aims to pay at this stage.

We continue to hope that a rabbit is pulled out of the hat before Wednesday, but consider that Mr Martin's assertion that HRMC have behaved in a "Machiavellian" way quite extraordinary. The suggestion that they have in some way burdened the Club is completely misleading; HMRC are merely looking to recoup the money that is owed to them and could, if they wished, have wound-up Southend United FC last week.

Talking of last minute miracles, well done to the football team and management last night, for it cannot have been easy or motivating to have the prospect of Administration hanging over them.

Finally, The Trust would like to thank all those who contributed to the collection tonight and a special thanks to all those who helped organise this. Later today we will announce details of the money raised and some of our plans for the coming week.

2nd November 2009

The Shrimpers Trust has monitored developments over the past 24 hours with great interest.

The consortium that has announced today that it is considering a takeover of Southend United Football Club contacted the Trust Saturday, and our Chairman, Paul FitzGerald, enjoyed hearing their views.

We would be willing to work closely with any group or individual that have our football club's best interests at heart. Furthermore, our absolute priority at this stage is seeing Southend United FC being placed on a stable financial footing, and anyone that is able to achieve this deserves consideration.

Members of the Shrimpers Trust committee will be liaising with Supporters Direct this evening for further guidance as this situation developments.

3rd November 2009

Members of the Shrimpers Trust Board met with senior Club management this morning for a scheduled Liaison meeting at Roots Hall. Full details of these discussions will be published, as usual, on our website in due course.

Supporters will not be surprised to hear that Ron Martin has been working continuously to try to obtain the funds which will satisfy HMRC tomorrow (Wednesday) and stave off Administration for Southend United FC.

It would appear that his success in these efforts will not be known until the last moment so we will have to wait another frustrating day to discover whether we will proceed to Administration and receive the penalty of a deduction of ten Football League points.

The Trust will continue to keep supporters informed of further developments as and when they are known.

4th November 2009

The Shrimpers Trust are extremely pleased to see that the High Court's decision to order Administration on Southend United FC has been adjourned until Friday but are concerned at the very short timescale announced for the payment to be made.

As reported yesterday, several Trust Committee members met with Directors of Southend United, although Ron Martin himself was unable to be present. Contact will be attempted as soon as possible with both the Chairman of the Football Club and the Consortium who tabled a bid for ownership in order to provide supporters with more information and to do as much as possible to help the Club.

The Shrimpers Trust's intention remains to see Southend United placed on a stable financial footing as soon as possible and we will continue to seek clarity about the current situation during this period of difficulty.



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9th November 2009

The Shrimpers Trust is delighted that Ron Martin has been able to secure the necessary funds to satisfy HMRC and therefore allow Southend United FC to avoid the threatened Administration.

The Trust understands that Mr Martin has been extremely busy and would hope that his time over the next few days will allow him to explain the precise funding arrangements where they affect the Football Club.

In particular, we would be interested to know how much funding has been put in place over and above the debt to HMRC; supporters will be keen to understand whether money is available for new players and indeed whether existing staff and player salaries are secure for the foreseeable future. It has been to the credit of those that have remained available during this period that the club currently occupies a top-half position in Coca-Cola League One, with this placing further evidence of the excellent job being done by management duo Steve Tilson and Paul Brush.

Finally, the Shrimpers Trust would like thank all supporters for their generosity during this difficult period. The money raised for the Save Our Southend appeal will be ring-fenced as part of a designated Fighting Fund for the immediate future and will not become part of the larger Shrimpers Trust finances. However, we would like to confirm that, should Southend United be faced with extinction in years to come, all monies gathered since the establishment of the Supporters Club Trust would be used to save our Football Club.

SHRIMPERS TRUST AGM – THURSDAY 12th NOVEMBER 2009

The Shrimpers Trust held its 2009 Annual General Meeting in the Shrimpers Bar at Roots Hall on Thursday 12th November with Head of Youth and Reserve Team Manager Ricky Duncan the guest speaker.

Duncan was introduced to the Trust members present for a Question & Answer session after the formal business of the meeting was concluded, with Chairman Paul FitzGerald given the responsibility of delivering the opening speech.

FitzGerald's main focus were the events of the previous fortnight as he admitted that he had *"found it hard to think much further back than the last couple of weeks, where once again our club has been dragged to the brink and then rescued at the last minute."*

"Clearly not being in Administration is a great relief to all fans but with the Football Club Chairman going back on his communication promise it's difficult to piece together what the renewed funding means to the Club. This is something we'll be trying to find out over the coming weeks," he continued.

The South Woodham Ferrers resident also paid tribute to management duo Steve Tilson and Paul Brush for their efforts in keeping the club in contention for a play-off place throughout the crisis, stating that the pair *"and a dozen or so players had tried to go about their business with continuing uncertainty about their future, not to mention their salaries."*

"I think it's a miracle we are where we are in the League and would like to personally congratulate the playing staff and indeed the club staff for their loyalty and attitude during this particularly difficult period."

FitzGerald was able to touch on the subject of the Trust's first-ever Strategy Meeting, held in June, where the main guest was Southend United FC Chairman Ron Martin as well as the February walk to Colchester United's Weston Homes Community Stadium which constituted the organisation's major fundraiser for the year.

He continued by recounting the highlights of the year, which included the Under-18s' capture of the Football League Youth Alliance South-East Conference for the first time in the club's history: *"Ricky's stewardship is producing players that can step up and we have been particularly pleased to see how Franck Moussa has become a must pick with Johnny Herd making numerous appearances and now Stuart O'Keefe and Kyle Asante being regular bench-warmers."*

Attention was brought to the Trust's new website, with FitzGerald thanking Paul Yeomanson for all of his work in this area. He concluded by thanking all of the Trust's committee for their endeavours in 2008 and 2009, especially the departing Lee Bird and Lara McSweeney and incoming Paul Napper and Kay Searle.

Questions were fielded from the floor on disabled facilities, away travel and the financial situation at Southend United FC before Treasurer Darren Posnack ran through the Accounts and Yeomanson ran through his



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Membership Report, where it was disclosed that the Shrimpers Trust is in the top ten across the country for membership numbers, and the leading club in Coca-Cola League One.

FitzGerald was voted in for a second successive term as Chairman, with Bryan Woodford continuing as Vice-Chairman. Trevor Bashford remained Company Secretary, with Posnack the Treasurer and Yeomanson Membership Secretary. Robert Craven was named Press Officer, whilst Paul Smith took on the Fundraising Officer mantle.

The Trust committee was re-elected *en bloc*, as was the Trust Board of Directors, which concluded the formal business and allowed FitzGerald to introduce Duncan as the special guest speaker.

Duncan began by thanking the Shrimpers Trust for all of their assistance with Southend United's Centre of Excellence since his return to the football club: *"The Trust's support and, more recently, sponsorship, goes towards developing players for the future, right from the Under-8s to the Under-18s. Hopefully we will see the products of this in the first-team during the next five to ten years, as one of my main targets upon arriving was to see five first-teamers having come through the youth department."*

He spoke on a multitude of subjects, beginning with the balance between producing youngsters for Southend United and selling them on to Premier League clubs: *"The priority is for us to bring players through for the first-team, but if the right offer comes in for both the club and for the player, then we have to look at that. With Medi Abalimba, who has gone to Derby, we saw that Franck Moussa and Stuart O'Keefe were already in the first-team squad in his position, plus we have George Smith, who has played for the Republic of Ireland Under-17s, just a year below him, so it was the right move for him. We are not here, though, just to sell to the big clubs,"* he declared.

"Winning the League was a great achievement," the 44-year-old beamed, *"but it was bigger for me to see Franck Moussa hold down a first-team place. If someone said to me that we would finish bottom of the Youth Alliance but you will produce two players for Steve Tilson's squad, then I would take that."*

"A few of the boys have now had a chance to travel with the first-team, and I can assure you that any of them that do get onto the pitch will play with all their heart for this club. Kyle Asante came on last week at Gillingham and he will travel again. If they do get on, they will not let Southend United down."

"The hardest part of my job is telling players that they are not being kept on. It was tough last year to release players after winning the League, but you cannot keep on seven scholars. We do have a good policy where we contact other clubs to try to get scholars new teams, and last year we managed to do this with all of the youngsters we released," stated the Head of Youth.

Speaking about his youngsters' development, Duncan said, *"Youth team football is about development; I want to win every game, but not at the cost of the players' development. I can tell them to go out and express themselves, but at first-team level it is about winning and I think that has an effect. I won't change the way that I send my teams out."*

Duncan was also put on the spot as to his own ambitions as he continues to impress during his second spell in south-east Essex: *"It is a big question whether I want to move on to first-team management; if I do do it, then at 44 it will have to be in the next couple of years. Youth football is a massive different to senior football, and I don't think I have finished what I have started here. I want to be an Academy Director as that experience will improve my coaching, and I want that to happen here."*

The Shrimpers Trust would like to thank Ricky Duncan for his time on Thursday evening, and for his openness and honesty in answering members' questions.

A full transcript of the Q&A session with Ricky can be found in the Members Section of the Trust Website www.shrimperstrust.co.uk

FORTHCOMING TRUST EVENTS

Wednesday December 2nd 2009

CHINESE NIGHT

East, 33 Alexander Street, Southend on Sea – 7.30pm for an 8.00pm prompt start

For further details contact Alan Perry

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





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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, Buffet and Memorabilia Auction

Tickets: £25.00 Adult Members £30.00 Adult Non-Members

£10.00 Under 16 Members £15.00 Under 16 Non-Members

For further details contact Kay Searle

(Tel: 01268 462854, email: info@shrimperstrust.co.uk)



Thursday 21st January 2010

BINGO NIGHT

Mecca Bingo, Greyhound Trading Estate, Southend on Sea

For further details contact Clare Brooks

(Tel: 07980 363092, email: travel@shrimperstrust.co.uk)



Saturday 30th January 2010

QUIZ NIGHT

The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall – 7.15pm for an 7.45pm prompt start

For further details contact Alan Perry

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



FUNDRAISING

XMAS DRAW

Hopefully the Trust's Xmas Draw Tickets have now landed on your doormat.

This prize draw is an important part of our Fundraising and we would urge you to please sell as many tickets as you can and then return the stubs with the correct payment to: **Xmas Draw, The Shrimpers Trust, PO Box 5830, Southend on Sea, SS9 1FD**. Please make cheques/postal orders payable to the Shrimpers Trust.

Alternatively you can hand in your ticket stubs and payment at the Trust Info Stand in the Shrimpers Bar prior to any home game.

100 CLUB

The latest winners in the scheme, pulled out of the hat during weekly draws since the last newsletter were: John Smith, Mike Roles, Andrew Perry, Donna Stone, Jack Bond, Bryan Woodford, Mike Smith and Teresa Perry, each collecting **£32.00**.

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.

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 **22** matches is **£868.75**

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



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MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to New Life Members (Total 182)

Michael Ablitt, Jamie Brown, Graham Hilder, Malcolm Horne, David Hutton, Andy Peacock, Keith Sims and Jonathan Walshe.

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

Michael Ablitt, Daniel Attree, James Baker, Paul Bale, Chris Barclay, Trevor Barr, Christopher Blore, Kevin Bonavia, Wayne Bowen, Jamie Brown, Daniel Cable, David Chapman, Terry Cockell, Danny Collins, Steven Donovan, Phil Easteal, Lisa Emmerton, Scott Emmerton, John Fifield, Paul Gershlick, Alexander Haddon, Andrea Haddon, Ray Hargreaves, Alan Harley, James J. Harrington, James S.E. Harrington, Philip Hood, Tom Hopkinson, Malcolm Horne, David Hutton, Stephen Hutton, Matt Keddy, Paul Kitchener, Matthew Little, Paul Livermore, Stephen Maltby, Jane Maybury, Stephen Maybury, Jamie McGrath, Barbara McIntyre, Max Moltino, Philip Nicklas, Andy Peacock, Keith Richardson, Mark Rothman, Gary Shrimpton, Bob Sills, Keith Sims, Mat Slater, Garry Smith, Ryan Stubbs, Jon Tosh, Mark Wallaker, Jonathan Walshe, Maxwell Watson, Mark Wilkinson, John Williams, Barry Willis and Matt Willis.

****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 5830, 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 ****

BARBERS BLURB – TERRACE TALK REPORTS

Saturday 3rd October 2009
Stockport County 0-2 Southend United

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

Journey: 4 out of 10. A coach failure on the way but luckily arrived minutes before kick off however we made superb time getting home from the match.

Stadium: 4 out of 10. A very old league ground with an open terrace for away supporters. Luckily it didn't rain!

Food Quality/Service: N/A

Programme: 7 out of 10. Interesting articles to read, I think the programme was a lot better than Brentford's on Tuesday night.

Performance: 8 out of 10. A very professional away performance with the help of an on form Frenchman and the nous of Dougie Freedman guided the Blues pick up the win.

Southend United bounced back from two torrid performances with a professional display against Stockport County at Edgeley Park. A brace from striker Lee Barnard along with a sensational display from Francis Laurent guided Blues up into the top half of Coca-Cola League One.

After a rough journey on the way due to a technical fault with the coach, I along with the blue Shrimpers Trust coach, arrived literally 2 minutes from kick off. We all rushed to take to our seats on the uncovered stand behind the far goal in blustery conditions.

Blues had the first chance, donning their yellow strip, when the clever Dougie Freedman ran at the County defence before playing a ball out to Lee Barnard who cut inside and forced a save from Fon Williams, however Franck Moussa could not divert the rebound pass the Welsh stopper.



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Simon Francis who scored a free kick in mid-week was at it again. This time his free kick, on the edge of the box, smashed against the left hand post, but he did ever so well to get the ball up and over the wall.

That was the last real main threat on goal from the Blues but there was one constant threat from the Shrimpers in the shape of Francis Laurent, who was running at players for fun and winning free kicks in dangerous positions.

After the break the home side had their first real chance on goal and it came from Bignall. The striker unleashed a powerful 15-yard effort but the Blues custodian Mildenhall was on hand to block the shot.

Then in the 57th minute Southend United had a great chance to take the lead. Lee Barnard was through on goal but was held back by former Newcastle defender Paul Huntington. The referee did not give it but the linesman on the far side flagged for the penalty and up-stepped Barney to place the ball into the far corner of the goal. People say things even themselves out throughout the season and just like Oldham got the penalty last week from the lino, we got ours this week. The defender also received his marching orders.

Minutes later Southend should have doubled the lead when George Friend latched onto the unplayable Laurent's cut back, but his shot cannoned off the post and Barnard's had his shot saved by Fon Williams.

In injury time Barnard scored his second of the game after County had a penalty appeal turned down. He took control of the ball under the eye of a hesitant Stockport defence, his first shot smashed off the cross bar but he then raced clear to tap home into an empty net.

This sent the few hundred that travelled up to Lancashire home with a smile on their faces.

Tuesday 6th October 2009

MK Dons 2-0 Southend United

Johnstone's Paint Trophy Round 2

Blues XI: Steve Mildenhall, Simon Francis, Adam Barrett, Osei Sankofa, Johnny Herd, Franck Moussa, Lee Sawyer, Jean-Francois Christophe, Francis Laurent, Lee Barnard and Roy O'Donovan.

Journey: 8 out of 10.

Arrived 2 hours before kick off and made good time getting home.

Stadium: 8 out of 10.

My second visit to this ground and I am still impressed.

Food Quality/Service:

5 out of 10: Over priced beer and the chips weren't great.

Programme: 6 out of 10.

Fewer pages than usual due to the fixture but a nice quality magazine.

Performance:

4 out of 10. A very lacklustre performance and showed very little desire.

Southend United's hope of getting to Wembley soon faded at stadium:mk after a terrible performance. Goals from Aaron Doran and Mark Carrington made sure of the victory for the Milton Keynes outfit.

In the opening stages of the Shrimpers really struggled to get a grip on the game and they soon had Steve Mildenhall to thank. The Blues number 1 tipped a Jemal Johnsons shot around the post.

The Blues were still not at the races and went behind in the 18th minute. Johnny Herd was out of position and Aaron Wilbraham put a great through ball for debut boy Aaron Doran and he placed it past Mildenhall.

Southend's only real chance came from Franck Moussa but his shot flew past the left hand post. Lee Sawyer, making his first start of the season, looked busy as he tried to carve out a chance for the Blue Army, but nothing materialised.

However, just before half time, the home side doubled their lead. It was another delightful move from MK Dons that lead to Wilbraham putting another good ball through for Mark Carrington to smash home, yet again Johnny Herd was out of position.

After the break, Southend still didn't look interested, and Steve Mildenhall continued to produce world-class saves. He denied Jemal Johnson twice as well as Dean Lewington. Striker Wilbraham also struck the bar as the home side continued to rally forward.

Johnson was the main threat all night and he had five or six shots saved well by Mildenhall.

Southend's only real threat came with a flurry of corners on the 70-minute mark, but the Blues were really off the pace throughout the whole 90 minutes.



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Friday 9th October 2009

Southend United 1-3 Southampton

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Saturday 17th October 2009

Southend United 2-1 Bristol Rovers

Blues XI: Steve Mildenhall, Simon Francis, Adam Barrett, Anthony Grant, George Friend, Franck Moussa, Jean-Francois Christophe, Alan McCormack, Francis Laurent, Lee Barnard and Dougie Freedman.



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Southend United returned to winning ways against Bristol Rovers thanks to a brace from leading scorer Lee Barnard at Roots Hall. The striker netted his 11th and 12th goals of the campaign, which took him top of the League One scoring charts.

Despite losing 4 of their last 5 games Southend United started brightly and nearly took the lead when young Belgian winger Franck Moussa saw his shot fly past the post early on in the match. That was only the real chance until the 14th minute when the hosts took the lead.

Dougie Freedman raced onto the ball on the halfway line and ran at the Rovers defence before playing a lovely back-heel into the path of striker Lee Barnard who curled a superb strike past former Blues trialist Mikkel Andersen into the bottom corner.

Bristol Rovers were playing some lovely football, when on the ball, and all Southend fans had their hearts in their mouths when former MK Dons and Brighton winger Mark Wright saw his long range shot deflect off the head of Adam Barrett and narrowly over Mildenhall's cross bar.

Dougie Freedman, who looks for the moment like his injuries are behind him, got in on the act but saw his right-footed effort flash past the post after neat build up play.

Charlton loanee Chris Dickson saw his effort well saved by Steve Mildenhall in what proved to be the last main action of the first half.

The Blues, who really should have doubled their lead in the first half, soon did thanks to Barnard's twelfth strike of the season. Simon Francis clipped a lovely ball over the top for McCormack to run onto, and the Irish midfielder let the ball go over his shoulder before drilling a cross over for Lee Barnard to tap home from 6 yards. The Shrimpers were well on top and deserved their lead.

The Gas were getting back into the game and Dickson had two glorious chances to score but he put one wide and another one over as the visitors upped the pressure on the Southend goal.

Rovers did get themselves on the score sheet after Anthony Grant put through his own net. Winger Mark Wright ran at George Friend before curling a low cross into the box that Grant, who was having a decent game, poked past Mildenhall under pressure from the Bristol forwards. Game on.

Still the visitors were coming forward and Mildenhall did well once again to block smartly from Dickson however down the other end Barnard went close to scoring his second hat-trick of the season when his 15 yard curling effort bent around the post.

Moussa also went close for the Shrimpers, as did McCormack, who still hasn't found his shooting boots this season, when he blazed over from the edge of the box after great work from Lee Sawyer.

The game ended 2-1 to Southend as they secure only their 2nd win at Roots Hall this season ahead of a long trip to Carlisle next week.

Saturday 24th October 2009

Carlisle United 2-1 Southend United

Blues XI: Steve Mildenhall, Anthony Grant, Simon Francis, Adam Barrett, Johnny Herd, Franck Moussa, Jean-Francois Christophe, Alan McCormack, Francis Laurent, Lee Barnard and Dougie Freedman.

Journey: 5 out of 10. Terrible traffic on the M6 nearly cost us in arriving on time but made good time coming home in terrible conditions.

Stadium: 6 out of 10. An old-fashioned football ground with two main stands, traditional terracing either end, one un-covered.

Food Quality/Service: 6 out of 10. Decent service and reasonably priced Bovril drink.

Programme: 7 out of 10. Didn't have chance to look at it during the game, but read it since and it included some good background coverage for away fans.

Performance: 7 out of 10. A very harsh defeat on The Yellows but we must be switched on until the final whistle.

Southend United left Cumbria without any points to show after Carlisle United snatched a late win thanks to Joe Anyinsah's right-footed strike. The Shrimpers slipped down to 13th in the league standings after this latest defeat.



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After an eight hour trip up a coach load of Southend United fans just about made the kick off and after the first 20 minutes or so most of us were left scratching our heads and wondered if we made the right choice in turning up to watch the game.

A ferocious start from the hosts lead to the first goal of the game in just the 10th minute of the match when two former Premier League players Scott Dobie and Vincent Pericard combined to strike. Former Forest and West Brom striker Dobie beat Francis to curl in a cross, which was met by former Pompey and Stoke hit man Vincent Pericard as he touched home past Steve Mildenhall at the far post to really deflate the Southend fans.

However after the first 15-20 minutes had past Southend United started to dominate the game. Scott Dobie was looking dangerous for Carlisle and Simon Francis made a fantastic tackle to deny the United striker.

Dougie Freedman collected the ball and ran at the home defence and won the first corner of the match which Southend nearly scored from. Set piece specialist Simon Francis curled a wonderful corner into the danger area and it nearly sneaked in when it hit Pidgeley's cross bar.

Carlisle then had a chance to double their lead. A free-kick was delivered into the Southend United penalty area and it was met by former Leeds defender Ian Harte and his header smashed against the cross bar, Southend were still living dangerously.

Dougie Freedman came off injured and talented midfielder Stuart O'Keefe replaced him as Blues went into a 5-man midfield. Just a few minutes later Southend got on level terms. Franck Moussa had a shot pushed out for a throw in. Johnny Herd launched the ball into the box and Pidgeley flapped at the throw and French striker Francis Laurent placed home from close range.

Southend continued to dominate after the break and Alan McCormack came close to scoring his first goal of the season but it just flew past the left-hand post and that proved to be the only real chance of the half until the 75th minute.

That chance also fell to Southend. Francis Laurent, who was enjoying his personal battle with Horwood, beat the left back and played a wonderful cross for Barnard to challenge the keeper. The top scorer won the header and it fell to Moussa who could not keep his shot down with the goal gaping.

That was soon followed by Jean-Francois Christophe's long range strike which flew over the bar as Southend looked likely to get the winning goal. However, disaster struck 10 minutes from the time as Carlisle hit the winning goal.

Vincent Pericard, who got voted the man of the match, slid a ball through for Anyinsah who was allowed acres of space by Johnny Herd and the winger smashed past Mildenhall to secure the three points and inflict a very undeserved defeat on Southend's shoulders.

Friday 30th October 2009

Southend United 1-0 Gillingham

Blues XI: Steve Mildenhall, Simon Francis, Anthony Grant, Adam Barrett, Johnny Herd, Franck Moussa, Alan McCormack, Jean-Francois Christophe, Francis Laurent, James Walker and Lee Barnard.

Southend United ended 'the week from hell' with a fine battling victory over Gillingham at Roots Hall. The fans packed inside the ground to cheer on the boys from start to finish and the players certainly did not disappoint. Lee Barnard was Blues' hero when he struck home his 13th strike of the campaign in injury time.

With near on 8,000 people inside the ground, the atmosphere was superb, and in the opening 20 minutes it was all Southend as they had Gillingham pegged back in their own half.

James Walker, just returned from his loan spell at Hereford, linked well with Francis Laurent and it was the latter who nearly opened the scoring. The Frenchman skinned John Nutter but saw his shot saved by Simon Royce at his near post. Captain Fantastic Adam Barrett then had a shot on goal but his effort was deflected over.

Francis Laurent had another shot on goal. This time it was a mazy run down the right flank before cutting inside, however, his shot drifted wide of Simon Royce's goal. Southend were the only team really pressuring but Gillingham nearly scored on their first counter attack. Andy Barcham beat Francis on the right but saw his shot saved by Mildenhall. The head of Adam Barrett on the floor blocked the rebound from Barcham on the line.



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Simon Francis then saw a fierce left footed strike dip quickly but Royce was on hand to produce a fine save and tip it over the bar. The visitors had the ball in the net on the 22nd minute, John Nutter's curling free-kick was disallowed after a Gills player had pushed somebody out of the wall to make room for the ball to nestle in the bottom corner.

The exciting first 45 minutes ended with more Southend pressure and more fine keeping from Simon Royce. He first took the sting out of a Franck Moussa shot and then got down well to save a James Walker 25 yarder. He was again on hand to push a close range Barnard shot around the post, as it seemed one of those nights for Southend United.

The second half was a bit slower paced to start with until Gillingham were awarded an in-direct free-kick 6 yards out after Anthony Grant had been involved in a big melee in the area. All Blues players were on the goal line and former Blues hero Mark Bentley blazed over the bar, much to the relief, of all inside Roots Hall.

Southend were still the better team and definitely deserved a goal but it seemed like it wasn't going to come. Barnard saw his shot parried by Royce when maybe Laurent was the best option free to his right. Then McCormack headed over from a corner but the Blues were upping the anti as Gillingham looked to hang on.

3 minutes of injury time was added and deep into the last minute of time Simon Francis' deep cross to the far post found McCormack who nodded it back across goal for Barnard to swivel and smash the ball past Royce to send Roots Hall wild.

At the final whistle you could see how much this win meant to the club with every single player walking around the pitch applauding the fans and punching their fists in the air with delight.

Next up is the Gills in the F.A. Cup where the Blues will have to do without the services of McCormack and Barnard as they are suspended, but all eyes will be pointing to the High Court hearing on Wednesday where we will find out whether if Southend United will enter administration.

Saturday 7th November 2009 FA CUP 1st ROUND Gillingham 3-0 Southend United

Blues XI: Steve Mildenhall, Simon Francis, Anthony Grant, Adam Barrett, Johnny Herd, Franck Moussa, Jean-Francois Christophe, Stuart O'Keefe, Francis Laurent, James Walker and Dougie Freedman.

Journey: 8 out of 10.	Great journey there and back, the only traffic trouble we faced was getting out of Southend!
Stadium: 6 out of 10.	A decent ground would have been better if the away fans end was covered, as we could not get any atmosphere going.
Food Quality/Service:	4 out of 10. Decent service however that was the worst burger I have ever tasted!
Programme: 5 out of 10.	For three pounds this was a really poor standard programme.
Performance: 6 out of 10.	We played good football in stages, however, our bit-part squad was taken apart when off the ball.

Southend United's hopes of a cup run ended at the KRBS Priestfield Stadium on Saturday afternoon. The Kent side got revenge for last weeks league defeat against the Shrimpers in comprehensive fashion and put their name in the draw for Round Two.

Before the game it was announced that Ron Martin had paid the £2.1m due to HM Revenue and Customs, which meant any threat of administration, was cleared, sadly, that was to be the only good news on this crisp November afternoon as a makeshift Southend United side got dumped out of the FA Cup.

To be fair Southend did start off the game well and had chances with Christophe and Francis but neither of their efforts tested Simon Royce. The Shrimpers has a glorious chance to go in front but a good save and a bad miss rescued the home side. James Walker showed good skill to get ball two defenders but his close range shot was deflected over Royce but the keeper clawed it off the line and into the path of Freedman, but his header went over the bar.

The hosts has a perfect chance to take the lead when they were awarded a very soft penalty after Francis has tripped Man Utd loanee Febian Brandy. Keeper Steve Mildenhall then pushed the penalty away with a fine one handed save from Simeon Jackson's spot kick.



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It did not take Gillingham much longer to finally get the ball in the net. In the 25th minute Curtis Weston and Brnady exchanged neat passes on the edge of the box and it was Weston who got the opportunity on goal when he lifted it over Mildenhall and into the corner.

Just 3 minutes later and the Gills were at it again. Brandy, who was causing the back four troubles every time he got the ball, doubled the hosts' lead when he hit a low shot under Steve Mildenhall.

Damian Scannell came on for the Shrimpers and he looked lively down the wing but Southend could not really get a clear shot on goal. The game did get put beyond doubt in the 62nd minute when ex-Shrimper Mark Bentley rose highest at the far post to loop a header over Mildenhall and it went in off the post.

With 15 minutes to go Southend could have made it interesting however they were left scratching their heads as one of the most experienced strikers in the Football League shot wide with the goal gaping. Royce was caught off his line, after coming for a cross, Laurent teed up Walker who's shot was deflected into the path of Freedman, 4 yards out, and he put it well wide of the goal.

Simon Royce was shortly called into action again, this time he palmed away a strong header by Christophe and this proved it was not Southend United's day.

Saturday 14th November 2009 Yeovil Town 1-0 Southend United

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

Journey: 7 out of 10.

Good journey down, but did face strong winds and heavy rain.

Stadium: 3 out of 10.

No atmosphere, no roof for away terrace. One word. Terrible.

Food Quality/Service:

N/A

Programme: 6 out of 10.

A decent programme filled with a lot of information and stats.

Performance: 6 out of 10.

Played ever so well with 10 men for over an hour, but yet again officials ruined our chances of getting anything from the game.

Southend United crashed to a late defeat in Yeovil thanks to the match officials. Their individual performances throughout the game were terrible and the decision to award a free kick for the winner from Bowditch was a disgrace.

The Blues were boosted by the news that they had signed a central defender on loan from Swindon Town. The 6 foot 4 centre-half was named in the Shrimpers starting line up at a wet and windy Huish Park.

Southend United had the first real chance of the game as they looked to bounce back from the Cup defeat last week. In the 12th minute, neat work from the Blues lead to Francis Laurent poking the ball into the side netting at the near post. Yeovil then hit back and Stam powered above the Blues defence and headed powerfully goal-bound but Franck Moussa cleared his header off the line.

Steve Mildenhall, making his return to Huish Park, then made a great save to deny Murray and did ever so well to turn an Obika shot past the post. Disaster then struck for Southend when debutant Morrison got sent off for apparently pulling back Obika when clear through on goal, however, he was not the last man as Barrett was covering him. This did not sway the ref's mind and the youngster got sent for an early bath.

Just before the break Yeovil nearly took the lead. Welsh beat McCormack to the ball in midfield but blazed over the bar when clear through on goal with only Mildenhall to beat.

Just after the break Yeovil found themselves with a great chance to score. Scott Murray was clear through on goal but the ball got caught under his feet and Anthony Grant did well in getting back. Grant was at it again as he rushed back to deny Mason a shot on goal after a mistimed clearance from McCormack.

Steve Mildenhall then made another superb save, this time reacting well to a quick shot from Mason, as Southend looked to hang on.

The officials did their best to ruin Southend's chances of getting a point and their attempts proved successful in the 77th minute. Dougie Freedman has slipped over and Murray and Dougie walked in to each other, they started joking about it. The next thing we see is a free kick awarded and a yellow card for Dougie, absolute joke. The ball got delivered into the box, Blues players were being pushed around before Bowditch turned a shot past Mildenhall from close range with a hint of handball.



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Francis Laurent did get a goal back for Southend but his effort was ruled out for offside as Lee Barnard was adjudged to have been in an offside position when the ball was played.

Friday 20th November 2009

Southend United 2-1 MK Dons

Blues XI: Steve Mildenhall, Anthony Grant, Simon Francis, Adam Barrett, Johnny Herd, Franck Moussa, Alan McCormack, Jean-Francois Christophe, Francis Laurent, Dougie Freedman and Lee Barnard.

Southend United collected their first win against MK Dons at Roots Hall on Friday night. Lee Barnard's scored his 14th league goal of the season from the penalty spot in the final 15 seconds of the game to send Blues up to 9th in Coca Cola League One.

The Blues had the first real chance of the game. A fantastic move from Laurent and Barnard lead to Laurent crossing a ball into the box for McCormack who had a shot blocked. The ball then fell to Franck Moussa but Gueret denied him superbly.

MK Dons did get the first goal of the game in the 14th minute. Neat work from former Man United player Luke Chadwick set up Sam Baldock on the edge of the box to arrow a shot past the on rushing Steve Mildenhall. This seemed to be a little harsh on Southend United.

However, the hosts did bounce back, as they looked to put their early pressure into getting an equaliser. The Frenchman got his head onto Johnny Herd's free kick but he could only direct his header straight at Gueret. It was not too long before Southend did get the equaliser and it was Herd and Christophe who yet again combined for the Blues.

Johnny Herd's cross from the right was met by Christophe and he guided home the ball past former Swansea goalkeeper Willy Gueret and get the Blues deservedly back on level terms.

The Shrimpers soon had Franck Moussa to thank for another goal line clearance. The young Belgian denied Yeovil last week and he was on hand again this time to clear Doumbe's header away from danger after Puncheon had a shot saved by Mildenhall.

The referee then drew the first half to a close after he did his best to ruin a great game of football by handing out no more than 7 yellow cards in the first period of the game. The standard of FL officials is getting beyond a joke now.

The second half was not as frantic as the first but Southend United did slightly shade the game as they looked to bounce back from last weeks defeat. Wilbraham had a shot denied by Mildenhall and Alan McCormack went close down the other end for the hosts.

Francis Laurent was causing Lewington trouble the whole game and it was Lewington who blocked Lee Barnard from scoring with alert defending. Steve Mildenhall, who is in great form at the time being, did well to save a goal bound effort from Jason Puncheon and was also on hand to catch a simple Wilbraham header from a corner.

Southend United did win the game in the 94th minute of injury time, just like their last home outing, and it was the same hero as Lee Barnard stroked home a penalty into the bottom left corner as well as sending Gueret the wrong way and send the Southend fans and players wild.

A well-deserved three points against a very strong team, Shrimpers have now moved up to 9th in League One.

27th November 2009