DUGOUT NEWS

MATCHDAY EDITION

THE TUESDAY SUPPLEMENT



Tuesday 24 November 2026 · Every Sussex side in tonight's six ties, with tables, form, a Dougie preview for every game and the history of the three cups. Plus Wednesday night at Meadowbank.

THE BIG ONES TONIGHT

Previews inside

NL · 19:45

WOKING V WORTHING

18th v 6th · preview page 9

NLS · 19:45

HORSHAM V TRURO CITY

14th v 2nd · preview page 11

PETER BENTLEY CUP · 19:45

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN V ARUNDEL

1st v 15th · different divisions · preview page 16

INSIDE

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18	Sussex RUR Charity Cup	History + Pagham v Selsey
20	Surrey Saturday Premier Cup	History + Dorkinians v Guildford City (Wed)
22	Who's influencing Sussex football?	Opinion by Russ Cochran

SATURDAY · Worthing 2-1 Harrogate Town · Roffey 0-2 Haywards Heath Town · Arundel 5-1 Jarvis Brook · Dover Athletic 2-1 Horsham · every result on page 5

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DUGOUT DIARIES · TONIGHT'S OVERVIEW

TUESDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

BY MIKE MCCAFFREY



OPENING STATEMENT

MIKE MCCAFFREY
Founder and editor, Dugout Diaries · mike@inthedugout.co.uk

Six games, two nights, Step 1 down to Step 6. Worthing and Horsham at Steps 1 and 2, an SCFL Division One scrap, and three cup ties, one of them in a competition that goes back to 1897. Saturday's mud is barely dry. Here we go again.

REBELS ON THE ROAD

Worthing go to Woking straight off the back of beating second-placed Harrogate, with Jordan Young scoring in stoppage time at the end of the first half and again three minutes from the end. The Rebels are sixth and have lost once in eight league games away from Woodside Road. Woking are 18th and shipped five at Halifax on Saturday. On paper it's a mismatch. Kingfield on a cold Tuesday doesn't read paper.

THE HORNETS' BIG ASK

Horsham have lost two on the spin, and Lee Harding saw red at Dover. Now Truro City turn up, second in National League South with the meanest defence in the division (12 conceded in 16) and Tyler Harvey, the league's top scorer on 11. The Hornets knocked Torquay out of the FA Trophy ten days ago, so don't write them off.

CUP NIGHT AT HANBURY

Haywards Heath Town have won seven league games in a row and sit seven points clear at the top of the SCFL Premier. Arundel come in with nothing to lose after putting five past Jarvis Brook and ending the Brook's 14-match unbeaten run. Peter Bentley Cup, round three. Heath won it in 2018. Arundel have won it twice.

THE HARBOUR DERBY

Pagham v Selsey in the RUR Charity Cup: neighbours either side of Pagham Harbour, a division apart, in a cup that dates back to 1897. Pagham haven't lost a league game at Nyetimber Lane all season. Selsey lifted this trophy in 2002. Expect tackles.

PRIORY NEED A REACTION

Reigate Priory shipped six at Clanfield on Saturday. They host Oakwood tonight at Horley Town's ground, and Tommy McKenna has 17 goals this season. Only Infinity's Zack Willett has more in our Sussex golden boot.

WEDNESDAY BONUS

Guildford City go to Meadowbank to face Dorkinians in the Surrey FA Saturday Premier Cup. In 1974 Guildford City and Dorking merged, and the new club played its football at that very ground. History lesson on page 20.

ALSO INSIDE

Russ Cochran asks who's really influencing Sussex football, from podcasts and photographers to club media teams. It starts on page 22.

OVER TO YOU

At a game tonight? Send us your photos and goals, tag @thedugoutai on X, and we'll credit every one we use. And if your business wants to be seen by hundreds of thousands of people across the South East, Dugout AI is looking for new sponsors. Get in touch: mike@inthedugout.co.uk.

Grassroots football matters. Get out and support your local club tonight. **Mike McCaffrey, Dugout Diaries**

Sources: footballwebpages.co.uk, fulltime.thefa.com, scfl.org.uk

Previews from page 9

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TONIGHT · SIX TIES

TONIGHT IN SUSSEX

ALL TIMES GMT

Every game in this edition, with kick-off, venue and league position going in. Positions are from the tables to Saturday 21 November. Five games are on Tuesday; the Surrey cup tie is on Wednesday.

NATIONAL LEAGUE — TUE 24 NOV · 19:45 — p9

Woking v **Worthing**

Kingfield, Woking — 18th NL v 6th NL

NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH — TUE 24 NOV · 19:45 — p11

Horsham v **Truro City**

Fusion Aviation Community Stadium, Horsham — 14th NLS v 2nd NLS

SCFL DIVISION ONE — TUE 24 NOV · 19:30 — p14

Reigate Priory v **Oakwood**

Horley Town FC, Anderson Way, Horley — 7th SCFL 1 v 16th SCFL 1

PETER BENTLEY CHALLENGE CUP · ROUND 3 — TUE 24 NOV · 19:45 — p16

Haywards Heath Town v **Arundel**

Hanbury Park Stadium, Haywards Heath — 1st SCFL P v 15th SCFL 1

SUSSEX PRINCIPAL RUR CHARITY CUP — TUE 24 NOV · 19:30 — p19

Pagham v **Selsey**

Nyetimber Lane, Pagham — 11th SCFL P v 13th SCFL 1

SURREY FA SATURDAY PREMIER COUNTY CUP — WED 25 NOV · 19:45 — p21

Dorkinians v **Guildford City**

Meadowbank Stadium, Dorking — Dorking amateur club v 8th SCFL 1

ALSO TONIGHT

Not previewed in this edition

Eastbourne Borough v **Aveley**	Isthmian Premier · 19:45
Erith Town v **Broadbridge Heath**	Isthmian South East · 19:45
Littlehampton Town v **Kingstonian**	Isthmian South Central · 19:45
Chatham Town v **Whitehawk**	Velocity Cup R3 · 19:45
Crowborough Athletic v **Burgess Hill Town**	Velocity Cup R3 · 19:45
Faversham Town v **Steyning Town**	Velocity Cup R3 · 19:45

NO GAME TONIGHT

Dorking Wanderers are next in action at home to Farnborough on Saturday 28 November. Haywards Heath Town are the reigning RUR Charity Cup holders but aren't in that competition tonight.

Sources: fulltime.thefa.com, footballwebpages.co.uk

Fixtures as listed on Monday 23 Nov; check club channels for late changes

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SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER

SATURDAY'S SCORELINES

STEPS 1 TO 7

42	153	3.64	0-6
games, Steps 1 to 7	goals	goals per game	biggest win: Littlehampton Town 0-6 Jersey Bulls

Every league game involving a Sussex club from Step 1 to Step 4 (plus Dorking Wanderers), and every SCFL game from the Premier to Division Two. Winners in bold. Highest-scoring games: Enfield Town 4-4 Eastbourne Borough and Clanfield 6-2 Reigate Priory, eight goals each.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Worthing	2-1	Harrogate Town

NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Dorking Wanderers	2-2	Ebbsfleet United
Dover Athletic	2-1	Horsham

SOUTHERN PREMIER SOUTH

Chichester City	2-2	Basingstoke Town

ISTHMIAN PREMIER

Enfield Town	4-4	Eastbourne Borough
Ramsgate	4-1	Lewes
Stanway Rovers	2-2	Burgess Hill Town
Three Bridges	2-1	Cheshunt
Cray Wanderers	2-1	Whitehawk

ISTHMIAN SOUTH EAST

Broadbridge Heath	2-0	Hastings United
Crowborough Athletic	3-1	Deal Town
Eastbourne Town	0-0	Whitstable Town
Faversham Town	1-0	Peacehaven & Telscombe
Steyning Town	2-4	**Punjab United**

ISTHMIAN SOUTH CENTRAL

Bognor Regis Town	2-1	Hayes & Yeading United
Littlehampton Town	0-6	**Jersey Bulls**

SCFL PREMIER

Roffey	0-2	**Haywards Heath Town**
Eastbourne United	2-2	Guernsey
Bexhill United	5-1	Midhurst & Easebourne
Billingshurst	0-4	**Hassocks**
Lingfield	5-0	Horsham YM
Little Common	4-1	Pagham
Newhaven	3-1	Lancing
AFC Varndeanians	1-0	Wick
Seaford Town	1-0	Forest Row

SCFL DIVISION ONE

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

SCFL DIVISION TWO

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

Sources: footballwebpages.co.uk, fulltime.thefa.com (as published in Dugout News Issue 16)

League games only

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SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER

COUNTY SATURDAY

TOP FLIGHTS AND CUPS

The headline results from the county leagues, as published on each league's FA Full-Time results page. No tables from the county leagues in this midweek edition; they'll be back in full on Saturday. Brighton, Worthing & District clubs were in Dugout Cash Cup action.

WEST SUSSEX LEAGUE

Capel	5-0	Selsey Reserves	Premier
Delunited	5-1	Stedham United	Premier
Horsham Crusaders	1-2	**Billingshurst Reserves**	Premier
Southwater Reserves	1-1	Slinfold	Centenary Cup · Slinfold won 5-4 on pens

MID SUSSEX LEAGUE

AFC Uckfield Town	0-1	**Frenches Athletic**	Premier
Cuckfield Town	3-6	**Crowhurst**	Premier
Holland Sports	1-4	**Balcombe**	Premier
Lindfield	1-2	**EMC Academy**	Premier
Reigate Priory II	2-3	**Cuckfield Rangers**	Premier
Hollington United	P-P	BN Dons Saturday	Premier · postponed
Rotherfield	6-1	Newhaven Reserves	Senior Charity Cup

BRIGHTON, WORTHING & DISTRICT

Lectern	3-2	Diversity United	Dugout Cash Cup
Rottingdean Village	7-1	Montpelier Villa II	Dugout Cash Cup
Sompting	1-0	Boys Brigade Old Boys	Dugout Cash Cup

WANT YOUR RESULT IN?

Scores appear here once they're on FA Full-Time. If your club's result is missing, ask your secretary to get it uploaded, then tag @thedugoutai on X.

Source: fulltime.thefa.com, checked Monday 23 Nov

Winners in bold · P-P = postponed

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STEP 1

NATIONAL LEAGUE

TABLE TO SAT 21 NOV

#	CLUB	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	FORM
1	Boreham Wood	18	15	3	0	49	21	+28	48	W W W D W
2	Harrogate Town	18	11	2	5	39	25	+14	35	W L D W L
3	AFC Fylde	18	10	3	5	34	27	+7	33	L W W W D
4	Carlisle United	18	9	5	4	36	23	+13	32	W W W W W
5	Southend United	18	9	5	4	42	31	+11	32	D D L W L
6	Worthing	18	9	5	4	35	27	+8	32	W D L D W
7	Yeovil Town	18	8	5	5	37	23	+14	29	W L W L D
8	FC Halifax Town	18	8	4	6	34	21	+13	28	D L W D W
9	Barrow	17	8	4	5	29	21	+8	28	W W D W L
10	Altrincham	18	9	1	8	25	30	-5	28	W D L L L
11	Sutton United	18	8	3	7	21	23	-2	27	L W W L W
12	Aldershot Town	18	7	3	8	22	21	+1	24	L L W L W
13	Hornchurch	18	8	0	10	20	31	-11	24	L L L W L
14	Kidderminster Harriers	18	5	8	5	20	19	+1	23	L D L D D
15	Forest Green Rovers	15	6	4	5	24	24	0	22	D D L W D
16	Wealdstone	18	6	4	8	28	30	-2	22	W L W D W
17	Eastleigh	18	6	4	8	23	28	-5	22	W L D L W
18	Woking	17	6	3	8	25	29	-4	21	L W L W L
19	Hartlepool United	18	6	1	11	21	29	-8	19	W L L D W
20	Solihull Moors	18	6	1	11	23	41	-18	19	L W W W W
21	Boston United	18	5	3	10	21	32	-11	18	L W W L L
22	Tamworth	17	5	2	10	27	37	-10	17	L W L L L
23	Scunthorpe United	17	3	2	12	20	33	-13	11	L L L D L
24	Gateshead	17	1	1	15	10	39	-29	4	L L L L L

THIS WEEK

Highlighted in the table

Tue 19:45 Woking v Worthing League · p9

SATURDAY

Sat 21 Nov

Worthing 2-1 Harrogate Town

Sources: footballwebpages.co.uk

Form: last five league games, latest on the right

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NATIONAL LEAGUE

TUE 24 NOV · KICK-OFF 19:45

WOKING V WORTHING

Kingfield, Woking

Woking

18th in National League

PTS	PLAYED	W-D-L	GOALS
21	17	6-3-8	25:29

L W L W L

Saturday: L 0-5 at FC Halifax Town

Worthing

6th in National League

PTS	PLAYED	W-D-L	GOALS
32	18	9-5-4	35:27

W D L D W

Saturday: W 2-1 v Harrogate Town

PREVIEW BY DOUGIE

YOUNG GUNS HEAD TO KINGFIELD

Worthing beat second place on Saturday. Woking shipped five at Halifax. First meeting of the season.

Jordan Young has a habit of turning up when it matters. His equaliser in first-half stoppage time and his winner three minutes from the end beat second-placed Harrogate Town 2-1 on Saturday and lifted the Rebels to sixth, on 32 points from 18 games, three behind Harrogate. That's five league goals for Young; Razzaq Coleman De-Graft still leads the club's scoring with seven.

Worthing's away form is the story of their season. Four wins, three draws and one defeat on the road, with wins at Carlisle, Hartlepool and Kidderminster among them. They've lost only four of 18 league games all season.

Woking come into this hurting. A 5-0 defeat at FC Halifax Town on Saturday leaves them 18th on 21 points from 17, and Kingfield hasn't been a fortress: two wins in eight league games at home. When they click, though, they bite. Marquis has eight league goals, including a hat-trick in a 5-2 win at Carlisle.

This is the first of two meetings; the return is at Woodside Road on 26 January. Worthing then make the long trip to Altrincham on Saturday, so there may be changes. Even so, the gap in form is hard to ignore.

WHERE THEY STAND

National League

5	Southend United	18	+11	32	D D L W L
6	**Worthing**	**18**	**+8**	**32**	W D L D W
7	Yeovil Town	18	+14	29	W L W L D
	…				
17	Eastleigh	18	-5	22	W L D L W
18	**Woking**	**17**	**-4**	**21**	L W L W L
19	Hartlepool United	18	-8	19	W L L D W

KEY MAN · WOKING

Marquis

Eight league goals, the club's top scorer, including a hat-trick at Carlisle.

KEY MAN · WORTHING

Jordan Young

Both goals against Harrogate; five league goals this season.

DOUGIE'S CALL

WOKING 1-2 WORTHING

Worthing's away record is the best thing about them. Woking's defence is the worst thing about Saturday.

Sources: footballwebpages.co.uk, fulltime.thefa.com, club X accounts

Predictions are for fun

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STEP 2

NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

TABLE TO SAT 21 NOV

#	CLUB	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	FORM
1	Ebbsfleet United	17	10	6	1	40	14	+26	36	L W W D D
2	Truro City	16	10	4	2	31	12	+19	34	W W W D W
3	Salisbury	16	9	5	2	30	13	+17	32	D W W W D
4	Farnham Town	17	10	2	5	33	20	+13	32	W L W W W
5	Maidstone United	17	10	2	5	28	20	+8	32	D L W W L
6	Billericay Town	16	8	6	2	38	19	+19	30	D W D D W
7	Dorking Wanderers	16	7	7	2	36	25	+11	28	W D W W D
8	Tonbridge Angels	18	8	4	6	31	20	+11	28	W L L W D
9	Dagenham & Redbridge	17	8	4	5	16	13	+3	28	W L D D W
10	Chelmsford City	17	5	11	1	27	19	+8	26	W L W D D
11	Dover Athletic	15	7	4	4	22	20	+2	25	D D L W W
12	Torquay United	16	6	6	4	24	17	+7	24	D L W W D
13	Weston-super-Mare	16	6	4	6	26	23	+3	22	L L L W D
14	Horsham	17	5	7	5	24	21	+3	22	W D W L L
15	Folkestone Invicta	16	5	6	5	24	20	+4	21	W W L D D
16	AFC Totton	17	6	1	10	17	30	-13	19	W W L W L
17	Farnborough	17	5	3	9	16	36	-20	18	W L L L D
18	Maidenhead United	17	3	8	6	17	22	-5	17	L D D D D
19	Braintree Town	17	5	2	10	22	40	-18	17	W W L L D
20	Hemel Hempstead Town	18	3	6	9	15	30	-15	15	D L L L L
21	Chesham United	17	4	2	11	22	35	-13	14	L D L L W
22	Hampton & Richmond Borough	17	2	4	11	19	39	-20	10	D L L D L
23	Walton & Hersham	16	2	3	11	13	38	-25	9	L L L L D
24	Slough Town	17	2	1	14	19	44	-25	7	L L L W L

THIS WEEK

Highlighted in the table

Tue 19:45	Horsham v Truro City	League · p11

SATURDAY

Sat 21 Nov

Dorking Wanderers	2-2	Ebbsfleet United
Dover Athletic	2-1	Horsham

Sources: footballwebpages.co.uk

Form: last five league games, latest on the right

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NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

TUE 24 NOV · KICK-OFF 19:45

HORSHAM v TRURO CITY

Fusion Aviation Community Stadium, Horsham

Horsham

14th in National League South

PTS	PLAYED	W-D-L	GOALS
22	17	5-7-5	24:21

W D W L L

Saturday: L 1-2 at Dover Athletic

Truro City

2nd in National League South

PTS	PLAYED	W-D-L	GOALS
34	16	10-4-2	31:12

W W W D W

Saturday: W 4-0 v Hemel Hempstead Town

PREVIEW BY DOUGIE

HORNETS FACE THE MEANEST DEFENCE IN THE LEAGUE

Truro have conceded 12 in 16 and haven't lost a league game since September. Horsham have lost two on the spin.

Horsham's Saturday went sour at the Crabble. Charlie Hester-Cook put them ahead after six minutes at Dover, Euan Williams levelled four minutes later and Ruben Soares-Junior headed the winner with 18 to go. Lee Harding was sent off on 81 minutes. Two defeats in a row have dropped the Hornets to 14th on 22 points from 17 games.

Now for the hardest home game on the list. Truro City are second, two points behind Ebbsfleet with a game in hand, and they have the best defence in National League South: 12 conceded in 16. Their last league defeat was at home to Salisbury on 15 September. They've gone eight league games unbeaten since and put four past Hemel on Saturday.

Tyler Harvey is the man to watch. His penalty on Saturday took him to 11 league goals, the most in the division. On the road Truro have won four, drawn two and lost one.

There's hope for Horsham. They've lost only five league games all season, Hester-Cook and Greg Luer have five league goals apiece, and they knocked Torquay United out of the FA Trophy at home ten days ago. Home form is the worry: two wins in eight league games. A long Tuesday trip from Cornwall can do funny things to legs, mind.

WHERE THEY STAND

National League South

1	Ebbsfleet United	17	+26	36	L W W D D
2	**Truro City**	**16**	**+19**	34	W W W D W
3	Salisbury	16	+17	32	D W W W D
…					
13	Weston-super-Mare	16	+3	22	L L L W D
14	**Horsham**	**17**	**+3**	22	W D W L L
15	Folkestone Invicta	16	+4	21	W W L D D

KEY MAN · HORSHAM

Charlie Hester-Cook

Scored at Dover; five league goals, level with Greg Luer.

KEY MAN · TRURO CITY

Tyler Harvey

11 league goals, top of the National League South scoring chart.

DOUGIE'S CALL

HORSHAM 1-2 TRURO CITY

Truro's defence and Harvey's finishing. Horsham will make it a fight, but the Cornish side have the edge.

Sources: footballwebpages.co.uk, fulltime.thefa.com, club X accounts

Predictions are for fun

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STEP 5

SCFL PREMIER

TABLE TO SAT 21 NOV

#	CLUB	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	FORM
1	Haywards Heath Town	18	15	2	1	47	13	+34	47	W W W W W
2	Eastbourne United	19	12	4	3	64	26	+38	40	L W W W D
3	Hassocks	17	11	3	3	38	18	+20	36	W W W L W
4	Guernsey	16	10	3	3	37	22	+15	33	W W W W D
5	Roffey	17	10	2	5	37	19	+18	32	W L W W L
6	Bexhill United	17	10	2	5	39	25	+14	32	D L W W W
7	Lingfield	17	9	3	5	42	29	+13	30	L W D L W
8	East Grinstead Town	17	9	3	5	39	28	+11	30	W W W L L
9	AFC Varndeanians	19	8	3	8	21	25	-4	27	W W L L W
10	Crawley Down Gatwick	18	7	4	7	31	36	-5	25	W L W W L
11	Pagham	16	7	2	7	34	31	+3	23	L L W L L
12	Newhaven	17	7	2	8	31	37	-6	23	L W L W W
13	Seaford Town	18	7	1	10	24	37	-13	22	L W L L W
14	Lancing	17	5	2	10	28	39	-11	17	D L L W L
15	Wick	17	5	1	11	26	46	-20	16	W L L D L
16	Billingshurst	20	4	3	13	25	49	-24	15	L L W L L
17	Little Common	18	4	1	13	25	46	-21	13	L W L L W
18	Horsham YM	17	3	4	10	16	38	-22	13	L L W W L
19	Midhurst & Easebourne	17	3	3	11	19	40	-21	12	L L L D L
20	Forest Row	18	4	2	12	24	43	-19	10*	L L W L L

* Forest Row's total includes a points deduction, printed as published.

THIS WEEK

Highlighted in the table

Tue 19:45	Haywards Heath Town v Arundel	PBC · p16
Tue 19:30	Pagham v Selsey	RUR · p19

SATURDAY

Sat 21 Nov

Roffey	0-2	**Haywards Heath Town**
Eastbourne United	2-2	Guernsey
Bexhill United	5-1	Midhurst & Easebourne
Billingshurst	0-4	**Hassocks**
Lingfield	5-0	Horsham YM
Little Common	4-1	Pagham

Sources: scfl.org.uk, fulltime.thefa.com (as published in Dugout News Issue 16)

Form: last five league games, latest on the right

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STEP 6

SCFL DIVISION ONE

TABLE TO SAT 21 NOV

#	CLUB	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	FORM
1	Infinity	18	16	1	1	54	16	+38	49	W W W W W
2	AFC Walcountians	18	12	3	3	46	14	+32	39	W L W D W
3	Worthing United	17	11	3	3	45	14	+31	36	W D W W W
4	Jarvis Brook	17	11	3	3	36	18	+18	36	D W W W L
5	Dial Square	17	10	2	5	27	15	+12	32	L W W W W
6	Hailsham Town	18	10	1	7	33	30	+3	31	W W L W W
7	Reigate Priory	17	9	1	7	40	30	+10	28	W L W L L
8	Guildford City	18	8	4	6	36	26	+10	28	W W L D D
9	Saltdean United	16	8	3	5	35	25	+10	27	W W D L D
10	Mile Oak	18	8	3	7	27	28	-1	27	W L W L W
11	Loxwood	18	6	5	7	20	23	-3	23	L W L W L
12	East Preston	17	6	4	7	25	24	+1	22	L W D W L
13	Selsey	18	6	3	9	22	36	-14	21	W L W L L
14	Westfield	17	5	5	7	24	25	-1	20	L D L D L
15	Arundel	18	5	4	9	33	46	-13	19	D L L L W
16	Oakwood	17	4	5	8	20	36	-16	17	L L W D D
17	Clanfield	17	4	1	12	18	42	-24	13	L D L L W
18	Dorking Wanderers B	19	2	4	13	22	44	-22	10	L L D D L
19	Shoreham	18	2	4	12	16	50	-34	10	L L L D D
20	Ringmer AFC	19	2	3	14	15	52	-37	9	L L L L L

THIS WEEK

Highlighted in the table

Tue 19:30	Reigate Priory v Oakwood	League · p14
Tue 19:45	Haywards Heath Town v Arundel	PBC · p16
Tue 19:30	Pagham v Selsey	RUR · p19
Wed 19:45	Dorkinians v Guildford City	SURREY · p21

SATURDAY

Sat 21 Nov

East Preston	0-3	**Infinity**
Ringmer AFC	0-4	**AFC Walcountians**
Selsey	1-2	**Worthing United**
Arundel	5-1	Jarvis Brook
Dial Square	1-0	Westfield
Hailsham Town	4-2	Loxwood

Sources: scfl.org.uk, fulltime.thefa.com (as published in Dugout News Issue 16)

Form: last five league games, latest on the right

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SCFL DIVISION ONE

TUE 24 NOV · KICK-OFF 19:30

REIGATE PRIORY V OAKWOOD

Horley Town FC, Anderson Way, Horley

Reigate Priory
7th in SCFL Division One

PTS	PLAYED	W-D-L	GOALS
28	17	9-1-7	40:30

W L W L L

Saturday: L 2-6 at Clanfield

Oakwood
16th in SCFL Division One

PTS	PLAYED	W-D-L	GOALS
17	17	4-5-8	20:36

L L W D D

Saturday: D 1-1 at Shoreham

PREVIEW BY DOUGIE

PRIORY NEED TO STOP THE ROT

Six conceded at Clanfield on Saturday. Oakwood arrive unbeaten in three. Tonight's game is at Horley Town's ground.

Saturday was one to forget for Reigate Priory. Clanfield, in the bottom four, beat them 6-2 in their new manager's first home game. It's two defeats in a row for Priory, who drop to seventh on 28 points from 17.

There are goals in this side, though: 40 in the league, and only three Division One clubs have scored more. Tommy McKenna has 17 this season, second only to Infinity's Zack Willett (20) in our Sussex golden boot, and Sam Bull has six. At home Priory have won four, drawn one and lost three.

A bit of history: Reigate Priory were in the room in March 1882 when the clubs of West Surrey met to set up the Surrey FA.

Oakwood are 16th on 17 points, but they're unbeaten in three after a 1-1 at Shoreham on Saturday, and they travel well: three wins, three draws and three defeats away, against one win in eight at home. Goals are the problem, with 20 in 17 games. FA Full-Time lists tonight's venue as Horley Town FC, Anderson Way, with a 7.30pm kick-off.

WHERE THEY STAND

SCFL Division One

6	Hailsham Town	18	+3	31	W	W L W W
7	**Reigate Priory**	**17**	**+10**	**28**	W	L W L L
8	Guildford City	18	+10	28	W	W L D D
…						
15	Arundel	18	-13	19	D	L L L W
16	**Oakwood**	**17**	**-16**	**17**	L	L W D D
17	Clanfield	17	-24	13	L	D L L W

KEY MAN · REIGATE PRIORY

Tommy McKenna

17 goals this season, second in the Sussex golden boot.

KEY MAN · OAKWOOD

The away side

Three wins and three draws on the road. Better travellers than hosts.

DOUGIE'S CALL

REIGATE PRIORY 3-1 OAKWOOD

McKenna gets one. Priory's attack is too good to stay quiet two games running.

Sources: footballwebpages.co.uk, fulltime.thefa.com, club X accounts

Predictions are for fun

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CUP HISTORY · TONIGHT: HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN V ARUNDEL

PETER BENTLEY CHALLENGE CUP

CUP HISTORY

1938-39
First season, as the Baldwin Cup

STEYNING TOWN
Last winners (2025-26)

37 YEARS
Peter Bentley as league chairman

The SCFL's league cup is older than most of the clubs in it. Its forerunner, the Baldwin Cup, was an invitation cup introduced in 1938-39 with six teams invited. Lewes won the first final, beating Littlehampton 5-0 at Newhaven on 6 May 1939.

For years it was the John O'Hara League Cup. Today it carries the name of Peter Bentley, who was chairman of the Sussex County League for 37 years and chairman of the Sussex County FA from 2003 until his death in November 2013. A Burgess Hill man and a talented local footballer in his day, he fought hard against attempts to break up the county league, and Sussex football still talks about him as one of its great administrators.

The cup is for the SCFL's Premier Division and Division One clubs, which is why tonight's tie is Step 5 against Step 6. Big sides don't always win it. Lancing, Saltdean United and Newhaven have all lifted it since 2015.

No competition in 2019-20 or 2020-21.

RECENT WINNERS

2025-26	**Steyning Town**
2024-25	**Hassocks**
2023-24	**Steyning Town**
2022-23	**Newhaven**
2021-22	**Littlehampton Town** Part of a league and cup double
2018-19	**Saltdean United**
2017-18	**Haywards Heath Town** 4-0 v Horsham YMCA, league and cup double
2016-17	**Pagham** 1-0 v Haywards Heath Town at Hassocks
2015-16	**Lancing**
2014-15	**Newhaven** 3-1 v Arundel at Horsham

TUE 24 NOV · HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN V ARUNDEL

PREVIEW PAGE 16

THEIR HISTORY IN THIS CUP

Haywards Heath Town
Winners 2018. Beaten finalists 2017. Also won the Division One cup in 2016, on the way up.

Arundel
League cup winners 1987 and 2004, both under the old name. Runners-up in 2015.

GOING IN

League form to Sat 21 Nov

Haywards Heath Town
1st in SCFL Premier
47 pts from 18 · goals 47-13
W W W W W
Top scorer: Lukas Franzen-Jones, 12 league goals
Saturday: W 2-0 at Roffey

Arundel
15th in SCFL Division One
19 pts from 18 · goals 33-46
D L L L W
Top scorer: Liam Brady, 5 league goals
Saturday: W 5-1 v Jarvis Brook

Sources: Wikipedia (SCFL season records), Sussex Express, Isthmian League, Sussex County FA

Seasons shown as the final was played

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PETER BENTLEY CHALLENGE CUP · ROUND 3

TUE 24 NOV · KICK-OFF 19:45

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN V ARUNDEL

Hanbury Park Stadium, Haywards Heath

Haywards Heath Town
1st in SCFL Premier

PTS	PLAYED	W-D-L	GOALS
47	18	15-2-1	47:13

W W W W W

Saturday: W 2-0 at Roffey

Arundel
15th in SCFL Division One

PTS	PLAYED	W-D-L	GOALS
19	18	5-4-9	33:46

D L L L W

Saturday: W 5-1 v Jarvis Brook

PREVIEW BY DOUGIE

TOP DOGS MEET THE GIANT-KILLERS

Heath have won seven league games in a row. Arundel just ended Jarvis Brook's 14-match unbeaten run.

Haywards Heath Town are flying. Josh Wright's double at Roffey on Saturday made it seven straight league wins and left Heath seven points clear at the top of the SCFL Premier: 47 points from 18 games, one defeat all season, 13 conceded. Wright now has 14 for the season (including his goals for Seaford Town) and Lukas Franzen-Jones leads the club's league scoring with 12. At Hanbury in the league they've won six and drawn one.

Arundel are 15th in Division One, but they come in buzzing. Cal Stobart's hat-trick, plus goals from Daegan Walsh and Steve Herbert, beat Jarvis Brook 5-1 on Saturday. It was Arundel's first league win since 5 September and it ended the Brook's 14-match unbeaten run.

There's cup pedigree on both sides. Heath won this competition in 2018 as part of a league and cup double, a year after losing the final 1-0 to Pagham. Arundel have won the league cup twice, in 1987 and 2004, and reached the Peter Bentley Cup final in 2015.

It's Step 5 against Step 6, and the gap shows on paper. Keep an eye on Heath's team sheet, though: Barnes was sent off in stoppage time at Roffey.

WHERE THEY STAND

SCFL Premier

1	**Haywards Heath Town**	**18**	**+34**	**47**
2	Eastbourne United	19	+38	**40**

WHERE THEY STAND

SCFL Division One

14	Westfield	17	-1	**20**
15	**Arundel**	**18**	**-13**	**19**
16	Oakwood	17	-16	**17**

KEY MAN · HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN

Josh Wright

Two at Roffey on Saturday; 14 this season.

KEY MAN · ARUNDEL

Cal Stobart

Hat-trick against Jarvis Brook on Saturday.

DOUGIE'S CALL

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN 3-0 ARUNDEL

Heath's back line has conceded fewer than a goal a game. Arundel's party might stop here.

Sources: footballwebpages.co.uk, fulltime.thefa.com, club X accounts

Predictions are for fun

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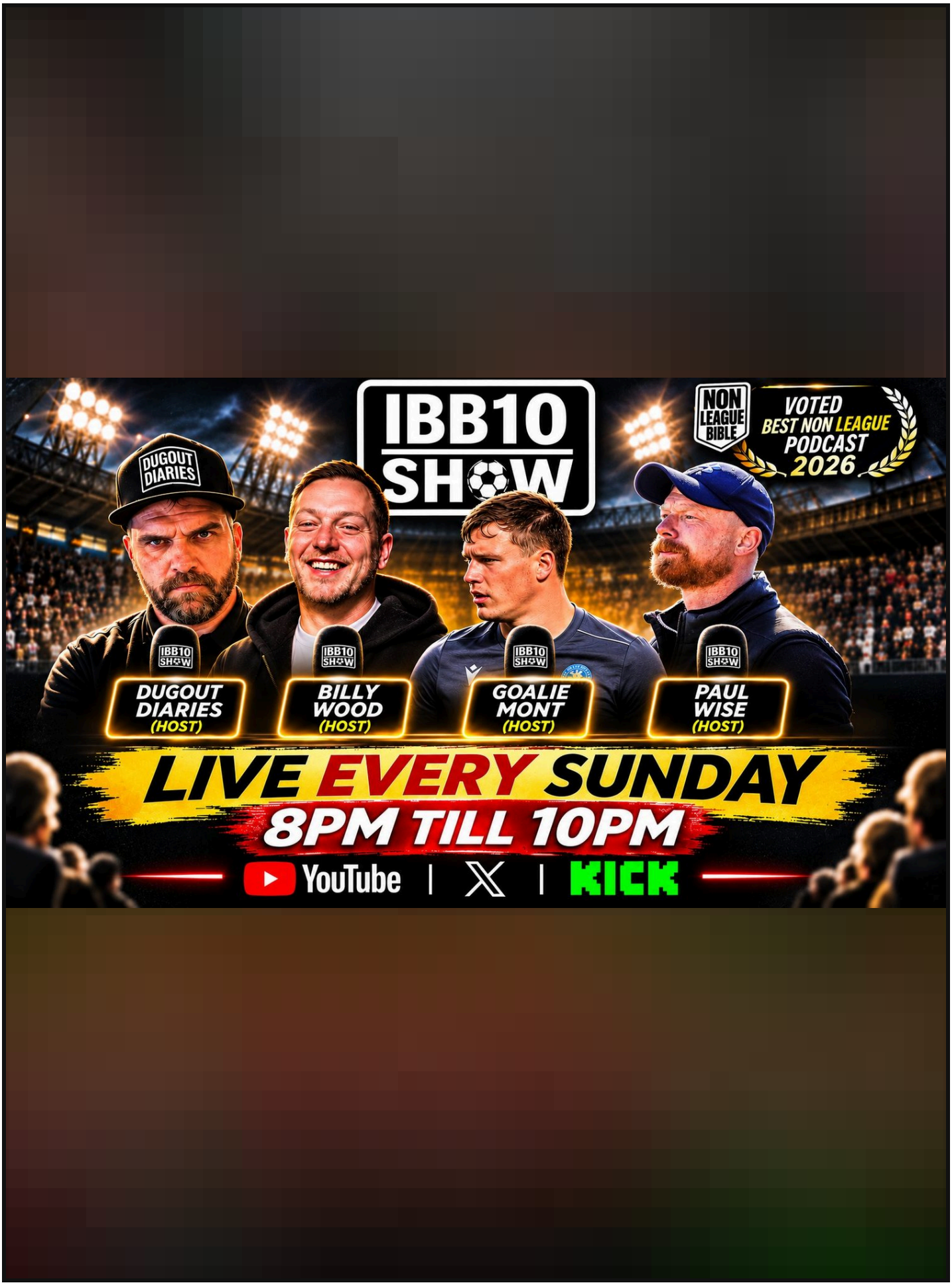

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CUP HISTORY · TONIGHT: PAGHAM V SELSEY

SUSSEX RUR CHARITY CUP

CUP HISTORY

1896-97
First season

HOLDERS
Haywards Heath Town, 2025-26

WORTHING
Most successful club

It's a soldiers' cup. In 1895-96 the 1st Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles won the Sussex Senior Cup, the Brighton Shield, the Charity Cup and the Vernon Wentworth Cup and were hailed as 'Sussex Champions'. In 1897 the officers and men presented a cup to the Sussex County FA, both as a keepsake and to raise money for charity. The regiment later became the Royal Ulster Rifles, which is where the RUR comes from.

Southwick won it first. It began as an end-of-season invitation competition and is now a full knockout, and a third of the gate money from its matches still goes to the Sussex FA's benevolent fund for injured players.

Worthing are the most successful club in its history. In the modern era Peacehaven & Telscombe have won it nine times since 1978. Peter Bentley held this cup dear: the Peter Bentley Suites at Sussex FA HQ were unveiled at half-time of an RUR final.

No competition in 1915-19, 1940-41, 2019-20 or 2020-21.

RECENT FINALS

2025-26	**Haywards Heath Town**	3-0 v Worthing United
2024-25	**Crowborough Athletic**	3-1 v Eastbourne United
2023-24	**Horsham YMCA**	1-1 v Haywards Heath Town, 11-10 on pens
2022-23	**Peacehaven & Telscombe**	1-0 v Broadbridge Heath
2018-19	**Peacehaven & Telscombe**	3-0 v Haywards Heath Town
2017-18	**Chichester City**	4-0 v Pagham
2001-02	**Selsey**	2-0 v Arundel

TUE 24 NOV · PAGHAM V SELSEY

PREVIEW PAGE 19

THEIR HISTORY IN THIS CUP

Pagham
Winners 1989. Runners-up 1994 (0-4 v Newhaven) and 2018 (0-4 v Chichester City).

Selsey
Winners 2002 (2-0 v Arundel). Runners-up 2008 and 2012.

GOING IN

League form to Sat 21 Nov

Pagham
11th in SCFL Premier
23 pts from 16 · goals 34-31
L L W L L
Top scorer: Lewis Rustell, 11 league goals
Saturday: L 1-4 at Little Common

Selsey
13th in SCFL Division One
21 pts from 18 · goals 22-36
W L W L L
Top scorer: Frederick Chipp-Smith, 5 league goals
Saturday: L 1-2 v Worthing United

Sources: Sussex County FA past winners list, Wikipedia, Bognor Regis Observer

Seasons shown as the final was played

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SUSSEX PRINCIPAL RUR CHARITY CUP

TUE 24 NOV · KICK-OFF 19:30

PAGHAM v **SELSEY**

Nyetimber Lane, Pagham

Pagham
11th in SCFL Premier

PTS	PLAYED	W-D-L	GOALS
23	16	7-2-7	34:31

L L W L L

Saturday: L 1-4 at Little Common

Selsey
13th in SCFL Division One

PTS	PLAYED	W-D-L	GOALS
21	18	6-3-9	22:36

W L W L L

Saturday: L 1-2 v Worthing United

PREVIEW BY DOUGIE

THE HARBOUR DERBY UNDER THE LIGHTS

Neighbours either side of Pagham Harbour, a division apart, in a cup that dates back to 1897.

Pagham's league form has dipped. They lost 4-1 at Little Common on Saturday, their second defeat in a row, and sit 11th in the SCFL Premier on 23 points from 16 games. But Nyetimber Lane is a different story: unbeaten in the league at home all season, with six wins and two draws. Their problems are on the road, where they've won one in eight. Lewis Rustell has 11 league goals.

Selsey are 13th in Division One on 21 points from 18. They lost 2-1 to third-placed Worthing United on Saturday, with Glanfield scoring for them, and that's two defeats in a row as well. Frederick Chipp-Smith leads their scoring with five.

Both clubs have history in this cup. Pagham won the RUR in 1989 and lost finals in 1994 and 2018. Selsey won it in 2002, beating Arundel 2-0 in the final, and were runners-up in 2008 and 2012. Haywards Heath Town are the holders.

Form says Pagham at home. Derbies say anything can happen. Kick-off is 7.30pm.

WHERE THEY STAND — SCFL Premier

10	Crawley Down Gatwick	18	-5	25
11	**Pagham**	**16**	**+3**	**23**
12	Newhaven	17	-6	23

WHERE THEY STAND — SCFL Division One

12	East Preston	17	+1	22
13	**Selsey**	**18**	**-14**	**21**
14	Westfield	17	-1	20

KEY MAN · PAGHAM

Lewis Rustell

11 league goals. The man Selsey have to keep quiet.

KEY MAN · SELSEY

Frederick Chipp-Smith

Top scorer with five league goals.

DOUGIE'S CALL

PAGHAM 2-1 SELSEY

Pagham's home record is the best thing in this tie. Close, though.

Sources: footballwebpages.co.uk, fulltime.thefa.com, club X accounts

Predictions are for fun

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CUP HISTORY · WEDNESDAY: DORKINIANS V GUILDFORD CITY

SURREY SATURDAY PREMIER CUP

CUP HISTORY

1882
Surrey FA county cups begin

MEADOWBANK
Home of every Surrey FA final

LINGFIELD
2019 winners, now SCFL Premier

Surrey FA's Saturday cups run as a ladder: Senior, Premier, Intermediate, Junior and Lower Junior. The Senior Cup dates back to 1882, when the county voted to join the Football Association. The Saturday Premier Cup is the next rung down.

Since 2018 the Surrey FA has been based at Meadowbank in Dorking, the ground it shares with Dorking Wanderers, and every Surrey FA final is played there. So Wednesday's tie is at the ground where this season's winners will lift the trophy.

Meadowbank has Guildford history too. Dorking FC played there from 1956, and in 1974 they merged with Guildford City to form Guildford & Dorking United, who played their football there. The merged club folded in 1976-77. Dorking FC carried on until 2017, and the rebuilt Meadowbank reopened in July 2018.

Lingfield, now in the SCFL Premier, won it in 2019.

RECENT FINALS

2023-24	**Ash United** 4-2 v Honourable Artillery Company
2022-23	**Nottsborough** 4-0 v Godalming Town, attendance 256
2018-19	**Lingfield** 1-0 v Nottsborough, the holders
2017-18	**Nottsborough**

WED 25 NOV · DORKINIANS V GUILDFORD CITY

PREVIEW PAGE 21

THEIR HISTORY IN THIS CUP

Guildford City
Eighth in SCFL Division One. Its predecessor's merger with Dorking put Guildford football at Meadowbank in the 1970s.

Dorkinians
Dorking amateur club, playing a home tie in their own town at the county HQ.

GOING IN

League form to Sat 21 Nov

Dorkinians
Dorking amateur club
League record not published
Top scorer: Not published
Saturday: No result published

Guildford City
8th in SCFL Division One
28 pts from 18 · goals 36-26
W W L D D
Top scorer: Luke Mitchell, 9 goals
Saturday: D 1-1 at Saltdean United

Sources: Surrey FA, Wikipedia, Gloverscast (Guildford & Dorking United history)

Seasons shown as the final was played

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SURREY FA SATURDAY PREMIER COUNTY CUP

WED 25 NOV · KICK-OFF 19:45

DO

DORKINIANS

V

GUILDFORD CITY

Meadowbank Stadium, Dorking

Dorkinians
Dorking amateur club

PTS	PLAYED	W-D-L	GOALS
-	-	-	-

League form not published

Saturday: No published league result found

Guildford City
8th in SCFL Division One

PTS	PLAYED	W-D-L	GOALS
28	18	8-4-6	36:26

W W L D D

Saturday: D 1-1 at Saltdean United

PREVIEW BY DOUGIE

CITY GO BACK TO MEADOWBANK

Half a century after Guildford & Dorking United, Guildford City take a Surrey cup tie to Dorking on Wednesday night.

This one is on Wednesday, and the venue is the story. FA Full-Time lists the tie as arranged for Wednesday 25 November at Meadowbank, home of Dorking Wanderers and headquarters of the Surrey FA since 2018.

Guildford City have been here before, in a way. In 1974 the old Guildford City merged with Dorking to form Guildford & Dorking United, who took City's place in the Southern League Premier Division and played at Meadowbank. The merged club went into liquidation during the 1976-77 season, and Guildford didn't have a senior club again until 1996.

Today's Guildford City are eighth in SCFL Division One on 28 points from 18 games (W8 D4 L6, 36-26). Mason Drew scored after four minutes in Saturday's 1-1 at Saltdean, but City haven't won in three. Luke Mitchell leads their scoring with nine. Away from home they've won four, drawn one and lost four.

Dorkinians are the Dorking amateur club, and Meadowbank isn't their usual ground. We haven't found a published league table for them this season, so this one comes without the numbers. Cup nights like this are what county football is for.

WHERE THEY STAND

SCFL Division One

7	Reigate Priory	17	+10	28	W L W L L
8	**Guildford City**	**18**	**+10**	**28**	W W L D D
9	Saltdean United	16	+10	27	W W D L D

KEY MAN · DORKINIANS

Home advantage

A Wednesday night at Meadowbank, in their own town.

KEY MAN · GUILDFORD CITY

Luke Mitchell

Nine goals, the club's top scorer.

DOUGIE'S CALL

DORKINIANS 1-3 GUILDFORD CITY

On paper City should have too much. On paper.

Sources: footballwebpages.co.uk, fulltime.thefa.com, club X accounts

Predictions are for fun

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OPINION · RUSS COCHRAN

WHO'S INFLUENCING SUSSEX FOOTBALL?

OPINION



THE RISE OF NON-LEAGUE MEDIA AND THE PEOPLE CHANGING THE GAME

From podcasts and YouTube channels to independent publications, photographers and social media personalities, a new generation of football media is changing how Sussex non-league football is followed, discussed and promoted. But just how much influence do these people really have?

BY RUSS COCHRAN

There was a time when following non-league football meant buying the local newspaper, finding the results somewhere in the back pages, perhaps listening to a local radio report and, if you were lucky, reading a match report the following week.

Those days have changed considerably.

Today, you can watch a live discussion about the weekend's fixtures, listen to a manager explain his decision to leave a club, see goals from grounds across the county, follow breaking transfer news, debate refereeing decisions and even get a running commentary on the quality of a football ground's catering.

All from your phone, often before you've even got home from the match.

Sussex football has developed its own media ecosystem. It includes independent broadcasters, podcasters, journalists, photographers, bloggers, content creators and supporters who have built audiences around their passion for the non-league game.

Some have become recognisable voices in their own right. Others operate behind the scenes, producing the photographs, videos, graphics and written content that keep clubs and competitions visible.

The question is no longer whether social media has a place in non-league football. It clearly does. The more interesting question is how much influence this new media landscape has on the game itself.

THE CURRENT SUSSEX FOOTBALL MEDIA LANDSCAPE

There isn't an official league table of Sussex football influencers, and influence shouldn't simply be measured by follower numbers. Reach, consistency, engagement, credibility and the ability to bring new people into the game are arguably much better measures.

Nevertheless, there are some particularly notable names and platforms worth recognising.

1. THE INDEPENDENT BROADCASTERS AND PODCASTERS

The SNLF – Mike McCaffrey, Matthew Rogers, Grant Hearn and Gareth Spinks

The SNLF has developed into one of the more recognisable independent media operations dedicated to Sussex non-league football.

Its Wednesday night live show brings together four different perspectives, covering clubs, managers, supporters and talking points from across the pyramid.

Mike McCaffrey is the founder and editor, with Matthew Rogers covering National League South football and contributing SCFL coverage. Grant Hearn brings managerial experience, having managed Forest Row and East Grinstead Town, while Gareth Spinks brings his own perspective on the football community, including the increasingly important match day experience.

The operation extends beyond the podcast. Its output includes Dugout News, Dugout Diaries, match reports, interviews and coverage of clubs that might otherwise struggle to attract wider attention.

The important development here is the creation of a media platform rather than simply another football discussion group. It gives people a place to contribute, clubs a place to tell their stories and supporters a reason to engage with football beyond their own Saturday afternoon fixture.

IBB10 Show – Billy Wood, Monty Watson-Price, Mike McCaffrey, Paul Wise and formerly Lee Penn

The IBB10 Show has established a different identity within the Sussex football conversation.

Opinion: the views are the writer's own

Russ Cochran for Dugout News

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WHO'S INFLUENCING SUSSEX FOOTBALL?

RUSS COCHRAN · PART 2 OF 5

Its Sunday evening live format is built around opinion, debate, humour and differing perspectives. Billy Wood, Monty Watson-Price, Paul Wise and Mike McCaffrey bring together supporters, football administration experience, playing and coaching knowledge, and media experience and formerly Lee Penn, who recently departed after the birth of his daughter is rumoured to be embarking on developing his own Lee's football adventures channel.

The show was voted Best Non-League Podcast at the 2026 Non League Bible Awards.

That recognition is significant because it demonstrates that independent non-league productions can attract audiences and compete for recognition alongside more established media operations.

It also demonstrates something else: supporters increasingly want to be part of the conversation rather than simply consume the finished product.

Sussex By The Sea Podcast – Chris Laverick

Having covered the Isthmian League and Sussex football scene since 2020, Sussex By The Sea is another established voice.

Its interviews, supporter roundtables and discussions bring together people from different clubs and different parts of the football pyramid.

One of its strengths is its ability to bring supporters into the discussion. It isn't simply about what happened on the pitch; it is about the people who follow the clubs, the decisions being made and the wider experiences of non-league football.

Its longevity also deserves recognition. Maintaining a regular football podcast over several seasons requires considerable commitment, particularly when there is little financial reward for the time involved.

2. INDEPENDENT FOOTBALL JOURNALISTS AND NEWS PLATFORMS

Matt Pole – SussexWorld

Traditional journalism still has an important place in Sussex football.

Matt Pole is a journalist with a particular focus on Horsham FC and contributes to SussexWorld's football coverage. He also hosts the Sussex Non-League podcast, alongside Steve Bone, and Shots TV's Gull-Mouth Action podcast.

This is an interesting example of traditional regional journalism adapting to a changing audience.

The written article remains important, but podcasts, video and social media provide additional ways of reaching supporters.

Steve Bone

Steve Bone is another established Sussex sporting voice, with experience across football and other local sports. His involvement in SussexWorld's football podcast adds knowledge and perspective to the coverage.

Non-League Southern News – Matthew Rogers

Independent regional reporting also plays an important role.

Matthew Rogers operates Non-League Southern News, extending coverage beyond Sussex and helping connect clubs and supporters across the wider southern non-league pyramid.

This is particularly useful for clubs whose supporters want to follow opposition developments, potential competitors and the wider movement of players and managers.

3. PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOGRAPHY AND BROADCASTING: VISUAL STORYTELLING

Simon Roe Photography

Football photography is often overlooked when discussing media influence, but it is one of the most valuable contributions to the modern non-league game.

Simon Roe is the official photographer to Sussex County FA and regularly covers non-league and grassroots football.

Good photography does considerably more than record a match.

It gives clubs material for their websites, social media, programmes, sponsorship presentations and community engagement. It captures supporters, volunteers, players and moments that help build a club's identity.

For many smaller clubs, a good photograph can be more effective than an expensive promotional campaign.

It also provides something that statistics and written reports cannot: an emotional connection with the people and places that make non-league football what it is.

Your Instant Replay (YIR) – Bringing non-league football to the screen

One organisation that deserves particular recognition in the development of Sussex football media is Your Instant Replay (YIR).

Based in Brighton and established in 2017, YIR has helped bridge the gap between traditional match reporting and professional sports broadcasting.

Opinion: the views are the writer's own

Russ Cochran for Dugout News

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RUSS COCHRAN · PART 3 OF 5

Under the direction of its team, including Louis Clark, YIR provides match filming, highlights packages, live streaming, player performance analysis and social media support.

Its work with clubs including Horsham and Lewes demonstrates how professional video production has become an increasingly important part of the non-league football experience.

Its relationship with Horsham has continued into the 2026/27 season, with YIR providing the club's highlights packages. Its previous work with Lewes included live streaming league home games for club owners, alongside match highlights.

But the importance of this type of operation goes beyond simply allowing supporters to watch goals again.

For supporters unable to attend, players wanting to review performances, managers analysing opposition and clubs looking to provide greater exposure for their sponsors, the benefits are considerable.

There is also a commercial dimension. Video content gives sponsors another opportunity to be seen, while clubs can build a recognisable online presence and reach audiences outside their immediate geographical area.

Perhaps the most interesting example is the growing reach of live-streamed lower-league football. A Hassocks Under-23 fixture against Loxwood in September 2025 attracted more than 1,700 viewers through Your Instant Replay's coverage, demonstrating that even development football can attract a substantial online audience.

That is a significant change from the traditional perception that nobody beyond the immediate supporters would be interested in watching a lower-league fixture.

YIR illustrates how the media landscape is evolving from individuals reporting on football towards specialist businesses providing the infrastructure to broadcast it.

And that distinction matters. The future of non-league football media will not just belong to those with a microphone or a social media following. It will also belong to the people who can professionally capture, package and distribute the game.

4. CLUB MEDIA TEAMS AND INDEPENDENT CONTENT CREATORS

There is another group that perhaps deserves more recognition than it receives: the people working directly for individual clubs.

Worthing, Horsham, Lewes, Bognor Regis Town, Whitehawk, Hastings United and many other Sussex clubs have developed their own digital presence.

Worthing **Horsham** **Lewes**
Bognor Regis Town **Whitehawk**
Hastings United

Club media teams now produce:

- Match day graphics and team announcements.
- Interviews with managers and players.
- Match highlights and goal compilations.
- Behind-the-scenes video.
- Sponsorship and commercial content.
- Community and youth football stories.
- Live updates and breaking news.

Some clubs have invested considerably in their media operations, while others rely on volunteers who give up their time to produce content.

The difference between a well-managed club media operation and an inconsistent one can be considerable.

A club's social media presence is often the first impression a potential supporter, sponsor or prospective player receives. It is part of the club's public identity.

5. WHAT HAS CHANGED FOR NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL?

The growth of independent football media has created several opportunities that simply weren't available to smaller clubs in the past.

Visibility beyond the traditional supporter base

Previously, a club's coverage was largely dependent on local newspaper circulation and the occasional regional radio report.

Now, a club in the SCFL can have its goals watched by somebody hundreds of miles away. A manager's interview can be shared across several supporter groups, and a particularly interesting story can reach an audience well beyond the club's own town.

That matters when trying to attract new supporters.

A potential spectator might discover a club through a video, become interested in its manager, follow its results and eventually decide to attend a match.

The media has created another route into the ground.

The power to shape opinion

There is another side to this development.

Opinion: the views are the writer's own

Russ Cochran for Dugout News

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Podcasts and independent social media accounts can influence how supporters perceive clubs, managers, players and decisions made by those running the game.

A discussion that starts with a refereeing decision can develop into a wider debate about standards. A conversation about a club's facilities can raise questions about investment, ambition and community engagement.

This is healthy when it encourages informed debate.

However, influence brings responsibility. An opinion expressed by someone with a substantial following can quickly become accepted as fact, even when it is based on incomplete information.

There is a distinction between reporting something, expressing an opinion and simply repeating what somebody else has said.

The independent media landscape needs to recognise that distinction.

Giving people a voice

Perhaps the greatest benefit is the opportunity to hear from people who traditionally received very little attention.

Managers at Step 5, 6 and 7 clubs, volunteers, grounds people, referees, supporters and committee members all have stories worth telling.

They might not attract the attention of national broadcasters, but they are every bit as much a part of football's infrastructure.

Independent media can give those people a platform.

That is particularly important when discussing the challenges facing grassroots and non-league football. Funding, facilities, recruitment, volunteer shortages and the cost of running a club deserve more than an occasional mention in a results roundup.

6. ARE INFLUENCERS ACTUALLY CHANGING ATTENDANCES?

This is perhaps the biggest question.

Social media engagement is not the same as attendance.

A video receiving 10,000 views is encouraging, but how many of those viewers subsequently visit the ground? How many become regular supporters? How many buy a programme, a burger or a drink? How many bring somebody else?

Clubs need to start looking beyond likes and impressions.

Media can contribute to increased attendances, but it needs to be connected to an actual marketing strategy.

Consider the difference between two approaches.

The first is publishing a graphic announcing Saturday's fixture and hoping people turn up.

The second is producing a short feature about the opposition, interviewing a player, showing what supporters can expect at the ground, promoting the clubhouse and explaining why the match is worth attending.

Both are social media content. Only one is actively selling the experience.

There is a commercial opportunity here, too.

Sponsors increasingly want exposure beyond a static advertising board. They want their name associated with video content, interviews, match day coverage and a recognisable community audience.

Independent media creators can help clubs deliver that exposure, potentially creating commercial opportunities for both parties.

But clubs need to understand the value of what they are offering. Social media numbers alone do not guarantee commercial success.

7. THE DANGERS OF AN INCREASINGLY INFLUENTIAL FOOTBALL MEDIA

Not everything about this development is positive.

The speed at which information travels can be a problem. Transfers, managerial departures, disciplinary matters and disagreements can become public discussions before the full circumstances are known.

There is also a danger of creating an environment where controversy generates more engagement than constructive coverage.

The temptation to produce sensational headlines, provoke arguments or manufacture rivalries can be considerable.

There is a responsibility to remember that non-league football is not an entertainment industry populated by people who can simply switch off from public attention.

Many players, managers and volunteers have full-time jobs, families and responsibilities outside football.

They deserve fair coverage.

Equally, independent media needs to retain its independence. Being invited into a clubhouse, given an interview or provided with exclusive access should not mean that difficult questions are automatically avoided.

Opinion: the views are the writer's own

Russ Cochran for Dugout News

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WHO'S INFLUENCING SUSSEX FOOTBALL?

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The best independent football media should be capable of celebrating clubs while also questioning decisions when necessary.

That balance is important.

8. WHERE DOES SUSSEX FOOTBALL MEDIA GO NEXT?

The next stage could be considerably more interesting than anything we have seen so far.

Video production is becoming more accessible. Clubs can now produce their own interviews, documentaries and match day content without needing a traditional television production budget.

Artificial intelligence, improved camera technology, automated filming and live streaming will provide further opportunities.

But technology is only part of the answer.

The real value remains the people behind the content: those who understand the clubs, know the characters, recognise the history and appreciate the difference between watching non-league football and actually being part of it.

There is also an opportunity for greater collaboration.

Independent publishers, podcasts, photographers and club media teams could share content, cross-promote interviews and develop a wider audience for Sussex football.

Rather than competing for the same small pool of supporters, there is an argument for working together to grow the entire audience.

That doesn't mean everyone needs to agree, or that independent publications should lose their individual identities. Healthy competition is important.

But there is surely room for more cooperation.

9. INFLUENCE SHOULD BE MEASURED BY WHAT YOU GIVE BACK

The list of people contributing to Sussex football media continues to grow. Some have established sizeable audiences, others are building their reputations, and many work quietly behind the scenes.

It would be wrong to suggest that there is a definitive ranking of who matters most.

The person producing a match day video for a Step 7 club might have a greater impact on that club's fortunes than someone with thousands of followers discussing National League South football.

A photographer might provide a club with its most valuable marketing material of the season. A volunteer writing match reports might be the only person ensuring that a particular team receives regular coverage.

And an independent podcast might introduce supporters to clubs they would otherwise never have considered visiting.

All of these contributions matter.

The growth of non-league football media is not simply about creating more content. It is about creating more opportunities for clubs, supporters and communities to connect.

The biggest influencers in Sussex football might not necessarily be the people with the biggest following. They might be the people who actually make a difference to the game.

The challenge now is for clubs to recognise that opportunity, for media creators to understand their responsibilities and for supporters to make use of the increasingly diverse coverage available to them.

Because if we want non-league football to grow, we need more than 90 minutes of football on a Saturday.

We need people telling its stories, challenging its decisions, promoting its clubs and giving people a reason to become involved.

And increasingly, that responsibility is being taken on by the people holding a camera, sitting behind a microphone or publishing an article from their own homes.

Non-league football has a HUGE voice in Sussex and it is getting louder by the week.

Opinion: the views are the writer's own

Russ Cochran for Dugout News

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