

## NEWSLETTER – Vol. 6 Iss. 04. – February 2011

### THE INTRODUCTION – Paul FitzGerald

#### 3 Points off the play-offs

Who'd have thought that 2 months ago – but after a tremendous run of away games and the recent turn around in home form (excepting the awful game against Shrewsbury) that's the position we find ourselves in. I think most of us would have taken that months back. Our form does flatter to deceive sometimes and it's difficult to tell whether the lack of consistency is that we are simply not good enough - or are we, but not showing it often enough – lets hope it's the latter



The Trust committee met with Tara Brady, SUFC's new Chief Executive in January and it's clear that his style of management is going to be completely different from what we have seen before. Tara is "not a committee" man and you can see that decisions will be made quickly where appropriate. He feels his background in the "City" and his relationship with several rich individuals will reap rewards. It will be interesting to see how many of these contacts he will be able to attract to a struggling Division 4 team!

Tara wants to understand what makes Southend United fans tick and he has been making himself available to fans via several means recently. He has also called a meeting to bring fans' groups "up to date with things at the club and also to answer some of the (previously) unanswered questions"

He warns of continuing tough times, especially for the next five months, but it's clear he relishes a challenge and challenges don't come much bigger than the one he now finds himself in.

Feedback from our questionnaire on what to do with the Loan Interest was welcomed and we have decided to split the proceeds into the two most popular options. This was done in roughly the proportion voted. I.e. Youth 75% and SUCET 25% with a rounded amount to be donated to charity. Thanks to all those who took the trouble to respond.

I'm sure many of you will know that our Youth set-up continues to excel, with Kane Ferdinand now starting regularly for the 1<sup>st</sup> team and in the Youth Cup 4<sup>th</sup> round, where they beat Derby and now face the challenge of a 5<sup>th</sup> round tie at Anfield on 14<sup>th</sup> February. The Trust is running coaches to this game. My long suffering wife Helen was delighted to hear this and even more so when she realised it was her Valentine Day's treat.

Fans of the great game generally will be interested to know that the government is running an enquiry into Football Governance an area which may specifically interest Southend United Fans. The Trust has submitted a paper in line with the government's request and guidelines and is looking forward to the findings with great interest

And finally, Chris Phillips from The Echo will run between four non-league football grounds to raise funds for charity after the death of deputy sports editor Dick Marshall, the paper's non-league writer, who died from bowel cancer last June at the age of 63.

He chose to run between the clubs as they were ones covered extensively by Dick during the more than 30 years he spent working at the Echo.

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Chris will carry out the extended marathon of more than 30 miles on 23<sup>rd</sup> April to raise money for the Bobby Moore Fund which supports research into bowel cancer.

Chris' run will start at Billericay Town FC before he heads to Concord Rangers then Canvey Island and he will finish at Great Wakering Rovers

To sponsor him, visit <http://www.justgiving.com/nonleaguemarathon>



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)).

### SHRIMPER'S RAM RAID

**Derby County U18s 1-3 Southend United U18s; FA Youth Cup sponsored by E.ON Fourth Round; Pride Park; Wednesday 26th January 2011; Kick-Off: 7:00pm**

*By Robert Craven*

**Southend United's Under-18 side set up a dream FA Youth Cup Fifth Round clash at Anfield with a superb second-half comeback to record a 3-1 victory against Derby County.**

Head of Youth Ricky Duncan had urged his team to forget about the prospect of facing Liverpool in a club-record equalling last sixteen encounter, but the squad can now prepare for exactly that after overcoming the Rams at Pride Park.

Blues' Youths had never before beaten an Academy side away in a competitive fixture, and until the 62nd minute, it seemed as though they would be unsuccessful once again as they trailed to Callum Ball's first-half opener for the hosts.

However, the Shrimpers didn't look back after James Stevens' thumping shot connected with the back of the net shortly after the hour mark, and further efforts from Duane Ofori-Acheampong and George Smith, the latter in stoppage time, sealed a momentous victory.

There was just one change to the starting line-up from Southend's identical 3-1 win against Coventry City at Roots Hall in the previous round as Kane Ferdinand – who had played 90 minutes for the first-team against Macclesfield Town the night before – was replaced by Under-16 centre-half Dominic Iorfa, making his debut for the Under-18s.



*Picture Courtesy of Graham Bridgeman-Clarke*

There were few chances in the opening ten minutes as both clubs attempted to size each other up, Stevens sending a curling effort over the crossbar early on for the visitors whilst Derby responded when Aaron Cole cut inside from his position on the right flank and skewed wide of the left-hand upright.

The Rams, who had disposed of Blues' fellow Football League Youth Alliance South East Conference outfit Brighton & Hove Albion 3-0 in the Third Round, saw more of the ball as the first half

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progressed, although Duncan's charges were able to largely stifle them whenever they approached the penalty area.

Sam McElroy let fly in the 13th minute, sending his shot from 25 yards careering over Daniel Bentley's bar, and it was not until the mid-point of the opening period that the second-year shotstopper had to make a save, comfortably gathering Chris Jones' well-struck effort from a similar distance.

Ball was centimetres away from connecting with a dangerous Cole centre three minutes later, and as the half-hour mark arrived, County captain Mark O'Brien almost nodded his team in front with a bullet header from Alex Witham's floated free-kick, the defender directing the ball narrowly over the crossbar.

Derby did nudge ahead in the 34th minute. Cole delivered a corner to the back post, where O'Brien met the ball again with his head. This time his downward header caused problems in the Southend defence, and **Ball** was on hand to scramble the ball over the line.

It was important that Blues kept the deficit down to just a single goal at half-time, but they still had some defending to do as Ball almost added a second, smashing Cormac Hegarty's cross wide of the left-hand post. Bentley was in position with two minutes remaining before the interval to collect a further strike from the tall centre-forward.

There was a hint of what may follow in the second half during injury-time when midfielder Stevens drew a fine low save out of Rams goalkeeper Ross Etheridge, and the same player was at the fore minutes after the break as a 30-yard free-kick was curled around the wall and into the side-netting.

Before the fightback could truly take root, Bentley had to make two tremendous saves to keep his side in touch. The first came direct from Etheridge's goal-kick, McElroy galloping through, only to be thwarted by the custodian's feet on the edge of the box.

The next stop was even more impressive. This time Ball sprung the offside trap to advance one-on-one with Bentley – who had warmed the first-team bench 24 hours previously – but his attempted lob was met with a superb one-handed save a few feet inside the area.

Duncan's half-time team-talk had stirred his troops, and they equalised in the 62nd minute. The move was started and finished by Stevens, who brought the ball down before offloading to George Smith. He quickly threaded it through to Hicham Abdellah, and the winger's final contribution of the game was to pick out his team-mate 12 yards out, **Stevens** rifling his shot into the net via the underside of the crossbar.



*Picture Courtesy of Graham Bridgeman-Clarke*

Lyle Della-Verde was introduced in place of Abdellah, and he made an immediate impact, tracking across the midfield before Smith snatched the ball off of his toecaps and brought a smart save out of Etheridge.

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Duane Ofori-Acheampong had been in impressive form for the Under-18s of late, but he had endured a quiet evening having been largely marked out of the game by Derby's centre-halves. That was to change a little over a quarter-of-an-hour from the end. Stevens chipped the ball delightfully out to the left-hand side and the tireless Teddy Nesbitt. The full-back centred to the near post for **Ofori-Acheampong**, who flicked home his fifth goal in the competition this season.

Stevens had an opportunity to add a third ten minutes from time as he headed Julian Okai's corner over from eight yards, but Blues would have to defend resolutely to maintain their advantage late on.

First Bentley gathered Witham's swinging free-kick well as Ball ran across his line of sight and then, when Cole's high cross eluded the 'keeper, Anthony Furlonge made a crucial interception to send the ball over the crossbar with men waiting expectantly behind him.

Ofori-Acheampong failed to make the slight connection to Okai's cross that would have sealed the success and, when the fourth official's board signalled an additional four minutes of injury time, it seemed that Derby may summon one last effort.

That was not to be, however, and it was the Shrimpers who made absolutely sure of their progress with another goal of real quality. Della-Verde's vision picked out Nesbitt on the overlap, and he sent the left-back clear with a sublime pass. Nesbitt cut inside and squared for **Smith**, who was on hand to tuck the ball home.

The celebrations were lengthy, and it was merely a couple of minutes before they were reignited, this time with the encouragement of the substitutes, coaches and support staff. Plans will now be fixed for Liverpool, but with the Under-18s still going well in the League, and with an Area Semi-Final at home to Stevenage to come in the Youth Alliance Cup, Duncan's team are fighting hard on three fronts.

**Southend United U18s:** Daniel Bentley, Anthony Furlonge, Teddy Nesbitt, James Stevens, Louis Baucutt, Dominic Iorfa, Hicham Abdellah (Lyle Della-Verde 64), Alex Woodyard, Duane Ofori-Acheampong, George Smith, Julian Okai. *Substitutes not used:* Luke Chambers, Ryan Auger, Michael Hyland, Rhys Mackay.

**Goals:** Stevens (62), Ofori-Acheampong (74), Smith (90+2).

**Derby County U18s:** Ross Etheridge, Ryan Betts, Cormac Hegarty, Alex Witham, Mark O'Brien, Stefan Galinski, Aaron Cole, Chris Jones (Niall Dorkins 81), Callum Ball, Kane Richards, Sam McElroy (Kealan Dillon 71). *Substitutes not used:* Josh Lelan, Rhys Sharpe, Andy Dales.

### RICKY DUNCAN & KANE FERDINAND Q&A

#### The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011 - 7.30pm for an 8.00pm prompt start.



The Shrimpers Trust are pleased to announce that we have arranged a Question and Answer Evening with the Blue's Youth Team Coach Ricky Duncan and Youth Team Captain and current 1st Team Player Kane Ferdinand.

The Q&A will be held in the Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall on *Monday 28th February 2011*. Doors open at 7.30pm with the event starting at 8.00pm prompt.

Admission is free of charge, and is open to Members and Non-members of the Trust.

So if you have a question about any aspect of the SUFC Youth set up including the U18's current FA Youth Cup run or if you want to know what it's like to break into the 1st Team why not come along.



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If you require any further information please contact Paul Yeomanson: Tel: 01702 302373 or email: [info@shrimperstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@shrimperstrust.co.uk)

## XMAS DRAW



The Shrimpers Trust Xmas Draw took place at half time during the Home Game v Cheltenham Town played on Monday 3rd January 2011.

We would like to thank all those that took part or sold tickets and we would also like to thank Southend United for donating the 4th and 5th Prizes and for allowing the draw to take place during today's game.

The lucky winners were as follows:

	Prize	Ticket No.	Winner
1st	£500.00	15794	Martin Hinton
2nd	£250.00	14394	Sheila White
3rd	£100.00	10462	Dave Juniper
4th	2 x SUFC Blues Lounge Packages	1697	Mary Kelly
5th	2010/11 Signed SUFC Shirt	14578	Helen FitzGerald

## FUNDRAISING

### 100 Club

The latest winners in the scheme, pulled out of the hat during weekly draws since the last newsletter were Simon Rayner, Paul Claydon, Richard Harrington (*twice*), Rick Napper, Jack Bond, John Walton and Philip Endell each winning around £29.00.

The winner of the £300.00 Xmas Draw was John Smith.

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 35 matches is £1084.25

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)

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## MEMBERSHIP

### Welcome to New Life Members (Total 189)

**Ron Alexander, Paul Bale and Ronald Bright.**



Life Membership of the Trust currently costs £75.00 if you have an email account or £100.00 if you prefer to receive Trust Mailings by post.

And if you become a Life Member now you have the chance to win a 'Blues Lounge' Package for two at a home game of your choice next season.

The winning Life Member will be drawn when our Life Membership reaches 200 (currently 186).

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

**Brett Allison, Josh Allison, Sean Allison, Colin Bagshaw, Steven Beard, Jonathan Day, Martin Hinton, Peter Irlam, Andrew Lench, Jack Saunders, Howard Sellick, Jamie Sutton, Ian Tandy, Richard Thompson and David Wood.**

\*\*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

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011

**Q&A EVENING with RICKY DUNCAN and KANE FERDINAND**

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

For further details contact Paul Yeomanson  
(Tel: 01702 302373, email: [info@shrimperstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@shrimperstrust.co.uk))

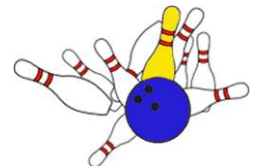


Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2011

**BOWLING WITH THE BLUES**

The Kursaal Bowl – 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start  
£11.00 – Including Shoe Hire

For further details contact Alan Perry  
(Tel: 01702 476458, email: [alanperry4@hotmail.com](mailto:alanperry4@hotmail.com))



Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011

**BINGO NIGHT**

Mecca Bingo, Greyhound Trading Estate, Southend on Sea – from 6.30pm  
£8.00

For further details contact Clare Brooks  
(Tel: 07980 363092, email: [travel@shrimperstrust.co.uk](mailto:travel@shrimperstrust.co.uk))



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Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011

## CHINESE NIGHT

East, 33 Alexandra Street, Southend on Sea – 7.30pm for an 8.00pm meal  
£15.00 – All You Can Eat Buffet



For further details contact Alan Perry  
(Tel: 01702 476458, email: [alanperry4@hotmail.com](mailto:alanperry4@hotmail.com))

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2011

## QUIZ NIGHT

The Shrimpers Bar, Roots Hall – 7.00pm for a 7.30pm prompt start  
£8.00 Adults, £5.00 U18's – Includes Fish & Chip Supper



For further details contact Alan Perry  
(Tel: 01702 476458, email: [alanperry4@hotmail.com](mailto:alanperry4@hotmail.com))

## BARBER'S BLURB – TERRACE TALK MATCH REPORTS

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2010



Burton Albion 3 (*Maghoma 27, Prosser 45 og, Webster 57*)  
Southend United 1 (*Sturrock 51*)

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

Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Graham Coughlan, Luke Prosser, Chris Barker, Craig Easton ©, Alex Woodyard, Josh Simpson, Louie Soares, Barry Corr and Antonio German.

### Ground Review:

This was Blues' first ever visit to the recently new Pirelli Stadium and to be honest I was quite disappointed with the arena. All but one stand was terracing and it did not produce anywhere near the standard I was looking for with the acoustics. However, it is a neat small stadium, which is ideal for a smaller club like Burton, but nothing better than a League Two ground I am afraid.

**Southend United slumped to a 3-1 defeat at the Pirelli Stadium to a poor Burton outfit. To be honest, despite a small 10-minute spell at the start of the second half, Southend were outplayed and more importantly outfought against a side I think we would have beaten had our best eleven started the game.**

After a disrupted last few weeks after the positive away results at Shrewsbury and Stevenage, Blues faced a Burton side, which had been training on top class conditions ever since the cold spell hit the country. I had hoped for a decent match with a good chance of us winning, but without three key players and injuries to the side the chances were slim.

The game started on the wrong foot for Blues and things got worse when Graham Coughlan fouled Collins on the edge of the box and the referee pointed to the spot. Collins stepped up to take the penalty and maybe justice prevailed as his spot-kick went well wide of the goal.

Blues did not wake up and 10 minutes later Maghoma got on the end of a Collins cross to power home from close range after a free-flowing move. Southend started to look a lot brighter and their chances of getting something of the game would have stood a better chance if Luke Prosser didn't divert a Scott Malone free-kick into his own net.

The first 10 minutes of the second half were electric from Southend and they got back into the game when Blair Sturrock glanced a header past the Burton keeper after a good cross from Ryan Hall. And minutes later Barry Corr should have scored when one on one.

But that was as good as it got for Southend as 5 minutes later Webster ran from his own half before curling a left footed strike into the top corner to leave Southend one point above the drop zone.

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010



Cheltenham Town 0

Southend United 2 (*Midson 8, 14*)

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

**Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Chris Barker, Bilel Mohsni, Johnny Herd, Craig Easton ©, Anthony Grant, Josh Simpson, Ryan Hall, Blair Sturrock and Jack Midson.**

**Ground Review:**

After visiting this ground on numerous occasions and I am still enjoying the visit. A warm friendly clubhouse, a decent little stadium and a good view for away fans makes it pleasant. The attendances are very poor but with a full stadium I can imagine it creating a decent atmosphere.

**Jack Midson's first goals for Southend United helped them move away from the drop zone and close that gap on the top six to just 5 points. A fine header followed by a great turn and strike into the top corner was enough for Southend even though they created enough chances to win the game by four or five goals.**

After the disappointment of the performance at Burton on Saturday I was hoping for a much improved team performance and with the return of Mohsni and Grant to the side, the chances of gaining a result were a lot higher.

Right from the word go, Blues absolutely tore Cheltenham apart, domination completely throughout the 90 minutes. Both of the Blues goals tonight were going to come from Oxford loanee Jack Midson, who despite a good debut, has not performed to the goal-scoring standards that he has produced in the past.

His first goal was a quality header, as he had to arch his arch backwards to meet the ball before guiding home. Blair Sturrock won the ball initially in the air before the rebound came to Ryan Hall who clipped a fine cross in the box that Midson dispatched into the far corner.

Blues continued to dominate the game and should have doubled their lead when Sean Clohessy's cross-cum-shot flashed inches wide of the far post. But in the 14<sup>th</sup> minute Southend did add to the scoreline and Midson to his total.

Clohessy crossed the ball into the box and Midson neatly controlled before turning and striking a shot into the top corner of the goal.

Throughout the whole game Southend created chances with Bilel and Grant both having shots cleared off the line. Sturrock, Soares and Hall went narrowly close to scoring and Barry Corr was denied by a fine save, which would have been goal of the season, after a neat pirouette on the half way line before exchanging passes with Louie Soares, but the keeper pushed his effort wide of the post.

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Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011



Oxford United 0

Southend United 2 (*Corr 18, Clohessy 44*)

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

**Rhys Evans, Sean Clohessy, Graham Coughlan, Chris Barker, Johnny Herd, Louie Soares, Craig Easton ©, Kane Ferdinand, Ryan Hall, Barry Corr and Blair Sturrock.**

**Ground Review:**

This was my fourth trip to The Kassam Stadium and to be honest I think it is a really smart League ground. The downside is obviously that it only has three stands with nothing being behind one of



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the goals, but the acoustics are really good, and the structure of the stadium is definitely worthy of being higher than a League Two ground.

**Barry Corr and Sean Clohessy fired Southend into touching distance of the play-off places after a dominant performance at Oxford United. Continuing from their fine win away at Cheltenham, Blues kept another clean sheet away from home, and netted when on top. Southend fielded a few fringe players due to the lack of numbers thanks to injuries and they also handed a debut to youth team captain Kane Ferdinand the cousin of Premier League stars Rio and Anton.**

It had been nearly three weeks since Blues' last outing but that was not obvious at all as Southend dominated from start to finish on their way to an easy victory. Things could have been even better for Southend had striker Blair Sturrock not taken too long to think about shooting rather than take his time when one on one with Ryan Clarke.

However in the 18<sup>th</sup> minute Blues did take the lead. A corner from Louie Soares was helped back across goal by Coughlan, the ball fell to Sturrock but his effort was blocked, fortunately it fell kindly for Barry Corr who smashed a low drive into the back of the net for his 9<sup>th</sup> strike of the season.

Blues were well in control as they were first to everything and the deservedly added to their lead, even though it was a tad fortunate. Southend were attacking down the right and the ball was played back to Clohessy when the full-back curled a 40 yard cross into the box, but it was over-hit and with Ryan Clarke off his line, the ball flew into the top corner of the goal.

The second half was exactly the same, Southend on top. Blair Sturrock missed an easy chance, and then he made Ryan Clarke make 4 fantastic saves to deny him scoring his 5<sup>th</sup> of the season.

Barry Corr's bullet header was saved well and Matt Paterson went mighty close on two occasions. Oxford rarely threatened, and when they did, Rhys Evans was on hand to save well from MacLean.

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**Monday 3rd January 2011**



**Southend United 1 (Corr 77)  
Cheltenham Town 2 (Pack 4, Thomas 5)**

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

**Rhys Evans, Sean Clohessy, Graham Coughlan, Chris Barker, Johnny Herd, Louie Soares, Craig Easton ©, Kane Ferdinand, Ryan Hall, Barry Corr and Blair Sturrock.**

**A nightmare opening five minutes were to prove to costly for Southend as they went down by two goals to one against Cheltenham Town. Back at home after back to back away victories Blues were undone by two mistakes from Rhys Evans, but were the better team over the 90 minutes, and even Barry Corr's 10<sup>th</sup> goal of the season could not force a comeback.**

After two dominating away performances by Southend United, they returned to Roots Hall, hoping to get their home form started for the season as they looked to close the gap on the top 7 to just one point. However, it ended in defeat and they now sit 7 points off the top seven, with two games in hand.

The defeat was mainly down to the opening five minutes when Cheltenham netted two soft goals. The first was from Marlon Pack. The midfielder smashed a 35 yard free-kick straight at Rhys Evans, and even though it was powerful, the former Chelsea and England U21 international, should have got something on it.

Just 35 seconds later, he did get something on the ball, but he could only push the shot into the far corner of the goal. The Blues backline did not clear their lines and it left Thomas with a clear shot on goal, which was tame, but still beat Evans.

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After that, Southend woke up, and should have scored when Barry Corr saw his 6 yard shot come back off the post. That was followed by a stunning save from the visiting keeper as Corr somehow managed to power a header on goal from a weak cross.

It was more of the same in the second half. Matt Paterson and Barry Corr both forced the goalkeeper into saves when they maybe should have scored. However, in the 77<sup>th</sup> minute Blues did get back in the game, when Hall fizzed in a great ball which Comminges played to Corr to tap home from 6 yards.

Blues pressed and pressed for an equaliser, which they probably deserved, but the referee waved away several clear-cut penalty shouts.

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**Saturday 8th January 2011**



**Southend United 2 (Easton 58, Corr 83 pen)  
Chesterfield 3 (Whittaker 12 pen, 62 pen, Smalley 19)**

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

**Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Graham Coughlan, Chris Barker, Johnny Herd, Ryan Hall, Craig Easton ©, Anthony Grant, Miguel Comminges, Barry Corr and Matt Paterson.**

**A terrible first half showing from Southend United cost them getting anything from today's match against table-topping Chesterfield. Blues conceded two penalties and a very soft goal to give the leaders a great chance of getting something from the game. The Shrimpers dictated most of the second half possession wise, but left it too late for it to do much damage.**

After a shocking opening 10 minutes against Cheltenham, Blues looked to avoid that happening again today, but they didn't. Craig Easton chopped down Whittaker in the 12<sup>th</sup> minute and the former Oldham midfielder superbly dispatched of the spot-kick.

Southend looked livelier, but from their corner, Chesterfield added another. A long clearance was defended woefully by Johnny Herd which put Smalley through and the powerful forward neatly passed the ball past Glenn Morris.

The first half was not very clever at all from Southend, but they did improve after the break, which always seems the case. They did pull a goal back in the 58<sup>th</sup> minute through a wonder-strike from captain Craig Easton, but just minutes later poor defending in the box by Johnny Herd invited Chesterfield to attack and Smalley was chopped down for another penalty.

Whittaker stepped up and produced the same result as the ball flew past Morris to deflate Southend. Blues did not give up though with Corr and Paterson linking up well, before the latter being substituted.

Sean Clohessy's cross into the box saw Blair Sturrock fouled and leading scorer Barry Corr stepped up to tuck away the penalty and give The Shrimpers some hope.

Corr, Sturrock and Ferdinand came within inches of connecting with a teasing cross from Grant and Grant wasted a few chances when he was in good positions, but it wasn't to be, as Southend slipped to another home defeat.

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**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2011**



**Rotherham United 1 (Fenton 61)  
Southend United 2 (Hall 1, Sturrock 13)**

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

**Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Graham Coughlan, Chris Barker, Peter Gilbert, Louie Soares, Craig Easton ©, Anthony Grant, Ryan Hall, Barry Corr and Blair Sturrock.**

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**Southend United's brilliant away form continued as they won away at high-flyers Rotherham United. Two early goals from Ryan Hall and Blair Sturrock ensured Sturrock Snr's side would do the double over one of the promotion favourites. A win over Bury on Tuesday night would put Blues right back in the play-off mix.**

After two successive home defeats in which Blues let in early goals, they looked like they have finally learnt their lesson, as two early strikes from Southend put them in front.

Just 31 seconds had gone on the clock at the Don Valley Stadium when Southend took the lead. Neat build up play including Sean Clohessy, Barry Corr and Blair Sturrock lead to Clohessy whipping in a superb cross which found the on-rushing Ryan Hall to side foot home a stunning volley from 12 yards. It was the first goal Hall had scored for Southend since his summer move from Bromley.

The Shrimpers didn't stop there. They continued to dominate the game and in the 13<sup>th</sup> minute Sturrock netted his 5<sup>th</sup> goal of the season. A wonderful corner from the impressive Hall was met with a bullet header by Sturrock, which powered its way past the helpless goalkeeper, Andy Warrington.

Rotherham hardly got in the game as Blues were so on top and it was the visitors who nearly added a third. Wonderful play from Sturrock ended with Soares attacking his cross but Warrington was equal to his header before Soares could only put the rebound into the side netting.

The Millers did not threaten at all in the first half, with the closest they came to goal was, when Coughlan's misdirected back-header just went wide of the goal.

Rotherham produced an onslaught in the second half with Fenton scoring in the 61<sup>st</sup> minute but Southend held firm and held out for another away success.

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**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2011**



**Southend United 1 (*Mohsni 90+5*)**  
**Bury 1 (*Mozika 65*)**

**How We Started: (4-3-3)**

**Glenn Morris, Sean Clohessy, Graham Coughlan, Chris Barker, Peter Gilbert, Anthony Grant, Craig Easton ©, Kane Ferdinand, Ryan Hall, Barry Corr and Blair Sturrock.**

**Makeshift centre-forward Bilel Mohsni climbed off the bench to rescue a share of the spoils for Southend United. It was the least The Shrimpers deserved after dictating large periods of the match and they had Mohsni to thank as his diving header 5 seconds from the end of time cancelled out Mozika's lucky strike.**

After a sensational win away at high-flyers Rotherham last week Southend returned to home soil hoping to put a stop to their torrid home form. Manager Paul Sturrock made a change in shape bringing in Kane Ferdinand for Louie Soares.

The change in formation seemed to work as Southend were by far the greater team in the first half and should have scored when Sturrock, man of the match last week, could only divert a fizzing cross from Hall over the bar.

Anthony Grant, fresh from saying he wants to stay at Roots Hall, saw a fierce shot get tipped away by the Bury custodian. Bury hardly threatened but went mighty close to taking the lead when Lowe saw his shot come back off the post.

In the second half Bury had more of the ball than they did in the first half, but were still second best, to a much improved home performance from Southend. However against the run of play Mozika put Bury ahead after Kane Ferdinand's clearance rebounded off the forward and flew into the bottom corner of the goal.

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The Shrimpers responded by bringing on Sawyer, Mohsni and Crawford and they all looked lively. Ryan Hall saw a low drive tipped around the post before Barry Corr skied the ball over from 8 yards when it looked easier to score.

So it left Bilel Mohsni to rescue a point for The Blues as he guided in a diving header at the back stick after great work from Sawyer and Hall.

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**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011**



**Southend United 4 (Mohsni 17, 39, Hall 33, Easton 43)  
Macclesfield 1 (Daniel 79)**

**How We Started: (4-3-3)**

**Rhys Evans, Sean Clohessy, Graham Coughlan, Chris Barker, Peter Gilbert, Anthony Grant, Craig Easton ©, Kane Ferdinand, Ryan Hall, Bilel Mohsni and Blair Sturrock.**

**Bilel Mohsni continued his fine attacking form as he netted twice in Southend's romp of Macclesfield Town. The Tunisian scored either side of a stunning effort by Ryan Hall before Craig Easton tucked home a 4<sup>th</sup> just before half-time. Colin Daniel did give some cheer to the few traveling fans, but Southend dominated throughout, as they move closer to the play-off zone.**

After securing a good point on Friday night Blues were looking to increase their unbeaten run to three games at home to Macclesfield Town. Things started well for The Shrimpers and within 17 minutes they took the lead thanks to new-found striking sensation Bilel Mohsni.

Ryan Hall cut in from the right and whipped a low cross into the box and it found its way to Bilel Mohsni who got a touch on the ball to divert it past the Macclesfield goalkeeper and into the bottom corner.

The visitors hardly threatened in the first half and it was Southend who added a 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 33<sup>rd</sup> minute. Rhys Evans' long kick forward was flicked on by Blair Sturrock into the path of Hall who cut inside and placed a powerful shot low past Veiga.

Just six minutes later Mohsni added a third goal for Southend and his second of the night when he turned and hit a low left-footed shot into the bottom corner. And the rout was completed before half-time when Sturrock collected a neat pass from Gilbert to lay back to Bilel who's shot deflected into the path of Easton who neatly tucked it away.

Southend introduced Phillips, Sawyer and Corr in the second half, with the match effectively won, but Macclesfield clinched a consolation goal through Colin Daniel who curled it past Evans in the North Bank goal.

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**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2011**



**Barnet 0  
Southend United 2 (Grant 25, Corr 67)**

**How We Started: (4-3-3)**

**Rhys Evans, Sean Clohessy, Graham Coughlan, Chris Barker, Peter Gilbert, Kane Ferdinand, Craig Easton ©, Anthony Grant, Ryan Hall, Bilel Mohsni and Blair Sturrock.**

**A goal in each half was enough for Southend as they recorded their fourth away victory in a row. Anthony Grant's 7<sup>th</sup> of the season and Barry Corr's 12<sup>th</sup> strike of the campaign eased Blues' minds after Barnet put in a decent shift against Paul Sturrock's men.**

After a positive draw against Bury and the demolition of Macclesfield on Tuesday night Southend were confident of continuing their play-off push but were going to face a tough task against a rejuvenated Barnet side.

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For the first 15-20 minutes Barnet were pressurising Southend all the way and striker Izale McLeod was the spear-head in their attack causing problems with his strength and pace.

Despite having most of the possession they did not really test Evans in the Blues goal but when they did, Evans was equal to their efforts, saving well from a 25 yard free-kick and a close range header.

However in the 25<sup>th</sup> minute Blues did take the lead. Bilel Moshni put the ball through for Anthony Grant, who moments earlier missed a similar chance, but this time he stroked the ball perfectly into the bottom corner.

Blues saw out the rest of the first half confidently and started well in the second half. Just minutes after the restart Ryan Hall saw his fierce shot ruled out for offside before seeing his curling effort drift inches wide of the far post.

Barry Corr did add a second, after coming on as a half-time substitute for the injured Coughlan, with his 12<sup>th</sup> of the season. A goal kick rebounded off the defender and played in Barry Corr, who took the ball around the goalkeeper, before slotting into the back of the net, leaving Southend in the top half of the table and just four points shy of the play-offs with a game in hand.

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**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011**



**Southend United 2 (Hall 43, Moshni 45+3)**

**Oxford United 1 (Constable 14)**

**How We Started: (4-3-3)**

**Rhys Evans, Sean Clohessy, Bilel Moshni, Chris Barker, Peter Gilbert, Anthony Grant, Craig Easton ©, Kane Ferdinand, Ryan Hall, Barry Corr and Blair Sturrock.**

**Southend United continued their surge up the League Two table after coming from behind to beat a decent Oxford outfit. Blues fell behind to James Constable's 13<sup>th</sup> goal of the season before turning it around with two goals in the final two minutes of the first half. Goals from Ryan Hall and Bilel Moshni lift Blues to within 2 points of the play-off spots.**

After grinding out a 2-0 success away at Barnet, Blues were back on home turf, looking to stretch their unbeaten run at Roots Hall to three matches. Bilel Moshni returned to centre-back to replace the injured Graham Coughlan and that meant there was a start upfront for top goal scorer Barry Corr.

Oxford started the brighter of the two sides as Southend United's formation seemed to let them down against Oxford's attacking line-up. Blues were second to every ball and within 14 minutes the visitors took the lead through the prolific James Constable. A neat flowing move from the U's lead to Constable being played in, despite the hint of offside, he struck the ball hard and low through Rhys Evans' legs.

Once the change in shape Southend looked the much better side. Their neat passing football did not bring the desired results the play deserved but nevertheless they were on top. Two minutes before half-time Ryan Hall scored a stunning goal after fantastic work by Blair Sturrock.

The former Bromley man scored his 3<sup>rd</sup> goal in 5 matches when he controlled the ball on his chest before teeing himself up for the volley with the use of his thigh. He then rifled a shot into the bottom corner to equalise for the Blues.

Three minutes into stoppage time at the end of the first half The Shrimpers took the lead. A corner from Ryan Hall was powered onto the bar by a fantastic header from Peter Gilbert. The ball rebounded kindly for Moshni to tap home a left foot volley. Blues deservedly in front.

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The second half was a dire affair in all honesty where Oxford saw Batt sent off for a two footed lunge on Anthony Grant. Blues are now storming up the league table with just 2 points from the play-offs and 5 points from an automatic promotion place.

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**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2011**



**Southend United 0**

**Shrewsbury Town 2 (Taylor 43, Harrold 60)**

**How We Started: (4-3-3)**

**Rhys Evans, Sean Clohessy, Bilel Mohsni, Chris Barker, Peter Gilbert, Anthony Grant, Craig Easton ©, Kane Ferdinand, Ryan Hall, Barry Corr and Blair Sturrock.**

**Southend United's unbeaten run was ended by Shrewsbury Town at Roots Hall on Saturday afternoon. Goals from Taylor and Harrold proved to be enough as the visitors held out to claim all three points. Blues best chance fell to full-back Peter Gilbert but he dragged well wide when clear through.**

After a decent run has climbed Blues into touching distance of the play-offs, but their hopes were knocked back for another week, as Shrewsbury Town claimed all three points.

The game was a really scrappy affair with both sides careless in possession when they had it before being restricted to long range efforts on goal. Southend played some neat football in patches, same as their opponents, but in truth it was a terrible game.

However The Shrimpers has the perfect chance to open the scoring when neat football including Barry Corr and Blair Sturrock lead to Peter Gilbert being played clean through on goal. The defender who has previously scored one goal in his whole career could only place the shot past the post when it looked easier to score.

After a golden opportunity missed from Southend they were left paying the penalty. A long ball played forward was controlled clearly by Harrold's hand and that fell into the path of Taylor who clipped it past Evans. In all honesty Harrold shouldn't have been on the pitch after the blatant elbow to Chris Barker's face earlier in the game.

So in an even first half Blues were behind to an 'unfair' goal but they were confident of beating Shrewsbury in the second half. However their chances of doing that took a major setback when Bilel Mohsni was caught awfully late by Harrold which infuriated the centre-half so much he chased the forward down and gave him a piece of his mind. Both were booked, moments later Bilel was stretchered off with his ankle 'the size of a balloon'.

Matt Harrold scored a stunning strike, even though his strike partner was in an offside position in the build up to the goal, to further the gap between the two teams on the field and in the league table.

Louie Soares wasted a glorious chance as Southend tried to get back into the game but it wasn't to be.

9<sup>th</sup> February 2011