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THE ROBINS



Emirates
FA CUP

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THE EMIRATES FA CUP
EXTRA-PRELIMINARY ROUND
SATURDAY 5TH AUGUST 2023 - 3PM

MATCHDAY
PROGRAMME NO. 2



HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB

Founded 1902

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UNDER 23s HEAD COACH

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UNDER 18s HEAD COACH

Sean Fernley

VETERANS TEAM MANAGER

Steve Spies

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 today's Emirates FA Cup extra preliminary round tie with Erith Town

Firstly, we have to report the sad news that Hassocks stalwart Dave Knight passed away recently.

Dave fulfilled many different roles through many years of service, both on and off the pitch. We hope to run a full and proper tribute to Dave in the coming weeks.

For those wishing to pay their respects, the funeral will be held on Tuesday 15th August, 11am at Clayton Wood Burial Ground.

The thoughts of everyone at the Beacon are with Dave's family at this difficult time.

To today and we extend a warm welcome to the players, management, committee and supporters of Erith who have made the journey and hope they enjoy their brief stay in Mid Sussex with us today.

Games against opponents from outside the Southern Combination League are always difficult and this afternoon will be no different with the Dockers having finished fourth in the Southern Counties East Premier Division last season.

We have added incentive to win beyond taking a step closer towards

Wembley and putting a big smile on Johnsy's face by pocketing some prize money.

The winners of today's tie will face either Sutton Common Rovers or Burgess Hill Town away in the preliminary qualifying round in a fortnight.

If both us and the Hillians were to be victorious this afternoon, then it would lead to our first competitive Mid Sussex Derby since the 2002-03 season.

Easier said than done, of course. But confidence should be high amongst the players following out best start to a season since 2016-17 which has yielded four points out of a possible six.

Last Saturday saw us take a well-earned point against Eastbourne Town in front of the biggest Premier Division crowd of the day.

Everyone knows what a good side Town are and yet they could probably consider themselves a little fortunate to leave with a point.

It was then onto Loxwood on Tuesday night, where a thoroughly professional performance secured a fine 3-0 win.

Goals had proven hard to come by at times during pre-season, so for

there to be three different players on the scoresheet at the Nest in Tom Frankland, Liam Benson and Super Pat was very pleasing.

At the other end, Fraser Trigwell did not have a meaningful save to make.

It was the perfect display of attacking intent combined with defensive solidity that left the home support very frustrated and made the long there and back worthwhile.

The action starts to intensify over the coming weeks with confirmation of our opening fixtures for the Under 23s and Under 18s sides.

The Under 23s will begin the defence of their North Division title away at league newcomers Redhill on Thursday 17th August.

As is tradition, the Under 18 season gets underway on the first Sunday in September, when the Young Robins will face Shoreham at the Beacon.

Finally, our next game here at the Beacon is against Lingfield a week today at 3pm.

Thank you for your support and enjoy the game,

Owen & Scott



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Erith Town are a club on the up. Big crowds, three consecutive top 10 finishes in the Southern Counties East Premier Division and memorable runs in the FA Cup and FA Vase last season mark the Dockers out as dangerous opponents this afternoon

Like ourselves, Erith 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.

Even more impressive than the Dockers' league form were there performances in the national knockout competitions - an ominous sign for this afternoon, perhaps.

In the FA Cup, Erith 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, putting up a brave fight before elimination in front of a huge crowd at Jubilee Field.

Included amongst their victims in that FA Cup run were Pagham, whom the Dockers hammered 4-0 at Nyetimber Lane.

Five victories in the FA Vase took the Dockers to the fourth round and a shootout defeat to Bridgwater United.

Two of those wins came against Southern Combination League clubs, Erith winning 6-0 over Loxwood in the first qualifying round before knocking out Premier Division runners up Crawley Down Gatwick in round one.

Today represents the fifth clash between Robins and Dockers, the previous four all having also come in the FA Cup.

We have two wins to our name, a 3-1 preliminary qualifying round replay victory at the Beacon in August 2000 and a 3-0 extra preliminary in 2005 with a certain Pat Harding scoring twice.

One game has ended level, a 2-2 draw at the Erith Sports Stadium leading to that Beacon replay in 2000.

The Dockers meanwhile won on their previous visit to Mid Sussex five years ago, running out 3-1 victors. From a Hassocks point of view, hopefully there will not be a repeat today...

Dockers Factfile

Founded 1959
Ground Stanmore Stadium
Website erithtown.co.uk
Twitter @ErithTown
Instagram @erithtown
Manager Adam Woodward
Top scorer

Club Honours

Kent Senior Trophy
Winners 2011
Southern Counties East League Premier Division Cup
Winners 2008
Runners up 2009
Metropolitan Sunday League
Winners 1966, 1971, 1975

10 Key Dockers Moments

1959... club was founded as Woolwich Town, initially as a Sunday League side
1966... win their first of three London Metropolitan Sunday League titles
1991... make the switch to Saturday football by joining the London Spartan League
1995... three promotions in three years saw the Dockers reach the Spartan Premier Division
1996... moved from the Spartan League to the South East Counties League
1997... adopt their current name to reflect their relocation from Greenwich to Erith
2008... win the South East Counties League Cup, defeating favourites Hythe Town 1-0 in the final
2009... come close to retaining the League Cup before losing the final on penalties to Croydon
2011... lift their first ever Kent Senior Trophy with victory over Tunbridge Wells
2014... record their highest ever league finish of third in the Southern Counties East League Premier

Last 20 Seasons

2022-23: Southern Counties East Premier 4th
2021-22: Southern Counties East Premier 7th
2018-19: Southern Counties East Premier 6th
2017-18: Southern Counties East Premier 17th
2016-17: Southern Counties East Premier 17th
2015-16: Southern Counties East Premier 13th
2014-15: Southern Counties East Premier 19th
2013-14: Southern Counties East Premier 3rd
2012-13: Southern Counties East Premier 3rd
2011-12: Southern Counties East Premier 4th
2010-11: Southern Counties East Premier 8th
2009-10: Southern Counties East Premier 8th
2008-09: Southern Counties East Premier 7th
2007-08: Southern Counties East Premier 5th
2006-07: Southern Counties East Premier 14th
2005-06: Southern Counties East Premier 14th
2004-05: Southern Counties East Premier 15th
2003-04: Southern Counties East Premier 7th
2002-03: Southern Counties East Premier 15th
2000-01: Southern Counties East Premier 11th

Robins v Erith Town

FA Cup > Played 4 - Won 2 - Drawn 1 - Lost 1 - Scored 9 - Conceded 6

Total > Played 4 - **Won 2** - **Drawn 1** - **Lost 1** - Scored 9 - Conceded 6

Previous Meetings

2018-19
FA Cup: Hassocks 1-3 Erith Town
2005-06
FA Cup: Erith Town 0-3 Hassocks

2000-01
FA Cup: Hassocks 3-1 Erith Town
FA Cup: Erith Town 2-2 Hassocks





Still no love for the FA Cup as barren run goes on for Robins

It may be the world's most romantic cup competition, but Hassocks are still not feeling the love for the FA Cup after their winless run in the competition was stretched to five years.

You have to go back to 2013 to find the last time Hassocks won an FA Cup game.

That was in the Preliminary Round stage when the Robins eliminated Dorking Wanderers in a replay.

They went onto give Isthmian League side Chipstead a real fright in the next round before succumbing to an unfortunate 2-1 defeat. Since then, the cupboard has been bare.

True, Hassocks didn't enter for two seasons in 2015-16 and 2016-17, but their three other adventures have all ended in the Extra Preliminary Round stage, the latest of which was against Southern Counties East Premier division outfit Erith Town at the Beacon.

Both sides came into the game with identical league records of one point from two games.

Erith opened their campaign with a 4-2 defeat to K Sports, who Hassocks will host in the FA Vase in three weeks time.

They followed that up with a 1-1 draw against Glebe at the Erith Sports Stadium in their first game at their traditional home ground for five years. Since 2013, they've ground shared firstly with Cray Valley PM and then VCD Athletic.

Understandably, the return to Erith has given the Dockers a real boost this season and as a result they arrived at the Beacon in buoyant mood to take on a Hassocks side fresh from a 6-0 hammering at the hands of Chichester City in midweek.

You would have thought that the momentum would be with the visitors then but it took just seven minutes for Hassocks to upset the apple cart, Spencer Slaughter opening the scoring with his first goal of the season.

Slaughter was one of three changes made by Robins boss Mark Dalglish.

The other saw Will Broomfield come in for his first start of the season at the expense of Dan Webster whilst Harvey Blake was handed a full debut in place of Harry Mills after two promising cameos from the bench since his summer move from Mid Sussex League side Sporting Lindfield.

The lead was short lived as within three minutes, Erith were level through Alex Nelson.

They went into half time 2-1 ahead, Luis Valencia adding the visitors second on 24 minutes.

Whatever Dalglish said to his side at half time had the desired effect as Hassocks were much the better side at the start of the second half.

The Robins were knocking on the door without ever quite managing to force it open until they were awarded a penalty in the 65th minute.

That proved to be the turning point in the game and not in the way that Hassocks would've hoped as the otherwise outstanding Slaughter saw his spot kick kept out by the visiting goalkeeper.

It knocked the wind from the Robins sails somewhat and they never really recovered despite throwing on the lively Joe Bull for his debut from the substitutes bench, the former Whitehawk youngster becoming the 299th player to represent Hassocks in the Beacon era in the process.

Still, Hassocks harboured hopes of earning a trip to South East London for a Monday night replay right up until the 89th minute when Valencia finally put the Robins out of their misery with his second and Erith's third of the afternoon.

That set the Dockers up for a meeting with Hassocks' fellow Southern Combination League Premier division side Loxwood in the next round.

For the Robins, it is back to the drawing board as they will have to wait at least another year to try and end their FA Cup hoodoo.

Hassocks: Harris; Blake, Badger, Broomfield, Bant; Wilkins, Slaughter, Stokes, Lindsey; Spinks; Benson.

Subs: Bull (used), Mills, Atherton, Webster, Collins, Russell (unused).



HASSOCKS IN THE FA CUP

The 2022-23 season represents Hassocks' 25th crack at the FA Cup with the Robins furthest run so far seeing them get to within two games of the first round proper. We look back at our previous efforts in the world's greatest cup competition

Rattling the Rooks

Hassocks' best run in the FA Cup came in the 2001-02 season when Dave John's side made it to within two games of the first round proper.

Lewes were the team who ended that most unlikely of dreams, triumphing 3-0 in the third qualifying round.

Ashford Town were seen off 3-2 in the Preliminary Qualifying Round to set up a date with Ash United in the First Qualifying Round.

Nothing could separate the sides in the first game at the Beacon and so it was off to the Shawfield Stadium for a Tuesday night replay.

Three goals in six second half minutes were enough to win the tie for Hassocks and end Ash's unbeaten start to the season as well.

Marc Rendall notched the first in the 70th minute, bringing a Mickey Turner cross under control and slamming the ball into the bottom corner.

Home defender Stuart Woodhouse put through his own net with a volley from a quickly-taken Luke Flomo free kick five minutes

later.

And the blitz was completed when Flomo teed up James Laing who beat two defenders to fire home.

The result and performance earned Hassocks the applause of the Ash support and handed the Robins a home tie against Bromley from two divisions higher up the pyramid.

“Not many people gave Hassocks a hope going into their tie with Bromley, but the Robins pulled off one of the shocks of the round by comfortably winning 2-0 at the Beacon against their visitors from two divisions above.”

Not many people gave Hassocks a hope going into that one, but the Robins pulled off one of the shocks of the round by comfortably winning 2-0 at the Beacon.

That set up a mouth watering all-Sussex tie at the Dripping Pan, where

Jimmy Quinn's Rooks proved to be too good for Hassocks.

Lewes would go onto make it all the way into the main draw, facing Stoke City at the Britannia Stadium in the first round.

The Robins meanwhile were able to build the Maurice Boxall Stand with the money generated from their cup run, which still stands on the south side of the Beacon today.

Nothing dull about Dulwich

Fast forward four seasons to the 2005-06 campaign and Hassocks nearly equalled that famous run, going out at the second qualifying round stage against Isthmian Premier side Dulwich Hamlet.

Being the only Southern Combination League side left in the competition by that point, there was a bumper crowd at the Beacon of over 300 who witnessed Hamlet squeak through by the tightest of 1-0 margins.

It took four games to get that far in the competition, victories over this afternoon's opponents Erith Town and Chessington & Hook sandwiching

two meetings with Hillingdon Borough, the Robins knocking Hillingdon out in a replay.

Pat Harding had a particularly good time of it that season, scoring four times in the cup run.

Super Pat is one of only two players who have left Hassocks and gone onto feature in the first round proper of the competition.

That was when he was a regular at Eastbourne Borough; the other player being Eddie French, who was part of Horsham's famous run that included taking Swansea City to a replay in the mid 2000's.

Facing the big guns

The biggest side the Robins have faced in the FA Cup was Havant & Waterlooville in the First Qualifying Round in the 1998-99 season.

That game saw a highly creditable 1-0 defeat away at Westleigh Park, one of six exits at that stage of the competition for Hassocks.

The Robins have faced Bromley - who can currently be found in the Conference National - on two other occasions aside from that 2001-02 run.

Both of those came in the 1999-00 season, when the Ravens required a replay to knock the Robins out, eventually winning 2-1 at Hayes Road after a 1-1 draw at the Beacon.

That tie was set up by one of our most notable scalps in the competition, a 1-0 win away at Horsham.

French scored the only goal of the game at Queens Road against the side he would go onto join not long after, heading home a Dickie Fernley corner in the 29th minute.

The Hornets were unable to find a way past the inspired Paul John in the Hassocks goal after that and their heads dropped as a result for the final 20 minutes in which Hassocks could have made the game safe.

Laing was denied twice by Horsham' debutant goalkeeper Phil Lewis and Lewis also saved well from a powerful Adam Waller drive.

The shock result saw Hornets boss Russell Mason quit as manager in the immediate aftermath.

Although not a particularly notable scalp at the time, current Conference National side Dorking Wanderers found themselves eliminated by the Robins in a preliminary qualifying round replay in the 2013-14 campaign.

Wanderers were a fellow Southern Combination League Premier Division side at the time, in the midst of their remarkable climb from parks football to one step below the professional ranks.

Phil Gault got the only goal at the Beacon



The Maurice Boxall Stand was built with the proceeds of the Robins' 2001 run to the Third Qualifying Round



A bumper crowd of over 300 pack out the Beacon for a second qualifying round tie with Dulwich Hamlet in 2005



Nathan Cooper can't believe it as Phil Gault's missed 90th minute penalty sends Hassocks out against Chipstead in 2013

three days after the sides had drawn 0-0 at Westhumble Playing Field.

Hassocks' heaviest FA Cup defeat came in the First Qualifying Round in 2010-11, a 5-0 away defeat at an impressive Sholing side.

It was a game overshadowed by Chris Maynard suffering a terrible double leg break that would rule him out for the best part of a year.

That season was also responsible for the Robins' biggest ever FA Cup win when Eastbourne United were hammered 7-1 at the Beacon in the Extra Preliminary Round of the competition.

Maynard scored twice along with a Neil Kane brace and further goals from Anthony Hibbert, Daley Clark and Dan Smith.

Aside from the big loss at Sholing, there have been a couple of other heavy defeats in the First Qualifying Round, with Tonbridge Angels and Sittingbourne both beating the Robins 3-0.

The most recent time Hassocks made it as far as the First Qualifying Round was in the 2013-14 season under the management of Mickey Jewell.

That run included a rare victory at Gorings Mead against fellow Southern Combination League side Horsham YMCA followed by the aforementioned elimination of Dorking.

Isthmian South side Chipstead provided the opponents in the first qualifying round, winning 2-1 at the Beacon.

The Robins were good value for the draw that today however and would have had a replay three days

later were it not for a last minute penalty miss from the normally reliable Gault.

Lord Gault did suitably punish himself afterwards, spending the evening drowning his sorrows in notorious Burgess Hill nightspot Jacobs Post.

Learning the ropes

It took Hassocks a few seasons to learn the ropes of national cup competitions - that shock win at Horsham in 1999-00 was our first in the competition at the fourth time of entering

Hassocks' first ever FA Cup game came in the Preliminary Round in the 1996-97 season, a 3-1 home defeat against Egham Town.

The following season saw a 2-1 defeat against Barton Rovers while there have been seven other exits at the second stage; to Molesey 3-0, Merstham 3-1, Walton & Hersham 3-0 and most disappointingly, a heavy 4-0 loss at Mill Road against fellow Southern Combination League club Arundel in 2003-04.

2019-20 saw a replay exit against Chipstead after Langney Wanderers had been beaten 2-0 at the Beacon in the previous round.

The Hassocks squad infamously celebrated their draw away at Isthmian League opponents by visiting a pub deep in Crystal Palace territory with tracksuits emblazoned with WeAreBrighton.com on the back which, needless to say, did not go down well with the locals.

2020-21 saw a dramatic 5-3 penalty shoot out win over Balham followed by elimination at the hands

of Bedfont Sports.

Uxbridge then accounted for Hassocks in the Preliminary Round last season after a spectacular Conor Wilford own goal from 30 yards which racked up nearly a million views on Twitter had sent the Robins through against Lingfield

Over and out as early as possible

The Extra Preliminary Round was added to the competition for 2005-06 and Hassocks have exited at that earliest point of the competition in seven of the last 10 seasons that we have entered the competition.

The first of those came in 2008-09, a disappointing 1-0 defeat to Shoreham played at Culver Road due to the summer pitch works at the Beacon not being completed in time to host the tie.

Kane was still a Shoreham player at that point and he got the only goal of the game for the Mussels.

By the time Hassocks were knocked out of the following seasons competition Kane was in a Hassocks shirt, part of Dave John's side which crashed out 4-1 against Ash United.

Back-to-back Extra Preliminary Round exits came in 2011-12 away at Raynes Park Vale and a shock reversal at home to Sidley United in 2012-13.

Hassocks' 2014-15, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2021-22 voyages all came to an end at the Extra Preliminary Round when they were well beaten 3-1 by Epsom and Ewell, 3-2 by Hollands and Blair, 3-1 by Erith Town and 2-1 by Spelthorne Sports respectively.



The Robins celebrate their 2020-21 extra preliminary round penalty shoot out victory over Balham. It was the first time Hassocks had eliminated a side from outside of the Southern Combination League from the FA Cup in a decade

Every Hassocks result in the FA Cup



1996-97

Preliminary: Hassocks 1-3 Egham Town

1997-98

Preliminary: Hassocks 1-2 Barton Rovers

1998-99

Qualifying 1: Havant & Waterlooville 1-0 Hassocks

1999-00

Preliminary: Horsham 0-1 Hassocks

Qualifying 1: Hassocks 1-1 Bromley

Qualifying 1 Replay: Bromley 2-1 Hassocks

2000-01

Preliminary: Erith Town 2-2 Hassocks

Preliminary Replay: Hassocks 3-1 Erith Town

Qualifying 1: Tonbridge Angels 3-0 Hassocks

2001-02

Preliminary: Hassocks 3-2 Ashford Town

Qualifying 1: Hassocks 3-0 Ash United

Qualifying 2: Hassocks 2-0 Bromley

Qualifying 3: Lewes 3-0 Hassocks

2002-03

Preliminary: Molesey 3-0 Hassocks

2003-04

Preliminary: Arundel 4-0 Hassocks

2004-05

Preliminary: Hassocks 1-3 Merstham

2005-06

Extra Preliminary: Erith Town 1-3 Hassocks

Preliminary: Hillingdon Borough 0-0 Hassocks

Preliminary Replay: Hassocks 2-1 Hillingdon Borough

Qualifying 1: Chessington & Hook 0-3 Hassocks

Qualifying 2: Hassocks 0-1 Dulwich Hamlet

2006-07

Extra Preliminary: Hassocks 1-0 Wantage

Preliminary: Hassocks 2-0 Newport IOW

Qualifying 1: Sittingbourne 3-0 Hassocks

2007-08

Extra Preliminary: Hassocks 1-0 Rye United

Preliminary: Walton & Hersham 3-0 Hassocks

2008-09

Extra Preliminary: Hassocks 0-1 Shoreham

2009-10

Extra Preliminary: Hassocks 1-4 Ash United

2010-11

Extra Preliminary: Hassocks 7-1 Eastbourne United

Preliminary: Hassocks 3-2 Farnham Town

Qualifying 1: Sholing 5-0 Hassocks

2011-12

Extra Preliminary: Raynes Park Vale 3-1 Hassocks

2012-13

Extra Preliminary: Hassocks 0-1 Sidley United

2013-14

Extra Preliminary: Horsham YMCA 2-3 Hassocks

Preliminary: Dorking Wanderers 0-0 Hassocks

Preliminary Replay: Hassocks 1-0 Dorking Wanderers

Qualifying 1: Hassocks 1-2 Chipstead

2014-15

Extra Preliminary: Hassocks 1-3 Epsom & Ewell

2017-18

Extra Preliminary: Hassocks 2-3 Hollands & Blair

2018-19

Extra Preliminary: Hassocks 1-3 Erith Town

2019-20

Extra Preliminary: Hassocks 2-0 Langney Wanderers

Preliminary: Chipstead 0-0 Hassocks

Preliminary Replay: Hassocks 2-3 Chipstead

2020-21

Extra Preliminary: Balham 2-2 Hassocks (Won 5-3 pens)

Preliminary: Bedfont Sports 3-1 Hassocks

2021-22

Extra Preliminary: Hassocks 1-2 Spelthorne Sports

2022-23

Extra Preliminary: Hassocks 1-0 Lingfield

Preliminary: Hassocks 1-3 Uxbridge



John Broomfield

REMOVALS

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Hassocks*Life*

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Ben Bacon and Kyle Woolven in action for Hassocks

Meet our new Robins

It has been a refreshingly quiet summer compared to normal standards at the Beacon. Five new faces have come into the first team squad with four players departing for pastures new. Here is the rundown of the Robins' transfer business

First through the door came dangerous winger **Kyle Woolven** from AFC Varndeanians.

Woolven will be a familiar name to Robins fans having done his fair share of tormenting of Hassocks over the past seven or so years since coming through the ranks at Newhaven.

A member of the Dockers' incredibly successful Under 18s side in 2014-15, Woolven scored six goals

and assisted 17 as Newhaven went the season unbeaten to win the Southern Combination League Under 18 East Division title by 12 points from AFC Uckfield Town.

Once established in the senior setup at the Trafalgar Ground, Woolven's form earned him a move to Isthmian League side East Grinstead Town at the start of the 2019-20 campaign.

Woolven made 13 appearances

for the Wasps before joining Lancing in November 2019, where he was a teammate of current Hassocks favourite Alex Bygraves.

Two goals in 16 appearances followed for a Lancers side who topped the Southern Combination Premier Division table and looked destined for promotion before Covid-19 led the season to be declared null and void in March.

The summer of 2020 saw

Woolven join another Isthmian League outfit in Three Bridges.

He then returned to Newhaven midway through the 2020-21 campaign, playing 16 times and scoring twice for the Dockers before another lockdown.

Woolven remained with Newhaven for the start of the 2021-22 season, playing 16 times before switching to AFC Varndeanians.

From the moment he arrived at Withdean Stadium, he was one of the first names on the team sheet when available.

22 appearances in the second half of 2021-22 yielded six goals. Woolven then played 32 times for Varndeanians in the previous campaign, contributing two goals and four assists.

The Robins second summer signing was a familiar rather than new face signing for Hassocks for a third time.

Ben Bacon made 47 appearances for the Robins and scored 17 goals across his two previous spells with the club, the first of which began in the 2016-17 season.

Mark Dalglish and Phil Wickwar brought the striker in from Haywards Heath Town, where he found first team opportunities limited despite averaging over a goal a game for the Bluebells reserves side.

Bacon scored nine times from 24 matches in his first campaign with the Robins, the highlight being a hat-trick

in a 5-0 win away at Worthing United in October 2016 which helped end a club record run of seven consecutive defeats.

He left for Steyning Town in the summer of 2017 before moving onto Saltdean United for the 2018-19 season.

Whilst with Saltdean, he scored all four goals in his first game as an opponent of Hassocks to give the Tigers a 4-1 August Bank Holiday victory at the Beacon.

Bacon also turned out in the 2018-19 season for Lingfield and Steyning again, with whom he won the Southern Combination League Division One Cup and promotion to the Premier Division.

One month into the 2019-20 campaign and Mark Dalglish re-signed Bacon for Hassocks.

He scored in the first appearance of his second spell, rescuing a 2-2 draw at Horsham YMCA with an equaliser from the bench. That was one of eight goals Bacon notched from 22 appearances.

Despite the fact Bacon left for Three Bridges a couple of months before the 2020 lockdown arrived, his total was still enough to see him finish joint top scorer alongside James Littlejohn.

Bacon was prolific when he made the step up the Isthmian League with Bridges, scoring five times in his first 10 appearances.

His overall record over three

seasons at Jubilee Field read nine goals in 39 appearances.

Having dual-registered with Horsham YMCA during his time with Bridges, Bacon made the move permanent for the 2022-23 campaign.

He scored three times in 14 appearances for YM last season, including against Hassocks once again when the Robins won 4-2 at the Herbert Direct Stadium in September.

Given his penchant for scoring past the Robins, Bacon swapping YM for Hassocks does at least guarantee that will not be happening again.

It was another player from AFC Varndeanians who was third through the door with centre back **Matt Gunn** following Woolven in swapping Withdean for the Beacon.

Gunn first came to prominence at Newhaven - again alongside Woolven - playing for the Dockers across the 2017-18 and 2018-19 seasons.

Woolven and Gunn helped Newhaven finish ninth and fourth in the Premier Division standings over those two campaigns.

Gunn moved to Saltdean United for the start of the 2019-20 season, playing 13 times for the Tigers.

He had a brief three game spell in Division One with Seaford Town before joining Peacehaven & Telscombe.

Gunn only managed one senior



Defender Matt Gunn has joined from AFC Varndeanians

appearance and one Under 23s outing for the Tye before the campaign was declared null and void.

He played 14 times for Peacehaven in 2020-21 and made 13 appearances, scoring once in 2021-22 before moving to Varndeanians midway through the campaign.

Over his 18 months at Withdean, Gunn was a model of consistency in the Vs back line.

He played 11 times in his first half -season, following that up with 26 outings in 2022-23.

After helping Hassocks to a 5-1 pre-season friendly win at Billingshurst, Gunn committed himself to the Robins for the season.

Head coach Westlake subsequently told the Mid Sussex Times he was very pleased to have secured the signature of such a proven defender at Premier Division level.

The eve of the season saw Hassocks complete loan deals for young Three Bridges duo **Josh Mundy** and **Elliott Hanslow**.

Both were part of the Bridges Under 18s side who went all the way to the first round proper of the FA Youth Cup last season, where they were eliminated by Portsmouth at Fratton Park.

Bridges saw off Steyning Town, East Preston, Dorking Wanderers and Tring Athletic through the qualifying rounds with Hanslow scoring twice

along the way.

In the Isthmian Under 18 South Division, Bridges finished as runners up just one point behind champions Worthing.

Midfielder Mundy played 19 times in all competitions across the campaign and winger Hanslow made 23 appearances in which he contributed five goals.

Hanslow found himself breaking into the first team squad at Jubilee Field by the end of the season.

His senior debut came from the bench as a 60th minute substitute in a 2-1 home defeat to Beckenham Town in March and he was an unused substitute on several other occasions.

Mundy and Hanslow made a good impression on their first outings at the Beacon, combining for the Robins' second goal in their 5-0 pre-season victory over Oakwood.

After picking up possession in midfield, Mundy hit a delightful switch left to find Jack Troak scampering forward.

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

In terms of outgoing, two members of last season's first team squad have left the Beacon for Isthmian League football.

Goalkeeper **James Shaw** made an instant impression after joining the Robins in February from Tooting & Mitcham, soon helping set a club record of five consecutive clean sheets.

That form was enough to convince new Hillians manager Dean Cox to take Shaw back to the More Than Tyres Stadium for a second spell with the club.

Leon Turner had plenty of admirers last season thanks to his dazzling displays out wide for the Robins.

It therefore did not come as much of a surprise that a club higher up the pyramid were willing to give him an opportunity.

Turner's destination is Littlehampton Town, who have a good success rate when it comes to introducing Hassocks players to step four following Josh Short's impressive debut campaign at the Flora Sportsfield in 2022-23.

The churn of players between Varndeanians and the Robins has seen **Sam Rogers** head to Withdean for greater first team opportunities.

Josh Bradley meanwhile committed to sign for Hassocks, only to have a change of heart and head to Peacehaven & Telscombe.

He spent almost as much time suspended following his February move to the Beacon from Steyning Town as he did on the pitch during a brief stay with the Robins.



Elliott Hanslow and Jack Mundy are loan signings from Three Bridges



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**HART COUNTRY
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Hassocks 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).



STATION GARAGE HASSOCKS



LENMARK
GROUNDWORKS

Robins fly away from Magpies' Nest with convincing victory

**Southern Combination League Premier Division
Tuesday 1st August 2023, The Nest
Loxwood 0-3 Hassocks**

Three goals scored, none conceded and a thoroughly professional performance away at Loxwood secured Hassocks their first victory of the season in front of an increasingly infuriated Nest of Magpies.

The Robins drew some of that ire from the home support whose verbal barbs appeared to be part of an early warm up for the eagerly anticipated Loxwood Joust festival this weekend, but most of it was reserved for referee Pablo Aguilar.

Mr Aguilar booked four Magpies players before sin binning Loxwood captain Alfie Jones for protesting too vehemently over the award of an 83rd minute penalty to Hassocks converted by Pat Harding.

It was admittedly a soft foul on substitute Ben Bacon which led to the spot kick which gave the Robins their third and final goal.

Loxwood though had been extremely fortunate not to concede a 21st minute penalty when Jamie Wilkes glided past three players and into the box, where he had his legs swiped away for arguably the most blatant foul of the evening.

At least that is how it looked from the sidelines. In fairness to Mr Aguilar, his view was impeded by a number of bodies between himself and the rangy Wilkes.

That did not stop Hassocks being incensed, however. So much so that the incident was still playing on visiting minds going into half time.

Robins assistant coach Tom Hughes spoke to Mr Aguilar as the sides headed towards the changing rooms at the interval, sparking a pantomime exchange of words with an unimpressed Loxwood management team.

The Magpies are being filmed this season by the Bunch of Amateurs non-league football documentary team and their cameras were in close pursuit.

One can only hope they were not expecting to film something akin to Pep Guardiola All or Nothing on Amazon as this was more Pat and Peggy EastEnders in the Queen Vic.

As for the flurry of yellow cards flashed Loxwood's way, two appeared harsh but the other two were deserved.

And it was certainly not Mr Aguilar's fault Loxwood failed to once test their former number one Fraser Trigwell in the Hassocks goal all evening.

Trigwell was one of four ex-Magpies in the Robins starting XI alongside player head coach James Westlake, Sam Smith and Tom Frankland.

The last of those opened the scoring on 19 minutes for his first goal in Hassocks colours.

Jack Troak was poleaxed by Tyler Dhanipersad 25 yards out, picking up the first justified Loxwood booking of the evening for his troubles.

Frankland fired the subsequent free kick superbly around the wall to beat the despairing dive of Magpies number one Conor Manderson.

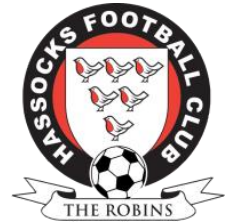
Two minutes later came the controversial decision not to award Wilkes a penalty, the first of several occasions in which the tall striker was brought to ground following direct gazelle-like runs.

Loxwood saw more of the ball after that before Hassocks reasserted control, fashioning three good chances to extend the lead before half time.

A delightful Westlake through ball slipped in Troak who could only shoot over.

Harding flashed a powerful left footed volley just wide and then Benson showed real tenacity to outpace Ben Hack and go one-on-one with Manderson.

Benson's effort was a little too close to the Loxwood goalkeeper, enabling Manderson to make a solid



stop with his legs.

The second half was only 60 seconds old when Manderson again denied Benson, this time from a curling effort which required a sprawling save.

Despite being a thoroughly polite and likeable young man, Troak somehow became public enemy number one amongst the Loxwood fans gathered behind the goal over the next 20 minutes.

Predictably, this culminated in Troak setting up the second Hassocks goal. A flat corner from his wand of a left foot was knocked down at the back post by Alex Bygraves.

Benson showed his poacher's instincts, lashing home a volley at the second attempt from close range.

Troak's next set piece was less successful, a 30 yard piledriver free kick which flew through the forest surrounding the Nest.

"That was closer to the goal at Alfold than ours," quipped one Magpies supporter. Given that Dunsfold Road is only two miles due north, they did have a point.

The second Hassocks goal had created a sense that the game was done but that did not prevent the Robins ruthlessly going after a third.

Harding duly provided it, sending Manderson the wrong way from the spot to move within two goals of overhauling James Laing and climbing into second spot in the Hassocks all-time scorers list.

Hassocks: Trigwell; B Tighe, S Smith, Bygraves, Bull; Frankland, J Westlake, Wilkes, Troak; Harding, Benson.

Subs: Bacon (Benson 74), Hanslow (Frankland 79), Woolven (Harding 84), Blake (Tighe 85), Gunn (unused).

First Team Matches 2023-24

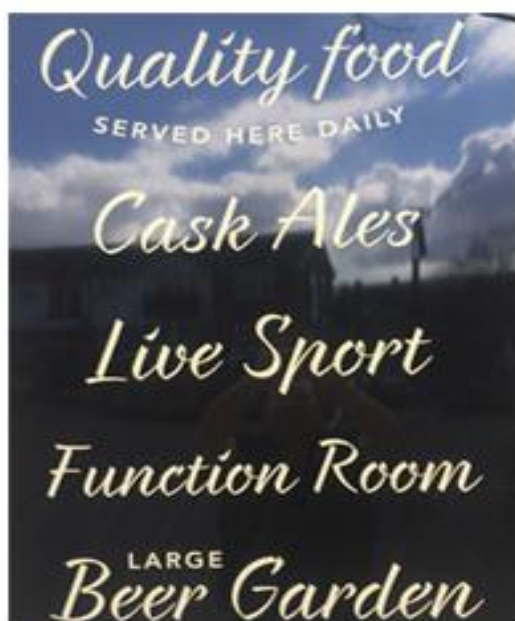
Date & Time	Opponents	Comp	F-A	Att	Scorers
July					
29/07 - 15:00	Eastbourne Town (H)	SCFLP	1-1	232	OG
August					
01/08 - 19:30	Loxwood (A)	SCFLP	3-0	82	Frankland, Benson, Harding
05/08 - 15:00	Erith Town (H)	FACEP			
12/08 - 15:00	Lingfield (H)	SCFLP			
15/08 - 19:30	Pagham (A)	SCFLP			
26/08 - 15:00	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			

First Team Appearances 2023-24

Player	2022-23 Season				Hassocks Career	
	Starts	Used Sub	Games	Goals	Games	Goals
Liam Benson	2	0	2	1	178	51
Joe Bull	2	0	2	0	139	9
Alex Bygraves	2	0	2	0	46	4
Tom Frankland	2	0	2	1	14	1
Bradley Tighe	2	0	2	0	172	0
Fraser Trigwell	2	0	2	0	3	0
Jack Troak	2	0	2	0	124	31
James Westlake	2	0	2	0	259	31
Jamie Wilkes	2	0	2	0	42	4
Pat Harding	1	1	2	1	240	142
Kyle Woolven	1	1	2	0	2	0
Ben Bacon	0	2	2	0	48	17
Elliott Hanslow	0	2	2	0	2	0
Matt Gunn	1	0	1	0	1	0
Sam Smith	1	0	1	0	42	3
Harvey Blake	0	1	1	0	113	4

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SATURDAY	11.00 - 00.30
SUNDAY	12.00 - 23.00

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Under 23s Matches 2023-24

Date & Time	Opponents	Comp	F-A	Scorers
August				
17/08 - 19:45	Redhill (A)	SCFL23		
24/08 - 19:45	Horley Town (H)	SCFL23		
31/08 - 19:45	Broadbridge Heath (A)	SCFL23		

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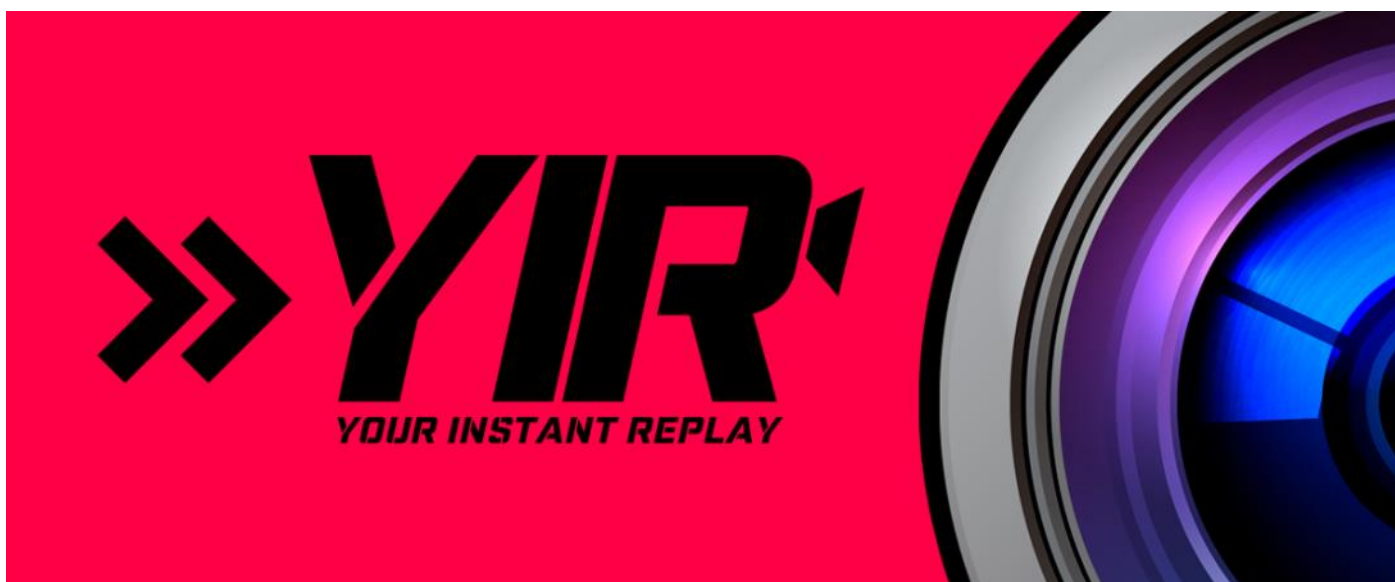


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Please drink responsibly and try to avoid falling into the stream on your way home. We are still saving up to have it piped and tarmacked over.

Ladies Matches 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		



On This Day...



Short-lived return to FA Cup as Robins beaten by Blair

August 5th 2017: Hassocks returned to the FA Cup after a two year absence, on the wrong end of a five-goal thriller against Southern Counties East side Hollands & Blair

It was a short-lived return to the FA Cup for Hassocks as their first foray into the world's most famous cup competition since 2014 came to an end after 90 extra preliminary qualifying round minutes against Hollands & Blair.

This was a game that could have gone either way; the Southern Counties East League visitors racing into a 2-0 lead inside of 20 minutes only for Hassocks to pull a quick fire double of their own before we had reached half time.

Both teams had chances to win it in the second 45 with Blair eventually taking one of those through their prolific forward Jamie McDonald with six minutes remaining.

That was too late for the Robins to launch another comeback. There were though plenty of supporters in attendance left wondering if things might have worked out different had Hassocks not been afflicted by the selection issues they seem to have in the opening few weeks of every season.

What also did not help their cause was that terrible start to proceedings, kicking off with going 1-0 down inside of a minute.

Most of the spectators had not left the sanctuary of the clubhouse by as Blair scored a scrappy goal that suggested it could be a long afternoon for Hassocks, Sam Adgie heading home a Brad Webb corner.

The impression that the Robins were in for a heavy defeat was reinforced over the following 20 minutes when it was a genuine miracle that Blair did not put the game to bed.

Dan Stokes and Tom Barnes both had to head off the line while Alex Harris suffered a moment of madness in the Hassocks goal when he tried to

dribble around an attacker.

Harris found himself in a right state, surrendering possession and somehow not being punished.

The large away contingent who had made the journey from Kent and were gathered on the bank behind Harris' goal enjoyed that.

Their happiness increased when Harris was nutmegged from a matter of yards after a cheeky flick from Ben Brown to double the lead.

That finally shook Hassocks into life and within five minutes they pulled one back.

Michael Death reacted with a crisp volleyed finish after Tom Benham had flapped at a cross from the latest member of last season's Under 18s to be handed a first team debut, Matt Berridge.

Ashley Marsh made an excellent last ditch tackle and Harris pulled off a flying stop before Benson levelled things up just before the interval.

The Hassocks wing backs of Stokes and Berridge were discovering that Blair's back line were not the quickest as they began to experience a lot of joy getting in behind.

Benson too began playing more on the shoulder of the last man, looking to accelerate clear.

It was from such an instance that the equaliser arrived, Benson latching onto a long ball over the top to streak away and lob over Benham with aplomb.

At half time a deluge of rain was deposited over the ground but the Beacon does not have a reputation as one of the best pitches in the county for no reason and it was more than able to cope.

If anything, it aided the game as the slick surface now sped things up and both teams went hammer and tongs at each other.

Harris atoned for his interesting first half display with a couple of fine stops.

Stokes shot wide and the move of the match went through Berridge, Death and Stokes but again Stokes was off target.

Based on the intensity being shown by the hosts in the quest for a winner, Hassocks were clearly keen to avoid a trek to Gillingham on Tuesday night for a potential replay.

But it was that attacking intent which eventually proved costly, Blair hitting the Robins on the counter with a sweeping move finished clinically one-on-one by McDonald.

Hassocks summoned the not-yet-fully-fit Nathan Miles from the subs bench for what proved to be a dramatic final six minutes.

Benson fired over when he was played in, Harris made another good stop with his body and then Jordan Badger went on one of his trademark rampaging runs forward from centre back to crash an effort inches away.

The drama did not end with the final whistle, either. Hollands & Blair saw Anthony Jeffers shown a second yellow card for having a few choice words with referee Andrew Senior – a bizarre finish to a game that otherwise lacked any flash points aside from a nasty first half challenge on the talismanic James Westlake.

Hassocks: Harris; Barnes, Marsh, Badger; Stokes, J Westlake, Mills, L Westlake, Berridge; Benson, Death.

Subs: Miles (Barnes), Wilkins, Russell, O'Leary, Rowe, Green.

Around the League...



The staggered start to the Southern Combination League season means that only the Premier Division has kicked off for 2023-24 so far, with a full fixture list completed last Saturday and a handful of midweek matches on Tuesday night

Crowborough Athletic are the only side to have won two games out of two so far to sit at the head of the very early table.

The Crows ran out 3-1 victors at home to **Saltdean United** on the opening day of the campaign at Crowborough Community Stadium.

An action packed end to the first half saw Harvey Killick give the hosts the least on 45 minutes, only for Reece Edwards to level in the fourth minute of stoppage time.

Lucas Murrain put Crowborough back ahead within 60 seconds of the second half, followed by substitute Elliott Duncan wrapping up the win with a third for the Crows in the 100th minute.

Crowborough then came from behind to defeat **Eastbourne Town** 2-1 at the Saffrons on Tuesday.

Oliver Davies opened the scoring for Town on 47 but the lead lasted just seven minutes before Harry Forster equalised.

Rory Slater provided what proved to be the winner for the Crows on 74, whilst Town ended the evening with 10 men following a red card for George Cook.

Saltdean bounced back from their defeat against Crowborough in impressive style, beating last season's runners up **Crawley Down Gatwick** 1-0 at Hill Park.

Former Hassocks striker Lewis Beebee provided the only goal of the game from the bench with a quarter hour remaining to give new Tigers boss Kieran Ridley his first victory at the helm.

Crawley Down had begun their season with a 1-0 win at **Pagham** via a late Oli Leslie strike.

Eastbourne United occupy second spot behind Crowborough having picked up four points from a possible six.

They held one of the promotion

favourites **Haywards Heath Town** to a 1-1 draw on Saturday at the Oval.

Heath put through their own net and scored at the right end via Max Blencowe, who enjoyed a brief spell as a Robin in the 2021-22 campaign.

United then came away from their short trip to **AFC Uckfield Town** with a 4-1 victory featuring four different scorers.

Tigana Quebe got the party started on 42 minutes, sparking something of a goal rush with Alfie Headland striking on 44 and Callum Barlow on 56. Charlie Ball completed the rout in injury time.

Haywards Heath remain winless following their relegation from the Isthmian League with their second game back at step five also finishing 1-1 at home to **Horsham YMCA**.

Luke Donaldson gave YM a 22nd minute lead cancelled out in the final 10 minutes by Adrian Todd.

Like Heath, YM have a pair of 1-1 draws to show for their efforts so far after they kicked off with a very good point at home to **Newhaven**.

Ryan Warwick marked his Dockers debut with a goal on 58 minutes but the ever dangerous Tom Tolfrey ensured the spoils were shared via a 73rd minute equaliser.

Midhurst & Easebourne finished 2022-23 in something of a slump but they appear refreshed for the new campaign having only been denied two wins out of two by a 94th minute Conor Wilford equaliser for **Lingfield** last Saturday.

Jason Stripp had the Lingers 1-0 ahead going into half at the Rotherfield, only for Midhurst to turn things around and take a 2-1 lead before the hour mark through Siphesihle Mdlalose and Lewis Rustell.

It looked like that would be enough to give the Stags victory until

Wilford struck with almost the last kick of the game.

Midhurst next went to **Shoreham**, spoiling the party of the Musselmen's first home game in the Premier Division for four years by winning 2-0.

Shoreham are still awaiting their first points since promotion having lost 2-1 at **Little Common** on Saturday.

The Musselmen led 1-0 at the break via Danny Jones but an own goal followed by a 92nd minute winner from Sam Ellis saw them make the long journey home with nothing to show for their efforts.

Lingfield meanwhile followed their 2-2 draw at Midhurst with another point from exactly the same scoreline against **AFC Varndeanians** on Tuesday.

Richard Wetton and Jamal Robinson-Davids struck for the Lingers with Adam Bukleb and Marley Bigg on target for Vs, who had been beaten 3-1 by AFC Uckfield on the opening day.

Varndeanians led 1-0 at the Oaks but a second half brace from Charlie Playford and one from Jacob Feasey ensured the Oakmen got off to a winning start.

Steyping Town were impressive 3-1 winners over **Bexhill United** on Saturday at the Birchwood Ground.

Joe Radley-Martin, Charlie Meehan and an own goal did the damage for the Barrowmen with Jack Shonk netting for Bexhill.

Lastly, **Peacehaven & Telscombe** won an ill-tempered affair featuring eight yellow cards and two reds at home to **Loxwood** last weekend.

Billy Oliver got both the goals from the bench for the Tye, with the Magpies going onto suffer another defeat at our hands on Tuesday night to leave them bottom of the pile.



Tables Form Top Scorers Attendances

Southern Combination Premier Division Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crowborough Athletic	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Eastbourne United	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
Hassocks	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Midhurst & Easebourne	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Steyning Town	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Peacehaven & Tels	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Little Common	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Crawley Down Gatwick	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
AFC Uckfield Town	2	1	0	1	4	5	3
Saltdean United	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Lingfield	2	0	2	0	4	4	2
Haywards Heath Town	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Horsham YMCA	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Newhaven	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Eastbourne Town	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
AFC Varndeanians	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Pagham	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Bexhill United	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Shoreham	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Loxwood	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

Premier Division Attendances

	Ave	High	Low
Haywards Heath Town	315	315	315
Hassocks	232	232	232
Steyning Town	208	208	208
Peacehaven & Telscombe	200	200	200
Eastbourne United	185	185	185
Crowborough Athletic	185	185	185
Pagham	157	157	157
Eastbourne Town	168	168	168
Shoreham	157	157	157
Saltdean United	142	142	142
Horsham YMCA	131	131	131
Little Common	114	114	114
Uckfield Town	109	109	109
AFC Uckfield Town	101	101	101
Loxwood	82	82	82
Lingfield	72	72	72
Midhurst & Easebourne	70	70	70
AFC Varndeanians	0	0	0
Crawley Down Gatwick	0	0	0
Newhaven	0	0	0

Premier Division Form Guide

	Last 6
Crowborough Athletic	WW
Eastbourne United	DW
Hassocks	DW
Midhurst & Easebourne	DW
Steyning Town	W
Peacehaven & Tels	W
Little Common	W
Crawley Down Gatwick	WL
AFC Uckfield Town	WL
Saltdean United	LW
Lingfield	DD
Haywards Heath Town	DD
Horsham YMCA	DD
Newhaven	D
Eastbourne Town	DL
AFC Varndeanians	LD
Pagham	L
Bexhill United	L
Shoreham	LL
Loxwood	LL

Premier Division Top Scorers

Player	Club	Goals
Billy Oliver	Peacehaven	2
Charlie Playford	AFC Uckfield	2
Charlie Ball	Eastbourne Utd	1
Callum Barlow	Eastbourne Utd	1
Lewis Beebee	Saltdean United	1
Liam Benson	Hassocks	1
Marley Bigg	Varndeanians	1
Max Blencowe	Haywards Heath	1
Adam Bukleb	Varndeanians	1
Oliver Davies	Eastbourne Town	1
Luke Donaldson	Horsham YMCA	1
Elliott Duncan	Crowborough	1
Reece Edwards	Saltdean United	1
Sam Ellis	Little Common	1
Jacob Feasey	AFC Uckfield	1
Harry Forster	Crowborough	1
Tom Frankland	Hassocks	1
Pat Harding	Hassocks	1
Alfie Headland	Eastbourne Utd	1
Nathan Hove	Eastbourne Town	1

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
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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
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Upcoming Fixtures >>>



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.

<<< Upcoming Fixtures



Hassocks v Erith Town

Southern Combination League Premier Division
Tuesday 15th August 2023, 7:30pm
Nyetimber Lane, Bognor Regis, PO21 3YJ

The fixture Gods have decreed that one of our longest away trips of the season takes place on a Tuesday night, to Pagham who return to the Southern Combination after a season spent in the Wessex League

Pagham last season

It was a difficult 2022-23 season for Pagham following the FA's decision to move them sideways from the Southern Combination into the Wessex League. They lost some important players who wished to remain playing against Sussex-based opponents rather than travelling west as far as Bournemouth which, combined with the Wessex League being of a higher standard, meant a campaign of struggle. The Lions finished 19th of 20 teams which could have seen them relegated into Wessex One. Instead, the FA have moved them back into the Southern Combination. They kicked off the current campaign with a 1-0 defeat at home against last season's runners

up, Crawley Down Gatwick.

Head-to-head

Games with Pagham are not clashes that we have tended to enjoy through the years. This is slightly problematic as there have 57 of them, making the Lions one of our most frequently played opponents. Pagham lead the head-to-head having won 28 to our 20 with nine draws. Hassocks' league form against Pagham in recent years is particularly dire. Since 2014, we have picked up a grand total of 13 points from a possible 42.

Last time we met

Three of those points did, however, come the last time we met and went a long way to helping the Robins

avoid relegation from the Premier Division. Josh Short scored the only goal of the game with 32 minutes played at Nyetimber Lane in a 1-0 victory in March 2022, arguably the most impressive win of Brad Sweetman's time in charge.

How to get to Nyetimber Lane

Journey west on the A27 to Chichester. Once on the bypass, take the second exit at the second roundabout onto Vinnetrow Road. At the next roundabout it's a left onto the B2166 Lagness Road which eventually turns into Pagham Road. After passing on a Tesco on your left, Nyetimber Lane is the next round on the left with the ground pretty much immediately on the right.



Hassocks v Midhurst & Easebourne

Southern Combination League Premier Division
Saturday 26th August 2023, 3:00pm
The Beacon, Brighton Road, Hassocks, BN6 9LY
Admission prices £8 adults, £4 concessions, Under 16s free

The first part of a home double header over the August Bank Holiday Weekend will see Midhurst & Easebourne visit the Beacon on Saturday afternoon having inflicted two miserable results on the Robins last season

Midhurst last season

Midhurst won the Division One playoffs at the end of the 2021-22 with 2022-23 being their first season in the Premier Division for 30 years. Survival was the aim of the game and a strong start to life at step five put them in an excellent position to achieve that. Their campaign teetered off a little after Christmas but nine wins, eight draws and 21 defeats was enough for a 13th place finish some 13 points above Alfold in the final relegation spot. Like ourselves, Midhurst have taken four points out of a possible six to start the new campaign. They drew 2-2 with Lingfield on the opening day which was followed up by a 2-0 win over Shoreham in midweek.

Shoreham provided the second opponents in our August Bank Holiday double header, coming to the Beacon for an 11am kick off on the Monday.

Head-to-head

Meetings have been few and far between. There have been 10 previous games, five of which we have won and five of which Midhurst have been triumphant in. Goals tend to be guaranteed; we have a 6-0 win at the Beacon and a 6-1 win at the Rotherfield to our name. The game last August at the Beacon was a crazy seven-goal thriller in which all the scoring took place in the first half. Midhurst won that one 4-3 and followed up with a 5-0 win at the

Rotherfield in December, inflicting on the Robins a heaviest defeat of the campaign.

Last time we met

A terrible afternoon on which everything that could go wrong, did go wrong. What made the result even more bizarre is that just one week earlier, we had put five goals past Saltdean United in 30 minutes at the Beacon. Midhurst were 3-0 ahead going into half time through two Harry Tremlett goals and one from Dan Wood. Alex Harris went off with a toe injury at the interval, leaving defender Will Broomfield to play in goal during a second half in which Tremlett added two more to finish his day with four of Midhurst's five goals.

Robins Awards 2023-24



Starman Awards

Eastbourne Town home **Jack TROAK**
Loxwood away **Joe BULL**
Erith Town home
Lingfield home
Pagham away
Midhurst & Easebourne home
Shoreham home
Steyning Town away
Eastbourne United away
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

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	239	20	259	31
18. Joe Fernley	205	40	245	45
19. Neil Smith	232	10	242	68
20. Pat Harding	207	33	240	142
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	142	240
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	51	178
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	124
21. Luke Flomo	31	146
22. James Westlake	31	259
23. Dan Smith	27	63
24. Jamie Hillwood	25	124
25. Stuart Faith	22	289





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Sponsor name in matchday programme alongside player

Sponsor announcement on social media

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Framed team photo of 2023-24 first team squad

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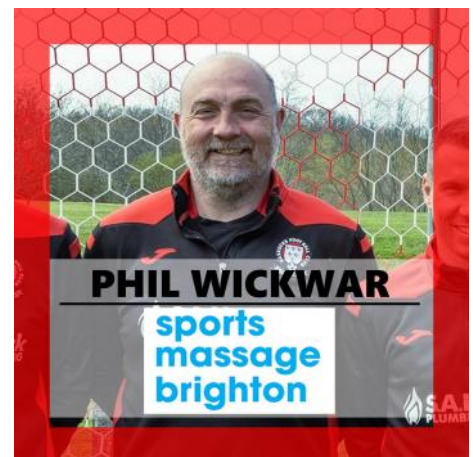
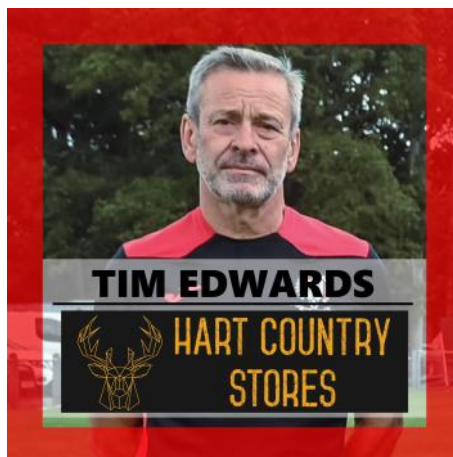
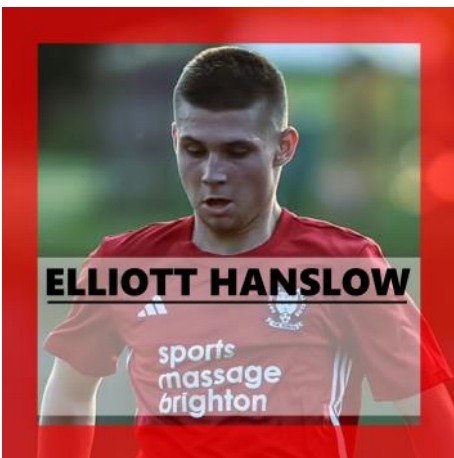
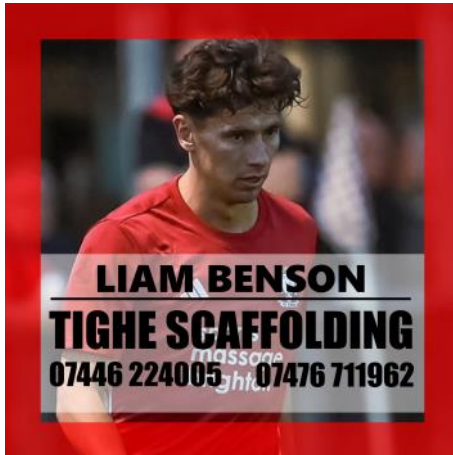
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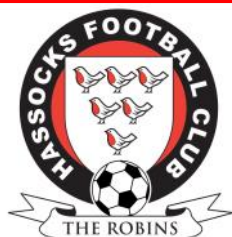
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Today's Teams



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



ERITH TOWN

	Henry Arnold
	Thomas Ash
	Joseph Bermingham
	Joe Chalker
	Louie Clarke
	James Dyer
	Alfie Eldridge
	Mackenzie Foley
	Jason Goodchild
	Jack Holland
	Jamie Humphries
	Jerome Jayaguru
	Ryan Mahal
	Ronnie McClean
	Ladic Melconian
	James Miles
	Jamie Miller
	Oliver Milton
	Rowan Slater
	Harry Taylor

Manager Adam Woodward

Assistant Russell Bedford

Coach Jim Kenny

Coach Baris Senturk

Coach Alan Foreman

Today's other FA Cup games

Crowborough Athletic v Shoreham
Eastbourne Town v Faversham Town
Epsom & Ewell v Horsham YMCA
Holmesdale v Midhurst & Easbourne
Newhaven v Little Common
Pagham v East Grinstead Town
Phoenix Sports v Eastbourne United
Saltdean United v Badshot Lea
Spelthorne Sports v Loxwood
Three Bridges v Crawley Down Gatwick



Keep abreast of The Robins

For the latest news and updates from The Beacon



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