

STFC v Merstham FC: Monday August 31st 2026

Pitching In Isthmian South East Division



THE OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME FOR THE 2026-27 SEASON

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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
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Sevenoaks Town Football Club Limited: Registered in England No. 07298016
Registered Charity No. 113763
Registered address: First Floor, 1 Suffolk Way, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1YL
Sevenoaks Town supports four charities:
Hospice in the Weald., West Kent Mind, Sevenoaks Samaritans, Alzheimer's Society

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The Sevenoaks and Merstham squads for today's game

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Marcel Nimani

Good afternoon everyone and a warm welcome to Jamie Decruz, the rest of his Merstham management team, committee and supporters.

They have enjoyed a very good start to the season which doesn't surprise me, and I think they are capable of continuing it.

Ground sharing with a club in the same league as ourselves is a little bit different, but we know the value of ours, especially with so many grounds are parched - and crying out for rain, making the job of groundsmen very difficult in recent weeks.

Indeed if the forecast is right at the time these notes are being written, rain is due, which will be very welcome to many.

We have to reflect on a disappointing defeat at Erith Town last Wednesday night. We had several entries into their box early on - only for them to score with their first effort - a cheap and poor goal to concede from our point of view.

We played well in



big spells in between the two boxes, but lacked the conviction of the opposition, and we can't seem to address our weaknesses at the moment.

Looking at today's game it promises to be a good one for any neutrals. It is our last home game

until September 19, with the official opening of the new clubhouse set to take place on the eve of our next home game against Margate.

Thank you for your support.

Marcel

The Paul Lansdale Column

Good afternoon and welcome on this Bank Holiday Monday to everyone involved with our visitors Merstham. Not only visitors - but also our short-term tenants - following the groundshare arrangement agreed between the two clubs.

We have had enquiries before and it may seem strange to invite one of our Pitching In Isthmian League to share facilities albeit on a temporary basis but the decision works well for both clubs as Merstham await the installation of their new pitch.

It has taken a lot of planning both in the build-up to the new season - and now it's underway - switching matches for our other teams as well as training sessions.

Another decision, important to the club was the successful appeal to the Football Association following Harry Brooks' sending-off in the FA Cup defeat at Hassocks.

We wouldn't have gone ahead with it had there been no hope of winning - but the video evidence was a key factor in supporting it.

The red card created a lot of opinion and debate on social media, and while pleased with the satisfactory outcome, it cost us the chance of continuing in the competition.

Another disappointment has been the number of serious injuries we suffered in pre-season - which have impacted on our squad.

It was good to see Jordan Perrin, Freddie Nyhus and Jordan Ababio at our first home game of the new season against Faversham, as they continue their respective rehab, while Dan Duncanson is recovering from surgery on his damaged collarbone.

"We wouldn't have gone ahead with the appeal had there been no hope of winning - but the video evidence was a key factor in supporting it ..."

Our best wishes also go to young reserve team player Elliott Hayward who suffered a serious leg injury in the reserves final pre-season friendly. Meanwhile we are moving closer to the opening of our new clubhouse. We are planning for week commencing Monday September 14 - ahead of our next Isthmian League South East home game against Margate the following weekend.

Enjoy the game and a safe journey home to everyone later.

Paul



Editor's note: These notes were written before our trips to Erith Town and AFC Croydon Athletic.



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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.



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Isthmian round-up

Saturday 22nd August 2026

Ashford United Grant Whitelock 86	1	3	Hastings United Erskine 21, Black 29, Clarke 60 pen	608
Broadbridge Heath Hay 3, Doughty 44, 49, Yakubu 90+5 pen	4	1	Horley Town Dyson 87	103
Merstham Carvalho 52, 70, Theophanous 63	3	1	Steyning Town Marley Ginger 90+3	156

Tuesday 25th August 2026

Crowborough Athletic	0	2	South Park Reigate Moody 61, Unknown 90 og	281
Eastbourne Town Sean Ratcliffe 19, 90+1, Ruda 63, 74, James Walsh 76	5	0	Peacehaven & Telscombe	286
Erith Town Arthey 14, Reid-Solanki 38, Taylor 49, Aibangbee 86	4	0	Sevenoaks Town	189
Sheppey United Taylor 18, 28, Lambert 58	0	3	Herne Bay	525
Whitstable Town Wall 11, Nelson 17, landolo 67	3	1	Deal Town Chapman 48	828



The stand at Erith Town, venue for Tuesday night's match. Reports start on page 18.

Pitching In Isthmian South East Division

Hastings United	3	3	0	0	7	2	+5	9
Sittingbourne	3	2	1	0	5	3	+2	7
Margate	3	2	1	0	3	1	+2	7
Erith Town	2	2	0	0	6	0	+6	6
Broadbridge Heath	2	1	1	0	6	3	+3	4
Eastbourne Town	3	1	1	1	6	3	+3	4
Faversham Town	2	1	1	0	6	4	+2	4
Merstham	2	1	1	0	6	4	+2	4
South Park	2	1	1	0	4	2	+2	4
Peacehaven & Telsc.	3	1	1	1	7	8	-1	4
Herne Bay	1	1	0	0	3	0	+3	3
Sheppey United	3	1	0	2	4	4	0	3
Ashford United	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
Cray Valley PM	3	0	3	0	3	3	0	3
AFC Croydon Athletic	3	1	0	2	4	5	-1	3
Crowborough Athletic	3	1	0	2	2	4	-2	3
Whitstable Town	3	1	0	2	4	7	-3	3
Punjab United	2	0	2	0	3	3	0	2
Sevenoaks Town	3	0	1	2	3	8	-5	1
Deal Town	2	0	0	2	3	7	-4	0
Steyning Town	3	0	0	3	1	6	-5	0
Horley Town	3	0	0	3	1	10	-9	0

Does not include Saturday's results



Monday 31st August

AFC Croydon Athletic v Cray Valley PM
 Broadbridge Heath v Peacehaven & Telscombe
 Deal Town v Herne Bay
 Eastbourne Town v Steyning Town
 Erith Town v Punjab United
 Faversham Town v Sheppey United
 Hastings United v Crowborough Athletic
Sevenoaks Town v Merstham
 Sittingbourne v Ashford United
 South Park (Reigate) v Horley Town

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
AUG	Sat 8	Hassocks A	FACEP	1-2	250	Brooks ■	Diomande	Dickens	Majek	Amgbaduba	Jonah	Carney*	Borders	Jeche	Perez*	Barrington*	Jeffrey	Goueth	Davidson	Hilden*	Howard
	Sat 15	Faversham H	ISE	2-2	186	Brooks	Diomande	Dickens	Majek	Amgbaduba	Jonah	Carneyl*	Borders	Jeche	Perez*	Barrington1*	Goueth	Jeffrey	Adaje		
	Tue 18	AFC Croydon Ath A	ISE	1-2	179	Brooks	Diomande	Dickens	Adaje*	Jonah	Davidson	Carney*	Borders	Jeche	Goueth	Barrington	Tickle	Amgbaduba			
	Tue 25	Erith Town A	ISE	0-4	189	Brooks	Diomande	Davidson*	Majek	Jonah	Dickens	Carney	Borders	Jeche	Goueth	Barrington	Amgbaduba	Perez			
SEPT	Sat 29	AFC Croydon Ath A	FATIQ																		
	Mon 31	Merstham H	ISE																		
	Sat 5	Cray Valley PM A	ISE																		
	Sat 12	Herne Bay A	ISE																		
OCT	Sat 19	Margate H	ISE																		
	Wed 23	Eastbourne T H	ISE																		
	Sat 26	Steyning TC A	ISE																		
	Sat 3	Ashford Utd H	ISE																		
NOV	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																		
DEC	Sat 24	Faversham T A	ISE																		
	Sat 31	Horley Town A	ISE																		
	Sat 7	Whitstable Town H	ISE																		
	Sat 15	Peacehaven & T A	ISE																		
JAN	Sat 21	Sittingbourne H	ISE																		
	Sat 28	Deal Town A	ISE																		
	Sat 5	South Park H	ISE																		
	Sat 12	Herne Bay H	ISE																		
FEB	Sat 19	Sheppey Utd A	ISE																		
	Mon 28	Punjab Utd H	ISE																		
	Sat 2	Merstham A	ISE																		
	Sat 9	Horley Town H	ISE																		
MAR	Sat 16	Whitsable T A	ISE																		
	Sat 23	Peacehaven & T H	ISE																		
	Sat 30	Sittingbourne A	ISE																		
	Sat 6	Eastbourne T A	ISE																		
APR	Wed 10	Hastings Utd H	ISE																		
	Sat 13	Steyning TC H	ISE																		
	Sat 20	Ashford Utd A	ISE																		
	Sat 27	Deal Town H	ISE																		
MAY	Sat 6	South Park A	ISE																		
	Sat 13	Cray Valley PM H	ISE																		
	Sat 20	Margate A	ISE																		
	Sat 27	Sheppey Utd H	ISE																		
JUN	Mon 29	Punjab Utd A	ISE																		
	Sat 3	Erith Town H	ISE																		
	Sat 10	Broadbridge Hth A	ISE																		
	Sat 17	Crowborough Ath H	ISE																		

F

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FA Youth Cup



Oaks bowed out of the FA Youth Cup - beaten 5-2 at Dulwich Hamlet. The youngsters conceded three goals in seven minutes close to half-time, but didn't give up and netted twice in the second half - Krasen Stoyanov and Floyd Reilly were the Oaks' scorers. It was a tough draw, made even

more so, only being able to field two substitutes with nine players unavailable for the Extra Preliminary Round tie at Champion Hill. Six of the squad - all first year recruits - Tom Belcher, Bobby Aston, Harrison Dixon, Jenson Lockwood, Max Wingrove and Eze Connolly played for the reserves the previous night.





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
[Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk](https://pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk)
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Oaks 2 Faversham 2



Oaks shared the spoils in the 2-2 opening day Pitching In Isthmian League South East draw against Faversham Town.

They came from behind to lead 2-1 at half-time, only to concede within three minutes of the re-start - both sides having chances to win it, new-boy Nathan Jeché inches away from a late winner just failing to convert substitute James Jeffrey's cross. Jeché was one seven new signings in the 16-man squad making their home debuts, including goalkeeper Harry Brooks free to play after Oaks won an appeal against his sending off in the FA Cup defeat at Hassocks, the previous weekend. Marcel Nimani was back in the dug out after serving a one-match touchlineban, celebrating his 100th

game in charge.

It was a strange quirk of the fixture list that saw the two teams contest the first home game of the season - just 112 days after meeting in the final game of last season - the result the same, virtually ending the Swale club's hopes of a play-off spot. Lex Allen headed Faversham in front after 16 min-

utes - having gone close moments earlier - before Noah Carney levelled seven minutes later - Courtney Blackman getting the second to open his account just before half-time. Jack Evans' deflected effort tied things to again soon after the break - both sides having chances to win in a lively finish.



AFC Croydon 2 Oaks 1

Tamas Amgbaduba scored his first goal for the club in the 2-1 defeat at AFC Croydon Athletic.

He came off the bench to head in skipper Tolu Jonah's long throw with two minutes left and there was almost a sting in the Oaks tail, with Kevin Diomande denied deep into stoppage-time by two last-ditch challenges as the ball dropped in the home box.

Jaden Sanchez pulled out of the game in the warm-up, capping a difficult build-up throughout the day, highlighted in Marcel's post-match interview.

"I don't think I've ever had so many various uncontrollable factors that have impacted the preparation for a game as they have tonight. "But I've got nothing but praise for my players for their character, resilience and grit."

It was a plucky display without reward as

they recovered from conceding inside the opening minute.

The hosts broke quickly and David Bremang headed in a cross from the right. To their credit Oaks settled into the game to create chances of their own, Nathan Jeché's effort seem to bobble in front of former Oaks keeper Amadou Tanga-ra, but managed to touch it away for a corner.

Harry Brooks' tip over then denied the hosts, before Jeché couldn't quite get his angles right following Courtney Barrington's cross.

He later fired over the bar, and Charlie Dickens saw another effort blocked on the line.

Croydon without a point from their opening two games, doubled the lead, Greg Cundle finishing off a break down the left, six minutes after the break.

Erith Town 4 Oaks 0

A disappointing night for Oaks - finishing second best - after a very positive start.

The opening dozen minutes saw them dominate possession, only to be undone by the hosts first effort on goal - loop James Dunn's corner headed in by Michael Arthey.

Oaks looked for a quick way back into the contest and skipper Tolu Jonah saw three efforts repelled - the first one blocked, the second cleared off the line, and the third blocked again.

Dunn's dead-ball skills paved the way for Erith to double their lead seven minutes before half-time - seeing his 30-yard free-kick crash against the underside of the bar, Devon Reid-Solanki reacting first to force home the rebound. Harry Taylor added the third six minutes after the break,



following up after Harry Brooks saved the first effort.

Oaks work in the build-up created several openings, Nathan Jeché's header was cleared off the line with Ayo Majekodunmi, Noah Carney and Kevin

Diomande seeing efforts go wide.

And then to cap it all off - former Oaks striker Jefferson Aibangbee came off the bench to score the fourth, four minutes from time.

STFC Reserves:

Oaks Reserves suffered their first Division 1 West defeat losing 6-2 at The Charcoal in Eltham.

It follows a successful start winning their opening two games since promotion.

Manager Steve McGinn said: "It was a bit of a tough result to take.

"Charcoal are a good physical side, and a team that want to play football, so it was hard for us.

"We were 2-0 down at halftime, changed the formation and got it back to 2-2 - goals by Freddie Worster and Liam Earl with 20 minutes to go.

"A lack of concentration allowed them to score a third a minute later - we then conceded three in the final five minutes going for it.

"The scoreline doesn't reflect how close the game was, but we need to learn how to get results on poor pitches. - we can't play on our 3G every week!"

Last year's double winners have linked up with the club's Under-18s with coach Louis Dixon joining manager Steve McGinn, six of the squad signed on dual registration.

Steve added: "The new season also brings new challenges.

"I think a key area is that the physicality in this league will be strong, which is something our young side will have to adapt to."

Bolawatife Oduntan and Bobby Aston netted in the 2-0 mid-week win over Halls Athletic Reserves Oaks began by kicking off the DIW season beating Ide Hill 6-3 in a Friday night local derby - three of the goals coming in almost 10 minutes of added time.



Former Sevenoaks Town player Reggie Rose has signed new contract at Brentford! He made his Oaks debut aged just 17 on 13th August 2022 and kept a clean sheet in a 1-0 win against Three Bridges.

He was part of the first-team squad throughout the 2022/23 season, making five appearances before joining Brentford in February 2023.

Both teams converted penalties. Ramses Angoua and Aston both scored twice - Oaks leading 4-2 at half-time with the final three goals all scored in almost 10 minutes stoppage-time. Meanwhile Elliott Hay-

wood is recovering after suffering a serious leg injury, and will be in a full leg cast for two months. He spent six days in hospital but doctors think that the bones will heal and align without surgery.

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Merstham FC History

The club was established in 1892 and in 1897 they were founder members of the Redhill & District League. In 1926–27 the club were Redhill & District League champions, and in 1929–30 they won the East Surrey Junior Cup.

Merstham won back-to-back titles in 1934–35 and 1935–36 and again in 1949–50 and 1950–51, after which they moved up to the Surrey Intermediate League, going on to win the league at the first attempt. In 1965 the club moved up to the Surrey Senior League.

They were champions in 1971–72, but left the league in 1978 to join the London Spartan League, largely composed of clubs to the north of London. Their first season in the league saw them win its Challenge Cup and the Surrey Senior Charity Cup, before winning the East Surrey Charities Cup in 1979–80.

In 1984 Merstham transferred to the Surrey-centred Combined Counties League to reduce their travelling. They were runners-up in 1987–88 and 1989–90, a season that also saw them win the Elite Cup.

When the league gained a second division in 2003, Merstham became members of the Premier Division. After winning the Premier Challenge Cup in 2004–05 and finishing as runners-up in the Premier Division in 2005–06 and 2006–07 (also winning the Premier Challenge Cup and the Southern Combination Challenge Cup), the 2007–08 season saw the club win the Premier Division title, the Premier Divi-

sion Cup and the Surrey Senior Cup.

Winning the Combined Counties League title resulted in Merstham being promoted to Division One South of the Isthmian League. In 2014–15 they finished fourth in the division, qualifying for the promotion play-offs.

After beating Faversham Town 5–4 on penalties in the semi-finals, they defeated Folkestone Invicta 3–0 in the final to earn promotion to the Premier Division. They finished the season by winning the Surrey Senior Cup for a second time.



In 2016–17 the club reached the first round of the FA Cup for the first time, losing 5–0 at home to Oxford United in front of a record crowd of 1,920. They won the Surrey Senior Cup again in 2017–18. The 2018–19 season saw them finish fifth in the Premier Division. In the subsequent play-offs, they beat Carshalton

Athletic 2–1 in the semi-finals before losing the final 2–0 to Tonbridge Angels.

In 2021–22 the club finished bottom of the Premier Division and were relegated to the South Central Division. At the end of the following season they were transferred to the South East Division.

The club originally played at Lime-works Meadow, a pitch based in the Merstham Lime Works. Players initially had to change in nearby hedges before being allowed to use the nearby Jolliffe Arms pub. In the early 1910s

Merstham FC History

the club temporarily relocated to the Weir ground. They moved to Moatside in the early 1920s. Changing rooms were built in 1960 and a 90-capacity stand opened in 1974.

Floodlights were erected during the 1990–91 season and were inaugurated with a friendly match

against Crystal Palace. A record attendance of 1,587 was set on 9 November 2002 for a league match against AFC Wimbledon. This was broken in 2016 when 1,920 watched the club's FA Cup first round match against Oxford United.].



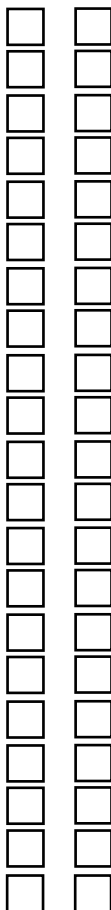
First Team Honours

- Redhill & District League: Division Two Champions 1927
- East Surrey Junior Cup: Winners 1930
- Redhill & District League: Premier Division Champions 1934–35, 1935–36, 1949–50, 1950–51
- Surrey Intermediate League: Champions 1952–53
- Surrey Senior Charity Cup: Winners 1976–77
- London Spartan Challenge Cup: Winners 1979–80
- East Surrey Charities Cup: Winners 1980–81, 1998–99, 2004–05, 2006–07
- Dan Air Class Elite Cup: Winners 1989–90
- Surrey Veterans County Cup: Winners 1995–96
- Premier Challenge Cup: Winners 2004–05, 2006–07, 2007–08 Runners-Up 2005–06
- Combined Counties Premier Division Champions 2007–08
- FA Vase: Quarter Finalists 2007–08
- Surrey Senior Cup: Winners 2007–08, 2015–16, 2017–18
- Ryman League Division One South Fair Play Award: Winners 2010–11
- Ryman League South Play-Off Winners 2014–15
- Ryman Premier League Play-Off Runners Up 2018–19

Sevenoaks Town

Merstham FC

Harry Brooks
Kevin Diomande
Charlie Dickens
Ayo Majek
Tamas Amgbaduba
Tolu Jonah
Noah Carney
Jed Borders
Nathan Jeché
Jaden Perez
Courtney Barrington
Max Davidson
Archie Howard
James Jeffrey
Sam Itauma
Eitel Goueth
Tobi Adaje



Rob Tolfrey
Ollie Khinda
Clem Aiedu
Matt Drage
Sinnkaye Christie
Gil Carvalho
Louie Theophanous
Olu Lawal
Yannis Mengou
Tommy Bradford
Olly Allen
Ryan Healy
Paris Hamilton-Downes
Chama Torsiello
Malachi Mullings
Aaron Jenkins

Manager: **Marcel Nimani**
Colours: **Black/blue shirts, black shorts, black socks**

Manager: **Jamie Decruz**
Colours: **Yellow and black shirts, black shorts, yellow socks.**



Match Officials:
Referee: **Byron Beard**
Assistants: **Thomas Sansom & Dylan Wood**
Next home match:
TBC Pitching In Isthmian South East Division
Saturday 19th September
STFC v Margate



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Respect

