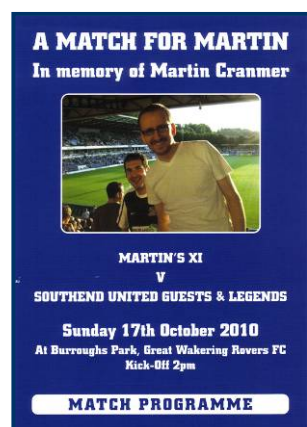


## NEWSLETTER – Vol. 6 Iss. 02. – October 2010

### THE INTRODUCTION – Paul FitzGerald

**A time for reflection.....**

**It's not all about football. In fact, sometimes you realise that football is so unimportant that you wonder why one gets so het up about it.**



On 6<sup>th</sup> August, Martin Cranmer, a founder member of the current supporters club (pre Trust) died whilst on holiday with his wife Zoe – he was 40. Our thoughts are with Zoe and family. Brian Jeeves, a Trust supporter and friend brought together some Southend Legends and Friends for a football match at Great Wakering Rovers on 17<sup>th</sup> October to celebrate Martin's life, which raised over £950 for Little Havens – a report on the match can be found later in this newsletter and pictures are available on the Shrimpers Trust Facebook page.

During the month, another committee member spent many nights in a hospital caring for two separate relatives and I am aware of the death of another long standing trust supporter....as I say, sometimes football just seems so unimportant..

Onto more mundane matters as reported on our website, Ron's Bentley is still in his drive as the long overdue Trust loan principal was repaid on 27<sup>th</sup> August. There is an element of unfinished business in this and I am hopeful that will be resolved by the next newsletter.

A recent meeting with Ron showed his frustration at the apparent lack of progress with regards to the development, but we are hopeful that his efforts will be rewarded soon with some positive news.

The club's finances are less clear, with rumours around unpaid bills still rife and indeed the situation with Steve Tilson and Paul Brush does not help matters. We are delighted to see that they have turned up together at Lincoln and wish them all the best – interesting that they should work together so soon after the "stories" from the football club about their departure.

Matters on the pitch have seemed less important over the recent weeks – several mixed displays alongside several good ones have left us a little unclear as to the abilities of our squad and its management. However, we do have a squad and we are not in administration and we do not have American owners (is that a good thing – Ed). A period of consolidation both on and off the field would be most welcome with perhaps a sprinkling of good news - or is that asking a little too much?

The Trust is always looking for more ideas and indeed help – we do a variety of things and are always grateful for help – if anyone would like to get involved with the committee to improve what we do for the club, you would be most welcome. In particular, our regular minute taker has broken his pencil and we desperately need someone who could spare a few hours a month (usually on the first Monday) to take minutes and generally contribute to the trust activities.



As ever, if anyone ever wants to comment on any Trust matter or indeed, anything Southend United related, don't hesitate to contact me, I do try to reply to all e-mails. ([pfitz666@aol.com](mailto:pfitz666@aol.com))

## A MATCH FOR MARTIN

A MATCH played in memory of a fanatical Southend United supporter has raised more than £900 for Little Havens Children's Hospice in Thundersley.



Martin Cranmer passed away suddenly at the age of 40 while on holiday in August.

A match between a Martin XI and a Southend United Guests and Legends XI was played in his honour at Great Wakering Rovers' Burroughs Park home on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

The legends – who had Paul Clark, Bill Garner, Frankie Banks, Andy Edwards, Barrie Delf and David Crown in their starting line-up – were managed by Ron Pountney and ran out 5-1 winners.

Brian Jeeves bagged a hat-trick and was joined on the score-sheet by Greg Allen and Garner.

Simon Kingdom was on target for the Martin XI and event organiser Jeeves was thrilled by how successful the day proved to be.

"It couldn't have gone any better for us really," said Jeeves.

"We had a great day with great weather and I'm grateful for everyone who gave up their time to take part.

"Martin was a great man and I hope that this football match will go some way towards showing how much we all thought of him.

"I would like to say a massive thank you to Wakering for staging the match.

"And I would also like to thank Craig Easton and Blair Sturrock from Southend United who were among a healthy crowd who came down to watch the game."

*Chris Phillips – Southend Echo*

## SHRIMPERS TRUST AGM

**The Shrimpers Trust AGM will be held on Thursday 11th November 2010 in the Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall with doors opening at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm prompt start.**

This will be followed by a Q&A Session with SUFC Club Captain Craig Easton.

The Notice and Agenda for the AGM has been enclosed with this Newsletter.



## XMAS DRAW



Enclosed with this Newsletter you will find several books of Tickets for our Xmas Draw and there are some great prizes up for grabs including 3 cash prizes of £500, £250 and £100 plus a chance to win two Blues Lounge Packages and an SUFC Signed 2010/11 Shirt donated by Southend United.

The Draw is one of our major fundraisers of the season so please try to sell the tickets if you can.

Please return Ticket Stubs and your Payment to: **Xmas Draw, Shrimpers Trust, PO Box 5830, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 9FD** or to the **Promoters Address on the Ticket**. Please make Cheques Payable to **The Shrimpers Trust**.

Alternatively you can drop them off at the Trust Info Stand in the Shrimpers Bar prior to any Home Game.

Closing date for entries is 26<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

## FUNDRAISING

### 100 Club

The latest winners in the scheme, pulled out of the hat during weekly draws since the last newsletter were **Phillipa Herbert, Graham Hart, Phil Cox, Roy Rice, Mike Smith, John Smith, Paul Strutt, Graham Hilder** and **Peter Brock** each winning around £28.00.

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](mailto:alanperry4@hotmail.com) or by calling 01702 476458 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 £28.00 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 17 matches is £475.75**

Once again 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 to 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 and pick up an entry form.



Application forms are also available for download from the Trust Website [www.shrimperstrust.co.uk](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk)

## MEMBERSHIP

### Welcome to New Life Members (Total 186)

**Alec Trott and Thomas Holman.**

If you are interested in joining this group please contact our Membership Secretary, Paul Yeomanson via email at [membership@shrimperstrust.co.uk](mailto: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](http://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

**Nick Ager, Sean Ashman, Julie Barker, Craig Bell, Christopher Bent, David Bishop, Kelly Bishop, Stephen Burton, Steve Capocci, Ryan Carter, David Clancy, Joe Clancy, Sandra Clancy, Suzanne Clancy, Paul Clark, Nick Clarke, Sean Corbett, Lorraine Croft, Justin Dawson, Nicholas Drage, Tom Duke, Edan Farmer, Simon Grech, Adrian Greene, Zoe Greene, Kelvin Harragan, Dave Harrison, Ben Harte, Bill Holmes, John Joyce, Peter Lowing, Matt Milton, Amy Nettleship, Ricky Paris, Ben Potipher, Faris Riaz, Graham Rivers, Gareth Roberts, Andrew Rolph, Derek Stevenson, Ron Wallace, Scott Wallace and Mark Wilson.**

\*\*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](http://www.shrimperstrust.co.uk) \*\*

## FORTHCOMING TRUST EVENTS

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

**TRUST AGM & Q and A with Craig Easton**

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

For further details contact Paul Yeomanson

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



**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

**RAYLEIGH LIGHTS**

**Rayleigh High Street – 4.00pm to 6.30pm**

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

**CURRY NIGHT**

**The Pipasha, Eastwood Road North, Leigh on Sea – 7.00pm for a 7.30pm meal**

For further details contact Alan Perry

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



**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010**

**QUIZ NIGHT**

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

For further details contact Alan Perry

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



## YOUTH TEAM – A MATCH TO REMEMBER

**Colchester United U18s 0 – 5 Southend United U18s**  
**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2010**

**Braces from Julian Okai and Duane Ofori-Acheampong, plus an own goal from defender George Allen, contributed to a terrific 5-0 local derby win for Southend United's Under-18s away to Colchester.**

Blues' Youths had triumphed in a five-goal thriller at the Garrison 'B' Ground just three weeks ago to secure progress in the Football League Youth Alliance Cup, but this time they contributed all the goals in the match to inflict a heavy reverse on their north Essex rivals.

With second-year scholar Alex Woodyard travelling to Bury with the first-team squad after his match-winning strike for the Shrimpers' reserve team against the U's in midweek, James Stevens was reintroduced to the starting line-up in midfield whilst Luke Chambers came in for Daniel Bentley in goal to represent a second change to the eleven that drew 0-0 with Gillingham last weekend.

Blues had dominated that particular fixture, but there were early signs that this was going to be a stronger test when former Southend youngster Freddie Ladapo hooked the ball over the defence in the fifth minute and skipper Craig Arnott slashed wildly wide.

In general the hosts, who had been weakened by injuries, made a frenetic start and Southend took some time to calm the match down. Gradually, through Stevens, Michael Hyland and George Smith in the centre of the pitch, they did so and, after 11 minutes, Teddy Nesbitt created the Shrimpers' first opening, with Hicham Abdellah unable to direct the full-back's cross goalwards at the back post.

After a quarter-of-an-hour, Blues were in front. Hyland slid the ball out to the left-hand side where diminutive winger **Okai** raced past Mason Stewart before sending an unstoppable shot into the top right-hand corner past Shaun Phillips.

At the time, Colchester were down to ten men as Tosin Olufemi received treatment and his replacement, Ross Gilfedder, had a chance to equalise with his first touch as the U's broke away from the restart, the substitute seizing on an under-hit header from Kane Ferdinand but sending his finish wide of the left-hand upright.

The visitors began to grow in confidence having taken the lead, although they were continually unable to find the target as Ferdinand powerfully nodded an Abdellah centre wide, Ofori-Acheampong galloped into the penalty area but hoisted a shot past the right-hand post and Smith smashed a rising half-volley narrowly over from 15 yards.

In between, Okai was only stopped from capitalising on a wonderful sweeping Stevens pass by an inch-perfect Stewart challenge, but the half ended with Colchester on top. Chambers produced a fine fingertip save to push a curling Ladapo shot out and the Essex Senior Cup winner fired over late on when Arnott's driven free-kick was deflected into his path.

The second half began with Chambers making a sprawling save to deny Gilfedder, and Blues doubled their advantage as a result in the 50th minute. The goal was made by Abdellah, who sent a teasing cross into the six-yard box from the right-hand side and, with Hyland lurking behind him, centre-half Allen inadvertently diverted the ball into his **own goal**.

Head of Youth Ricky Duncan took the opportunity to field Under-16 talent Lyle Della Verde as well as trialists Reece Hall and Steven Camacho, the latter a second-year scholar from Charlton Athletic, in the final 40 minutes of the match and Della Verde was unfortunate to see a skimming shot take a minute touch to send it wide after an enterprising run in the 66th minute.

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Southend did score midway through the second half when Ferdinand showed excellent alertness to intercept Phillips' rolled clearance. The centre-half advanced to the bye-line, from where he cut the ball back to **Ofori-Acheampong**, who glanced it into the bottom right-hand corner.

Camacho's fierce effort was well-held by Phillips as the Shrimpers piled on the pressure and, after Chambers again looked impressive in parrying out a swerving Arnott attempt, they added a fourth with ten minutes remaining.

Della Verde started the move by lofting the ball over the top for Okai, who was closed down by 'keeper Phillips 30 yards out. The loose ball fell to Nesbitt, who immediately went for goal but saw the effort charged down into the path of Ofori-Acheampong, with the front-man then setting up **Okai** to roll in his third goal of the season.

Three minutes later, the rout was complete. Ofori-Acheampong battled hard for the ball up against Allen and Alex Gilbey, and then slid it in for Okai. The winger was denied a hat-trick when Phillips palmed away his shot, but **Ofori-Acheampong** continued his run and slammed the rebound into the net to record his fifth goal of the season.

Next weekend sees Southend take on Oxford United at Boots & Laces in the Second Round of the Youth Alliance Cup (kick-off 11:00am), with a date soon to be arranged for the FA Youth Cup First Round tie at Roots Hall against Luton Town.

**Southend United:** Luke Chambers, Anthony Furlonge, Teddy Nesbitt, James Stevens, Kane Ferdinand, Louis Baucutt, Hicham Abdellah (Steven Camacho 57), Michael Hyland (Reece Hall 63), Duane Ofori-Acheampong, George Smith (Lyle Della Verde 54), Julian Okai. *Substitutes not used:* Ryan Auger, Rhys Mackay.

**Goals:** Okai (15, 80), Allen o.g. (50), Ofori-Acheampong (67, 83).

### FA YOUTH CUP – ROUND 1



**Southend United's under 18's will face Luton Town in the FA Youth Cup first round.**

Blues youngsters will take on the Hatters at Roots Hall on Wednesday, November 3 - kick-off 7.30pm.

Tickets for this match are £3 for adults and £1 for concessions.

Please note only the East Stand Green and Blacks section will be open for this fixture.

So why not get along to Roots Hall and support our stars of the future ...

### BARBER'S BLURB – TERRACE TALK MATCH REPORTS

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2010



**Southend United 1 (Owen O.G. 88)**

**Port Vale 3 (J. Richards 5, Dodds 54, M. Richards 83)**

**How We Started: (4-4-2)**

Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Graham Coughlan, Luke Prosser, Chris Barker, Craig Easton ©, Anthony Grant, Louie Soares, Sofiene Zaaboub, Matt Paterson and Blair Sturrock.

**Southend United lost their second consecutive league match after being played off the park by Port Vale at Roots Hall on Saturday. The deadly namesake-striking duo of Richards both netted a goal each as Paul Sturrock lost his first home game in charge of The Shrimpers.**

So after last week's 1-0 defeat at the EBB Stadium Paul Sturrock's side returned to Roots Hall and he had made 3 changes to his starting line-up for the visit of the Valiants. Graham Coughlan, Sofiene Zaaboub and Matt Paterson all earned a recall.

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From the start of the game Port Vale looked the hungrier of the two sides and they took the lead inside 5 minutes when the two Richards combined to put the ball past Glenn Morris. Marc put the ball on a plate for Justin whom powered home a header from 6 yards out.

If it was not for Morris Blues could have been 3 or 4 down inside the first 20 minutes as he twice saved well from Marc Richards, however, Southend did respond when Zaaboub's free-kick was well saved by the Vale keeper and Coughlan then headed over when unmarked in the 6 yards box.

Luke Prosser was having a game to remember as he twice made crucial errors but was let off due to Vales poor finishing.

On 54 minutes Port Vale added a 2<sup>nd</sup> through Louis Dodds tapping home from close range after the visitors burst through the heart of Southend United.

Sturrock made a few changes as The Shrimpers were looking to halve the deficit and Irish forward Barry Corr should have got Southend back in the game but he headed well over the bar from a few yards out.

Marc Richards turned and fired home a curling effort into the far corner of Glenn Morris' goal, which put the game beyond doubt. The Seasiders did pull a goal back in the 88<sup>th</sup> minute when Louie Soares hit a free-kick that was deflected in his own net by Owen.

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Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2010



**Wolverhampton Wanderers 2 (Milijas 27, Stearman 120+3)  
Southend United 1 (Easton 80)**

## **How We Started: (4-4-2)**

Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Bilel Moshni, Chris Barker, Peter Gilbert, Craig Easton ©, Anthony Grant, Josh Simpson, Sofiene Zaaboub, Barry Corr and Blair Sturrock.

## **Ground Review:**

I have previously visited Molineux when we were in The Championship and I have to say it was a better atmosphere back then, but the traveling Blues faithful were full of noise yet again, as we back our side. It is a lovely structured stadium that any side would be proud to call 'their home' but on the downside, the refreshments were priced highly and the service was poor.

**Richard Stearman prodded home with the last kick of the game to deny Southend United taking Premiership side Wolves to a penalty shoot-out. Blues had forced extra-time when skipper Craig Easton headed home a Simpson cross to level the scores after an earlier Nenad Milijas penalty.**

Paul Sturrock made 4 changes to his side that lost to Port Vale as he brought in Bilel Mohsni and Peter Gilbert for their debuts; Josh Simpson and Barry Corr, who did not start against the Valiants, joined them in the side.

From a supporter's point of view we were not expecting too much tonight, just a committed performance and maybe a goal to cheer, but we witnessed something really promising. From the first whistle we were challenging every ball and looked a very composed side when in position and had a few chances on goal. We also limited Wolves to half chances at best.

After pressure from Southend with efforts from Zaaboub and Grant, Wolves took the lead when Barker fouled Winnall in the box and Serbia World Cup star Nenad Milijas placed home the spot-kick.

The super Blues responded and twice went close through Bilel Mohsni. The first effort went wide when he looked offside then he headed home which was ironically ruled out for offside when he looked level with the last defender.

Southend were holding their own and went close when Blair Sturrock saw his left footed effort tipped brilliantly onto the bar by Welsh international Wayne Hennessey.

However in the 80<sup>th</sup> minute skipper Craig Easton equalised for Southend, ending a superb move. The move included Soares, Clohessy and Simpson with the latter curling in a super cross that invited Easton to nod home from 6 yards.

That forced extra-time and once Ebanks-Blake saw an effort ruled out for offside, Southend's tails were up and went close through Josh Simpson when he side footed straight at Hennessey.

And with 30 seconds remaining on the clock Richard Stearman pounced to fire Wolves into round 3 after Glenn Morris could only parry Zubar's cross-cum-shot.

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Friday 27th August 2010



**Bradford City 0**  
**Southend United 2 (Corr 16, Grant 54)**

## **How We Started: (4-4-2)**

Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Bilel Moshni, Chris Barker, Peter Gilbert, Craig Easton ©, Anthony Grant, Josh Simpson, Ryan Hall, Barry Corr and Blair Sturrock.

## **Ground Review:**

Valley Parade is a quality football stadium in my opinion. As Bradford are an ex-Premiership side, this ground wouldn't look out of place at the present time in the English top flight. The view for away supporters is not great, stuck on the side and in the corner of the ground, but it does have good acoustics that amplify the volume of away support. Supported by 2 other fantastic stands, and a slightly smaller one behind one of the goals it, as I said, would still be at home in the Premiership.

**Barry Corr and Anthony Grant were on target as Southend United secured their first win of the season and their first away victory in 9 months. A goal in each half was enough for The Shrimpers in what was a dominant display. Ex-Blues manager Peter Taylor's Bradford side looked off the pace and did not bother Southend in any way, shape or form.**

So after a promising display against Wolves on Tuesday, drawing in normal time, Southend hoped to continue this kind of form into the league after Saturday's disappointing display against Port Vale. The team bonding session in the north of the country seemed to be paying dividends as Blues dominated straight from kick-off.

Comfortable on the ball, Southend were looking lively, and nearly took the lead when Simpson got through on the right but took the wrong option of cutting the ball back when it looked better to have a strike on goal. However, Southend did get take the lead, which was fully deserved, through Irish forward Barry Corr.

The former Exeter forward controlled and turned brilliantly after collecting Ryan Hall's fantastic cross, before firing home via the joint of post and bar, to send us travelling fans wild. We did not stop there, we continued to battle and dominate the game, and went mighty close to doubling our advantage.

Bilel Moshni missed two glorious opportunities before Ryan Hall and Blair Sturrock both went close, as did Josh Simpson. It took until the 54<sup>th</sup> minute to double our deserved lead when Anthony Grant met a neat Corr knockdown to rifle home a half volley into the bottom corner. The points were surely home and dry now, and we did not sit back, we continued and Barry Corr was inches away from converting a Blair Sturrock cross.

There was one nervous stage of the game when Sean Clohessy was sent off for his 2<sup>nd</sup> booking, but the Blues held firm as Bradford failed to trouble our backline and our goalkeeper Glenn Morris.

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Tuesday 31st August 2010



**Southend United 0**  
**Gillingham 0**

*Southend United win 4-3 on Penalties*

## **How We Started: (4-4-2)**

Rhys Evans, Josh Simpson, Bilel Moshni, Chris Barker, Peter Gilbert, Craig Easton ©, Anthony Grant, Adam Bouzid, Ryan Hall, Barry Corr and Blair Sturrock.

**Blair Sturrock scored the winning penalty as Southend United beat League Two rivals Gillingham in a penalty shoot-out after the fixture finished goalless after the regular 90 minutes of action. Blues are now into the hat for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round draw, and a step closer to the final at Wembley stadium.**

So after tremendous performances away at Wolves and Bradford, Blues returned to home soil, to take on nPower League Two rivals Gillingham in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy. As a supporter that goes to games home and away, I have witnessed what this team can achieve, and was confident of knocking out the Kent based side.

The first half was totally dominated by Southend, who looked solid all over the park, and had the constant threat of Ryan Hall on the left-flank. However, despite the dominance of the ball, chances on goal were limited. Barry Corr had a few headers on goal for The Shrimpers but nothing that really tested the opposition.



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Gillingham hardly attacked in the first half, but did cause a penalty melee during the closing stages of the first half, but that did not come to anything.

The second half was a much closer and even affair, which Gillingham probably just shaded, but yet again very little chances on goal. Former Blues midfielder Kevin Maher came the closest for The Gills when his quick control half volley flew just wide of the goal.

Southend nearly snuck the win when Paterson's missed control fell to Blair Sturrock, who steadied himself, but saw his effort well saved by the visiting goalkeeper.

That took the tie straight into a penalty shoot-out, as extra-time is not present in the JPT. Southend goalkeeper Rhys Evans made two penalty saves, as Southend won the tie thanks to spot-kick conversions from Paterson, Soares, Barker and Sturrock.

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**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2010**



**Southend United 2 (Grant 15, Simpson 43)**  
**Torquay United 1 (Zebroski 78)**

**How We Started: (4-4-2)**

Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Bilel Mohsni, Chris Barker, Peter Gilbert, Craig Easton ©, Anthony Grant, Josh Simpson, Ryan Hall, Louie Soares and Blair Sturrock.

**Southend United ended Torquay's 100% start to the season with a well-deserved victory at Roots Hall. Cracking goals from Anthony Grant and Josh Simpson gave the Blues the lead after a dominant first half but a Chris Zebroski stike with 10 minutes left meant a nervy conclusion for The Shrimpers, but they held on.**

The Shrimpers entered the game against the current league leaders on the back of two consecutive victories. Those being a 2-0 win at Bradford City before edging out Gillingham on penalties in midweek. As I sat down in my seat, with my freshly printed 'Mohsni' shirt, I was very confident we could win. My pre-match prediction was a 2-1 home win and on the evidence of our first half display, that was possible.

Blair Sturrock, facing his former side, and Ryan Hall combined well to create early chances with Simpson and Sturrock going close. The Blues were rampant; Torquay didn't know what had hit them and in the 15<sup>th</sup> minute Southend took the lead.

A corner from Ryan Hall found its way to Anthony Grant who curled home a fantastic effort into the top corner of the goal, to celebrate his 2<sup>nd</sup> game in as many league games, and boy did it get me out of my seat!

The football being played was first class, and any fan that managed to get to Wolves and Bradford like myself, was finally seeing it played at Roots Hall, and that quality was rewarded thanks to a wonder strike from Josh Simpson. The midfielder smashed home a low, hard half-volley into the far corner to put Southend in cruise control.

Torquay hardly threatened and when they did, their finishing let them down.

As I returned to my seat for the start of the second half I knew the next goal was vital. A 3<sup>rd</sup> for Southend would wrap up 3 points but a goal from the Gulls would change the whole aspect of the game.

The visitors did dominate the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half and did get given a life-line when Chris Zebroski netted from close range after a previous effort rebounded off the post.

Southend did hold on firm but did have Glenn Morris to thank for a stupendous low save to deny Torquay in the final minute.

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**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2010**



**Northampton Town 2 (Osman 63, Holt 76)**  
**Southend United 1 (Grant 57)**

**How We Started: (4-4-2)**

Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Bilel Moshni, Chris Barker, Peter Gilbert, Craig Easton ©, Anthony Grant, Josh Simpson, Ryan Hall, Louie Soares and Blair Sturrock.

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## Ground Review:

Sixfields is a decent football stadium for lower league football. Having visited this stadium on countless occasions I am still impressed with some of the features. With all-but one stand (main stand) having only 7 rows of seats it is hardly the largest of grounds and it does struggle to make any kind of atmosphere. The food outlets around the ground are still pricey and most of the pubs are home supporters only.

**Southend United's run of 3 victories on the bounce was ended at Sixfields as the Cobblers came from a goal down to turn the match on its head. Having lead through an Anthony Grant volley, Blues shot themselves in the foot with sloppy defending, and despite their dominance on proceedings we could not force an equaliser.**

After the last five or six matches consisting of top quality football from Southend I was really hoping we could continue our fine form at Sixfields. The level of our performance was really good again as we dictated large periods of the match, and if we brought our shooting boots with us, we would have been out of sight.

Blair Sturrock, who I believe doesn't get enough credit, sliced an awful effort wide of the goal when only 8 yards out. That brought a massive grown from the Blues faithful, but we kept playing our game. We were a force throughout.

Peter Gilbert was subject of home abuse, as expected, and Leon McKenzie looked a shadow of his former self. Being overweight and off the pace, certainly helped Blues' defensive state of mind.

So after domination in the first half, that continued into the first 20 minutes of the second half. We went close on three occasions before scoring and two of those efforts of note came from Anthony Grant and Chris Barker. However, on the 57<sup>th</sup> minute, Anthony Grant volleyed home a superb cross from Sean Clohessy to give the Blues a deserved lead. Despite taking the lead, we took our foot off the throttle and Northampton were back into the game.

Bilel Mohsni, shaken after getting booked, saw his clearance handled, but instead of playing to the whistle the back line stopped and that allowed Osman to fire home a shot past Morris and his near post.

Just 8 minutes later and The Cobblers completed the most unlikely of turnarounds when skipper Holt powered home a free header after Bilel lost his man. Southend could not force an equaliser, but if we had cut out the individual errors, the Blues faithful would have been celebrating a fourth consecutive success.

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## Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2010



**Southend United 2 (Grant 22, Corr 50)  
Morecambe 3 (Drummond 21, Mullin 26, Spencer 73)**

How We Started: (4-4-2)

Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Bilel Mohsni, Chris Barker ©, Peter Gilbert, Ryan Hall, Michael Timlin, Anthony Grant, Josh Simpson, Barry Corr and Blair Sturrock.

**Individual errors proved to be Southend United's downfall for the second game in succession after they were beaten by 3 goals to 2 at home to Morecambe. Anthony Grant scored his 4<sup>th</sup> goal in 5 matches and he was joined on the score sheet by striker Barry Corr, notching his 3<sup>rd</sup> strike of the season, but Blues' backline couldn't hold firm to see out a game we really shouldn't have lost.**

So after the disappointment of 2 mistakes against Northampton costing us a game we dominated from the start, we returned to Roots Hall, and I for one, was confident we would take all three points. Southend named new-boy Michael Timlin in midfield and it was Timlin that had the first shot on goal, but his free kick didn't trouble the keeper.

Backed by no more than 50 travelling fans, Morecambe without a win, but finished 4<sup>th</sup> last year and tipped for promotion again took the lead when Drummond lashed home from close range after Blues failed to clear, and it was totally against the run of play.

Just seconds later Anthony Grant drilled a shot from 25 yards that flew into the bottom corner for his 4<sup>th</sup> goal in as many league games, and his 4<sup>th</sup> in 5<sup>th</sup> matches in all competitions. At this point I could only see one side winning, Southend against a very poor Morecambe side, but I was left scratching my head when The Shrimps scored just 4 minutes later when Mullin headed home unmarked from 5 yards, when in all honesty, Glenn Morris should have come for the ball.

Everyone in the ground could see that Southend were the only team in the game and 5 minutes after the break big Barry Corr out jumped Roche in the goal to score his 3<sup>rd</sup> goal of the season, and at this point

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Southend must have thought they could win this game, and easily. Blair Sturrock had a shot go over; Ryan Hall came close twice as did Barry Corr, but Morecambe held firm.

And with 17 minutes to go, after pressing for the winner, a quick break away left substitute Spencer with the easiest of tasks of placing the ball past Morris. Everyone at the ground could see Blues bossed the game, and with scoring 2 goals at home, you would expect a win, but individual errors, not poor displays have seen the Blues lose their last 2 fixtures, when in fact, they deserved to win and would have been sitting in 6<sup>th</sup> place.

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**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2010**



**Hereford United 1 (McQuilkin 4)**

**Southend United 3 (Corr 27, Timlin 52, Sturrock 67)**

How We Started: (4-4-2)

Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Bilel Moshni, Chris Barker ©, Peter Gilbert, Michael Timlin, Anthony Grant, Josh Simpson, Ryan Hall, Barry Corr and Blair Sturrock.

## **Ground Review:**

This was my 2<sup>nd</sup> trip to Edgar Street, and it doesn't look any better second time round! They have added a few seats behind the goal as the away support was pushed around to the side. It was very hard to create any atmosphere, as the acoustics were very poor. And the food kiosk looked like a Victorian cookhouse rather than a Football League food stall.

Despite all of the above, these traditional grounds have something about them, which you don't get in most stadiums, that is passion.

**Southend United moved to within a point of the play-offs after an easy victory at lowly Hereford. Despite falling behind early on Blues battled back and goals from Barry Corr, Michael Timlin and Blair Sturrock, the turnaround was completed.**

So after 2 good displays, and no wins to show for it, Southend had to get back winning ways and with supporters in good spirits on the way down, I was positive we could win. Before the match, Blair Sturrock averaged a goal every 8 games, and 8 games after his last strike, could he repeat the trick?

Once in the ground, the Blues Voice, were singing but we were left gob smacked when a free kick from McQuilkin found its way past Morris. The keeper seemed to push the ball into his own goal via the crossbar. Not the best start.

I was still confident of winning, and despite the painful long balls in windy conditions, Southend scored a goal of real class in the 27<sup>th</sup> minute. A flowing move set Blair Sturrock away and the striker crossed a pinpoint ball into the box and Barry Corr angled his head to powerfully header home. Just seconds later Corr nearly scored his second but saw his header deflect wide.

Southend were miles better than Hereford and once they got the ball down on the deck and played football, there was only one winner. Barry Corr was unplayable and he knocked the ball down for Sturrock who was fouled and Southend scored from the resulting free kick.

Simpson laid the ball off for Michael Timlin who then curled a fantastic left-footed shot into the top corner of the goal, a truly wonderful effort, Southend were almost home and dry.

Barry Corr then went close on a few occasions, and also had an effort ruled out for offside. Ryan Hall and Blair Sturrock stung the fingers of the Hereford goalkeeper, and it was the latter that added to the score line when he burst free from the Bulls backline before sliding a left-footed shot into the far corner.

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**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2010**



**Gillingham 0**

**Southend United 0**

How We Started: (4-4-2)

Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Bilel Moshni, Chris Barker ©, Peter Gilbert, Michael Timlin, Anthony Grant, Josh Simpson, Louie Soares, Barry Corr and Blair Sturrock.

## **Ground Review:**

£20 for a ticket on scaffolding is an absolute joke. I have been to this ground on countless occasions and it still amazes me that the club has not put a roof on the stand. The other three stands, even when not full to

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capacity, create a wonderful atmosphere, but it is almost impossible to create any sort of atmosphere in the away end.

**Southend United goalkeeper Glenn Morris produced a string of fine saves in the second half to keep Gillingham at bay. Despite dominating the first half, Southend found themselves on the back foot after the break, and had former Orient keeper Morris to thank on numerous occasions. Nathaniel Jarvis came the closest to winning the game for Blues but his effort was saved.**

After a good away victory at Edgar Street on Saturday, we visited our near neighbours from Kent, at the Priestfield Stadium. I was very confident we would take all 3 points again tonight but was aware that Gillingham have only lost 3 games at home in over a season and a half.

Right from the first whistle of the first half, we dominated. We should have been celebrating an early goal but Louie Soares miscued from close range after a good ball to the back post from Clohessy. I was really impressed with what I was seeing, the same battle from Saturdays match was continued, and we should have scored again when good work from Blair Sturrock put Josh Simpson through but he rushed his shot and it flew wide of the goal.

Glenn Morris made a good save from an over-head-kick, but that was as close as Gillingham came, in the first half. We continued to battle and Louie Soares could have had a few more but his finishing was below par.

Gillingham came out in the second half all guns blazing and pushed us back into our own half for large periods of the half. Adebayo Akinfenwa came close to scoring several times, along with Palmer and Cody McDonald.

Glenn Morris made two fantastic saves late on but Southend could have nicked all three points as Barry Corr came close twice along with Nathaniel Jarvis, who had two efforts on goal. One going over and the other being saved well by the keeper.

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**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2010**



**Southend United 1 (Corr 3)  
Lincoln City 0**

**How We Started: (4-4-2)**

Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Bilel Mohsni, Chris Barker ©, Peter Gilbert, Ryan Hall, Michael Timlin, Anthony Grant, Josh Simpson, Barry Corr and Blair Sturrock.

**Barry Corr's early header proved to be enough as Southend United made it a 3<sup>rd</sup> unbeaten game in a row. Despite the early goal Blues let Lincoln get back into the game when if the truth be told, they should have gone on to score more goals.**

After two good away performances and results we were back on home soil against a team we should beat. In the middle of the week manager Chris Sutton left his role as manager of Lincoln, so they were under caretaker control, as they visited Roots Hall.

On a wet, damp day at Roots Hall, Barry Corr gave us the perfect start as he headed home in just the 3<sup>rd</sup> minute. Fantastic play from Ryan Hall ended with him curling in a wonderful cross for Corr to power home from 6 yards for his 5<sup>th</sup> of the season.

Southend were dominating at this point and went close through Corr again as his powerful header was saved well by the Lincoln goalkeeper. From that moment on Southend struggled to make any sort of impact on the game and seemed to sit back. Both forwards, Corr and Sturrock, took knocks and it was Corr who had to be withdrawn just before half time with a hip injury.

The second half was same old Southend. Taking a lead, miles the better side, but still get pegged back. Glenn Morris made a few good saves, and he was also saved by the cross bar as Lincoln got back into the game.

Ryan Hall smashed a shot into the side netting down the other end of the field and Nathaniel Jarvis couldn't finish after the keeper spilled a Josh Simpson effort.

However, Blues did hold on, to move within 2 points of the League Two play-off positions and make it three games unbeaten.

We now head to Underhill on Tuesday looking to get ever closer to the showpiece final at Wembley.

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Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010



**Barnet 1 (Marshall 79)**  
**Southend United 3 (Paterson 22, 55, Soares 85)**

**How We Started: (4-4-2)**

Rhys Evans, Sean Clohessy, Bilel Moshni, Chris Barker ©, Peter Gilbert, Louie Soares, Anthony Grant, Josh Simpson, Ryan Hall, Matt Paterson and Harry Crawford.

**Ground Review:**

Underhill has had a few improvements since the last time I visited, but it is still, a very poor stadium. A roof has been placed on one of the end stands, with one still out in the open. Despite the lack of numbers in the home stands, the acoustics were poor, but the away corner sounded good, with well over 500 fans present.

**Two goals from Matt Paterson fired Southend within 4 games of the showpiece final at Wembley. The former Southampton forward scored a goal in each half and was joined on the score sheet by Louie Soares as Southend easily progressed into the quarterfinal stage.**

Blues were forced into making changes for tonight's Johnstone Paint Trophy match and all of the players recalled to the line-up did themselves no harm at all heading into a tough 4-match period for Southend.

Matt Paterson had a really good early chance to score, but his close range curling effort, was too easy for Cole in the Barnet goal. Anthony Grant then stung the fingers of Cole with a long, low hard drive. Barnet were a very poor side and in the 22nd minute Blues' dominance finally showed when Matt Paterson placed home a low drive after good work from Harry Crawford.

The forward, previously made available for loan by Paul Sturrock, stroked home with the inside of his foot into the far corner to send the 500+ away crowd into full voice. Ryan Hall came close to scoring a goal, which would have been goal of the season, but his fierce free-kick smashed off the post.

The Shrimpers were miles the better side, but things could have finished worse, when Bilel Moshni saw red after a clash with Walsh. But just moments later the 10 men of Southend doubled their lead when Paterson raced onto a long ball before coolly lobbing the 'keeper.

Barnet pulled a goal back with a close range header, but Louie Soares capped off a great performance with a fine solo goal, beating 4 players before smashing a left footed drive into the roof of the net.

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Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2010



**Chesterfield 2 (Whittaker 27, Boden 90+3)**  
**Southend United 1 (Grant 36)**

**How We Started: (4-4-2)**

Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Graham Coughlan, Chris Barker ©, Peter Gilbert, Michael Timlin, Anthony Grant, Josh Simpson, Louie Soares, Matt Paterson and Waide Fairhurst.

**Ground Review:**

This was our first visit to the b2net Stadium and I have to say I was very impressed with the ground. A ground this size would be good enough for Southend, the only thing it lacked, was acoustics. With the stands not curved enough to create sound, and with the corner open, that was the reason and only downside to the football ground.

**Chesterfield struck a cruel injury time winner after being beaten all over the park by Southend United for most of the game. Despite going behind, Southend recovered, thanks to a goal from Anthony Grant, before going onto dominate the game but paid the price for poor finishing.**

We headed into this game looking to extend our run to five games unbeaten. We have been playing pretty good football and I was confident of that continuing today. Southend started off a little slow, with the home side having most of the possession, and it looked like we would have to soak it up.

As the home team, you expect them to have most of the ball, but we seemed slow. After a few half chances, Chesterfield took the lead when Lester was chopped down by a combination of Coughlan and Grant. Whittaker stepped up to place home straight down the middle of the goal to put the hosts one goal up.

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But since that goal went in, it was all Southend. First Chris Barker had a shot cleared off the line before we cemented lots of corners in succession. In the 36th minute Blues were level. A deep corner from Soares was controlled well and placed back to Grant by Fairhurst and Grant coolly placed home from the edge of the box into the bottom corner.

It was only what we deserved. Then Southend had a great chance to take the lead when Josh Simpson smashed wide from 6 yards when it looked easier to score.

Into the second half, and Southend were still on top, only keeper Lee keeping the home side in the game. He saved well from a Paterson header before reacting quickest to Louie Soares' rebound after his initial volley smashed onto the post.

Nathaniel Jarvis saw a header just go over, before the sucker punch. With only 15 seconds remaining the linesman gave a corner when it was very clearly a goal kick. From the resulting corner, Chesterfield scored the winner, when comical defending left Boden time to turn and shoot past Morris to snatch a cruel and undeserved victory for the hosts.

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**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2010**



**Southend United 0**

**Crewe Alexandra 2 (Donaldson 55, Miller 77)**

**How We Started: (3-5-2)**

Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Graham Coughlan, Chris Barker ©, Luke Prosser, Johnny Herd, Michael Timlin, Anthony Grant, Louie Soares, Matt Paterson and Waide Fairhurst

**A goal in each half was enough to secure Crewe all three points at Roots Hall. In a below-par performance Southend were outfought, outmuscled and outplayed in most departments of the game. Blues hardly had a sight of goal and were second best throughout the whole 90 minutes.**

After a positive performance, but not the result, again Chesterfield we headed back to home turf to try and get back onto the form that saw Southend go 4 games unbeaten in the previous weeks.

It wasn't to be as Crewe totally dominated proceedings in this fixture. Southend's best chance of the game fell to Waide Fairhurst but he somehow couldn't connect with the ball when only 6 yards out.

There was little in the way of clear-cut chances in the first half, but the clearest chance to score fell to Crewe. Luke Prosser fouled his man but from the resulting spot-kick the Crewe player blasted his effort against the bar and Glenn Morris gratefully grabbed onto the rebound.

That was to be the only chance of the first half, and you would have thought that would have woken Southend up, but their passion and attitude was still questionable.

Crewe did eventually take the lead when Clayton Donaldson headed home past Morris after Luke Prosser misjudged the flight of the ball.

Southend looked a little brighter after falling behind and went close through Ryan Hall and Anthony Grant saw his well-struck effort deflected wide.

As The Blues pressed for the equaliser Crewe hit us on the counter attack. It was a freak goal as Johnny Herd lost possession and then got the wrong side of his man before allowing the cross to come in and Morris and Coughlan got in each other's way allowing Miller to prod home from 4 yards out.

*29<sup>th</sup> October 2010*