

The Official Matchday Programme of **Sevenoaks Town**

Vs Phoenix Sports



**Season 2021/2022
Issue 14 - £2**

**Pitching In Isthmian
South East Division**

**Saturday
January 22nd,
2022, kick-off
3pm**

Respect



**MANAK
SOLICITORS**



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Secretary and Director: Sam Lansdale
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Committee Members: Dan Thomas, Michael Tapp
Match Secretary: As chairman
First Team Manager: Micky Collins
Coaches:
 Julian Leigh
 Jason Bourne
 Terry Groom
Physio: Jade Shaw
Safety Officer: Ray Miles
Club Welfare Officer: As chairman
Covid-19 Officer: As chairman
Equality and Diversity Officer: Michael Tapp
Press Officer/ PA announcer: Andrew Gidley
Club Photographer, App and Social Media: Adam Beaumont
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There's a lot to catch up on! Andrew Gidley's match reports can be found here.



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Oaks ram raided

Ramsgate 2 Sevenoaks Town 1

By Andrew Gidley

Sevenoaks pushed play-off chasers Rams all the way in front of a 700 plus crowd, only to be undone by two set-piece goals, having taken an early lead. Oaks battled to the end creating three great chances in stoppage-time, all set-up by midfielder Bobby Dunn. New signing Joe Bingham, back at the club following a move from VCD, saw his header clawed away by home keeper Jacob Russell, Jason Fregene's header went wide, and the third was cleared off the line, with Ramsgate much the happier to hear the final whistle. Oaks went in front after 16 minutes, referee Aaron Farmer pointing to the spot after defender Denzelle Olopade handled in the area. Louis Collins' penalty was saved, his follow-up was then deflected against the bar before bouncing down, Jamie Coyle putting through his own net trying to clear. Rams levelled 10 minutes before half-

time, Oaks' teenage keeper Daniel Colmer couldn't hold the ball following a corner, and Coyne poked the loose ball over the line.

Kyle De Silva then shot wide before Oaks were inches away from a second a minute before half-time.

Jon Pilbeam and De Silva combined to set-up Luke Leppard who stabbed wide at the far post.

Colmar made up for his earlier error on the hour, saving well, Olapade struck the bar from the rebound, then Oaks skipper Freeman Rogers cleared another effort off the line.

Rams were in front three minutes later, TJ Jadama touching in a free-kick whipped in from the left, before Oaks had a real go in the final 20 minutes, Dominic Welsh's effort floated wide, then Leppard's shot was blocked in the area.

Collins was denied by Russell seven minutes from time before all Oaks' late pressure came to nothing.

Sevenoaks Town: Daniel Colmer, Jon Pilbeam, Jason Fregene, Joe Bingham, Freeman Rogers, Steve Smith, Bobby Dunn, Luke Leppard (Steve Ikpeme 85 mins), Kyle De Silva, Louis Collins, Dominic Welsh (Kweku Ansah 85 mins).

Quick exit from the Velocity

Corinthian 2 Sevenoaks Town 1

By Andrew Gidley

Sevenoaks Town's interest in this season's VelocityTrophy ended at the first hurdle on Tuesday night. Boosted by an early goal by Louis Collins, Oaks led at half-time, before conceding twice in the space of 10 minutes to exit the competition at the second round stage. Collins flicked home Bobby Dunn's corner to give the visitors an eighth minute lead, and put another chance wide soon afterwards. Kyle De Silva shot wide, before Corinthian

finished the first half strongly.

Skipper Freeman Rogers cleared off the line from Louis Clarke before half time, with Oaks keeper Daniel Colmer saving his follow-up.

Clarke levelled 12 minutes into the second half, following up to score after seeing his first shot blocked, adding his second 10 minutes later, with another close range finish.

Sevenoaks Town: Daniel Colmer, Jon Pilbeam (Jason Fregene 72 mins), Conrad Lee (Wesley Jno Baptiste 73 mins), Luke Leppard, Freeman Rogers, Steve Smith, Bobby Dunn (Emmanuel Adetokunbo 54 mins), Stephen Ikpeme (Lamin Bah 46 mins), Kyle De Silva (Harvey Welford (79 mins), Louis Collins, Kweku Ansah.



A photograph of three men in blue tracksuits, likely football staff, looking towards the left. The man in the foreground has a grey beard and is wearing a blue jacket with a white Nike logo. The man behind him is bald and also in a blue tracksuit with a yellow crest. The background is blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting like a stadium.

Micky's Message

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the Bourne Stadium for an Isthmian League fixture, I would like to extend this welcome to our visitors today Phoenix Sports.

Last Saturday saw us take on high flying Ramsgate away, a tough fixture and considering the scoreline earlier in the season we certainly didn't want a repeat performance. After leading early on from a bizarre own goal we went on to lose 2-1 but should have at least come away with a point after laying siege to their goal for the last ten minutes.

I was really pleased with the desire and performance the boys put in.

New to the squad last week was Joe Bingham who had a great second debut. Joe was instrumental in helping us lift our first senior trophy as a club in 2017, he is a fantastic signing and that showed on Saturday and I'm so pleased to have him back at the club.

Another new signing is Ryan Palmer from Margate, a very exciting player who a lot of you will know from the SE Dons Sunday league side. Ryan is keen to get started and help us push up the table.

On the injury front Dean Gunner is still sidelined with a groin problem and Joe Docherty is suffering with a shoulder injury, while Fjord Rogers serves his last game for his suspension today.

Tuesday night sees us travel to Herne Bay for a Kent Senior Cup tie, the winners of which will be home to National South side Welling Ltd.

I hope you all enjoy today's game and wish you a safe journey home.

MC

Hastings go clear as Nuts and Bolts are undone

By Ian Townsend

Leaders **Hastings United** travelled to **Whitstable Town**, and for much of the match looked as if they would have to be content with a point. Six minutes from time, however, former Oaks striker Kenny Pogue grabbed the winner to leave United seven points clear.

Ashford United let a two goal lead slip for the second Saturday against promotion rivals **Haywards Heath Town**.

Josh Wisson put them in front with his ninth of the season. Johan Ter Horst made it two with twenty five minutes remaining, only for Kieron Rowe to set up a thrilling climax by quickly halving the arrears.

Jordy Ndozid levelled six minutes later and then Tom Cadman gave Heath the lead, with twelve minutes left- as Sean Saunders' men held out for what had seemed an unlikely three points.

There were two early goals at **Hythe** who went down 4-2 at home to **Cray Valley PM**.

The first went to the visitors, Denzel Gayle putting them ahead after just three minutes, but they led for only a minute before Tyler Sterling equalised for the Cannons.

Marcel Barrington restored the visitors lead on nineteen minutes- his fourteenth of the season and second against these opponents after he scored in the Millers four-nil victory back in October- but again the Cannons hit back, and were level at the break after Jacob Gilbert made it two-two.

Again the Millers went ahead, Francis Babalola making it three-two in the sixty fifth minute, and Barrington made sure of the points with his side's fourth just before the end.

Corinthian and **Herne Bay** couldn't manage a goal between them at Gay Dawn Farm.

Today's visitors **Phoenix Sports** saw Wale Odedoyin give them the lead eleven minutes before half time, but **Sittingbourne's** Ahmed Abdulla put them level eight minutes after the restart, his eighth of the campaign.

A red card for Harrison Pont made it difficult for the Brickies in the closing stages, ex-Oaks defender Josh Dorling popping up with the winner right at the end.

Chichester City's Ryan Davidson scored after just six minutes as Chi beat **Three Bridges** 1-0.

Burgess Hill Town won 2-0 at home to **VCD**. Conrad Honore gave them the lead soon after the hour before Pat Harding added the second a quarter of an hour before the end, his 130th goal for the West Sussex side.

Lancing led in the Sussex derby at home to **Whitehawk** when Lorenzo Lewis opened the scoring on the half hour. Ollie Munt grabbed a point for Hawks right at the end.

East Grinstead Town beat **Faversham** 1-0 thanks to Aiden Brown's winner with only nineteen minutes remaining.

* The only match scheduled for Tuesday night between Faversham and Herne Bay was postponed due to heavy fog at Salters Lane.

Congratulations to Reiss Skeen and Michael Peate who were members of the Kent Under-18 squad who beat Essex in the opening South East Counties Youth Football Championship contest at Aveyley on Sunday.

Reiss scored twice as they came from 2-0 down, including a 35-yard free-kick to record an impressive opening win.

Good luck to both boys in the rest of this season's competition.



Latest table and Results

Hastings United	23	16	2	5	50	23	+27	50
Ashford United	22	13	4	5	44	24	+20	43
Cray Valley PM	22	12	6	4	47	28	+19	42
Haywards Heath	22	12	6	4	38	21	+17	42
Ramsgate	22	12	5	5	49	29	+20	41
Herne Bay	21	12	5	4	38	20	+18	41
VCD Athletic	23	10	5	8	46	31	+15	35
Sittingbourne	22	10	4	8	33	30	+3	34
Chichester City	21	9	6	6	33	21	+12	33
Burgess Hill Town	21	9	5	7	31	29	+2	32
Corinthian	23	8	7	8	24	26	-2	31
Faversham Town	22	7	4	11	25	38	-13	25
Three Bridges	23	5	9	9	29	43	-14	24
Whitehawk	22	6	5	11	23	32	-9	23
Whitstable Town	23	6	4	13	30	45	-15	22
Hythe Town	22	6	4	12	23	49	-26	22
East Grinstead Town	21	5	6	10	21	35	-14	21
Sevenoaks Town	22	6	2	14	26	45	-19	20
Lancing	23	4	6	13	18	40	-22	18
Phoenix Sports	22	4	3	15	23	42	-19	15

Saturday January 15th

Ashford United	2	3	Haywards Heath Town	410
Wisson 36, Ter Horst 65			Rowe 68, Ndozid 74, Cadman 78	
Burgess Hill Town	2	0	VCD Athletic	401
Honore 64, Harding 76				
Chichester City	1	0	Three Bridges	156
Davidson 6				
Corinthian	0	0	Herne Bay	137
East Grinstead Town	1	0	Faversham Town	168
Brown 71				
Hythe Town	2	4	Cray Valley PM	221
Sterling 4, Gilbert 37			Gayle 3, Barrington 19', 88, Babalola 65	
Lancing	1	1	Whitehawk	370
Lewis 30			Munt 90' pen	
Phoenix Sports	2	1	Sittingbourne	144
Odedoyin 34, Dorling 90			Abdulla 53	
Ramsgate	2	1	Sevenoaks Town	726
Coyle 34, Jadama 63			Coyle 18' og	
Whitstable Town	0	1	Hastings United	455
			Pogue 84	



Phoenix Sports History

Formed in **1935**, Phoenix Sports Club originally started out as St. Johns Welling, later changing its name to Lakeside, before renaming to Phoenix following the Second World War as it was seen to rise from the ashes of the previous two clubs amidst the destruction caused by the blitz.

Over the years the club has played at various locations in the local area, including Danson Park until **1950** when the local council offered them a piece of waste land in Mayplace Road East, Bexleyheath. Over time it evolved into the ground that we all know now as The Club.

Both football and cricket have been played at Mayplace Road East, with many members, both past and present, representing the club in both sports. However, with the growth of junior football, cricket has now moved away from the club.

After entering various leagues, including the Sidcup League, Kent Amateur League and the Dartford League, the club settled in the Kent County League Division One West.

In the **1986/7** season, the club entered the Spartan League and competed there for six seasons. They then returned to the Kent County League – Division One – West, winning the Challenge Cup in **1993–94**.

In **1999/2000** we won the league, gaining promotion to the Premier Division, however after two relegations ended up in Division Two West, finally returning to the first division in **2004/05**, and then back to the Premier Division in **2007/08**.

After three seasons in the Premier Division, the first team became founder members of the Kent Invicta League at step 6 of the National League System (Step 10 of the English Football League System) – the highest level of football the club has ever played at. We went on to finish runners up, missing out by only two points to eventual champions Bly Spartans as well as reaching the League Cup Final, again losing out to Bly Spartans.

Unfortunately, the First team and Reserve Team Management both resigned for personal reasons at the end of season **2011–2012**. After an exhaustive process we appointed Steve O'Boyle and Tony Beckingham as Joint First Team Managers and John Hope as Manager for the Reserves assisted by Brian Magenis and John Barry.

Off the pitch we installed floodlights and a 108 seat stand and with further improvements around the ground we soon received an F Grade.

After a successful first campaign under

the new management structure, and after losing only two league games all season, Phoenix won the Kent Invicta League and gained promotion to the Kent League (now renamed the Southern Counties East Football League) to play at step 5 of the National League System.

We finished in sixth place in our inaugural Kent League season but had aims to do even better the next year. We had

a very good start to the campaign but unfortunately lost in our first ever appearance in the FA Cup – losing on penalties after a replay.

We then began an unbelievable run in both the League and FA Vase. The Vase journey was fantastic culminating in us reaching the 4th Round Proper, where we lost to the eventual winners North Shields.

In the League we managed to lose only 1 game all season and accumulated 30 clean sheets. Due to these great performances we managed to win the League quite comfortably in the end, although there were a few sticky moments along the way.

We then needed to work miracles off the pitch, but we eventually managed to get all the necessary works done in time to gain a D Grade and promotion to Isthmian League North Division.

Our first season at this level saw us finish in 14th place, which was improved upon the next year when we came 8th.



We were then the subject of a lateral movement and competed in the newly sponsored Bostik League South, for the **2017–18** season. After a decent start and sitting in the play-off spots for a while, we were rocked by the departure of First Team Manager Steve O'Boyle. Paul Bryon came in and steadied the ship and we finished in a creditable 11th place. The following year we improved to a pleasing 9th position.

The early ends to the **2019/20** and **2020/21** seasons, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, prevented us from again gaining top half finishes and we now go

into the **2021/22** campaign looking to continue our progression as a Club.

Alongside the First Team and the Reserves, we presently have over 20 teams playing in Phoenix colours, making us one of the biggest clubs in the area.

Phoenix Sports are a FA charter Standard Community Club – the highest level of youth recognition from the Football Association.

Mini-soccer is played at the Mayplace Ground and Sundays are always busy with parents cheering on the young players wearing our green shirt.

THE LAST TIME WE MET

Tuesday September 14th, 2021

Phoenix Sports 0 Sevenoaks Town 3

HT: 0-2

Scorers: Danny Divine (12mins), Louis Collins 29 mins, Kyle D Silva (52 mins)
Att: 84

Sevenoaks Town: Ben Bridle-Card, Lamin Bah, (Tom Cooney 47 mins), Maxim Carbune, Stefan Wright, Joe Tennant (Michael Peate 86 mins) Danny Divine, Kyle De Silva, Max Walsh, Jason Thompson (Frankie Sawyer 47 mins), Louis Collins, Hayden Skerry

Micky Collins shuffled the pack as Sevenoaks Town bounced back from a difficult week to clinch their second Pitching in Isthmian League South East away win of the season at Barnehurst on Tuesday night.

However the victory and a first clean-sheet was marred by stand-in skipper Joe Tennant suffering a broken leg. Lamin Bah made an impressive first start at left wing back while there were recalls for Max Walsh and Hayden Skerry. Frankie Sawyer returned on the bench after recovering from a knee ligament injury, with teenage defender Michael Peate also named among the substitutes.

Louis Collins hit his seventh of the season Danny Divine, his first for the club with Kyle De Silva completing the scoring.

Oaks made a bright start on a misty, murky evening, Divine heading them in

front after 11 minutes from De Silva's near post corner.

Collins saw one effort blocked, before Skerry's strike was pushed away for another corner by home keeper Steve Phillips.

Oaks doubled the lead after 27 minutes – a great move involving four players, ending with Collins rounding Phillips before shooting home.

Jason Thompson shot wide, and new-boy Max Cabune saw his effort cleared of the line before half-time.

De Silva made it 3-0 seven minutes after the break with a neat finish inside the post, after Collins' run and cross caused problems.

Sawyer almost scored with his first touch after replacing Thompson, in a double change with 24 minutes left – Tommy Cooney sent on for Bah who suffered a blow to the head.

Oaks continued to create chances – Skerry's strike was deflected wide, and Phillips stopped another Collins effort. Phoenix sub James Dyer produced their first shot on target with 11 minutes left, before Tennant's injury seven minutes from time.

The defender who had a fine game in a reshuffled back line was booked for the challenge that saw him carried off – confirmation the following morning he had broken his fibula.

Peate replaced him, making his senior debut – watched by family and friends from the club's youth team, who gave him and the team great vocal backing earning thanks from Micky and the players after the game.



Three Bridges too far

**Sevenoaks Town 2
Three Bridges 4**

By Andrew Gidley

Boss Micky Collins was back in the dug-out after a two-match absence due to Covid, overseeing a squad still affected by a combination of illness, work commitments and injuries.

Dan Perry put the visitors in front after four minutes before Bobby Dunn's first for the club and top scorer Louis Collins made it 2-1 after 20 minutes.

Top scorer Collins, returning following a three match ban, set-up Dunn to score with a long, deep far post cross, before putting the hosts in front after 20 minutes, flicking home Danny Divine's long pass forward.

The visitors went close three times in the space of seven minutes, before Perry grabbed his second to send the teams in level at half-time.

The game turned against Oaks again on the hour, Bridges midfielder Curtis Gayler restoring Bridges lead converting a 45-yard free kick from just inside the half-way line.

Oaks struggled after that, Kweku Ansah had appeals for a penalty turned down before Gayler sealed the hosts fate in stoppage-time-powering home a free-kick from the edge of the area, the ball going in off the far post.

New signings Dominic Welsh (Crowborough) and Emmanuel Adetokunbo (Welling Town) made second half debuts off the bench, as Oaks ended 2021 with a third successive home defeat.

Sevenoaks: Matthew Blendell, Danny Divine, Luke Leppard (Harvey Welford 70 mins), Ben Davisson, Freeman Rogers, Dean Gunner, Bobby Dunn (Emmanuel Adetokunbo 80 mins), Steve Smith (Dominic Welsh 59 mins), Kweku Ansah, Louis Collins, Lamin Bah.



Oaks finally snap streak

**Sevenoaks Town 3
Hythe Town 1**

By Andrew Gidley

Kyle De Silva made a scoring return as Sevenoaks halted a run of five successive Isthmian League South East defeats.

They came from behind to start 2022 with their first home win since late October.

New keeper Dan Colmer made two important first half saves in a goalless first half, on his debut after joining from Margate.

Oaks were forced to make a change at half time losing defender Dean Gunner with a groin injury, Steve Smith switched to the back four, with substitute Fjord Rogers sent on up front.

Jordan Sarfo put Hythe in front inside two minutes of the restart, but De Silva, returning after a three month spell away from the club levelled things, making no mistake with a calm left foot finish, his second goal of the season.

He went close again 12 minutes later, seeing his shot blocked by visiting keeper Henry Newcombe.

Collins made and scored the second - combining with substitute Bobby Dunn, making his own impact four minutes after coming on, providing the perfect far post cross for Louis to convert. Colmer produced a fine reaction save to keep Oaks in front, before Rogers claimed the third in stoppage-time, taking two touches before shooting home.

Sevenoaks: Dan Colmer, Danny Divine, Jason Fregene, Ben Davisson, Freeman Rogers, Dean Gunner (Fjord Rogers 46 mins), Kyle De Silva, Stephen Ikpeme (Bobby Dunn 72 mins) Steve Smith, Louis Collins, Luke Leppard.

Fjord sees red

**Sittingbourne 1
Sevenoaks Town 0**

By Andrew Gidley

Fjord Rogers suffered an eventful return to the club as Oaks started the New Year in losing fashion. Striker Rogers, brother of club skipper Freeman, returned on a permanent basis having played four games on loan from Cray Wanderers earlier in the season. He and Stephen Ikpeme both made their first starts together with Dominic Welsh, with two more new faces, Daniel Watson and Wesley Jno Baptiste on the bench. Rogers harshly booked for diving in the first half was shown a straight red in stoppage-time for a late lunge.

Goalkeeper Joe Docherty was Oaks star-man against his old club, with three fine saves, an impressive first half double block from Duane Afori-Acheampong and Kane Rowland, followed by another to deny Ahmed Abdulla. Oaks started the second half on the front foot, Louis Collins seeing his shot blocked by home keeper Harry Brooks, with Bobby Dunn's follow-up deflected for a corner. Docherty then kept Oaks level again, blocking another effort from ex-Dover and Dartford striker Afori-Acheampong, on loan from National League South side Hungerford.

He saved well again from Jedd Smith and Acheampong, before Bourne broke the deadlock with the 63rd minute decider. Oaks struggled to defend a long throw by Marvin Hamilton, and substitute Toby Bancroft nipped in to score with his first touch. Rogers missed a great chance to level with 21 minutes left, before seeing red just before the end.

Sevenoaks: Joe Docherty, Danny Divine, Jason Fregene, Luke Leppard, Freeman Rogers, Steve Smith, Bobby Dunn, Stephen Ikpeme (Harvey Welford 80 mins), Fjord Rogers, Louis Collins, Dominic Welsh (Lamin Bah 72 mins).



Sevenoaks Town FC

21-22 Squad Pictures



History: Sevenoaks Town were originally formed in 1883, one of the founding members of the Kent League. In April the same year, the club played Royal Arsenal, then the only professional club in the South East of England in front of around 1000 spectators at Knole Paddock. They combined with St Johns United in 1951, and joined the Western section of the Kent Amateur League. Division 1 League Cup winners in 1965-66, they were twice winners of the Premier Division in 1968-69 and 1975-76. They won the Kent County League - three times - 1984-85, 1995-96 and 2002-3. The club were Kent Intermediate Challenge Shield and Inter-Regional Challenge Cup winners twice, and lifted the Sevenoaks Charity Cup on 12 occasions.

Recent successes:
Southern Counties East League Cup champions: 2016-17
Southern Counties East League champions: 2017-8
Best FA Cup Performance:
Second Qualifying Round: 2016-17
Best FA Trophy Performance:
First Qualifying Round: 2018-19
Best FA Vase Performance:
Third Round Proper 2017-18.

A new state of the art 3G pitch was installed in June 2017, and plans are in place to construct a brand new stadium in the next two years.



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DRAKES

Grow the Oaks!

Since 1883, Sevenoaks Town FC has provided playing opportunities for footballers of all ages and abilities. As our club seeks to take each step of the Government's Covid 19 roadmap and beyond with care, we are determined to find our feet as quickly as possible, making sure Greatness Park returns to becoming a safe, friendly hub of footballing activity for the local community and our football family.

It is now nearly two years since the global pandemic was declared, it is poignant to reflect on the things we've learned from these, tough, strange and unprecedented times. With our lives changed beyond recognition, we have learnt to appreciate all the things we enjoy – football being one of them. All the people who dedicate hours of time to helping Sevenoaks Town FC run are providing a selfless service we all appreciate goes beyond supplying physical benefits. It's the social elements of being part of a team; the mental health release of being active and empowered; its feeling and being a part of something unique, constructive and valuable.

With lots of people impacted economically, whether that be by being placed on furlough, losing employment or having planned opportunities postponed or cancelled, we are aware there may be individuals and groups out there who want to seize opportunity

once lockdown eases. Opportunity to give back. Opportunity to contribute to their local community. Opportunity to reignite with the game they love and have most probably sorely missed.

We want to #GrowTheOaks with a specific push to recruit volunteers to be a part of our team at Sevenoaks Town FC. However, no specifics are required for you to be a part of it. Whatever your skills, whatever your experience; if you want to get involved, if you'd like to contribute some hours and if you'd like to give up your free time, then you'd be most welcome.

Every volunteer at Sevenoaks Town FC is supported and given guidance around their role and responsibilities. We pride ourselves on looking after our players, coaches, officers and wider community. As a volunteer at our FA Charter Standard Community club, you will be a part of a club that prides itself on meeting and exceeding standards. You'll have opportunity to improve both yourself and the club in turn.

We are looking forward to a continued safe and positive return to football and if you want to be a part of it you can explore volunteering options and be a part of #GrowTheOaks by emailing info@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 be 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."

Sevenoaks Town Women and Girls' Strategy

Sevenoaks Town FC are currently in the exciting process of putting together three-year plan for the women and girls' section of the club, in which they are aiming to help the team move from tier 7 (b) to tier 4 within the next 3 years. This is an ambitious jump to a high standard of football which STFC are confident they can achieve.

In order to help Sevenoaks Town accomplish this, the club has been working with two consultants who both have a lot of first-hand experience in women's football: Natalie Curtis, a Football Development Officer for Women & Girls Football at the Kent FA who has also played for a pro club and managed and coached at the same level, and Charlotte Richardson, an FA Club Consultant who has been involved in the Women's Sport & Leadership Academy.

Both Natalie and Charlotte have experience of working with clubs and taking their Women's and Girls' teams up a few tiers, which is what Sevenoaks Town aspires to achieve. Natalie and Charlotte have begun to map out this three-year plan to help STFC achieve our goals.

Furthermore, Sevenoaks Town have also appointed Paul McDonagh who will be a great addition to the Women's and Girls section at Sevenoaks Town. Paul is a UEFA A Coach, and has also been Technical Director for Women's and Girls football at Charlton Athletic for two years.

Paul will take on and oversee STFC's Women and Girls' section, and he will also manage the Women's First

Team for the upcoming 21/22 season supported by Maddie Smith and Dan Thomas who bring a wealth of experience and have been instrumental in our progress so far.

We at Sevenoaks Town FC are confident that with the addition of Natalie, Charlotte and Paul to STFC's Women and Girls' section, as well as

the foundation we have built since our first girls' team in 2012, we will be able to really push on and increase the profile and exposure of women's football at the club. The ultimate aim is to have our women's and men's teams run in the same way and be on the same level, and we hope to achieve this starting with the three-year plan which is being put in place.



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Player Profile: Luke Leppard



Age: 32

Born: Crowborough

Home: Crowborough

Occupation: Building and installing Oak Framed Buildings. I am also a qualified butcher.

Previous Clubs: Crowborough, Greenwich Borough, Three Bridges, Ashford United.

Club Supported: "Manchester United when I was younger - but VAR has killed it for me.

"It was what we used to talk about in the pub afterwards whether it was a penalty or not."

"I don't watch it or take any interest in it now. The fun has been taken out of the game, especially with so much money involved now."

Favourite Player: Ronaldinho.

Best Mate in Football: Steve Smith. We have been around together for a while played at Three Bridges and are here now. We were both at Jarvis Brook (near Crowborough) about five years and helped them into the Sussex League Premier Division from the Mid Sussex League.

Best Goal Scored: Two in the same game - against Lewes Bridgeview when I was 15 or 16. I represented Sussex then and had a trial at Millwall.

"The ball came over my shoulder, and I hit a left foot volley straight at the stanchion.

"The second one was scored with my left foot again from the halfway line which hit the bar and went over the line.

Best Thing About Football: Enjoying playing, seeing your mates and exercising - it's the complete package for me.

I have done it since the age of six, there are plenty of worse things you could be doing in life. It's the social side as well - team spirit.

Worst Thing about Football: Losing like today (at Ramsgate). We worked our socks off for 90 minutes and lost - it was pretty gutting.

Thoughts on season and coming to Sevenoaks. I have recovered from a medial ligament injury and worked hard in the gym to come back - even at 32 I am still pretty fit.

No game is easy and I have been where we are before with Greenwich Borough - it's not nice, but I think it makes it a bit more exciting. We should be up for every one and it's good to have a challenge.

Favourite Drink: Beer/Lager.

Favourite Food: I do love a burger.

Favourite TV programme: War Films.

Favourite Film: Any good series on Netflix.

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Magic of the ... Trophy?

By David Richardson

THE PHRASE 'magic of the cup' is synonymous with the FA Cup's early rounds but in recent weeks it has been used alongside the FA Trophy.

The competition for the top four tiers of Non-League football is now entering the last 16 and those clubs will be starting to dream of the Wembley final in May.

While some National League sides may devalue the Trophy in place of league success and promotion to the Football League, the knock-out competition, which has been played since 1969, provides a valuable opportunity to lower-league clubs.

Just look what it meant for Needham Market last weekend winning a dramatic penalty shootout 8-7 at top-flight Yeovil Town, who have created plenty of their own cup history. Market boss Kevin Horlock described it as a 'special day' for the Step 3 side.

Elsewhere, Cheshunt, also playing at the same level as Needham, won 3-0 at National League South club St Albans City while Morpeth Town came out on the right side of a seven-goal thriller against Step 2 Boston United, winning

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4-3. Tonbridge Angels upset National League King's Lynn Town too.

And it's not even the victories that can provide memories. Larkhall Athletic, of the Southern League Division One South, enjoyed a trip to National League high-flyers Stockport County on Saturday.

It was the furthest the club had been in the competition and they made sure to make the most of it by staying over on the Friday night AND Saturday to enjoy themselves post-match. The Larks supporters travelled well too with 169 in attendance at Edgeley Park.

Larkhall manager Ollie Price, no stranger to a big cup tie having played against Norwich City in a televised FA Cup first round game for Paulton Rovers, told The NLP of the club's excitement before the Stockport fixture. "It's an absolutely incredible draw, it'll be a fantastic day for the club and everyone connected," he said. "This is what it's all about. I know they say the magic of the FA Cup but this is the magic of the Trophy!"

The FA Trophy is made

extra special by the FA's persistence to play the final at Wembley on Non-League Finals Day, also featuring the FA Vase which always delivers a brilliant spectacle – the last six finals have produced 24 goals between them!

Some supporters may say the final should be held at a smaller, more intimate ground but speak to any manager or player and they will say they want to be walking out under the arch.

We've been treated to so many great finals over the years, not least most recently when Step 3 Hornchurch beat Hereford. It's given many clubs from the same level hope they can go all the way too.

Brackley Town's penalty victory over Bromley was also dramatic, so too was North Ferriby United's upset of Wrexham in 2015. The memories go on and on.

So, the Trophy is still special, still 'magic' and it was a pleasure to have Needham Market's upset taking centre-stage on our front page last weekend – sorry Yeovil fans, you had your turn last month in the FA Cup!



Today's team sheets

Sevenoaks Town

1: Daniel Colmer

2: Jon Pilbeam

3: Jason Fregene

4: Joe Bingham

5: Freeman Rogers

6: Steve Smith

7: Bobby Dunn

8: Luke Leppard

9: Kyle De Silva

10: Louis Collins

11: Dominic Welsh

12: Kweke Ansah

14: Ryan Palmer

15: Danny Divine

16: Steve Ikpeme

17: Harvey Welford

Phoenix Sports

1: Steve Phillips

2: Henry Douglas

3: Thomas Cousins

4: Lee Bird

5: Toib Adeyemi

6: Josh Dorling

7: Chaka Barnett

8: Malaki Toussaint

9: Wale Odedoyin

10: Steve Carvell

11: Taurean Roberts

12: George Whitelock

14: Byron Walker

15: Alfie Evans

16: Lewis Clark

17: Calvin Poku



Saturday January 22nd 3pm. Pitching In Isthmian South-East Division, Sevenoaks v Phoenix Sports

Referee: Joseph Dann-Pye

Assistant 1: Andrew Crossley

Assistant 2: Benjamin McDonald

Next home match: Saturday February 5th 3pm.

Pitching In Isthmian South-East Division,
Sevenoaks v Lancing

