

DUGOUT NEWS

ISSUE 006

SEPTEMBER 2026



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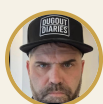
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A WEEK THAT SHOWED US WHAT THIS GAME IS

Sussex lost one of its great football people this week. It also produced comebacks, a marathon shoot-out and a table-topping statement. Somehow, both things belong in the same issue.



MIKE McCAFFREY

DUGOUT DIARIES · EDITOR

This one carries a heavier heart than usual. The death of Malcolm Saunders, Shoreham's co-owner and co-chairman, has been felt at every ground in the county. Glenn Souter's tribute in this issue says it better than I can — Malcolm belonged to the league itself, not just to one club. Our front section of this magazine, and our thoughts, are with his family, with Stuart Slaney and with everyone at Shoreham FC. Rest in peace, Malcolm.

And then, because football never stops, Saturday happened. Worthing came from 2-0 down to roar back against Barrow in front of 2,189 at Woodside. Burgess Hill went behind twice and refused to lose, Chris Whelpdale burying a 90th-minute penalty. Littlehampton dug out a point from a two-goal hole. Hastings and Bognor gave the FA Trophy a proper Sussex scrap and needed twelve penalties to settle it.

That's the theme of Issue 006: refusal. Teams refusing to be beaten, and people refusing to let this game be

taken for granted. Russ Cochran's piece on the proposed tourism tax asks exactly that question — what happens to the supporters and clubs already paying their way, week after week, when another charge lands on top?

Elsewhere the Bears keep rolling — Broadbridge Heath top of the Isthmian South East after a 4-1 away statement at Cray Valley — Eastbourne Borough put three past Cheshunt without reply, and Eastbourne United's remarkable start in the SCFL Premier continues. Reece McQuade returns with Part Two of his coaching journey, and every league gets the full treatment: results, tables and the week ahead.

All completed league matches from the Issue 6 window — 63 of them, plus one postponement — are inside, checked and verified. As always: facts first, storytelling second. Never invented.

Enjoy the issue. See you in the dugout.

Mike

MEET THE CONTRIBUTORS

Unpaid, uncommissioned, and all in — the people behind this week's words.



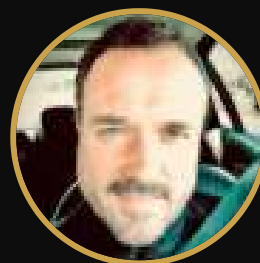
MIKE McCaffREY

DUGOUT DIARIES · EDITOR



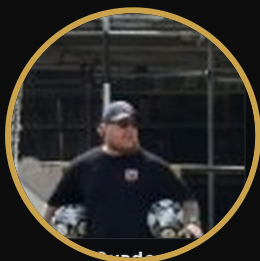
RUSS COCHRAN

OFF THE PITCH



GLENN SOUTER

SUSSEX GRASSROOTS



REECE McQUADE

A SUSSEX COACHING JOURNEY



DOUGIE

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NATIONAL LEAGUE

STEP 1 · RESULTS AND TABLE · CORRECT TO SATURDAY EVENING



RESULTS

Friday 11 September		
Kidderminster Harriers	2-0	Hartlepool United
Saturday 12 September		
Harrogate Town	3-1	Tamworth
Worthing	2-2	Barrow
Boston United	1-3	Wealdstone
Eastleigh	1-1	Boreham Wood
FC Halifax Town	3-0	Hornchurch
Forest Green Rovers	4-0	Gateshead
Solihull Moors	1-2	Aldershot Town
Sutton United	0-2	Scunthorpe United
Woking	5-1	Altrincham
Yeovil Town	1-4	AFC Fylde
Carlisle United	2-2	Southend United

CURRENT STANDINGS

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Boreham Wood	7	5	2	0	17	9	+8	17
2	Harrogate Town	7	5	1	1	18	10	+8	16
3	AFC Fylde	7	4	2	1	17	10	+7	14
4	Kidderminster Harriers	7	4	2	1	12	7	+5	14
5	Southend United	7	4	2	1	14	10	+4	14
6	Aldershot Town	7	4	2	1	9	5	+4	14
7	Forest Green Rovers	7	4	0	3	11	10	+1	12
8	Hornchurch	7	4	0	3	10	11	-1	12
9	Sutton United	7	4	0	3	7	8	-1	12
10	Yeovil Town	7	3	2	2	13	12	+1	11
11	Eastleigh	7	3	2	2	9	8	+1	11
12	Carlisle United	7	2	3	2	15	12	+3	9
13	FC Halifax Town	7	3	0	4	12	10	+2	9
14	Hartlepool United	7	3	0	4	5	6	-1	9
15	Altrincham	7	3	0	4	8	13	-5	9
16	Worthing	7	2	2	3	13	14	-1	8
17	Wealdstone	7	2	2	3	10	12	-2	8
18	Scunthorpe United	7	2	1	4	10	12	-2	7
19	Boston United	7	2	1	4	9	11	-2	7
20	Woking	7	2	1	4	9	11	-2	7
21	Barrow	7	1	3	3	10	11	-1	6
22	Tamworth	7	1	2	4	13	19	-6	5
23	Gateshead	7	1	1	5	5	13	-8	4
24	Solihull Moors	7	0	1	6	7	19	-12	1

Table after completed league matches on Saturday 12 September 2026.
Source: Sky Sports standings · checked 12 September 2026

NATIONAL LEAGUE FIXTURES

THE WEEK AHEAD · MONDAY 14 – SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2026

Fixture times checked 12 September 2026. Fixtures remain subject to late broadcast and operational changes.

MIDWEEK · TUE 15 – FRI 18 SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 15 September	
Aldershot Town v Yeovil Town	19:45
Boston United v Woking	19:45
Carlisle United v Forest Green Rovers	19:45
Harrogate Town v AFC Fylde	19:45
Solihull Moors v Barrow	19:45
Southend United v Tamworth	19:45
Sutton United v Eastleigh	19:45

SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

Saturday 19 September	
Hartlepool United v Worthing	12:30
Tamworth v Wealdstone	12:30
AFC Fylde v Altrincham	15:00
Barrow v Aldershot Town	15:00
Boreham Wood v Harrogate Town	15:00

Wealdstone v FC Halifax Town	19:45
Worthing v AFC Hornchurch	19:45

Wednesday 16 September	
Altrincham v Hartlepool United	19:45
Kidderminster Harriers v Gateshead	19:45
Scunthorpe United v Boreham Wood	19:45

Friday 18 September	
Yeovil Town v Solihull Moors	19:45

Eastleigh v Carlisle United	15:00
FC Halifax Town v Sutton United	15:00
Forest Green Rovers v Boston United	15:00
Gateshead v Southend United	15:00
Woking v Kidderminster Harriers	15:00
AFC Hornchurch v Scunthorpe United	17:30

Source: current National League fixture listings · checked 12 September 2026

WOODSIDE WAKES UP: HUTCHINSON HAULS WORTHING BACK

Two down at the interval, level eleven minutes after the restart. Worthing turned a miserable first half into a proper Woodside roar against Barrow.

WORTHING

2-2

BARROW



Photograph: Worthing FC · found on @WorthingFC on X

Worthing looked in serious trouble at half-time. Mikey Lane had punished them twice, first on 20 minutes and then again deep into first-half stoppage time, leaving the Rebels 2-0 down and facing a long second 45 against a Barrow side with something concrete to protect.

The response was immediate. Jordan Young went close straight after the restart and, on 50 minutes, Dom Hutchinson gave Woodside Road its reason to believe. Charley Kendall helped work the opening and Hutchinson supplied the finish. Eleven minutes later the same pair were involved again, Hutchinson finding the gap and making it 2-2 before the hour had properly settled.

From there, the game became the sort of breathless contest that makes a draw feel both rescued and slightly frustrating. Worthing had dragged themselves out of a hole of their own making and were suddenly the side asking the questions. Barrow still carried danger, though, and Taylor Seymour had to make a late stop before the Rebels broke the other way and Kendall was denied at the death.

So, no full comeback — but plenty of character. At half-time the afternoon had the look of a bad one. By full-time, Hutchinson had turned it into a point Worthing could take something from, with 2,189 inside the Sussex Transport Community Stadium seeing two very different versions of the same team.

MATCH FACTS	
HALF-TIME	Worthing 0-2 Barrow
ATTENDANCE	2,189
VENUE	Sussex Transport Community Stadium
KEY SWING	Hutchinson scored twice in 11 second-half minutes
Verification: Worthing FC official match report and Football Web Pages match centre, checked 12 September 2026.	

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NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

STEP 2 · RESULTS AND TABLE · CORRECT TO SATURDAY EVENING



RESULTS

Tuesday 8 September		
Chesham United	1-2	Billericay Town
Dagenham & Redbridge	0-1	Dover Athletic
Dorking Wanderers	3-3	Chelmsford City
Ebbsfleet United	0-0	Hemel Hempstead Town
Folkestone Invicta	1-1	Horsham
Hampton & Richmond Borough	2-0	Farnborough
Maidenhead United	0-4	Torquay United
Salisbury	5-1	Slough Town
Tonbridge Angels	0-1	Maidstone United
Weston-super-Mare	3-1	AFC Totton
Saturday 12 September		
AFC Totton	0-1	Slough Town
Braintree Town	2-1	Maidstone United
Ebbsfleet United	1-1	Salisbury
Farnborough	0-1	Dover Athletic
Folkestone Invicta	1-2	Farnham Town
Hampton & Richmond Borough	1-1	Chelmsford City
Hemel Hempstead Town	1-1	Tonbridge Angels
Horsham	1-4	Chesham United
Maidenhead United	2-2	Billericay Town
Torquay United	2-2	Dorking Wanderers
Truro City	1-1	Walton & Hersham
Weston-super-Mare	1-0	Dagenham & Redbridge

CURRENT STANDINGS

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Maidstone United	9	6	1	2	17	9	+8	19
2	Weston-super-Mare	9	5	2	2	16	7	+9	17
3	Dagenham & Redbridge	9	5	1	3	9	7	+2	16
4	Tonbridge Angels	9	4	2	3	18	9	+9	14
5	Truro City	7	4	2	1	11	3	+8	14
6	Dover Athletic	9	4	2	3	15	16	-1	14
7	Dorking Wanderers	9	3	4	2	18	13	+5	13
8	Torquay United	9	3	4	2	13	11	+2	13
9	Farnham Town	8	4	1	3	11	10	+1	13
10	Salisbury	8	3	3	2	15	7	+8	12
11	Folkestone Invicta	8	3	3	2	15	9	+6	12
12	Billericay Town	8	3	3	2	15	12	+3	12
13	Chesham United	9	3	1	5	16	15	+1	10
14	Chelmsford City	8	1	7	0	9	8	+1	10
15	Horsham	8	2	4	2	9	10	-1	10
16	Hemel Hempstead Town	9	2	4	3	8	10	-2	10
17	Maidenhead United	9	2	4	3	8	11	-3	10
18	Braintree Town	7	3	1	3	11	15	-4	10
19	AFC Totton	8	3	1	4	8	13	-5	10
20	Farnborough	8	3	1	4	6	11	-5	10
21	Hampton & Richmond	9	2	2	5	11	23	-12	8
22	Ebbsfleet United	3	1	2	0	3	1	+2	5
23	Slough Town	8	1	0	7	9	21	-12	3
24	Walton & Hersham	8	0	1	7	4	24	-20	1

Table after completed league matches on Saturday 12 September 2026.
Source: Sky Sports standings · checked 12 September 2026

NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH FIXTURES

THE WEEK AHEAD · MONDAY 14 – SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2026

A reduced league week: Saturday 19 September is FA Cup Second Qualifying Round day.

Tuesday 15 September	Truro City v Salisbury	19:45
Billericay Town v Braintree Town		19:45

Source: current National League South fixture listings · checked 12 September 2026

HORNETS STUNG AS CHESHAM PULL AWAY AFTER THE BREAK

Jamie Yila answered Alex Lafleur's opener within 90 seconds of the restart — but Chesham pulled clear, with two goals deep in stoppage time turning a contest into a 4-1 scoreline.

HORSHAM

1–4

CHESHAM UNITED



Photograph: Horsham FC · found on @HorshamFC on X

For Horsham, this was one of those scorelines that became uglier as the second half went on. Alex Lafleur arrived at the far post to meet Dubem Eze's cross just before the half-hour, and the Hornets reached the interval a goal behind — still very much in a game that had not yet escaped them.

The response could hardly have come quicker. Jamie Yila levelled within 90 seconds of the restart, and 1-1 should have been the platform: reset, go again, make the visitors feel the pressure. Instead, Jayden Bennetts restored Chesham's lead, and the Generals kept going.

The cruellest part was the finish. At 1-2 deep into stoppage time, Horsham were still one moment from a

point. Then Hisham Kasimu found the bottom corner in the 94th minute, and Lafleur reacted quickest in the box three minutes later to complete his brace — 1-4, a scoreline that punished the Hornets twice over for chasing the game.

The result also landed after two hard-earned 1-1 draws — at home to Dagenham & Redbridge and away to Folkestone Invicta — so this felt less like a continuation of a bad run and more like an afternoon when the punishment arrived all at once. The table still shows Horsham mid-pack with games in hand on most around them; the job is to make sure this stays a single ugly line.

MATCH FACTS	
HALF-TIME	Horsham 0-1 Chesham United
HORSHAM SCORER	Jamie Yila 46'
CHESHAM SCORERS	Lafleur 29', 90+7' · Bennetts · Kasimu 90+4'
VENUE	Fusion Aviation Community Stadium
Verification: scorers as published by Chesham United FC on X and The Non-League Football Paper match report; scoreline via Football Web Pages, checked 13 September 2026.	

TOURISM TAX V FOOTBALL

The Government wants regional mayors to be able to charge overnight visitors. Nobody seems to have asked what that means for the thousands who travel every week — not for a holiday, but for their club.

**RUSS COCHRAN**

OFF THE PITCH

There has been plenty of discussion about the Government's plans to allow regional mayors to introduce an overnight visitor levy — more commonly described as a tourism or tourist tax.

The argument from Government is relatively straightforward: visitors use local infrastructure and services, so those staying overnight should make a contribution towards them.

On the surface, that might sound reasonable. But there is a group of visitors who seem to have been largely overlooked in the debate: football supporters.

Every weekend, thousands of supporters travel around the country to follow their clubs. They aren't necessarily tourists in the traditional sense. They aren't necessarily arriving for a holiday, visiting attractions or spending a week in a seaside resort. They are travelling because their football club is playing there.

And increasingly, the cost of following a football club is fast becoming a serious consideration for all.

AWAY SUPPORTERS ARE ALREADY PAYING INTO A LOCAL ECONOMY THAT MAY NOT BE THEIR OWN

Consider the typical away supporter travelling a significant distance. They may pay for train or coach travel, fuel, parking, the match ticket, food and drink, pubs and restaurants, a hotel or B&B, taxis or local transport, shops and other purchases.

That money is already entering any given local economy from out of the area — and if a club from an area is hospitable, by reputation, the away day fanbase can even be grown. Take the trend of ground hoppers, for example: that is non-static income.

Supporters might arrive several hours before kick-off, have something to eat, visit a pub, attend the match and then stay overnight. For the host town or city, that isn't an insignificant economic contribution — and this is where the proposed levy becomes particularly interesting.

If that supporter needs to stay overnight, they become subject to an additional charge simply because they have chosen — or been forced by distance and scheduling — to stay in accommodation. The supporter isn't making a discretionary tourism trip. They are there, traditionally, following their football club.

The Football Supporters' Association has previously highlighted just how expensive travelling to football already is. Its research found that 23% of fans spent more on travel than on their match ticket, while the average match day spend was £55 and train travellers spent considerably more. And that research predates many of today's cost pressures.

FOOTBALL IS ALREADY AN EXPENSIVE COMMITMENT

Fuel costs, rail fares, parking, food, accommodation and ticket prices all contribute to the cost of following a club. The Premier League itself recognises that travelling supporters face additional costs: it has enforced an away-ticket cap which has been extended through 2027-28, explicitly acknowledging the costs associated with travelling to follow a team around the country.

So where does yet another forced charge or tax fit into this?

For a supporter travelling from Bournemouth to Manchester, Brighton to Liverpool, Newcastle to London, or Carlisle to Exeter, the difference between making the trip and staying at home can ultimately come down to the overall cost. A few pounds extra might not stop someone going to one match. But many football supporters don't attend one match over the course of a season — they attend dozens. And when every individual trip becomes slightly more expensive, the cumulative effect does matter.

AND THIS ISN'T ONLY ABOUT AWAY FANS

There is another group that could easily be forgotten: home supporters who travel a considerable distance to watch their own team. Not every supporter lives within a few miles of their club. Some people travel 50, 100 or even 200 miles for home fixtures.

If the match finishes late, public transport isn't practical, or the supporter simply doesn't want to make a long journey home after an evening fixture, an overnight stay can become necessary. That supporter is not a tourist either. They are a football supporter contributing to the match day economy. The same applies to supporters travelling for cup matches, play-offs, promotion and relegation games and rearranged fixtures.

THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCE FOR A CLUB'S INCOME STREAM

This is perhaps the biggest part of the argument. If the cost of travelling to matches rises, supporters have a finite budget. And when that budget gets squeezed, the question becomes: what gets cut?

It might not initially be the match ticket. It could be the meal beforehand, a couple of drinks after the game, a programme, or something from the club shop. At the extreme it is travelling to one fewer away game — which entirely defeats the cultural value of

being a supporter. Or, eventually, it could be deciding that any trip is simply too expensive.

All of this matters enormously to football clubs, particularly outside the Premier League. Non-league clubs are not simply selling £10 or £15 tickets — they are trying to generate income from everything surrounding a match. The supporter who comes through the turnstile, buys a programme, gets a drink, has something to eat, purchases merchandise and brings another person with them is considerably more valuable than the headline admission price suggests. It is the whole experience that generates the revenue clubs survive and thrive on.

“The match day economy is much bigger than the turnstile. If supporters have less disposable money available, clubs will feel the consequences straight away.”

THE IRONY

There is an interesting contradiction here. Governments and local authorities want visitors to spend money in their towns and cities — and football clubs are among the most reliable generators of regular visitors. Every week during the season, on multiple nights, football brings people from outside the local area into towns and cities across the country.

Those people use public transport, need somewhere to eat and drink, park, and sometimes need somewhere to sleep. Football is therefore already contributing to exactly the local economic activity that visitor levies are intended to support. The question is whether adding another charge to that visitor ultimately encourages or discourages some of that spending.

The question isn't simply whether somebody will still make the effort. It's whether a supporter who already has a £100, £150 or £200 football trip planned decides to make ten away trips instead of twelve, or chooses not to stay overnight, or cuts their spending once they arrive. That is a much more specific question and it deserves to be considered before the policy is implemented. But will it be? The football family needs to speak up.

WHERE DOES THE LEVY MONEY ACTUALLY GO?

If a supporter pays a visitor levy in Manchester, Liverpool, Brighton or elsewhere, none of that money is specifically being returned to the football club whose supporters generated the visit. The Government says mayors will be able to decide how the money is spent, including on local services, infrastructure and visitor attractions.

That's a perfectly legitimate policy choice. But football clubs could reasonably ask whether they should receive some recognition for the economic activity they generate. If 2,000 away supporters arrive in a town for a match, spend money locally and some stay overnight, football has effectively helped generate taxable economic activity. Should some of that revenue be reinvested into the infrastructure that enables football to continue bringing people into the area? Will it come back to football? That's a debate that needs to happen in itself.

A POLICY THAT WASN'T PRESENTED TO VOTERS IN 2024

There is also a political dimension. Labour's 2024 general election manifesto was presented as a fully costed and funded programme and contained a tax lock covering income tax, National Insurance and VAT for working people. It did not set out this proposed English overnight visitor levy.

That doesn't mean the Government cannot subsequently introduce new policies. But when a new charge affects something as widespread as travel, accommodation and leisure, there is a legitimate question about whether its unintended consequences have been sufficiently examined. Football supporters are an immediately identifiable group affected by the policy. It is part of the UK's fabric — the national sport, with a whole industry evolving around it. Fans travel nationally, regularly, and spend money locally and in away locations. Many have already seen the cost of following their club increase substantially, regardless of who is or was in charge of the country.

FIXTURES ARE FIXED — SUPPORTERS DON'T CHOOSE THE DESTINATION

Football also has an interesting geographical problem. England is potentially going to have different levy regimes between regions, while Scotland and Wales have their own systems. That could create a patchwork where the cost of an

overnight football trip varies depending on where the fixture is played. Wales has legislated for local visitor levies, and Scotland's framework allows local authorities to establish their own schemes.

That lends itself to the strongest angle of all: football fixtures are fixed; supporters don't get to choose the destination. A holidaymaker can choose a cheaper destination. An away supporter cannot choose where their club's fixture takes them.

League positions around the UK are not regionalised until Step 2. They are earned through promotion — or, sadly, by relegation. On-pitch performance determines where you sit and how far your commitment takes you. Even then the mileage may not be favourable, so supporters rely on being able to stop over. This becomes a regional matter all the way down the pyramid.

AND WHAT ABOUT THE CLUBS THEMSELVES?

There is another cost to consider: clubs paying for their own players and staff to stay overnight. At higher levels of non-league football, long-distance fixtures can make overnight accommodation necessary — early kick-offs, significant travel distances or poor public transport options. A squad of 16–20 players, together with coaches and other staff, can quickly mean a sizeable hotel bill.

If an overnight visitor levy is added to every room, that becomes another direct cost to the club. Even a relatively modest charge per person, multiplied across a squad and a number of away fixtures throughout a season, could add hundreds or potentially thousands of pounds to a club's annual expenditure. For clubs already balancing player budgets, travel, accommodation, energy, ground maintenance and other rising costs, this is yet another expense that has to be found from somewhere. That could mean less money for players, facilities or community work.

The important point is that the football economy could be hit at both ends — the supporter pays more to travel, while the club pays more to take its team to the fixture. And in turn, this comes without the same level of income that travelling fans would bring to a home match.

SO WHERE DOES THIS LEAVE NON-LEAGUE AND THE CUPS?

The potential impact could be even more significant lower down the football pyramid and during cup competitions. For a Premier League supporter, an additional few pounds on an occasional overnight stay may be absorbed into a much larger overall budget. For a supporter following a National League, National League North/South or Isthmian League club, the margins are very different. A long-distance away trip can already involve significant fuel, rail or coach costs, match admission and food before accommodation is even considered. Add a visitor levy and some supporters may simply decide certain away trips are no longer affordable. For non-league clubs, where every supporter through the turnstile and every pound spent inside the ground matters, that could have a disproportionate effect.

Cup competitions make this even more pronounced. The magic of the FA Cup has always included supporters travelling to grounds they would not normally visit, sometimes hundreds of miles from home. A smaller non-league club drawing a higher-level opponent can suddenly find itself welcoming a large travelling support — a significant economic opportunity for the club and the surrounding community. But if the cost of making that trip increases, particularly when an overnight stay is required, some supporters may decide against going. The irony would be that a policy designed to raise money from visitors could reduce the amount of money those visitors spend with the very communities they are travelling to support. For smaller clubs, a big cup tie can be one of the financial highlights of a season.

“Football doesn't operate in isolation from the local economy — it is part of it. Every away supporter who decides not to travel is a lost ticket, a lost pint, a lost meal, a lost hotel booking and a lost opportunity for a football club and its community.”

THE NON-LEAGUE GAME IS PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE

At the top of the game, clubs have enormous commercial revenues. But at National League, Isthmian, Southern Combination and other levels, clubs operate with much smaller margins — and increasingly with similar levels of expectation in outgoings just to get away games on.

Everyone deserves a holiday. Even visiting a caravan site for a few days, you may want to take in an unfamiliar local non-league club — call it a "convenience ground hop". But it has still cost you more to pay for the holiday accommodation, so it may affect that choice of attending a match. Not just for you: that club misses out.

Any reduction in supporters' discretionary spending across a season matters — for casual and die-hard fans alike, and even in local leagues where an overnight stay is rarely needed. The clubs in them are already dealing with increasing energy bills, ground maintenance, staffing, travel, ground grading requirements, insurance, policing and stewarding, player budgets and rising transport costs. This is football inflation.

The supporter is being asked to absorb more of those costs at exactly the same time. There is a considerable danger that football becomes treated simply as "entertainment" rather than as part of the economic fabric of towns and communities — taken for granted, like so much else recently.

Because if the cumulative cost of following football becomes too high, supporters will make choices. And when they make those choices, football clubs and the businesses around them may be the ones that ultimately lose out.

See you in the dugout.

ISTHMIAN PREMIER

STEP 3 · RESULTS AND TABLE · CORRECT TO SATURDAY EVENING



RESULTS

Saturday 12 September		
Aveley	1-2	Leatherhead
Burgess Hill Town	2-2	Ramsgate
Carshalton Athletic	0-3	Dartford
Chatham Town	3-2	Lewes
Dulwich Hamlet	2-1	Brentwood Town
Eastbourne Borough	3-0	Cheshunt
Enfield Town	3-2	Cray Wanderers
Maldon & Tiptree	3-2	Whitehawk
St Albans City	4-0	Three Bridges
Welling United	4-1	Wingate & Finchley
Whyteleafe	4-0	Stanway Rovers

CURRENT STANDINGS

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Enfield Town	7	6	0	1	23	9	+14	18
2	Welling United	7	5	0	2	16	9	+7	15
3	Carshalton Athletic	7	5	0	2	12	8	+4	15
4	Dartford	7	5	0	2	11	8	+3	15
5	Dulwich Hamlet	7	4	1	2	16	9	+7	13
6	St Albans City	7	4	1	2	14	10	+4	13
7	Leatherhead	7	4	1	2	14	12	+2	13
8	Lewes	7	4	1	2	10	8	+2	13
9	Chatham Town	7	4	0	3	15	11	+4	12
10	Ramsgate	7	3	1	3	17	10	+7	10
11	Aveley	7	3	1	3	13	10	+3	10
12	Eastbourne Borough	7	3	1	3	12	10	+2	10
13	Burgess Hill Town	7	2	4	1	11	9	+2	10
14	Maldon & Tiptree	5	3	0	2	9	11	-2	9
15	Cray Wanderers	6	2	2	2	10	8	+2	8
16	Wingate & Finchley	7	2	2	3	9	15	-6	8
17	Cheshunt	7	0	5	2	4	9	-5	5
18	AFC Whyteleafe	7	1	2	4	10	17	-7	5
19	Three Bridges	7	1	1	5	11	22	-11	4
20	Brentwood Town	6	1	0	5	6	11	-5	3
21	Whitehawk	7	0	2	5	6	17	-11	2
22	Stanway Rovers	7	0	1	6	3	19	-16	1

Table after completed league matches on Saturday 12 September 2026.
Source: Pitching In Isthmian League / Football Web Pages · updated through 12 September

ISTHMIAN PREMIER DIVISION FIXTURES

THE WEEK AHEAD · MONDAY 14 – SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2026

Saturday league programme heavily reduced by FA Cup Second Qualifying Round commitments.

Monday 14 September	
Aveley v Wingate & Finchley	19:45
Tuesday 15 September	
Brentwood Town v Stanway Rovers	19:45
Cray Wanderers v St Albans City	19:45
Eastbourne Borough v Chatham Town	19:45
Enfield Town v Dartford	19:45
Leatherhead v AFC Whyteleafe	19:45
Lewes v Carshalton Athletic	19:45

Source: Isthmian League official fixture feed · checked 12 September 2026

Ramsgate v Maldon & Tiptree	19:45
Welling United v Cheshunt	19:45
Whitehawk v Three Bridges	19:45
Saturday 19 September	
Cheshunt v Lewes	15:00
Maldon & Tiptree v Carshalton Athletic	15:00
Postponed / No Longer On Current League Programme	
Burgess Hill Town v Dulwich Hamlet	P-P
Carshalton Athletic v Enfield Town	P-P

WHELPDALE HOLDS HIS NERVE AT THE DEATH

Behind inside the first minute, behind again three minutes after equalising — and still Burgess Hill found a way out through Chris Whelpdale.

BURGESS HILL TOWN

2-2

RAMSGATE



Image: Burgess Hill Town FC · found on @Official_BHTFC on X

Burgess Hill Town could hardly have started worse. Billy Munday scored in the opening minute for Ramsgate, meaning the Hillians spent almost the entire first half chasing a game that had barely had time to introduce itself.

The answer arrived immediately after the restart. Chris Whelpdale levelled on 48 minutes and the Medical Travel Compared Stadium had its reset. Three minutes later, it was gone again. Rowan Liburd restored Ramsgate's lead and Burgess Hill were back in the same hole, only now with less time to climb out of it.

That is where Whelpdale's afternoon became the story. With 90 minutes on the clock, Burgess Hill were awarded a penalty. The pressure was obvious: one kick between a home defeat and a rescued point. Whelpdale converted, completing his brace and dragging the Hillians back to 2-2.

In front of 947, it was a draw built on refusal. Burgess Hill fell behind almost immediately, recovered, fell behind again almost immediately — and still did not allow Ramsgate to leave with all three points. Sometimes the neatest summary is the simplest one: twice behind, twice back.

MATCH FACTS	
HALF-TIME	Burgess Hill Town 0-1 Ramsgate
ATTENDANCE	947
VENUE	Medical Travel Compared Stadium
LATE DRAMA	Whelpdale penalty, 90th minute
Verification: Football Web Pages match centre, checked 12 September 2026.	

FROM DREAMLAND TO DISBELIEF IN KENT

Charlie Walker scored twice before half-time to put Lewes 2-0 up. By full-time, Chatham had turned the whole game upside down.

CHATHAM TOWN

3-2

LEWES



Image: Lewes FC · found on @LewesFCMen on X

Lewes could scarcely have scripted a better end to the first half. Charlie Walker struck in the 44th minute and then did it again in the 45th, a double blow that sent the Rooks into the interval 2-0 ahead at the Bauvill Stadium.

Then came the warning, almost instantly. Alex Giles scored for Chatham on 47 minutes, cutting the gap before Lewes had time to settle into the second half. The Rooks still held the advantage for more than half an hour, but the match never fully went quiet again.

On 79 minutes Ben Allen made it 2-2. Two minutes later Harry Lodovica completed the turnaround. In the space of roughly two minutes, a point became none; in the space of one half, a two-goal lead disappeared altogether.

The scoreline is brutal because the first-half work had been so effective. Walker's double had created a proper platform. Chatham's early response kept them alive, and the late one-two finished the job. For Lewes, it is the kind of defeat that hurts because the winning position was not theoretical — it was already on the scoreboard.

MATCH FACTS	
HALF-TIME	Chatham Town 0-2 Lewes
ATTENDANCE	1,104
VENUE	The Bauvill Stadium
TURNING POINT	Chatham equalised on 79' and went ahead on 81'
Verification: Football Web Pages match centre, checked 12 September 2026.	

SPORTS HIT THREE AND SHUT THE DOOR

An early Kai Corbett goal, a Liam Nash strike before the break and Josh Rees late on: Eastbourne Borough did their work at both ends against Cheshunt.

EASTBOURNE BOROUGH

3-0

CHESHUNT

Eastbourne Borough gave themselves the perfect foundation at Priory Lane: score early, make the opposition chase, then refuse to give them a route back. Kai Corbett needed only three minutes to put Sports in front against Cheshunt.

The second goal arrived at an equally useful moment. Liam Nash struck in the 42nd minute, sending Eastbourne into half-time 2-0 ahead and with control of the scoreboard firmly in their hands.

There was no frantic collapse, no late scramble and no need for a rescue act. Borough protected the clean sheet through the second half before Josh Rees added the third on 88 minutes to finish the afternoon cleanly.

Three goals spread across the game — one almost immediately, one just before the interval, one just before the end — is a satisfying rhythm for any home side. Add a clean sheet and an attendance of 694, and Eastbourne had one of Sussex's most complete results of the day.

MATCH FACTS	
HALF-TIME	Eastbourne Borough 2-0 Cheshunt
ATTENDANCE	694
VENUE	Priory Lane
CLEAN SHEET	Yes — 3-0 full-time
Verification: Football Web Pages match centre, checked 12 September 2026.	

MURPHY DOUBLE UNDONE IN A TWO-MINUTE SWING

Whitehawk led at the break after two Rhys Murphy goals. By the 66th minute, Maldon & Tiptree had flipped the scoreline completely.

MALDON & TIPTREE

3-2

WHITEHAWK



Image: Whitehawk FC · found on @HawksFCOfficial on X

For 45 minutes and change, Rhys Murphy looked like he might be carrying Whitehawk towards a valuable away win. He opened the scoring after eight minutes and, after Kai Redgrave levelled for Maldon & Tiptree on 44 minutes, Murphy struck again in first-half stoppage time to send the Hawks in 2-1 up.

That lead survived the interval but not the middle of the second half. Eze Ebuzoeme converted a 64th-minute penalty to make it 2-2. Two minutes later Chaynie Burgin scored again for the hosts. In barely enough time to

process the equaliser, Whitehawk had gone from ahead to behind.

There was still time to respond, but no third Hawks goal arrived. The 3-2 defeat is a frustrating one because the attacking part of the job had been done twice and the half-time position was exactly where Whitehawk wanted it.

Murphy's brace deserved something. Instead, the decisive story became Maldon's two-minute burst — the sort of swing that turns a promising away afternoon into a long journey home.

MATCH FACTS	
HALF-TIME	Maldon & Tiptree 1-2 Whitehawk
ATTENDANCE	330
VENUE	Maldon Stadium
DECISIVE SWING	Maldon goals on 64' (pen) and 66'
Verification: Football Web Pages match centre, checked 12 September 2026.	

SAINTS START FAST AND BRIDGES NEVER FIND A WAY BACK

Two goals inside 16 minutes set the tone at Clarence Park, with St Albans City eventually running out 4-0 winners over Three Bridges.

ST ALBANS CITY

4-0

THREE BRIDGES



Photograph: Three Bridges FC · found on @ThreeBridgesFC on X

Three Bridges were asked a difficult question almost immediately at Clarence Park. Alex Dyer scored for St Albans City in the third minute, and by the 16th Inih Effiong had doubled the home side's lead. That meant Bridges were 2-0 down before the match had really settled into any kind of rhythm. They reached half-time without further damage, but Effiong struck again on 57 minutes to make the task effectively mountainous.

Kai Brown added a fourth on 78 minutes, completing a clear home win and a difficult afternoon for the Sussex visitors. The scoreline needs no dressing up: St Albans started quickly, added to it after the break and kept Three Bridges off the scoresheet throughout. For Bridges, the useful part comes next – separating a bad day from a bad run. This was one fixture where the early goals dictated everything that followed, and the challenge is to make sure it remains a single ugly line rather than the start of a pattern.

MATCH FACTS	
HALF-TIME	St Albans City 2-0 Three Bridges
ATTENDANCE	894
VENUE	Clarence Park Stadium
KEY SCORER	Inih Effiong 16' and 57'
Verification: Football Web Pages match centre, checked 12 September 2026.	

DUGOUT DIARIES

DUGOUT 90

"DUGOUT 90.
Stay hydrated lads."

HYDRATION
FOR THE
FULL 90

— D —



ISTHMIAN SOUTH EAST

STEP 4 · RESULTS AND TABLE · CORRECT TO SATURDAY EVENING



RESULTS

Saturday 12 September		
Margate	2-3	South Park
Horley Town	P-P	Whitstable Town
Cray Valley PM	1-4	Broadbridge Heath
Punjab United	0-1	Sittingbourne

FA TROPHY · SECOND QUALIFYING ROUND

Hastings United	1-1*	Bognor Regis Town
Erith Town	2-0	Eastbourne Town
Hayes & Yeading United	3-1	Peacehaven & Telscombe

* Hastings United won 6-5 on penalties — full report in this issue.
Source: Football Web Pages, checked 13 September 2026.

CURRENT STANDINGS

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Broadbridge Heath	5	4	1	0	16	5	+11	13
2	Sittingbourne	5	4	1	0	9	5	+4	13
3	Hastings United	5	4	0	1	13	8	+5	12
4	Margate	5	3	1	1	8	4	+4	10
5	Erith Town	3	3	0	0	11	1	+10	9
6	Faversham Town	3	2	1	0	9	6	+3	7
7	South Park	4	2	1	1	8	6	+2	7
8	Herne Bay	2	2	0	0	6	1	+5	6
9	Ashford United	4	2	0	2	9	6	+3	6
10	AFC Croydon Athletic	4	2	0	2	6	5	+1	6
11	Horley Town	5	2	0	3	6	13	-7	6
12	Merstham	4	1	2	1	8	8	0	5
13	Peacehaven & Telscombe	5	1	2	2	8	12	-4	5
14	Eastbourne Town	5	1	1	3	6	8	-2	4
15	Cray Valley PM	6	0	4	2	4	9	-5	4
16	Sheppey United	4	1	0	3	6	7	-1	3
17	Crowborough Athletic	4	1	0	3	5	8	-3	3
18	Steyning Town	4	1	0	3	2	6	-4	3
19	Sevenoaks Town	5	0	3	2	4	9	-5	3
20	Whitstable Town	4	1	0	3	4	10	-6	3
21	Punjab United	4	0	2	2	4	9	-5	2
22	Deal Town	4	0	1	3	5	11	-6	1

Most Step 4 clubs were in FA Trophy action on 12 September; only league fixtures shown. Table after completed league matches.
Source: Pitching In Isthmian League / Football Web Pages · updated through 12 September

ISTHMIAN SOUTH EAST FIXTURES

THE WEEK AHEAD · MONDAY 14 – SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2026

A near-full Saturday league programme returns on 19 September; Hastings United host Merstham at the Pilot Field.

Tuesday 15 September			
Crowborough Athletic v AFC Croydon Athletic	19:45	Eastbourne Town v Horley Town	15:00
Deal Town v Merstham	19:45	Faversham Town v Herne Bay	15:00
Faversham Town v Punjab United	19:45	Hastings United v Merstham	15:00
Herne Bay v Broadbridge Heath	19:45	Sevenoaks Town v Margate	15:00
South Park (Reigate) v Erith Town	19:45	Sittingbourne v Peacehaven & Telscombe	15:00
		South Park (Reigate) v Steyning Town	15:00
		Whitstable Town v Cray Valley PM	15:00
Saturday 19 September		Postponed / Removed From Current Programme	
AFC Croydon Athletic v Ashford United	15:00	Erith Town v Sheppey United	P-P
Deal Town v Punjab United	15:00		

Source: Football Web Pages / Isthmian League fixture feed · checked 13 September 2026

BEARS ROAR ON THE ROAD AS CONNELL SETS THE TONE

Charlie Connell struck twice before the break, then Mason Doughty and Ikpemwinoghena Yakubu turned a strong away display into a 4-1 statement.

CRAY VALLEY PM

1-4

BROADBRIDGE HEATH



Image: Broadbridge Heath FC · found on @thebearsbbhfc on X

Broadbridge Heath did not just leave the Mayne Arena with three points; they left with a scoreline that makes people look twice. The Bears struck first through Charlie Connell after 22 minutes, were pegged back by Ollie Whitby seven minutes later, and then answered in exactly the way good sides do — by restoring the lead before half-time.

Connell was the man again on 38 minutes, giving Heath a 2-1 advantage at the break and putting the game back on their terms. The next goal mattered enormously. Cray Valley needed it to reopen the contest; Broadbridge

Heath needed it to kill the hope. It arrived for the visitors through Mason Doughty on 79 minutes.

Then came the flourish. Doughty made way on 82 minutes for Ikpemwinoghena Yakubu, and two minutes later the substitute was on the scoresheet. That is about as efficient an introduction as a manager can ask for.

The 4-1 win followed the previous weekend's 3-1 victory over Merstham and gave the Bears another emphatic result in the early weeks of the South East campaign. No invented superlatives are required here. Four away goals, a Connell double and a substitute scoring almost immediately tell the story perfectly well on their own.

MATCH FACTS	
HALF-TIME	Cray Valley PM 1-2 Broadbridge Heath
ATTENDANCE	208
VENUE	The Mayne Arena, Badgers Sports
INSTANT IMPACT	Yakubu came on in the 82nd minute and scored in the 84th
Verification: Football Web Pages match centre; Broadbridge Heath previous result cross-checked against league fixture feed, checked 12 September 2026.	

ISTHMIAN SOUTH CENTRAL

STEP 4 · RESULTS AND TABLE · CORRECT TO SATURDAY EVENING



RESULTS

Saturday 12 September		
Ashford Town (Middx)	2-2	Littlehampton Town
Harrow Borough	1-3	Kingstonian
Hartley Wintney	2-2	Hendon
Windsor & Eton	1-4	AFC Portchester
Cobham	2-1	Binfield

CURRENT STANDINGS

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bognor Regis Town	5	4	1	0	8	3	+5	13
2	Winchester City	5	3	2	0	15	3	+12	11
3	Hendon	5	3	2	0	16	7	+9	11
4	AFC Portchester	5	2	3	0	6	2	+4	9
5	Kingstonian	4	2	2	0	10	6	+4	8
6	Bedfont Sports	5	2	2	1	6	5	+1	8
7	Westfield	4	2	1	1	8	6	+2	7
8	Jersey Bulls	3	2	1	0	4	2	+2	7
9	Southall	4	1	3	0	10	8	+2	6
10	Cobham	4	2	0	2	5	5	0	6
11	Windsor & Eton	4	2	0	2	7	9	-2	6
12	Raynes Park Vale	5	2	0	3	6	13	-7	6
13	Ashford Town (Middx)	4	1	1	2	9	7	+2	4
14	Ascot United	4	1	1	2	9	8	+1	4
15	Hayes & Yeading United	3	1	1	1	6	7	-1	4
16	Hartley Wintney	3	1	1	1	3	4	-1	4
17	Littlehampton Town	6	0	3	3	6	11	-5	3
18	Egham Town	3	1	0	2	2	9	-7	3
19	Moneyfields	4	0	2	2	5	7	-2	2
20	Harrow Borough	5	0	2	3	7	11	-4	2
21	AFC Stoneham	2	0	0	2	1	5	-4	0
22	Binfield	5	0	0	5	3	14	-11	0

Table after completed league matches on Saturday 12 September 2026.
Source: Pitching In Isthmian League / Football Web Pages · updated through 12 September

ISTHMIAN SOUTH CENTRAL FIXTURES

THE WEEK AHEAD · MONDAY 14 – SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2026

Tuesday 15 September	
AFC Stoneham v Ashford Town (Middx)	19:45
Cobham v Hayes & Yeading United	19:45
Egham Town v Harrow Borough	19:45
Moneyfields v AFC Portchester	19:45
Wednesday 16 September	
Southall v Ascot United	19:45
Saturday 19 September	
Winchester City v Jersey Bulls	14:00
Ascot United v Raynes Park Vale	15:00

Source: Isthmian League official fixture feed · checked 12 September 2026

Bognor Regis Town v Harrow Borough	15:00
Littlehampton Town v Hartley Wintney	15:00
Westfield v Cobham	15:00
Bedfont Sports v Moneyfields	TBC
Postponed / Removed From Current Programme	
Binfield v Southall	P-P
AFC Portchester v Cobham	P-P
Bedfont Sports v Windsor & Eton	P-P
Kingstonian v Moneyfields	P-P
Westfield v AFC Stoneham	P-P

GOLDS DIG OUT A POINT FROM A TWO-GOAL HOLE

Two down inside 28 minutes, Littlehampton refused to disappear. Marshall Ball and Dion Keanu Jarvis struck four minutes apart to complete the recovery.

ASHFORD TOWN (MIDDX)

2-2

LITTLEHAMPTON TOWN

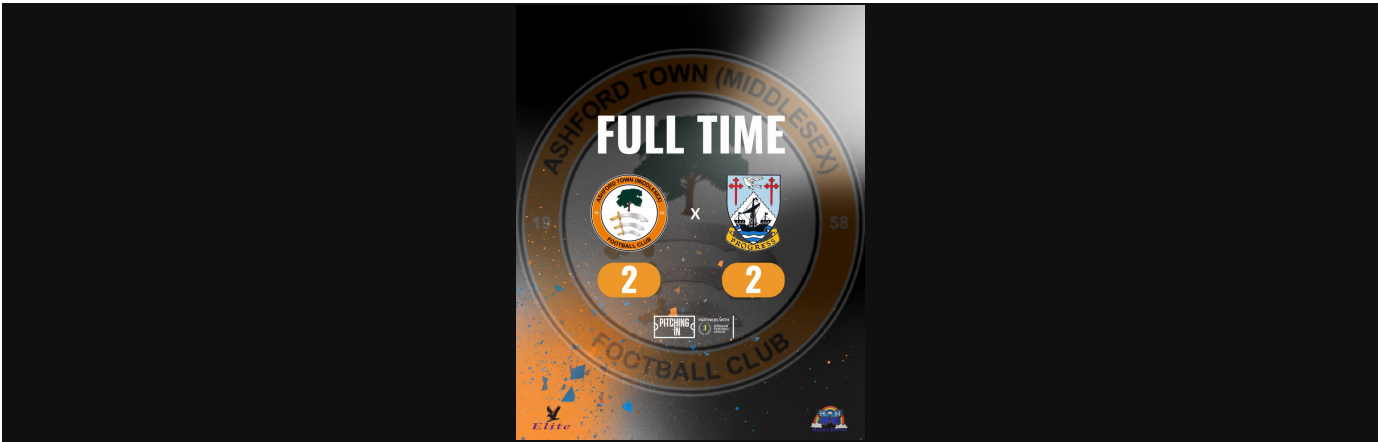


Image: Ashford Town (Middx) FC · found on @ashfordtownmx on X

At 2-0 down before the half-hour, Littlehampton Town had every reason to hate their trip to the Robert Parker Stadium. Arif Bala scored twice for Ashford, on 10 and 28 minutes, and the Golds were suddenly staring at the kind of afternoon that can become very long, very quickly.

The shape of the contest changed before the interval when Ashford's Reuben Collins, booked on 35 minutes, was sent off three minutes later. That did not put goals on Littlehampton's side of the board, but it gave them a route back into the match if they could stay patient enough to take it.

They did. Marshall Ball made it 2-1 on 66 minutes and, only four minutes later, captain Dion Keanu Jarvis levelled. From two goals down to all-square in the space of four second-half minutes: the Golds had turned a rescue mission into a genuine contest.

A point will never feel quite like three, particularly against ten men, but context matters. Littlehampton had been punched twice early, stayed in the game and found the response. The result was not glamorous; the recovery was.

MATCH FACTS	
HALF-TIME	Ashford Town (Middx) 2-0 Littlehampton Town
ATTENDANCE	127
RED CARD	Ashford: Reuben Collins 38'
COMEBACK	Ball 66', Jarvis 70'
Verification: Football Web Pages match centre, checked 12 September 2026.	

PENALTIES, PRIDE AND A PROPER SUSSEX TROPHY SCRAP

Hastings led, Bognor levelled, and after 90 minutes could not split two Sussex sides, the shootout finally did: 6-5 to the U's.

HASTINGS UNITED

1-1

BOGNOR REGIS TOWN



Image: Hastings United FC · found on @hastingsufc on X

If a Sussex cup tie is going to refuse to separate two sides, it may as well go all the way. Hastings United and Bognor Regis Town finished 1-1 after 90 minutes at the Pilot Field before Hastings edged a marathon penalty shootout 6-5.

Warren-Hugues Mfula gave the U's the lead after 23 minutes and Hastings carried that advantage into the interval. Bognor's answer came ten minutes into the second half through Jake Cope, resetting the tie at 1-1 and ensuring the afternoon would stay alive right to the finish.

No further goal arrived in regulation time. That left penalties to decide which Sussex side would move on, and Hastings held their nerve by the finest of margins, winning the shootout 6-5.

The attendance of 675 got exactly what cup football promises: local edge, a lead changing the mood, an equaliser reopening the tie and a finish where one kick was always going to decide somebody's Saturday. For Bognor, the exit is painful. For Hastings, progression came with every ounce of tension the FA Trophy can squeeze out of an afternoon.

MATCH FACTS	
HALF-TIME	Hastings United 1-0 Bognor Regis Town
FULL-TIME	1-1
SHOOTOUT	Hastings United won 6-5 on penalties
ATTENDANCE	675
VENUE	The Pilot Field
Verification: Football Web Pages FA Trophy match centre, checked 12 September 2026.	

TEN THROUGH: THE SCFL'S BIG DAY OUT IN THE VASE

Ten SCFL sides are in the First Round Proper draw — one with nine goals to spare, two on penalties — while eight bowed out and Wick's tie waits for Sunday.

FA VASE

2QR

12 SEPTEMBER

The FA Vase's Second Round Qualifying turned into an SCFL procession: ten of the league's Saturday entrants are through to the First Round Proper on 10 October. The pick of the results belongs to East Grinstead Town, who went to Lydd Town and won 9-0 — nine away goals without reply in a national knockout sets the tone for a cup run.

The Beacon got the full cup experience — Hassocks 2-2 Abbey Rangers, the champions winning the shootout 4-2. "More magic at the Beacon", as the club put it. And the all-Sussex tie went longer still: Forest Row 0-0 Saltdean United, settled 8-7 in an eleven-round shootout, keeper McGrath's save sending Frow through by the club's own account.

Lancing's was the tidy one: defend the lead, manage the game, get in the draw. Man of the match Elliot Dailly "marshalled his back line impeccably and made some top saves", per the club.

The road wins piled up. AFC Varndeanians turned it around at Beckenham — substitutes Kian Nandhra and Tommy Jupp doing the damage in a 2-1 comeback, per the

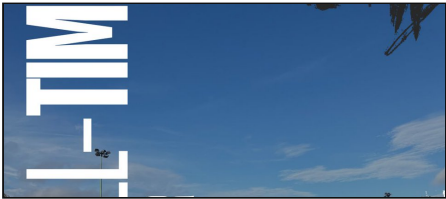
club. Lingfield won 1-0 at Knaphill, Midhurst & Easebourne hit five at Whitchurch United, and Roffey won 2-1 away at Guernsey in an all-SCFL tie. At home, Pagham beat Newport (IOW) 3-0, Worthing United saw off Arundel 4-1 in the all-Division One tie, and Lancing edged Croydon 1-0.

The exits: Billingshurst went down 4-3 at Phoenix Sports in the day's wildest Sussex scoreline, Bexhill United fell 2-1 at Tooting Bec, Seaford Town lost 5-2 at home to Chipstead, Saltdean were denied on penalties, Guernsey and Arundel fell to fellow SCFL sides, and AFC Walcountians and Reigate Priory bowed out on the road. Wick's tie at Hythe Town, staged at Folkestone Invicta FC, kicks off at 2pm today — result on thesnlf.co.uk.

And the best of the rest, nationally? East Grinstead's nine was matched in the North West, where FC St Helens beat Frickley Athletic by the same 9-0 scoreline. Bearsted's 7-2 win over Epsom & Ewell was the highest-scoring tie of the round, and a dozen ties went to penalties — and none in the country went longer than the eleven-round epic at Forest Row.



The V's celebrate at Beckenham · Photograph: AFC Varndeanians · found on @AFCVarndean on X



The Robins win it on penalties · Photograph: Hassocks FC · found on @hassocksfc on X



0-0, then 8-7: Frow's marathon · Image: Forest Row FC · found on @FrowFC on X

SUSSEX IN THE DRAW · FIRST ROUND PROPER · 10 OCTOBER	
THROUGH	Lancing · East Grinstead Town · Hassocks (4-2 pens) · Forest Row (8-7 pens) · Pagham · Midhurst & Easebourne · Roffey · Worthing United · AFC Varndeanians · Lingfield
PENDING	Hythe Town v Wick — Sunday 13 September, 2pm, at Folkestone Invicta FC
OUT	Bexhill Utd · Billingshurst · Seaford Town · Saltdean Utd · Guernsey · Arundel · AFC Walcountians · Reigate Priory
Verification: SCFL official results, Football Web Pages and the clubs' own X accounts, checked 13 Sept 2026.	

SUSSEX TRANSPORT SENIOR CUP

FIRST ROUND RESULTS · AND THE SECOND ROUND DRAW

FIRST ROUND

Mon 7 Sept

 Wick **6-0** Seaford Town

Tue 8 Sept

 Mile Oak **0-4** Hailsham Town

 Lancing **2-0** Oakwood

 Westfield **3-4** Newhaven

 East Grinstead Town **1-1*** Peacehaven & Telscombe

 Saltdean United **2-1** Horsham YMCA

 Eastbourne United **4-2** AFC Varndeanians

 Arundel **0-3** East Preston

 Crawley Down Gatwick **1-6** Haywards Heath Town

 Infinity **4-4*** Steyning Town

 Little Common **2-2*** Forest Row

 Worthing United **2-0** Roffey

 Selsey **2-1** Ringmer AFC

 Loxwood **2-1** Billingshurst

Wed 9 Sept

 Bexhill United **0-1** Hassocks

Still To Play · Tue 22 Sept

 Midhurst & Easebourne **v** Pagham

 Shoreham **v** Jarvis Brook

* After extra 90 minutes level — decided on penalties: Peacehaven & Telscombe won 5-4 at East Grinstead; Steyning Town won 7-6 at Infinity; Little Common won 5-3 v Forest Row.

SECOND ROUND DRAW

Drawn live on BBC Radio Sussex, Saturday 12 September, by competition sponsors Sussex Transport. The county's Senior A and B clubs — including Worthing, Whitehawk, Lewes and Brighton & Hove Albion — enter at this stage.

01 Lancing v Whitehawk

02 Three Bridges v Worthing

03 Bognor Regis Town v Worthing United

04 Horsham v Newhaven

05 Eastbourne Borough v Little Common

06 Hastings United v Burgess Hill Town

07 Saltdean United v Littlehampton Town

08 Wick v Loxwood

09 Chichester City v Peacehaven & Telscombe

10 Haywards Heath Town v Brighton & Hove Albion

11 Midhurst & Easebourne / Pagham v East Preston

12 Eastbourne United v Selsey

13 Hailsham Town v Hassocks

14 Broadbridge Heath v Steyning Town

15 Crowborough Athletic v Lewes

16 Shoreham / Jarvis Brook v Eastbourne Town

Ties to be played on or before Wednesday 7 October 2026.

Source: Sussex County FA · sussexfa.com · checked 13 September 2026

CHICHESTER HIT FOR FIVE AT HONEYCROFT

Uxbridge scored twice before the break and three more in a 13-minute second-half burst as Chichester endured a punishing afternoon away from home.

UXBRIDGE

5-0

CHICHESTER CITY



Image: Chichester City FC · found on @ChiCityFC on X

Chichester City had an afternoon to forget at Honeycroft, where Uxbridge ran out 5-0 winners in the Southern League Premier South.

Alan Massey broke the deadlock on 29 minutes before George Moore doubled the advantage two minutes before half-time. At 2-0, Chichester still had the interval to reset. What followed after the restart, however, turned a difficult position into a decisive defeat.

Eddie Allsopp made it 3-0 on 54 minutes, Francis Amartey added a fourth four minutes later and Moore

completed his brace on 67 minutes. Three goals in 13 minutes killed the contest and left Chichester with no route back.

There is not much value in dressing up a five-goal defeat. The better editorial truth is simply that Uxbridge were ruthless once they had control and Chichester were punished heavily. The job from here is the old non-league necessity: absorb it, correct it and make sure the next result tells a different story.

MATCH FACTS	
HALF-TIME	Uxbridge 2-0 Chichester City
ATTENDANCE	311
VENUE	Honeycroft
SECOND-HALF BURST	Uxbridge scored on 54', 58' and 67'
Verification: Football Web Pages match centre, checked 12 September 2026.	

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— R E S T I N P E A C E —

Malcolm Saunders

23RD OCTOBER 1958 – 2026



Sussex football has lost a true character.
Our thoughts are with his family and everyone
at Shoreham FC.

MALCOLM SAUNDERS · 1958 – 2026 · SHOREHAM FC

THE OLD GUARD STILL STANDING

The legends of Southern Combination League football — and why the death of Malcolm Saunders is a reminder to celebrate them while they are still here.



GLENN SOUTER

SUSSEX GRASSROOTS

The sad death of Malcolm Saunders has left another sizeable hole in the fabric of Sussex non-league football.

Malcolm was not simply Shoreham's co-owner and co-chairman. He was one of those instantly recognisable figures who seemed to belong to the league itself rather than to one particular club.

He had previously been involved at Lancing, including a spell assisting the first-team management, before spending the final four years of his life helping to shape Shoreham. The club's tribute described him as a friend, supporter and hugely respected figure whose guidance, humour and passion would leave a lasting void. Those words will resonate with people from clubs throughout the county.

Shoreham FC made clear just how much Malcolm cared about the people within the game, not merely the results produced on a Saturday.

His passing also prompts a wider question: who are the remaining legends of the Southern Combination League?

The word "legend" is used far too easily in modern football. A player scores a memorable goal, a manager wins a promotion or somebody becomes popular on social media and the label is immediately applied.

But real Southern Combination League legends are built differently.

They are the people who have given decades rather than seasons. They have managed teams, marked pitches, found sponsors, washed kits, driven minibuses, opened clubhouses and somehow produced a matchday programme when the printer stopped working on Friday night.

"They have experienced championships and relegations, packed cup finals and freezing evenings watched by 35 people. Most importantly, they have stayed."

This is not intended to be a definitive list. Every club will have its own names who deserve recognition. But several people stand out as living links between the old Sussex County League and today's Southern Combination.

STUART SLANEY — REBUILDING AND PROTECTING SHOREHAM

Malcolm's death will naturally be felt most deeply by Stuart Slaney, his fellow owner and co-chairman at Shoreham.

Stuart has been central to the club since becoming involved in 2013. During that period, Shoreham expanded its youth structure dramatically, reached the Isthmian League for the first time and then endured the difficult seasons which followed.

That journey has demanded more than money or ambition. It has required resilience. Anyone can become involved with a football club when results are good and crowds are rising. The real test comes after relegations, financial pressures, personal tragedies and the countless problems that never appear on a league table.

Stuart has remained, continued to develop the club and taken on wider responsibility as company secretary of the Southern Combination League. Following Malcolm's passing, his task becomes even harder, but his longevity and commitment already place him among the league's most important modern custodians.

DAVE JOHN — THE DEFINITION OF A CLUB SERVANT

If you wanted to explain to somebody what a genuine non-league legend looks like, you could simply take them to the Beacon and introduce them to Dave John.

Dave spent more than 30 years involved in the day-to-day running of Hassocks. He arrived when the club were playing intermediate football at Adastra Park and played a leading role in their move to the Beacon and subsequent establishment at senior level.

During that time, he occupied almost every position imaginable. He had four spells as first-team manager, managed the Under-18s and Under-23s, served as director of football and eventually became chairman.

Perhaps his greatest achievement was helping create a youth structure which has provided more than 100 players for the Hassocks first team. That represents a legacy far greater than any single trophy.

Although he stepped down as chairman in 2024, Dave remains club president. The clubhouse bar has appropriately been renamed the Dave John Lounge in recognition of everything he's done, and Hassocks' account of his service online reads like a history of the club itself — and so it should.

That is when you know somebody has become a legend: when it is impossible to tell the story of a football club without telling their story too.

PAT HARDING — THE BRIDGE BETWEEN TWO GENERATIONS

Taking over from Dave John at Hassocks was another genuine Sussex non-league icon: Pat Harding.

Harding's playing career covered two decades, 990 appearances and 348 goals. His journey took him

he was also fiercely competitive, loyal and approachable. He understood dressing rooms, supporters and volunteers because he had spent years living the reality of Sussex non-league football.

His transition from prolific centre-forward to hands-on chairman represents exactly what the Southern Combination League needs. Its history must be protected, but the clubs also require a new generation prepared to take responsibility.

Harding has shown that being chairman is not about sitting in a boardroom. It can mean helping with the car park, working the turnstiles and speaking to supporters. Under his leadership, Hassocks won the 2024–25 Southern Combination Premier Division title without paying players.

That combination of playing pedigree, humility and service makes "Super Pat" one of the league's most important modern figures.

BURGESS HILL'S ENDURING FIGURES

Burgess Hill Town have long occupied an important place in Sussex football, and their history has been shaped by a succession of players, managers, officials and volunteers whose influence extended well beyond individual seasons.

The club's legends include the people who helped establish Burgess Hill as a force in local football, those who guided the Hillians through promotions and cup runs, and the volunteers who kept the club functioning during more difficult periods.

Burgess Hill's rise to the Isthmian League demonstrated what could be achieved through ambition and organisation, but the club's identity was built over many years before that success arrived. It was created by people who developed players, attracted supporters, maintained facilities and continued to believe in the club when progress was not guaranteed.

That is the nature of a true club legend. Their contribution is not measured only by medals or goals. It is measured by the standards they set and the foundations they leave behind for the next generation.

MARK SANDERSON — A WORTHING UNITED INSTITUTION

At Worthing United, Mark Sanderson is another name that belongs in any conversation about Southern Combination League legends.

Like so many figures at this level, his contribution has extended well beyond the touchline. He has been part of the practical, often unseen work required to run a football club: supporting managers and players, helping to maintain the club's identity and ensuring that Worthing United remains a place where people can continue to play, watch and volunteer.

That kind of service is easy to underestimate because it rarely produces dramatic headlines. Yet clubs such as Worthing United depend on people who are prepared to remain involved through difficult periods as well as successful ones.

Sanderson represents the enduring spirit of the club: loyal, committed and willing to do whatever is necessary to keep the doors open and the team moving forward. It is his extended family, and one that he is super proud of.

MARTIN GANDER — A LASTING LANCING CONNECTION

Martin Gander is another figure whose name is closely associated with the history of Lancing FC.

Lancing have experienced the full range of non-league football, from local Sussex competition to the challenges of life at a higher level. Through those changes, Gander has been one of the people who helped provide continuity.

His contribution reflects the many different responsibilities that come with serving a football club. It is about understanding the club's past while helping it adapt to the future, supporting the people involved and maintaining the standards expected of a senior side.

Lancing's progress has been built by more than players and managers. It has depended on administrators, volunteers and long-serving supporters who have given their time over many years. Gander belongs firmly in that group.

For anybody trying to understand why Lancing has remained such an important name in Sussex football, his involvement provides part of the answer.

STEYNING'S CLUB CUSTODIANS

Steyning Town are another club whose story has been shaped by people who have given years of service away from the spotlight.

The club's legends are found among the managers who built competitive sides, the players who became familiar faces at the Shooting Field and the

by people who understand that a football club is more than a first team. It is a meeting place, a source of local pride and a pathway for young players.

The individuals who have maintained that identity deserve recognition alongside the more celebrated names from larger clubs. Their work has helped preserve Steyning as an important part of the Southern Combination landscape.

TONY HANCOCK — DECADES OF COMMITMENT AT BOSHAM

Division Two is sometimes overlooked when people discuss the personalities of the league, but it contains many of its most dedicated volunteers and officials. Tony Hancock's association with Bosham is a prime example.

His first spell in charge lasted around a decade and included campaigns in both the Sussex County League and the West Sussex League. Years later, he returned to become joint manager and continued serving the club until stepping down again in 2026.

Bosham's story has never been straightforward. The club have battled ground-grading requirements, relegations, promotions and the financial difficulties common to small village sides. Through much of that history, Hancock was there.

People such as Tony rarely receive national attention. They are not likely to trend online or be interviewed on television. But maintaining a competitive football club for years in circumstances where resources are limited is an achievement worthy of enormous respect.

LEE ROBINSON — A GOALSCORER FROM ANOTHER ERA

There must also be room on any list for the players who have become synonymous with the competition. At Newhaven, Lee Robinson is the outstanding example.

The Dockers captain has produced extraordinary goalscoring numbers over a long period. He struck 45 league goals in the 2018–19 campaign, remained among the division's leading scorers in subsequent seasons and has now reached the remarkable landmark of 500 competitive goals for Newhaven. He has also committed to the club for the 2026–27 season.

In an era when players can change clubs several times within one campaign, Robinson's connection with Newhaven feels increasingly rare. Opposition defenders, managers and supporters have all seen

THE PEOPLE WHO HOLD THE LEAGUE TOGETHER

Beyond the clubs are the administrators whose work allows the competition to function.

Current league president Paul Beard, chair Peter Coleman and long-serving figures such as Ray Welch, Tim Dawes and Bob Rashbrook carry knowledge and experience that cannot be replaced by a handbook or computer system.

Fixtures do not arrange themselves. Referees do not appear by magic. Rules, registrations, appeals, ground inspections and cup competitions all require people prepared to accept responsibility — usually while receiving far more criticism than thanks.

The current SCFL committee also includes individuals such as Stuart Slaney, Marc Hilton, Steve Nealgrove and many others who ensure that hundreds of matches across the senior, Under-23 and Under-18 divisions take place every season.

Their work is often invisible, but without them there is no league.

MORE THAN FOOTBALL

Malcolm Saunders belonged to a generation which understood that non-league football is ultimately about people.

Results matter. Promotions matter. Rivalries certainly matter. But after the final whistle, what

remains are the friendships, arguments, stories and shared experiences collected over many years.

The Southern Combination League still has legends. Some stand behind dugouts, some sit in boardrooms, some remain on the pitch and others are already at their club hours before anybody else arrives.

Mark Sanderson at Worthing United, Martin Gander at Lancing, the long-serving figures at Burgess Hill and Steyning, Tony Hancock at Bosham and the many other dedicated people across the county all demonstrate that a club's history is not created by trophies alone. It is built by people who keep turning up.

But Malcolm's death is another reminder that none of them should be taken for granted.

Celebrate the people who have given their lives to their clubs while they are still here. Invite them to presentations. Record their stories. Name rooms, awards and stands after them. Most importantly, listen to what they have learned.

“Because trophies tell us who won a particular season. People such as Malcolm Saunders tell us what the Southern Combination League truly means.”

Rest in peace, Malcolm.

See you in the dugout.

SCFL PREMIER DIVISION

STEP 5 · RESULTS AND TABLE · CORRECT TO SATURDAY EVENING



RESULTS

Saturday 12 September		
Eastbourne United	4-2	Newhaven
FA VASE · SECOND ROUND QUALIFYING · SAT 12 SEPT		
Lancing	1-0	Croydon
Lydd Town	0-9	East Grinstead Town
Hassocks	2-2 †	Abbey Rangers
Forest Row	0-0 ‡	Saltdean United
Pagham	3-0	Newport (IOW)
Whitchurch United	2-5	Midhurst & Easebourne
Guernsey	1-2	Roffey
Beckenham Town	1-2	AFC Vardeanians
Knaphill	0-1	Lingfield
Tooting Bec	2-1	Bexhill United
Phoenix Sports	4-3	Billingshurst
Seaford Town	2-5	Chipstead
Hythe Town	SUN 2PM	Wick

† Hassocks won 4-2 on penalties. ‡ Forest Row won 8-7 on penalties.
Most of the division was on Vase duty, hence the single league fixture.
Sunday's tie staged at Folkestone Invicta FC — result on thesnlf.co.uk.
Full round-up in this issue. Sources: Football Web Pages / SCFL official results / club X accounts, checked 13 September 2026.

CURRENT STANDINGS

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Eastbourne United	9	7	1	1	34	13	+21	22
2	Haywards Heath Town	6	5	1	0	13	4	+9	16
3	Lingfield	7	4	1	2	19	14	+5	13
4	Pagham	5	4	0	1	17	7	+10	12
5	Hassocks	6	3	2	1	17	8	+9	11
6	AFC Vardeanians	7	3	2	2	7	7	0	11
7	Guernsey	7	3	2	2	11	13	-2	11
8	Roffey	6	3	1	2	17	9	+8	10
9	Midhurst & Easebourne	6	3	1	2	12	8	+4	10
10	Bexhill United	6	3	1	2	10	12	-2	10
11	Newhaven	7	3	1	3	10	15	-5	10
12	Crawley Down Gatwick	7	2	3	2	11	10	+1	9
13	Seaford Town	6	3	0	3	12	12	0	9
14	East Grinstead Town	6	2	2	2	10	8	+2	8
15	Lancing	7	2	0	5	10	17	-7	6
16	Wick	6	2	0	4	7	17	-10	6
17	Billingshurst	8	1	2	5	14	22	-8	5
18	Horsham YM	7	1	1	5	9	16	-7	4
19	Little Common	5	1	0	4	5	17	-12	3
20	Forest Row	8	0	1	7	10	26	-16	1

Table after completed league matches on Saturday 12 September 2026.
Source: FA Full-Time · updated through 12 September league matches

SCFL PREMIER DIVISION FIXTURES

THE WEEK AHEAD · MONDAY 14 – SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2026

Monday 14 September	
Forest Row v Billingshurst	19:45
Tuesday 15 September	
East Grinstead Town v Pagham	19:30
Little Common v Hassocks	19:30
Wick v Crawley Down Gatwick	19:30
Seaford Town v AFC Varndeanians	19:45
Wednesday 16 September	
Bexhill United v Haywards Heath Town	19:30
Lingfield v Midhurst & Easebourne	20:00

Saturday 19 September	
AFC Varndeanians v Guernsey	14:00
Little Common v Horsham YMCA	14:00
Billingshurst v Wick	15:00
Crawley Down Gatwick v Bexhill United	15:00
Eastbourne United v East Grinstead Town	15:00
Hassocks v Midhurst & Easebourne	15:00
Lancing v Roffey	15:00
Lingfield v Seaford Town	15:00
Newhaven v Forest Row	15:00

Source: SCFL fixture feed / SNLF · checked 12 September 2026. Kick-offs can change.

SCFL DIVISION ONE

STEP 6 · RESULTS AND TABLE · CORRECT TO SATURDAY EVENING



RESULTS

Saturday 12 September		
Dorking Wanderers B	0-1	Loxwood
Ringmer AFC	1-1	Shoreham
Selsey	1-1	Mile Oak
Westfield	0-1	East Preston

FA VASE · SECOND ROUND QUALIFYING · SAT 12 SEPT

Worthing United	4-1	Arundel
Rusthall	4-1	AFC Walcountians
Sutton Common Rovers	4-0	Reigate Priory

Worthing United progress to the First Round Proper. Source: SCFL official results, checked 13 September 2026.

CURRENT STANDINGS

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	AFC Walcountians	6	5	1	0	15	2	+13	16
2	Infinity	6	5	0	1	16	7	+9	15
3	Worthing United	5	4	1	0	22	2	+20	13
4	Arundel	7	4	1	2	16	14	+2	13
5	Guildford City	6	3	2	1	17	6	+11	11
6	East Preston	6	3	1	2	9	7	+2	10
7	Jarvis Brook	6	3	1	2	8	6	+2	10
8	Dial Square	6	3	1	2	7	6	+1	10
9	Reigate Priory	6	3	0	3	14	10	+4	9
10	Westfield	7	2	2	3	9	8	+1	8
11	Loxwood	6	2	2	2	7	7	0	8
12	Mile Oak	7	2	2	3	10	11	-1	8
13	Hailsham Town	6	2	1	3	11	9	+2	7
14	Saltdean United	4	2	1	1	11	9	+2	7
15	Selsey	7	2	1	4	6	15	-9	7
16	Ringmer AFC	7	1	3	3	6	15	-9	6
17	Oakwood	6	2	0	4	8	22	-14	6
18	Shoreham	7	1	2	4	4	17	-13	5
19	Clanfield	5	1	0	4	4	10	-6	3
20	Dorking Wanderers B	8	0	2	6	6	23	-17	2

Table after completed league matches on Saturday 12 September 2026.
Source: FA Full-Time / SCFL official · checked 13 September 2026

SCFL DIVISION ONE FIXTURES

THE WEEK AHEAD · MONDAY 14 – SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2026

Tuesday 15 September	
Jarvis Brook v Dial Square	19:45
Mile Oak v Saltdean United	19:30
Reigate Priory v Loxwood	19:30
Arundel v AFC Walcountians	19:45
Clanfield v Guildford City	19:45
Dorking Wanderers B v Infinity	19:45
Selsey v Oakwood	19:45
Worthing United v Hailsham Town	19:45

Saturday 19 September	
AFC Walcountians v Mile Oak	15:00
Dial Square v Dorking Wanderers B	15:00
East Preston v Jarvis Brook	15:00
Guildford City v Shoreham	15:00
Hailsham Town v Arundel	15:00
Infinity v Saltdean United	15:00
Oakwood v Loxwood	15:00
Reigate Priory v Worthing United	15:00
Ringmer AFC v Selsey	15:00
Westfield v Clanfield	15:00

Source: SCFL fixture feed / SNLF · checked 12 September 2026. Kick-offs can change.

SCFL DIVISION TWO

STEP 7 · RESULTS AND TABLE · CORRECT TO SATURDAY EVENING



RESULTS

Saturday 12 September		
Alfold	4-2	Upper Beeding
Ferring	2-1	Copthorne
Rustington	4-1	ASC Brighton Rangers
TD Shipley	0-0	Hurstpierpoint
Worthing Town	4-3	Rudgwick

CURRENT STANDINGS

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	TD Shipley	6	5	1	0	19	4	+15	16
2	Chichester City B	5	5	0	0	33	4	+29	15
3	Rustington	6	5	0	1	24	5	+19	15
4	Ferring	5	4	1	0	14	5	+9	13
5	Hurstpierpoint	5	3	1	1	15	4	+11	10
6	Alfold	6	3	1	2	11	11	0	10
7	Southwater	5	2	1	2	13	9	+4	7
8	Upper Beeding	6	2	0	4	9	14	-5	6
9	Worthing Town	5	2	0	3	12	30	-18	6
10	Bosham	5	1	0	4	6	12	-6	3
11	Storrington Community	4	1	0	3	5	16	-11	3
12	Copthorne	6	1	0	5	4	24	-20	3
13	Brighton Electricity	3	0	2	1	2	5	-3	2
14	ASC Brighton Rangers	6	0	2	4	8	24	-16	2
15	Rudgwick	5	0	1	4	5	13	-8	1

Table after completed league matches on Saturday 12 September 2026.
Source: FA Full-Time · checked 12 September 2026

SCFL DIVISION TWO FIXTURES

THE WEEK AHEAD · MONDAY 14 – SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2026

Saturday 19 September	
Hurstpierpoint v Ferring	14:00
Bosham v Southwater	15:00
Brighton Electricity v Alfold	15:00

Copthorne v Worthing Town	15:00
Rudgwick v ASC Brighton Rangers	15:00
Rustington v Chichester City B	15:00
Upper Beeding v Storrington Community	15:00

Source: SCFL fixture feed / SNLF · checked 12 September 2026. Kick-offs can change.

GOLDEN BOOT WATCH

THE LEADING SCORERS, LEAGUE BY LEAGUE · SUSSEX MEN IN GOLD

NATIONAL LEAGUE			
1	Matt Rush	Boreham Wood	8
2	Luke McCormick	Yeovil Town	6
3	Tristan Abrahams	Aldershot Town	5
4	Lewis Walker	Kidderminster Harriers	5
5	Georgie Kelly	Carlisle United	4
6	Jacob Wakeling	Solihull Moors	4

ISTHMIAN PREMIER			
1	Anas Igozouln	Leatherhead	6
2	Callum Jones	Ramsgate	6
3	Kai Corbett	Eastbourne Borough	5
4	Chris Whelpdale	Burgess Hill Town	5
5	Toby Aromolaran	Aveley	4
6	Thomas Avgoustidis	Enfield Town	4

ISTHMIAN SOUTH CENTRAL			
1	Jack Arnold	Ashford Town (Middx)	5
2	Radu Stefanoaica	Hendon	4
3	Oliver Stewart Balmer	Winchester City	4
4	Bradley Travis Waters	Winchester City	4
5	Scott Bungay	Winchester City	3
6	Liam Ferdinand	Southall	3

NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH			
1	Jephte Tanga	Tonbridge Angels	5
2	Bradley Ash	Weston-super-Mare	4
3	Joe Pigott	Folkestone Invicta	4
4	Joshua Barrett	Dorking Wanderers	3
5	Jaiden Bartolo	Salisbury	3
6	Jon Benton	Billericay Town	3

ISTHMIAN SOUTH EAST			
1	Mason Doughty	Broadbridge Heath	5
2	Harvey Smith	Sittingbourne	4
3	Connor Tighe	Peacehaven & Telscombe	4
4	Gil Carvalho	Merstham	3
5	Jack Evans	Faversham Town	3
6	Kane Haysman	Faversham Town	3

A NOTE ON THE NUMBERS

Standings from the Football Web Pages goalscorer charts, checked 13 September 2026. The NL South feed's top entry — 11 goals logged against a bare surname across ten different clubs — is a data artefact, not a player, and is excluded. SCFL scorer charts are not reliably published at this stage of the season, so rather than guess, we leave them out. When the numbers arrive, so will the chart. Facts first.

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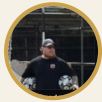
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THE FIRST GAME WITH JACOB

Jarvis Brook vs Tunbridge Wells — Ringmer, pre-season, and the day matchday coaching became real.

**REECE MCQUADE**

A SUSSEX COACHING JOURNEY

If Part One was the day everything started, then this was the day everything sharpened. Training is one thing. Matchday is another. And nothing prepares you for the difference until you're standing there, in the thick of it, watching a team two leagues higher show you exactly what that gap looks like.

I still remember arriving at Ringmer for Jarvis Brook vs Tunbridge Wells.

The place was unbelievable for that level — a lovely pitch, a proper clubhouse, and that balcony overlooking the pitch that made the whole place feel like a step above the usual non-league grounds. Even now, it's still one of the best facilities I've seen at that level. Walking in as a new coach, it felt surreal. I wasn't a player anymore. I wasn't a spectator. I was part of a coaching team.

And I felt proud of myself for that. Nervous, yes. But proud.

Tunbridge Wells were the opposition — two leagues higher, well-drilled, physical, organised. You could see the difference straight away. Not huge, but clear. Their tempo, their structure, their physicality... it was all just that little bit sharper. And on an intensely hot day, we caused ourselves a fair few problems.

WATCHING EVERYTHING

Warm-up wise, I didn't do too much. Balls, bibs, cones — the basics. But even then, I was watching everything. How Jacob set standards. How players responded. How the tempo changed when matchday arrived.

Jacob was calm at first. He usually was. Calm until something crossed the line of what he considered unacceptable — then he'd flip, switch, and let people know. That day was no different. Calm before kick-off, but at half-time and full-time... not so much.

In hindsight, the game was probably too early in pre-season. We ended up on the end of a sore one — shipping five, if I remember right. A rude awakening. A realisation of the levels. A reminder that football doesn't care about your story, your hopes, or your new coaching journey. It just shows you the truth.

But something important happened for me that day.

THE MOMENT IT CLICKED

During the game, I started seeing things. Little details. Small adjustments. Moments where I could help players change something, fix something, improve something.

And I found myself coaching. Not loudly. Not dramatically. But enough to feel it.

“Enough to realise: I might actually be able to do this. Regardless of the result. Regardless of the scoreline. Regardless of the rude awakening.”

After the game, I felt proud. And confident. Not because we won — we didn't. But because I'd stepped into a world I wasn't sure I belonged in... and I didn't sink.

That day at Ringmer was my first real taste of matchday coaching. My first look at higher-level opposition. My first experience of Jacob under pressure. My first moment of contributing something real.

It wasn't a perfect day. But it was an important one.

And it was the first step towards everything that came after.

See you in the dugout.



Two brands. One complete digital & media package.

SEP Media and Dugout Design are partnering to give Sussex businesses everything they need to stand out — stunning 3D virtual tours, licensed drone media, professional websites, and AI-powered marketing. All from one team.

PARTNERSHIP BROCHURE — SEPTEMBER 2026

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Everything a business needs to get seen — under one roof

I'm **Joseph Combes**, founder of **SEP Media**. I'm excited to be partnering with **Dugout Design** to offer a complete digital and visual media service across Sussex. Between us, we cover the full journey — from building a client's online presence to filling it with professional media that actually converts. No juggling freelancers. No gaps. One team, one point of contact.

ABOUT DUGOUT AI

Dugout AI is the ultimate companion for Sussex non-league football — delivering live scores, league tables, club directories, exclusive podcasts and fan engagement, all powered by AI.

Dugout Design is their web design arm, building professional websites for clubs and businesses across the region.

dugout-ai.com

ABOUT SEP MEDIA

SEP Media provides 3D virtual tours, licensed drone photography & video, and AI-powered marketing for businesses across Sussex. Professional-grade equipment, CAA-authorised aerial operations, and a local team that delivers fast — based in Worthing, covering all of Sussex.

sepmedia.uk

01 — TOURS

3D Virtual Tours

Matterport Pro 2 walkthroughs with hosted 3D models, floor plans and highlight reels. Buyers and guests explore the space from their phone before they visit.

02 — AERIAL

Drone Photography & Video

Licensed aerial media under a CAA Operational Authorisation. Property overviews, site surveys, estate aerials, roof inspections and seasonal content packages.

03 — AI

AI Marketing

AI-powered social media content, Google Business optimisation and automated lead generation. Monthly retainers, no long-term contracts required.

CAA Licensed & Insured

All aerial work is flown under a CAA Operational Authorisation with full public liability insurance. Professional, compliant, covered.

Professional-Grade Kit

We don't use consumer gear. Matterport Pro 2 for precision scans, Leica BLK360 LiDAR, DJI M300 with thermal — the same tools the big firms use.

Local to Sussex

Based in Worthing, covering Brighton, Chichester and all of Sussex. Fast turnaround because we're already here — no travel charges, no waiting.

One Invoice, Full Service

Website, virtual tour, drone shots, social content — one conversation, one quote, one team. Dugout Design handles the web, SEP Media handles the media and AI.

OUR EQUIPMENT

- Matterport Pro 2
- Leica BLK360
- DJI M300 + H20T
- Mavic 2 Enterprise Advanced
- Ricoh Theta

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SEP MEDIA

sepmedia.uk

DUGOUT DESIGN

dugout-ai.com

LOCATION

Worthing, West Sussex
Covering all of Sussex



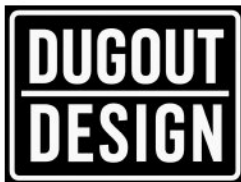
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Walk through a full property scan

I'm creating a complete Matterport 3D tour of my own home as a live demo. Drag to look around, click to move between rooms, view the dollhouse model and floor plan. This is exactly what your clients' customers will see — an immersive walkthrough from their phone, laptop or tablet, before they ever set foot in the door.

- ✓ Full Matterport 3D model
- ✓ Interactive floor plan
- ✓ Dollhouse view
- ✓ Highlight reel video
- ✓ Google Street View integration
- ✓ Hosted & shareable link

THE BRANDS



DUGOUT DESIGN



SEP MEDIA

HOW WE WORK

01

Discovery

We meet the client, understand what they need, scope the project.

02

Build & Capture

Dugout Design builds the site. SEP Media shoots the media.

03

Deliver

Everything goes live together — website, tours, drone shots, content.

04

Grow

AI marketing, seasonal content, Google Business — ongoing support.

"I'm genuinely buzzing to be working with Dugout Design. Between the two of us, we can offer Sussex businesses something nobody else around here is doing — a complete package from one team. Website, 3D tours, drone footage, AI marketing. The whole lot. I can't wait to get started."

— Joseph Combes, SEP Media





IN ASSOCIATION WITH

DUGOUT AI

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NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL.

PADEL KINGS X SUSSEX NON-LEAGUE

**COULD YOUR CLUB UNLOCK
YEAR-ROUND INCOME?**

*Build new revenue. Grow your community.
Think beyond matchday.*

10%

10% PROFIT SHARE

- ◆ Zero-investment partnership route
- ◆ Padel Kings builds and operates the venue
- ◆ Potential passive income for the club



50/50 PARTNERSHIP

- ◆ Premium shared venue model
- ◆ Long-term revenue potential
- ◆ Designed for ambitious clubs

WHY IT WORKS



NEW INCOME
STREAMS



MORE FOOTFALL
AT YOUR CLUB



BROADER
COMMUNITY USE



MODERN
COMMERCIAL
GROWTH



ASK ABOUT A PADEL KINGS PARTNERSHIP

A fresh opportunity for Sussex non-league clubs



IN ASSOCIATION WITH DUGOUT AI

SUSSEX
FOOTBALL.
REAL
STORIES.
PROPER
PEOPLE.



SNLF SHOW

MORE THAN A
PODCAST



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BIG TOPICS.
REAL OPINIONS.



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CLUBS.
PEOPLE.
STORIES.



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BEST GOALS.
ONE PLACE.



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DUGOUT NEWS

THE STORIES BETWEEN THE SCORES

ISSUE 006 · SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2026

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IN MEMORY OF MALCOLM SAUNDERS · 1958–2026

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