

The official match programme of Sevenoaks Town FC

Sevenoaks Town Vs Faversham Town

Season 2021/2022 Issue 19- £2



Pitching In Isthmian South East Division

Saturday April 2nd, 2022, kick-off 3pm

Respect



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Match Secretary: As chairman
First Team Manager: Harry Hudson
Assistant manager: Mark Dacey
Goalkeeper Coach: Julian Leigh
Coaches: Danny Rose, Terry Groom
Head of Analysis: Kevin Rawlinson
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From the chairman

Hello everybody and welcome to the Bourne Stadium for today's Pitching In Isthmian League South East fixture against Faversham Town.

We extend the same to their officials, players and supporters who have made the trip to be here this afternoon, and to our three match officials.

Wins against VCD and Whitehawk in our last two games were important, matching the results of teams around us - including today's opponents Faversham who have picked up seven points from their previous three outings.

It's been very encouraging for me to see how things have developed so quickly since bringing Harry to the

club - and charging him with the first task of keeping us in the league.

Three wins and a draw in the first five games is excellent, and we need to continue that good form in what is a busy final month of the season.

Once again it was good to see another near 300 crowd for the VCD game, with our youth teams again as our guests and mascots, creating a great atmosphere capped off by a second successive home win.

Another plus was introducing Golden Goal tickets for the first time which sold well on the day. Enjoy the game.

Paul Lansdale



Harry Hudson's Hotline



Good afternoon everyone and welcome back to the Bourne Stadium for this Isthmian League South East fixture against Faversham Town.

Today sees us beginning the final month of the season - five matches left - three at home - two away - including the Easter Holiday double-header.

Things have gone well for us over the past couple of weeks with back-to-back victories against VCD and Whitehawk. It was great to hear news of the VCD result while I was away, and we built on that at Whitehawk last week.

They had beaten Ramsgate the week before, so we knew it would be a tough challenge on a difficult pitch, but the boys put in a very mature, professional and sensible performance which produced three points, - and a first away win and clean sheet since I took charge - hopefully they will be the first of many.

Ten points out of a possible 15 is a great start, but it is just that - reward for us as a new management team, but more so for the players who have done it on the pitch and achieved the results.

Faversham had won their last two matches (before Tuesday night's daw) as well, so they will provide us with another challenge today.

Player News: The transfer deadline passed last Thursday and we signed striker Jeff Duh-Kessie from VCD. He was unable to be involved at Whitehawk due to an ear infection, while Ryan Palmer also missed the game with a chest problem.

Louis Collins has left us to join Margate, while Jedd Smith has moved to Cray Wanderers.

We wish them both luck as they continue their careers elsewhere.

Thanks for your continued support.

Harry Hudson



Ashford's slip means Hastings are almost home

by Ian Townsend

Hastings United are now 14 points clear at the top of the Pitching In Isthmian South East Division - and have more than one hand on the title- after a 4-0 win at **East Grinstead**.

They were 3-0 up after just 23 minutes - Sam Adams, Danny Parish and Sam Hasler the scorers - Parish getting his second 20 minutes from time. Hastings could win the title when they meet fourth placed Haywards Heath on Saturday.

Second placed **Ashford United** led 2-0 at half-time against **Chichester City** through Gary Lockyer and Tom Fagg - only to concede twice - Ethan Pritchard got one back with twenty minutes left, Emmett Dunn snatching an equaliser right at the end.

Cray Valley PM travelled to **Herne Bay** in a play-off battle, knowing defeat could have seen them drop out of the top five.

A 2-1 win moved the Millers up to third, thanks to first half goals from Marcel Barrington and Ian Gayle and despite being down to 10 men since the 13th minute when Connor Dymond was dismissed.

Bay's Bola Dawodu got one back with 12 minutes left, but they remain in sixth place, two points behind the top five.

Haywards Heath Town are fourth, following their 2-0 win against bottom side **Whitstable Town** In Andy Drury's first game in charge of the Oystermen.

Davigildo Cravid gave them the

lead just after the hour, and although Sinn Christie saw red the ten men then got a second, Harry Laffin scoring on his debut just before the end, to open up a four point gap over Herne Bay in sixth.

Ramsgate slipped to a third defeat in a row 1-0 at home, losing to **Sittingbourne**. They drop to fifth, two points clear of Bay.

Burgess Hill won 1-0 at **Corinthian**, Charlie Kelly getting the only goal of the game ten minutes before the break.

VCD drew 1-1 at **Lancing**. 43 year-old Kevin Lisbie put Vickers ahead- but Matt Daniel hit back twelve minutes from time to earn a valuable point for the hosts.

Today's visitors **Faversham Town** eased any relegation worries by beating **Three Bridges** 3-1, for their second win in a week.

Marcus Elliott opened the scoring for the Lilywhites after twenty six minutes, and Charlie Dickens made it 2-0 three minutes later.

Noel Leighton pulled one back for Bridges four minutes before the break, but Harry Harding hit a third, before Bridges' Dan Perry saw red late on for the visitors.

Phoenix Sports and **Hythe Town** drew 0-0 in the other game on Non League Day - with many clubs attracting impressive attendances.

Tuesday night's match at **Whitehawk** saw **Faversham** earn a 1-1 draw with a 75th-minute equaliser from Harding, after Splatt had given the hosts a first-half lead.



Saturday March 26th

Ashford United Lockyer 27, Fagg 38	2	2	Chichester City Pritchard 70, Dunn 90	401
Corinthian	0	1	Burgess Hill Town Kelly 35	102
East Grinstead Town	0	4	Hastings United Adams 10, Parish 17', 70, Hasler 20	451
Faversham Town Elliott 26, Dickens 29, Harding 63	3	1	Three Bridges Leighton 41	235
Haywards Heath Town Cravid 63, Laffin 90	2	0	Whitstable Town	422
Herne Bay Dawodu 78	1	2	Cray Valley PM Barrington 6, Gayle 36	385
Lancing Daniel 78	1	1	VCD Athletic Lisbie 62	235
Phoenix Sports	0	0	Hythe Town	201
Ramsgate	0	1	Sittingbourne Taylor 82	835
Whitehawk	0	1	Sevenoaks Town Bamba 57	613

Tuesday March 29th

Whitehawk Splatt 22	1	1	Faversham Town Harding 75	185
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Table includes Tuesday night's result

Hastings United	33	25	2	6	75	30	+45	77
Ashford United	33	19	6	8	68	39	+29	63
Cray Valley PM	33	18	8	7	64	40	+24	62
Haywards Heath	33	18	7	8	49	31	+18	61
Ramsgate	33	18	5	10	69	42	+27	59
Herne Bay	33	17	6	10	55	34	+21	57
Sittingbourne	33	15	6	12	46	39	+7	51
Burgess Hill Town	33	15	6	12	48	43	+5	51
Corinthian	33	13	9	11	42	38	+4	48
VCD Athletic	33	13	8	12	58	44	+14	47
Chichester City	32	13	8	11	45	33	+12	47
Three Bridges	33	10	11	12	53	63	-10	41
Faversham Town	33	11	6	16	36	51	-15	39
Whitehawk	33	8	11	14	36	46	-10	35
Hythe Town	33	9	7	17	36	67	-31	34
Sevenoaks Town	33	10	3	20	41	64	-23	33
Lancing	33	8	8	17	31	59	-28	32
East Grinstead T	33	8	8	17	30	63	-33	32
Phoenix Sports	33	7	6	20	31	56	-25	27
Whitstable Town	32	6	5	21	33	64	-31	23



Faversham Town History

Faversham's origins go back to **1884**, and they entered the Kent League for the first time a decade later. The club name however was not really consistent, with the team turning out as Faversham Town, Faversham Invicta, Faversham Services, Faversham Railway and Faversham Rangers among others before being disbanded shortly before the Second World War.

Faversham Town reformed after the war and entered the Kent League in **1947**. The club moved to its current home - Salters Lane the following year. Faversham Town had a decent amateur side but found the going tough against some of the professional Kent League clubs. Nevertheless, they won the Kent Amateur Cup in **1957** and **1959**.

With the Kent League folding in **1959**, the club had spells in both the Aetolian and Greater London leagues before re-joining the revived Kent League in **1968**. Success soon followed. They were Kent League champions in **1970** and **1971**, and lifted the Kent Amateur Cup three years in a row between **1972** and **1974**.

After a brief flirtation with the Athenian League in the mid seventies, the club returned to the Kent League, winning the Kent Senior Trophy in **1977**. The following season they repeated this success and were also crowned Kent League champions, completing a famous "double".

The Lilywhites won the Kent League again in **1990**, but league form dipped in the **92/93** season and was to stay that way for several seasons. The club managed to reach the final of the Kent League Challenge Cup in **2000**, but things were in rapid decline. Matters reached crisis point in **2003**, when the KCFA suspended the club for non payment of fines, with the club's operators blaming just about everyone for the mess except themselves.

In the following months, the once proud Salters Lane ground was systematically wrecked by vandals. Meanwhile, club trustees led by businessman Ray Leader fought a desperate battle to heal a widening rift with the previous regime over the ownership of the club and ground.

In a separate development, the Faver-

sham Town Independent Supporters Club had been formed, and quickly gained a membership of over 300 paid up members in the market town. This was despite the fact the club had no team, no manager, and a ground that had been totally wrecked by vandals and now resembled a bomb site. Perhaps the real turning point came when trustees and Independent Supporters Club committee members got together and declared an alliance to get the club back on its feet. An interim club committee was formed, and the long road to recovery was started.

The revival was slow, but things finally started to happen. The ownership dispute was settled and access to the ground obtained. Volunteer workers were confronted with completely smashed and vandalised buildings, and shoulder-height grass on what had been the pitch. A massive clear up operation began but it was back breaking work. Meanwhile, paperwork was put in order with a new club constitution written and agreed.

Kent County FA allowed the club to retain their coveted senior status subject to several conditions. Local authority grants were applied for and secured, sponsorship deals obtained, and the club embarked on a range of fund raising initiatives. Slowly but surely, Salters Lane was returned to its former glory, before the future became even brighter with the erection of brand new floodlights.

The revived club played their first season back in **05/06**, competing in the Kent County League and finishing as runners-up. Having passed ground inspections and fulfilled minimum criteria, promotion to the Kent League was confirmed, and Faversham Town had at last "come home".

Season **2007/08** saw the arrival of Justin Luchford and Jimmy Strouts taking over the management with Town second bottom of the league. The team sunk to bottom before the pair gradually steered them up to mid table. Strouts soon left for personal reasons and Luchford, along with Clive Walker, took the Lilywhites to the Kent Senior Trophy final in season **2009/10**, beating Greenwich 2-1 to lift the trophy. A week later, they were crowned

Kent League Premier Division champions.

Towards the end of his first season in the Ryman League, and with Town within touching distance of the play-offs, Luchford resigned. His place was taken by his assistant Ray Turner. Turner took charge of the last seven league games securing eighth spot - the highest position of any Kent team competing at that level.

Having consolidated their position as a mid-table Ryman South side during the first two years of Turner's reign, Faversham embarked on one of the best seasons in the club's history during the **2012/13** season.

The Lilywhites lost just three away league games all campaign on their way to finish third and reach the Ryman South play-off final against all odds. However, at Maidstone United's newly-built Gallagher Stadium in front of a 2,226 strong-crowd, Town were unable to pull off one final upset against a side with huge investment and backing. Maidstone cruising to a 3-0 victory to deny Faversham their first taste of Ryman Premier League football.

Town spent the majority of the **2013/14** campaign just outside the play-offs, and ultimately had to settle for tenth position in their fourth season in the Ryman South.

Faversham had a productive **2014/15** season, scoring 111 league goals - more than any other Ryman League side that campaign - and amassing a record 97 points to finish in third place in the Ryman South for the second time in three seasons. But the club suffered more play-off heartache, as they lost 5-4 on penalties at home to Merstham in their Ryman South Play-off Semi-Final following a goalless draw away.

Faversham came fifth at the end of the **2015-16** season, again reaching the play-offs, but after beating Dorking Wanderers 2-1 in the semi-final they lost 3-0 to Worthing in the final, leaving them knocking once more on the door of the Ryman Premier Division.

The **2016/17** season was one of transition for the Lilywhites on the pitch, and success off it as they forged ahead with Phase One their ambitious rebuilding programme.

A tenth place finish was achieved with a young squad as manager Ray Turner dealt with a number of unexpected player departures, which led to a mid-season wobble.

In **2018/19**, a disappointing start to the season led to Ray Turner stepping aside. Phil Miles and Dan Chapman were appointed as joint managers in his place. The lacklustre season continued, and in the end the team finished 17th, two places and ten points clear of relegation.

Towards the end of the season, Paul Gates and Keith Chilvers were appointed joint managers of the renewed Under 23s squad, and senior players were let go in favour of rebuilding the team with a greater emphasis on promoting youth into the first team.

After an indifferent start to the **2019/20** season, Town parted company with their joint managers in October. In their place, new manager James Collins brought in assistant Nick Davis and coach Brad Sandeman. A huge influx of players, coupled with the departure of players including club stalwart Matt Bourne - the club's record appearance holder - meant that by December a new-look squad was taking to the field and a new era had begun.

As the club looked to attract more sponsorship to fund its ambitions, the stadium was renamed Aquatherm Stadium after an agreement with the multinational pipe manufacturers.

The curtailed **2020/21** season saw Town finished their six games unbeaten, despite playing all of the promotion favourites, indicating that the club had turned the corner.

THE LAST TIME WE MET

Saturday November 27 2021
Pitching In Isthmian League
South East Division

Faversham Town 1

Olawasemo 79

Sevenoaks Town 2

Gunner 5, own goal 69

Attendance: 167

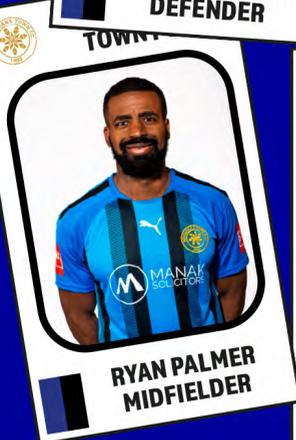
Sevenoaks Town: Joe Docherty, Danny Divine, Jason Fregene, Steve Smith, Freeman Rogers, Dean Gunner, Bobby Dunn, Kweke Ansah (75 mins), Ben Davisson, Jon Pilbeam (Luke Lepward 73 mins), Louis Collins, Stefan Wright



Welcome to Greatness!

There have been, to put it mildly, a few personnel changes at Greatness Park over the last few weeks.

Here's a selection of the new faces you'll be seeing around Sevenoaks Town ...



Bamba stuns Hawks

Whitehawk 0 Sevenoaks Town 1

By Andrew Gidley

Yaya Bamba's winner helped Sevenoaks Town to victory at East Brighton Park. The win was the first away from home since Harry Hudson took charge - the last being back in late November.

The game attracted a crowd of 600 plus on Non League Day boosting funds for the Prostate Cancer charity.

Bamba struck 12 minutes into the second half, his third goal in five games, scoring from the rebound after home keeper Nathan Stromberg-Clarke saved his

penalty. Referee Lisa Benn awarded the spot-kick after Freddie Carter fell in the box under the challenge of ex-Brighton defender Adam El-Abd. The Sussex official waved away stronger Town claims as early as the 23rd minute after Carter seized on a poor back pass, and looked to be pulled down by Stroomberg-Clarke. Town survived two scares themselves at the start and finish of the first half, Hawks seeing a close-range-effort deflected for a corner, before Tareq Shihab fired across the face of Tyler McCarthy's goal in stoppage-time. Parker just missed out in a neat three-man move earlier, while Bamba and

Bradley Wilson both had shots saved, before Stromberg-Clarke was booked for time-wasting six minutes before half-time. It was great to see Frankie Sawyer involved off the bench - his first action since early October after injury and illness. Hawks pressed for an equaliser late on, but McCarthy punched clear substitute Liam Redwood's free-kick, before home top scorer Javaun Splatt and Al Abd both missed late chances.

Sevenoaks Town: Tyler McCarthy, Jon Pilbeam, Charles Banya, (Tola Jonah 54 mins), Michael Aziaya, Matthew Weaire, Corey Holder, Reece Gillies, Joe Bingham, Freddie Parker, Bradley Wilson, Yaha Bamba (Frankie Sawyer (83 mins).



Parker pens a double

Sevenoaks Town 4 VCD Athletic 1

By Andrew Gidley

Two-goal Freddie Parker helped Sevenoaks Town claim another important Pitching In Isthmian League South East win as their battle to avoid the drop continues.

Debutant Bradley Ryan and Yaya Bamba added two more in the second half as Oaks claimed their biggest win of the season in comfortable fashion, despite going behind early on.

Thrashed 5-0 in the reverse fixture back in September - this was a completely different 16-man line-up, assembled by new boss Harry Hudson, who missed the game due to a holiday arranged before his appointment last month.

Joe Bingham who returned for a second spell with Oaks in January, featured for VCD that day, scoring the fifth goal.

Bamba's brother Youssef put the visitors in

front after 14 minutes and Anthony Adesite went close to a second midway through the first half.

Bradley Wilson and Bamba set-up the first for Parker to put Oaks level seven minutes before half-time - Wilson also involved in the second close to half-time - defender Matthew Weaire nodding down his free-kick at the far post for Carter to score his third goal in two games.

He twice went close to a hat-trick after the break - narrowly missing out with a spectacular effort from the halfway line, then forcing a fine full length save from VCD keeper Sam Mott.

Former Chelsea youngster Ryan netted the third with 20 minutes left, - the best of the four - before Bamba hit the fourth four minutes later - his second for the club - Oaks profiting from another slick set-piece move.

Sevenoaks Town: Tyler McCarthy, Ryan Palmer, Charles Banya, Michael Aziaya (Reece Gillies 57 mins), Michael Weaire (Tolu Jonah 61 mins), Corey Holder, Bradley Ryan, Joe Bingham, Freddie Parker, Bradley Wilson, Yaya Bamba (Jon Pilbeam 77 mins).

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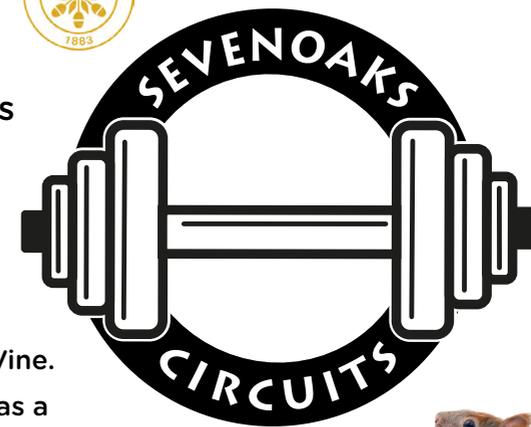
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DRAKES

Oaks join Wellbeing in Mental Health initiative

Wellbeing and Mental Health are two subjects highlighted by the pandemic.

Wellbeing Football combines the two and is the idea of local man Matt Bromley who is bringing it to Sevenoaks Town, having been involved in a previously successful project on the Isle of Sheppey.

Matt, a Mental Health Social Prescriber based in the town working for Tunbridge Wells based charity IMAGO said: "I founded it in 2014 to help people with mental health challenges to have a release from their thoughts and stresses by using football.

"Twenty plus years of coaching/playing sport has helped me manage my own mental health more times than I can count and at times stopped me going into crisis.

"In addition to the many benefits of being physically active, it has opened my eyes to understanding that I will always have my mental/physical health challenges, but have the ability to manage them.

"Sport is a fantastic way of me do this and is the main driving force in me bringing it to the club."

He added "Football has incredible social benefits. It is an opportunity to meet new people, to be part of a group, and to rekindle a sense of camaraderie within a team environment.

"Team sport builds confidence, develops friendships, and encourages social opportunities away from the football pitch. "Most of our sessions are followed by a visit to the clubhouse which gives everyone an opportunity to foster relationships off the field."

The five-a-side sessions will take place every Friday evening starting at 7pm, tailored for those experiencing mental health challenges.

Chairman Paul Lansdale said: "I am really pleased

to be able to begin these sessions.

"After a difficult few years, the benefits of playing football and being active have never been clearer.

"Football is a powerful tool, and we want to introduce this football experience to help those in our local community."

"Anyone who signs up can trust they'll be warmly welcomed in a safe space which we hope will become one they look forward to visiting regularly.

"There is no pressure applied whilst our aspiration is to expand upon the social elements of the football training, as the sessions build."

"Football can serve as a means of breaking down barriers and stigma around mental health."

"Football can serve as a means of breaking down barriers and stigma around mental health.

"By adding these sessions to our weekly provision of football, we will support our community and be able to welcome even more faces to Greatness Park."

Players - male and female - must be over the age of 18 - those who attend the session are required to wear boots which are appropriate for a 3G surface. If you require support with sourcing boots or cannot afford a pair, please get in touch with the club in advance.

For further information, please contact Matthew on 07920753806 - or email wellbeing@sevenoakstownfc.co.uk

Zero tolerance for racism

"The Isthmian Football League strongly supports the FA statement that there should be a zero-tolerance approach against racism and all forms of discrimination. Accordingly, any form of discriminatory abuse whether it by reason of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion and belief, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, sex and sexual orientation or any other form of abuse will be reported

to The Football Association for action by that Association." (The FA 0800 085 0508 / Kick it Out 020 7253 0162).The Isthmian League and all Member Clubs in the League are committed to promoting equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and providing access and opportunities for all members of the community."

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Player Profile

Joe Bingham

Age: 30

Born: Greenwich

Home: Gravesend

Occupation: Personal Trainer

Previous Clubs: VCD, Ashford, Erith Town – second spell at Sevenoaks

Club Supported: Arsenal

Favourite Player: All Time: Patrick Viera

This Season: Gabriel Martinelli – he is exciting.

Best Pal in Football: Ryan Palmer – we travel in the same car.

Best Goal Scored: Don't score many – it was probably when I was at Erith Town – scored a few there three seasons ago, it was a far post finish with my left foot – went in off the crossbar.

Best Thing About Football: The buzz after winning three points, and the feeling after winning your headers in games.

Worst Thing About Football:

Losing – hate it!

Thoughts on coming (back) to

Sevenoaks: Yes I couldn't wait, and I was looking forward to it. I had played for Micky Collins before – winning the SCEL title and a few trophies – I was buzzing about it.

Favourite Drink: IRNBru

Favourite Food: Indian

Favourite Film: The Greatest Showman

Favourite TV Programme: Match of The Day





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Today's team sheets

Sevenoaks Town

1: Tyler McCarthy

2: Ryan Palmer

3: Charles Banya

4: Matthew Weaire

5: Tolu Jonah

6: Corey Holder

7: Joe Bingham

8: Reece Gillies

9: Freddie Parker

10: Bradley Wilson

11: Yahaya Bamba

12: Michael Aziaza

14: Jordan Johnson

15: Jon Pilbeam

16: Kervat Serbonij

17: Jeffrey Oredein

Faversham Town FC

1: Kie Plumley

2: Sam Ituma

3: Charlie Dickens

4: Stefan Wright

5: Matt Bourne

6: Jono Richardson

7: Benedict Bioletti

8: Harry Harding

9: Mannie Oluwasemo

10: Sam Bewick

11: T. Richardson-Brown

12: Calvin Sedenu

14: Owen Punselie

15: Ethan Smith

16: Clark Woodcock

17: Marcus Elliott



Saturday April 2nd 3pm. Pitching In Isthmian South-East Division, Sevenoaks v Favresham Town

Referee: Peter Dingle

Assistant 1: Darren Eaton

Assistant 2: Ryan Calver

Next home match: Saturday April 9th 3pm.

Pitching In Isthmian South-East Division,
Sevenoaks v Cray Valley PM

