

SEASON 2023/2024



PARTNERS WITH



OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME



THREE BRIDGES V HERNE BAY

SATURDAY 9th MARCH 2024 – KO – 3.00 pm

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



Respect 



BENCHMARK
REPROGRAPHICS



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
	Steve White
Head Groundsmen:	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:	Clinton Moore
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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)

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Reflecting on this season, I must say it's been one of the most memorable ones I've experienced. It's been a rollercoaster ride, full of highs and lows.

Throughout the season, we've consistently emphasized our belief in nurturing young talent through our youth pathway here at Three Bridges, and it's been an absolute delight to witness their growth and contribution to the team.

One particular highlight was during our match against Lancing at home a few weeks back. We introduced 16-year-old George Falzon onto the field, who not only won a crucial free kick but also executed a stunning diving header to score on his debut. And if that wasn't impressive enough, Elliott Hanslow, just turned 17, scored a thunderous equalizer against the formidable Cray, a team that had been undefeated for 27 games and had a remarkable FA cup run.

Our recent performances in the last four games have been outstanding, bringing us tantalizingly close to the playoffs once again. Today's game against Herne Bay adds an extra layer of excitement as they are currently tied with us in points. It's a thrilling prospect for both sets of fans and teams alike.

I want to extend a special thank you to our dear friend Mick Spencer for being our match day sponsor today.

On behalf of everyone at Three Bridges Football Club, I'd like to offer heartfelt congratulations to Katie Buckle and our first team Manager Jamie Crellin on the arrival of their beautiful baby boy, Jax. I have a feeling it won't be long before we see little Jax donning a Bridges kit and hopefully becoming a future Bridges player.

A big shoutout to all our sponsors and, of course, our incredible and steadfast fans. I want to emphasize that none of this would be possible without the dedicated team working tirelessly behind the scenes.

A warm welcome to Herne Bay and their fans. I hope you all enjoy the day.

So let's sit back and savor what promises to be an exciting game of football.

Warm regards,

Paul Faili

TODAY'S SPONSOR

MICK SPENCER

																				
SOUTH EAST DIVISION	ASHF	BECK	BHTH	BHILL	CHI CH	CRAY	EGT	ERITH	HBAY	HORN	HYTH	LANC	LITT	MRST	PNIX	RAMS	7OAK	SHEP	SITT	3BR
Ashford United		3-2		1-0		0-2	0-1	4-1		3-1	0-1	3-4		3-2	3-5	2-3	2-1	3-2		3-2
Beckenham Town	0-1		0-4	0-4	0-2		3-0	1-1	3-3			2-3	1-6	2-1			2-2			1-2
Broadbridge Heath	1-0	3-3		0-0	0-3		0-1	1-0	1-1				2-0	6-6		0-2		2-2	0-2	3-0
Burgess Hill Town					3-5	1-4	3-0	0-2	2-1	1-0	1-2	2-4	1-1	5-1	2-2		1-0		1-1	
Chichester City	1-2	4-0	2-1			0-3	7-1		1-3	1-3	5-0	3-0		1-1	1-3		1-0		0-2	0-1
Cray Valley PM	2-0	2-1	2-2		0-0		4-1	3-0		1-1		1-1	2-2	4-1	3-1	1-1		3-1	2-2	4-5
East Grinstead Town	6-0		1-1		1-1	0-4			1-2			0-2		4-1	1-1		0-3		1-2	1-2
Erith & Belvedere	0-1	0-2	1-2		1-1		0-4		1-1		1-0	0-3	2-1		1-0	0-5	0-1	0-4	0-4	
Herne Bay	2-2	3-2	3-1	2-2		0-1		0-0		4-3	1-2	3-1	4-1	2-0	2-0	1-2			0-3	3-3
Horndean		4-1	4-0	1-0			1-3		2-4		0-4		2-1				3-0		0-3	1-3
Hythe Town	2-2		2-1	2-2	0-2		4-0	1-3					1-0			2-2	4-0	2-2		
Lancing		1-1	2-1	0-1		0-1			0-3	4-1	2-1			1-0	4-2	4-2	1-2	1-2	0-0	4-0
Littlehampton Town	1-0	2-1	2-1		0-3	0-5	1-2			1-1	4-4	0-1			2-1		1-5	0-6		0-0
Merstham	2-2	4-3		3-1	0-3	0-1		2-0		1-1	0-2	1-2	0-1		3-0	0-3		3-2	0-1	3-2
Phoenix Sports	3-1	3-3	0-4	2-2	0-0	2-7		0-0	0-2	1-0	0-4	1-2	0-2				3-2			2-6
Ramsgate	4-0	1-0	1-0	4-2	4-0		5-0	4-1	3-1	2-0	3-1		4-0	0-2	9-1		1-0	0-0		
Sevenoaks Town			0-1	3-3	1-0	0-1	4-1	3-0	1-2	3-2	0-0	4-2		2-2		4-2		0-1	3-2	2-2
Sheppey United		2-0	1-0	0-0	1-3		3-0		2-2	2-3		3-0	2-1	0-1	4-0	0-1			3-3	1-0
Sittingbourne	1-0	4-0		5-0	0-3	2-3	2-0	6-0	2-0		0-1				2-1	2-3	2-1	2-2		4-1
THREE BRIDGES			4-2	2-3	3-2	0-2	4-2	6-1		2-2		4-1	3-1	3-3	4-2	0-2		6-0		



SOUTH EAST DIVISION – 2023/24

(As at 6th March 2024)

	Home	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Away
1	0-2	RAMSGATE	27	21	3	3	73	24	49	66	27/04
2	0-2	CRAY VALLEY PM	27	19	7	1	68	24	44	64	5-4
3	06/04	SITTINGBOURNE	27	17	6	4	62	24	38	57	1-4
4	4-1	LANCING	29	16	3	10	53	46	7	51	0-4
5	3-2	CHICHESTER CITY	29	14	5	10	55	34	21	47	1-0
6	X	THREE BRIDGES	28	14	5	9	70	55	15	47	X
7	09/03	HERNE BAY	28	13	8	7	55	42	13	47	3-3
8	6-0	SHEPPEY UNITED	26	11	7	8	48	36	12	40	0-1
9	09/04	HYTHE TOWN	23	11	6	6	42	31	11	39	16/03
10	20/04	SEVENOAKS TOWN	28	10	6	12	46	42	4	36	2-2
11	23/03	ASHFORD UNITED	27	11	3	13	41	52	-11	36	2-3
12	2-3	BURGESS HILL TOWN	27	8	9	10	43	48	-5	33	01/04
13	4-2	BROADBRIDGE HEATH	28	8	7	13	40	45	-5	31	0-3
14	3-3	MERSTHAM	29	8	6	15	43	60	-17	30	2-3
15	2-2	HORNDEAN	24	8	4	12	38	45	-7	28	3-1
16	3-1	LITTLEHAMPTON TOWN	27	7	5	15	33	57	-24	26	0-0
17	4-2	EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN	26	7	3	16	32	60	-28	24	2-1
18	4-2	PHOENIX SPORTS	28	5	6	17	36	76	-40	21	6-2
19	6-1	ERITH & BELVEDERE	28	5	5	18	16	62	-46	20	14/04
20	30/03	BECKENHAM TOWN	26	3	6	17	34	65	-31	15	2-1

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

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THE SOUTH COAST LEADING
TEAM WEAR SUPPLIER

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WE NEED YOUR HELP?

We have decided to create this Crowd-fundraiser page because we are now on the last leg of our journey and we desperately need this extra boost of funds to get us over the finish line.

Our financial goal for this project is ambitious and comes with a hefty tag of £1,084,000. We have set our sights on raising the amount of £150,000 to make this dream a reality. We have already raised a large sum of this amount, thanks to the wonderful and incredible efforts of our community, we have managed to hit the £60,000 mark. Help us make a difference. Every pound you contribute brings us closer to a facility where every child can train, regardless of the weather. It will be a place where future champions are made, where children will learn to rise and fall, where best friends are made for life and where our community will thrive on forever.

**TO DONATE
SCAN THE QR CODE
BELOW**





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.



SOUTH EAST DIVISION RESULTS AND FIXTURES

SATURDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2024

Ashford United	3-1	Horndean
Broadbridge Heath	2-0	Littlehampton Town
Chichester City	1-0	Sevenoaks Town
Erith & Belvedere	1-1	Herne Bay
Phoenix Sports	2-2	Burgess Hill Town
Sheppey United	0-1	Merstham
THREE BRIDGES	4-1	LANCING

TUESDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2024

HORNDEAN	1-3	THREE BRIDGES
Hythe Town	1-0	Littlehampton Town
Merstham	3-1	Burgess Hill Town

SATURDAY 2nd MARCH 2024

CRAY VALLEY PM	4-5	THREE BRIDGES
Herne Bay	1-2	Hythe Town
Lancing	1-1	Beckenham Town
Ramsgate	4-0	Ashford United
Sevenoaks Town	0-1	Broadbridge Heath

SATURDAY 2nd MARCH 2024 (continued)

Sittingbourne	2-0	East Grinstead Town
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TUESDAY 5th MARCH 2024

Merstham	0-3	Chichester City
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This result, the only game to survive the weather out of the four scheduled matches, saw Chichester leap into the Play Off positions ahead of both of today's teams here at the Jubilee Feld. But they have played one game more and are ahead on Goal Difference only.

SATURDAY 9th MARCH 2024

Ashford United	v	Sittingbourne
Beckenham Town	v	Ramsgate
Broadbridge Heath	v	Lancing
Chichester City	v	Burgess Hill Town

East Grinstead Town	v	Littlehampton Town
Erith & Belvedere	v	Cray Valley PM
Hythe Town	v	Horndean
Phoenix Sports	v	Merstham
Sheppey United	v	Sevenoaks Town
THREE BRIDGES	v	HERNE BAY

TUESDAY 12th MARCH 2024

Broadbridge Heath	v	Sevenoaks Town
Burgess Hill Town	v	Sheppey United
East Grinstead Town	v	Horndean
Hythe Town	v	Beckenham Town



S12 SALONTWELVE

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Tel: 01293 511660



94a County Mall, Crawley
Tel: 01293 511660
3c Station Road, Crawley Down
Tel: 01342 718111

Match Report



4



1

Saturday 24th February 2024. Referee : Joseph Dan-Pye Reporter : Alf Blackler

Bridges got back to winning ways and even had a fairy tale ending as they made a minor dent to Lancing's play off ambitions.

They took just eight minutes to open the scoring when brilliant work on the right by Nabeel Ghannam ended with an inch perfect low cross to **NOEL LEIGHTON**, who finished clinically. And just two minutes later they were gifted a second when Samuel Michael Bull's back pass was fumbled into his own net by keeper **LOUIS ROGERS**.

Leighton almost punished Rogers soon after and both he and Ghannam were denied as Bridges continued to surge forward.

Charlie Bennett shot wildly over early in the second half as Lancing tried to respond before Leighton was just wide following excellent work by Bryan Villavicencio. But after 69 minutes **LEIGHTON** showed his strength to get past three defenders before driving his side's third.

Jasper Sheik tipped over a Knory Scott free kick but Leighton was then denied his hat trick when his shot crashed against the crossbar.

In the fourth of six added minutes a corner by Charlie Gibson was guided home by **JACK LOUIS MEERES** for a consolation for the visitors, but there was still time for that fairy tale finale when 16 year old **GEORGE FALZON** won a free kick and then met Ibrahim Jalloh's perfect delivery to dive and head home on his Bridges debut.

Bridges : J.Sheik, D.Ferreira, R.Euba, B.Irving, C.Donaghey (T.Difika, 58), B.Villavicencio, I.Jalloh, B.O'Neill (K.Rivera, 76), N.Leighton, H.Woollard, N.Ghannam (G.Falzon, 99+4).

Unused Subs. - E.Hanslow, S.Agun.

Lancing : L.Rogers, D.Thomas Hewick (B.Pope, 66), S.Bull (C.Pitcher, 45), A.Briggs, J.Louis Meeres, N.D'Artenzo, K.Scott, C.Bennett, L.Franzen Jones, G.Taggart, L.Fisher (C.Gibson, 81).

Unused Subs. - A.Plummer, W.Berry.

Booked - Taggart (89).

Bridges Man of the Match - **Noel Leighton**.

Match Report



1



3

Tuesday 27th February 2024 Referee : James Kerten

Reporter : Alf Blackler

Two good wins in the space of four days leaves Bridges still on the fringes of the Play Off places, but Horndean made a fight of it as they played better up their slope in the second half.

It was all long ball from the hosts in the first half with the ball continually running away from their front men, and it was Bridges to whom the chances fell. Nabeel Ghannam drove one chance over and then shot straight at keeper Cameron Scott, whilst Scott was forced to make a good low save to prevent Brannon O'Neill from marking his 200th appearance with a goal.

Ibrahim Jalloh also had an effort blocked, but Bridges finally broke the deadlock after 38 minutes when Noel Leighton delivered a nice pass from the left to Harvey Woollard, who fed **NABEEL GHANNAM**, who struck a fierce drive beyond Scott.

There was a momentary scare for the visitors just before the interval when Jasper Sheik lost possession and Bridges somehow cleared, but Bridges seemed to shrug this off and Leighton saw a header cleared off the line by a Horndean defender.

Horndean saw one effort ruled out for offside as they put together some decent attacking moves, but after 65 minutes a low cross was eventually stabbed home by **BRYAN VILLAVICENCIO** for his first goal of the season.

Sheik then had to make two fine blocks and Woollard cleared off the line, but Horndean were now looking ever more dangerous and grabbed a deserved goal after 73 minutes when a cross was met by **ZACKARY WILLETT**. Bridges reasserted themselves and were helped when a foul on Kevin Rivera saw 'last man' Ethan Robb receive a straight red card with five minutes of normal time remaining.

And in the third minute of the six added, Woollard sent a beautiful pass into the path of **NOEL LEIGHTON**, who strode forward and rounded Scott to net his 21st League goal (and 27th in all competitions) of the season. And he might well have added another from a similar move, but the ball got away from him at the last moment!

Horndean : C.Scott, R.Taw, C.Dyer, E.Robb, M.Kellett-Smith, C.Field (H.Jackson, 61), R.Blankson, F.Chester, C.Duffin (D.Sibley, 61), T.Scutt, Z.Willett.

Unused Subs. - J.Pile, A.O'Brien, J.Mohammed-Kier.

Booked - Dyer, Kellett-Smith, Scutt, Duffin, Manager Mike Birmingham.

Sent Off - Robb (85).

Bridges : J.Sheik, D.Ferreira, R.Euba, B.Irving, T.Difika, B.Villavicencio, I.Jalloh (K.Rivera, 75), B.O'Neill, N.Leighton, H.Woollard, N.Ghannam.

Unused Subs. - E.Hanslow, J.Bendall, G.Falzon, S.Agun.

Booked - Irving, Euba, Villavicencio.

Bridges Man of the Match - **Harvey Woollard**.

Match Report



4



5

Saturday 2nd March 2024. Referee : Marcin Indyk

Reporter : Alf Blackler

Two goals in the seven added minutes gave Bridges victory in an astonishing game that left Cray Valley nursing their first League defeat of the season.

Bridges had difficult periods at the start of both halves, but they stuck together and deserved their win even after a bizarre red card shown to Callum Donaghey for a comment to an Assistant Referee just as he was set to come on as a substitute!

Cray took a sixth minute lead when Matthew Vigor headed down to **FREDDIE PARKER**, who turned brilliantly to slam past debutant keeper Finlay Westen. But Bridges struck back in the thirteenth minute when Bryan Villavicencio won a corner which was sent in by Brannon O'Neill and headed in at the near post by **NOEL LEIGHTON**.

Bridges were annoyed when the excellent Nabeel Ghannam was fouled, and although the referee waved play on, there was double the annoyance when Ibrahim Jalloh appeared to be felled in the penalty area too!

But it was soon forgotten after 27 minutes when more positive play by Leighton ended with him having a shot blocked before **O'NEILL** netted on the follow up.

The first twelve minutes of the second half proved to be a nightmare for the visitors however with Cray looking likely to score with every attack, and they equalised within five minutes of the restart when a corner was only half cleared to **DENZEL GAYLE**, who hit a cracking shot home.

A low cross after 54 minutes led to **HASSAN IBRAHIYM** putting Cray ahead, and a deflected cross three minutes later was nudged home from close range by **PARKER**. But Bridges settled only for Kevin Rivera to blaze high and wide after Ghannam fed him superbly.

A minute later though **LEIGHTON** showed his strength to net with a slight deflection off a defender, but it looked likely to only be a consolation until the game went into added time.

Three minutes into the added seven saw Max Ovenden push away a Rivera effort only for another substitute **ELLIOTT HANSLOW** to snap up the loose ball for the equaliser. Most of the Bridges faithful would have been happy to come away with a draw at that stage, but the team weren't satisfied with that and in the 96th minute Rivera's pass to **LEIGHTON** finished with a cool and determined hat trick goal and a brilliant win that puts the team back into the Play Off places and earned them a third win in eight days.

Cray : M.Ovenden, B.Williams, T.Chambers, A.Lee, K.Oshilaja, D.Gayle, S.Black, F.Parker (A.Coombes, 75), M.Ademiluyi, M.Vigor (L.Della-Verde, 66), H.Ibrahiym.

Unused Subs. - D.Waldren, M.Barrington, C.Expiteta.

Booked - Lee (49), Williams (70), Oshilaja (90+3).

Bridges : F.Westen, D.Ferreira, R.Euba, B.Irving, T.Difika, B.Villavicencio, I.Jalloh (K.Rivera, 65), B.O'Neill, N.Leighton, H.Woollard, N.Ghannam (E.Hanslow, 83).

Unused Subs. - S.Agun, G.Falzon, C.Donaghey.

Booked - Irving (90+4).

Sent Off - Donaghey (90).

Bridges Man of the Match - Noel Leighton.

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	2-1	Lawson (2)
28/08	League	H	MERSTHAM	3-3	Archer, O'Neill (2)
09/09	FAT-1Q	A	Beckenham Town	5-1	Rivera, Leighton (2), Lawson, O'Neill (pen)
12/09	VC-2	H	BURGESS HILL TOWN	3-2	Leighton (2), Archer
16/09	League	A	East Grinstead Town	2-1	Lawson, Rivera
23/09	FAT-2Q	A	South Park (Reigate)	1-2	Leighton
30/09	League	H	BROADBRIDGE HEATH	4-2	Leighton (2), O'Neill (pen), Ferreira
03/10	SSC-2	A	Hastings United	3-4	Irving, Leighton, Hanslow
07/10	League	A	Phoenix Sports	6-2	Leighton (3), Rivera (2), Jalloh
10/10	League	A	Chichester City	1-0	Leighton
21/10	League	H	LITTLEHAMPTON TOWN	3-1	Jalloh (3)
28/10	League	A	Lancing	0-4	
31/10	VC-3	H	CHATHAM TOWN	2-4	Lawson, Jalloh
11/11	League	A	Herne Bay	3-3	Jalloh (2), Rivera
18/11	League	A	Sittingbourne	1-4	Jalloh
21/11	League	H	SHEPPEY UNITED	6-0	Leighton (3), Jalloh, Rivera (2)
25/11	League	H	ERITH & BELVEDERE	6-1	Rivera (2), Jalloh (2 – 1 pen), Leighton (2)
02/12	League	A	Sevenoaks Town	2-2	Rivera, Woollard
16/12	League	H	EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN	4-2	Jalloh (2), Woollard, Leighton
26/12	League	A	Merstham	2-3	Leighton, Woollard
01/01	League	H	BURGESS HILL TOWN	2-3	Jalloh (pen), Irving
06/01	League	A	Ashford United	2-3	Leighton (2)
23/01	League	H	RAMSGATE	0-2	
27/01	League	H	CHICHESTER CITY	3-2	Jalloh (2 – 1 pen), Ghannam
30/01	League	A	Broadbridge Heath	0-3	
03/02	League	A	Sheppey United	0-1	
06/02	League	H	CRAY VALLEY PM	0-2	
13/02	League	H	HYTHE TOWN	P-P	<i>New date to be arranged</i>
17/02	League	A	Littlehampton Town	0-0	
24/02	League	H	LANCING	4-1	Leighton (2), Own Goal, Falzon
27/02	League	A	Horndean	3-1	Ghannam, Villavicencio, Leighton
02/03	League	A	Cray Valley PM	5-4	Leighton (3), O'Neill, Hanslow
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

VC = Velocity Cup

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
Anthony Adesite	4				4		4				4	
Sean Agun		2				2		2				2
Yassin Ainine		1		1		2		1		2		3
Leo Anderson	5		2		7		38		12	1	50	1
Ethon Archer	7	1	4		11	1	7	1	4		11	1
Giani Ashley	4	8		5	4	13	71	15	17	6	87	21
James Bendall			1		1				1		1	
Mitch Bromage	2		2		4		30		8		38	
Tadley Bromage			2		2		86	1	18	3	104	4
Jordan Brown	1				1		1				1	
Naythan Bryson	2				2		2				2	
Conner Colcutt	4	8	4	1	8	9	5	18	5	3	10	21
Taylor Curran	7		1		8		7		1		8	
Tresor Difika	21	2	5		26	2	21	3	6	3	27	6
Callum Donaghey	5	6	2		7	6	122	33	38	4	160	37
Ridwan Euba	20		6		26		20		6		26	
George Falzon		1				1		1				1
Dan Ferreira	22	1	3		25	1	56	12	11	2	67	14
Curtis Gayler			2		2		77	7	23		100	7
Nabeel Ghannam	9				9		9				9	
Harvey Griffiths		1	1		1	1		2	1	2	1	4
Elliott Hanslow	1	9	1	2	2	11	1	10	1	3	2	13
Billy Irving	22	2	5	1	27	3	49	13	14	3	62	15
Ibrahim Jalloh	22		2		24		22		2		24	
Reegan Jeffrey		1				1		2	1		1	2
Camron Lawson	12	3	4	2	16	5	44	29	13	7	57	36
Noel Leighton	27		7		34		73	2	18	1	91	3
Brannon O'Neill	27		6		33		156	10	33	2	189	12
Sam Packham	3				3		3				3	
Kevin Rivera	24	3	5		29	3	52	10	11	1	63	11
Jasper Sheik	17		3		20		17		3		20	
Finlay Southwell				1		1				1		1
Bryan Villavicencio	14	6	3	1	17	7	62	10	16	1	78	11
Finlay Westen	1				1		1				1	
Oscar Williams		2	1		1	2		2	1		1	2
Harvey Woollard	24	1	5	2	29	3	27	7	7	4	34	11

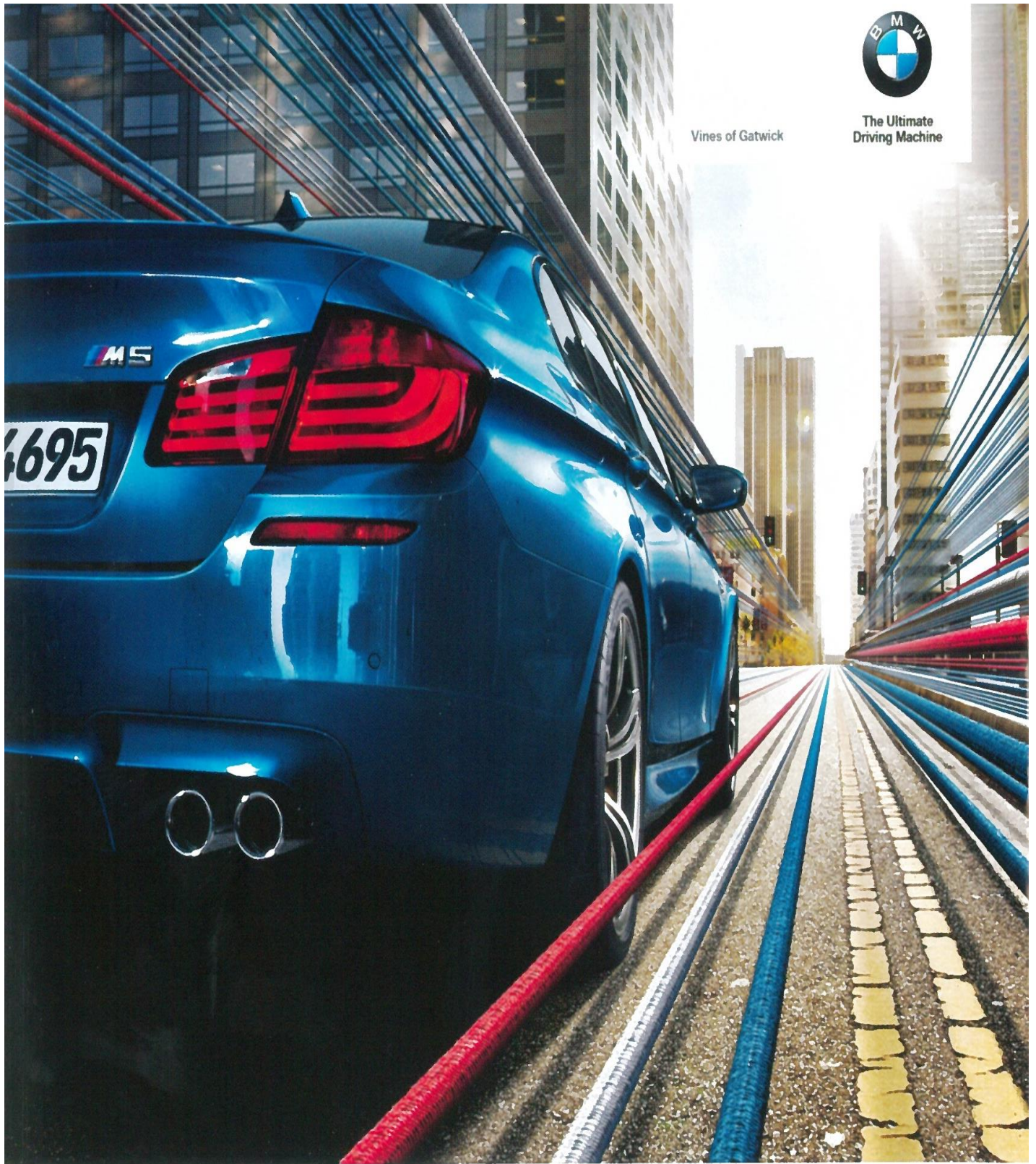


GOAL SCORERS	2023/24			Bridges First Team Career		
	League	Cup	Total	League	Cup	Total
Ethon Archer	1	1	2	1	1	2
Giani Ashley				2		2
Conner Collcutt				1	1	2
Tresor Difika	2	1	3	2	1	3
Callum Donaghey				10	5	15
George Falzon	1		1	1		1
Dan Ferreira	1		1	3		3
Curtis Gayler		1	1	19	5	24
Nabeel Ghannam	2		2	2		2
Elliott Hanslow	1	1	2	1	1	2
Billy Irving	2	1	3	3	3	6
Ibrahim Jalloh	15	1	16	15	1	16
Camron Lawson	3	2	5	8	4	12
Noel Leighton	23	6	29	38	10	48
Brannon O'Neill	4	1	5	27	8	35
Kevin Rivera	9	1	10	14	2	16
Brian Villavicencio	1		1	4		4
Harvey Woollard	3		3	3		3
Own Goal	1		1			



SIX : Harvey Woollard
FIVE : Ibrahim Jalloh
FOUR: Noel Leighton, Kevin Rivera
THREE: Jasper Sheik
TWO : Tresor Difika, Billy Irving
ONE: Ethon Archer, Conner Collcutt, Callum Donaghey, Ridwan Euba, Nabeel Ghannam, Elliott Hanslow, Brannon O'Neill, Bryan Villavicencio, Oscar Williams

FIRST TEAM FIXTURES / RESULTS / APPEARANCES 2023-24																SUBS USED		
05/08	CRAWLEY DOWN GATWICK	FAC	D	2-2	Anderson	Irving	Euba	Difika*	T.Bromage	Villavicencio	Gayler*	O'Neill	Collcutt	Leighton	Rivera	Lawson	Ashley	Woollard
08/08	Crawley Down Gatwick	FAC	L	2-0	Anderson	Irving	Euba	Difika	T.Bromage	Woollard	Gayler	O'Neill	Collcutt	Leighton	Rivera	Lawson	Hanslow	Griffiths
12/08	HORNDEAN	LEAGUE	D	2-2	Anderson	Packham	Euba	Difika	Curran	Villavicencio	Lawson	O'Neill	Collcutt	Leighton*	Rivera	Irving*	Hanslow	Ashley
19/08	PHOENIX SPORTS	LEAGUE	W	4-2	Anderson	Packham	Euba	Difika*	Curran	Woollard	Lawson	O'Neill	Collcutt	Leighton*	Rivera	Hanslow	Ashley	
26/08	Beckenham Town	League	W	1-2	Anderson	Packham	Euba	Difika	Curran	Woollard	Archer	O'Neill	Lawson*	Leighton	Rivera	Ashley	Collcutt	Ferreria
28/08	MERSTHAM	LEAGUE	D	3-3	M.Bromage	Ferreira	Euba	Difika	Curran	Woollard	Archer*	O'Neill*	Lawson	Leighton	Rivera	Collcutt		
09/09	Beckenham Town	FAT	W	1-5	M.Bromage	Ferreira	Euba	Difika	Donaghey	Woollard	Archer	O'Neill*	Lawson*	Leighton*	Rivera*	Ashley	Villavicencio	Irving
12/09	BURGESS HILL TOWN	VC	W	3-2	M.Bromage	Ferreira	Euba	Difika	Irving	Villavicencio	Archer*	O'Neill	Lawson	Leighton*	Rivera	Woollard	Ashley	
16/09	East Grinstead Town	League	W	1-2	M.Bromage	Ferreira	Ashley	Difika	Irving	Woollard	Archer	O'Neill	Lawson*	Leighton	Rivera*	Griffiths	Hanslow	Jeffrey
23/09	South Park (Reigate)	FAT	L	2-1	Sheik	Ferreira	Euba	Difika	Irving	Woollard	Archer	O'Neill	Lawson	Leighton*	Rivera	Collcutt	Ashley	Hanslow
30/09	BROADBRIDGE HEATH	LEAGUE	W	4-2	Sheik	Ferreira*	Euba	Difika	Curran	Villavicencio	Jalloh	O'Neill*	Lawson	Leighton*	Rivera	Archer	Woollard	Collcutt
03/10	Hastings United	SSC	L	4-3	Sheik	Collcutt	Bendell	Irving*	Curran	Woollard	Archer	Hanslow*	Griffith	Leighton*	Jalloh	Ainine	Southwell	
07/10	Phoenix Sports	League	W	2-6	Sheik	Irving	Euba	Difika	Curran	Villavicencio	Archer	O'Neill	Jalloh*	Leighton*	Rivera*	Lawson	Collcutt	Hanslow
10/10	Chichester City	League	W	0-1	Sheik	Ferreira	Euba	Woollard	Curran	Villavicencio	Archer	O'Neill	Jalloh	Leighton*	Rivera	Lawson	Irving	
21/10	LITTLEHAMPTON TOWN	LEAGUE	W	3-1	Sheik	Ferreira	Euba	Woollard	Irving	Villavicencio	Archer	O'Neill	Jalloh*	Leighton	Rivera	Donaghey	Ashley	Lawson
28/10	Lancing	League	L	4-0	Sheik	Ashley	Euba	Woollard	Irving	Villavicencio	Archer	O'Neill	Jalloh	Leighton	Lawson	Collcutt	Williams	Hanslow
31/10	CHATHAM TOWN	VC	L	2-4	Sheik	Donaghey	Euba	Woollard	Williams	Villavicencio	Collcutt	O'Neill	Jalloh*	Leighton	Lawson*	Ashley	Hanslow	
11/11	Herne Bay	League	D	3-3	Sheik	Ferreira	Euba	Woollard	Difika	Irving	Jalloh*	O'Neill	Leighton	Rivera*	Lawson	Williams		
18/11	Sittingbourne	League	L	4-1	Sheik	Irving	Euba	Woollard	Difika	Donaghey	Jalloh*	O'Neill	Leighton	Rivera	Lawson	Villavicencio	Ashley	
21/11	SHEPPEY UNITED	LEAGUE	w	6-0	Sheik	Ferreira	Euba	Woollard	Difika	Irving	Jalloh*	O'Neill	Leighton*	Rivera*	Lawson	Ashley	Villavicencio	Donaghey
25/11	ERITH & BELVEDERE	LEAGUE	W	6-1	Sheik	Ferreira	Euba	Woollard	Difika	Irving	Jalloh*	O'Neill	Leighton*	Rivera*	Lawson	Ashley	Villavicencio	Ainine
02/12	Sevenoaks Town	League	D	2-2	Sheik	Ferreira	Ashley	Woollard*	Difika	Irving	Jalloh	Villavicencio	Leighton	Rivera*	Lawson			
16/12	EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN	LEAGUE	W	4-2	Sheik	Ferreira	Collcutt	Woollard*	Difika	Irving	Jalloh*	O'Neill	Leighton*	Rivera	Adesite	Villavicencio		
26/12	Merstham	League	L	3-2	Sheik	Ferreira	Ashley	Woollard*	Difika	Irving	Jalloh	O'Neill	Leighton*	Rivera	Adesite	Agun	Donaghey	
01/01	BURGESS HILL TOWN	LEAGUE	L	2-3	Sheik	Ferreira	Collcutt	Woollard	Difika	Irving*	Jalloh*	O'Neill	Leighton	Rivera	Adesite	Ashley	Villavicencio	Hanslow
06/01	Ashford United	League	L	3-2	Sheik	Ferreira	Woollard	Villavicencio	Difika	Irving	Jalloh	O'Neill	Leighton*	Rivera	Adesite	Donaghey		
23/01	RAMSGATE	LEAGUE	L	0-2	Anderson	Ferreira	Euba	Woollard	Difika	Irving	Jalloh	O'Neill	Leighton	Rivera	Ghannam	Villavicencio		
27/01	CHICHESTER CITY	LEAGUE	W	3-2	Anderson	Ferreira	Euba	Woollard	Difika	Irving	Jalloh*	O'Neill	Leighton	Rivera	Ghannam*	Donaghey		
30/01	Broadbridge Heath	League	L	3-0	Sheik	Ferreira	Euba	Woollard	Difika	Irving	Jalloh	O'Neill	Leighton	Rivera	Ghannam	Collcutt	Donaghey	
03/02	Sheppey United	League	L	1-0	Bryson	Ferreira	Woollard	Villavicencio	Donaghey	irving	Jalloh	O'Neill	Leighton	Rivera	Ghannam	Hanslow	Difika	
06/02	CRAY VALLEY (PM)	LEAGUE	L	0-2	Bryson	Ferreira	Woollard	Villavicencio	Donaghey	Irving	Hanslow	O'Neill	Leighton	Rivera	Ghannam	Collcutt	Agun	
17/02	Littlehampton Town	League	D	0-0	Brown	Ferreira	Euba	Woollard	Donaghey	Irving	Jalloh	O'Neill	Rivera	Villavicencio	Ghannam	Hanslow	Collcutt	
24/02	LANSING	LEAGUE	W	4-1	Sheik	Ferreira	Euba	Woollard	Donaghey	Irving	Jalloh	O'Neill	Leighton*	Villavicencio	Ghannam	Difika	Rivera	Falzon*
27/02	Horndean	League	W	1-3	Sheik	Ferreira	Euba	Woollard	Difika	Irving	Jalloh	O'Neill	Leighton*	Villavicencio*	Ghannam*	Rivera		
02/03	Cray Valley PM	League	W	4-5	Westen	Fereira	Euba	Woollard	Difika	Irving	Jalloh	O'Neill*	Leighton*	Villavicencio	Ghannam	Rivera	Hanslow^	
									</									



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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	1-3	Southwell
04/09	FAYC	H	SEAFORD	7-0	Timlin, Tuesley (3), Hanslow, Kaye, Anderson
10/09	County Cup	A	Burgess Hill Town Juniors Green	1-4	Hayden-Pickering
09/10	League	H	HORSHAM	1-2	Cowdrey
23/10	League	H	HORSHAM YMCA	2-0	Kaye, Falzon
27/11	League	H	BURGESS HILL TOWN	1-3	Kaye
11/12	League	H	BOGNOR REGIS TOWN	4-3	Cowdrey, Bishop, Tuesley, Munorrah
15/01	League	H	LEWES	P-P	<i>New date to be arranged</i>
29/01	League	A	Horsham YMCA	5-0	Hanslow 3, Falzon, Jeffery
01/02	League	H	WHITEHAWK	6-2	Stilwell, Hanslow 3, Bishop 2
08/02	League	A	Hastings United	P-P	<i>New date to be arranged</i>
13/02	League	A	Eastbourne Borough	3-3	Tuesley, Falzon 2
20/02	League	A	Horsham	2-2	Hanslow 2
26/02	League	H	WORTHING	P-P	<i>New date to be arranged</i>
04/03	League	H	HASTINGS UNITED	2-3	Tsyhanenico, Hayden-Pickering
07/03	League	A	Whitehawk		
11/03	League	A	Bognor Regis Town		
18/03	League	A	Lewes		
26/03	League	A	Burgess Hill Town		
02/04	League	A	Worthing		

YLC = Youth League Cup

FAYC = FA Youth Cup

SCC = Sussex County Cup

(Isthmian League South Division as at 6th March 2024)

	Home	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Away
1	TBA	WORTHING	12	10	1	1	71	17	54	31	02/04
2	TBA	LEWES	10	8	0	2	29	17	12	24	18/03
3	1-2	HORSHAM	13	5	3	5	36	24	12	18	2-2
4	1-3	BURGESS HILL TOWN	9	5	2	2	39	21	18	17	26/03
5	X	THREE BRIDGES	10	5	2	3	29	19	10	17	X
6	4-3	BOGNOR REGIS TOWN	11	4	3	4	33	35	-2	15	11/03
7	2-3	HASTINGS UNITED	9	4	1	4	18	28	-10	13	TBA
8	6-2	WHITEHAWK	8	3	1	4	13	19	-6	10	07/03
9	3-1	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	13	3	1	9	22	54	-32	10	3-3
10	2-0	HORSHAM YMCA	13	0	0	13	9	65	-56	0	5-0

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

Monday 4th March 2024 League (home) Hastings United Lost 2-3

Team : D.Krecisz, J.Oliver (B.Penalver), M.Anderson (Y.Tsyhanenico), H.Stewart (F.Dean), L.Stilwell, O.Cowdrey, E.Hanslow, C.Hayden-Pickering, G.Falzon, S.Tuesley, R.Jeffery. Unused Subs. – D.Munorrah, S.Bah. Scorers – Tsyhanenico, Hayden-Pickering. MOM – Reegan Jeffery.



PARTNERS WITH
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



PARTNERS WITH
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



PARTNERS WITH
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

HERNE BAY

Herne Bay were formed in 1886 and began life in the East Kent League, then having a short period in the Kent League before winning the East Kent League in four successive years between 1902 and 1906 returning to the Kent League as a result.

1953 saw the move to Winch's Field. Over 1,000 spectators saw their first match at their new home; a 2 - 2 draw against Tunbridge Wells Reserves in Kent League Division 2. Within two years they lifted the Division 2 title, winning promotion to Division 1. In the 1957/58 season the club won The Kent Amateur Cup beating Bromley 2 - 0 in the final. The following season saw the Kent League fold and a move to the Aetolian League followed. The 1964/65 season saw another move to Division 2 of the Athenian League, where they enjoyed several successful seasons followed by promotion to Division 1 on winning Division 2 in 1970/71. A good run in the FA Cup saw the Bay reach the 4th qualifying round, where they lost to the then 'mighty' Margate in front of a record home attendance of 2,303.

At the start of the 1974/75 campaign the Club returned to the Kent League, and in the 1978/79 season they had good runs in the Cup competitions, winning the Kent Senior Trophy and losing to Sheppey United in the final of the Kent League Cup. The nineties were the glory years which saw the Club become the most successful and consistent side in the Kent League, winning four Kent League titles. The 1996/97 season was without equal in the history of Herne Bay and the Kent League. Within the space of four weeks the Club won the Kent Senior Trophy, The Kent League Division 1 Cup and The Kent League Championship. A unique treble at the time!

A complete change of management and playing staff took place after the 1997/98 season, with manager Tommy Sampson leaving the Club to take over the reins at Deal Town taking the majority of the established first team players with him. Nick Denly (father of England cricketer Joe Denly) received an unprecedented three manager of the month awards in his first full season at the helm.

A major grant was awarded to provide new perimeter fencing and refurbishment of the changing facilities and these works were complete prior to the start of the 2003/04 season when the club celebrated 50 years at Winch's Field. Jason Lillis took over the reins for the 2004/05 season which proved to be very successful as Bay finished runners up in both the League and League Cup. Both the 2005/06 and 2006/07 campaigns proved to be very disappointing with several senior players, and Lillis, leaving the Club during the 2007/08 season.

In came Barry Morgan and the Club turned to youth with the introduction of a number of very good young players into the squad who formed the basis of the first team for the 2008/09 season. There was a 6th place finish. The Club introduced some influential experienced players and had high hopes for a successful 2009/10 campaign. After some strange team selections Morgan left in October 2009, with assistant Simon Halsey taking over. Bay went on to finish as runners-up in the league and won the Kent League Premier Division League Cup. The following season there was another Kent League Premier Division League Cup win and Herne Bay missed out on the League title on goal difference in the last few minutes of the last match where an own goal at Tunbridge Wells gave Hythe Town the title.

In season 2011/12 Herne Bay swept all before them, narrowly missing out on a Wembley appearance in the FA Vase and capturing the Kent League Premier Division title and promotion to the Isthmian League. After struggling in the lower regions of Isthmian League Division One South for much of 2012/13 Halsey was relieved of his duties in April 2013.

The 2013/14 season saw another new start for Herne Bay with Sam Denly (son of former manager Nick Denly) taking up the managerial reins. Denly held the post for four seasons and used many local players who had come through the town's youth systems. There were finishes of 18th, 9th, 8th and 17th. Denly resigned at the end of the 2016/17 campaign and the majority of the squad moved on and the Club lost individuals who had over 2,500 appearances between them.

For 2017/18 Jermaine Darlington and John Embery were handed their first senior management roles, at Herne Bay, and had the basis of a young team which played exciting, flowing football that was well received but had a tendency to be inconsistent. After a mid-table finish in their first season things became more difficult the next year when money problems led to the loss of some key players. After being in the relegation zone early in the campaign things were being turned around when Darlington and Embery quit with Bay safe and six games of the season remaining.

By this time, it was a struggle money-wise and some of the older directors offered to stand aside if suitable replacements could be found. This opened the door for a consortium to come in led by rookie-Chairman Stuart Fitchie who was surrounded by fellow Directors who had many years' experience of running a football club. He had appointed Ben Smith, who had led Canterbury City to mid-table finishes in the Kent League for the past four seasons, as manager. 2019/20 was terminated by Covid-19, with Bay in the final play-off position, and the following season was too ended by Covid, after just six league matches with Herne Bay in 10th place.

At the beginning of April 2022 Herne Bay were out of the play-off places but then a run of four victories and with fellow play-off contenders falling short Bay ended in third place and went on to win the play-offs and gain promotion to the Isthmian Premier.

13 league matches into the 2022/23 season, with the team one place off the bottom and five points from safety, after eight points from a possible 39, having chopped and changed the team, using 26 different players, and losing to the only team below, Ben Smith resigned. By the time that ex-Cray Valley PM manager Kevin Watson came in it was too late to stop the rot and Herne Bay's brief flirtation with the Isthmian Premier was over.

Chairman Stuart Fitchie announced he was standing down in March 2023 although it was later clarified by the Club that he had been asked to stand down. The Club is now gathering together a capable, dedicated, determined and honest group of people to start a resurgence. Steve Lovell was brought in as the new manager.

EARLIER THIS SEASON v HERNE BAY

Obviously we didn't play Herne Bay last season as they were in the Premier Division. But there have been plenty of goals in the games between the sides over the years, including 6-0 victories for both teams. Back in November that trait continued with a 3-3 draw at their ground. Two goals from Ibrahim Jalloh and one from Kevin Rivera put us 3-0 ahead with 59 minutes played. But just a minute player Michael Salako grabbed the first of his hat trick goals to level the scores. And it could have been worse for us in the dying moments with Jasper Sheik having to make a stunning save to avert a complete turnaround!

HERNE BAY PEN PICTURES

Forward **Nkori - Venceslas 'Vance Bola'** joined Herne Bay from Ashford United in March 2024. Previously with Carshalton Athletic, Margate, Sittingbourne, Whyteleafe, Enfield Town, Met Police, Royston Town, Dunstable Town and Wealdstone.

Goalkeeper **Harry Brooks** started his career at Ebbsfleet United playing for their Academy, Reserves and first-team. Has also been with Whitstable Town, Sittingbourne, Ramsgate, Sheppey United, Tunbridge Wells, Chatham Town, Hollands & Blair and played in Norway and Sweden. He played 8 times for Herne Bay in 2022/23 and re-signed in September 2023.

Harry Brown is a defender who made 60 appearances for Herne Bay between 2013/14 and 2016/17 after joining from Dover Athletic. Amongst his clubs since then have been Whitstable Town, Ramsgate, Canterbury City and Hollands & Blair.

Archie Burnett is a central midfielder who spent his early youth in the academies at Crystal Palace and Bromley. His first taste of first team experience came at Margate where he made his senior debut aged 17. Has also spent time with Tonbridge Angels, Bromley, Cray Wanderers, Leatherhead, Horsham and Chipstead.

Dan Carrington is a defender/midfielder who came out of the Ebbsfleet United Academy and made 150 appearances for Faversham Town. He signed for Herne Bay from Ramsgate in January 2020 and over the next three seasons made 42 appearances for Bay. Spent time last season with Faversham Town and Erith Town.

Gil Carvalho is a forward who began his career in the academy of Tonbridge Angels. He moved on to Sittingbourne, Corinthian-Casuals, Ramsgate, East Grinstead Town and Haywards Heath Town over the next five seasons. Last campaign he played for Hastings United, Ashford United and Ramsgate.

Defender **Liam Friend** spent 10 years with Folkestone Invicta and made nearly 550 appearances for them. Has since been with Margate, Ramsgate, Ashford United and Chatham Town.

Tom Hanfrey came through the Academy ranks at AFC Bournemouth. Has played for Concord Rangers, Tonbridge Angels, Cray Wanderers, FC Romania, Sheppey United, Sittingbourne and Enfield. Signed for Herne Bay in September 2023 from Carshalton Athletic.

Kayan Hassan joined on dual-registration from Dartford Academy in September 2023.

Midfielder **Scott Heard** with over 550 appearances for Whitstable Town, Folkestone Invicta (two spells), Dagenham & Redbridge and East Thurrock United. Signed for Herne Bay in February 2024.

Theo Osinfolarin is wingback/winger. Among his former clubs are Welling United, Greenwich Borough and Ashford United. In 2021/22 he spent time at Brightlingsea Regent and Cheshunt. He signed for Ramsgate in August 2022 and turned out 30 times for them.

Defender **Harrison Pont** played youth football for Gillingham. Has also played for Hollands & Blair, Margate, Sittingbourne, Canterbury City and Phoenix Sports.

Midfielder **Jack Richards** rose through the ranks of Maidstone's Kent Youth League teams before joining the club's Academy. Richards made his debut at The Gallagher as a first-year academy player in 2015. He joined Margate in July 2019 where he made 50 appearances over the next three seasons. He joined Ashford United in February 2022 and then moved onto Ramsgate in May 2022. Has also had loan spells at East Grinstead Town, Sevenoaks Town, Welling United and Chatham Town.

Striker **Kane Rowland** started with Margate and Whitstable Town. Has been a prolific goalscorer for both Sittingbourne and Ramsgate.

Striker **Michael Salako** joined Herne Bay in September 2023 from Maldon & Tiptree. Previous clubs include Brightlingsea Regent, Basildon United, Hullbridge Sports, Corinthian-Casuals, Tooting & Mitcham United, Walton & Hersham and Bowers & Pitsea.

Frankie Smith. Smith was at Kent County League Kings Hill in 2021/22 winning the Kent Intermediate Challenge Shield. In the summer of 2022 he joined Hythe Town and then moved on to Hollands & Blair in September 2022. He was also in the SCL Youth Development League Southern Premier League for Soccer Elite FA U19 SEFA Blue.

Midfielder **Danny Walder** already has 164 appearances for Herne Bay under his belt made between 2013/14 and 2016/17 when he scored 33 goals (24 of them penalties). Prior to this he had spells at Ramsgate, Gillingham and Dover Athletic before joining Tonbridge Angels and since has played for Ashford Town, Hythe Town, Whitstable Town and Hollands & Blair.

Defender **Finn Whitton.** Played at Youth level with Chatham Town and Maidstone United. Joined Sittingbourne for 2022/23 and also played for Lordswood U23s.

Striker **Sam Wright** signed from Hollands & Blair in September 2023. Previously with Sheppey United.

Currently on joint-registration with Lordswood.

Utility midfielder **Bola Dawodu** played for Bowers & Pitsea in the Isthmian Premier last campaign. He had previously played for Faversham Town, Whitstable Town, Sittingbourne and Canterbury City before joining Herne Bay in July 2019 and making 49 appearances over the next three seasons, two of them truncated by Covid.

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PLAYER PROFILE

**NABEEL
GHANNAM**

PLAYER PROFILE

NABEEL GHANNAM

BIRTHDATE

5th JANUARY 2003

BIRTHPLACE

ALEPPO, SYRIA

FAMILY

MUM, DAD, TWO BROTHERS

PREVIOUS CLUBS

SUTTON COMMON ROVERS, DORKING WANDERERS, SOUTH PARK, HAYWARDS HEATH

MAJOR HONOURS

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LASAGNE, APPLE JUICE

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12 August	Horndean	TBFC Under 15's	
19 August	Phoenix Sports	Alf Blackler	
28 August	Merstham	Curve Accountancy	
12 September	Burgess Hill Town	Mankind	
30 September	Broadbridge Heath	Brian Long	
21 October	Littlehampton Town	Nick & Jacqueline Walters	
31 October	Chatham Town	Chris & Marc Kitcher	
21 November	Sheppey United	Simon Rollings	
25 November	Erith & Belvedere	Rachel and Barry	
16 December	East Grinstead Town		Peter Addison
1 January	Burgess Hill Town		American Pathway
23 January	Ramsgate	Paul Coleman	
27 January	Chichester City	Tom Hayward	
6 February	Cray Valley PM	Paul Coleman	
TBA	Hythe Town	Mike Denman	
24 February	Lancing	Sarasota Villa PL	
9 March	Herne Bay	Mick Spencer	
23 March	Ashford United	Sarasota Villa PL	
30 March	Beckenham Town	Florida Connection	
6 April	Sittingbourne	Harry Ford	
20 April	Sevenoaks Town		Licensed Trade Auditors

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AUGUST 2023	21	Keith Richardson	49	Janis Blackler	
SEPTEMBER 2023	1	Hazel Bell	8	Dennis Walker	
OCTOBER 2023	4	Mike Denman	27	Alf Blackler	
NOVEMBER 2023	4	Mike Denman	55	Dan Kilmartin	
DECEMBER 2023	14	Dave Jenkins	2	Peggy Yearwood	
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	Harvey WOOLLARD		Archie BURNETT
	Jordan BROWN (GK)		Dan CARRINGTON
	Bryan VILLAVICENCIO		Gil CARVALHO
	Brannon O'NEIL (Captain)		Bola DAWUDU
	Connor COLLCUTT		Liam FRIEND (Captain)
	Noel LEIGHTON		Tom HANFREY
	Ibrahim JALLOH		Kayan HASSAN
	Reegan JEFFREY		Theo OSINFOLARIN
	Kevin RIVERA		Harrison PONT
	Callum DONAGHEY		Jack RICHARDS
	Ridwan EUBA		Kane ROWLAND
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