

The official match programme of Sevenoaks Town FC

Sevenoaks Town Vs Sittingbourne FC



Pitching In Isthmian South East Division



Season 2021/2022 Issue 21- £2

**Monday April 18th,
2022, kick-off 3pm**



Respect



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Meet the Sevenoaks Town duo who've represented England at Powerplay Football

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Match Report

Yahya Bamba's hat-trick gave Sevenoaks a fully deserved 3-0 win over play-off chasing Cray Valley. Andrew Gidley reports.

Editor's note

Easter deadlines mean this final edition of the season has been compiled before Good Friday's games so some of the usual features are missing. Thanks to everyone who has bought or downloaded a copy throughout the season.

Sevenoaks Town Info

Chairman and Director: Paul Lansdale

Secretary and Director: Sam Lansdale

Directors: Kevin Marsh, Ray Miles, Frank Le Sibirel

Committee Members: Dan Thomas, Michael Tapp

Match Secretary: As chairman

First Team Manager: Harry Hudson

Assistant manager: Mark Dacey

Goalkeeper Coach: Julian Leigh

Coaches: Danny Rose, Terry Groom

Head of Analysis: Kevin Rawlinson

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

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From the chairman

Hello everybody and welcome to the Bourne Stadium for today's final Pitching In Isthmian League South East home fixture of the season against Sittingbourne. We extend the same to their officials, players and supporters, and to our three match officials. Early Easter printing deadlines mean I am writing this before our trip to Hythe on Saturday. The result and performance against Cray Valley Paper Mills in our last home match was excellent and left us mathematically safe with Yaya Bamba's hat-trick the highlight of the afternoon. It has been a real roller-coaster of a season - a dramatic transformation in our fortunes in the last two months since Harry Hudson was appointed in late March. As it is our last home game it is an opportunity for me to say thank you to our small team, including committee members and volunteers who help us on match-days throughout the season. One more first team game awaits - a trip to champions Hastings on Saturday. There is still plenty of football to be played by our many youth teams - and we then look forward to hosting our Awards Day on Saturday June 11 starting at noon. Enjoy the game.

Paul Lansdale



Harry Hudson's Hotline

Good afternoon everyone and welcome back to the Bourne Stadium for this final Isthmian League South East home fixture against Sittingbourne. It has been a bit of a whirlwind since that first match at Corinthian which now seems a very long time ago. Writing this before the trip to Hythe, we went there hoping to maintain our recent good form, following the victory over Cray Valley. Yahya took the plaudits with his hat-trick, but everyone contributed to another excellent

display, the result thoroughly deserved against a side heading for the end of season play-offs. Our objective was to retain Step 4 status - and we have almost achieved that with two games still remaining. My thanks to all the staff and players. We finish our season at the champions Hastings on Saturday, then it will be time for everybody to reflect and recharge the batteries. Thanks for all your support.

HH



Sittingbourne FC Pen Pics

Harry Brooks

Goalkeeper

Signed on dual registration from Tunbridge Wells in September 2021 to help out when regular goalkeeper, Joe Docherty, was away. He has now made the number one spot his own. This is Harry's second spell with us. His first was in the 2018-19 season. He then went on to play for Whitstable (His second spell with them) and Norwegian side, Volga TI, Back to England then he played for Ramsgate before moving abroad again to play for Ytterhogdal, Sweden.

Charlie Taylor

Goalkeeper

Signed in March 2022 when Harry Brooks was injured. Proved a very capable deputy.

Taylor Fisher

Defender

Joined Sittingbourne for the start of the 2021-22 season. He is the son of Sittingbourne legend, Dave Fisher. Taylor has made the Left back position his own since he joined The Bourne. He has had experience with Lordswood, Whitstable Town, Dartford and Beckenham Town.

Samuel Okoye-Ahaneku

Defender

Former Arsenal schoolboy who signed from Hitchin Town in September 2012. He has also played for Wingate & Finchley. Samuel was on trial at Watford in the summer and did well. However contractual difficulties with another club made it difficult for him to sign for a club at that level.

Sam Flisher

Defender

Sam made his debut in the summer of 2020. His previous club was Bearsted. He has also played for Hollands & Blair.

Emmanuel Dasho

Defender

Very quick defender who likes to go forward. Emmanuel signed from Sevenoaks Town having previously played for Gebe, Walthamstow and Witham Town.

Lex Allan

Defender

Six feet seven inch centre-back who departed Woodstock Park in October 2020 for Sheppey United but rejoined The Brickies in January 2022. Became a Brickie's first team regular when he was only eighteen years old, back in the 2017-18 season. Quickly attracted the attention of the likes of Millwall, Crystal Palace, Fulham and Birmingham City, but it was with the Brickies he remained, and he made 26 appearances in that first campaign, 25 more during 2018-19, and 30 five during 2019-20.

Harrison Pont

Midfield

Started with Dover Athletic academy and whilst playing for them he joined us on dual transfer for his first spell at the club. Has also played for Hollands & Blair and Margate.

Harry Miller

Midfield

Made his debut for Sittingbourne in March 2020. Harry is son of ex Sittingbourne legend Mark Miller and nephew of another Sittingbourne legend, Neil Miller.

Toby Bancroft

Midfield-Forward

Another to join Sittingbourne at the beginning of the 2021-2022 season. Toby's last team was Margate when he was on loan from Gillingham. Also previously played for Ramsgate and Wingate & Finchley.

Kane Rowland

Forward

Kane started in the youth set up at Ramsgate before joining Whitstable Town and scored 16 goals whilst with them. He then joined Margate before returning to Whitstable where he scored another 30 goals. The Ward brothers then took Kane to Ramsgate. Kane signed for us in the 2017-18 season. His consistent high quality play, that included him scoring 23 goals for us despite missing quite a few games because of injury, came to the attention of Folkestone Invicta who signed him. Kane rejoined us for the beginning of the curtailed 2019-20 season.

Sittingbourne FC Pen Pics



Above: Action from the Brickies 4-1 loss at Burgess Hill on Saturday.

Picture by Ken Medwyn courtesy of Sittingbourne FC's official website

Johan Caney-Bryan

Forward

Joined Sittingbourne at the beginning of the 2018-2019 season. Immediately made an impact when he scored two goals in a pre-season friendly. Johan was awarded a scholarship at the University of East London whilst being a third-year sport and exercise student following an impressive display playing for The UEL Football Club.

Harry Stannard

Forward

Harry signed in November 2021 from Whitstable Town. Previous clubs, Gillingham, Hastings United, Margate and Ramsgate.

Alex Flisher

Forward

Brother of Sam signed for us in December 2021 from Hythe Town. Flisher played with Brickies boss Blackburn as a teenager at Hollands & Blair, helping out in a couple of pre-season games, before making a name for himself at Maidstone. He went onto play for Dartford and Margate.

Tyler Anderson

Forward

Another to sign in February 2022, Tyler is a quick winger who has played for Erith & Belvedere and Lordswood.

THE LAST TIME WE MET

Saturday January 1 2022
Pitching In Isthmian League South East Division
Sittingbourne 1
Toby Bancroft 63
Sevenoaks Town 0

Attendance: 305:
Sevenoaks Town: Joe Docherty, Danny Divine, Jason Fregene, Luke Leppard, Freeman Rogers, Steve Smith, Bobby Dunn, Stephen Ipkeme (Harvey Welford (82 mins), Fjord Rogers, Louis Collins, Dominic Welsh (Lamin Bah 72 mins).



Sittingbourne FC History

The club was started as Sittingbourne United back in **1881**. In **1886** it became Sittingbourne Football Club and played at the Bull Ground in the centre of town, winning its first major title in **1897/98** when it won the Kent League.

The Kent Senior Cup followed in **1902**. After the First World War more senior cup and league titles followed with the club also enjoying the first of three spells in the Southern League.

Success followed and in another spell in the Southern League Sittingbourne twice in succession missed promotion to the Premier Division only on goal average. The club reached the first-round proper of the F.A Cup in **1962** but lost 3-0 at Hinckley Athletic Back in the Kent League Sittingbourne were one of the strongest teams throughout the **1970s** and **1980s** in an era - unlike the one that followed, when what happened on the field got more attention than what went on off it! In February 1990, the club decided to sell its town centre Bull Ground (now Sainsbury's supermarket) and buy a 23-acre site on the town's Eurolink estate.

A magnificent stadium with a 2,000 seater stand, restaurants, bars, greyhound track and training pitches was the envy of non-league football. There was success too, on the pitch when, in their first season at Central Park, Sittingbourne won the Winstonlead Kent League without losing a game - the only senior football team throughout Europe to achieve that feat in the **1990/91** season.

Promotion to the Beazer Homes Southern League followed with the championship of the Southern Division secured in **1993** followed by promotion to highest level achieved by the club since it's foundation.

The ground record was broken five times during that one season with 5,951 spectators watching a friendly with Spurs and more than 3,000 at the match with local rivals Gravesend - a Beazer Homes Southern Division record. More money flowed in with the £21,000 sale of Neil Emblen and Mickey Harle to Millwall before the bubble spectacularly burst.

Debts of more than £1 million were revealed, the team got relegated, the ground was closed for a while despite the intervention of the local council in taking it

over, and the club was officially wound up. Somehow Sittingbourne have survived it all and even got back to the Southern Premier Division during this traumatic time (in Steve Lovell's first spell as manager), finishing an equal highest ever eighth before the financial problems again began to bite and relegation followed.

A new management committee headed by Andy Spice made great strides in tackling the debt problem and getting Sittingbourne Football Club back on an even keel financially. To ensure survival of the club, the decision was made to move out of the imposing main stadium and move to another pitch on the complex.

Because of the FA reorganising the leagues Sittingbourne faced a brand new challenge playing a number of "unknown" teams in the Ryman Isthmian League for season **2006-2007**. The **2009-10** season, was one of the best since the financial problems, Sittingbourne being in play off contention for much of the time but failing at the end. Still, a 9th place finish was no disgrace and for the first time in fifty years, Sittingbourne won the Kent Senior Cup in front of 618 at Folkestone Invicta. For the **2013-2014** season, Sittingbourne decided to leave their home of 10 years and accept an invitation to move to Woodstock Park a 14-acre area with superb social facilities. Andy Spice, who almost single handedly kept Sittingbourne as a senior club, stood down as Chairman making way for Maurice Dunk, a Director of the company that holds the leasehold for Woodstock Park.

After a three year reign as manager, Nick Davis resigned, in February **2018** after the committee decided a budget cut was necessary when it became clear that Sittingbourne would be unlikely to challenge for the play offs. Coach, Aslan Odev took over and after initially taking The Brickies to the play off places failed to maintain this and after a number of losses it was mutually agreed that he would stand aside, paving the way in January **2019**, for Dover Athletic Academy development manager, Chris Lynch, to take over. Darren Blackburn took over for the **2020-21** season and has completely reshaped the team. Due to Covid 19, Darren has not had a chance to make his mark on the club and is hoping the 2021-2022 season will change that.



Duo's England honours

Sevenoaks Town Powerplay pair Kyle Alexander and Gregg Baxter represented an England development squad last weekend, taking part in a Home Nations competition in Belfast. Alexander captained the side, scoring four goals in the competition, including a brace in the final - a 4-0 victory against Northern Ireland. Baxter kept four clean sheets as England scored 16 goals across their four games.

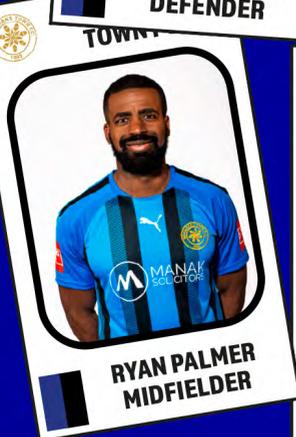
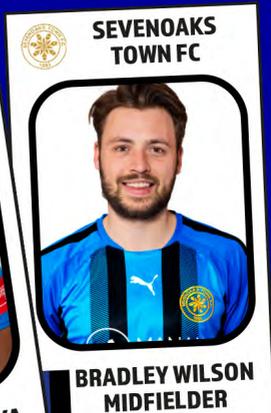
Sevenoaks coach Adam McEvoy was also in attendance, as a member of the coaching staff. He said "I'm absolutely delighted for the squad, they're a excellent group of young men, who are pushing for senior call ups. Additionally, I'm very proud of Gregg and Kyle, who as senior members of the squad, led by example with their performances, both on and off the pitch."



Welcome to Greatness!

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

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





Bamba crushes Cray

**Sevenoaks Town 3
Cray Valley PM 0**

By Andrew Gidley

Yahya Bamba's hat-trick was the highlight as Sevenoaks Town continued their winning run with a comprehensive victory over Pitching In Isthmian League South East play-off contenders Cray Valley.

The 22-year-old arrived at the club as a full back, but boss Harry Hudson's decision to play him as a forward has worked a treat.

A fourth successive home win - and fifth in seven matches means Town are mathematically safe from the drop - to complete an impressive transformation from relegation candidates to form-team leaders since Hudson's appointment in late March.

Bamba eased them in front after 18 minutes, finishing off Ryan Palmer and Freddie Parker's build-up.

He doubled the lead in first half stoppage-time - Ryan on for injured Freddie Parker chased down a clearance from Cray keeper Liam Northwood, debutant Sam Johnson's touch was cleared to Reece

Gillies who chipped forward to Bamba who drilled home inside the post

He proved a real handful to Cray with Ali Tumkaya and Alex Brefo picking up first half bookings for first half fouls on the pacy winger.

Bamba completed his hat-trick nine minutes after the break, winning the penalty and after being tripped on the edge of the box, before stepping up to beat Northwood.

Cray Valley fluffed their lines in front of goal top scorer Marcel Barrington and skipper Denzel Gayle missed first half chances, and Anthony Edgar shot wide in the second.

Substitute Francis Babalola on at half-time also missed out, failing to convert a low far post cross.

Tyler McCarthy kept out two more efforts to complete his second clean-sheet in three games.

Parker limped off in the first half, Town finishing with 10-men, losing Kyle De Silva with a hamstring injury late on.

Sevenoaks Town: Tyler McCarthy, Ryan Palmer, Charles Banya, Michael Aziaya (Omari Hibbert 75 mins), Matthew Weaire, Corey Holder, Reece Gillies, Kyle De Silva, Freddie Parker (Bradley Ryan 36 mins), Sam Johnson, Yahaya Bamba (Frankie Sawyer 67 mins)



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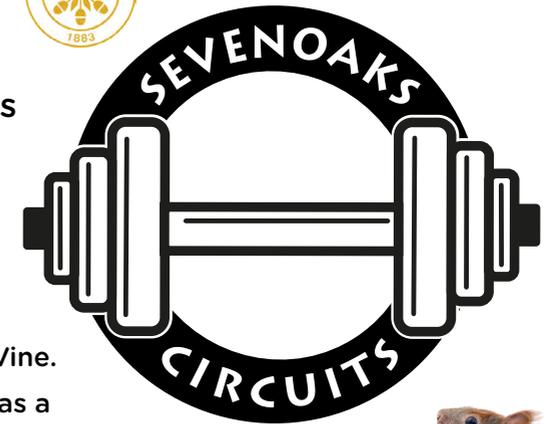
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Oaks join Wellbeing in Mental Health initiative

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chairman Paul Lansdale said: "I am really pleased

to be able to begin these sessions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Zero tolerance for racism

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

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

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Today's team sheets

Sevenoaks Town

1: Tyler McCarthy

2: Ryan Palmer

3: Charles Banya

4: Matthew Weaire

5: Tolu Jonah

6: Corey Holder

7: Joe Bingham

8: Reece Gillies

9: Freddie Parker

10: Bradley Wilson

11: Yahya Bamba

12: Michael Aziaza

14: Bradley Ryan

15: Jon Pilbeam

16: Kervat Serbonij

17: Jeffrey Oredein

Sittingbourne FC

1: Harry Brooks

2: Samuel Okoye

3: Taylor Fisher

4: Harry Miller

5: Emmanuel Dasho

6: Lex Allan

7: Sam Flisher

8: Toby Bancroft

9: Johan Caney-Bryan

10: Kane Rowland

11: Harry Stannard

12: James Witt

14: Tyler Anderson

15: Alex Flisher

16:

17:



Monday April 18th 3pm.
Pitching In Isthmian South-East Division,
Sevenoaks Town v Sittingbourne FC
Referee: Graham Swanton
Assistant 1: Ronald Albert
Assistant 2: Paul Taylor
Next home match: TBC. Awards night Saturday June 11:
starts at 12 noon: presentations 1.30pm.

