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THE ROBINS



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PREMIER SPORTS SOUTHERN COMBINATION FOOTBALL LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION
SATURDAY 12TH AUGUST 2023 - 3PM

MATCHDAY
PROGRAMME NO. 3



HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB

Founded 1902

The Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks, BN6 9LY
01273 846040
hassocksfc@outlook.com

CLUB OFFICIALS

CHAIRMAN

Dave John 07787 563351

VICE CHAIR / TREASURER / BAR MANAGER

Owen John 07747 612526

SECRETARY

Nick Palmer nickpalmer90@hotmail.com

PROGRAMME EDITORS

Owen John 07747 612526

Scott McCarthy 07887 746222

WEBSITE MANAGER

Scott McCarthy 07887 746222

GROUNDSMAN

Alan John 01444 416155

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Dave John 07788 713954

FIRST TEAM HEAD COACH

James Westlake

ASSISTANT HEAD COACHES

Tom Hughes & Jordan Wilson

GOALKEEPER COACH

Tim Edwards

PHYSIO

Jay Patel

ASSISTANT PHYSIOS

Ash Cooper & Phil Wickwar

UNDER 23s HEAD COACH

Neil Parker

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 Southern Combination Premier Division clash with Lingfield

We would like to start by welcoming the Lingers to the Beacon this afternoon and hope that their players, management, committee and supporters enjoy their stay in Mid Sussex.

Today sees us return to the bread and butter of Southern Combination League action following 180 minutes of Emirates FA Cup action against Erith Town.

The Dockers finished fourth in the Southern Counties East Premier Division last season, a league normally stronger than our own.

To have held our own against them for all but a nightmare 17 minute period in Tuesday evening's replay has to be seen as a good sign for the campaign ahead.

Unfortunately, the positives come with one major negative - Jack Troak's shoulder.

Troaky fell awkwardly during the first game with Erith last weekend and X-rays revealed a cleanly broken collarbone.

We all wish Jack a speedy recovery... even Johnsy, despite Jack taking his frustrations out on the guttering of the Clubhouse as he departed for hospital last weekend.

With Troaky ruled out for the

foreseeable future, the signing of former Shoreham and Lancing forward Alex Fair has come at a convenient time.

Alex played in both FA Cup ties against Erith and will bring a real threat from out wide having contributed plenty of goals from wide positions throughout his career.

We still have plenty of player sponsorship opportunities available with two packages, one costing £60 and the other £40.

These are a great way to show your support for the Robins as well as helping us raise money to invest back into the club.

Please speak to Owen behind the bar for more information of email hassocksfc@outlook.com.

We are also looking for a local company to sponsor our Starman Award for the season, whereby they will receive exposure through our social media channels after every first team game.

If you know of a business or individual who would be willing to promote themselves and support the Robins at the same time, again please speak to Owen or drop us a line.

One other thing you can speak to

Owen about is replica kits. For the first time, we are selling our home new home shirt behind the bar.

These were flying last weekend so if you would like one, please buy before they are all gone.

The footballing action is about to kick up a notch this week with the Under 23s starting their North Division title defence away at Redhill on Thursday night.

Next Sunday sees the Ladies get their campaign underway in the London & South East Regional Football League Division One South. They travel to Bromley.

In terms of first team action, we travel to Pagham on Tuesday night. The next game at the Beacon is not officially until Midhurst & Easebourne visit on Saturday 26th August, but keep your eyes peeled and your diaries free as we expect an announcement in due course from the Sussex FA regarding the Sussex Principal RUR Charity Cup kicking off next weekend.

Thank you for your support and enjoy the game,

Owen & Scott



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Robins home and away
in 2023-24**



Lingfield have spent the past few seasons living a nomadic existence at times due to issues with their Godstone Road home. And yet despite having to frequently surrender home advantage, they remain a stable part of the Premier Division

A case in point comes from our past three Southern Combination League matches due to be played away against the Lingers.

In the 2019-20 season, we were beaten by Lingfield at Steyning Town's Shooting Field after the game was switched to a 3G pitch to get it played.

2021-22 saw us head inside the M25 to Church Road, Whyteleafe. Goals from Jack Troak and Josh Short secured a 2-1 success.

Then in April, Lingfield asked to use the Beacon for our most recent meeting due to be played at their home. A 3-1 Hassocks victory was the result.

It says much about the quality and determination the Lingers have

that they managed to finish in 14th position in the 2022-23 Premier Division table despite all the upheaval, winning 10, drawing four and losing 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.

That manifested itself in a highly entertaining 2-2 draw here in November. More of the same today will make this afternoon an entertaining one for the neutrals.

So, what of the current campaign so far? Two Premier Division games in and Lingfield have two 2-2 draws

to their name, suggesting they will again provide plenty of fun at both ends.

They opened with a point at Midhurst & Easebourne and followed that up with another score draw against AFC Varndeanians in a home game held at The New Defence, home of Horley Town.

Lingfield have since taken the decision to groundshare with Horley for the year whilst Godstone Road undergoes improvements.

Manager Dan Burnett hopes the stability of knowing where all 19 home games will be played can push his side into the playoffs come the end of the campaign.

Lingers Factfile

Founded 1883

Ground The New Defence

Website lingfieldfc.com

Twitter @LingfieldFC

Instagram @lingfield_fc_

Manager Dan Burnett

Top scorer Conor Wilford, 2

Club Honours

Southern Combination League Division Two

Winners 1998

Mid Sussex Football League

Winners 1993

Surrey Intermediate League

Winners 1978, 1979

Surrey Intermediate Cup

Winners 1978, 1979

Surrey County Centenary Cup

Winners 1978

Surrey Junior League

Winners 1914

Edenbridge & Caterham League

Winners 1935, 1936, 1937, 1953

Edenbridge & Caterham Cup

Winners 1962

10 Key Lingers Moments

1938... after a trio of Edenbridge League titles, they move from the High Street to Talbot Road

1958... the Lingers move to their current home at Godstone Road

1978... lift the Surrey League and Intermediate Cup double, repeating the trick the following season

1980... join the Combined Counties League after being rejected by the Southern Combination

1982... floodlights are installed at Godstone Road and the club enter the FA Vase for the first time

1983... they finally join the Southern Combination, lasting six seasons before relegation to the Mid Sussex

1993... win the Mid Sussex League and a year later, earn promotion to SCFL Division One

2008... promoted to the Premier Division for the first time in the clubs history

2014... the FA force a move to the Southern Counties East League. One season later, they return to the ACL

2018... promoted back to the SCFL Premier Division four years after being moved

Last 20 Seasons

2022-23: Southern Combination Premier 14th

2021-22: Southern Combination Premier 12th

2018-19: Southern Combination Premier 8th

2017-18: Southern Combination One 3rd

2016-17: Southern Combination One 5th

2015-16: Southern Combination One 8th

2014-15: Southern Counties East Premier 17th

2013-14: Southern Combination Premier 15th

2012-13: Southern Combination Premier 6th

2011-12: Southern Combination Premier 7th

2010-11: Southern Combination Premier 11th

2009-10: Southern Combination Premier 10th

2008-09: Southern Combination Premier 8th

2007-08: Southern Combination One 2nd

2006-07: Southern Combination One 10th

2005-06: Southern Combination Two 2nd

2004-05: Southern Combination Two 3rd

2003-04: Southern Combination Two 8th

2002-03: Southern Combination Two 9th

2001-02: Southern Combination Two 16th

Played for the Robins and Lingfield

Connections between Hassocks and Lingfield are few and far between with only a handful of players having represented both clubs.

Only one has moved directly from Godstone Road to the Beacon. Striker Daley Clark who joined us from Lingfield for the start of the 2009-10 season, going onto spend just over a year as a Robin.

The former Burgess Hill Town Under 18s forward was bought in by Dave John to form a new look strike partnership with Neil Kane, who made the move from Shoreham during the 2008-09 campaign.

It was hoped that Clark would

address the problem of scoring goals that had haunted us as we only just survived relegation at the end of that season.

The return of Phil Gault from St Francis Rangers early in the 2009-10 meant Clark was instead shifted into a new midfoeld role by John.

This move suited Clark and he played 34 times in his debut campaign, scoring once.

With Mickey Jewell taking the reigns for 2010-11 and an influx of new faces, Clark found his first team opportunities limited and he joined St Francis a month into the new season.

Current Hassocks striker **Ben Bacon** has played for both clubs with

this being his third spell at the Beacon after moving from Horsham YMCA in the summer.

He previously played for the Robins in 2016-17 and 2019-20. He had a brief period with Lingfield in 2018-19 between spells with Saltdean United and Steyning Town.

Finally, our current assistant manager **Tom Hughes** turned out for Lingfield as player after moving to Sussex from London.

He had previously played for Sutton United whilst living in the capital, although he never likes to mention it.

Robins v Lingfield

SCFL Premier >	Played 20 - Won 6 - Drawn 7 - Lost 7 - Scored 28 - Conceded 26
SCFL Division One >	Played 4 - Won 4 - Drawn 0 - Lost 0 - Scored 22 - Conceded 1
SCFL Division Two >	Played 4 - Won 4 - Drawn 0 - Lost 0 - Scored 18 - Conceded 1
RUR Charity Cup >	Played 1 - Won 1 - Drawn 0 - Lost 0 - Scored 3 - Conceded 2
Peter Bentley Cup >	Played 2 - Won 1 - Drawn 0 - Lost 1 - Scored 5 - Conceded 4
SCFL Supp Shield >	Played 2 - Won 0 - Drawn 1 - Lost 1 - Scored 4 - Conceded 5
SCFL Div One Cup >	Played 1 - Won 1 - Drawn 0 - Lost 0 - Scored 3 - Conceded 1
FA Cup >	Played 1 - Won 1 - Drawn 0 - Lost 0 - Scored 1 - Conceded 0

Total > Played 35 - Won 18 - Drawn 8 - Lost 9 - Scored 84 - Conceded 40

Previous Meetings

2022-23

SCFL Premier: Lingfield 1-3 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 2-2 Lingfield

FA Cup: Hassocks 1-0 Lingfield

2021-22

SCFL Premier: Lingfield 1-2 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 1-1 Lingfield

2020-21

SCFL Supp Shield: Lingfield 2-2 Hassocks

SCFL Supp Shield: Lingfield 3-2 Hassocks

2019-20

SCFL Premier: Lingfield 3-2 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 1-3 Lingfield

2018-19

SCFL Premier: Lingfield 1-0 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 3-2 Lingfield

Peter Bentley Cup: Hassocks 0-3 Lingfield

2015-16

Peter Bentley Cup: Hassocks 5-1 Lingfield

2013-14

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 3-1 Lingfield

RUR Cup: Hassocks 3-2 Lingfield

SCFL Premier: Lingfield 0-1 Hassocks

2012-13

SCFL Premier: Lingfield 1-1 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 0-1 Lingfield

2011-12

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 0-1 Lingfield

SCFL Premier: Lingfield 1-4 Hassocks

2010-11

SCFL Premier: Lingfield 1-0 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 1-1 Lingfield

2009-10

SCFL Premier: Lingfield 1-1 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 1-1 Lingfield

2008-09

SCFL Premier: Lingfield 4-1 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 2-2 Lingfield

1994-95

SCFL One: Hassocks 6-0 Lingfield

SCFL One: Lingfield 0-11 Hassocks

1988-89

SCFL Two: Lingfield 0-6 Hassocks

SCFL Two: Hassocks 8-0 Lingfield

1987-88

SCFL Two: Hassocks 1-0 Lingfield

SCFL Two: Lingfield 1-3 Hassocks

1985-86

SCFL One: Hassocks 3-0 Lingfield

SCFL One Cup: Hassocks 3-1 Lingfield

SCFL One: Lingfield 1-2 Hassocks

Behind the Stats

Lingfield are one of the few Southern Combination League clubs who Hassocks have played in all three divisions, part of eight different competitions the clubs have faced off in.

Those early meetings in Division One and Two between the sides in the late 1980s and early 1990s proved particularly fruitful, including an 11-0 win away from home which remains our biggest ever Southern Combination victory on the road.

Other large margin wins from around that era include two 6-0 and one 8-0 success for Hassocks.

Those high scoring clashes explain why we have plundered 84 goals from just 35 games against Lingfield.

Things became much more competitive once the Lingers were promoted into the Premier Division in 2008, since when we have become regular opponents.

Lingfield enjoyed their best run of

form when going six matches unbeaten between 2018 and 2022.

They were the only opponent Hassocks did not beat in the 2021 Supplementary Shield competition, introduced at the end of the 2020-21 campaign following the lifting of lockdown restrictions.

We finished second in our group behind the Lingers, who went onto be eliminated in the semi finals.



Benson and Harding get Robins back to winning ways in bonus Beacon game

With Godstone Road unable to host Lingfield against Hassocks, the Beacon found itself with a bonus fixture on the penultimate weekend of the Southern Combination League season.

The Robins put this unexpected home advantage to good use, running out 3-1 winners to snap their seven game winless streak and boost their chances of a first top half Premier Division finish since 2014.

Victory kept Hassocks 10th in the standings, moving them three points and four goals ahead of Little Common, who have a game in hand.

That takes place against local rivals Bexhill United on Tuesday night.

Regardless of what happens there, the Robins know a win over Eastbourne Town in their final game of the campaign will secure their top 10 placing, an excellent achievement in James Westlake's first year in charge.

This clash with Lingfield was the third time the sides have met this season.

A Conor Wilford own goal which went viral with over 750,000 views on Twitter handed Hassocks a 1-0 FA Cup Extra Preliminary Qualifying Round win back in August whilst the previous league clash ended in a thrilling 2-2 draw.

Neither game had been particularly feisty, so it was something of a surprise to see questionable challenges flying in from both teams in a heated 90 minutes.

Such was the tension that even Mike Williamson found himself in the middle of it. The normally placid and well-mannered midfielder was the victim of a terrible Haydn Dickinson tackle five minutes before half time worthy of a red card.

Dickinson followed up with a headbutt in the ruckus which followed, something referee Daniel Cooper must have missed. Nothing

else could explain why it went unpunished with only Sam Smith ending up in the book.

Williamson then found himself serving a 10 minute spell in the sin bin early in the second half after Wilford converted a penalty which brought the scores to 2-1.

Not that playing shorthanded bothered Hassocks, their third goal of the afternoon arriving via Liam Benson whilst Williamson watched on from the bench.

Benson had opened the scoring for the Robins with 14 minutes on the clock via a poacher's finish.

Hassocks had a penalty claim so strong that the 21 other players on the pitch all stopped, waiting for Mr Cooper to point to the spot.

Benson though was not taking any chances and his decision to play to the whistle paid off when he smashed a right footed strike into the bottom corner after Mr Cooper remarkably said no penalty.

The Robins doubled the advantage on 37 minutes with a superb passing move which swept from one end to the other.

It began with James Shaw taking a short goal kick and ended with Super Pat Harding firing a clinical low drive beyond Lingers goalkeeper Tommy Sceal.

Falling two behind clearly did not sit well with Lingfield as the incident involving Dickinson came next, leaving the Robins incensed.

Hassocks channelled this anger in the right way, fashioning two more opportunities in the little time remaining before the break.

Jack Troak came on a charge forward from left back, only to hit a volley over the goal, the fence behind the goal and the trees on its way to the railway track.

It was the second Troak shot of the afternoon to pose a danger to passing trains following an almost identical effort resulting in a lost ball in the seventh minute.

Benson then had the ball in the back of the net on the stroke of half time, only for the goal to be correctly chalked off by the assistant referee for offside.

Lingfield enjoyed their best period immediately after the restart. Shaw was forced into a flying save on the stretch from Richard Wetton before Hassocks conceded that penalty on 56 minutes.

It was confidently despatched by Wilford, going some way towards banishing the memory of his fantastic own goal from eight months ago.

Having just scored and with Hassocks down to 10 for a period, the momentum should have been with Lingfield.

The Robins therefore deserve a huge amount of credit for the way they not only nullified their opponents, but went onto kill the game off with the final goal of the afternoon.

Troak was the creator, delivering a beautiful ball from the left which Benson headed home from five yards for his 18th goal of the campaign.

Lingfield were left deflated and the game petered out from there with only one further opportunity coming for either side.

It fell to Harvey Blake, who ran the length of the pitch to beat three men and smash an effort last seen flying towards Hurstpierpoint for a third lost ball, much to the chagrin of Dave John.

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

Subs: J Bradley (Bull 70), Parker-Williams (Harding 75) Rogers (Westlake 80), Wilkes (Loversidge 82), Broomfield (unused).



Hassocks leave it late to see off Lingers and move out of bottom three

An action packed final 30 minutes saw Hassocks and Lingfield net five times between them with the Robins doing just about enough to run out 3-2 winners for their first league victory in over two months.

Phil Johnson scored twice for Hassocks with substitute Jake Lindsey the other man on target with what proved to be the winner in the 90th minute.

That put the Robins 3-1 ahead, but there was still time for Jake Horn to pull one back with virtually the last kick of the game, leaving a nervy final few seconds which Hassocks managed to see out.

It was breathless, tense, exciting and ultimately a massive three points for the Robins against a side they lost 3-0 to just a month ago in the Peter Bentley League Cup. The result lifted Hassocks above Arundel and out of the relegation zone.

Having not won in the league since bottom club Eastbourne United visited the Beacon on September 22nd, Mark Dagleish looked to shake things up and he was aided in that by the return of two favourites.

Bradley Tighe has rejoined the Robins from Lancing having left the Beacon for Ringmer originally in the summer of 2017.

The inclusion of the former youth team product allowed Harvey Blake to move forward from right back to a more advanced wide role.

The link up between the two down the flank pointed to a potentially promising partnership going forward.

James Westlake was also back in the side for his first competitive action since December.

Westlake has spent the past 11 months concentrating on his running commitments, in which time he was the seventh British finisher in the London Marathon, set a new course

record for the Worthing 10k winning in 00:30:31, won the Brighton 10 mile and finished 20th in the Toronto Marathon on his debut for England athletics with a PB of 2:23:05.

Not that you could tell that Westlake has not kicked a ball for nearly a year.

Alongside Spencer Slaughter and the outstanding Harvey Enticknap, the Robins midfield three gave a hard working and organised showing which provided the platform for victory.

Johnson was keen to praise the impact of Tighe and Westlake afterwards, saying: "The new boys that played were really good and made a real difference for us."

"We showed great character throughout the game, especially to recover from the first equaliser and then go and win the game."

"It is an important win to get under our belts as we've been on a bad run recently."

There was little of note to report in the opening exchanges, other than Hassocks getting themselves into a bit of a pickle when attempting to play out of defence.

Spencer Slaughter's back pass to Josh Green was returned by the Hassocks goalkeeper into a gap between Jordan Badger and Dan Jacques.

Not only did that nearly prove costly in terms of gifting Lingfield a goal, but Slaughter and Harry Mills found themselves in trouble with the referee after sharing more than a few stern words before Badger separated them.

Slaughter put that down to the their passion for the club when asked about the incident afterwards.

Hassocks certainly channeled any frustrations they had positively in the second half as they sought about ending their two month wait for a Premier Division victory.

Johnson continued his remarkable record of missing with his head when

nodding a corner wide after being left free in the box.

The Robins top scorer made up for that miss by earning and then converting a penalty for the opener on the hour mark.

Tighe hit a brilliant long ball over the top and Johnson's pace took him steaming past Jamie Bakhit, whose only answer was to haul the Hassocks striker down.

Bakhit received a yellow for his troubles and Johnson made no mistake from the spot, sending goalkeeper Oliver Moore the wrong way to give Hassocks the lead.

17 minutes elapsed before Lingfield equalised on 77, sparking the mad finale in which four of the goals arrived.

The visitors were level for all of five minutes before an error from Moore gifted Johnson his second, the Lingers number one spilling a shot straight to Lindsey who sensibly squared to Johnson for a tap in.

Johnson's pace again caused devastation in the visitors back line with a couple of minutes remaining.

He ran through before whipping the ball in for Lindsey to tap home at the back post for 3-1.

The game was still not done yet, Jake Horn scoring the Lingers second with seconds remaining.

Having not won for so long, the Hassocks faithful could have been forgiven for feeling anxious in what little time was left.

But when the final whistle blew almost as soon as the game had restarted, the relief around the Beacon was obvious as the Robins moved out of the bottom three.

Hassocks: Green; Tighe, Jacques, Mills, Badger; Enticknap, Slaughter, Westlake; Wilkins, Johnson, Blake.

Subs: Lindsey, Bull, Spinks (used).



John Broomfield

REMOVALS

TIGHE SCAFFOLDING

Jason Tighe

07446224005

07476711962

tighescaffolding@hotmail.com

Hassocks*Life*

hassockslife.co.uk



RIP Dave Knight

Everybody at the Beacon was saddened to hear of the death of Hassocks Football Club stalwart Dave Knight.

Dave was involved with the Robins for many years both on and off the pitch, including as an instrumental figure in helping the club move from Adastra Park to the Beacon.

When the club hit a cashflow crisis many years ago, both he and Dave John loaned the club money without which it may not have survived.

It is no exaggeration to say that without Dave, there may not be a Hassocks Football Club today.

Dave was never afraid to speak his mind and that made him a fascinating character for post-game analysis.

It also manifested itself in his long

-running *Through the Smoke Haze* column in the matchday programme, featuring brilliant and often hilarious views on the Sussex non-league circuit and the wider football world.

Through the Smoke Haze was a continuation of Dave's work as programme editor through the late 1980s before settling into the role he was probably best known for as the club's long-serving secretary.

In this role, Dave famously found himself being called as a witness at a disciplinary hearing after Brian Husbands decided to appeal a red card.

Ever honest, Dave told the appeal panel that Brian had done exactly what he was accused of and so the ban remain in place. A story which has entered Hassocks folklore.

Even after Dave stood down as secretary after many years, he

remained a regular at the Beacon when his health allowed it.

When Dave could not attend matches, he would request an in-depth report on what had happened from those who had the following day whilst enjoying a couple of Sunday lunchtime pints at Keymer & Hassocks Sports & Social Club, where he was also a member.

The Knight family have invited anybody who would like celebrate Dave's life to attend a service at the Clayton Wood Natural Burial Ground on Tuesday 15th August at 11am.

There will then be food and drink served at Keymer & Hassocks Sports & Social Club immediately afterwards.

Our thoughts are with Phillip, Richard, Alexandra and the rest of the Knight family. RIP Dave.



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Forward Fair flies in to become latest Robin

Hassocks have boosted their attacking options with the signing of former Shoreham and Lancing forward Alex Fair.

A regular goal-getter wherever he has been thanks to his clinical finishing ability, Fair scored 12 times in 29 appearances last season to help Shoreham to the Southern Combination League Division One title.

Former Hassocks striker Michael Death had taken Fair to Middle Road ahead of the start of the 2021-22 campaign.

He plundered eight goals that season as the Musselmen narrowly missed out on promotion when defeated by Midhurst & Easebourne in the playoffs.

Fair spent 2020-21 with Mile Oak but is probably best known for his time at Lancing spread over two spells, where he played alongside a number of current Robins including Alex Bygraves and Kyle Woolven.

In the 2019-20 season when Lancing topped the Premier Division at the time Covid-19 led the

campaign to be declared null and void, Fair had contributed 16 goals in 26 appearances.

Included in that haul were two from the Lancers' August Bank Holiday Monday visit to the Beacon. Fair was introduced early in the second half with Lancing trailing 1-0 to a James Littlejohn effort and in danger of suffering a first league defeat of the season.

That was until Fair's brace bagged in the space of 180 seconds turned the game on its head. The first was a stunning 73 minute header with power and direction from a corner out on the left.

The second arrived on 76 and was an equally impressive finish, a cool curling effort from the edge of the box which gave Robins goalkeeper Josh Green no chance.

Fair would go onto inflict further damage on Hassocks two months later.

He turned out for Lancing Under 23s when the Robins went to Culver Road in Southern Combination Under 23 West Division action, scoring a hat-trick.

The Lancers ran out 4-2 winners

that night with their other goal coming from future Hassocks forward George Mitchell-Phillips. Louis Pople and Tom Jupp replied for the Robins.

During his first spell at Culver Road, Fair was part of the Lancing squad who ended a 23 year wait for senior silverware when winning the Peter Bentley League Cup at the Beacon in 2016 via a 2-1 victory over Newhaven.

There were plenty of other Hassocks connections involved with the Lancers at that time.

Former Robins defender Jake Mills was on the receiving end of a foul which saw the Dockers' Joe Dryer dismissed after only 24 minutes.

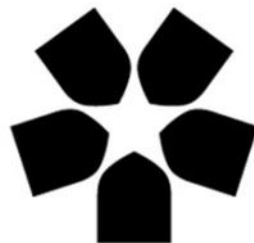
Green was Lancing goalkeeper between his two spells with Hassocks, saving Lee Robinson's penalty six minutes into the second half. Mike Williamson was named man-of-the-match and Bygraves was also a Lancer.

Fair has also represented Littlehampton Town, for whom he scored six times in 11 appearances during the 2018-19 Southern Combination Division One season.

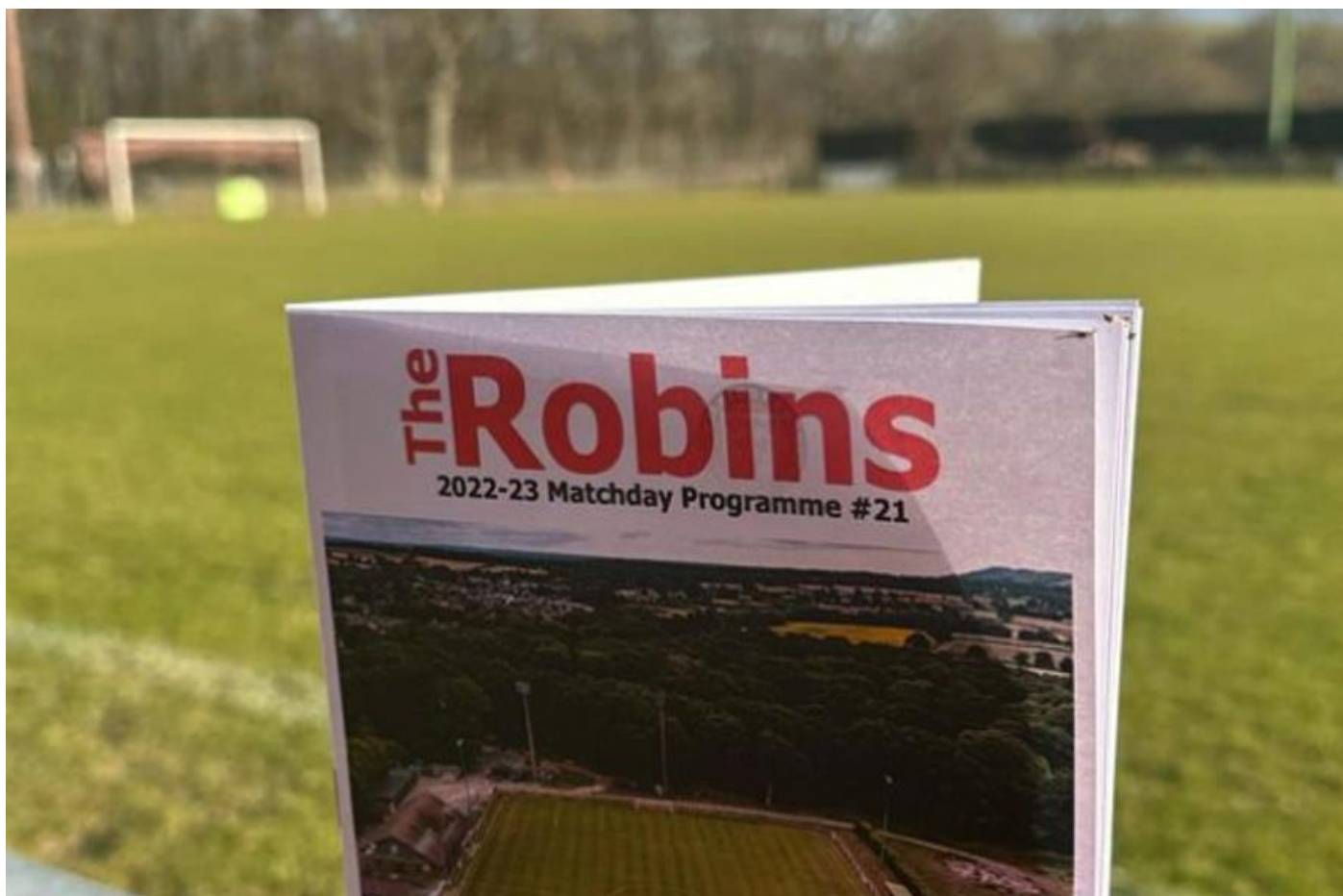
Welcome to the Beacon, Alex.



STATION GARAGE HASSOCKS



LENMARK
GROUNDWORKS



Soccer Swap Shop name Hassocks Programme of the Season 2022-23

Robins matchday programme was 38th nationally and the best in the Southern Combination League during the 2022-23 season according to Soccer Swap Shop

The Hassocks matchday programme has been named the best in the Southern Combination League in the 2022-23 season by Soccer Club Swap Shop.

Out of 635 clubs from across the English, Scottish and Welsh football pyramids, the Robins were ranked 38th nationally.

It is the first time Hassocks have cracked the top 40, where they were the only Southern Combination League Club.

Two other Sussex clubs placed higher than the Robins. Isthmian League Premier side Horsham were seventh and National League South

outfit Worthing came 26th,

A minimum of four different editions were judged per club by Soccer Club Swap Shop, who have been running their awards since 2009.

Epsom & Ewell took first place in Southern Combination League Division One, whilst the Robins' local rivals Haywards Heath Town won the award for the Isthmian League South East Division.

Hassocks are no stranger to programme awards. The Robins came top of the Independent SCFL Programme Survey in 2018-19, second in 2016-17 and 2013-14, and third in 2017-18.

In 2022-23, the Hassocks

matchday programme was produced in full colour for the first time and regularly featured upwards of 44 pages, all for a cost of only £1.

It included match reports from the first team, ladies, Under 23s, Under 18s and veterans, as well as archive match reports and all the latest news from around the Beacon.

Every programme was always made available as a free PDF download after the game.

The 2022-23 was the 11th season the current editorial team have been producing the Robins matchday programme and the award is recognition for their hard work since taking on the role in 2012.

REPORT IT.

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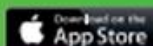
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Blockbuster Bull strike gives Hassocks another shot at Erith

Emirates FA Cup Extra Preliminary Qualifying Round
Saturday 5th August 2023, The Beacon
Hassocks 1-1 Erith Town

We might only be three games into the 2023-24 football campaign, but Hassocks can probably give out their Goal of the Season award right now.

The Robins' Emirates FA Cup Extra Preliminary Qualifying tie against Erith Town was 17 minutes old when Joe Bull picked up possession 38 yards out.

Nobody expected Bull to shoot, save for one lonely voice in the Maurice Boxall Stand which said "Shoot" too quietly to be convincing.

Bull's first touch was perfect, setting himself inside and into space to unleash a frankly unbelievable strike into the very top corner.

The noise which greeted the goal said it all. There were no cheers of celebration reserved for Hassocks connections; instead the entire ground, home and away support, let out a combined "OOOOH."

It was a strike good enough to win any game of football. Unfortunately for the Robins, it merely counted as an equaliser after Henry Arnold had opened the scoring seven minutes earlier.

No further goals meant it finished 1-1. The sides will now meet again on Tuesday night at Stanmore Stadium to decide who progresses to face either Burgess Hill Town or Sutton Common Rovers on August 19th in preliminary qualifying.

In terms of both weather and quality, this was very much a game of two halves. A richly entertaining first 45 minutes were played out under dark clouds and near-biblical rainfall.

The sun made an appearance after the break but the quality of football dropped off, so much so that a young supporter riding a unicycle around the perimeter path provided much of the interest. Non-league football at its finest.

Plenty of action was packed into the opening exchanges, mainly

involving Liam Benson.

The Hassocks striker had a shot blocked within 120 seconds of kick off before twice escaping the attentions of the Erith back line to latch onto through balls. Benson was off target with one and earned a corner with the other.

It was somewhat against the run of play when the Dockers took the lead with 10 minutes on the clock.

Matt Gunn put in a heavy challenge on Ollie Milton, causing everyone in close attention to stop awaiting the award of a free kick.

Everyone except Arnold, that is. The Dockers forward chased down the loose ball which had spun into the Robins box, beat Fraser Trigwell to it and rounded the Hassocks goalkeeper before firing home.

James Dyer almost doubled the lead for Erith a few minutes later, skipping past two challenges before blasting narrowly over.

Next came Bull's spectacular leveller. James Westlake collected a Bradley Tighe throw on the right and between the player head coach, Pat Harding and Jack Troak, possession was worked across the pitch to Bull at left back. You already know about the rest.

A little of the shine was taken off the equaliser four minutes later when Troak landed awkwardly after challenging for a header.

Following lengthy treatment from Hassocks physio Jay Patel, Troak walked from the field and was whisked off to hospital.

X-rays there revealed a fractured collarbone. Little wonder Troak kicked the downward guttering of the Clubhouse out of frustration as he swapped an afternoon at the Beacon for a visit to the Princess Royal.

Kyle Woolven took over from Troak and was almost involved in setting up a goal with his first touch, splitting the Erith defence with a pass into the path of the advancing Tighe



on the right. Tighe flashed a low ball across the box which nobody in red could quite convert.

A bizarre incident saw Milton booked for hugging Trigwell after the Hassocks goalkeeper won a footrace to a through ball.

The same pair then faced off again. Not only did Trigwell do really well to claw away from the feet of the Erith striker, but he also managed to get up, chase down and leather the loose ball out for a throw as it escaped his box.

Neither Trigwell nor opposite number Mackenzie Foley were particularly worked after the interval with it taking 24 minutes for the first chance of the second half to arrive.

Dyer showed further nifty footwork to glide past two challenges, only to fire wide.

Hassocks introduced new signing Alex Fair from the bench along with Alex Brewer, ending the game with four strikers on the pitch.

No headway could be made in an attempt to avoid a midweek trip to Thameside however, and it was the Dockers who finished stronger.

Substitute Alfie Eldridge should have done better when dragging wide from six yards before Bull capped a starman performance with a brilliantly timed last ditch sliding tackle to nick the ball off Arnold just as he was about to pull the trigger.

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

Subs: Woolven (Troak 21), Fair (Frankland 72), Brewer (Benson 81), Blake, Bacon, Geard, S Smith (unused).



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Robins elimination at Erith means no Mid Sussex Derby in FA Cup

Emirates FA Cup Extra Preliminary Qualifying Round Replay
Tuesday 8th August 2023, Stanmore Stadium

Erith Town 4-0 Hassocks

There will be no Mid Sussex Derby between Hassocks and Burgess Hill Town in the Emirates FA Cup after the Robins were well beaten 4-0 in their Extra Preliminary Qualifying Round replay against Erith Town.

Having drawn 1-1 at the Beacon on Saturday, the Dockers showed why they finished fourth in the stronger Southern Counties East Premier last season with a domineering result.

It earns Erith a trip to the More Than Tyres Stadium on Saturday 19th August after Dean Cox's Hillians needed a replay of their own to overcome Sutton Common Rovers.

The Robins made two changes from the weekend for their trip to the Stanmore Stadium in Thamesmead. Harvey Blake came in on the right wing for his first start of the season in place of Tom Frankland.

Former Shoreham and Lancing forward Alex Fair was handed his full debut in place of Jack Troak, who faces a spell on the sidelines after breaking his collarbone midway through the first half of Saturday's clash.

Troak's nasty injury came shortly after Joe Bull had scored an absolute rocket from 38 yards to level the tie for Hassocks.

You could sense the concern amongst the Erith players when Bull lined up a similar effort after only six minutes here, but this time around the end result was nowhere near as magical.

Dockers forward Ollie Milton had been off target with a long ranger of his own with two minutes played of what was a pretty even opening half hour.

There was certainly nothing to suggest during that period the margin of victory Erith were going to rack up via a blistering spell of three goals in 17 minutes before half time.

The ninth minute saw James

Trueman and Henry Arnold link up down the left to sweep a low cross pulled back to the edge of the Hassocks box.

Arriving midfielder James Miles should have at least tested Fraser Trigwell, only to blast wastefully over the bar.

A towering Alex Bygraves header from a James Westlake free kick on the right forced Mackenzie Foley into a sprawling save.

Not only did the Erith number one do well to react, but he managed to hold the ball too which was vital with Liam Benson lurking.

Blake was not far away with a left footed effort after cutting in from the right flank on 24 minutes as Hassocks enjoyed a decent spell.

That was brought to a shuddering end when Erith took the lead after the Robins were poor in defending a long throw into the box.

Somehow, the ball was allowed to make its way to the back post where Miles was on hand to apply a close range finish.

Falling behind noticeably took the wind from Hassocks' sails. They needed Trigwell to scramble away a deflected Joe Chalker effort which looked initially like it was going to deceive the Robins goalkeeper and end up in the back of the net.

Wirth Erith on top, the Robins badly needed half time for the opportunity to regroup.

Had Hassocks made it to the break without conceding again, then they might have found a way back into the tie in the second half.

Instead, Erith added goals in the 38th and 45th minutes to effectively end the game as a contest.

Home captain Jack Holland doubled the advantage with a fine effort, striding forward from right back and convincingly lashing past Trigwell from distance to send the home support into raptures.

There was further joy on the



stroke of half time. A game of pinball broke out in the Hassocks box eventually ended by a Robins defender scrambling away at the expense of a corner.

Over came the resulting delivery for Tom Ash to power a header beyond Trigwell which sent Erith into the interval three goals to the good.

Trigwell was forced into another important intervention within a few minutes of the restart.

The excellent Arnold collected a pass on the penalty spot, turned on a sixpence and hit a snapshot which Trigwell somehow kept out from close range.

Hassocks threw on Under 23s midfielder Sam Geard for a rare first team opportunity whilst there was also a debut from the bench for Three Bridges loanee Josh Mundy.

Between those two substitutions came Erith's fourth. Milton slalomed his way through the Robins defence like a Winter Olympics skier before slotting beyond Trigwell and into the bottom corner for the best goal of the evening.

Hassocks: Trigwell; B Tighe, Gunn, Bygraves, Bull; Blake, J Westlake, Wilkes, Fair; Harding, Benson.

Subs: Geard (Fair 50), Mundy (Westlake 59), Woolven (Harding 64), Frankland (unused).

First Team Matches 2023-24

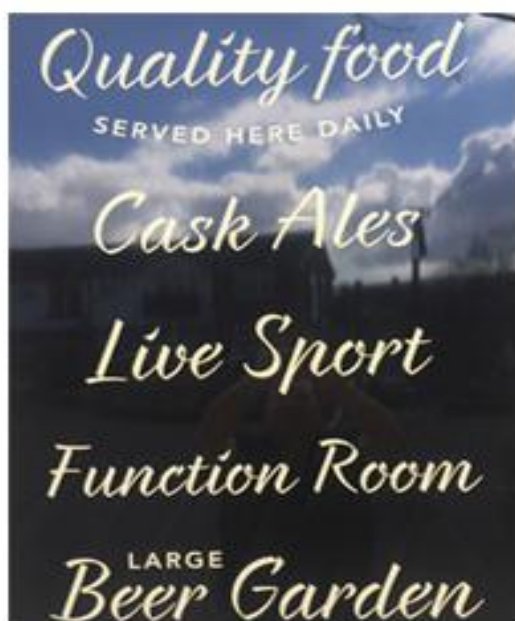
Date & Time	Opponents	Comp	F-A	Att	Scorers
July					
29/07 - 15:00	Eastbourne Town (H)	SCFLP	1-1	232	OG
August					
01/08 - 19:30	Loxwood (A)	SCFLP	3-0	82	Frankland, Benson, Harding
05/08 - 15:00	Erith Town (H)	FACEP	1-1	135	Bull
08/08 - 19:45	Erith Town (A)	FACEPR	0-4		
12/08 - 15:00	Lingfield (H)	SCFLP			
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			
26/12 - 11:00	Haywards Heath Town (H)	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	4	0	4	1	180	51
Joe Bull	4	0	4	0	141	10
Alex Bygraves	4	0	4	0	48	4
Bradley Tighe	4	0	4	0	174	0
Fraser Trigwell	4	0	4	0	5	0
James Westlake	4	0	4	0	261	31
Jamie Wilkes	4	0	4	0	44	4
Pat Harding	3	1	4	1	242	142
Kyle Woolven	1	3	4	0	4	0
Tom Frankland	3	0	3	1	15	1
Matt Gunn	3	0	3	0	3	0
Jack Troak	3	0	3	0	125	31
Harvey Blake	1	1	2	0	114	4
Alex Fair	1	1	2	0	2	0
Ben Bacon	0	2	2	0	48	17
Elliott Hanslow	0	2	2	0	2	0
Sam Smith	1	0	1	0	42	3
Alex Brewer	0	1	1	0	4	1
Sam Geard	0	1	1	0	5	0
Josh Mundy	0	1	1	0	1	0

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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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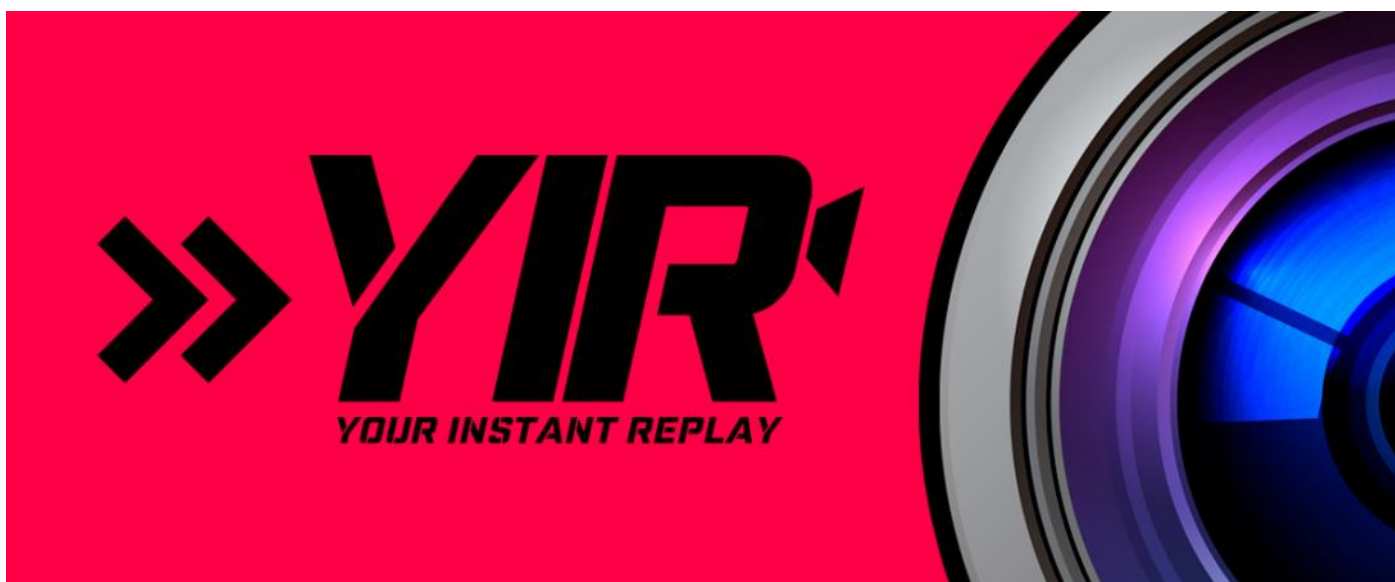


Available from the Robins Bar

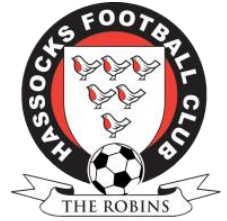
Please drink responsibly and try to avoid falling into the stream on your way home. We are still saving up to have it piped and tarmacked over.

Ladies Matches 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...



Robins on song in rare Mill Road mauling

August 12th 2017: The Robins opened their 2017-18 Southern Combination League campaign with a rare win at Arundel, running out 3-0 victors over the Mulletts

Arundel away may not be seen as the toughest of fixtures in the Southern Combination League Premier Division but there have been plenty of hair raising experiences for Hassocks at the home of the Mulletts down the years.

These are the top flight's two longest serving clubs. And despite having faced each other in every season since before the turn of the Millennium, Hassocks have only returned from Mill Road with three points on a handful of occasions over the last two decades; trips west were good for admiring this most picturesque of grounds in the shadow of Arundel Castle but not much else.

Being handed Arundel away first league game looked a daunting test then based on historical evidence.

As it was, it was one that the Robins passed with flying colours despite a fresh raft of unavailable players.

A lack of consistency in selection has hindered Hassocks for a good four seasons now. It is especially acute at the start of the season with holidays and cricketing commitments.

From last week's squad who played in the FA Cup defeat to Hollands and Blair, Jordan Badger, Ashley Marsh, Matt Berridge and Nathan Miles joined Josh Hawkes and Phil Gault on the absentees list.

Despite the missing, the Robins dominated the game from start to finish to run out comfortable 3-0 winners in an encounter in which Alex Harris was hardly troubled in keeping an all too rare clean sheet.

Harris had looked shaky in the first half of the opening game of his fourth spell at the Beacon a week previously but that was a distant memory as he gobbled up balls into the box with all the ease of a pig

snorting up a truffle.

The goalkeeper has particularly big gloves to fill in replacing James Broadbent.

Broadbent was outstanding in 2016-17, winning Players', Managers' and Supporters' Player of the Season Awards and earning a deserved step up to the Bostik League with Shoreham.

Clean sheets and performances like this from Harris will make that sizeable transfer blow seem less so.

Hassocks took the lead on the 25 minute mark through the in-form Liam Benson.

Benson enjoyed a fine second half to last season after being promoted from the Robins' Under 21 squad and he's got two in two now in this campaign.

There were admittedly question marks about the goalkeeping of Stuart McDonald, who could only parry a rasping effort from Lewis Westlake.

That gave Benson the chance to show off his predatory instincts which he duly did by smashing home the loose ball.

The lead was doubled on the stroke of half time by Spencer Slaughter, scoring his first goal since December 2015 on his first start since January 2016.

Since then, Slaughter has been backpacking around the world before returning for a couple of brief substitute cameos last season.

A proper pre-season has given him some form and fitness under his belt and he said before the game he fancied himself to score as a result.

The opportunity to do so came courtesy of Dan Stokes, who crossed from the right to Slaughter at the far post with the finish being a tight one on the angle.

Stokes had endured a frustrating game up until that point, his passing at times being so off that he gave up

trying to link up with Michael Death.

In one wonderful moment, Stokes told Death after another five yard pass went astray "I'm not passing to you anymore as it obviously just isn't working," much to mercurial striker's annoyance.

Death had no such problems with his forward partner Benson, however, and that combination gave Hassocks their third with five minutes remaining.

Benson unselfishly rolled across to Death who finished into an open goal from eight yards to wrap up the Robins biggest opening day of the league season victory since a 5-0 win over Littlehampton Town in 1996.

Arundel had briefly threatened slightly before that when Hassocks made all manner of weird and wonderful decisions to go for goal and shoot from stupid positions rather than keep possession and run the clock down.

Doing so also would have helped the Robins conserve energy ahead of what will no doubt be a much sterner test against early league leaders Newhaven on Tuesday night.

A lack of options on the bench did not help either when it came to resting players.

Jack Wilkins was the only substitute summoned, which was perhaps just as well as joint boss Mark Dalglish had to name himself amongst the replacements.

Hassocks: Harris; Barnes, Mills, Akehurst; Stokes, J Westlake, Slaughter, L Westlake, Bant; Benson, Death.

Subs: Wilkins (used), Marsh, S Badger, Dalglish, Green (unused).

Starman: Liam Benson

Around the League...



Eight Southern Combination Premier Division teams progressed to the Emirates FA Cup Preliminary Qualifying Round last week whilst the action got underway in Division One with matches played on both Saturday and Tuesday

Last season's Southern Combination League runners up Crawley Down Gatwick picked up the most impressive result of the round, eliminating Isthmian League South East opponents Three Bridges in a replay.

Bridges had gone all the way to third qualifying last season and a famous meeting with Hereford at Jubilee Fields.

A 2-2 draw with the Anvils there meant the sides faced off again on Tuesday night at the Haven, where Down ran out 2-0 winners through goals from Nick Sullivan and Callum Kilkenny.

Also through to preliminary qualifying via a replay are **Peacehaven & Telscombe** thanks to a 4-1 victory over Chipstead at the Sports Park.

The Tye were 3-0 ahead before the interval with Lewis Croal, Aaron Capon and Billy Oliver all on target.

Emmanuel Osei-Asomah added the fourth on 85 minutes. It had finished 1-1 in the original tie on Saturday.

A 95th minute winner from George Olulode secured a 2-1 win for **Eastbourne United** at Phoenix Sports.

The other United goal was notched by Callum Barlow with 19 on the clock.

Midhurst & Easebourne advanced with a 2-1 victory away against Holmesdale.

The hosts put through their own net to help the Stags through with the other goal for the visitors coming from Charlie Osborne.

Former Hassocks player Nathan Cooper got his first goal in the colours of **Steyning Town** as the Barrowman eased to a 4-0 success at Balham.

Cooper opened the scoring on 10 minutes with further strikes from

Harry Shooman, Ryan Hallett and Charlie Meehan following.

Bexhill United got their first win of the season by defeating North Greenford United 3-1 in a game played at Hailsham Town's Beaconsfield.

James Stone scored twice for the Pirates either side of a Jack Shonk effort.

There were two all-Southern Combination Premier Division ties, the first of which went the way of **Newhaven** who beat **Little Common** 3-1 at the Trafalgar Ground.

Callum Edwards enjoyed quite the home debut for the Dockers, scoring a sensational hat-trick. Freddie Warren provided the consolation for Common.

Crowborough Athletic extended their 100 percent record with another victory, seeing off **Shoreham** 3-0 at the Crowborough Community Stadium.

Lucas Murrain, Dan Powell and Harry Forster were the Crows' goal scorers.

Exiting the Emirates FA Cup were **Eastbourne Town** in a 3-1 home defeat against Faversham Town. Harvey Greig scored for the hosts.

Horsham YMCA were beaten 2-1 by last season's Division One playoff winners Epsom & Ewell, who were subsequently moved back to the Combined Counties League by the FA following their promotion. Sekou Toure was on target for YM.

There was a heavy 5-0 home defeat for **Haywards Heath Town** at the hands of Whitstable Town whilst **AFC Varndeanians** were eliminated 3-0 at Knaphill and had Adam Bukleb sent off late in the day.

Isthmian League East Grinstead Town proved too good for **Pagham** when winning 4-0 at Nyetimber Lane.

Ex-Robin Alfie Edmeads scored a

screamer for **Saltdean United** but they were still eliminated 4-2 by Badshot Lea. Lewis Hallett was the other Tigers player on target.

Loxwood went down 2-1 at Spelthorne Sports and this afternoon's visitors **Lingfield** gave a good account of themselves before losing 3-1 against a very strong Sevenoaks Town team. Captain Conor Wilford was on target for the Lingers.

In Division One, three sides boast 100 percent records after the two rounds of league matches played over the course of last week.

Forest Row won 4-0 at **Mile Oak** on the opening day and followed up with a 4-1 win at newcomers **Banstead Athletic** in midweek.

Seaford Town are heavily fancied to do well this season. They hammered **East Preston** 5-0 at the Lashmar on Tuesday night having beaten recently relegated **Alfold** 3-2 at the Crouch on Saturday.

The other side with six points from six are **Oakwood**. They ran out 2-1 winners against **Arundel** and then won 2-1 at **Roffey**.

Chessington & Hook United, **Godalming Town**, **Montpelier Villa** and **Worthing United** all have four points on the board with last season's losing playoff finalists **Wick** and fellow top six finishers **Selsey** also unbeaten following two draws.

Promoted **Copthorne** collected their first ever point in senior football from a 1-1 draw with reigning runners up **Dorking Wanderers B**, who themselves suffered a surprise reversal on the opening day at home to **Montpelier Villa**.



Tables Form Top Scorers Attendances

Southern Combination Premier Division Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crowborough Athletic	3	3	0	0	10	2	9
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
Pagham	2	1	0	1	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	3	0	1	2	3	7	1
Shoreham	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Loxwood	2	0	0	2	0	5	0
Bexhill United	2	0	0	2	1	8	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
Bexhill United	156	156	156
Horsham YMCA	131	131	131
Little Common	114	114	114
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	WWW
Eastbourne United	DW
Hassocks	DW
Midhurst & Easebourne	DW
Steyning Town	W
Peacehaven & Tels	W
Little Common	W
Pagham	LW
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	LDL
Shoreham	LL
Loxwood	LL
Bexhill United	LL

Premier Division Top Scorers

Player	Club	Goals
Callum Edwards	Newhaven	3
Harvey Killick	Crowborough	3
Lucas Murrain	Crowborough	3
Billy Oliver	Peacehaven	3
Sipheshile Mdiolose	Midhurst	3
Callum Barlow	Eastbourne Utd	2
Ben Chowney	Crawley Down	2
Lewis Croal	Peacehaven	2
Elliot Duncan	Crowborough	2
Harry Forster	Crowborough	2
Charlie Meehan	Steyning	2
Charliw Playford	AFC Uckfield	2
Lewis Russell	Midhurst	2
Jack Shonk	Bexhill United	2
Conor Wilford	Lingfield	2
Charlie Ball	Eastbourne Utd	1
Lewis Beebee	Saltdean United	1
Liam Benson	Hassocks	1
Marley Bigg	Varndeanians	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 Pagham

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 Crawley Down Gatwick

before beating AFC Varndeanians 2-0.

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.

<<< Upcoming Fixtures



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.



Hassocks v Shoreham

Southern Combination League Premier Division
Monday 28th August 2023, 11:00am
The Beacon, Brighton Road, Hassocks, BN6 9LY
Admission prices £8 adults, £4 concessions, Under 16s free

Currently scheduled for August Bank Holiday Monday at 11am, there is now a possibility our home match with Shoreham could be moved to Tuesday night. Please keep an eye on our website and social media for confirmation

Shoreham last season

Shoreham ended a four season absence from the Premier Division by winning promotion as Division One champions last time out under the management of former Hassocks striker Michael Death. In the process, the Musselmen went over a calendar year unbeaten in the league from January 2022 to January 2023, providing the foundations to lift the title by six points from Dorking Wanderers B with a record of 21 wins, eight draws and just three defeats from 32 matches. Shoreham are yet to win from any of their three games so far this season, losing to Midhurst & Easebourne and Little Common in the league and Crowborough Athletic in the FA Cup.

Head-to-head

Despite the fact we have not played each other for four seasons, there have been 51 meetings between the clubs. We have won 22, Shoreham 18 with 11 draws; such an even record showing there is rarely anything between the clubs. The only competition in senior football we are yet to play each other in is the FA Vase.

Last time we met

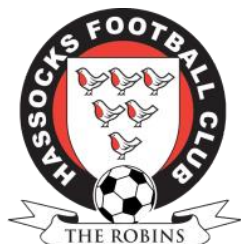
Shoreham were all-but relegated when they visited Hassocks for the final game played at the Beacon of the 2018-19 season whilst we were safely positioned in mid table. Not that any of that mattered as the Musselmen stormed to a 5-0 victory.

Mohammed Diallo scored four of the goals with the other coming from Martin Mutungi.

Familiar faces

The game will represent Death's first return to the Beacon as a manager. He played 112 games between 2015 and 2018 for the Robins, scoring 38 goals to sit 17th on the all time scorer's list in senior football. Our recent signing of Alex Fair will give the winger an early opportunity to take on the side he helped to win Division One last season, whilst young goalkeeper Joe Southam has signed for Shoreham this season having spent part of last season dual-signed with us from Burgess Hill Town.

Robins Awards 2023-24



Starman Awards

Eastbourne Town home **Jack TROAK**
Loxwood away **Joe BULL**
Erith Town home **Joe BULL**
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. James Westlake	241	20	261	31
17. Dave Smith	203	57	260	53
18. Joe Fernley	205	40	245	45
19. Neil Smith	232	10	242	68
20. Pat Harding	209	33	242	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	242
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	180
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	125
21. Luke Flomo	31	146
22. James Westlake	31	261
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

Gift & photo with your player if they win Player of the Month

Framed team photo of 2023-24 first team squad

To secure your favourite player or for more information, please speak to Owen behind the bar or email hassocksfc@outlook.com

Player Sponsors 2023-24



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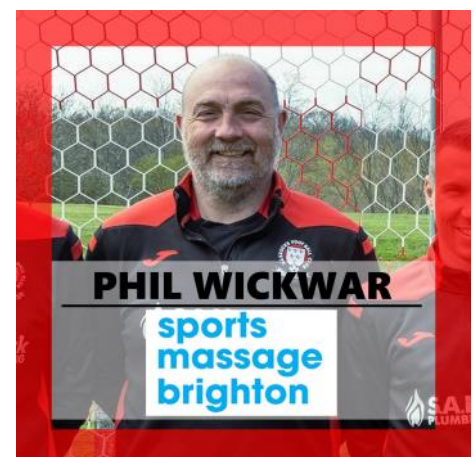
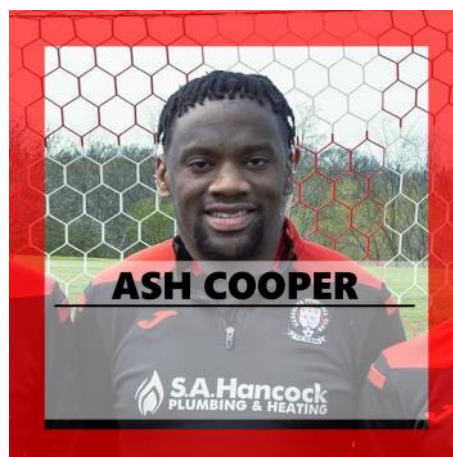
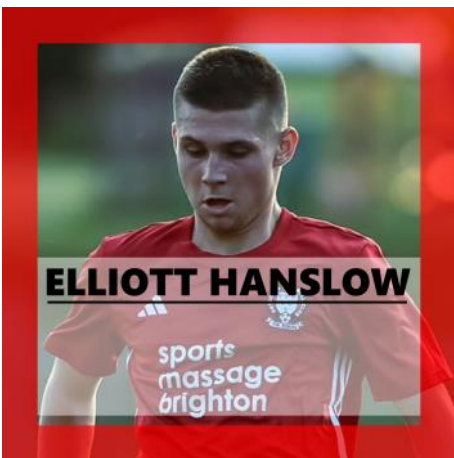
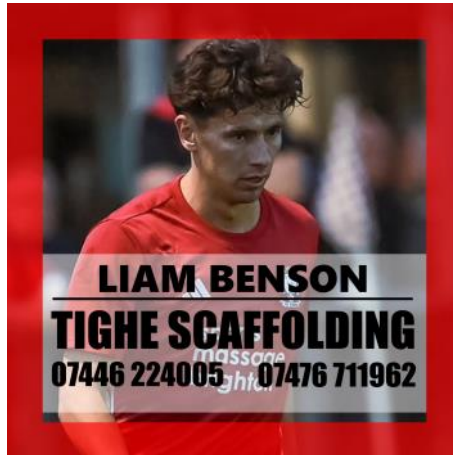
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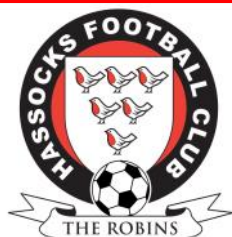
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Today's Teams



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	
Alex FAIR	
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



Midhurst & Easebourne

Southern Combination Premier Division
Saturday 26th August 2023. 3:00pm



LINGFIELD

	Toby Allen
	Dennis Asante
	George Branton
	Carl Brown
	Alec Campbell
	Charlie Davies
	Haydn Dickinson
	Callum Downer
	Louis Gates
	Jack Glassborow
	Thomas Green
	Toby Hill
	Stephen Hodge
	Tyrone Magala-Bryan
	Jamal Robinson-Davids
	Jason Stripp
	Richard Wetton
	Conor Wilford
	Toyo Oguniesi
	Connor Summerfield

Referee

Mark Spence

Assistants

Paul John &
Jeremy Newman

Manager Dan Burnett

Today's other FA Cup games

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



Keep abreast of The Robins

For the latest news and updates from The Beacon



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