

STFC v Faversham Town FC: Saturday August 15th 2026



Pitching In Isthmian South East Division



THE OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME FOR THE 2026-27 SEASON

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EDITION 01: £2

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Zero Tolerance

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 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.

You can call the FA on 0800 085 0508 or Kick it Out on 020 7253 0162.

STFC welfare policy

As a 3-Star Accredited Club, child welfare and safeguarding is at the heart of what we do.

Sevenoaks Town FC Directors and Trustees are responsible for the Club's compliance with the child protection and welfare issues that are related to running a youth football club.

The Club Welfare Officers are responsible for the welfare and safeguarding of all our club members. Three of the club's codes relate specifically to club welfare issues:

Safeguarding Children Policy

Child Protection Policy
Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure
All team managers and coaches must complete the following before taking charge of a team:

- valid Enhanced DBS check
- have or be working towards a minimum FA Introduction to football coaching qualification
- FA Safeguarding Children Training
- FA Introduction to First Aid in Football

Player Welfare

The club has four Welfare Officers: Sean Jarvie, Shannon Hyner, Darron Mace and Jennifer Mason. The Board Champion is Paul Lansdale who can be contacted on 07876444274. You can also email welfare@sevenoaks-townfc.co.uk

FA Respect

As an FA Charter Standard Community Club, we expect the highest standards of conduct from our players, parents and supporters.

We are passionate supporters of the FA Respect campaign.

FA Whistleblowing Policy

Any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust with football can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA Safeguarding Team on 0800 169 1863, by writing to The FA Case Manager at The Football Association, Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London SW1P 9EQ, by emailing safeguarding@thefa.com or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC.

STFC Club Information



Chairman and Director: Paul Lansdale
Secretary: As Chairman
Directors: Kevin Marsh, Ray Miles, Frank Le Siberele
Board Champion (Welfare): Kevin Marsh
Club Welfare Officers: Liam Joyce, Shannon Hyner, Paul Lansdale

Committee Members: Shannon Hyner, Dan Thomas, Michael Tapp, Colette McCarthy, James Froud, Roy Dixon
Match Secretary: Michael Tapp
Safety Officer: Ray Miles
Equality and Diversity Officer: Jahmal Howlett-Mundle
First Team Manager: Marcel Nimani
First Team Coaches: Liam Joyce, Charlie Sweetman
Goalkeeper Coach: Julian Leigh
Head of Analysis: Ben Maci
Sports Therapist: Evan Readshaw
Press Officer/ PA announcer: Andrew Gidley

Club Photographer/App/Social Media: Matt White
Additional pictures by Simon Lapwood.
Programme Editor: Fred Atkins
@FredAtkins1973
Club address: The Bourne Stadium,
Mill Lane,
Sevenoaks,
Kent
TN14 5BX
Twitter: @sevenoakstownfc
Website: www.sevenoakstownfc.co.uk
Instagram: sevenoakstownfc
Tik Tok: sevenoakstownfc
E Mail: info@sevenoakstownfc.co.uk
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Sevenoaks Samaritans, Alzheimer's Society

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Marcel Nimani

A very warm welcome to Faversham Town Football Club, their management team, committee, players, supporters and everyone associated with the club. We hope you enjoy your visit and have a safe journey home afterwards.

It has been quite a contrasting pre-season for us. I don't think I have ever experienced so many long-term injuries in such a short period of time.

We have unfortunately lost four players to long-term injuries — two retained players and two new signings — and, frustratingly, all four were expected to be part of our starting XI. However, the other side of that contrast is that, despite those setbacks, we have had a very positive pre-season.

The new players who have come in have performed extremely well, settled into our style of play quickly and, importantly, bought into the culture we are trying to create here. They have also brought plenty of their own qualities and values into the group.

“We have decided to appeal the decision, so we will have to wait and see what the FA decides...”

So, while the injuries have certainly been a bitter part of pre-season, there have been plenty of positives to take from it. Faversham narrowly missed out on the play-offs last season after an excellent campaign following their promotion from Step 5 the year before.

Looking at the players they have retained and the recruitment they have made over the summer, it is clear they mean business.

They have brought in a number of experienced players who are very well known at our level and have enjoyed success at this level previously.

We know we will have a tough game on our hands, but we go into it with plenty of excitement ourselves.

Retaining the vast majority of the players we wanted to keep saw us have a positive pre-season despite the challenges we have faced.

We come into today's game after a disappointing FA Cup defeat away at Hassocks last Saturday. I felt the result was very harsh on our performance.

We went there and played some very good football, particularly in the second half, and there was only one team that looked likely to find the winner.

We could have settled for the draw, protected the result and brought Hassocks back here for a replay on Wednesday night, but that isn't how we wanted to approach the game.

We wanted to go and win it.

Unfortunately, we were caught by what I felt was a very poor refereeing decision, which ultimately resulted in a red card for us. We have decided to appeal the decision, so we will have to wait and see what the FA decides. Some referees may not have given a free-kick at all, some may have given a yellow card, while very few would have decided on a red. Unfortunately, on this occasion, the decision went against us. That was disappointing, although I must take nothing away from the actual goal scorer, whose free-kick was a world-class strike.

We left the game disappointed, but there are always lessons to take. Most importantly, we need to be more clinical because we created enough opportunities to win the game.

Today, we get the opportunity to put that disappointment behind us and begin our league campaign with what should be an entertaining game against Faversham Town. We have been a little unfortunate with the number of away fixtures we have been given in August, but from September onwards, with our move into the new clubhouse and a run of home games, there is plenty for everyone to look forward to.

We are excited about the season ahead, and the next chapter for the club and, most importantly, excited to welcome new supporters through the gates.

Let's see what the new season brings.

Enjoy the game.

Marcel

The Paul Lansdale Column

A very warm welcome to everyone for our first home game of the new season.

After what has been an incredibly busy and exciting summer for the club, it is fantastic to have football back and to see players, coaches, volunteers, families, supporters and friends of the club returning for another season.

There is so much to be proud of as we begin this new campaign, and perhaps the most visible sign of the progress we are making is our new pavilion, which is now very close to opening. This has been a major project for the club and represents a hugely important investment in our future. We cannot wait to open the doors and see it become a real hub for our players, families and the wider community.

Projects like this simply do not happen without tremendous support. I would particularly like to thank Sevenoaks Town Council and Longley for their superb support throughout the new pavilion project. Their contribution and commitment have been invaluable, and we are enormously grateful to everyone who has helped us reach this exciting stage.

We also start the season having received a tremendous honour in being named Kent FA Club of the Year. This is an achievement that everyone associated with the club should take great pride in. Awards such as this are not won by one team or a handful of individuals; they reflect the enormous collective effort that takes place across the club every week.

An important part of that is our continued commitment to making football accessible to everyone. Our SEND initiative is something we are particularly proud of, and we are excited to see it continue to develop. Football should provide opportunities, friendships and a sense of belonging for all, and initiatives such as this represent exactly the type of club and community we want to continue

building.

I would also like to recognise the businesses whose backing makes such a difference. A huge thank you to Manak for continuing as our First Team sponsors and for their ongoing commitment to the club.

We are also extremely grateful to Premier Alarms and Howdens for their amazing support. Partnerships like these allow us to keep developing both on and off the pitch, and we never take that support for granted.

One thing we haven't been short of this summer is sunshine! The exceptionally hot and dry weather has certainly presented its challenges. While many of us have enjoyed the summer, the lack of rainfall is becoming a genuine concern for our grass pitches.

Unless we see some meaningful rain very soon, there is a real possibility that some pitches may not be ready for September. Our grounds team will continue doing everything possible, but there are some things even their hard work cannot control — so for once I think everyone at the club will be very happy to see a few weeks of rain!

Finally, I want to say a huge thank you to our amazing team of volunteer coaches. They give an extraordinary amount of their own time to provide football for our players, often doing a huge amount of work that people never see. Their enthusiasm, commitment and dedication are at the heart of everything we do. Alongside all our other volunteers, they are what makes this club special.

Thank you to everyone who continues to play a part in our journey. I hope you enjoy today's game, and I wish all our teams, coaches and supporters a fantastic season ahead.



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In and outs over the summer

Ben Franks has left Oaks management team to take up an appointment with London City Lionesses as Head of Phase in their Professional Game Womens Academy, working with the 15s 16s and Under 21s.

It ends a long association with Marcel who will now have assistant manager Liam Joyce and new coach Charlie Sweetman working with him.

Liam returned to the club last season after a spell in charge at Lingfield, while Charlie steps up from coaching the reserves. He lives at Westerham and teaches at Hillview School in Tonbridge.

Welcome too to new physio



Evan Smithread. The 21-year-old has completed a three year course in Sports Therapy and Rehab and is now studying for a Masters in Physiotherapy.

A centre back as a player he was a member of the Chatham Town Academy and has featured in the club's first team.

Ben Maci continues as Analyst, while Louis Dixon replaces Charlie as reserve team coach alongside manager Steve McGinn.

Oaks On The Radio

West Kent Radio are featuring Sevenoaks Town on their Saturday afternoon sports programme.

The show runs from 2pm to 6pm and includes three reports - preview, half-time and full time on all the club's matches, as well as midweek matches in breakfast sports bulletins the following morning.

The station broadcasts on 95.5, 106.7 FM and is also available online via smart speakers, app and DAB in the locally.



STFC round-up

Sevenoaks Town again boarded impressive numbers across all the club's social media platforms last season.

- > Figures show a total of **14,392,033** views on X, Instagram and TikTok.
- > It was a **55%** increase, together with a **217%** increase in accounts reached and **118%** increase in engagement.
- > Others notable figures:
 - > **62**: Number of teams.
 - > **1,193**: Total number of registered players.
 - > **228**: volunteers across the club on matchdays and non-matchdays.
 - > **35**: Sponsors who make it possible for 1193 players to play.
 - > **6054**: players, volunteers, staff and in the wider community who engage with the club.



Oaks were named Club of The Year at the Kent FA Grassroots Awards at the Victory Hotel in Maidstone last month. Chairman Paul Lansdale is seen with Chief Executive Darryl Haden and Kelly Harrison from the event sponsors Ballerz.

Paul said: "This is recognition reflects the hard work and commitment of so many people across the club – our volunteers, coaches, players, committee members and supporters."



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Sevenoaks Town

Fixtures & Results 2026-27

KEY:

1 = Goal Scored
 * Player subbed
 ■ = Red Card
 + = Own goal

ISE = Isthmian SE
 FAC = FA Cup
 FAT = FA Trophy
 KSC = Kent Senior Cup
 TBC = To be confirmed

All Saturday home fixtures
 kick off at 3pm

Wednesday fixtures at
 7.30pm unless stated

	DATE	V OPPONENT	COMP	RES	ATT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Sub 1	Sub 2	Sub 3	Sub 4	Sub 5	
	Sat 8	Hassocks A	FACEP	1-2	250	Brooks	■	Diomande	Dickens	Majek	Amgbaduba	Jonah	Carney*	Borders	Jeché	Perez*	Barrington*	Jeffrey	Goueth	Davidson	Hilden*	Howard
	Sat 15	Faversham H	ISE																			
	Tue 18	AFC Croydon Ath A	ISE																			
	Tue 25	Erith Town A	ISE																			
	Sat 29	AFC Croydon Ath A	FATIQ																			
AUG	Mon 31	Merstham H	ISE																			
	Sat 5	Cray Valley PM	ISE																			
	Sat 12	Herne Bay A	ISE																			
	Sat 19	Margate H	ISE																			
SEPT	Wed 23	Eastbourne T H	ISE																			
	Sat 26	Steyning TC A	ISE																			
	Sat 3	Ashford Utd H	ISE																			
	Tue 6	Hastings U A	ISE																			
	Sat 10	Crowborough Ath A	ISE																			
	Sat 17	Broadbridge Hth H	ISE																			
	Wed 21	AFC Croydon Ath H	ISE																			
	Sat 24	Faversham T A	ISE																			
OCT	Sat 31	Horley Town A	ISE																			
	Sat 7	Whitstable Town H	ISE																			
	Sat 15	Peacehaven & T A	ISE																			
	Sat 21	Sittingbourne H	ISE																			
NOV	Sat 28	Deal Town A	ISE																			
	Sat 5	South Park H	ISE																			
	Sat 12	Herne Bay H	ISE																			
	Sat 19	Sheppey Utd A	ISE																			
DEC	Mon 28	Punjab Utd H	ISE																			
	Sat 2	Merstham A	ISE																			
	Sat 9	Horley Town H	ISE																			
	Sat 16	Whitsable T A	ISE																			
	Sat 23	Peacehaven & T H	ISE																			
JAN	Sat 30	Sittingbourne A	ISE																			
	Sat 6	Eastbourne T A	ISE																			
	Wed 10	Hastings Utd H	ISE																			
	Sat 13	Steyning TC H	ISE																			
	Sat 20	Ashford Utd A	ISE																			
FEB	Sat 27	Deal Town H	ISE																			
	Sat 6	South Park A	ISE																			
	Sat 13	Cray Valley PM H	ISE																			
	Sat 20	Margate A	ISE																			
	Sat 27	Sheppey Utd H	ISE																			
MAR	Mon 29	Punjab Utd A	ISE																			
	Sat 3	Erith Town H	ISE																			
	Sat 10	Broadbridge Hth A	ISE																			
APR	Sat 17	Crowborough Ath H	ISE																			

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Isthmian Fixtures



Saturday 15th August

Hastings United v AFC Croydon Athletic
Horley Town v Sheppey United
Margate v Crowborough Athletic
Peacehaven & Telscombe v Whitstable Town
Punjab United v Eastbourne Town
Sevenoaks Town v Faversham Town
Sittingbourne v Cray Valley PM
Stevington v Ashford United

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Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

There are many different volunteer roles in non-league football and Isthmian League football clubs need your help with them.

The Trident Leagues and Pitching In's online Volunteer Hub is the place where you can find opportunities and contact your local football club.

Please visit
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to find out more



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LEAGUE



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The Oaks Report



The Oaks celebrate Nathan Jeché's opener. Picture by Simon Lapwood.

Hassocks 2

Dan Turner 43, 90+2

Oaks 1

Nathan Jeché 5

Attendance :250

Referee: Greig Walker (Sussex)

Oaks were on the wrong end of late drama as their FA Cup hopes ended on the opening day of the new season. The game had ticked into stoppage-time with thoughts turning to the prospect of a midweek replay, when debut goalkeeper Harry Brooks was sent off for deliberate handball as referee Greig Walker deemed his actions had denied a goal scoring opportunity. Newcomer Alfie Hilden was sacrificed within minutes of stepping on the pitch to allow young Archie Howard to replace Brooks – a first senior appearance he won't forget his first job being to pick the ball out of the net after home centre back Dan Turner blasted home an unstoppable free kick to settle this Extra Preliminary Round tie. It leaves Marcel Nimani with the task of finding another goalkeeper ahead of the opening Pitching in Isthmian League

opener against Faversham Town on Saturday.

He had sympathy for both Brooks and rookie Howard but rued two chances at the other end moments earlier. New signing Nathan Jeché got in on the end of Jed Borders' set-up only for the ball to take a bobble and hit the bar before, while stand-in skipper Tolu Jonah couldn't connect fully at the far post. Hassocks also missed two great close-range opportunities before their late winner. Nimani watched among the crowd due to a one-match touchline ban, including BBC commentator Jonathan Pearce who lives locally.

He said "A goalkeeper at any level of the game couldn't save that. "It was just a beautiful strike that was worthy of winning any competition or game – nothing could be done there– it was just a great strike." Experienced Brooks, signed late last week from Ashford United to replace injured Jordan Perrin had settled in well – only for things to unravel quickly late on. The Oaks boss questioned the punishment saying: "Was it a red card? – the ball

Hassocks 2 Oaks 1

has bounced off the floor, and just hit his hand.

"I think the pressure of the crowd and their players forced the referee to give it."

The official's reaction, and Brooks' dismissal confirmed Mr Walker's use of Law 12 to the letter – as events unfolded – against the visitors.

New-look Oaks made the best possible start as Jeché made a quick impact finishing well to put them in front after only five minutes.

Noah Carney saw another effort saved soon afterwards, the advantage holding until conceding two minutes from half-time, Turner heading in unchallenged to head in a free-kick close to the touchline. The second half had little about it – until Hassocks missed a sitter 20 minutes from time.

Jonah and Jeché missed out twice in the space of five minutes, before Oaks survived a second let-off at the other end as the game moved into added time.

Oaks were one of seven South East clubs to exit the competition at the first hurdle.

Hassocks:

Charlie Burns, Charlie Bonwick-Adams, Joe Bull, Liam Hendy Daniel Turner, Kyle Sim, Devon Fender, Lewis Finney Lewis Croal, James Wilkes, Jack Troak

Substitutes:

Liam Benson replaced James Wilkes 58mins, Morgan Vale replaced Lewis Croal, 62 mins, Joe Turner replaced Devon Fender 80 mins, Harvey Enticknap replaced Liam Hendy 83

Sevenoaks Town:

Harry Brooks, Kevin Diomande, Charlie Dickens, Ayo Majekodunmi, Tamas Amgbaduba, Tolu Jonah, Noah Carney, Jed Borders, Nathan Jeché, Jaden Perez, Courtney Barrington.

Substitutes:

James Jeffrey replaced Noah Carney 58 mins, Alfie Hilden replaced Courtney Barrington, 67 mins, Max Davidson replaced Jaden Perez 72 mins, Eitel Meumi Gouerh 86 mins, Archie Howard replaced Alfie Hilden 92 mins.

Get well soon Elliott

19-year-old Elliott Haywood was on the receiving end of a horrific tackle while playing for our Reserves in a friendly on Saturday.

An X-ray has unfortunately revealed a double leg break and Elliott was due to undergo surgery on Tuesday.

Everyone at Sevenoaks Town wishes Elliott a speedy and full recovery and we look forward to seeing him back on the pitch.



STFC Awards:



Chairman Paul Lansdale hailed a "fantastic" Awards Day which celebrated the successes throughout the whole club last season.

Twelve months ago the event had to be rescheduled due to high winds, and once again the weather again failed as the crowd had to brave heavy early June rain.

Ben Franks and Sam Lansdale compered the day with first team manager Marcel Nimani and club captain Jahmal Howlett-Mundle, presenting the awards across the ages from five to 18 representing more than 60 teams - as well as the senior men and women.

Paul said; "It was fantastic to recognise the achievements of our players across every

age group and to thank the coaches and volunteers who give so much of their time to make the club what it is.

"Equally, a huge thank you goes to all of our parents and families for their continued support throughout.

"Days like this remind us that our club is about far more than football - it's about community, friendship and creating lasting memories for everyone involved."

The double-winning reserves were named Team-of-the-Year, following winning the NRG Kent County League Division Two Central title and Sevenoaks Senior Charity Cup - the club's first success in more than 20 years.

Promotion to Division One West was con-



"A fantastic day..."



firmed a few days later.

Stewart Todd was presented with the Trevor Haysler Award marking a contribution, involving coaching his own son's team from Under7s to 18 - and offering support to teams across all age-groups.

Jude Whelan received the Jody McNeilly Award for his work with the Under-7s, "creating a real togetherness and inclusivity in the age-group."

Senior awards:

Men's First Team Manager's Player-of-the Year: Jordan Perrin, Players Player-of-the Year: Tolu Jonah: Committee Player-

of-the-Year: Jed Borders.

Reserve Manager's Player-of-the-Year: Harry Bunclark, Players Player-of-the-Year: Freddie Wooster. Sports Personality: Liam Earle.

Women: Manager's Player-of-the-Year: Abi Washington, Players Player-of-the-Year: Chloe Jardine, Sports Personality: Chloe Brian.

Development Team Manager's Player-of-the-Year: Abbey Blake, Player's Player-of-the-Year: Matilda Noble: Sports Personality: Grace Spicer-Garabet.

Pictures by Liam McAvoy.



Faversham Town:

The club'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 revival of club and ground from the jaws of death was nothing short of a miracle.

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

A brief history

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 finish their six games unbeaten, despite playing all of the promotion favourites, indicating that the club had turned the corner.

The club narrowly missed the play-offs in 2025-26 and Steve Watt was named as manager for the forthcoming season.

