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Hassocks v Steyning Town Southern Combination League Premier Division Monday 26th December 2022 11:00am. The Beacon







HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB

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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



Good morning and welcome to the Beacon THE ROBINS for much-anticipated Boxing Day football as we host near-neighbours Steyning

Today represents our first Boxing sign of the progress being made so Day home game since 2018 and our first holiday fixture against the Barrowmen.

We hope that their players, management, committee and supporters enjoy their stay with us today and we look forward to heading over to the Birchwood Ground on Easter Monday - especially for the famous Steyning Town meat raffle.

A combination of wet weather and freezing temperatures means that we have endured a bit of a barren spell with no football being played since our Sussex Senior Cup exit at the hands of Eastbourne Town on Tuesday 6th December.

Those who decided that the Beacon was the place to be that evening rather than watching Portugal dismantle Switzerland in the second round of the World Cup saw Town score the only goal early in their best spell of the game.

Although we created a lot of chances over the course of the 90 minutes - including hitting the bar three times - we could find no way through.

That there was a feeling of disappointment to have departed the competition in such a manner is a

far in Westy's first campaign at the helm.

Games with Town have always been filled with dread for the Hassocks faithful about what the scoreline may be; it was only three seasons ago that they won 7-0 here at the Beacon.

Now though we are outplaying teams that good and coming off the pitch frustrated to have lost. It is quite the change and points to a very exciting 2023 lying ahead.

We kick off the new year away at Roffey on Monday 2nd January. It is an 11pm start for our first visit to Bartholomew Way for a senior competitive fixture.

Visiting a new ground is always exciting, although it would have been nice to face the Boars in warmer seasons to take advantage of their beer garden area at the Theatre of Trees.

Our next home game follows on Saturday 7th January against AFC Uckfield Town before two rearranged matches for your diaries.

We travel to Eastbourne Town on Saturday 14th January. It will be the third attempt to get that one played after the November fixture was

moved due to Town's continuing involvement in the FA Vase, followed by the game last Saturday falling to a frozen pitch.

Peacehaven & Telscombe then visit the Beacon three days later on Tuesday 17th January, kicking off at 7:45pm.

At the time of writing, we are still awaiting confirmation of our Under 23s and Under 18s games through January.

You can find where and when the Ladies will be in action in today's programme. They will be looking to continue their 100 percent start to the campaign.

Finally, we are delighted to have Hassocks woolly hats for sale for anyone wanting to treat themselves, their friends or their family to a late Christmas present.

Please speak to Owen behind the bar to find out more, although you will need to be quick - Troaky ordered around 35 for every person he knows as soon as they appeared on Instagram last week.

Enjoy the game - and have a Happy New Year.

Owen & Scott



Barrowmen Factfile

Founded 1892 **Ground** Birchwood Ground Website steyningtownfc.co.uk Twitter @SteyningTown **Instagram** @stevningtownfc Manager Kevin Green Top scorer Jack Langford, 13

Club Honours

Southern Combination League Winners 1985, 1986 **SCFL Division One** Winners 1978 Runners up 2019 **SCFL Division Two** Runners up 2002 Sussex Senior Cup Winners 1986, 1989 Sussex RUR Charity Cup Winners 1981, 1985 **Peter Bentley League Cup** Winners 1979, 1984, 1986 Runners up 1978, 1980, 1985 SCFL Division One Cup Winners 1966, 2019 Runners up 1967, 2006

Today's Boxing Day clash is between two sides who have enjoyed a remarkably similar upturn in fortunes following a managerial change in the summer

Where Hassocks finished 16th last season, handed the managerial reigns to James Westlake and are now challenging for a top six spot, Steyning had to find a replacement for long-standing boss Gerry Murphy. them win 4-1 away at Newhaven a

Murphy had done an outstanding iob at the Birchwood Ground, leading the Barrowmen back to the top division of the Southern Combination League for the first time in nearly 30 years and then keeping them there.

His decision to retire from management in the summer saw Steyning turn to Montpelier Villa manager Kevin Green, a shrewd move which so far has the Barrowmen scaling heights not really seen since they were one of the most dominant clubs in Sussex nonleague football during the 1980s.

Steyning arrive here this morning sitting fourth in the Premier Division having won 11, drawn three and lost six of their 20 matches so far.

That record leaves them six points and three places higher than us in the standings, although we do have two games in hand. Even more concerning to Hassocks than Steyning's lofty

position will be their recent form. Their past two matches saw

week after beating long-term leaders Broadbridge Heath by the same scoreline at the Birchwood Ground.

As those two results suggest, goals have been in plentiful supply. Steyning have scored 44 times, the third highest total in the division after Newhaven and current table toppers Crawley Down Gatwick.

Although we have not scored in our past two outings, our own goals record is not too patchy with 38 netted in 18 matches.

That augurs well for plenty of entertainment between two sides who, although not local rivals in a geographical sense, have plenty of shared history in terms of players and managers - and who have delivered a fair few fiery affairs in the past.

10 Key Barrowmen Moments

1892... founded in 1982, Steyning join the West Sussex Football League four years later 1934... lift their first silverware, winning the Brighton **District League Division 2 title 1964...** finish runners up in the Brighton League, earning promotion to the Southern Combination 1978... lift the SCFL Division One title, earning promotion to the top flight for the first time **1985...** win their first SCFL title and embark on a memorable run to the quarter finals of the FA Vase 1986... a year later and they retain the SCFL title, adding the League Cup & Sussex Senior Cup to the haul 1986... leave the SCFL to join the Wessex League. A spell in the Combined Counties follows 1993... return to the SCFL being placed in Division

One, where they spend five of the next 23 seasons 2015... a new 3G pitch is installed at Town's Shooting Field home

2019... win promotion to the Premier Division for the first time in 33 years

Last 20 Seasons

2020-21: Southern Combination Premier 17th 2018-19: Southern Combination One 2nd 2017-18: Southern Combination One 11th 2016-17: Southern Combination One 6th 2015-16: Southern Combination One 10th 2014-15: Southern Combination One 10th 2013-14: Southern Combination One 11th 2012-13: Southern Combination One 10th 2011-12: Southern Combination One 13th 2010-11: Southern Combination One 16th 2009-10: Southern Combination One 17th 2008-09: Southern Combination One 13th 2007-08: Southern Combination One 11th 2006-07: Southern Combination One 8th 2005-06: Southern Combination One 15th 2004-05: Southern Combination One 16th 2003-04: Southern Combination One 8th 2002-03: Southern Combination One 10th 2001-02: Southern Combination Two 2nd 2000-01: Southern Combination One 4th

The Robins' Record v Steyning Town

SCFL Premier > Played 4 - Won 2 - Drawn 1 - Lost 1 - Scored 6 - Conceded 5 SCFL Division One > Played 4 - Won 2 - Drawn 2 - Lost 0 - Scored 7 - Conceded 1 Sussex Senior Cup > Played 4 - Won 2 - Drawn 1 - Lost 1 - Scored 10 - Conceded 5 RUR Charity Cup> Played 1 - Won 1 - Drawn 0 - Lost 0 - Scored 3 - Conceded 1

Total > Played 13 - Won 7 - Drawn 4 - Lost 2 - Scored 26 - Conceded 12

Previous 10 Meetings

2022-23 SCFL Premier: Steyning Town 1-1 Hassocks 2021-22 SCFL Premier: Hassocks 2-0 Steyning Town 2020-21 SCFL Premier: Hassocks 1-3 Steyning Town 2019-20 SCFL Premier: Hassocks 2-1 Steyning Town 2015-16 Sussex Senior Cup: Steyning Town 3-1 Hassocks 1994-95 SCFL One: Steyning Town 1-1 Hassocks

2013-14 Sussex Senior Cup: Steyning Town 0-3 Hassocks 2010-11 Sussex Senior Cup: Hassocks 5-1 Steyning Town 2010-11 Sussex Senior Cup: Steyning Town 1-1 Hassocks 1994-95 RUR Charity Cup: Hassocks 3-1 Steyning Town

There has been a constant flow of players between Hassocks and signed Alex Gathern from Burgess Steyning Town over the past decade or so, which always tends to add a certain spice to the fixture.

It began when former Barrowmen manager Mark Dalgleish left the Birchwood Ground to become Mickey Jewell's Hassocks assistant in the summer of 2010.

Goalkeeper Mike Abbott, defenders Andy Whittingham and Sam Goodridge and midfielder Lee Waterhouse were amongst those to follow Dalgleish to the Beacon.

The 2013-14 campaign saw striker Craig Knowles switch Steyning for Hassocks.

Played for Both

In that same season, Jewell Hill Town.

Gathern went onto play 21 times for the Robins before ioining Horsham YMCA and Shoreham.

He then signed for Steyning and helped his hometown club to promotion to the Premier Division in 2019 and the Division One Cup.

Gathern eventually became captain of the Barrowen and is now the Under 23s manager after having to retire through injury last season.

Two current Hassocks players have previously had brief spells with Steyning.

Liam Benson spent a month at the Birchwood Ground at the start of the 2019-20 campaign and Lewis Westlake was with the Barrowmen after leaving Loxwood last season.

Other notable names to play for both include The Wizard Jamie Weston, who played over 100 times for Hassocks between 2010 and 2013 and spent the second half of the 2019-20 season at the Shooting Field.

Ben Bacon has turned out for both sides in a couple of spells as part of his quest to play for every single club in Sussex.

Last but by no means least, John Suter joins Dalgleish in having managed the two clubs, taking charge at Steyning in the 2013-14 campaign five years after his ill-fated spell here at the Beacon.



Saturday 16th April 2022. Shooting Field

Awesome Akras denies Hassocks three points in sunny Steyning

With both Steyning Town and Hassocks safe from relegation, there was little to play for when the sides who sit 16th and 17th in the **Southern Combination League Premier Division met** at the Shooting Field.

It was to both teams credit then that they still put on a decent show, especially in the first half when most of the chances arrived and both goals were scored in a 1-1 draw.

The spoils being shared was probably the right result, even though home goalkeeper Stefanos Akras was the best player on the pitch.

to Jack Troak's early opener with three saves of the highest class and was also involved in the game's major talking point midway through the first half.

That saw Lewis Westlake clip a long ball forward for Josh Short to chase. Akras came haring from his goal and as Short beat him to the ball and rounded him, the two collided. Short now had an open net to fire into and so Akras cleverly grabbed his head.

The general consensus from those who had the best view of the incident watching from the stand was that Akras had been caught on the shoulder, but from the position that referee Nick Blogg was in, it must have appeared a head injury.

Mr Blogg subsequently stopped the game, denying Short the most routine of goals.

Hassocks were incensed and even though Mr Blogg was right to halt proceedings for a potential head injury you could understand why the visitors were irked; they almost certainly would have gone onto win had they gone 2-0 ahead.

It was a lead they deserved too after dominating the opening 25 minutes.

To make matters worse, the decision seemed to take the wind out of the Robins' sails and Stevning equalised shortly afterwards with their first shot on target.

Hassocks had gone ahead with only seven minutes on the clock. Dan Turner charged over to the touchline to use one of his famous long throws, launching the ball 50 yards down the pitch deep into Steyning territory.

The Barrowmen worked the ball back to a surprised Akras, who dallied in possession for a second too long. Troak closed him down, won the ball and then rolled into an empty doal to make it 1-0.

Akras atoned for his part in the He denied the Robins from adding opener with his first outrageous stop of the afternoon five minutes later.

> Lewis Westlake played a long ball over the top to set Short away and his powerful drive looked destined for caused problems for the home side the bottom corner until Akram somehow repelled it with a strong arm.

The Steyning goalkeeper made an even more impressive save just before the phantom head injury incident. Lewis Westlake swung over a corner which young Luke Marshall met with a towering header.

Akras though threw himself into the air and got the most important of touches on the ball, pushing it onto the crossbar as Steyning again survived.

The Barrowmen's quest to find a way back into the game appeared to get a little harder when Bobby Bennett limped out of proceedings with around 30 minutes played.

Steyning though made light work of losing their leading striker. They finished the first half the stronger side and scored with their first real effort at Alex Harris five minutes before the interval.

A left wing cross from Max Howell was met by a flicked header from the in-form Josh Bradley, scoring for the fifth time in Steyning's past five

matches.

Chances were at a premium after the break. Hassocks struggled to make much headway whilst Stevning could find no way past Turner, who was a one-man blocking and heading machine.

The only thing Turner did not win on the day was the post-game meat raffle drawn in the Clubhouse afterwards.

One of the prizes did at least go to someone with Hassocks connections, the dad of suspended defender Bradley Tighe and substitute Wes picking up a nice prize to take home.

In football terms, Hassocks had the only chances of note in a second half which drifted somewhat compared to the entertainment of the first.

Another Lewis Westlake corner on 58 minutes. This time, Short met it with a header as good as Marshall's in the first half.

Unfortunately for Hassocks, Akras pulled off an equally impressive save to keep it out.

Then on 81, it took a combination of Akras and defender Joe Fitzpatrick to ensure the Robins were not victorious.

Short led the Steyning defence on a merry dance, skipping past three defenders before firing a shot towards the bottom corner that Akras kept out.

The loose ball fell to James Westlake, who looked certain to score. That was until Fitzpatrick appeared from nowhere to make a superb sliding block which sent the ball behind for a corner.

Hassocks: Harris; Rawlingson, Turner, Marshall, Edmeads; Bant, J Westlake, L Westlake, Troak; S Smith, Short.

Subs: Bull, Loversidge (used), Broad, Baden, W Tighe (unused).



Saturday 30th October 2010. Shooting Field

O'Callaghan rescues a replay and **Robins from Senior Cup upset**

Kieran O'Callaghan spared the blushes of Hassocks with a 112th minute equaliser which prevented their elimination from the Sussex Senior Cup at the hands of lowly Division Two outfit Steyning Town.

It finished a 1-1 draw at the Shooting Field, the Robins' third result in a row by that scoreline and remarkably their eighth of the season from 20 matches.

Mickey Jewell was far from impressed but his side did at least earn a second crack at beating the Barrowmen and earning a plum home tie against Ryman League Whitehawk in round two.

Steyning belied their position of second bottom in the division below Hassocks with a gutsy display on an awful surface made worse by heavy overnight rain which continued into the morning.

Town adapted better to the conditions whilst the Robins tried to play their usual passing game.

That was never likely to work on a lumpy, bumpy pitch. Hassocks though were so sloppy in possession and so quick to give the ball away that they would have struggled even playing on a Wembley-esque surface.

The game kicked off at 2pm, an hour early than originally advertised due to problems with the Shooting Field's floodlights.

Some Hassocks fans did not get the memo and arrived at the interval, not that they missed much as there was hardly any action of note in a dire first half.

It took until the 33rd minute for the first shot on target from either side to arrive.

Stuart Brown cut inside from the right and put an effort straight at Darren Ford.

Ryan De Freitas fired over for Town shortly afterwards. Right on the stroke of half time, the

industrious Jamie Hillwood had a shot fashioned what was the best blocked at the far post on his first start since the 2008-09 season. And that was about as good as it got.

Hassocks upped their game in the second half but several promising moves lacked the final ball and broke down on the edge of or around the box.

Brown departed with an injury six minutes after the break, Jewell taking the opportunity to introduce Spencer Slaughter who had begun the game on the bench after being rested.

Slaughter brought increased energy and was was soon into the

"Mickey Jewell was far from impressed but his side did at least earn a second crack at beating the Barrowmen and earning a plum home tie against Ryman League Whitehawk in round two."

action, releasing Phil Gault down a channel.

Gault's layback found Anthony Hibbert but he could only shoot wide before making way for Lee Waterhouse shortly afterwards, coming on against his former club.

The angle proved too tight as Slaughter chipped wide and Hassocks had strong penalty appeals waved away when Ryan Pratt appeared to handle a Elliott Butler free kick.

On 66 minutes the deadlock should have been broken by the Robins.

A long kick from Jack Simpson found Hillwood on the left. He whipped in a pinpoint cross to the far post but the usually clinical Gault somehow headed across goal and wide from barely two yards out.

Hassocks had a huge let off themselves as the game entered the final 10 minutes when Steyning

opportunity of the 90.

Simpson had been a virtual spectator all afternoon when he suddenly found himself confronted by the lively Sean Pickup running clear.

Pickup beat Simpson but not the bar, the ball blasting against the woodwork and away to safety as the game meandered into extra time.

The additional period was three minutes old when Steyning took the lead, a deserved reward for frustrating the Robins and making an even game of it up to that point.

Substitute Lewis Levoi was the scorer, netting with a brilliant volley that left Simpson with no hope of keeping it out.

Jewell immediately brought on Nathan Miles in place of the hardworking Dan Smith and moved Gault further forward to try and find an equaliser.

For all their plugging away, it didn't look like Hassocks would find a way through and Steyning were just eight minutes from bringing the reigning County League champions to the Shooting Field when O'Callaghan levelled.

Waterhouse played a corner short to Butler whose out-swinging cross was eventually poked past Ford by O'Callaghan.

At that point, both sides seemed content with their lot. A draw was ultimately the correct result with the right to face Hawks now to be decided in a replay at the Beacon next month.

Hassocks: J Simpson: South, Marsh, Lear, Butler; S Brown, O'Callaghan, Gault, Hibbert, Hillwood; Smith.

Subs: Slaughter (Brown 51), Waterhouse (Hibbert 67), Miles (Smith 95).



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Troak takes himself into the Hassocks One Hundred Club

Jack Troak has become a Hassocks Centurion, making his 100th appearance for the Robins in their Sussex Senior Cup second round clash with Eastbourne Town at the Beacon.

Troak has reached the milestone in three-and-a-half seasons, during which he has been an automatic choice in the side when fit for four different Hassocks managers.

The hugely popular winger was signed by Mark Dalgleish in the summer of 2019 having previously played for Eastbourne United, Lewes and Ringmer.

In his first season at the Beacon, Troak scored five times from 32 appearances primarily at left back.

That made him one of the few bright spots in a season curtailed by lockdown when Hassocks were deep in relegation trouble.

Dave John deployed Troak further forward when taking over the reigns for the 2020-21 season to good effect.

Troak plundered eight goals in 21 matches to finish another campaign shortened by Covid-19 as the Robins' second highest scorer behind Charlie Pitcher.

One of the first things Brad Sweetman did as Hassocks head coach was appoint Troak club captain ahead of the 2021-22 season.

Troak had to wait several months to wear the armband as a hernia problem kept him on the sidelines for most of the opening four months.

Prior to his return in mid-November, Hassocks had spent the entire campaign in the bottom three.

But with Troak back in the team, relegation fears were soon banished. The Robins ended up nine points clear of the bottom two, at the same time of embarking on a memorable run to the semi finals of the Sussex Principal RUR Charity Cup.

Even though Hassocks were beaten by treble winners

Littlehampton Town, Troak wrote himself a small piece of Robins history by being only the fifth player to captain the club in a senior semi final.

To cap a memorable 2021-22, Troak finished second in the vote for Supporters' Player of the Season to Dan Turner.

That reflects the esteem in which Troak is held by Hassocks fans for his ability, his work rate and his infectious attitude.

Current head coach James Westlake clearly values those attributes too.

Troak has made 24 appearances for Hassocks in the 2022-23 season so far, more than any other player. He has scored seven times.

That gives Troak an overall Robins record of 100 games and 30 goals, leaving him 22nd on the all-time top scorers list.

Congratulations on your century, Jack - and here is to the next 100.





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Four goals fire Benson to **November Player of the Month**

three games to help Hassocks navigate November unbeaten and earn the striker his second **Robins Player of the Month** award of the season.

Benson also took the crown back in September and has now scored 11 times in 23 appearances, leaving him just two short of his most prolific campaign in a Hassocks shirt with the season only at its halfway point.

November got off to an excellent start for Benson when he bagged a brace in a 2-0 win over Bexhill United at the Beacon.

He opened the scoring with 62 minutes played, expertly finishing a one-on-one after being sent clear of a Pirates defence who were left all at sea by a JJ Minty through ball.

Benson's second of the afternoon came via a poacher's finish in the final minute of normal time, enabling the Robins to leapfrog Bexhill and climb to sixth in the Premier Division standings.

With Phil Johnson and Pat Harding absent for Hassocks' next fixture a

Liam Benson scored four goals in fortnight later at home to Lingfield, Benson shouldered the responsibility of leading the line alongside Under 23s top scorer Danny Reid.

> The Lingers had taken an early lead when Benson struck his third goal of November, firing a rebound home clinically after an Alex Bygraves header from a Joe Bull corner had somehow been blocked on the line.

Benson rounded off his excellent November by scoring the third Hassocks goal in the 5-1 demolition of Saltdean United, volleying home after a clever short corner routine involving Bull and Harding.

He also put enough pressure on Josh James to force the Tigers goalkeeper into punching into his own net for the Robins' fourth as Hassocks went about scoring five times in the space of 24 first half minutes.

Harvey Blake was another player who enjoyed himself against Saltdean with the strength of his showing pushing him into second in November Player of the Month.

Blake assisted the opener on six minutes with a beautiful floated cross met by a Harding diving header, setting the tone for an afternoon in which he caused no end of problems for the Tigers defence charging forward from right back.

A performance worthy of the Bedlam Brewery Starman award against Lingfield was Blake's first outing of November having missed the Bexhill win at a wedding.

Sam Rogers makes his first appearance in a Player of the Month top three having taken the opportunity to establish himself in the midfield engine room during November.

The absence of Jamie Wilkes gave Rogers a chance to start against Lingfield and he impressed with a neat and tidy performance in possession.

When Mike Williamson then missed the win over Saltdean, Rogers excelled with a mature display as a holding midfielder, giving the rangy Wilkes the freedom to get forward and score Hassocks' second of the afternoon.



The Robins' Christmas Thank You List

Christmas is a time for giving and thanks. So for our Boxing Day home fixture, we want to say a big thank you to the local business who have very generously sponsored our kits and training wear for the 2022-23 season.

In the current financial climate, sponsoring a non-league football club is understandably far down the priority list of many businesses.

Which is why we are extremely lucky to have such strong support from a number of local companies sponsoring kit and training wear of all our sides.

We were delighted to extend our existing partnership with **Everycare Mid Sussex** in the summer, who generously became home shirt sponsors for the first team, Under 23s, Under 18s and Ladies teams.

The Everycare logo is already a familiar sight around the Beacon thanks to their previous sponsorship of the Under 23s and first team leisure wear.

Everycare offer friendly, reliable and professional home care that is designed around a person's needs in Hassocks, Haywards Heath, Burgess Hill and the surrounding areas.

Their mission is to significantly improve and maintain the quality of life for people with health and social care needs in all environments.

Everycare Mid Sussex is owned and operated by Jane and David Dimelow with their most recent CQC inspection providing an overall rating of good.

We thank Jane and David for their invaluable support for all four of our teams.

Our away kit sponsor continues to be **Smart Partitions**, whose partnership with the Robins is now into its third season.

Smart Partitions are a multi-award winning company who have over 20

years experience within the drylining, SFS, traditional & specialist screeding, plastering and rendering sectors.

They currently operate in and around London and south England, covering both residential and commercial developments.

With a workforce of around 350 skilled operatives, Smart Partitions are able to offer a great service and achieve a high-quality finish to prescribed timescales.

This season's first team warm up tops and tracksuits are sponsored by **Tighe Scaffolding.**

Tighe Scaffolding are fully qualified, fully insured and offer free estimates.

They also built the camera gantry on top of the Maurice Boxall Stand over the summer and are a constant presence watching games, either from said gantry or around the ground.

Our first team management of James Westlake, Tom Hughes, Phil Gault, Tim Edwards, Ash Cooper and Phil Gault have been kitted out thanks to **SA Hancock Plumbing & Heating.**

SA Hancock are a family-run business who started trading 35 years ago. Since then, the company has grown to offer an extensive and varied service with a reassuring level of expertise within the plumbing and heating industry.

They have a dedicated premises just outside Burgess Hill with extensive stock and a friendly administration team who ensure customers are provided with the best and most knowledgeable service available. The Under 18s have new tracksuits for the season sponsored by **Burnham Builders.**

Hassocks fans of various vintages will recall the name Burnham through three generations of involvement with

three generations of involvement with the Robins. Tony Burnham senior was

involved with the club for a number of years.

His son Mark Burnham made 231 appearances and scored 44 goals, whilst Tony junior came through the juniors and youth system to follow his father into the first team.

It is fantastic to see the Burnham's back supporting the club, this time through their building company.

Founded over 50 years ago, Burnham Builders are specialists in extensions, refurbishments, kitchens, bathrooms, loft conversions, tiling, patios and more.

They are trusted, friendly, reliable and all work is finished to the highest standard - rather like watching Mark on the pitch, then.

Last but by no means least, a mention for **Bedlam Brewery.** Bedlam are not only sponsoring our Starman Award for the first team, but also the Ladies.

Each winner gets a giftpack of three Bedlam Beers, which may explain why the men are currently enjoying their best campaign in a decade and the women have won every match they have played so far.

If you are yet to sample any of Bedlam's fantastic beers, then be sure to try one today from the Robins Bar.







Hassocks left to wonder what might have been following Senior Cup exit to Town

Sussex Senior Cup Second Round Tuesday 6th December 2022, The Beacon Hassocks 0-1 Eastbourne Town

As the final game to be played in the second round of the Sussex Senior Cup, Hassocks and Eastbourne Town knew that a home tie with Bexhill United awaited the winners of their clash at the Beacon.

Both had beaten the Pirates in the past month - Hassocks in the league, Town in the FA Vase - and would therefore have viewed a meeting with Bexhill as a winnable tie to book quarter final place.

Hassocks have only ever gone that far in the competition three times in their history.

Chances such as this to advance to the last eight have been few and far between since the Robins first entered the Senior Cup in 1982.

For that reason - as well as missing out on a potentially lucrative tie with one of the big clubs of Sussex football at the quarter final stage - their exit via a 1-0 defeat has to go down as a missed opportunity.

Hassocks sit above both Bexhill and Town in the current Southern Combination League standings, although not by much in the case of their Senior Cup vanquishers.

Town are four points and four places below Hassocks with a game in hand. That closeness in the table was reflected in a tight game, one which the Robins lost as much as the visitors won.

The only goal arrived on 13 minutes and was a poor one for Hassocks to concede. A corner was flicked on far too easily by one free man at the front post towards the back post, where Town captain Frankie Chappell had also been left completely free to head home.

Chappell's goal came against the run of play. The Robins had started strongly and could have gone ahead twice in the opening five minutes.

Harvey Greig attempted to clear a Jack Troak cross, only to slice the ball up into the air and against his own crossbar.

Troak then delivered a whipped ball to Liam Benson who outjumped Chappell but put a powerful header just a little too high.

Town enjoyed their best spell after taking the lead. They encamped in the Hassocks half with lots of possession without ever really threatening to double their advantage.

The closest the visitors came was on 35 minutes. Anesu Sisimayi got away down the right and his low pull back found James Waters well placed front and centre of the goal around 15 yards out.

Luckily for the Robins, Waters lent back as he struck and the ball was last seen flying through the cold night sky towards Hurstpierpoint.

Hassocks raised their game back to the levels they had shown at the start after that let off.

Troak came close to marking his 100th appearance in a Robins shirt with something special, cracking a strike from a full 30 yards which cannoned off the bar with Chris Winterton beaten.

Hassocks hit the woodwork for a third time 10 minutes after the restart, this time through Phil Johnson.

Tom Frankland and Harvey Blake linked up nicely down the right. The latter fed a pass to Johnson who stepped inside his man and smashed one from outside the area. It clipped the bar and went out for a goal kick.

The Robins' next chance also came to Johnson. Troak delivered a cross after scampering down the left but Johnson did not get the connection he was looking for and his headed effort dribbled meekly wide of the post.

Most of the Beacon thought Town had a second on 70 minutes when a Blake clearance unfortunately hit Bradley Tighe, falling kindly to Leon Greig.

Greig hit a powerful volley that seemed destined for the bottom



corner until Joe Southam somehow turned the ball around the post at full stretch.

It was an extraordinary save from the teenager, who impressed again deputising for Alex Harris.

And it really should have provided a platform for Hassocks to go on and find an equaliser as they created a series of decent opportunities in the last 20 minutes.

Pat Harding had not long been introduced as the Robins went three up front when he found himself in a foot race to a ball over the top with Winterton. The Town goalkeeper just got there first to snatch the ball ahead of the stretching Harding.

Raging Bull started a particularly dramatic final five minutes with a quickly taken free kick which released Blake into acres of space down the right.

Blake opted for a high and hard cross from a decent angle which nobody was able to connect with. A low ball drilled in with the potential to hit any of the plethora of Hassocks and Town legs in the box appeared the better option.

Johnson then saw a goalbound effort blocked by some heroic, desperate defending from Jack Murphy, who got a little carried away by hacking down Blake seconds later.

Bull sent in a dangerous delivery from the set piece which represented the last kick of the game.

Not for the first time, no Hassocks play could get a touch to turn it towards goal and so the Robins' Senior Cup adventure was at an end. Who knows what might have been?

Hassocks: Southam; Blake, B Tighe, Bygraves, Bull; Frankland, Rogers, Wilkes, Troak; Johnson, Benson.

Subs: Williamson (Wilkes 43), Harding (Frankland 73), S Smith (Benson 85).

First Team Matches 2022-23

Date & Time	Opponents	Comp	F-A	Att	Scorers
July				4 5 2	
30/07 - 15:00	Peacehaven & Tels. (A)	SCFLP	0-3	153	
August	Midle web 0. Es sels sums s (U)		2.4	100	Durana Treak Danaar
02/08 - 19:45	Midhurst & Easebourne (H)	SCFLP	3-4	162	Bygraves, Troak, Benson
06/08 - 15:00	Lingfield (H)	FACEP	1-0	124	OG
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)	FACPQ	1-3	148	Johnson
29/08 - 11:00	Roffey (H)	SCFLP	7-0	204	Troak, Johnson (2), OG, Bygraves, S.Smith, Wilkes
September			0.0	1.40	
02/09 - 19:30	Little Common (A)	SCFLP	0-2	146	
06/09 - 19:45	AFC Varndeanians (H)	PBLC2	0-2	148	
17/09 - 15:00	Crawley Down Gatwick (A)	SCFLP	0-1	72	
20/09 - 19:30	Horsham YMCA (A)	SCFLP	4-2	76	L.Turner, Johnson (2), Troak
24/09 - 15:00	Chessington & Hook (A)	FAVQ2	1-2	113	Benson
27/09 - 15:00	Broadridge Heath (H)	SCFLP	3-3	110	Benson (2), Troak
October					
01/10 - 15:00	Loxwood (A)	SCFLP	2-0	96	Johnson, Harding
08/10 - 15:00	AFC Varndeanians (H)	SCFLP	2-0	125	Wilkes, Johnson
11/10 - 19:45	Saltdean United (H)	SSC1	2-2 AET	175	Troak, Johnson
15/10 - 15:00	Crowborough Athletic (A)	SCFLP	3-2	165	Troak, Johnson, Benson
22/10 - 15:00	Eastbourne United (H)	SCFLP	0-0	140	
26/10 - 19:45	Forest Row (A)	RURC2	5-0	??	Johnson (4), Reid
29/10 - 15:00	Newhaven (A)	SCFLP	0-2	201	
November					
05/11 - 14:00	Bexhill United (H)	SCFLP	2-0	105	Benson (2)
19/11 - 14:00	Lingfield (H)	SCFLP	2-2	101	Benson, Troak
26/11 - 15:00	Saltdean United (H)	SCFLP	5-1	206	Harding, Wilkes, Benson, OG, Bygraves
December					
03/12 - 15:00	Midhurst & Easebourne (A)	SCFLP	0-5	52	
06/12 - 19:45	Eastbourne Town (H)	SSC2	0-1	105	
26/12 - 11:00	Steyning Town (H)	SCFLP			
January					
02/01 - 11:00	Roffey (A)	SCFLP			
07/01 - 14:00	AFC Uckfield Town (H)	SCFLP			
14/01 - 15:00	Eastbourne Town (A)	SCFLP			
17/01 - 19;45	Peacehaven & Tels. (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 - 14:00	Little Common (H)	SCFLP			
25/02 - 15:00	Saltdean United (A)	SCFLP			
March					
04/03 - 14:00	Loxwood (H)	SCFLP			
11/03 - 15:00	AFC Varndeanians (A)	SCFLP			
18/03 - 15:00	Crowborough Athletic (H)	SCFLP			
25/03 - 14:00	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

		2022-23	Hassock	s Career		
Player	Starts	Used Sub	Games	Goals	Games	Goals
Jack Troak	24	0	24	7	100	30
Alex Harris	23	0	23	0	113	0
Harvey Blake	22	1	23	0	89	3
Liam Benson	19	4	23	11	157	42
Alex Bygraves	22	0	22	3	22	3
Joe Bull	19	3	22	0	116	7
Phil Johnson	15	6	21	13	184	89
Bradley Tighe	17	2	19	0	157	0
Mike Williamson	17	2	19	0	19	0
Jamie Wilkes	12	7	19	3	23	3
Leon Turner	14	3	17	2	17	2
Pat Harding	7	8	15	2	216	139
Sam Smith	4	10	14	1	28	3
Sam Cash	9	3	12	0	15	1
Sam Rogers	6	6	12	0	12	0
James Westlake	9	2	11	0	239	31
Lewis Westlake	10	0	10	0	112	12
Tom Frankland	6	4	10	0	10	0
Danny Reid	3	7	10	1	10	1
Mark Zydonik	5	1	6	2	6	2
Will Broomfield	3	2	5	0	93	4
JJ Minty	3	2	5	0	5	0
Joe Southam	2	0	2	0	2	0
Charlie Tuck	2	0	2	0	23	0
Tom Tennant	1	1	2	0	2	0
Arthur Rawlingson	0	2	2	0	42	1
Alfie Loversidge	1	0	1	0	62	11
Sam Fernley	0	1	1	0	1	0
Phil Gault	0	1	1	0	346	190



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, D.Turner, Fairley, Fernley
September				
01/09 - 19:45	Alfold (A)	SCFL23	1-2	M.Smith
08/09 - 19:45	Broadbridge Heath (H)	SCFL23	2-0	Reid, S.Smith
15/09 - 19:45	Chessington & Hook (A)	SCFL23	4-1	Mercer (2), Geard, Tuck
29/09 - 19:45	Horley Town (H)	SCFL23	0-3	
October				
06/10 - 19:30	Horsham YMCA (A)	SCFL23	6-2	Reid (2), Broad (2), Dimelow, Rawlingson
13/10 - 19:45	Lingfield (H)	SCFL23	2-0	Broad, Mercer
20/10 - 19:45	Loxwood (A)	SCFL23	2-1	Rogers, Broomfield
27/10 - 19:45	Chessington & Hook (A)	U23LC1	5-1	Fernley (2), Wintle (2), Dimelow
November				
10/11 - 19:45	Arundel (H)	CU23C1	0-2	



Under 23s Appearances 2022-23

	2022-23 Season							
Player	Starts	Used Sub	Games	Goals				
Sam Rogers	10	0	10	1				
George Mercer	8	2	10	3				
Jack Smith	5	5	10	0				
Wes Tighe	5	5	10	0				
Arthur Rawlingson	8	1	9	2				
Ben Hicks	5	4	9	0				
Charlie Broad	5	3	8	3				
Marshall Smith	3	5	8	1				
Callum Thompson	7	0	7	0				
Kieran Dimelow	5	2	7	2				
Danny Reid	6	0	6	4				
Sam Śmith	6	0	6	3				
Sam Fernley	3	3	6	3				
Will Broomfield		0	5	1				
Lewis Fairley	5 5	0	5	1				
Sam Geard	5	0	5	1				
Dan Turner	5	0	5	1				
Reece Clarke	1	4	5	0				
Jack Thomas	4	0	4	0				
Sam Arscott	3	1	4	0				
Will Varley	1	3	4	0				
Kobe Dersley	3	0	3	0				
Jude Wallis	2	1	3	0				
Charlie Tuck	2	0	2	1				
Alex Wintle	1	1	2	2				
Sam Cash	1	0	1	0				
George Gladding	1	0	1	0				
Archie Hill	1	0	1	0				
Jay Hudson	1	0	1	0				
Alfie Loversidge	1	0	1	0				
Luke Marshall	1	0	1	0				
JJ Minty	1	0	1	0				
Jamie Wilkes	1	0	1	0				
Harry Carter	0	1	1	0				
Sam Dean	0	1	1	0				
Tom Frankland	0	1	1	0				
Oliver Steel	0	1	1	0				



Robins take advantage of others' cup adventures to beat Oak and climb second

Southern Combination League Under 18 Central Division Sunday 4th December 2022, The Beacon Hassocks U18s 4-2 Mile Oak U18s

Whilst the rest of the Southern Combination Under 18 Central Division were in League Cup action, Hassocks took advantage by beating Mile Oak 4-2 to move up into second place in the standings.

The Robins' lofty position does with come the caveat that they have played four more games than St Francis Rangers in third.

Hassocks though can still be happy with their placing following their final league game pre-Christmas.

There are still two more matches to be played before Dave John look-a -like Santa Claus does the rounds on his sleigh but they are both in cup competitions, meaning the Robins' Central Division work is done for 2022.

Next Sunday sees an intriguing Sussex Bluefin Dennis Probee Youth Cup second round clash with the aforementioned St Francis.

That will give Hassocks a chance to see where they stand against their local rivals and a side gunning to overtake them as nearest challengers to long-term leaders Burgess Hill Town.

The Robins then face their own League Cup tie on December 18th, a

trip to Selsey being a lovely early Christmas present which everyone is very much looking forward to.

Hassocks had secured their biggest win of the season in their October trip to Mile Oak, winning 7-0 at the Recreation Ground through an Alex Brewer hat-trick, two from Will Varley, Ed Tobias and Oliver Parker-Williams.

The Robins were nowhere near as convincing this time with the winning margin cut to just two.

Still, this was a pleasing way to bounce back from the 2-2 draw Hassocks had recorded away at AFC Varndeanians in their last outing a fortnight ago.

There were three changes from that match on the biggest pitch in world football otherwise known as the University of Brighton.

Ben Foster received a deserved first start of the campaign having come off the bench eight times so far.

Jack Duckett and Oliver Steel were the other two players returning to the starting XI.

Sam Dean dropped down to the bench whilst Oliver Goswamy and Archie Hill were unavailable.

Brewer clearly likes playing against Oak as he took his total for the season against them to five goals



with a brace to go with that October treble at the Recreation Ground.

That has edged Brewer further ahead of Varley in the race for the Robins Golden Boot.

Varley did manage to score for the fourth game in succession, but only once. He now stands on eight in eight with Brewer having plundered 14 from 11 appearances.

The other Hassocks goal came via Duckett, scoring his first for the Robins.

Vincent De Janon grabbed both goals for Oak, denying Jack Thomas and his defence a fourth clean sheet of the season.

An unusually high number of four yellow cards were shown to Hassocks players. Brewer, Gladding, Alex Wintle and substitute Cam Mitchell all had their names taken by referee Mark Gidman.

Hassocks: Thomas, Foster, Gladding, Tobias, Fernley, Steel, Wintle, Munt, Duckett, Varley, Brewer.

Subs: Mitchell, Woodhouse, Dean (used).



Under 18s Matches 2022-23

Date & Time	Opponents	Comp	F-A	Scorers
September				
04/09 - 11:00	Steyning Town (H)	SCFL18	3-1	Brewer (2), Duckett
18/09 - 11:00	Worthing United (H)	SCFL18	1-2	Brewer
25/09 - 11:00	St Francis Rangers (A)	SCFL18	1-2	Goss
October				
02/10 - 11:00	Burgess Hill Town (H)	SCFL18	2-3	Brewer (2)
09/10 - 11:00	Mile Oak (A)	SCFL18	7-0	Brewer (3), Varley (2), Tobias, Parker-Williams
16/10 - 11:00	AFC Varndeanians (H)	SCFL18	3-1	Munt, Brewer, Goss
23/10 - 11:00	Shoreham (A)	SCFL18	1-1	Brewer
30/10 - 11:00	Lancing (H)	SCFL18	4-0	Varley (2), Wintle, Brewer
November				
13/11 - 10:15	Lancing (A)	SCFL18	4-0	Brewer, Varley (2), Foster
20/11 - 10:00	AFC Varndeanians (A)	SCFL18	2-2	Varley, Gladding
December				
04/12 - 11:00	Mile Oak (H)	SCFL18	4-2	Varley, Brewer (2), Duckett

Under 18s Appearances 2022-23

	2022-23 Season						
Player	Starts	Used Sub	Games	Goals			
Alex Brewer	11	0	11	14			
Sam Fernley	11	0	11	0			
Jack Thomas	11	0	11	0			
Ed Tobias	11	0	11	1			
Alex Wintle	11	0	11	1			
George Gladding	10	0	10	1			
Sam Dean	9	1	10	0			
Ben Foster	1	8	9	1			
Will Varley	7	1	8	8			
Ryan Goss	1	7	8	2			
Toby Munt	7	0	7	1			
Oliver Goswamy	6	1	7	0			
Harry Carter	6	0	6	0			
Jack Duckett	5	0	5	2			
Oliver Steel	5	0	5	0			
Harry Goatcher	4	1	5	0			
Oliver Parker-Williams	2	3	5	0			
Cam Mitchell	1	4	5	0			
Ewan Edwards	0	5	5	0			
Archie Hill	1	2	3	0			
Joe Woodhouse	0	2	2	0			
Charlie Smith	1	0	1	0			
Will Matthews	0	1	1	0			
Eden Thompson	0	1	1	0			







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.

Ladies Matches 2022-23

Date & Time	Opponents	Comp	F-A	Scorers
September				
04/09 - 14:00	Saltdean United (A)	SCWLP	6-1	K.Chappell (3), Cannon, J.Craig, Johanson
18/09 - 14:00	Pevensey & Westham (A)	SCWLC1	9-0	K.Chappell (5), J.Craig (3), Mair
October				
02/10 - 14:00	Denne Park (A)	SCWLP	8-1	K.Chappell (4), Cloke, Moquet, Mair (2)
09/10 - 14:00	AFC Uckfield Town (A)	SCWLC2	9-1	J.Craig (4), K.Chappell (4), Pordage
16/10 - 14:00	Seaford Town (H)	SCWLP	6-0	K.Chappell (2), Cannon, Mair, Pordage (2)
November				
06/11 - 14:00	Pagham (A)	SCWLP	7-1	K.Chappell (3), Mair, Pordage, Bright (2)
January				
08/01 - 14:00	Bognor Regis Town (H)	SCWLP		
15/01 - 14:00	Saltdean United (A)	SCWLP		
22/01 - 14:00	Pagham (H)	SCWLP		
29/01 - 14:00	Bognor Regis Town (A)	SCWLP		
February				
05/02 - 14:00	Saltdean United (A)	SCWLCQF		
12/02 - 14:00	Burgess Hill Town (H)	SCWLP		
19/02 - 14:00	Shoreham (H)	SCWLP		
26/02 - 14:00	Pagham (H)	SCWLP		
March				
05/03 - 14:00	Shoreham (A)	SCWLP		
12/03 - 14:00	Shoreham (A)	SCWLP		
26/03 - 14:00	Bognor Regis Town (A)	SCWLP		

Ladies Appearances 2022-23

	2022-23 Season						
Player	Starts	Used Sub	Games	Goals			
Katherine Chappell	6	0	6	21			
Sarah Chappell	6	0	6	0			
Jess Craig	6	0	6	8			
Emma Flin	6	0	6	0			
Kirsten Mair	6	0	6	5			
Holly Webb	6	0	6	0			
Mia Pordage	5	0	5	3			
Claire Stevens	5	0	5	1			
Jodie Johanson	3	2	5	1			
Katie Read	2	3	5	1			
Tallie Bright	4	0	4	2			
Jo Brown	4	0	4	0			
Maddie Cannon	3	0	3	2			
Shannon McFadden	1	1	2	0			
Ellie Moquet	1	1	2	1			
Izzy Cloke	0	2	2	1			
Chloe John	1	0	1	0			
Mel Sanchez	1	0	1	0			
Hannah Harvey	0	1	1	0			









Veterans Matches 2022-23

Date & Time	Opponents	Comp	F-A	Scorers
October				
02/10 - 14:00	AFC Varndeanians (H)	MSFLV1	2-3	P.Harding, Armstrong
January				
08/01 - 14:00	Jarvis Brook (H)	MSFLV1		
February				
-	Rotherfield (A)	MSFLV1		
March				
19/03 - 14:00	Montpelier Villa (A)	MSFLV1		
-,				

Veterans Appearances 2022-23

	2022-23 Season						
Player	Starts	Used Sub	Games	Goals			
Paul Armstrong	1	0	1	1			
Craig Beckwith	1	0	1	0			
Elliott Butler	1	0	1	0			
Steve Curtis	1	0	1	0			
Mark Darbyshire	1	0	1	0			
Pat Harding	1	0	1	1			
Anthony Hibbert	1	0	1	0			
Rob Sayers	1	0	1	0			
Simon Shivnarain	1	0	1	0			
Steve Spies	1	0	1	0			
Adam Waller	1	0	1	0			
Jonathan Bundy	0	1	1	0			
Gavin Humphrey	0	1	1	0			





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PARKER BUILDING SUPPLIES

On This Day...



Faith and Gault decide turgid Mid Sussex Derby in favour of Hassocks

December 26th 2007: After weeks of build up, the first ever competitive Mid Sussex Derby between Hassocks and St Francis Rangers took place at the Beacon

The eagerly-anticipated first ever Mid Sussex derby between Hassocks and St Francis Rangers failed to live up to expectations with the Robins doing just about enough to come out on top, winning 2-0 at the Beacon.

Seasoned derby watchers amongst a bumper crowd of 280 would not have been surprised. Games like these often struggle to match the hype because of the closeness and familiarity of the players involved.

That certainly seemed to be the case here with both sides seemingly more scared of losing than they were intent on winning.

Hopefully, derby day two or three times down the line will serve up a better treat more comparable to the clashes of a decade ago between Hassocks and Burgess Hill Town which have since taken on almost mythical status.

just shaded it through their experience and being physically stronger, particularly at the back.

Opposite number Danny Bryan agreed, but with the caveat that his side are learning every week in their first ever County League Division One campaign and that they were their own worst enemies in conceding two soft goals.

Still, Rangers sit one point short of Bryan's Christmas target of 30, set at the start of campaign. He will now want to push on and reach the magic 40 mark as soon as possible.

That survival total is always John's first priority, even though he is now comfortable enough to rate the Robins as top six material.

Hassocks had a gameplan to stifle Rangers playmaker Geoff Pitcher and cut off service to leading scorer Sam Jeremiah. They were effective at that but the rest of their performance was below par compared to normal

standards.

Winning when not playing particularly well is said to be the sign of a good team however, and that is what the Robins did on a Boxing Day morning with weather more akin to mid-Spring.

John felt Hassocks should have had a penalty as early as the first minute when Laurence Robinson was clipped when goal side.

In fairness to referee James Slaney, he was miles away from the incident as it came about via a huge punt out of defence from Ashley Marsh.

John also said Mr Slaney failed to let the game flow. That was true in the first half - and he would not be the first referee to let common sense go out the window when being assessed - but you could see after the break he was trying to allow play to continue as much as possible.

The problem being players from Home boss Dave John felt his side both sides were in determined mood to pick up a late Christmas card, reflected in five bookings. Rangers defenders Ben Palmer and Dan O'Farrell could have no complaints in particular.

> Other than Robinson's penalty shout, Rangers enjoyed the better of the opening exchanges until a goal out of the blue for Hassocks with 18 minutes played.

Elliott Butler failed to clear effectively from a Robins short corner routine, allowing Stuart Faith to come racing into the box and get the allimportant touch to beat Simon Lehkyi via a slight deflection.

A strong Sam Fisk run ended with a shot that did not unduly test Lehkyj on 27 minutes. Soon after and Chris Maynard enjoyed a purple patch at the other end.

In the space of four minutes, he set up the lively Luke Leppard for one of Rangers' only clear cut chances, crossed for Jeremiah to head over on

the stretch and then hit the bar with a superb direct free kick.

A dubious free kick on the other side of the pitch followed which Pitcher tested Joel Harding from. Phil Gault then hit left the Rangers woodwork rattling after his half volley cross on the turn bent onto the bar.

Hassocks were improved after the break and began to show a little more going forward. Robinson and Gault both missed chances before the two were involved in the best untaken opportunity of the game.

Gault crossed brilliantly from the right and Robinson only needed to make contact in the centre of the goal. Unfortunately for Robinson, he completely missed the ball.

Rangers enjoyed a bright spell after the let off with Harding needing to show smart reactions to thwart Jeremiah after a neat turn.

For the second time in the game, Rangers managed to concede when on top as the Robins took advantage of some poor defending to kill the dame off.

A gaping hole appeared in the visiting back line and that left Lehkyj badly exposed as he came out to challenge Robinson.

The Rangers goalkeeper looked the favourite to get there first and so he would have been disappointed to lose out to Robinson.

Credit though to the tall Hassocks striker for keeping a cool head and finding Gault who finished for a goal against his former club.

There was no way back for Rangers in the 17 minutes remaining, even as former Robins youth team captain Terry Gacias was introduced in a late attempt to fashion something.

The closest Gacias came against his old teammates was a well struck shot Harding did well to hold even if it were directly above the Hassocks goalkeeper's head.



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Around the League...

Wet weather and freezing temperatures mean that the last weekend there was a full set of fixtures in the Southern Combination League was Saturday 4th December. Here is what happened across all three divisions and in the FA Vase...

Starting with the FA Vase and Peacehaven & Telscombe will be the only Sussex club in round four of the competition, to take place in January.

The Tye triumphed 3-2 on penalties away at Holyport after a 0-0 winners away at Alfold. Harry Cole draw in extra time, extending their unbeaten run to 12 games in the process.

A second half goal from Egham Town eliminated Eastbourne Town from the competition, the hosts going down 1-0 at the Saffrons.

Little Common meanwhile saw their best ever Vase run ended in a 4 -0 defeat to an impressive **Ascot** United outfit.

Having looked untouchable until recently, Broadbridge Heath have now suffered two defeats in a row to lose their grip on top spot.

They turned around drawing 1-1 at half time with this morning's visitors Steyning Town at the Birchwood Ground, only for the Barrowmen to run riot in the second half on their way to a 4-1 success.

Jack Barnes scored for Steyning and Lewis Croal for the Bears in the first half.

The second half saw Barnes notch away from home by **Dorking** two more to complete his hat-trick, joined on the scoresheet by Dominic Johnson-Fisher in a statement display from the hosts.

New leaders Crawley Down **Gatwick** opened up a four point gap by beating AFC Varndeanians 4-2 at the Haven.

Michael Wood, Marc Pelling, Sam Clements and Shaun Findlay got the goals for the Anvils. Finley Agnihotri and Alfie Mitchell were on target for Varndeanians.

A 91st minute equaliser from substitute Harry Brown earned Crowborough Athletic a decent 1-1 draw away against Eastbourne United.

United top scorer Max Thompson had given his side a first half lead in the 26th minute.

Horsham YMCA were 3-1 struck early for Fold, only for Archie Goddard, Sekou Toure and Dean Lovegrove to secure three points for YM.

The final Premier Division game of the day saw **Roffey** pick up their second point following an enthralling 3-3 draw at home to **Loxwood.**

Roffey led 3-1 up until the 84th minute, only to be denied their first victory of the campaign by late goals from Jake Lindsey and Jay Popham.

Luca Page was the other scorer for Loxwood, whilst the Boars had all Jahobi Maher and a George Cousins brace getting them so close to that maiden win.

It was Division One Cup day with six ties taking place in the second round of the competition.

Long-term league leaders Epsom & Ewell will not be completing a double should they lift the title come May as they were eliminated 2-1 Wanderers B.

Josh Alder gave Epsom a 10th minute lead cancelled out by Mark Soares.

A fiery local derby in which Epsom picked up five yellows and Wanderers two was decided in the seventh minute of injury time when Ben Aubrey struck for Dorking.

Shoreham secured safe passage by beating Selsey 2-0 at Middle Road. Alex Fair and Harry Heath scored the goals to send Michael Death's Musselmen into the quarter finals.

Goals from Harry Russell and Carl Brown were enough for Arundel to see off Worthing United 2-1 at Mill



Hastings

Road. The Mavericks consolation came from Dan Hills.

Two goals from Jermaine Neathey saw Hailsham Town beat East **Preston** 2-1 with the same score at Tinslev Lane where landlords Oakwood were eliminated by tenants Forest Row.

Oakwood had led 1-0 via Adil Raman but second half goals from Ollie Monnery and an 88th minute strike from substitute Clinford Alexis won it for Frow.

Penalties were needed at the Crouch where Godalming Town knocked out hosts Seaford Town 3-2 from 12 yards following a 2-2 draw in 90 minutes.

Friday night saw the biggest victory of the weekend in the Division One Cup with **Billingshurst** hammering Mile Oak 7-0.

Division Two continues to be led by Jarvis Brook who were convincing 4-0 winners over Southwater.

Bottom side Brighton Electricity picked up the most surprising result across the entire league, winning their first game of the season in some style by hammering reigning champions Rustington 5-0 at Withdean Stadium.

Capel were 5-2 winners over Bosham and Copthorne had a big 6-0 win away at Upper Beeding.

Charlwood beat Worthing Town 4-1, Storrington won 3-1 at Rottingdean Village and St Francis Rangers went down 4-2 to Ferring.



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Tables. Form. Goals. Attendances

Premier Division Form Guide

Southern Combin	atio	n Pre	mier	Div	isior	Tab	le
	Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts
Crawley Down Gatwick	19	15	0	4	45	16	45
Broadbridge Heath	18	13	2	3	43	18	41
Newhaven	19	12	3	4	59	19	39
Steyning Town	20	11	3	6	44	23	36
Peacehaven & Tels	18	11	2	5	37	18	25
Eastbourne United	19	10	5	4	28	17	35
Hassocks	18	9	3	6	38	28	30
Eastbourne Town	18	8	5	5	28	16	29
Midhurst & Easebourne	19	9	2	8	40	37	29
Bexhill United	17	9	1	7	31	27	28
Crowborough Athletic	18	7	6	5	24	23	27
Horsham YMCA	19	8	2	9	30	32	26
Little Common	16	7	4	5	34	21	25
AFC Varndeanians	19	7	4	8	33	39	25
AFC Uckfield Town	17	6	2	9	26	32	20
Lingfield	19	5	3	11	35	45	18
Saltdean United	20	5	2	13	18	58	17
Loxwood	19	3	4	12	27	53	13
Alfold	20	3	1	16	19	59	10
Roffey	20	0	2	18	16	74	2

	Last 6
Crawley Down Gatwick	WWWWWW
Peacehaven & Telscombe	DWWWWW
Eastbourne Town	LWDWWW
Little Common	LWLWWW
Broadbridge Heath	WWWWLL
Newhaven	WWDWLD
Eastbourne United	DWLWDD
Bexhill United	WLWLWL
AFC Varndeanians	WWLDLD
Hassocks	DLWDWL
Crowborough Athletic	WLLDWD
Lingfield	LWWLLD
Steyning Town	LLLDWW
Horsham YMCA	LWLLWD
Midhurst & Easebourne	LLWDLW
Alfold	LWLLWL
AFC Uckfield Town	LLLDWL
Loxwood	LLDDDL
Saltdean United	LLLLLD
Roffey	LLLLDL

Premier Division Attendances							
	Ave	High	Low				
Peacehaven & Telscombe	238	372	132				
Newhaven	223	367	128				
Bexhill United	294	301	147				
Eastbourne Town	170	231	102				
Crowborough Athletic	169	224	127				
Hassocks	144	206	101				
Broadbridge Heath	143	201	85				
Eastbourne United	143	187	89				
Steyning Town	124	334	72				
Little Common	100	146	67				
Horsham YMCA	90	165	62				
AFC Uckfield Town	81	140	42				
Loxwood	74	96	68				
Saltdean United	73	107	28				
Midhurst & Easebourne	70	91	45				
Alfold	69	81	57				
Roffey	69	129	30				
AFC Varndeanians	65	112	35				
Crawley Down Gatwick	60	74	35				
Lingfield	57	110	27				

Premier Divis	ion Top Scorer	S
Player	Club	Gls
Alfie Rogers	Newhaven	23
Lewis Croal	B'bridge Heath	16
Lucas Franzen-Jones	Newhaven	14
Jack Langford	Steyning Town	14
Tom Tolfrey	Horsham YMCA	14
Lewis Hole	Little Common	13
Max Thompson	Eastbourne Utd	13
Sam Clements	Crawley Down	12
Jack Shonk	Bexhill United	12
Lee Robinson	Newhaven	12
Liam Benson	Hassocks	11
Harry Tremlett	Midhurst	11
Mark Goldson	Varndeanians	10
Callum Edwards	Peacehaven	10
Lewis Beebee	Saltdean United	9
Sam Cruttwell	Little Common	9
Phil Johnson	Hassocks	9
Robin Deen	Peacehaven	9
Cameron Dobell	Lingfield	9
Devon Fender	Loxwood	9

Southern Combina	tion Ur	nder 2	23 No	Under 23 North	Under 23 North Division Top Scorers					
	Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts	Player	Club	Gls
Alfold	10	7	1	2	26	15	22	Tommy McKenna	Horley Town	14
Hassocks	9	7	0	2	24	9	21	Kieran Head	Chessington	10
Horley Town	11	6	2	3	32	23	20	Jamie Maunder	Roffey	8
Roffey	9	5	1	3	24	20	16	Ben Remfry	Horley Town	6
Broadbridge Heath	8	4	1	3	19	13	13	Zain Beg	Loxwood	5
Chessington & Hook	9	4	1	4	22	22	13	Cameron Cooke	Roffey	5
Lingfield	9	4	0	5	22	22	12	Sam Coxon	Horsham YMCA	5
St Francis Rangers	9	4	0	5	13	24	12	Archie Goddard	Horsham YMCA	5
Horsham YMCA	9	3	2	4	22	22	11	Arnold Saurombe	Oakwood	5
Loxwood	9	2	0	7	16	24	6	Tyler Symonds	B'bridge Heath	5
Oakwood	8	0	0	8	6	32	0	Cameron Dobell	Lingfield	4

Southern Combinati	on Un	der 1	8 Cer	ntral	Divisi	on To	ıble	Under 18 Centra	l Division Top Sco	rers
	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts	Player	Club	Gls
Burgess Hill Town	9	7	1	0	31	7	22	Jimmy Tasker	Saltdean	15
Hassocks	11	6	2	3	32	14	20	Alex Brewer	Hassocks	14
St Francis Rangers	7	6	1	0	19	8	19	Malik Mundoma	Burgess Hill	10
Saltdean United	9	4	2	3	24	25	14	Will Varley	Hassocks	8
AFC Varndeanians	9	4	1	4	25	27	13	Vincent De Janon	Mile Oak	7
Worthing United	7	4	0	3	16	12	12	Taylor Harding	Shoreham	7
Shoreham	8	2	2	4	20	21	8	Joe Simpkin	Steyning Town	7
Steyning Town	11	2	1	8	17	46	7	Samuel-Elie N'Cho	St Francis	6
Lancing	9	1	2	6	15	28	5	Ossie O'Neill	Varndeanians	6
Mile Oak	10	1	2	7	16	35	5	Brendan Hanley	Worthing Utd	6

Sussex County V	vomen	's Lea	Women's Premier Division Top Scorers							
	Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts	Player	Club	Gls
Shoreham	3	2	1	0	9	4	7	Katherine Chappell	Hassocks	17
Hassocks	2	2	0	0	13	2	6	Jess Craig	Hassocks	9
Bognor Regis Town	2	1	1	0	6	2	4	Amber Beaven	Bognor Regis	6
Burgess Hill Town	2	1	0	1	12	3	3	Emily Spooner	Burgess Hill	6
Seaford Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Mille Carter	Shoreham	5
Pagham	2	0	0	2	1	11	0	Jemma Lindfield	Burgess Hill	4
Saltdean United	3	0	0	3	3	22	0	Tabitha Burrows	Saltdean Utd	4

Mid Sussex V	Veterar	ns Lea	gue l	Veterans Division One Top Scorers						
	Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts	Player	Club	Gls
Sidley United	3	3	0	0	12	4	9	Roger Ngwang	Lewes	4
AFC Varndeanians	3	2	0	1	11	9	6	Joe Keehan	Varndeanians	4
Lewes	3	2	0	1	11	10	6	Nicky Stiles	Sidley United	3
Seaford Town	2	1	0	1	7	3	3	Wes Tate	Sidley United	3
Jarvis Brook	2	1	0	1	6	6	3	David Murphy	Lewes	2
Hassocks	1	0	0	1	2	3	0	Dean Pugh	Sidley United	2
Montpelier Villa	2	0	0	2	3	10	0	Dean Chamberlain	Jarvis Brook	2
Rotherfield	2	0	0	2	2	9	0	David Hannant	Varndeanians	2

Upcoming Fixtures >>>





Roffey v Hassocks

Southern Combination League Premier Division Monday 2nd January 2023. 11:00am Bartholomew Way, Horsham, RH12 5JL

Our first game of 2023 will also be our first ever visit to Bartholomew Way for a competitive senior game. Roffey might be bottom of the table, but a managerial change and some improved performances have given them hope

Roffey this season

Last season's Division One title winning manager Andy Lampard taking a break from football followed by Roffey's attempts to replace him attracted a lot of unwanted publicity and struggle on the pitch at the start of the season. Jack Munday is the latest man in the hotseat having been appointed last month and he has managed to coax back some of Lampard's squad, which may yet give them a shot at escaping the bottom two. They are still yet to win a league game, but draws with Loxwood and Eastbourne United offer encouragement.

Head-to-head

There have been just two previous

games between ourselves and Roffey. The Boars won 5-1 here in the Peter Bentley League Cup in September 2021, a result that did not come as a great surprise even though Roffey were a division below us at the time. Our Bank Holiday August meeting was a much pleasanter experience ending in a 7-0 victory.

Last time we met

It was 4-0 before half time in that clash at the Beacon four months ago. A Phil Johnson double, an own goal and an early Jack Troak effort had us in total command. We took out foot off the gas in the second half but still managed to add another three in the final 10 minutes through Alex Bygraves, Sam Smith and tall striker

Jamie Wilkes.

How to get to Bartholomew Way

The Theatre of Trees could well rival the Beacon as one of the most picturesque grounds in the Southern Combination League. It is guite a straightforward journey; take the A23 to the Pease Pottage turnoff and then follow the A264 towards Horsham. At the fourth roundabout for Rusper, take the first exit on Rusper Road for Roffey. Turn left at the next roundabout onto Lemmington Wav and another left when you reach the end of the road to join Bartholomew Way. The ground is at the end of the road, where you can enjoy a drink on their wooden patio... although maybe not alcoholic with the game kicking off at 11am.

<<< Upcoming Fixtures



Hassocks v AFC Uckfield Town

Southern Combination League Premier Division Saturday 7th January 2023. 2:00pm The Beacon, Brighton Road, Hassocks, BN6 9LY Admission prices £7 adults, £3 concessions, Under 16s go free

The first game to be played at the Beacon of 2023 sees AFC Uckfield Town make the short journey here. Games between ourselves and the Oakmen are historically high scoring, so this is one to get in the diary

AFC Uckfield Town this season

The Oakmen were one the many Southern Combination league sides to instigate a managerial change in the summer, bringing in Jonny Elwood to replace Steve Ives. Having previously coached at Whitehawk, Tonbridge Angels and Crowborough Athletic, Elwood arrived with a wealth of contacts which he put to good use in building a young but talented squad. As is often the case at this level when using younger players, results have been inconsistent and Uckfield sit 15th in the table. They have games in hand on every side around them however and will be eveing a push towards the top 10 in the second half of the campaign.

Head-to-head

We have met AFC Uckfield on 20 previous occasions. The head-to-head reads 10 Hassocks wins, nine for Uckfield and only one draw. That was a 2-2 thriller at the Beacon last season in which Jordan Badger bagged a late equaliser on his first appearance for over two years. It might not be a game to put on your coupon, but it is one which normally delivers goals. 78 having been plundered at an average of nearly four per game.

Last time we met

The first Premier Division win of the James Westlake era arrived at the Oaks back in August. We came flying out of the traps to be 2-0 ahead inside of 12 minutes through Mark Zydonik and Liam Benson. James Pass puled one back midway through the first half but that was the end of the scoring - hardly a surprise with both teams tiring on an afternoon when the mercury hit 35 degrees.

Played for both

We have two former Oakmen in our squad who could face off with the club they played for last season. The rangy Jamie Wilkes has made himself a firm fan favourite as a hardworking tall striker whilst Sam Cash has not put a foot wrong when called upon, although his campaign has been disrupted by injury.



Eastbourne Town v Hassocks

Southern Combination League Premier Division Saturday 14th January 2023. 3:00pm The Saffrons, Compton Place Road, Eastbourne, BN21 1EA Admission prices £7 adults, £4 concessions, Under 16s go free

The FA Vase put paid to our scheduled November trip to the Saffrons before the freezing weather postponed last Saturday's visit. The next attempt to get the game played is now set for January 14th. Third time lucky?

Eastbourne Town this season

Town bid farewell to one of the longest serving managers in the Premier when John Lambert stood down in the summer. He has been replaced by former Whitehawk boss Jude Macdonald. Under Lambert, Town had always been notoriously slow starters to the season before finding rhythm from autumn onwards. That has not happened so far, although that will hardly come as a surprise following a summer of change at the Saffrons. Town sit 11th with seven wins, five draws and five defeats to their name.

Head-to-head

It is a fixture which Eastbourne Town United.

tend to enjoy. Of the 39 previous matches, Town have won 24 with just nine Hassocks wins and six draws along the way. Of those nine fixtures we have won, just one has come in the past 14 years. Phil Gault scored twice and James Broadbent saved a penalty in a shock 2-1 win at the Beacon towards the end of the 2016-17 season.

Last time we met

It was 20 days ago that Town visited the Beacon in the Sussex Senior Cup. Frankie Chappell scored the only goal of the game with 13 minutes played to send MacDonald's side through to a third round meeting against Bexhill United.

How to get to the Saffrons

The normal route to Eastbourne via the A27 and the A2770, following the road towards Eastbourne town centre. Turn right into The Goffs just before reaching the main station followed by an immediate left into Southfields Road. That is followed by another right into Dittons Road with the Saffrons on the left at the end of the road.

Played for both

We have two former Town players in our ranks who could face their former club. Sam Smith started his career at the Saffrons and JJ Minty had a brief spell with Town at the start of the current campaign.



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Hassocks Player of the Month 2022-23

August 2022 1st Alex BYGRAVES 2nd Harvey BLAKE 3rd Leon TURNER

September 2022 1st Liam BENSON 2nd Joe BULL 3rd Mike WILLIAMSON

October 2022 1st Joe BULL 2nd Phil JOHNSON 3rd Alex HARRIS

November 2022 1st Liam BENSON 2nd Harvey BLAKE 3rd Sam ROGERS

> December 2022 1st 2nd 3rd January 2023

February 2023 1st 2nd 3rd February 2023 1st 2nd 3rd March 2023 1st 2nd 3rd 3rd

> April 2023 1st 2nd 3rd

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Most



Most

Games Starts Sub Total Goals 1. Mickey Turner 2. Ashley Marsh 3. Chris Hawitt 5. Chris Hawitt 5. Chris Hawitt

Go	a	S
	Goals	Games
Phil Gault	190	346
James Laing	143	351

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	16	346	190
10.	Joel Harding	340	0	340	0
11.	Paul John	329	0	329	0
12.		305	19	324	11
13.	Robbie Kitchen	284	39	323	123
14.	Spencer Slaughter	250	43	293	47
15.		276	13	289	22
16.	Dave Smith	203	57	260	53
17.	Joe Fernley	205	40	245	45
18.		232	10	242	68
19.		223	16	239	31
20.		201	31	232	9
21.	Mark Burnham	209	22	231	44
22.	5	190	26	216	139
23.		156	55	211	74
24.		149	35	184	89
25.	Marc Rendall	150	33	183	37

		Goals	Games
1.	Phil Gault	190	346
2.	James Laing	143	351
3.	Pat Harding	139	216
4.	Anthony Hibbert	124	462
5.	Robbie Kitchen	123	323
6.		89	183
7.	Nathan Miles	74	211
8.		68	242
9.		65	155
10.	Mickey Turner	63	594
11.		53	260
12.		47	293
13.		45	245
	Mark Burnham	44	231
	Liam Benson	42	157
	Matt Amos	38	81
	Michael Death	38	112
	Marc Rendall	37	183
	Andy Burt	35	133
20.	Luke Flomo	31	146
	James Westlake	31	239
	Jack Troak	30	100
	Dan Smith	27	63
24.	Jamie Hillwood	25	124
25.	Stuart Faith	22	289





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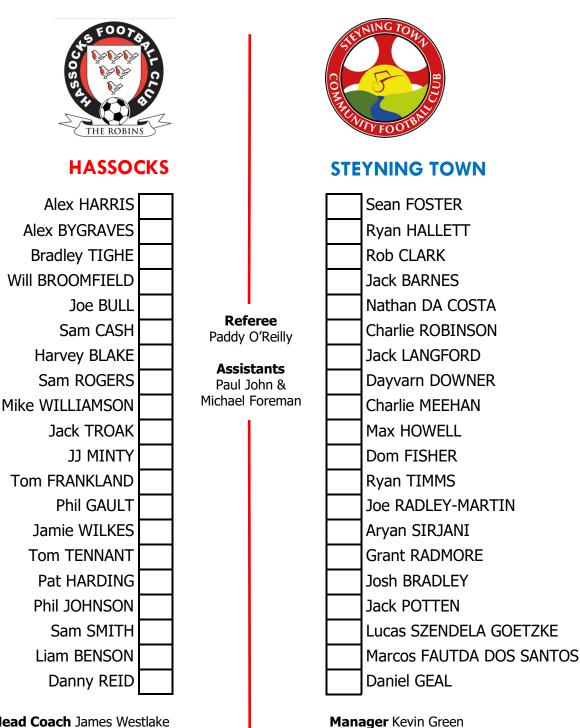
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Head Coach James Westlake Assistants Phil Gault & Tom Hughes Goalkeeper Coach Tim Edwards Physio Ash Cooper Physio Phil Wickwar



AFC Uckfield Town Saturday 7th January. 2:00pm Southern Combination League Premier Division **Today's other Premier Division games**

Assistant Dan Wood

Coach Dan Vigars

Bexhill United v Little Common Broadbridge Heath v Midhurst & Easebourne Eastbourne Town v Eastbourne United Lingfield v Crawley Down Gatwick Loxwood v Alfold Newhaven v Peacehaven & Telscombe