

Dave Robinson

50 years' service to Southend United

He played for Southend United from 1928 to 1940 making 348 appearances in league and cup and is 7th in the all-time appearance list. Dave served Southend United for over 50 years.

1900 Dave was born in Longtown, a town eight miles north of Carlisle in Cumbria. He was the sixth of nine children and played football for local teams.



Dave Robinson

1918 World War I continues, and Dave was conscripted to the Durham light infantry and posted to Germany for peace keeping duties in the Rhine. He was in the regimental football team until demobilisation from the army.



Dave seated far right. Regiment team 1918

1920 Dave was with Eskdale football team.

1922 Joined Mid-Annandale (Lockerbie) Scotland, and they reached the final of the Scottish Qualifying cup. A newspaper article of the time said "Robinson, the right back impressed most by reason of his stylish kicking and more will be heard of this player."

1923/24 Season, Dave was with Solway Star, a Scottish Third Division side.

1925 Dave moved to Carlisle United and in 1926 went to Workington.

1926 to 1928 Dave was at Leeds United. He broke his left leg in the first half of a game for Leeds against Leicester at Elland Road. The Trainer said he had only pulled a muscle, so he continued to play on his broken leg.

1928 After a trial at Aston Villa, Dave decided on a move to Southend United. He soon became popular with the supporters, playing right or left back in the number 2 or 3 shirt.

SUFC 1929/30



1928/29 and 1929/30 seasons - 69 appearances in league and cup.

1930/31 Season - 36 appearances in league and cup. In October 1930 we beat Gillingham 3-0 in a game where the headline was "Robinson shines" and continues "it was Dave Robinson who was always on the scene in a crisis." In December 1930 Dave played in Southend United's first ever game at Wembley. It was a league game against Clapton Orient (now Leyton Orient) because their ground was out of action, we lost 3-1.

1931/32 Season - 43 appearances in league and cup.

1932/33 Season - 33 appearances in league and cup. On 21st January 1933 playing a home game against Torquay Dave broke his collar bone. A newspaper article at the time said, "The noise of something snapping could be plainly heard in the grandstand." He missed weeks playing and returned on 8th April. 1933/34 and 1934/35 seasons 46 appearances in league and cup.

1938/39 Season - 40 appearances in league and cup. Dave scored a goal.



1940 to 1945 Dave stayed in Southend for the duration of the war, serving in the Southend Police.



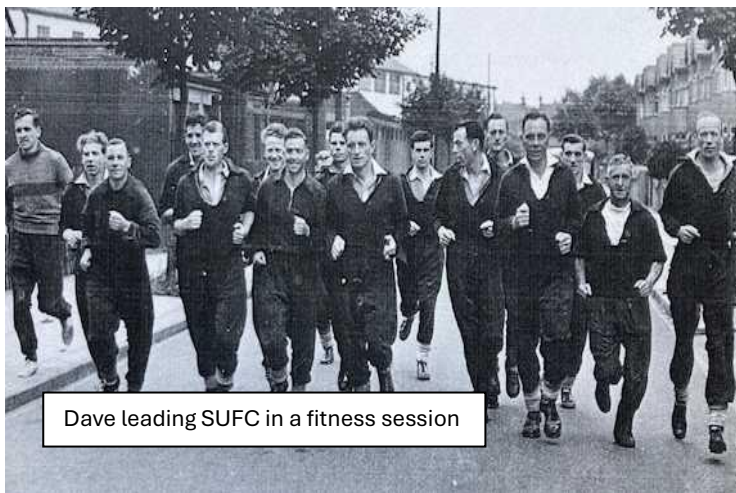
1946 When football resumed after the war Dave became team trainer for The Blues.

1955 First game played at Roots Hall against Norwich. Dave continues as team trainer and travels with the team on their football tour of Malta.

1961 The first testimonial game for Dave was on 1st June against Oxford United. Dave is now 61 years old and has been a player and trainer since 1928, a total of 33 years. Dave stays at Southend United and moves roles to become groundsman.



Shovelling snow at Roots Hall



Dave leading SUFC in a fitness session

1963 In the winter we had heavy snowfall, games were postponed, and Dave shovelled piles of snow from the pitch. My first visit to Roots Hall was in 1963, and an early memory was seeing my grandad walk around the pitch at half-time, which he did every game until he was in his eighties.



Tending Roots Hall pitch

1970 Dave's second testimonial game was on 21st April, this time against Aston Villa. Dave has spent 42 years at Southend, and he is now 70 years old. He moves roles to become Turnstile Manager and continues doing odd maintenance jobs.

78 Dave at 78 years old still helps the club during matchdays and doing maintenance work. Frank Walton who was the club Chair, presented Dave with a colour tele on the pitch at Roots Hall in recognition of 50 years in the service of Southend United.

1980 After 52 years' service, Dave receives a Long Service medal award from Essex County Football Association. Southend's manager Dave Smith took him to London's Royal Lancaster hotel where Dave Robinson received a special Loyalty Award for Outstanding service to Southend United.

1981 to 1986 Dave continued to be at Roots Hall as often as he could. Towards, but in health was failing. He died in 1986 aged 86. The club held a minute silence at the next home game to remember a man who worked for and stayed with Southend United for over 50 years.



Award for 'Outstanding Service to SUFC'.

By Lynn, Granddaughter of Dave Robinson (East Stand since 1963).