

SEASON 2023/2024



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ISTHMIAN
FOOTBALL
LEAGUE

OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME



THREE BRIDGES V MERSTHAM

MONDAY 28th AUGUST 2023 – KO – 3:00 pm

Jubilee Field | Jubilee Walk | Three Bridges | Crawley | RH10 1LQ



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Three Bridges Football Club

(Unincorporated association, owned by the Club's members and operated in line with the club's written constitution)

Jubilee Walk, Three Bridges
Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 1LQ

 01293 442000

 www.threebridgesfc.co.uk

 @ThreeBridgesFC

 www.facebook.com/ThreeBridgesFootballClub

Members of:

Sussex County Football Association
Pitch In Isthmian Football League
Southern Combination Football League
Sussex Sunday Youth League
Mid Sussex Youth & Minor Football League
Horsham & District Youth Football League
Crawley & District Youth Football League

CLUB OFFICERS

President:	Alan Bell
	Alf Blackler
Vice Presidents:	John O'Dwyer
	Alan Ladd

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chairman:	Paul Faili
Vice Chairman:	Tom Hayward
Hon. Secretary:	Richard Munn
Treasurer:	Chris Irving
Minutes Secretary:	Alan Ladd
Press Officer:	Alf Blackler

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Maintenance Manager:	Paul Coleman
Website Manager:	Jose Evans
Social Media Manager:	Courtney Holmes

Commercial Manager:	Kim Dunning
Special Events Coordinator:	Kim Dunning
Programme Editor:	Alf Blackler
Equality & Diversity Officer:	Graham McDonnell
Child Welfare Officer:	Chris Irving
Grants Manager:	Chris Irving
200 Club Officers:	Alf Blackler
	Alan Ladd

CLUB MANAGEMENT

Food & Beverage Management:	Kerry Swaine
Gatehouse Managers:	Simon Rollings
	Jim Chapman
Match Day Co-Ordinator:	Steve White
Head Groundsmen:	Steve White
	Keith Richardson
Car Parking & Safety Officer:	Paul Coleman

FOOTBALL MANAGEMENT

1st Team Manager:	Jamie Crellin
1st Team Assistant:	Brannon O'Neill
1st Team Coach:	Joe Kay
Club Physiotherapist:	Tracey Weller
Kit Manager:	Kerry Swaine

YOUTH SECTION

Youth Chairman:	Graham McDonnell
Youth Secretary:	Simon Rollings
U18 Isthmian League Managers:	Brannon O'Neill
	Chris Hayden
U16 Managers:	Dylan Charles
	Tony Mott
U16 Girls Manager:	Ilija Dinkovski
U15 Youth Manager:	Simon Rollings
U15 Youth Coaches:	Steve Thompson / Toby O'Sullivan
U14 Managers:	Graham McDonnell
	Craig Burrows &
U14 Girls Manager:	Courtney Holmes
U13 Managers:	Andrew Waight
	Ben Dunning
	Karl Mitchell
U12 Managers:	Brad Wood
	Nick Thomas
U11 Managers:	Dan Mobsby
	Ben Godfrey
	Lee Wood
U10 Managers:	Kieron Thorp
	Ben Godfrey
	Kieron Thorp
U9 Managers:	Ben Godfrey
	Courtney Holmes
	Kieron Thorp
U8 Managers:	Karl Mitchell
	Clarke Byrne

VETS TEAM

Manager:	Steve Langridge
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The Isthmian Football League strongly supports the FA statement that there should be a zero tolerance approach against racism and all forms of discrimination. Accordingly, any form of discriminatory abuse whether it be based on race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, faith, age, ability or any other form of abuse will be reported to The Football Association for action by that Association.

(The FA 0800 085 0508 Kick it Out 020 7253 0152)

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome this afternoon to the players, officials and supporters of Merstham FC and to our three match officials.

Today is not just a day of football but a celebration of community and friendship. We are thrilled to have our dear friends from the Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club with us. Do check out the fantastic activities they have prepared for the children in the car park!

At 2:45, we have the poignant and proud moment of sending off a fully fitted ambulance to Ukraine. This significant gesture goes with our very best wishes and represents our commitment to helping others.

At 2:55, we will have the joy of the Mayor's grandson leading out our players on his 10th Birthday. What a delightful way to celebrate a young supporter's special day!

Our match against Merstham will be laced with further excitement. At half-time, keep your eyes peeled for a special presentation - but that's a surprise, so no spoilers here!

The victories on the field, the incredible work of Jamie and his coaching team, and the recent win over Phoenix Sports have all set the stage for this wonderful day. And now, with these additional festivities, we have even more reasons to cheer.

I hope that all our wonderful supporters, and the Merstham supporters, will give everybody a huge applause throughout our presentations. This should be a spectacular day, filled with camaraderie, sportsmanship, and fun. I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone involved and hope that each one of you enjoys this remarkable day.

Thank you for your unwavering support and enjoy the match!

Best Regards,

Paul Faili Three Bridges FC Chairman

Today's Match Ball Sponsors are **Curve Accountancy**.

Thanks to Chris and his team and to all our sponsors this season.



Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

There are many different volunteer roles in non-league football and Isthmian League football clubs need your help with them.

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ISTHMIAN
FOOTBALL
LEAGUE

SOUTH EAST DIVISION – 2023/24

(As at 25th August 2023)

	Home	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Away
1	23/03	ASHFORD UNITED	2	2	0	0	3	1	2	6	06/01
2	X	THREE BRIDGES	2	1	1	0	6	4	2	4	X
3	13/01	HYTHE TOWN	1	1	0	0	4	0	4	3	16/03
4	20/04	SEVENOAKS TOWN	2	1	0	1	5	4	1	3	02/12
5	04/11	CRAY VALLEY PM	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	3	02/03
6	21/10	LITTLEHAMPTON TOWN	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3	17/02
7	24/02	LANCING	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	28/10
8	30/09	BROADBRIDGE HEATH	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	20/01
9	01/01	BURGESS HILL TOWN	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	01/04
10	09/03	HERNE BAY	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	11/11
11	2-2	HORNDEAN	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	30/12
12	14/10	SHEPPEY UNITED	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	03/02
13	27/01	CHICHESTER CITY	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	10/10
14	4-2	PHOENIX SPORTS	2	0	1	1	2	4	-2	1	07/10
15	06/04	SITTINGBOURNE	1	0	0	1	2	3	-1	0	18/11
16	30/03	BECKENHAM TOWN	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0	26/08
17	25/11	ERITH & BELVEDERE	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0	14/04
18	28/08	MERSTHAM	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0	26/12
19	09/12	RAMSGATE	1	0	0	1	2	4	-2	0	27/04
20	16/12	EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0	16/09

(Bridges score shown first in both home and away columns)

UPCOMING FIRST TEAM HOME FIXTURES

BROADBRIDGE HEATH

Saturday, 30th SEPTEMBER 2023

Pitching In South East Division





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HISTORY OF THREE BRIDGES FC

Founded in 1901, Three Bridges joined the Mid Sussex Football League in 1902 and were Champions of that League for the first time in the 1907/08 season. Their first major success came in 1933/34, when they won the Sussex Junior Cup, and sundry other minor honours came their way before they joined the Sussex County Football League in 1952/53, and two years later were crowned Second Division Champions.

In 1962/63 they won the Division Two Invitation Cup and in 1968/69, 1973/74 and 1979/80 were Second Division Runners Up. 1970/71 produced an against-the-odds triumph when winning the League's Invitation Cup against Southwick (3-2). The 1980s heralded a run of successes, starting with reaching the last 16 of the FA Vase for the first time in 1981/82 before losing at Molesey (1-2). A season later they made it to the last 32 but also won the Sussex RUR Charity Cup for the first time, beating Hastings Town 3-2. Another year on saw them finish runners up in the Thorn EMI National six-a-side tournament, winning a set of floodlights. 1985/86 saw them finish as County League Division One runners up, a feat they repeated in both 1987/88 (when they also won the RUR Cup again) and 1988/89.

A fire destroyed their clubhouse in 1993 which re-focused their priorities and ultimately resulted in relegation in 1996/97. They won the Division 2 League Cup a season later and then finished runners up in Division 2 to regain Division 1 status. They were RUR Cup runners up in 2003/04 and then winners of that same prestigious trophy in 2007/08.

In season 2010/11 hopes were high when they started by winning their first nine League games, but eventually finished the season in 5th place. However they did win the John O'Hara League Challenge Cup for the first time that season, beating Rye United 2-1, a tremendous feat that they achieved again in 2011/12, this time AFC Uckfield being defeated 2-1. It looked like being another tough League campaign when they lost four of the first nine matches, but then lost only one of the remaining 29 games, which was concluded by beating Championship rivals Rye United 1-0 at home on the final day of the season! This tremendous run meant the club had achieved its ambition and become Sussex County Football League Champions. With a superb run in the FA Vase too, losing in the last 32 on a penalty shoot-out with Derbyshire side, Gresley FC, the 2011/12 'Double' season had undoubtedly been the best in Three Bridges' history.

Their first season in the Ryman Isthmian Football League South Division saw them struggle for much of the time. However, having been 10 points adrift at the bottom of the table in mid-February, they went on a run of 11 matches that produced 7 victories, 2 draws and just 2 defeats, earning them Team of the Month Awards in both March and April as a result. It meant that they survived the drop, but their second season in the Ryman League saw them struggle at times again but some key signings midway through the season helped them to 19th place.

The 2014/15 season saw an even greater improvement with a healthy mixture of youth and experience guiding them into 7th position and, whilst they were happy to score 94 League goals, they were less than happy about the 95 they conceded! They improved their defensive record in conceding 67 goals in season 2015/16 but only scored 59, hardly helped by long-term injuries to strike partners Allan Tait and Tony Garrod. With 66 points, they slumped to 14th position, although they only accumulated 6 points fewer than in the previous campaign!

Bridges maintained most of that season's squad for the 2016/17 campaign. However, with at least 11 first team players out injured by September, they had to use a lot of the U21s, Academy and U18s players and by November had lost 12 games in a row, drew three and won just one game. Towards the end of the season, they strengthened the squad but it was too late to avoid relegation.

For the 2017/18 season, Bridges kept a few of the best of the players from the previous season and strengthened the team with more experienced players in the hope of promotion once again. Having dispensed with the services of Simon Wormull, Paul Hammond and Danny Lee from the coaching team and folding the Academy team, Bridges also strengthened the management team with the additions of the experienced ex-Bridges player, Martin Dynan as Assistant Manager, and UEFA 'A' licensed Coach, Marc Wardley.

That season turned out to be an extremely tough one with every team wanting to beat us. However, Bridges accomplished what they set out to do by gaining promotion back to the Isthmian League having finished second place in the Southern Combination League Premier Division, just one point behind the winners, Haywards Heath Town, and despite having only lost 3 games all season.

After serving 25 years with the Club as a manager, Paul Faili stood down as First Team Manager for the 2018/19 season in order to concentrate on his role as Club Chairman, and handed the management reins over to Martin Dynan, assisted by Liam Collins alongside Keith George. He also recruited a new U23s manager in Oliver Saunders, another UEFA 'A' licensed coach, to work closely with the First Team in developing both the U23s and U18s. After losing 8 out of 12 League games by the end of November, as well as being knocked out of all four cup competitions (FA Cup, FA Trophy, League Cup and Sussex Senior Cup), the future looked bleak for Martin Dynan. However, the team then went on an unbeaten run in December, earning Martin the League's Manager of the Month Award. Unfortunately, that didn't last and Martin's demise was inevitable by the end of February, having lost 8 of the last nine games with relegation looming. Paul Faili stepped in for the remaining 9 games of the season attaining 4 wins, 2 draws and 3 losses – enough for a 14th place finish and 14 points clear of relegation.

Paul remained as Manager, ably assisted by Keith George and coached by Jamie Crellin who played for the Club for five seasons, but sadly had to hang up his boots after sustaining an ankle injury early in the 2018/19 season, after making 164 appearances for the Club. Oliver Saunders remained as U23s Manager, assisted by Tom Hayward who had been involved with the U18s as both Assistant Manager and Manager over the previous four seasons, while First Team player, Brannon O'Neill, was appointed as U18s Manager. Sadly Oliver decided to move to South Park as First Team Coach in November 2019, following Martin Dynan's appointment there so Tom was appointed as U23s Manager for the remainder of the season. For the 2020/2021 season, the only change was a new manager for the U23s (Development Squad) with Ryan Gayler appointed as Manager and Tom Hayward becoming Vice Chairman.

2021/22 saw Jamie Crellin take over as First Team Manager, with Danny Lee (former Academy manager) returning to the club to join Jamie in the dugout as assistant manager. The U23s were disbanded but we had an additional U18s (all U16s) playing in the Southern Combination Football League on Sundays but this year playing in the U17s division.

This season sees Brannon O'Neill appointed as Assistant Manager following Danny Lee's departure and Joe Kay joining as First Team Coach.

RESULTS & FIXTURES

SATURDAY 19th AUGUST 2023

PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE SOUTH EAST DIVISION

THREE BRIDGES

4-2

PHOENIX SPORTS

VELOCITY CUP FIRST ROUND

Broadbridge Heath

1-1

Chichester City

(Chichester won 3-4 on penalties)

EMIRATES F.A.CUP PRELIMINARY ROUND (selected fixtures)

SATURDAY 19TH AUGUST 2023

Ashford United

2-3

Beckenham Town

Badshot Lea

2-3

Lancing

Bedfont Sports

1-1

Herne Bay

Burgess Hill Town

0-0

Erith Town

Crawley Down Gatwick

3-6

Hanworth Villa

East Grinstead Town

1-3

Hythe Town

FAVERSHAM TOWN

2-1

MERSTHAM

Horndean

3-0

Brockenhurst

Lordswood

1-1

Cray Valley PM

Ramsgate

4-1

Bexhill United

Sevenoaks Town

3-0

Colliers Wood United

Sheppey United

3-0

Midhurst & Easebourne

TUESDAY 22nd AUGUST 2023

PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE SOUTH EAST DIVISION

Ashford United

2-1

Sevenoaks Town

EMIRATES F.A.CUP PRELIMINARY ROUND REPLAYS

Cray Valley PM

4-1

Lordswood

Erith Town

1-2

Burgess Hill Town

Herne Bay

3-0

Bedfont Sports

WEDNESDAY 23rd AUGUST 2023

VELOCITY CUP FIRST ROUND

Phoenix Sports

V

Erith & Belvedere

FIXTURES

PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE SOUTH EAST DIVISION

SATURDAY 26th AUGUST 2023

BECKENHAM TOWN	V	THREE BRIDGES
Burgess Hill Town	v	Erith & Belvedere
Chichester City	v	Lancing
Cray Valley PM	v	Broadbridge Heath
East Grinstead Town	v	Herne Bay
Horndean	v	Sittingbourne
MERSTHAM	V	HYTHE TOWN
Ramsgate	v	Littlehampton Town
SHEPPEY UNITED	V	PHOENIX SPORTS

MONDAY 28th AUGUST 2023

Broadbridge Heath	v	Chichester City
Erith & Belvedere	v	Beckenham Town
Herne Bay	v	Ramsgate
Hythe Town	v	Ashford United
Lancing	v	Burgess Hill Town
Phoenix Sports	v	Cray Valley PM
Sevenoaks Town	v	East Grinstead Town
Sittingbourne	v	Sheppey United
THREE BRIDGES	V	MERSTHAM

TUESDAY 29th AUGUST 2023

Littlehampton Town	v	Horndean
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MATCH REPORT
Saturday 19th August 2023
Pitching In Isthmian League South East Division
Three Bridges (2) 4 Phoenix Sports (0) 2
Report by Alf Blackler

Bridges : L.Anderson, R.Euba, S.Packham, T.Curran, T.Difika, H.Woollard, K.Rivera, B.O'Neill, N.Leighton, C.Collcutt (E.Hanslow, 72), C.Lawson (G.Ashley, 80).

Unused Subs. - M.Bromage, C.Donaghey, H.Griffiths.

Booked : O'Neill (36).

Phoenix: A.Walker, H.Douglas, L.Clark, R.Sawyer, M.Bourne, M.Dalton (C.Etumnu, 87), R.Hayes, M.Sarpong (I.Thompson, 74), L.Bird, B.Mills (A.Day, 80), A.Evans.

Unused Subs. – R.Sahni, K.Phillip.

Booked – Evans(58), Walker (90+3).

Referee : Patrick Nixon.

Whisper it carefully but this game saw Bridges go top of the table! But it's only because they and visiting Phoenix were playing their second League game of the season whilst the rest of the division had just one game under their belts! And Ashford United has now won another game to go above us!

The promise of an entertaining game was there right from the start as Phoenix keeper Andy Walker tipped a Connor Collcutt effort round the post whilst a volley by Ryan Hayes hit the top of Leo Anderson's crossbar. And this all in the first two minutes!

It was Bridges who got their noses in front after thirteen minutes when Brannon O'Neill threaded the ball through to the excellent Kevin Rivera, who turned and laid a perfect pass to **NOEL LEIGHTON**, whose crisp finish was just as perfect.

But the lead only lasted four minutes as a determined run by Michael Sarpong finished with a swerving shot that Anderson made a hash of sadly, and **BOBBY MILLS** was first to the loose ball.

Another run by Rivera saw Collcutt's shot blocked, but then it was then the turn of Walker to make a mistake when Rivera's shot hit the post. Walker looked favourite to get to the loose ball but **LEIGHTON** nipped in to net his second of the afternoon.

Anderson atoned for his earlier error with a tremendous save from Mills, but after 32 minutes Camron Lawson was adjudged to have handled and **HAYES** made no mistake from the penalty spot.

Leighton was twice denied a hat trick either side of half time, whilst a great through ball from Tresor Difika found Rivera, only for Walker this time to make an excellent save.

Gianni Ashley came on as a substitute and his first touch led to a deflection and thus a corner in the 81st minute. The delivery from O'Neill was inviting and **DIFIKA** headed the home side back in front. And five minutes later, after another corner was only half cleared, O'Neill drove the ball back to the far post where **DIFIKA** delivered another fine headed goal.

But for Walker, Sam Packham might have added a fifth from a well struck free kick, but the three points were welcome and they took Bridges, albeit however briefly, to the top of the table!

Bridges Man of the Match : **Tresor Difika**.

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SOUTH EAST DIVISION																				
Ashford United																	2-1			
Beckenham Town																				
Broadbridge Heath																		2-2		
Burgess Hill Town																				
Chichester City																				
Cray Valley PM																				
East Grinstead Town																				
Erith & Belvedere	0-1																			
Herne Bay				2-2																
Horndean																				
Hythe Town							4-0													
Lancing														1-0						
Littlehampton Town		2-1																		
Merstham																				
Phoenix Sports					0-0															
Ramsgate																				
Sevenoaks Town																4-2				
Sheppey United																				
Sittingbourne						2-3														
THREE BRIDGES										2-2					4-2					

FIXTURES/RESULTS

2023/2024



Date	Comp	H/A	Opposition	Res.	Scorers
05/08	FAC-EP	H	CRAWLEY DOWN GATWICK	2-2	Gayler, Difika
08/08	FAC-EPR	A	Crawley Down Gatwick	0-2	
12/08	League	H	HORNDEN	2-2	Irving, Leighton
19/08	League	H	PHOENIX SPORTS	4-2	Leighton (2), Difika (2)
26/08	League	A	Beckenham Town		
28/08	League	H	MERSTHAM		
09/09	FAT-1Q	A	Beckenham Town		
16/09	League	A	East Grinstead Town		
23/09	FAT-2Q				
30/09	League	H	BROADBRIDGE HEATH		
07/10	League	A	Phoenix Sports		
10/10	League	A	Chichester City		
14/10	League	H	SHEPPEY UNITED		
21/10	League	H	LITTLEHAMPTON TOWN		
28/10	League	A	Lancing		
04/11	League	H	CRAY VALLEY PM		
11/11	League	A	Herne Bay		
18/11	League	A	Sittingbourne		
25/11	League	H	ERITH & BELVEDERE		
02/12	League	A	Sevenoaks Town		
09/12	League	H	RAMSGATE		
16/12	League	H	EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN		
26/12	League	A	Merstham		
30/12	League	A	Horndean		
01/01	League	H	BURGESS HILL TOWN		
06/01	League	A	Ashford United		
13/01	League	H	HYTHE TOWN		
20/01	League	A	Broadbridge Heath		
27/01	League	H	CHICHESTER CITY		
03/02	League	A	Sheppey United		
17/02	League	A	Littlehampton Town		
24/02	League	H	LANCING		
02/03	League	A	Cray Valley PM		
09/03	League	H	HERNE BAY		
16/03	League	A	Hythe Town		
23/03	League	H	ASHFORD UNITED		
30/03	League	H	BECKENHAM TOWN		
01/04	League	A	Burgess Hill Town		
06/04	League	H	SITTINGBOURNE		
14/04	League	A	Erith & Belvedere		
20/04	League	H	SEVENOAKS TOWN		
27/04	League	A	Ramsgate		

FAC = FA Cup

FAT = FA Trophy

VT = Velocity Trophy

SSC = Sussex Senior Cup

Bridges score shown first in all games

STATS

APPEARANCES	2023/24						Bridges First Team Career					
	League		Cup		Total		League		Cup		Total	
	Start	Sub	Start	Sub	Start	Sub	Start	Sub	Start	Sub	Start	Sub
Leo Anderson	2		2		4		35		12	1	47	1
Giani Ashley		2		1		3	67	9	17	2	83	11
Mitch Bromage							28		6		34	
Tadley Bromage			2		2		86	1	18	3	104	4
Conner Collcutt	2		2		4		3	10	3	2	6	12
Taylor Curran	2				2		2				2	
Tresor Difika	2		2		4		2	1	3	3	5	4
Callum Donaghey							117	27	36	4	153	31
Ridwan Euba	2		2		4		2		2		4	
Dan Ferreira							34	11	8	2	42	13
Curtis Gayler			2		2		77	7	23		100	7
Harvey Griffiths						1		1		2		3
Elliott Hanslow		2				2		3		1		4
Billy Irving		1	2		2	1	27	12	11	2	39	13
Camron Lawson	2			2	2	2	34	26	9	7	43	33
Noel Leighton	2		2		4		48	2	13	1	61	3
Brannon O'Neill	2		2		4		131	10	29	2	160	12
Sam Packham	2				2		2				2	
Kevin Rivera	2		2		4		30	7	8	1	38	8
Bryan Villavicencio	1		1		2		49	4	14	0	63	4
Harvey Woollard	1		1	1	2	1	4	6	3	3	7	9

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GOAL SCORERS	2023/24			Bridges First Team Career		
	League	Cup	Total	League	Cup	Total
Giani Ashley				2		2
Conner Collcutt				1	1	2
Tresor Difika	2	1	3	2	1	3
Callum Donaghey				10	5	15
Dan Ferreira				2		2
Curtis Gayler		1	1	19	5	24
Billy Irving	1		1	2	2	4
Camron Lawson				5	2	7
Noel Leighton	3		3	18	4	22
Brannon O'Neill				23	7	30
Kevin Rivera				5	1	6
Joe Stone					2	2
Brian Villavicencio				3		3
Own Goal						



ONE: Tresor Difika, Ridwan Euba, Elliott Hanslow, Kevin Rivera

[illegible]

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UNDER 18'S ISTHMIAN LEAGUE SOUTH 2023/24

Date	Comp	H/A	Opposition	Res.	Scorers
21/08	League	H	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	3-1	Kaye (2), Milner
29/08	YLC	H	WELLING UNITED		
04/09	FAYC	H	SEAFORD		
11/09	League	H	HASTINGS UNITED		
09/10	League	H	HORSHAM		
23/10	League	H	HORSHAM YMCA		
02/11	League	A	Lewes		
07/11	League	A	Worthing		
13/11	League	H	WHITEHAWK		
20/11	League	A	Bognor Regis Town		
27/11	League	H	BURGESS HILL TOWN		
05/12	League	A	Burgess Hill Town		
11/12	League	H	BOGNOR REGIS TOWN		
18/12	League	A	Whitehawk		
08/01	League	H	WORTHING		
15/01	League	H	LEWES		
22/01	League	A	Horsham YMCA		
08/02	League	A	Hastings United		
13/02	League	A	Eastbourne Borough		
20/02	League	A	Horsham		

YLC = Youth League Cup

FAYC = FA Youth Cup

SCC = Sussex County Cup

(Isthmian League South Division as at 22nd August 2023)

	Home	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Away
1	08/01	WORTHING	1	1	0	0	7	0	7	3	07/11
2	X	THREE BRIDGES	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	3	X
3	27/11	BURGESS HILL TOWN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	05/12
4	11/09	HASTINGS UNITED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	08/02
5	09/10	HORSHAM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20/02
6	23/10	HORSHAM YMCA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22/01
7	15/01	LEWES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	02/11
8	13/11	WHITEHAWK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18/12
9	3-1	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0	13/02
10	11/12	BOGNOR REGIS TOWN	1	0	0	1	0	7	-7	0	20/11

(Bridges score shown first in both home and away columns)

Monday 21st August 2023 (home) Eastbourne Borough Won 3-1

Team : M.Watson-Price, J.Oliver (C.Hayden-Pickering, 85), M.Anderson, H.Stewart (D.Combe, 90), F.Bishop, O.Cowdrey, E.Hanslow, J.Timlin, A.Kaye, S.Tuesley (C.Milner, 78), S.Bah.

Unused Subs. – B.Peirera, C.Bradley.

Scorers – Kaye (3, 85), Milner (90).

Booked – Oliver (10, Bah (26), Stewart (37), Bishop (76).

Man of the Match – Monty Watson-Price.

ISTHMIAN U18 STATISTICS 2023-2024

[illegible]



PARTNERS WITH ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



PARTNERS WITH ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



PARTNERS WITH ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

MERSTHAM

In the early years, Merstham FC began life playing on a pitch at the old Merstham Lime Works which was accessed via Jolliffe Road. In 1897 the club were founder members of the Redhill & District League and playing in Division Two along with our old friends Whyteleafe. In the early 1920s the club moved to its present location in Albury Road. The club's first major success was winning the league in 1927. In 1930, the East Surrey Junior Cup was added to the trophy cabinet. In 1935 and 1936, Merstham won the Redhill League Premier Division in consecutive years, a record later repeated in 1950 and 1951. In 1951, the club applied for intermediate status and accepted into the Eastern Section of the Surrey Intermediate League for the 1952/53 season. The move to the new league could hardly have got off to a better start, as the club claimed the title at their first attempt.

There was progress off the field too. In 1960, the changing room and tea-room were built, and training lights erected. Merstham continued to play in the Surrey Intermediate League until they gained senior status in 1964 and joined the Surrey Senior League. In fourteen years in the Surrey Senior League, Merstham managed to win the title just once in 1971/72. In 1974 a small stand was built with a modest capacity of 90. In 1978 the club joined the London Spartan League and finished a creditable third in their first two seasons. Those two seasons proved to be amongst the club's best as they also claimed the Surrey Senior Charity Cup and the London Spartan League Challenge Cup in the first season, adding the East Surrey Charities Cup the following year.

By the 1984/85 season Merstham had decided that the travelling involved in the Spartan League was too much and they joined the Combined Counties League. That season also saw the completion of the new clubhouse. Merstham were runners-up in the Combined Counties League in the 1987/88 season and the following year reached the 4th round of the FA Vase before losing to Billericay Town at home 2-3 after throwing away a 2-0 lead. They also won the Dan Air Class Elite Cup beating local rivals Chipstead 2-1 aet. This came as some consolation as Chipstead had pipped Merstham to the league title by a point.

The 1990/91 season saw the erection of floodlights and an official 'Floodlight Opener' against Crystal Palace, whose side included future England Manager, Gareth Southgate. Merstham's defence of the League Cup saw them again reach the final, but Frimley Green defeated a tired Merstham side 1-0, after extra time, in a replay. The next few seasons saw Merstham generally settle for mid-table anonymity. The 1995/96 season brought some success to Merstham, finishing fourth in the League, but it was the reserves that won silverware by beating Godalming in the Reserve League Challenge Cup. The FA Cup of 1996/97 saw Merstham's biggest home defeat when they crashed out in the First Qualifying Round, 1-8 to Aldershot Town.

The 2000/01 season was Merstham's most successful for nearly a decade. They reached the Second Qualifying Round of the FA Cup and finished eighth in the league after being in the top six for most of the season. The 2002/03 season brought AFC Wimbledon into the league and their visit to Merstham attracted 1,582 fans, then the club's record attendance. Unfortunately, the visitors won 2-0. A successful application to the FA Stadia Fund enabled the club to build the new changing rooms and a perimeter fence. Silverware returned to Merstham in the 2004/05 season when they beat AFC Guildford 3-0 in the final of the Premier Challenge Cup and won the East Surrey Hospitals Charity Cup (ESHCC) with a victory over local rivals Redhill. 2005/06 was an excellent season, but with nothing to show for it; beaten finalists in the Premier Challenge Cup and ESHCC and runners up in the Combined Counties Premier Division. More disappointment followed when the club was denied promotion to the Isthmian League because their stand was delivered two weeks late. For the 2006/07 season manager, Mick Sullivan, along with assistants Micky Stratford and Rhys Williams built a team which surpassed expectations as the club enjoyed their best season for 20 years, finishing second in the league and winning the Premier Challenge Cup by beating North Greenford Utd 4-1 in a hard-fought final. In the league they notched up a fantastic 100 goals, nearly a quarter of which were scored by striker Kwabena Agyei. The Southern Combination Cup was shared between Merstham and Staines Lammas when a fixture date for the final could not be agreed. The final of the ESHCC against Redhill was delayed until the start of the 2007/08 season when Merstham won 3-2. Many thought Merstham had peaked, but the 2007/08 season, Mick Sullivan's seventh year in charge, brought the Club into a new era with a treble winning side, a fantastic run in the FA Vase and promotion to the Isthmian League South Division as they finally finished top of the league after two seasons as runners up. After losing on the opening day of the season at Cove, Merstham went undefeated in the league for the rest of the season winning 35 times, gaining 111 points and scoring 114 goals with Kevin Lock and Kwabena Agyei scoring 53 between them. The dream of a Wembley final in the FA Vase vanished in the Quarter Final when they lost at home to Needham Market 2-3 in extra time in front of a crowd of 841. Merstham successfully defended the Premier Challenge Cup beating Bedfont Green 4-2 in the final. In the Surrey Senior Cup final against Isthmian League side Whyteleafe, the Moatsiders won 3-2 in extra time after twice being behind. With promotion to the Isthmian League South officially confirmed in May 2008, Merstham left behind them many friends after 24 seasons in the Combined Counties League.

MERSTHAM

The 2008/09 was Merstham's first season in the Isthmian South and many thought that the team would struggle at that level. Happy to disappoint the pessimists, Merstham had a good season finishing eighth, narrowly missing out the play-offs. Their defence of their Surrey Senior Cup title was ended by Woking in the semi-final. Merstham Ladies also had a great season winning their League and League Cup and finishing runners up in the La Senza Ladies Cup. However, in May manager Mick Sullivan announced that, after eight seasons at the helm, he was leaving the club for local rivals Leatherhead. Former Banstead boss Graeme Banyard was appointed as the new manager.

Merstham's second season in the Isthmian League went the way of many promoted sides who had found it far more difficult than their first. Banyard found himself in a difficult situation as a number of the previous season's team had joined Sullivan at Leatherhead. Only skipper Craig Vernon, winger David Smith and veteran goalkeeper Ian Chatfield stayed at the Moatside. Many new players came and went as Merstham's form took a turn for the worse, though the team eventually finished in a comfortable mid-table position. The 2010/11 season will be remembered for the resignation of Graeme Banyard. Andy Martin took over as Caretaker Manager as Merstham slid towards the relegation zone. Martin managed to keep the side up and was duly appointed manager for the 2011/12 season. But after just twenty games in charge, Martin left and Antony Williams and Rob Smith took over as caretaker managers. In January 2012, the Board announced that former Bromley manager Hayden Bird would take up the post with immediate effect. Bird rang the changes, bringing in several new players and Merstham finished a creditable ninth.

The 2012/13 was Bird's first full season in charge and it didn't quite live up to expectations with Merstham finishing 12th and without a noticeable run in any cup completion. Bird again rang the changes for the 2013/14 season bringing in more experienced players and Merstham attained their highest place in the club's history, finishing seventh with their highest tally of points and goals since gaining promotion to the Isthmian League. It was a proverbial season of two halves for the Moatsiders. At Christmas Merstham were languishing in 18th place with just 25 points from 21 games, however, with the return of Fabio Saraiva, Merstham went on an unbeaten run, just missing out on the play-offs. Tommy Hutchings deservedly won the Players and Supporters 'Player of the Season' awards.

The 2014/15 season was to be the best in the club's history to date, gaining promotion to the Isthmian Premier Division by winning the play-offs in style and finishing runners up in the Surrey Senior Cup. Merstham's fourth place finish with 93 points and 107 goals put them into the play-offs. The play off semi-final went to penalties, which Merstham won 5-4 thanks to keeper Brannon Daly making a match-winning save. In front of a crowd of 1465, Merstham gained promotion at Folkestone beating the home side 3-0 with goals from Taurean Roberts, Tutu Henriques and skipper Fabio Saraiva. Just four days later, a tired-looking Merstham lost 2-0 in the final of the Surrey Senior Cup to Met Police. The 2015/16 season was to be yet another record-breaking season for Merstham attaining their highest position in the 'Football Pyramid' finishing a very creditable tenth in their first season in The Isthmian Premier League. This was in part due to 20 goals from Charlie Penny and 14 from Fabio Saraiva who were both signed by Woking after dumping the National League side out in the semis of the Surrey Senior Cup. The final was very one-sided, as Godalming Town were thumped 4-1.

In Merstham's second season in the Isthmian Premier, the Moatsiders reached the First Round Proper of the FA Cup for the first time in their history. They achieved this with some of the finest football ever seen at the Moatside; They beat East Preston (4-1), Colliers Wood Utd (2-1 in a replay), Thamesmead Town (5-1) and Ebbsfleet Utd (2-1) on the way to a meeting with League One side Oxford United. The loss of skipper Fabio Saraiva and Charlie Penny in the close season to Woking was a blow, but Hayden Bird was determined to build on the success of the previous season. Penny did return to the Moatside after not getting regular football at Woking and scored twice in his first game back. However, an injury during the FA Cup game against Ebbsfleet United kept him out for the rest of the season. The obvious highlight of the season was the Oxford United game which saw a record-breaking crowd of 1,920 at the Moatside. Although Merstham lost 5-0, the scoreline somewhat flattered the League One side. After the euphoria of the cup run, Merstham's season spiralled downward and the club narrowly avoiding relegation on the last day of the season, which was not helped by the loss of three points for fielding an ineligible player.

During the close season Bird made wholesale changes to his squad. Assistant Manager Mick Sullivan, who left the club, was replaced by Merstham player/coach Tutu Henriques. The 2017/18 saw the club celebrate its 125th anniversary, finish 12th in the league and for the second time in four years, win the Surrey Senior Cup, beating Leatherhead 3-1. The 2018/19 was Merstham's best-ever season in the topflight. At Christmas, the side were flirting with relegation, but a superb run saw the Moatsiders put themselves in the hunt for the play offs. They finished the season needing to win away to Worthing to get into the play offs. Amazingly the visitors went 3-0 up inside the first ten minutes and held on for a 4-2 win. In the play-off semi-final, another tough away game at Carshalton saw the Moatsiders shock the Robins with a 2-1 win, which set up a play-off final away to Tonbridge Angels in front of a crowd of 2,400.

It turned out to be a physical and rather dour encounter marred by a double sending off just before the interval with Merstham's Ollie Cook given his marching orders. Tonbridge scored on 34' and the Moatsiders rarely looked like getting back on terms. A penalty in added time was largely irrelevant as the Angels clinched the play-off spot with a 2-0 win. Shortly after the play-off final, Manager Hayden Bird decided that he had taken the club as far as he could and left to join Kingstonian, taking the entire first-team squad with him. Former Tooting and Mitcham boss Frank Wilson was appointed in June 2019 and had to build a brand-new squad from scratch, bringing in former Moatsiders Omar Folkes and Peter Wedgeworth.

No one could have predicted the impact of Covid-19 as the pandemic swept the world just as the 2019/20 season neared its conclusion. Wilson had endured a real baptism of fire as his new team struggled to maintain their Premier League status. As the pandemic surged throughout the UK, football was no longer a priority and when the season was finally curtailed, with all records being expunged, Merstham were fighting relegation and sat in 21st place, although with home games against relegation rivals to play, most were confident that the drop could be avoided. The 20/21 season lasted just 11 games before the surge in Covid cases brought the new season to an inevitable halt.

When football finally returned at the start of the 2021/22 season, the Moatsiders made a decent start in the league and progressed through two rounds of the FA Cup before losing at home to Hereford United. In the FA Trophy, Welwyn Garden City came to the Moatside and caused something of an upset by winning comfortably 3-0. In November, the team went through a purple patch of form with the front two of Korrey Henry and John Ufuah forming a lethal combination and the team playing some superb football. In the home game against Haringey, Merstham were 5-0 up at the interval! However, other clubs had taken note and Ufuah departed for the Welsh Premiership and Henry to Carshalton. Without their front two, the Moatsiders struggled to score goals and combined with a horrendous run of injuries that reduced the squad to the bare bones, Merstham began to slide down the table. The team lost their final 13 league games and relegation was confirmed on the final day of the season. Wilson departed and he was replaced for the 2022/23 season by former Carshalton boss and ex-Merstham midfielder Peter Adeniyi.

Merstham were one of the favourites for promotion from the Isthmian South Central in 2022/3. However, Adeniyi's young, new team failed to fire and after ten games, the team were bottom of the table and remained there for much of the season. A bad habit of drawing games that they should have won didn't help and the team eventually ended up with 17 draws from 38 games. That combined with a quite appalling record from the penalty spot meant that all too often the side managed to snatch defeat (or a draw) from the jaws of victory. A prime example was away to Southall when the Moatsiders were 3-1 up in added time but ended up drawing 3-3! The team seemed to have turned a corner around the New Year and had a number of good results, including an unbeaten run of 6 games, but only one of those was a win. As the season drew to a close, Merstham had their fate in their own hands with games against others around them in the relegation zone. But a damaging defeat at Sutton Common Rovers and a disappointing home draw with Bedfont Sports followed by a 6-0 thumping at Walton & Hersham put them in deep trouble near the bottom. A fighting performance and 90th minute winner at Chertsey meant it was all to play for in the final league game of the season at home to Westfield. After 45 minutes the Moatsiders were 2-0 down and staring relegation in the face. However, a stirring second half display earned them a point with a 2-2 draw, but they could have won it. It condemned Merstham to a relegation play off against an in-form Egham Town. In front of over 650 spectators, Merstham conceded first and were lucky not to be two down. But on the stroke of half time, Aaron Goode powered home a header to make it 1-1. After the break it was all Merstham and two goals by Adam Adam on 64' and 81' guaranteed the Moatsiders survival.

They did however find themselves in another division as the Isthmian League moved them from South Central to South East this season.

They started the season with a 2-1 home win against Raynes Park Vale in the Extra Preliminary Round of the F.A.Cup, but they went out of that competition last weekend when they lost 1-2 at Faversham Town.

Their opening League game resulted in a single goal defeat at Lancing. These notes were written before their game on Saturday (26th) at home to Hythe Town.

MERSTHAM PROFILES

Tony Reid

Manager. Tony's most recent managerial roles were as the boss of Corinthian-Casuals and East Grinstead Town, but he will be far more familiar to Isthmian watchers from his time at Westfield, where he steered the Woking Park side to a promotion and a play-off place. He was previously a manager at Eastbourne Town, Walton & Hersham and Farnham Town. Prior to his managerial career he was a striker, playing for Casuals and for the likes of Carshalton Athletic, Egham Town, Tooting & Mitcham United, Leatherhead, Lewes, Sittingbourne, Bromley, Hampton, Croydon Athletic and Kingstonian. Oh. And Merstham!

Zack Basey

Goalkeeper. Joins us having spent the previous season just up the road at South Park Reigate. Highly rated young keeper who is an excellent shot stopper.

Dan O'Donovan

Goalkeeper. Joins the Moatsiders from Colliers Wood United, having had a spell last season at Sutton Common Rovers. Dan was part of the highly-rated Kinetic Foundation Academy.

Dean Gunner

Defender. A commanding central defender with vast experience, Dean was part of the Merstham side that won promotion to the Isthmian Premier in 2014-15 and then did the same with Dorking Wanderers in 2016-17. He spent last season at Haywards Heath, but he has a great deal of experience at this level, turning out for Three Bridges, Horsham YMCA, Whyteleafe, Greenwich Borough, Chipstead, Sevenoaks and East Grinstead Town.

Peter Wedgeworth

Defender. Experienced left back and another former Merstham player. Peter was part of the Merstham side which started the 2019-20 Isthmian Premier season, making eleven appearances. He spent last season at Chipstead, playing twenty-nine times including in a draw against us in November. The full back and free-kick specialist was an important part of Tooting's promotion to the Isthmian Premier Division in 2017.

Reuben Collins

Defender. A commanding central defender, very comfortable with the ball at his feet. Reuben is another player returning to the Moatside, as he spent 5 months in the side under Frank Wilson in 2021-22. He came through the AFC Wimbledon youth ranks before joining Truro City FC. Other clubs include Corinthian Casuals, Billericay Town and Basingstoke Town.

Andy O'Brien

Defender. Central defender who was skipper at Uxbridge last season and made thirty-four appearances for them after signing from 2020-21 Pitching In Isthmian South Central promotion winners Hanwell Town. Andy made twenty-three appearances for the Geordies during that promotion campaign, emerging from the bench in that crazy Play Off Final against Chertsey Town as the ten-man visitors tried to hold on for victory. That was his fourth season with the club, and his eighty third appearance. Prior to his time with Hanwell, he played for Greystones United in Ireland.

Charlie Alexiou

Defender. Charlie joined Merstham last season and after a loan spell mid-way through the campaign at Guildford City. He returned to the Moatside and produced a series of Man of the Match displays as the season went down to the wire. He started at Carshalton's Academy and then joined Loughborough University's highly rated football team.

MERSTHAM PROFILES

Cerny Ando

Defender. Cerny joins Merstham from Bedfont Sports. He played his youth football for AFC Wimbledon, then later moved up north to play for Salford City's U18 and 21 sides. Previous clubs include Met Police, Cray Wanderers and Aveyley.

Jonathan Gjoshe

Defender. Jonathan was one of Tony Reid's first signings. He joins us from Walton & Hersham and was part of the Swan's promotion winning side. Previous clubs include Chipstead and Kingstonian.

Josh Afonso

Defender. Josh joins the Moatsiders from Dorking Wanderers 'B' side, and has impressed Tony Reid in pre-season.

Michael Abnett

Defender. Yet another player returning to the Moatside. Michael was part of the Merstham side that went on its historic run to the First Round of the FA Cup, and was also in the side that went to the Isthmian Premier Play Off Final in the 2018-19 season. Originally a full back, Michael has been playing more as a holding midfielder in pre-season.

Jaedon Reynolds

Midfield. Spent some time with Tony Reid at Corinthian Casuals last season. He has previously played for Croydon at U18 level and part of the highly-rated Kinetic Foundation Academy.

Lee Quincey

Midfield. Another new signing this season. Lee joins from the Fox Soccer Academy after youth team spells at Gillingham, Walsall and Lincoln. He also appeared for in the Sky TV documentary 'One Shot: The Football Factory'

Bentley Graham

Midfield. An experienced holding midfielder who was at Sevenoaks last season. Started at Sutton United, and had a previous spell at Whyteleafe FC.

Tom Singhgolden

Midfield. Tom's footballing journey has brought him to the Moatside via the US, where he played football at Northeastern State University and then turned out for Fort Worth Vaqueros last season.

Lewis Pearch

Forward. A home-grown talent who came up through the Merstham youth ranks before leaving to join a number of Merstham players at Kingstonian. Had a spell at Leatherhead and Chipstead last season before returning to the Moatside this season

Lorenzo Lewis

Forward. Lorenzo joined Merstham last season from Lancing and his direct style and powerful shooting soon made him a fan favourite, though injuries disrupted much of his campaign. He was voted Clubman of the Year for his enthusiasm and efforts on and off the pitch. Prior to his time as a Lancer, Lorenzo played for Oxford City, Carshalton Athletic and Lingfield.

MERSTHAM PROFILES

David Bangurah

Forward. The forward joined the Moatsiders last season, but unfortunately broke his leg in a pre-season friendly away to Redhill. David started to get back to his best at the end of last season. He spent his youth career at Reading FC.

Adam Adam

Forward. Now in his second season at the club, Adam is an exciting young talent, blessed with great pace. He scored several crucial goals last term, notably in the relegation play-off game against Egham Town where his two goals were critical in Merstham's nail-biting win.

Craig Kingswell

Forward. Craig has all the physical attributes of a great target man up front and was banging in the goals last season for Dorkinians. Tony Reid signed him after Craig impressed in the latter part of pre-season.

Greg Akpele

Forward. The experienced forward joins the Moatsiders from Witham Town. He has had previous spells at Romford, Kingstonian, Hampton & Richmond Borough and Cheshunt.

Michael Dixon

Forward. Michael joins us from Chipstead, where he made 32 appearances for them last season. He won promotion with Tooting & Mitcham United in the 2016-17 season, scoring 23 goals in 30 appearances.

Bryan Zepo

Forward. Bryan joined Merstham last season from Lewisham Borough and quickly became a fans favourite. He ended up as our top goal scorer in his first season at Step 4. He also had a spell at Northern Ireland side, Dundela FC.

David Bangurah

Forward. The forward joined the Moatsiders last season, but unfortunately broke his leg in a pre-season friendly away to Redhill. David started to get back to his best at the end of last season. He spent his youth career at Reading FC.

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PLAYER PROFILE

NAME	BRYAN VILLAVICENCIO
BIRTHDATE	30 th MAY 1996
BIRTHPLACE	ECUADOR
FAMILY	PARTNER DIANA and TWO CHILDREN
PREVIOUS CLUBS	FC ROMANIA, PECKHAM TOWN, HANWORTH VILLA
MAJOR HONOURS	NOTHING SIGNIFICANT - YET
OTHER SPORTS	SWIMMING
FAV. AWAY GROUND	WHITEHAWK!
FAV.PRO CLUB	REAL MADRID
FAV.FOOD & DRINK	PASTA, WATER
HOBBIES	JUST FOOTBALL 24/7
DISLIKES	INJURIES!
OCCUPATION	PASSENGER SERVICES ASSISTANT



Bryan is now in his third season with us and is a determined and lively midfielder. He has been suffering with an ankle injury in recent weeks.









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14 October	Sheppey United	Sarasota Villa FL	
21 October	Littlehampton Town	Nick & Jacqueline Walters	
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