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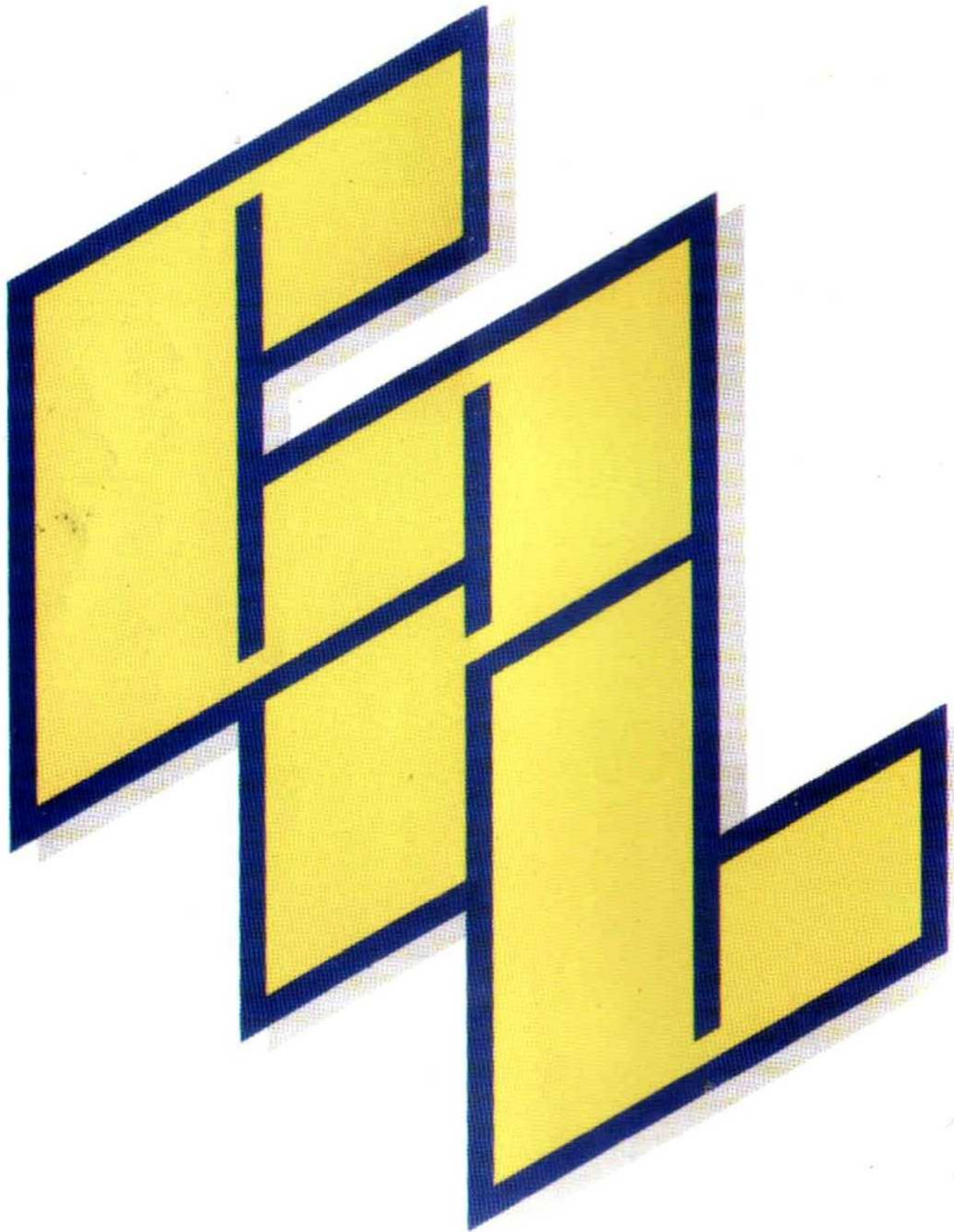
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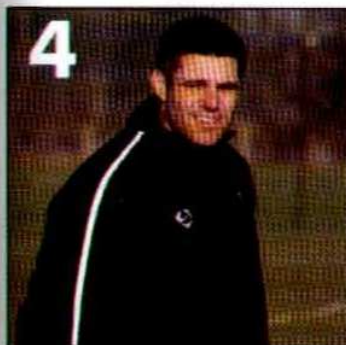
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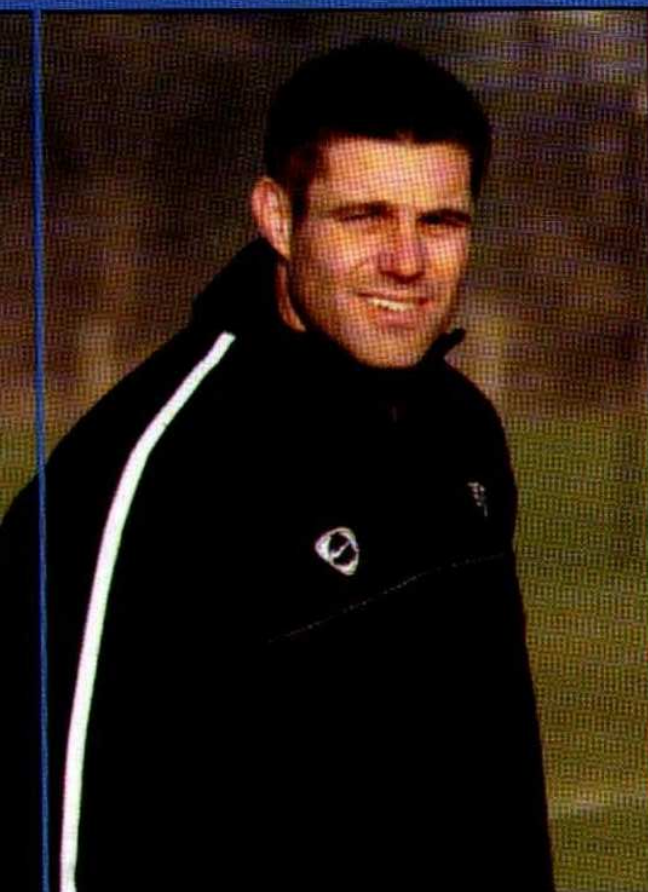
Steve Tilson

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Team Manager

TillyTALK...

... on brentford, tranmere and today's match against swindon



WE will today play host to a Swindon side whose position somewhat deceives the way they have been playing recently. They have lost just one of their last nine matches and after getting a great win over Bournemouth last weekend will come to Roots Hall full of confidence.

But if we can continue the good form we ourselves have shown then there is nothing to be wary of on our part. Our last home match against Brentford is a prime example of us performing to our best and the end result highlighted this.

Swindon will be a different task altogether in that unlike Brentford they are at the other end of the table, but whether you are going for promotion or trying to avoid relegation, picking up points at this stage of the season is vastly important.

We have a chance to reclaim top spot in League One if we win tonight though, a day before everyone else plays at the weekend. I have said before that being top at this stage is not important, but if it puts pressure on the other teams then we will want to keep that up.

I was certainly happy with both the performance and result from our

last match at Tranmere because they are a good side and it was never going to be an easy place to go to.

It was a game of few chances and perhaps it could have gone either way in the end, but I think a draw was a fair result so we were certainly pleased.

Defensively we were very sound and we have been for some time now. During our 10 game unbeaten run we have conceded just five goals and throughout the whole team we work hard and it is one of the major factors why we are proving so hard to beat at the moment.

Of course no one is jumping the gun at the moment and although we are just a point off our pre-season target of reaching 52 points for safety, until we get there we don't want to be setting any other aims and putting unwanted pressure on ourselves.

But if we are going to continue to progress this season then today's match is one we will need to win.

There is no question of us underestimating Swindon and with the fans backing hopefully we can gain all three points from the match.

Thanks for your support,

"But if we are going to continue to progress this season then today's match is one we will need to win."

Steve Tilson

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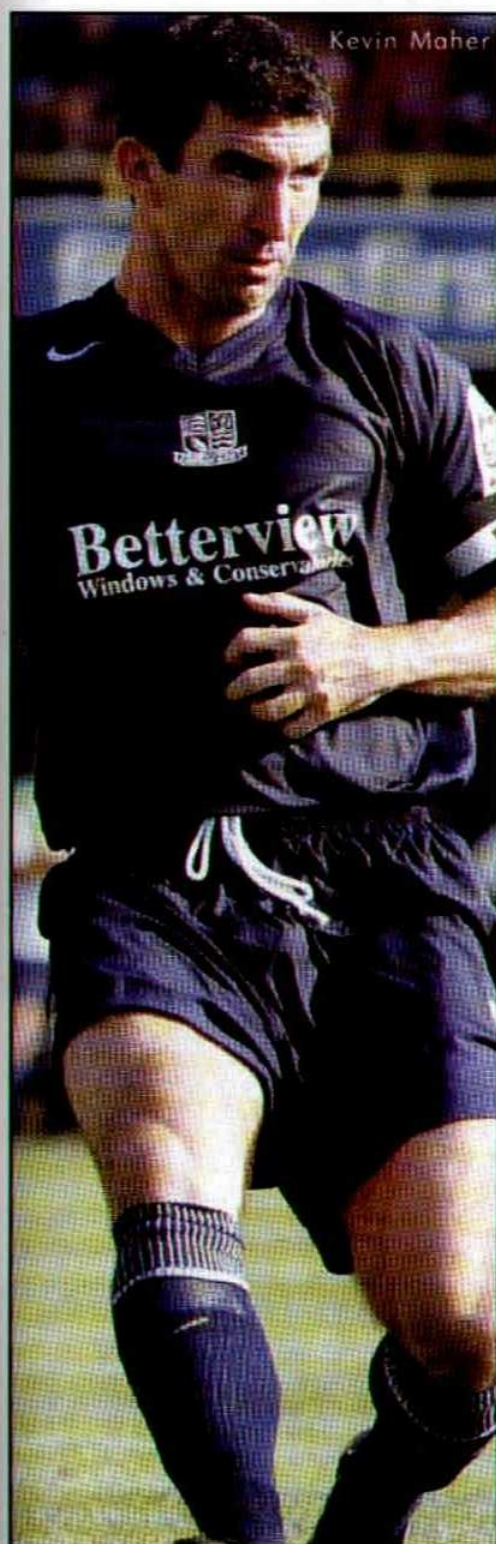


"For while they may be down towards the bottom of the table they have really started to turn things around lately and look set to soon be out of trouble."

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Kevin Maher



WELCOME back to Roots Hall for the return of Friday night football as we take on Swindon Town.

These games are always popular with the players and hopefully we can again produce the goods to go back to the top of the table before some of our rivals play again tomorrow.

Things have been going well for us lately and, after our slight blip in form during November, we are now definitely back on track having not lost in our last 10 matches.

Last time out here against Brentford we produced one of our best performances of the season as we beat what is a very good side 4-1. Right from the off we were really on our game and in the end we could have won by even more.

It was also nice to see the goals spread around the team as three defenders plus Mark Gower got on the score-sheet in what was a very pleasing afternoon.

We carried that into the long trip to Tranmere Rovers last weekend and we were pleased to pick up another point up there.

They are also enjoying a good run of form so it was always going to be difficult and we did well to get the draw.

We never really looked like losing and we could even have won it as only the cross bar stopped Freddy Eastwood scoring

with a volley. Tranmere also had a few half chances which probably meant a draw was a fair result to take us into this evening's clash which I'm sure will be another difficult one for us.

For while they may be down towards the bottom of the table they have really started to turn things around lately and look set to soon be out of trouble. They have made some good new signings too and have players who can get among the goals with the likes of Rory Fallon, Jamie Cureton and now Lee Peacock all on their books.

They beat Bournemouth 4-2 last weekend which was a great result and I think they have now lost just once in nine games.

Saying that, we're full of confidence ourselves and if we play the way we know we can then we should get another good result.

Your support can again make a lot of difference so please get right behind us. The atmosphere against Brentford, when there was more than 10,000 fans here was fantastic and those were travelled to Tranmere also made plenty of noise.

We again all thank you for that and hope you can make yourselves heard again tonight.

Enjoy the game

Kev

barrett the BLUE

Having signed a new two-year contract defender Adam Barrett hopes that Southend can continue to push on following a good season so far

I **T was a difficult place for us to go at Tranmere last weekend, they were six games unbeaten and we were able to ground out a great result.**

We had a couple of chances and on another day perhaps we could have nicked a win, but overall we were pleased and have been able to keep our unbeaten run going in the process to 10 matches now.

I don't think many people would have thought Colchester and ourselves would be at the top of the table at this stage of the season, so it is a bit of a surprise. Obviously we definitely want to be there at the end and it's great for Essex to have both clubs up there, although not all the Southend supporters would say that!

We are certainly pleased with our position at the moment and although we have both done well so far there is still a long way to go until the end of the season.

During any season you are going to have a period or two where things don't go for you and we had that like any team has and I think every team at the top of every league has a little blip.

We have overcome that and the Christmas period was very important for us where we were able to pick up 10 points from 12 and we have just sort of carried it on from there. It happens in any season and it is all about how you bounce back and we have done that and are starting to play some good stuff.

I was delighted to sign a new contract recently, I was talking to the chairman and the gaffer about it for the last two weeks and they have both been really good and I am just pleased it's sorted now.

It has been hanging over my head, but now it's all done and dusted and I have committed my future to Southend and just want to get on with playing football.

Our last home match against Brentford was probably our best performance of the season and especially because it was at Roots Hall.

We have had some good away performances where we've dug in and battled, but against Brentford it was definitely our best passing performance, we played really well and we want that to continue.

It is going to be difficult against Swindon, they had a good 4-2 win against Bournemouth at the weekend and they are fighting for their lives down there and we can't go into the match thinking we have just got to turn up and win because that is not going to happen.

We will have to work hard and continue what we have been doing and take that into tonight's game.

Recently we all went go-karting, which was good fun and all the lads were trying to knock Juppy off the podium, but he went on to win again unfortunately. They weren't too happy about that and the gaffer was trying his hardest to stop him!

Freddy was the dirtiest driver, he was pretty lethal out there and I think he must have thought it was bumper cars at one point and was ramming everyone off the road. It was something different and all the lads got together and had a good laugh; it was a bit competitive at times as it always is, but it's good for team spirit.

Enjoy the game,

Adam



Efe Sodje celebrates his goal on his
Roots Hall debut

**Southend 4
Brentford 1**

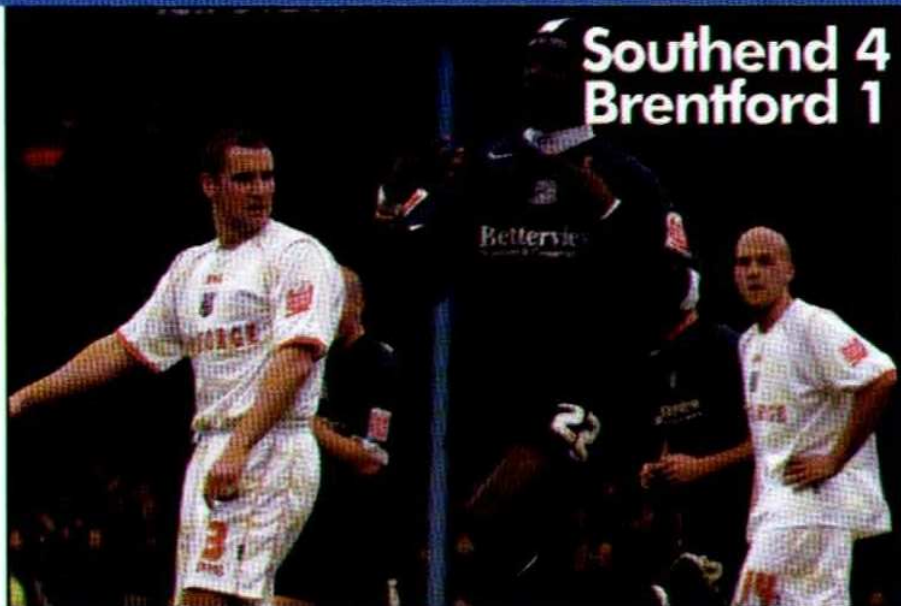
TEAM LINE-UPS

Southend: Flahavan, Jupp, Prior (Wilson 76), Sodje, Barrett, Bentley, Guttridge, Maher, Gower, Eastwood (Goater 84), Gray (Ademeno 87).

Subs Not Used: Edwards, Pettefer.

Brentford: Nelson, O'Connor, Turner, Frampton, Tillen, Brooker (Rankin 45), Hutchinson, Newman (Gayle 62), Tabb, Owusu, Campbell (Mousinho 85).

Subs Not Used: Lewis, Bankole.



A NEAR faultless display from Southend saw them win their high flying encounter with Brentford and go back to the top of League One in the process.

Che Wilson scored his first ever professional goal with his first touch after coming on as a second half substitute, while Efe Sodje also capped a fine home debut with the opening strike after just 19 minutes.

A packed Roots Hall was up in arms early on when the Nigerian defender was perfectly placed to head home Kevin Maher's left wing corner. The Blues were attacking with real purpose and even before the opening goal Wayne Gray came close with a header that was blocked by goalkeeper Stuart Nelson.

Freddy Eastwood missed a one-on-one chance as he raced through on goal and shot wide with just Nelson to beat, but it was his ability to get beyond the Brentford defence that paved the way for Southend to double their advantage in the 31st minute.

The striker cut in from the right wing and evaded two challenges before he set up Mark Gower at the second attempt, as he took an initial touch before rifling the ball

into the bottom right hand corner of the net.

Brentford rarely threatened, although from their only worthwhile chance Sodje was required to clear

the ball off the line. Gray shot straight at Nelson while Maher's fierce strike was diverted wide by Adam Barrett from inside the box.

The second half continued in much the same fashion with the same combination handing the club a third goal when Barrett knocked home Maher's free kick after 64 minutes.

Brentford appeared dead and buried, but were able to come out the shadows to score an instant reply just a minute later when DJ Campbell got inbetween the defence to blast a 20 yard strike into the net.

Wilson added the final seal on a superb performance when he scored the final goal of the match with his first touch of the action, just two minutes after entering the field of play. Gower released him down the left and the full back ran through to hit a great shot beyond

"Normally when we have a big crowd here we produce a poor performance, but it was a tremendous win for us because Brentford were second in the table on merit."

Steve Tilson

Nelson 12 minutes from time.

Brentford's Eddie Hutchinson was then shown a red card at the end after getting involved in a shoving match with Luke Guttridge to earn himself a second booking of the match. 17-year-old Charles Ademeno then made his Southend debut in the last few minutes, as they closed out a first-rate victory over one of their main competitors at the top of the table.

Steve Tilson admitted: "Normally when we have a big crowd here we produce a poor performance, but it was a tremendous win for us because Brentford were second in the table on merit."

"We are now in a good position at the top of the table, but there are still lots of games to go. Although we are now just one win away from keeping ourselves in this division and then we can set a new target."



• **DEBUT** - Sodje scores Southend's first goal



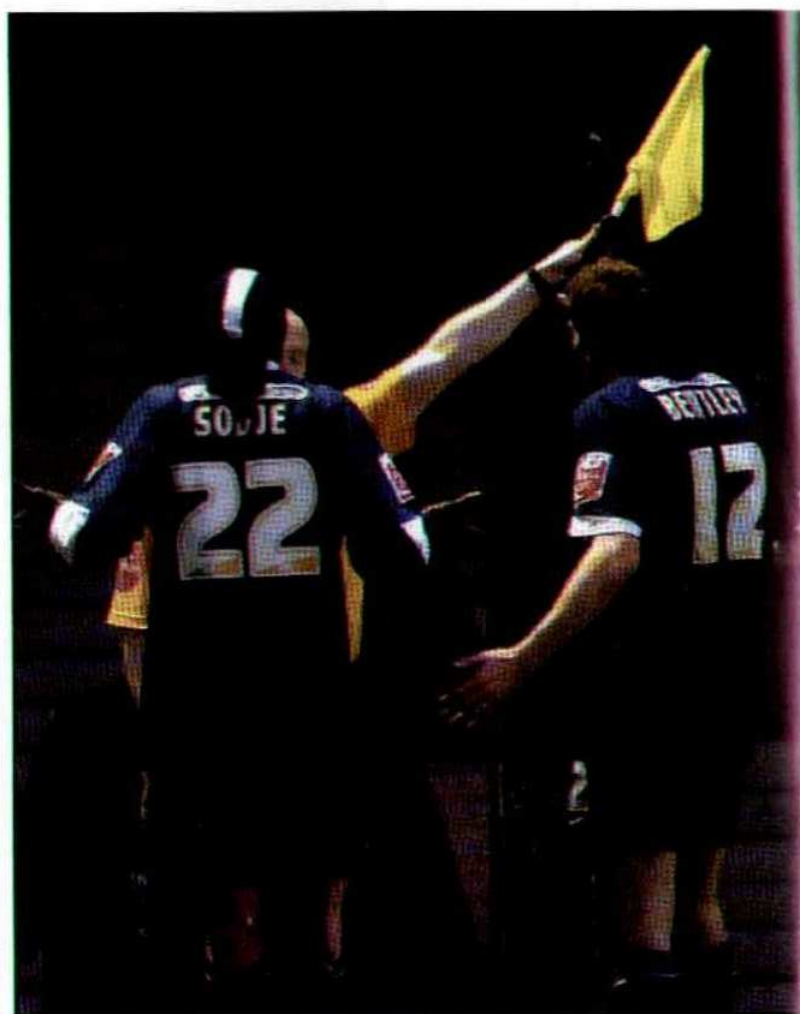
• **1ST** - It was the opening strike of the afternoon



• **NO 2** - Gower double's Southend's lead



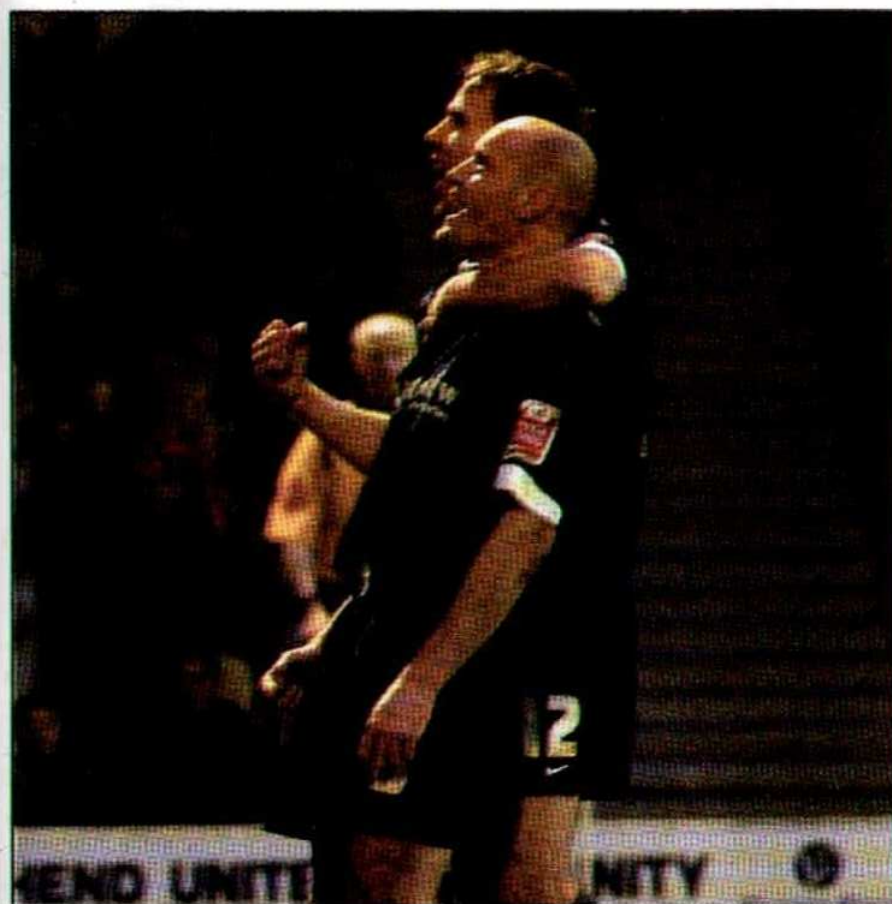
• **THROUGH** - Eastwood should have done better



• **HANDBALL** - Efe's 2nd is ruled out for handling



• **CHE** - Wilson scores his first ever pro goal to make it 4-1



• **BARRETT** - Adam adds another to make it 3-0

THE WAY THE BLUES LINED UP..



SUBS USED: Wilson for Prior 76, Gower for Eastwood 84, Ademeno for Gray 87

SUBS NOT USED: Pettefer, Edwards

YELLOW CARDS: Guttridge, Gower, Jupp

RED CARDS: None

GOALS: Sodje 19, Gower 31, Barrett 63, Wilson 78.

BRENTFORD: Nelson, O'Connor, Turner, Frampton, Tillen, Brooker (Rankin 45), Hutchinson, Newman (Gayle 62), Tabb, Owusu, Campbell (Mousinho 85).

GOALS: Campbell 65

YELLOW CARDS: Owusu, Hutchinson

RED CARDS: Hutchinson (84)

ATTENDANCE: 10,046

• Southend's most commanding display of the season saw them knock four past promotion rivals Brentford.

New boy Efe Sodje scored the opener on his Roots Hall debut while Gower, Barrett and Wilson added another three.

Brentford were reduced to ten men late on and could only manage a consolation strike through DJ Campbell.

From the Manager:

Steve Tilson: "We have been working on set pieces in training and we can see that has paid off today and it was also nice to see the goals shared among the team and we could have had a couple more."



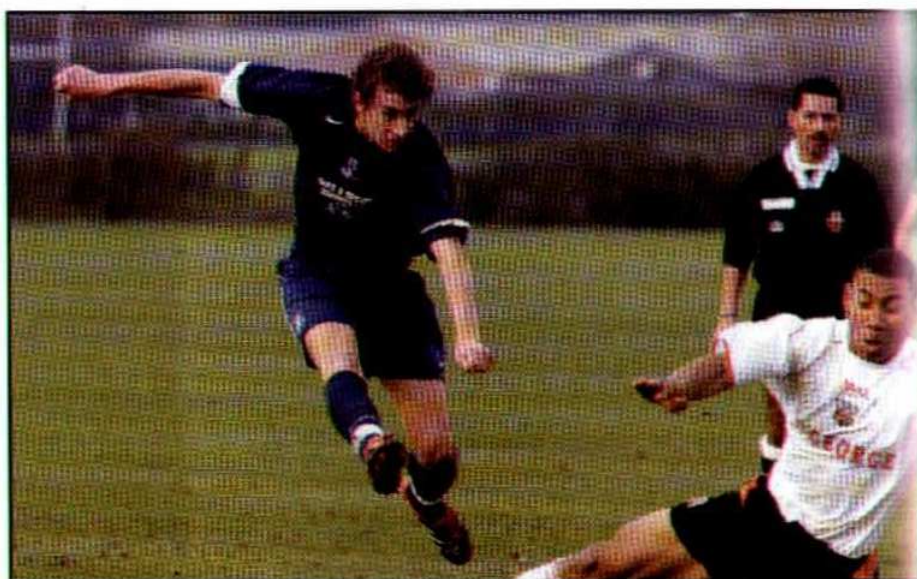
YOUTH FIXTURES 05/06

DATE	KO	VENUE	OPP	RES
August				
Sat 13	11:00 A	Wycombe		0-2
Sat 20	11:00 A	Northampton		2-2
September				
Sat 3	11:00 A	Rushden		0-2
SAT 10	11:00 H		CAMBRIDGE UTD	2-4
Sat 17	11:00 A	Gillingham		2-1
October				
Sat 8	11:00 A	Brentford		3-0
SAT 15	11:00 H		QPR	2-0
November				
Sat 19	11:00 A	Brighton		0-3
SAT 26	11:00 H		COLCHESTER UTD	0-0
December				
Sat 3	11:00 H		PORTSMOUTH	1-1
Sat 10	11:00 A	Luton Town		POST
January				
SAT 7	11:00 H		LEYTON ORIENT	1-1
SAT 14	11:00 H		BRENTFORD	0-3
Sat 21	11:00 A	QPR		2-7
February				
SAT 4	11:00 H		BRIGHTON	
Sat 11	11:00 A	Colchester Utd		
Sat 18	11:00 A	Portsmouth		
SAT 25	11:00 H		LUTON TOWN	
March				
Sat 11	11:00 A	Leyton Orient		
SAT 18	11:00 H		WYCOMBE	
SAT 25	11:00 H		NORTHAMPTON	
April				
SAT 1	11:00 H		RUSHDEN	
SAT 15	11:00 H		GILLINGHAM	

YOUTH TABLE 05/06

CLUB	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Brighton	12	10	2	0	36	8	+28	32
QPR	13	7	2	4	30	25	+5	23
Rushden	11	6	3	2	24	15	+9	21
Brentford	13	6	1	6	26	31	-5	19
Colchester	13	5	3	5	19	16	+3	18
Leyton Orient	13	5	3	5	22	21	+1	18
Luton Town	12	5	1	6	12	17	-5	16
Wycombe	11	4	3	4	17	16	+1	15
Gillingham	11	4	2	5	18	15	+3	14
Northampton	12	4	2	6	17	20	-3	14
Portsmouth	13	4	4	8	12	30	-18	7
Southend	12	4	4	7	8	27	-19	7

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SOUTHEND'S under-18 side endured a 3-0 defeat at the hands of Brentford, the same scoreline as their previous meeting in the Youth Alliance League this season.

A one-sided first half saw the match over by half time as the Blues struggled to get to grips with their opponents, especially from set pieces, through which all three Brentford goals were scored.

Brentford had an early shot deflected over from inside the box before they had the ball in the net moments later only for a bullet header from a free kick to be ruled out for offside.

With the warning signs in place and the visitors piling on the pressure it came as little surprise when they opened the scoring after just nine minutes. A free kick from the left side of the edge of the box was placed straight into the far corner of the net and easily beyond the reach of custodian Joe Welch.

Lee Smyth saw his dipping corner pushed just over the crossbar, but it was to be one of only a few forays from Southend during the match, as Brentford's strong and imposing defence let little get by them.

Joel Ledgerster was putting over

some decent service, but Brentford doubled their lead in the 14th minute when a corner slowly drifted to the far post where their player had the easy task of getting between Welch and Phil Anderson to head into the net.

A long ball over the top caught out the Southend backline, but the visiting forward flashed his shot just wide of goal. But they were presented with the perfect chance to score a third goal when they were awarded a dubious penalty for pulling, which was superbly put away in the 35th minute.

The Blues just couldn't find a route to goal and were left defending for most of the first half before it was brought to a close. The second half was certainly less of an event with no further goals in the match and chances at a premium.

Welch was called upon to parry away a fierce shot, but Southend to their credit didn't give up the fight and worked hard till the end, even if they still found it difficult to create any clear cut opportunities.

Franck Moussa saw two long range efforts well pushed out by the goalkeeper while they should have been awarded a penalty for a handball in the area, but this was a match they will want to forget as soon as possible.

• **COLE GOAL** - Mitchell Cole scores Southend's first



SOUTHEND reserves enjoyed a relatively comfortable 2-1 win over Cambridge at Boots & Laces last week, as they fielded several first team players working their way back to full fitness.

Lewis Hunt, Jay Smith and Carl Pettefer are all recovering from recent setbacks while Mitchell Cole, Andy Edwards, Shaun Goater and James Lawson were all looking for vital match practise in this training ground encounter.

Goater had early appeals for a penalty turned down; believing his goalbound shot from Smith's lay off was handled on the line.

The eager Smith produced a great lofted pass that nearly released Hunt inside the box, but the full back was hurried out of possession before a great touch from Lawson allowed him to bring the ball down only to drag his shot inches wide of the post from inside the area.

But the Blues did open the

scoring after 25 minutes when Cole unleashed a low strike from around 20 yards out that nestled into the bottom right hand corner of the net.

Cambridge did cause problems with a well worked move down the left ending with the ball hooked just over the bar at the near post.

Southend doubled their advantage in the 33rd minute when Edwards rose highest to head down Cole's corner for the alert Lawson to prod the ball home from only a few yards out.

The second half saw fewer chances for either side, although for the majority of the match the Blues looked assured at the back with the experience and presence of Edwards to help limit the threat of Cambridge.

Edwards himself came close to scoring when his powerful header was tipped over the bar, but in truth it was about the nearest they came to adding to their lead before Cambridge had the last word of



RESERVE FIXTURES 05/06

DATE	KO	VENUE	OPP	RES
August				
Wed 17	14:00	A	Oxford United	0-0
September				
TUE 6	14:00	H	STEVENAGE BORO'	2-0
TUE 13	14:00	H	NORTHAMPTON	2-0
October				
Tue 4	14:00	A	Milton Keynes Dons	1-2
TUE 25	14:00	H	LEYTON ORIENT	2-0
November				
TUE 15	14:00	H	BARNET	2-1
Tue 29	14:00	A	Luton Town	Cancelled
December				
WED 14	14:00	H	OXFORD UNITED	3-3
January				
Wed 11	14:00	A	Stevenage Borough	4-3
Wed 31	14:00	A	Colchester United	
February				
TUE 7	14:00	H	LUTON TOWN	
Tue 21	14:00	A	Northampton Town	
March				
TUE 7	14:00	H	MK DONS	
Wed 29	14:00	A	Leyton Orient	
April				
TUE 4	14:00	H	COLCHESTER UNITED	
Tue 18	14:00	A	Barnet	

RESERVES TABLE 05/06

CLUB	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
MK Dons	8	6	1	1	209	+11	19	
Northampton	6	4	1	1	208	+12	13	
Southend	6	4	1	1	9	+6	13	
Luton	4	4	0	0	165	+11	12	
Colchester	5	2	0	3	8	11-3	6	
Stevenage	6	2	0	4	3	9-6	6	
Leyton Orient	7	2	0	5	8	16-8	6	
Barnet	8	2	0	6	1325	-12	6	
Oxford	6	0	1	5	1	12-11	1	

the game.

With just five minutes left on the clock the visiting striker was afforded too much time and space to rifle a shot above the head of trialist goalkeeper Darren Betcet from West Ham, via a deflection.

In the end though it proved to be no more than mere consolation, as Southend held out for the victory.



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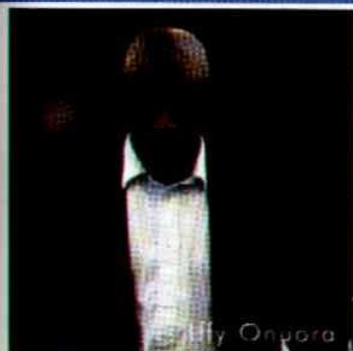


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Iffy Onuora, Swindon Manager

the ROBINS



Swindon Town's 4-2 home win over Bournemouth last Saturday wasn't enough to raise their standing in the League One table, but it did take the County Ground outfit to within four points of the coveted 20th relegation-safe spot.

Since stepping into Andy King's shoes as manager at the end of September, former Town striker Iffy Onuora has slowly but surely brought about a significant improvement in the club's on-field position, turning around what looked to be a difficult case of seven points from their first twelve games into a current situation where 28 points from 28 games provides genuine hope for the remainder of the season.

Speaking after goals from Jamie Cureton, Stefani Miglioranza, Rory

Fallon and new signing Lee Peacock had secured the victory over the Cherries, Onuora said: "Psychologically, it was great to get another win, and the table has really bunched up now. It has made people sit up and take notice of us - and four goals at home is something to be pleased about." Especially as his team had only scored once in their four previous home games prior to last Saturday.

Town's line-up against the Cherries featured four other players as well as the aforementioned Peacock recently brought in to aid the club's survival chances. Experienced defender or midfielder Andy Gurney returned to the club on a permanent basis after spending just over a year with Swansea, and his knowhow along with that of former Blue Paul Smith will be vital in the coming months ahead.

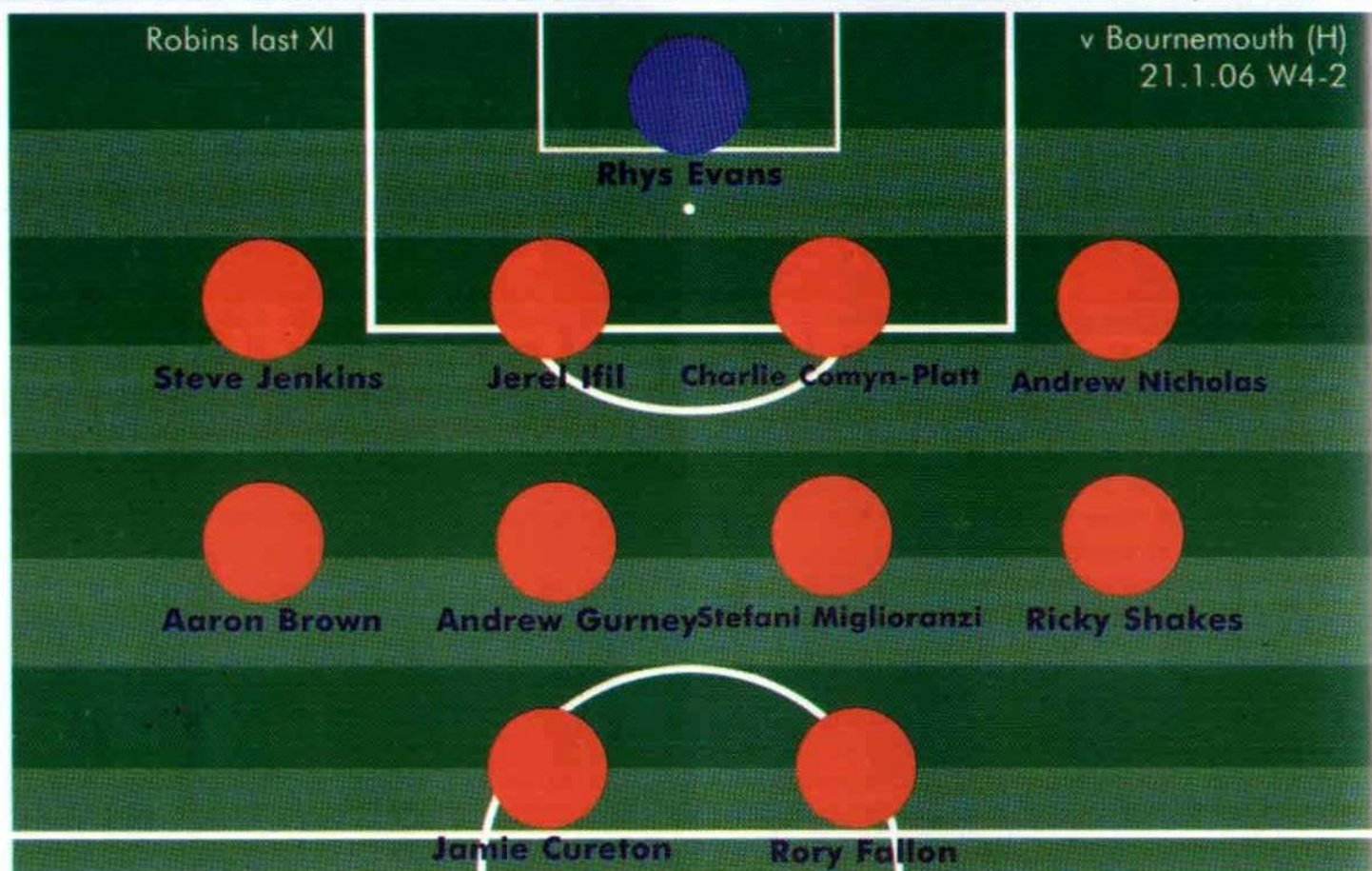
Former Bristol City wideman Aaron

Brown should provide penetration down the left flank, and if he doesn't then the loan signing of winger Albert Jarrett from Brighton is there to provide an alternative delivery. And Peacock's arrival in attack is bound to give Rory Fallon a level of support he has been desperately lacking all season. The tall Kiwi striker has so far netted twelve League goals this campaign, nine more than his nearest challenger in the scoring chart, and without his consistent contribution Town might well have been in a very sorry state indeed coming into tonight's game.

As it is though, Town's recent run has given them a chance of survival, the squad now has the experience and depth it so badly lacked early on, and whilst the gap between trouble and safety is still there at the moment, it's not one that will be impossible to close between now and the first

FACTS AND STATS

Pos	Name	Born	D.O.B	Previous Club	Stats 05/06
GK	Rhys Evans	Swindon	27.1.82	Chelsea	14 - 0 goals
DEF	Steve Jenkins	Merthyr Tydfil	16.7.72	Peterborough United	11(5) - 1 goal
DEF	Jerel Ifil	Wembley	27.6.82	Watford	24(1) - 0 goals
DEF	Charlie Comyn-Platt	Manchester	2.10.85	Bolton Wanderers	7(4) - 0 goals
DEF	Sean O'Hanlon	Southport	2.1.83	Everton	22 - 2 goals
DEF	Andrew Nicholas	Liverpool	10.10.83	Liverpool	17(2) - 0 goals
DEF	Jack Smith	Hemel Hempstead	14.10.83	Watford	21 - 0 goals
DEF	Andy Gurney	Bristol	25.1.74	Swansea City	12(1) - 1 goal
MID	Stefani Miglioranza	Brazil	20.9.77	Portsmouth	17(1) - 1 goal
MID	Gareth Whalley	Manchester	19.12.73	Wigan Athletic	14(1) - 0 goals
MID	Paul Smith	East Ham	18.9.71	Walsall	11(2) - 1 goal
MID	Michael Pook	Swindon	22.10.85	trainee	21(2) - 0 goals
MID	Aaron Brown	Bristol	14.3.80	QPR	21(2) - 0 goals
FOR	Ricky Shakes	Brixton	26.1.85	Bolton Wanderers	3 - 0 goals
FOR	Christian Roberts	Cardiff	27.10.79	Bristol City	4(13) - 3 goals
FOR	Rory Fallon	New Zealand	20.3.82	Barnsley	25 - 12 goals
FOR	Jamie Cureton	Bristol	28.8.75	QPR	16(5) - 5 goals
FOR	Lee Peacock	Paisley	9.10.76	Sheffield Wednesday	16(5) - 5 goals
FOR	Ashan Holgate	Swindon	9.11.86	trainee	2(3) - 0 goals



GOALKEEPERS

Rhys EVANS

Rhys is a former England under-21 international keeper who joined Town on a free transfer in July 2003 after failing to get a first-team chance at Stamford Bridge. He is an excellent shot-stopper who has returned to the starting line-up after missing a number of games through injury.

DEFENDERS

Steve JENKINS

A very experienced former Welsh international defender, Steve joined Town on a free transfer in October 2004, and since then has slotted into the right-back slot. He had previously made 258 League appearances for Huddersfield after joining them for a £275,000 fee in November 1995.

Jerel IFIL

A quick-tackling and pacy central defender, Jerel joined Town from Watford for £70,000 in the summer of 2004 after three previous loan spells at the County Ground. He made his League debut whilst on loan

with Huddersfield in March 2002, and played eleven games for the Hornets prior to his move.

Charlie COMYN-PLATT

Charlie joined Town last summer after being released by Bolton, for whom he made one Carling and two FA Cup appearances. He is a tall central defender of full back who made his League debut whilst on loan at Wycombe last season.

Sean O'HANLON

Sean is a tall and strong right-sided central defender who can also play on the flank when required. After failing to get an opportunity at Goodison Park he joined Town for £150,000 in January 2004 after a previous spell on loan.

Andrew NICHOLAS

Andrew is a tall, left-sided defender who failed to get a first-team opportunity at Anfield before joining Town on a free transfer in the summer of 2003. After a solid first season at the County Ground he had a spell on

loan at Chester last season before getting back into contention this campaign.

Jack SMITH

Jack is a versatile young defender equally at home in either of the full-back slots as well as occasionally filling into the central position. He joined Town on a free transfer last summer after having made 25 League appearances for Watford.

Andy GURNEY

Andy recently rejoined Town from Swansea after having left the County Ground to join the Welsh outfit in September 2004. He is a composed and experienced campaigner equally at home on the right side of defence or midfield.

MIDFIELDERS

Stefani MIGLIORANZI

Stefani is a hard-working and skilful central midfielder who has now played over 100 League games for Town since arriving on a free transfer in August 2002, despite a series of



injuries restricting his appearances last season. He had previously joined Portsmouth in March 1999 from American college soccer.

Gareth WHALLEY

A very experienced ball-playing central midfielder, Gareth made 180 League appearances for Crewe before joining Bradford City for £600,000 in July 1998. He was a regular at Valley Parade during the Premiership days, and joined Town last summer after being released by Wigan.

Paul SMITH

A very experienced former Blues trainee who has chalked up over 500 League appearances since leaving Roots Hall in August 1993, Paul recently joined Town after a mixed season so far with Walsall and Gillingham. He is a forceful central midfielder who retains a good eye for goal.

Michael POOK

Michael is a hard-running young midfielder who has established himself in the first team this season. He made his League debut in December 2004 at Bournemouth, and played four more games before the season's end.

Aaron BROWN

A hard-working wide midfielder who made 160 League appearances for his first club Bristol City, Aaron was recently signed from QPR after impressing whilst on loan at the County Ground. He had previously joined Rangers in January 2005, but was given few opportunities at Loftus Road.

FORWARDS

Ricky SHAKES

Ricky made his first-team debut for Bolton in a Carling Cup game at

Yeovil last season, then had spells on loan with Bristol Rovers and Bury before linking up with Town last summer. He is a speedy attacker who netted his first League goals during his seven-game spell at Gigg Lane.

Christian ROBERTS

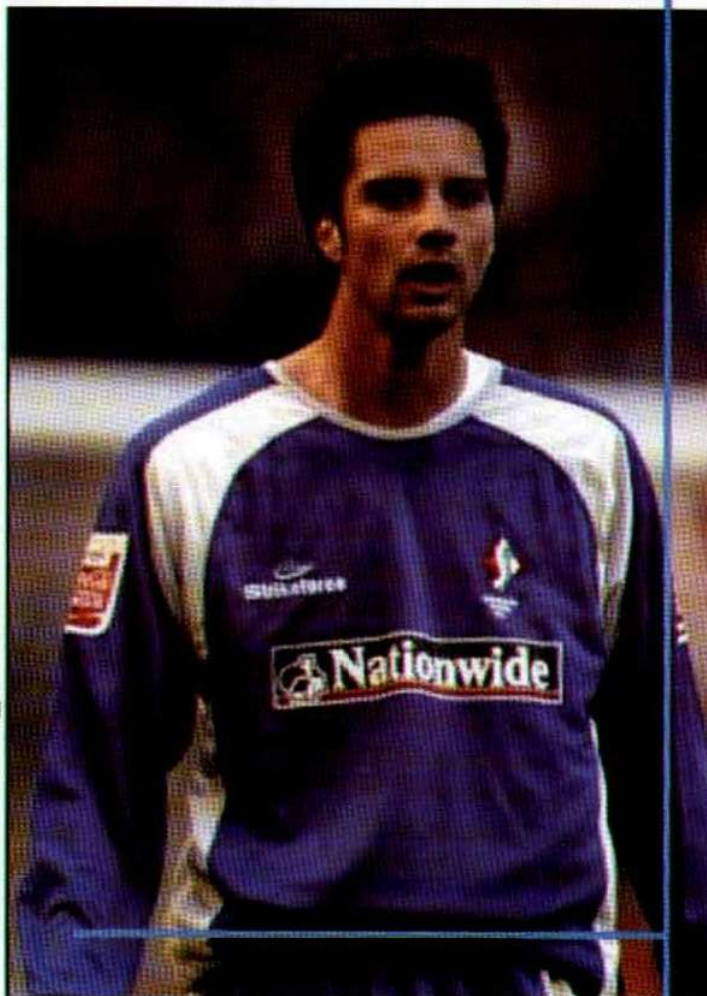
A pacy striker who joined Town for £20,000 in October 2004, and who has been recently sidelined with off-the-field problems, Christian is a former Welsh under-21 international who has made over 200 League appearances since making his debut for Cardiff in September 1997.

Rory FALLON

Rory is a tall, strong target striker who scored 11 goals from 51 League appearances for Barnsley before moving to the County Ground for £60,000 in November 2003. After struggling to make an impact last season he spent a good spell on loan with Yeovil last February, and since returning to Town has carried on his improved form into the current campaign.

Jamie CURETON

An experienced striker who can also play in central midfield, Jamie joined Town last summer after an in and out campaign for QPR last season. After a quiet start to the current campaign he rediscovered his scoring touch during a loan spell at Colchester, and finally netted his first League goal for the County Ground outfit last Saturday.



Lee PEACOCK

A former Scottish under-21 international, Lee is an experienced striker who scored on his debut for Town last Saturday after having joined them on a free transfer from Sheffield Wednesday the day before. He had previously scored 54 League goals for Bristol City after joining them for £600,000 from Man City in August 2000.

Ashan HOLGATE

Ashan is a tall, young right-sided attacker who made his League debut for Town at Huddersfield last April. He has been given several more chances in recent games but is still awaiting his first senior goal for the club.

FACT FILE


Name: Swindon Town
Formation: 1894
Nickname: The Robins
Stadium: County Ground

Manager: Iffy Onuora
Chairman: Willie Carson
Current League Position: 23rd
05/06 Top Marksman: Rory Fallon (14)

talking to...

defender adam barrett

sponsored by:

 Countryside Estates

A DAM Barrett is a local hero in the eyes of most Southend fans, as since joining his hometown club the defender has seen an immediate rise in the club's success.

The vice-captain recently showed his commitment to the cause when he penned a new two-year contract with Barrett fully aware that the Blues are going places. His local roots have meant it was easy for supporters to acknowledge his qualities, as the player himself admits, "I think everyone knows by now that I went to Belfairs".

Barrett has been a mainstream of a solid Southend rearguard and since being promoted to League One there is little sign of that changing. Having now gone 10 matches unbeaten and conceding just five goals in the process, a real impression is being made again this season.

Expectations were certainly not as high as they are now, but the progress being made is something that can only delight Barrett. "I think at the start of the season the main aim was for the club to stay in this division and look to progress, but I think we have exceeded everyone's expectations so far," he said.

"In a way it shows how far we have come to go up a league and kick on again the way we have done with a pretty small squad similar to what we had last year. It shows the quality we have got here and the togetherness because so far it has been a fantastic season and we seemed to have kept the

momentum going and find ourselves in a great position."

Despite Barrett's connections, he admits the club's ambitions were also a big factor. "I wouldn't have joined Southend if I didn't think the club could go places, but if I'm honest I didn't expect the success we have achieved to have happened quite as quickly as it has done," he said.

"It has been a fantastic 18 months for me here and the club really has moved forward a lot and that is a great credit to the manager and all the players and staff; we have all worked hard.

"Everyone knows my connections to the club and I was absolutely delighted to stay. It was important that the club were going forward because personally I want to play at the highest level I can and Southend are starting to achieve things."

He added: "It made it even easier for me to sign a new contract, it was an easy decision anyway, but to know the club is going in the right direction and are looking to get into the Championship and progress is where I want to be and hopefully I can do that with Southend.

"The team spirit here is superb and although it is a small squad, sometimes that helps as well because everyone is in and around the first team picture and everyone is good friends. You are playing for your friends as well as your team mates and that helps a lot. We have definitely got the quality as well though and it is a balance between

the two and it's been good for us."

The club have made a great start to life in League One, but Barrett isn't ready to start celebrating just yet. "There are still an awful lot of games to go, if there are three games to go and we are in a similar position then maybe we might get excited, but at the moment we are taking each game as it comes.

"They are all tough games at this level and every week there is a difficult game and you can't afford to look too far ahead. Hopefully we can keep our unbeaten run going for as long as possible and keep ourselves in and amongst the pack."

Barrett is now looking forward to tonight's encounter with Swindon, but despite their opponent's low table position he is aware the match could be more difficult for that very reason.

"We know that Swindon are struggling at the bottom, but they got a great result last Saturday against Bournemouth, so it is going to be difficult as they are fighting for their lives and want to stay up," he said. "Sometimes they are the harder games because people expect you to go out and beat them.

"Teams that have come to Roots Hall this season try and make it difficult for us, so we know what we are up against. Swindon have got goals in their team in Rory Fallon and have just signed Lee Peacock from Sheffield Wednesday, who are both big threats."



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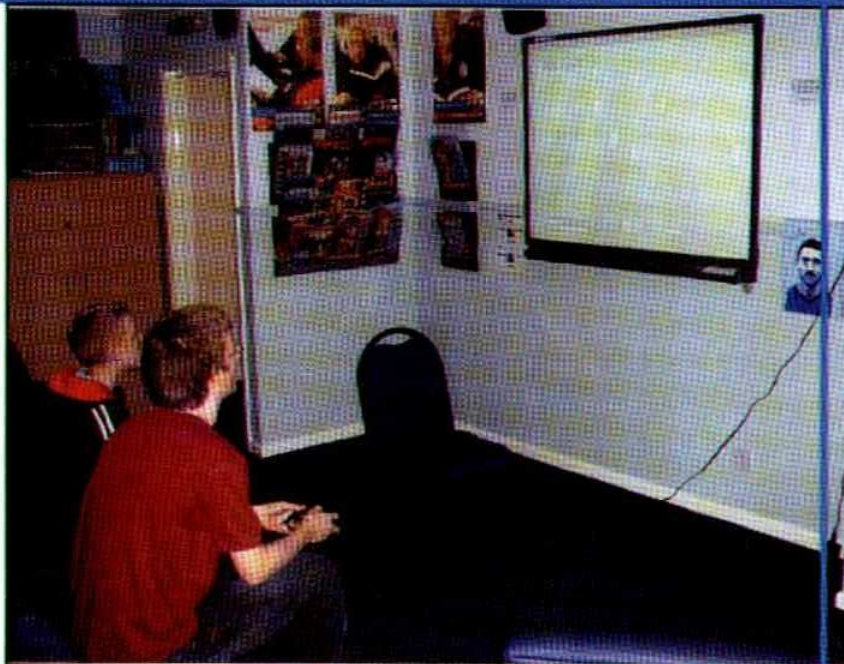
Extra Time @ SUFC

Study Support Centre



Right: Two pupils playing the game

Good news for all youngsters out there. Apparently Playstations are educational so when mum tells you to stop playing games and do your home work you can now tell her you are, according to Study Support Manager Simon Bell



As you probably know by now, the centre has a wide range of multi-media and educational equipment which we use with a variety of groups. Last week we added to the list of 'gadgets' we use for educational purposes by purchasing a Sony Playstation 2 complete with the game 'Fifa 06'. Although many people do not believe us, I can assure you that it is used entirely for educational reasons!

The centre tries to come up with new and innovative ways of engaging the pupils and adults that come through our doors. The Playstation is just another way of doing that. We have developed a number of literacy, numeracy and computer sessions around the game which our groups are thoroughly enjoying.

Last Saturday morning saw the second of our 'Extra Time on a Saturday' sessions in conjunction with the SUCET team. Pupils and an adult relative from Belfairs High School have been enjoying coaching in Priory Park followed by a session at the centre designed to

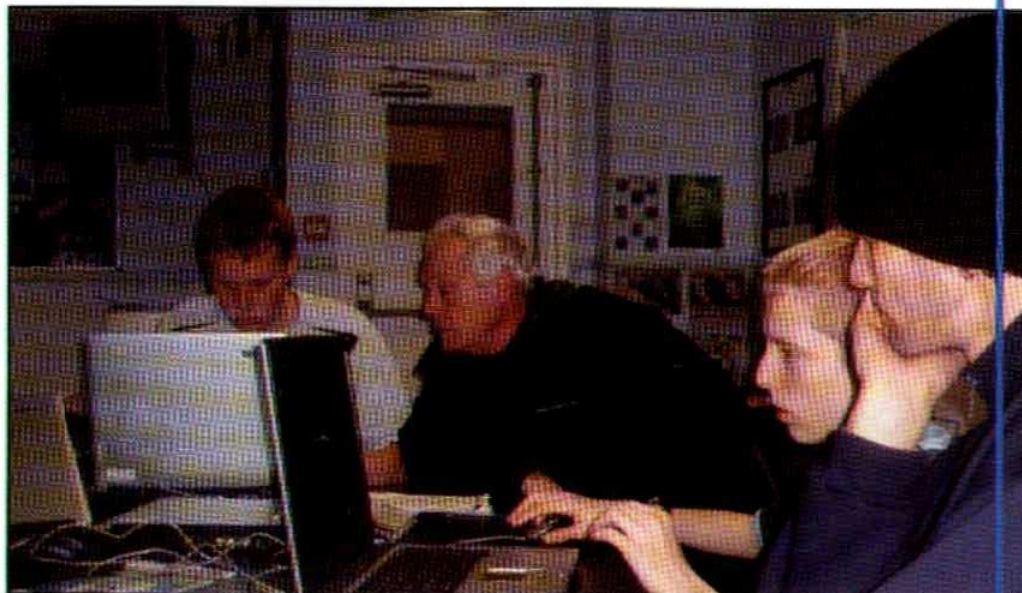
improve their computer skills. It was at last Saturday's session that the Playstation was used to enhance computer and literacy skills.

The session started with the group watching the goals from the great win against Brentford. We then read the match report from the website to consider how journalists go about writing match reports. Everybody then took part in Chelsea Vs Real Madrid on the Playstation. Each time an incident happened on screen the game was paused and pupils and adults recorded some basic facts. Unfortunately for Chelsea they were well beaten (4-

1!) and the group had managed to get some great detail about the game onto paper.

Using the internet we copied some pictures of the players involved and the group then used these to start their articles in Microsoft Publisher about the game complete with headlines such as 'Chelsea Slaughtered!' The session was a huge hit with all involved and has developed literacy and ICT skills. I will show you the results of some of the articles in the next programme.

In the meantime, don't let anybody tell you Playstations aren't



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SOUTHEND UNITED

9/10



Mitchell COLE

Q: Who caused a shock at the World Darts Championship by defeating defending champion Raymond van Barneveld in the final?

A: The other dutch guy, can't remember his name - wrong
(answer: Jelle Klaasen)

Q: Which American female tennis star was surprisingly knocked out of the first round of the Australian Open?

A: Venus Williams - correct

Q: Which new movie soon to be released in March is Beyonce's new song taken from?

A: The Pink Panther - correct

Q: Which football manager has made claims of a bung culture in the game?

A: Mike Newell - correct

Q: Terry Venables has applied to become the manager of which country?

A: South Africa - correct

Q: Which famous rapper has remarried his wife, more than four year's after the pairs divorce and custody battle over their daughter?

A: Eminem - correct

Q: What is the name of the new BBC1 drama about a 21st century detective who mysteriously travels back in time to find himself working as a cop in the 1970s?

A: Life On Mars - correct

Q: What is a rise in mental illness being linked with?

A: Poor Diet - correct

Q: Which country recently appointed their first woman president?

A: Chile - correct

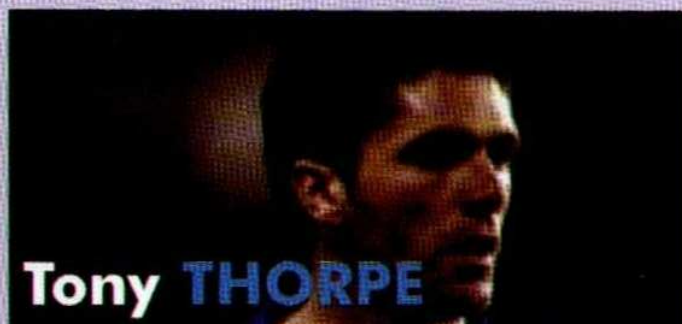
Q: Which singer-songwriter, along with the Kaiser Chiefs, is heading the shortlist for the Brit Awards with five nominations?

A: James Blunt - correct



COLCHESTER UNITED

7/10



Tony THORPE

Q: Who caused a shock at the World Darts Championship by defeating defending champion Raymond van Barneveld in the final?

A: Jelle Klaasen - correct

Q: Which American female tennis star was surprisingly knocked out of the first round of the Australian Open?

A: Venus Williams - correct

Q: Which new movie soon to be released in March is Beyonce's new song taken from?

A: The Pink Panther - correct

Q: Which football manager has made claims of a bung culture in the game?

A: Mike Newell - correct

Q: Terry Venables has applied to become the manager of which country?

A: South Africa - correct

Q: Which famous rapper has remarried his wife, more than four year's after the pairs divorce and custody battle over their daughter?

A: Eminem - correct

Q: What is the name of the new BBC1 drama about a 21st century detective who mysteriously travels back in time to find himself working as a cop in the 1970s?

A: Don't know - wrong (answer: Life on Mars)

Q: What is a rise in mental illness being linked with?

A: Don't know - wrong (answer: Poor Diet)

Q: Which country recently appointed their first woman president?

A: Don't know - wrong (answer: Chile)

Q: Which singer-songwriter, along with the Kaiser Chiefs, is heading the shortlist for the Brit Awards with five nominations?

A: James Blunt - correct



League1Scene



Richard Garcia's brace sent Colchester above Southend

Southend were knocked off the top of League One by their bitter Essex rivals Colchester on Saturday as Phil Parkinson's men recorded a 2-1 win over Port Vale at Layer Road.

The north Essex outfit did not have it easy though, and needed substitute Richard Garcia to provide the inspiration. He met Chris Iwelumo's cross within a minute of coming on to give the home side the lead, but former Southend striker Michael Husbands stunned the majority of the 4,319 crowd by equalising with eleven minutes left. However, Garcia headed home from point-blank range with 87 minutes on the clock to ensure that Colchester led the table. However, influential midfielder Kevin Watson will be out for a month after straining his medial ligaments.

With Colchester in FA Cup action against Derby this weekend, Southend have a chance to return

to the top against Swindon at Roots Hall, and the Shrimpers did well to steal a point at in-form Tranmere after being under pressure for much of the match. The clash finished 0-0, but Southend went closest when Freddy Eastwood volleyed against the bar after Carl Pettefer's cross was cleared. Calvin Zola had chances for the home side, but they could not penetrate the Blues rearguard.

Swansea could not muscle in on the automatic promotion positions after being held at home by mid-table Hartlepool. The Swans were within a whisker of claiming victory courtesy of Leon Britton's strike in the 20th minute. However, striker Eifion Williams levelled the match with a stoppage time equaliser after coming on as a substitute in the first half.

A key match in the promotion race went Brentford's way at Griffin Park as they leapfrogged Huddersfield into 4th. In-form

Dudley Campbell crossed for Lloyd Owusu to put the Bees in front with 25 minutes on the clock, and wrapped up the points with a long range strike in the second half. Both sides had a player dismissed, midfielder Ricky Newman saw red for the home side for violent conduct, and Town goalkeeper Paul Rachubka went the same way in the second half.

A straightforward win over bottom club MK Dons saw Barnsley keep the pressure up on Yorkshire rivals Huddersfield, but it took them until the 77th minute to break through at Oakwell. Marc Richards converted Martin Devaney's cross for the opener, and two minutes later Bobby Hassell doubled the Tykes advantage following another Devaney centre.

Chesterfield were held at home by Walsall to record their 10th draw in the last 11 matches. Mads Timmer opened the scoring for the visitors just after the half hour, but it didn't take long for Wayne Allison to respond, heading home a free kick three minutes later. Five minutes after the break, Grant Smith netted to put the Saddlers back in the saddle, but with ten minutes remaining loan signing Kevan Hurst rescued a point for Chesterfield with a well-struck shot.

Luke Beckett came off the bench to score two headers to give Oldham victory over Gillingham at Boundary Park. His first came in the 84th minute, nine minutes after coming on, when he met Andy Liddell's cross. Three minutes later, David Eyres' delivery was finished off from close range by the former

Chesterfield striker to secure the points and leave Gillingham in 17th place.

Forest completed the signing of Sammy Clingan this week after drawing at Rotherham on Saturday. Nathan Tyson put the visitors into the lead after the half hour after good work by fellow transfer window signing Grant Holt. However, the million pound front-line could not add to their tally, and free transfer signing Paul Shaw marked his debut for the Millers with a goal with just four minutes remaining to leave Forest without an away win in the League for five months.

Swindon's new arrival Lee Peacock also made his mark as the Robins beat Bournemouth 4-2 at the County Ground. Peacock scored in injury time to round off the win after Bournemouth had come from two down to level in the second half. Swindon took the lead through Jamie Cureton, and doubled it when Stefan Miglioranza followed up a save by Gareth Stewart. However, Dani Rodrigues volleyed home a James Hayter cross, before Hayter scored from the spot in the 68th minute. With 11 minutes remaining, the Robins regained the lead thanks to Rory Fallon's header, and

Peacock's tap in sealed the points.

Dean Windass was the matchwinner for Bradford at Yeovil but is the subject of transfer speculation linking him to Barnsley. Windass's late free-kick nicked the points for the Bantams to take them above their opponents and into the top half of the table.

There was derby victory for Doncaster as they beat Scunthorpe 2-1 at Glanford Park courtesy of a late winner by new signing Graeme Lee. Lee's deflected shot gave the Rovers victory after they fought back from being a goal behind through Jim Goodwin just after the break. Michael McIndoe equalised before Lee's late winner. In injury time, Steve Torpey and Jamie Coppinger both saw red after a free-for-all.

Steve Brooker rescued a point for Bristol City away to fellow strugglers Blackpool. John Murphy rounded Adriano Basso to give the home side a 5th minute advantage, but Brooker scored from close range with 26 minutes gone to earn his side a point. Later, Robins boss Gary Johnson claimed his side deserved more, but they remain just one place outside the drop zone.



Steve Brooker rescued a point for Bristol City

LEAGUE TABLE

1 Colchester	28	16	52
2 Southend	29	16	51
3 Swansea	28	22	49
4 Brentford	28	10	48
5 Huddersfield	29	5	47
6 Barnsley	28	13	45
7 Chesterfield	29	5	44
8 Oldham	29	-4	43
9 Nottm Forest	28	6	40
10 Bournemouth	28	2	39
11 Bradford	29	3	38
12 Doncaster	28	-3	37
13 Yeovil	29	-8	37
14 Port Vale	29	-5	36
15 Tranmere	29	1	35
16 Walsall	28	-5	35
17 Gillingham	28	-9	34
18 Scunthorpe	28	-6	33
19 Hartlepool	29	-7	33
20 Blackpool	29	-8	32
21 Bristol City	29	-11	32
22 Rotherham	29	-8	28
23 Swindon	28	-10	28
24 MK Dons	28	-15	24

FIXTURES

Friday 27 January 2006

Nottm Forest v Barnsley	19:45
Southend v Swindon	19:45

Saturday, 28 January 2006

Bournemouth v Chesterfield	15:00
Bradford v Tranmere	15:00
Bristol City v Swansea	15:00
Gillingham v Rotherham	15:00
Hartlepool v Blackpool	15:00
Huddersfield v Oldham	15:00

RESULTS

21-01-2006

Barnsley	2 - 0	Milton Keynes
Blackpool	1 - 1	Bristol C
Brentford	2 - 0	Huddersfield
Chesterfield	2 - 2	Walsall
Colchester	2 - 1	Port Vale
Oldham	2 - 0	Gillingham
Rotherham	1 - 1	Nottm Forest
Scunthorpe	1 - 2	Doncaster
Swansea	1 - 1	Hartlepool
Swindon	4 - 2	Bournemouth
Tranmere	0 - 0	Southend
Yeovil	0 - 1	Bradford

24-01-2006

Blackpool	4 - 2	Doncaster
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Friday night football returns to Roots Hall for the first time this season and we are sure of yet another big gate as we try to return to the top of the table. Our last home fixture against Brentford was a fantastic occasion as we enjoyed our second family day of the season. It seemed that the day was well received by the home faithful and we look forward to our final family day, when we play Bristol City on the last day of the season.

Matchday Sponsors

This evening we welcome John Watson and his Guests from Cumberland Packaging who are tonight's Matchday Sponsors. Cumberland Packaging are based in Shoburyness and have been associated with the Club for many years. Tonight they will be in the Matchday Sponsors Suite and will be selecting the man of the match, which they have kindly sponsored for the 2005/06 season. Our thanks to John, Elaine and all at Cumberland Packaging for their continued support of the Blues and we hope that you all have a great time with us tonight.

Executive Suites

We now have just 2 executive suites available for the remainder of the season and they are for the Gillingham fixture on the 14th of April and Bristol City on the 6th of May. The suite is priced at £460+vat and anyone requiring further details of the executive suite package, should call the commercial department on 01702 304149.

The lads didn't let the big crowd down, with a superb display from start to finish ending with the Blues in top spot; likewise the crowd got right behind the team from the word go and the partnership works extremely well. Keep the noise going this evening and we are sure that the boys will not let you down. Don't forget the next home game is also on a Friday night against Rotherham on the 10th of February and we have very limited hospitality available therefore if you would like to start the weekend in style call the commercial department to book your hospitality package.

Platinum Suite Membership

The Platinum Suite is virtually sold out for all home games this season with Annual Membership at full capacity. The cost for an individual matchday ticket is £60 including vat although availability is very limited.

The Blues Lounge with David Crown

The Blues Lounge is now almost sold out for the remainder of the season however we do have 1 table of 8 or 10 places for the following fixtures:- Rotherham 10th February, Hartlepool 25th March, Blackpool 8th April and Doncaster on the 22nd of April. The package includes a three course dinner before the match, complimentary programme, car parking and seats in the Blues Lounge area of the Echo East Stand at a cost of £45+vat per person.

To book your seats in the Blues Lounge, call the commercial department on 01702 304 149.

Sponsors Lounge

In the Sponsors Lounge this evening we welcome MJ Marine Services

The ticket office is also under great demand with tickets on sale for all of our home fixtures plus the away games at Yeovil and Brentford. Season ticket holders need to get their postal applications in for the Colchester match, which looks like being a sell out, before next Wednesday (full details appear on page 32 in today's matchday programme). Please book your tickets early for all home games to avoid disappointment. Enjoy the match-Come on you Blues!

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Matchday Guests

Lee Skinner and Guests representing the Mayors Charity, Danny Murley & Family

Commercial Break with Brian Wheeler

Tel: 01702 304149

Email: comdept@southend-united.co.uk

who are regular sponsors of the Blues and today they have enjoyed at day of golf before bringing their guests to tonight's match. Enjoy the game chaps and thank you for your continued support.

Advertising at Roots Hall

The response to our advertising packages has been very encouraging this season, so much so that we have now looked at additional areas within the stadium where we can install advertising boards. Full details can be obtained by calling the commercial department however one area that has now become available are the 'floodlights'. This is an ideal opportunity to see your brand name high above the Roots Hall ground which can be seen by everyone in

the local area, whether you are in the stadium or driving along the local roads. There are 3 of the 4 floodlights currently available for sponsorship and we would be looking for a 2/3 year contract.

We also have space available for advertising on our main TV screen situated on the top of the newly refurbished club shop. Facing the main road on Victoria Avenue this is also an excellent area to promote your company brand. Interested parties should call Brian Wheeler on 01702 304 147.

BLUES LOUNGE

Annual and Matchday Programme Sponsors

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Matchday Guests

The National Car Cleaning Company, Dedman's Property Services, Zoe Cullman & Guests, Chris Tanner & Guest, Andy Le Marle & Friends, John Townsend & Friends

We have two of tonight's guests who are celebrating their birthdays in the Blues Lounge. Firstly we wish Andy Le Marle a very happy 28th birthday from all of your friends and family. Secondly we welcome John Townsend who is 63 years old today, happy birthday to John also from all of his friends and family. We hope you both enjoy the night.

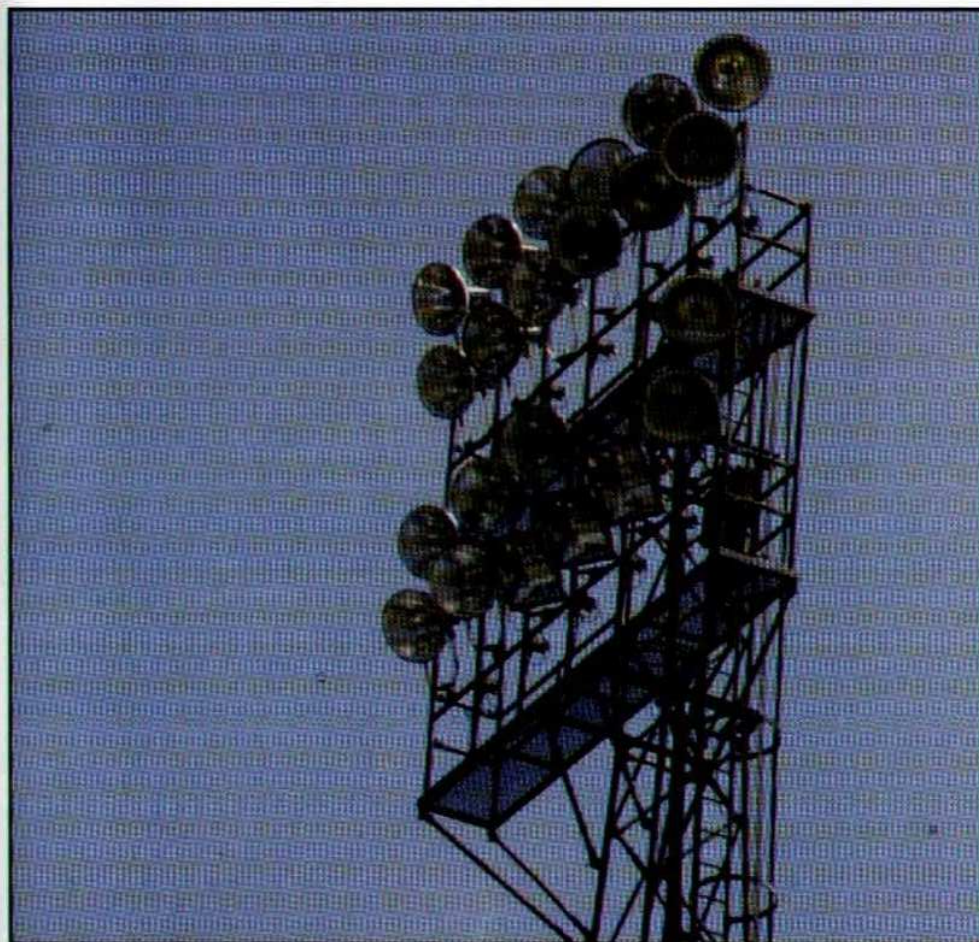
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Matchday Guests

Max Blyth & Guest, Barclays Bank Plc

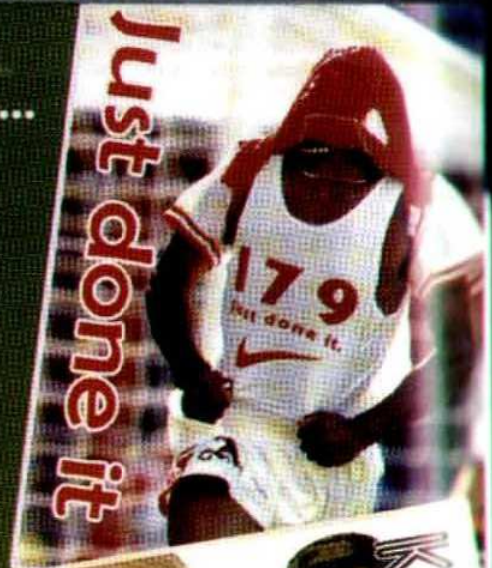


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Born to Run

I have wondered over the last couple of days whether being a football manager is amongst the most thankless jobs that exist. By that, I am not saying that managing a football team is an intrinsically wretched vocation. Indeed, I imagine it is quite the reverse. It is hard to conceive of anything more fulfilling than spending your working hours outdoors, keeping physically and mentally active and being in charge of a group of like-minded individuals whose morale and future lies in your hands.

Instead, it has struck me that there are perhaps two reasons why being in charge of a football club must sometimes make the incumbents feel completely unappreciated. The first is that, on any given match-day, the stadium is half-filled with people who think that they can manage the team better than you can. This is something that almost never happens in any other profession - for example, few of us would tell a doctor or a car mechanic how to do his or her job. Yet, come 3.00 pm on Saturdays there we all are, wondering why so-and-so has been left on the bench or why a certain formation has been deployed.

I am as guilty of doing this as the next man. Last weekend, I joined the away contingent at Prenton Park and watched us battle our way to a deserved point. Yet, with about 20 minutes to go, I sat there and started muttering to myself that Shaun Goater should be coming on so that we could try to nick a goal.

I have neither a proper

explanation nor justification for my actions. I was a deeply mediocre footballer at school, so certainly cannot lay claim to understand footballers better than the gaffer. I have probably watched somewhere in the region of 5% of the number of football games that Steve Tilson has seen. Yet there I was, fuelled perhaps by the moronic belief that a successful season or two on Championship Manager had made me something of a living-room Shankly, wondering aloud as to why Tilly had prevaricated over making a substitution.

The reason why I was questioning the manager's timing of bringing The Goat on was, in truth, born out of the second reason why being a club supremo must feel thoroughly futile at times: and that is because, in football as in life, give us an inch... and we will want a mile.

In recent weeks, Tilly and Brush have conjured from the team some of the best football we have seen in

a decade. Only a Brentford fan could have failed to be exhilarated by our previous display at Roots Hall; and yet, only a week later there I was in the Wirral, wondering why we were not pushing for all three points. I must admit, however, that it is probably a good job that I am not in charge of the side. Ensuring that the Blues came away with a point and a clean sheet from Tranmere was almost certainly the sort of result that will keep us in the promotion hunt, which is after all what we must be aiming for.

The Blue-boys cannot play as well as they did against Brentford all the time, and we should not necessarily expect them to do so tonight against Swindon Town. Luckily, however, even if we sit in the stands hankering after more champagne football, at least there are two men in the dugout who really do have their priorities right - which is to ensure that we keep on picking up points from now until May. Here's hoping for three more





Wayne Gray scores the winner at the County Ground earlier this season

HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

HOME

P- 61 W- 32 D- 13 L- 16 F- 112 A- 69

AWAY

P- 61 W- 10 D- 13 L- 38 F- 55 A- 137

TOTAL

P- 122 W- 42 D- 26 L- 54 F- 167 A- 215

BIGGEST WINS

8-2 1950-51 (h), 6-2 1908-09 (h), 5-1 1907-08 (a).

BIGGEST DEFEATS

1-6 1909-10 (a), 1921-22 (a) and 2002-03 (a), 0-5 1913-14 (a) and 1934-35 (a)

LAST HOME WIN

2-0, 25th January 2005 in LDV Vans Trophy Area Semi-Final. Scorers: Dudfield, Nicolau.

LAST AWAY WIN

2-1, 10th September 2005 in Football League One. Scorers: Barrett, Gray.

A HOME fixture with Swindon Town ought to be a celebrated occasion in the Blues centenary year of 2006, for it was the Robins Reserves who beat Southend United 1-0 in the Essex Club's very first fixture back on 1st September 1906 in Division Two of the Southern League.

In an inaugural season that saw United smash all goalscoring records going, Southend amazingly failed to score against Swindon, drawing a goalless stalemate in Wiltshire later in the year. In a total of 65 matches, Southend could boast 222 goals to their name and the titles of both the South Eastern League and the Southern League Second Division. Promotion to the First Division of the Southern League didn't arrive until 1908 though, and that only after a second successive championship.

Town's first team came up against Southend for the first time in Division One of the Southern League during 1908-09, the games producing rather contrasting results with the Blues coming out 6-2 victors at Roots Hall, but Swindon triumphing 4-2 in the return fixture.

The very first Football League encounters between this evening's

sides came in United first League campaign, 1920-21. In what was ultimately a disappointing season for Southend, Swindon completed a double with 3-1 and 3-0 victories.

Of the total 122 clashes between Southend and Swindon, two of them have come in the FA Cup. United slipped to a 3-0 reverse at the Stadium in 1950-51, but in the 1968-69 Third Round the Blues, of Division Three, chalked up a mightily impressive victory at the County Ground against the Second Division leaders. Goals from Billy Best and Chico Hamilton sealing a 2-0 win.

More recent Cup action saw Swindon beaten 2-0 in their last visit to Roots Hall in last season's LDV Vans Trophy Southern Area semi-final. Goals in each half from Lawrie Dudfield and Nicky Nicolau, who joined Town in the summer, earned the Blues a triumph en route to a second successive Final in that competition.

United, despite a Graeme Jones strike, were well beaten, 6-1, at the County Ground in an LDV first round tie back in October 2002 whilst, in February 2001, an extra time 'golden goal' by Leo Roget booked a place in the Area Final of the LDV courtesy of a 2-1 triumph over the Robins. United ultimately missed out on a trip to the Millennium Stadium following a 4-2 aggregate defeat to Brentford in the Area Final.

Swindon also visited South East Essex in the first round of the League Cup in August 2003 and although Southend twice took the lead through Drewe Broughton and Kevin Maher, Swindon stole the tie, 3-2, with ex-Blue Tommy Mooney grabbing the winning goal.

In the League, goals from Adam Barrett and Wayne Gray sealed a 2-1 victory at Swindon back in September, whilst the last League meeting at Roots Hall brought a 3-1 First Division defeat back in August 1996.

CHE: I GOT LOST

HAVING got a taste for the high life after scoring his first ever goal, left-back Che Wilson will be boring his grandchildren with the tale for years to come.

The former Bristol Rovers man came off the Southend bench at the weekend to score Southend's fourth goal of the afternoon against fellow promotion rivals Brentford.

It took Wilson nine years to discover his shooting boots but despite the wait he hadn't a celebration planned - in fact he thought the goal might not have stood for one brief moment.

Talking to Blues World after the match he said: "Hopefully it is the first of a few, it has been a long, long wait but I was pleased to get into a position to score but the credit must go to Mark Gower who has put it on a plate for me.

"I got lost once it went in, I was facing the fans cheering and then I thought maybe the ref had disallowed it because nobody came to celebrate with me - they were all probably shell shocked.

"I take my hat off to the lads though because it was a very good performance. Brentford got a bit of a shock really but in the end it was a deserved victory I felt."

Wilson also admitted that a win against the Bees was vital if the Blues are to realise their promotion dreams.

"To win was vital because Brentford would have been level on points with two games in hand otherwise," he said.

"It is up there with our best performances of the season, there have been a few this term; but over 90 minutes it was an excellent display.

"The pressure is on Swansea now and everyone else around us as well.

"At the start of the season we set our sights on just making sure we were in this division next year."

"But having seen everyone around us we have learnt that there is no one to fear and our league position doesn't lie."



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SHAUN'S BERMUDIAN BLUES

VETERAN forward Shaun Goater returned to his native Bermuda during his six week lay-off as he looked to recharge his batteries for the final run in of the season.

The former Manchester City ace was forced to miss the festive period with a dislocated collarbone sidelining him for nearly six weeks.

However, he used his time to return to the sun lavished island and was surprised at the supporter base the Blues have built during his short stint at Roots Hall.

Goater told Blues World TV: "With the sort of injury I had I was able to do everything except train so it was refreshing to get back home to Bermuda and recharge the batteries.

"It's funny because there has become a huge following of Southend supporters back home.

"Everyone I spoke to was saying that the boys are doing well and to keep it going and I just laughed and said that they are doing exceptionally well without me so perhaps I should stay here.

"But now I am just looking to be apart of things, I want to get back into the side and keep challenging.

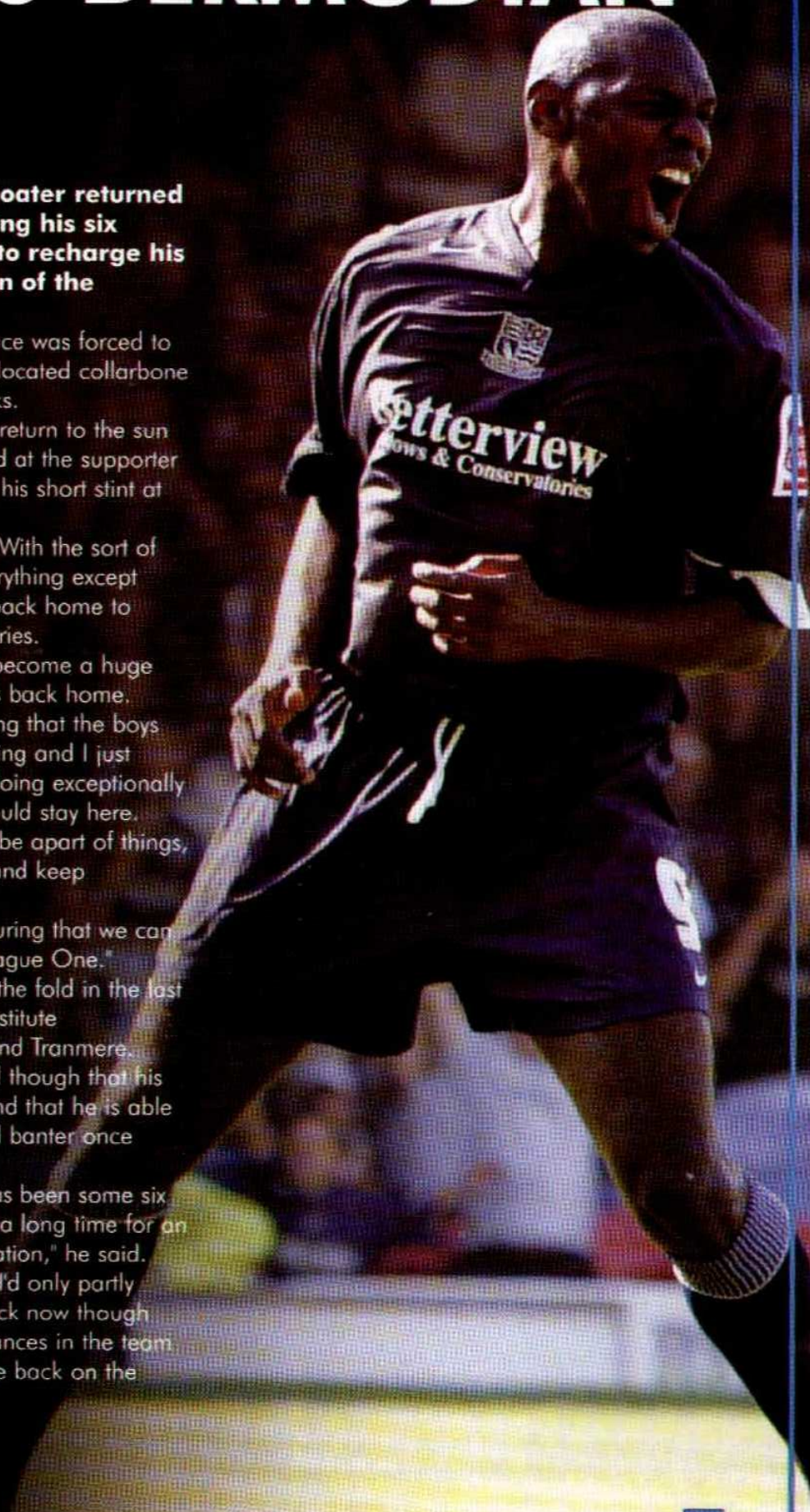
"I want to play my part in ensuring that we can get promotion and get out of League One."

Goater has since returned to the fold in the last two matches making fleeting substitute appearances against Brentford and Tranmere.

It is a relief to the 35-year-old though that his problems are behind him now and that he is able to be around the training ground banter once more.

"It feels great to be back, it has been some six week since I last played which is a long time for an injury that didn't require an operation," he said.

"I just needed time to heel as I'd only partly dislocated my collarbone. I'm back now though and I've managed a few appearances in the team since then and it feels good to be back on the field and back around the lads."



MATCHDAY MASCOTS



• Joe Cobain
Name: Joe Cobain
Age: 10
From: Southend
Hobbies: Performing Arts
Favourite player: Freddy Eastwood



• Jessica Smith
Name: Jessica Smith
Age: 9
From: Southend
Hobbies: Karate
Favourite player: Freddy Eastwood



• Jack Pearman
Name: Jack Pearman
Age: 12
From: Westcliff
Hobbies: Eastenders
Favourite player: Freddy Eastwood



• Tommy Cobain
Name: Tommy Cobain
Age: 8
From: Southend
Hobbies: Cross Country Running
Favourite player: Campbell-Ryce



• Alex Murley
Name: Alex Murley
Age: 8
From: Leigh-on-Sea
Hobbies: Golf
Favourite player: Freddy Eastwood



• Gareth Dyer
Name: Gareth Dyer
Age: 34
From: Bournemouth
Hobbies: Playing Ukulele
Favourite player: Gareth Whalley

COLCHESTER UNITED TICKETS

WE have now received our allocation of tickets for our away fixture at Layer Road. This match is ALL TICKET and tickets will not be on sale on the day of the game.

The match is set to take place on Saturday 4th March, kick-off 3pm, against Phil Parkinson's U's side.

The ticket prices are as follows:-

Terrace Allocation: 800

Adults: £14 Concessions / Students: £8

Seating Allocation: 411

Adults: £17 Concessions/ Students: £10

Season ticket holders will have first priority for this fixture and we are accepting postal applications ONLY up to Wednesday 1st February. Applications must be received by the ticket office by no later than this date accompanied by your season ticket number, credit card details or an open cheque made out to Southend United FC plus a stamped addressed envelope (sae). If

a sae is not enclosed an additional £1 fee will be added to your cost to cover postage.

Tickets will be issued on a first come basis and if demand exceeds the allocation all cheques will be returned. Wherever possible we will endeavour to allocate your ticket for your selected area, seats or terrace, however we cannot guarantee that we will be able to accommodate all requests.

There will be a limit of 1 ticket per season ticket holder however we will accept more than one application per envelope.

Applications should be sent to:

Ticket Office
Southend United Football Club
Roots Hall
Victoria Avenue
Southend
Essex
SS2 6NQ

Any tickets remaining after this date will go on GENERAL SALE on Monday 6th February from 9.30am until sold out.

you make your own LUCK

WE may only be in just the sixth month of the season but my number of lucky charms has already exceeded double figures.

Therefore, following in the footsteps of my magical hat, socks, pen and pad among others I am now being forced to eat a chip butty prior to each game at Roots Hall.

In truth, I don't particularly even want the snack as I step up my preparations for taking part in April's London Marathon.

But I remain convinced if I do not visit the Fish House on my way to the game then Southend will crash to defeat and it will all be my fault.

I'm not the only one either – manager Steve Tilson memorably does not have his hair cut or wash his match-day suit until his side have tasted defeat, BBC Essex's Nick Alliker has a lucky stick of a rock bought from Blackpool, one of my friends has to change his wristbands when watching us play while another has to sit in a certain seat even if it means being on his own half the time.

Only football seems to attract such superstitions and more were again on show last Saturday as we travelled to Tranmere for the latest in a seemingly never ending run of lengthy away trips which has already included journeys to Huddersfield, Hartslepool, Blackpool and Oldham.

Thankfully, down to my socks of course, we have so far remained unbeaten on the road during the tour of the north, with the latest hard fought point coming at Prenton

Park with another assured performance. Luckily, the club's media and ladder manager Dave Scriven wasn't driving either having smashed up his motor getting rather too carried away driving back from the team bonding day at Rayleigh Go-Karting centre last week. While I'm not really one to criticise dodgy driving, poor old Scrivs failed to emulate Duncan Jupp's heroics behind the wheel and ended up writing off

his car by smashing into the back of the nearest motor as he attempted to find second gear at the Rayleigh Weir chicane.

At least it did mean he was able to take his role in the passenger seat at the weekend to resume his role as chief celeb spotter.

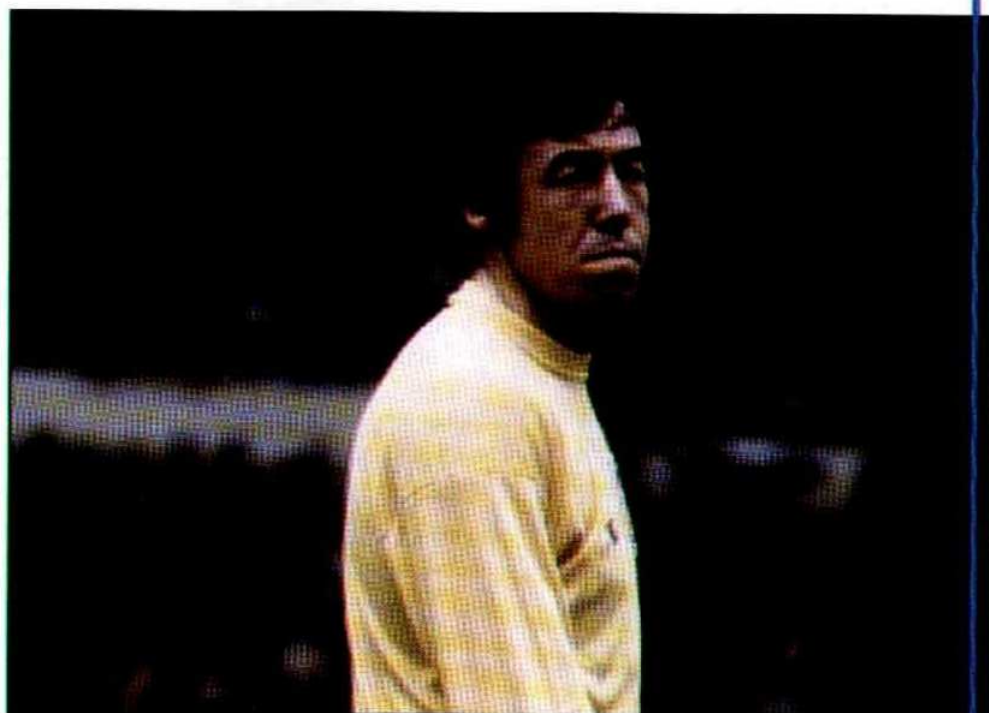
And, after meeting Jennifer Ellison, the entire Bournemouth

squad and our very own Efe Sodje in recent weeks, Scrivs came up trumps by spotting legendary World Cup winning goalkeeper Gordon Banks in the car right next to us.

Sadly the moment was a bit too much for him to take in though as he casually announced there was some bloke in a car nearby who was a footballer or something!

The stick has just about died down now as we find ourselves gathering again to watch the Blues take on a resurgent Swindon Town. Another close clash is to be expected but Steve Tilson's troops are bang in form at present and are clearly capable of securing more success this evening - with a bit of luck along the way of course!

Enjoy the game





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ESSEX ONE-TWO?

WHO would have said before the start of the season that the two Essex sides would currently occupy the top two places in League One, most certainly Southend?

I am hardly going to go on about our local rivals, but this shows just how open ended this division is and even now when asking people to predict who will finish in the top six in the table you can easily bring up far too many teams.

Southend are at the top on merit though and from being predicted to battle against relegation for much of the season we have really reversed the roles.

Just to be in the top half of the table come the end would be a great achievement for us.

Although Colchester have been established in this league longer than us, they have obviously still done well, but the fact we are making such a mark after only just winning our long awaited promotion speaks volumes. Steve Tilson and Paul Brush have done a superb job and assembled some great players at the club.

I have no doubts that we can finish in the top half this season, although I know either way that a lot of recognition should and will still be handed out to both the management and players of the club.

James Burdock

A DREAM WORLD?

IT is hard to believe that we are second in the table at this

stage of the season, I mean did any fan realistically feel it was possible.

Of course, by the end we could well be looking at a second promotion in successive seasons, who knows? The mere fact that Tilson has the team continuing where they left off from last season easily sums up our recent achievements.

The main question now being asked is whether we can earn promotion, but some fans need to see sense and realise that before the start of the season we would have gladly seen safety as an option.

By the end of the season though we may well be celebrating for a different reason altogether.

Ben Weir

BARRETT EXTENSION LIKE NEW SIGNING

I MUST say it is good news to have Adam Barrett sign a new contract at the club. Barrett has brilliant for us at the back ever since he joined at the start of last season and this was shown when he was named in the League Two 'team of the season' last year.

We have the second best defensive record at the moment - just one goal less conceded than Colchester - and just look so solid in defence at the moment.

Our new signing Efe Sodje seems to have fitted in well and although it was sad to see a good servant in Andy Edwards go, you can understand his plight for first team football.

They say the basis of a good team starts in defence and we certainly have that at Southend.

PETTS HAILS GOOD DAY AT THE OFFICE



CARL Pettefer hailed a successful day for Southend at Tranmere, as well as his own delight at coming through a full 90 minutes of first team action.

It was only the midfielder's sixth start of the season and the last time Pettefer played from the beginning he had to be withdrawn in the opening minutes following a clash of heads. This was therefore the first 90 minutes he had completed for the first team in over four months.

After the match Pettefer was therefore left happy from both a team and personal perspective and suffered no reaction in heading the

ball again, as he told southendunited.co.uk: "The gaffer said before the game that a point would be a great result and anything else would be a bonus.

"It was a successful afternoon for us at Tranmere and we are chuffed with the result, they had a few chances, but we had a few chances as well. Perhaps we could have nicked it in the end, but a point at Tranmere is a great result.

"You can see that they're quite hard to beat and whip the ball in from a lot of corners and are dangerous from that, but we did hit them on the break a few times and maybe a draw was a fair result.

"I feel fine to be honest and once I got the first header it felt good and I'm just happy to get past three minutes this time. I got a bit of cramp near the end, but it's been a long time since I've played 90 minutes of football and I'll get fitter with each game."

Pettefer also feels that there is no advantage to be gained through top spot at this stage of the season after Colchester jumped above the Blues and moved them into second place in League One.

"It doesn't bother us at all losing top spot, the other teams that have won will probably be playing away next week and we play Swindon at home on Friday night and it's something to build on," he said. "As long as you don't lose away and you win at home you are always going to have a chance.

"If you can get top spot back it does help mentally. If the other teams have seen that we've won again and they've been knocked off top spot it would help, but at the end of the day we have just got to win the game and that's that."

Colchester are currently a point ahead of the Blues with a game in hand against Scunthorpe United at Layer Road.

YOU would have been hard pressed to have seen a better goalkeeping display than the one Darryl Flahavan displayed at Hartlepool last December.

The custodian produced a string of superb saves to single-handedly keep Southend's opponents at bay and help the club come from behind to win 2-1. It was also a massive win in the context of helping the club continue to establish themselves at the top of League One.

It was the Blues first win in eight league matches and since then Southend have not looked back, as their fine form has led them to the forefront of the action in second place and just a point behind Colchester, with a win tonight guaranteeing the club go back to the top - albeit for 24 hours at least.

Flahavan played his 200th game for the club in last weekend's draw at Tranmere and will be hoping to match that feat by helping to continue Southend's progression in League One.

He said: "It is a great achievement to have played so many games for the club. I am certainly very pleased and I love being at Southend. We got a good result on the day as well; going into the Tranmere match we would have taken a point beforehand. It's a tough place to go and they are on a good run, so I think taking home a point plus a clean sheet is good for us.

"I think we have got one of the best defensive records in the league at the moment, we have been doing really well and everyone has been doing there bit and teams are finding it hard to score past us. If we can keep that going we give ourselves a good chance of continuing to do well this season."

Recapping on what was arguably his finest performance for Southend

against Hartlepool, Flahavan admitted: "It was one of those nights where they had a lot of shots on target and even a last minute penalty, but it was a good night for me and the best game I think I can remember and I am very pleased with that.

"There have been a few others lately as well, so I am happy with the way things are going and will keep working hard in training and hopefully that can continue."

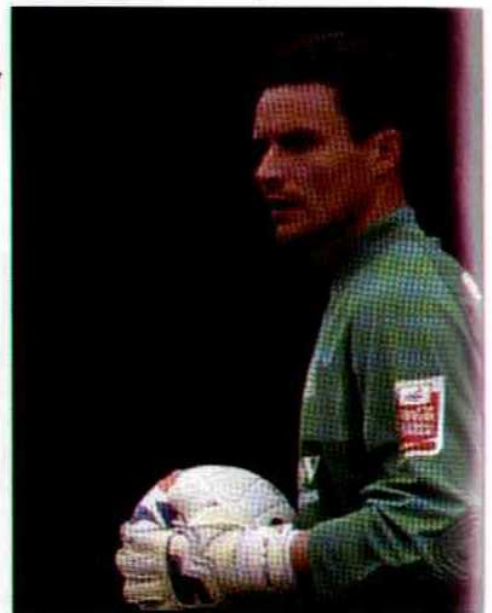
As well as Flahavan's own form, the club have been just as impressive in going 10 matches unbeaten. "We went through a little bit of a blip a few months ago and again the knives were out with people saying a bad run is going to happen here," he said.

"We all got together and tried to find out what was going wrong. We turned the defeats into draws and finally we built on them and turned them into wins and obviously the confidence grows.

"Away from home especially we are defending really well and it all comes down to confidence. When we had a bad run we were a bit low and you have to try and get anything you can and we did that; that's the way it goes and hopefully it can continue.

"We haven't got a big squad, but all the lads get on with each other and have banter, so there's a good team spirit in the dressing room. I think we probably have the smallest squad in the league, but I think you would do well to find better players than us in the league and we are at the top for a reason because we are one of the best sides."

He added: "I still don't think we



have played our best football this year, so hopefully if we can start hitting our peak for the final straight and enjoy our best run of form we can be in and around the top it in a few months time as well.

"There is a lot of hard work to go and we know that and although it's the cliché, we are taking each game as it comes and hopefully we can win most of our home games and continue to pick up points on our travels."

Flahavan now has his sights set on the Swindon match and will be hoping for a repeat performance from the club's last home success against Brentford. "It is going to be a tough match against Swindon and we need to adopt the same attitude as we did against Brentford, we were all gearing up for that game and knew how tough it would be, but in the end our football shone through," he said.

"We know it will be difficult as they are fighting for their lives, have made a couple of new signings and got a good result against Bournemouth last weekend. We are under no illusions and are not thinking it's top versus bottom. We are hoping to win the game and if we play as we know we can then we will have nothing to fear and can go out and get the result."





HUISH PARK REVIEW...

Address: Huish Park, Lufton Way, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 8YF.

Current Capacity: 9,400. For Away Fans: 1,720.

Previous Grounds: Pen Mill (1895-1921), The Huish (1921-1990).

Record Attendance: 16,318 (at Huish), 8,612 (at Huish Park).

IN EIGHT days time Southend United pay their fourth visit to Yeovil Town's Huish Park, and seek their first win in competitive football at the Glovers 16-year old home.

United have won at Huish Park once before, 3-0 in a pre-season friendly in August 2001, but the two League visits thus far have resulted in frustrating 4-0 and 3-1 defeats respectively in 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Yeovil moved out of their famous home of 69 years - The Huish - in the summer of 1990 for new surroundings, and most importantly a flat pitch, at Huish Park with the ground officially opened on 4th August 1990 with a friendly against Newcastle United. The very first League match at the ground saw Colchester United, freshly relegated from the Football League, defeated 2-0 in the Conference.

Yeovil's old Huish home held happy and famous memories for Glovers fans, none more so than Town's magnificent FA Cup giantkilling exploits, and notably a victory over Sunderland in front of a record 16,318 gate. United have themselves fallen foul of the Huish's graveyard, twice losing 1-0 in the FA Cup, during 1958-59 - in a replay - and 1963-64.

Little has changed at Huish Park since opening day 16 years ago, although the Westland Terrace received a roof in the summer of 2001, leaving just the Copse Road Terrace open to the elements. You'll be hardly surprised to read that this is where away supporters are housed!

The Copse Road End holds 1,700 on its twenty-odd steps, although it



was clearly supposed to be slightly larger than its current size, with girders protruding from the rear of the terrace that are perfectly shaped to fit steps of concrete. Instead these have been fenced off and the middle section occupied by a neat electronic scoreboard.

To the right of this stand is the cantilevered Main Stand. Holding 3,000 in green seats, the initials 'YTFC' depicted in white seats are the main feature of this structure which, to its rear contains the Club Offices, Club Shop and supporters bar, which I believe, is not available to visiting supporters on a matchday.

Continuing around to the right, we come across the Westland Terrace, where we find the more vocal element of the Glovers support. This is a terrace very similar to the Copse Road End, except here the back few steps have been completed and best of all, the home supporters have been gifted an impressive roof, which also has no supporting pillars obstructing the view of the pitch.

Finally, the Bartlett Stand is an identical twin of the Main Stand, although needless to say, it lacks the amenities of its opposite number.

Directions

From A303: Leave the A303 at the Cartgate Roundabout, and take the A3088 towards Yeovil. At the next roundabout take the first exit, and then first exit again at the next Roundabout. This should take you into Lufton Way, with the ground on your right.

For Away Fans

Southend supporters have been allocated 1,700 spaces on the uncovered Copse Road End Terrace with a very small number of seats - around 20 - also allocated at one end of the Main Stand.

If previous seasons are anything to go by, supporters, unless they have already purchased a ticket, will have to buy a ticket from the Main Stand ticket office which is also shared with home fans and queues here can be quite lengthy.

It must also be stressed that the Copse Road Terrace only has two available turnstiles and, with each supporter thoroughly searched, massive queues develop leading up to kick-off and as a result it is highly recommended to enter the ground with ample time to spare before the game.

FOOTBALLERS LIVES...

...with Jay Smith

ROLE MODEL:

When I was growing up I looked up to people such as Ian Wright because I supported Arsenal, Paul Ince and John Barnes - they were all real talents to watch.

HOBBIES:

Beating Jamal Campbell-Ryce at Pro-Evolution on the Playstation and taking money off him for that, but just generally relaxing and watching movies.

WHY FOOTBALL:

When I was young I used to play with my mates and realised I was better at this than other things, so I decided to just concentrate on football.

FIRST PROFESSIONAL GOAL:

My first goal came in only my second game for Southend at home to Cambridge where I scored the winner for us, which was a really good feeling.

CAREER HIGHLIGHT:

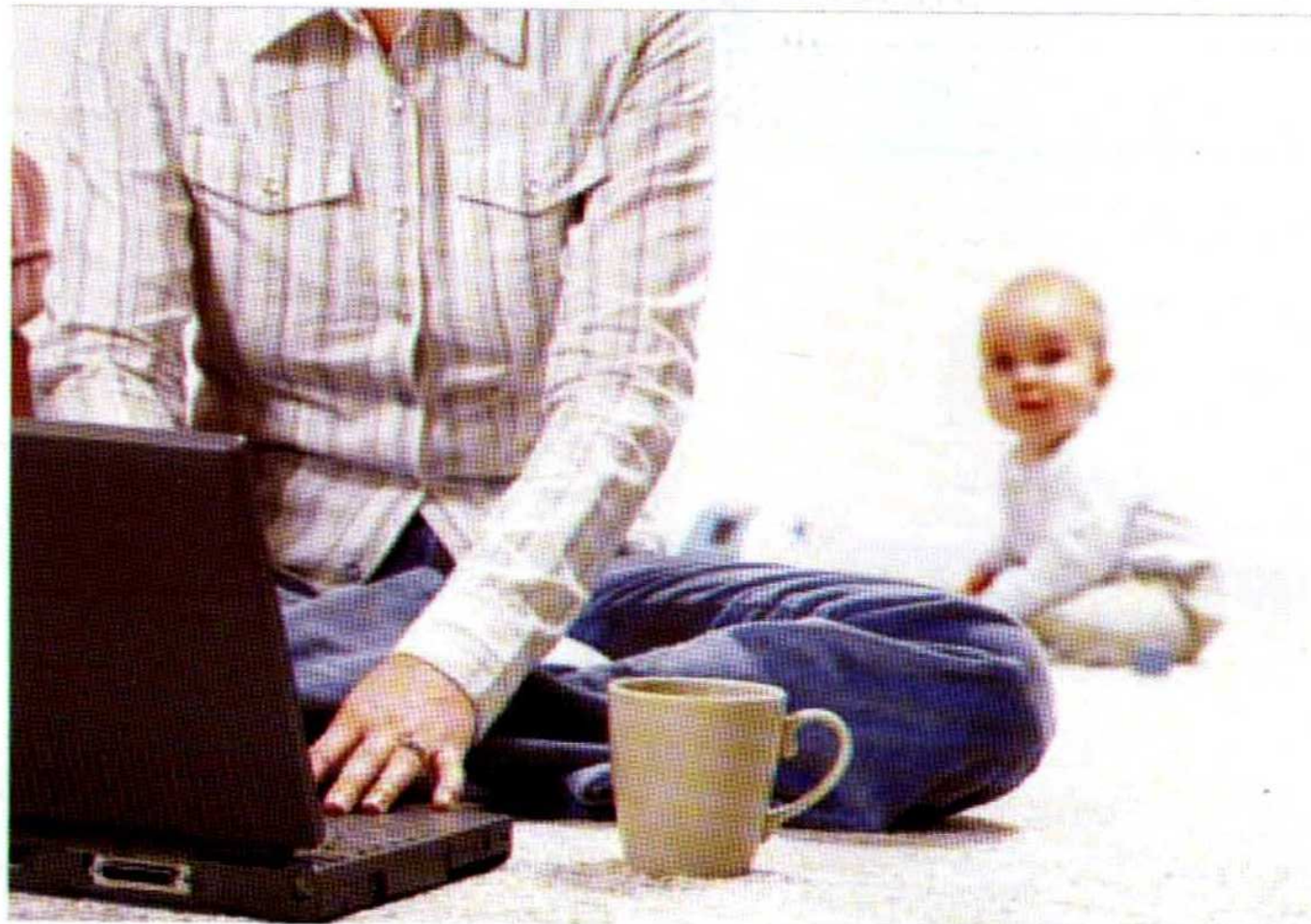
I would say my highlight so far was scoring two goals in the FA Cup third round at Canvey to help us win the tie 3-2, three years ago. At the time we were at the bottom of the league and the club didn't have a manager and I think that was quite a big turning point in our season because we obviously went on to stay up in League Two.

AMBITIONS:

My aim now is to start playing football on a regular basis and progress with my career to play as high a level as I can.

BEST FRIENDS IN THE GAME:

I have quite a few good friends in football, Jamal is a good mate and Illoyd Samuel at Aston Villa is probably one of my closest friends as well. I have many playing from the Premiership through to Non-League.



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News Round-Up

CHRIS Phillips looks back at the latest stories to hit the back pages of the Southend Echo.

HEADLINES

- JCR IN LIMBO
- EFE TIPS NIGERIA FOR HONOUR
- FREDDY'S 20 TARGET

J AMAL Campbell-Ryce has been left feeling "really crappy" after being forced into the footballing wilderness. The tricky winger made 16 appearances for Southend United during a three month loan spell from Rotherham which expired at the end of December.

But with the move yet to be made permanent, the former Charlton Athletic trainee has now spent four weeks on the sidelines and is fed up with being in limbo.

"I feel really crappy to be honest," said Campbell-Ryce, 22 speaking for the first team about the transfer situation.

"I don't know what's going on, other people know more than me and I don't know whether there is a five per cent chance of it happening or a 95 per cent chance.

"It's really annoying though and it's without any doubt the most frustrating moment of my career so far. I'm fit to play but can't and there is nothing I can do about it.

"My fitness will have been affected too and because of that I did think about maybe going back to Rotherham to stay in shape. But if I end up there again I'm not going to be a happy bunny."

Meanwhile, new boy Efe Sodje may

have missed out on selection for the African Cup of Nations but he is still predicting his native Nigeria to emerge victorious.

The Super Eagles have been named in a tough group which also includes Ghana, Senegal and Zimbabwe.

But Sodje is backing Nigeria to lift the trophy for the third time. "I haven't seen any of the games yet but when Nigeria play I will definitely watch," said the centre back who has nine international caps to his name.

"There are a lot of good teams taking part but I'm backing Nigeria to win it."

Sodje was speaking after again impressing during his side's 0-0 draw at Tranmere Rovers. But his unexpected arrival from Yeovil Town forced Andy Edwards down the pecking order and eventually led to the centre back deciding to join Grays Athletic last week.

"It was a very hard decision to have to make and I'm gutted to have left," said Edwards.

"I was fourth choice though and I didn't think there was much chance of getting a game. Now I'm at Grays who are also doing well and I hope

both they and Southend can go up this season so I will have played a part in two promotions."

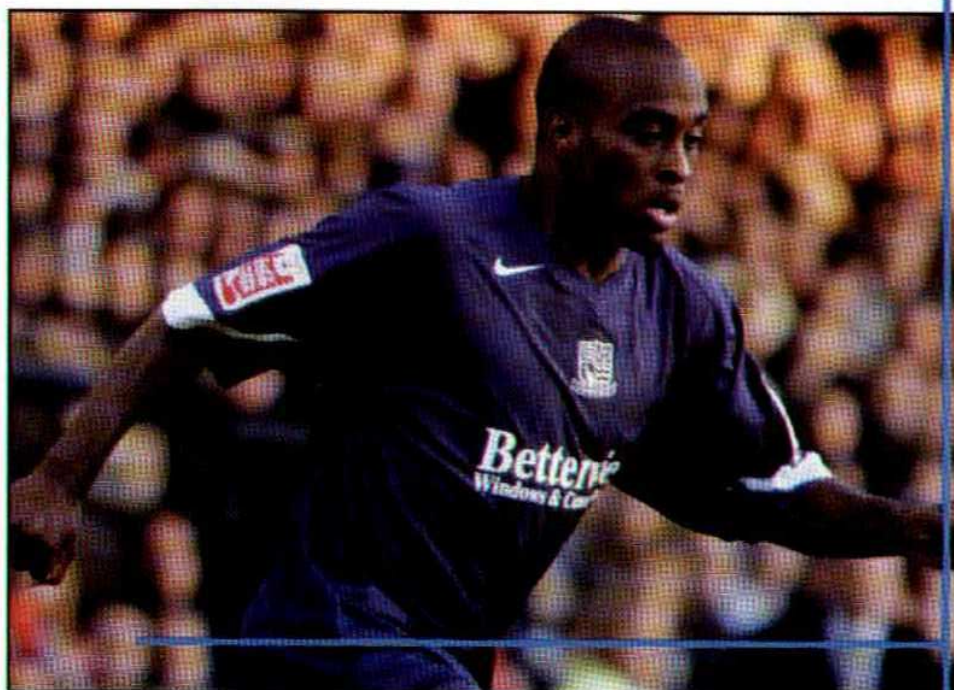
Southend striker Freddy Eastwood, who joined Blues from Grays, echoes those sentiments and admits he is willing to swap his own personal glory for promotion at the end of the season.

The Basildon based forward, 22, is again leading the Southend scoring charts with 12 goals to his name.

But he would rather secure success for the team than receive more individual acclaim.

"My target for the season is 20 goals so I have another eight to get before the end of the season if I am to do it," said Eastwood who netted 24 goals for Steve Tilson's side during the previous campaign as they went up from League Two.

"The team winning is more important though and if I wasn't to score again this year and we still went up then I would be delighted. That's what matters the most and after having a good Christmas we are now really back on form."





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Clacton Writton on the Naze Southend

Swindon Town hasn't had a lot to shout about this season so we spoke to their fans to get their thoughts on how things have gone thus far

How do you think Iffy Onuora has coped since taking over as manager?

With such a poor start to the season it was always going to be tough whatever manager came in, but Iffy deserves a lot of credit. He had a slow start, but that was to be expected, now we have lost just one game in nine and witnessed from last weekend's 4-2 defeat of Bournemouth are playing some really good football.

What are your views on Southend?

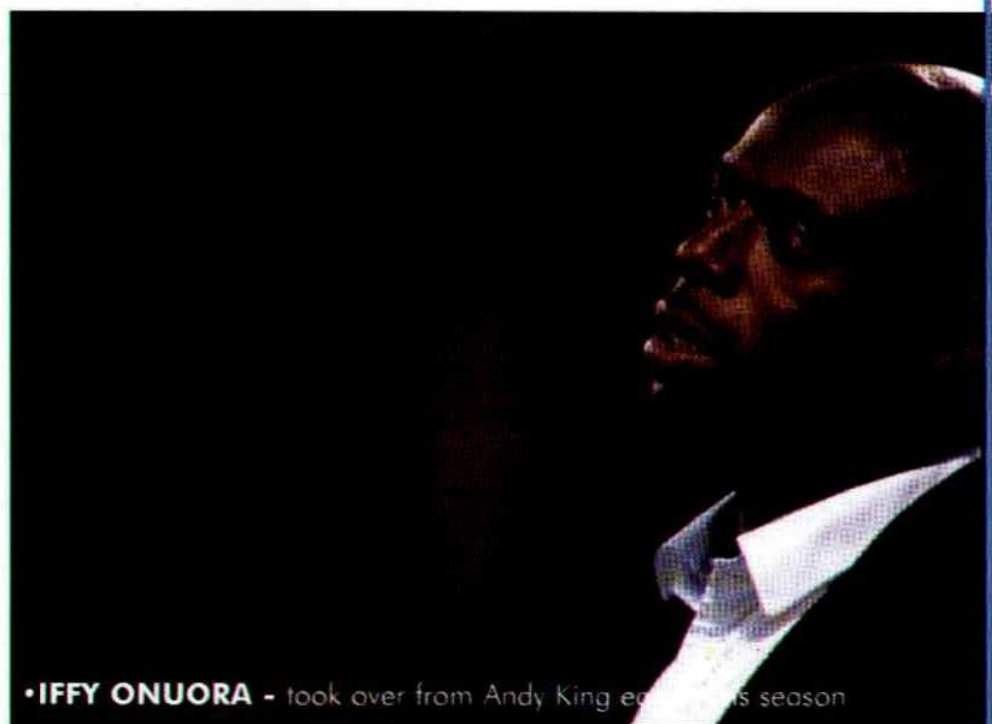
I think Southend have exceeded a lot of people's expectations, that is certainly the opinion of many. I wouldn't have tipped you for relegation, but many people did and to be honest, you are definitely in with a great shout for promotion.

How would you assess your own season so far?

Our season has been a big disappointment, instead of going for promotion we are battling to stay in the division and it is going to be a very long struggle if we are able to succeed.

Who have been your main performers?

Rory Fallon has been class for us and keeps scoring, making up for the fact that Jamie Cureton and Tony Thorpe never delivered. Well Cureton did when we sent him to Colchester, now he's back we'll have to wait and see.



• **IFFY ONUORA** - took over from Andy King early in the season

What is your score prediction for the match?

It is going to be a very tough match and as well as we have been playing, I feel Southend's home advantage will see them win 2-1.

● Questions answered by Lisa Johnson

How do you think Iffy Onuora has coped since taking over as manager?

He has done really well for us and although it is going to be tough he has given us great hope that we might be able to avoid the drop. He was obviously inexperienced, but has adapted well and he has proved very shrewd in the transfer market by signing up Lee Peacock.

What are your views on Southend?

I would gladly swap places. They have had a great season and there is no doubt we are in for a very tough match. Not sure whether you will win the league, but I believe you will finish in the top six, so promotion is very much on the cards.

How would you assess your own season so far?

Nothing has gone right for us since the start of the season. We sold our best player Sam Parkin to Ipswich, the new signings didn't work out and we had to adjust to having a new manager a month into the season. I thought we would be in the top half challenging for a play-off spot, but I suspect we are going to be down the bottom throughout.

Who have been your main performers?

Has to be Rory Fallon, although we look likely to lose him for nothing at the end of the season? In keeping him though, his goals may be the best chance we have of playing League One football next season.

What is your score prediction for the match?

We are in good form, but so are Southend and the fact that we have won just once on our travels all season means you will probably win 2-0, but we will put up a fight!

● Questions answered by David Samuels



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BLUES GOALSCORERS

	FIRST	ANY
Freddy Eastwood	7/2	7/2
Shaun Gooter	4/1	9/2
James Lawson	6/1	6/1
Mark Gower	9/1	10/1
Mitchell Cole	10/1	10/1
Jay Smith	12/1	12/1
Mark Bentley	12/1	12/1
Adam Barrett	16/1	20/1
Kevin Maher	20/1	20/1
Efetobore Sodje	25/1	33/1
Spencer Prior	33/1	33/1
Che Wilson	40/1	40/1

ROBINS GOALSCORERS

	FIRST	ANY
Christian Roberts	9/1	9/1
Lee Peacock	9/1	9/1
Rory Fallon	9/1	9/1
Jamie Cureton	10/1	12/1
Colin Heath	12/1	12/1
Ricky Shakes	14/1	22/1
Andrew Gurney	22/1	22/1
Gareth Whalley	22/1	28/1
Jack Smith	28/1	28/1
Michael Pook	28/1	28/1
Stefani Miglioranza	28/1	28/1
Andrew Nicholas	50/1	50/1
Jerel Ifil	50/1	50/1
Sean O'Hanlon	50/1	50/1

SOUTHEND WIN

1-0	5/1
2-0	11/2
2-1	13/2
3-0	10/1
3-1	11/1
3-2	28/1
4-0	25/1
4-1	26/1
4-2	50/1
5-0	66/1
5-1	66/1

DRAW

0-0	11/1
1-1	6/1
2-2	14/1
3-3	66/1

SWINDON WIN

1-0	9/1
2-0	25/1
2-1	16/1
3-0	80/1
3-1	50/1
3-2	50/1

Half Time/Full Time

Southend - Southend 13/10	Southend - Draw 16/1
Southend - Swindon 40/1	Draw - Southend 3/1
Draw - Draw 5/1	Draw - Swindon 11/1
Swindon - Southend 28/1	Swindon - Draw 16/1
Swindon - Swindon 10/1	

TIME OF FIRST GOAL

1 - 10 3/1	11 - 20 4/1	21 - 30 5/1
31 - 40 6/1	41 - 50 15/2	51 - 60 11/1
61 - 70 16/1	71 - 80 20/1	81 - Full Time 25/1
No Goals 11/1		

FULL TIME RESULT

Southend	8/15
Draw	11/4
Swindon	9/2

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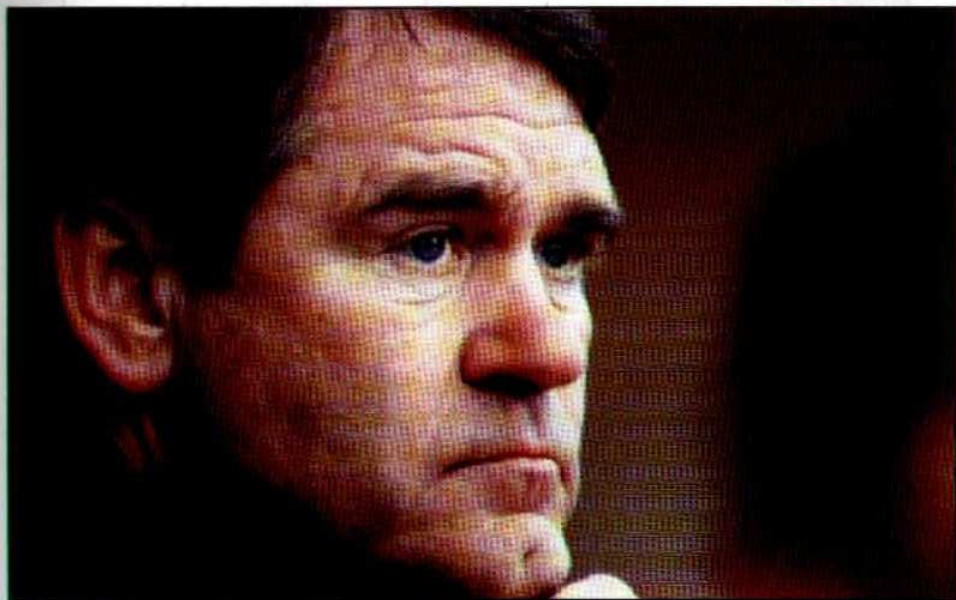
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Next Up - Yeovil Town



• **WEBB** - Four times Blues boss David Webb has bought the Glovers

THERE will be extra interest for Southend's visit to Yeovil next weekend now that former manager David Webb has recently been installed as chief executive.

Webb is certainly no stranger to Southend having previously been manager on four separate occasions. He also held the same position at Yeovil, but now has a new role at the club after becoming their majority shareholder.

Yeovil have certainly been hit by departures to some key players recently, most notably Efe Sodje, with the Nigerian defender joining the Blues and in line to face his former club.

Lee Johnson joined Scottish outfit Hearts for £50,000, while Darren Way signed for one of Southend's main challengers at the top of League One in Swansea for a £150,000 fee.

Transfer activity the other way has hardly caught the headlines with David Webb's son Daniel, who beforehand was plying his trade at

non-league level, joining and at one time played for the Blues himself. But Chris Cohen did extend his loan spell from West Ham until the end of the season and is seen as a direct replacement for Johnson.

In fact, at the start of the season Yeovil were forced into a change of manager when Gary Johnson departed for Bristol City and his assistant Steve Thompson was promoted to the role.

Rumours continue to circulate about their 11-goal star Phil Jevons as well and if he is still at Yeovil he will be the main threat Southend have to look out for. In fact last season he scored the only goal at Roots Hall between the two sides that knocked Southend off the top of League Two and sent them into the play-offs while Yeovil went on to win the title.

The club are currently halfway in 13th position, but lost for the first time in five matches last weekend at home to Bradford. Their prior defeat beforehand saw them turned over 4-1 at Tranmere, the same side

Southend managed to earn a point from last weekend.

That statistic may mean little for this clash, as recent history certainly doesn't favour the Blues in their matches against the Glovers, although if this season is any omen to go by then perhaps that may be all about to change.

Back in September last year Southend came from behind to beat Yeovil 4-1 and will now hope it is a sign of the roles being reversed.

Despite their recent defeat to Bradford, Thompson felt his team should have won, but they are now without a match until they play Southend next Saturday. "We totally dominated the game apart from the last 10 minutes and had the most shots and chances, but that type of thing happens in football.

"We must have had 15 good chances to their one or two, but overall I am reasonably pleased with the performance. Perhaps we are missing that little bit of quality and movement in the penalty area and we will try and put that right in training, where we will have a full week now because we are without a match until we next play Southend."

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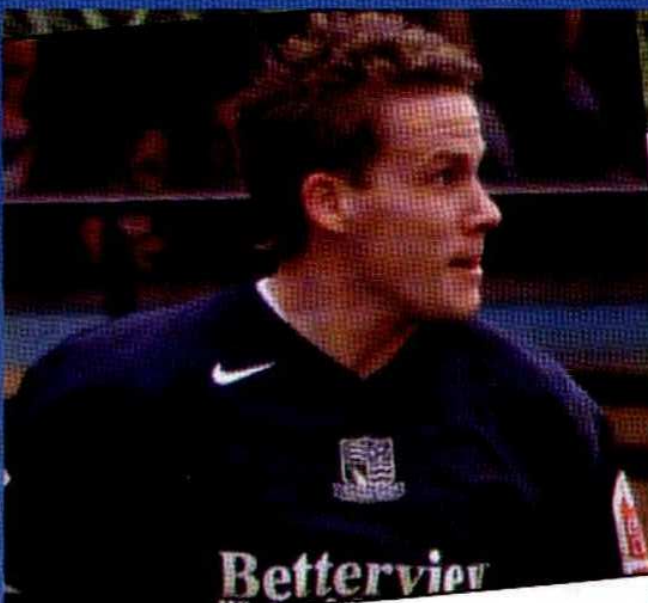
Don't forget to log-on to the Blues Official website throughout the week to keep up to date on all the latest Blues News and information.

BLUES ON THE MOVE

If you are unable to get to Roots Hall next week then why not sign up to Southend's official text message service and keep bang up to date. Text Club STHND to 88442 now for all the breaking news.

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Betterview

IT IS always important to have a decent supply line in football if you are going to score goals and if Mark Gower's form is anything to go by, then you'd imagine it won't be a problem for Southend.

Although naturally right-footed, Gower has made the left wing role his own and having returned to full fitness and recovered his form there is no doubt he has been a prominent member of the team.

He scored his third goal of the season in the Blues last home match against Brentford and was arguably the best player on the park. It is these type of performances that saw Gower named 'player of the year' by the fans in his first season at the club, now of course, he is delivering at a level higher in League One.

Gower was happy with last week's showing at Tranmere, but admitted the club's recent form has been superb: "It was another solid showing from the back boys; we are looking at keeping clean sheets and if you can do that you always get a chance of winning games. Obviously it was

a point, but a point's a good result away from home at Tranmere.

"I don't think we can ask for anymore to be honest; we are looking really good again after the blip we had and are keeping clean sheets, scoring goals and picking up points both

home and away, so things couldn't be much better for us at the moment.

"We are only a point away from the magic 52 points we set ourselves at the start of the season. Obviously we are going to stay up, but if we do take each game as it comes and not look too far and get ahead of ourselves, the play-offs would be a massive achievement for the club."

He added: "At the moment though we're in one of the positions for automatic promotion and there is no cause to say we can't do that because we've done that for 29 games and there are only 17 left, so there is no reason why we can't stay where we are.

"For me personally playing on the left and being right footed gives me another option to cut inside on my strongest foot. Things are going well for me, but the main thing is the team and the team's doing well, so hopefully it will carry on."

With Southend in second place in League One and only behind leaders Colchester by a point, Gower admits both Essex outfits have been surprise hits this season. "We weren't tipped to be

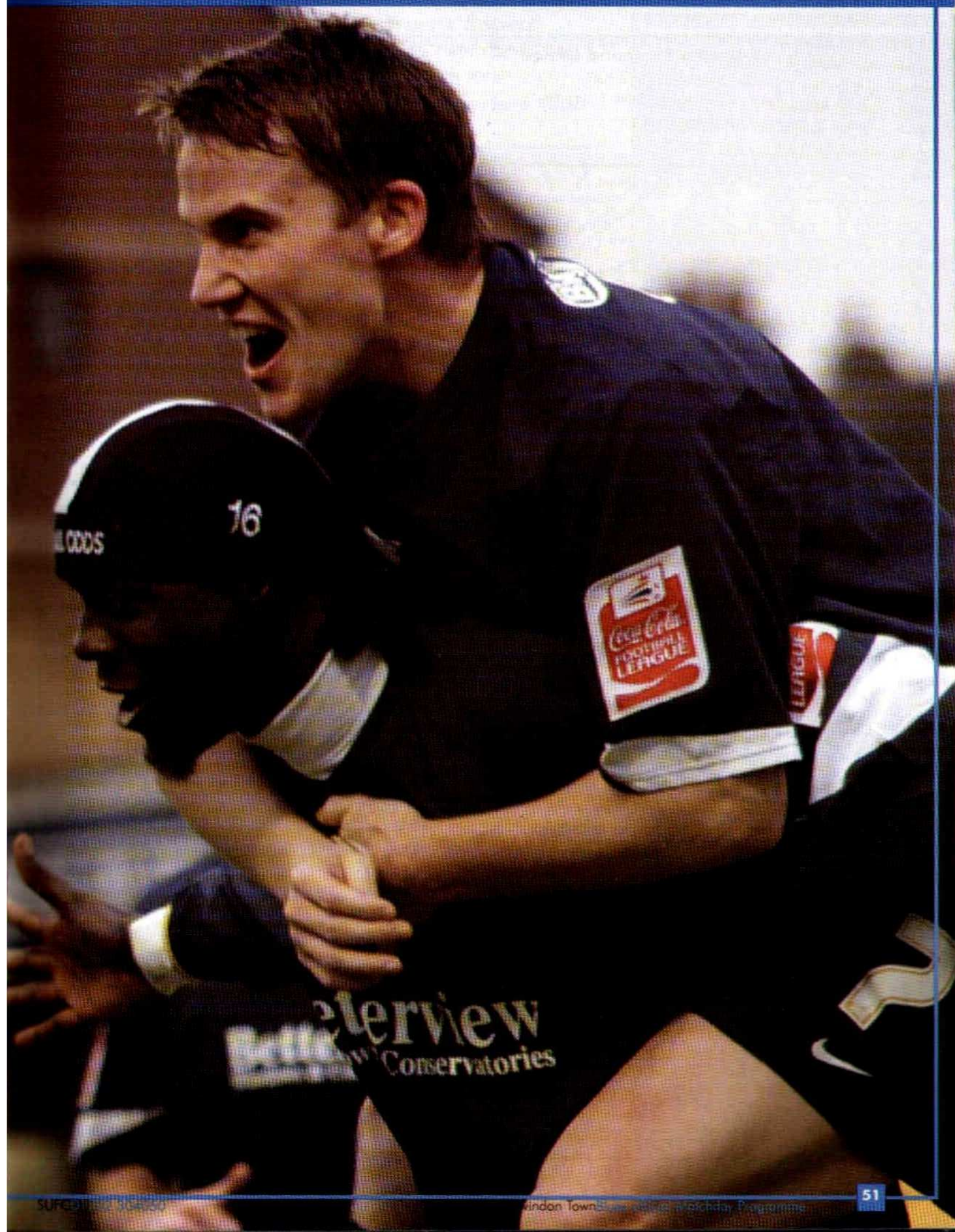
where we are and I don't think Colchester were either," he said. "But we are both doing well and both on a roll and if we can stay in and around where we are at the minute it will set it up nicely for the derby at their place in March."

Gower believes the togetherness in the camp has played a big part in Southend's success, alongside the obvious quality in the team. "I think the team spirit goes a long way, but we have got a good set of players, there is no doubt about that, because if we didn't we couldn't have achieved what we have," he said. "There are a group of players here with a team spirit that nobody is too big and everyone gets on.

"We are sort of a family where everyone has a laugh and a joke and when we need to get down and do the business everyone is up for it and I think that is one of the main reasons why we have done so well."

Gower is now hoping the club can continue where they left off from their last home match. "It was pleasing to put in such a good performance against Brentford because whenever we have big games before and we have capacity crowds at Roots Hall we haven't been able to deliver the goods," he said.

"But obviously we excelled ourselves against Brentford in what was a top of the table clash and won 4-1, so I think we have overcome that hurdle now and hopefully with another large crowd tonight against Swindon we can do the same again."



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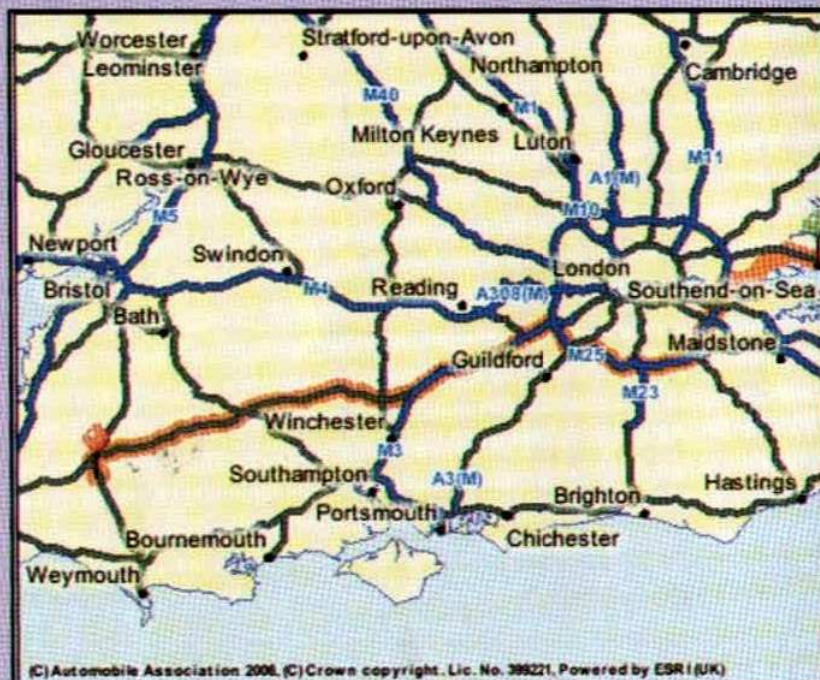
ASDA	(08.30)
WHITE HORSE	(08.40)
THE ODEON	(08.50)
CHALKWELL PARK	(09.00)
THE ELMS	(09.05)
THAMES DRIVE	(09.08)
HADLEIGH CHURCH	(09.10)
TARPOTS CORNER	(09.15)
PITSEA - MCDONALDS	(09.20)
THE WATERMILL	(09.23)
SAINSBURYS	(09.25)
FORTUNE OF WAR	(09.30)

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Brentford v Southend United

Tuesday 14th February 2006
Coca Cola League One
Kick Off 7.45pm

Pick up times

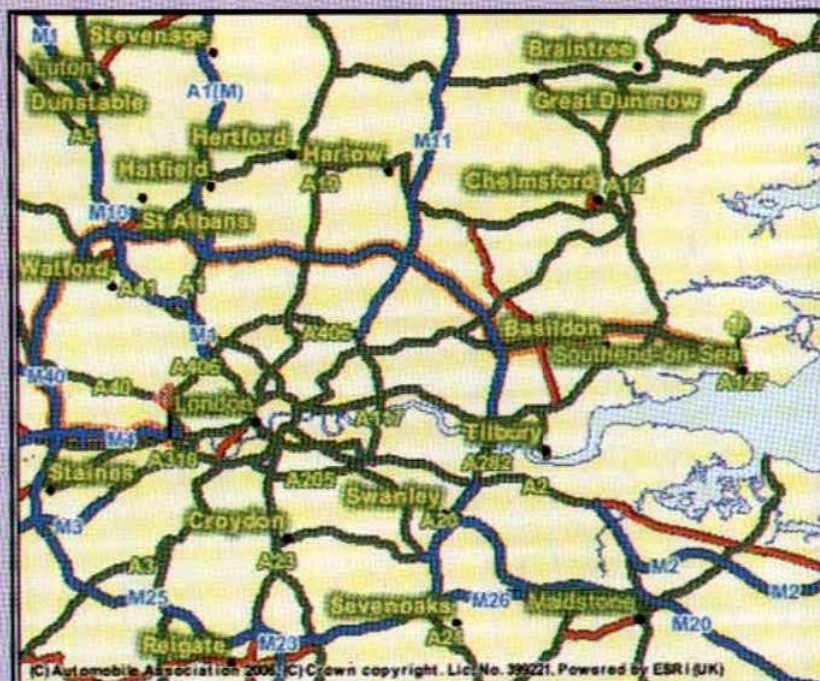
ASDA	(16.00)
WHITE HORSE	(16.10)
THE ODEON	(16.20)
CHALKWELL PARK	(16.30)
THE ELMS	(16.35)
THAMES DRIVE	(16.38)
HADLEIGH CHURCH	(16.40)
TARPOTS CORNER	(16.45)
PITSEA - MCDONALDS	(16.50)
THE WATERMILL	(16.53)
SAINSBURYS	(16.55)
FORTUNE OF WAR	(17.00)

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The Shrimpers Trust's Robert Craven updates its members on what is going on with the Southend United Supporters Club Trust

WE'RE BACK at Roots Hall tonight for another Friday evening encounter, and let's hope it is as successful as some of last season's memorable pre-weekend clashes.

2004/5 was an unforgettable campaign for many a reason, but one of the key fixtures of the season fell on a Friday night, at home to Bristol Rovers. Blues went back to the summit of the League Two table on that occasion, and three points tonight will be enough to see us leapfrog local rivals Colchester United and reach the peak of League One again.

It will be in the aftermath of another such fixture, on March 10 against Scunthorpe United, that the next scheduled Shrimpers Trust event will take place. On Saturday March 11, we will be hosting another one of our ever-popular Race Nights at the Shrimpers Bar underneath the East Stand here at Roots Hall.

The evening starts at 7:30 p.m. as usual, and as ever we are on the look-out for potential sponsors of races. Admission for this event is £3, and is by ticket only, so you must pre-purchase before that date. If you see yourself as the next John McCririck or Paddy Power, see Paul Yeomanson at the Trust Stand in the Shrimpers Bar on a matchday, or alternatively visit www.shrimperstrust.co.uk, our website, to buy tickets via PayPal.

Our last evening of entertainment could not have been timed better - just hours after the 4-1 drubbing of Brentford, Guy and Nigel Rickard, plus Mr. Yeomanson,

were in charge of the latest Trust Quiz Night. Alan Perry was able to set up 14 tables, and including the tops-and-tails starter and raffle, the Trust managed to raise over £700 on the night.

It was also the perfect opportunity for us to present Steve Stone with a token of our appreciation for all his hard work raising money for the Christmas Prize Draw. Steve raised nearly £2000 out of a total of £4963 gross, and for that we are extremely grateful.

The bad news on the fundraising side is that we have lost two members of the 100 Club. Alan Perry has worked extremely hard to get as many people interested as possible, and the more that are involved, the higher the winnings are at the end of the week. Wouldn't it be fitting if, by the time the Club celebrate 100 years of existence, the Trust are rejoicing at a 100th 100 Club member?

One other piece of information - look out over the coming weeks and months for the return of the Shrimpers Trust articles in the Southend and Leigh Times as we have resurrected our arrangement with that particular local media outlet. Hopefully that will see more new members coming aboard.

A hearty welcome, of course, to all of our visitors from Swindon, who will be pleased no doubt not to have to pay the £23 we were stung by at the County Ground! They've probably read that all over the country, but let's hope that Southend United can



pick up the points, as well as the

TRUST EVENTS

- Sat Jan 14** QUIZ NIGHT
Shrimpers Bar
7.30 pm
- Sat Jan 14** QUIZ NIGHT
Shrimpers Bar
7.30 pm
- Sat Mar 11** RACE NIGHT
Shrimpers Bar
- Wed May 10** POTY Awards
Shrimpers Bar

Coming in 2006: Curry Night (February)



The aim of the scheme - like most of the Shrimpers Trust's activities is to raise money for Southend United football club and make sure that there is a club for us to be supporting in the foreseeable future.

In particular, the money raised from the "Quid a Goal" scheme will be used to purchase physiotherapy equipment. John Stannard much appreciates the work of the Trust and has acknowledged the efforts of the contributors from last season. The names below have very kindly agreed to participate so far for the 2005/06 season.

First Team Goals

Alan Perry, Brian Cornell, Graham Truman, Paul Fitzgerald, Jevon Stammers, Richard Cunningham, Steve Seaman, Roy O'Sullivan, Derek Wilshire, Paul Richards, Karl Butcher, Roy Jeffery, Kitty Butler, Rob Craven, Peter Carter, John Walton, John Otley, Matthew Haig, Trevor Bashford, Frank Van-Wezel, Geoffrey King, Chris Perryman, Roy Osborne, Richard Chambers, Ray Davy Jr, Michael Newell, Alison & Gary Crowe, Andrew Bailey, Edward Bailey, Simon Phillips, Peter & Berry Beach, John Darby, John Chaplain, Ron Martin, Daniel Ribbits, Jenni Ribbits, Michael Mitchell, George Webb, Gareth Tandy

First Team Clean Sheets

Andrew Perry, Joanna Warren, Graham Hilder, Duncan Sheekey, David Mason, Howard Embury, Robin Stott, Steve Seaman, Sheila White, Elliott Muncey, Peter Smith, Karl Butcher, Mike Roles, John Walton, Mick Rounce, Simon Woolmer, Francis Evans, Ray Osborne, Tom Chamberlain, Terry Jeffreys, Derek Crabb, Denise Windell, Wayne Hickey, Matthew Walker, Eddie Newell, Phil Lamb Nicola Whittan, Mark Gilbert

Goals Scored by Various Players

Howard Embury, Martin Rutter, Cathy Miles, Craig Gore, Norman Sale, Ben Clarkson, Colin Clarkson, Craig Filly, Tony Walkington, David John Ford, Mark Bunn, Barry Phillips, Catherine Belcher, Lee Bird, Chris Phillips, Ben Bishop, Joanna Warren, Graham Muncey, Karl Butcher, Ben Bishop, Alan Wilson, Darren Hines, Phil Roberts, Trevor Whitehead, Roy Kayes, Mike Davies, Mark Griffin, Jonathan Humphrey, Martin Rutter, Frank Van-Wezel, Allison Stochan, Duncan Sheekey, John Upton, T Bromage, Brian Woodford, Ben Bishop, Ben Clarkson, Colin Clarkson, Nicola Stott, Matt Donohue, David Ford, Barry Fogg, Howard Embury, Ron Mackenzie, Jonathan Burton, Robert Cater, Paul Tubby, Steven Day, Derek Crabb, Alicia Davis, Matthew Walker, Douglas Watson, Brad Pierce, Alan Haywood, Nigel Rickard, Graham Smith, Ashley Abrams, Brian Denton, Stuart Copus, Bob Mays, David McCarthy, Sean Healey, Dean Allum, Roy Martin, Moireen Palmer, Graham Reed, Simon Cox, Terence Cox, Christopher Cole, John & Sue Hanks, Mark Lawrence, James Piper, Richard Hollands, Terry Hollands, Alison & Gary Crowe, Jon-Paul Fitzgerald, Samuel Johnson, Richard Sexton, Darren Pasnack, Chris Wood, Brian Catgrove, Tony Colbourn, Steve Johnson, Roy Rice, Steve Hodis, Paul Boreham, Gary Townsend, James Davies, Ron Thompson, Geoffrey Mullins, Neil Pursar, Paul Quidam, Paul Dawson, Stuart Harrold, Dave Burgess, Russell Howles, Reagan Howles, Steve Russ-Aldridge, John Ticehurst, Colin Bell, Collum Bell, Jack Braithwaite, Gary Mayle, Jeremy Ixer

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Carl Barker, Mark Gilbert

Each Game Mark Bentley Plays but not Booked

Rob Craven

Every League Point Gained

Michael Markscheffel, Peter Carter, Kevin Crooks, Norman Sale, Peter Moorhouse, Michael Newell, Eddie Newell

Hat Trick by any 1st Team Player

Colin Harris, Dave Burgess, Russell Howles, Reagan Howles

Away Wins

Trevor Bashford, Terry Jeffreys

All Away Goals

Andrew Moorhouse, Nigel Holland

Reserve Team Goals

Rob Craven, Brian Denton

Under 18 Team Goals

Rob Craven

Each James Lawson 1st Team Appearance

Rob Craven

Reaching the Play-Offs

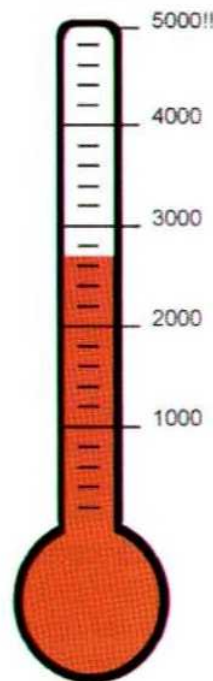
Ron Mackenzie

Wins over Colchester

Matthew Walker

Miscellaneous

Brad Pierce, Alison & Gary Crowe, Nigel Rickard, Chris Preece, Nigel Rickard, Gareth Tandy, Simon Kirby, Keith Wood



MAKING A PLEDGE

Name:

Address:

Post Code:

Telephone No: Email:

Clean Sheets (£): Team Goals (£):

Player Goals (Please specify name and amount):

Any Other Pledge (Please type/name and amount):

Alan Perry, 109 Blenheim Chase, Leigh on Sea, Essex, SS9 3BY.

Tel No: 01702 476458 Email: alanperry4@hotmail.com

Blues Physio John Stannard

Welcome back to the Hall for this evening's visit of Swindon Town. The Injury situation has thankfully begun to calm down, with only Spencer Prior (Spinner) and Bart Griemink (Bartman) on the 'sick list.'

Spinner had a reoccurrence of his ankle problem, which he had to come off against Brentford. The ankle settled quickly and he was able to play 'Up't north' at Tranmere. All was going well until he decided to pirouette on top of an opponents boot and aggravated his joint. He will not be available for tonight's game, but he is pushing on well with his rehab and could return to training soon.

Bartmans rehab is on schedule after his keyhole surgery almost three weeks ago, but he is still some way off of returning to full training. However, as is usual with Bart, he is working his socks off to get back as soon as he can.

All the other lads have recovered from their injuries and have been out on the pitches trying to regain their fitness levels over the last two weeks.

Hopefully, we can pick up another three points tonight and continue a fantastic season so far.

Lets get behind the BLUES and make some noise!!!

Enjoy the game

Stanners

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL

We are being joined this evening by physio Simon Shakeshaft who is attempting to visit all 92 Football Grounds to raise money for Testicular Cancer. To date he has raised over £41,000 for the cause and Southend United along with every other Club are donating a match worn shirt that will be auctioned to raise further funds for the cause. Simon will also be giving a talk to the Club's youth team about the Cancer Awareness on Friday morning. Full details of the shirt auction will be in my programme notes when they are announced and hopefully Blues supporters can help raise funds for such an important cause.



Teenager Charles Ademeno made his first tea, debut against Brentford having come off the bench so we thought we'd find out a little more about the youngster

A Ambition
If you could do one thing what would it be?
To play in the Premier League

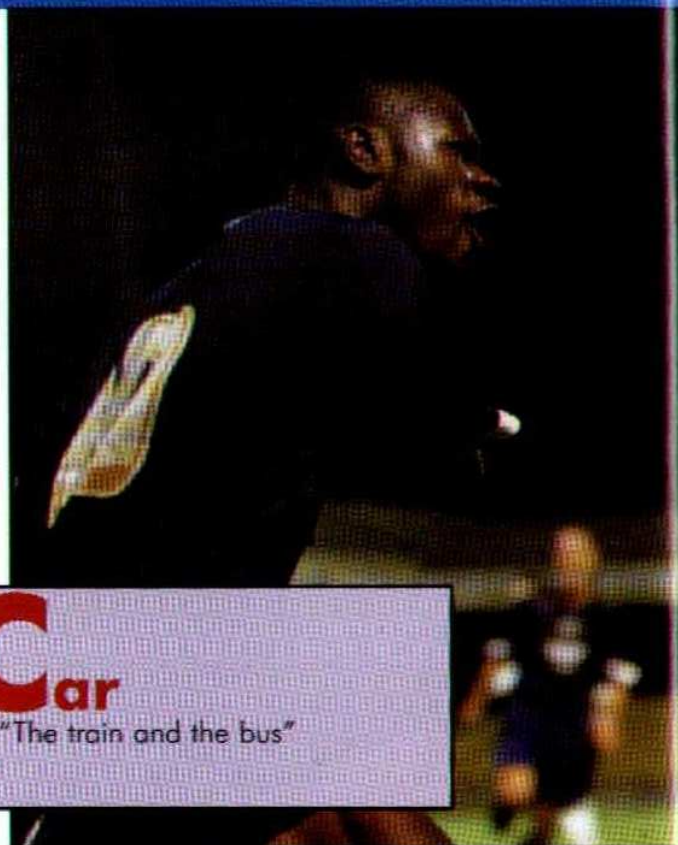
B Best
Who's your best mate in football?
Joel Ledgister and Franck Moussa

C Car
What are you currently driving?
The train and the bus

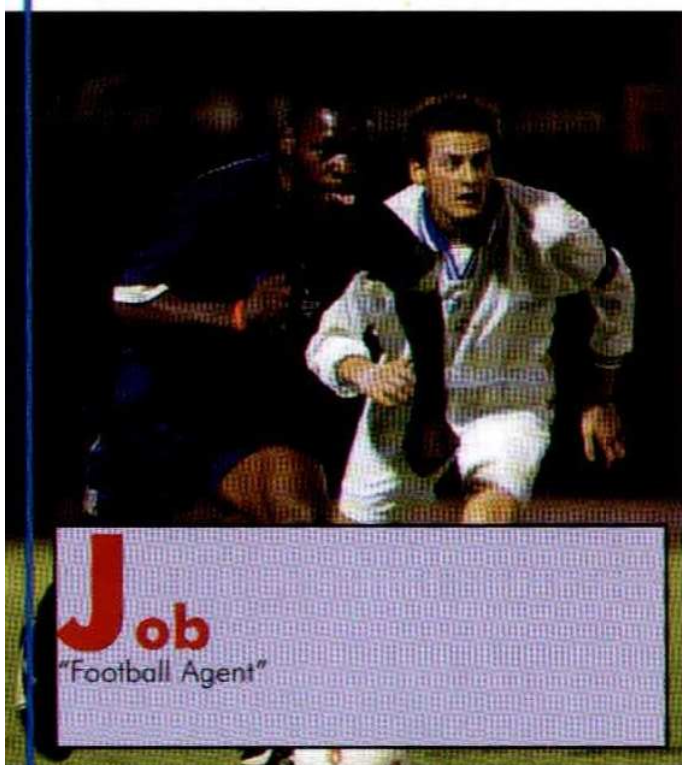
D Drink
What's your favourite tippie?
Cool-aid Grape

E Eviction
Who would you evict first if the team were on Big Brother?
Goater because he's always playing tricks on me

F Food
If you could choose any takeaway what would it be?
Chinese



C ar
"The train and the bus"



J ob
"Football Agent"

What's the biggest mistake you've made?
Sneaking out to go to a party and getting caught by my parents

Gaffe
G

Holiday
Where did you last go?
Italy

H

Idol
Who did you look up to as a child?
Ian Wright and Thierry Henry

I

Job
If you weren't a footballer I'd be?
Football Agent

J

Kitchen
What's your speciality?
Chicken and Rice

K

L

Laugh

Biggest joker at the Blues?
Luke Guttridge

M

Music

What's in your CD player at the moment?
RnB mix

N

Nightmare

What scares you the most?
Being left behind by the first team

O

One-2-One

If you could have spoken to anyone who would it be?
Pele

P

Purchase

What was the last thing you bought?
3 drinks for £2 offer at Sainsbury's

Q

Quiet

What do you do to relax?
Listen to music

R

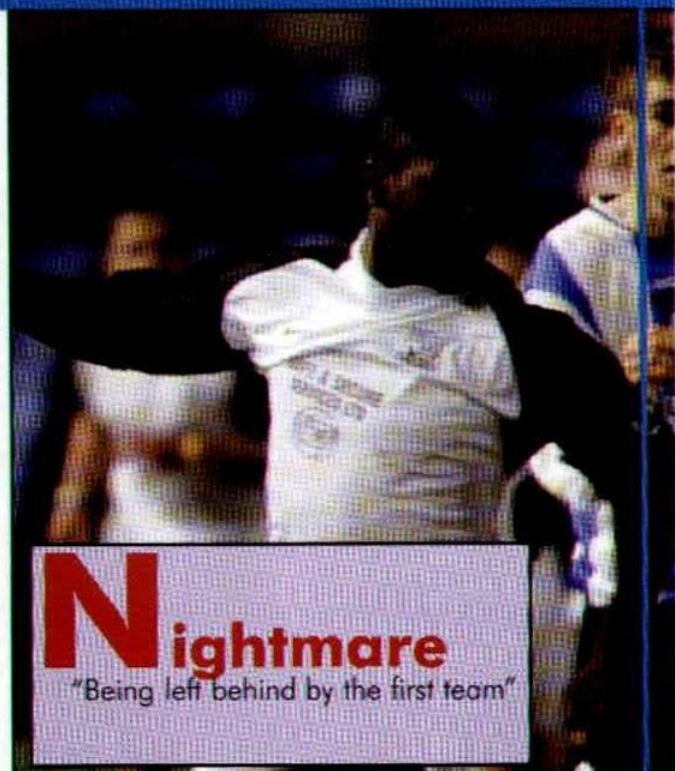
Romance

If you had a sister which player wouldn't you let take her out on a date?
Wayne Gray, Jay Smith or JCR

S

Superstition

Do you have any?
No



Text

Who did you last send one to?
My mum

T

Useless

What are you rubbish at?
Head tennis

U

Video

Favourite Film?
House Party 1

V

Wrecked

Stranded on a desert island which three things would you take with you?
Mobile, Mum's food and TV with SKY+

W

X-rated

Most shocking moment?
Seeing a team-mate break his leg

X

Yesterday

What did you do?
Went to see Get Rich or Die Trying at the Cinema

Y

Zodiac

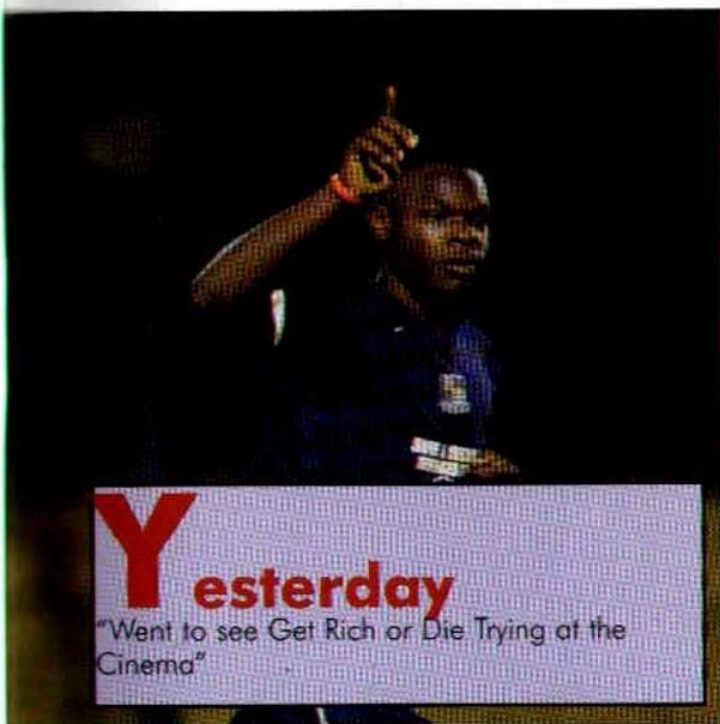
Star sign?
Sagittarius

Z

Y

esterday

"Went to see Get Rich or Die Trying at the Cinema"



A microscopic view of red blood cells, which are biconcave discs, floating in a fluid. Several soccer balls are superimposed on the scene, appearing as if they are floating in the same space as the blood cells. The overall color is a deep red, matching the blood cells.

FOOTBALL . . . *IT'S IN OUR BLOOD*

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Good afternoon and welcome to today's League 1 match versus Swindon Town.

First of all I would like to say Congratulations to Steve Tilson on his recent appointment to assist Peter Taylor in the Football League England Under 21 match versus Italy. This is a fantastic achievement for him personally and for the club.

BT Community Cup

The finals of the Southend area were held at Bournes Green Junior School on Saturday 21st January. The schools participating were Earls Hall, Edwards Hall, Heycroft, Wyburns, Thorpe Greenways, and Chalkwell. The standard of play from all the boys was fantastic throughout the day and the eventual winners were Earls Hall Junior School who will now represent Southend United and progress onto the South East England regional finals. A special thanks to Laurie Turner for all his hard work in organising the day and to the Community staff for refereeing all the matches.

Half Term Soccer School

The dates for our half term soccer school are Tuesday 14th February - Friday 17th February and will again be held at Garons Leisure and Tennis Centre. The total cost is £40 per child for the whole week and



every child will receive a trophy. The soccer school is open to boys and girls aged between 6 and 14 and if you are interested in your child attending then please contact Lesley Vincent or Kelly Groves in the Community Office.

Happy Birthday

Everyone at Southend United Community and Educational Trust would like to wish Barry Banks a very Happy 60th Birthday. Barry signed for Southend Youth Team at the age of 16 years old by Frank Dudley. Barry played for a couple of seasons but was eventually released by the club and his claim

to fame was playing against Harry Cripps the old Millwall stalwart.

Today's picture is the Birthday Boy in question!

For any further information on any of the programmes we deliver then please contact the Community Office on 01702 341351. There will be someone to take your call between 9.30am and 5pm.

Let's get behind the boys today.

God Bless

Frankie Banks



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**tommy
MOONEY**

Football Historian Leigh Edwards takes a look at the connections over the years between today's two sides Swindon Town and Southend United in his regular programme feature

Andy Ford was ever-present for Southend United in 1976-77. Moving to Roots Hall from AFC Bournemouth in May 1973, he helped Southend to reach the FA Cup fifth round in 1975-76 and netted three goals in 138 League games before following Dave Cunningham to Swindon in August 1977. He was ever-present in 1978-79 and featured in their 1979-80 League Cup run, making 98 League appearances for today's opponents prior to joining Gillingham for £30,000 in July 1980. Fellow left-back Tony Taylor also played for both clubs during that period.

LEAGUE RECORD AGAINST SWINDON

Goals by Adam Barrett and Wayne Gray gave Southend United a 2-1 League One victory at Swindon Town on 10th September 2005. Kevin Watson, Steve Cowe and Steve Finney scored to give Swindon a 3-1 win over Southend on their last League visit to Roots Hall on 31st August 1996. Southend's last League victory at home to the Robins was 2-0 on 3rd December 1994 with goals from Roger Willis and Andy Edwards.

IN SAFE KEEPING

Former Swindon Town goalkeeper Bart Griemink featured in Southend United's 2004-05 promotion campaign. Initially moving to the County Ground on loan from Peterborough United in February 2000, he rejoined Swindon on a permanent basis five months later. He helped the Robins qualify for the Second Division play-offs in 2003-04 and made 124 League appearances for today's opponents

prior to joining Southend in July 2004, playing 19 League games last season. Southend striker Wayne Gray scored twice in 12 League games whilst on loan to Swindon during the 1999-2000 campaign.

LEADING MARKSMAN

Ex-Southend United striker Tommy Mooney was leading marksman as Swindon Town qualified for the Second Division play-offs in 2003-04. Moving to Roots Hall from Scarborough for £100,000 in July 1993, he netted five goals in 14 First Division games for Southend prior to joining Watford initially on loan in March 1994. He joined Swindon from Birmingham City in July 2003 and scored 19 times in 45 League outings while at the County Ground before moving to Oxford United in July 2004. Former Southend striker Luke Nightingale had a loan spell at Swindon during the 2002-03 campaign.

EVER-PRESENT

Former Swindon Town left-back

TITLE TRIUMPH

One-time Southend United midfielder Derek Hall featured in Swindon Town's 1985-86 Fourth Division title triumph. Moving to the County Ground from Torquay United in July 1985, he made ten League appearances for Swindon before reuniting with David Webb at Southend in August 1986. He made a significant contribution to the Blues' 1986-87 promotion success and scored 15 goals in 125 League outings prior to joining Halifax Town in July 1989. Former Southend full-back Chris Ramsey also featured in Swindon's 1985-86 Fourth Division title triumph.

TOP SCORER

Former Swindon Town striker Chris Guthrie twice topped Southend United's goalscoring charts. Moving



southend & swindon



to Roots Hall from Newcastle United for £12,000 in November 1972, the England Schoolboy international was Southend's 'Player of the Year' in 1973-74 and netted 35 goals in 108 Third Division games prior to joining Sheffield United for £100,000 plus Terry Nicholl in May 1975. He joined Swindon for £25,000 in July 1977 and scored 12 times in 45 League outings while at the County Ground before moving to Fulham for £65,000 in September 1978.

PROMOTION WINNER

Former Swindon Town midfielder John Cornwell featured in Southend United's 1990-91 promotion success. Moving to the County Ground from Newcastle United for £50,000 in December 1988, he helped Swindon qualify for the Second Division play-offs in two consecutive seasons and made 25 League appearances for today's visitors prior to joining Southend for £50,000 in August 1990. He netted

five goals in 101 League outings while at Roots Hall. Ex-Swindon striker Garry Nelson featured in Southend's 1980-81 Fourth Division title triumph.

TWO SPELLS

Ex-Swindon Town full-back Paul Roberts had two spells at Southend United. Moving to the County Ground from Brentford in September 1985, he featured in Swindon's 1985-86 Fourth Division title triumph and made 27 League appearances prior to joining Southend in July 1986. He helped the Blues to win promotion in 1986-87 and moved to Aldershot in August 1987. Returning to Southend from Exeter City in January 1989, he was a promotion winner again in 1989-90 and played 81 League games overall before joining Fisher Athletic in July 1990.

PROMOTION PLAY-OFFS

Former Southend United midfielder Martin Ling starred in Swindon

LEAGUE RECORD

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	48	25	12	11	91	55
Away	49	7	12	30	43	102
Total	97	32	24	41	134	157

Town's 1992-93 First Division play-off final triumph. Initially moving to the County Ground from Exeter City in July 1986, he joined Southend three months later and featured prominently in the 1986-87 and 1989-90 promotion successes. He netted 30 goals in 138 League outings for the Blues before rejoining Swindon in March 1991. Gaining Premiership experience with today's opponents during the 1993-94 campaign, he scored ten times in 152 League games overall prior to Leyton Orient in July 1996.

MUCH-TRAVELLED

Much-travelled central defender Chris Turner played for both Swindon Town and Southend United during his career. Moving to the County Ground from New England Teamen in September 1980, he made three League appearances for Swindon prior to rejoining Cambridge United the following month. He joined Southend in October 1983 and scored twice in 24 League outings while at Roots Hall, then became Cambridge United's manager. The likes of Billy Bryan, Harry May, Ray Middleton, John Neal, Charlie Thompson and Ben Woolhouse have also played for both clubs.

• **MARTIN LING** - played for both sides





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LEAGUE ONE

Comments and Quotes from the Blues League One rivals

MEGSON BLASTS PRIMA DONNAS

NOTTINGHAM Forest boss Gary Megson labelled his team prima donnas after their 1-1 draw at Rotherham.

He admitted that if it wasn't for goalkeeper Paul Gerrard the game would have been dead and buried by half time. "We only had one player playing well in the first half," Megson said.

"If Paul hadn't been playing as well as he was, we would have been four goals down - he was superb. But it was a typical Nottingham Forest away performance. We don't compete, we don't run, we don't challenge and we don't pass the ball enough.

"Apart from Nathan Tyson and one or two others, we had a team of prima donnas who just thought they had to turn up."

JACKETT QUESTIONS SIDE SWANSEA manager Kenny Jackett questioned his team's aspirations to beat Hartlepool.

They conceded a last minute goal to draw 1-1 at the Liberty Stadium, with Jackett admitting: "It's very frustrating to let our lead slip after everything we went through.

"We didn't do enough in the second half to capitalise on our lead. I'm looking to step up a gear and not go back and I felt our running, challenging and desire fell away."

TERRIERS BOSS BLAMES KEEPERS

HUDDERSFIELD boss laid the blame squarely at the feet of his goalkeepers after they

lost 2-0 at Brentford.

Paul Rachubka spilt the ball from a free kick to hand Brentford the lead and was later sent off at the start of the second half. His replacement Phil Senior then conceded a second goal when he let a 30 yard strike somehow squirm underneath his body and into the net.

He said: "It was two goalkeeping errors by two different goalkeepers which cost us a point from the match. Paul Rachubka was definitely at fault for the first goal. It wasn't like their free kick had plenty of pace and I think he should have gathered it at the first attempt.

"We were then pressing for the equaliser and they must have thought it was still Christmas when DJ Campbell's shot went in past Senior. They were both disappointing goals to give away and I think both of them realise that they have let themselves down."

RITCHIE RED ANGERS ANDY

ANDY Ritchie wasn't happy with the reasoning that led to him being sent to the stands after he protested against his side being denied a penalty in their match at home to MK Dons.

Barnsley did win 2-0, but Richie was still upset, admitting: "I am still absolutely amazed that it was not a penalty. It was a blatant penalty and I think everybody else in the stadium could see it.

"I think I made my feelings clear and was asked to sit in the stand. Can you be sent off without being shown a card? We will have to wait and see on that because the referee

never showed me a red card."

IFFY? NOT ANYMORE SAYS TOWN BOSS

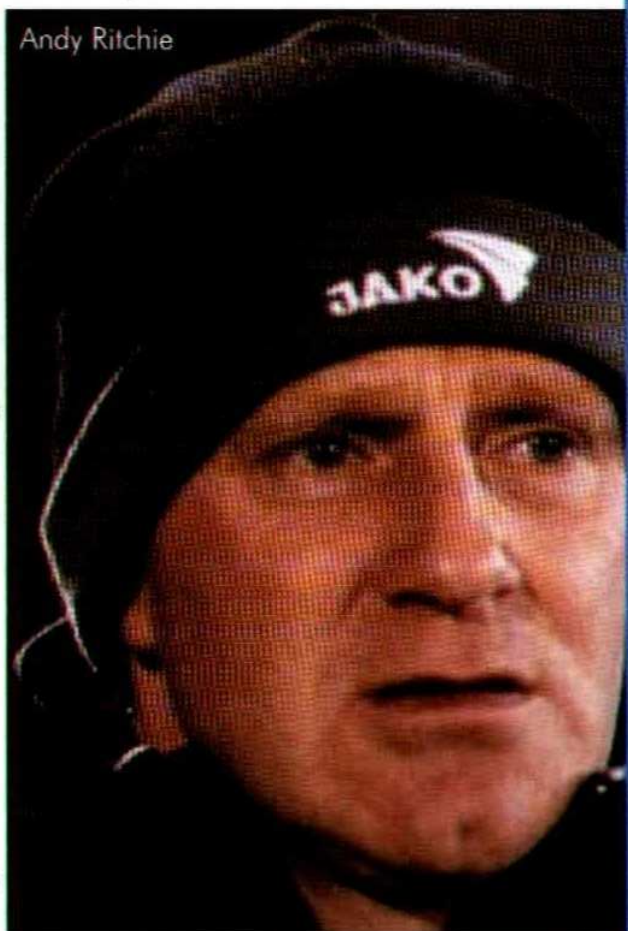
SWINDON manager Iffy Onuora believes his side's 4-2 victory over Bournemouth will make people sit up and take notice of his team.

He also admitted his team fears no one ahead of their clash with Southend: "I thought it might be one of those games where we would rush our play, but thankfully we came through and I always felt we had goals in us.

"Psychologically it was great to get another win and the table has really bunched up now. It has made people sit up and take notice of us - four goals at home is something to be pleased about.

"Southend United will be another test next Friday and I am sure we can go there in good heart. We will respect them, but as always, fear no-one."

Andy Ritchie



January 27th

B LUES' games over the years on today's date fall into a neat pattern. Of the 11 matches we have played the first six were played away and we did not win a single game while the most recent five were all played at Roots Hall and we remained unbeaten.

Our first action was back in 1923 when, in a division three south encounter, we travelled to Watford and thanks to a Harry Dobson goal drew 1-1. 11 years later and a visit to Coventry City saw United defeated 2-0 in front of 13,861 fans.

Amazingly it was 28 years before Southend tasted action again on the 27th of January when a division three game up at Hull ended in a 0-0 stalemate. Another 0-0 was "enjoyed" in 1968 against Chester City as the Blues aimed, unsuccessfully, to gain promotion from division four for the first time.

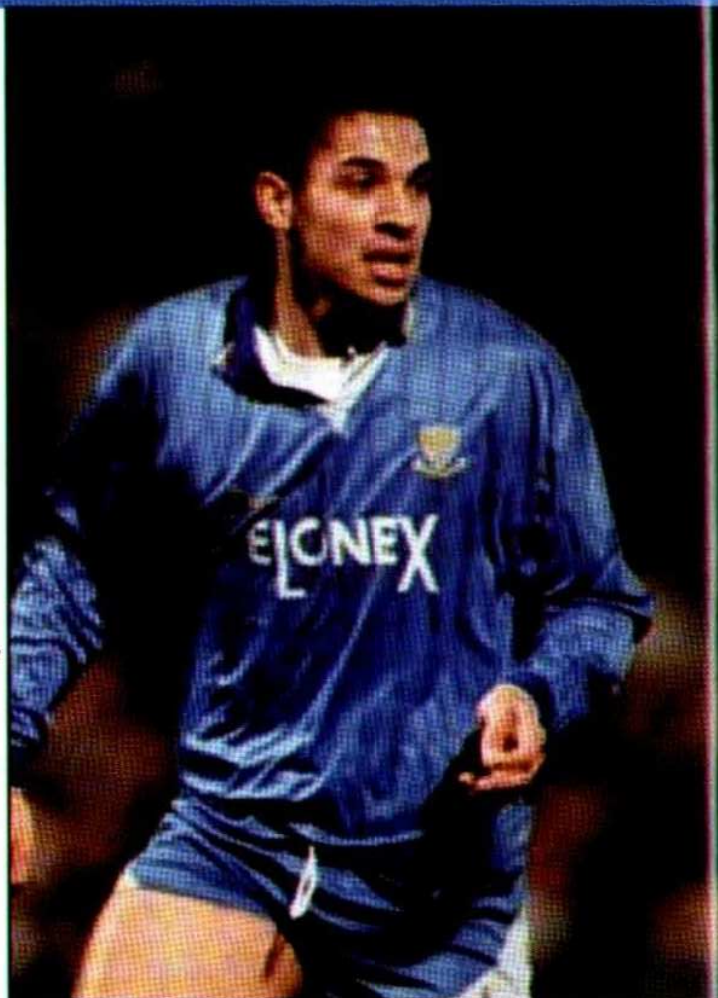
After those two 0-0 draws the 1970 game against Crewe was more exciting but not for Southend fans as we were on the wrong end of a 5-3 defeat. The game, that came just four days after a 5-2 home defeat by Notts County, saw the Blues 3-1 down at half time and despite goals from Phil Chisnall (2) and Eddie Clayton end up well

beaten.

1973 and another defeat as we travelled to Notts County for a division three game and lost 2-0. Five years later and at last the rot was ended and in great style. During our successful promotion campaign the game saw United begin a run of six consecutive wins. 3-0 up at half time Southend eventually triumphed 5-1 thanks to goals from Colin Morris (2), Gerry Fell, Peter Abbott and Micky Laverick. 4,865 fans enjoyed the game played in the season United were promoted behind champions Watford.

Another crushing win on the 27th of January was in 1990 when, during another successful promotion campaign, a hat trick from David Crown and two from Martin Ling helped the Blues see off luckless Aldershot. The result meant Southend had completed the double over the Shots with both games being won 5-0!

In 1993 during our spell in what is now known as the Championship Birmingham City visited Roots Hall and a Stan Collymore inspired Southend won 4-0 as they



• **STAN COLLYMORE** - helped Southend to a 4-0 win over Birmingham

attempted to avoid relegation. The goals came from Andy Sussex, Collymore, Steve Tilson and Pat Scully in front of only 4,065 fans on a chilly Wednesday night. I wonder what became of the goal scorers?

Southend's games on today's date ended with another two 0-0 stalemates. One in 2001 when Shrewsbury visited Roots Hall for a division three game and finally in 2004 when on a bitterly cold Tuesday night York made the long trip south and 2,943 fans braved the elements but did not see much to warm them up.

FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Football Development Centre at Boots & Laces is up and running following the success of our Trial Day before Christmas. The Centre is made up of 40 players aged Under 7 -13's.

Southend United F.C. Development Centres are the springboard to the Centre of Excellence. They are designed for the best players in local football to train regularly in a safe, professional and developmental environment. The aim of the Centre is to produce players capable of progressing to the Centre of Excellence. Those who don't reach the next level, continue to train with Centre of Excellence coaches, and with the best players in the local area.

Boys selected for the Development Centres in their respective age groups would have been identified because we feel they have a realistic chance of progressing to our Centre of Excellence. They will have been recommended to us through a local club link, a local recruitment contact, a local scout, or on the back of a trial day.

All Development Centre players are free to play for their local teams and school teams. Development fixtures will take place against other development squads throughout the season, this will help us to monitor the standards between each centre.

We recommend that all development centre players local teams come first, as we cannot guarantee a regular games programme.

Players performing to an exceptional standard within the Development Centre's will be offered the opportunity to trial for the Centre of Excellence for a 6 week period during the season.

Players who perform well in games and sessions and show a positive attitude on and off the pitch will get this opportunity.

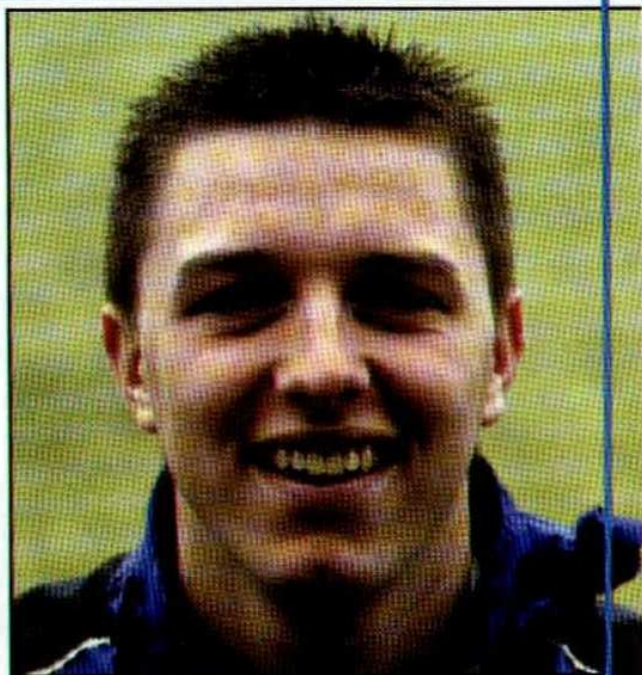
As part of the continued recruitment drive, we are now looking to set up further Development Centre's in Harlow, Chelmsford, Romford, Redbridge, Saffron Walden and Cambridge.

We will be holding trial days in the February Half Term for all Under 7's -13's including goalkeepers at Boots & Laces.

Players performing to an exceptional standard will trial for the Centre of Excellence in their respective age group. Those who perform well and show potential will be offered the chance to train in the development programme in your local area.

Any players interested in a trial for the Centre of Excellence and Development Centre's should phone myself in the Youth Office on 01702 304123 or 07990 621190.

Mark Bonner
Recruitment Officer



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CENTRE STAFF

Luke Hobbs	Les Hills
Laurie Carter	GA Prestige Ltd
Gabi Arselan	Safe and Secure
Chris Reeder	The Anchor Hotel
Jim Johnson	
Ken Clarke	
Mark Bonner	
Mel Jefferies	

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

Sun 5 Feb	Leyton Orient U11, U13/14 (h) U10, U12 (a)
Sun 12 Feb	Rushden U10, U12 (h) U11, U13/14 (a)
Sun 19	Portsmouth U11, U12 (h) U10, U13/14, U15 (a)



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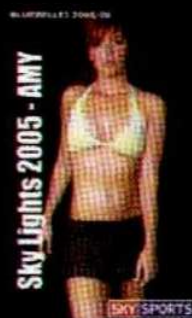
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Eastwood's volley crashed against the Tranmere crossbar with the keeper well beaten

TEAM LINE-UPS

Tranmere: Seremet, Francis, Jackson, Sharps, Roberts, Harrison, McAteer (Aiston 75), O'Leary, Zola (Linwood 75), Greenacre, Facey.

Subs Not Used: Rankine, Jennings, Wilson.

Southend: Flahavan, Jupp, Prior (Wilson 58), Sodje, Barrett, Pettefer, Bentley, Maher, Gower, Eastwood (Lawson 89), Gray (Goater 86).

Subs Not Used: Hunt, Cole



**Tranmere 0
Southend 0**

SOUTHEND extended their unbeaten run to 10 matches with some sterling defensive work handing them a worthy point at Tranmere.

Their opponents may have been lying mid-table in League One, but they themselves went into the encounter on the back of six games without defeat. The Blues did start the match with early pressure, but it was the hosts who carved out the first chance when Danny Harrison flashed a low shot just wide of the left hand post.

Wayne Gray nearly replied at the other end when he raced through on goal, but as he shaped to shoot Mike Jackson recovered in time to make a challenge and divert the striker's final shot behind the goal.

Freddy Eastwood drilled a powerful, low strike just wide of the left hand post before Mark Bentley headed Kevin Maher's free kick into the arms of goalkeeper Dino Seremet as the first half draw to a close.

There was little by way of any real chances for either to look likely to break the deadlock, with little substance in attack as both sides were able to keep things solid and tight in defence.

Straight after the interval though Calvin Zola looked odds-on to open the scoring when he was found free at the far post from Delroy Facey's cross, but his shot from only a few yards out was instinctively blocked by Darryl Flahavan.

A saving tackle from Che Wilson denied Facey a clear route to goal before Eastwood was first to react to the loose ball outside the area and crashed his shot on to the top of the crossbar.

Southend were then denied a penalty after the ball bounced up and touched the arm of Simon Francis before Facey continued to remain a threat when he fired off target from just inside the box.

Facey miscued another chance and blazed the ball over the bar before Flahavan pulled off an excellent save to push Sam Aiston's shot out from goal. Eastwood responded with a left foot shot ending inches wide of the post before a scramble for possession

"We have extended that unbeaten run to 10 games and it was a good point away from home to a good side in Tranmere who were six unbeaten, so I'm really pleased with that."

Steve Tilson

ensured in the Blues penalty area, as they struggled to finally clear the ball to safety.

But they held on and were able to grind out a brilliant point at Tranmere, with the only bad news meaning it wasn't enough to keep hold of top spot as local rivals Colchester switched places with their counterparts and sent them into second position.

Steve Tilson admitted: "We have extended that unbeaten run to 10 games and it was a good point away from home to a good side in Tranmere who were six unbeaten, so I'm really pleased with that."

"It could have gone either way to be honest because both teams had a couple of decent chances and I think both teams will be pleased with that."



• **TUSSLE** - Eastwood battles for the ball



• **STOPPED** - Tackled before goalbound effort



• **WIDE** - Freddie shoots wide of the post



• **BENTLEY** - Mark tries his luck with a header



• **RELIEF** - The Rovers keeper takes a deep breath



• **OFFENSIVE** - Jupp goes on the attack for Southend



• **WOODWORK** - Moments after Eastwood struck the bar

THE WAY THE BLUES LINED UP...



SUBS USED: Wilson for Prior 58, Goater for Gray 86, Lawson for Eastwood 89

SUBS NOT USED: Hunt, Cole

YELLOW CARDS: Bentley

RED CARDS: None

GOAL: None

TRANMERE: Seremet, Francis, Jackson, Sharps, Roberts, Harrison, McAteer (Aiston 75), O'Leary, Zola (Linwood 75), Greenacre, Facey.

GOALS: None

YELLOW CARDS: Harrison

RED CARDS: None

ATTENDANCE: 7,058

*A goalless draw saw Southend slip from the top of the League One table to local rivals Colchester United.

Blues did go close to scoring through Eastwood and Gray with the former striking the crossbar in the second half.

Blues also had a decent appeal of handball turned down late on as Steve Tilson's side extended their unbeaten run to 10 matches.

From the Manager:

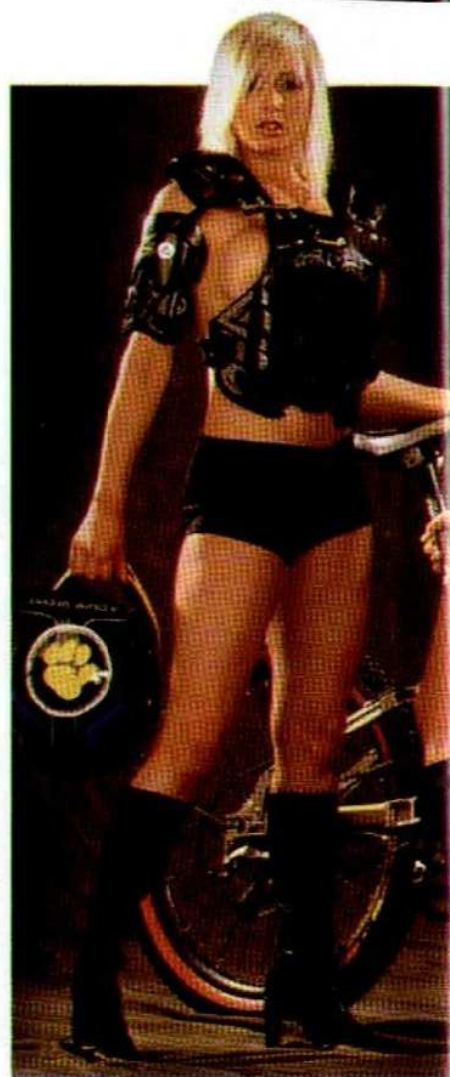
Steve Tilson: "Freddy has whacked the bar and had a left foot shot just wide of the post while Wayne had a chance, but their full back just got back and got a challenge in. On the whole I am really pleased and it was a fair result."

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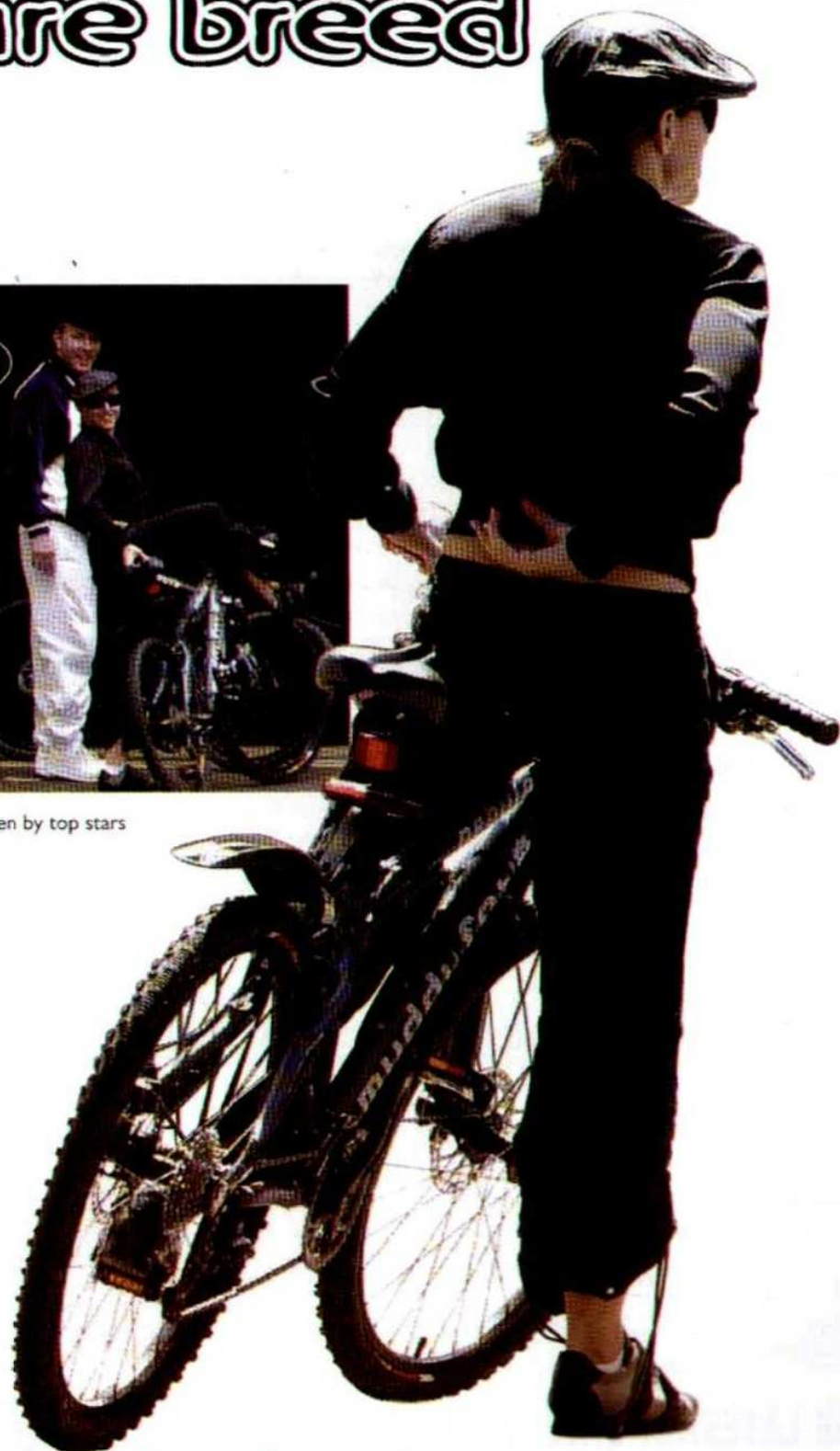
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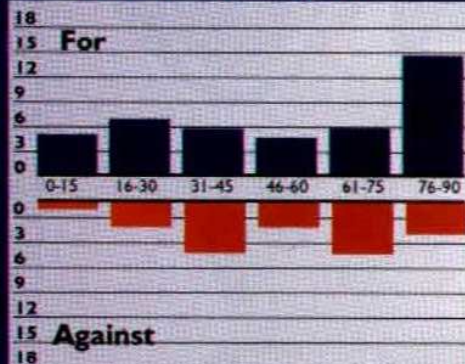
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Southend United v. Swindon Town



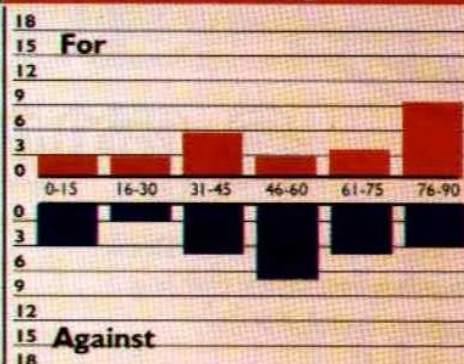
When for & against



Where & how scored

14	Close range	10
25	Inside 18yd box	19
5	Outside 18yd box	0
19	Shots	16
11	Headers	8
7	Volleys	1
5	Penalties	3
1	Free Kicks	0
1	Own Goals	1

When for & against



Last 6 results

Opponents	H/A	Score
Tranmere	A	0-0
Brentford	H	4-1
Oldham	A	0-0
Blackpool	A	2-1
Bournemouth	H	2-1
Hartlepool	A	2-1

Swings

Won when Behind	2
Drawn when Behind	2
Drawn when Ahead	0
Lost when Ahead	3

Discipline

Red cards	1
Yellow cards	38
Fouls committed	361
Average per game	12.45

Set piece goals

Scored from free kick	8
Scored from corner	4
Conc from free kick	4
Conc from corner	2

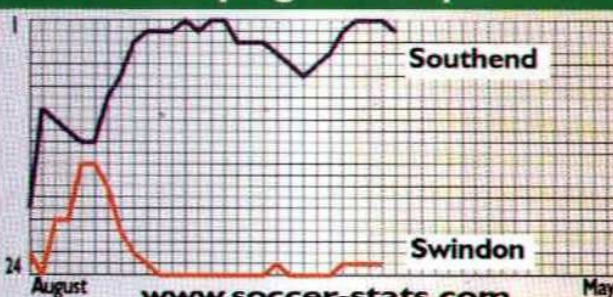
Strike ratio

Shots on target	137
Goals scored	44
% shots scored	32.1
Divisional rating	1

Top scorer

Fredy Eastwood	
Goals Scored	10
Games Played	24
Points Won	9

Seasonal progress comparison



Best winning sequence	8	Best winning sequence	0
Worst losing sequence	3	Worst losing sequence	8

earlier this season

1-2	
Fallon 90	Barrett 2 Gray 88
Attendance 4,785	Referee Fletcher
Heaton, Collins, Gurney, Ifil, Smith, Pook, Whalley (Thorpe 46), Nicolau (Roberts 71), Miglioranza, Fallon, Cureton (Shakes 46)	Flahavan, Hunt, Edwards, Wilson, Barrett, Cole, Gower, Guttridge (Bentley 84), Maher, Goater (Prior 90), Lawson (Gray 66)
Booked Gurney, Smith	Booked Guttridge, Barrett, Wilson, Flahavan
Sent Off none	Sent Off none

Last 6 results

Opponents	H/A	Score
Bournemouth	H	4-2
Gillingham	A	0-3
Hartlepool	A	1-1
Swansea	H	0-0
Chesterfield	A	1-1
Colchester	H	1-0

Swings

Won when Behind	2
Drawn when Behind	3
Drawn when Ahead	3
Lost when Ahead	3

Discipline

Red cards	4
Yellow cards	50
Fouls committed	366
Average per game	13.07

Set piece goals

Scored from free kick	2
Scored from corner	4
Conc from free kick	8
Conc from corner	3

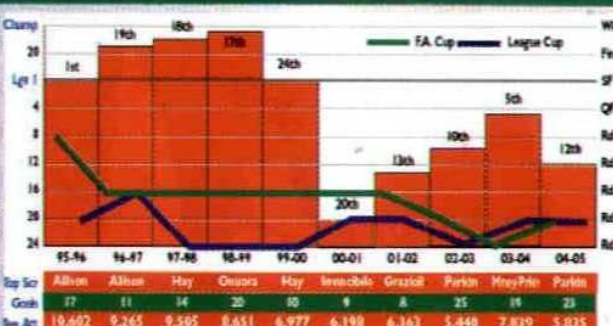
Strike ratio

Shots on target	116
Goals scored	29
% shots scored	25
Divisional rating	10

Top scorer

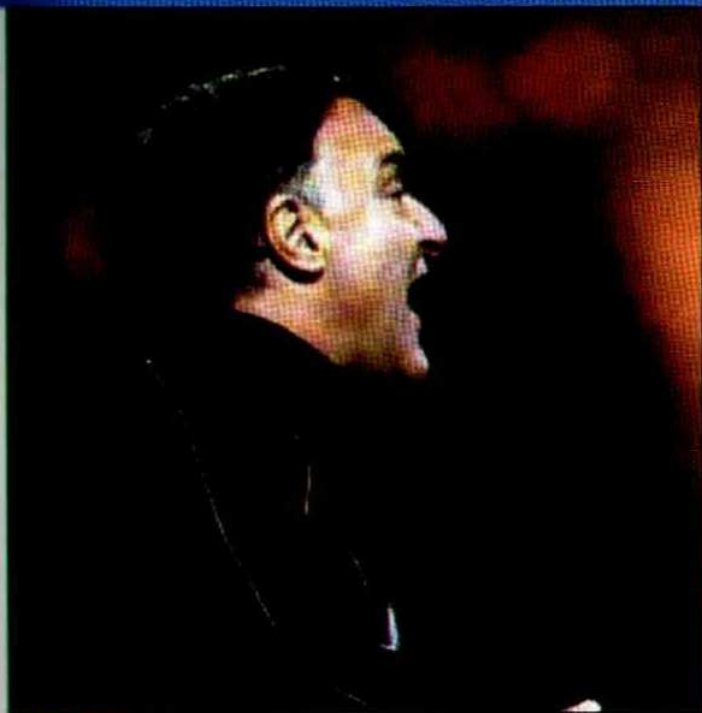
Rory Fallon	
Goals Scored	12
Games Played	25
Points Won	9

Swindon's Last 10 Years



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Left: Lou Macari plotted Swindon's 1987 Play-off Final triumph at the County Ground

SWINDON TOWN

Football historian **LEIGH EDWARDS** selects ten Swindon Town 'Classic Campaigns' from 60 post-war seasons.

1962/63

Swindon Town won promotion to the Second Division for the first time in 1962/63. Bert Head's young side won just one of their first six games, then top scorer Ernie Hunt netted a hat-trick in a 5-1 victory over Brighton. Cliff Jackson scored three times in a 4-3 win at Millwall and Jack Smith did likewise in a 5-0 victory over QPR as Swindon overcame the 'Big Freeze' to maintain their promotion challenge. They hammered Colchester 6-1 and clinched promotion with a 1-0 win at home to Shrewsbury. Keith Morgan and John Trollope were ever-present, while other stars included Mike Summerbee and Bobby Woodruff.

1968/69

Don Rogers starred as Swindon Town achieved an epic League Cup and promotion 'double' in 1968/69. Early pace-setters in the Third Division, they lost 1-0 at home to Watford in the title 'decider' watched by 28,898 and finished runners-up on goal average. Swindon defeated Torquay 2-1, Bradford City 4-3, Blackburn 1-0, Coventry 3-0, Derby 1-0 and Burnley 3-2 in the League Cup before beating Arsenal 3-1

after extra-time in the Wembley final: Peter Downsborough, Rod Thomas, John Trollope, Joe Butler, Frank Burrows, Stan Harland, Don Heath, Roger Smart, John Smith (Willie Penman), Peter Noble, Don Rogers.

1969/70

Swindon Town challenged strongly for promotion to the top-flight in 1969/70. Fred Ford replaced Danny Williams as manager and Arthur Horsfield was signed from Newcastle, starring as Swindon were among the early leaders. Peter Noble grabbed a hat-trick as they beat Charlton 5-0 and maintained their promotion challenge with a 14 match unbeaten run. Swindon finished fifth in the Second Division, their highest position at the time. They also defeated Blackburn 4-0, Chester 4-2 and Scunthorpe 3-1 in the FA Cup before losing 2-0 to Leeds United in the sixth round, then beat Napoli 3-0 in the Anglo-Italian Cup final.

1979/80

Bobby Smith guided Swindon Town to the League Cup semi-finals in 1979/80. Swindon had narrowly missed promotion the previous season and Alan Mayes scored twice in an early 4-0 win over Brentford. They defeated Portsmouth 3-1, Chester 2-1, Stoke City 2-1, Wimbledon 2-1 and Arsenal 4-3 in

the League Cup before losing 4-3 to Wolves in the semi-finals. Andy Rowland and Alan Mayes formed an exciting partnership as Swindon gained four successive wins, then trounced Bury 8-0. They took Spurs to an FA Cup fourth round replay but finished mid-table despite signing David Peach and Glenn Cockerill.

1985/86

Swindon Town stormed to the Fourth Division title with a record 102 points in 1985/86. Lou Macari's side made a poor start in the League but defeated Sunderland and Sheffield Wednesday en route to the Milk Cup fourth round. Kenny Allen arrived from Torquay and Dave Bamber from Portsmouth as Swindon soared to the top of the table with 14 wins in 16 matches. They set a club record of 13 consecutive home victories with a 3-1 win over Burnley and clinched the title with a 1-1 draw at Mansfield. Charlie Henry and Colin Gordon scored 35 goals between them, while skipper Colin Calderwood was ever-present.

1986/87

Lou Macari plotted Swindon Town's 1986/87 Third Division play-off final triumph. Colin Gordon was sold to Wimbledon, while newcomers included Jimmy Gilligan, Mark Jones, Fraser Digby and Bristol Rovers pair Tim Parkin and Steve White. Six victories in eight games catapulted Swindon into the promotion race, then

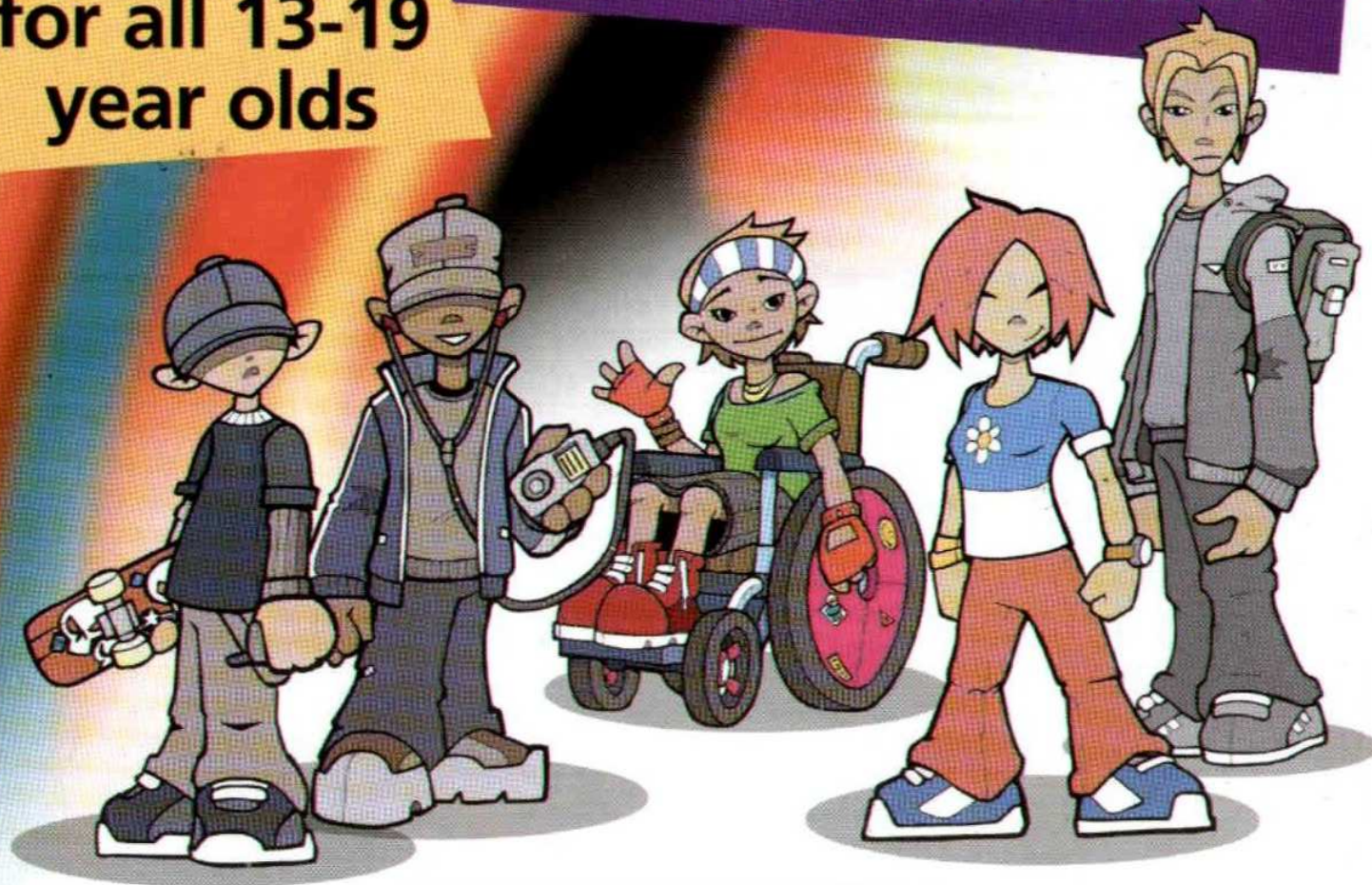
continues on page 75 ▶

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King arrived from Torquay. They started as Swindon gained seven straight wins and qualified for the play-offs in third position after remaining undefeated in their last 11 matches. Swindon beat Gillingham 2-0 in the play-off final replay after a 2-2 aggregate draw.

1989/90

Swindon Town won the 1989/90 Second Division play-off final but were denied top-flight status after an illegal payments scandal. Swindon had qualified for the play-offs the previous season and Ossie Ardiles replaced Lou Macari as manager. They soared into the promotion frame with seven wins in nine games including a 6-0 victory over Stoke and signed David Kerslake from QPR in November. Alan McLoughlin, Duncan Shearer and Steve White starred as Swindon maintained their challenge with just one defeat in 13 matches and finished in fourth position. They defeated Sunderland 1-0 in the play-off final at Wembley.

1992/93

Player-manager Glenn Hoddle was a key figure in Swindon Town's 1992/93 First Division play-off final success. Swindon were early pace-setters and new signing Craig Maskell grabbed a hat-trick in a 4-1 win over Cambridge United. They went second after a 5-1 demolition of Notts County, then overcame a lean spell with Ross MacLaren's return inspiring a run of seven victories in nine games. Dave Mitchell netted three times in a 6-4 win at Birmingham and Swindon qualified for the play-offs in fifth position. They defeated Tranmere 5-4 on aggregate, then gained a thrilling 4-3 win over Leicester in the Wembley final.

1993/94

Assistant-boss John Gorman replaced Glenn Hoddle in charge as Swindon Town prepared for the 1993/94 Premiership campaign. New signings included Jan-Aage Fjortoft, Andy Mutch, Luc Nijholt and Adrian Whitbread, with Swindon starting with a 3-1 defeat at Sheffield United. They drew 0-0 at Norwich but despite signing Terry Fenwick and Keith Scott, were already facing relegation by the time they managed their first win 1-0 at home to QPR in November. Swindon completed the double over QPR and also beat Southampton, Spurs and Coventry as well as drawing against Arsenal, Liverpool and Manchester United.

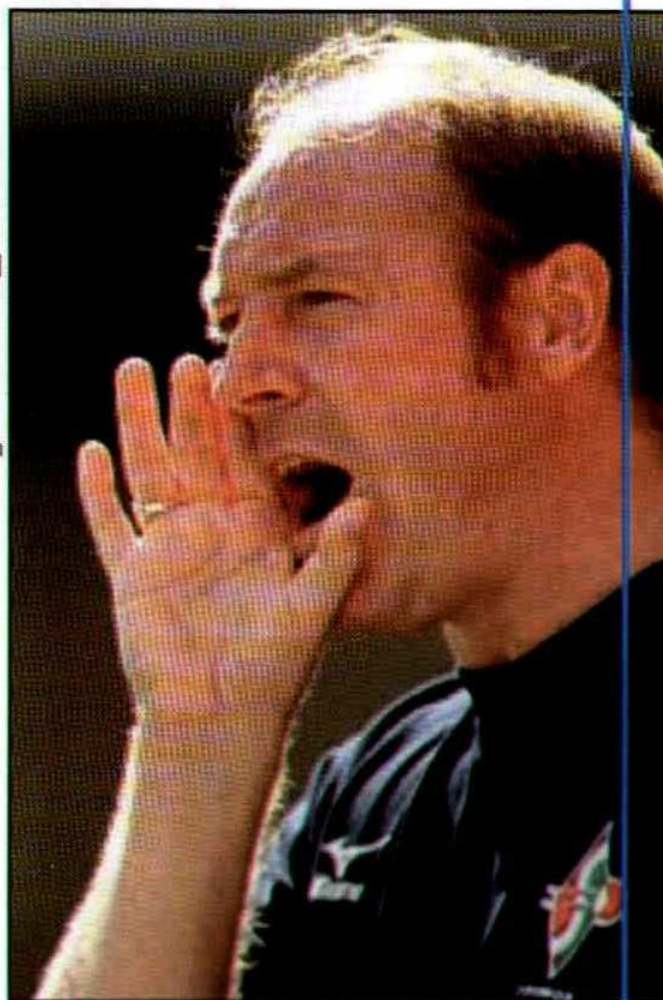
1995/96

Swindon Town stormed to the Second Division title under player-boss Steve McMahon in 1995/96. They had plummeted from the Premiership to Second Division and newcomers included Wayne Allison, Steve Finney and Mark Seagraves. Swindon were early leaders, winning seven of their first nine games, and Kevin Horlock netted a hat-trick in a 4-1 victory at Bristol Rovers. They remained in pole position and took Southampton to an FA Cup fifth round replay. Ian Culverhouse and Mark Robinson were ever-present, while leading scorer Wayne Allison and Shaun Taylor also starred as they won the title by nine points.

CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

1962/63
1968/69
1969/70
1979/80
1985/86
1986/87
1989/90
1992/93
1993/94
1995/96

Below: Steve McMahon guided the Robins to the Second Division title in 1996





The Blues

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Tuesday 13th February 2001

Kick-off 7.45pm



SOUTHEND UNITED 2 SWINDON TOWN 1

Football League Trophy

Tuesday, 13th February 2001

the SEASON

A S MUCH as I would love to do a feature on United's first ever match against Swindon Town Reserves back in September 1906, there are only two problems. Firstly my collection begins some 40 years afterwards and I'm also led to believe the Blues' didn't issue their first publication until 1908 - so as a consequence we turn the clock back just five years!

This LDV Vans Trophy Southern Section semi-final is barely one that stands out amongst the record books, but for the 3,337 spectators inside Roots Hall, they will recall a highly entertaining fixture played on a sandpit of a pitch.

The Blues were chugging along well in sixth spot in Division Three whilst Swindon were enjoying life in the rung above.

With Cheltenham Town, Cambridge United and Bristol Rovers already brushed aside

at Roots Hall, David Webb's men fancied their chances of a first Cup Final when Martin Carruthers neatly headed United into a first half lead, but Michael Reddy brushed home a late leveller for the visitors from Wiltshire.

In an exhausting game, it was Blues defender Leo Roget who created history by heading home on 110 minutes Southend's only ever 'golden' goal' meaning that United had immediately won the tie.

The following Southend side lined-up against Swindon on this mid-February evening: Darryl Flahavan, David McSweeney, Damon Searle, Roget, Phil Whelan, David Lee, Leon Johnson, Kevin Maher, Daniel Webb, Carruthers and Ben Abbey whilst Chris Porter, Rob Newman, Michael Black, Russell Williamson and Tesfaye Bramble warmed the bench.

Unfortunately, United lost out 4-2 on aggregate to Brentford in the Area Final, unluckily losing 2-1 both home and away.

THE PROGRAMME

AS HAS often been the case in LDV Vans Trophy or Associate Members Cup matches, United produced a programme that was reduced in size and content from their normal publication.

In this instance, United's regular matchday programme - which had replaced an experimental ten A4 editions issued at the start of the campaign - of 48 pages at £2 was reduced to 16 pages at £1.50.

These reductions didn't detract however from what was still a neatly produced publication, with enough reading material for supporters to get their teeth sunk into.

The regular features were still there, such as manager David Webb's notes, full fixtures and team line-ups as well as full profiles on the visiting side, albeit in a truncated version.

One-off features in this edition included an interview with young defender David McSweeney and a similar article with another defender, this time veteran Rob Newman, who also appears on the programme cover. Both these articles were penned by current Evening Echo correspondent Chris Phillips.

Another Phillips-penned effort reviewed United's impressive 2000-01 LDV run which had already seen two sides from a higher division knocked out, with Swindon soon to make a trio!



Roots Hall Ticket Prices

	Matchday	Advance
EAST STAND**		
Adults	£18.00	£16.50
Concessions & Students	£12.00	£10.00
Juniors	£10.00	£8.00
SOUTH STAND		
Upper Tier	£18.00	£16.50
Concessions & Students	£12.00	£10.00
Juniors	£10.00	£8.00
Blue/Yellow	£18.00	£16.50
WEST STAND*		
Adults	£18.00	£16.50
Concessions & Students	£12.00	£10.00
Juniors	£10.00	£8.00
ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND FAMILY ENCLOSURE (WEST STAND AND SOUTH LOWER STAND)		
Family Ticket (1 adult and 1 Child)	£18.00	£16.00
Additional Child	£4.00	£3.00
Additional Adult	£14.00	£13.00



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Yeovil Town v Southend Utd

Saturday 4th February 2006
Coca Cola League One
Kick Off 3.00pm



Brentford v Southend Utd

Tuesday 14th February 2006
Coca Cola League One
Kick Off 7.45pm

Ticket Prices

Adult's	Concession	Juniors
£14	£9	£5

By Car: The ground is located on the very outskirts of Yeovil and is signposted from the A303. Leave the A303 at the Cartgate roundabout and take the A3088 towards Yeovil. Follow the road for approximately 8-9 miles until you reach a roundabout on the outskirts of Yeovil with the Westlands Airfield directly in front of you. Turn left at this roundabout and then continue straight on, crossing a number of roundabouts. As you pass the entrance to an Asda superstore, take the next left for the ground, which can be seen from the road.



Ticket Prices (all ticket)

Adult's	Concession	Juniors
£17 or £12	£12 or £6	£3

By Car: Leave the M4 at junction 2 and take the A4, going around Chiswick Roundabout so that you end up coming back on yourself. Continue along the A4 and at the first roundabout take a left onto Ealing Road. The ground is located about half a mile down this road on your right. Street Parking.

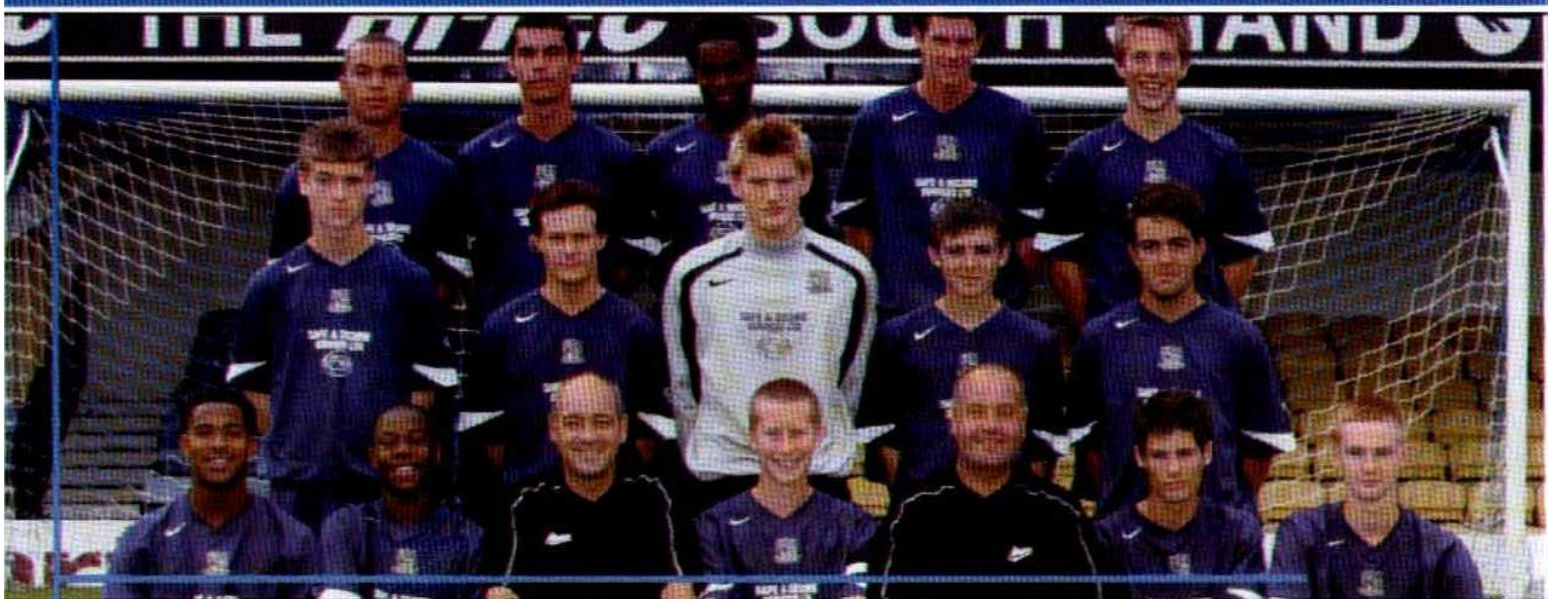




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June, Luke
& Daniel
Mayes

Mark
Ellis

11. Carl PETTEFER

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12. Mark BENTLEY

Circle
Services

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13. Bart GRIEMINK

Morgan
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14. Mitchell COLE

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Southend United Fixtures

2005/2006

Coca-Cola Football League One Table 2005/2006



	Home					Away							
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Colchester	28	9	2	3	28	16	6	5	3	15	11	16	52
2 Southend	29	7	5	2	24	13	7	4	4	20	15	16	51
3 Swansea	28	8	5	1	30	11	5	5	4	23	20	22	49
4 Brentford	28	7	5	3	22	17	6	4	3	22	17	10	48
5 Huddersfield	29	8	5	2	21	16	4	6	4	22	22	5	47
6 Barnsley	28	9	5	1	28	13	3	4	6	13	15	13	45
7 Chesterfield	29	6	5	3	22	15	5	6	4	21	23	5	44
8 Oldham	29	8	2	4	21	15	4	5	6	16	26	-4	43
9 Nottm Forest	28	10	3	2	24	7	1	4	8	13	24	6	40
10 Bournemouth	28	6	5	2	16	9	4	4	7	19	24	2	39
11 Bradford	29	4	5	5	16	15	5	6	4	15	13	3	38
12 Doncaster	28	6	3	5	19	15	5	1	8	15	22	-3	37
13 Yeovil	29	6	4	4	16	13	4	3	8	18	29	-8	37
14 Port Vale	29	6	3	6	18	17	4	3	7	13	19	-5	36
15 Tranmere	29	4	7	3	22	19	4	4	7	11	13	1	35
16 Walsall	28	7	4	3	20	16	2	4	8	16	25	-5	35
17 Gillingham	28	9	2	4	20	12	0	5	8	6	23	-9	34
18 Scunthorpe	28	5	5	5	26	25	3	4	6	18	25	-6	33
19 Hartlepool	29	3	6	5	16	18	5	3	7	13	18	-7	33
20 Blackpool	29	5	4	5	21	20	2	7	6	16	25	-8	32
21 Bristol City	29	6	5	4	22	16	2	3	9	15	32	-11	32
22 Rotherham	29	3	5	6	19	18	3	5	7	13	22	-8	28
23 Swindon	28	5	3	5	20	20	1	7	7	9	19	-10	28
24 MK Dons	28	3	8	3	16	16	1	4	9	10	25	-15	24

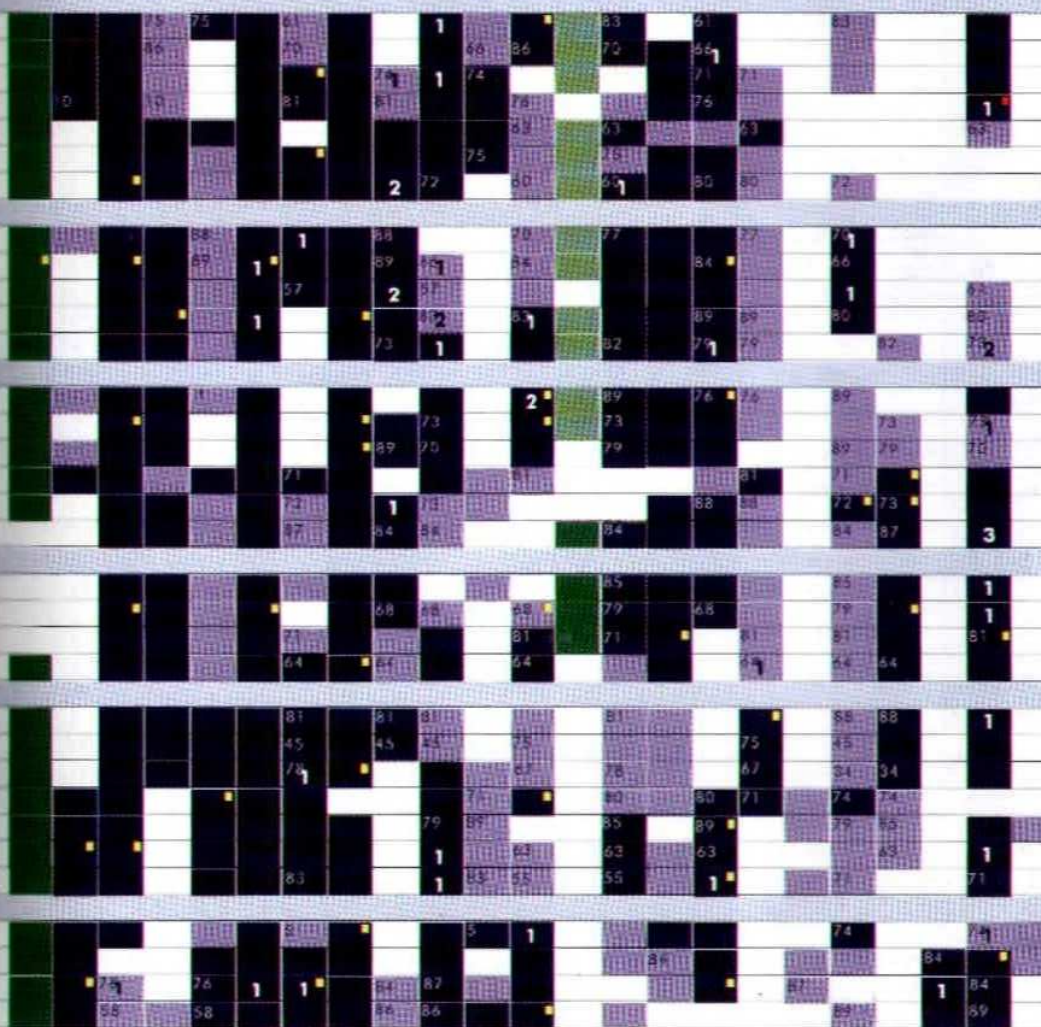
Blues Roll Call 2005/2006

Player	Apps		Goals		Cards	
	Lge	Cup	Lge	Cup	Y	R
Darryl FLAHAVAN	26	3	-	-	1	-
Duncan JUPP	12	1	-	-	2	-
Chris WILSON	26(2)	4	1	-	5	-
Lewis HUNT	17(3)	3	-	-	1	-
Spencer PRIOR	10(2)	3	-	-	1	-
Adam BARRETT	29	4	3	-	2	-
Mark GOWER	17(6)	2	3	-	3	-
Kevin MAHER	28	4	-	-	6	-
Shaun GOATER	13(5)	3	6	-	-	-
Wayne GRAY	21(7)	2(1)	8	-	-	-
Carl PETTEFER	5(4)	1	-	-	-	-
Mark BENTLEY	14(9)	0(2)	4	-	6	-
Bart GRIEMINK	3	1	-	-	-	-
Mitchell COLE	17(3)	2(1)	1	-	-	-
Andy EDWARDS	19(1)	1	-	-	1	-
Luke GUTTRIDGE	24	1	3	-	5	-
Jay SMITH	3(9)	3	1	-	1	-
Charles ADEMENO	0(1)	-	-	-	-	-
James LAWSON	7(13)	0(3)	2	-	1	-
Jamal CAMPBELL-RYCE	7(6)	3	-	-	3	-
Efe SODJE	3	-	1	-	-	-
Freddy EASTWOOD	18(6)	3(1)	10	2	3	1

Date	KO	V	Opponent	Comp	Res	Att	Away Pos
August							
SAT 6	15:00 H		PORT VALE	FL1	1-2	6,543	639 18
Tue 9	19:45 A		Bradford City	FL1	2-0	8,250	271 9
Sat 13	15:00 A		Walsall	FL1	2-2	5,569	529 10
SAT 20	15:00 H		HUDDERSFIELD	FL1	1-1	5,567	662 11
MON 22	20:00 H		SOUTHAMPTON	CC1	0-3	6,358	446 NA
Fri 26	19:30 A		Scunthorpe	FL1	0-1	5,569	242 12
MON 29	12:00 H		COLCHESTER	FL1	3-1	7,344	1,063 12
September							
SUN 4	15:00 H		OLDHAM	FL1	2-1	5,261	303 8
Sat 10	15:00 A		Swindon Town	FL1	2-1	4,785	579 6
SAT 17	15:00 H		TRANMERE	FL1	3-1	6,691	279 3
Sat 24	15:00 A		Rotherham	FL1	4-2	4,259	407 2
TUE 27	19:45 H		YEOVIL TOWN	FL1	4-1	6,654	298 2
October							
Sat 1	15:00 A		Gillingham	FL1	2-1	8,128	1,444 2
SUN 9	16:00 H		NOTT M FOREST	FL1	1-0	10,104	1,110 1
Sat 15	15:00 A		Doncaster	FL1	0-2	5,899	tbc 2
Tue 18	19:45 A		Rushden & Diamonds	LDV1	0-1	1,300	350 NA
SAT 22	15:00 H		BARNLEY	FL1	1-1	6,986	319 1
Sat 29	15:00 A		Bristol City	FL1	3-0	10,625	667 1
November							
Sat 5	15:00 A		Barnet	FAC1	1-0	3,545	1,678 NA
SAT 12	14:00 H		SWANSEA CITY	FL1	1-2	11,049	1,455 3
Sat 19	15:00 A		Nottm Forest	FL1	0-2	19,576	2,193 3
Sat 26	15:00 A		Port Vale	FL1	1-2	3,961	261 3
December							
SAT 3	15:00 H		MK DONS	FAC2	1-2	4,982	312 NA
TUE 6	19:45 H		CHESTERFIELD	FL1	0-0	5,767	159 4
SAT 10	15:00 H		BRADFORD CITY	FL1	1-1	7,307	312 5
Sat 17	15:00 A		Huddersfield	FL1	0-0	11,223	284 6
MON 26	15:00 H		MK DONS	FL1	0-0	7,452	TBC 5
Wed 28	19:45 A		Hartlepool	FL1	2-1	3,929	115 4
SAT 31	13:00 H		BOURNEMOUTH	FL1	2-1	6,357	TBC 2
January							
Mon 2	15:00 A		Blackpool	FL1	2-1	5,271	395 1
Sat 7	15:00 A		Oldham	FL1	0-0	5,662	353 1
SAT 14	15:00 H		BRENTFORD	FL1	4-1	10,046	1,513 1
Sat 21	15:00 A		Tranmere	FL1	0-0	7,058	409 2
FRI 27	19:45 H		SWINDON TOWN	FL1			
February							
Sat 4	15:00 A		Yeovil Town	FL1			
FRI 10	19:45 H		ROTHERHAM	FL1			
Tue 14	19:45 A		Brentford	FL1			
Sat 18	15:00 A		Chesterfield	FL1			
SAT 25	15:00 H		WALSALL	FL1			
March							
Sat 4	15:00 A		Colchester	FL1			
FRI 10	19:45 H		SCUNTHORPE	FL1			
Sat 18	15:00 A		MK Dons	FL1			
SAT 25	15:00 H		HARTLEPOOL	FL1			
April							
Sat 1	15:00 A		Bournemouth	FL1			
SAT 8	15:00 H		BLACKPOOL	FL1			
FRI 14	15:00 H		GILLINGHAM	FL1			
Mon 17	15:00 A		Barnsley	FL1			
SAT 22	15:00 H		DONCASTER	FL1			
Sat 29	15:00 A		Swansea City	FL1			
May							
SAT 6	15:00 H		BRISTOL CITY	FL1			



1. Darryl FLAHAVAN
2. Duncan JUPP
3. Che WILSON
4. Lewis HUNT
5. Spencer PRIOR
6. Adam BARRETT
7. Mark GOWER
8. Kevin MAHER
9. Shaun GOATER
10. Wayne GRAY
11. Carl PETTEFER
12. Mark BENTLEY
13. Bart GRIEMINK
14. Mitchell COLE
15. Andy EDWARDS
16. Luke GUTTRIDGE
17. Jay SMITH
18. Charles ADEMAN
20. James LAWSON
21. Jamal CAMPBELL-RYCE
22. Ele SODJE
23. Freddy EASTWOOD
24. Mark WRIGHT



Key

	Goal		Assist
	Yellow Card		Red Card

Coca-Cola League One

Friday, 27 January 2006

Nottingham Forest v Barnsley	19:45
Southend v Swindon	19:45

Saturday, 28 January 2006

Bournemouth v Chesterfield	15:00
Bradford v Tranmere	15:00
Bristol City v Swanssea	15:00
Gillingham v Rotherham	15:00
Hartlepool v Blackpool	15:00
Huddersfield v Oldham	15:00

League One Top Scorers

Player	Team	Goals
Trundle	Swanssea	17
Sharp	Scunthorpe	16
Hayler	Bournemouth	15
Fallon	Swindon	12
Greenacre	Tranmere	12
Iwelumo	Colchester	12
Hall	Chesterfield	11
McLeod	Milton Keynes Dons	11
Abbot	Huddersfield	10
Allison	Chesterfield	10

Average Attendances

Nottingham Forest (9)	19515
Swanssea City (3)	14390
Huddersfield Town (5)	12385
Bristol City (21)	11019
Barnsley (6)	8918
Bradford City (11)	7970
Southend United (2)	7366
Tranmere Rovers (15)	7193
Gillingham (17)	7117
Yeovil Town (13)	6927
Brentford (4)	6556
AFC Bournemouth (10)	6336
Swindon Town (22)	6157
Doncaster Rovers (12)	6091
Oldham Athletic (8)	5728
Walsall (16)	5465
Scunthorpe United (18)	5450
Blackpool (20)	5285
Milton Keynes Dons (24)	5062
Rotherham United (23)	4956
Port Vale (14)	4623
Chesterfield (7)	4617
Hartlepool United (19)	4506
Colchester United (1)	3488



it's friday NIGHT

Tonight sees the first of our Friday Night football matches here at Roots Hall as Southend look to build on their recent success



Friday night football should see a huge crowd inside Roots Hall and it also offers the rare opportunity of having a Saturday off for the Blues backroom staff.

In our last outing here we put on a magnificent display against Brentford in what was one of the best matches I can remember in my 15-year stint supporting the Blues. While obviously the result and the performance was the high note another enjoyable moment was Che's first professional goal and the opportunity Charles Ademenko got to make his first Southend appearance.

Away from the football pitch and we held a rather successful Poker tournament on the Blues Official website recently. Nearly 100 fans turned up and played for over four hours to win a fantastic prize, further competitions are planned, possibly a tournament against Colchester United, so keep an eye on the Club site for further

information.

Those who have read Chris Phillips programme notes today will have noted that I had a misdemeanor involving my car earlier this month. However, while Chris remains a regular crash test dummy as he learns to drive, hopefully it won't be too long before I have some wheels again.

Next week sees the last of our long treks on the road for a while with games against Brentford and the auld enemy Colchester United to follow. There has been plenty of banter flying about with our 'friends' from up the A12 in recent weeks but hopefully the top spot is only on loan.

For now though lets continue to get behind the side and make some noise in what we all hope will be another three points on the board.

WELCOME back to Roots Hall for the first Friday night match of the season against Swindon Town. Last year we managed to build a successful campaign around the floodlight matches here at Southend and hopefully this can be the case over the final few months of the season.



Peter Harrison 30/04/1953-12/01/2006

Lifelong Blues supporter, PETER HARRISON, died suddenly on the 12th of January of a heart attack aged 52. Peter began watching the Blues in the early 60's with his friend Neil attending both home and away fixtures. He eventually became a season ticket holder in Block T in the early 90's and retained his seat until this day, maintaining that he had the best seat in the Stadium. Peter, who was married to Jenny and had 2 daughters Zoe and Freya, can be seen pictured at the Millennium Stadium when the Blues won the Play Off final against Lincoln. Southend United Football Club would like to pass on our condolences to all of Peter's friends and family.

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Betterview wish
**Steve Tilson and the Team every
Success for the coming season**
Come on you Blues

the SQUADS

SOUTHEND UNITED

Manager: Steve **TILSON**

Blue Shirts, Blue Shorts, Blue Socks



	PLD	GL
1. Darryl FLAHAVAN	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Duncan JUPP	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Che WILSON	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Lewis HUNT	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Spencer PRIOR	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Adam BARRETT	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Mark GOWER	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Kevin MAHER	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Shaun GOATER	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Wayne GRAY	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Carl PETTEFER	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Mark BENTLEY	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Bart GRIEMINK	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Mitchell COLE	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Luke GUTTRIDGE	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Jay SMITH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Charles ADEMENO	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. James LAWSON	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Efe SODJE	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. Freddy EASTWOOD	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
33. Matthew DRIVER	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SWINDON TOWN

Manager: Iffy **ONUORA**

Red Shirts, White Shorts, Red Socks



	PLD	GL
1. Rhys EVANS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Sean O'HANLON	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Jack SMITH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Nicky NICOLAU	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Jerel IFIL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Steve JENKINS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Gareth WHALLEY	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Rory FALLON	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Lee PEACOCK	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Stefani MIGLIORANZI	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Jamie CURETON	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Ricky SHAKES	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Matthew BULMAN	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Alan REEVES	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Andrew NICHOLAS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Kyle LAPHAM	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Charlie COMYN-PLATT	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Christian ROBERTS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Michael POOK	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Paul SMITH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. Ben WELLS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24. Andy CATON	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27. Andy GURNEY	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29. David STROUD	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30. Ashan HOLGATE	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
32. Aaron BROWN	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
33. Leigh HENRY	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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CUMBERLAND
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REF: Mr J. Singh
ASSISTANT REFS: Mr J. Evetts &
Mr I. Searle
4TH OFFICIAL: Mr I. Woodward

