



Free Robins

2021-22 Matchday Programme #10



Hassocks v AFC Varndeanians

Saturday 9th October 2021. 3:00pm kick off
Southern Combination League Premier Division
Programme £1



HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB

Founded 1902

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HONOURS

FIRST TEAM

Southern Combination Division One

Runners up 1995

Southern Combination Division Two

Winners 1993

Southern Combination Division Two Cup

Runners up 1988, 1991

Sussex Intermediate Cup

Winners 1975

Montgomery Challenge Cup

Winners 1960

Mowatt Challenge Cup

Winners 1928

UNDER 23 TEAM

Southern Combination Under 23 West Division

Runners up 2018, 2019

UNDER 18 TEAM

Southern Combination Under 18 Championship

Winners 2002, 2018

Runners up 2014

Southern Combination Under 18 Central

Winners 1999, 2002, 2006, 2014, 2018

Runners up 2008, 2013, 2015, 2019

Southern Combination Under 18 Cup

Winners 2001, 2008, 2009, 2018

Runners up 2002, 2014, 2015

Sussex County FA Under 18 Cup

Winners 2002

VETERANS TEAM

Fred Pretty Veterans Cup

Winners 1995, 1996, 2002, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2016

Runners up

2017

Staying safe at the Beacon today...

Lockdown maybe over and restrictions might have been lifted in England, but we are still working hard to ensure that the Beacon remains a safe environment for all our visitors.



Track and Trace

Track and trace is still available for those who wish to use it. Please scan the Beacon's barcode which can be found at the turnstiles and in the Clubhouse if you wish to check in with us today.



Clubhouse

The Clubhouse will be open with the Robins Bar serving alcohol and the T Bar catering for all your hot food and drink needs.

Masks are no longer mandatory inside but if you would prefer to wear one within the building then please do.

We have maintained 2 metre distance markings on the floor should you wish to continue social distancing. The one-way system in-and-out is no longer in operation.

Payments

One of the few positives to come out of the pandemic is that it forced us into the 21st century to accept card payments, Contactless is available at both the turnstiles and in the Clubhouse



Hand Sanitiser

Hand sanitiser is available at various points around the ground. We have a plentiful supply so please use as much as you feel is necessary

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Welcome to the Beacon

Good afternoon and welcome to the Beacon as the visit of AFC Varndeanians kicks off another busy run of three consecutive home fixtures over the next week...

Although Varndeanians have been regular pre-season opponents over the past few seasons and used to compete against our old third team during their days in the Mid Sussex League, this will be the first meeting at senior level between the clubs.

We hope that their players, management, officials and supporters who have made the short hop over Clayton Hill from Withdean Stadium enjoy their stay with us today.

Things have picked up markedly over our past two matches, starting with the FA Vase visit of Beckenham Town a fortnight ago.

Becks were no slouches - you do not top the Combined Counties League if you are - and yet we gave them a real fright, succumbing to only a 2-1 defeat.

To push the leaders from a stronger division than our own so close felt a little like a potential turning point - although what we really needed was points on the board in the bread and butter of Premier Division football.

One of those duly arrived last weekend away at Bexhill United. The

commitment of players and supporters to undertake the longest trip of the season in the middle of a petrol crisis (which was very real, even if our esteemed Prime Minister tried to claim otherwise) was rewarded with an excellent 1-1 draw.

In grim conditions, we had to show the battling skills that Hassocks sides of yesteryear used to be famous for to hang on, particularly in the second half. Nobody watching though could have denied we were worthy of a point.

The challenge now is to build on that. Today's game against Varndeanians starts a run of three consecutive home fixtures, with Eastbourne United to come on Tuesday night and Horsham YMCA a week today.

Securing further points against sides around us in the table will hopefully push up the table after what has been a difficult start.

Helping that quest are a couple of old faces returning to the Beacon as Brad seeks to add experience to the squad.

Bradley Bant made his comeback in the Beckenham Town game after re-signing from today's opponents

and Spencer Slaughter appearing on the bench at the Polegrove caused quite a stir.

It is great to have two players so popular for their previous endeavours with us back at the Beacon.

Aside from first team matters, the Ladies started their season with a 1-1 draw against Montpelier Villa two weeks ago.

The Under 18s meanwhile have picked up four points from their past two matches, beating AFC Varndeanians 3-2 two weeks ago and drawing 1-1 with St Francis Rangers last Sunday.

A certain Glenn Murray was in attendance for the Rangers game and it did not take long for Johnsy to try and tempt him out of retirement.

No word has yet reached us of Glenn's answer, although it is hard to see how he can say no to paying £2 a week for training and getting the chance to enter a raffle every home game, which is impossible to win as Dave will make him leave his prize behind for the next draw.

Enjoy today's game,

Owen & Scott



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Today's visitors...



AFC Varndeanians

Founded 1929

Nickname Vs

Ground Withdean Stadium

Website afcv.co.uk

Twitter @afcvarndean

Manager Ryan Gayler

Top Scorer Tom Boyle, 6

HONOURS

Southern Combination One

Winners 1960

Southern Combination Two

Winners 2016

Southern Combination One Cup

Winners 1957

Mid Sussex League

Winners 2004, 2007, 2009

Runners up 2008, 2014

Montgomery Cup

Winners 2005

Runners up 2004

Alan Washer Trophy

Winners 2005

Brighton & District League

Winners 1974, 2000, 2001, 2003

Hove & Worthing Cup

Winners 1949

For the first time since 1962, AFC Varndeanians are a Southern Combination League Premier Division club - and after a difficult start to the campaign, they will be hoping a change of manager means a change of fortune

It has been quite a whirlwind ride for Varndeanians, who have climbed three divisions in seven seasons having been a Mid Sussex Premier club as recently as 2015.

Ryan Gayler was the man who started the rise, leading the club to the Division Two title at the first time of asking in 2015-16.

Not only that, but Gayler was also instrumental in helping them move from Brighton University to Withdean Stadium, providing the necessary ground grading for Vs to return to senior football having left for the Brighton League in 1972.

Varndeanians were elevated to the top flight for 2021-22 by the FA based on their performances in Division One over the past two curtailed seasons but it has not been an easy start to life.

Former Loxwood and Langney Wanderers manager Alex Walsh was unable to oversee a league win, resulting in the return of Gayler to Withdean last month.

Charged with maintaining the top flight status that he laid the foundations for achieving, Gayler has instigated improvement already.

His first match back at the helm resulted in a 2-2 draw against Crawley Down Gatwick. That was the first point of the season that Varndeanians had put on the board and a seriously impressive one at that given the free scoring form that the Anvils have been in recently.

Varndeanians followed that up with a close-fought 3-2 defeat against Newhaven.

Those two results suggest they will be much more competitive over the remainder of the season, making it difficult to know what to expect this afternoon on what will be the first ever meeting at senior level before the clubs.

Varndeanians were regular opponents for our third XI back in the Mid Sussex League during the 2000s and they usually had the upper hand as perennial title challengers.

One notable exception came when we pulled off a shock by winning the Montgomery Cup on penalties against them in 2004 18-year-old Ashley Marsh, a 16-year-old Sam Fisk and a 49-year-old Robbie Kitchen.

10 Key Moments

1929... Secondary Old Boys FC become Old Varndeanians, forming the current club
1960... win the Southern Combination League Division One title, securing a two-year stay in the Premier
1972... leave the Southern Combination to join the Brighton League because of ground grading
1974... crowned Brighton League champions whilst playing at Patcham Place
2000... win their second Brighton League title, starting a run of three championships in four seasons
2003... moved to the Mid Sussex League, winning the title and reaching the final of the Montgomery Cup
2009... win the last of their three Mid Sussex Premier Division titles
2015... promoted to Southern Combination League Division Two and move from Brighton Uni to Withdean
2016... win the Division Two title at the first attempt, securing a return to senior football
2021... promoted by the FA to the Premier Division, playing top flight football for the first time since 1962

Last 17 Seasons

2018-19, Southern Combination One 3rd
2017-18, Southern Combination One 14th
2016-17, Southern Combination One 18th
2015-16, Southern Combination Two 1st
2014-15, Mid Sussex Premier 7th
2013-14, Mid Sussex Premier 2nd
2012-13, Mid Sussex Premier 7th
2011-12, Mid Sussex Premier 5th
2010-11, Mid Sussex Premier 9th
2009-10, Mid Sussex Premier 7th
2008-09, Mid Sussex Premier 1st
2007-08, Mid Sussex Premier 2nd
2006-07, Mid Sussex Premier 1st
2005-06, Mid Sussex Premier 3rd
2004-05, Mid Sussex Premier 3rd
2003-04, Mid Sussex Premier 1st
2002-03, Brighton & District Premier 1st

Played for Both



Since AFC Varndeanians joined the Southern Combination League in 2015, a number of players have turned out for both us and them - hardly a surprise given the close proximity of Withdean to the Beacon.

Luke Akehurst is the former Robin who has racked up the most appearances for Varndeanians, turning out for Vs for the past few seasons since leaving the Beacon midway through the 2017-18 season.

Over three spells with Hassocks, Akehurst played 96 games for the Robins across the back line, scoring once.

He was joined at Withdean last season by two ex-Robins, each with a century of matches for Hassocks to their names having come through our youth system.

Tom Barnes and Jamie Hillwood were both members of the Under 18s side who won the League Cup in 2008, defeating Arundel 3-2 in the final via a thrilling hat-trick from Phil Johnson.

Hillwood broke into the first team as an 18-year-old the following season during John Suter's short reign. Sporadic availability meant he was restricted to a handful of appearances until the 2013-14

campaign, when he became a regular under Mickey Jewell.

Hillwood went onto score 25 goals in 124 appearances before departing in the summer of 2020 for Withdean Stadium.

Barnes left the Beacon following that youth team triumph, spending several years with St Francis Rangers and Haywards Heath Town before returning to Hassocks in January 2015 and playing a crucial role in the Great Escape from relegation at the end of the 2014-15 season.

He departed in 2018 having made 103 appearances in total for the Robins.

Happy Mondays as Robins make it three wins in a row

Monday Night Football returned to the Beacon where Hassocks IIIs ran out 2-1 winners over Old Varndeanians to make it three wins in a row as their climb into the top half of the Mid Sussex Premier Division continued.

A tough game looked in store as the visitors arrived having dished out hammerings to two of the title favourites in their last two outings, beating Wisdom Sports 6-0 and Maresfield Village 4-1.

Hassocks though were given a boost on the morning of the game when Phil Wickwar pulled out through illness.

That opened up a spot for Chris Maynard, who would be playing his first match since breaking his ankle during the first team's FA Cup exit away at Sholing back in September.

Manager Steve Spies could hardly contain his delight at this stroke of luck, describing Maynard for Wickwar as "a like for like replacement" prior to the game before bursting into laughter.

Hassocks started brightly with the power of Spies and the pace of Logan Newington alongside him in attack causing plenty of problems.

The midfield trio of Adam Williams, Ben Holden and Maynard were bossing the game with Maynard doing a good impression of Elliott Butler in terms of the ground he was covering.

Hassocks had the first real chance of the game when the enigmatic Russell Harris skipped past a defender down the right but his finish was lacking.

Spies then should have done better with a free header which appeared to slide off his bald head.

Old V's recent scoring record speaks for itself and yet the Hassocks back three of Steve Hudson, Jack Farrall and Sam Franks kept the

opposition quiet, coping admirably all evening with the threat.

The goal that Hassocks' start deserved arrived from a nice passing move. The ball flowed from defence into midfield before an Elliott Butler-esque through ball from Maynard released Harris, whose cross picked out Williams to finish with aplomb.

Hassocks' lead was short-lived as Old V's were level within five minutes. Harris had a senior moment (fell over) to gift the visitors their only real chance of the first half, put away by left winger John Sewell.

Despite the setback, the Robins pressed on and should have had the game wrapped up by half time. Unfortunately, Spies and Newington contrived to miss every single opportunity which came their way.

One Beacon regular summed things up nicely when Newington was wasteful with his fourth good chance, shouting from the stand: "Don't worry Logan, Spiesy would have missed all these anyway."

Hassocks suffered a blow on 30 minutes when Maynard was replaced by Mark Darbyshire after taking a kick to the ankle.

It wasn't a bad injury to Maynard but after such a long layoff it was decided to get him off as precaution. He also looked like he could do with a rest. Not something you ever heard said about Elliott Butler.

The second half was nowhere near as good from a Hassocks point-of-view and the back three needed to do more work than they had in the opening 45 minutes, assisted by Ashley Hayes working hard at left lung back.

Newington missed another great chance when his delicate chip beat both goalkeeper and crossbar and a Williams corner flashed across the goal but nobody could add the touch it needed.

Youth teamer Will Baker was introduced for the injured Newington, slotting in on the right as Harris was

moved up front alongside Spies and told to make up for his earlier senior moment.

It was not long before he did. Some more neat approach play got the ball to Harris and he rounded the goalkeeper cool as you like to finish.

Hassocks introduced further fresh legs with another youth team player joining the action from the bench when Luke Pearce replaced the tiring Holden.

Both Pearce and Baker acquitted themselves well in what was a difficult game to come into.

It was a third youth teamer who made sure of the three points for Hassocks, goalkeeper Reece Wickwar making two excellent saves in the final 10 minutes.

Hudson and Franks could not decide whether they should be picking up ball or man and in the end did neither, allowing Old V's a clear run at goal.

Thankfully, Wickwar stayed big and somehow managed to keep the effort out.

The game became incredibly stretched going into the last five and with V's going all-out for a point, the visiting striker looked odds-on to score again until Wickwar pulled off another fantastic stop.

A great result and team performance from Hassocks, who make the short trip to Leylands Park this Saturday to face Lindfield.

Hassocks: R Wickwar; Harris, Hudson, Farrall, Franks, Hayes; Holden, Williams, Maynard; Newington, Spies.

Subs: Darbyshire (Maynard), Baker (Newington), Pearce (Holden).



Down drawn in Senior Cup & date of rearranged United game confirmed

The draw for the first round of the Sussex Senior Cup took place last Saturday live on BBC Radio Sussex and it has resulted in the possibility of a number of familiar faces returning to the Beacon with their new club...

Hassocks have been drawn at home against Southern Combination League Premier Division rivals Crawley Down Gatwick in the first round of the Sussex Senior Cup.

That is good news for the neutral as games between Robins and Anvils tend to be ridiculously entertaining with goals never in short supply.

84 have been plundered in 21 previous meetings in senior football at an average of four a game, including 25 in the past five meetings.

Amongst the more ridiculous score lines of the past six years are 5-3 and 6-4 wins for Hassocks.

The last fixture between the two was dull in comparison, yielding only six goals as the Robins won 4-2 in Southern Combination Premier Division Supplementary Shield at the Haven back in April.

That gave Hassocks their 10th

victory over Down, who have seven wins to their name. There have been four draws.

This will be the first time that the clubs have met in the Senior Cup and the first time Crawley Down have visited the Beacon since October 2018 when they ran out 2-1 winners.

The pandemic put paid to their trips to Hassocks in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 campaigns, with both last season's Supplementary Shield clashes taking place at the Haven due to drainage work on the Beacon pitch.

Down will arrive with several familiar names amongst their squad. Harvey Blake and Phil Johnson moved to the Haven in the summer of 2021 and they were joined this year by Charlie Pitcher and Will Broomfield.

Nobody at Hassocks needs telling of the difficulties facing Johnson and Pitcher poses; both are in double figures for the season already, explaining why Down have scored the second-highest number of goals in

the Premier Division after leaders Littlehampton Town.

The Robins exited last season's competition in a 3-0 defeat away at Midhurst & Easebourne.

Dave John left many of his first choice players at home for the fixture with the Division One Stags and paid the price.

No date has been set yet for Downs visit, although we expect it to be either Tuesday 19th October or Tuesday 26th. Please keep an eye on our website and social media for details.

One game that does have a confirmed date is the rearranged Premier Division clash with Eastbourne United.

The original tie was postponed by the league in response to the fuel crisis and will now take place this coming Tuesday 12th October.

Kick off is at 7:45pm and admission prices will be the usual £6 adults, £3 concessions and free for under 18s.



Bradley bags August Player of the Month

Better late than never, the results are finally in for our August Player of the Month where one of the tightest votes in the seven seasons we have been running these awards was decided by just 2.2 percent...

It was one of the tightest Hassocks Player of the Month Awards in history, but in the end Connor Bradley did just about enough to win the vote for the Robins' best August performer ahead of Alfie Loversidge.

Just 2.2 percent separated the top two, enabling Bradley to win his first gong after establishing himself as a first team regular over the opening four weeks of the 2021-22 season.

The highlight for Bradley was undoubtedly his first senior goal for the club, a sweet volley in the 3-2 defeat against Peacehaven & Telscombe.

Bradley was voted Man of the Match for his efforts at the Sports

Park, one of five appearances that the midfielder made over the course of August. Four of those were starts and one came from the bench.

Teenage midfielder Loversidge enjoyed an excellent start to the campaign as an ever present in the Robins' engine room.

He scored three times, looking like the sort of genuine goal scoring midfielder that Hassocks have not possessed since the halcyon days of Spencer Slaughter and Anthony Hibbert.

The first of those goals came in the 2-1 FA Cup defeat to Spelthorne Sports. The other two helped secure two of Hassocks' five points won in August.

Loversidge netted the opener in the 2-2 draw with AFC Uckfield Town and the opener in August Bank Holiday Monday's 1-1 stalemate with

Lingfield.

He also has a number of assists to his name, mainly from pinpoint crosses and set piece deliveries into the box.

All of this was enough to see Loversidge voted Man of the Match in three of Hassocks' eight August fixtures; the opening day loss at Saltdean United, the FA Cup exit against Spelthorne and the 2-0 win over Steyning Town.

Back in third was another midfielder in Josh Short. The former Burgess Hill Town man was impressive when signed early on in the curtailed 2020-21 season.

He has continued where he left off, featuring in all eight games like Loversidge and being one of the Robins' stand out performers, most notably when Man of the Match in the 2-1 defeat to Eastbourne Town.

Robins in valiant Vase showing that nearly causes blushes for Becks

**Buildbase FA Vase Second Qualifying Round
Saturday 25th September 2021, The Beacon
Hassocks 1-2 Beckenham Town**



One week after giving Southern Combination League Premier Division leaders Littlehampton Town a fright, the FA Vase presented Hassocks with an even sterner assignment against Combined Counties Premier Division leaders Beckenham Town.

So, if that 4-2 defeat at the Flora Sportsfield seven days ago was seen as a creditable result, what then of this narrow 2-1 reversal against table toppers from a league undoubtedly stronger than Hassocks' own?

Based on their season so far, this was a good result for Hassocks. It was certainly one of their better performances and by the end, Beckenham were hanging on for their place in the first round proper of the competition.

That in itself would have come as a surprise to most at the Beacon. Becks arrived with seven wins and one draw from eight league matches so far as they look to mark their 125th anniversary next year with promotion to step four.

Even more daunting for Hassocks than the Combined Counties table was that their visitors booked their trip to Mid Sussex via a 5-0 victory away at Southern Counties East outfit K Sports in the first qualifying round - another league considered of a higher standard to the Southern Combination.

Hassocks could take heart from their efforts in a single goal defeat and having Becks seriously worried at various points.

This of course is not anything new. Hassocks have for weeks now been picking up praise for their performances against better sides.

What has got to happen soon is that these performances start

translating into results - otherwise a long, hard winter could be in store.

To help try and instigate a climb away from the bottom three, head coach Brad Sweetman has been busy on the transfer front and one returning face and one new face were both on show.

Last season's club captain Bradley Bant has been lured back to the Robins after a short stay with AFC Varndenians.

Another player with V's connections made his Hassocks debut, goalkeeper Harvey Parker becoming the fifth different player to don the gloves for the Robins so far this season.

It was Parker's opposite number Mason Whitnell who was first called into action, setting the tone for an afternoon in which he pulled off several outrageous saves.

The first of those arrived on 15 minutes. A swift break down the left involving Josh Short, Andy Whittingham and Joe Bull led to Bull crossing into the box.

Alfie Loversidge had timed his run to perfection and his slamming volley from eight yards out looked perfect until Whitnell somehow reacted, stretching out a left hand and doing just enough to turn it over the bar.

Becks were suddenly aware that this might not be the cakewalk that it looked on paper. They duly responded by taking the lead on 30 minutes through stand in skipper Junior Kaffo.

Hassocks were caught out by a long ball over the top, leaving Kaffo in a footrace with Luke Marshall.

To be fair to Marshall, he did well to keep up with Kaffo initially, forcing the Becks midfielder wider than he would have liked.

Kaffo though eventually proved to have enough pace to accelerate into space before beating Parker with a difficult finish, lifting the ball over the new man between the Hassocks posts from a very tight angle.

Beckenham doubled their advantage on the hour mark. Substitute Dennis Doci played the ball into the feet of Tunde Aderonma, who turned sharply to hit a clinical snapshot past Parker.

Hassocks were not perturbed and whereas several weeks ago they might have folded like napkins, they instead hit back almost immediately.

Loversidge swung over the sort of pinpoint corner which is fast becoming his trademark and Bull ghosted in unmarked to power a downwards header in for his first goal of the season.

It was the least that Bull deserved after a hardworking set of performances.

Hassocks will be hoping it will spark a run of scoring form from the man charged with leading the line by Sweetman following joint top scorer George Mitchell-Phillips moving to Saltdean United.

Hassocks now had 23 minutes to try and find an equaliser. Becks decided that they were going to try and see the game out, inviting the Robins to come forward in a way that they have scarcely done so far in the current campaign.

The best chance of a Hassocks leveller came from a marauding run forward from captain Whittingham. He beat a couple of Beckenham players on a charge from left back and with the home crowd urging him to shoot, let fly an effort from the edge of the area.

Unfortunately, Whitnell produced an acrobatic stop every bit as spectacular as his first half save from Loversidge to again turn the effort over the bar.

Hassocks: Parker; Tuck, Marshall, Rawlingson, Whittingham; Gardner, Bradley, Short, Bant; Loversidge, Bull.

Subs: Baden, Wallis (used), Dersley, Pittock, Harris (unused).

Hassocks sail away from Pirates with a point for their efforts

**Southern Combination League Premier Division
Saturday 2nd October 2021, The Polegrove
Bexhill United 1-1 Hassocks**

In the end, the journey was worth it. Those Hassocks fans who used their precious petrol to make the longest away journey of the season to Bexhill United in the middle of the fuel crisis were rewarded by witnessing the Robins take an excellent point with a 1-1 draw at the Polegrove.

The Pirates have made quite a splash in their first Premier Division season for 30 years, sitting seventh in the early table with six wins from 10 matches.

Included in that impressive haul was a 3-1 victory over title favourites Saltdean United last time out, a result that pointed to a difficult afternoon for Hassocks on the East Sussex coast.

The Robins though have been showing improvement over the past few weeks, pushing both Premier Division leaders Littlehampton Town close in the league and then doing likewise to Combined Counties Premier table toppers Beckenham Town in the FA Vase.

And Hassocks were well worth their here point in horrific conditions which resulted in numerous games across the county either being postponed or abandoned before the final whistle.

There was never any danger of that at the Polegrove. Although not the best surface, the pitch was extremely dry before kick off and it coped admirably with all mother nature could throw at it over the course of a grim afternoon.

The last time Hassocks had visited these parts for a league game had been in their 1994-95 Division One promotion season, drawing 2-2.

Phil Wickwar had been an unused substitute on that day and

remarkably, he was back on the Robins bench for this one 26 years later.

That was not the only note of interest amongst Brad Sweetman's substitutes; Spencer Slaughter was also named having re-joined Hassocks for a fourth spell following his departure from the manager's seat at Loxwood.

Slaughter came on for the final 12 minutes and although it will take him some weeks to get up to full match fitness, the fan favourite will bring some much needed leadership and experience to what is the youngest squad in the Premier Division.

Hassocks made two changes from the close-fought 2-1 defeat against Beckenham last time out. Andy Whittingham was replaced by Bradley Tighe and Alex Harris took over in goal from Harvey Parker.

Harris looked to have a particularly difficult task on his hands, dealing with relentless torrential rain and a wind swirling at speeds approaching 45 miles per hour.

None of that seemed to bother him, however. He was confident claiming when he needed to be despite the unpredictability of what the ball would do in the gale and his handling was exceptional all afternoon.

Having seen Hassocks concede two or more goals in 10 of their 12 previous matches, it was quite an achievement for only one to go in on a day when the weather could easily have claimed a couple of assists - enough to earn Harris the Robins's man-of-the-match accolade, in fact.

Just behind Harris in that particular vote was Alfie Loversidge. He opened the scoring in only the seventh minute with his fourth goal of the campaign following a swashbuckling move down the left.

Bradley Bant released Joe Bull working the channel and his cut back to the penalty spot was slammed into the top corner by Loversidge to shock

the home crowd by giving Hassocks the lead.

Unfortunately, that lead lasted only 13 minutes. Hassocks should have doubled their advantage from a corner but the effort was placed straight at Bexhill goalkeeper Alexander Zamani.

From there, the Pirates pillaged down the right and a low cross from Jack Shonk was tapped in by the prolific Evan Archibald.

Hassocks had a chance to retake the lead on the stroke of half time, Zamani parrying an on-target effort away.

The loose ball fell to Arthur Rawlingson but with the goal gaping, he could not quite toe poke home.

Bexhill were much the dominant side in the second half and the Robins needed all hands on deck to prevent their point from disappearing to Davy Jones' locker.

There was one shivering moment in the final five minutes when the Pirates thought they had sunk Hassocks by putting the ball in the back of the net from a follow up after a good stop by Harris.

The away bench were convinced it was offside and after what felt like an eternity, referee Chris Stobard and his assistant came to the same conclusion and the goal was scuttled.

That seemed to knock the wind out of Bexhill's sails and Hassocks held on, ending a run of five consecutive defeats ahead of three huge home games against AFC Vardeanians, Eastbourne United and Horsham YMCA.

Hassocks: Harris; Marshall, Rawlingson, B Tighe, Tuck; Gardner, Short, Bradley, Bant; Loversidge, Bull.

Subs: Wallis, Slaughter (used), Baden, Wickwar (unused).



First Team Matches 2021-22

Date & Time	Opponents	Comp	F-A	Scorers
August				
03/08 - 19:45	Saltdean United (A)	SCFLP	0-6	
10/08 - 19:45	Spelthorne Sports (H)	FACEP	1-2	Loversidge
14/08 - 15:00	Eastbourne Town (H)	SCFLP	1-2	Short
17/08 - 19:45	AFC Uckfield Town (H)	SCFLP	2-2	Loversidge, Badger
21/08 - 15:00	Broadbridge Heath (H)	SCFLP	1-5	Beebee
24/08 - 19:45	Peacehaven & Tels. (A)	SCFLP	2-3	Bradley, Whittingham
28/08 - 15:00	Steyning Town (H)	SCFLP	2-0	Mitchell-Phillips (2)
30/08 - 11:00	Lingfield (H)	SCFLP	1-1	Loversidge
September				
04/09 - 15:00	Newhaven (H)	SCFLP	0-5	
07/09 - 19:45	Roffey (H)	PBLC2	1-5	Mitchell-Phillips
11/09 - 15:00	Little Common (H)	SCFLP	0-3	
18/09 - 15:00	Littlehampton Town (A)	SCFLP	2-4	Gardner, Badger
25/09 - 15:00	Beckenham Town (H)	FAVQ2	1-2	Bull
October				
02/10 - 15:00	Bexhill United (A)	SCFLP	1-1	Loversidge
09/10 - 15:00	AFC Varndeanians (H)	SCFLP		
12/10 - 19:45	Eastbourne United (H)	SCFLP		
16/10 - 15:00	Horsham YMCA (H)	SCFLP		
23/10 - 15:00	Loxwood (A)	SCFLP		
30/10 - 15:00	Pagham (H)	SCFLP		
November				
06/11 - 15:00	East Preston (A)	SCFLP		
13/11 - 15:00	Alfold (H)	SCFLP		
20/11 - 15:00	Broadbridge Heath (A)	SCFLP		
27/11 - 15:00	Peacehaven & Tels. (H)	SCFLP		
December				
04/12 - 15:00	AFC Uckfield Town (A)	SCFLP		
11/12 - 15:00	Eastbourne Town (A)	SCFLP		
18/12 - 15:00	Saltdean United (H)	SCFLP		
27/12 - 11:00	Crawley Down Gatwick (A)	SCFLP		
January				
03/01 - 11:00	Lingfield (H)	SCFLP		
13/01 - 15:00	Little Common (A)	SCFLP		
22/01 - 15:00	Eastbourne United (A)	SCFLP		
29/01 - 15:00	Bexhill United (H)	SCFLP		
February				
12/02 - 15:00	AFC Varndeanians (A)	SCFLP		
19/02 - 15:00	Horsham YMCA (A)	SCFLP		
26/02 - 15:00	Loxwood (H)	SCFLP		
March				
12/03 - 15:00	East Preston (H)	SCFLP		
19/03 - 15:00	Pagham (A)	SCFLP		
26/03 - 15:00	Newhaven (A)	SCFLP		
April				
09/04 - 15:00	Littlehampton Town (H)	SCFLP		
16/04 - 15:00	Steyning Town (A)	SCFLP		
18/04 - 11:00	Crawley Down Gatwick (H)	SCFLP		
23/04 - 15:00	Alfold (A)	SCFLP		

First Team Appearances 2021-22

Player	2021-22 Season			Goals	Hassocks Career	
	Starts	Used Sub	Games		Games	Goals
Alfie Loversidge	14	0	14	4	32	6
Josh Short	13	0	13	1	25	1
Arthur Rawlingson	9	4	13	0	13	0
Jack Gardner	12	0	12	1	35	1
Andy Whittingham	12	0	12	0	110	2
Luke Marshall	10	1	11	0	27	0
Joe Bull	9	2	11	1	72	5
George Mitchell-Phillips	7	2	9	3	9	3
Bradley Tighe	8	0	8	0	111	0
Connor Bradley	7	1	8	1	17	1
Jack Baden	4	4	8	0	12	0
Jude Wallis	2	5	7	0	7	0
Lewis Beebee	5	1	6	1	9	1
Alex Harris	5	0	5	0	65	0
Christian Kiddell	5	0	5	0	5	0
Charlie Tuck	5	0	5	0	11	0
Max Blencowe	3	1	4	0	4	0
Wes Tighe	3	1	4	0	4	0
Jordan Badger	2	2	4	2	114	9
Dan Turner	3	0	3	0	38	3
Ben Hicks	2	1	3	0	4	0
Kobe Dersley	1	2	3	0	4	0
Sam Geard	1	2	3	0	3	0
Bradley Bant	2	0	2	0	151	12
Kieran Dimelow	2	0	2	0	5	0
Lexx Lucas	2	0	2	0	2	0
Charlie Pugh	2	0	2	0	26	0
Tristan Hayes	1	1	2	0	2	0
Jay Hudson	1	1	2	0	2	0
Jacob Campbell	1	0	1	0	1	0
Louis Duckering	1	0	1	0	1	0
Harvey Parker	1	0	1	0	1	0
Tom Jupp	0	1	1	0	3	0
Arni Kublickas	0	1	1	0	67	1
Louis Pittock	0	1	1	0	9	0
Archie Russell	0	1	1	0	1	0
Spencer Slaughter	0	1	1	0	291	47
Louis Thwaites	0	1	1	0	1	0
Jack Troak	0	1	1	0	54	13



McSwiney makes it another three points for impervious Robins

**Southern Combination League Under 23 North Division
Thursday 16th September 2021, The Beacon
Hassocks U23s 1-0 Roffey U23s**



The good start goes on. Hassocks Under 23s remain unbeaten and level on points with Broadbridge Heath at the top of the Southern Combination League North Division following their fourth victory in five matches.

Their latest victims were Roffey in what was the first ever meeting between the clubs at Under 23 level, the visitors to the Beacon being newcomers to development football this season.

It was a tight game with only one goal in it. That came from Sean McSwiney, scoring for the first time in Hassocks colours to give the Robins a 1-0 victory.

The win gave the Robins a measure of revenge for the chastening 5-1 defeat the first team had suffered at the hands of their Roffey counterparts in the Peter Bentley League Cup nine days earlier.

Whereas the senior side have been struggling to keep goals out, the Under 23s are recording clean sheets for fun.

This was a third shutout in a row registered by a third different goalkeeper. Charlie Pugh was back

between the posts here, taking over from Jacob Campbell who had played in last week's 2-0 victory away at Steyning just 4 days after shipping those five goals against Roffey.

The identity of the man who started the run of clean sheets is the biggest surprise of the lot. With nobody else available, Hassocks head coach Brad Sweetman found himself having to don the gloves away at Oakwood.

A 2-0 victory means that Sweetman is now the only goalkeeper in Hassocks history to have never conceded a goal in his Robins career - and do not expect him to be putting that perfect record on the line anytime soon!

Pugh taking over from Campbell was one of five changes from the side who had won at the Shooting Field last time out.

Midfielders Jack Baden and Kieran Dimelow were replaced by George Mercer and Louis Thwaites, making his first start of the season.

Also missing out were defenders Charlie Tuck and Arthur Rawlinsong with Wes Tighe and Luke Marshall stepping in.

Hassocks seem to chop and change their goalkeeper and back line every week currently, making their current impervious defensive

record all the more impressive.

Conventional wisdom suggests that such inconsistencies in the back line should not lend itself to a mean defence, something which the Robins are doing their best to dismiss.

Whilst it was a good evening for McSwiney who got his Hassocks account up and running, it was less enjoyable for Roffey's Aaron Collins who saw red.

Finishing against 10 men undoubtedly helped the Robins, but still take nothing away from the team who are playing with real confidence so far and are well worth a watch if you have a spare Thursday night.

There is no fixture next week owing to Loxwood withdrawing from the league.

That means a two week break before the visit of St Francis Rangers to the Beacon on Thursday 30th September in the first Mid Sussex Derby of the season.

Hassocks: Pugh, Tuck, Marshall, Mercer, Ransome, Thwaites, McSwiney, Bradley, Hicks, Beebee, Hudson.

Subs: Dersley, Kilkelly, Russell, Rawlinsong (used).



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Under 23 Matches 2021-22

Date & Time	Opponents	Comp	F-A	Scorers
August				
19/08 - 19:45	Crowborough Athletic (H)	SCFL23	4-1	Hudson (4)
26/08 - 19:45	Horsham YMCA (A)	SCFL23	1-1	Russell
September				
01/09 - 19:45	Oakwood (A)	SCFL23	2-0	Hudson, OG
09/09 - 19:45	Steyning Town (A)	SCFL23	2-0	Bradley (2)
16/09 - 19:45	Roffey (H)	SCFL23	1-0	McSwiney
October				
07/10 - 19:45	Saltdean United (H)	CU23C1		
14/10 - 19:45	Alfold (H)	SCFL23		
21/10 - 19:45	Broadbridge Heath (A)	SCFL23		
28/10 - 19:45	Crowborough Athletic (A)	SCFL23		

Under 23 Appearances 2021-22

Player	2021-22 Season			
	Starts	Used Sub	Games	Goals
Ben Hicks	5	0	5	0
Sean McSwiney	5	0	5	1
Archie Russell	3	2	5	1
Wes Tighe	2	3	5	0
Jack Baden	4	0	4	0
Harvey Ransome	3	1	4	0
Louis Thwaites	1	3	4	0
Jay Hudson	3	0	3	5
Jude Wallis	3	0	3	0
Kobe Dersley	2	1	3	0
Zac Kladdis	2	1	3	0
George Mercer	2	1	3	0
Arthur Rawlingson	1	2	3	0
Jacob Killkelly	0	3	3	0
Lewis Beebee	2	0	2	0
Connor Bradley	2	0	2	2
Luke Marshall	2	0	2	0
Charlie Pugh	2	0	2	0
Jordan Badger	1	1	2	0
Brad Sweetman	1	1	2	0
Louis Duckering	1	0	1	0
Jacob Campbell	1	0	1	0
Kieran Dimelow	1	0	1	0
Jayden Dunkley	1	0	1	0
Tom Jupp	1	0	1	0
Lexx Lucas	1	0	1	0
Josh Novis	1	0	1	0
Charlie Tuck	1	0	1	0
Max Blencowe	0	1	1	0

10 goals scored but nothing can separate Hassocks and Hill

Southern Combination League Under 18 Central Division

Sunday 19th September 2021, The Beacon

Hassocks U18s 5-5 Burgess Hill Town U18s

Mid Sussex Derby day in the Southern Combination League Under 18 Central Division did not disappoint. Hassocks and Burgess Hill Town shared the spoils and 10 goals in an extraordinary 5-5 draw at the Beacon.

Entertainment is normally guaranteed when Robins meet Hillians but never to this degree as Hassocks dropped their first points of the season under their new management team of Neil Parker and Glenn Geard.

Nobody would have predicted the carnage that was about to unfold before kick off, Hassocks coming into the game having conceded just once from their opening three matches, all of which were won to put the Robins top of the early league table.

The previous week had seen an excellent 2-1 win away at Steyning Town. The Barrowmen had been the outstanding side in the Southern Combination League Youth section last season, winning the Supplementary Shield competition introduced post-lockdown by beating Bexhill United in the final back in May.

Steyning had eliminated Hassocks 7-1 in the semis the previous week,

so for the Robins to go to the Shooting Field and pick up three points four months later was an excellent result.

There were two changes from the victory over the Barrowmen. One of those came in goal, where Jayden Dunkley was replaced by Jake Palmer.

Palmer had kept clean sheets in his first two appearances for the Robins, the 1-0 win away at Shoreham & Adur on the opening day and a 5-0 success over another Mid Sussex rival, Haywards Heath Town, seven days later.

The other change saw Alfie Beck step up from the bench having scored in the winner against Steyning. He took over from Harry Carter.

What would have pleased Hassocks is that their five goals came from five different players, indicating that this Robins side can score from multiple sources as they went into half time 4-3 ahead.

Beck was in the goals again, justifying his return to the starting XI with a fourth goal in as many appearances so far this season.

Oliver Parker-Williams also has four now after netting against Hill, Archie Russell notched his first of the season and Abir Chowdbury also



got off the mark with his first for the club.

Hassocks' fifth scorer was Sam Geard, another player in good form. He has four to his name and if he continues in this vein, he will surely continue to be in and around the senior set up after making three appearances so far for the first team.

For Hill, Max Johnson enjoyed a dream start by scoring twice inside the opening 16 minutes. Louis White was on target four minutes before half time and Alex Thompson five minutes into the second half.

The visitors scoring was rounded off by substitute Noah Fewtrell with just 60 seconds of normal time remaining to earn Hill a point at the end of a second half which 'only' contained three goals.

Hassocks: Palmer, Morris, Bundy, Douglass, Chowdhury, Hill, Geard, Howard, Beck, Parker-Williams, Russell.

Subs: Llwellyn, Newman, Woodhouse (used).



Under 18 Matches 2021-22

Date & Time	Opponents	Comp	F-A	Scorers
August				
29/08 - 11:00	Shoreham (A)	SCFL18	1-0	Geard
September				
05/09 - 11:00	Haywards Heath Town (H)	SCFL18	5-0	Parker-Williams (2), Geard, Beck (2)
12/09 - 11:00	Steyning Town (A)	SCFL18	2-1	Parker-Williams, Beck
19/09 - 11:00	Burgess Hill Town (H)	SCFL18	5-5	Parker-Williams, Russell, Beck, Chowdhury, Geard
26/09 - 11:00	AFC Varndeanians (A)	SCFL18	3-2	Geard, Russell, Howard
October				
03/10 - 11:00	St Francis Rangers (H)	SCFL18	1-1	Parker-Williams
10/10 - 11:00	Eastbourne Borough (A)	CU18C1		
17/11 - 11:00	Montpellier Villa (H)	SCFL18		
24/11 - 11:00	Upper Beeding (A)	SCFL18		

Under 18 Appearances 2021-22

Player	2021-22 Season			
	Starts	Used Sub	Games	Goals
Harry Bundy	6	0	6	0
Sam Geard	6	0	6	4
Beau Howard	6	0	6	1
Archie Russell	6	0	6	2
Alfie Beck	4	2	6	4
Jamie Douglass	5	0	5	0
Oliver Parker-Williams	4	1	5	5
Joe Woodhouse	2	3	5	0
Archie Hill	4	0	4	0
Jack Morris	4	0	4	0
Louis Thwaites	2	2	4	0
Abir Chowdhury	3	0	3	1
Jake Palmer	3	0	3	0
Daniel Llwellyn	2	1	3	0
Josh Trinick	2	1	3	0
Max Beston	2	0	2	0
Harry Carter	2	0	2	0
Jayden Dunkley	2	0	2	0
Joe Holland	0	2	2	0
Robert Newman	0	2	2	0
Keegan Croydon-Elkins	0	1	1	0
Owen Parker	0	1	1	0
Muhammad Wilson	0	1	1	0

Mid Sussex Times



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Ladies Matches 2021-22

Date & Time	Opponents	Comp	F-A	Scorers
September				
26/09 - 14:00	Montpelier Villa (H)	SCWLP	1-1	J.Craig
October				
10/10 - 14:00	Pagham (H)	SCWLP		
24/10 - 14:00	Saltdean United (H)	SCWLP		
31/10 - 14:00	Seaford Town (A)	SCWLP		
November				
14/11 - 14:00	Woodingdean Wand. (H)	SCWLP		
21/11 - 14:00	Worthing Town (A)	SCWLP		
28/11 - 14:00	Eastbourne Town (A)	SCWLP		
December				
12/12 - 14:00	Montpelier Villa (A)	SCWLP		
19/12 - 14:00	Roffey (H)	SCWLP		
January				
09/01 - 14:00	Pagham (A)	SCWLP		
23/01 - 14:00	Saltdean United (A)	SCWLP		
30/01 - 14:00	Seaford Town (H)	SCWLP		
February				
06/02 - 14:00	Woodingdean Wand (A)	SCWLP		
13/02 - 14:00	Worthing Town (H)	SCWLP		
20/02 - 14:00	Eastbourne Town (H)	SCWLP		
March				
13/03 - 14:00	Roffey (A)	SCWLP		

Ladies Appearances 2021-22

Player	2021-22 Season			
	Starts	Used Sub	Games	Goals
Tallie Bright	1	0	1	0
Joanne Brown	1	0	1	0
Sarah Chappell	1	0	1	0
Jess Craig	1	0	1	0
Emma Flin	1	0	1	0
Jodie Johanson	1	0	1	0
Kirstin Mair	1	0	1	0
Sam Newman	1	0	1	0
Mia Pordage	1	0	1	0
Katie Read	1	0	1	0
Claire Stevens	1	0	1	0
Zeba Ghorishi	0	1	1	0
Liz King	0	1	1	0
Ellie Moquet	0	1	1	0
Holly Webb	0	1	1	0

Seventh heaven for Hassocks Veterans in first game since 2018

**Mid Sussex Football League Fred Pretty Veterans Plate
Sunday 19th September 2021, South Godstone Sports Ground
South Godstone Vets 1-7 Hassocks Vets**

For the first time since the 2017-18 season, a Hassocks Veterans side took to the pitch. It proved to be worth the wait as Nick Newman's men ran out 7-1 winners away at South Godstone.

The Robins will spend this season competing for the Fred Pretty Veterans Plate. They have been drawn in Group B and will face each of the nine other times once with a league table deciding who progresses to the knockout stages.

Given the quality that Hassocks possess in the players they have signed on, they will fancy their chances of doing well.

Most of the names will be familiar to long-term Robins supporters. Some of them will make you feel incredibly old, wondering how on earth they now qualify for vets football. Others you will wonder how they are still playing, given that they were in their 50s 10 years ago.

That is the beauty of vets football - it is such an eclectic mix of individuals that can never not be entertaining.

Take Hassocks' front line for the trip to South Godstone. On the one hand you had Pat Harding, a man who scored six times in six

appearances for the Robins first team in Supplementary Shield last season and who is still turning out regularly in the Isthmian League for Burgess Hill Town.

On the other, you had the great Steve Spies. He scored once for Hassocks Fatboys in the Sussex Sunday Premier Division last season.

His most famous moment in a Robins shirt meanwhile came when scoring two own goals, giving away a penalty and getting sent off in the space of 20 minutes of a Hassocks III team many moons ago against Wisdom Sports, before joining the opposition for a pub crawl of Haywards Heath afterwards.

To be fair, that does Spies a bit of a disservice and he has always been lethal in veterans football, going right back to 2008 when the last Hassocks side was set up.

Both Spies and Harding scored twice at South Godstone. Dave Juniper was the other player to nab a brace with the seventh goal coming from Elliott Butler.

Also turning out for Hassocks were player-manager Newman and former Republic of Ireland Under 21 international Paul Armstrong, who also turned out for Brighton, Airdrie United, Crawley Town and Eastbourne Borough during his



career.

Owen Barry was the scorer of the South Godstone consolation, ruining Hassocks' hopes of a clean sheet to mark their return.

Despite not keeping a shutout, this was as perfect a start to the campaign as Newman and his squad could have hoped for.

Their next fixture takes them to Charlwood on Sunday 10th October followed by a trip to Furnace Green Rovers on Sunday 7th November.

The first opportunity to watch the Veterans at the Beacon this season will come on Sunday 21st November at 2pm against Ansty Sports & Social.

Get it in the diary as it is one you will not want to miss.



Veterans Matches 2021-22

Date & Time	Opponents	Comp	F-A	Scorers
September				
19/09 - 14:00	South Godstone (A)	MSFLV	7-1	P.Harding (2), Spies (2), Juniper (2), Butler
October				
03/10 - 14:00	Charlwood (A)	MSFLV		
November				
07/11 - 14:00	Furnace Green Rovers (A)	MSFLV		
21/11 - 14:00	Ansty Sports & Social (H)	MSFLV		
December				
05/12 - 14:00	Brockham (H)	MSFLV		
January				
09/01 - 14:00	East Court (A)	MSFLV		
February				
13/02 - 14:00	Burgess Hill Albion (H)	MSFLV		

Veterans Appearances 2021-22

Player	2021-22 Season			
	Starts	Used Sub	Games	Goals
Paul Armstrong	1	0	1	0
Jonathan Bundy	1	0	1	0
Elliott Butler	1	0	1	1
Lee De La Rue Browne	1	0	1	0
Oliver Gosden	1	0	1	0
Pat Harding	1	0	1	2
David Juniper	1	0	1	2
Nick Newman	1	0	1	0
Robert Sayers	1	0	1	0
Steve Spies	1	0	1	2
Che Williams	1	0	1	0
Paull Gurr	0	1	1	0



ON THIS DAY



Four days after a shock Sussex RUR Charity Cup exit at the hands of Sidley United, Hassocks looked to get their season back on track when Lingfield and their new manager 'Dixie' Dean came to the Beacon on this day in **2010**...

Jeremiah rescues Robins a point from lowly Lingfield

Suddenly, the flame does not appear to be glowing so brightly at the Beacon. After a surprise midweek RUR Cup exit at the hands of Sidley whom Hassocks hammered 5-0 just 17 days earlier, the Robins struggled to preserve their unbeaten league record against lowly Lingfield.

They needed a Sam Jeremiah goal 16 minutes from time to rescue a 1-1 draw in a game that nobody is likely to forget anytime soon thanks to the antics of Lingers boss Dave 'Dixie' Dean, appointed three weeks ago after the resignation of Jim Bajeux.

The visitors arrived at the Beacon with only two substitutes and Dean as support staff on a sparsely populated bench.

Dean did not last the full 90 minutes either - and he would have been banished to the stands much sooner had he not also been acting as physio.

That job, in truth, did not last long. Dean's first venture onto the pitch to administer treatment came after only eight minutes and ended with him slamming down the medical bag, giving it a kicking and then storming off without so much as touching the magic sponge.

He was seemingly incensed that referee Matthew Goldsmith had not awarded his side a penalty against home goalkeeper Jack Simpson, leaving his own injured player to tend to himself.

Dean need not have worried. That bizarre incident sparked a mad few

minutes which eventually ended with Mr Goldsmith giving Lingfield an outrageous spot kick for a perceived foul by Pete Lear on Daryl Coleman.

That set the tone for an awful afternoon for Mr Goldsmith, who landed himself with a mountain of paperwork.

He dished out seven bookings, four to home players although Ashley Marsh and Spencer Slaughter could have no complaints.

Lear on the other hand certainly could as a yellow card for the penalty -that-never-was rubbed salt into the wounds of the Hassocks defender.

As for Dean, Mr Goldsmith said afterwards that he would be reporting the Lingfield boss twice for misconduct.

He also confirmed that Dean had only survived so long in the dugout because he could not be sent off whilst acting as physio. Once Dean had delegated that task to a Lingers fan, Mr Goldsmith sent him to the stands for foul and abusive language.

Back to the actual football and Coleman - the best player on the pitch by some distance - duly slammed home that controversial penalty to give Lingfield the lead with 12 minutes played.

Leaking an average of three goals a game, the visitors were content to get bodies behind the ball after that.

The next 80 minutes ended up being a strange affair. Hassocks still created plenty of opportunities, but there could be no doubt that they were a shadow of their best and

lacking in the sort of invention which has characterised the first two months of Mickey Jewell's management.

It was poor fare all round really and only the antics of Dean could be labelled entertainment. Even that had run thin long before the end as home supporters becoming increasingly upset with his antics.

Mr Goldsmith also came under the spotlight, which is always a shame and not what the game is really about.

The Hassocks equaliser summed up their performance perfectly - scrappy and unconvincing. Jewell had made three substitutions in the space of eight minutes as he desperately sort a spark of creativity from somewhere.

Anthony Hibbert was the last of the players introduced and when his attempted cross from a free kick instead rattled the bar, an almighty scramble occurred with the ball eventually bundled in and Jeremiah claiming the final touch.

On chances, it was deserved enough but had Dean not blotted the Lingfield copybook, there may have been a twinge of sympathy from Hassocks supporters towards the visitors, given the effort they put into defending their early lead.

Jewell admitted afterwards it was another poor performance but that unbeaten start remains intact and means something will have to give up against the 100% record of Three Bridges on Tuesday night.

Around the League...



Three weeks ago, Hassocks put up a fight at Premier Division leaders Littlehampton Town before going down 4-2 at the Flora Sportsfield. Here is what happened around the rest of the Southern Combination League that day...

Crawley Down Gatwick racked up the biggest Premier Division win of the season so far this season, hammering hapless Horsham YMCA 9-0 at the Haven.

Ex-Hassocks striker Phil Johnson led the charge, scoring four times in 46 minutes against another of his former clubs before being withdrawn with only 50 on the clock.

Charlie Pitcher also notched two and Harvey Blake one on what was a good day for players who were once Robins.

The other Anvils goals came from Michael Wood and substitute Andre Elkana whilst a red card for Sifer-Mariam Saunders just before half time completed a miserable afternoon for YM.

Saltdean United picked up a big win over **Loxwood**, winning 5-1 at Hill Park. Trevor McCreadie scored a brace for the Tigers with Kieron Pamment, Ryan Warwick and Joe Shelley also on target.

Lewis Hole grabbed a hat-trick for **Little Common** who continued their excellent start with a 5-0 home win over today's visitors to the Beacon **AFC Varndeanians**.

Sam Ellis and substitute William Brown were also on target for Common.

Lingfield were victorious by the same 5-0 scoreline over **East Preston** thanks to two goals from Aaron Jenkins and three from Sam Clements and **Bexhill United** also racked up a 5-0 win away at **Steyning Town**.

Evan Archibald scored four times for the Pirates, whose other goal came from Regan Smith.

Pagham underlined their title credentials with an impressive 3-0 win away at **Eastbourne Town**.

Jack Langford scored twice and Joe Clarke once as the Lions kept up the pressure on Littlehampton at the top of the table.

All the goals came in the second half at Fort Road where **Newhaven** triumphed 3-0 against **Eastbourne United**.

Tristan Jarvis gave the Dockers a 54th minute lead before two goals in the final five minutes from Lee Robinson added a bit of gloss to the scoreline.

An own goal and a Renato Carvalho effort gave **Alfold** a 2-0 win at home to **AFC Uckfield Town** whilst the top flight's final game of the day saw **Broadbridge Heath** beat **Peacehaven & Telscombe** 2-1 at High Wood Hill Sports Ground.

Charlie Gibson and substitute Sam Jobbins were on target for the Bears. The Tye's consolation came via Curtis Ford.

Division One leaders **Midhurst & Easebourne** continued their 100 percent start but they were made to work hard for it, winning 2-1 at **Mile Oak**.

Zac Haulkman gave Oak the lead midway through the first half. Goals from Jake Slater and Charlie Cooper though ensured that the three points went home with the Stags.

Roffey were held to a 0-0 draw away at **Epsom & Ewell** and **Shoreham** picked up an excellent 3-1 win at home to **Wick**.

Daniel Momah, Jonathan Lansdale and Alex Fair notched for the Mussels. The visitors consolation came via Ben Gray.

The day's biggest winners were **Dorking Wanderers Reserves** who smashed **Storrington** 11-1 at Meadowbank Stadium.

Max Leitch was the pick of the players for Wanderers, helping himself to five of the haul.

At Mill Road, **Arundel** scored three times in the final 30 minutes through Kai Williams and Mackenzie Oatway twice to beat **Montpelier Villa** 3-1, for whom Harley Damario was on target.

A nine goal thriller between **Seaford Town** and **Forest Row** at the Crouch saw the hosts just about triumph 5-4.

Billingshurst picked up an excellent 2-1 win on the road at **Godalming Town** thanks to Matt McApline and Tom Colbran, an own goal gave **Selsey** a 1-0 victory over **Worthing United** and **Oakwood** and **Hailsham Town** shared a 1-1 draw at Tinsley Lane.

In Division Two, there is no stopping leaders **Rustington** currently as they beat **Brighton Electricity** 7-1 at Withdean.

Kristian Harding netted a hat-trick in an 8-2 win for **Upper Beeding** away at **Worthing Town** and an early strike from Greg Babon gave **Southwater** a 1-0 home victory over **Bosham**.

Two goals in the final four minutes from substitute Freddie Ryan turned things around at **Ferring** who rallied late to beat **Charlwood** 3-2 and **Rottingdean Village** won 2-1 at **Littlehampton United**.

Last but by no means least, Max Willcox netted twice for **St Francis Rangers** in a 2-0 away victory at **Copthorne**.



The 2021-22 season...

Southern Combination Premier Division Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Littlehampton Town	11	10	0	1	38	13	30
Pagham	12	9	0	3	20	11	27
Saltdean United	10	8	0	2	30	9	24
Newhaven	10	7	2	1	25	8	23
Little Common	10	6	3	1	26	9	21
Bexhill United	12	6	3	3	26	18	21
Alfold	11	7	0	4	17	12	21
Crawley Down Gatwick	11	6	2	3	35	13	20
Broadbridge Heath	10	6	2	2	21	9	20
Eastbourne Town	11	5	2	4	18	16	17
Lingfield	11	4	1	6	16	25	13
Eastbourne United	11	4	0	7	19	20	12
Peacehaven & Tels.	9	4	0	5	12	16	12
Horsham YMCA	12	3	3	6	14	34	12
Steyning Town	11	3	2	6	12	29	11
AFC Uckfield Town	12	2	4	6	11	18	10
Hassocks	11	1	3	7	12	32	6
Loxwood	10	1	2	7	7	24	5
East Preston	10	0	2	8	8	31	2
AFC Varndeanians	11	0	1	10	19	39	1

Premier Division Attendances

	Ave	High	Low
Eastbourne Town	223	275	186
Peacehaven & Telscombe	181	226	133
Littlehampton Town	154	220	112
Saltdean United	135	223	87
Newhaven	130	151	101
Broadbridge Heath	127	172	82
Bexhill United	113	186	64
Pagham	105	187	76
Eastbourne United	100	147	0
Hassocks	99	180	50
Steyning Town	97	130	68
Little Common	85	114	64
East Preston	82	108	62
Loxwood	72	83	52
Alfold	71	109	35
Horsham YMCA	71	94	0
AFC Uckfield Town	69	116	39
Crawley Down Gatwick	65	86	32
AFC Varndeanians	60	122	37
Lingfield	56	81	41

Premier Division Form Guide

	Last 6
Littlehampton Town	WWWWW
Little Common	WWWDDW
Newhaven	WWWDDW
Pagham	WWWLW
Crawley Down Gatwick	DWWWDD
Broadbridge Heath	WDWWW
Saltdean United	WLWWW
Bexhill United	LWWWDD
Alfold	LWLWW
Eastbourne Town	LDLLWW
Eastbourne United	LLLLWW
Peacehaven & Telscombe	WWLLLL
Lingfield	WLWLLL
Hassocks	WDLLL
Horsham YMCA	WDLDDL
AFC Uckfield Town	WLLLLD
Steyning Town	LLDLLW
Loxwood	LDDLLL
AFC Varndeanians	LLLLDL
East Preston	DLLLLL

Premier Division Top Scorers

Player	Club	Goals
Joe Benn	Littlehampton	22
Phil Johnson	Crawley Down	16
Jack Langford	Pagham	13
Evan Archibald	Bexhill United	12
Charlie Pitcher	Crawley Down	12
Lee Robinson	Newhaven	10
Trevor McCreadie	Saltdean United	10
Jack Shonk	Bexhill United	10
Joe Clarke	Pagham	9
George Gaskin	Littlehampton	9
Sam Clements	Lingfield	7
Lewis Hole	Little Common	7
Tom Boyle	AFC V'deanians	6
Dave Herbert	Littlehampton	6
Kieron Pamment	Saltdean United	6
Charlie Parmiter	B'bridge Heath	6
Alfie Rogers	Newhaven	6
Sam Lemon	Alfold	6
Tom Biggs	Littlehampton	5
Reece Hallard	Saltdean United	5

Southern Combination Under 23 North Division Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Broadbridge Heath	6	5	1	0	26	7	16
Hassocks	5	4	1	0	10	2	13
Oakwood	5	2	1	2	5	6	7
Alfold	4	2	0	2	6	7	6
Roffey	5	1	1	3	4	6	4
Crowborough Athletic	4	1	1	2	8	10	4
Horsham YMCA	4	1	1	2	7	16	4
Steyning Town	4	1	0	3	5	10	3
St Francis Rangers	5	1	0	4	6	12	3

Under 23 North Division Top Scorers

Player	Club	Gls
Tyler Symonds	B'bridge Heath	11
Jay Hudson	Hassocks	5
Kyle Anson	Crowborough	4
Derrick Kabagozza	B'bridge Heath	3
Joe Simpkin	Steyning Town	3
Ebenezer Amisshah	Oakwood	2
Connor Bradley	Hassocks	2
Rob DS Saravia	Horsham YMCA	2
Harry Mark	B'bridge Heath	2

Southern Combination Under 18 Central Division Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hassocks	5	3	2	0	12	9	11
Shoreham & Adur	5	3	1	1	15	7	10
Worthing United	4	3	0	1	10	7	9
Steyning Town	5	3	0	2	16	9	9
Montpelier Villa	3	2	1	0	14	3	7
Burgess Hill Town	5	2	1	2	15	15	7
St Francis Rangers	5	1	1	3	5	15	4
AFC Varndeanians	5	1	0	4	7	16	3
Upper Beeding	5	0	0	5	4	17	0

Under 18 Central Division Top Scorers

Player	Club	Gls
Charlie Maywood	Montpelier Villa	8
Alex Brett	Steyning Town	4
Taylor Harding	Shoreham	4
Gabriel Brennan	Steyning	3
Sam Geard	Hassocks	3
Max Johnson	Burgess Hill	3
Kiran Mahapatra	AFC V'deanians	3
Oli Parker-Williams	Hassocks	3
Keane Rodrigues	Steyning Town	3

Sussex County Women's League Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saltdean United	4	3	0	1	15	4	9
Montpelier Villa	3	2	1	0	22	4	7
Roffey	2	2	0	0	7	3	6
Pagham	2	1	0	1	8	5	3
Seaford Town	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Hassocks	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Woodingdean Wand	2	0	0	2	2	9	0
Worthing Town	3	0	0	3	2	12	0
Eastbourne Town	2	0	0	2	0	22	0

Top Scorers

Player	Club	Gls
Nicole White	Montpelier Villa	5
Remi Crawley	Pagham	4
Georgia Egner	Montpelier Villa	4
Libby Pickard	Saltdean United	4
Saskia Taylor-Doyle	Montpelier Villa	4
Lou Tindall	Montpelier Villa	4
Brooke N-Rogan	Saltdean United	3
Katherine Davyson	Montpelier Villa	2
Dulcie Elder	Worthing Town	2

Mid Sussex Veterans League Fred Pretty Plate

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Furnace Green	2	2	0	0	7	1	6
Hassocks	1	1	0	0	7	1	3
Charlwood	1	1	0	0	6	3	3
Ansty Sports & Social	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Ardingly	2	1	0	1	8	7	3
South Park	2	1	0	1	3	5	3
Brockham	1	0	0	1	1	4	0
East Court	1	0	0	1	1	5	0
Burgess Hill Albion	2	0	0	2	0	4	0
South Godstone	1	0	0	1	1	7	0

Top Scorers

Player	Club	Gls
David Neathey	Furnace Green	4
Mark Southam	Charlwood	3
Pat Harding	Hassocks	2
Dave Juniper	Hassocks	2
Steve Spies	Hassocks	2
Lee Ashton	Furnace Green	1
Owen Barry	South Godstone	1
Daniel Brown	Ansty	1
Elliott Buter	Hassocks	1
Mark Collison	Ansty	1



Coming up...

The visit of Eastbourne United to the Beacon lost to the fuel crisis 11 days ago has been hastily rearranged for this coming Tuesday night and that is followed by matches against Horsham YMCA and Loxwood, two clubs around us in the table...



Eastbourne United

When?

Tuesday 12th October

Where?

The Beacon

Time?

7:45pm

Competition?

Southern Combination League
Premier Division

Admission?

£6 adults, £3 concessions,
Under 16s go free

Eastbourne United this season?

When this game was originally meant to take place 10 days ago, United were only one point ahead of us in the table. The gap now reads six as back-to-back victories have lifted them up the table and away from the relegation zone. And when we say victories, we mean hammerings - Lingfield were beaten 7-0 in the first of those matches and Loxwood 4-0 in the second.

Our record against Eastbourne United?

The Robins dominate the head-to-head with 18 wins to United's 12 and 12 draws in our 41 meetings. That record is helped hugely by the fact that we seem to love visiting the Oval for some reason. We won six times in a row there between 2010 and 2019, although that run has been dampened somewhat by defeats on our last two visits to the Sunshine Coast.

Last time we met?

Included amongst those was our previous visit to the Oval, the last game completed before the 2020-21 season was curtailed by the winter lockdown. United were floundering towards the bottom of the table at the time whereas we were enjoying one of our best campaigns for some time. Not that any of that mattered for much, a disappointing Hassocks display resulting in a 1-0 defeat to a George Landais goal that gave new United boss Ray Collier his first win at the helm.

Played for both?

Fan favourite Jack Troak previously played for United before moving to the Beacon in the summer of 2019. Others to have represented both clubs are few and far between with Zak Dove - who enjoyed a brief spell with us at the Beacon in 2014 - about it. He is now manager at Eastbourne Town Ladies.



Horsham YMCA

When?

Saturday 16th October

Where?

The Beacon

Time?

3pm

Competition?

Southern Combination League
Premier Division

Admission?

£6 adults, £3 concessions,
Under 16s go free

Horsham YMCA this season?

Following the departure of long-serving manager Peter Buckland in the summer of 2020, Horsham YMCA struggled in the part of last season that got completed and were sat in the bottom three when the campaign was curtailed. Dean Carden - a YM legend with over 500 appearances for the club to his name - took over in November from Buckland's successor Julian Miller and although he could not instigate an immediate turnaround, there has been a noticeable improvement in 2021-22 so far. YM have won three and drawn three of their 12 games to sit 14th in the table at the time of writing, with their most notable victory coming against title challengers Pagham.

Our record against Horsham YMCA?

YM have been one of our most frequent opponents in the Southern Combination League across the past 40 or so years, although games against them have rarely brought much joy. In 51 meetings, we have won only 12. 13 have ended level

with YM triumphing on 26 occasions. There is the small consolation that this game takes place at the Beacon rather than Gorings Mead as a large reason for that poor head-to-head is an atrocious record away at YM.

Last time we met?

Hassocks were at their Jekyll & Hyde best in October last year. Three days after suffering a club record 8-0 home defeat, we went and won 3-1 at Horsham YMCA for a first league victory at Gorings Mead in 17 years (we did tell you that our form there was terrible!). Jack Troak opened the scoring from the penalty spot and although Cameron Gyeabour equalised only two minutes later, YM had no answer to two outstanding Charlie Pitcher goals in the second half.

Any familiar faces?

Not any more, but plenty have turned out in the past for both clubs. Phil Johnson and Alex Gathern are two recent names whilst John Suter has sat in the dugout at YM and the Beacon.



Loxwood

When?

Saturday 23rd October

Where?

Plaistow Road

Time?

3:00pm

Competition?

Southern Combination League
Premier Division

Loxwood this season?

A quick glance at the Premier Division table will tell you what an important game this is. The Magpies are one of only four sides below us, having won one, drawn two and lost seven of their games so far. It might be too early in the season for six pointers, but the trip to the Sussex/Surrey border looks massive in terms of what it could do for morale and belief, if not actual league position.

Our record against Loxwood?

The sides first clashed in the 2014-15 season, since when there have been 12 meetings. Hassocks have only ever beaten the Magpies twice, a 4-0 win at Plaistow Road in September 2018 and a 6-2 success at the Beacon a year later. The last four games have been hugely entertaining with 22 goals flying in.

Last time we met?

One of the worst afternoons in recent memory for Hassocks supporters. Two clubs deep in relegation trouble

met at Plaistow Road in February 2020, where Loxwood ran out 3-0 winners to record their first victory of the season at the 22nd attempt. All the goals came in the first 25 minutes from Mark Goldson, a certain Charlie Pitcher and Tim Bennett.

How to get to Plaistow Road?

Follow the A272 to and through Billingshurst, crossing the roundabout with the A29 before joining the B2133 shortly after. Pass through Newpound and Roundstreet Common, approaching a fork in the road with Skiff Lane. Plaistow Road is just on the left after that with the ground on your left a very short distance down it.

Any familiar faces?

Only the small matter of Spencer Slaughter - now back home where he belongs - coming up against the club he managed for the past 18 months. Not that a game this important needs a subscript or anything.



Want to help the Robins raise vital funds throughout the 2021-22 season? Then sign up for to

SPONSOR A GOAL

For each time the first team score in the 2021-22 season, you pay the club £1. This goes towards expenses such as kit washing, matchday equipment and improvements to the facilities at the Beacon.

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**Jim Marsh
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Frank Marshall
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Ian Plummer
Steve Mills**

Money raised in 2020-21

**August £140
September £56
October £14
November
December
January
February
March
April**

TOTAL £210

Thank you to all our goal sponsors in the 2021-22 season. If you'd like to join them, then please speak to either Dave John, Owen behind the bar or send us an email to hassocksfc@outlook.com

Robins Awards

Head on over to the Hassocks Twitter feed after every game to cast your vote for the Robins' man-of-the-match - where you can also select your Player of the Month

Here are our winners so far this season...

Hassocks Man of the Match 2021-22

Saltdean United away **Alfie Loversidge**
Spelthorne Sports home **Alfie Loversidge**
Eastbourne Town home **Josh Short**
AFC Uckfield Town home **Charlie Pugh**
Broadbridge Heath home **Lewis Beebee**
Peacehaven & Telscombe away **Connor Bradley**
Steyning Town home **Alfie Loversidge**
Lingfield home **Joe Bull**
Newhaven home **Swindon Fan on his Stag Do**
Roffey home **Max Blencowe**
Little Common home **Andy Whittingham**
Littlehampton Town away **Jack Gardner**
Beckenham Town home **Joe Bull**
Bexhill United away **Alexis Harris**
AFC Varndeanians home
Eastbourne United home
Horsham YMCA home
Loxwood away
Pagham home
East Preston away
Alfold home
Broadbridge Heath away
Peacehaven & Telscombe home
AFC Uckfield Town away
Eastbourne Town away
Saltdean United home
Crawley Down Gatwick away
Lingfield home
Little Common away
Eastbourne United away
Bexhill United home
AFC Varndeanians away
Horsham YMCA away
Loxwood home
East Preston home
Pagham away
Newhaven away
Littlehampton Town home
Steyning Town away
Crawley Down Gatwick home
Alfold away

Hassocks Player of the Month 2021-22

August 2021
1st **Connor Bradley**
2nd **Alfie Loversidge**
3rd **Josh Short**

September 2021
1st
2nd
3rd

October 2021
1st
2nd
3rd

November 2021
1st
2nd
3rd

December 2021
1st
2nd
3rd

January 2021
1st
2nd
3rd

February 2021
1st
2nd
3rd

March 2021
1st
2nd
3rd

April 2021
1st
2nd
3rd

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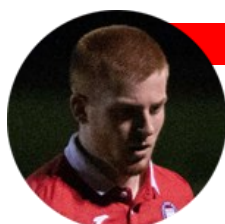
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Hassocks

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Wes Tighe	
Jack Baden	
Josh Short	
Lexx Lucas	
Alfie Loversidge	
Bradley Bant	
Joe Bull	
Lewis Beebee	
Jude Wallis	

Head Coach Brad Sweetman
Assistant Jordan Wilson
Physio Chloe Parker
Physio Phil Wickwar

Next at the Beacon



Eastbourne United
 Tuesday 12th October. 7:45pm
 SCFL Premier Division



AFC Varndeanians

	Luca Paiano
	Matt Gotel
	Finley Bigg
	Tom Barnes
	Tommy Boyle
	Omar Bukleb
	Jamie Hillwood
	Alfie Mitchell
	Oscar Pinnock
	David Bridges
	Alex Rainford
	Will Robinson
	Charlie Smith
	George Stone
	Matt Waterman
	George Warren
	Rudi Tormey
	Jake Warde
	Keen Ancell
	Justin Jones

Referee
 Tom Price

Assistants
 Daniel Hague &
 Adrian Hudson

Manager Ryan Gayler
Assistant Dave Bridges
Physio George Stone

Today's other Premier Division games

AFC Uckfield Town v East Preston
 Eastbourne Town v Broadbridge Heath
 Horsham YMCA v Eastbourne United
 Little Common v Alfold
 Littlehampton Town v Crawley Down
 Loxwood v Bexhill United
 Newhaven v Lingfield
 Peacehaven & Telscombe v Pagham
 Steyning Town v Saltdean United