



## SEASON 1966/67 - 50-YEAR CELEBRATION

**46** years after being elected to the Football League, season 1966/67 saw Southport win promotion at last from the old Fourth Division and in doing so created numerous club records.

These included the 19 wins and 40 points gained at home, as well as the 11 away draws, while the totals of 23 wins and 59 points were new records at the time. The 8 games lost away from home and the 10 defeats in total were also the lowest then recorded.

The defence, with goalkeeper Brian Reeves outstanding, won many points away where Southport were content to defend with occasional quick breaks. Billy Bingham instilled into his players a belief in their ability to win, which often carried them through against superior opposition.

The season was prefaced by a short Tour in Ireland where Southport lost 2-0 to Colchester United and Glentoran. It was there Bingham spotted Colchester trialist Eric Redrobe, previously a reserve at Bolton Wanderers; on returning Bingham signed him and the big centre-forward played a notable part in the team's success.

The campaign began inauspiciously with a 2-1 reverse at Port Vale followed by a first round League Cup defeat at home to Workington. However, the 'Port soon settled down and a 4-0 victory at Lincoln gave a better indication of what lay ahead.

The only shaky spell came in late September with three successive league defeats; but then, inside three days, followed two spectacular 4-1 wins against Luton Town and Barrow in which six

players scored and the confidence returned.

The FA Cup defeat at Barnsley became an irrelevance as Southport amassed 29 points by Christmas. On Boxing Day their biggest league gate for ten years - 8,197 - saw the 'Port beat fellow-challengers Wrexham by an Amby Clarke goal.

Then, in the early morning of December 27th, came the fire which completely destroyed the grandstand, offices, club records, dressing-rooms and kit.

The whole town rallied round the club in the difficult weeks that followed; a temporary stand was erected, a converted caravan became the Secretary's office and for the remainder of the season the players changed at nearby Meols Cop School. A Fire Appeal Fund was launched and many Football League clubs contributed to it.

In February Southport enjoyed a resounding 4-0 success over Stockport County, the ultimate champions, Jim Fryatt and Alan Spence each scoring twice.

Shortly afterwards Torquay United signed Fryatt for £5,000; initially slow to settle down, "Big Fry" had stayed at Southport less than twelve months. The club augmented their forward strength by securing striker George Andrews from Cardiff City for £6,000 and outside-right Stuart Shaw from Crystal Palace for £2,750.

The promotion drive gathered momentum with a dramatic 4-3 win over Chester - Ron Smith scoring the last minute winner direct from a corner-kick -



Promotion was achieved despite the main stand being burnt down

and five points out of six from the two Bradford clubs over Easter; but injuries to midfielder general Alex Russell and rock-like centre-half Fred Molyneux in quick succession led to team reorganisation.

Arthur Peat filled Russell's position while the versatile Colin Alty moved to centre-half with Eric Curwen, a young full-back from Everton, coming into the back four.

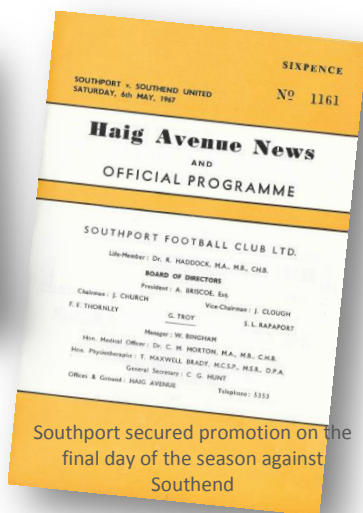
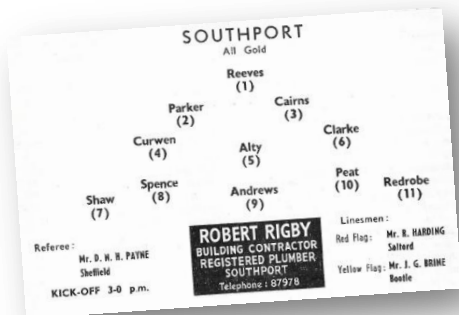
Just when their target seemed assured, Southport surprisingly lost 2-1 at home to lowly Rochdale, leaving only two desperately tough matches to follow.

Yet on a euphoric night at Prenton Park in late April, before a 15,555 crowd, Southport - under pressure almost throughout - beat fellow-challengers Tranmere Rovers 2-1. The game ended with Rovers going all out for an equaliser and the huge Southport contingent imploring the referee to whistle full-time.

The worst was over; with promotion virtually certain Southport beat Southend United at Haig Avenue by a George Andrews goal in an emotion charged game witnessed by 8,999 spectators, thousands of whom raced onto the field at the end to congratulate the team. Southport had done it at last!

## 1966/67 FIXTURES AND RESULTS

	Comp		Att			Scorers
20/08	League	A	8143	PORT VALE	L 1 - 2	Russell
24/08	LC1	H	4183	WORKINGTON	L 0 - 1	
26/08	League	H	4294	CREWE	W 4 - 1	Russell (Pen), Roberts, Price, Spence
03/09	League	A	5541	BARROW	D 2 - 2	Spence 2
05/09	League	H	4424	ALDERSHOT	W 1 - 0	Spence
10/09	League	H	4502	YORK	W 2 - 0	Redrobe, Smith
17/09	League	A	4340	LINCOLN	W 4 - 0	Smith 2, Price, Fryatt
19/09	League	H	6249	NOTTS CO	W 2 - 1	(OG), Fryatt
24/09	League	H	5476	CHESTERFIELD	L 1 - 2	Russell
28/09	League	A	4479	ALDERSHOT	L 1 - 4	Peat
30/09	League	A	13760	STOCKPORT	L 0 - 1	
08/10	League	H	4485	LUTON	W 4 - 1	Alty 2, Spence, Russell
10/10	League	H	5370	BARROW	W 4 - 1	Alty, Smith, Redrobe, McKinlay
15/10	League	A	2719	BARNSELY	D 0 - 0	
19/10	League	A	6491	NOTTS CO	W 1 - 0	Russell
22/10	League	H	6205	NEWPORT	W 1 - 0	Fryatt
29/10	League	A	6764	BRENTFORD	L 1 - 2	Russell
05/11	League	H	4374	HALIFAX	W 2 - 0	Smith, Fryatt
12/11	League	A	5516	HARTLEPOOL	D 1 - 1	Fryatt
19/11	League	H	4402	EXETER	D 1 - 1	Spence
26/11	FAC1	A	11560	BARNSELY	L 1 - 2	Fryatt
03/12	League	H	4676	TRANMERE	W 1 - 0	Russell (Pen)
10/12	League	A	7466	SOUTHEND	W 1 - 0	Fryatt
17/12	League	H	3975	PORT VALE	D 0 - 0	
26/12	League	H	8307	WREXHAM	W 1 - 0	Clarke
31/12	League	A	5804	CREWE	D 1 - 1	Russell
14/01	League	A	3072	YORK	L 0 - 2	
21/01	League	H	3497	LINCOLN	W 2 - 1	Marshall, Spence
04/02	League	A	5623	CHESTERFIELD	L 1 - 2	Spence
11/02	League	H	7203	STOCKPORT	W 4 - 0	Fryatt 2, Spence 2
18/02	League	A	5240	CHESTER	L 1 - 2	Fryatt
25/02	League	A	6903	LUTON	D 0 - 0	
04/03	League	H	5347	BARNSELY	W 3 - 0	Redrobe, Andrews, Spence
08/03	League	A	5009	BRADFORD C	D 3 - 3	(OG), Russell (Pen), Alty
11/03	League	H	4736	CHESTER	W 4 - 3	Spence, Andrews, Redrobe, Smith
18/03	League	A	1862	NEWPORT	D 0 - 0	
25/03	League	H	5795	BRADFORD C	W 2 - 1	Clarke, Russell
27/03	League	H	5960	BRADFORD PA	W 1 - 0	Shaw
28/03	League	A	3923	BRADFORD PA	D 0 - 0	
01/04	League	A	3590	HALIFAX	L 0 - 2	
03/04	League	A	8647	WREXHAM	D 1 - 1	Peat
08/04	League	H	4277	HARTLEPOOL	W 3 - 1	Redrobe, Peat, Andrews
10/04	League	A	2644	ROCHDALE	D 1 - 1	Peat
15/04	League	A	3044	EXETER CITY	D 0 - 0	
22/04	League	H	5314	BRENTFORD	W 2 - 0	Spence, Redrobe
24/04	League	H	5469	ROCHDALE	L 1 - 2	Andrews
28/04	League	A	15555	TRANMERE	W 2 - 1	(OG), Redrobe
06/05	League	H	8999	SOUTHEND	W 1 - 0	Andrews



## 1966/67 PLAYER STATISTICS

Name	App	Sub	Gls
Aindow, Roger	0	0	0
Alty, Colin	47	0	4
Andrews, George	16	0	5
Cairns, Kevin	41	0	0
Clarke, Amby	36	1	2
Coates, John	0	0	0
Curwen, Eric	13	0	0
Fryatt, Jim	25	0	10
Marshall, Dickie	4	0	1
McBride, Peter	1	2	0
McDonald, Terry	17	0	0
McKinlay, Ian	10	0	1
Molyneux, Fred	28	0	0
Parker, Alex	32	0	0
Peat, Arthur	40	0	4
Price, Johnny	16	2	2
Redrobe, Eric	26	1	7
Reeves, Brian	48	0	0
Roberts, Tommy	5	0	1
Russell, Alex	40	0	10
Shaw, Stuart	13	0	1
Smith, Ron	32	2	6
Spence, Alan	37	0	13

## FOURTH DIVISION TABLE

	Team	W	D	L	Pts
1	Stockport	26	12	8	64
2	Southport	23	13	10	59
3	Barrow	24	11	11	59
4	Tranmere	22	14	10	58
5	Crewe	21	12	13	54
6	Southend	22	9	15	53
7	Wrexham	16	20	10	52
8	Hartlepoons	22	7	17	51
9	Brentford	18	13	15	49
10	Aldershot	18	12	16	48
11	Bradford C	19	10	17	48
12	Halifax	15	14	17	44
13	Port Vale	14	15	17	43
14	Exeter	14	15	17	43
15	Chesterfield	17	8	21	42
16	Barnsley	13	15	18	41
17	Luton	16	9	21	41
18	Newport	12	16	18	40
19	Chester	15	10	21	40
20	Notts Co	13	11	22	37
21	Rochdale	13	11	22	37
22	York	12	11	23	35
23	Bradford P	11	13	22	35
24	Lincoln	9	13	24	31

Compiled with thanks to *The Sandgrounders: The Complete League History of Southport FC* by Michael Braham and Geoff Wilde, and southportfootballclub.co.uk by Dan Hayes