

DUGOUT NEWS

ALL THE
ACTION FROM
SUSSEX NON
LEAGUE

ISSUE
008

RESULTS
TABLES
REPORTS
FIXTURES
ARTICLES
AND MORE



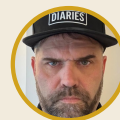
CONTENTS

All the action from Sussex non-league · results, tables, reports, fixtures and the Groundhop

03	FROM THE DUGOUT	Mike McCaffrey
05-12	PLASTIC CAN BE FANTASTIC	Russ Cochran
13-14	WHEN THE APPLAUSE STOPS	Glenn Souter
16	CRAWLEY DOWN GATWICK 1-3 HASSOCKS	Brandon Wright
17	EAST PRESTON 1-2 WESTFIELD	Jack Stapley
18-19	THE DAY I HAD TO DO IT ALL	Reece McQuade
20	AGENT WILLIAMS	Nigel Williams · Forest Row 4-1 Wick
21-24	SCFL GROUNDHOP SPECIAL	Dougie
26	WORTHING	Three on the spin
27	NATIONAL LEAGUE	Results, table & fixtures
28	NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH	Results, table & fixtures
30	ISTHMIAN PREMIER	Table & fixtures · FA Trophy weekend
31	ISTHMIAN SOUTH EAST	Results, table & fixtures
32	ISTHMIAN SOUTH CENTRAL	Results, table & fixtures
33	SCFL PREMIER	Results, table & fixtures
35	SCFL DIVISION ONE	Results, table & fixtures
36	SCFL DIVISION TWO	Results, table & fixtures
37-39	GOLDEN BOOT RACE	NL, NL South, Isthmian & SCFL scorers
41	VERIFICATION & CREDITS	Data, corrections & contributor audit

ALL THE ACTION FROM SUSSEX NON-LEAGUE

Issue 008 editorial - a packed weekend, a Groundhop to come and a room full of Sussex football.



MIKE MCCAFFREY
Editor · Dugout Diaries

Another week, another reminder of why non-league football remains one of the most unpredictable, entertaining and occasionally completely ridiculous parts of the game.

Issue 008 lands after another packed weekend across Sussex and beyond. We have clubs flying, clubs struggling, cup weekends interrupting league programmes, managers learning on the job, penalties saved, late goals, surprise results and another reminder that the final score never tells the whole story.

That is probably summed up best by Forest Row's 4-1 win over Wick. On paper, it looks comfortable. Speak to Nigel Williams and you quickly realise it was anything but. Wick led, missed a penalty and had moments where the game could easily have swung back their way. Forest Row eventually showed the greater cutting edge, with Christopher Pindi coming off the bench to make the difference.

A result tells you what happened. The people there tell you how it happened.

We also have another cracking contribution from Reece McQuade this week, looking back at the first time he found himself effectively running the entire show without Jacob alongside him. Kit. Cones. Balls. Warm-ups. Team talks. Players you have barely met. Then a red card thrown in for good measure.

The SCFL Groundhop weekend is upon us too. Six matches across three days and all three Southern Combination divisions. Friday night at Crawley Down. Saturday morning at Hassocks. Ferring in the afternoon. Arundel in the evening. Worthing United on Sunday morning. Newhaven to finish. It sounds completely unnecessary. Which, obviously, makes it absolutely brilliant.

And speaking of what non-league football is really about, we have to mention the huge success of the SNLF LIVE show at BAKKUS Bar. More than 75 people from across Sussex football came together in one room to talk non-league, share stories, debate the game and, naturally, have a few beers along the way. Players, managers, committee members, supporters and people who simply care deeply about the local game were all there. That is exactly what SNLF was always supposed to be: not just a show, but a meeting point for Sussex non-league football.

Across the tables there are stories developing everywhere. Worthing continue adapting to National League life. Horsham continue their National League South campaign. Bognor remain right at the top of the Isthmian South Central. Eastbourne United set the pace in the SCFL Premier, Infinity lead Division One and TD Shipley sit top of Division Two.

Once again, every result, table and upcoming fixture in these pages has been checked before publication. Where feeds have been slow, we have waited. Where fixtures have moved because of cup competitions, we have checked them. That should be the minimum standard.

Thanks to everybody who has contributed photographs, reports, information and time, and to everybody who keeps downloading, sharing and reading Dugout News. Eight issues in, this is starting to feel like something that belongs in the Sussex non-league calendar.

Enjoy Issue 008. And if you are attempting all six Groundhop matches next weekend... good luck. You are going to need it.

MIKE MCCAFFREY - DUGOUT DIARIES / DUGOUT NEWS



IBB10
SHOW

SNLF
SHOW

DUGOUT
DIARIES



All shows to be uploaded to



ALL SHOWS OUT *THIS WEEK*

PLASTIC CAN BE FANTASTIC



RUSS COCHRAN
Dugout News columnist

Why one all-weather pitch should be the start of the conversation

We would love an all-weather pitch. We have the space - but where do we start, what impact could it have, and what could it offer the local community? And why should it just be ONE pitch?

When a club or football organisation gets the opportunity to develop a new 3G or 4G football facility, the natural starting point is usually the same: find enough land for a full-size adult pitch, put the floodlights around it, install the fencing and get the facility operational.

And, of course, that makes sense.

A full-size artificial pitch can transform a football site. It provides an all-weather surface, extends the playing season, reduces winter postponements and allows considerably more training and match activity to take place. Where the appropriate standards and certification are in place, it can also accommodate competitive football.

But here is another question that perhaps needs asking much earlier in the design process:

IF YOU HAVE THE LAND, WHY BUILD ONLY WHAT YOU ABSOLUTELY NEED?

If an additional section of land can be incorporated into the project, could adding what is effectively another third of playing area alongside the main pitch create a facility capable of doing considerably more? I think that question deserves serious consideration.

THE FULL-SIZE PITCH IS ONLY PART OF THE DEMAND

One of the problems with looking at a 3G facility purely as an adult football pitch is that it can underestimate just how much football happens below 11-a-side.

A modern grassroots football site may have to accommodate adult Saturday football, Sunday League, adult training, youth training, 9v9, 7v7, 5v5 mini-soccer, girls' and women's football, schools, community programmes, disability and inclusive football, recreational football and academy or development sessions.

That is an enormous range of users competing for the same piece of artificial turf.

The Football Foundation's experience with hub sites illustrates just how heavily these facilities can be used, with around 60% of peak-hour usage allocated to partner junior-club training and weekends typically prioritising mini-soccer and junior football.

So perhaps the question shouldn't simply be:

"How many hours can we get out of our 11v11 pitch?"

It should be:

"How many different forms of football can we accommodate without one type of football preventing another from taking place?"

That is where the additional space becomes particularly interesting.

IF YOU HAVE THE SPACE, PLAN FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Imagine a full-size adult pitch sitting alongside a dedicated smaller-sided area. Those adult players were young once, so why not design the facility to support the next generation as well as the bread and butter of open-age football?

Instead of continually trying to squeeze every age group onto the same playing surface, the additional area could potentially accommodate something along the lines of:

- 1 x 9v9 pitch
- 2 x 7v7 pitches
- Multiple 5v5 areas

The exact configuration would obviously depend on the land available, safety run-offs, access, fencing and the final design. FA guidance gives an indication of the scale involved, with approximately 73m x 46m for 9v9, 55m x 37m for 7v7 and 37m x 27m for 5v5, before the necessary safety areas are considered.

The important point is that the main county-standard 11v11 pitch remains intact. That matters if the intention is to accommodate properly graded adult football. After all, little acorns need the space to grow into.

This isn't about inventing an entirely new concept. There are already facilities incorporating different formats, and Football Foundation projects have demonstrated that 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 provision can be incorporated into wider football facilities. It is about thinking bigger when the opportunity presents itself.

THE HIDDEN BENEFIT: YOU STOP COMPETING WITH YOURSELF

This could be the biggest advantage.

PLASTIC CAN BE FANTASTIC



RUSS COCHRAN
Dugout News columnist

Why one all-weather pitch should be the start of the conversation

Consider a typical winter evening. The full-size pitch is being used by an adult team for training, which on a conventional site may mean the junior section has to find somewhere else to train - or the club starts splitting the main pitch into smaller areas. With a dedicated adjoining small-sided area, the junior section can continue independently.

At the weekend, the same principle applies. The main pitch could host an adult fixture, potentially even a visiting Sunday League side, while the adjoining area accommodates junior matches or training.

That's income. Not just pitch hire, but potentially food, refreshments, bar income or even something as simple as vending if the facility isn't staffed.

A 9v9 game could take place without necessarily disrupting an open-age women's game next door. Two 7v7 games or several 5v5 activities could happen alongside them. Suddenly, the facility isn't just one pitch. It becomes a football hub.

And that distinction matters commercially as well as operationally.

MORE TEAMS, MORE BOOKINGS, MORE UTILISATION

There is a straightforward financial argument here. A facility capable of accommodating several activities simultaneously potentially has more opportunities to generate income than one relying predominantly on a single full-size booking.

That doesn't mean every hour will automatically be sold, or that adding extra surface area automatically makes a project financially viable. The business plan still has to stack up. Capital costs, management, maintenance, replacement cycles, staffing, energy, insurance, sinking funds and actual local demand all have to be considered.

But if the demand exists, additional usable playing capacity gives the operator something more to sell.

- A junior club could book the smaller pitches while an adult club uses the main pitch.
- A Sunday League could use the full-size facility while junior football is taking place elsewhere.
- Girls' football could have its own allocated space.
- Schools could use the facility during the day, while community and recreational sessions occupy otherwise unused periods.

The same piece of land that might otherwise sit unused beside a single pitch suddenly starts working much harder.

AND THEN THERE IS SUNDAY FOOTBALL

This is an area of the game that can easily be overlooked. The conversation around 3G facilities often focuses on junior football and weekday training, but adult grassroots football still has an enormous role to play.

Where the site's certification, competition requirements, league rules and scheduling allow it, a properly designed facility could accommodate adult fixtures alongside junior provision. The key is ensuring that the main pitch remains suitable for the open-age game, rather than designing a facility where the additional junior markings effectively restrict its wider use.

That is why I wouldn't see the additional area as a junior-only investment. It is about separating different demands on the facility.

THE "DOG-LEG" COULD BE THE ANSWER

This is where I think planning departments, councils, clubs and funding bodies could perhaps be encouraged to think differently. Not every site is a perfect rectangle.

There may be awkward pieces of land beside an existing pitch which, at first glance, appear to be of limited value. But if that space can be incorporated into a carefully designed dog-legged or adjoining playing area, it could potentially become one of the most valuable parts of the development.

Rather than leaving a strip of land between the main pitch and a boundary, could that area become additional football capacity? Could additional floodlighting illuminate it rather than leaving valuable land unused?

Possibly. But I would stress that the lighting needs to be properly designed rather than simply assuming that two extra columns will do the job. Geometry, illumination, light spill, neighbouring properties, ecology and operating hours all need to be considered.

I've seen examples abroad of low-level lighting being incorporated directly into the fencing around urban training pitches, including solar-powered systems. It worked, and it worked cheaply. Obviously, every site is different, but why shouldn't energy efficiency and green credentials form part of the conversation when a new facility is being designed?

The same applies to drainage, fencing, access routes, player circulation and spectator areas. Could all of those things be designed around both areas from the beginning rather than trying to retrofit them later? These are questions worth asking before the sub-base is flattened, the tarmac is rolled and the green plastic carpets are laid.

PLASTIC CAN BE FANTASTIC



RUSS COCHRAN
Dugout News columnist

Why one all-weather pitch should be the start of the conversation

And just to be clear, when I use the term "dog-leg", I'm talking about a design concept rather than a prescribed pitch layout. If the available land is long and narrow, the additional 9v9 area might even extend from one end of the main installation at a right angle. The point is flexibility.

BUILD FOR THE FOOTBALL YOU ACTUALLY HAVE - AND THE FOOTBALL YOU WILL HAVE

There is sometimes a tendency with major facility projects to think in terms of the headline asset:

"We're getting a new full-size 3G pitch."

And that sounds impressive. But perhaps the better question is:

"What can this site deliver for the next 20 years?"

If the answer is one 11v11 pitch because that's all the space available, then build one excellent 11v11 pitch. But if the site has sufficient land and funding to create something considerably more flexible, why not explore it?

An additional area could mean more junior teams accommodated, more training sessions delivered, more weekend fixtures hosted and more community use. It could also reduce pressure on the main pitch, potentially reducing wear and helping protect the asset.

This is about capacity, not simply carpet.

A 3G pitch is expensive infrastructure. Once it is built, you want to maximise its useful life and the number of people benefiting from it. That doesn't necessarily mean putting as many people as possible onto one surface. Sometimes the clever solution is to create complementary playing spaces that can operate alongside one another.

- One full-size pitch can remain available for adult football and larger-sided youth football.
- The additional area can handle younger age groups and smaller-sided training.
- A caged or enclosed section could provide another environment for technical work, recreational football or small-sided activity.

Suddenly the facility has different products for different users. And that could be much more valuable than simply having a very large rectangle of artificial grass.

STOP THINKING ABOUT SINGLE PITCHES. START THINKING ABOUT FOOTBALL SITES.

If we are serious about improving grassroots football facilities, perhaps we need to stop thinking about pitches individually and start thinking about football sites as systems. Not just the club. Not just the pitch. The surrounding community as well.

The best facility isn't necessarily the one with the biggest pitch. It could be the one that allows the greatest number of people to play, train and compete without different groups constantly competing for the same space.

If the land exists, the demand can be demonstrated and the additional funding can be assembled, adding that extra third of playing area could be one of those decisions that looks like an additional expense at the beginning but proves its value repeatedly over the life of the facility.

One full-size pitch gives you a pitch. A full-size pitch, a dedicated junior/small-sided area and a suitable enclosed training space could give you a football facility. And perhaps that is the difference we should be aiming for when the next generation of grassroots football hubs is being designed.

DON'T ASK FOR ANOTHER PITCH. ASK TO SOLVE A LOCAL PROBLEM.

This is where the idea needs to move from being a good design concept into a credible project. If you're at the front of the local Section 106 queue, don't simply apply for funding for "a 3G pitch." Apply for funding for a football facility that solves several local problems.

That changes the conversation. The starting point shouldn't be:

"We want another third of a pitch."

It should be:

"Our area has X junior teams, X adult teams, X training sessions and X leagues competing for limited facilities."

Then demonstrate what actually happens:

- Junior teams are turned away.
- Teams travel elsewhere to train.
- Winter fixtures are cancelled.
- There is insufficient 9v9 or 7v7 provision.
- Adult football competes with junior football for the same pitch.
- Girls' and women's football needs additional capacity.
- Disability and inclusive football isn't adequately catered for.
- Schools and community groups cannot access suitable facilities.

PLASTIC CAN BE FANTASTIC



RUSS COCHRAN
Dugout News columnist

Why one all-weather pitch should be the start of the conversation

That creates evidence of demand for the additional capacity.

GET THE COUNTY FA INVOLVED EARLY

Don't wait until the facility has been designed before asking the County FA whether it supports it. Get them involved at the concept stage.

Ask them to help establish current pitch provision, local team numbers, future demand, appropriate pitch sizes, competition requirements, potential users and whether the proposed configuration addresses an identified local shortage. You are effectively building a case that says:

"This isn't a club wanting a bigger facility. This is a football facility addressing a recognised local capacity problem."

That is a much stronger proposition. The FA's current process also directs organisations considering football facility improvements, including 3G development, towards their local County FA and the Football Facility Enquiry Form.

THEN APPROACH THE FOOTBALL FOUNDATION

Once you've established the need, the next step is understanding which funding route actually fits. Don't assume that one organisation is going to write a cheque for the whole project.

A substantial project could potentially involve the Football Foundation, council, club, education partners, local businesses, community fundraising and other relevant funding sources. Different elements can potentially form part of a wider funding package:

- main 3G pitch
- junior/small-sided area
- floodlighting
- fencing
- drainage and groundworks
- changing facilities
- accessibility
- community facilities
- professional fees
- local contribution
- sponsorship
- fundraising

The exact eligibility will always depend on the site, applicant and funding programme, but the principle is important:

ASSEMBLE THE PROJECT RATHER THAN ASSUMING ONE GRANT PAYS FOR EVERYTHING.

The Football Foundation's larger Hubs model demonstrates the principle of thinking beyond a single pitch, with facilities designed around local need and multiple uses. The Foundation's Hubs Programme has also required substantial partnership funding, with a 40% capital partnership-funding requirement.

For a project involving one full-size pitch and an adjoining junior area, I wouldn't automatically try to turn it into a Hub. I'd ask:

"Would this qualify as a standalone large-scale 3G project, or is there a strategic reason for it to form part of a wider Hub or multi-site application?"

That answer could significantly affect how the project is structured. And one important warning:

DON'T START CONSTRUCTION BEFORE THE FUNDING POSITION IS ESTABLISHED.

The Foundation's funding guidance does not provide retrospective funding for work that has already started or been completed.

MASTERPLAN THE WHOLE FACILITY

This, for me, is one of the biggest lessons. If the land is available, don't simply design Phase 1 and worry about everything else later. Masterplan the whole site first.

Even if funding means construction has to happen in stages, design the site so that Phase 2 and Phase 3 are already accommodated. For example:

PHASE 1

Full-size 3G pitch · Floodlighting · Changing facilities · Access and parking · Basic ancillary infrastructure · Storage

PHASE 2

Adjoining dog-leg/small-sided area · 9v9 provision · 7v7 provision · 5v5 provision · Additional lighting

PHASE 3

Caged or enclosed training area · Community facilities · Additional spectator or club facilities

That way you're not asking:

"Can we find some more land?"

You're saying:

PLASTIC CAN BE FANTASTIC

Why one all-weather pitch should be the start of the conversation



RUSS COCHRAN
Dugout News columnist

"The masterplan already provides for the expansion; we're now seeking the funding to deliver the next phase."

That is a much more credible long-term proposition. And even a simple 40-foot container can do wonders as a temporary storage solution while the bigger plan develops!

PROVE THAT THE EXTRA CAPACITY WILL ACTUALLY BE USED

I'd put a 10-year utilisation model into the proposal. Keep it realistic. For example:

CURRENT CAPACITY

1 x 11v11 pitch · X hours available per week · X teams · X bookings

PROPOSED CAPACITY

1 x 11v11 · 1 x 9v9 · 2 x 7v7 · 5v5 provision

Then calculate:

Hours available x realistic booking rate x hourly charge = annual potential income

Don't inflate the numbers. A conservative projection saying "We expect 65% utilisation initially, increasing towards 80% over five years" is far more credible than claiming "This will be fully booked every evening."

Then show how the income will contribute towards operating costs, maintenance and the eventual replacement of the surface. The Foundation's own approach places emphasis on financial sustainability and long-term operation rather than simply constructing the facility.

DON'T FORGET THE REPLACEMENT BILL

This is something I would absolutely include in the proposal, as a 3G pitch isn't simply built and then forgotten - it will require maintaining. Football Foundation guidance estimates that an 11v11 3G surface can require a replacement provision in the region of £270,000 for a 97m x 61m pitch, depending on the system, with a properly maintained surface expected to last around 10-12 years.

So the proposal shouldn't simply say:

"Can someone fund us a 3G?"

It should say:

"Here is how we will fund, operate, maintain and eventually replace it."

That makes the project look like an asset with a lifecycle rather than a grant-dependent facility.

AND THEN THERE IS SECTION 106

This is where you need to look at the project from the local authority's point of view. Section 106 money isn't simply a pot of cash that a community organisation can claim.

Contributions arise from individual developments and have to meet the relevant statutory tests. They need to be necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms, directly related to the development, and fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind.

That doesn't weaken the argument for football. It actually gives you a route to make a stronger one. Instead of asking "Can we have some of the S106 money?", build the argument:

New housing



Increased population



Increased demand for football



Existing facilities cannot accommodate that demand



Additional football capacity is required

That's the connection you need. Sport England's guidance recognises playing-pitch provision as something that can be addressed through planning obligations and provides tools for assessing the additional demand generated by development.

FIND OUT WHERE THE EXISTING MONEY IS

Before approaching the council, do your homework. Look for:

- S106 agreements
- S106 receipts
- unspent balances
- allocated contributions
- the Infrastructure Funding Statement
- the Playing Pitch Strategy
- Open Space/Sports Strategy
- infrastructure delivery plans

PLASTIC CAN BE FANTASTIC

Why one all-weather pitch should be the start of the conversation



RUSS COCHRAN
Dugout News columnist

The objective is to establish: Which developments have contributed money? How much remains unspent? What was it legally secured for? What geographical area does it relate to? When does it have to be spent?

You don't want to discover that £300,000 exists but is legally restricted to something completely different.

Then identify the developments that actually generated the demand. Suppose a development of 500 homes has increased the local population. You can potentially demonstrate:

500 homes



Additional population



Additional children and young people



Additional demand for junior football



Existing pitches already heavily utilised



Proposed junior/small-sided area provides additional capacity

Now you're not asking the council to spend \$106 money on something unrelated. You're demonstrating the connection between the development and the infrastructure requirement. That is the important part.

DON'T JUST ASK FOR "FOOTBALL"

Give the council something tangible. For example:

COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CAPACITY PROJECT - PHASE 1

Full-size floodlit 3G open-age pitch · Adjoining junior/small-sided training area · Fencing · Lighting · Drainage · Access and safety infrastructure

PHASE 2

Additional small-sided provision · Changing-facility improvements · Community/club facilities

That gives the authority an actual infrastructure project to consider rather than an open-ended request for money.

And if the council's Playing Pitch Strategy identifies shortages, insufficient 3G capacity, poor-quality facilities, increasing demand or geographical deficiencies, your proposal can potentially be presented as helping deliver an existing strategic objective rather than simply being a club wish list.

One thing I would make very clear:

DON'T TRY TO "RING-FENCE" MONEY THAT LEGALLY BELONGS TO ANOTHER PURPOSE.

Instead, identify contributions whose existing legal purpose is compatible with the football project and seek to have your project recognised as the infrastructure they can legitimately support. That is a much more realistic approach.

NOW THINK ABOUT PLANNING

The same principle applies to planning. You don't necessarily need to hand the whole project over to a planning agent from day one. Start with pre-application advice. Prepare a simple concept showing:

- the site
- the main pitch
- the adjoining area
- approximate dimensions
- floodlights
- fencing
- access
- parking
- existing buildings
- surrounding properties
- a short explanation of what you're trying to achieve

The objective isn't to get the project approved at pre-application stage. It's to ask:

"What information will you require from us to determine this application, and what are the principal planning issues you foresee?"

That question could save a lot of time and money later.

GET THE SITE PLAN RIGHT

This is where I would spend some money - but not necessarily on a planning agent. Get a competent sports-pitch designer or surveyor to produce a proper concept layout.

The dog-leg shouldn't just be drawn on the back of that morning's bacon-roll wrapper because it happens to fit! It needs to demonstrate that the whole arrangement works safely and practically. That means considering:

- pitch dimensions
- safety run-offs
- orientation

PLASTIC CAN BE FANTASTIC



RUSS COCHRAN
Dugout News columnist

Why one all-weather pitch should be the start of the conversation

- access
- fencing
- spectator circulation
- drainage
- floodlighting
- emergency access
- storage
- changing facilities
- car parking
- noise
- neighbouring properties
- planning constraints

The professional drawing is one of the most important pieces of work you can commission.

SPEAK TO SPORT ENGLAND EARLY

This is particularly relevant because you're talking about a football-pitch development. Sport England's planning role can arise where proposals affect playing fields, including the creation of pitches and artificial lighting associated with major outdoor sports facilities. Sport England has also resumed free pre-application consultation for proposals affecting existing playing-field land, from 1 September 2026.

That could be extremely useful. You can potentially get the project looked at from a sports-planning perspective before submitting the formal application. Why not use that opportunity?

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE LIGHTING, NOISE, DRAINAGE OR ECOLOGY

For this particular idea, floodlighting could be one of the significant planning considerations. Don't simply say: "We only need two extra columns." The authority may need to understand height, location, illumination levels, light spill, neighbouring properties, operating hours, ecology and visual impact. Get a proper lighting scheme.

The same applies to noise. Artificial pitches can introduce additional activity from players, coaches, spectators, whistles and balls striking fencing, particularly during evening use. If houses are nearby, an acoustic assessment could identify sensible mitigation such as fencing design, screening, orientation, operating hours and the positioning of entrances and spectator areas.

Drainage and ecology should also be properly considered rather than guessed. If specialist reports are needed, get the right specialist reports. That's very different from paying someone to manage the entire planning application from start to finish.

TALK TO THE RESIDENTS BEFORE THEY TALK TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

I'd strongly consider doing this. Not because you need their permission. You don't. But because they can identify problems before the application reaches the planning committee.

Show them the existing site versus the proposed facility. Explain what you're trying to achieve and ask specifically about lighting, operating hours, parking, traffic, noise, access and existing anti-social behaviour.

You may find that some concerns can be addressed through the design before they become objections. Being considerate in advance is usually better than waiting for somebody else to point out the problem.

YOU DON'T NEED ONE PLANNING AGENT STRAIGHT AWAY - YOU NEED THE RIGHT TEAM

This is an important distinction. You could potentially manage the project yourself while bringing in specialists where they're genuinely required. For example:

- You / club - project lead
- Sports-pitch designer - pitch layout and specification
- Architect - buildings, if required
- Lighting engineer - floodlights and light spill
- Ecologist - ecology and BNG
- Drainage engineer - drainage and SuDS
- Acoustic consultant - noise
- Planning consultant - optional, depending on complexity

That could be substantially cheaper than handing the entire project to a planning consultancy.

SO, WHAT WOULD I ACTUALLY DO?

I'd approach it in this order:

PLASTIC CAN BE FANTASTIC

Why one all-weather pitch should be the start of the conversation



RUSS COCHRAN
Dugout News columnist

- 01 Establish land ownership and control
- 02 Get a measured site plan
- 03 Produce the dog-leg concept
- 04 Establish local football demand
- 05 Get County FA feedback
- 06 Approach Sport England
- 07 Approach the council for pre-application advice
- 08 Identify planning constraints
- 09 Commission the necessary specialist reports
- 10 Speak to residents and the wider community
- 11 Refine the design
- 12 Build the funding and business case
- 13 Submit the planning application

And I'd run the planning and funding work alongside one another. A funder is going to be much more comfortable with a project that can demonstrate land control, a viable design, planning feedback, identified demand and a realistic operating model.

THE CENTRAL ARGUMENT

The whole idea really comes down to one sentence:

Don't ask a funder to buy you a bigger pitch. Ask them to invest in solving a local football problem.

There's a huge difference between "We want another third of a 3G pitch" and:

"We have 40 junior teams, six adult teams, several Sunday League sides, schools and community groups competing for limited playing capacity. This proposal creates additional capacity while protecting the main pitch for open-age football."

Those are two completely different propositions. The first sounds like additional capital expenditure. The second sounds like infrastructure. And that is what you want the project to become.

If you have the land, the demand can be demonstrated and the funding can be assembled, why design a facility around today's limitations when you could create a masterplan capable of serving the community for the next 20 or 30 years? Build the pitch you need today, but design the football facility you will need tomorrow.

IT'S BIGGER THAN FOOTBALL

There is another opportunity here too. A properly designed football facility doesn't necessarily have to stop at football. A clubhouse can potentially become a community hub. Nursery provision, fitness classes, meetings, community groups, martial arts, amateur theatre, other sports and a whole range of activities can bring people through the doors.

If the club becomes a familiar community venue, those people may eventually attend a match, become volunteers, sponsor the club or put their children into the youth section. That is how a football club becomes more than the team that plays on Saturday. It becomes a pillar of the community.

And if there is additional land, perhaps there are opportunities for other complementary sports or activities too. The key is to think about the whole site rather than simply the rectangle of green plastic.

THE FINAL THOUGHT

The reason this article has covered so many different angles is because a project like this isn't simply about laying a pitch. It has to work from the club's point of view. It has to work from the Football Foundation's point of view, make sense to the County FA, satisfy the local authority, survive planning scrutiny, consider residents, work for the players and users and, ultimately, it has to make financial sense.

That means looking at the project from every side of the fence, not just from behind the dugout or in the boardroom. It's about asking a much bigger question:

What could this piece of land actually do for the community?

If the answer is that it can provide a home for open-age football, junior football, women's football, Sunday League, schools, community activities and the next generation of players - while creating a facility that can sustain itself into the future - then perhaps that extra third isn't an unnecessary luxury after all. Perhaps it is the bit that turns a pitch into a football facility.

So, if you've got the land, start asking the questions. Get the County FA involved. Talk to the council. Liaise with Sport England. Build a case with evidence. Find the funding. Get the community on board. And then, if the opportunity is there, build something that lasts.

Do it this way and it ticks all the boxes. It isn't just about diggers, money or wondering how you will spend the rest of your life hoovering rubber pellets out of your car!

WHEN THE APPLAUSE STOPS

Independent media, criticism and the Sussex non-league conversation



GLENN SOUTER
Dugout News contributor

Sussex non-league football loves an outspoken character - until that character has something to say about its own club.

That contradiction sits at the heart of the media conversation around the local game. Everybody wants coverage. Everybody wants the photographs, the interviews, the podcasts, the clips, the match reports and the extra attention. But the relationship becomes rather more complicated when the coverage contains an opinion somebody does not like.

Everyone wants more coverage, provided they can approve the verdict.

That is not how independent media works. If a platform is only useful when it agrees with the club, the manager or the supporter reading it, then it is not independent coverage. It is an extension of the club's own communications department.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with club media. Clubs should promote themselves. They should celebrate wins, sponsors, volunteers and people doing good work. But independent voices have a different role. They can applaud the good, question the bad and occasionally say that something does not look right.

That is why the people willing to put their names and personalities at the front of Sussex non-league media matter.

Mike McCaffrey has built a platform that is loud, imperfect, ambitious and impossible to ignore. You might agree with him one week and want to throw your phone across the room the next, but the conversation exists because somebody is prepared to start it.

Lee Penn brings a different energy. He represents the supporter-led side of modern non-league coverage: personality, reaction, humour and the willingness to say what many people are already saying behind the goal. Billy Wood brings something else again - the weight of somebody who has actually sat inside a football club and lived the decisions that supporters and media later debate from the outside.

They are not the only important voices. Sussex football has long benefited from people such as Trevor Knell, Steve Bone and David Bauckham, each in very different ways. Knell has written and reported on the local game for years. Bone carries a depth of knowledge that comes from sustained involvement rather than a few viral clips. Bauckham's photography and documentation have preserved a side of non-league culture that would otherwise disappear.

The point is not that one style is better than another. The point is that the ecosystem is stronger when the styles coexist.

The new creator-driven platforms can be fast, opinionated and entertaining. Traditional reporters can provide context and institutional memory. Photographers can capture the people and places that make the level special. Club media can tell its own story. None of those things need to cancel the others out.

What they do need is the ability to challenge one another.

If a podcast says something inaccurate, correct it. If a writer gets a fact wrong, challenge it. If a club statement raises more questions than it answers, ask them. If somebody in media criticises a club unfairly, push back with evidence. The standard should not be silence. The standard should be accountability.

That also means media platforms have to be capable of correcting themselves. Being independent does not mean being infallible. If you get a score, a name or a claim wrong, fix it. If new information changes the story, say so. Credibility is not built by pretending you never make mistakes. It is built by showing what you do when you make one.

The same applies to relationships with clubs. Access is useful. Trust is useful. Knowing managers, players and chairmen helps tell better stories. But if the price of that access is that difficult subjects cannot be discussed, the audience eventually notices.

The local game needs people who care enough to celebrate it and care enough to question it.

McCaffrey gets my vote for the platform he has built. Penn belongs alongside him for the supporter-led personality he brings. Wood gives that conversation the weight of actual club experience. Around them are writers, photographers, reporters and club volunteers who make the Sussex football conversation far richer than it would otherwise be.

That conversation will occasionally be uncomfortable. Good.

Football clubs are community institutions. They matter to people. Money, governance, player welfare, facilities, behaviour and the future of clubs are all legitimate subjects for discussion. The answer cannot be that everybody should cheer when things are going well and disappear when they are not.

Anyone can applaud a winning team. The interesting conversation starts when the applause stops.

WHEN THE APPLAUSE STOPS

Independent media, criticism and the Sussex non-league conversation



GLENN SOUTER
Dugout News contributor

“

THE INTERESTING
CONVERSATION
STARTS WHEN THE
APPLAUSE STOPS.

GLENN SOUTER · DUGOUT NEWS ISSUE 008

EVERYONE WANTS MORE COVERAGE, PROVIDED THEY CAN APPROVE THE VERDICT.

THESNLF.CO.UK IS LIVE

SUSSEX
FOOTBALL.
REAL
STORIES.
PROPER
PEOPLE.



SNLF SHOW

MORE THAN A
PODCAST



PODCAST
BIG TOPICS.
REAL OPINIONS.



ARTICLES
CLUBS.
PEOPLE.
STORIES.



GOALS
ALL THE
BEST GOALS.
ONE PLACE.



RESULTS
FIXTURES.
TABLES.
STATS.

THE SUSSEX NON LEAGUE NEWSROOM

NEWS.
PODCASTS.
ARTICLES.
GOALS.
ALL IN ONE PLACE.

thesnlf.co.uk

CHECK
IT OUT
NOW!

IS LIVE

YOUR CLUB.
YOUR LEAGUE.
YOUR STORIES.
OUR PLATFORM.



@DugoutAi



@thesnlf



thesnlf.co.uk



thesnlf.co.uk



@DugoutDiaries



SNLF Show



SNLF Show



thesnlf.co.uk



thesnlf.co.uk

SUSSEX NON LEAGUE. COVERED LIKE NO ONE ELSE.



COMMUNITY.
COVERAGE.
CREDIBILITY.

THE SUSSEX NON LEAGUE NEWSROOM · NEWS · PODCASTS · ARTICLES · GOALS



TROAK DOUBLE HELPS HASSOCKS

Crawley Down Gatwick 1-3 Hassocks · Saturday 26 September



BRANDON WRIGHT

Match report

CRAWLEY DOWN GATWICK

1-3

HASSOCKS

WHITE · TROAK 2, ARROYO · RED CARD: ALDER (CDG)

Hassocks made it back-to-back wins with a 3-1 victory over Crawley Down Gatwick at Haven Sportsfield on a sunny Saturday afternoon. A goal in each half from captain Jack Troak, either side of a strike from Omar Abdsami Arroyo, secured the points for the Robins.

The visitors made a lively start. Arroyo drove forward and forced the Crawley Down defence to clear behind for a corner. Crawley Down had the first clear sight of goal when Rhys White struck an effort goalwards, only for the Hassocks goalkeeper to make a comfortable save.

Hassocks soon made their own chance count. A ball into the area found Troak, who met it with a powerful header to put the Robins ahead. The goal lifted the tempo, with play moving from end to end. Troak almost doubled the lead when he connected with a dangerous cross from Charlie Bonwick-Adams, but his forceful effort crashed against the crossbar.

The home side responded strongly after the interval. Oli Leslie did well to set up White, who finished past the Hassocks goalkeeper to make it 1-1 and bring Crawley Down back into the contest.

Hassocks' reply came through Arroyo. Lewis Croal laid the ball off to him, and Arroyo slotted it past the Crawley Down goalkeeper to restore the visitors' advantage.

There was more drama soon afterwards when Crawley Down were reduced to ten men. Referee Thomas Murray showed Josh Alder a red card following an incident involving Harvey Black.

Troak then struck for the second time, putting Hassocks 3-1 ahead and securing all three points. Crawley Down had fought back to level early in the second half, but the Robins' response proved decisive as they followed up their previous win with another victory on the road.

REPORT: BRANDON WRIGHT - X @BRANDONWRIGHT5 - INSTAGRAM @BRANDONWRIGHT_5

THE TAKEAWAY

Back-to-back wins for the Robins. Hassocks sit fourth, 17 points from eight games.

WARD WONDER SENDS WESTFIELD THROUGH

East Preston 1-2 Westfield · Sussex RUR Cup



JACK STAPLEY

Match report

EAST PRESTON

1-2

WESTFIELD

TEWKSBURY 14', WARD (LATE)

Westfield secured their first cup victory of the season with a hard-fought 2-1 win away at East Preston, with Liam Ward's stunning late strike sending the Westies into the second round.

After a nightmare journey that saw the squad on the road for more than two hours, the lads could perhaps have been forgiven for a slow start. Instead, despite East Preston beginning brightly, Westfield eventually found their rhythm and did enough to book a second-round home tie against Jarvis Brook.

East Preston tested Ford early on with a strike from around 25 yards, but Westfield soon began to get a foothold in the contest and took the lead in bizarre circumstances in the 14th minute.

A seemingly harmless ball back to the East Preston goalkeeper turned into a gift, as the keeper's pass went straight into the path of Dan Tewksbury inside the six-yard box, leaving him with the simplest of finishes into an empty net.

The game remained competitive and East Preston found a route back into it, setting up a tight finish. Westfield, though, kept pushing and the decisive moment arrived late on when Liam Ward produced the strike of the game to win it.

Ward's finish secured a 2-1 victory and, just as importantly, a first cup win of the campaign. For a side still building momentum, getting through a difficult away tie after a chaotic journey was exactly the kind of result that can help a squad grow.

Westfield now move into the second round, where they will host Jarvis Brook.

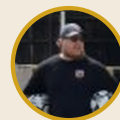
REPORT: JACK STAPLEY

THE TAKEAWAY

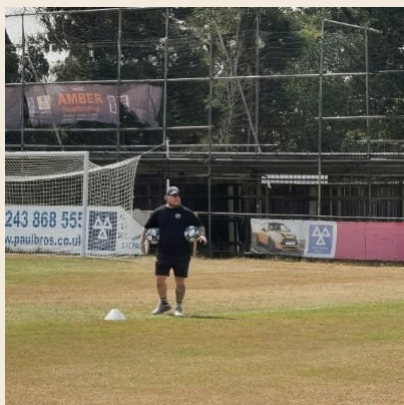
First cup win of the season. Next: Jarvis Brook at home in round two.

THE DAY I HAD TO DO IT ALL

First game without Jacob



REECE MCQUADE
Manager's diary



REECE MCQUADE · FIRST GAME WITHOUT JACOB

NO PLAYERS. NO STAFF. NOT EVEN THE OPPOSITION.

The weather was damp - that annoying fine drizzle that hangs in the air without ever properly turning into rain. The pitch at Westfield looked cramped but flat. Tight, certainly, but absolutely playable.

The facilities were what you would expect at that level at the time: portacabins for changing rooms, old-school chairs lined up for the players and a floor by the entrance that was so rotten and unstable you had to watch where you stepped.

That is not a dig at Westfield. It was simply the reality of a club in transition. Plans were already in place for them to move into a new ground, something they have since gone on to do.

The journey down towards Hastings had been chaotic. Traffic everywhere. Stop-start. Frustrating. And then, in classic Reece fashion, when I finally arrived at the ground... I was the only one there. No players. No staff. Not even the opposition. Just me, standing there in the drizzle, waiting for everybody else to turn up.

KNOWING JACOB WASN'T THERE

Jacob had always liked working with a small management team. It was basically just him and me. So with Jacob not there that day, it really did mean it was just me - and I was incredibly nervous.

Yes, it was only a friendly, but to me it felt like another opportunity to prove myself. I was still new to coaching, still finding my feet and suddenly all of the responsibility was sitting on my shoulders.

I had everything with me. The kit. Balls. Cones. Bibs. Bottles. Tactics board. All of those little things that probably seem insignificant from the outside, but when you are the one responsible for them, you suddenly realise how important they are.

To make the situation even more daunting, there were players in the squad that afternoon that I had never even met. Steve Smith was one of them. I had heard plenty about Steve, but I had never spoken to him, never coached him and never worked with him before.

LEADING EVERYTHING

On that day I was responsible for pretty much everything. Getting the kit into the changing room. Setting it all out. Making sure the balls, cones and bibs were there. Getting everything ready for when the players arrived.

Because I was still so new to the setup, I did not fully understand the warm-up routine or exactly what the players were used to doing. That meant I had to lean heavily on the senior players. Captain George Holman was particularly important. I needed him to take responsibility for parts of the warm-up, while experienced players like Steve also helped guide the group.

Then came the team talk. That was nerve-wracking. Standing in front of a group of players and telling them what you want when some of them barely know you is a strange feeling.

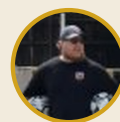
ONE MAN AGAINST AN ENTIRE DUGOUT

I looked across at the Westfield technical area and it seemed like there were eight or nine people standing in their dugout. That number might be slightly exaggerated by the memory, but that is certainly what it felt like at the time. Then I looked at ours. There was me. That was it.

I had a squad of players, some of whom I barely knew. I did not necessarily know everybody's strongest position yet. Jacob had selected the squad beforehand because I was still too new to really know everybody. So in many ways I was learning on the job. Very quickly.

THE DAY I HAD TO DO IT ALL

First game without Jacob



REECE MCQUADE

Manager's diary

THE GAME

The game itself was a cagey affair and eventually finished as a draw. There was already some familiarity between the two sides because a number of the Westfield players had previously been involved with Hollington and had played against us in the Sussex County Cup final the previous April.

But the biggest moment of the game for me was something I had never had to deal with before. My first red card as a manager. Freddie Holman was sent off. Suddenly I had to work out how to reorganise everything with ten men. No assistant manager beside me. Nobody else in the technical area to bounce ideas off. Nobody to quietly ask, "What do you reckon?" It was me.

We managed to hold on. We got the draw. And personally, I walked away from that game having learned far more than I probably realised at the time.

WHAT THAT DAY TAUGHT ME

The biggest lesson was simple. You can step into coaching without years of experience behind you and still do a solid job. You do not have to know everything. You do need the right mindset. You need to be willing to learn quickly and recognise when the people around you can help.

That afternoon taught me that football really is a team game in every possible sense. It is not simply about the eleven players on the pitch. It is the substitutes. The captain. The experienced players. The coaches. The assistants. The people making sure the kit is there, the balls are pumped up and everything behind the scenes is organised.

That day at Westfield might only have been a friendly. But for me, it was one of the first occasions where I genuinely felt what it meant to be responsible for a football team. And for the first time, there was nobody standing beside me to tell me what to do.

THE TAKEAWAY

**No assistant. Ten men. A draw.
A lesson that stayed with him.**

AGENT WILLIAMS

Forest Row 4-1 Wick - the scoreline did not tell the whole story



NIGEL WILLIAMS

Match report

FOREST ROW

4-1

WICK

LAWSON, JOYCE, PINDI 2 · GRATWICK

Forest Row came from behind to beat Wick 4-1, although the final scoreline probably flattered the hosts in a game that was far more competitive than the result suggests.

Wick made the brighter start and took the lead in the first half when Cavan Gratwick met a cross from the left and powered a header home.

Forest Row responded quickly and turned the game around with two goals in as many minutes. First, Camron Lawson found the net to bring Frow level, before Noah Joyce completed the quick turnaround by tapping home a low cross from the right to make it 2-1.

Wick then had a golden opportunity to equalise from the penalty spot, but Naythan Bryson, recently signed from Horsham YM, produced a superb save, diving low to his left to parry the effort away. Tester reacted quickest to the rebound, but his follow-up effort went wide.

Forest Row almost extended their lead before the break when Ryan Green rifled a shot against the crossbar from the edge of the area.

The second half remained competitive. Forest Row had the chance to make it 3-1 from the penalty spot, but Archie Short guessed correctly and dived to his right to keep out Howard-Bold's effort.

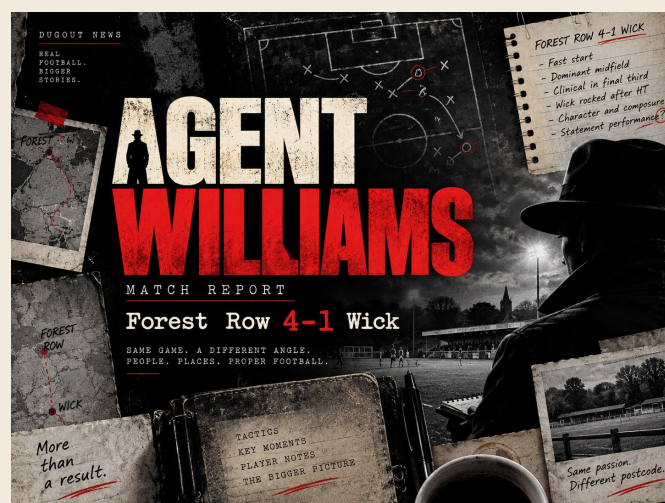
However, the hosts did eventually find their third when substitute Christopher Pindi made an immediate impact, finishing to give Forest Row breathing room.

Wick continued to threaten and came agonisingly close to reducing the deficit when a dangerous low cross flashed across the penalty area, somehow evading everyone.

Forest Row enjoyed more possession as the second half wore on, but Wick continued to make them work for the points. Right at the end, Pindi struck again to complete the scoring and make it 4-1.

The final margin was harsh on Wick, who had opportunities of their own and caused Forest Row problems throughout. But Forest Row were more clinical when their chances came, and Pindi's late double ensured the points stayed with the hosts.

REPORT: NIGEL WILLIAMS



THE TAKEAWAY

Pindi off the bench, twice. Bryson's penalty save turned the game.

DUGOUT NEWS

STORIES FROM THE HEART OF
GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL

GROUNDHOP SPECIAL

SIX GAMES. THREE DIVISIONS. THREE DAYS.

A SUSSEX NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL ROAD TRIP ACROSS THE SCFL.

By Dougie

SUSSEX
GROUNDS
GOOD FOOTBALL
THIS WAY →

DUGOUT
NEWS

SAME
GROUNDS
DIFFERENT
STORIES

NEW GROUNDS
FAMILIAR FACES
GREAT FOOTBALL
THAT'S THE PLAN

Real places.
Real people.
Brilliant football.



DIFFERENT
GROUNDS



SAME PASSION



NON-LEAGUE
REAL PEOPLE



MORE
THAN A GAME

THE ITINERARY

FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER

- 1 **Crawley Down Gatwick v Little Common**
19:45

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER

- 2 **Hassocks v Pagham**
11:00
- 3 **Ferring v Storrington Community**
14:30
- 4 **Arundel v Mile Oak**
17:45

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER

- 5 **Worthing United v Saltdean United**
11:00
- 6 **Newhaven v Bexhill United**
14:45

Groundhop Weekend

6 matches, 3 divisions,
3 days.

THE CHECKLIST

- ☒ Good grounds
- ☒ Good company
- ☒ Proper football
- ☒ Repeat soon?



Six games. Three divisions.
Three days. One brilliant weekend.



SCFL GROUNDHOP SPECIAL

Six games. Three divisions. Three days. Friday 2 - Sunday 4 October.



DOUGIE
Groundhop correspondent

There are weekends in the non-league calendar that quietly tick by, and then there are weekends that feel like an event. The Southern Combination Football League Groundhop weekend is firmly in the second category.

Across three days, six matches and three divisions, supporters get the chance to do what non-league fans do better than anyone else: travel, talk football, discover grounds, meet people, drink questionable tea, eat something from a hatch and convince themselves that doing it all again the next day is completely normal.

For the neutral, the groundhopper and the committed SCFL follower, this is one of those weekends where the football is only half the story. The other half is the journey. The grounds. The volunteers. The odd kick-off times. The people you meet. The clubs you might never otherwise visit.

FRIDAY NIGHT UNDER THE LIGHTS

The Groundhop gets underway on Friday evening with Crawley Down Gatwick hosting Little Common. There is something about Friday night football that always works. The working week is finished, the floodlights are on and suddenly a fixture that might ordinarily feel like just another league game takes on a completely different atmosphere.

SATURDAY MORNING: HASSOCKS V PAGHAM

Then comes one of the standout fixtures of the weekend. An 11am kick-off at Hassocks as Pagham come to town. Pagham arrive with plenty of attention around them after another eventful start to the season. Hassocks, though, have been one of the stronger sides in the division and sit right in the mix near the top. An early kick-off changes the dynamic too. Supporters are arriving before most people have finished breakfast.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON: FERRING V STORRINGTON COMMUNITY

Once Hassocks is done, the hoppers move on to Ferring for a 2.30pm Division Two clash with Storrington Community. This is where the Groundhop earns its name. Different ground. Different division. Different type of match. Ferring have started well and Storrington Community are capable of making games chaotic.

SATURDAY EVENING: ARUNDEL V MILE OAK

Then, just when you think everyone might have had enough football for one day, the hop rolls into Arundel for a 5.45pm kick-off against Mile Oak. By the third game of Saturday, you can imagine the same faces appearing around the ground that were standing behind the goal at Hassocks earlier in the day. That is part of the fun.

SUNDAY MORNING: WORTHING UNITED V SALTDEAN UNITED

No rest. Sunday starts at 11am with Worthing United hosting Saltdean United. Worthing United have made a very strong start in Division One, scoring goals, picking up wins and putting themselves right in the promotion conversation. Saltdean are capable of making life difficult.

SUNDAY FINALE: NEWHAVEN V BEXHILL UNITED

And then, finally, it all ends at Newhaven. A 2.45pm kick-off against Bexhill United brings the weekend to a close. By this stage, the committed hoppers will have completed six games in around 48 hours. Six grounds. Six programmes. Probably too many burgers. Far too much coffee.

WHY THE GROUNDHOP MATTERS

The biggest thing about this weekend is what it does for the league as a whole. Non-league football survives because people care. Volunteers care. Committee members care. Players care. Supporters care. Events like this give everyone else a chance to see why.

For clubs at this level, a bigger crowd matters. More people through the gate. More drinks sold. More food sold. More people seeing the club. Maybe a few new supporters who decide to come back.

You can spend all week talking about attendances, finances and the challenges clubs face. But sometimes the best advert for grassroots and non-league football is simply getting people through the gate. Let them see the ground. Let them meet the people. Let them hear the noise. Let them stand five yards from the action.

It is football stripped back to what matters. A pitch. Two teams. A referee. A clubhouse. A few hundred people. And a reason to spend an entire weekend following a ball around Sussex.

It sounds ridiculous. That is probably why it is brilliant.



SCFL GROUNDHOP SPECIAL

Six games. Three divisions. Three days. Friday 2 - Sunday 4 October.



DOUGIE
Groundhop correspondent

So whether you are doing all six matches, one or two, or simply following the scores from home, Groundhop weekend deserves to be treated as one of the highlights of the SCFL calendar. Six games. Three divisions. Three days. And a reminder that some of the best football weekends are not found under Premier League floodlights.

Sometimes they are found at Hassocks at 11 in the morning, Ferring in the afternoon, Arundel before sunset and Worthing again before Sunday lunch. And if that sounds like your idea of a perfect weekend, then welcome to non-league football. You are among friends.

THE SIX STOPS

FRI 2 OCT 19:45	PREM
Crawley Down Gatwick v Little Common	
SAT 3 OCT 11:00	PREM
Hassocks v Pagham	
SAT 3 OCT 14:30	DIV 2
Ferring v Storrington Community	
SAT 3 OCT 17:45	DIV 1
Arundel v Mile Oak	
SUN 4 OCT 11:00	DIV 1
Worthing United v Saltdean United	
SUN 4 OCT 14:45	PREM
Newhaven v Bexhill United	



SOLD OUT IN THREE WEEKS

NEXT ORDER: FOUR TIMES BIGGER

Well, that escalated quickly. The first run of DUGOUT 90 has completely sold out inside three weeks. Gone. Finished. Cleared out. So naturally, we have done the only sensible thing and quadrupled the next order for next week.

According to sources of absolutely unquestionable reliability, DUGOUT 90 begins its journey at the legendary Fountain of Youth, hidden high in the Himalayas. From there, the water is collected under ancient mountain traditions, carried down by Sherpas and transported across Asia and Europe on its epic journey to Britain.

Eventually, after crossing continents, borders and presumably several very confused customs desks, it arrives at our state-of-the-art bottling facility in Peckham. Because where else would water from the Fountain of Youth end up?

Natural still spring water. Unnatural levels of hype.

SOLD OUT ONCE. COMING BACK FOUR TIMES BIGGER. HYDRATION FOR THE FULL 90.

THREE ON THE SPIN

Worthing 2-1 FC Halifax Town - Cook. Young. Three more points.

WORTHING**2-1****FC HALIFAX TOWN**

COOK 7', YOUNG 39' · HUGILL 16' · RED CARD: CROWE 77' (HAL)

Worthing made it three consecutive National League wins with a 2-1 victory over FC Halifax Town at the Sussex Transport Community Stadium.

Joe Cook struck after seven minutes, Will Hugill levelled for Halifax on 16, and Jordan Young restored the Rebels' lead before the break on 39 minutes.

The score stayed there. Halifax finished with ten men after substitute Dylan Crowe was sent off in the 77th minute for denying a goalscoring opportunity.

The result moved Worthing to 17 points from ten matches and ninth place at the Saturday press lock.

The headline is not simply another home win. It is the sequence: Hornchurch, Hartlepool, Halifax. Nine points from nine, with Worthing beginning to turn a solid opening month into genuine momentum.

Attendance: 2,635.

WORTHING**9TH****P10 · 17 PTS · GD +3****THREE STRAIGHT LEAGUE WINS****HORNCHURCH · HARTLEPOOL****HALIFAX****NEXT UP****TUE 29 SEP · YEOVIL (A) 19:45****SAT 3 OCT · GATESHEAD (A)****NINE POINTS FROM NINE**

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Saturday 26 September · verified · table after 10 games



RESULTS · SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

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

UPCOMING · TUESDAY 29 & WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

29 SEP	AFC Fylde v Carlisle United	19:45
29 SEP	Barrow v Scunthorpe United	19:45
29 SEP	Boreham Wood v Kidderminster Harriers	19:00
29 SEP	FC Halifax Town v Boston United	19:45
29 SEP	Forest Green Rovers v Wealdstone	19:45
29 SEP	Gateshead v Altrincham	19:45
29 SEP	Hartlepool United v Harrogate Town	19:45
29 SEP	Hornchurch v Aldershot Town	19:45
29 SEP	Woking v Solihull Moors	19:45
29 SEP	Yeovil Town v Worthing	19:45
30 SEP	Eastleigh v Southend United	19:45
30 SEP	Tamworth v Sutton United	19:45

TABLE

POS	CLUB	P	GD	PTS
1	Boreham Wood	10	+15	26
2	Southend United	10	+9	20
3	AFC Fylde	10	+8	20
4	Harrogate Town	10	+7	19
5	Aldershot Town	10	+7	18
6	Kidderminster Harriers	10	+5	18
7	Yeovil Town	10	+5	18
8	Altrincham	10	0	18
9	Worthing	10	+3	17
10	Sutton United	10	0	17
11	Hornchurch	10	-4	15
12	Forest Green Rovers	10	-1	14
13	Eastleigh	10	-2	14
14	FC Halifax Town	10	+2	13
15	Barrow	10	+1	12
16	Woking	10	+1	12
17	Wealdstone	10	0	11
18	Boston United	10	-1	11
19	Carlisle United	10	-1	10
20	Scunthorpe United	10	-1	10
21	Hartlepool United	10	-7	9
22	Tamworth	10	-11	8
23	Solihull Moors	10	-17	4
24	Gateshead	10	-18	4

Highlighted: Sussex clubs

WHAT IT MEANS

Worthing make it three straight league wins and sit ninth on 17 points. Boreham Wood's 3-0 win at Solihull stretches the lead at the top to six. Next stop for the Rebels: Yeovil away on Tuesday night.



NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Saturday 26 September · verified

RESULTS · SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

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

UPCOMING · CUP WEEKEND CHANGES THE RHYTHM

29 SEP	Slough Town v Ebbsfleet United	19:45
3 OCT	FA Cup Third Qualifying Round weekend	
10 OCT	AFC Totton v Walton & Hersham	
10 OCT	Billericay Town v Farnborough	
10 OCT	Braintree Town v Truro City	
10 OCT	Chesham United v Chelmsford City	
10 OCT	Dagenham & Redbridge v Hemel Hempstead Town	
10 OCT	Dover Athletic v Dorking Wanderers	
10 OCT	Farnham Town v Salisbury	
10 OCT	Hampton & Richmond v Ebbsfleet United	
10 OCT	Horsham v Maidstone United	
10 OCT	Maidenhead United v Tonbridge Angels	
10 OCT	Torquay United v Slough Town	
10 OCT	Weston-super-Mare v Folkestone Invicta	

TABLE

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

Highlighted: Sussex clubs

WHAT IT MEANS

Horsham take a point from a 0-0 at Chelmsford: 11 points from nine and 16th at press lock. Saturday 3 October is FA Cup Third Qualifying Round weekend - the next full league card is 10 October, when Horsham host leaders Maidstone.

GRASSROOTS | NON-LEAGUE | COMMUNITY | OPPORTUNITY



Joma®
ALL FOR SPORT

NEW PARTNERSHIP

THE DUGOUT AI x JOMA SPORT

WORKING TOGETHER TO BRING GREATER EXPOSURE, INSIGHT
AND OPPORTUNITIES TO CLUBS, PLAYERS AND COMMUNITIES
ACROSS THE GRASSROOTS AND NON-LEAGUE GAME.

MORE THAN A GAME
STRONGER TOGETHER



CLUBS



PLAYERS



COMMUNITIES



OPPORTUNITIES

DUGOUT AI x JOMA SPORT UK

Grassroots | Non-League | Community | Opportunity



ISTHMIAN PREMIER

FA Trophy weekend - no league programme on 26 September

RESULTS

NO LEAGUE PROGRAMME

26 September was FA Trophy Third Qualifying Round weekend. The table is unchanged from the last league round.

UPCOMING - 29 SEPTEMBER - 3 OCTOBER

29 SEP	Dartford v Whitehawk	19:45
29 SEP	Dulwich Hamlet v Aveley	19:45
29 SEP	Maldon & Tiptree v Cray Wanderers	19:45
30 SEP	AFC Whyteleafe v Brentwood Town	19:45
3 OCT	Burgess Hill Town v Maldon & Tiptree	15:00
3 OCT	Lewes v Whitehawk	15:00
3 OCT	Ramsgate v Carshalton Athletic	15:00
3 OCT	Welling United v AFC Whyteleafe	15:00

TABLE - UNCHANGED SINCE 22 SEPTEMBER

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

Highlighted: Sussex clubs

WHAT IT MEANS

Burgess Hill Town are 14th on 10 points with games in hand; Three Bridges sit 21st on 5. Lewes are fifth. The 3 October card is thinned by FA Cup Third Qualifying Round ties.

ISTHMIAN SOUTH EAST

Saturday 26 September · verified



RESULTS · SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

Cray Valley PM	3-0	Herne Bay
Horley Town	3-1	Sittingbourne
Margate	2-2	Punjab United
Merstham	2-2	Crowborough Athletic
Sheppey United	2-1	Peacehaven & Telscombe
South Park (Reigate)	2-1	Broadbridge Heath
Steyning Town	0-2	Sevenoaks Town

UPCOMING · 28 SEPTEMBER - 3 OCTOBER

28 SEP	Punjab United v AFC Croydon Athletic	
29 SEP	Steyning Town v Faversham Town	
3 OCT	Broadbridge Heath v Whitstable Town	
3 OCT	Deal Town v Eastbourne Town	
3 OCT	Faversham Town v Erith Town	
3 OCT	Herne Bay v Steyning Town	
3 OCT	Peacehaven & Telscombe v Margate	
3 OCT	Punjab United v Horley Town	
3 OCT	Sevenoaks Town v Ashford United	
3 OCT	Sittingbourne v Merstham	
3 OCT	South Park (Reigate) v Hastings United	
3 OCT	AFC Croydon Athletic v Sheppey United	P-P
3 OCT	Crowborough Athletic v Cray Valley PM	P-P

TABLE

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

Highlighted: Sussex clubs

WHAT IT MEANS

Steyning fell 0-2 at home to Sevenoaks. Broadbridge Heath stay fourth despite defeat at South Park, who close to a point behind leaders Hastings - and the two meet at South Park on 3 October.



ISTHMIAN SOUTH CENTRAL

Saturday 26 September · verified

RESULTS · SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

Ascot United	3-1	Littlehampton Town
Ashford Town (Middx)	1-3	Hartley Wintney
Bognor Regis Town	0-0	AFC Portchester
Cobham	1-2	Harrow Borough
Raynes Park Vale	2-1	Winchester City
Westfield	1-1	Binfield
Windsor & Eton	4-0	Kingstonian

UPCOMING · 29 SEPTEMBER - 3 OCTOBER

29 SEP	Egham Town v Jersey Bulls	19:45
29 SEP	Hendon v Ashford Town (Middx)	19:45
29 SEP	Windsor & Eton v AFC Stoneham	19:45
3 OCT	Binfield v Bedfont Sports	15:00
3 OCT	Harrow Borough v Ashford Town (Middx)	15:00

TABLE

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

Highlighted: Sussex clubs

WHAT IT MEANS

Bognor remain unbeaten after a 0-0 with AFC Portchester and lead by seven points on 20. Littlehampton sit 19th after defeat at Ascot. FA Cup duties leave only a reduced league card on 3 October.



SCFL PREMIER

Saturday 26 September · official FA Full-Time

RESULTS · SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

AFC Vardeanians	0-2	Billingshurst
Bexhill United	1-2	Lingfield
Crawley Down Gatwick	1-3	Hassocks
East Grinstead Town	2-1	Little Common
Forest Row	4-1	Wick
Horsham YM	1-1	Haywards Heath Town
Midhurst & Easebourne	0-6	Eastbourne United
Pagham	1-0	Seaford Town
Roffey	2-1	Newhaven
Lancing	2-3	Guernsey

UPCOMING · GROUNDHOP WEEKEND 2-4 OCTOBER

2 OCT	Crawley Down Gatwick v Little Common	19:45
3 OCT	Hassocks v Pagham	11:00
3 OCT	Guernsey v Horsham YM	13:30
3 OCT	Billingshurst v Lancing	15:00
3 OCT	Forest Row v AFC Vardeanians	15:00
3 OCT	Haywards Heath Town v Midhurst & Easebourne	15:00
3 OCT	Lingfield v Eastbourne United	15:00
3 OCT	Seaford Town v East Grinstead Town	15:00
3 OCT	Wick v Roffey	15:00
4 OCT	Newhaven v Bexhill United	14:45

TABLE

POS	CLUB	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Eastbourne United	11	8	1	2	40	15	+25	25
2	Haywards Heath Town	8	6	2	0	16	5	+11	20
3	Lingfield	9	6	1	2	25	16	+9	19
4	Hassocks	8	5	2	1	23	10	+13	17
5	East Grinstead Town	9	5	2	2	19	12	+7	17
6	AFC Vardeanians	10	5	2	3	9	9	0	17
7	Roffey	8	5	1	2	22	10	+12	16
8	Pagham	7	5	0	2	21	12	+9	15
9	Guernsey	9	4	2	3	14	16	-2	14
10	Bexhill United	9	4	1	4	16	17	-1	13
11	Newhaven	9	4	1	4	13	18	-5	13
12	Crawley Down Gatwick	10	3	3	4	15	19	-4	12
13	Midhurst & Easebourne	7	3	1	3	12	14	-2	10
14	Seaford Town	9	3	0	6	13	18	-5	9
15	Wick	9	3	0	6	12	23	-11	9
16	Billingshurst	11	2	2	7	16	26	-10	8
17	Forest Row	11	2	1	8	16	29	-13	7
18	Horsham YM	9	1	3	5	10	17	-7	6
19	Lancing	9	2	0	7	12	23	-11	6
20	Little Common	8	1	1	6	7	22	-15	4

Source: FA Full-Time. Highlighted: league leaders

WHAT IT MEANS

Eastbourne United hit Midhurst for six and lead by five. Hassocks win at Crawley Down, Pagham edge Seaford and Forest Row beat Wick 4-1. Groundhop kick-off times are deliberate: Crawley Down, Hassocks and Newhaven are three of the six stops.

IBB10 SHOW

www.dugout-ai.com

2026 BEST NON LEAGUE PODCAST

FACTS • RUMOURS • NEWS • TRANSFERS

SUSSEX NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL SHOW



**GOALIE
MONT**
THE KEEPER'S VOICE

**IBB10
PENN**
IN BED BY TEN

**PROJECT
WOOD**
PROJECT WOOD

**DUGOUT
DIARIES**
DUGOUT DIARIES

**IN THE
DUGOUT**
AI ANALYST

POWERED BY
DUGOUT AI

SUNDAYS 8PM

LIVE ON YOUTUBE • • TIKTOK • INSTAGRAM • KICK

DOWNLOAD THE **IN THE DUGOUT** APP



SCFL DIVISION ONE

Saturday 26 September · official FA Full-Time

RESULTS · SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

Arundel	1-1	Oakwood
Dial Square	6-0	Ringmer AFC
East Preston	5-3	Guildford City
Infinity	2-0	Hailsham Town
Loxwood	0-1	Saltdean United
Mile Oak	0-3	Reigate Priory
Shoreham	0-4	Jarvis Brook
Worthing United	3-1	AFC Walcountians

UPCOMING · 29 SEPTEMBER - 4 OCTOBER

29 SEP	Jarvis Brook v Loxwood	19:30
29 SEP	Reigate Priory v Dial Square	19:30
29 SEP	Saltdean United v Shoreham	19:30
29 SEP	Westfield v Worthing United	19:30
29 SEP	Dorking Wanderers B v Selsey	19:45
29 SEP	Hailsham Town v East Preston	19:45
29 SEP	Oakwood v Infinity	19:45
29 SEP	Ringmer AFC v Mile Oak	19:45
30 SEP	Guildford City v Arundel	19:30
3 OCT	Clanfield v Ringmer AFC	15:00
3 OCT	Hailsham Town v Oakwood	15:00
3 OCT	Jarvis Brook v Guildford City	15:00
3 OCT	Loxwood v East Preston	15:00
3 OCT	Shoreham v Infinity	15:00
3 OCT	Westfield v Dorking Wanderers B	15:00
3 OCT	Arundel v Mile Oak	17:45
4 OCT	Worthing United v Saltdean United	11:00

TABLE

POS	CLUB	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Infinity	9	8	0	1	25	12	+13	24
2	AFC Walcountians	9	7	1	1	26	7	+19	22
3	Worthing United	8	6	1	1	31	4	+27	19
4	Reigate Priory	9	6	0	3	22	11	+11	18
5	Dial Square	8	5	1	2	14	6	+8	16
6	Jarvis Brook	8	5	1	2	13	6	+7	16
7	Guildford City	9	4	2	3	22	12	+10	14
8	Arundel	10	4	2	4	21	25	-4	14
9	East Preston	8	4	1	3	14	11	+3	13
10	Westfield	9	3	3	3	14	9	+5	12
11	Selsey	10	3	3	4	9	17	-8	12
12	Mile Oak	10	3	2	5	11	19	-8	11
13	Saltdean United	7	3	1	3	13	12	+1	10
14	Hailsham Town	9	3	1	5	16	19	-3	10
15	Loxwood	9	2	3	4	9	13	-4	9
16	Oakwood	9	2	3	4	11	25	-14	9
17	Clanfield	7	2	0	5	5	14	-9	6
18	Ringmer AFC	9	1	3	5	6	22	-16	6
19	Shoreham	9	1	2	6	4	23	-19	5
20	Dorking Wanderers B	10	0	2	8	10	29	-19	2

Source: FA Full-Time. Highlighted: league leaders

WHAT IT MEANS

Infinity stay top. Worthing United beat second-placed Walcountians 3-1 and have games in hand. Shoreham were beaten 4-0 by Jarvis Brook. Groundhop: Arundel v Mile Oak (17:45, 3 Oct) and Worthing United v Saltdean (11:00, 4 Oct).



SCFL DIVISION TWO

Saturday 26 September · official FA Full-Time

RESULTS · SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

Alfold	0-1	ASC Brighton Rangers
Ferring	1-1	Upper Beeding
Hurstpierpoint	3-2	Bosham
Rudgwick	0-5	Chichester City B
Southwater	1-2	TD Shipley
Storrington Community	3-2	Copthorne
Worthing Town	4-0	Brighton Electricity

UPCOMING · SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER

3 OCT	Hurstpierpoint v Southwater	13:00
3 OCT	Worthing Town v Rustington	14:00
3 OCT	Ferring v Storrington Community	14:30
3 OCT	Alfold v TD Shipley	15:00
3 OCT	ASC Brighton Rangers v Chichester City B	15:00
3 OCT	Rudgwick v Bosham	15:00
3 OCT	Upper Beeding v Brighton Electricity	15:00

TABLE

POS	CLUB	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	TD Shipley	7	6	1	0	21	5	+16	19
2	Chichester City B	7	6	0	1	38	6	+32	18
3	Rustington	7	6	0	1	26	5	+21	18
4	Hurstpierpoint	7	5	1	1	21	6	+15	16
5	Ferring	7	4	2	1	15	9	+6	14
6	Storrington Community	7	4	0	3	13	18	-5	12
7	Worthing Town	7	4	0	3	18	31	-13	12
8	Alfold	7	3	1	3	11	12	-1	10
9	ASC Brighton Rangers	8	2	2	4	12	25	-13	8
10	Southwater	7	2	1	4	14	16	-2	7
11	Upper Beeding	8	2	1	5	10	20	-10	7
12	Bosham	7	2	0	5	13	15	-2	6
13	Copthorne	8	1	0	7	7	29	-22	3
14	Brighton Electricity	5	0	2	3	2	9	-7	2
15	Rudgwick	7	0	1	6	6	21	-15	1

Source: FA Full-Time. Highlighted: league leaders

WHAT IT MEANS

TD Shipley stay unbeaten and top after winning at Southwater. Chichester City B hit five at Rudgwick and Worthing Town beat Brighton Electricity 4-0. Groundhop: Ferring v Storrington Community kicks off at 14:30 on 3 October.



GOLDEN BOOT RACE

League goals only · latest checked leaderboards after Saturday 26 September

NATIONAL LEAGUE

POS	PLAYER	CLUB	GLS
1	Matt Rush	Boreham Wood	9
=2	L. Walker	Kidderminster Harriers	6
=2	L. Chambers-Parillon	Southend United	6
=2	Luca Thomas	AFC Fylde	6
=2	Luke McCormick	Yeovil Town	6
=6	Kieren Donnelly	Tamworth	5
=6	Ben Whitfield	Boreham Wood	5
=6	Tristan Abrahams	Aldershot Town	5
=6	John Marquis	Woking	5

Source: BBC Sport National League top scorers, checked 27 September 2026 (after 10 games). Initials where BBC does not publish a full first name.

NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

POS	PLAYER	CLUB	GLS
1	Dawid Rogalski	Dorking Wanderers	7
2	Decarrey Sheriff	Dover Athletic	6
=3	Hisham Kasimu	Chesham United	5
=3	Jephte Tanga	Tonbridge Angels	5
=3	Jon Benton	Billericay Town	5
=3	Nathan Odokonyero	Salisbury	5
=3	Tom Leahy	Maidstone United	5

Source: NonLeagueHQ National League South scorers, checked 27 September 2026. Horsham's listed scorers reconcile with the club's nine league goals.

SUSSEX WATCH

WORTHING

4 R. COLEMAN
D. Hutchinson 3 · R. Aguiar 3

HORSHAM

3 GREG LUER
C. Hester-Cook 2 · four players on 1

OVER THE PAGE

Isthmian Premier, South East and South Central scorers - then the SCFL Golden Boot for all three divisions.



GOLDEN BOOT RACE: ISTHMIAN

League goals only · leaderboards checked 27 September · Sussex clubs in the Sussex watch

ISTHMIAN PREMIER

POS	PLAYER	CLUB	GLS
=1	Anas Igozouln	Leatherhead	6
=1	Callum Jones	Ramsgate	6
=3	Bradley Sach	Brentwood Town	5
=3	Chris Whelpdale	Burgess Hill Town	5
=3	Kai Corbett	Eastbourne Borough	5
=3	N. Melvin-Lambert	Welling United	5
=3	Toby Aromolaran	Aveley	5

Source: official Isthmian League player stats (isthmian.co.uk), checked 27 September 2026. No league games on 26 September (FA Trophy).

ISTHMIAN SOUTH EAST

POS	PLAYER	CLUB	GLS
1	Max Walsh	Hastings United	7
=2	Jack Evans	Faversham Town	6
=2	Mason Doughty	Broadbridge Heath	6
=4	Chris Dickson	Cray Valley PM	5
=4	Connor Tighe	Peacehaven & Telscombe	5
=4	Harvey Smith	Sittingbourne	5
=4	Nathan Jeché	Sevenoaks Town	5

Source: official Isthmian League player stats (isthmian.co.uk), checked 27 September 2026.

ISTHMIAN SOUTH CENTRAL

POS	PLAYER	CLUB	GLS
1	Jack Arnold	Ashford Town (Middx)	8
2	Danilo Pereira	Hartley Wintney	7
=3	Bradley Waters	Winchester City	5
=3	Oliver Balmer	Winchester City	5
=3	Radu Stefanovaica	Hendon	5

Source: official Isthmian League player stats (isthmian.co.uk), checked 27 September 2026. Seven players on 4, including Littlehampton's Harry Heath.

SUSSEX WATCH · TOP SCORER BY CLUB

Max Walsh	HASTINGS UNITED	7
Mason Doughty	BROADBRIDGE HEATH	6
Chris Whelpdale	BURGESS HILL TOWN	5
Kai Corbett	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	5
Connor Tighe	PEACEHAVEN & TELSCOMBE	5
Harry Heath	LITTLEHAMPTON TOWN	4
Kevin Rivera	THREE BRIDGES	4
Rhys Murphy	WHITEHAWK	4
Sonny James Walsh	EASTBOURNE TOWN	4

OVER THE PAGE

The SCFL Golden Boot - Premier, Division One and Division Two - built from FA Full-Time.



GOLDEN BOOT RACE: SCFL

League goals only · official FA Full-Time player stats, checked 27 September

SCFL PREMIER

POS	PLAYER	CLUB	GLS
=1	Charlie Ball	Eastbourne United	9
=1	Kwesi Ntim	Lingfield	9
3	Callum Barlow	Eastbourne United	8
=4	James Hull	Eastbourne United	7
=4	Camron Lawson	Forest Row	7
=4	Jordan Mase	Roffey	7
=4	Lewis Rustell	Pagham	7
=4	Joshua Wright	Seaford Town	7
=9	Tom Edwards	Billingshurst	6
=9	Charles Harris	East Grinstead Town	6
=9	James Stone	Eastbourne United	6

Checked: every club's listed scorers sit within its goals scored (315 of 331 goals credited; the rest own goals or not recorded).

SCFL DIVISION ONE

POS	PLAYER	CLUB	GLS
1	Zackary Willett	Infinity	10
2	Tommy McKenna	Reigate Priory	9
=3	Daniel Kingston	Worthing United	6
=3	Luke Mitchell	Guildford City	6
=3	Charlie Moore	AFC Walcottians	6
=3	Tyler Pearson	Hailsham Town	6
=3	Dan Tewksbury	Westfield	6

Checked: 289 of 296 goals credited; no club's scorers exceed its goals scored.

SCFL DIVISION TWO

POS	PLAYER	CLUB	GLS
1	Joshua Irish	Chichester City B	10
2	Josh Hall	Chichester City B	9
=3	Joshua Castle	Chichester City B	7
=3	Reece Nixon	TD Shipley	7
=5	Jordan Clark	Rustington	6
=5	Jack Lanigan	Ferring	6
=5	Declan Partridge	Southwater	6
=5	Ince Florimond	Alfold	6

Checked: 204 of 227 goals credited; no club's scorers exceed its goals scored.

GROUNDHOP WATCH · SCORERS TO LOOK OUT FOR

7 **Lewis Rustell · PAGHAM**
Hassocks v Pagham · Sat 11:00

6 **Jack Lanigan · FERRING**
Ferring v Storrington · Sat 14:30

5 **Ryan Moir · BEXHILL UNITED**
Newhaven v Bexhill · Sun 14:45

4 **Jack Troak · HASSOCKS**
Hassocks v Pagham · Sat 11:00

6 **Daniel Kingston · WORTHING UNITED**
Worthing Utd v Saltdean · Sun 11:00

5 **Will Harley · CRAWLEY DOWN GATWICK**
CDG v Little Common · Fri 19:45

GOLDEN BOOT RULE

A blank ranking is better than a guessed one - every table here was checked against the goals clubs have actually scored.

IN THE DUGOUT APP

AVAILABLE NOW ON THE APP STORE AND GOOGLE PLAY

IN THE DUGOUT

LIVE SCORES
Real-time score updates

LEAGUE TABLES
Standings, form and stats

PODCASTS
Shows, interviews and analysis

Download on the
App Store

IN THE DUGOUT APP

AVAILABLE NOW ON APP STORE AND GOOGLE PLAY



LIVE SCORES
AFC Rovers 2 - 1 United FC
Premier Division

LEAGUE TABLE

POS	TEAM	P	GD	PTS
1	AFC Rovers	32	+28	71
2	United FC	32	+18	63
3	City Athletic	32	+15	56
4	Town United	32	+9	52
5	Albion FC	32	+6	49

PODCASTS
IN THE DUGOUT PODCAST
Episode 23
The Non-League Journey

FIXTURES
SAT 24 MAY
AFC Rovers v United FC
15:00 | Premier Division

Home Scores Tables Podcasts More

FIXTURES
Upcoming matches and schedules

AND MANY MORE FEATURES

USED BY OVER 2,000 USERS

GET IT ON
Google Play

Live scores. League tables. Podcasts. Fixtures. *And much more.*

LIVE SCORES · LEAGUE TABLES · PODCASTS · FIXTURES

Used by over 2,000 users. Search "In The Dugout" to download.

VERIFICATION & CREDITS

Data cut: Saturday 26 September 2026 · published 27 September 2026

DATA

National League, National League South and Isthmian results, tables and fixtures reconciled against current competition records. Worthing 2-1 FC Halifax Town (scorers and red card) additionally checked against the club's official match report.

SCFL

Premier, Division One and Division Two results, tables and fixtures checked against FA Full-Time. Every SCFL table was re-added: W+D+L equals P, 3W+D equals points, goals for equal goals against across each division, and every club is in the right position.

TABLE CHECKS

Every table in this issue was cross-checked against its results and fixtures: all club names match, goal differences balance, and positions follow points then goal difference. Worthing (P10, 17 pts) and Horsham (P9, 11 pts) carry forward correctly from Issue 007.

COPY CHECKS

Editorial and feature copy checked against the contributors' own match reports, so scorers, saves and incidents match the reports in these pages. Club names standardised to their official competition names.

CONTRIBUTORS

Mike McCaffrey - editorial. Russ Cochran - Plastic Can Be Fantastic. Glenn Souter - When the Applause Stops. Brandon Wright - Crawley Down Gatwick v Hassocks. Jack Stapley - East Preston v Westfield. Reece McQuade - The Day I Had To Do It All. Nigel Williams - Forest Row v Wick. Dougie - Groundhop preview.

PHOTOGRAPHY / VISUALS

Contributor and match imagery supplied directly to Dugout News or created for Issue 008. Agent Williams and Groundhop feature visuals are original Dugout News graphics. Reece McQuade photograph and contributor headshots supplied directly. Golden Boot figures: BBC Sport (National League) NonLeagueHQ (National League South), the Isthmian League's official player stats and FA Full-Time player stats (SCFL), checked 27 September. Promotional pages supplied by Dugout AI.

EDITORIAL RULE

A missing score is preferable to a wrong score. Issue 008 does not manufacture a result, table position, scorer or fixture time.

PRESS-LOCK STANDARD

VERIFIED WHEN POSSIBLE · TRANSPARENT WHEN NOT · NEVER GUESS THE SCORE

DUGOUT NEWS

ISSUE 008

ALL THE ACTION FROM SUSSEX NON-LEAGUE

Results · Tables · Reports · Fixtures · Articles · Groundhop



SCAN FOR ISSUE 008

dugoutdatahub.com/downloads/DUGOUT008.pdf

DUGOUT NEWS · THE STORIES BETWEEN THE SCORES