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THE ROBINS

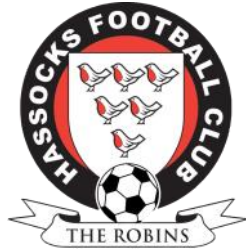


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PREMIER SPORTS SOUTHERN COMBINATION FOOTBALL LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION
SATURDAY 29TH JULY 2023 - 3PM

MATCHDAY
PROGRAMME NO. 1



HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB

Founded 1902

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ASSISTANT HEAD COACHES

Tom Hughes & Jordan Wilson

GOALKEEPER COACH

Tim Edwards

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Jay Patel

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Ash Cooper & Phil Wickwar

UNDER 23s HEAD COACH

Neil Parker

UNDER 18s HEAD COACH

Sean Fernley

VETERANS TEAM MANAGER

Nick Newman

LADIES MANAGER

Sean Perkins

SECRETARY

Tallie Bright 07541 900786

HONOURS

FIRST TEAM

Southern Combination Division One

Runners up 1995

Southern Combination Division Two

Winners 1993

Southern Combination Division Two Cup

Runners up 1988, 1991

Sussex Intermediate Cup

Winners 1975

Montgomery Challenge Cup

Winners 1960

Mowatt Challenge Cup

Winners 1928

UNDER 23 TEAM

Southern Combination Under 23 North Division

Winners 2023

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

Runners up 2017

LADIES TEAM

Sussex County Women's Premier Division

Winners 2023



Welcome to the Beacon



Good afternoon and welcome to the Beacon for the opening game of the new Southern Combination League season

Our visitors today are Eastbourne Town and we hope their players, management, committee and supporters enjoy their stay with us in Mid Sussex.

Coincidentally, it was Town who visited the Beacon in the final game of last season.

Depending on how your summer has gone (beyond rubbish weather), that April afternoon will either seem like yesterday or a lifetime ago.

In case you have forgotten what happened, we ran out 4-1 winners with three of the five goals coming after 90 minutes in what proved to be a frantic finale to 2022-23.

Similar levels of excitement (and result) would be a good way to start a year in which Westy and the players will be hoping to build on last season's top 10 finish.

Preparations have been far less hectic this summer than they were last, when Westy set about rebuilding the squad and incomings and outgoings reached double figures.

Kyle Woolven and Matt Gunn have arrived from AFC Varndeanians, Ben Bacon has returned to the Beacon for a third spell and Dan Turner is back from his year travelling.

We have also managed to secure

the signings of two young Three Bridges players, Elliott Hanslow and Josh Mundy.

James Shaw and Leon Turner have left for Isthmian League football with Burgess Hill Town and Littlehampton Town respectively, Josh Bradley has moved onto Peacehaven & Telscombe and Sam Rogers to AFC Varndeanians.

There will be a proper introduction to all the new faces in Saturday's Emirates FA Cup Extra Preliminary Qualifying Round programme against Erith Town.

On the coaching side, Westy has strengthened his team by bringing Jordan Wilson back as first team coach.

We also welcome a new physio, Jay Patel joining from Haywards Heath Town after many months of persuasion by James!

Seven games were played through pre-season with mixed results.

There are match reports from all contained in today's programme, although easily the most important number is the £1,600 we raised for St Peter & St James' Hospice through this year's Ann John Trophy against Burgess Hill. Thank you to everyone

who came out to support the game.

Speaking of support, the first team have two new kits thanks to the generosity of Super Pat Harding and Sports Massage Brighton.

For the first time, the Robins are wearing Adidas. And it might just be the best kit in Hassocks history. You can be the judge of that yourselves this afternoon...

Away from first team matters, we are yet to receive any fixtures yet for the Under 23s or Under 18s.

The Ladies though kick off their campaign on Sunday 20th August in London & South East Division One South having been promoted from the Sussex County League as 2022-23 champions. Their fixtures are listed in today's programme.

As already mentioned, our next home game is a week today against Erith in the FA Cup. Before that, we travel to Loxwood on Tuesday night for a 7:45pm kick off.

Thank you for your support and enjoy the game,

Owen & Scott



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Eastbourne Town

The 2022-23 campaign was one of change at Eastbourne Town. Jude MacDonald took over from long-serving boss John Lambert. A top 10 finish represented a good first season for the new man at the helm, providing a solid foundation for 2023-24...

So, what will the new season bring to the Saffrons? Town have a good crop of young players coming through, as evidenced by them winning the Under 23 League Cup back in May with victory over Steyning Town.

MacDonald has made some shrewd acquisitions too, not least bringing experienced and proven goal-getter Evan Archibald back to the Saffrons after a spell at Bexhill United.

Archibald has pretty decent record against the Robins, so task number one today will be attempting to keep him quiet.

Doing that will help prove that last season's league double over Town was no fluke after years of the yellow

side of Eastbourne dominating the fixture.

A first win at the Saffrons since 2006 on Valentine's Day was followed up by a convincing 4-1 victory at the Beacon on the final afternoon of the Premier Division season.

Those two victories ended a 17 year wait for Hassocks to take six points from Town in the same campaign.

What might help us today is Town's notoriety for being slow starters.

Under Lambert, they tended to take until the autumn to get up and running before making a late charge into the promotion picture.

It was a similar story last season. We had originally been due to visit

the Saffrons in November, when Town sat 14th in the Premier Division standings.

By the time the game eventually took place two postponements later on February 14th, Town had risen to fifth following a superb run of only three defeats in 23 matches.

If MacDonald can buck the trend and get Town off to a good start in his second season in charge - combined with their normal impressive run of results later in the campaign - then they will fancy their chances of significantly improving on 2022-23's ninth place finish.

An intriguing afternoon lies in store to open the new campaign.

Town Factfile

Founded 1881

Ground The Saffrons

Website eastbournetown.com

Twitter @eastbournetfc

Instagram @eastbournetfc

Manager Jude MacDonald

Top scorer

Club Honours

Southern Combination League

Winners 1921, 1977, 2007

Runners up 2015

SCFL Division 1

Runners up 2003

Sussex Senior Cup

Winners 1890, 1891, 1894, 1895, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1903, 1922, 1932, 1933, 1953

Sussex RUR Charity Cup

Winners 1933, 1948, 1950, 1986, 1987, 2015

10 Key Town Moments

1890...the start of a golden decade as Town with the Sussex Senior Cup six times in 10 years

1907... join the Sussex Amateur League before moving to the SCFL, winning a first title in 1921

1933... Town win their first of their six Sussex RUR Charity Cups

1953... their 12th and most recent Sussex Senior Cup success

1969... arson destroys the famous old grandstand at their Saffrons home

1977... return to the SCFL from the Athenian League, lifting the title in their first season back

2001... suffer a rare relegation into SCFL Division One, returning to the top flight two seasons later

2007... win their third SCFL title and first promotion to Isthmian League football

2014... their seven season spell at the higher level comes to an end with relegation back to the SCFL

2015... mark their first season back in the SCFL by lifting a sixth RUR Cup

Last 20 Seasons

2022-23: Southern Combination Premier 9th

2021-22: Southern Combination Premier 6th

2018-19: Southern Combination Premier 3rd

2017-18: Southern Combination Premier 5th

2016-17: Southern Combination Premier 5th

2015-16: Southern Combination Premier 2nd

2014-15: Southern Combination Premier 4th

2013-14: Isthmian League South 24th

2012-13: Isthmian League South 11th

2011-12: Isthmian League South 14th

2010-11: Isthmian League South 18th

2009-10: Isthmian League South 22nd

2008-09: Isthmian League South 13th

2007-08: Isthmian League South 19th

2006-07: Southern Combination Premier 1st

2005-06: Southern Combination Premier 5th

2004-05: Southern Combination Premier 11th

2003-04: Southern Combination Premier 5th

2002-03: Southern Combination One 2nd

2001-02: Southern Combination One 4th

Played for the Robins and Town

Hassocks defender Sam Smith started his senior career with Eastbourne Town in the final throes of their days as an Isthmian League club.

Smith moved to the Saffrons from the other side town, where he had been in the Under 19s setup at National League side Eastbourne Borough.

He played four times for Town in the 2013-14 campaign before going onto make 24 appearances across the backline in the 2014-15 season.

After several long term injuries, Smith opted for a change of scenery with his next port of call being Loxwood.

It was from the Nest that Brad Sweetman signed Smith in November 2021 for the Robins and he is now closing in on 50 matches for the club.

Young winger **JJ Minty** played for both Eastbourne Town and ourselves

in the 2022-23 campaign on dual-registration from Burgess Hill Town.

Minty started the season at the Saffrons, making 10 appearances and scoring twice.

One of those goals came on his debut as Town ran out 3-0 winners away at Roffey on the opening day.

Minty moved to the Beacon in October, starting five times and appearing twice from the bench.

He scored his one and only goal in Hassocks colours in a 3-0 win over AFC Uckfield Town.

Minty has subsequently joined Haywards Heath Town for the new campaign.

Former Town goalkeeper **James Broadbent** picked up a clean sweep of Players' Player, Managers' Player and Supporters' Player of the Season Awards during his one year at the Beacon, playing a huge role in the 2016-17 Great Escape from

relegation.

That included saving a match winning penalty to secure a first three points against Town in a decade.

Striker **Dan Smith** played for Town in their Isthmian days having rattled through three separate spells with Hassocks.

Smith ended up making 63 appearances and scoring 26 goals in his Robins career.

Finally, blink and you would have missed the Hassocks career of midfielder **Scott Kirkwood**.

He enjoyed a very, very brief spell at the Beacon in the 2018-19 season when looking to get minutes under his belt as he returned from long-term injury whilst a Horsham player.

Kirkwood turned out for Town several years before his short time as a Robin.

Robins v Eastbourne Town

SCFL Premier > Played 37 - Won 10 - Drawn 5 - Lost 22 - Scored 49 - Conceded 79

Sussex Senior Cup > Played 1 - Won 0 - Drawn 0 - Lost 1 - Scored 0 - Conceded 1

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

Peter Bentley Cup > Played 2 - Won 1 - Drawn 1 - Lost 0 - Scored 4 - Conceded 1

FA Vase > Played 1 - Won 0 - Drawn 0 - Lost 1 - Scored 1 - Conceded 3

Total > Played **42** - **Won 11** - **Drawn 6** - **Lost 25** - **Scored 55** - **Conceded 89**

Previous Meetings

2022-23

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 4-1 Eastbourne Town

SCFL Premier: Eastbourne Town 0-1 Hassocks

Sussex Senior Cup: Hassocks 0-1 Eastbourne Town

2021-22

SCFL Premier: Eastbourne Town 5-2 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 1-2 Eastbourne Town

2020-21

SCFL Premier: Eastbourne Town 6-2 Hassocks

2019-20

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 0-7 Eastbourne Town

SCFL Premier: Eastbourne Town 4-1 Hassocks

2018-19

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 0-2 Eastbourne Town

SCFL Premier: Eastbourne Town 2-1 Hassocks

2017-18

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 0-4 Eastbourne Town

SCFL Premier: Eastbourne Town 3-1 Hassocks

2016-17

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 2-1 Eastbourne Town

SCFL Premier: Eastbourne Town 3-1 Hassocks

2015-16

SCFL Premier: Eastbourne Town 0-0 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 2-3 Eastbourne Town

2014-15

SCFL Premier: Eastbourne Town 2-2 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 1-3 Eastbourne Town

RUR Cup: Hassocks 1-5 Eastbourne Town

2006-07

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 4-0 Eastbourne Town

SCFL Premier: Eastbourne Town 1-0 Hassocks

FA Vase: Eastbourne Town 3-1 Hassocks

2005-06

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 5-2 Eastbourne Town

SCFL Premier: Eastbourne Town 0-1 Hassocks

Peter Bentley Cup: Eastbourne Town 1-3 Hassocks

Peter Bentley Cup: Hassocks 1-1 Eastbourne Town

2004-05

SCFL Premier: Eastbourne Town 1-1 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 2-2 Eastbourne Town

2003-04

SCFL Premier: Eastbourne Town 3-1 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 0-3 Eastbourne Town

2000-01

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 0-2 Eastbourne Town

SCFL Premier: Eastbourne Town 0-1 Hassocks

1999-00

SCFL Premier: Eastbourne Town 3-2 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 0-2 Eastbourne Town

1998-99

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 1-1 Eastbourne Town

SCFL Premier: Eastbourne Town 2-1 Hassocks

1997-98

SCFL Premier: Eastbourne Town 3-1 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 2-1 Eastbourne Town

1996-97

SCFL Premier: Eastbourne Town 4-1 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 2-0 Eastbourne Town

1995-96

SCFL Premier: Eastbourne Town 2-1 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 0-1 Eastbourne Town

Behind the Stats

Before last season's 1-0 win at the Saffrons, Hassocks had suffered 10 consecutive defeats against Eastbourne Town.

That is the worst run of form the Robins have ever recorded against a fellow Southern Combination League club.

The number of goals conceded probably set some kind of record too, Town racking up 36 in that time at an average of more than 3.5 per game.

No wonder it felt like such a big

moment when Hassocks won 1-0 down on the Sunshine Coast on Valentine's Day, Phil Johnson's strike early in the second half ending that barren run and securing a first win at the Saffrons since 2006.

Just like London Buses, you wait 10 matches for the Robins to beat Eastbourne Town and then they do it in back-to-back meetings.

The 4-1 Hassocks victory on the final day of the previous season secured a first double over Town

since that same 2005-06 campaign.

17 years may have passed but the identity of one of the Robins' scorers remained the same.

Suer Pat Harding got the first goal for Hassocks back in April having scored twice when the Robins last completed the double by beating Town 5-2, also on the final day of the season.

Graham Beveridge, Anthony Hibbert and Sam Fisk were the other scorers that afternoon.



Robins secure top 10 finish in some style by thrashing Town

Hassocks secured their first top 10 finish for nine years in some style, hammering Eastbourne Town 4-1 at the Beacon on the final day of the Southern Combination Premier Division season.

Victory also secured a first league double over Town since 2005-06, the latest in a series of hoodoos James Westlake and his players have ended over the campaign.

Hassocks fans with long memories might recall that the previous double against Town was similarly secured via three points on the final day under the Mid Sussex sunshine.

17 years may have passed, but the identity of one of the Robins goal getters remains the same. Super Pat Harding scored twice then alongside Graham Beveridge, Anthony Hibbert and Sam Fisk.

This time around, Harding gave the Robins a first half lead. Jack Troak doubled it 10 minutes after the break before a somewhat unexpected grandstand finish.

Three goals came in stoppage time as Leon Turner and Alex Brewer – who was only a year old when Harding scored that brace against Town in 2006 – found the net either side of a Callum Barlow consolation for the visitors.

Both sides set their stalls out to attack from the opening whistle. That made for an engaging contest, although it was assistant referees Alex Howard and Paul Rowe who were the busiest people on show in the first 15 minutes.

Liam Benson beat Chris Winterton only for the offside flag to go up. Fletcher Holman then slotted past James Shaw, but he suffered the same fate.

Benson drew a good save from Winterton just after his disallowed goal as part of a strong start from Hassocks.

Once Town had weathered the storm, they grew into the game. Leon Greig made Shaw work before Holman's offside effort and those two Town players combined again on the 20 minute mark.

Holman had a shot well repelled by Shaw and Greig could not quite force the rebound home thanks to some attentive defending from ex-Town man Sam Smith.

Two minutes later and Harding struck his second in as many games. The goal took the sting out of proceedings and the remaining 25 minutes of the first half were played in what can only be described as an end-of-season lull.

The Robins came out after the break with a bit more life about them, forcing a couple of early set pieces.

It was from one of those that the second Hassocks goal arrived. Winterton produced a sprawling save from Joe Bull, the subsequent corner was only not cleared effectively by Town and that gave Troak the chance to hit a rocket from distance for his eighth of the season.

With nothing to lose and only half hour of the campaign remaining, Town chucked on three strikers in an attempt to salvage something from the game.

Rather than opening the game up as you might expect, this gung-ho approach bizarrely resulted in a similar period of tedium as the first half suffered from.

Greig crossed for Holman to fire over. Town then had half-hearted penalty appeals waved away when Oliver Davies went down in the box after a collision with Troak.

Otherwise, there was precious little to report until injury time, when proceedings suddenly fired back to life as three substitutes got on the scoresheet in the space of a surreal 180 seconds.

The clock showed 90 when Anesu

Sisaymia picked up a booking for a foul on Josh Bradley.

Hassocks worked a clever free kick but it looked like the danger had passed when Town regained possession, only for Jack Murphy to give the ball away cheaply.

That allowed the Robins to work the ball to the unmarked Turner and he duly fired into the top right corner to put Hassocks 3-0 ahead.

Town produced the ideal response, substitute Barlow displaying perfect control and a cool head to chip over Shaw after the visitors gained dispossessed Hassocks straight from the restart.

Any Town celebrations were very short lived as almost immediately, Brewer added a fourth for the Robins.

It was his first senior goal to go with the 21 in 20 appearances he has plundered for the Under 18s, who enjoyed an excellent campaign in reaching the semi finals of two cup competitions whilst looking set to finish third in the league.

Again, Town's marking was questionable and that presented Brewer with the opportunity to head beyond Winterton to wrap up a memorable campaign which gives Hassocks plenty to build on.

Hassocks: Shaw; Blake, S Smith, Bygraves, Troak; Loversidge, Williamson, J Westlake, Bull; Harding, Benson.

Subs: Turner (Bull 64), J Bradley (Loversidge 69), Brewer (Harding 76), Wilkes (Williamson 90), Rogers (Westlake 90).



Laing double helps Hassocks ruffle feathers of title favourites Town

If anyone needed confirmation about just how good Hassocks had been in the first half of their Tuesday night encounter against Eastbourne Town, then the dressing down visiting boss Dave Winterton gave his players during the break should have been enough.

Winterton's verbal lashing permeated the walls of the Beacon Clubhouse, could be heard on the far side of the ground and probably a quarter of a mile away in the centre of the village.

Time and time again, Hassocks had carved open one of the County League title favourites and Winterton knew that his side were very lucky that the Robins were only 1-0 ahead rather than having put the game to bed.

Hassocks began the game at a ferocious tempo, hitting the post inside the first five minutes via Joe Fernley with the loose ball scrambled behind at the expense of a corner by the Town defence.

From the subsequent delivery, the evergreen Andy Fisk rattled the same upright as Fernley and Graham Beveridge saw his follow up effort hacked off the line.

Having seen some the Robins' older warhorses leading the charge, next it was the lively Pat Harding's turn to torment the Town defence.

Harding took centre stage, looking sharp in everything he did

other than his finishing as the visitors struggled to find any answer to the Robins' talisman.

He could have easily had a first half hat-trick, a combination of some uncharacteristically poor finishing and one outstanding save from Russell Tanner preventing Harding getting on the scoresheet.

Questions were asked of Tanner for his role in the Robins' opener which arrived with 22 minutes on the clock.

The Town goalkeeper looked set to deal comfortably with a cross into the box, only to be beaten in a straight jump by James Laing, opening his account for the season.

As well as a lot of shouting, Winterton also made a slight tactical tweak at half time to hand his captain Scott Price more freedom to roam in the space between the Hassocks defence and midfield.

By the time the Robins had got to grips with Price's new commission, he had beaten Joel Harding with two fine right footed strikes to turn the game on its head and put Town into the lead.

An already entertaining encounter became even more so, Town going on the attack to try and secure a third which would kill the game off whilst Hassocks returned to the same gear they were in during the first half in attempt to find an equaliser.

Tanner made several good saves to thwart the Robins, including a superb stop from Laing every bit as good as his first half save from

Harding.

Hassocks did eventually find a way through, an awkward bounce taking the ball away from the Town defence and leaving Laing in the clear.

The Hassocks striker took advantage of this slice of luck in glorious style, beating Tanner with a perfectly controlled lob to level the game at 2-2.

Tanner blotted his copybook a little with a late booking for dissent as Town let their frustrations get the better of them, although nobody with visiting connections could deny that Hassocks were worthy of a point.

Particularly pleasing to Dave John would have been that this performance and result followed the disappointment of a 1-0 reversal at Pagham on the opening day of the campaign.

If Hassocks can regularly repeat this showing against Town rather than their effort at Nyetimber Lane on Saturday over the course of the next eight months, then the Robins could be in for a very good season indeed. Just ask Winterton.

Hassocks: J Harding; Turner, Newman, Hewitt, Low, Thompson; Fernley, A Fisk, Beveridge; Laing, P Harding.

Subs: Dawson, Thomas, Stripp, S Fisk, Wickwar (unused).



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Robins route to silverware revealed

In the early stages of the national cup competitions, Hassocks have been handed a home tie in the Emirates FA Cup and an away trip in the FA Vase.

Erith Town will visit the Beacon in the extra preliminary round of the FA Cup next weekend, Saturday 5th August at 3pm.

The Dockers finished fourth in the Southern Counties East Premier Division last season, their third consecutive top 10 placing.

It will be the fifth meeting between the Robins and Town. The most recent came at the same stage of the FA Cup in the 2018-19 season, the Dockers winning 3-1 at the Beacon through a Luis Valencia brace and a Alex Nelson strike. Spencer Slaughter had opened the scoring for Hassocks.

The Robins saw off Town 3-0 in another extra preliminary clash at the Beacon as they made it to within two games of the first round proper in the 2005-06 campaign. Pat Harding scored twice and Anthony Hibbert once.

Two other meetings took place in

the 2000-01 season. The sides played out a 2-2 preliminary round draw at the Erith Sports Stadium before Hassocks triumphed 3-1 in the replay three days later.

Hassocks will have added incentive to progress this time beyond the prize money and it being the world's greatest cup competition.

The winners will face an away tie against either Sutton Common Rovers or Burgess Hill Town on Saturday 19th August.

The Robins have not faced their Mid Sussex neighbours in a competitive game since the 2003-04 season.

In the FA Vase, Hassocks have been given a bye to the second qualifying round where they will travel to either Sheerwater or Clapton.

Sheerwater finished 16th of 20 in the Combined Counties League Premier Division South last season.

Clapton are one of the most famous non-league clubs in the country and will compete in the Eastern Counties League Division One South in 2023-24 following relegation from the Essex Senior League.

The Robins have played neither side before in a competitive fixture. The game will take place on Saturday 23rd September.

Hassocks have been given a bye through to the second round of the Peter Bentley League Cup, where a trip to either Worthing United or Selsey awaits.

Both clubs are in Southern Combination League Division One. The tie will take place on Tuesday 26th September.

Should the Robins progress to round three, then another potential Mid Sussex Derby lies in wait at home to Haywards Heath Town - providing the Blues overcome Wick in their second round tie.

After last season's organisational issues with the Sussex Principal RUR Charity Cup, the County FA informed the league that the competition would be drawn before the season started.

Indeed, the first round is due to take place on Tuesday 22nd August. It probably will not come as a surprise for you to learn that fixtures are yet to be confirmed at the time of going to press.



John Broomfield

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London, Paris, Peckham... your Robins pre-season friendly round up

Peckham 2-5 Hassocks.

Two months after the 2022-23 season ended in Sussex Principal RUR Charity Cup quarter final defeat at Peacehaven & Telscombe, Hassocks were back in action as their pre-season friendly fixtures kicked off at Peckham Town.

It proved to be a lovely jubly afternoon for the Robins as they ran out 4-1 winners thanks to goals from Liam Benson, Sam Geard, Super Pat

Harding and Tom Frankland.

Hassocks had never previously played Peckham before. The opportunity to face new opponents from the Kent League at an unvisited venue proved popular with supporters, with several Robins fans embarking on their own Jolly Boys' Outing to the wonderfully named Menace Arena.

Of particular interest was the "world's smallest stand" which held less people than a three wheel van.

Equally interesting was the kit Hassocks took the to the field wearing.

With Peckham's colours being red and white striped shirts, blue shorts and white socks, the Robins were forced into an interesting mish-mash of blue away tops and red home shorts and socks.

Such a garish combination meant they would not have looked out of place presenting an episode of Michael Portillo's Great British Railway

Journeys.

Despite the unusual colours, Hassocks made a start quicker than a Capri Gear.

Peckham goalkeeper Nathan Gamester had to make two early saves in the sixth and seventh minutes before Benson put the Robins 1-0 ahead with 19 played.

The hosts gave away the ball on the edge of their box, offering Benson the chance to punish the mistake. Benson said "mange tout" and duly converted beyond Gamester.

Hassocks should have doubled their lead twice before a drinks break arrived on 25 minutes, allowing the sides to take on some local water from the Peckham Spring.

One opportunity was skied so far over the bar from four yards that it might have hit a window on the top floor of Nelson Mandela House.

Hassocks then rattled the post with a Peckham defender sweeping a follow up shot off the line as effectively as Trigger with his 20-year old broom.

The pause for fluids proved helpful to Peckham and within five minutes of the game resuming, they had an equaliser.

Hassocks got in a bit of a mess at the back and A Trialist took advantage, levelling the tie via a heavy deflection off the unfortunate Harvey Blake.

Peckham enjoyed their best spell

after half time. Tidi Barry had the ball in the back of the net on 56 minutes but an early offside flag ruled it out.

A one-on-one chance following a mazy run by Camilo Andres Nieva was squandered and Kieran Dowding was just wide with a 20 yard pile driver.

James Westlake made a treble change just past the hour mark which helped the Robins regain the control they had enjoyed in the first half, leading to three unanswered goals.

Gear, Harding and Frankland all found the back of the net in the final 30 minutes to give the score a one-sided look which was a little harsh on the hosts. Peckham had not played like plonkers.

Ultimately this was a useful runout for Hassocks and they were grateful of the opportunity as they said bonjour to the Menace Arena and headed back to Sussex.

This time next week, Hassocks will be millionaires back in action when they travel to Billingshurst.

Billingshurst 1-4 Hassocks Pre-season friendly number two sent Hassocks west along the A272 for a clash with Southern Combination League Division One side Billingshurst.

It proved to be a good workout for the Robins as in humid and sticky conditions, they ran out 5-2 winners with a couple of new additions to James Westlake's first team squad

getting on the scoresheet.

Kyle Woolven grabbed his first goal in Hassocks colours since arriving from AFC Varndeanians with a successfully converted penalty.

Last season's Under 18s top scorer Alex Brewer also notched as he continues to make a mark.

Brewer hit 21 goals in 21 matches for the Young Robins last season.

He then rounded off his campaign by opening his account for the first team in the 4-1 win over Eastbourne Town which completed Hassocks' Premier Division season.

Brewer was one a number of young players given an opportunity at Jubilee Fields, Westlake selecting his squad with one eye on a tougher test at Epsom & Ewell on Monday.

Billingshurst proved generous hosts by putting through their own net with the other Hassocks goals coming from Jack Troak and Tom Frankland, the latter of whom was making it two goals from two matches so far.

Not wanting to be outdone in the hospitality stakes, the Robins delivered an own goal themselves.

Billingshurst's second consolation came from young Jack French, son of former Hassocks favourite Eddie.

One to make all those Robins supporters who remember Eddie captaining Sussex Under 18s whilst in the youth team at the Beacon and playing 99 times for the first team before onto Horsham feel old.





Epsom & Ewell 2-1 Hassocks
Just 48 hours had elapsed since Hassocks were victorious at Billingshurst and the Robins found themselves back in action against Epsom & Ewell.

This was the second consecutive pre-season meeting between the Robins and the Salts, Epsom having been victorious last year via a 1-0 win secured by a goal only 18 seconds in.

The Salts were an impressive outfit at the Beacon that day with many watching predicting they would go onto have a very good year in Division One of the Southern Combination League.

And so it proved; Epsom won promotion via the playoffs, beating Selsey in the semi finals and Wick in the final having finished runners up to Shoreham in the regular season.

But rather than take their place in the Premier Division alongside Hassocks, the Salts were moved sideways back to the Combined Counties League by the FA.

The Robins were therefore playing opponents from step five and knew they had to be at the races if they were to come away with victory against Epsom.

A tight 90 minutes went the way of the Salts in the end, who ran out 2

-1 victors on the new 3G surface at South Park FC's King George's Field. It must be said the pitch was excellent, good to soft in places.

Even though it was a sunny midsummer evening, South Park opted to have their floodlights on from the start. Cost of living crisis? What cost of living crisis, they say in Reigate.

Both sides enjoyed an equal share of possession through the first 15 minutes before A Trialist opened the scoring for Epsom, playing a one-two with his brother confusingly also named A Trialist before finishing.

It remained 1-0 until two minutes into the second half. Hassocks came out with the bit between their teeth and it was not long before an equaliser arrived.

The Robins were awarded a free kick about 1/10th of a furlong away from goal out on the right.

Over it came and when the ball bounced off the chest of Epsom goalkeeper Harvey Keogh, Alex Bygraves was on hand to pass the loose ball into the now-empty goal.

On the subject of Bygraves, the summer has seen him grow a lovely head of hair.

A flurry of substitutions followed which impacted the flow of the game,

although it was still evenly matched with both teams going a good gallop.

Epsom scored what proved to be the winner in the 67th minute. A follow on the edge of the box gave the Salts in a dangerous position.

Hassocks lined up a wall of four but this did not prove to be too much of a hurdle for Thompson Adeyemin, who bent an effort around the wall and into the bottom right hand corner.

The Robins best chance of an equaliser came with 10 minutes remaining when the bar was rattled and the ball bounced down onto the goal line.

Had it crossed the line? It was difficult to tell and will therefore remain as much as mystery as what happened to Shergar.

Epsom made the most of the reprieve, scrambling the ball clear before Hassocks could react as the Salts held on to win by a neck.

Hassocks 0-4 Broadbridge Heath

Broadbridge Heath reminded the Beacon faithful why they were Southern Combination League champions last season with a dominating performance and a 4-0 win over a lacklustre Hassocks.

The game was done and dusted as a contest by half time. Heath were 3-0 to the good and it felt like a score more in keeping with a game of cricket in Adastra Park might be on the cards.

Hassocks could at least take some consolation from a slight improvement in the second 45 minutes, but still know much better will be needed against Burgess Hill Town in the Ann John Trophy on Thursday night and Whitehawk in a week's time.

It took just six minutes of a sunny but blustery afternoon for the Bears to take the lead.

Charlie Parmiter ran directly at the Robins back line before playing a one-two with Mario Quiasacca on the edge of the area.

Parmiter brought the return down on his chest, weaved between two red shirts and poked the ball past the advancing Fraser Trigwell, who used to keep net for Heath.

Trigwell was not the only player up against his former club. Ex-Robin Jake Lindsey has joined the Bears for their debut Isthmian League campaign having scored 14 Southern Combination goals for Loxwood last season.

Lindsey was narrowly wide with a right footed curling effort from

distance as Heath quickly set about trying to double their advantage.

They did not have to wait long after that Lindsey attempt to do so, moving 2-0 ahead before the 15 minute mark.

Matt Penfold received the ball in the left back position, hitting a 40 yard cross field pass which picked out the forward run of right back Jack Frankland.

Hassocks had not expected such a successful switch of play and their defence again found itself at sixes and sevens.

Frankland took full advantage, skipping past a couple of challenges and making it to the by-line, from where he pulled a low pass back to Quiasacca.

The Bears forward did the rest, applying a clinical first time finish low and hard into the bottom corner which gave Trigwell no chance.

Goal number three arrived on 25 minutes and again it came from out wide.

Faris Khallouqui cut inside and hit a 25 yard shot which Trigwell did superbly to keep out low down to his right.

The save though was soured when Sam Lemon reacted quickest to tuck away the rebound from close range.

Another former Hassocks man nearly made it 4-0 just prior to break. Dan Webster rose highest at the back post to meet a corner with a powerful header which crashed against the post.

The second half did not bring much improvement from a Hassocks point of view with Heath continuing to dominate.

A succession of chances came and went in the first 15 minutes following the interval, eventually leading to Quiasacca adding his second and the Bears' fourth of the afternoon.

Ryan Brackpool dropped deep to pick up the ball in front of his own backline. Several passes later and Heath swept the ball out to Mason Doughty on the right.

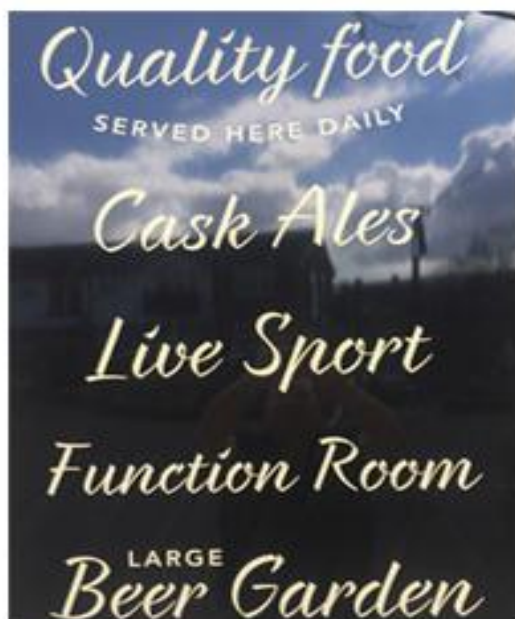
From there, Doughty showed fantastic vision to split the Hassocks defence with a pass straight through the middle, sending the lively Quiasacca clear.

For a second, it looked like Trigwell might get there first. Quiasacca though accelerated, beat the Robins number one to the ball and lifted into the now unguarded net.

The next 30 minutes brought no further goals as Hassocks belatedly tightened up whilst Heath took their feet off the pedal with the job done.

THE HASSOCKS

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SUNDAY	12.00 - 23.00

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



Hassocks 0-3 Burgess Hill

For the sixth successive season, the Ann John Trophy heads back to the More Than Tyres Stadium. Burgess Hill Town breezed past Hassocks 3-0 at the Beacon on an evening when a record amount was raised for St Peter & St James Hospice by a bumper crowd.

Those in attendance dug deep to donate over £1600, taking the total amount raised over the past decade past the £15,000 mark.

It is quite a legacy in memory of the wife of Robins chairman Dave, much missed since she passed away from cancer in 2014.

Hill's dominance of the fixture in recent seasons has been absolute. Hassocks came close to ending it a year ago, only being denied a draw late in the day and the trophy subsequently shared by a controversial late penalty converted by Lewis Finney.

This was a reversal back to the norm, whereby the Robins struggle to lay a glove on their higher division opponents.

Hassocks fell behind as early as the third minute and although there was plenty of huffing and puffing from a starting XI missing some big name players, it was a straightfor-

ward success which extended the Hillian's unbeaten start under new boss Dean Cox to three matches.

Rob O'Toole was the scorer of the early opener, needing only 180 seconds to grab his first goal back in Hill colours since re-joining from Whitehawk.

Martyn Box hung up a cross to the back post where O'Toole was waiting to bundle home.

O'Toole went from a classic poacher's goal to almost doubling the lead with something utterly spectacular. An audacious overhead kick on 10 minutes whistled inches over the top of Fraser Trigwell's crossbar.

Next O'Toole turned provider, squaring for Dan Perry. With the goal gaping, Perry hit an effort which posed more of a threat to houses in Hurstpierpoint than it did Trigwell.

The 27 minute mark brought three good chances for Hill in quick succession. A miraculous block on the line from teenager Sam Fernley kept out a Kieron Pamment drive from six yards.

O'Toole was then denied a header by a good Trigwell save and from the resulting corner, Reece Hallard was left free but could only nod over.

Hill were by this point playing some delightfully free flowing stuff.

Box cut inside young Fernley and was not far away with a drive from 25 yards.

Another multipass move released O'Toole in a wide position and his left wing cross was volleyed over by Reggie Ward, put off by some impressive tracking back from Hassocks captain for the evening, Pat Harding.

The second half continued in much the same vein. Hallard lifted over Trigwell, only for the ball to drop just wide.

Perry uncharacteristically missed a second good chance when unable to convert the rebound from a Trigwell save and Pamment saw another goal bound effort blocked by some heroic defending.

Hill finally added the second they had been threatening for so long just before the hour mark. Tyrese Mthunzi laid off to Ward cutting inside and firing a low effort into the bottom corner.

A flurry of substitutions followed in the final 30 minutes, Hassocks sending on the likes of Liam Benson, Jack Troak and Bradley Tighe.

For Hill, the familiar name of A Trialist entered proceedings. This particular A Trialist made a real impression, going close on two occasions before teeing up Finney for the goal

of the game.

Finney had a lot to do when he received the ball with his back to goal and three red shirts blocking his path.

A beautiful first touch on the turn took him away from Sam Geard and Tighe, opening up enough of a gap for Finney to leather the ball beyond the helpless Trigwell.

Hassocks did at least finish on the front foot, creating three scoring opportunities. Ben Bacon led a charge forward, dribbling around three Hill defenders.

Some nice link up with Geard eventually worked the ball to Kyle Woolven, whose early shot from outside the box crashed into the side netting.

A teasing Troak inswinging corner was then headed just wide by Benson before Troak himself fired over from a tight angle after a clever Mike Williamson pass opened up the Hillians defence.

Hassocks 0-2 Whitehawk
With the big kick off for the 2023-24 Southern Combination League campaign just a week away, Hassocks gave a much improved performance in their toughest friendly of pre-season.

Isthmian Premier Division outfit Whitehawk had won 7-1 at the Beacon a year ago.

It was a much tighter game on this occasion, the Robins competing well with opponents from two division above before succumbing to a 2-0 defeat.

Both Hawks goals came in the second half on an afternoon where the rain and wind resembled conditions you would expect in the depths of November, not mid-July.

Hassocks made a strong start. Jack Troak curled an effort against the upright after seizing on a loose attempted pass from Whitehawk across the back line and the visitors then needed Mitch Walker to stand tall and keep out an effort at the near post.

That second escape shook the Hawks into life and Alex Bygraves had to deflect a powerful drive behind for a corner.

The subsequent set piece was delivered with pinpoint accuracy and met by a powerful header cleared off the line by some heroic defending from Troak.

Liam Benson was next to go close



for Hassocks with a low drive from outside the box which skimmed inches wide of the upright off the wet surface.

Benson was proving to be a bit of a handful for the Whitehawk defence to deal with.

He challenged Walker in the air for a Raging Joe Bull cross, the loose ball falling to Alex Brewer.

The teenage Hassocks striker got a good connection on his subsequent volley but Walker showed quick reactions to get an arm up and block.

Whitehawk made eight half time changes. The biggest impact though came from Dom Johnson-Fisher switching from left wing to right, resulting in the former Steyning Town man becoming an ever increasing influence.

Bradley Tighe cleared a Johnson-Fisher cross over the Hassocks bar which for a brief moment looked like it might result in a wonderful own goal.

Another Johnson-Fisher cross turned into a shot in midair, forcing Fraser Trigwell into an excellent save at full stretch pawing the ball around the far post.

It was from the opposite flank to Johnson-Fisher that Whitehawk opened the scoring just before the hour mark.

Luke Robinson cut in from the right and bent an effort from the corner of the area into the opposite

side of the net for a spectacular goal.

One became two less than 60 seconds later. Whitehawk regained possession almost straight from kick off, Tom Cadman crossed and Johnson-Fisher popped up in the middle of the box to convert beyond Trigwell.

Bull had to cover round and clear after Andy Somo poked a long ball over the top through the legs of Trigwell.

Another chance came the way of Somo when he twisted and turned to find space in the box from a Johnson-Fisher cross.

Somo had only Trigwell to beat as a result of his trickery, but the Hassocks number one made a fine save to turn the ball over the bar.

The Robins managed a rare foray forward when Troak embarked on a powerful run, unleashing a shot which Hawks substitute goalkeeper Luke Glover had to go down at full stretch to push away.

Whitehawk almost had a third in similar fashion to their first, Robinson bending wide from distance before Hassocks forced Glover into another intervention.

Troak picked the pocket of the Hawks right back and fed Benson who laid off to Pat Harding.

Super Pat took a touch and struck a shot between two visiting defenders which nearly caught Glover out.

Troak was finishing the game

nearly as strongly as Johnson-Fisher had started the second half for Whitehawk.

The Robins left winger created the penultimate chance of the game, latching onto a clever lofted through ball from Sam Geard and crossing low and hard into the box.

Ben Bacon could not quite get there ahead of a Hawks defender, who turned the ball behind with the visitors somehow being awarded a goal kick.

Glover was then called into action one final time, parrying away a Sam Fernley drive after Bacon had laid off.

Hassocks 5-0 Oakwood Looking resplendent in their brand new home kit, Hassocks finished their pre-season friendly fixtures in style with a 5-0 win over Oakwood.

Sports Massage Brighton are the sponsors, Adidas the manufacturers and it might just be the best outfit the Robins have ever sported.

From beer to sausages to public transport which unlike the UK you do not have to sell a kidney to afford to use, the Germans really are better at everything.

But let's talk about the football before this starts reading like either an article from Vogue or an essay on Das Varterland.

Hassocks were good against their Southern Combination Division One opponents. Very good.

It was a timely, goal laden performance having gone three games without scoring and with the competitive Premier Division action now just four days away.

Tall striker Jamie Wilkes got the party started early on when seizing on a poor clearance out of defence from an Oakwood defender.

The rangy Wilkes danced sideways past two challenges before unleashing a low drive into the bottom corner from the edge of the area.

James Westlake has completed the signing of young duo Josh Mundy and Elliott Hanslow on dual-registration from Three Bridges and they were both heavily involved in the second Hassocks goal.

Midfielder Mundy switched play from right to left in delightful style to find Jack Troak scampering forward.

Troak flashed a ball across the face of the Oakwood goal which made it all the way to the back post where Hanslow arrived to clinically fire past the Oaks goalkeeper.

Oakwood threatened briefly, Troak making a superb clearance off the line to ensure the visitors did not pull one back.

Not long after the scoreline had almost become 2-1 and the Robins moved 3-0 ahead, Ben Bacon escaping the attentions of his marker with a clever run to head home.

Another Bacon header and a Mundy drive from distance drew two

good saves as the first half came to a close with Hassocks firmly in control.

Westlake rang the changes after the break, including introducing Liam Benson and Pat Harding up top.

It did not take long for the new strike force to combine, Benson crossing for Harding to produce an acrobatic bicycle kick which flew just wide of the post.

No man approaching his 40s as Super Pat is should be able to do something like that.

Goal four came when a game of pinball broke out in the Oakwood box.

A Hassocks corner was not convincingly dealt with and there were touches for Tom Frankland, Alex Bygraves and the ball hitting the unaware Benson in the head before Sam Geard took control and slotted a nice finish through a gap.

Bygraves in particular was making the most of Hassocks' dominance, pushing further and further into midfield from his centre back position as the game went on.

One such instance saw him turn a tackle 30 yards from the Oakwood goal into a clever pass out towards Frankland on the right.

Frankland exchanged a one-two with Harding and drilled a shot into the box which Benson diverted past the Oaks goalkeeper with the most nonchalant of back heels to round off the scoring.





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Robins earn deserved point to kick off the new campaign

**Southern Combination League Premier Division
Saturday 29th July 2023, The Beacon
Hassocks 1-1 Eastbourne Town**

The opening game of the 2023-24 Southern Combination League season took some time to get going, but once it did a big crowd at the Beacon were treated to some high-quality entertainment by Hassocks and Eastbourne Town.

It finished 1-1, a result which Robins head coach James Westlake said he felt fair afterwards. Most of those watching agreed with that assessment.

Both sides though could feasibly have walked away with all three points; Hassocks had they been a little more clinical and Town were it not for an extraordinary save from Fraser Trigwell right at the death.

Evan Archibald thought he had won it with his traditional goal against Hassocks, only for Trigwell to somehow keep out the forward's header one-handed at full stretch.

The Robins had created the better second half opportunities before that, including when hitting a post as they mounted wave upon wave of attacks towards the west end of the ground.

In contrast, the first half was pretty turgid. It felt at times more like a pre-season friendly rather than the start of the competitive action.

There were appeals from the Town bench for a third minute penalty when George Cook went to ground under a Joe Bull challenge.

Cook's lack of protest was evidence that referee Perry Hart had made the correct call in awarding a corner rather than a spot kick.

Mr Hart had a fine game overall. The only major decision he got wrong was to award Hassocks a free kick on the edge of the box following a well-timed Delwin Duah sliding tackle, from which Jack Troak drove a powerful effort through the wall which repelled by a strong Taylor Seymour wrist.

Seymour was in the midst of a busy weekend having been man-of-

the-match for Burgess Hill in their 1-0 friendly win at Whitehawk the previous evening.

Further chances before the break were limited. Town left winger Max Hollobone blasted into the children's playground from a good position 18 yards out and Troak flashed a ball across the face of goal which neither Westlake nor Tom Frankland could quite latch onto.

Hassocks debutant centre back Matt Gunn made a good block on the stroke of half time after a lovely 40 yard switch from Hollobone created a shooting opportunity for Ollie Davies cutting in from the right.

The Robins hitting the upright gave an early indication that the second 45 was going to be far more watchable than the first.

Jamie Wilkes crossed, Benson's glancing header came back off the post and Troak could not quite sort his body out in time as the rebound hit him from point blank range and diverted wide.

A few minutes later and Town took the lead. An attempted back pass to Trigwell from 30 yards away ended going out for a corner nowhere near the goalkeeper.

Laughter at that comedic moment soon turned to despair. Hollobone whipped in a dangerous delivery turned in by the stretching Nathan Hover at the back post.

Town left back Harry Simmons almost diverted a Bull cross beyond Seymour, the relief on Simmons' face being palpable when the ball flew inches wide.

That relief would prove to be short lived, however, as Simmons would go onto provide Hassocks with their equaliser on 67 minutes.

Frankland nearly levelled before Simmons' own goal arrived. Gunn picked out Troak, who produced an outrageous piece of skill to lift the ball over the head of Leon Greig and escape down the left flank.



From there, Troak hung up a cross to the back post. Frankland saw his initial header blocked by Simmons and then put the rebound into the side netting from a tight angle.

The lively Frankland made way after that for new loan signing from Three Bridges, Elliott Hanslow.

It did not take long for Hanslow to make an impression, his pressure on Simmons leading the Town defender to turn a Bull cross into the back of his own net.

The final 20 minutes brought a flurry of action at both ends. For Hassocks, Westlake saw an effort saved by Seymour and then fired high, wide and handsome from a Pat Harding layoff.

Harding himself saw a snap volley on the turn blocked. Harding's fellow substitute Ben Bacon crossed for Hanslow to head too high and Bacon then sent an effort into neighbouring Hurstpierpoint when he had more time to advance than he realised.

For Town, Archibald saw a goal correctly ruled out for offside and Trigwell saved bravely at the feet of Charlie Gibson.

Town retained possession from Trigwell's intervention, patiently working the ball back towards Greig.

It was from here that Greig picked out the run of Archibald with a 50 yard aerial ball into the box, resulting in that brilliant save from Trigwell plunging to his left to preserve a point for the Robins.

Hassocks: Trigwell; B Tighe, Gunn, Bygraves, Bull; Frankland, J Westlake, Wilkes, Troak; Woolven, Benson.

Subs: Harding (Woolven 64), Hanslow (Frankland 64), Bacon (Benson 81), S Smith, Brewer (unused).

First Team Matches 2023-24

Date & Time	Opponents	Comp	F-A	Att	Scorers
July					
29/07 - 15:00	Eastbourne Town (H)	SCFLP	1-1	232	OG
August					
01/08 - 19:30	Loxwood (A)	SCFLP			
05/08 - 15:00	Erith Town (H)	FACEP			
12/08 - 15:00	Lingfield (H)	SCFLP			
15/08 - 19:30	Pagham (A)	SCFLP			
26/08 - 15:00	Midhurst & Easebourne (H)	SCFLP			
28/08 - 11:00	Shoreham (H)	SCFLP			
September					
02/09 - 15:00	Steyning Town (A)	SCFLP			
09/09 - 15:00	Eastbourne United (A)	SCFLP			
16/09 - 15:00	AFC Varndeanians (H)	SCFLP			
30/09 - 15:00	Little Common (A)	SCFLP			
October					
03/10 - 19:45	Horsham YMCA (H)	SCFLP			
07/10 - 15:00	Crawley Down Gatwick (A)	SCFLP			
14/10 - 15:00	AFC Uckfield Town (H)	SCFLP			
28/10 - 15:00	Newhaven (A)				
November					
04/11 - 15:00	Peacehaven & Tels. (H)	SCFLP			
11/11 - 15:00	Crowborough Athletic (A)	SCFLP			
18/11 - 15:00	Eastbourne Town (A)	SCFLP			
25/11 - 15:00	Saltdean United (H)	SCFLP			
December					
02/12 - 15:00	Bexhill United (A)	SCFLP			
09/12 - 15:00	Loxwood (H)	SCFLP			
16/12 - 15:00	Lingfield (A)	SCFLP			
30/12 - 15:00	Shoreham (A)	SCFLP			
January					
06/01 - 15:00	AFC Varndeanians (A)	SCFLP			
20/01 - 15:00	Little Common (H)	SCFLP			
27/01 - 15:00	AFC Uckfield Town (A)	SCFLP			
February					
03/02 - 15:00	Pagham (H)	SCFLP			
10/02 - 15:00	Peacehaven & Tels. (A)	SCFLP			
17/02 - 15:00	Crowborough Athletic (H)	SCFLP			
24/02 - 15:00	Steyning Town (H)	SCFLP			
March					
02/03 - 15:00	Midhurst & Easebourne (A)	SCFLP			
09/03 - 15:00	Eastbourne United (H)	SCFLP			
23/03 - 15:00	Crawley Down Gatwick (H)	SCFLP			
30/03 - 15:00	Horsham YMCA (A)	SCFLP			
April					
01/04 - 11:00	Haywards Heath Town (A)	SCFLP			
06/04 - 15:00	Bexhill United (H)	SCFLP			
13/04 - 15:00	Saltdean United (A)	SCFLP			
20/04 - 15:00	Newhaven (H)	SCFLP			



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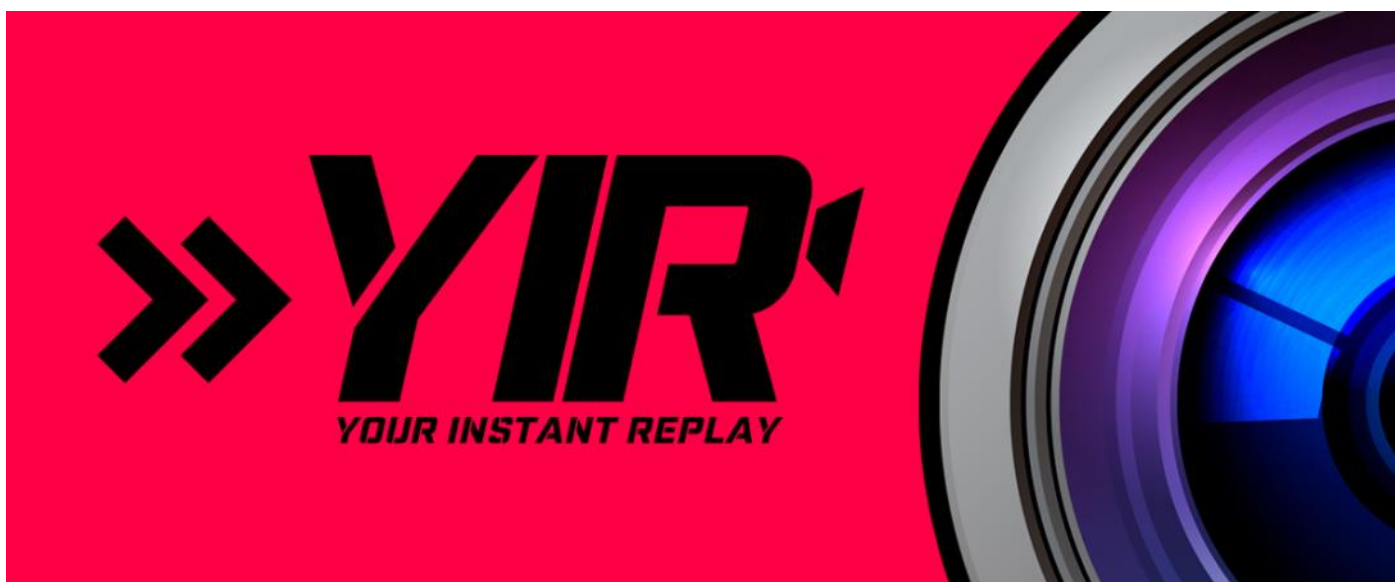
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Ladies Matches 2023-24

Date & Time	Opponents	Comp	F-A	Scorers
August				
20/08 - 15:00	Bromley (A)	LSE1S		
September				
17/09 - 14:00	Bexhill United (A)	LSE1S		
24/09 - 14:00	Eastbourne United (H)	LSE1S		
October				
08/10 - 14:00	Herne Bay (H)	LSE1S		
29/10 - 14:00	Newhaven (A)	LSE1S		
November				
05/11 - 14:00	Ashford United (H)	LSEC2		





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.

Around the League...



Another new season is upon us with several changes... not least the name, which is now officially the Premier Sports Southern Combination League. Here is everything else you need to know ahead of the 2023-24 campaign...

We will face three new teams in the Premier Division this season; one relegated from the Isthmian League, one promoted from Division One and another moved sideways from the Wessex League.

It is the relegated club who will undoubtedly be of most interest to Robins fans, with the return of Haywards Heath Town to the Southern Combination after five seasons bringing about a return of the Mid Sussex Derby.

Heath will be amongst the favourites to make an immediate return to step four under Jay Lovett, who has put together a squad littered with ex-Hassocks players.

Charlie Pitcher has moved to Hanbury Park from Littlehampton Town, George Brown remains with Heath after signing from Burgess Hill Town at the backend of the previous campaign and young JJ Minty has joined Heath after playing for us on a dual-signing agreement from the Hillians last season.

We will face Heath in the traditional holiday matches, hosting at the Beacon on Boxing Day before making the short trip north on Easter Monday.

Our old friends at Shoreham have been promoted after winning the Division One title last season, ending a four year absence from the Premier Division in the process.

Under the management of former Robins striker Michael Death, the Musselmen were the outstanding team at step six last season and will be hoping to make an impression on their return to the top division.

Hassocks supporters will get an early opportunity to see what Shoreham are all about when they visit the Beacon on August Bank Holiday Monday, kick off 11am at the Beacon.

The third newcomers (or in this case, oldcomers moved back to the Southern Combination League after a year away) are Pagham.

Having struggled in the much tougher Wessex League last season after being shoved over there by the FA, the Lions will fancy their chances of pushing for one of the top six places they used to have a monopoly on in the Southern Combination.

Broadbridge Heath, Alfold and Roffey have all left the Premier Division. The Bears earned a well-deserved promotion after claiming their first ever Southern Combination League title whilst Alfold and Roffey were relegated into Division One.

Whereas last summer saw almost half the Premier Division change managers, the merry-go-round has been a little slower in 2023.

Of most interest to Hassocks supporters will be the appointment of Peter Barkley at our Tuesday night opponents Loxwood and Kieran Ridley taking over at Saltdean United.

Starting with Loxwood, Barkley and his assistant Michael Lockhart bring with them the Bunch of Amateurs YouTube channel, meaning viewers will be able to take a look behind-the-scenes at the Nest throughout the season.

Saltdean meanwhile climbed clear of the drop zone in the final few weeks of the season having replaced our former head coach Brad Sweetman with their women's manager Joe McTiffen.

Ridley has since made the move from Newhaven Under 23s and has so far retained a number of the young players who followed Sweetman from the Beacon to Hill Park last summer.

Division One has two new sides for 2023-24 along with Roffey and Alfold.

Copthorne have been promoted

into senior football for the first time after finishing as runners up to Jarvis Brook in Division Two last season.

Former Brighton midfielder Simon Funnell is in charge with home games being played at Horsham's Camping World Stadium, enabling Copthorne to pass the relevant ground grading criteria.

Unfortunately, Jarvis Brook were unable to take their place in Division One after the Lime Kiln failed its inspection in controversial circumstances.

The other new club are Banstead Athletic. The As finished 19th of 20 in the Combined Counties Premier South last season but rather than be relegated into Division One of the Surrey-based league, they take the place of Epsom & Ewell in the Southern Combination.

Epsom consequently go into the Combined Counties having won the Southern Combination Division One promotion playoffs back in April, rather than following Shoreham into the Premier.

Hailsham Town were the one side relegated from Division One, taking the place of Copthorne. With no teams being promoted into Division Two and Charlwood folding, the league will contain only 13 clubs for the 2023-24 campaign.

Finally, a note on balls. You may notice that with Macron Store Hastings having been replaced by Premier Sports, the matchday footballs being used across the Southern Combination League this season will be made by Mitre rather than Macron.



Tables Form Top Scorers Attendances

Premier Division Form Guide

Last 6

- AFC Uckfield Town
- AFC Varndeanians
- Bexhill United
- Crawley Down Gatwick
- Crowborough Athletic
- Eastbourne Town**
- Eastbourne United
- Hassocks**
- Haywards Heath Town
- Horsham YMCA
- Lingfield
- Little Common
- Loxwood
- Midhurst & Easebourne
- Newhaven
- Pagham
- Peacehaven & Tels.
- Saltdean United
- Shoreham
- Steyning Town

Southern Combination Premier Division Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AFC Uckfield Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFC Varndeanians	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bexhill United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crawley Down Gatwick	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crowborough Athletic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastbourne Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastbourne United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hassocks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haywards Heath Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horsham YMCA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lingfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Common	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Loxwood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Midhurst & Easebourne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newhaven	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pagham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peacehaven & Tels.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saltdean United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shoreham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Steyning Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Premier Division Attendances

	Ave	High	Low
AFC Uckfield Town			
AFC Varndeanians			
Bexhill United			
Crawley Down Gatwick			
Crowborough Athletic			
Eastbourne Town			
Eastbourne United			
Hassocks			
Haywards Heath Town			
Horsham YMCA			
Lingfield			
Little Common			
Loxwood			
Midhurst & Easebourne			
Newhaven			
Pagham			
Peacehaven & Tels.			
Saltdean United			
Shoreham			
Steyning Town			

Premier Division Top Scorers

Player Club Gls

Under 23s
Under 18s
Ladies
Veterans



Southern Combination Under 23 North Division Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Broadbridge Heath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hassocks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horley Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horsham YMCA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lingfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oakwood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Redhill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roffey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Francis Rangers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Steyning Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Under 23 North Division Top Scorers

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

Southern Combination Under 18 Central Division Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AFC Varndeanians	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burgess Hill Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hassocks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haywards Heath Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lancing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mile Oak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montpelier Villa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saltdean United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shoreham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Francis Rangers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Under 18 Central Division Top Scorers

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

London & South East Women's Division One South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bexhill United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bognor Regis Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bromley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dartford Reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastbourne United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hassocks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Herne Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montpelier Villa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newhaven	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Steyning Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Welling United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

LSER Division One South Top Scorers

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



Upcoming Fixtures >>>



Loxwood v Hassocks

Southern Combination League Premier Division
Tuesday 1st August 2023, 7:45pm
The Nest, Plaistow Road, Loxwood RH14 OSX

We head to the Nest on Tuesday night as the first opponents to visit Loxwood for a competitive game against new manager Peter Barkley and his rebuilt squad, who will be hoping to impress on their home bow

Loxwood last season

Having finished in the bottom two in 2021-22 and spared relegation into Division One only due to ground grading, the Magpies avoided any drama in 2022-23 thanks to a strong finish to the campaign lifting them 12 points clear of the drop zone and into 15th spot. To build on that lower midtable finish, Loxwood have appointed former Kingstonian and Corinthian Casuals coach Peter Barkley as their new manager. Barkley said upon his appointment at the Nest that the aim is to be competitive in the top half of the table this season. The Magpies have been busy on the transfer front, securing a number of new additions with step five and above experience

which will make them something of an unknown quantity in the early weeks of the campaign.

Head-to-head

The sides first clashed in the 2014-15 season when Loxwood secured promotion to the Premier Division for the first time. Since then, there have been 16 meetings, all of which have come in the bread and butter of league football. We have won four, drawn four and lost eight. After a relatively sluggish start in terms of entertainment, the fixture has now provided 27 goals in the past seven matches.

Last time we met

We recorded consecutive clean sheet

number four in what would prove to be a club-record sequence of five shutouts in a row when Loxwood came to the Beacon in March. At the other end, goals from Alex Bygraves and Phil Johnson in eight minutes either side of the hour mark secured a 2-0 victory.

How to get to the Nest

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

<<< Upcoming Fixtures



Hassocks v Erith Town

Emirates FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round
Saturday 5th August 2023, 3:00pm
The Beacon, Brighton Road, Hassocks, BN6 9LY
Admission prices £8 adults, £4 concessions, Under 16s free

The Magic of the FA Cup is back at the Beacon as we host Southern Counties East League Premier Division side Erith Town in what looks to an extremely tough draw given the Dockers' impressive 2022-23 campaign

Erith Town last season

Like Hassocks, Erith Town enjoyed their best campaign since 2013-14 last time out. A fourth placed finish in the Southern Counties East League Premier Division was their second highest ever placing after the third place achieved nine years previously. It also maintained their fine record of finishing in the top six in each of the last three completed campaigns. That impressive league form transferred to both the national cup competitions. In the FA Cup, the Dockers went all the way to the first qualifying round where they were eliminated by Three Bridges. Bridges famously went onto draw Hereford United at home later in the competition. Erith meanwhile advanced to the fourth round of the

FA Vase, knocking out Southern Combination runners up Crawley Down Gatwick along the way.

Head-to-head

We have faced the Dockers on four previous occasions, all in the FA Cup. A 2-2 preliminary qualifying round draw at the Erith Sports Stadium in August 2000 was followed by a 3-1 Hassocks victory three days later back here at the Beacon. We were paired together again in the 2005-06 campaign in the extra preliminary round. Pat Harding scored twice and Anthony Hibbert once at the start of a memorable FA Cup run which only came to an end two games away from the first round proper. The fourth and most recent clash came

five years ago in the 2018-19 season...

Last time we met

The Robins were in the midst of a terrible run against opponents from outside the Southern Combination League in national cup competitions. When Spencer Slaughter put us 1-0 ahead with seven minutes played, there was some hope that a rare victory over a non-Sussex club might be on the cards. Unfortunately, said hope lasted all of three minutes before Alex Nelson equalised for Erith. Luis Valencia made it 2-1 midway through the first half before adding his second and the Dockers' third with the game in its final few seconds.



Hassocks v Lingfield

Southern Combination League Premier Division
Saturday 12th August 2023, 3:00pm
The Beacon, Brighton Road, Hassocks, BN6 9LY
Admission prices £8 adults, £4 concessions, Under 16s free

Our third home fixture in the opening three weeks of the season brings Lingfield to the Beacon, opponents who continue to thrive in the Premier Division despite often living a somewhat nomadic existence

Lingfield last season

Problems with their Godstone Road home throughout the campaign meant Lingfield switching venues frequently; either moving games to 3G pitches or asking the visiting side to host instead. It says much about the quality they have that the Lingers still managed to finish in 14th position in the Premier Division table. They won 10, drew four and lost 24 of their matches. Throughout the first half of the campaign, they earned a reputation as one of the most entertaining sides to watch with a goals for record which put them in the top five for the division and a goals against record which was amongst the five worst.

Head-to-head

There have been 33 meetings with the Robins leading the head-to-head with 15 wins to the Lingers' 10, leaving eight draws. Lingfield had been the dominant side in recent years but since January 2022 we have gone unbeaten in four matches, winning three and drawing one.

Last time we met

Lingfield surrendered home advantage, requesting that the Beacon host our clash on the penultimate weekend of last season rather than Godstone Road. A somewhat ill-tempered affair went the way of "the visitors" as two goals from Liam Benson and one from Pat Harding secured a 3-1 win. Conor

Wilford scored the consolation for Lingfield whilst a very bemused Mike Williamson found himself going for a 10 minute spell in the sin bin despite being one of the most polite and friendly gentlemen on the Southern Combination League circuit.

Played for both

Not many individuals have turned out for both ourselves and the Lingers. Ben Bacon is one and he has a formidable record scoring against his former club, so fingers crossed that rears its head again. The other is Daley Clark, who moved to the Robins from Godstone Road in the summer of 2009. He went onto play 40 times in Hassocks colours.

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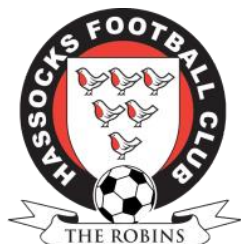
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AFC Varndeanians home
Little Common away
Horsham YMCA home
Crawley Down Gatwick away
AFC Uckfield Town home
Newhaven away
Peacehaven & Telscombe home
Crowborough Athletic away
Eastbourne Town away
Saltdean United home
Bexhill United away
Loxwood home
Lingfield away
Haywards Heath Town home
Shoreham away
AFC Varndeanians away
Little Common home
AFC Uckfield Town away
Pagham home
Peacehaven & Telscombe away
Crowborough Athletic home
Steyning Town home
Midhurst & Easebourne away
Eastbourne United home
Crawley Down Gatwick home
Horsham YMCA away
Haywards Heath Town away
Bexhill United home
Saltdean United away
Newhaven home



Player of the Month

August 2023

1st

2nd

3rd

September 2023

1st

2nd

3rd

October 2023

1st

2nd

3rd

November 2023

1st

2nd

3rd

December 2023

1st

2nd

3rd

January 2024

1st

2nd

3rd

February 2024

1st

2nd

3rd

March 2024

1st

2nd

3rd

April 2024

1st

2nd

3rd



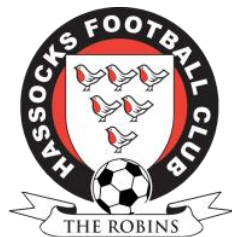
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HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB

Most



Most

Games

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. Phil Gault	331	21	352	190
8. James Laing	298	53	351	143
9. Warren Dodds	311	37	348	3
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. James Westlake	237	20	257	31
18. Joe Fernley	205	40	245	45
19. Neil Smith	232	10	242	68
20. Pat Harding	206	32	238	141
21. Dan Jacques	201	31	232	9
22. Mark Burnham	209	22	231	44
23. Nathan Miles	156	55	211	74
24. Phil Johnson	163	36	199	100
25. Marc Rendall	150	33	183	37

	Goals	Games
1. Phil Gault	190	352
2. James Laing	143	351
3. Pat Harding	141	238
4. Anthony Hibbert	124	462
5. Robbie Kitchen	123	323
6. Phil Johnson	100	199
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. Liam Benson	50	176
13. Spencer Slaughter	47	293
14. Joe Fernley	45	245
15. Mark Burnham	44	231
16. Matt Amos	38	81
17. Michael Death	38	112
18. Marc Rendall	37	183
19. Andy Burt	35	133
20. Jack Troak	31	122
21. Luke Flomo	31	146
22. James Westlake	31	257
23. Dan Smith	27	63
24. Jamie Hillwood	25	124
25. Stuart Faith	22	289





Player Sponsorship 2023-24

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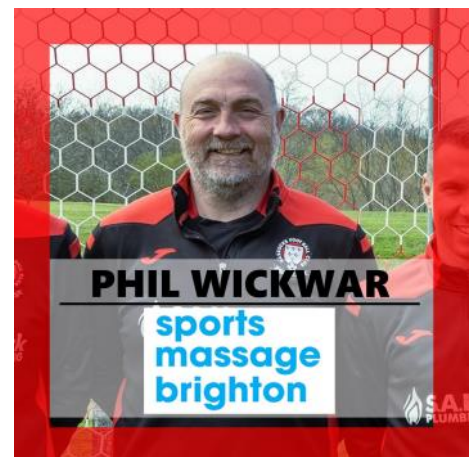
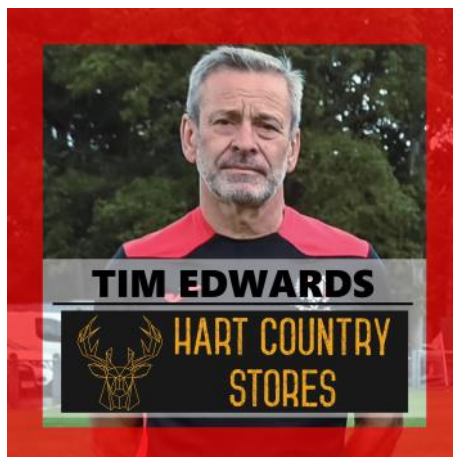
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Player Sponsors 2023-24



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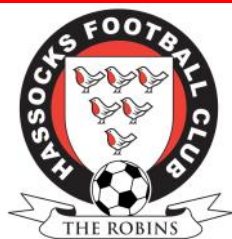
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Today's Teams



HASSOCKS

Fraser TRIGWELL	
Harvey BLAKE	
Joe BULL	
Alex BYGRAVES	
Bradley TIGHE	
Matt GUNN	
Sam SMITH	
Mike WILLIAMSON	
Lewis WESTLAKE	
Josh MUNDY	
Jamie WILKES	
Tom FRANKLAND	
Elliott HANSLOW	
Alfie LOVERSIDGE	
Jack TROAK	
Kyle WOOLVEN	
Pat HARDING	
Ben BACON	
Liam BENSON	
Alex BREWER	

Head Coach James Westlake

Assistants Tom Hughes & Jordan Wilson

Goalkeeper Coach Tim Edwards

Physio Jay Patel

Physio Ash Cooper

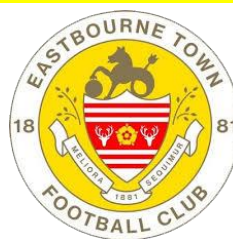
Physio Phil Wickwar

Next at the Beacon



Erith Town

Emirates FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round
Saturday 5th August 2023. 3:00pm



EASTBOURNE TOWN

	Chris WINTERTON
	Leon GREIG
	Jack MURPHY
	Harvey GREIG
	Frankie CHAPPELL
	Nathan HOVER
	Evan ARCHIBALD
	Delwin DUAH
	Charlie VELLA-ANDRADE
	Anesu SISIMYAI
	Ollie DAVIES
	Bailey FARRER
	Matthew MYALL
	Macca STILES
	Jason TIBBLE
	George COOK
	Blake LARBY
	Bailey MINTRIM
	Tom CHERRYMAN
	Adam DAVIDSON

Head Coach Jude MacDonald

Assistant Matthew Elphick

Coach Ben Davies

Goalkeeper Coach Dave Winterton

Physio Vicky McFarlane

Today's other Premier Division games

AFC Uckfield Town v AFC Varndeanians
Crowborough Athletic v Saltdean United
Eastbourne United v Haywards Heath Town
Horsham YMCA v Newhaven
Little Common v Shoreham
Midhurst & Easebourne v Lingfield
Pagham v Crawley Down Gatwick
Peacehaven & Telscombe v Loxwood
Steyning Town v Bexhill United



Keep abreast of The Robins

For the latest news and updates from The Beacon



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