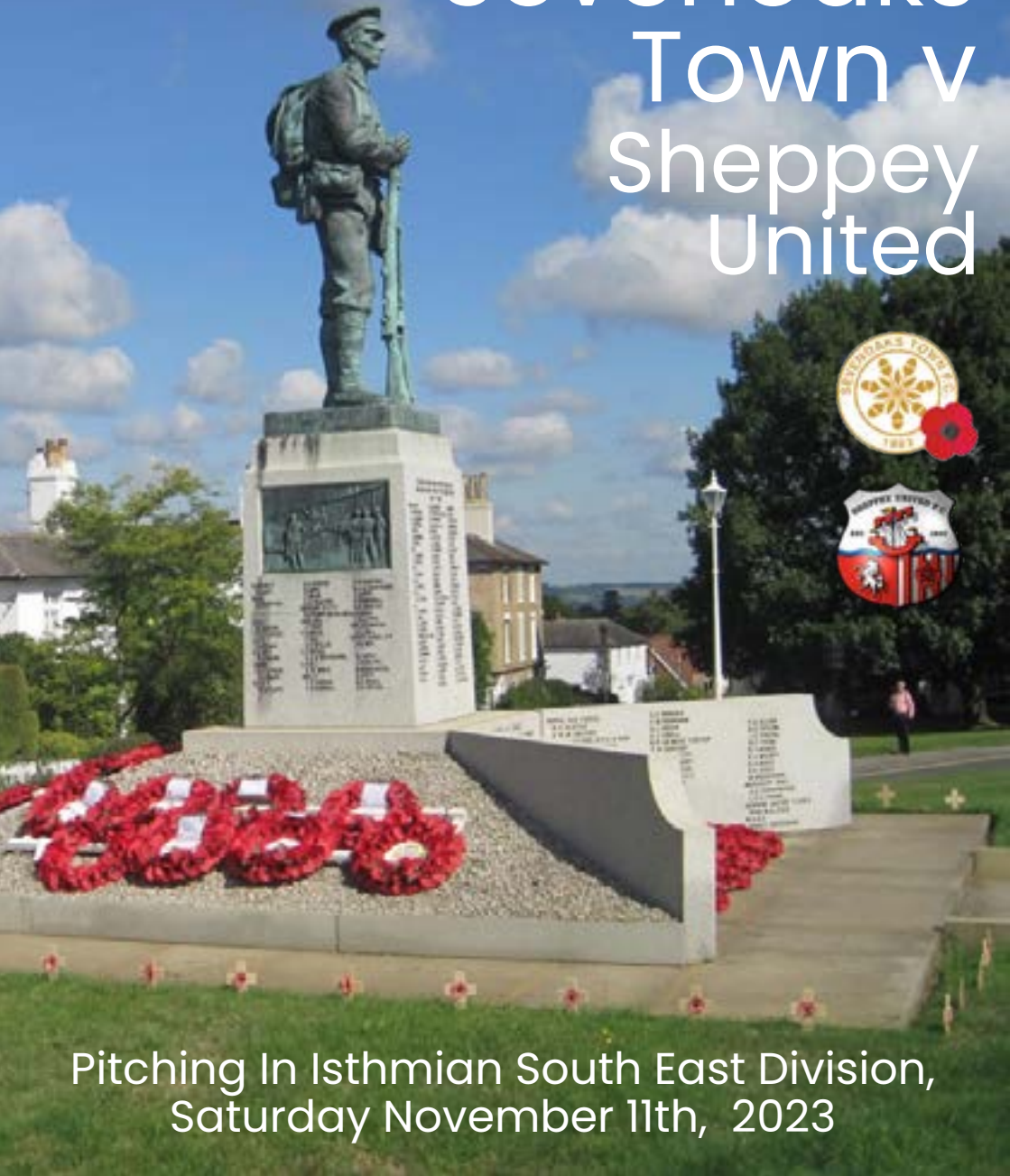


Sevenoaks Town v Sheppey United



Pitching In Isthmian South East Division,
Saturday November 11th, 2023



Respect





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RACISM: 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 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 FC CLUB INFORMATION

Chairman and Director: Paul Lansdale
Secretary and Director: Sam Lansdale
Directors: Kevin Marsh, Ray Miles, Frank Le Siberel.

Committee Members: Shannon Hyner, Dan Thomas, Michael Tapp

Match Secretary: As chairman

First Team Manager: Harry Hudson

Assistant Manager: Mark Dacey

First Team Coaches: Adam Flemming, Junior James

Goalkeeper Coaches: Danny Rose, Julian Leigh

Assistant Goalkeeper Coach: Alex Crean

Head of Analysis: Kevin Rawlinson

Analysts: Max Brandelli, Dan Lambert, Andy Nagy, Sebastian Sainz

Sports therapist: Carly Payne

Kit Man: Billy Thompson

Safety Officer: Ray Miles

Club Welfare Officers: Paul Lansdale, Darren Mace, Sean Jarvis, Shannon Hyner

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Sevenoaks Town supports three charities:

Hospice in the Weald. West Kent Mind, Sevenoaks Samaritans



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THE MANAGER: HARRY HUDSON



Good afternoon to you all. I'd like to say welcome to Ernie Batten and everyone connected with Sheppey United.

A week ago they were live on national tv in the FA Cup against Walsall, they did phenomenally well to fly the flag for Isthmian League South East.

"Sheppey are a great family club and they have done wonders so far this season."

I thought they were great and competed very well. A word too for both Ramsgate and course Cray Valley with that great result at Charlton - and their journeys continue.

Sheppey are a great family club and have done wonders so far this season.

I think it will be a cracking game. They will want to come and play, our home form is good. and we are looking forward to it.

As for us, our trip to Broadbridge Heath was postponed due to the weather - but we filled another blank Saturday with a friendly against Holmesdale, jointly managed by former club favourite Andy Constable - arranged at short notice. We won 4-1 and it was a good work out.

And so onto the midweek win at Erith & Belvedere which saw us complete our 10th league game of the season with three points.

It's a stage of the season which offers time for reflection.

We have broken our midweek duck, so can put that behind us out now.

The win meant a lot to everyone - I said to the boys before the game we needed a shift in our mentality away from home.

The incentive was we knew we would go second if we won - we still need to be better, but our identity is being very organised and working hard off the ball as we showed at Erith.

Other teams have got games in hand, but they have got to win them.

We are pleased where we are - we have still got work to do but the defensive structure we showed on Tuesday was very pleasing and is the foundation for us going forward.

Harry

THE CHAIRMAN: PAUL LANSDALE

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the Bourne Stadium for this afternoon's Pitching Isthmian League South East game against Sheppey United.

We offer the same to their officials, players and supporters, and extend that to the three officials appointed for today's game.

Sheppey grabbed the FA Cup headlines last week alongside Ramsgate and Cray Valley.

It was great to see two of our former players involved - James Bessey-Saldanha's super strike against Walsall, one of the first goals of the weekend - and Freddie Parker lining up for Cray Valley on their special day against Charlton on Sunday.

I was with the Cray Valley people this week when they had just heard the replay will be screened live on BBC 2 next week, while Ramsgate's

second round trip to AFC Wimbledon is another excellent draw for them after beating Woking - all a great advert for our league and Step 4 football.

The win at Erith & Belvedere on Tuesday was hard fought, following the victory against Chichester in our last game here a fortnight ago.

It's been an important few days off the pitch as well - our accreditation as a three star club involving all 70 of our teams has been confirmed and our annual ground inspection has also taken place. There will be more on this in the next edition.

"It's a busy period for us all but I would like everyone to take a moment to contemplate how lucky we are to be here ahead of Remembrance Sunday..."

This is the first of two back-to-back home games with Merstham our visitors next week so it's a busy period for us all, but I would like everyone to take a moment to contemplate how lucky we are to be here.

It's Remembrance Sunday tomorrow and there will be a minute's silence to honour the fallen. Enjoy the game and a safe journey to all later.

Paul



TABLES, RESULTS & FIXTURES



PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN SOUTH EAST: SATURDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2023

	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
Three Bridges	10	7	2	1	27	18	+9	23
Sevenoaks Town	10	6	1	3	18	15	+3	19
Ramsgate	7	6	0	1	19	6	+13	18
Herne Bay	10	4	4	2	18	14	+4	16
Ashford United	8	5	1	2	13	16	-3	16
Sittingbourne	8	4	3	1	19	8	+11	15
Chichester City	8	4	2	2	14	3	+11	14
Burgess Hill Town	9	3	3	3	12	10	+2	12
Lancing	9	4	0	5	12	15	-3	12
Cray Valley PM	5	3	2	0	18	8	+10	11
Sheppey United	7	3	2	2	17	10	+7	11
Hythe Town	7	3	2	2	14	10	+4	11
East Grinstead T	9	3	1	5	14	18	-4	10
Broadbridge Hth	9	2	3	4	13	16	-3	9
Littlehampton T	7	2	2	3	10	15	-5	8
Horndean	10	2	2	6	12	21	-9	8
Erith & Belvedere	10	2	2	6	5	16	-11	8
Phoenix Sports	11	2	2	7	14	30	-16	8
Merstham	9	2	1	6	13	23	-10	7
Beckenham T	9	1	1	7	10	20	-10	4

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Burgess Hill Town v Chichester City
 Cray Valley PM v Erith & Belvedere
 Herne Bay v Three Bridges
 Horndean v Hythe Town
 Lancing v Broadbridge Heath
 Littlehampton Town v East Grinstead Town
 Merstham v Phoenix Sports
 Ramsgate v Beckenham Town
Sevenoaks Town v Sheppey United
 Sittingbourne v Ashford United

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4TH

Ashford United Bola 44	1	0	Burgess Hill Town	406
Phoenix Sports Dyer 40	1	0	Horndean	110

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 7TH

Erith & Belvedere	0	1	Sevenoaks Town Bennett 42	80
Merstham	0	3	Ramsgate Taylor 16, Elito 33, Jadama 73	265
Sheppey United Willis 21, Bessey-Saldanha 36	2	0	Beckenham Town	330



James Bessey-Saldanha returns to Greatness Park today after scoring a magnificent goal for Sheppey to give them the lead in their FA Cup first round tie with Walsall.

Although the Ites lost 4-1 it was a memorable night for everyone connected with the club and James was on the scoresheet again in Tuesday's 2-0 win over Beckenham Town

THE OPPOSITION: SHEPPEY UNITED

The 4 Eras of SUFC

1890 – 1992: The Botany Road Era

Sheppey United FC was formed in 1890 by a merger of Sheerness Victoria and Invicta, and initially played at the Sheppey United Cricket Club ground at Botany Road. The first match was at Sittingbourne on 20 September 1890, with Sheppey running out 3-1 winners despite turning up with only ten players. The match report referred to us as 'the Sheppeyites', hence the club nickname 'The Ites', which remains to this day.

They were founder members of both the Southern League and the Kent League in 1894. In the Southern League they were placed in Division Two, in which they finished as runners-up in the first season, before losing the promotion/relegation test match against Clapton 5-1.

The following season they finished second again, and this time won the test match, defeating Royal Ordnance Factories 4-2 to earn promotion to Division One. At the end of the season they left the Kent League. The season also saw the club make their debut in the FA Cup when they played Millwall Athletic, but lost 4-0.

In their first season in Division One they finished second bottom of the table, but avoided relegation by defeating RETB Chatham 2-1 in the test matches. In 1898-99 they again finished second bottom of the table but retained their

Division One status after drawing the test match against Thames Ironworks 1-1. However, the following season they finished bottom of the table and lost the test match against Watford 2-1, resulting in relegation back to Division Two.

The club re-joined the Kent League prior to the start of the 1900-01 season, as well as remaining in the Southern League. However, after a single season back in Division Two, the club withdrew from the Southern League. In 1905-06 they won the Kent League and repeated the feat the following season. A third title was won in 1927-28, by the reserve team as the first team had re-joined the Southern League for that season and were placed in the English Section. However, after finishing bottom of the league in both 1930-31 and 1931-32 they resigned, and returned to the Kent League in Division One.

At the end of the 1938-39 season Sheppey finished bottom of the league and should have been relegated, but the league was suspended due to the Second World War. After the war Sheppey were placed back in the top division of the Kent league for the 1945-46 season. The club then remained in Division one until the 1958-59 season when the Kent league stopped.

In 1959 they were founder members of



the Aetolian League, which they played in until it merged with the London League to form the Greater London League in 1964. After winning Section B of the Greater London League in 1964-65, the club joined the Metropolitan League. They had a single season in the Metropolitan-London League in 1971-72 after it was formed by a merger of the Metropolitan League and the Greater London, before re-joining the new Kent League in 1972. They won the title in their first season back in the league and were league champions again in 1974-75 and 1978-79, as well as winning the League Cup in 1975-76 and 1978-79. After finishing second in 1983-84, the club re-joined the Southern League for a third spell. However, after finishing bottom of Division One South in 1989-90 they returned to the Kent League. They finished bottom of the table in their first season back, but a gradual improvement saw them win the league in 1994-95.

1992 – 2013: The Nomadic Years

Sheppey United sold the much-loved Botany Round ground to developers in 1992 to clear a massive overdraft, and this started a long and slow death for the club.

Initially this did not appear to present too many problems as Sheppey romped away with the Kent League title, whilst ground-sharing with Faversham Town, losing only two out of forty games. Ultimately however, as the club spent most of the 1990s trying in vain to find a new home on the Island, years of playing away from Sheppey began to take its toll, as the club moved from Faversham, to Canterbury, and then to Sittingbourne. Attendances fell sharply as supporters increasingly became disenchanted with traveling off the Island for 'home' games, and the club could no longer afford the rents involved.

In March 2001 the club resigned from the Kent League and their record was expunged. The senior team was disbanded until being reformed in 2003, when they joined Division Two East of the Kent County League. They finished second in their first season and were promoted to Division One East. The club was renamed AFC Sheppey in 2007, but was disbanded

and reformed under their original name prior to the 2010-11 season.

2013 – 2016: The New Club

In June 2013 the club merged with Sheerness East FC to become Sheppey & Sheerness United FC competing in the Kent County League Premier Division with the club playing their home games at Holm Park formerly Canning Town Gasworks and then Sheerness Steel Sports Ground. The season saw the club win the Kent FA Intermediate Challenge Shield and finish runners up in the league and were promoted to the Kent Invicta League.

In the summer of 2014 the club was re-named back to Sheppey United FC. Major investment has been injected into Holm Park including: perimeter fencing, new dressing rooms, club house refurbishments, floodlights, stands, levelling the main pitch including installing drainage and sprinkler system. A second place finish in the Kent Invicta League was achieved at the end of the 2015/16 season gaining promotion to the Southern Counties East Football League Premier Division. The Kent Invicta League merged into the Southern Counties East Football League that summer forming Division One.

2016 was a remarkable season for the club winning the Kent Senior Trophy, beating Ashford United on penalties at Maidstone United's Gallagher Stadium in front of a crowd of 870, whilst Holm Park's ground regeneration saw 715 fans flock to the stadium for a home match against Glebe.

2016 – Present: The Return of Kent League Football

A sixth-place finish in the SCEFL Premier Division was a great achievement in the clubs return to Step 5 of the Non-League pyramid. The Ites have remained at this level ever since and just last week their FA Cup tie with Walsall was televised live on ITV.



Sevenoaks Town Fixtures & Results 2023-24

KEY:

- 1 = Goal Scored
- 1st Player subbed
- 2nd Player Subbed
- 3rd Player Subbed
- > Sub subbed
- = Red Card

- + = Own goal
- * = Oaks lost 4-3 on pens
- 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 otherwise
stated

	DATE	V	OPPONENT	COMP	RES	ATT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Sub 1	Sub 2	Sub 3
AUG	Sat 5	A	Lingfield	FAC	3-1	105	Tangara	Aboagye	KMN	Mensah	Bray	JHM	Shomotun	Cadogan	Liburd	Bennett 2	Baugh	Carr 1 >	Francis	Aghatise
	Sat 12	H	Ramsgate	ISE	4-2	257	Tangara	Aboagye	KMN	Warren	Bray	JHM	Shomotun	Cadogan	Francis	Mensah 1	Baugh 1	De Silva	Carr 1	
	Tue 15	A	Sittingbourne	VST	3-3*	89	Tangara	Aghatise	De Silva	Thompson	JHM	Holder	Shomotun	JDT	Addai	Bennett	Baugh 1	Cadogan	Mensah	Okello 2
	Sat 19	H	Colliers Wood U	FAC	3-0	136	Tangara	Aboagye	KMN	Warren	Bray	JHM	Shomotun	Mensah 1	Bennett	Baugh	Francis 1	De Silva	Okello	
SEPT	Tue 22	A	Ashford United	ISE	1-2	131	Tangara	Aboagye	KMN	Warren	Bray	JHM	Shomotun	Mensah 1	Barrett	Cadogan	Baugh	Francis	Addai ■	De Silva
	Mon 28	H	East Grinstead T	ISE	4-1	141	Tangara	Aboagye	KMN	Warren	Bray	JHM	Shomotun	Mensah	Francis 2	Cadogan	Baugh 1	Thompson	Bennett 1	De Silva
	Sat 2	H	Whitehawk	FAC	0-0	304	Tangara	Aboagye	KMN	Thompson	Bray	JHM	Shomotun	Mensah	Cadogan	Francis	De Silva	Baugh	JDT	Carr
	Tue 6	A	Whitehawk	FAC	1-2	251	Tangara	Aboagye	KMN	Thompson	Bray	JHM	Shomotun	Cadogan	Francis	Mensah	Baugh 1	Carr	JDT	De Silva
OCT	Sat 9	A	Uxbridge	FAT	2-1	121	Tangara	Aboagye	De Silva	Thompson	Bray 1	JHM	Shomotun	JDT	Francis	Mensah	Baugh	Cadogan	Carr 1	Bennett
	Sat 24	A	Ramsgate	FAT	1-3	404	Tangara	Aboagye	KMN	Warren	Bray	Thompson	Bennett	JDT	Carr	Mensah	Francis	Liburd	Shomotun	Cadogan 1
	Wed 27	H	Herne Bay	KST	3-0	85	Tangara	Mensah	KMN	Warren	Bray	Holder	Shomotun	Thompson	Francis 1	Bennett 1	Cadogan	Walters	JDT	Francis
	Sat 30	H	Sittingbourne	ISE	2-2	137	Tangara	Aboagye	KMN	Warren	Bray	Holder	Shomotun	Mensah	Carr	Bennett	Cadogan	Liburd	JDT	Francis
NOV	Sat 7	A	Lancing	ISE	2-1	234	Tangara	Aboagye	KMN	Mensah	Bray	Holder	Shomotun	Bennett	Carr 1	Warren 1	Cadogan 1	JDT	Liburd	Thompson
	Tue 10	A	Hythe Town	ISE	0-4	170	Tangara	Aboagye	KMN	Thompson	Bray	Holder	Shomotun	Cadogan	Liburd	Mensah	Carr	JDT	Walters	Bennett
	Sat 14	H	Horndean	ISE	3-2	131	Tangara	Mensah	KMN	JDT	Thompson	Holder	Shomotun	Bennett 1	Carr 1	Warren 1	Walters	Osbourne	Liburd	Cadogan
	Tue 24	A	Burgess Hill Town	ISE	0-1	294	Tangara	Aboagye	KMN	JDT	Bray	Holder	Shomotun	Mensah	Carr	DMG	Cadogan	Liburd	Bennett	Osbourne
DEC	Sat 28	H	Chichester City	ISE	1-0	107	Tangara	Aboagye	KMN	Thompson	Bray	Holder	Shomotun	JDT	Liburd 1	Mensah	Cadogan	JHM	Carr	
	Tue 7	A	Erith & Belvedere	ISE	1-0	80	Tangara	Aboagye	KMN	Thompson	Bray	Holder	Shomotun	Bennett 1	Liburd	Cadogan	Warren	Mensah	Carr	DMG
	Sat 11	H	Sheppey United	ISE																
	Sat 18	H	Merstham	ISE																
JAN	Sat 25	A	Littlehampton	ISE																
	Wed 29	H	Welling United	KSC																
	Sat 2	H	Three Bridges	ISE																
	Sat 9	A	Phoenix Sports	ISE																
FEB	Tue 12	A	Broadbridge Hth	ISE																
	Sat 16	H	Burgess Hill Town	ISE																
	Tue 26	A	East Grinstead	ISE																
	Sat 30	A	Ramsgate	ISE																
MAR	Mon 1	H	Cray Valley PM	ISE																
	Sat 6	H	Herne Bay	ISE																
	Sat 13	A	Beckenham	ISE																
	Sat 20	A	Sittingbourne	ISE																
APR	Sat 27	H	Hythe Town	ISE																
	Sat 3	A	Horndean	ISE																
	Sat 10	H	Lancing	ISE																
	Sat 17	H	Erith & Belvedere	ISE																
MAY	Sat 24	A	Chichester City	ISE																
	Sat 2	H	Broadbridge Hth	ISE																
	Sat 9	A	Sheppey United	ISE																
	Sat 16	H	Beckenham	ISE																
JUN	Sat 23	A	Herne Bay	ISE																
	Sat 30	H	Ashford United	ISE																
	Mon 1	A	Cray Valley PM	ISE																
	Sat 6	A	Merstham	ISE																
JUL	Sat 13	H	Littlehampton	ISE																
	Sat 20	A	Three Bridges	ISE																
	Sat 27	H	Phoenix Sports	ISE																

OAKS ON THE RECORD



When and Where:

Bourne Stadium

Date: Saturday October 28 2023

Pitching In Isthmian League South

East v **Chichester City**

Weather: Changeable

Result: 1-0

Attendance: 107

Referee: Lawrence Torz-Brown

Line-Up: Sevenoaks Town: Amadou

Tangara, Jerald Aboagye, Karn Miller-Neave, Ricardo Thompson, Rian

Bray, Corey Holder, Fumnaya Shomotun (Dan Carr 85 mins) Jaid-

en-Drake-Thomas, Rowan Liburd,

Emmanuel Mensah Kieran Cadogan

(Jahmal Howlett-Mundle 69 mins)

Yellow Card: Ricardo Thompson (90

mins)

Oaks Review:

Harry Hudson lauded skipper Corey

Holder for a "colossal" display after

Oaks maintained their unbeaten

home record with a 1-0 win against

Chichester City at the Bourne Sta-

dium.

Goalkeeper Amadou Tangara won

the sponsors Man of the Match

award on the day after playing his

part in frustrating the West Sussex

side, as Oaks claimed their first win

in seven meetings between the two

clubs, but Hudson's vote went to

Holder.

Rowan Liburd netted the 11th min-

ute winner, his first goal for the club

after a lengthy lay-off following an

early season injury.

He was inches away from getting a second later, but Hudson was de-lighted with the move which led to the eventual winner.

City started quickly and went close twice early on - Tangara saving from Isaac Bello and top scorer Ethan Prichard shooting wide.

The game proved value for money for the 100 plus crowd who braved a wet afternoon with a total of 17 minutes stoppage-time.

Tangara foiled Bello again and Prichard sent a free-kick over the bar, before Manny Mensah missed out in a one-on-one chance against visiting keeper Kieran Magee, as the clock ticked past 45 minutes.

HT: 1-0 (90+9)

City pressed and probed throughout the second half as heavy rain contin-

ued. Prichard and striker Steve Hutchings both missed twice, while Oaks defend-

ed stoutly - a combination of Tangara's safe hands and resolute defend-

ing including several last ditch blocks. Oaks went close to a second again late on, Liburd seeing his effort

blocked before Jaiden Drake-Thomas

put his follow-up wide.

FT 1-0 (90+8)

Reaction: Harry Hudson.

"I think a clean sheet is a long time coming for Amadou, but he deserved it, everyone did incredibly well.

"Corey was out of this world, he would have been my MOM - he won challenges in the box that were 70-30 against him, and it was a massive colossal captain's performance.

"Third in the table maybe a fake position as other teams have games to play - inconsistency has been the problem, and we haven't hit the levels we want to yet."

OAKS ON THE RECORD



When and Where:

Date: Tuesday November 7 2023:

Acclaim Handling Community Stadium

Park View Road, Welling

Pitching In Isthmian League South East

v **Erith & Belvedere**

Weather: Cold and Clear

Result: 1-0

Attendance: 80

Referee: Charlie Roberts (Essex)

Line-Up: Sevenoaks Town: Ama-

dou Tangara, Jerald Aboagye, Karn

Miller-Neave, Jaiden Drake-Thomas,

Rian Bray, Corey Holder, Fumnaya

Shomotun, Daniel Bennett (Dominic

Morgan Griffith 80 mins), Rowan Liburd

(Dan Carr 66 mins) Matthew A Warren,

Kieran Cadogan (Emmanuel Mensah

60 mins).

Yellow Cards: Rian Bray 24 mins), Jaid-

en Drake-Brown (51 mins), Dan Bennett

(80 mins)

Red Card: Dan Carr (90 mins)

Oaks Review:

Two changes from the side that beat Chichester - Matty Warren returned after injury with Dan Bennett recalled - replacing Manny Mensah and Ricardo Thompson who started on the bench.

Latest signing Dominic Morgan Griffiths also returned after returning from Saudi Arabia representing England in the Mini World Cup

Oaks got the midweek monkey off their backs with Dan Bennett's 42nd minute goal clinching the points in the first

Step 4 meeting between the old rivals - and only eighth in 29 matches stretching back to season 2005-6.

Deres made a rapid start creating chance after chance - a total of 13 efforts on goal in the opening half hour.

Fumnaya Shomotun and Warren both created chances before Oaks went in

front, Dan Bennett's flicked near post header converting Jaiden Drake-Thomas' corner.

HT: 1-0 (47-28)

Manny Mensah and Dan Carr were introduced and made an immediate impact - Carr hitting the bar with his first touch, Mensah seeing his follow-up pushed away by home keeper Jordan Perrin.

Mensah needed lengthy treatment after colliding with the perimeter wall - it looked serious at the time, but he happily recovered - and moments later created another chance, wa strong run ending before shooting wide.

Amadou Tangara claimed a second successive clean-sheet, kept busy earlier in that quick fire Dere's opening burst.

"He had a quieter second half before producing a last ditch touch over the bar - second favourite in a chase for the ball with Josh Ayayi, following a miscued clearance which bounced towards the Oaks goal.

There was a late sting in the tail when Carr saw red following a challenge as the clocked ticked into seven minutes stoppage-time - but Oaks held firm to win a tight contest.

FT: 1-0 (97-20)

Reaction: Harry Hudson

"It was a tough game which we were glad to come out on the right side off.

They started better than us and were in the front foot and in the ascendancy.

"We started poorly and had to make a change in our structure to stop them getting in to our final third because they were on too early on.

"Once we did that I felt we nullified them, and we got better as the game went on -second half I think we had opportunities to get a second and put the game to bed.

"Credit to the boys for making the change in gameand execute it.

"It was a resolute performance, and I felt we were better value for our clean sheet than against Chichester.

"Things were made harder by Dan Carr's red card but I thought our maturity and game management was first class.

"I think he was stopping their counter, there was minimum contact - the referee has-made the decision and he apologised to the group afterwards."

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MAN OF THE MATCH



West Kent
SPORT & WELLBEING

MAN-OF-THE-MATCH



Amadou Taranga collects the West Kent Sport & Wellbeing man-of-the-match award after the 1-0 win over Chichester City

THE NLP COLUMN

By Jon Couch

ALDRESHOT Town is a football club with a pretty unique history. Reborn in the spring of 1992 after the original Aldershot FC went out of business, the Shots have famously worked their way back up the Non-League pyramid, from Ryman Division Three all the way back into the Football League, where they stayed for five years until their off-the-field misery returned to haunt them. Relegation back to the Conference in May 2013 coincided with the club re-entering administration and from there it's been a struggle with the Shots treading water in the top-flight ever since. In short, it's been a bit of a tough watch at the Recreation Ground (now EBB Stadium) over the years, so you can imagine the elation of the 1,278 hardy supporters who made the trip west to Swindon Town's County Ground last Saturday to watch one of the most bizarre FA Cup ties in the competition's history. A goal to the good inside a minute, Tommy Widdrington's men scored again three minutes later and added a third after nine. By half-time, it was 5-0 and within 13 minutes of the second half the lead had stretched to SEVEN, with Jack Barham celebrating his hat-trick goal in front the disbelieving and joyous Shots fans going wild in the stands. Even late braces from Swindon's Dan Kemp and Charlie Austin, to bring the score back to 7-4, couldn't take the shine off an occasion described by the club's co-founder, former secretary and fan of over 50 years, Graham Brookland, as the "most remarkable afternoon of football he had every experienced". "It was barmy," Widdrington told us. "A bit of an unreal situation. "I have nothing but praise for the lads and the people that have come to this game in their hundreds. "I am delighted for them as I am aware they have had some hard times of late and this is something to remember, it is a

scoreline that you can't ignore. "They players are fully deserving of today because they work so hard." Aldershot's feat made it on to the front page of The NLP last week, but there were several other notable achievements which were equally as deserved. Step 4 Ramsgate's march continued with a stunning 2-1 come-from-behind win over National League Woking, while Horsham held League One high-fliers Barnsley in a six-goal thriller at Oakwell on Friday night. "It's just so pleasing that we can bring them back to our place," said delighted Hornets boss Dom di Paola. We can bring the town out and be allowed to let our supporters actually watch us in such a high-profile game." And it was the same on Sunday too with Cray Valley Paper Mills winning the hearts of a nation after holding high-profile south-east London neighbours Charlton Athletic to a 1-1 draw at The Valley to become the second Step 4 club to book their place in the second-round draw. A trip to Kent side Gillingham, not a million miles either from Cray Valley's Eltham base, now lies in wait for the winners of a tie which will surely add fuel to the debate surrounding the benefit of FA Cup replays to Non-League sides in particular. "To a player they were unbelievable," said Millers boss Steve McKimm. "We were on a hiding to nothing but when you give belief to players anything can happen." National League leaders Chesterfield continued to fly the Non-League flag by knocking out the highest-ranked team in the competition, Portsmouth, while Slough Town went mighty close to dumping Grimsby after player/boss Scott Davies rolled back the years with a stunning 30-yard free-kick. It was another weekend which showed just why we love the FA Cup with its magic conjuring memories, as the likes of Aldershot, Ramsgate, Horsham and Cray Valley will tell you, that can last a lifetime.

FA CUP MAGIC



Freddie Parker, pictured in his Sevenoaks days, enjoyed a moment he'll never forget at The Valley on Sunday, when he scored for Cray Valley in their 1-1 draw with Charlton Athletic



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 to find out more



ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



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Tues/Thurs 9am
Chipstead Common.

Saturday 8:30am The Vine.

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SEVENOAKS TOWN FC 2023-24



Sevenoaks Town

Manager: Harry Hudson
Colours: Black/blue shirts,
black shorts, black socks



Sheppey United

Manager: Ernie Batten
Colours: Red and white striped shirts,
black shorts, white socks

Amadou Tangara	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aiden Prall
Jerald Aboagye	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Frankie Del Morgan
Karn-Miller Neave	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Olamilekan Majoyegbe
Emmanuel Mensah	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Richard Hamill
Rian Bray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Danny Leonard
Jahmal Howlett-Mundle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Connor Wilkins
Fumnaya Shomotun	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Danny Bradshaw
Kieran Cadogan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	James Bessey-Saldanha
Rowan Liburd	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacob Lambert
Dan Bennett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mamadou Diallo
Jaiden Drake-Thomas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Josh Wisson
Dan Carr	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Danile Birch
Dominic Morgan Griffiths	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jamie Graham
Andrew Norburn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oscar Housego
Tyrese Osbourne	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hadley GLock
Jack Sammoutis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alexander Willis
Jordan Aghatise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jack Marsh
Matt Warren	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maliq Morris
Ricardo Thompson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oladipo Duriwoju
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	D'Jean Spencer

Match Officials:

Referee: Elliot Spencer

Assistants: Matthew Pollington, Ben Al-Shaikh

Next home match:

Pitching In Isthmian South East Division
Sevenoaks Town v Merstham
Saturday 18th November, kick-off 3pm