

The Robins

2022-23 Matchday Programme #5



Hassocks v AFC Varndeanians

Peter Bentley League Cup Second Round

Tuesday 6th September 2022

7:45pm. The Beacon





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 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 to the Beacon for the start of what we hope will be a long adventure in the Peter Bentley Cup...

As everybody is far too aware, we do not have a particularly good record in cup competitions. The Peter Bentley League Cup is probably the worst of the lot; only once since 1982 have we ever progressed as far as the semi finals.

Last season's run to the final four of the Sussex Principal RUR Charity Cup caught the imagination of everyone at the Beacon, serving as a reminder of how much fun a good cup run can be.

Fingers crossed that we can repeat that relative success in knockout competitions this season, although it goes without saying that this evening will not be easy.

AFC Varndeanians arrive here off the back of an excellent 2-2 draw with Eastbourne United at the weekend, becoming just the second opponents to take any points so far this season from the early title challengers.

That continues Varndeanians excellent form in the second half of the previous campaign which saw them escape the bottom two from a seemingly hopeless position at the halfway point.

The weekend was not good

results wise for us as we lost 2-0 at Little Common. That only told half the story though, as we were the better side and did everything but score.

What made it all the more bizarre was that it came off the back of a clinical display which despatched Roffey 7-0 in our last home game on August Bank Holiday morning.

The overwhelming opinion after that one from those in attendance was that we were excellent, giving one of the best performances seen at the Beacon for many years.

We had a big crowd through the turnstiles too. Goals and entertainment like that will hopefully convince people to keep coming back to watch what is shaping up to be an exciting season.

A similar showing to the Roffey and Little Common performances this evening will give us a real shot at making it through to the third round and a home game with either Roffey or Loxwood.

Whatever the outcome, we hope that the players, management, committee and supporters of Varndeanians enjoy their stay with us.

Away from first team matters, the Under 23s suffered their first defeat

of the season away at Alfold on Thursday.

Marshall Smith scored the consolation. You can catch the Under 23s in action here on Thursday night against reigning North Division champions Broadbridge Heath.

Sunday was an excellent day for us as both the Under 18s and the ladies got their seasons up and running with victory.

The Under 18s came from 1-0 down at half time to beat Steyning Town 3-1. The Ladies meanwhile ran out 6-1 winners away at Saltdean United Development Squad.

The Ladies are at home next Sunday to Seaford Town in a 2pm kick off at the Beacon. Admission is free and it would be great to have some support for the team in their first home game of the campaign.

Our next home game here is against Eastbourne United on Saturday at 3pm. Thank you for support this evening and we hope to see you back here at the weekend.

Enjoy the game,

Owen & Scott



Today's Visitors >>>



AFC Vardeanians

V's Factfile

Founded 1929

Ground Withdean Stadium

Website afcv.co.uk

Twitter @afcvarndean

Instagram @afcvarndeanians1929

Manager Ryan Gayler

Club Honours

SCFL Division One

Winners 1960

SCFL Division Two

Winners 2016

SCFL Division 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

AFC Vardeanians have made a solid start to the season, continuing where they left off after completing a miraculous escape from relegation last time out

Vardeanians' first season back in the top flight of the Southern Combination League since 1962 proved to be an almighty struggle initially as they failed to win any of their opening 25 matches in all competitions.

The return to Withdean Stadium of Ryan Gayler as manager proved to be the turning point.

From a seemingly hopeless position in mid-December, Vardeanians displayed top six form over the second half of the campaign to climb above both East Preston and Loxwood and escape the clutches of the bottom two.

Securing Premier Division football against such odds was arguably the most impressive feat of Vardeanians' rise through the leagues, which has seen them climb three divisions from the Mid Sussex League in seven seasons.

Before his second spell in charge of Vs, Gayler had played a huge role in getting the club into the Premier

Division in the first place.

He started the journey initially, leading the club to the Division Two title in 2015-16.

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

Based on what has happened so far in 2022-23, Vardeanians supporters look like they can expect a less dramatic season this time around.

A solid mid-table finish would be another step forward for a team who have shown they can compete with the best in the division on their day, like when drawing at Eastbourne United on Saturday.

Gayler and his players will no doubt be eyeing up a cup run too, making tonight a tough game for the Robins - but one that should be entertaining for the neutrals.

10 Key Vs 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 18 Seasons

2021-22: Southern Combination Premier 18th
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

The Robins' Record v AFC Varndeanians

SCFL Premier > Played 2 - Won 1 - Drawn 0 - Lost 1 - Scored 4 - Conceded 2

Total > Played 2 - Won 1 - Drawn 0 - Lost 1 - Scored 4 - Conceded 2

Previous 2 Meetings

2021-22 SCFL Premier: AFC Varndeanians 1-0 Hassocks

2021-22 SCFL Premier: Hassocks 4-1 AFC Varndeanians

The Montgomery Challenge Cup Final 2004

Meetings between Hassocks and AFC Varndeanians may have only begun last season, but our old third team used to cross swords regularly with Vs in their Mid Sussex Football League Days during the 2000s.

The most famous clash came in the 2003-04 season when Simon

Maskell's side pulled off a shock by winning the Montgomery Cup, denying Varndeanians a double as they had already been crowned that season's Premier Division champions.

A young Robins side including an 18-year-old Ashley Marsh, a 16-year-old Sam Fisk and a 62-year-old Robbie Kitchen draw 2-2 with Vs.

Paul Eldret and Tom Hall got the Robins goals, cancelling out efforts from Dave Bridges and Mark Lloyd to take the final to penalties.

Matt Charman pulled off a couple of crucial stops and that meant the 'Monty' came back to Hassocks, 44 years after the first team had lifted it as a Mid Sussex League Cup.





Below par Robins fail to fire in toothless showing at Varndeanians

During the 12 seasons it hosted Football League action as the home of Brighton & Hove Albion, Withdean Stadium saw its fair share of memorable moments.

In contrast, nobody who was in attendance for AFC Varndeanians v Hassocks is likely to recall the hosts' 1-0 win beyond the end of the week - even those home supporters who were witnessing their side win a third Premier Division match of the season to further strengthen their hopes of a great escape from relegation.

Having failed to secure a victory from any of their opening 25 games in all competitions, Varndeanians have belatedly sparked into life under their third manager of the season Dave Bridges.

Their win over Hassocks made it 11 points from a possible 21 since mid-December, a run which has hauled Varndeanians above East Preston at the foot of the table and closed the gap to third-bottom Loxwood to seven points.

The Robins sit 10 clear of Varndeanians, a reminder for Brad Sweetman and his players that they are still very much in the relegation battle despite their own recent upturn in form.

Victories at Crawley Down Gatwick and AFC Uckfield Town meant that Hassocks arrived at Withdean with the prospect of putting three consecutive wins on the board for the first time this season.

Disappointingly, the Robins failed to register any chance of note over the course of 90 minutes in which the ball spent more time in the air than on the ground.

It would not be a surprise to hear that chiropractors in the Westdene and Hassocks areas were fully booked for the next fortnight given the workout that spectators' necks got in watching the ball fly from one end to the other, as if a game of tennis was taking place rather than

football.

The closest Hassocks came to troubling Varndeanians goalkeeper Leo Anderson was with seven minutes on the clock.

New signing Alfie Edmeads escaped down the left to deliver a dangerous looking cross which home captain Oliver Stevenson did well to clear.

Debutant Edmeads was one of the few bright spots for the Robins. A young player good enough to have broken into a talented Saltdean United squad challenging for the Southern Combination League title before his switch to the Beacon, Hassocks will be hoping he can have a positive impact in their fight at the opposite end of table.

Varndeanians mustered their first opportunity on nine minutes. Tom Boyle looked perfectly placed to strike the ball past Alex Harris, but the home forward somehow managed to rattle the outside of the post rather than finding the back of the net.

Boyle's next sight of goal was a gift from Hassocks on the half hour mark.

Jack Baden's attempted back pass was far too weak to make it to Harris, leaving the Robins goalkeeper in a footrace with the Varndeanians number nine.

Everyone expected Boyle to get there first but Harris showed a surprisingly quick turn of pace, making a good tackle to snuff out the danger.

Varndeanians grew in confidence as the half wore on, offering a real test for Dan Turner and Sam Smith.

The duo were playing together as a central defensive partnership for the first time with Turner's regular partner Bradley Tighe absent.

Along with Edmeads, both Turner and Smith were rare Hassocks players who could be reasonably pleased with their afternoons.

Smith in particular looked good

given he last started a game six weeks ago and had not played in defence for Hassocks since his autumn move from Loxwood.

The arrival of half time brought a sense that if this was not to finish 0-0, then one goal would be enough to decide it.

Hassocks huffed and puffed in an attempt to find it in the first 15 minutes of the second half without ever making any inroads, only to be caught on the break on the hour mark by a clever Varndeanians counter.

Kyle Woolven played a lovely slide rule pass to put in Finley Bigg, who made no mistake with a clinical finish into the far corner.

Sweetman turned to his bench to try and instigate a response. Charlie Broad had scored the winner at Uckfield seven days earlier and he entered proceedings with Jack Troak.

The hope was that Broad and Troak would turn Hassocks into a more attacking threat.

Anderson however remained untroubled as Varndeanians saw out the game, with Hassocks knowing they will need to do better when they face Seaford Town on Tuesday night with a place in the semi finals of the Sussex Principal RUR Charity Cup up for grabs.

Hassocks: Harris; Rawlinsong, Turner, S Smith, Baden; Edmeads, J Westlake, L Westlake, Bant; Short, Loversidge.

Subs: Troak, Broad (used), Tuck, Marshall, Wickwar (unused).



Loversidge leads Hassocks to victory against Vs with first senior hat-trick

Has a star been born at the Beacon? Alfie Loversidge became the first Hassocks teenager to score a senior hat-trick for 15 years as the Robins hammered AFC Varndeanians 4-1 in the first league meeting between the clubs.

Mid-October and the season 12 games old may be too early to describe a fixture as a six pointer.

This had the feeling though of a match Hassocks could not afford to lose against one of only four teams below them in the table.

Varndeanians arrived rock bottom with one draw and 10 defeats from 11 games, but they had shown signs of improvement in recent weeks.

Still, they had no answer to a Hassocks side giving their best performance of the season in front of a Beacon crowd of 210.

Loversidge deservedly took the headlines. This though was a real team effort and equally impressive was his strike partner Joe Bull, who set the Robins on their way to victory when opening the scoring inside of 10 minutes.

It was a goal of individual brilliance, Bull making something out of nothing. He has a natural tendency to drift into the channels and on this occasion, that saw him picking up the ball out on the right.

There did not seem much on as he cut inside the Varndeanians left back. What followed was a shot unleashed from 25 yards that caught everyone by surprise to nestle in the far corner of the Varndeanians goal.

The visitors nearly had an instant response. Hassocks were unable to clear their lines, a scuffed clearance fell to a Varndeanians player and Charlie Pugh was forced into a smart save.

Hassocks doubled their advantage on 29 minutes with a route one goal full of determination which 1980s

Wimbledon would have been proud of.

Andy Whittingham flicked on a Pugh goal kick and when a visiting defender dallied on the ball, the rampaging Bull was able to pick his pocket.

Bull now had a clear run at goal down the left and he selflessly pulled a low cross back to Loversidge who finished with aplomb.

Six minutes later and Hassocks should have had a third. Bull was again at the heart of it, another powerful charge at the Varndeanians defence ending with a shot that was repelled.

He perhaps should have squared to Bradley Bant who was in a far better position to net against the club he began the season with, but nobody could blame Bull for going it alone given the confident mood he was in.

So confident in fact that he was willing to try and audacious bicycle kick a couple of minutes into the second half.

Varndeanians did not need to worry, the effort ending up in the children's park at the west end of the ground rather than the visitors' net.

Following that, the remaining 40 or so minutes became the Loversidge show. He scored his second of the afternoon and Hassocks' third shortly after that Bull overhead.

A flying block of a Josh Short effort fell kindly to Loversidge, who showed a remarkably cool head to round the goalkeeper and finish from a very tight angle.

The treble was completed with 13 minutes remaining. Loversidge converted a penalty after being chopped down in the box, becoming the first 18-year-old to nab a Hassocks hat-trick since Matt Amos in 2006. Not bad company to be in.

The similarities do not end there. Like Amos, Loversidge started out as a midfielder. Brad Sweetman's decision to push him further forward

in the wake of George Mitchell-Phillips' departure to Saltdean United is looking inspired and Loversidge now sits on seven goals from 15 matches. He is quite the talent.

There was plenty of action to note in-between Loversidge's second and third goals, too. Following the return of Spencer Slaughter to the Beacon from Loxwood, Hassocks have also raided Plaistow Road to bring James Westlake and Josh Hawkes back to the club.

Both were introduced as second half substitutes, the recipients of excellent receptions from the Hassocks faithful telling you just how well their captures have gone down.

Westlake nearly made the perfect comeback, rattling the post with a volley five minutes after his introduction.

The rebound was bundled home, only to be correctly ruled out for a foul on the goalkeeper by referee Thomas Price.

There were other chances for Hassocks to go beyond the four goals they managed. Westlake tried a bicycle kick of his own from a long throw which was much closer than Bull's earlier effort, forcing the Varndeanians goalkeeper into a smart save.

Westlake then should have done better when off target from another enterprising cross from Bull and Loversidge was inches wide with a snapshot.

The only downer came when Varndeanians denied Pugh and his defence a clean sheet, substitute Constantin Cornel Ducia powering home a free header with seven minutes remaining.

Hassocks: Pugh; Tuck, Marshall, B Tighe, Whittingham; Gardner, Bradley, Short, Bant; Loversidge, Bull.

Subs: J Westlake, Wallis, Hawkes (used), Rawlingson, Parker (unused).



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Hassocks in the Peter Bentley League Cup

The Peter Bentley League Cup has never been the happiest of hunting grounds for Hassocks, right back to when we first entered the tournament in 1985.

It actually took 10 years from that debut in the competition against Peacehaven & Telscombe for us to taste victory for the first time.

Sure, there was a spell in Division Two in that decade in which we were notable to enter, but even so that was a remarkable long time to wait for a first win.

It belatedly arrived in the 1995-96 season, a 3-1 win away at Bosham which set the Robins up for elimination in the next round against Langney Sports.

We were quick learners however and just one year after their first win in the competition, we went all the way to the semi-finals.

Sidley were seen off in the second round, Mile Oak in round three and an almighty upset followed against the great Saltdean United side of the late 90s in the quarter finals.

That set up a semi-final showdown with Wick, another of the period's big names, but unfortunately we were not able to repeat our heroics of the previous round and fell to a heavy 5-0 defeat in the last four.

We have made the quarter finals on a number of occasions since then, the most recent of which came in the 2015-16 season.

There was no shortage of controversy about Lancing hosting a 7.15pm kick off which meant a mad dash down to Culver Road for the

Robins squad, even without taking into account the traffic nightmare that unfolded due to Brighton playing at the Amex on the same evening.

That lack of preparation certainly didn't help, but we were outclassed 4-0 by a Lancing side who would go onto lift the trophy.

Lingfield and Crawley Down Gatwick were seen off on route to that quarter final, with both sides playing in Division One at the time.

We wasted a glorious chance to make the semi-finals in the 2012-13 season when one of the finest sides in the club's history fell in the last eight.

That defeat came 1-0 away at Division One side Littlehampton Town and it owed a lot to a spectacular show of goalkeeping from Jonathan Hendrick.

Before that 2012-13 season, we had been on another barren run of form in the competition, failing to win in five seasons since the 2007-08 campaign.

We suffered some chastening defeats in that time, going down 2-1 away at Division One strugglers Southwick in 2011.

The only notable fact about that game was that just 15 paying customers bothered to turn up at Old Barn Way, making it comfortably the lowest attendance Hassocks have ever played in front of in senior football.

Another defeat to lower league opposition came in 2008, when John Suter's side faced Rustington for the first and so far only time, losing 2-1 away from home.

We ended up making the quarter finals in the 2007-08 season before falling to Ringmer. The previous season may have been the Robins' second-best ever on record after Dave John's side achieved a sixth-place finish in the league, but we still couldn't get beyond round two of the League Cup after losing 1-0 at home to Sidley United.

It was on our way to another quarter final defeat in 2005-06 that we racked up our biggest win in the competition, hammering Crawley Down 6-0 at the Beacon.

That came in the second round and in the third round, we chalked up the notable scalp of Eastbourne Town.

This was the last season that replays were used in the competition and after a 1-1 draw at the Beacon, Johnsy's boys went down to the Saffrons and triumphed 3-1 through two goals from Pat Harding and one from Matt Robbins.

That set up a quarter final meeting with Crowborough Athletic who proved to be a real bogey team to us around this time and so it was again, the Crows running out 2-1 winners at the Beacon.

The last two editions have not gone particularly well. 2019-20, saw us bow out in the second round via a 4-2 home defeat to Langney Wanderers. Ben Bacon and Jamie Hillwood were in the goals that day.

Last year saw the competition held for the first time since Covid-19. We were hammered 5-1 by Division One Roffey on a difficult evening.



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Raging Bull charges to a century of Hassocks games

The Hassocks 100 Club has another member. Raging Joe Bull reached a century of appearances for the Robins when coming on as a second half substitute in the 2-0 defeat at Little Common.

Bull has hit the milestone in a little over four seasons, including the 2019-20 and 2020-21 campaigns which were curtailed and interrupted by lockdowns.

He was initially signed for Hassocks as a midfielder by Mark Dalgleish in the summer of 2018 from Whitehawk, where he had been a key part of their dominant Under 18s side.

Bull trained on occasions with the Hawks first team - including the likes of Jake Robinson - when they were a National League South outfit.

With opportunities to progress to senior football at that level limited, the Robins were delighted to secure the signature of the then-18-year-old ahead of the 2018-19 season.

Bull made his Robins debut as a second half substitute in a 3-1 FA Cup extra preliminary qualifying round home defeat to Epsom & Ewell in

September 2018.

He started 19 games in the 2018-19 season and made 18 appearances from the bench as Hassocks finished 12th in the Southern Combination League Premier Division. That remains their highest finish in the past nine years.

Bull mixed first team duties with turning out on a regular basis for the Under 23s in 2019-20. He was pushed further forward into a strikers role, scoring three times in 12 matches for the development squad.

Three was also the magic number in terms of first team goals. Bull notched the same amount from five senior starts and nine substitute appearances, breaking his duck in a 6-1 FA Vase defeat at home to Horley Town.

That kicked off a purple patch of form for Bull as further strikes in a 6-2 win over Loxwood and a crazy 6-4 Sussex Senior Cup victory at Arundel gave him three goals in the space of five matches.

By the time the spring 2020 lockdown arrived, Bull had been one of the few bright spots of the 2019-20 season for Hassocks. The Robins sat 19th in the table when the

campaign was curtailed, sparing them a possible relegation to Division One.

Bull played 11 times in 2020-21 before that season fell by the wayside in December, scoring his fourth goal for the Robins in the shock 3-2 win over title favourites Lancing at the Beacon.

2021-22 brought another 33 outings - 19 starts and 14 from the bench - and three further goals. Two of those came in important victories over AFC Varndeanians and East Preston as Hassocks avoided relegation thanks to a superb second half of the season.

The appointment of James Westlake as head coach in the summer means that Bull has now worked under four different Hassocks managers.

That all four - Dalgleish, Dave John, Brad Sweetman and now Westlake - have made him a part of their first team squads tells you everything about his popularity at the Beacon and his exemplary attitude.

In total, Bull's 100 has been brought up by 49 starts and 51 appearances from the bench. He has seven senior goals to his name.

Congratulations, Bully.

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Seventh heaven for Robins in biggest Premier Division win of the season so far

**Southern Combination League Premier Division
Monday 29th August 2022, The Beacon
Hassocks 7-0 Roffey**



It was seventh heaven for Hassocks on August Bank Holiday Monday. The Robins hammered Roffey 7-0 to rack up their biggest victory since an 8-0 success at Hailsham Town on the equivalent day in 2016.

Hassocks played some scintillating football at times. Yes, newly promoted Roffey were limited following a summer of upheaval at Bartholomew Way, but this was still a professional Robins showing which had the game won by half time.

James Westlake's side led 4-0 going into the break. They took their foot of the pedal noticeably in the second half and still managed to add another three to the scoreline.

Particularly impressed were two legends of Hassocks and Mid Sussex football who were stood on the bank behind the west goal in the first half - Sam Fisk and Pat Harding.

Fisk said he was having a great time watching the Robins and was really impressed by what he has seen on the couple of occasions he has been to the Beacon this season.

Harding meanwhile revealed that he expects to be back in a Hassocks shirt in around two weeks time after breaking three ribs in pre-season against Whitehawk.

For the Robins to put the heftiest victory of the Southern Combination Premier Division season so far on the board without Harding is a promising sign for what might lie ahead in the first campaign of the Westlake era.

Roffey actually started the better side from kick off but once Hassocks took the lead with four minutes on the clock, there was only going to be one winner.

The Robins gave away the ball with alarming ease in those very early opening exchanges. The first occasion they managed to string more than two passes together ended with Phil Johnson releasing the lively Leon Turner down the right.

Turner was poleaxed in the area

by a clumsy Aaron Collins tackle, giving Jack Troak the opportunity to confidently despatch the resulting penalty.

It became very obvious very quickly that there was a lot of joy to be had by Hassocks down the flanks. Turner in particular sowed panic in the visitors whenever he ran at them, combining frightening pace with an unerring sense of control that makes the football stick to him like glue.

On 20 minutes, Turner danced around three players to reach the by-line. He should have rolled the ball back to Johnson but instead opted to drill across goal, offering Patrick Gibbs the chance to clear.

Turner's decision making was better for the second Hassocks goal, which arrived three minutes later. He meandered into the area and slipped in head coach Westlake, whose attempt to cross to Johnson was turned into his own net by the unfortunate Gibbs.

Hassocks added their third on the half hour mark. Harvey Blake rampaged forward from right back, bamboozled Ethan Prill and hit a firm pass into the path of Johnson to convert from six yards.

Roffey are still waiting for their first goal as a Premier Division club. The Boars had a good chance to break their duck when Cameron Cooke found himself in one-on-one, only for Alex Harris to make a solid stop with his foot.

That was on 40 minutes. On 42, Hassocks scored their fourth. Turner and Blake combined down the right once more, again laying the ball on a plate for Johnson to score his second of the morning from close range.

Roffey made a couple of changes at the interval and it helped them be more competitive for the first 25 minutes of the second half, a period in which very little happened.

The lull in proceedings was broken when Westlake turned to his own bench. Johnson, Troak, Blake,

Turner and Westlake himself all departed in quick succession. Jamie Wilkes, Joe Bull, Liam Benson, Sam Smith and Mark Zydonik entered the fray.

Suddenly, Hassocks had four new arrivals wanting to put themselves into contention for a starting spot for Friday night's glamour trip to Little Common.

All were quickly into the action. Benson raced clear from a Harris punt over the top to tee up Bull whose shot was well saved by Jacob Bennett. Zydonik met the subsequent corner with a header which Bennett did well to tip over.

Roffey's second half resistance was eventually broken on 80 minutes when Alex Bygraves headed home a pinpoint Lewis Westlake corner at the far post.

That caused the floodgates to open. Four minutes later and the rangy Wilkes saw a low effort repelled by Bennett.

Roffey's number one then did brilliantly to keep out Smith's follow up, only to be beaten at the third attempt when Smith reacted quickly to smash the loose ball home.

Wilkes completed the rout in the final seconds of injury time. Bennett pulled off another fine stop after Benson had shown quick feet to get through a plethora of white shirts.

It was hard not to feel sorry for the Boars goalkeeper when the loose ball fell to Wilkes. The tall striker produced a clinical finish into the empty net for his first Hassocks goal.

Hassocks: Harris; Blake, Bygraves, B Tighe, Cash; J Westlake, Williamson, L Westlake; Turner, Johnson, Troak.

Subs: Wilkes (J Westlake 60), Bull (Troak 65), Benson (Johnson 65), Zydonik (Blake 65), S Smith (Turner 69).



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Hassocks left wondering how they lost under the Little Common lights

**Southern Combination League Premier Division
Friday 2nd September 2022, The Recreation Ground
Little Common 2-0 Hassocks**



Nobody measures xG in the Southern Combination League. Which is just as well, because Hassocks would have been thoroughly depressed by expected goals compared to the actual outcome from their trip to Little Common.

The Robins were miles the better side. They played some excellent football. The only thing letting them down was their finishing.

Chance after chance went begging. It was in stark contrast to Hassocks' last outing, a clinical display which put seven past Roffey on Bank Holiday Monday.

Little Common meanwhile managed two efforts on target all evening. Both went in, sending Hassocks to a 2-0 defeat and ending their hopes of winning four Premier Division matches in a row for the first time since 2018.

Unsurprisingly, James Westlake made no changes from the starting XI who hit that baker's half seven against the Boars.

Fast stars have been a theme of the Westlake Era so far. Hassocks took the lead inside five minutes in each of those victories over Roffey, Alfold and AFC Uckfield Town.

The Robins nearly added another early goal here. Three minutes had elapsed when an aggressive press won Hassocks possession in midfield.

Head coach Westlake threaded in Leon Turner, only for the winger to see his shot repelled by Common goalkeeper Matt Cruttwell.

That stop looked even more important when Common took the lead three minutes later.

Sam Ellis escaped down the left channel and his pull back was swept in from close range by Lewis Hole.

It would be another 71 minutes before Common mustered another opportunity. They would score that one, too.

In between, Hassocks produced a catalogue of misses which ranged

from the unfortunate to the downright bizarre.

The first came just three further minutes from Common taking the lead.

Lewis Westlake swung over a corner which found its way to Sam Cash at the back post, who somehow contrived to miss from four yards out.

A bobble did Phil Johnson just as he was about to pull the trigger with Hassocks' next chance, the ball flying over from 20 yards after skipping up unexpectedly.

Then it was the turn of the woodwork to get in the way. Some brilliant passing football released Mike Williamson gliding into a wide position.

He played a visionary pass into James Westlake to hit a rasping effort. It beat Cruttwell but not the crossbar, which was left shaking for sometime after.

Williamson was a little too high with an effort from 20 yards after enterprising play from Troak on the half hour mark.

Home player-manager Russell Eldridge became one of three Common players to enter the book for clever fouls to stop Hassocks breaking.

Johnson had skinned Eldridge on halfway and was looking to break when Eldridge tried to swap shirts with him, leaving referee Perry Hart no choice but to flash a yellow.

Two minutes later and Hassocks should have made more of the opportunity presented by a poor back header from Adam Smith intended for Cruttwell.

Turner intercepted and had passing options in the middle. Instead, he took the decision to shoot from a tight angle with the resulting shot failing to trouble the Common goal.

The lively Turner did better with his next opportunity, cutting inside and hitting a crisp shot which required a good stop from Cruttwell.

Jamie Bunn was shown a yellow for two swipes at the lively Harvey Blake just before the break as Hassocks continued to cause problems right up until the half time whistle.

Four minutes into the second half and Johnson skipped around Eldridge, who dared not foul for fear of a second yellow.

Johnson's luck was clearly not in however as again, a divot skipped the ball up as he was about to shoot, sending the effort from 18 yards flying over the bar.

The hour mark saw Blake miss at the back post from four yards with a rebound after Turner had blazed through the Common defence.

Johnny Walker picked up the third Common booking of the night for a cynical trip, followed by Cash hitting a weak effort from 23 yards.

A rare foray forward from Common brought them their first corner of the night on 77 minutes.

When Lewis Parsons stole a gap to head home and double the hosts' advantage, you knew it was not going to be Hassocks' evening. If that had not already been apparent.

The Robins to their credit kept going. They mustered a couple more chances, the best of which needed a desperate goal line clearance from Parsons amidst a scramble.

The loose ball fell straight to substitute Joe Bull, who was making his 100th Hassocks appearance.

Bull could not mark the milestone with a goal, firing wide. It was just one of those nights for the Robins.

Hassocks: Harris; Blake, Bygraves, B Tighe, Cash; J Westlake, Williamson, L Westlake; Turner, Johnson, Troak.

Subs: Benson (J Westlake 73), Bull (Turner 80), Wilkes, S Smith, Broomfield (unused).

First Team Matches 2022-23

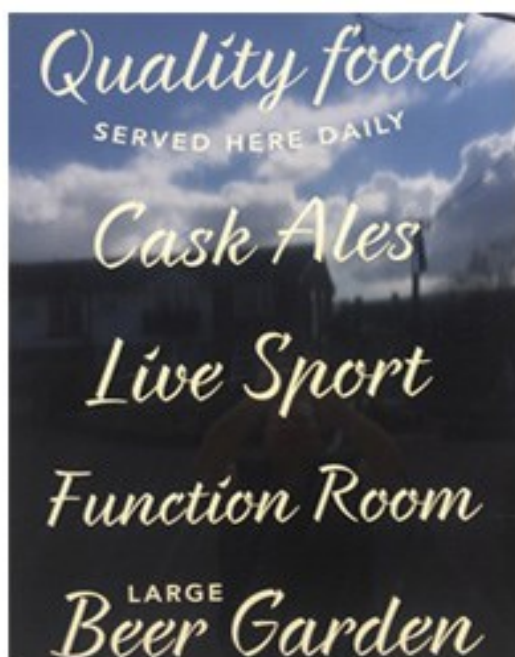
Date & Time	Opponents	Comp	F-A	Att	Scorers
July					
30/07 - 15:00	Peacehaven & Tels. (A)	SCFLP	0-3	153	
August					
02/08 - 19:45	Midhurst & Easebourne (H)	SCFLP	3-4	162	Bygraves, Troak, Benson
06/08 - 15:00	Lingfield (H)	FACEP	1-0	124	
13/08 - 15:00	AFC Uckfield Town (A)	SCFLP	2-1	46	Zydonik, Benson
16/08 - 19:45	Alfold (A)	SCFLP	3-0	57	L.Turner, Benson, Zydonik
20/08 - 15:00	Uxbridge (H)	FACFPQ	1-3	148	Johnson
29/08 - 11:00	Roffey (H)	SCFLP	7-0	204	Troak, Johnson (2), OG, Bygraves, S.Smith, Wilkes
September					
02/09 - 19:30	Little Common (A)	SCFLP	0-2	146	
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	Broadbridge 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
Alex Bygraves	8	0	8	2	8	2
Alex Harris	8	0	8	0	98	0
Jack Troak	8	0	8	2	84	25
Lewis Westlake	8	0	8	0	110	12
Harvey Blake	7	1	8	0	75	3
Sam Cash	6	2	8	0	11	1
James Westlake	6	1	7	0	235	31
Phil Johnson	5	2	7	3	170	79
Leon Turner	5	2	7	1	7	1
Liam Benson	4	3	7	3	141	34
Mike Williamson	5	1	6	0	6	0
Mark Zydonik	5	1	6	2	6	2
Joe Bull	3	3	6	0	100	7
Tom Frankland	3	1	4	0	4	0
Bradley Tighe	3	1	4	0	142	0
Jamie Wilkes	0	4	4	1	8	1
Sam Smith	1	2	3	1	17	3
Charlie Tuck	2	0	2	0	23	0
Alfie Loversidge	1	0	1	0	62	11
Arthur Rawlingson	0	1	1	0	41	1
Daniel Reid	0	1	1	0	1	0
Sam Rogers	0	1	1	0	1	0

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SATURDAY	11.00 - 00.30
SUNDAY	12.00 - 23.00

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Debutant Reid gives Hassocks perfect start at the Theatre of Trees

**Southern Combination League Under 23 North Division
Thursday 18th August 2022, The Beacon
Roffey U23s 0-1 Hassocks U23s**



A win. A clean sheet. A debutant goal. Hassocks Under 23s got their Southern Combination League North Division season underway in solid fashion with a 1-0 victory away at Roffey.

There are not many better grounds to visit on a Thursday night in August than Bartholomew Way.

Roffey are a welcoming club playing in a setting almost as picturesque as the Beacon, their pitch being located in the middle of a forest and earning the moniker of the Theatre of Trees.

The only goal of the game was nearly as beautiful as the surroundings. It came from Hassocks debutant Danny Reid, marking his first appearance in a red shirt since just a couple of days after signing from Peacehaven & Telscombe with an effort that those who witnessed it will be talking about for a long time.

Reid was one of five debutants amongst the 15 players used by Neil Parker, taking charge of the Under 23s for the first time.

The others were goalkeeper Callum Thompson, Lewis Fairley, Sam Rogers and substitute Reece Clarke.

Tall striker Jamie Wilkes was a sixth newish face. He has returned to the Beacon this summer following a season at AFC Uckfield Town after

previously playing for Hassocks in 2020-21 before Covid-19 brought the season to a halt in December.

As for Parker, he has stepped up from managing the Robins' Under 18s. He is no stranger to Under 23s football, having assisted Brad Sweetman with the side two seasons ago in that lockdown-interrupted 2020-21 before concentrating solely on the youth setup last year.

Nine of the squad who delivered the three points at Roffey played a part for the Under 23s last season, when they finished runners up in the North Division behind Broadbridge Heath - captained by new Hassocks recruit Rogers incidentally - and reached the semi finals of the League Cup. Alfold put paid to any dreams of a first piece of silverware at this level.

Jude Wallis was in and around the first team at times, Arthur Rawlingson was a regular whilst Dan Turner won both Players' Player and Supporters' Player of the Season awards.

Turner though is off to play cricket in New Zealand this winter, and so will be turning out for the Under 23s until he departs later in the year. That will provide a huge boost to Parker.

Of the other familiar faces, Jay Hudson, Sam Geard and Kobe

Dersley all started at Bartholomew Wat. Ben Hicks, George Mercer and Wes Tighe were introduced from the bench.

Roffey had finished last season in fifth place but those who were with Hassocks remember the threat they posed.

The Robins suffered their third North Division defeat of the season on their previous visit to the Theatre of Trees, going down 2-0 at the end of November when the autumn injury crisis which ripped through the Beacon was at its worse.

That outstanding debut strike from Reid along with a solid defensive performance from Thompson and his backline ensured there was no repeat on this occasion.

If Hassocks want to go one better than the second spot they achieved in 2021-22, then these are the sort of games they have to win. A good start for Parker and his players.

Hassocks: Thompson, Dersley, Turner, Rawlingson, Fairley, Geard, Rogers, Wilkes, Wallis, Hudson, Reid.

Subs: Hicks, Clarke, Mercer, W Tighe (used).



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Hassocks hit Rangers for six to take Mid Sussex bragging rights

**Southern Combination League Under 23 North Division
Thursday 25th August 2022, The Beacon
Hassocks U23s 6-0 St Francis U23s**



Mid Sussex is red. Hassocks Under 23s delivered a devastating performance to hammer local rivals St Francis Rangers 6-0 at the Beacon in their second Southern Combination League North Division match of the season.

In the last Mid Sussex Derby held back in January, Rangers had run out 2-1 winners in what was meant to be their home game.

It was switched to the Beacon because of floodlight problems at Colwell Road. Not that the change mattered, the result showing that St Francis made themselves very much at home.

As if losing to your local rivals were not enough, the defeat ended the Robins' slim hopes of winning the North Division title.

Rangers made the short trip back to the Hospital with bragging rights and the knowledge that they had put the final nail in Hassocks' championship dreams coffin.

All of that helped make this hammering eight months down the line even more enjoyable. A small measure of revenge for Hassocks to go with their three points.

It was also a great way for new head coach Neil Parker to mark his first home game in charge.

Parker has now overseen two victories from two matches with seven goals scored and none conceded. Not a bad start to life in the Under 23s dugout.

Wholesale changes from one week to the next have been the norm for Hassocks in recent seasons, with a lot of players moving between first and Under 23 teams on a weekly basis. Or if you are Phil Gault, first and veterans.

A more settled senior squad under James Westlake in 2021-22 has filtered down to greater consistency in selection for Parker.

Hassocks made just three changes from the side who won 1-0 away at Roffey in the season opener a week earlier.

George Mercer was promoted from the bench. First team players Will Broomfield and Sam Smith were given the opportunity to get vital minutes under their belts after missing out on most of the senior action so far.

Dropping out were Jay Hudson, Danny Reid and Jamie Wilkes. Both Reid and Wilkes had been used substitutes in the FA Cup exit at the hands of Uxbridge on Saturday afternoon.

Smith in particular enjoyed his run out with the Under 23s. The

striker had a fruitful evening, scoring twice against a Rangers defence who had no answer to his excellent play as a target man.

Arthur Rawlingson was on target against his former club and he was joined on the scoresheet by fellow defender Dan Turner, showing what an asset he will be at both ends of the pitch for Parker before he heads to New Zealand to play cricket this winter.

The other two Hassocks goals came from players scoring for the Robins for the first time.

New signing from Balcombe Lewis Fairley was on target on his home debut. Under 18s player Sam Fernley marked his first appearance for the Under 23s with a goal from the bench to complete the rout.

Hassocks: Thompson, Rawlingson, Turner, Broomfield, Dersley, Geard, Rogers, Mercer, Fairley, Wallis, S Smith.

Subs: Hicks, Fernley, Broad, J Smith, W Tighe (used).





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John Broomfield
REMOVALS

Under 23s Matches 2022-23

Date & Time	Opponents	Comp	F-A	Scorers
August				
18/08 - 19:30	Roffey (A)	SCFL23	1-0	Reid
25/08 - 19:45	St Francis Rangers (H)	SCFL23	6-0	S.Smith (2), Rawlingson, Turner, Fairley, Fernley
September				
01/09 - 19:30	Alfold (A)	SCFL23	1-2	M.Smith
08/09 - 19:45	Broadbridge Heath (H)	SCFL23		
15/09 - 19:45	Chessington & Hook (A)	SCFL23		
29/09 - 19:45	Horley Town (H)	SCFL23		

Under 23s Appearances 2022-23

Player	2022-23 Season			
	Starts	Used Sub	Games	Goals
Lewis Fairley	3	0	3	1
Sam Geard	3	0	3	0
Arthur Rawlingson	3	0	3	1
Sam Rogers	3	0	3	0
Callum Thompson	3	0	3	0
Dan Turner	3	0	3	1
Ben Hicks	1	2	3	0
Wes Tighe	0	3	3	0
Kobe Dersley	2	0	2	0
Danny Reid	2	0	2	1
Sam Smith	2	0	2	2
Jude Wallis	2	0	2	0
Sam Fernley	1	1	2	1
George Mercer	1	1	2	0
Reece Clarke	0	2	2	0
Jack Smith	0	2	2	0
Will Broomfield	1	0	1	0
Jay Hudson	1	0	1	0
Alfie Loversidge	1	0	1	0
Jamie Wilkes	1	0	1	0
Sam Arscott	0	1	1	0
Charlie Broad	0	1	1	0
Marshall Smith	0	1	1	1

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Under 18s Matches 2022-23

Date & Time	Opponents	Comp	F-A	Scorers
September				
04/09 - 11:00	Steyping Town (H)	SCFL23	3-1	
11/09 - 11:00	AFC Varndeanians (A)	SCFL23		
18/09 - 11:00	Worthing United (H)	SCFL23		
25/09 - 11:00	St Francis Rangers (A)	SCFL23		

Ladies Matches 2022-23

Date & Time	Opponents	Comp	F-A	Scorers
September				
04/09 - 14:00	Saltdean United (A)	SCWLP	6-1	
11/09 - 14:00	Seaford Town (H)	SCWLP		
18/09 - 14:00	Pevensey & Westham (A)	SCWLC1		
October				
02/10 - 14:00	Denne Park (A)	SCWLP		
30/10 - 14:00	Pagham (H)	SCWLP		
November				
06/11 - 14:00	Pagham (A)	SCWLP		
13/11 - 14:00	Saltdean United (H)	SCWLP		
20/11 - 14:00	Seaford Town (A)	SCWLP		
December				
04/12 - 14:00	Burgess Hill Town (A)	SCWLP		
11/12 - 14:00	Denne Park (H)	SCWLP		
January				
15/01 - 14:00	Saltdean United (A)	SCWLP		
22/01 - 14:00	Seaford Town (H)	SCWLP		
February				
05/02 - 14:00	Burgess Hill Town (H)	SCWLP		
12/02 - 14:00	Denne Park (A)	SCWLP		
19/02 - 14:00	Burgess Hill Town (H)	SCWLP		
26/02 - 14:00	Pagham (H)	SCWLP		

Veterans Matches 2022-23

Date & Time	Opponents	Comp	F-A	Scorers
September				
11/09 - 14:00	Seaford Town (A)	MSFLV1		
October				
02/10 - 14:00	AFC Varndeanians (H)	MSFLV1		
November				
06/11 - 14:00	Sidley United (H)	MSFLV1		
December				
04/12 - 14:00	Lewes (A)	MSFLV1		
January				
08/01 - 14:00	Jarvis Brook (H)	MSFLV1		
February				
05/02 - 14:00	Rotherfield (A)	MSFLV1		
March				
19/03 - 14:00	Montpelier Villa (A)	MSFLV1		

On This Day...



Robins stun Bridges in a crazy comeback thriller

September 6th 2008: Three Bridges visited the Beacon in an FA Vase first qualifying round tie eventually won by the Robins which had absolutely everything...

Where do you even begin to start with this FA Vase encounter between Hassocks and Three Bridges at the Beacon?

Extra time. Seven goals. Six bookings. Two red cards. Visiting manager Paul Faili sent to the stands. A missed penalty. And a 117th minute winner from debutant Matt Russell to give the Robins a 4-3 success.

This was a game that had it all. Even Dave John was left speechless. With John Suter and Mickey Jewell both holidaying, the Robins director of football took charge for the afternoon.

"I have seen better football," John said afterwards. "But in terms of value for money and entertainment, that was something else."

Frequent heavy showers and blustery conditions made the surface slick. That suited Bridges, who were able to pass around with aplomb during a first half which offered very little indication of the drama to come.

Sam McVicar stung the palms of Hassocks youth team goalkeeper Jack Simpson, making his senior debut.

The 17-year-old is highly rated at the Beacon and has long been viewed as the obvious successor to Joel Harding, who is currently backpacking around the world.

Simpson stepped in with Paul Williams unavailable and endured a mixed afternoon.

He was probably not helped after receiving a nasty forearm smash from Nathan Davis on 20 minutes, who was lucky to escape with only a yellow from referee David Spain when it could easily have been red.

There was an excellent save from Simpson on 30 minutes from Joel O'Hara but the Hassocks goalkeeper was caught out on 34 when failing to claim a corner. McVicar climbed highest to head home.

Davis scuffed an effort wide and James Grant fired over as Bridges finished a dominant first half showing off strongly.

The visitors continued that into the second half, doubling their lead within two minutes of the restart.

Sam Thornback's excellent through ball caught Hassocks flatfooted and Davis rounded Simpson before neatly tucking home.

That stung Hassocks into action and they halved the deficit on 54, Matt Amos volleying home an Anthony Hibbert corner from close range with the Bridges defence standing still.

It was end-to-end stuff after that. Warren Whitely shot wide and Carl Dunk headed over for Bridges. Ashley Dugdale did well to clear an Amos cross before it could reach James McKenzie and Amos then went close with a header.

Dunk entered the book for a foul just before the Robins equalised on 74 minutes. Former Bognor Regis and Burgess Hill Town man Russell fired home from a Tom White centre to mark his first appearance for Hassocks with a goal.

Home celebrations were short lived as Bridges immediately retook the lead. Simpson and Glen Woodburn collided, enabling Davis to put the visitors 3-2 ahead.

John introduced Laurence Robinson with 12 minutes remaining. It was Robinson's cross on 88 which caused confusion in the Bridges box, resulting in a clearance hitting Hibbert and deflecting in for 3-3.

Bridges were incensed, thinking Hibbert had handled the ball into the net. Dunk led the protests and earned his second yellow to leave his side facing extra time with only 10 men.

Faili also vehemently disagreed with the goal, striding onto the pitch to remonstrate with Mr Spain. The

Bridges manager was given his marching orders from the dugout as a result.

Further heavy rain greeted the start of extra time, when Bridges did not look overly troubled by their numerical disadvantage.

It needed a fine Woodburn block from Kevin Joyce followed by a brilliant full stretch Simpson save pushing out Whitely's pile driver to keep the score at 3-3.

Russell hooked over a Robinson cross up the other end before Hassocks were awarded a 103rd minute penalty. Bridges goalkeeper Stuart Devlin punched away a ball into the box but behind him, Mr Spain spotted Amos being bundled to the ground by Dugdale.

Dugdale was shown a harsh straight red. Devlin though improved the mood of the visitors slightly by keeping out Hibbert's spot kick.

Even against nine men Hassocks struggled to take control. Michael Eynon entered the book as home frustrations began to boil over and Bridges almost scored on the counter. Woodburn was the man again to save the Robins with another immense block.

Most were readying themselves for a replay at Jubilee Field when Hassocks found an unlikely winner. Devlin came to collect Robinson's cross but James Laing got there first, flicking the ball towards the back post with his head.

Russell had the simplest of finishes to round off a scarcely believable afternoon.

Hassocks: J Simpson; White, Woodburn, Pitcher, Thompson; Slaughter, Hibbert, McKenzie, Bristow; M Russell, Amos

Subs: Eynon (Bristow 65), Robinson (McKenzie 78), Laing (Slaughter 93), Fitzgerald (unused).

Around the League...



August Bank Holiday Monday was a day of big crowds watching local(ish) games across all three division of the Southern Combination League. Here is what was happening whilst we were busy beating Roffey 7-1 at the Beacon...

Peacehaven & Telscombe made it a perfect four wins from four matches with a 2-0 victory over this evening's visitors AFC Varndeanians at Witdean Stadium.

Max Hollobone gave the Tye a 26th minute lead which was doubled by Harry Docherty on 55 in another impressive display from the only side left with a 100 percent Premier Division record.

Cricket at the Polegrove meant **Bexhill United** had to host **Eastbourne United** at Priory Lane, the home of Eastbourne Borough.

The visitors took advantage of their shortened journey to run out 4-2 winners.

Ellis Cormack opened the scoring as early as the second minute with further goals coming from George Taggart and a Max Thompson double.

Bexhill replied through Joe Summerbell and substitute Hayden Beaconsfield.

Two goals in the space of six second half minutes gave **Broadbridge Heath** a 2-1 win over **Alfold**.

Sam Lemon struck a sweet effort on 52 followed by Sean Terry on 58. Alfold had Karim Elmellas on target.

An ill-tempered game at the Crowborough Community Stadium went the way of **Crowborough Athletic** who saw off **Crawley Down Gatwick** 2-1.

Harry Forster and Morgan Vale scored for the Crows, who had both Ollie Hyland and Jack Mayhew dismissed.

Down also lost a player with Scott Johnston seeing red. Their goal arrived in the 89th minute via Rhys White, which proved to be too little, too late.

There was late drama at the Saffrons where a 96th minute

equaliser from Sam Crutwell rescued a 2-2 draw for **Little Common** away at **Eastbourne Town**.

Fletcher Holman's double either side of a Lewis Hole effort for the visitors looked like it had won it for Town until Crutwell's intervention. Common ended the game with 10 following Lewis Parsons' dismissal.

Alfie Rogers hit a hat-trick for **Newhaven** as they hammered **Saltdean United** 5-0 at the Trafalgar Ground. Jack Meeres and Marley Ambler also netted for the Dockers.

AFC Uckfield Town picked up a good three points from **Lingfield** in a game held at Steyning Town's Shooting Field.

Harvey Burgess scored twice for the Oakmen, along with new Uckfield signing Andrew Dalhouse.

Two Premier Division games took place on Tuesday night. **Midhurst & Easebourne** beat **Loxwood** 2-0 at Plaistow Road and a Tom Tolfrey goal gave **Horsham YMCA** a 1-0 win over **Steyning Town**.

The big winners in Division One were **Epsom & Ewell**, who hammered **Oakwood** 5-0 at Tinsley Lane with five different scorers on target.

Jubril Adamson, Josh Alder, Athan Smith-Joseph, Ricardo Fernandes and Gideon Acheampong all netted in a comprehensive win for the Salts.

Godalming Town continued their strong start to the campaign by winning 4-1 at home to **Forest Row**.

Sam Boulwood scored twice and there were singles for Luke Beale and Rikkie Letch. George Holah got the Frow consolation.

Tom Jefkins, Harry Russell and Jack Collins were on target for **Arundel** as they saw off **Billingshurst** 3-0 at Mill Road.

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Chessington & Hook United drew 1-1 with **Dorking Wanderers B** and it was the same scoreline at Middle Road where **Shoreham** were held by **Hailsham Town**.

Tommy Kirwan and Chris Whittington gave **Mile Oak** a 2-0 win over **Montpelier Villa** with Division One's solitary Tuesday night fixture finishing 1-1 between **Worthing United** and **Seaford Town**.

Division Two champions **Rustington** were held to a 4-4 draw in an eight goal thriller against **Worthing Town**.

That opened the door for surprise package **Rottingdean Village** to take over at the top of the table following a 7-1 win over **Brighton Electricity**.

Southern Combination League newcomers **Capel** continue to make a strong start to life in their first ever season at this level, securing a 5-1 home victory over **Southwater**.

Charlwood beat **Copthorne** 3-1 and **St Francis Rangers** were defeated 1-0 at home by **Jarvis Brook**.

Ferring saw off **Bosham** 3-1 with arguably the game of the day in the bottom tier coming at **Upper Beeding** where the hosts were edged out 3-2 in a ding-dong derby by **Storrington**.

Kristian Harding gave Beeding a sixth minute lead. Declan Jenkins equalised on 31, followed by Jack Judd putting the hosts back ahead five minutes into the second half.

Two goals in the space of 60 seconds ending up winning it for Beeding, Magic Sibanda levelling on the hour mark with substitute Lloyd Grant striking a minute later.



Tables. Form. Goals. Attendances

Southern Combination Premier Division Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Broadbridge Heath	6	5	0	1	12	5	15
Eastbourne United	6	4	1	1	14	6	13
Crowborough Athletic	6	4	1	1	9	7	13
Peacehaven & Tels	4	4	0	0	12	2	12
Horsham YMCA	5	4	0	1	11	3	12
Midhurst & Easebourne	5	3	1	1	8	5	10
AFC Uckfield Town	6	3	1	2	13	11	10
Newhaven	5	3	0	2	18	4	9
Hassocks	6	3	0	3	15	10	9
Eastbourne Town	5	2	2	1	8	4	8
Bexhill United	5	2	1	2	12	8	7
Steyning Town	6	2	1	3	7	8	7
Loxwood	6	2	1	3	10	13	7
Crawley Down Gatwick	5	2	0	3	10	9	6
Little Common	5	1	3	1	7	6	6
AFC Varndeanians	5	1	2	2	6	10	5
Lingfield	6	1	1	4	7	15	4
Saltdean United	6	1	0	5	4	20	3
Alfold	6	0	1	5	4	16	1
Roffey	6	0	0	6	0	24	0

Premier Division Attendances

	Ave	High	Low
Bexhill United	241	241	241
Eastbourne Town	231	231	231
Newhaven	229	229	299
Crowborough Athletic	184	193	175
Hassocks	183	204	162
Peacehaven & Telscombe	180	255	132
Horsham YMCA	165	165	165
Broadbridge Heath	162	201	123
Steyning Town	114	125	105
Eastbourne United	110	137	89
Little Common	104	123	84
AFC Varndeanians	96	112	80
Midhurst & Easebourne	83	91	77
AFC Uckfield Town	82	103	46
Loxwood	82	82	82
Roffey	73	129	30
Saltdean United	71	107	28
Alfold	67	81	57
Crawley Down Gatwick	66	74	60
Lingfield	56	56	56

Premier Division Form Guide

	Last 6
Broadbridge Heath	WWLWWW
Eastbourne United	WLWWW
Crowborough Athletic	WDDLWW
Peacehaven & Telscombe	WWWWW
Horsham YMCA	LWWWW
Midhurst & Easebourne	DWWLW
AFC Uckfield Town	WDLWW
Newhaven	LLWWW
Hassocks	LLWWWL
Eastbourne Town	WDLWD
Bexhill United	DWWLL
Steyning Town	WDLWW
Loxwood	LWDWLL
Crawley Down Gatwick	WWLLL
Little Common	LDDDW
AFC Varndeanians	LWDL
Lingfield	DWLLLL
Saltdean United	LLLLLW
Alfold	DLLLLL
Roffey	LLLLLL

Premier Division Top Scorers

Player	Club	Goals
Tom Tolfrey	Horsham YMCA	10
Lucas Franzen-Jones	Newhaven	8
Alfie Rogers	Newhaven	7
Max Thompson	Eastbourne Utd	6
Lee Robinson	Newhaven	5
Devon Fender	Loxwood	5
Jack Shonk	Bexhill United	5
Ben Cooksley	B'bridge Heath	4
Callum Edwards	Peacehaven	4
Harry Forster	Crowborough	4
Max Hollobone	Peacehaven	4
Sam Lemon	B'bridge Heath	4
Lewis Beebee	Saltdean United	3
Liam Benson	Hassocks	3
Lewis Croal	B'bridge Heath	3
Harvey Enitcknap	Crawley Down	3
Callum Hart	Peacehaven	3
Aaron Hopkinson	Peacehaven	3
Phil Johnson	Hassocks	3
Oli Leslie	Crawley Down	3

Southern Combination Under 23 North Division Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Horley Town	3	2	1	0	13	4	7
Lingfield	2	2	0	0	8	1	6
Hassocks	3	2	0	1	8	2	6
Horsham YMCA	3	2	0	1	11	7	6
Alfold	3	2	0	1	9	6	6
Roffey	3	1	1	1	7	7	4
Broadbridge Heath	2	1	0	1	5	4	3
Chessington & Hook	3	1	0	2	6	10	3
St Francis Rangers	3	1	0	2	2	13	3
Loxwood	2	0	0	2	3	10	0
Oakwood	3	0	0	3	1	9	0

Under 23 North Division Top Scorers

Player	Club	Gls
Archie Goddard	Horsham YMCA	5
Sam Coxon	Horsham YMCA	3
Jamie Maunder	Roffey	3
Tommy McKenna	Horley Town	3
Ben Remfry	Horley Town	3
Alfie Barnes	Horsham YMCA	2
Archie Fuller	Alfold	2
Kelvin Lucas	Alfold	2
Owen Smith	Roffey	2
Sam Smith	Hassocks	2
Liam Steer	Horley Town	2

Southern Combination Under 18 Central Division Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Burgess Hill Town	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Hassocks	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Lancing	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
St Francis Rangers	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Worthing United	1	1	0	0	5	3	3
AFC Varndeanians	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Mile Oak	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Saltdean United	1	0	0	1	1	4	0
Shoreham	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Steyning Town	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

Under 18 Central Division Top Scorers

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

Sussex County Women's League Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hassocks	1	1	0	0	6	1	3
Seaford Town	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Burgess Hill Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pagham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denne Park	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Saltdean United	1	0	0	1	1	6	0

Women's Premier Division Top Scorers

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

Mid Sussex Veterans League Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AFC Varndeanians	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Broadbridge Heath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dorking Wanderers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hassocks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horley Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jarvis Brook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lewes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montpelier Villa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rotherfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seaford Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sidley United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Chiltington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Veterans Division One Top Scorers

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

Upcoming Fixtures >>>



Hassocks v Eastbourne United

Southern Combination League Premier Division
Saturday 10th September

The Beacon, Brighton Road, Hassocks, BN6 9LY

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

Better late than never, our first Saturday 3pm game of the season arrives on Saturday 10th September. The visitors are Eastbourne United, who might well fancy their chances of challenging for the title in a wide-open Premier Division

Eastbourne United last season

United endured a slow start to 2021-22 until the appointment of former AFC Uckfield Town boss Anthony Storey in October. An influx of former Oakmen players followed, helping lift United from the fringes of the relegation battle to a final finishing position of fifth, their highest since being crowned champions in 2008-09. If they can maintain that form over an entire campaign, then it should be enough to put them in the title picture - especially in a season where there are no standout favourites to win the league. It has been so far, so good in that regard with United currently sitting third, kept off top spot only by goal difference.

Head-to-head

The Robins dominate the head-to-head with 18 wins to United's 14 and 12 draws in our 44 meetings. That record is helped hugely by the fact that we used to love visiting the Oval for reasons that nobody could ever really understand. We won six times in a row there between 2010 and 2019 despite only finishing above United twice in that period, although that run has been dampened somewhat by defeats on our last three visits to the Sunshine Coast.

Last time we met

A January trip to the Oval resulted in 90 minutes of turgid football lacking in any real quality. One of the only moments worth writing about provided the game's single goal,

scored by United captain Charlie Ball. Conjuring something out of nothing, Ball hit an unstoppable effort from 25 yards which Alex Harris could only watch rocket into the top corner.

Links between the clubs?

Jack Troak played for United earlier in his career as a young player at Lewes after the Rooks decided they wanted the lively left winger to experience of senior football. Goalkeeper James Broadbent won a clean sweep of Players' Player, Supporters' Player and Managers' Player of the Season at the Beacon after signing from United for 2016-17 and current Eastbourne Town women's manager Zak Dove turned out for both clubs.

<<< Upcoming Fixtures



Crawley Down Gatwick v Hassocks

Southern Combination League Premier Division

Saturday 17th September

The Haven, Hophurst Lane, Crawley Down, RH10 4LJ

One of our shortest away journeys of the season takes place in 11 days time when we make the trip to Crawley Down Gatwick, a fixture which has provided its fair share of entertainment over the years

Crawley Down this season

It was a busy summer at the Haven with Down losing a number of key players who had helped them to an 11th place finish in 2021-22. We were able to persuade Phil Johnson and Harvey Blake to return to the Beacon from the Anvils, whilst another ex-Robin in Charlie Pitcher moved to Burgess Hill Town. So much upheaval has understandably led to a mixed start to the current campaign. Down have won two and lost three of their five Premier Division matches so far. They have impressive victories against Newhaven and Crowborough Athletic to their name, serving a reminder of the quality that remains at the Haven despite all those departures.

Head-to-head

Hassocks v Crawley Down has a well earned reputation as one of the most entertaining fixtures on the Southern Combination League circuit. 87 goals have been plundered in 25 previous meetings in senior football, including 34 in the past nine meetings. Amongst the more ridiculous score lines of the past seven years are 5-3 and 6-4 wins for Hassocks. The head-to-head reads 12 victories for the Robins, eight for Down with five draws. In four meetings last season, Hassocks won in the Premier Division and RUR Cup; Down were victorious in the Sussex Senior Cup and the spoils were shared in the other league meeting.

Last time we met

Down visited the Beacon on Easter Monday for that second Premier Division clash of the campaign. A full time score of 0-0 was not really in keeping with what normally happens in the fixture, although it was one of the more entertaining goalless stalemates you are likely to see.

How to get to the Haven

Head through Haywards Heath to Ardingly and onto Turners Hill on the B2028. After Turners Hill, you'll enter Crawley Down and come to a fork in the road where you need to take a right onto Vicarage Road, following this through the village until the Haven appears on your right.



Horsham YMCA v Hassocks

Southern Combination League Premier Division

Tuesday 20th September

Herbert Direct Stadium, Gorings Mead, Horsham, RH13 5BP

Gorings Mead has never been the happiest of hunting grounds for Hassocks. It looks like it will take a special effort to improve our record away at Horsham YMCA with Dean Carden's side flying in the Premier Division so far this season

Horsham YMCA this season

Early days it might be, but Horsham YMCA look on course to enjoy their best Premier Division campaign for several years. Manager Dean Carden has been given the time needed to build a squad capable of competing at this level, resulting in steady season-by-season improvement since long-standing boss Peter Buckland stepped down. YM appear to have the ideal mix of goal scorers at one end - league top scorer Tom Tolfrey and Ben Bacon - and a mean defence at the other. They have conceded just three times in five matches, returning four wins and a draw.

Head-to-head

YM have been one of our most

frequently faced opponents since we joined the Southern Combination League. There have been 53 games between the sides. YM have won 28 with 13 Hassocks wins and 13 draws. YM's dominance of the fixture stems largely from their strong record at Gorings Mead in the fixture; we have won just three times in the league there since 2000.

Last time we met

No prizes for guessing the outcome on our visit to YM back in March. It finished 1-0 to the hosts with the only goal arriving in the second minute. Dan Lombardo scored it with a crisp finish at the far post after Tolfrey took advantage of some very slack defending from a quickly taken

throw. We had chances to equalise but YM goalkeeper Aaron Jeal played like prime Gordon Banks to earn a clean sheet.

How to get to the Herbert Direct Stadium

The ground is situated on the outskirts of the town centre. Take the A272 to Cowfold before joining the A281 towards Horsham. Once in the town, Gorings Mead is located on the left before the railway bridge as directed by the "YMCA" sign. There is extremely limited parking at the ground and when that is full there is no parking in the street leading to the ground. Visitors are advised to park in one of the many car parks that are a five-minute walk away.

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Robins Awards 2022-23



Bedlam Brewery Hassocks Starman

Peacehaven & Telscombe away **Alex BYGRAVES**
Midhurst & Easebourne home **Harvey BLAKE**
Lingfield home **Sam CASH**
AFC Uckfield Town away **Joe BULL**
Alfold away **Liam BENSON**
Uxbridge home **Bradley TIGHE**
Roffey home **Phil JOHNSON**
Little Common away **Lewis WESTLAKE**
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



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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. James Westlake	220	15	235	31
20. Dan Jacques	201	31	232	9
21. Mark Burnham	209	22	231	44
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	79	170
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	34	141
20. Luke Flomo	31	146
21. James Westlake	31	235
22. Dan Smith	27	63
23. Jack Troak	25	84
24. Jamie Hillwood	25	124
25. Stuart Faith	22	289





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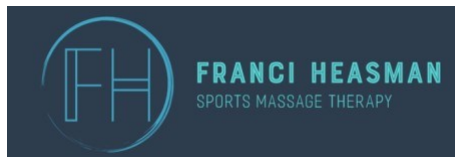
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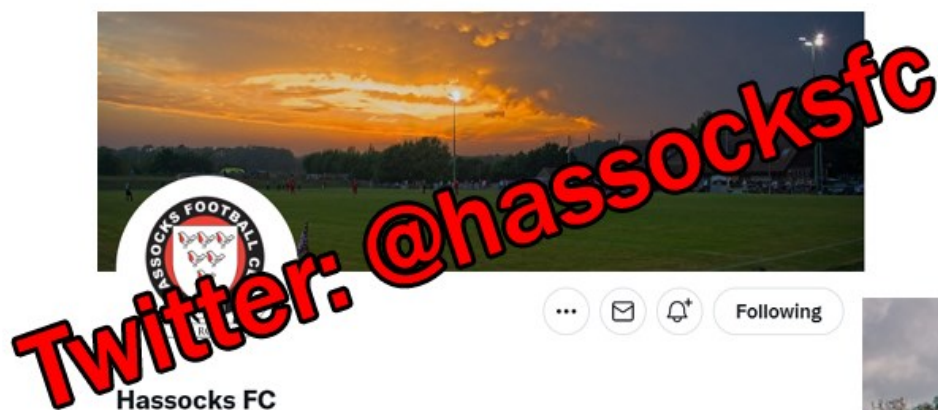
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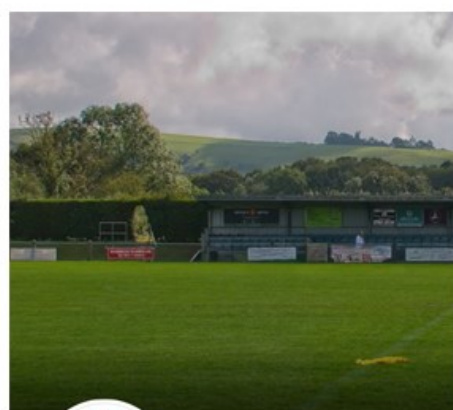


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Joe BULL	

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Physio Ash Cooper
Physio Phil Wickwar

Next at the Beacon



Eastbourne United
 Saturday 10th September. 3:00pm
 Southern Combination Premier Division



AFC VARNDEANIANS

Jordan HAWKINS	
Oscar PINNOCK	
Alfie PROTO-GATES	
Ollie STEVENSON	
Omar BUKLEB	
Jeongmin CHOI	
Marley BIGG	
Finley AGNIHOTRI	
Kyle WOOLVEN	
Mark GOLDSON	
Fin BIGG	
Ali RAINFORD	
Charlie SMITH	
Owen BENFELL	
Alfie MITCHELL	
Jack DE LEIBURNE	
Kyle WOOLVEN	
Charlie SMITH	
Jake WARDE	
Archie BURKINSHAW	

Manager Ryan Gayler
Assistant Dave Bridges
Physio George Stone

Today's Peter Bentley Cup games

AFC Uckfield Town v Bexhill United
 Alfold v Horsham YMCA
 Broadbridge Heath v Midhurst & Easebourne
 Chessington & Hook v Steyning Town
 Crawley Down Gatwick v Epsom & Ewell
 Eastbourne United v Seaford Town
 Forest Row v Lingfield
 Hailsham Town v Crowborough Athletic
 Little Common v Newhaven
 Loxwood v Roffey