

# HASSOCKS FC - THE ROBINS



**HASSOCKS V SALTDEAN UNITED**

**SATURDAY 27TH JULY 2024**

**PREMIER DIVISION - 3PM KICK OFF**

**PREMIER SPORTS SOUTHERN COMBINATION FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**MATCHDAY NO. 1**

**£1.00**



# HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB

**Founded 1902**

The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground,  
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### UNDER 23s & UNDER 18s HEAD COACH

Sean Fernley

### UNDER 23s & UNDER 18s PHYSIO

Phil Wickwar

### LADIES MANAGER

Mark Dalglish

### 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, 2024

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, 2024

Southern Combination Under 18 Cup

Winners 2001, 2008, 2009, 2018

Runners up 2002, 2014, 2015

Sussex County FA Under 18 Cup

Winners 2002

### LADIES TEAM

**South East Counties Women's Division One West**

Winners 2018

**Sussex Women's Challenge Trophy**

Winners 2018

**Sussex County Women's Premier Division**

Winners 2023



# Welcome to the Hassocks Hotel Beacon



Good afternoon and welcome to the Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground for the opening day of the 2024-25 Southern Combination League season

We extend a warm welcome to our visitors Saltdean United and hope they enjoy their stay with us in Mid Sussex this afternoon.

It only feels like yesterday that the 2023-24 campaign came to an end, but that is largely down to how busy we have been over the summer.

A new chairman, a new ground sponsor, Westy refreshing his management team and plenty of new signings as we look to build on our record-breaking season last time out.

To set a new Robins benchmark for number of points in a Premier Division season was a superb achievement, capped off by that brilliant final day here against Newhaven back in April.

The idea of nearly 700 people coming to watch Hassocks in a league game would have seemed impossible three years ago.

Not only was the ground full, but the players did everything they could to ensure any intrigued first-timers come back again by winning 5-1 despite playing for over an hour with only 10 men.

It must rank as one of the greatest days in the club's 122-year history; hopefully, we can enjoy some equally memorable occasions in front of large crowds over the next nine months.

And if we do, the well-balanced fixture list means most of them will take place in the first half of the campaign.

Nine of our first 10 games will take place here at the Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, which conversely means we play just five home games from January 1st onwards - cup adventures depending, obviously.

It all starts with three home games over the next seven days; a run of fixtures which will help set the tone for the campaign ahead.

Bexhill United are the visitors on Tuesday night in a 7:45pm kick off, followed by the small matter of hosting Haywards Heath Town here in the Emirates FA Cup a week today.

With a substantial amount of prize money on the line as well as Mid Sussex bragging rights, that is an afternoon not to be missed.

And as we saw in that game against Newhaven, big home support can make all the difference. Maybe even get us over the line for **a first win over Heath since 1992...**

As always, the first home game of the season means we end with an appeal for player sponsors. The cost is just £40 to support your favourite Robin with the money going towards mundane yet vital stuff which keeps the club going, such as washing kits.

If you would like to get involved, please speak to Owen behind the bar.

Thank you as ever for your support and we hope you enjoy the game.

Owen & Scott

# THE HASSOCKS

— Traditional Pub —



## **Proud Sponsor of the Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground**

**Come & visit us after the game -  
next to Hassocks Station**

### **OPENING TIMES**

Bar		Food
Monday	12 – 11pm	12 – 3pm
Tuesday	12 – 11pm	12 – 3pm
Wednesday	12 – 11pm	12 – 3pm / 6 – 9pm
Thursday	12 – 11pm	12 – 3pm / 6 – 9pm
Friday	12 – 11pm	12 – 3pm / 5 – 9pm
Saturday	12 – 11pm	12 – 9pm
Sunday	12 – 10.30pm	12 – 3pm



# Pat's Chairman Chat

Good afternoon and welcome to the newly named Hassocks Hotel Beacon ground for **today's match against Saltdean United.**

Special mention to the Saltdean manager, Kieran Ridley who's company GR teamwear have helped us at Hassocks with the printing for our training and matchday kit.

It has been a privilege to become chairman of this wonderful club and a real eye opener to the work that many volunteers put in around the ground and help the club function.

I'm very grateful to the previous chairman Dave John for not only running a solid ship to inherit, but also for helping me in my first few months.

The committee and staff have also been truly wonderful with their commitment and efforts.

**It's been a busy summer for me** personally with work going on to help create and save money to push the club forward.

Each week new problems/solutions arise and I'm happy to be an open chairman and share the news of our plans ahead with anyone who asks me.

Last Saturday we welcomed Burgess Hill for the Ann John charity cup game and it was a huge success all round.

Not only did we win the match (our first ever 'proper' win vs Hill in the cup) but more importantly we raised record money for charity (over

£2,000), and we showed as a club we can function to hold large events.

The start of the season brings anticipation of what could be. Will we eclipse our record breaking season this year? Will we make the play offs again? Be involved in a decent cup run?

**Whatever we achieve, we'll** continue to represent Hassocks FC as a club with class and integrity.

Westy has done a brilliant job recruiting new players on limited **resources and I'm proud these new** players can see us as a club who do the right things and look after our players.

Up the Robins,  
Pat H



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in 2024-25**



# Saltdean United



Having secured Premier Division survival last season, the Tigers are now looking forward to a bright future in which they hope progress on-the-pitch will match the dramatic and exciting transformation taking place at their Hill Park home...

Hassocks supporters who made the journey to Saltdean back in April for our 4-3 defeat were greeted by significant building work taking place down both sides of the ground.

Not only are the Tigers installing a 3G pitch, but a new Clubhouse and stands are going in which will make Hill Park one of the best facilities in the Southern Combination League.

Thanks to the efforts of Kieran Ridley and his squad, the new-look Hill Park should open to Premier Division football after the Tigers managed to avoid relegation at the end of the 2023-24 campaign.

Ridley was working with a young

squad of local players and as we at Hassocks know from experience, results can often be inconsistent when that is the case.

The Tigers though showed great fortitude to get over the line and the experience should serve them well - just like how we have progressed since our own brush with relegation in 2021-22.

Greater consistency will be the aim of the game for Saltdean in 2024-25. And if they play as well as they did when beating us at Hill Park a little over three months ago, Saltdean eyes should be looking up the table rather than down.

As always at the start of any new season, it is hard to know what to expect today from the opposition.

Pre-season has seen the Tigers lose to Isthmian League side Eastbourne Town, draw with Division One AFC Uckfield Town and go down with big-spending Westfield who are the overwhelming favourites to win the Mid Sussex Premier Division title.

Friendly results though count for nothing. The one thing games between Hassocks and Saltdean in recent times have guaranteed though is goals. Fingers crossed for more of the same today to get the new campaign off to a flyer.

## Tigers Factfile



Founded 1966  
Ground Hill Park  
Website saltdeanfc.co.uk  
Twitter @Saltdeanfc  
Instagram @saltdean\_tigers  
Manager Kieran Ridley

## Club Honours

Southern Combination League  
Runners up 1999, 2002  
Southern Combination League Division One  
Winners 1996, 2017  
Southern Combination League Division Two  
Winners 1989  
Runners up 2021  
Sussex Senior Cup  
Runners up 19897  
Sussex RUR Charity Cup  
Runners up 1996, 2022  
Southern Combination League Division Two Cup  
Winners 2011

## 10 Key Moments

**1966...** Saltdean United are formed and join the Brighton League where they rise through the divisions  
**1984...** after securing their ground at Hill Park, they join the Southern Combination League in Division Two  
**1989...** lift the Division Two title to secure promotion to senior football for the first time  
**1996...** the start of the clubs 'Golden Years' as they are promoted as Division One champions  
**1997...** embark on a memorable run to the Sussex Senior Cup Final, where they lose to St Leonards  
**1999...** finish second in the league & a season later win the Peter Bentley Cup  
**2007...** two relegation in five years drop the Tigers from Premier Division into Division Two  
**2012...** win promotion back into Division One as well as the Vernon Wentworth Cup  
**2017...** Division One champions, bringing top flight football back to Hill Park for the first time in 15 years  
**2022...** runners up to Littlehampton Town in both the Southern Combination League and RUR Cup

## Last 20 Seasons

2023-24: Southern Combination Premier 19th  
2022-23: Southern Combination Premier 18th  
2021-22: Southern Combination Premier 2nd  
2018-19: Southern Combination Premier 5th  
2017-18: Southern Combination Premier 8th  
2016-17: Southern Combination One 1st  
2015-16: Southern Combination One 17th  
2014-15: Southern Combination One 13th  
2013-14: Southern Combination One 13th  
2012-13: Southern Combination One 18th  
2011-12: Southern Combination Two 2nd  
2010-11: Southern Combination Two 5th  
2009-10: Southern Combination Two 8th  
2008-09: Southern Combination Two 7th  
2007-08: Southern Combination Two 9th  
2006-07: Southern Combination One 18th  
2005-06: Southern Combination One 16th  
2004-05: Southern Combination One 15th  
2003-04: Southern Combination One 13th  
2002-03: Southern Combination One 5th

## Played for Both

Hassocks and Saltdean United having shared a manager means that there are a number of players who have turned out for both clubs in the past.

Of those who followed Sweetman to Hill Park when he left the Robins in the summer of 2022, Arthur Rawlingson and Alfie Edmeads remain with the Tigers and could feature this afternoon.

A third ex-Robin has signed for Saltdean this season with our former Under 18s striker Oliver Parker-Williams making the switch.

Others to have represented

Hassocks and Saltdean under Sweetman include Jack Gardner, Lewis Beebee, Alfie Edmeads, Louis Thwaites, Lucas Tyrrell, Jayden Dunkley and Jacob Campbell.

We have shared to fine goalkeepers in James Broadbent and Nathan Stroomberg-Clarke, both of whom went onto play for the Tigers after their respective one-season stays at the Beacon.

Striker Ben Bacon enjoyed three spells with Hassocks and one with the Tigers, coming back to haunt us by scoring all four goals in a 4-1

Saltdean win on August Bank Holiday Monday 2018.

Another striker Dan Smith played for the Tigers in amongst his three spells with Hassocks between 2010 and 2013.

Stuart Brown moved to Hill Park for first team football from the Beacon midway through the 2014-15 season.

Also with the Tigers at that time was Jamie Buckett, whilst former Hassocks Under 18s captain Terry Gacias had a brief spell with Saltdean in the early 2010s.



## Head-to-Head

SCFL Premier >	Played 23 - Won 7 - Drawn 3 - Lost 13 - Scored 31 - Conceded 47
SCFL Division One >	Played 6 - Won 6 - Drawn 0 - Lost 0 - Scored 19 - Conceded 4
SCFL Division Two >	Played 4 - Won 0 - Drawn 1 - Lost 3 - Scored 4 - Conceded 8
Peter Bentley Cup >	Played 1 - Won 1 - Drawn 0 - Lost 0 - Scored 1 - Conceded 0
Sussex Senior Cup >	Played 2 - Won 1 - Drawn 1 - Lost 0 - Scored 7 - Conceded 5

Total > Played 36 - **Won 15** - **Drawn 5** - **Lost 16** - Scored 62 - Conceded 64

## Previous Meetings

2023-24

SCFL Premier: Saltdean United 4-3 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 4-0 Saltdean United

2022-23

SCFL Premier: Saltdean United 0-2 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 5-1 Saltdean United

Sussex Senior Cup: Hassocks 2-2 Saltdean United

2021-22

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 1-1 Saltdean United

SCFL Premier: Saltdean United 6-0 Hassocks

2019-20

SCFL Premier: Saltdean United 1-1 Hassocks

2018-19:

SCFL Premier: Saltdean United 4-1 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 1-4 Saltdean United

2017-18:

SCFL Premier: Saltdean United 3-0 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 0-1 Saltdean United

2001-02

SCFL Premier: Saltdean United 1-1 Hassocks

Sussex Senior Cup: Hassocks 5-3 Saltdean United

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 4-2 Saltdean United

2000-01

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 0-2 Saltdean United

SCFL Premier: Saltdean United 2-0 Hassocks

1999-00

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 0-3 Saltdean United

SCFL Premier: Saltdean United 0-2 Hassocks

1998-99

SCFL Premier: Saltdean United 3-0 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 2-1 Saltdean United

1997-98

SCFL Premier: Saltdean United 1-2 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 1-2 Saltdean United

1996-97

SCFL Premier: Hassocks 1-2 Saltdean United

Peter Bentley Cup: Saltdean United 0-1 Hassocks

SCFL Premier: Saltdean United 3-0 Hassocks

1994-95

SCFL Division One: Hassocks 6-1 Saltdean United

SCFL Division One: Saltdean United 1-2 Hassocks

1993-94

SCFL Division One: Saltdean United 1-4 Hassocks

SCFL Division One: Hassocks 3-0 Saltdean United

1992-93

SCFL Division One: Saltdean United 1-3 Hassocks

SCFL Division One: Hassocks 1-0 Saltdean United

1988-89

SCFL Division Two: Hassocks 0-1 Saltdean United

SCFL Division Two: Saltdean United 2-0 Hassocks

1987-88

SCFL Division Two: Saltdean United 2-1 Hassocks

SCFL Division Two: Hassocks 3-3 Saltdean United



# Last time we met...

## Saturday 13th April 2024 - Saltdean United 4-3 Hassocks

The race for the final Southern Combination Premier Division playoff spot will go down to the last day after both Mid Sussex clubs fluffed their lines in the penultimate game of the season.

Defeat on Tuesday for Haywards Heath against Newhaven meant Hassocks knew four points from their final two matches would guarantee fifth place ahead of their local rivals.

Heath meanwhile needed to win both their remaining games and hope Hassocks lost against either Saltdean United or in their own home fixture with Newhaven on April 27th.

Come 4.50pm and news reached Saltdean that Heath had suffered a shock 1-0 home defeat against 18th place AFC Varndeanians.

Drawing 3-3 against the Tigers, Hassocks now only needed to see out the final four minutes plus injury time for a playoff place.

**A draw would have sufficed for Saltdean's aims too; AFC Uckfield Town were losing to Midhurst & Easebourne, so a point guaranteed the Tigers' Premier Division survival.**

Both sides looked happy to settle for that until a through ball hit more out of hope than expectation caught out the Hassocks defence.

Harley Damario latched onto it, rounded Fraser Trigwell and rolled into an empty net with 88 minutes on the clock to decide a crazy game 4-3 in favour of the Tigers.

Saltdean celebrated wildly. Hassocks looked crestfallen. Football, bloody hell, as Sir Alex Ferguson once famously said.

**Yet when the dust settles, the Robins' fate is still at least in their own hands.** Avoid defeat against Newhaven at the Beacon in a fortnight and they will be in the playoffs.

Whilst quality football was in short supply due to the bumpy Hill Park surface, entertainment value was high in a game which ebbed and flowed from the moment Damario gave Saltdean an 18th minute lead.

Ex-Robin Alfie Edmeads found a gap between Dan Turner and Matt Gunn to send Damario clear. Trigwell charged from his line but Damario got their first to slot home.

Saltdean were ahead for only four minutes before Turner and Gunn combined to haul the Robins level. A trademark trebuchet throw from Turner 30 yards down the pitch enabled Gunn to loop a header over home goalkeeper Jordan Hawkins.

Hassocks took the lead via a first goal in senior football for Micael Fatela on 33 minutes.

Joe Bull won a vital last man tackle, from where the ball found its way beyond the Saltdean back line. Fatela was on it like a shot and produced a superb finish, lobbing the bouncing ball over Hawkins.

Six later and Saltdean equalised in controversial circumstances. Referee Nathaniel Roff awarded Hassocks a free kick before changing his mind after consulting with his assistant.

The Tigers made a hash of taking the reversed set piece quickly, putting it out for a goal kick. That should have been that.

Mr Roff though pulled play back to give Saltdean another chance. Edmeads duly moved the ball 15 yards forward from where whatever the original offence was occurred, swung it over and Ben Whitmore scored.

To say Hassocks were incensed would be an understatement. The boot though was on the other foot when the Robins retook the lead five minutes into the second half.

Raging Bull delivered a corner, chaos broke out and Gunn sent an effort towards goal in the middle of it all.

The current building work installing a new Clubhouse, stand and 3G pitch at Hill Park means spectators can only view from one-and-a-half sides of the ground. Most were therefore perfectly placed to see the ball did not cross the line.

Mr Roff and his assistant were not blessed with as good a vantage point, however, and they awarded Gunn his second and Hassocks their third goal of the afternoon.

Fraser Middleton volleyed Saltdean level on 70 minutes with a stunning, outside of the boot strike from 25 yards which had shades of Marco van Basten about it.

Still Hassocks looked the most likely winners after being pegged back. Leon Turner hit the bar following magic footwork from Alex Fair, Hawkins denied Troak from point blank range and Whitmore made a heroic block on the line as Fatela followed up.

But then Damario struck, Saltdean were safe and the Robins left facing a date with destiny against the Dockers.

Hassocks: Trigwell; Blake, Gunn, D Turner, Bull; L Turner, Fatela, Williamson, Fair; Wilkes; Troak.

Subs: Stephenson (L Turner 76) Khalloqui (Fair 80), B Tighe, Loversidge, Mundy (unused).

## Hassocks 1-1 Saltdean United - Saturday 18th December 2022

Ever the optimists, one Hassocks fan turned to another in the Clubhouse before kick off as the Robins hosted Southern Combination League Premier Division leaders and said:

**“This could be worse than the cricket.”**

Christmas though is the season for miracles. England desperately need one in Australia. Hassocks got one in Mid Sussex, drawing 1-1 with a Tigers side who had walloped them 6-0 earlier in the campaign.

You could understand the pessimism. Saltdean arrived having put nine unanswered goals past East Preston seven days earlier. They then went and eliminated Conference South side Eastbourne Borough from the Sussex Senior Cup in midweek.

**Tigers manager Bryan O’Toole has built a squad that reads like a who’s who of recent Southern Combination title winners and right now, they are playing at the peak of their powers as those previous two results evidence.**

Hassocks meanwhile are ravaged by injury and illness to key players. Josh Short and Dan Turner were the latest notable omissions, joining long-term absentees like Andy Whittingham, Bradley Bant, Jack Gardner and Spencer Slaughter on the missing list.

Brad Sweetman opted to replace Turner and Short with experience, turning to Jordan Badger and Jack Troak. Both have endured stop-start campaigns and were making only their fifth and third starts respectively.

Saltdean had flown out of the traps on their way to scoring six goals last time these sides met, opening the scoring inside of 120 seconds on that balmy August evening at Hill Park.

It took them a little longer to get going on this occasion. 15 minutes had elapsed before the Tigers fashioned their first chance, an effort lifted over the bar from Trevor McCreadie.

Saltdean took the lead on 20 minutes via an elegant strike from Tom Caplin. Hassocks were unable to clear their lines and Caplin needed no second invitation when the ball fell to him 22 yards out, driving a clinical effort into the bottom corner.

The Robins were dealt a blow seven minutes later when striker Sam Smith limped out of the action, bringing an early end to his home debut. Joe Bull seemed the obvious replacement but Sweetman instead brought on Josh Hawkes.

Hawkes has been in good scoring form recently for the Under 23s, but he cannot have

been asked to lead the line many times in his senior career – as the look on his face of a man whose Christmases had all come at once eluded to.

It turned out to be an inspired decision and on the stroke of half time, Hawkes was denied what appeared a stonewall penalty.

Arthur Rawlingson went charging forward from right back to deliver a cross which Hawkes looked set to get his chin on until he was clumsily tripped by a Saltdean defender. Remarkably, referee Ian Moore waved play on.

Undeterred, Hassocks continued to take the game to their visitors at the start of the second half. A quick counter inside five minutes ended with Troak whistling a half volley over.

The Robins got the goal they deserved a few minutes later. Troak had a shot blocked but the ball fell kindly to Alfie Loversidge who slammed home from eight yards out for his eighth goal of the season.

Jack Baden was the next Hassocks player to depart injured, Charlie Tuck coming on at left back in a straight swap. It did not take Tuck long to make an impression.

A Badger slip let in McCreadie and the Robins looked bang in trouble until Tuck appeared from nowhere, producing one of the best tackles that the Beacon has seen in many years to snuff out the danger.

Saltdean continued to pour forward in the final 15 minutes and it was all hands on deck for Hassocks. The Tigers had the ball in the net with five of normal time left to play but a tight **offside call correctly went the Robins’ way.**

Harris repelled a Saltdean header with a fine save before Hassocks made their final change, the tireless Lewis Westlake making way for Luke Marshall as another defender was chucked on to try and help preserve the point.

Hassocks got there after what must have felt like an endless amount of time added on. The reaction of the players at the end told its own story about what a big result this was.

Move over Jesus, Mary, Joseph and the wee donkey – there is a new Christmas miracle in town.

Hassocks: Harris; Rawlingson, Badger, B Tighe, Baden; Wallis, J Westlake, L Westlake, Troak; Loversidge, S Smith.

Subs: Hawkes (Smith 28), Tuck (Baden 57), Marshall (L Westlake 89), Bull, Parker (unused).

# Classic match...





# John Broomfield

## REMOVALS

# TIGHE SCAFFOLDING

**Jason Tighe**

07446224005

07476711962

tighescaffolding@hotmail.com

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# Super Pat succeeds Johnsy in the Chair

A familiar face is the new chairman of Hassocks with Super Pat Harding succeeding Dave John, who announced his retirement at the end of last season after over 30 years day-to-day involvement running the Robins.

John arrived as general manager with the club playing intermediate football at Adastral Park, becoming instrumental in transforming Hassocks on and off the pitch.

He played a leading role in the move to a purpose-built ground at the Beacon, coinciding with the Robins rising to step five of the non-league pyramid in 1995.

Hassocks have remained in the top flight of the Southern Combination League ever since, making them the division's longest serving club.

Since then, John has fulfilled virtually every role going at the Beacon. He has served four spells as first team boss, managed the Under 23s and Under 18s and been director

of football.

The youth setup is arguably his biggest legacy. One of the first changes John made was introducing a youth team with the aim of providing a pathway into senior football.

Over 100 players have since come through the Under 18s into the first team, allowing Hassocks to compete whilst still maintaining their long-held ethos of not paying players.

Included amongst that number is Super Pat. Some 23 years after John as Robins manager gave Harding his senior debut, Super Pat now succeeds him as chairman.

Despite standing down from running the club, John will continue to be a familiar face around the Beacon having been made president.

In further recognition of his service, the bar in the Clubhouse has been renamed the Dave John Lounge.

Super Pat meanwhile steps straight from the pitch and into the

boardroom. The forward announced his retirement from playing in May after a glittering non-league career spanning two decades, 990 games and 348 goals.

248 of those appearances and 156 of those goals came for Hassocks over two spells which bookended **Harding's career.**

In between, he played for Eastbourne Borough, Horsham, Whitehawk and Burgess Hill Town.

Having come through the Robins youth system to become Hassocks' second-highest ever scorer, Harding knows the club better than most.

With his appointment as chairman confirmed, Harding said: "I am honoured to officially become Hassocks chairman."

"A great club with integrity, which I've inherited in wonderful condition thanks to the previous chairman, Dave John. Volunteers have been phenomenal. I'll leave the club in a better condition than I find it."



## **Westlake feels Hassocks are in good shape going into new season**

Robins head coach spoke to Steve Bone of the Mid Sussex Times and [sussexworld.co.uk](http://sussexworld.co.uk) ahead of the 2024-25 Southern Combination season...

Hassocks head coach James Westlake feels ready for the start of the 2024-25 Southern Combination Premier Division season.

With brother Lewis now added to the management team, the Robins hope for a fine follow-up season to last season's playoff place and record-breaking haul of 78 points.

Speaking to Steve Bone of the Mid Sussex Times and [sussexworld.co.uk](http://sussexworld.co.uk), Westlake said his squad had come together nicely for the year ahead.

**"You will always lose a few but we have been pleased with how many have stuck with the club from last season."**

**"Those players are only going to be get better following the experience of last season."**

**"We have supplemented those players with a mix of young and experienced players we hope will add quality to the side."**

Hassocks have certainly been busy on the transfer front, making some eye-catching additions with experience at Isthmian League level.

Defenders Liam Hendy and Will Berry are best known for helping to establish Lancing in the division above, whilst Darren Budd arrives from Worthing as first team player-coach.

**"We will be supported by Darren Budd who will bring plenty of experience and quality, not just to the playing side but the management side as well."**

Forward Morgan Vale has signed from Tunbridge Wells to address one position where the Robins looked a little short at times last season following Liam Benson's departure to Haywards Heath Town in November.

In terms of players Hassocks hope will step up and prove themselves in the Premier Division, 17-year-old prospect Oscar Heath joins from Haywards Heath.

The Robins are also giving opportunities to Harry Furnell from Mike Oak and Ruari Farrell, who averaged almost a goal-per-game over the past three seasons for Lindfield in the Mid Sussex Premier Division.

**Westlake said of his brother's new role: "We're really pleased to have Lewis as part of the management team. He will be a great addition alongside Jordan Wilson who will continue in his role from last season."**

**"We will be supported by Darren Budd who will bring plenty of experience and quality, not just to the playing side but the management side as well."**

Hassocks won five, drew one and

lost one of their seven pre-season friendlies.

They put seven goals past Alfold and eight past Montpellier Villa, although the highlight was a 2-0 win over Burgess Hill Town which saw the Robins win the annual Ann John Trophy for the first time since 2016.

**"The Ann John Trophy game against Burgess Hill was a fantastic day," Westlake said.**

**"The most important part is raising money for a great cause which is very close to Dave John's heart. A big thanks goes to Burgess Hill for their continued support."**

Hassocks open their campaign with three consecutive home matches. Saltdean United and Bexhill United visit in the league, followed by a local derby in the FA Cup against Haywards Heath.

**"We are excited to get going but we know it is a very long and hard season," Westlake said.**

**"We're really pleased to have Lewis as part of the management team. He will be a great addition alongside Jordan Wilson who will continue in his role from last season."**

# Mid Sussex Times

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# Pre-Season Round Up

Seven friendlies were packed into a busy four week period for the Robins. And although you should never read too much into pre-season results, only one defeat, a draw with Isthmian League Premier Division Whitehawk and the Ann John Trophy remaining at the Beacon for the first time since 2016 bodes well for the campaign ahead...

Hassocks kicked off their friendly fixtures with a close-fought 2-1 defeat away at Isthmian League South East side Lancing.

The Lancers enjoyed an excellent 2023-24 campaign, securing the highest ever finish in their history to come within five points of a surprise playoff place.

For Hassocks to have pushed such a quality outfit close represented an excellent start to 2024-25 for James Westlake and his players.

The Robins gave game time to several new faces who, in the traditional spirit of pre-season, can only be referred to as A Trialist.

And it was one of several Trialist brothers who provided Hassocks with their consolation.

Both the Robins goal and Lancing's two strikes came in the first half with the second impacted by substitutions and tiredness.

In their second pre-season outing,

Hassocks held Isthmian League Premier Division outfit Whitehawk to a 2-2 draw at the Enclosed Ground.

The Hawks have been regular friendly opponents for Hassocks over the past few seasons. Whitehawk ran out 7-1 victors at the Beacon in 2022 and were 2-0 winners in Mid Sussex a year ago; score lines which highlight what a good result this was for the Robins.

Hassocks number one Fraser Trigwell played a huge part, making a string of impressive saves through both halves.

The opening 45 minutes with Whitehawk kicking down the Enclosed Ground's infamous slope ended goalless thanks to three fine stops from Trigwell.

Hassocks needed only three minutes of the second half with the hill in their favour to take the lead.

Josh Mundy swung over a free kick and tall striker Jamie Wilkes pounced like the absolute fox in the box he is, firing home when Hawks were unable to clear their lines.

The rangy Wilkes took a whack in the process. Whilst his teammates flocked to congratulate him, Wilkes could only hop around on one leg like a wounded giraffe.

Whitehawk almost responded immediately, rattling the post five minutes after Wilkes struck.

Trigwell made another excellent save but the Robins resistance was eventually broken when new Hawks signing Chris Whelpdale fired under Trigwell on 71 minutes.

Whelpdale put the Hawks ahead with a towering header far post header as the clock ticked into the final 10.

Most in attendance probably thought the game was done at that point; both teams would surely ease off as tiredness crept in.

Hassocks though had other ideas. Having seen one equaliser ruled out for offside, the Robins scored a legal leveller with 90 played from that old pre-season friendly favourite again, A Trialist.

It was seventh heaven for



**“Whilst his teammates congratulated him, Wilkes could only hop around on one leg like a wounded giraffe after taking a whack from a Whitehawk defender”**

Hassocks in pre-season game number three away against Southern Combination League Division One hosts Alfold as the Robins ran out 7-2 victors.

Alfold under new manager Simon Funnell were having their first outing of the campaign and Hassocks certainly appeared to have the edge on match sharpness with 180 minutes already under their belts.

The Robins also coped better with the somewhat challenging conditions posed by playing on the pitch behind the stand, as opposed to Fold's normal surface at the Recreation Ground.

Things became particularly interesting when storm clouds gathered and darkness began to descend over a pitch with no floodlights.

Pleasingly for James Westlake, the Hassocks goals were shared amongst new signings and familiar faces.

Big Alex Fair in particular delighted the crowd, managing to get in several of his trademark Cruyff Turns on his way to scoring twice.

Tall striker Jamie Wilkes made it two goals in two games having also notched in the 2-2 weekend draw at Whitehawk.

The other four goals came from players breaking their Hassocks ducks.

Morgan Vale notched his first in Robins colours after signing from Tunbridge Wells and Oscar Kemp did likewise following his move from Haywards Heath Town.

Hassocks are hoping to tie up a loan deal for Burgess Hill Town youngster Joe Overy, who would be a very useful addition based on his goal scoring effort here. The other Robins goal getter was new signing from Mile Oak, Harry Furnell.

In their next two pre-season friendlies, Hassocks put 11 goals past two more Southern Combination Division One opponents in the space of four days.

The Robins started the rout on Saturday afternoon against Forest Row. A lunchtime kick off at Worth School saw Hassocks run out 3-1 winners.

Frow have appointed a new management team of former East Grinstead Town duo Grant Hearn and Andy Willis for the upcoming campaign.

There is a further feelgood factor around thanks to a groundshare agreement being struck with East Grinstead.

The move to the Vistavis Community Stadium brings the club closer to Forest Row, having spent the past few seasons playing home matches at Oakwood.

Frow proved a good test and based on their showing against the Robins, should expect to improve on last season's battle against relegation into intermediate football.

Tuesday night saw Montpellier Villa provide the first opposition of pre-season at the Beacon. Hassocks wasted little time in impressing the home faithful, racking up an 8-0 success.

Morgan Vale opened the scoring from the penalty spot after Jamie Wilkes was unceremoniously tripped on a giraffe-like run into the penalty area.

The rangy Wilkes provided the second goal himself. A low cross into the box found its way to the tall striker, whose technique of attempting to trap the ball between his legs before volleying into the roof of the net whilst falling over was interesting to say the least.

Vale added the third when his well-timed run saw him spring the Villa offside trap to latch onto a brilliant Darren Budd through ball. With the Villa goalkeeper advancing,

Vale produced a delicate dink over the visiting number one which left watching chairman Pat Harding stood directly behind the goal delighted.

Harding missed goal four as he made his way around to the Dave John Lounge shortly after. Josh Mundy swung over a corner met by a towering Will Berry header.

Berry almost had another when Bull delivered a corner from the opposite side.

The defender met it with a ridiculously cheeky back heel scrambled off the line by a combination of Villa defender and goalkeeper.

Raging Bull added the fifth with the goal of the night. Picking up possession just inside the Villa half, he glided past four defenders to enter the area and pick out the bottom corner with a low, hard drive.

The Villa goalkeeper next made good saves from Berry and a Big Alex Fair volley.

Fair then bamboozled two defenders with trademark Cruyff turns before scooping the ball miles up into the air.

It dropped down to crash against the post in what was a frankly absurd piece of skill and thinking.

Liam Hendy made it 6-0 before half time when turning home a low Mundy free kick.

Hassocks understandably eased up following the break and it was not until midway through the second 45 minutes they had their first sight of goal.

The Villa goalkeeper made a fine treble save to deny Vale, Wilkes and lastly Mundy.

There was nothing he could do though when Robins captain Hendy headed home a Bull free kick for goal number seven.

Budd then rounded off the scoring, bending a direct free kick through a gap in the wall from 25

**“Vale produced a delicate dink over the Montpellier Villa goalkeeper which left watching chairman Pat Harding stood directly behind the goal delighted.”**





yards to pick out the near corner.

Last Saturday saw Hassocks defeat Burgess Hill Town to win the Ann John Trophy for the first time since 2016.

More importantly, a record-breaking total of £2,221 was raised for St Peter & St James Hospice by a crowd of 472, who were treated to two strong sides putting on quite the show in the Mid Sussex sunshine.

The Robins started well, enjoying plenty of possession and fashioning the first chance of the game as early as the seventh minute.

Eventually, the pressure told and Hassocks took the lead with 14 on the clock via a goal made by a Hillians youngster.

Joe Overy has been turning out for the Robins in pre-season. His dazzling run inside from the left flank past three Hill players after collecting a raking 50 yard pass from Liam Hendy resulted in Morgan Vale being put in one-on-one.

Vale did the rest, producing a measured finish stuck just past the legs of Hillians goalkeeper Slav Huk.

**It was Vale's third goal of the week** after his brace set Hassocks on their way to an 8-0 win over Montpellier Villa on Tuesday night.

Hill responded by breaking the **Robins' stranglehold**. Hamish Morrison saw an effort blocked by the inspired Hendy, followed by Dan Perry putting the rebound into the side netting on the volley.

Hendy next headed a cross-shot off the line from Martyn Box, who was finding an increasing amount of joy down the left flank as the half wore on.

Another Box cross was straight onto the head of Tom Chalaye but his flick landed in the arms of Fraser Trigwell.

Hassocks went up the other end to force Huk into a smart save. The Hillians responded when – surprise, surprise – Box got away again.

His delivery this time was low and hard to Morrison. Hendy produced another fine block with the rebound being dragged wide by Chalaye.

The second half was just 60 seconds old when Hendy made his third and best goal-saving intervention.

Morrison thundered in an effort from close range which the Robins captain somehow headed over the bar in acrobatic fashion, drawing applause from all corners of the ground.

Hassocks doubled their lead seven minutes later and this time with two young Hillians involved.

Overy slipped through a pass latched onto by his Hill Under 18s teammate Noah Hoffman, who has likewise impressed for the Robins in their friendlies so far.

Hoffman drilled an effort beyond Huk, picking out the opposite bottom corner of the goal in clinical fashion.

That seemed to deflate the Hillians and Hassocks enjoyed a good period immediately after Hoffman struck.

The teenager linked up well with Vale to fashion a half-chance for Raging Joe Bull charging forward from left back to bend an effort just wide.

Trigwell had his gloves stung by a powerful drive followed by ex-Robins youngster Alex Brewer heading the loose ball just wide as the tie entered its closing stages.

A couple more half chances came **Hill's way although Hassocks looked** the more likely scorers late on playing on the counter, most notably when the lively Kemp escaped to draw a solid save from Huk.

Trigwell caught a teasing cross into the box in the final action of the game, after which young members of the John family presented Robins captain Hendy with the silverware, ending an eight year wait for the Ann John Trophy to remain in **Hassocks' possession**.

Tuesday night saw Noah Hoffman got the only goal of the game as Hassocks secured a 1-0 victory over Arundel in their final pre-season friendly.

Virtually all the action came in the opening 45 minutes as mass second half changes from both sides impacted the rhythm and flow of the game.

The Robins had stuck 19 goals past Southern Combination Division One opponents in three previous games but beating the Mullets proved a much closer shave than those encounters with Alfold, Forest

Row and Montpelier Villa.

Hassocks looked particularly dangerous down the flanks throughout the early exchanges and it was their two wide men who combined to fashion the first opportunity.

Joe Overy on the right switched play to Big Alex Fair on the left. Fair cut inside his marker and curled an effort just wide of the far post.

Next it was the turn of left back Joe Bull to threaten. Darren Budd picked out Raging Bull, whose charge 40 yards up the field took him past two Arundel players.

The Mullets goalkeeper was required to make an excellent one-on-one stop to prevent Bull opening the scoring.

There was almost a sensational own goal from the resulting corner. Josh Mundy delivered to the far post, where a blue shirt produced a powerful header under pressure from Alex Bygraves.

Only a flying one-handed save from the Mullets goalkeeper prevented a hair raising experience for his defender.

**The Robins' wingers linked up again when Fair led a break, drifted into the middle and fed Overy.**

He returned to Fair, whose effort was well **stopped by Arundel's number one from close range.**

Two chances in quick succession followed for the Mullets. Fraser Trigwell made an extraordinary flying save to turn a dipping effort hit from outside the box around the post.

Trigwell then showed smart reactions to tip a close-range shot wide after Bradley Tighe and Bygraves were unable to sufficiently clear their lines.

Hassocks took the lead shortly after and it was no surprise that Overy and Fair were involved.

Overy picked out Fair with a lofted pass into the box and Fair nodded into the path of Hoffman to side-foot volley home without breaking stride.

The Robins fashioned the only chance of the second half with the game ticking into the final 10 minutes.

Harvey Blake went for goal from distance, met by a sprawling stop from the Arundel goalkeeper.

Ruari Farrell was onto the loose ball like a **shot but the visitor's number one showed superb reactions to somehow get back up and close enough to block the follow up.**





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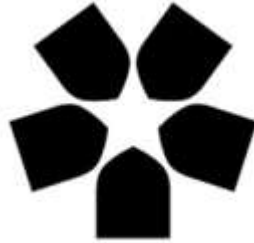
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# First Team Matches 2024-25

Date & Time	Opponents	Comp	F-A	Att	Scorers
July					
27/07 - 15:00	Saltdean United (H)	SCFLP			
30/07 - 19:45	Bexhill United (H)	SCFLP			
August					
03/08 - 15:00	Haywards Heath Town (H)	FACEP			
10/08 - 15:00	Wick (H)	SCFLP			
14/08 - 19:45	Lingfield (A)	SCFLP			
24/08 - 15:00	Storrington (H)	FAVQ1			
26/08 - 11:00	Crawley Down Gatwick (H)	SCFLP			
31/08 - 15:00	Petersfield Town (H)	SCFLP			
September					
07/09 - 15:00	Peacehaven & Tels. (H)	SCFLP			
14/09 - 15:00	Horsham YMCA (H)	SCFLP			
24/09 - 19:30	Roffey (A)	SCFLP			
28/09 - 15:00	Loxwood (A)	SCFLP			
October					
01/10 - 19:45	Little Common (H)	SCFLP			
05/10 - 15:00	AFC Varndeanians (A)	SCFLP			
12/10 - 15:00	Eastbourne United (H)	SCFLP			
26/10 - 17:45	Crowborough Athletic (A)	SCFLP			
November					
02/11 - 15:00	Newhaven (H)	SCFLP			
09/11 - 15:00	Saltdean United (A)	SCFLP			
16/11 - 15:00	Midhurst & E'bourne (H)	SCFLP			
23/11 - 15:00	Pagham (A)	SCFLP			
30/11 - 15:00	Shoreham (H)	SCFLP			
December					
07/12 - 15:00	Wick (A)	SCFLP			
14/12 - 15:00	Lingfield (H)	SCFLP			
21/12 - 15:00	Crawley Down Gatwick (A)	SCFLP			
26/12 - 11:00	Haywards Heath Town (A)	SCFLP			
28/12 - 15:00	Roffey (H)	SCFLP			
January					
04/01 - 15:00	Horsham YMCA (A)	SCFLP			
25/01 - 15:00	Bexhill United (A)	SCFLP			
February					
01/02 - 15:00	Petersfield Town (A)	SCFLP			
08/02 - 15:00	Peacehaven & Tels. (A)	SCFLP			
22/02 - 15:00	Crowborough Athletic (H)	SCFLP			
March					
01/03 - 15:00	Midhurst & E'bourne (A)	SCFLP			
08/03 - 15:00	Eastbourne United (A)	SCFLP			
15/03 - 15:00	AFC Varndeanians (H)	SCFLP			
22/03 - 15:00	Shoreham (A)	SCFLP			
April					
05/04 - 15:00	Pagham (H)	SCFLP			
12/04 - 15:00	Loxwood (H)	SCFLP			
19/04 - 15:00	Little Common (A)	SCFLP			
21/04 - 11:00	Haywards Heath Town (H)	SCFLP			
26/04 - 15:00	Newhaven (A)	SCFLP			



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FOOTBALL LEAGUE

# Around the League

Another Southern Combination League season is upon us after what has been a very busy summer. New clubs have joined across the three divisions and the traditional player and manager merry-go-round has taken place with some drama thrown in...

The Premier Division has gained one new club with Petersfield Town being moved into the Southern Combination from the Wessex League Premier Division.

Petersfield finished 13th of 20 teams last season having won Division One in 2022-23 and gone all the way to the League Cup final.

Teams coming into the Premier Division sideways from other leagues tend to fare well. Crowborough Athletic have been stable top six material since moving from the Southern Counties East in 2022.

Horley Town might well have won the Southern Combination in 2020-21 had Covid-19 in their brief two-season soiree from the Combined Counties.

It will therefore be fascinating to see how Petersfield again. Not many Sussex-based clubs will fancy the long trek there.

On the other hand, it could be an incredible away day for Hassocks supporters. Two hours on the train via Gatwick and Guildford giving plenty of time to put away some cans and ensure the Robins features on the excellent Drinking on Trains Twitter page.

Division One champions Roffey return to the Premier Division after a one-year absence and look likely to do well having kept the majority of their title winning side together. Wick join them having won the playoffs, ending an eight-year absence from the top division.

AFC Uckfield Town were the only side relegated whilst Steyning Town and Eastbourne Town were promoted into the Isthmian League. Not that any Hassocks fans **need reminding of that...**

Steyning provided one of the biggest news stories of the summer when championship winning Kevin Green left the club much to **everyone's surprise.**

Gerry Murphy has succeeded Green at the **helm with the Barrowmen's laudable** recruitment strategy being to take some of the best performers in the Southern Combination last season and offer them the chance to play step four football.

Steyning's signings include Peacehaven &

Telscombe goalkeeper Nathan Stroomberg-**Clarke and Crowborough's potent strike force** of Harvey Killick and Lucas Murrain.

The Crows have subsequently struggled for goals in pre-season although they are still likely to be amongst the title favourites in what looks another wide open Premier Division season.

**Newhaven have lured Bexhill United's** leading forward and captain Jack Shonk to the Trafalgar Ground to replace Alfie Rogers, another to have moved to Steyning.

Ryan Light is back in charge of Bexhill after a year away having previously led the Pirates to top 10 finishes in 2021-22 and 2022-23, whilst Haywards Heath Town have been quietly going about their business with some shrewd acquisitions of players previously successful with Lancing. Sounds like a familiar transfer **approach...**

For the first time in several seasons, Division One is a 20-team league for 2024-25. Nobody was relegated and Division Two champions Storrington were promoted.

Reigate Priory jump straight up from the Mid Sussex Premier Division and Infinity make their Southern Combination bow after finishing third in the Hampshire Premier League last season.

Formed in 2006, Infinity have played in Winchester, Southampton, Knowle and Hythe before ending up in Sidlesham in 2022. The MK Dons of Sussex/Hampshire non-league football?

Division Two features 14 teams following the returns of TD Shipley and Worthing Town. Chichester City will field a development side in the division for the first time, similar to how Dorking Wanderers B play in Division One.

**Following Storrington's elevation into** Division One and with several other Division Two clubs close to or having met ground grading, the hope is that the champions come the end of this season will again be promoted.

Bosham and Jarvis Brook will both fancy their chances, having been the best of the rest after the Swans last time out.



# Tables / Form Top Scorers / Attendances

## Premier Division Form Guide

Last 6

### Southern Combination Premier Division Table

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

AFC Varndeanians  
 Bexhill United  
 Crawley Down Gatwick  
 Crowborough Athletic  
 Eastbourne United  
 Hassocks  
 Haywards Heath Town  
 Horsham YMCA  
 Lingfield  
 Little Common  
 Loxwood  
 Midhurst & Easebourne  
 Newhaven  
 Pagham  
 Peacehaven & Tels  
 Petersfield Town  
 Roffey  
 Saltdean United  
 Shoreham  
 Wick

### Premier Division Top Scorers

Player Club Gl's

### Premier Division Attendances

	Ave	Total	League	Cup
AFC Varndeanians	0	0	0	0
Bexhill United	0	0	0	0
Crawley Down Gatwick	0	0	0	0
Crowborough Athletic	0	0	0	0
Eastbourne United	0	0	0	0
Hassocks	0	0	0	0
Haywards Heath Town	0	0	0	0
Horsham YMCA	0	0	0	0
Lingfield	0	0	0	0
Little Common	0	0	0	0
Loxwood	0	0	0	0
Midhurst & Easebourne	0	0	0	0
Newhaven	0	0	0	0
Pagham	0	0	0	0
Peacehaven & Tels	0	0	0	0
Petersfield Town	0	0	0	0
Roffey	0	0	0	0
Saltdean United	0	0	0	0
Shoreham	0	0	0	0
Wick	0	0	0	0

# Under 23s / Under 18s Ladies



## 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
Loxwood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oakwood	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
Storrington	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
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
Whitehawk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Under 18 Central Division Top Scorers

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

## Sussex County Women's League Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Eastbourne Borough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastbourne Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hassocks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horsham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horsham Sparrows	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pagham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shoreham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Worthing Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## SCWL Premier Division Top Scorers

Player	Club	Gls
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# Coming up for the Robins



## Hassocks v Bexhill United

Southern Combination League Premier Division

Tuesday 30th July 2024, 7:45pm kick off

Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks, BN6 9LY

Admission prices £8 adults, £4 concessions, Under 16s free

### Bexhill United last season

It was a season of struggle for Bexhill. Long-standing boss Ryan Light stood down at the end of 2022-23 having taken the Pirates from Division One strugglers to back-to-back top six finishes in the Premier Division. The club opted for continuity and so appointed Under 23s manager John Wright and his assistant Shane Lovell to the role. A number of experienced campaigners left at the same time of Light, leaving Wright with a young squad many of whom were playing senior football for the first time. An 18th place finish was the outcome just a single point above the bottom two. With Light now back in charge at the Polegrove following his year's sabbatical, the Pirates will be looking to sail up the table in the new campaign.

### Head-to-head

There have been just 13 meetings between the Robins and Bexhill. The first four came in Division One in the late 1980s and early 1990s when the Pirates were known as Bexhill Town. Four cup matches spread over 17 years followed before six Premier Division games since Bexhill were promoted into the top flight in 2021. The head-to-head is fairly even with five Hassocks wins, six Bexhill and three draws.

### Last time we met

A convincing 5-0 home win for the Robins back in April. Super Pat Harding and Sean Stephenson scored within two minutes of each other just past the half hour mark to put us in control, followed by second half goals from Jack Troak, Raging Joe Bull and tall striker Jamie Wilkes.



## Hassocks v Haywards Heath Town

Emirates FA Cup Extra Preliminary Qualifying Round

Saturday 3rd August 2024, 3pm kick off

Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks, BN6 9LY

Admission prices £8 adults, £4 concessions, Under 16s free

### Haywards Heath Town last season

Heath were the amongst the pre-season favourites to win the Southern Combination League title, only for their campaign to end up being plagued by disruption. Jay Lovett stepped down as manager two months into the campaign and despite some strong recruitment from new boss Naim Rouane, the Bluebells missed out on a top five finish and a playoff place. A points deduction for fielding a player without the correct international clearance dropped them further down the table to seventh.

### Head-to-head

To say our record against our local rivals is not great would be a slight understatement. You have to go all the way back to 1992 to find the last time a Hassocks side defeated Heath in a

competitive game - which also happens to be our only victory over the Bluebells in 13 matches. Heath in contrast have nine wins to their name with three games ending level.

### Last time we met

It was a tense, nervous affair at the Home Smart Energy Stadium on Easter Monday. Heath edged it 2-0 thanks to goals in either half from Finn Daniels-Yeoman and Byron Napper to seemingly seize the advantage in the race for a playoff place.

### Familiar faces

Liam Benson swapped Hassocks for Heath back in November whilst we managed to lure Liam Hendy from Hanbury in the summer. Former Robins fan favourite Bradley Bant joined Rouane's coaching staff in the summer.



## Hassocks v Wick

Southern Combination League Premier Division

Saturday 10th August 2024, 3pm kick off

Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks, BN6 9LY

Admission prices £8 adults, £4 concessions, Under 16s free

### Wick last season

Wick are back in the Premier Division for the first time since the 2016-17 campaign after winning promotion through the Division One playoffs last season. They ended the regular season in fourth spot before overcoming Worthing United in the playoff semi final and defeating Seaford Town at the Crouch in the final, having finished six points behind Seaford in the standings. The Dragons benefited from dual-signing several Littlehampton Town players in a similar way to how we have loaned Noah Hoffman and Joe Overy from Burgess Hill for the new campaign. Wick manager Lee Baldwin has spoken of his ambition to see the Dragons join neighbours Littlehampton Town in the Isthmian League in the future, suggesting there is no lack of ambition at Crabtree Park coming into the season.

### Head-to-head

Although we last crossed swords in 2016, we played Wick on a frequent enough basis previously to rack up 39 games against them. 16 of those went out way with eight draws and 14 defeats.

### Last time we met

Wick came to the Beacon on Saturday 17th December 2016 for a crucial game in the battle to avoid Premier Division relegation. It was played out in freezing fog and ended 1-0 to the visitors, Joe Grommett grabbing the goal on the hour mark. Three of the Robins starting XI that day are still at the club - Bradley Tighe played right back whilst James and Lewis Westlake made up the midfield partnership.

Coming up for the Robins



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191-193 London Road, Burgess Hill, RH15 9RN



# Robins Awards 2024-25

## July Starman Awards

Saltdean United home

Bexhill home

## August Starman Awards

Haywards Heath home

Wick home

Lingfield away

Storrington home

Crawley Down away

Petersfield Town away

## September Starman Awards

Peacehaven home

Horsham YMCA home

Roffey away

Loxwood away

## October Starman Awards

Little Common home

AFC Varndeanians away

Eastbourne United home

Crowborough away

## November Starman Awards

Newhaven home

Saltdean United away

Midhurst home

Pagham away

Shoreham home

## December Starman Awards

Wick away

Lingfield home

Crawley Down away

Haywards Heath away

Roffey home

## January Starman Awards

Horsham YMCA away

Bexhill United away

## February Starman Awards

Petersfield Town away

Peacehaven away

Crowborough home

## March Starman Awards

Midhurst away

Eastbourne United away

AFC Varndeanians home

Shoreham away

## April Starman Awards

Pagham home

Loxwood home

Little Common away

Haywards Heath home

Newhaven away

# Most Games



# Top Scorers

	Starts	Sub	Total	Goals		Goals	Games
1. Mickey Turner	573	21	594	63	1. Phil Gault	190	352
2. Ashley Marsh	519	6	525	4	2. Pat Harding	156	284
3. Chris Hewitt	493	15	508	22	3. James Laing	143	351
4. Ashley Low	445	30	475	14	4. Anthony Hibbert	124	462
5. Anthony Hibbert	407	55	462	124	5. Robbie Kitchen	123	323
6. Andy Fisk	445	11	456	14	6. Phil Johnson	100	199
7. Phil Gault	331	21	352	190	7. Nathan Miles	74	219
8. James Laing	298	53	351	143	8. Neil Smith	68	242
9. Warren Dodds	311	37	348	3	9. Liam Benson	67	200
10. Joel Harding	340	0	340	0	10. Steve Hards	65	155
11. Paul John	329	0	329	0	11. Mickey Turner	63	594
12. Richard Thompson	305	19	324	11	12. Dave Smith	53	260
13. Robbie Kitchen	284	39	323	123	13. Spencer Slaughter	47	293
14. Spencer Slaughter	250	43	293	47	14. Joe Fernley	45	245
15. Stuart Faith	276	13	289	22	15. Mark Burnham	44	231
16. Pat Harding	237	47	284	156	16. Matt Amos	38	81
17. James Westlake	241	20	261	31	17. Michael Death	38	112
18. Dave Smith	203	57	260	53	18. Marc Rendall	37	183
19. Joe Fernley	205	40	245	45	19. Jack Troak	36	144
20. Neil Smith	232	10	242	68	20. Andy Burt	35	133
21. Dan Jacques	201	31	232	9	21. Luke Flomo	31	146
22. Mark Burnham	209	22	231	44	22. James Westlake	31	261
23. Nathan Miles	158	61	219	74	23. Dan Smith	27	63
24. Bradley Tighe	178	31	209	2	24. Jamie Hillwood	25	124
25. Liam Benson	154	46	200	67	25. Stuart Faith	22	289



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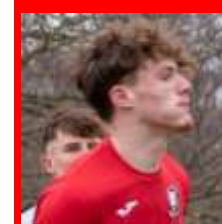
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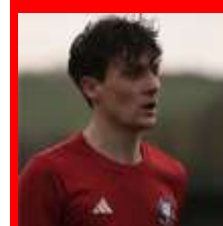
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The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground

[www.hassocksfc.net](http://www.hassocksfc.net)



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## HASSOCKS

Fraser TRIGWELL	
Harvey BLAKE	
Joe BULL	
Liam HENDY	
Will BERRY	
Bradley TIGHE	
Alex BYGRAVES	
Darren BUDD	
Josh MUNDY	
Micael FATELA	
Joe OVERY	
Tom FRANKLAND	
Alfie LOVERSIDGE	
Jack TROAK	
Alex FAIR	
Noah HOFFMAN	
Jamie WILKES	
Morgan VALE	
Ruari FARRELL	
Harry FURNELL	

Head Coach James Westlake  
 Assistant Head Coach Lewis Westlake  
 Coaches Darren Budd & Jordan Wilson  
 Goalkeeper Coach Tim Edwards  
 Physio Ash Cooper

Next at the Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground



Bexhill United  
 Southern Combination Premier Division  
 Tuesday 30th July. 7:45pm



## SALTD EAN UNITED

	Jordan HAWKINS
	Jordan BURSTOW
	Ed BRADLEY
	Charlie YEATES
	Arthur RAWLINGSON
	Dec TORGERSEN
	Jake COLTHAM-LAI
	Archie JUTTON
	Aaron WINSER
	Kacper ZIOLKOWSKI
	Corby OVENDEN
	Herbie ROGERS
	Alfie EDMEADS
	Ty BARDEN
	Taylor TORGERSEN
	Alex PATCHING
	Fraser MIDDLETON-TOZER
	Ollie PARKER-WILLIAMS
	Luca PAIANO
	Lewis HALLETT

Referee  
 John-Patrick Kane

Assistants  
 David Stapleton  
 & Tom Phillips

Kieran Ridley Manager  
 Matt Cramp Goalkeeper Coach

### Today's other Premier Division games

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