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- 04 Welcome to Burgess Hill Town FC
- 06 Burgess Hill Town FC history
- 11 Spot The Ball
- 12 From the Gaffer
- 14 Report v Crawley Down Gatwick
- 18 Guest Article
- 20 SCR History
- 22 Spot the ball answer
- 24 Team lists



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# INSIDE TODAY...

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**Hon General Secretary** - Justin Salmon  
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**Match Secretary** - VACANT  
**Youth Secretary** - Blake Tann-Salmon  
**Welfare Officer** - Darren Salmon

### Management & Board:

Gary Brigden, Steve Casserley Francois Gabbidon,  
Charlie Hands, Val Roots, Mick Murfet  
Alan Reed, Sharon Streets

**1st Team Manager** - Sam Morgan

**1st Team Asst Manager** - Reece Turner

**Coach** - Liam Joyce

**Physio** - Geoff Moxey & Elizabeth Raji

**Kit & Equipment Manager** - Tony Williams

**Stadium Emergency 1st Aid** - Brent Wallage

**Matchday Media** - Blake Tann-Salmon &  
Georgia Soper

**Photographs courtesy of:**

Gary Brigden Photography

Match Graphics courtesy of **Football Web Pages**

**Sutton Common Rovers Football Club are an unincorporated members club run by volunteers.  
Club officials & management committee are elected annually at the clubs AGM.**

**GAME**  
MORE THAN LOFTS  
**DAY**



VS



**Sutton Common  
Rovers F.C**

**Burgess Hill  
Town F.C.**

## WELCOME, SALUT, HOWDY, WILLKOMEN

Good afternoon ladies and gentleman, wishing you a warm Sutton Common Rovers welcome to the Whyteleafe Sports Centre for today's FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round tie.

We would like to welcome the players, committee and supporters of Burgess Hill Town FC, who have made the journey up the M23 and right a bit, we hope they enjoy their stay with us this afternoon.

We would also like to welcome today's match officials, referee Mr Redmond Egan and his assistants Mr Joe Alborough and Mr Adam Absolon, again we trust they enjoy their brief stay with us this afternoon.

## OUR HONOURS

### LEAGUE HONOURS

**Combined Counties League Premier Division:**

Runners-up: 2018–19

**Combined Counties League Division One:**

Champions 2009–10; Runners-up: 2012–13

### CUP HONOURS

**Combined Counties League Cherry Red Records Premier Challenge Cup:**

Winners: 2018–19

**Combined Counties League Division One Cup:**

Runners-up: 2008–09

**Middlesex County League Premier Division**

**Cup:** Runners-up: 2007–08

**Southern Combination Challenge Cup:**

Winners: 2016–17; Runners up: 2018–19

**Surrey Premier Cup:**

Runners-up: 2009–10

## OUR SOCIALS

 [info@suttoncommonrovers.com](mailto:info@suttoncommonrovers.com)

 [www.suttoncommonrovers.com](http://www.suttoncommonrovers.com)

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# WELCOME, SALUT, HOWDY, WILLKOMEN

5

It has been well documented but it has been a period of change for the club with a new manager for the first time since we started our Saturday journey. When Darren Salmon stepped down at the end of last season it was a simple decision to bring Sam Morgan on board as manager. Sam had been instrumental at the back end of the season in turning round our league fortunes and bringing a smile back to the changing room.

He has added the popular Reece Turner to his backroom staff, whilst keeping the rest of last years backroom on board.

On the squad front, most of the side that were 7th in the form table at the end of the season have been retained, and there have been some quality new additions, namely the experienced midfielder Daryl Coleman, young defender Ben Holden and a couple of new exciting attacking options in Charlie Pitcher and Aaron Jenkins.

On the flip side, last seasons end of season skipper Tyler Cox has moved to fellow Isthmian South Central side, and probable title favourites Leatherhead, whilst Tyrese Sutherland has gone to Redhill. Josh Okpolokpo, Markus Marku, Hermann Tehe and Zaid Ouaret-Sorr have also all moved on, to whereabouts unknown. Josh Uzon is once again injured.

Pre-season has been decent with six wins (Cobham 2-1, thanks to a Max Oldham double; SLM 2-0 with Courtney Swaby and Conan Torpey on the scoresheet; Merstham 5-1—Swaby, Torpey, Nabeel Ghannam, Danny Divine and Charlie Pitcher; Haywards Heath Town 3-0—Ghannam, Pitcher and Torpey; Crawley Down Gatwick 3-1—Aaron Jenkins 2, Pitcher; Loxwood 3-0 Pitcher 2, Jenkins), one draw (2-2 against Broadbridge Heath—Jenkins, Pitcher) and one defeat (against Farnham Town 2-1— Jenkins), leading to positive vibes around the club.

Burgess Hill finished last season in 16th spot in the table, a point against Beckenham Town on the final day securing their status, with nearest challengers VCD Athletic only managing a draw in their fixture, but have had a solid pre-season with their only blip being a draw against Brighton & Hove Albion, and impressive wins against highly fancied Faversham Town, and Isthmian Premier Whitehawk. Like ourselves they are under new management this season, with former player Dean Cox taking the reins this season.

In cup action this year, aside from today, we will be in the FA Trophy (where we head off to Merstham looking for our first win in the competition), Southern Combination Challenge Cup and Surrey Senior Cup. We have not entered the Velocity Trophy this season.

We will also only be running one additional "senior" side, with our tie up with Royal Russell School continuing, and they will again be competing in the Isthmian Youth League, FA Youth Cup and Surrey Midweek Floodlit Cup.

I know I ended the Play Off editorial by signing off from programme editing duties, but wouldn't you know, my replacement is on holiday, so it was time to dig out the laptop and editing brain one last time. Apologies for it being smaller than our usual efforts but took me a bit by surprise!!

Signing off for the final time, possibly, that's all from me, enjoy the game, make use of the bar and facilities, and have safe trips home.

**Briggers**

# TODAY'S OPPONENTS

## BURGESS HILL TOWN

**FORMED: 1882**

**NICKNAME:**  
**The Hillians**

Burgess Hill Football Club was founded in 1882 and was a founder member of the Sussex County Football Association. The club attained the unique achievement of winning the Sussex Senior Cup three years running thus retaining it permanently in the process. The cup is on display in the trophy cabinet in the club boardroom. The current trophy was presented to the S.C.F.A. by Burgess Hill Town Football Club. In 1998 the club reached the Senior Cup final for the first time in 110 years but were narrowly beaten 2–1 by Hastings Town. In the club's formative years they were also founder members of the Mid-Sussex Football League, and won the League Championship in its inaugural season.

Following several successful seasons the club joined the Sussex County League for the 1958–59 season, and stayed until attaining promotion to the Southern Football League in 2003. In 1969 the club amalgamated with Worlds End F.C. and with the help of Burgess Hill Town Council were able to move to Leylands Park, the club's current home. In 1971, the club gained promotion to Division One, only to be relegated two seasons later. 1974 saw the 'Hillians' reach another landmark achievement by becoming the only club ever to have won both the League Challenge Cup and the Division Two Cup in the same season. In 1976 a hat trick of achievements were completed by winning the Division One Championship by six points, having secured the Division Two title the previous season.



During the ensuing twenty years in the top flight of the County League success was modest. In 1980 the League Challenge Cup was secured and in 1992 the RUR Cup was added. However, all this changed in season 96–97 under the guidance of club manager, Alan Pook. The club became Division One champions by twelve points, won the Floodlight Cup, and were runners up in the League Challenge Cup. The 2nd XI finished runners up in the Reserve Premier and won the Mid-Sussex Charity Cup, while the Youth XI won their overall championship. In 1997–98, the club 1st XI attained even more success by again winning the League Championship and the League Challenge Cup, also reaching the last sixteen in the F.A. Vase. Additionally they reached the Sussex Senior Cup Final and were top of the county's merit table. The Youth XI also finished as 'Double Champions' in the sector.

1998–99 season saw the Hillians achieve a unique treble in winning the Championship for a post war record third time and again securing a league and cup double, back to back. The 2nd XI won their cup and were runners up in the league, missing out by a single point. Not to be out done, the Youth XI won their league and only missed out on a double by goal difference. All in all an historic season.

The club then welcomed new manager, Gary Croydon for season 1999–2000. He led the Hillians to take runners' up spot in the league and to a record fourth qualifying round FA Cup tie against Hereford United.





Again, a last 16 place was achieved in the FA Vase as well as winning the RUR Cup and the Floodlit Cup.

The new millennium season saw Hillians take the league championship with the team remaining unbeaten in the league until April; the Club also had its best ever run in the FA Vase only being beaten after extra time by eventual finalists Tiptree United in the last eight, before a then club record attendance of 1598. With plans being laid for Southern League football, club directors, Gary Croydon and Eddie Benson appointed Danny Bloor as manager for season 2002–2003. The club was rewarded with yet another championship crown, the fifth in seven seasons.

Gary Croydon took over the Hillians again as the club entered the Southern League for the first ever time. After just missing out on the play offs, Burgess Hill Town moved over to the Isthmian League due to the restructuring of the non-league pyramid.

For the next few years the Club established itself as a Ryman League club with a few mid table finishes and twice just avoiding relegation.

In 2012/2013 there was an upturn in the Hillians fortunes. The Club returned to their original green and black colours. Former Brighton & Hove Albion player and coach Ian Chapman was appointed as Manager and he guided the Hillians to eighth place in the table. 2013/14 saw the Hillians achieve their highest ever finish in the Football pyramid, finishing sixth in the table and just missing out on the play offs by one point. The newly formed Under 21 side finished third in the Ryman U21 League whilst the Youth Team, under former favourite Ashley Carr, had their most successful season ever. They won the Ryman Youth League and the Ryman Youth Champion of Champions whilst also lifting the Sussex County Youth Cup.

Two Ladies teams were also introduced as part of Burgess Hill Town FC and they enjoyed mid table finishes in their first season.

2014/15 saw the Club enjoy the greatest season in the Club's History. Ian Chapman's side were unbeaten in the league until mid - March and went on to win Ryman League Division One South title by 11 points and gain promotion to the Ryman Premier League for the first ever time. They also equalled their best - ever FA Cup run, eventually losing away to Dartford in the 4th qualifying round but having gaining a memorable 3-1 victory at Sutton United in the previous round. In the FA Trophy, the club reached the 2nd round, finally losing at home to Dartford FC. In the previous round the team had beaten Aldershot Town of the National League 1-0 away.

A confident start to the Hillians first season in the Isthmian Premier Division before Christmas saw the team 8th in the league, but a disappointing second half saw them finish in 20th position. The club avoided relegation due to Farnborough FC being relegated for financial irregularities. The following two seasons saw the Hillians avoid relegation on the last day of the season to keep its Isthmian Premier status although the next season the Club were relegated and returned to the Isthmian League Division One South where after a few covid hit years have remained since.

This season there is a feeling of optimism around the Club. Former Brighton & Hove Albion and Leyton Orient fan favourite Dean Cox was appointed as the Club's new manager as the Hillians look to improve on recent seasons. Off the pitch Vince Alfiei has taken over as Chairman and improvements all over the ground can be seen already as the Club looks to adopt a more community feel about it.

# MEET THE PLAYERS

## BURGESS HILL TOWN

**Dean Cox (Manager)** - Took over the management reins at Burgess Hill Town in the summer following a short but successful stint as Lancing Manager where he guided them to safety and achieved their highest ever league finish. Former professional who enjoyed an excellent career in the Football League with Brighton & Hove Albion (just under 150 appearances), Leyton Orient (over 200 appearances), where he was a fan favourite and Crawley Town as well as successful non league spells with Eastbourne Borough and Worthing. Dean, a tricky winger/attacking midfielder, also had two spells on loan at Burgess Hill firstly in 2004 and then again in 2017.

**Taylor Seymour** - Goalkeeper who re-joined Burgess Hill Town this Summer. Originally joined the Hillians at the beginning of the 2021/22 season but left in the January transfer window to join League 2 side Crawley Town. Has since played for Eastbourne Borough, Corinthian Casuals and Horsham before recently returning to Leylands Park. An excellent shot stopper who has also played for Portsmouth for whom he made his debut in an EFL Trophy tie against Peterborough United in 2020 and has also represented Sussex at Under 18 level.

**Martyn Box** - Full back who joined the Hillians originally on loan from Barnet in the 2019/2020 season and was made into a permanent move soon after. Local lad and a favourite amongst the Hillians faithful, Martyn loves to get forward and is a fantastic crosser of the ball with a knack of scoring some important goals. Alongside his playing role with the Club he also coaches BHTFC Junior Under 11 Girls team.

**Reggie Ward** - Full back who likes to get forward and is now in his third season with the Club. He was previously on the books at Brighton & Hove Albion. Reggie is related to former Hillians manager and Brighton legend Ian Chapman.

**Josh Spinks** - Signed in the summer of 2020/2021 season from Haywards Heath Town and has now made close to 100 appearances for the Hillians. Dominant and classy central defender who was voted manager and supporters player of the year two seasons ago. Josh has also played for Lancing.

**Marcus Allen** - Summer signing from Lancing where he won a trio of awards - players player, managers player and young player of the year award last season and was Dean Cox's first Hill signing. Commanding central defender who has previously played for Saltdean United, Peacehaven and Haywards Heath. Was appointed club captain on joining the Hill.

**Callaghan Stobbart** - Young left back who was a summer recruit from Lancing where he had a breakthrough season under now Hillians manager Dean Cox.

**Zack Lawrence** - Broke into the first team last season following some impressive performance with the under 18's. Young left back. Zack holds the honour of being the first player to progress from BHTFC Juniors to reach the first team.



# MEET THE PLAYERS

## BURGESS HILL TOWN



**Darren Budd** - Fans favourite and a legend of Leylands Park. Captained the Hillians to the Isthmian South title winning side of 2015 also being picked in the league's team of the year that season. Returned to the Hillians in the summer from Worthing and has previously played for Bognor Regis, Eastbourne Borough, Horsham, Whitehawk and Brighton & Hove Albion. Buddy originally joined the Hillians in 2012 and won player of the season that year. His first spell lasted four seasons and he made nearly 200 appearances in that time. Midfielder with a never say die attitude and has the knack of chipping in with some important strikes.

**Finn Daniels-Yeomans** - Summer recruit who followed manager Dean Cox from Lancing and was previously with the University of Edinburgh. Finn is a tough tackling, dominant central midfielder who will bring his height and physicality to the Hill.

**Tyrese Mthunzi** - Recruited in the summer from Lancing and has previously played for Whitehawk, Saltdean United and Worthing whilst also playing for the Hillians Youth team in 2017 under Paul Dollner. A skillful, box to box midfielder, Tyrese will bring some flair and keen eye for goal to the Hill.

**Lewis Finney** - An exciting talent who joined the club from Lancing ahead of the 2021/22 season. Finney hit a mind-blowing 49 goals in 42 appearances for the Lancers during the curtailed 2019-20 SCFL Premier Division campaign. He also finished as our top goalscorer in his first season at Leylands Park. Lewis has previously played for Haywards Heath Town, Hassocks and Eastbourne Town.

**Rob O'Toole** - Re-joined the Hillians in the summer for a second spell in green and black from Whitehawk where he captained them to promotion via the playoffs last season. Very popular person around Leylands Park who enjoyed an excellent season at the Club playing a big role in the title winning team of 2014/15 scoring 20 goals. Rob has also played for Horsham, Saltdean United, Peacehaven, Haywards Heath Town, East Preston and Shoreham. Strong attacking player who has the ability to score spectacular goals.

**Kieron Pamment** - Returned to the Hillians in the close season from Three Bridges where he ended up as top scorer last season. Very quick attacker who's played for a host of Sussex clubs including Lewes, Horsham, Shoreham, Littlehampton, Pagham, Saltdean United, East Grinstead and Worthing where he was a big favourite amongst the Rebels supporters. Dead ball specialist and pacy forward Kieron's first spell with the Hillians was in the Isthmian Premier Division in 2018 where he scored twice in 15 appearances.

**Reece Hallard** - Last season's supporters player of the season at Lancing who joined the Hillians in the summer. Formerly with Haywards Heath, Saltdean United, Whitehawk and Worthing at youth level. Respected Sussex at youth level and had trials with Barnet. Strong forward with a good eye for goal.



PARTNERS WITH  
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



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# SPOT THE BALL



Action from the Crawley Down Gatwick pre-season friendly, Ben Holden hits the deck, but where is the ball...

## Gary Brigden Professional Photographer

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# INSIDE MORGAN'S MIND

Well here we are the curtain raiser.

It's been an interesting Pre season knowing this is the unknown for the club without having a Salmon in the dugout.

What has been nice is keeping the squad members we targeted and have been able add some quality into the squad that we hope to take us to the next level.

You may have seen a few of the new faces already but they have all settled well and there is a real togetherness. This I would say has reflected by some of the pre season results including the loss to Farnham where you could see the desire for the few errors that cost us in that game not to happen throughout the season.




Hopefully we can get off to a good start with a win today and be set for the league campaign.

I look forward to your continued support and can hopefully create some excitement to see a few more in Yellow and Lime

Morgs

# MATCH REPORT:

## CRAWLEY DOWN GATWICK

Sutton Common Rovers	Saturday 29th April 2023	Crawley Down Gatwick
<b>1</b> James Dillon	<b>Sutton Common Rovers</b> 2	<b>1</b> Dave Carruthers
<b>2</b> Danny Divine	Conan Torpey (45')	<b>2</b> Mark Zydonic
<b>3</b> Matthew Tanton	Tyler Cox (87')	<b>3</b> Shaun Findlay
<b>4</b> Siao Blackwood	<b>Crawley Down Gatwick</b> 0	<b>4</b> Michael Spence
<b>5</b> Bertie Lloyd		<b>5</b> Guy Harding
<b>6</b> Liam Holden		<b>6</b> Marc Pelling
<b>7</b> Tyler Cox	Step 4/5 Inter-Step Play-off	<b>7</b> Ben Chowney
<b>8</b> Courtney Swaby	Attendance: 164	<b>8</b> Josh Brown
<b>9</b> Conan Torpey	Kick-off: 3pm	<b>9</b> Nick Sullivan
<b>10</b> Nabeel Ghannam	<a href="#">Info</a> <a href="#">Videos</a> 	<b>10</b> Sam Clements
<b>11</b> Shakeel Morris	<b>Match Information</b>	<b>11</b> Rhys White
<b>12</b> Marcus Marku	Full-time: Sutton Common Rovers 2-0 Crawley Down Gatwick	<b>12</b> Oli Leslie
<b>14</b> Josh Uzon	Half-time: Sutton Common Rovers 1-0 Crawley Down Gatwick	<b>14</b> Harvey Enticknapp
<b>15</b> Tyrese Sutherland		<b>15</b> Lewis Croal
<b>16</b> Zaid Ouaret Sorr		<b>16</b> Michael Wood
<b>20</b> Louie Erotokritos Staussi		<b>17</b> Jack Ryder

Late goals in each half saw Rovers see off the spirited challenge of Southern Combination Premier Division runners up Crawley Down Gatwick.

Darren Salmon and Sam Morgan made one change from the side that had beaten Ashford on the last day of the regular season, with Shakeel Morris coming in for Max Oldham, who was on holiday; Hermann Tehe and Gabriel Odunaike were on the treatment table, and Antonio Simeone was unavailable.

As expected it was a relatively cagey opening to the game, although the lower ranked visitors were enjoying the better of the possession with Rovers all too frequently playing directly into the hands of Guy Harding and Mark Pelling in the heart of the Crawley Down defence.

Rovers Tyler Cox found his way into the referees book for a mistimed challenge on Ben Chowney, only eight minutes into the contest. Crawley Down were continuing to have the better of things and Chowney linked up with Rhys White and a low cross was turned behind by Liam Holden.

The recalled Morris then set up Rovers first chance, jinking left and right before delivering a low cross to Conan Torpey, but his shot was blocked and cleared.

Crawley Down, with the neat promptings of Sam Clements were still looking the most likely to open the scoring, although it was Rovers who almost struck the first blow midway through the half.





Morris found Nabeel Ghannam and the talented midfielder worked an opening but could only drag his shot wide of the right hand post.

Josh Brown whipped in a dangerous free kick from the left, which flew across the face of the Rovers goal with neither defenders or attackers able to make contact.

On the half hour Ghannam, who was becoming more and more influential, bought a tidy save out of Dave Carruthers low down to his left. Brown and Clements then both saw shots blocked by the Rovers backline as neither side could make the all important breakthrough.

Michael Spence fired an effort over the bar, and just as it looked the half would end level, Rovers struck the first blow. Ghannam again did superbly, this time on the left and his low driven cross was turned home from close range by Conan Torpey to give Rovers a vital lead.

The expected second half onslaught from Crawley Down did not materialise, and Rovers were able to settle into the game, with the diminutive pairing of Ghannam and Courtney Swaby controlling the middle of the park.

Rovers were struck a blow on 65 minutes when Torpey felt unwell during the game and made way for Tyrese Sutherland, to give the hosts a different type of attacking threat. It should have been 2-0 on 67 minutes but a Bert Lloyd volley after a Swaby free kick had not been cleared flew high over the cross-bar.

Crawley Down were still proving dangerous going forward, but the Rovers backline of Danny Divine, Lloyd, Holden and Matt Tanton were coping with everything thrown at them and James Dillon remained relatively untroubled.

Clements saw a shot deflected behind for a corner and from the delivery the now expected "all hands to the pump" defensive scramble as Rovers defended a corner took place. Most SCR fans have become accustomed to these, and there was a general feeling of "well we will survive this, we normally do".

Zaid Ouaret Sorr replaced Morris with time running out, and it was an attempted link up between Cox and Sorr that inadvertently led to the second Rovers goal on 87 minutes. Cox saw his through ball blocked and as the ball was launched clear it struck him on the hip and looped high over Carruthers and nestled into the back of the net to secure Rovers survival.

There was still time for both keepers to excel, Dillon doing superbly to prevent an Oli Leslie header from creeping in, and Carruthers foiling Cox when left one-on-one.

Rovers reward was another season in the Isthmian South Central. For visitors Crawley Down, no doubt the hope of going one better next season, and having a great run in the FA Vase.

# PICS: CRAWLEY DOWN GATWICK



Top: Nabeel Ghannam  
Inset: Courtney Swaby & Matt Tanton;  
Below: Siao Blackwood







# The Untold Game

## Hibernian's European Adventure

When you consider British representation in the European Cup, a few names spring to mind. Celtic, the first British European Champions, or Manchester United, the first English club to achieve that feat. Liverpool, of course, or perhaps Nottingham Forest for fans of the underdog. But away from European royalty, the founders of the inaugural European Cup had another club on their mind to set imaginations alight across the continent. Because of their heritage and their appeal to supporters, L'Equipe editor Gabriel Hanot reasoned, the British flag would be carried into the first continental competition by the 'entirely suited' Hibernian.

Britain presented a problem. The birthplace of football, and still convinced of their superiority in the game, British representation was a must if the European Cup were to be truly European, and gain the significance that it now has. It was disappointing, then, to find enthusiasm for the new competition was lacking. The English FA put a ban on English clubs competing altogether. Scotland was more ambivalent, and champions Aberdeen were initially keen, before discovering that matches would be played midweek, in the evenings. Pittodrie didn't have floodlights and the board was worried that playing under the lights would only give their opponents an advantage.

Celtic had finished the previous season second, but didn't see the prestige in the competition and were concerned about the cost of traveling around the continent. It was a similar story with third place Rangers and fourth place Hearts, so Hanot and UEFA were forced to approach an enthusiastic, mid-table Hibs.

Harry Swan, Hibs chairman since 1931, had long advocated a European Cup, and almost as soon as he had taken charge at the Edinburgh club had advocated for the future of floodlights. Most importantly, he had led the team to three league titles in a row in the early 1950s, at which point he had installed the floodlighting that would be necessary to compete against Europe's elite. They had also recently beaten Matt Busby's Manchester United 7-3, adding a further feather to their cap.

Perhaps equally important, Hibs had traveled to Brazil in 1953 to take part in an unofficial World Club Championship. They finished bottom of their group, but UEFA and L'Equipe saw a side that was willing to travel vast distances for supra-national glory.

Hibs made their debut in European competition in Germany, against German champions Rot-Weiss Essen.





Lawrie Reilly would later recall that fresh memories of the Second World War inspired his side, who were instructed to keep it tight and not concede in the first leg so that they could use home advantage in the second. They kept it tight as instructed, but after ten minutes decided that 'keeping it tight' was not really their way. They unleashed a torrent of attacks on the Germans' box, and Eddie Turnbull (pictured previous page) became the first British player to score in the European



Cup, as the Scottish side put four past their bewildered German counterparts. The return leg was much more composed, a 1-1 draw.

The competition had only begun with 16 teams, meaning Hibs advanced to the quarter finals, where they would meet amateur Swedish side Djurgardens. Winter in Scandinavia made playing in Sweden impossible, so Djurgardens played their 'home' leg at Partick Thistle, where the Scottish side won 3-1, before adding a fourth goal in the return at Easter Road. Any worries that Hibs fans hadn't quite taken to the competition (Turnbull lamented finishing every tie in the first, away leg) would be dispelled in the semi-finals.

'Already interest in these floodlit evening games is on the wane', declared a stuffy Celtic programme article, the same night as Edinburgh was a cauldron welcoming French champions Reims (pictured above). The first leg had been a fiery affair, and the Scottish side had been unable to cope with the magic of Michael Hidalgo and Raymond Kopa, who had given Reims a two-goal lead. 45,000 packed in to the Easter Road and watched Hibs completely dominate the game, creating chance after chance but finding the Reims defence a brick wall. As they got more desperate, they left more space, and eventually Kopa hit them on the counter and killed the tie. 'In terms of chances created, we had much the better of things,' lamented Gordon Smith, 'but tactically Reims... were light years ahead of us.'

Despite the dismissive attitude of their rivals, Hibs had shown just what the European Cup would become. Celtic may have been the first champions, Liverpool may be the most successful British side, but it was the mid-table team from Edinburgh who led the way.

## **Enjoy the game.**

**Martyn Green, *The Untold Game* (Find more at [TheUntoldGame.co.uk](http://TheUntoldGame.co.uk) and on social media, @TheUntoldGame)**



# **A BRIEF HISTORY OF:**

## **SUTTON COMMON ROVERS**

**FORMED: 1978**

**NICKNAME:**  
**THE COMMONERS**

### **JUST A S..T SUNDAY SIDE**

Ah, the cry from the Eastbourne Town fans back in the day as they romped to a 2-0 lead in the Vase, before we struck back to win 3-2.

Well, truth be told that's where it all started back in 1978, when INRAD FC took to the field, the club being founded by current Chairman Alan Salmon. Not long after Centre 21 came about following a sponsorship deal with a local youth centre.

Once players left having reached 21, a new name came about: Sutton Common Rovers FC, which quickly abbreviated to SCR followed by whichever public house sponsored the team.

Seasons followed in the Leatherhead & District, Mitcham & District, and Croydon & District Sunday league, with varying degrees of success before Darren Salmon took the plunge and moved the team into Saturday football.

### **SATURDAY SUCCESS**

The 2004/5 season saw that Saturday move. After a couple of seasons in the Surrey South East Combination and the Middlesex County League we took our place in the Combined Counties League for the 2008/09 season.

Darren made the bold statement that he wanted to be an Isthmian side within five seasons. Well, it took a bit longer but we eventually got there.

Our time in the CCL was full of ups and downs. Missing out on promotion in our opening season on goal difference, by 1 goal (as it turned out a missed penalty against Dorking in our penultimate game was key as it meant they had a 1 goal better goal difference than us).

Promotion followed the next season, and two seasons in the Premier culminated with relegation back to Division 1 in 2011/12. We bounced back up immediately, but then spent three seasons struggling in the Premier division before a change in fortunes in 2016/17 saw a mid-table finish.

It was all upwards after that, missing out on promotion with 3rd and 2nd finishes by one place in consecutive seasons. However, we finished top on PPG after two abandoned seasons to finally move to the Isthmian League.

## IT'S A FAMILY THING

As said, chairman Alan Salmon founded the side back in 1978, and his boys, Darren and Justin, both played for the club once they were old enough.

Darren progressed to First Team manager, in around 2000 while we were still a Sunday side, something he has continued to the present day.

Justin has since been co-manager of the First team with Darren and reserve team manager, all alongside managing the Sunday sides. He is now the club secretary.

We were also ahead of the game in terms of getting ladies involved in the club. Alan's daughter Tracy joined the fun when the SCR Colts were formed and quickly established herself behind the tea bar counter.

For good measure her other half Mark became youth secretary, a role that he held until the start of this season.

Throw into that that all Alan's grandchildren (Sam: #forever7, forever missed; Tyler, Reece and Blake, and Ethan) all played for the club, with Blake and Reece now involved on matchdays. As you see, we are truly a family club.



## CUP GLORY (ish)

We have a proud cup-fighting tradition, often getting the better of higher ranked sides.

It's not all been glory though as we suffered heartbreak twice in finals, losing 1-0 to Staines Lammas in the CCL Division 1 final in the 2008/09 season, and the following year we lost to Sutton Utd Reserves in the Surrey Premier Cup Final, 8-7 on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

The 2016/17 season saw the club secure it's first Saturday trophy with a 4-1 win over Camberley Town in the Southern Combination Challenge Cup.

Semi final defeats followed the next season in the Southern Combination Cup and the EL Records Premier Challenge Cup, which saw a heartbreaking 97th minute goal against Worcester Park to lose 3-2.

In 2018/19 we reached two cup finals, with defeat after extra time against Walton Casuals 4-2 in the Southern Combination Cup. The club finally secured the EL Records Premier Challenge Cup. An 84th minute strike by Matt Farrell securing a 1-0 win over CB Hounslow Utd.

There has been some success in the FA Vase, with the 5th Round reached in the 2019/20 season, but it ended in disappointment away at Western League Bitton AFC when we lost 2-1.

The FA Cup has been hit and miss with exits in the Extra-Preliminary Round before the 2021/22 season saw us reach the 2nd Qualifying Round for the first time.

# SPOT THE BALL ANSWER



Well done to all of you who spotted it where it was

A large, empty rectangular box with a light gray border, intended for taking match notes.

**Take your match notes here...**



# PITCHING IN

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## THE TRIDENT TRUST FUND

Providing access  
to grants and funding  
for your club,  
in your community

@PitchingIn\_



**Saturday 5th August 2023 | 15:00 KO | The FA Cup | Extra Prelim Rd**  
**Venue: Church Road Stadium, Whyteleafe, Surrey. CR3 0AR**

**SUTTON COMMON ROVERS F.C**

The Rovers: ALL YELLOW / MINT GREEN

JAMES DILLON (GK)	
LOUIE EROKOKRITOS (GK)	
AARON JENKINS	
ANTONIO SIMEONE (VICE.)	
BEN HOLDEN	
BERTIE LLOYD	
CHARLIE MARTIN	
CONAN TORPEY	
COURTNEY SWABY	
DANNY DIVINE	
DARYL COLEMAN	
GIDEON ACHEAMPONG	
ISY NZELO	
LIAM HOLDEN	
MATT TANTON (CAPT.)	
MAX OLDHAM	
NABEEL GHANNAM	
NOAH AFRICA	
SHAKEEL MORRIS	
SIAO BLACKWOOD	
TOM JONES	

Manager: **Sam Morgan**  
 Assistant Manager: **Reece Turner**

**BURGESS HILL TOWN F.C**

The Hillians: ALL PURPLE / GREY

TAYLOR SEYMOUR (GK)	
CALLAGHAN STOBART	
DARREN BUDD	
DYLAN HURST	
FINN DANIELS-YEOMAN	
HARRY LAWSON	
JOSH SPINKS	
KIERON PAMMENT	
LEWIS FINNEY	
MARCEL POWELL	
MARCUS ALLAN (CAPT.)	
MARTYN BOX	
REECE HALLARD	
REGGIE WARD	
ROB O'TOOLE	
TYRESE MTHUNZI	
ZACK LAWRENCE	

Manager: **Dean Cox**  
 Assistant Manager:



**Meet Today's Match Officials:**



Referee:  
 Mr Redmond Egan

Asst #1: Mr Joe Alborough   
 Asst #2: Mr Adam Absolon  
 4th Official:



**NEXT UP: Met Police Away Sat 12th August | 3pm KO**