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VINES GROUP

THREE BRIDGES VS VCD ATHLETIC

**SATURDAY 17 JANUARY 2026
3:00PM KICK-OFF**

**ISTHMIAN LEAGUE
SOUTH EAST DIVISION**

**JUBILEE FIELD
JUBILEE WALK
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

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 www.facebook.com/ThreeBridgesFootballClub

Members of:

Sussex County Football Association
Pitching In Isthmian Football League
London & SE Regional Women's League
Junior Premier League
Sussex Sunday Youth League
Sussex County Women's & Girls Football League
Mid Sussex Youth & Minor Football League
Horsham & District Youth Football League
Crawley & District Youth Football League

CLUB OFFICERS

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chairman:	Paul Faili
Vice Chairman:	Tom Hayward
Hon. Secretary:	Paul Hammond
Treasurer:	Chris Irving
Minutes Secretary:	Alan Ladd
Matchday Secretary:	Tom Coleman Fry
Maintenance Manager:	Paul Coleman
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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:	Kim Dunning
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:	Joe Kay
1st Team Goalkeeping Coach:	Ross Ball
Club Physiotherapist:	Tracey Weller
Women's Team Manager:	Joe Clark
Kit Manager:	Richard Munn

YOUTH SECTION

Youth Chairman:	Graham McDonnell
Youth Secretary:	Simon Rollings
Girls Section Lead:	Nick Thomas

U18 Isthmian League Managers:	Matt Calver Ben Lovelock
U16 Managers:	Graham McDonnell Craig Burrows
U15 Managers:	Andrew Wraight Ashley Harding
U14 Managers:	Clinton Moore Karl Mitchell
U13 Managers:	Donovan Bontemps Joe Stillwell Simon Rollings
U12 Managers:	Chris Irving Steve Povey Wills Knight
U11 Managers:	Tom Bryson Lewis Corney Ryan Corney
Girls Managers:	Nick Thomas Mario Kempster

The Isthmian Football League strongly supports the Football Association's statement that there should be a zero-tolerance approach against all forms of discrimination. Any inappropriate conduct towards others, including but not limited to that based on an individual's sex, race, colour, weight, size, religion and belief, national origin, age, marital or domestic-partnership status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression, will not be tolerated and will be reported to the relevant authorities. The Isthmian League and our Member Clubs are committed to promoting equity and equality by treating all people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and providing access and opportunities for all members of our communities.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



CHAIRMAN'S PROGRAMME NOTES

Three Bridges vs VCD Athletic

Good afternoon and welcome to Jubilee Field for today's Isthmian League South East Division fixture between Three Bridges and VCD Athletic. As ever, we are delighted to have you with us, and we hope you enjoy both the football on the pitch and the occasion off it as the league campaign continues to gather momentum.

I would like to place on record our sincere thanks to Jilly Hart, today's Matchball Sponsor. Your continued support is greatly appreciated by everyone at the club, and we hope you enjoy the afternoon. Jilly will also have the honour of selecting today's Man of the Match.

Well, what a night Tuesday was, and will live long in the memory for everyone connected with the club, as we secured a memorable victory in the Sussex Transport Senior Cup at home to the holders and National League South side Horsham. After a hard-fought 1–1 draw under the lights at Jubilee Field, the match was decided on penalties, with Bridges holding their nerve to win 4–1 and book a place in the semi-finals. It was a famous night in the club's history, in front of 461 supporters, showcasing the spirit, togetherness, and resilience that runs right through this squad.

As Manager Jamie Crellin rightly said in his post-match interview, however, that result now has to be parked. Our full focus must return to the league campaign, where consistency will be key in the weeks ahead. Today's visitors, VCD Athletic, will provide a stern test regardless of their current league position. They gave us one of our toughest games in the reverse fixture earlier this season and will arrive at Jubilee Field with no fear and everything to prove.

Finally, and as always, I would like to offer a continued and heartfelt thank you to everyone connected with Three Bridges Football Club — supporters, volunteers, sponsors, staff, and players — for your unwavering commitment and backing. Your support truly makes a difference and is vital to the continued progress of the club, both on and off the pitch.

Enjoy the match and, as always, Up The Bridges!

Paul Faili
Chairman

macron



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A HISTORY OF THREE BRIDGES FOOTBALL CLUB

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.

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. 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. After losing 8 out of 12 League games by the end of November, as well as being knocked out of all four cup competitions, 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. First Team player, Brannon O'Neill, was appointed as U18s Manager. 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 2022/23 season saw Brannon O'Neill appointed as Assistant Manager following Danny Lee's departure to Whitehawk and Joe Kay joined as First Team Coach. The team finished in their highest ever League position (fourth) but were beaten in the final of the Play Offs at home to Chichester City.

Brannon moved to Burgess Hill Town in the summer of 2024, so Joe Kay is now Jamie's Assistant Manager with Ross Ball in the role of Goalkeeping Coach.

The 2024/25 season was a monumental year for the football club, as the long planned 3G pitch facility development took place. This meant starting the season playing home games out of Chatham Town FC, but by Boxing Day the First Team were back home and by January 2025 the 3G pitch was in full use by men's, women's and youth teams of Three Bridges FC, as well as users from the local community, schools, colleges and charities. On the pitch, after being in the relegation zone in November, the team finished in a respectable 8th place after making a late but unsuccessful push for the play-offs.

The majority of the 2024/25 team have remained at the club, with Dan Perry returning during pre-season and further additions made in Sam Roberts, Charlie Bennett and Ade Adeyinka.



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FIXTURES & RESULTS

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE SOUTH EAST DIVISION

Saturday 17 January 2026

Isthmian League – South East Division

Sittingbourne		13:00		Jersey Bulls
AFC Croydon Athletic		15:00		Hastings United
AFC Whyteleafe		15:00		Hassocks FC
Ashford United		15:00		Merstham
East Grinstead Town		15:00		Broadbridge Heath
Eastbourne Town		15:00		Deal Town
Faversham Town		15:00		Erith Town
Herne Bay		15:00		Crowborough Athletic
Sevenoaks Town		15:00		Margate
Sheppey United		15:00		Beckenham Town
Three Bridges		15:00		VCD Athletic

Tuesday 20 January 2026

Isthmian League – South East Division

Erith Town		19:45		VCD Athletic
Hastings United		19:45		Crowborough Athletic



FIXTURES & RESULTS

Date	Comp	H/A	Opposition	Res.	Scorers
02/08	FA CUP	H	SHOREHAM	5-2	R Hallard, OG, Bennet x2, Rivera
09/08	LEAGUE	H	EASTBOURNE TOWN	5-0	Adeyinka, Irving, R Hallard x3
12/08	LEAGUE	A	EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN	4-1	Velvick, Woollard, R Hallard, Fisher
16/08	FA CUP	H	HORSHAM YM	4-1	R Hallard x2, Adeyinka, Rivera
23/08	FA TROPHY	A	MARLOW	3-0	Ojo, Adeyinka, Bennett
25/08	LEAGUE	A	BROADBRIDGE HEATH	1-2	R Hallard
30/08	FA CUP	H	WALTON & HERSHAM	0-2	
05/09	FA TROPHY	A	ASCOT UNITED	0-2	
09/09	LEAGUE	H	SHEPPEY UNITED	7-1	Leighton x3, R Hallard x2, Velvick, Holden
13/09	LEAGUE	H	AFC WHYTELEAFE	3-2	Bennett x2, R Hallard
23/09	LEAGUE	A	ASHFORD UNITED	2-1	Bennett, Leighton
27/09	LEAGUE	H	HASTINGS UNITED	4-2	Villavicencio, Bennett, Leighton, Velvick
30/09	VELOCITY CUP	A	SOUTH PARK REIGATE	4-2	R Hallard, Holden x2, Ojo
04/10	LEAGUE	A	MERSTHAM	1-1	Leighton
07/10	COUNTY CUP	A	LITTLE COMMON	2-0	Rivera, Ojo
11/10	LEAGUE	H	DEAL TOWN	3-1	Velvick (2), Bennett
14/10	LEAGUE	H	JERSEY BULLS	2-2	Leighton, R Hallard
18/10	LEAGUE	A	HERNE BAY	4-1	R Hallard x3, Adeyinka
21/10	LEAGUE	A	VCD ATHLETIC	2-0	Adeyinka, R Hallard
25/10	LEAGUE	H	CROWBOROUGH ATHLETIC	1-0	Leighton
28/10	LEAGUE	A	JERSEY BULLS	1-1	Leighton
01/11	LEAGUE	A	ERITH TOWN	0-1	
05/11	VELOCITY CUP	A	KINGSTONIAN	1-4	Falzon
08/11	LEAGUE	H	SITTINGBOURNE	2-1	Villavicencio x2
11/11	LEAGUE	H	EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN	5-0	Leighton x2, Villavicencio, Adeyinka x2
15/11	LEAGUE	A	AFC CROYDON ATHLETIC	2-0	Leighton x 2
18/11	COUNTY CUP	H	WICK	10-0	R Hallard x2, Villavicencio, Ghannam, Rivera x2, Holden (pen), Velvick, Bennett x2
22/11	LEAGUE	H	FAVERSHAM TOWN	2-4	Bennett x2
29/11	LEAGUE	A	EASTBOURNE TOWN	5-0	Bennett (pen), R Hallard, Leighton x3
06/12	LEAGUE	H	MARGATE	3-0	Adeyinka x2, R Hallard
13/12	LEAGUE	A	SEVENOAKS TOWN	5-0	R Hallard, Neathey, Leighton, Velvick, Adeyinka
20/12	LEAGUE	H	ASHFORD UNITED	5-4	Leighton x2, R Hallard x2, Bennett (pen)
27/12	LEAGUE	A	HASSOCKS	5-1	R Hallard x2, Rivera, Bennett (pen), Adeyinka
03/01	LEAGUE	H	BROADBRIDGE HEATH	4-0	Bennett x2 (pen), Adeyinka, R.Hallard
10/01	LEAGUE	A	BECKENHAM TOWN	P-P	
13/01	COUNTY CUP	H	HORSHAM	1-1	Velvick (Bridges won 4-1 on penalties)
17/01	LEAGUE	H	VCD ATHLETIC		
24/01	LEAGUE	A	DEAL TOWN		
31/01	LEAGUE	H	MERSTHAM		
07/02	LEAGUE	A	HASTINGS UNITED		
14/02	LEAGUE	H	HERNE BAY		
21/02	LEAGUE	A	CROWBOROUGH ATHLETIC		
28/02	LEAGUE	H	ERITH TOWN		
07/03	LEAGUE	A	SITTINGBOURNE		
14/03	LEAGUE	H	SEVENOAKS TOWN		
21/03	LEAGUE	A	MARGATE		
28/03	LEAGUE	H	BECKENHAM TOWN		
04/04	LEAGUE	A	SHEPPEY UNITED		
06/04	LEAGUE	H	HASSOCKS		
11/04	LEAGUE	A	AFC WHYTELEAFE		
18/04	LEAGUE	H	AFC CROYDON ATHLETIC		
25/04	LEAGUE	A	FAVERSHAM TOWN		



LEAGUE TABLE

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE SOUTH EAST DIVISION

Correct as of 14 January 2026

			Home				Away				Total							
			P	W	D	L	P	W	D	L	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
	1	Three Bridges	13	11	1	1	12	8	2	2	25	19	3	3	78	26	+52	60
	2	AFC Croydon Athletic	12	8	1	3	13	8	3	2	25	16	4	5	56	32	+24	52
	3	Faversham Town	13	8	3	2	12	7	4	1	25	15	7	3	55	33	+22	52
	4	Sittingbourne	12	9	2	1	13	6	3	4	25	15	5	5	47	27	+20	50
	5	AFC Whyteleafe	13	9	1	3	12	6	2	4	25	15	3	7	68	31	+37	48
	6	Jersey Bulls	13	6	5	2	13	6	3	4	26	12	8	6	44	28	+16	44
	7	Margate	13	7	2	4	13	4	6	3	26	11	8	7	58	47	+11	41
	8	Merstham	13	5	3	5	13	7	2	4	26	12	5	9	45	38	+7	41
	9	Herne Bay	13	5	3	5	12	6	2	4	25	11	5	9	42	40	+2	38
	10	Ashford United	13	5	4	4	13	6	0	7	26	11	4	11	56	49	+7	37
	11	Deal Town	12	6	2	4	12	5	1	6	24	11	3	10	45	41	+4	36
	12	Sheppey United	13	7	3	3	12	3	2	7	25	10	5	10	46	52	-6	35
	13	Sevenoaks Town	13	7	0	6	13	4	1	8	26	11	1	14	41	56	-15	34
	14	Broadbridge Heath	13	8	1	4	13	2	2	9	26	10	3	13	50	49	+1	33
	15	Eastbourne Town	13	6	3	4	13	3	2	8	26	9	5	12	35	55	-20	32
	16	Hastings United	12	4	2	6	13	5	2	6	25	9	4	12	38	39	-1	31
	17	Crowborough Athletic	12	4	3	5	12	4	1	7	24	8	4	12	35	49	-14	28
	18	Hassocks	13	3	3	7	13	2	5	6	26	5	8	13	31	49	-18	23
	19	Erith Town	11	2	3	6	12	2	5	5	23	4	8	11	29	45	-16	20
	20	VCD Athletic	13	3	3	7	12	2	2	8	25	5	5	15	32	58	-26	20
	21	Beckenham Town	12	3	3	6	12	1	2	9	24	4	5	15	33	58	-25	17
	22	East Grinstead Town	11	0	1	10	13	1	0	12	24	1	1	22	18	80	-62	4

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A HISTORY OF VCD ATHLETIC FC

VCD Athletic FC is one of only a few clubs to have originated during the Great War when, in 1916 it was formed by workers employed at the Vickers armaments factory in Crayford. The Company originally played only inter-departmental games until it was decided that the best players from the various sections would be elected to represent the firm. The club have played at the firm's sports ground, Oakwood, in Old Road, Crayford, from the outset right up to the present time, except for eight seasons spent ground sharing whilst trying to get permission for the erection of floodlights.

In the early days, only friendly matches were played as there were no official competitions during the war years, and records show that a club called Vickers (Erith) joined the re-formed Kent League in 1919, changing their name to Vickers (Crayford) a year later. In their first season in the Kent League they visited Maidstone United on Boxing Day and played in front of a crowd of 13,500. The Vickers team that day contained seven Arsenal players who were finishing off their war service. Two years later, Vickers joined the Dartford & District League, followed by entry into the newly formed Kent Amateur League, Division One in 1923. Their first trophies came in 1927 when they won the Kent FA Junior Cup and the Kent Benevolent Cup.

It was a further 25 years before more silverware came their way, when they won the Kent Division One title in 1953. The Kent Amateur Cup was won in 1962 and in 1964 but the following season saw a spectacular slump and relegation, with a record of P24 W0 D2 L22, goals for 25, goals against 199.

Promotion was gained in 1969, but after a mediocre period during the 1970s, they were relegated in 1980 back to Division Two. A season later they were promoted back to Division One and in 1985 won the championship, gaining promotion to the restructured Premier Division. By now the Kent Amateur League had changed its name to the Kent County League and the club enjoyed further success when they won the Kent FA Intermediate Shield in 1988. In the same year the club was involved in the last ever match played at Maidstone United's London Road ground when they won the West Kent Challenge Cup.

In 1993, Martin Ford joined the club as manager and, in season 1995/1996 a unique cup treble was achieved with wins in the Kent Intermediate Shield, Kent County League Cup, and the Erith Hospitals Cup. Season 1996/1997 then saw the club win the Kent County Premier Division title for the first time in their history, and by a record 15 points. Senior status was awarded that same year and a successful application was made to join the Winstonlead Kent League where, in their first season in modern times, VCD Athletic finished in a creditable ninth place. The following season saw the club begin a ground-share with Thamesmead Town, finishing up in seventh place but also reaching the final of the Kent League Cup, where they lost 1-0 to Deal Town in a closely fought match. Deal at this time were assembling the side that was later to win the FA Vase at Wembley.

A season later the club went one better, beating Faversham Town 4-0 in the final to bring the club a first ever senior trophy, and the season after that the club made its third consecutive cup final appearance when they reached the final of the Kent Senior Trophy. However, they narrowly missed out on more silverware when they went down 10-9 on penalties to Whitstable Town. The club eventually spent five seasons as tenants of Thamesmead Town before Lordswood FC kindly took their place for two seasons. Then the club embarked on a one year term with near neighbours Greenwich Borough, and despite the handicap of having no ground-share, VCD were consistently one of the league's strongest members during their time in the league.

The club reached the final of the League Cup in 2002/2003, but on the day there was no celebration as VCD were comfortably beaten 2-0 by Cray Wanderers. The following season was a disappointment as far as the cups were concerned, but a creditable third place was achieved in the league. Further cup success followed however when, in season 2005/2006 the club reached the final of the Kent Senior Trophy for the second time. Having suffered a loss in the first final on penalties, there was a reversal of fortune this time when, after having drawn 1-1 with Tunbridge Wells at the end of extra time, the VCD players held their nerve to win the penalty shoot-out 3-1.

During 2005 the long awaited news the club wanted to hear finally arrived when planning permission for floodlights and the development of the Oakwood ground was granted by Bexley Council. This, together with a substantial grant from the Football Stadia Improvement Fund, part of the Football Foundation, enabled work to commence early in 2006. The pitch was levelled, rotated 90 degrees and re-laid. New perimeter paths were laid, along with perimeter fencing to enclose the pitch. Floodlights were erected in June 2006, at the same time that

work on enhancing the changing rooms also began. The spectator stand was re-sited and extended, and further additions included a new raised hospitality area situated to overlook the pitch, and a new tea bar adjacent to the popular members bar.

At the end of the 2007 season Martin Ford resigned as manager, and the club are grateful for his vision and enthusiasm over the years that took VCD from being a Kent County League side to one that was always around the top of the table in the Kent League, and on his departure the club had just reached the last 16 of the prestigious FA Vase for the second consecutive season. Head coach Dean Frost took over as caretaker manager, and under his guidance the club obtained runners up spot in the league, narrowly missing out to Whitstable Town, and then the following season Paul Foley was appointed manager of the first team, with Dean Frost reverting to his former position of head coach. Under their stewardship the club finished runners up once more. A year later, the club finally won the Kent League Premier Division title together with the Kent Senior Trophy, culminating in the long awaited promotion to the Ryman Football League. The first season was a success with an 8th place finish, but the club were left stunned when the Ryman League deemed ground issues warranted demotion, and despite an appeal to the Football Association, the decision was upheld and the club went back to the Kent League.

Manager Paul Foley resigned to join Chatham Town, taking virtually the whole team with him, and the club appointed former reserve team manager Ricky Bennett his replacement. Under his leadership VCD achieved third place in his first season, and the season after the team was also challenging for honours and, but for a disappointing end to the campaign we certainly would have given Herne Bay a closer run to their title. Once again third place was attained but this time we had the added bonus of winning the Kent League Cup, beating Corinthian 2-0 in the final. We also lifted a second trophy with a 3-2 victory over league champions Herne Bay in the Kent League Challenge Shield which gave the club a pre-season boost. Midway through season 2012/2013 Ricky Bennett left the club due to outside pressures, and in his place the club secured the services of Tony Russell, previously manager of Erith Town FC, who joined with his assistant Ray Powell.

With most of the players leaving with the previous manager the club was in disarray, but a side was quickly formed by the new management, and a magnificent record breaking run of 17 victories and 2 draws in the last 19 league fixtures enabled the club to once more gain promotion to the Ryman Football League Division 1 North. Starting as favourites for relegation, the club had a stunning run, winning the first 15 games and heading the table for all but a couple of weeks throughout the campaign, and on the last day of the season, sitting in 2nd place the Vickers defeated Romford FC 6-0 while leaders Witham Town could only draw their last game which saw us secure the title by a point, taking the club to the Premier Division, its highest ever level in the pyramid. The club struggled for a lot of the season, spending most of the time in the relegation places but winning the last 6 games saw us climb to safety, finally finishing in 18th position to maintain our place in the division.

Manager Tony Russell then resigned, taking the entire side with him, but the club acted quickly to secure the services of Keith McMahon as new First Team Manager. Keith came with a wealth of experience having taken neighbours Thamesmead Town from the Kent League to the Ryman League Premier Division but, following a difficult start to his appointment with the club, we couldn't find the level of consistency needed in the Premier Division and were relegated. After spells in Division 1 (North) and the South East Division we were unable to achieve our expectations, and Keith left the Vickers to be replaced by former VCD player Nick Davis. His tenure began with the upsets caused by the Covid pandemic until we finally got back to normal, and after a promising start were always around the play-off spots, but we finished poorly and ended the season in a disappointing 9th position.

After the campaign ended Nick informed the club that he had accepted a position back at his former club Sittingbourne, leaving the club with a search for a new manager. Former VCD favourite Grant Basey was appointed, bringing with him former player Michael Power as his assistant, but Grant resigned near the end of the season with Michael taking over the reigns, and after a struggle we were unable to put a sustained run together resulting in our relegation to the SCEFL Premier Division after losing narrowly in a play off.

Michael Power was released at the end of that season and the club quickly appointed Danny Joy and Ross Baker as joint managers, who took on the unenviable task of quickly getting together a new team. This gave us a lot of problems with an unsettled side in the early months, but in the run in we put together a number of excellent performances with the squad looking very accomplished. With a number of new signings, the hope for the following season was to carry this on and push even further to make a serious challenge for the play off spots. Expectations were exceeded however when we spent the entire season occupying one of the top two league positions, finally conceding the title to Faversham Town. The lottery of the play-offs beckoned but we held our nerve, beating Punjab United 2-0 in the semi final, and then Fisher 2-1 in the final to clinch promotion back to the Isthmian League South East Division. Under Danny Joy and Ross Baker's stewardship the club now looks to establish itself back at Step 4.



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MATCH REPORT

THREE BRIDGES 1-1 HORSHAM

SUSSEX TRANSPORT SENIOR CUP

TUESDAY 13 JANUARY 2026

Three Bridges produced one of the greatest nights in the club's history as they stunned National League South high-flyers Horsham FC to reach the Sussex Transport Senior Cup semi-finals.

Facing opponents sitting two divisions higher and chasing a third successive Sussex Cup triumph, Jamie Crellin's side rose superbly to the occasion at Jubilee Field. After a thrilling 1–1 draw over 90 minutes, Bridges held their nerve in a dramatic penalty shootout, winning 4–1 to send the home crowd into raptures.

From the opening whistle, Bridges were completely unfazed by the scale of the task. Playing their trademark slick, confident football, the hosts took the game to the reigning champions and created the better chances in the first half. Charlie Bennett, Kevin Rivera and Reece Hallard all went close, with Hallard unlucky to see his effort crash back off the post.

Despite Bridges' dominance, it was Horsham who struck first. Against the run of play, Ola Ogunwamide broke forward on the counter and finished emphatically, firing low past Sam Roberts to give the visitors a 1–0 lead heading into the break. Even so, the mood around Jubilee Field remained positive, with Bridges arguably the stronger side.

The equaliser arrived eight minutes after the restart. Hayden Velvick, outstanding throughout, showed great strength and composure to turn his defender before rifling a powerful effort across goal, leaving Horsham's goalkeeper with no chance and bringing the hosts deservedly level.

The contest remained finely balanced, with chances at both ends. Horsham struck the crossbar on 58 minutes and Luer dragged a shot just wide shortly after, but the final 20 minutes belonged to Three Bridges. Velvick came agonisingly close to a winner, rattling the bar once again as the hosts pushed relentlessly for a historic victory.

With the scores locked at 1–1, the tie was settled by penalties. Charlie Bennett confidently converted the opening kick before Horsham's Hammond blazed over. Ben Holden made it 2–0, and Sam Roberts then produced a superb save to deny Fenelon and put Bridges firmly in control. Reece Hallard and Barker both scored to make it 3–1, leaving Ade Adeyinka with the chance to seal history. The midfielder stepped up and smashed his penalty into the roof of the net, sparking wild celebrations as Bridges won the shootout 4–1.

The victory writes another remarkable chapter in a season that has already seen Three Bridges open up an eight-point lead at the top of the Isthmian League South East Division. Attention now turns back to league action, but this unforgettable night will live long in the memory.

The Sussex Senior Cup semi-finals will be played in March at Culver Road, Lancing, with the final scheduled for May at the Amex Stadium in Brighton.

Bridges Team: Roberts, Ferreira, J Hallard, Bull, Neathey, Leighton (C), Rivera (Holden), R Hallard, Adeyinka, Velvick (Villavicencio), Bennett

Booked: Neathey, Villavicencio, Leighton

Unused Subs: Difika, Irving, Woollard

Man of the Match – Kevin Rivera

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		<u>1st - £100</u>	<u>2nd - £50</u>
JANUARY 2025	12	Steve Green	21 Keith Richardson
FEBRUARY 2025	45	Tony Danser	9 Alan Bell
MARCH 2025	72	Gordon Bennett	2 Peggy Yearwood
APRIL 2025	28	Alan Ladd	50 Mick Yearwood
MAY 2025	62	Lyn Walls	72 Gordon Bennett
JUNE 2025	23	Bernie Jobson	01 Hazel Bell
JULY 2025	28	Alan Ladd	54 Richard Munn
AUGUST 2025	23	Bernie Jobson	42 Keith Cook
SEPTEMBER 2025	54	Richard Munn	21 Keith Richardson
OCTOBER 2025	1	Hazel Bell	4 Mike Denman
NOVEMBER 2025	96	Karl Mitchell	18 Chris Irving
DECEMBER 2025	7	Simon Rollings	75 Graham Weekes

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APPEARANCES

APPEARANCES	2025/26						Bridges First Team Career					
	League		Cup		Total		League		Cup		Total	
	Start	Sub	Start	Sub	Start	Sub	Start	Sub	Start	Sub	Start	Sub
Ade Adeyinka	23		7	1	29	1	23		7	1	30	1
Charlie Bennett	18	3	6	4	24	7	18	3	6	4	24	7
Naythan Bryson			2		2		7		2		9	
Sam Bull	23		7	1	30	1	43		7	1	50	1
George Falzon		5		2		7		13		3		16
Dan Ferreira	21		8	1	29	1	122	15	25	3	147	18
Noel Fisher	3	4	3	4	6	8	15	5	3	4	18	9
Josh Hallard	21	1	6	1	27	2	47	2	6	1	53	3
Reece Hallard	19	2	8		27	2	67	4	13		80	4
Connor Hayden-Pickering		6		3		9	2	18	1	4	3	22
Ben Holden	4	15	4	2	8	17	34	15	4	2	38	17
Billy Irving	5	8	7	1	12	9	78	26	26	4	104	30
Noel Leighton	18	1	2	2	20	3	121	4	21	3	142	7
Shay Matthews		1		1		2	1	6		1	1	7
Hayden Neathey	22	1	7	1	29	2	44	1	7	1	51	2
Destiny Ojo		3	2	3	2	6		3	2	6	2	6
Dan Perry		1				1	29	4	5	1	34	5
Kevin Rivera	15	6	10		25	6	116	16	26	1	142	17
Sam Roberts	23		7		30		23		7		30	
Hayden Velvick	23		7	3	30	3	57	7	10	3	68	10
Bryan Villavicencio	14	7	4	3	18	10	100	19	22	4	122	23
Harvey Woollard	9	9	6	1	15	10	89	15	18	5	107	21



GOALSCORERS

GOAL SCORERS	2025/26			Bridges First Team Career		
	League	Cup	Total	League	Cup	Total
Ade Adeyinka	10	2	12	10	2	12
Charlie Bennett	11	5	16	11	5	16
Sam Bull				1		1
George Falzon			1	1	1	2
Dan Ferreira				3		3
Noel Fisher	1		1	3		3
Reece Hallard	21	6	27	48	8	56
Ben Holden	1	3	4	11	3	14
Billy Irving	1		1	7	4	11
Noel Leighton	19		19	76	11	87
Hayden Neathey	1		1	2		2
Destiny Ojo		3	3		3	3
Kevin Rivera	1	5	6	27	8	35
Hayden Velvick	6	2	8	11	2	13
Bryan Villavicencio	4	1	5	9	1	10
Harvey Woollard	1		1	6		6

THREE BRIDGES SQUAD FROM:		VCD ATHLETIC SQUAD FROM:	
1	Sam ROBERTS (GK)		Archie BURFORD (GK)
2	Dan FERREIRA		Ezra IKEBUASI
3	Josh HALLARD		Lee BIRD
4	Harvey WOOLLARD (Capt.)		Zak BRYON
5	Sam BULL		Ben FITCHETT (Capt.)
6	Hayden NEATHEY (Vice Capt.)		Harry LAWRENCE
8	Bryan VILLAVICENCIO		Theo OSINFOLARIN
9	Noel LEIGHTON (Vice Capt.)		Alfred EVANS
10	Kevin RIVERA		Chris REGIS
11	Reece HALLARD		Cameron ANDREWS
13	Naythan BRYSON (GK)		Courtney BARRINGTON
14	Ade ADEYINKA		Sinnkaye CHRISTIE
15	Tresor DIFIKA		Gael KILEBA
16	Ben HOLDEN		Freddie COWIN
17	Hayden VELVICK		Michael FENN
18	Billy IRVING		David OZOBIA
19	George FALZON		
20	Charlie BENNETT		
Manager:	Jamie CRELLIN	Manager:	Danny JOY & Ross BAKER
Assistant:	Joe KAY	Assistant:	Tom CARLSE
GK Coach:	Ross BALL	Coaches:	Steve ALDRIDGE & Paul BRYON
Physio:	Tracey WELLER	Physio:	Shannon MCEVOY
Amber Shirts; Black Shorts; Black Socks		White/Green Shirts; White Shorts; White Socks	

REFEREE:

Jacob Wright

ASSISTANT REFEREES:

Harvey Ransome & John Pike