

The Robins

2022-23 Matchday Programme #1



Hassocks v Midhurst & Easebourne

Southern Combination League Premier Division

Tuesday 2nd August 2022

7:45pm. The Beacon





HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB

Founded 1902

The Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks, BN6 9LY

01273 846040

hassocksfc@outlook.com

CLUB OFFICIALS

CHAIRMAN / TREASURER

Dave John 07787 563351

VICE CHAIR / MEMBERSHIP / BAR MANAGER

Owen John 07747 612526

SECRETARY

Nick Palmer nickpalmer90@hotmail.com

PROGRAMME EDITORS

Owen John 07747 612526

Scott McCarthy 07887 746222

WEBSITE MANAGER

Scott McCarthy 07887 746222

GROUNDSMAN

Alan John 01444 416155

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Dave John 07788 713954

FIRST TEAM HEAD COACH

James Westlake

ASSISTANT HEAD COACHES

Phil Gault & Tom Hughes

GOALKEEPER COACH

Tim Edwards

PHYSIO

Phil Wickwar

UNDER 23s HEAD COACH

Neil Parker

UNDER 18s HEAD COACH

Sean Fernley

VETERANS TEAM MANAGER

Nick Newman

LADIES MANAGER

Martin Lee 07713 452615

SECRETARY

Tallie Bright 07541 900786

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 North Division

Runners up 2022

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

Fred Pretty Veterans Plate

Winners 2022



Welcome to the Beacon

Good evening and welcome back to the Beacon for our first Southern Combination League game of the 2022-23 season...

Tonight's visitors are Midhurst & Easebourne, who are embarking on their first Premier Division campaign for 30 years.

It is the first time we have welcomed them to Mid Sussex since 2008. We hope they enjoy their stay with us and have a safe journey back home afterwards on what is quite a trek from the west of the county.

Today marks the start of a new era at the Beacon and hopefully, you are all as excited about what lies in prospect as we are.

The club took the difficult decision to relieve Brad Sweetman of his duties as head coach soon after the completion of the 2021-22 season.

Whilst the second half of the campaign was much improved compared to the first and we ended up in 16th spot and with a Sussex Principal RUR Cup semi final secured, the committee felt a new approach was needed to try and enjoy a better season this time around.

We are delighted that James Westlake has agreed to take over the head coach role. From the second he was appointed, he has not stopped working and the fruits of that labour are evidenced in the revamped squad you see here today.

You can find out more about the new signings in tonight's programme. Many of them would not have been attracted to the Beacon without Westy's powers of persuasion, turning down money elsewhere to instead try and push us back up the Premier Division table.

There is much potential, although nobody is under any illusions that things will not turnaround completely overnight.

It will take some time for the new signings to gel, as always happens with such upheaval. We saw that on Saturday, when Peacehaven & Telscombe proved too good on their way to a 3-0 opening day win.

There have been promising signs in pre-season about what is to come, however. Some of the football played has been excellent, especially when we came so close to causing an upset in the Ann John Trophy against Burgess Hill Town.

Carry that sort of form into the Premier Division and hopefully, we will not find ourselves looking over our shoulders, as has so often been the case for seven of eight years now.

The hard work on-the-pitch has been matched by what is going on off

it. Westy has also set about putting the wheels in motion to overhaul the commercial side of the club, seeking new sponsorship from across Mid Sussex.

We are hoping to have a couple of exciting announcements in that area over the next few weeks to try and put Hassocks firmly on the map.

For starters, the Beacon has been chosen to host Lewes Women v WSL side West Ham in a pre-season friendly this Sunday.

Euro 2022 and the success of the Lionesses makes this the perfect time to focus more on the women's game, so to have the opportunity to bring a top division club and showcase everything we have here at the Beacon is massive for us.

Before that though, we have tonight's clash against the Stags to try and negotiate, followed by an FA Cup home game against Lingfield on Saturday.

That is worth a significant amount of prize money, so any support you can come and give the players will be very much welcome.

Enjoy the game,

Owen & Scott



Today's Visitors >>>



Midhurst & Easebourne

Stags Factfile

Founded 1946
Ground The Rotherfield
Website midhurstfc.com
Twitter @MidhurstFC
Instagram @MidhurstFC
Manager Andy Ewen

Club Honours

SCFL Division One
 Runners up 2022
SCFL Division Two
 Winners 1995, 2003
SCFL Division One Cup
 Winners 1989, 2022
Div One Supplementary Shield
 Winners 2021
SCFL Division Two Cup
 Winners 2003

West Sussex League

Champions 1956, 1963, 1965, 1968, 1977, 1980

Malcolm Simmonds Cup

Winners 1960, 1974, 1977, 1978, 1980

Bareham Trophy

1971

It has been a long time coming, but 30 years after they last played in the top flight of the Southern Combination League, Midhurst are back...

The Stags had been knocking on the door of promotion out of Division One for the past couple of seasons, only for Covid-19 and curtailed campaigns to get in their way.

They showcased that by winning the Supplementary Shield in May 2021. The big prize though was to bring Premier Division football back to the Rotherfield and Andy Ewen and his players duly achieved that by winning the playoffs last season.

Nobody could argue that they did not deserve their place in the top division. The Stags were runners up to champions Roffey and then negotiated their way past Epsom & Ewell and Shoreham to secure promotion amid wild scenes of celebration at the Rotherfield back in May.

The challenge for them now is to become established in the Premier Division. We know all too well that there is very little difference between the top of Division One and the bottom of the Premier.

Roffey eliminated us from the Peter Bentley League Cup here at the Beacon last season, whilst our most recent meeting with Midhurst was a 3-0 defeat away from home in the Sussex Senior Cup in October 2020.

The Stags showed they mean business with an impressive 1-1 draw at the weekend against Bexhill United. The Pirates are no slouches, having secured their highest ever finish of fourth in 2021-22.

Bexhill had gone into half time 1-0 ahead. Midhurst showed the sort of character and fight that will stand them in good stead for the year ahead, equalising via Robert Tambling on the hour mark.

If the Westlake Era is to get off to a winning start here at the Beacon, then we are going to need to be at our best against opponents who have become used to winning over the past few years, including when lifting the Division One Cup last season.

10 Key Stags Moments

1946... club founded after a merger of Midhurst FC and Easebourne

1956... become one of the most dominant teams in the West Sussex League, lifting three tiles in nine years

1977... a West Sussex League and Cup double sees the club apply for a place in the Southern Combination

1981... the Stags are finally offered a place in the SCFL, joining Division One

1982... secure promotion to the Premier Division at the first time of asking as Division One runners up

1989... win their first senior silverware, lifting the Division One Cup by beating Newhaven in the final

1994... successive relegations sees them tumble from Premier Division to Division Two

1999... relegated to the West Sussex League after finishing bottom of Division Two

2021... win the Southern Combination Division One Supplementary Shield competition

2022... a magnificent season culminates in winning the Division One cup and promotion through the playoffs

Last 19 Seasons

2021-22: Southern Combination One 2nd

2018-19: Southern Combination One 16th

2017-18: Southern Combination One 13th

2016-17: Southern Combination One 9th

2015-16: Southern Combination One 15th

2014-15: Southern Combination One 8th

2013-14: Southern Combination One 14th

2012-13: Southern Combination One 8th

2011-12: Southern Combination One 15th

2010-11: Southern Combination One 15th

2009-10: Southern Combination One 18th

2008-09: Southern Combination One 16th

2007-08: Southern Combination One 10th

2006-07: Southern Combination One 7th

2005-06: Southern Combination One 17th

2004-05: Southern Combination One 9th

2003-04: Southern Combination One 6th

2002-03: Southern Combination Two 1st

2001-02: West Sussex League Premier 1st

The Robins' Record v Midhurst & Easebourne

SCFL Division One > Played 2 - Won 2 - Drawn 0 - Lost 0 - Scored 12 - Conceded 1

RUR Charity Cup > Played 3 - Won 2 - Drawn 0 - Lost 1 - Scored 5 - Conceded 4

Sussex Senior Cup > Played 3 - Won 1 - Drawn 0 - Lost 2 - Scored 4 - Conceded 5

Total > Played 8 - Won 4 - Drawn 0 - Lost 3 - Scored 21 - Conceded 10

Previous 8 Meetings

2020-21 Sussex Senior Cup: Midhurst 3-0 Hassocks

2016-17 RUR Charity Cup: Midhurst 1-2 Hassocks

2015-16 Sussex Senior Cup: Midhurst 1-3 Hassocks

2008-09 RUR Charity Cup: Hassocks 2-1 Midhurst

1995-96 RUR Charity Cup: Midhurst 2-1 Hassocks

1993-94 SCFL Division One: Hassocks 6-0 Midhurst

1993-94 SCFL Division One: Midhurst 1-6 Hassocks

1986-87 Sussex Senior Cup: Midhurst 3-1 Hassocks





Stags punish Robins for leaving their big names at home

Judging by the players that Hassocks left out of their Sussex Senior Cup first round tie at Midhurst & Easebourne, this is a competition that the Robins cared little for this season.

Charlie Pitcher, Jack Troak, Bradley Bant and Phil Gault could all spend the evening in the comfort of their own homes as they were spared the long journey to the Rotherfield.

Will Broomfield made the trip to Midhurst but that was to watch from the stands rather than influencing proceedings on the pitch and James Littlejohn and Jack Gardner were both rested among a bench of only four.

The result was a 3-0 victory for Midhurst and another embarrassing cup exit at the hands of lower division opponents for the Robins' impressive collection.

Of course, should Hassocks go onto pick up points from their next two Premier Division fixtures away at early season strugglers Broadbridge Heath and East Preston, then the decision to rest so many key players will have been justified.

On the other hand, momentum is a big thing in football and Hassocks were starting to build some after impressive back-to-back victories against Pagham and Peacehaven & Telscombe.

If defeat against Midhurst brings a shuddering halt to the roll that the Robins looked to be on, then deliberately sacrificing this competition will look like a questionable decision – especially if the Stags are given a bumper payday in the next round via a home draw with one of the big boys of Sussex football.

Another way to look at such wholesale changes is that they presented opportunities for Hassocks' fringe players to stake a claim for more regular action.

None of them really did, which was arguably the most disappointing aspect of the evening – and a point hammered home by assistant Mark Enticknap in a scathing half time team talk, delivered on the pitch due to current Covid-19 restrictions preventing away teams from using the changing rooms at the interval.

Hassocks were already 3-0 down by that point, having conceded three very soft goals inside the opening 34 minutes.

Midhurst took the lead with the game just four minutes old. It was a goal that set the tone for the rest of the evening really, gifted away by some atrocious Hassocks marking.

A corner was swung over from the left with Harry Giles unmarked front and centre of the goal to turn a free header past Hassocks' Under 18s goalkeeper Jayden Dunkley, who was making his senior debut. This would turn out to be quite a baptism of fire for young Dunkley.

The lively Alfie Loversidge almost notched an instant reply when he turned in the area and got a low shot away which was pushed around the post by Josh Bird in the home goal.

More slack marking from a corner nearly gave the Stags their second on eight minutes but this time, Dunkley did just enough to grab the loose ball after another Giles free header from a corner caused chaos in the box.

No prizes for guessing how Midhurst's second was scored when it did eventually arrive with 22 minutes on the clock.

Yes, it was from another free header as Lewis Hyde this time powered past Dunkley to double the hosts' advantage.

Giles added the third just past the half hour mark with a shot from distance which appeared to be caught by the wind to deceive Dunkley.

Hassocks did at least dig in their heels after that. Former Burgess Hill Town right back Drew Matthews bent

a free kick just off target after Harvey Enticknap was brought down on the edge of the area and Joe Bull drilled a low ball across goal which nobody could provide the finishing touch to.

Loversidge then timed a run to perfection to spring the offside trap and latch onto a Josh Short through ball before rounding Bird, only to see his effort from a tight angle rattle the far post.

Hassocks were clearly fired up by the stinging rebuke from their assistant manager at the break and that led to a fiery start to the second half.

Jake Chadwick got stamped on by Hyde early doors to spark a melee which saw George Brown enter the book.

Chadwick then put in a nasty challenge, leading to Robbie Tambling covering 30 yards faster than Usain Bolt to send Chadwick flying through the air. He joined Brown in the yellow card club for his troubles.

Brown glanced a header from a Matthews free kick wide of the post on the hour mark and that was about it for Hassocks in terms of what they did attack wise in the second half, even after throwing Littlejohn on.

Loversidge exited proceedings gingerly following a nasty collision with Bird after both players challenged for a 50-50 whilst Hassocks were lucky the scoreline didn't get any worse, Giles skewing off target two good chances to nab a hat-trick before Dunkley saved well down to his left in injury time.

Hassocks: Dunkley; Matthews, Turner, O'Leary, Whittingham; Loversidge, Enticknap, Chadwick, Short, Bull; Brown.

Subs: Littlejohn (Chadwick 60'), Gardner (Enticknap 68'), Hicks (Loversidge 74'), Wickwar (unused).



John returns to the dugout to bring the old Hassocks back with a win

Hassocks have Hassocks back. With John Suter sacked in the week and all his players with Horsham YMCA connections leaving the Beacon, Dave John returned to the dugout to deliver a 2-1 Sussex Principal RUR Charity Cup win over Midhurst & Easebourne.

This was a game lacking in quality but with no shortage of effort and commitment - the two qualities so clearly missing throughout Suter's 15 game reign which returned just four wins, stripped away the Robins' identity and leaves them in very real relegation trouble.

Johnsy said afterwards, "It was a long second half." He then added with a rye grin, "And it will probably be a long season."

He knows that he does not have the same number of quality players to draw upon as in previous years. Until he can address that problem, he will be more than happy to make up for that with the old spirit which used to be Hassocks' calling card before Suter's arrival.

Laurence Robinson was one individual curiously discarded by Suter, even after declaring himself happy to return from university at weekends to play.

The striker who revels in the nickname "Crouchy" for his resemblance to Peter Crouch answered Johnsy's call to make the trip back to help out.

He was duly rewarded with a goal after just six minutes on only his second start of the season.

A good ball from Michael Bates released Dan Jacques down the right and his cross was touched home at the near post by Robinson.

Midhurst showed they were not going to lie down and roll over after that and fashioned some decent half chances. The Stags' lively number eight Jamie Buitenhuis impressed in

particular.

But as half time approached, Hassocks took control and had some great opportunities to add to their lead.

First, a long throw from Richard Thompson was headed towards goal by James Laing. Midhurst goalkeeper Gavin Arnell did well to claw it out from under the bar and followed that up by making a superb save to deny Jacques' follow up.

Laing then produced a miss that defied belief by hitting the underside of the bar from no more than a yard after Anthony Hibbert's inswinging corner caused problems.

Midhurst still couldn't clear their lines with Jamie Hillwood firing just wide from the half clearance. The resulting goal kick from Arnell was a poor one, dropping straight to Laing who again tested the visiting number one.

Thompson did not appear for the second half as he is nursing a hamstring injury with Michael Eynon taking his place in a straight swap.

Losing Thompson did not impact Hassocks at all as they moved 2-0 ahead within a minute of the restart.

The Stags defence backed off Hibbert as he advanced through the middle, presenting the opportunity for him to produce one of his crisps drives from 25 yards which gave Arnell no chance.

Five minutes later and Hassocks almost had a third. Laing and Robinson linked up well to engineer a break. Hibbert thought he had converted Robinson's superb cross to the back post, only to see Gary Jones produce a miraculous clearance off the line.

The value of that moment of magic from Jones was hammered home when Midhurst immediately pulled one back.

Hillwood gave away possession far too easily, enabling Buitenhuis to cross and Dan Warren to score with a bullet header. Jack Simpson got two

hands firmly to the ball, but even so it had far too much power for the Robins' teenage goalkeeper to keep out.

Hassocks became worryingly sloppy after that, frequently surrendering the ball to visiting players.

They were grateful that Midhurst were unable to inflict any further punishment as they had on Hillwood.

The minutes began to tick by rather slowly for home supporters with their side clinging on by the end.

Warren squandered a good opportunity for an equaliser, blazing over when visiting skipper James Glue stuck the ball on a plate.

Hillwood almost atoned for his role in the Stags goal when narrowly off target after an astute backheel from substitute Aaron Walsh, another player Suter was not keen on but who can expect to be more involved over the coming weeks.

Midhurst threw everyone forward as the game rolled into stoppage time. Defender Paul Grantham surely will not get many opportunities this season to hit a powerful shot from inside the penalty area, as he did deep into stoppage time.

Thankfully for Hassocks, Simpson proved equal to it with a flying full stretch save to his left to turn the ball around the post.

There was a clear sense of relief around the ground when the final whistle blew.

The Robins certainly rode their luck but after the traumas of the season so far, everyone in the Hassocks camp was simply happy to get back to some kind of normality.

Hassocks: J Simpson; Jacques, Faith, Marsh, Pitcher, Thompson; Bates, Hibbert, Hillwood; Laing, Robinson.

Subs: Eynon (Thompson 45), Walsh (Laing 76), A Williams, Bucket (unused).



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Westy at the Wheel

To say it has been a manic few months would be an understatement. Not since the appointment of Mickey Jewell a decade ago have we seen such upheaval. There seems no better place to start than at the top, so without further ado - here is your new management team...

A busy summer started with a change of head coach at the Beacon. Shortly after the end of the 2021-22 season and Hassocks announced that James Westlake would replace Brad Sweetman in the role for the 2022-23 campaign.

A hugely popular figure at the Beacon, Westlake has made 228 appearances for Hassocks across three spells spread over 11 years.

He first joined the club in the 2010-11 season, signed from St Francis Rangers by Mickey Jewell. Westlake was a mainstay of Jewell's Hassocks side who finished fourth in the Premier Division in 2011-22, the

club's highest ever league position before he returned to St Francis in the summer of 2013.

A brief spell with Haywards Heath Town followed before Westlake re-joined the Robins midway through the 2015-16 season.

His signing had a major influence in Hassocks completing a great escape from relegation in the second half of the campaign under Mark Dalglish and Phil Wickwar.

Westlake scaled back his football commitments in 2018, focusing instead on his running career. That led to him being the sixth British finisher in the London Marathon, winning the Worthing 10k in a course record and the Brighton 10 Mile in a PB.

He was also selected to represent England in the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon. Despite an injury-hit preparation, Westlake ran the event in another PB of 2:23:05 to finish 20th. Those achievements saw him named in the Mid Sussex Times top 10 sportspeople of 2018.

Westlake was lured back to football when appointed assistant manager of Loxwood by Magpies boss and his former Hassocks teammate Spencer Slaughter in the 2020-21 season.

The duo did an excellent job in leading Loxwood to the final of the Southern Combination Premier Supplementary Shield, where they were beaten by Isthmian League-bound Lancing.

When Slaughter left Plaistow Road in September 2021, Westlake soon followed to sign for Hassocks for a third time.

The Robins were again deep in relegation trouble but his return helped spark another turnaround to finish the season in 16th spot, some nine points clear of the bottom two.

Hassocks also reached the semi finals of the Sussex Principal RUR Charity Cup. They bowed out 2-0 to Southern Combination League champions Littlehampton Town, who were chasing an historic quadruple.

Westlake will be aiming to build on that improved second half of the campaign under his predecessor as head coach Sweetman, who has since been appointed manager of Saltdean United.

To help Westlake with that aim, he has named Phil Gault and Tom Hughes as his assistants. Gault of course needs no introduction to Hassocks fans.

He is the club's record scorer in senior football having notched 190 goals in 345 matches, including five in seven in 2020-21.

Like Westlake, Gault joined

John had given Edwards his senior debut at the age of 15. It was the start of a long career in which Edwards made more than 400 Southern Combination League appearances for Haywards Heath Town, Horsham YMCA, St Francis and Franklands Village and Hassocks.

Edwards also represented Sussex at youth and intermediate level, as well as turning out for the League Under 21 representative side.

In his first season at Hassocks, Edwards helped the Robins to win the Southern Combination Division Two title, finishing 10 points clear of Mile Oak.

That success under the first team management of Nick Greenwood and Pete Liddell saw Hassocks promoted back to senior football for the first time in six years.

Edwards remained number one for the following 1992-93 season, the first played at the Beacon following the Robins' move from Adastra Park.

In the Beacon era, Edwards made 47 appearances for Hassocks. Even when scaling back his regular playing commitments, he was still willing to step in from time-to-time to help the

23s head coach for the 2022-23 Southern Combination League season.

Parker is well-known in youth development football both around Mid Sussex and at the Beacon. He first joined the Robins in 2020 as one of Sweetman's assistants with the Under 18s.

Sweetman, Parker and Jordan Wilson had the Young Robins top of the North Division table with six wins and a draw from seven games before the 2020-21 campaign was curtailed. In the subsequent Supplementary Shield competition held in the Spring after lockdown restrictions were eased, Hassocks reached the semi finals where they lost to eventual winners Steyning Town.

Parker also helped out with the Under 23s alongside Sweetman. When Sweetman was appointed first team head coach last summer, Parker took over as Under 18s joint-boss alongside Glen Gead.

A small division caused by teams dropping out meant that Hassocks had completed their fixtures by the end of January.

"Westlake will be aiming to build on that improved second half of the 2021-22 campaign under his predecessor as head coach Brad Sweetman, who has since been appointed manager of Saltdean United. Everyone at the Beacon wishes Brad well in his new role with the Tigers."

Hassocks from St Francis Rangers. He has had several spells at the Beacon since first arriving in 2006, the latest of which was his fourth.

As well as Hassocks and St Francis, Gault has also played for Horsham YMCA and Haywards Heath Town in a long and distinguished career.

Hughes meanwhile made a name for himself on the Surrey non-league scene, breaking into the Sutton United first team as a 20-year-old centre half.

He went onto play for Merstham and Croydon before moving to Sussex and representing Rye United, Lingfield and Horsham.

Former Hassocks number one Tim Edwards returns to the club as Westlake's goalkeeper coach.

Edwards played for the Robins in the early 1990s having been one of a number of players brought in by Dave John following his appointment as general manager in 1991.

Robins out, including in the 1994-95 season for a solitary outing after both Paul John and Nick Aplin were ruled out.

Hassocks beat Worthing United on 2-1 on that occasion, Edwards helping to secure a vital three points as the Robins secured promotion to the Premier Division for the first time ever come the end of the campaign.

Completing Westlake's first team backroom staff is Hassocks stalwart Phil Wickwar. Wickers has fulfilled virtually every role going at the Beacon, from third team assistant manager to reserve team manager to first team manager to 47-year-old backup goalkeeper.

He will continue in his role of recent years as a masseur and physio, offering matchday support to Westlake whilst trying (unsuccessfully) to not get in trouble with referees. Every club needs a Wickers.

Neil Parker will take over as Under

Parker subsequently joined the coaching team at Cuckfield Rangers Development side, helping the Cuckoos to win the Mid Sussex League Tester Cup and the Malins Cup as well as finishing runners up in Division Five South.

Having worked with so many of the Robins' Under 23s and Under 18s over the past two seasons and knowing the club so well, Parker is a natural fit to continue bringing players through the Hassocks system.

Before joining Hassocks, Parker spent 13 years coaching in the juniors section at St Francis Rangers, including five years as chairman.

His playing career consisted of spells with Haywards Heath Town and St Francis Rangers, whilst he also made a handful of appearances for Hassocks Veterans in a short but successful stint that ended with a Fred Pretty Cup medal.



Meet the New Signings



There are an awful lot of them... but Johnsy is happy we have finally found some use for Hassocks Football Club sign five years after it went up...

Ironically given he made most of the headlines, the only signing we didn't manage to get a picture with in the Beacon's glamorous unveiling point next to the toilet block was Pat Harding.

Super Pat's return was the worst-kept secret in Mid Sussex during April and May.

From the moment he announced he was leaving Burgess Hill Town after 10 glorious years at the More Than Tyres Stadium, everyone waited for the inevitable homecoming to the place it all began to be confirmed.

And once Harding was signed, the floodgates opened. Westy has made more acquisitions than Boris Johnson told ties to the House of Commons, so much so that we are almost certainly going to miss some out.

Pat seems a good place to start. The third all-time top scorer in Hassocks history is back as a full-time Robin for the first time since the 2005-06 season, ending his senior career where it started two decades ago.

Unfortunately, Harding will have to wait a little while to commence the

return has already begun delighting supporters and bar takings in both the Clubhouse and the Hassocks Hotel.

Johnson stands on 76 goals for the Robins in 163 appearances. He top scored in both the 2017-18 and 2014-15 campaigns, winning the triple crown of Players' Player, Managers' Player and Supporters' Player of the Season in the latter after firing Hassocks to a great escape from relegation.

The rumours that Jonno and **Harvey Blake** are physically attached at the hip will not have dampened as the popular wide man has also returned from Crawley Down alongside Johnson.

Blake made the step up to senior football look seamless when Mark Dalgleish signed him from Mid Sussex League side Sporting Lindfield in the summer of 2019.

His first spell with Hassocks saw him make 67 appearances over two seasons, one of which was interrupted by Covid-19.

The swashbuckling sight of Blake charging up and down the flank is one that has been sorely missed in

and spells with fellow Mid Sussex clubs Haywards Heath Town and Hurstpierpoint.

The midfielder arrives having been convinced by Westy to return to senior football after a couple of seasons in the Mid Sussex League just along the B2116 with Hurst.

Williamson initially stepped back from the Southern Combination after becoming a father for the first time in 2020.

He played more than 200 times for Lancing prior to that. Dan Jacques was normally the Robin tasked with trying to keep Williamson quiet.

It rarely went well for Jacquesy, who became a walking yellow card whenever up against Williamson.

Another ex-Lancer to join the Westlake Revolution is **Alex Bygraves**. The vastly experienced defender was captain of Peacehaven & Telscombe last season.

Bygraves previously captained Lancing to the Peter Bentley League Cup in 2016 and Haywards Heath Town to a treble of Division Two title, Division Two cup and Sussex Intermediate Cup in 2013.

The fact he has skippered every

“Landing from Crawley Down Gatwick is Phil Johnson, whose return has already begun delighting supporters and bar takings in both the Clubhouse and the Hassocks Hotel.”

mission of adding to his 137 Hassocks goals.

He suffered three broken ribs after a collision with the Whitehawk goalkeeper during the penultimate friendly of pre-season, ruling him out for the foreseeable future.

Westy will be hoping that Pat's absence can be covered by two of the other returnees he has brought in as part of a reshaped frontline.

Liam Benson has arrived from Saltdean United, having ended the season at Hill Park following a brief spell with Haywards Heath Town.

Prior to that, Benson had been with Peacehaven & Telscombe since leaving Hassocks in the summer of 2020.

A member of Hassocks' 2013-14 title winning Under 18s squad, Benson has previously managed 31 goals from 134 appearances over three spells.

Landing from Crawley Down Gatwick is **Phil Johnson**, whose

the past two years.

Completing a trio of signings from Crawley Down is **Will Broomfield**, who unlike the other two has only been gone from the Beacon for a year.

Broomfield was signed by Hassocks in 2017 and made an instant impression, combining the ability to carry the ball out of defence and deep into opposition territory with a no-nonsense approach to stopping goals. He has played 88 times for the Robins across four seasons.

The last of the new signings to be old faces is midfielder **Sam Cash**, signed from AFC Uckfield Town. The Eastbourne Borough youth product made three first team appearances in 2019-20, scoring once before transferring to the Oakmen.

In terms of completely new additions, **Mike Williamson** is probably the most recognisable for his torment of Hassocks in the past

club he has ever played for tells you everything you need to know about the leadership qualities he will bring to the club.

Exciting young forward **Leon Turner** arrives from Southern Counties East Division One side Croydon.

Turner has previous experience of the Southern Combination from spells with Saltdean United and Loxwood.

He moved to Sussex from London in 2021 and soon found his way to Plaistow Road, where Westy was serving as assistant manager to Spencer Slaughter.

Last season was a bit of a whirlwind for Turner. He did well enough for the Magpies to earn a move to title chasing Saltdean, only to fall down the pecking order at Hill Park when players returned from injury.

He returned to Loxwood for a second spell before leaving for

Croydon in January. Turner's record for the Magpies read five goals in 16 games, a good return in a struggling side.

Strengthening the right hand side is **Tom Frankland**, who comes in from Division Two side Southwater.

Like Turner, Frankland played for Spencer and Westy at Loxwood as an important part of the squad who went all the way to the final of the Supplementary Shield in the 2020-21 campaign.

Prior to that, he also turned out for Broadbridge Heath, Horsham YMCA, Alfold and Crawley Down Gatwick during the Anvils' spell in the Isthmian League.

Last but by no means least, young midfielder **Sam Rogers** joins from Broadbridge Heath.

Rogers captained the Bears Under 23s to the North Division title last season as they completed an undefeated league campaign, finishing six points clear of Hassocks.

He made a handful of first team appearances at High Wood Hill Sports Ground and has also turned out for Saltdean United Under 23s and Hurstpierpoint.

And leaving the Beacon...

With so many players arriving, it will come as a surprise to nobody that a fair few have gone the other way and left the Beacon.

Bradley Bant has decided to return to Peacehaven & Telscombe, the club he played for between 2018 and 2020.

He departs with 172 appearances to his name, 12 goals and a spell as club captain in 2020-21 prior to the campaign being curtailed by Covid-19.

The Robins' joint top scorer from last season **Josh Short** has been

rewarded for his form with a move to Littlehampton Town, where he will try his luck at Isthmian League football.

Short scored 10 times from 44 games after being pushed further forward by Brad Sweetman in a move which gave Hassocks a goal threat and went a long way towards helping the Robins escape the relegation battle.

Several of the young players to have progressed through the ranks at Hassocks under Sweetman's management have followed him to Saltdean United, along with a couple who the former Robins head coach brought to Mid Sussex himself.

Jack Gardner, Lewis Beebee, Lucas Tyrrell, Jayden Dunkley, Louis Thwaites, Alfie Edmeads and **Sean McSwiney** will all turn out at Hill Park in the coming campaign.

Finally, **Jack Baden** has moved to Hailsham Town in Division One following the Stringers' appointment of new manager Luke Carter.



Bradley Bant and Josh Short are the two highest profile summer departures. We wish them well at Peacehaven & Telscombe and Littlehampton Town respectively



Records tumble in Ann John Trophy

Records tumbled at the Beacon when Hassocks and Burgess Hill Town met in the Ann John Trophy.

Temperatures climbed to levels never recorded in England before whilst the £1525 raised for St Peter & St James' Hospice smashed the previous best total for this annual pre-season fixture between Mid Sussex's two stellar clubs.

A 2-1 win for Hill saw the silverware go to the More Than Tyres Stadium for the fourth time in succession.

The scoreline was though much closer than it has been in recent years, offering encouragement for what the upcoming Southern Combination League campaign might bring for the Robins under new head coach James Westlake.

Given the searing heat, it would have been understandable had the game been played at a leisurely pace. It was to both sides credit that they made it as entertaining as possible.

Hill carved out the first few opportunities. Bradley Tighe had to block on the line from Martyn Box after a Lewis Finney air kick ended up being the perfect dummy to tee up the former Barnet man.

Box and Charlie Kelly were causing Hassocks real problems. They combined again to nearly open the scoring, Box crossing and Kelly nudging the ball with a lot of spin towards the goal. Luckily for the Robins, it hit the post.

Hassocks gradually came into the

game as the first half wore on. Pat Harding had been afforded a superb reception by the travelling Hillian support on his first appearance against his former club since returning to the Beacon.

Those fans might not have been so keen on their former forward had Harding threatened Will Huffer's goal rather than miss-controlling when a ball over the top set him clear.

The visitors lost Kelly to a head injury and Josh Spinks with a knee problem before the half was out. Not that the disruption seemed to matter as Jay Lovett's side moved 1-0 ahead three minutes before the break.

It was an unusual goal for Hassocks to concede. Normally so strong in the air defending against long balls, the Robins were caught out by a massive punt 80 yards down the pitch from Huffer. A Hill trialist went around Ricardo Teixeira in the Hassocks goal to make it 1-0.

Lovett made wholesale changes at half time whereas Hassocks remained a little more settled. Hayden Skerry was denied by Teixeira shortly after the restart, a sprawling low save preventing the Hill wide man from doubling the advantage after cutting in from the flank.

Hassocks equalised on 54 minutes from the penalty spot. Jack Troak was the man to convert, his second successful penalty in the space of 72 hours and his fourth goal from four pre-season friendly fixtures so far.

Some much-needed rain arrived shortly after to cool things down,

followed by an absolutely stunning sunset. The final 30 minutes of football matched the scenery, some beautiful stuff being played with both sides fashioning chances to win it.

Teixeira made another fine stop with his feet to keep the scores level. The Robins broke from there and Harding found himself with another great chance.

A cross-shot from the left was both a little too hard for Troak to slide in and convert and a little too wide of the upright to nestle in the back of the net.

Tighe drew cheers when he made a fine clearance out towards the right touchline, grabbed a fans' pint and took a swig of it before running back to position.

Hassocks were ending the game strongly, only to be undone by a combination of counter attack and questionable refereeing entering the last 15 minutes.

Hill won possession on the edge of their box and within seconds, released Skerry. Mike Williamson tangled with the rapid Skerry as he broke at pace, leading the referee to conclude that a foul which took place a good five yards outside the area had actually occurred inside.

That gave Lewis Finney the chance to make it 2-1, which he duly took. Hassocks poured forwards after that in search of another equaliser but could find no way through as the highlight of pre-season in Mid Sussex football went the way of the visitors once again.

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Jason Tighe

07446224005

07476711962

tighescaffolding@hotmail.com

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REMOVALS



Pre-season Round Up

The Ann John Trophy was the highlight of pre-season. But there were five other games played with some decent results for the Robins in July...





Hassocks 0-1 Epsom & Ewell

Saturday 9th July. The Beacon

Blink and you would have missed it. Epsom & Ewell needed only 18 seconds to take the lead against Hassocks at the Beacon with a goal which proved enough to decide this pre-season friendly in favour of the visitors.

A ball into midfield was not dealt with by the Robins, leaving A Trialist with the space to turn and shoot from distance.

Alex Harris was caught somewhat by surprise and new Epsom boss Anthony Jupp had the perfect start to his second game at the helm.

Jupp has brought a number of players to the Salts with him from previous club Horley Town.

As a result, Epsom look well placed to challenge for promotion out of Division One and so this was a good test for the Hassocks in their opening pre-season fixture.

The Robins have been equally busy on the transfer front. New head coach James Westlake has made 10 signings so far.

Will Broomfield, Harvey Blake, Phil Johnson, Alex Bygraves, Mike Williamson, Sam Cash and Pat Harding all featured along with three trialists.

Westlake named two different XIs, getting 45 minutes into every outfield player on a boiling hot day when regular water breaks were needed. Only Harris in goal played the 90.

To go with the new faces came a new formation. Understandably, it took a little while for Hassocks to settle but after 15 minutes they started to move the ball around well.

The Robins' best chance of the first half fell to Johnson after fantastic build up play.

A diagonal cross field pass towards the back post was met by the marauding Broomfield, charging forward from centre back to join the attack.

Broomfield volleyed back across goal to Johnson who blazed over when well placed. It was encouraging

stuff from Hassocks and Westlake and his assistant Phil Gault certainly seemed to enjoy it.

The second half team got into the swing of things much quicker than the first half, helped of course by not conceding a goal inside of 18 seconds.

Hassocks had the lion's share of possession and played some really nice stuff on an excellent surface. The only thing missing was a goal.

The closest the Robins came was when Jack Troak squandered a glorious opportunity of the sort he normally gobbles up for breakfast.

One of the trialists sent in a superb delivery from a free kick in a wide area which Harding headed against the cross bar.

The loose ball came down, bounced back up and was met by the head of the leaping Troak.

All he had to do was guide it into the goal but he headed over, although the Epsom goalkeeper deserves credit for reacting quickly enough to the rebound to put Troak off.

Such misses are what pre-season is for though; a shaking of the cobwebs that have gathered in the 10-and-a-half weeks since Hassocks faced Littlehampton Town in the semi finals of the Sussex Principal RUR Charity Cup.

Hassocks will be better for the game time from an encouraging first outing under Westlake.



Arundel 2-4 Hassocks

Tuesday 12th July. Mill Road

Pre-season friendly number two saw Hassocks head to one of the most picturesque non-league grounds in the country.

In the shadow of Arundel Castle, the Robins' attacking play was almost as impressive as the scenery as four different scorers gave secured a 4-2 success over their Division One hosts.

Having conceded inside of 18 seconds in their opening pre-season friendly against Epsom & Ewell at the weekend, Hassocks started slightly better at Mill Road by managing to

last 12 minutes before going 1-0 down.

Poor marking from a set piece left an Arundel player completely free in the box. He duly accepted the gift, heading past Alex Harris to give the Mullets the lead.

Hassocks regrouped quickly after that hair-raising start and it was not long before they levelled.

High pressure from Sam Smith resulted in an Arundel centre half passing the ball straight to Pat Harding on the left side of the penalty area.

Super Pat did the rest, despatching the ball into the top corner to score Hassocks' first goal of their friendly campaign.

That led to Hassocks taking control of proceedings for the next 15 minutes.

Jack Troak smashed a volley off the crossbar and Harvey Blake came close on a couple of occasions after charging forward from right wing back.

James Westlake made five changes at half time and it did not take long for one to make an impact.

The returning Liam Benson finished from a corner after cleverly peeling to the back post and waiting for the ball to drop.

Arundel were gifted an equaliser within a few minutes of the Robins taking the lead thanks to a mysterious penalty award.

Neither side seemed entirely sure what the decision was for, not that it mattered to the Mullets taker who scored despite Harris getting his fingers to it.

Troak put Hassocks back into the lead shortly after with a fine individual goal.

Cutting in from the left flank, he coolly curled the ball into the far corner to make it 3-2.

Westlake made a further five substitutions as the second half progressed, meaning that 20 outfield players banked minutes.

Despite all the changes and disruption, the Robins became more dominant as the game progressed towards its conclusion.

They were rewarded when Phil Johnson added the fourth late on, crashing an unstoppable shot off the underside of the bar following a fantastic delivery from Tom Frankland.



Hassocks 4-2 Shoreham

Saturday 16th July. The Beacon

The weather was hot and so too the form of Hassocks' forwards. For the second pre-season friendly in succession, the Robins hit four goals past Southern Combination League Division One opponents as Shoreham were beaten 4-2 at the Beacon.

Hassocks had originally been due to travel to Horley Town, only for the Clarets to pull out earlier in the week.

The Robins were therefore grateful to Shoreham – now managed by former Hassocks favourite Michael Death – for filling the void.

The Musselmen were beaten playoff finalists in Division One last season, so Hassocks knew they would be in for a decent test.

It was one they passed with flying colours, going into the break 3-0 ahead. It was 4-0 on the 60 minute mark to complete a ruthless hour of football, after which a combination of the 28 degree heat and numerous Hassocks changes helped Shoreham pull two back.

The opening exchanges were fairly even. Shoreham actually had the better half-chances and looked dangerous until Hassocks took the lead on 23 minutes, after which the Robins settled and began to dominate.

Lewis Westlake sent in a dangerous set piece which was headed against the bar.

The rebound was pounced upon by Ryan Doyle, whose shot into the ground inadvertently hit Pat Harding and bounced into the net.

Jack Troak added the second on 39 minutes. Great build up play down the right led to a switch to Harding pulling off at the back post.

He cleverly set the ball into the path of Troak, who curled an effort towards goal from the edge of the box.

The Shoreham goalkeeper did well to tip the shot on the bar, only for it to bounce down and be adjudged by the assistant referee to have crossed the line.

Shoreham may have felt hard done by, but the football played by Hassocks in the move was more than deserving of a goal.

A third arrived shortly after. Some patient, neat play on the edge of the box eventually worked an opening for Phil Johnson to burst into the area.

Johnson touched the ball past a defender and then beat the goalkeeper to it, only to be brought down by the visiting custodian.

A fair few players in James Westlake's new-look squad would have fancied taking the resulting penalty.

Troak took control of the situation having successfully converted a number of spot kicks towards the end of last season, confidently despatching low and hard into the bottom left corner.

The second half started much as the first had ended with Hassocks in control and on the hour mark, they made it 4-0.

Half time substitute Sam Smith produced a clever touch around the corner to put Johnson in one-on-one. Johnson made no mistake, sliding the ball past the onrushing goalkeeper.

The game understandably slowed down somewhat after that. Hassocks took their foot off the pedal, something which Shoreham managed to take advantage of by making the final score look a little closer.

A set piece undid the Robins first. A good delivery was met perfectly by the head of Tom Shelley, who guided past Alex Harris.

Shoreham's second came right at the end. Hassocks were unable to clear during an almighty scramble in the box with A Trialist eventually poking the loose ball home.



Hassocks 1-7 Whitehawk

Saturday 23rd July. The Beacon

A horrible injury to Pat Harding completed a miserable afternoon for Hassocks as they took a hammering at the hands of Whitehawk in their penultimate pre-season friendly.

The Isthmian League South East

visitors were already 7-1 ahead when the incident took place in the final minute.

A long throw into the box saw the Hawks goalkeeper come flying through the back of Harding in an attempt to claim the ball.

Harding was sent to the ground after the clattering, where he remained far beyond the final whistle struggling to breathe.

X-rays revealed three broken ribs and Harding spent an uncomfortable night on the accident and emergency trauma ward under observation.

Miraculously, no operation was needed. Pat being Pat, he remained happy and sprightly despite the incident, much to the amazement of the hospital staff.

He was hoping to be discharged by Monday, after which the road to recovery can begin.

Losing Harding ahead of the Southern Combination League campaign kicking off in a week is a significant setback for Hassocks.

James Westlake's first pre-season at the helm had been going relatively smoothly until Whitehawk arrived, including when giving Burgess Hill Town a real fright in the Ann John Trophy in midweek before succumbing to a 2-1 defeat.

Hill and Hawks will share a division next season. Based on what was seen at the Beacon, Whitehawk look well placed to challenge for honours under new boss Shaun Saunders.

They were a class above Hassocks all afternoon, even as the Robins were their own worst enemy at times.

Every loose pass or mistake made by Hassocks was punished, especially in a first half which saw five of Whitehawk's seven goals arrive.

Charlie Harris was the undoubted star. He needed just 80 seconds to open the scoring, clinically driving home into the bottom corner after Charlie Bennett had ghosted in from his wing, glided across the by-line and crossed to Javaun Splatt who laid off to Harris.

One became two on 11 minutes. Over came a corner, met by the towering head of Will Miles to give Alex Harris no chance.

Hassocks were struggling to pass the ball out from the back in the face of an aggressive Whitehawk press.

The Robins' insistence on

persevering with playing around in defence led to the Hawks scoring number three on 22 minutes.

Harris in the Hassocks goal passed straight to Splatt. He worked the ball to Harris in the Whitehawk attack, who made no mistake by firing past his stranded namesake.

The Robins nearly made it to half time without conceding again, and yet still somehow managed to leak another two goals before the break arrived.

Two Hassocks defenders fell over each other with the game in the 45th minute, leaving Lambert to slam home from close range.

Straight from kick off and the Robins surrendered possession again, Harris bending an effort with his right foot in to complete his hat-trick.

Robins fans looking for positives could at least console themselves by their side competing more in the second half.

Harris departing the action certainly helped, although the power of Saunders' squad is such that he could withdraw his treble scorer and still have quality like Splatt on the pitch.

Splatt was denied a 54th minute goal to go with his two assists by an outstanding block on the line from a home defender.

There was nothing anyone could do to stop him netting four minutes later, a half cleared corner falling to Splatt on the edge of the box to pick out the top corner.

A flurry of substitutions arrived for Whitehawk on 74 minutes. Hassocks were able to take advantage of the relative confusion, pulling one back through Sam Smith.

Some nice play down the left saw Lewis Westlake released. He crossed and although Luke Glover got his fingers to Smith's header, the power and direction meant the Hawks goalkeeper was unable to keep it out.

Could Hassocks now find five more goals to level the tie in the remaining 13 minutes? Unsurprisingly, no was the answer.

There was just one more goal in it and that went to Whitehawk. Lambert delivered a ball into the box which looked poorly placed behind a Hawks trialist, until said trialist produced an acrobatic moment of magic to score out of nowhere.

That would have been a memorable note for the game to end on.

Instead, it finished amidst those concerning scenes involving Harding. Here is wishing Pat a speedy recovery.



Hassocks 3-0 Oakwood

Tuesday 26th July. The Beacon

Hassocks rounded off their pre-season friendly schedule with another win over Division One opponents as Oakwood were well beaten at the Beacon.

The evening got off to a good start when news came through that Pat Harding had been released from hospital following his three broken

ribs picked up in the final minutes of the weekend defeat to Whitehawk.

Although still in a lot of pain, Harding was pleased to be home. His doctors believe he should be able to resume playing football in six to eight weeks, a big boost to James Westlake who must have feared being without his new striker for much longer given how serious the injury looked at the time.

Whitehawk had proven miles too good for Hassocks on their way to a 7-1 victory, underlying their position as one of the favourites to do well in Isthmian League South East this season.

Hassocks were grateful for the step down in class of opposition, taking on an Oakwood outfit who had finished towards the bottom of Division One last time out.

The result was the Robins securing their most straightforward win and a first clean sheet ahead of the Premier Division action kicking off at the weekend.

Young Alfie Loversidge put Hassocks into the lead with his first goal since a 5-2 win over East Preston in mid-March.

It was two of Westlake's new defenders who completed the 3-0 victory for the hosts, Will Broomfield and Alex Bygraves both finding their way onto the scoresheet.



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Tye too good for new-look Hassocks at the start of the Westlake Era

**Southern Combination League Premier Division
Saturday 30th July 2022, Window Workshop Sports Park
Hassocks 0-3 Peacehaven & Tels**



“Plenty to learn from.” That was the verdict of new Hassocks head coach James Westlake after his reign began with a 3-0 defeat against an impressive Peacehaven & Telscombe outfit.

The Window Workshop Sports Park has never been the happiest of hunting grounds for the Robins, making this a particularly tough opening fixture for Hassocks.

Just twice since 1997 have Hassocks come away from Peacehaven with victory and despite competing reasonably well with a well-drilled Tye outfit in the opening 20 minutes, they were well beaten in the end.

It has been a busy summer for Westlake in terms of recruitment. Nine new players featured against Peacehaven, five in the starting XI and four more from the bench.

Such significant rebuilds often take time to gel. All the recruits are proven players at this level and so once they do become used to playing together, Hassocks should expect to improve on their 16th place finish of 2021-22.

Of the nine, Alex Bygraves stood out the most on his way to winning Hassocks' Man-of-the-Match award. Bygraves captained Peacehaven last season and whilst this may not have been the happiest of returns to the Sports Park, the travelling support still came away impressed by his contribution.

Bygraves was joined at the back by former Broadbridge Heath man Mark Zydonik. Tom Frankland made his debut on the right, Mike Williamson anchored the midfield and Liam Benson - another who spent part of last season with the Tye - led the line at the start of his fourth spell with the Robins.

Both sides knocked the ball around well during that even start

but chances were at a premium. That was until the 36th minute, when Max Hollobone scored a very early Goal of the Season contender for the hosts.

Hollobone picked the ball up a long way from goal, weaving through the Hassocks midfield before hitting an unstoppable effort from 25 yards into the top corner to give Alex Harris no chance.

Unfortunately for the Robins number one, that was not the case when Peacehaven doubled their lead seven minutes later.

Harris had just made a fine stop from Callum Edwards following nice build up by Cam Wiltshire.

“Just twice since 1997 have Hassocks come away from Peacehaven with victory and despite competing reasonably well with a well-drilled Tye outfit in the opening 20 minutes, they were well beaten in the end.”

Hassocks then wasted a throw, giving possession straight to Ross Barclay. His ball pumped towards Harris was completely miss-controlled by the goalkeeper, whose poor touch presented Edwards with a tap into an empty net.

The Robins now found themselves with a mountain to climb in the second half, having looked for most of the first like they would get into the break on level terms.

Hassocks did at least improve after whatever was said to them during the team talk, almost pulling one back within the first 10 minutes of the restart.

Hollobone stung the palms of Harris with Hassocks soon breaking up the other end. They won a free kick which Lewis Westlake tossed into the box.

Bygraves met it with a thumping

header, forcing former Robins goalkeeper Nathan Stroomborg-Clarke into a superb save flying to his right.

Peacehaven began to focus their attacks down the flanks after that. Barclay crossed and Brandon Kilula could not quite get on the end of it.

Harris went some of the way toward atoning for his earlier mistake with a strong one-on-one save from Jack Pettett and Bradley Bant - who swapped Hassocks for Peacehaven in the summer - came close to connecting with another back post cross.

Southern Combination clubs are permitted to make up to five subs this season and Hassocks opted to send on four, all of whom were designed to introduce more attacking impetus.

Phil Johnson and Harvey Blake are both back from Crawley Down Gatwick, Sam Cash has re-joined from AFC Uckfield Town and Leon Turner is an exciting young capture from Croydon.

Despite the changes, Hassocks still struggled to make much headway. The Robins were lucky to escape when Emmanuel Osei-Asomah put a free header from a corner off target as the game entered its final quart of an hour.

Peacehaven did manage to add a third with 12 minutes remaining. A long ball forward was headed back into midfield and collected by Edwards. He chipped Harris to complete the scoring.

Hassocks: Harris; Zydonik, Bygraves, Tuck; Frankland, Loversidge, Williamson, L Westlake, Troak; S Smith, Benson.

Subs: Blake (Frankland), Johnson (Smith), L Turner (Loversidge), Cash (Zydonik).



Available from the Robins Bar

Please drink responsibly and try to avoid falling into the stream on your way home. We are still saving up to have it piped and tarmacked over.

First Team Matches 2022-23

Date & Time	Opponents	Comp	F-A	Att	Scorers
July					
30/07 - 15:00	Peacehaven & Tels. (A)	SCFLP	0-3		
August					
02/08 - 19:45	Midhurst & Easebourne (H)	SCFLP			
06/08 - 15:00	Lingfield (H)	FACEP			
13/08 - 15:00	AFC Uckfield Town (A)	SCFLP			
16/08 - 19:45	Alfold (A)	SCFLP			
29/08 - 11:00	Roffey (H)	SCFLP			
September					
02/09 - 19:45	Little Common (A)	SCFLP			
06/09 - 19:45	AFC Varndeanians (H)	PBLC2			
10/09 - 15:00	Eastbourne United (H)	SCFLP			
17/09 - 15:00	Crawley Down Gatwick (A)	SCFLP			
20/09 - 19:45	Horsham YMCA (A)	SCFLP			
24/09 - 15:00	Chessington & Hook (A)	FAVQ2			
27/09 - 15:00	Broadridge Heath (H)	SCFLP			
October					
01/10 - 15:00	Loxwood (A)	SCFLP			
08/10 - 15:00	AFC Varndeanians (H)	SCFLP			
15/10 - 15:00	Crowborough Athletic (A)	SCFLP			
29/10 - 15:00	Newhaven (A)	SCFLP			
November					
05/11 - 15:00	Bexhill United (H)	SCFLP			
12/11 - 15:00	Eastbourne Town (A)	SCFLP			
19/11 - 15:00	Lingfield (H)	SCFLP			
26/11 - 15:00	Saltdean United (H)	SCFLP			
December					
03/12 - 15:00	Midhurst & Easebourne (A)	SCFLP			
10/12 - 15:00	Peacehaven & Tels. (H)	SCFLP			
26/12 - 11:00	Steyning Town (H)	SCFLP			
January					
02/01 - 11:00	Roffey (A)	SCFLP			
07/01 - 15:00	AFC Uckfield Town (H)	SCFLP			
21/01 - 15:00	Horsham YMCA (H)	SCFLP			
28/01 - 15:00	Broadridge Heath (A)	SCFLP			
February					
04/02 - 15:00	Alfold (H)	SCFLP			
11/02 - 15:00	Eastbourne United (A)	SCFLP			
18/02 - 15:00	Little Common (H)	SCFLP			
25/02 - 15:00	Saltdean United (A)	SCFLP			
March					
04/03 - 15:00	Loxwood (H)	SCFLP			
11/03 - 15:00	AFC Varndeanians (A)	SCFLP			
18/03 - 15:00	Crowborough Athletic (H)	SCFLP			
25/03 - 15:00	Newhaven (H)	SCFLP			
April					
01/04 - 15:00	Bexhill United (A)	SCFLP			
08/04 - 15:00	Crawley Down Gatwick (H)	SCFLP			
10/04 - 11:00	Steyning Town (A)	SCFLP			
15/04 - 15:00	Lingfield (A)	SCFLP			
22/04 - 15:00	Eastbourne Town (H)	SCFLP			

First Team Appearances 2022-23

Player	2022-23 Season				Hassocks Career	
	Starts	Used Sub	Games	Goals	Games	Goals
Liam Benson	1	0	1	0	135	31
Alex Bygraves	1	0	1	0	1	0
Tom Frankland	1	0	1	0	1	0
Alex Harris	1	0	1	0	91	0
Alfie Loversidge	1	0	1	0	62	11
Sam Smith	1	0	1	0	15	2
Jack Troak	1	0	1	0	77	23
Charlie Tuck	1	0	1	0	22	0
Lewis Westlake	1	0	1	0	103	12
Mike Williamson	1	0	1	0	1	0
Mark Zydonik	1	0	1	0	1	0
Harvey Blake	0	1	1	0	68	3
Sam Cash	0	1	1	0	4	1
Phil Johnson	0	1	1	0	164	76
Leon Turner	0	1	1	0	1	0

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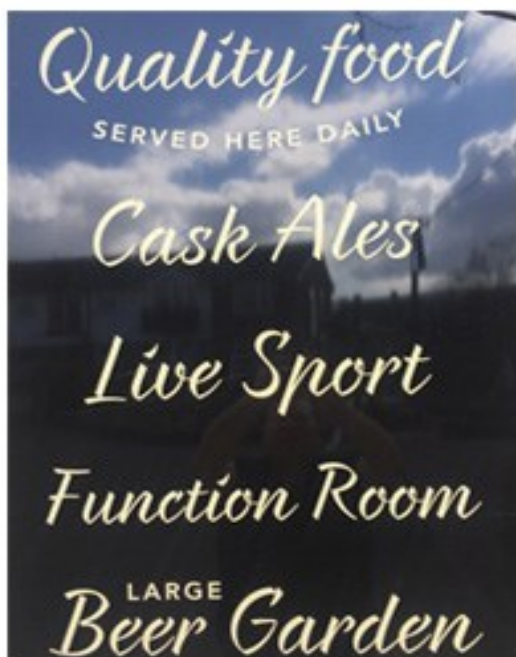
Date & Time	Opponents	Comp	F-A	Scorers
August				
18/08 - 19:30	Roffey (A)	SCFL23		
25/08 - 19:45	St Francis Rangers (H)	SCFL23		
September				
01/09 - 19:30	Alfold (A)	SCFL23		
08/09 - 19:45	Broadbridge Heath (H)	SCFL23		
15/09 - 19:45	Chessington & Hook (A)	SCFL23		
29/09 - 19:45	Horley Town (H)	SCFL23		

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MONDAY	11.00 - 23.00
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WEDNESDAY	11.00 - 23.00
THURSDAY	11.00 - 23.00
FRIDAY	11.00 - 00.30
SATURDAY	11.00 - 00.30
SUNDAY	12.00 - 23.00

Come and visit us after today's game - next to Hassocks Station

Around the League...



Promotions. Relegations. Sideways moves. Clubs resigning and new managers galore. It has been a busy summer across the Southern Combination League. Here is how things stand as the 2022-23 season gets underway...

Three new clubs have joined the Premier Division with three departing, leaving the top flight with the normal 20 teams.

Both Roffey and this evening's visitors Midhurst & Easebourne have been promoted from Division One. Crowborough Athletic meanwhile return after seven seasons in the Southern Counties East League.

Leaving the Premier Division are champions Littlehampton Town who secure promotion to the Isthmian League.

East Preston are relegated having finished bottom of the table and Pagham have been moved to the Wessex League, bringing to an end their long stay in the Southern Combination.

The Lions had been the second-longest serving Premier Division club after Hassocks, having won promotion to the top flight in 2008.

Crowborough and Hassocks used to be regular opponents prior to the Crows' controversial sideways move to the Southern Counties East League in the summer of 2014.

The most recent Southern Combination meetings between the sides came in the 2013-14 campaign. Crowborough beat an injury-hit Robins 4-0 at the Crowborough Community Stadium and a Dan Smith goal decided the earlier fixture in Hassocks' favour at the Beacon.

There has been one competitive match since, Crowborough winning 1-0 in the third round of the Sussex Senior Cup through a Ross Treleven effort in the 2016-17 season.

In total, the clubs have faced off on 25 previous occasions. Hassocks lead the head-to-head having 13 wins to Crowborough's nine. Draws are few and far between, only three stalemates since the 1992-93 season.

2022-23 will see Roffey play Premier Division football for the first

time in their history.

The Boars have embarked on a remarkable rise through the leagues since 2008 when they were playing in Mid Sussex Division Three.

Hassocks have never met Roffey in a league game before. The clubs only experience of each other came in the Peter Bentley League Cup back in September and it was not a good one for Hassocks as they were hammered 5-1 by their lower division opponents.

"Both Roffey and Midhurst & Easebourne have been promoted from Division One. Crowborough Athletic meanwhile return after seven seasons in the Southern Counties East League."

As for tonight's opponents Midhurst & Easebourne, you should already know all about them unless you happen to be reading this programme backwards.

There have been numerous managerial changes in the Premier Division. Roffey have taken most of the headlines, and presumably if you have missed what has happened at Bartholomew Way then you must have been hiding under a rock.

Our former head coach Brad Sweetman is now in charge at Saltdean United.

John Lambert had been one of the longest serving managers in the Premier Division at Eastbourne Town before retirement. His place has been taken by former Whitehawk boss Jude MacDonald.

Steve Ives has left AFC Uckfield Town and been replaced by Johny Elwood. Gerry Murphy stood down at

macronstore
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Steyning Town, where former Montpellier Villa manager Kevin Green has taken over.

Steyning have managed to lure several Pagham players to the Shooting Field who could not commit to the extra travelling involved in the Lions' move to the Wessex League. The Barrowmen look like a side to keep an eye on this season.

Away from the Premier Division and Division One runs with only 17 teams. Littlehampton United had been promoted from Division Two, only for their manager and squad to move en masse to East Preston. United have folded as a result.

Ringmer had been due to step up two divisions from the Mid Sussex League, which would have ended a near-decade long absence from the Southern Combination.

They though were also victims of a late change due to ground grading issues, said to surround the size of the pitch at their impressive new Caburn Community Stadium.

Division One therefore gets just one newcomer, Chessington & Hook United having been moved from the Combined Counties League.

We will have a couple of opportunities to face United, having been drawn away from home against them in the FA Vase. They will also compete in the Under 23s North Division.

Storrington have been relegated to Division Two, somewhat controversially given the upheaval caused by Littlehampton United and Ringmer pulling out.

West Sussex League outfit Capel join the Southern Combination for the first time.



Tables. Form. Goals. Attendances

Southern Combination Premier Division Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crawley Down	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
AFC Uckfield Town	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Eastbourne Town	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Peacehaven & Tels	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Eastbourne United	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Crowborough Athletic	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Steyning Town	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Broadbridge Heath	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Alfold	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Lingfield	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Bexhill United	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Midhurst	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Newhaven	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Saltdean United	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Little Common	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Horsham YMCA	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Hassocks	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Roffey	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
AFC Varndeanians	1	0	0	1	0	4	0
Loxwood	1	0	0	1	0	5	0

Premier Division Attendances

	Ave	High	Low
Peacehaven & Telscombe	153	153	153
Eastbourne United	137	137	137
Roffey	129	129	129
Steyning Town	125	125	125
Little Common	123	123	123
Saltdean United	107	107	107
AFC Uckfield Town	98	98	98
Midhurst & Easebourne	91	91	91
Alfold	81	81	81
Crawley Down Gatwick	74	74	74
AFC Varndeanians	0	0	0
Bexhill United	0	0	0
Broadbridge Heath	0	0	0
Crowborough Athletic	0	0	0
Eastbourne Town	0	0	0
Hassocks	0	0	0
Horsham YMCA	0	0	0
Lingfield	0	0	0
Loxwood	0	0	0
Newhaven	0	0	0

Premier Division Form Guide

	Last 6
Crawley Down Gatwick	W
AFC Uckfield Town	W
Eastbourne Town	W
Peacehaven & Telscombe	W
Eastbourne United	W
Crowborough Athletic	W
Steyning Town	W
Broadbridge Heath	W
Alfold	D
Lingfield	D
Bexhill United	D
Midhurst	D
Newhaven	L
Saltdean United	L
Little Common	L
Horsham YMCA	L
Hassocks	L
Roffey	L
AFC Varndeanians	L
Loxwood	L

Premier Division Top Scorers

Player	Club	Goals
Oli Leslie	Crawley Down	3
Callum Edwards	Peacehaven	2
Ellis Wright	AFC Uckfield	2
Tyler Capon	Eastbourne Town	1
Lloyd Cotton	Eastbourne Town	1
Zead Elwerfally	AFC Uckfield	1
Lucas Franzen-Jones	Newhaven	1
Thomas Hearn	Alfold	1
Mitchell Hewens	Saltdean United	1
Max Hollobone	Peacehaven	1
Harrison Mayhew	Crowborough	1
Jacob James Minty	Eastbourne Town	1
Oliver Moore	Crawley Down	1
Sam Rabot	Alfold	1
Tyler Scrafton	Eastbourne Utd	1
Robert Tambling	Midhurst	1
Max Thompson	Eastbourne Utd	1
Morgan Vale	Crowborough	1
Rhys White	Crawley Down	1

Southern Combination Under 23 North Division Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alfold	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chessington & Hook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hassocks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horley Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horsham YMCA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lingfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Loxwood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oakwood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roffey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Francis Rangers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Under 23 North Division Top Scorers

Player	Club	Gls
--------	------	-----

Southern Combination Under 18 Central Division Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AFC Vardeanians	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burgess Hill Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hassocks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lancing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mile Oak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saltdean United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shoreham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Francis Rangers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Steyning Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Worthing United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Under 18 Central Division Top Scorers

Player	Club	Gls
--------	------	-----



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Mid Sussex Times

Upcoming Fixtures >>>



Hassocks v Lingfield

FA Cup Extra Preliminary Qualifying Round

Saturday 6th August 2022. 3:00pm

The Beacon, Brighton Road, Hassocks, BN6 9LY

Admission prices £7 adults, £3 concessions, Under 16s go free

The Magic of the FA Cup comes to the Beacon. A Wembley final is just 13 wins away as we host Lingfield in the extra preliminary round of the competition, with the Isthmian League Uxbridge awaiting the winners

Lingfield last season

Lingfield had an opposite 2021-22 campaign to what we experienced. Whereas we played two-thirds of our home games in the first half of the campaign, Lingfield spent much of the opening four months on the road. The problems with Godstone Road never really subsided - our away game at Lingfield for example took place at Whyteleafe - and the loss of home advantage partly explains why Lingfield finished 12th having been on course for the top seven the previous year. Unfortunately, they face similar problems again this time around. Just three of their opening seven fixtures are at home and for two of those, the Lingers will decamp to Steyning Town's Shooting Field.

Head-to-head

There have been 30 meetings between ourselves and Lingfield in the past with the Robins leading the head-to-head with 13 wins to the Lingers' 10, leaving seven draws. Lingfield have been the dominant side in recent years. We have won just two of the past nine meetings - a 3-2 Peter Bentley League Cup win at the Beacon in the 2018-19 season and January's trip to Whyteleafe.

Last time we met

A waterlogged pitch at Godstone Road gave us an unexpected trip to Church Road, Whyteleafe on January 3rd 2022. Not that the extra travelling mattered as goals from Josh Short and Jack Troak secured a

2-1 win over the Lingers, our first away victory of the 2021-22 campaign. We went into half time two to the good and although Aaron Jenkins pulled one back on the hour mark, it was relatively comfortable for the Robins.

Played for both

Not many individuals have turned out for both ourselves and the Lingers. Ben Bacon's quest to play for every team in the Southern Combination League has seen him have two spells at the Beacon and one with Lingfield. The only other representative of both clubs is Daley Clark. The striker moved to the Robins from Godstone Road in the summer of 2009. He would go onto play 40 times for us.

<<< Upcoming Fixtures



AFC Uckfield Town v Hassocks

Southern Combination League Premier Division
Saturday 13th August 2022. 3:00pm
The Oaks, Eastbourne Road, Uckfield, TN22 5QL
Admission prices unknown

One of the shortest away trips of the season takes place in 11 days time as we hop along the A272 to face new-look AFC Uckfield Town in a fixture which normally guarantees goals and entertainment

AFC Uckfield last season

The Oakmen were the Premier Division draw specialists last season. 15 of their 38 matches ended level, more than any other club. The challenge for new boss Jonny Elwood is to turn some of those stalemates into victories this season to push Uckfield back up the table. Elwood succeeds Steve Ives and although in his first senior managerial role, comes with a wealth of experience having held various positions at the likes of Tonbridge Angels, Crowborough Athletic and Whitehawk. A busy summer on the transfer front has seen him overhaul his squad with a mixture of young players and experience, making it difficult to know what to expect.

Head-to-head

We have met AFC Uckfield on 19 previous occasions. The head-to-head is locked at nine wins apiece with only one draw between the sides. That was a 2-2 thriller at the Beacon a year ago. It might not be a game to put on your coupon, but it is one which normally delivers goals. 74 having been plundered at an average of over three per game.

Last time we met

A rare occasion when entertainment was in short supply at the Oaks back in early February. The pitch had more bobbles than the surface of the moon, which made playing on the ground difficult. A strong wind made taking an aerial route equally

challenging. It was one of those afternoons decided by who adapted to conditions better. Thankfully, it was us - Charlie Broad scored the only goal, his looping header from a long Dan Turner throw securing three important points.

How to get to the Oaks

Take the A272 followed by the A26 towards Uckfield before joining the B2102 into the town itself. Turn right at the t-junction, past the railway station and follow the road down the high street. When the fork is reached, take the left hand option down Eastbourne Road with the ground being on the left by the Rajditt Restaurant.



Alfold v Hassocks

Southern Combination League Premier Division
Tuesday 16th August 2022. 7:45pm
Elliott Scott Group Stadium, Dunsfold Road, Alfold, GU6 8JB
Admission prices £6 adults, £3 concessions

Does it feel like only yesterday that we went to Alfold? That is because it kind of was, Dunsfold Road being the location of our final league game of 2021-22. Three months on and a Tuesday night trip to Surrey awaits...

Alfold last season

Last season ended up being a bit of a transitional campaign for Alfold. They lost Matt Munday in the summer of 2021, the managerial duo who had led them into the Premier Division for the first time in their history. Former Dorking boss Glyn Stephens took over, but he lost his job in November after a difficult time involving an extensive rebuild. Chairman Mark Wright was next in the managerial hotseat and he eventually led Alfold to a respectable 15th, one place and one point above the Robins. Their Under 23s provided a major success story by winning the League Cup, suggesting there is talent to come through the ranks if they are able to make the step up to senior football.

Head-to-head

This is a fixture that the Gods used to hate given the frequency with which it was postponed in Alfold's first two seasons in the Premier Division. The clash in Surrey was postponed four times in 2019-20 due to weather with Alfold's trip to the Beacon undergoing the same fate once, before both matches were lost to lockdown. Since then, three matches have been played over the 2020-21 and 2021-22 campaign. We won both games last season with Alfold triumphing on the opening day of the campaign two seasons ago.

Last time we met

There was not much riding on the final game of the Premier Division

season for either us or Alfold.

Equalling Steyning Town's result would ensure that the Robins finished in 16th spot and we duly did that, winning 1-0 at the Elliott Scott Group Stadium thanks to a Lewis Westlake free kick.

How to get to Alfold Rec

Take the A272 to through Billingshurst, joining the B2133 towards Newpound. Continue on the B2133 through Loxwood and Alfold will be the next village. Once you reach Alfold, you'll come to Alfold Crossways where you need to bear left onto Dunsfold Road with the ground being immediately on your left.



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January
February
March
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Robins Awards

Hassocks Man of the Match 2022-23

Peacehaven & Telscombe away **Alex BYGRAVES**
Midhurst & Easebourne home
Lingfield home
AFC Uckfield Town away
Alfold away
Roffey home
Little Common away
AFC Varndeanians home
Eastbourne United home
Crawley Down Gatwick away
Horsham YMCA away
Chessington & Hook United away
Broadbridge Heath home
Loxwood away
AFC Varndeanians home
Crowborough Athletic away
Newhaven away
Bexhill United home
Eastbourne Town away
Lingfield home
Saltdean United home
Midhurst & Easebourne away
Peacehaven & Telscombe home
Steyning Town home
Roffey away
AFC Uckfield Town home
Horsham YMCA home
Broadbridge Heath away
Alfold home
Eastbourne United away
Little Common home
Saltdean United away
Loxwood home
AFC Varndeanians away
Crowborough Athletic home
Newhaven home
Bexhill United away
Crawley Down Gatwick home
Steyning Town away
Lingfield away
Eastbourne Town home

Hassocks Player of the Month 2022-23

August 2022

1st

2nd

3rd

September 2022

1st

2nd

3rd

October 2022

1st

2nd

3rd

November 2022

1st

2nd

3rd

December 2022

1st

2nd

3rd

January 2023

1st

2nd

3rd

February 2023

1st

2nd

3rd

March 2023

1st

2nd

3rd

April 2023

1st

2nd

3rd

HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB

Most Games



Most Goals

	Starts	Sub	Total	Goals
1. Mickey Turner	573	21	594	63
2. Ashley Marsh	519	6	525	4
3. Chris Hewitt	493	15	508	22
4. Ashley Low	445	30	475	14
5. Anthony Hibbert	407	55	462	124
6. Andy Fisk	445	11	456	14
7. James Laing	298	53	351	143
8. Warren Dodds	311	37	348	3
9. Phil Gault	330	15	345	190
10. Joel Harding	340	0	340	0
11. Paul John	329	0	329	0
12. Richard Thompson	305	19	324	11
13. Robbie Kitchen	284	39	323	123
14. Spencer Slaughter	250	43	293	47
15. Stuart Faith	276	13	289	22
16. Dave Smith	203	57	260	53
17. Joe Fernley	205	40	245	45
18. Neil Smith	232	10	242	68
19. Dan Jacques	201	31	232	9
20. Mark Burnham	209	22	231	44
21. James Westlake	214	14	228	31
22. Nathan Miles	156	55	211	74
23. Pat Harding	184	17	201	137
24. Marc Rendall	150	33	183	37
25. Stuart Agate	172	7	179	4

	Goals	Games
1. Phil Gault	190	345
2. James Laing	143	351
3. Pat Harding	137	201
4. Anthony Hibbert	124	462
5. Robbie Kitchen	123	323
6. Phil Johnson	76	163
7. Nathan Miles	74	211
8. Neil Smith	68	242
9. Steve Hards	65	155
10. Mickey Turner	63	594
11. Dave Smith	53	260
12. Spencer Slaughter	47	293
13. Joe Fernley	45	245
14. Mark Burnham	44	231
15. Matt Amos	38	81
16. Michael Death	38	112
17. Marc Rendall	37	183
18. Andy Burt	35	133
19. Liam Benson	31	134
20. Luke Flomo	31	146
21. James Westlake	31	228
22. Dan Smith	27	63
23. Jamie Hillwood	25	124
24. Jack Troak	23	76
25. Stuart Faith	22	289



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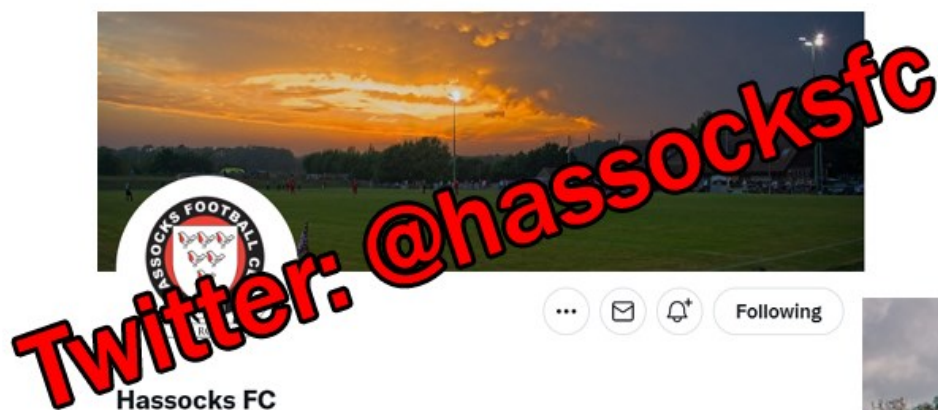
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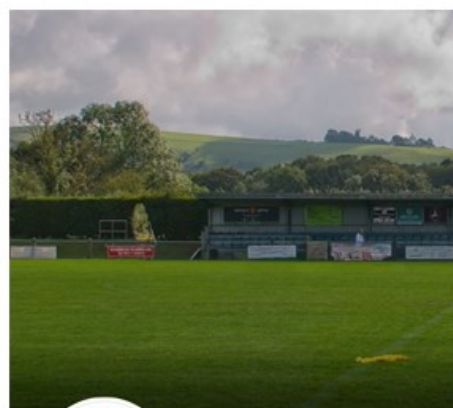
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Bradley TIGHE	
Mark ZYDONIK	
Luke MARSHALL	
Charlie TUCK	
Dan TURNER	
Tom FRANKLAND	
Harvey BLAKE	
Jack TROAK	
Jude WALLIS	
Alfie LOVERSIDGE	
Mike WILLIAMSON	
Sam CASH	
Lewis WESTLAKE	
Leon TURNER	
Phil JOHNSON	
Sam SMITH	
Liam BENSON	
Joe BULL	

Head Coach James Westlake
Assistants Phil Gault & Tom Hughes
Goalkeeper Coach Tim Edwards
Physio Phil Wickwar



MIDHURST & EASEBOURNE

Josh BIRD	
Jordan WARREN	
James LIDDIARD	
Chris WYATT	
Duncan BROWN	
Oli KERSHAW	
Lawson BRIGHT	
Charlie OSBOURNE	
Harry GILES	
Dan WOOD	
Harry TREMLETT	
Harry TOLWORTHY	
Rob TAMBLING	
Charlie COOPER	
Liam DRECKMANN	
Kieran CARTER	
Marcus BEDFORD	
Lewis HAMILTON	
Cian TILLEY	
Billy CONNOR	

Manager Andy Ewen
Assistant Dave Trussler
Coaches Arnold Miron & Jamie Angell
Physio Lewis Sandy

Referee
Harvey Ransome

Assistants
Paul Saunders &
Grant Finney

Next at the Beacon



Lingfield
Saturday 6th August. 3:00pm
FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round

Today's other Premier Division games

Broadbridge Heath v Steyning Town
Crowborough Athletic v Eastbourne United
Eastbourne Town v AFC Uckfield Town
Horsham YMCA v Alfold
Lingfield v Saltdean United
Loxwood v Roffey