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THURSDAY 26TH DECEMBER 2024: OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME: £2
PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN SOUTH EAST DIVISION



SEVENOAKS TOWN VS MERSTHAM FC



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ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE



PARTNERS WITH
ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Zero Tolerance

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 by reason of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion and belief, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, sex and sexual orientation or any other form of abuse will be reported to The Football Association for action by that Association.

The Isthmian League and all Member Clubs in the League are committed to promoting equality by treating 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 the community.

You can call the FA on 0800 085 0508 or Kick it Out on 020 7253 0162.

STFC welfare policy

As a 3-Star Accredited Club, child welfare & safeguarding is at the heart of what we do.

Sevenoaks Town FC Directors and Trustees are responsible for the Club's compliance with the child protection and welfare issues that are related to running a youth football club.

The Club Welfare Officers are responsible for the welfare and safeguarding of all our club members. Three of the club's codes relate specifically to club welfare issues:

- Safeguarding Children Policy
 - Child Protection Policy
 - Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure
- All team managers and coaches must complete the following before taking charge of a team:
- valid Enhanced DBS check
 - have or be working towards a minimum FA Introduction to football coaching qualification
 - FA Safeguarding Children Training
 - FA Introduction to First Aid in Football

Player Welfare

The club has four Welfare Officers: Sean

Jarvie, Shannon Hyner
Darron Mace and Jennifer Mason
The Board Champion is Paul Lansdale who can be contacted on 07876444274.
You can also email welfare@sevenoakstownfc.co.uk

FA Respect

As an FA Charter Standard Community Club, we expect the highest standards of conduct from our players, parents and supporters.

We are passionate supporters of the FA Respect campaign.

FA Whistleblowing Policy

Any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust with football can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA Safeguarding Team on 0800 169 1863, by writing to The FA Case Manager at The Football Association, Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London SW1P 9EQ, by emailing safeguarding@thefa.com or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC.

STFC Club information



Chairman and Director: Paul Lansdale
Secretary and Director: Sam Lansdale
Directors: Kevin Marsh, Ray Miles, Frank Le Siberel.

Committee Members: Shannon Hyner, Dan Thomas, Michael Tapp

Match Secretary: As chairman

First Team Manager: Marcel Nimani

First Team Coach: Ben Franks

Goalkeeper Coach: Julian Leigh

Head of Analysis: Ben Maci

Sports Therapist: Carly Payne

Head of Youth Football: Ben Franks

Safety Officer: Ray Miles

Club Welfare Officers: Darren Mace, Sean Jarvis, Shannon Hyner

Equality and Diversity Officer: Jahmal Howlett-Mundle

Press Officer/ PA announcer: Andrew Gidley

Club Photographer/App/Social Media: Matt White.

Additional pictures by Simon Lapwood.

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Sevenoaks Town Football Club

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Sevenoaks Town supports three charities:

Hospice in the Weald. West Kent Mind,
Sevenoaks Samaritans

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Marcel Nimani

“There is a tough run of games coming up, but we are hoping to maintain our momentum into the new year.”

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to Jamie Decruz, his Merstham management team, committee and supporters.

We had identical records in the past six games ahead of our respective fixtures last weekend - these notes being written ahead of our trip to Lancing due to early printing deadlines.

It was the start of a busy festive spell over Christmas and into the New Year and today we reach the halfway stage of the season, giving us the chance to reflect on our journey so far.

For me it is one of mixed feelings. From a club perspective we are well within our targets which indicate the direction we are going. In that timeline we are ahead of schedule which is very pleasing. As far as mine and the teams ambitions are concerned, we feel a little bit frustrated.

We have come very strong in the last 10 games with the exception of a couple of defeats, but of the five draws - four at home and one away - we had opportunities to win at least three or four of them.

If we had done we would have been on the verge of the play-offs, which would have made it a far different season at this point, and highlights the groups feelings.

We are though sitting fairly comfortably in mid-table and the gap between us and the teams in third to sixth place is not that wide.

We are in our first season together, and I am very proud of how the the management team and the players have got to this stage, and we are all looking forward to the second half of the season. There are a tough run of games coming up, with four of the next five being away from home, but we are hoping to maintain the momentum we have heading into the New Year.

Another positive for me is that we have brought in four of the club's own young players into the first team match day squad. (*Colin Igboma from our reserves and Under-18 goalkeeper Kian Evers feature on today's cover*).

Thanks to U18 manager Charlie Watkins and Reserves manager Steve McGinn for their excellent work.

As this is our last home game of 2024 - enjoy the rest of your Christmas and on behalf of my staff and the players I wish you all a Happy New Year.

Marcel

The Paul Lansdale column

Good afternoon to you all
Welcome to the Bourne Stadium
and to everyone connected with our
visitors Merstham for today's Pitching
In Isthmian League South East fixture.
We also extend it to the three match
officials appointed.

We travelled to Lancing on Saturday
after recording our biggest home win
of the season against Eastbourne
Town the previous week - claiming
back-to-back victories for the first
time.

I saw the win described in one
report as flattering, but will take
that - agreed we had a lot fewer
chances than our opponents - but
we did the job at both ends of the
pitch - admittedly riding our luck on
occasions in the second half before
scoring twice late on to confirm the



result.
Marcel reflects on the playing side
in his column, so I will offer a few
thoughts on the past year in this our
final home game of 2024.
Changing managers a month before
the start of pre-season wasn't ideal
- but he was our No.1 choice.
We knew it would be a challenging
season but we end the year in mid
table and aim to build on that in
2025.
Off the pitch our new LED lights
were used for the first time against
Eastbourne. The contractors needed
to make a few adjustments but it's
another positive step.
Our redevelopment plans are also
moving in the right direction. This is
the subject of the question I'm asked
most frequently - when will work
start?
Finally a word of thanks to everyone
who helps in whatever capacity- it
is much appreciated - we are ONE
club - and very proud to be so.
May I wish everybody a Happy New
Year.
Enjoy the game - and I wish
everyone a safe journey home later
Paul

***"Changing
managers a month
before the start if
pre-season wasn't
ideal but Marcel
was our number one
choice"***

Oaks on the Radio

West Kent Radio are
featuring Sevenoaks
Town on their Saturday
afternoon sports
programme.
The show runs from
2pm to 6pm and
includes three reports
- preview, half-time
and full time on all the
club's matches, as well
as midweek matches
in breakfast sports
bulletins the following
morning.
The station is broadcast
on 95.5, 106.7 and
107.2 and is available
on online, on smart
speakers and app,
which has been
launched recently.



Good luck to all the teams this season!

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Isthmian Fixtures

Today's fixtures

1pm

Eastbourne Town v East Grinstead Town
Hythe Town v Ashford United
Sittingbourne v Sheppey United
Steyning Town Community v Lancing
Margate v Ramsgate

3pm

AFC Croydon Athletic v Phoenix Sports
Deal Town v Herne Bay
Littlehampton Town v Broadbridge Heath
Sevenoaks Town v Merstham
Three Bridges v Burgess Hill Town

Saturday 28th December

Ashford United v Erith Town
Beckenham Town v Eastbourne Town
Broadbridge Heath v Sittingbourne
Burgess Hill Town v Sevenoaks Town
East Grinstead Town v Margate
Herne Bay v Littlehampton Town
Lancing v Deal Town
Merstham v Steyning Town Community
Phoenix Sports v Hythe Town
Ramsgate v AFC Croydon Athletic
Sheppey United v Three Bridges

Wednesday 1st January

Ashford United v Sittingbourne
Beckenham Town v AFC Croydon Athletic
Broadbridge Heath v Steyning Town Community
Burgess Hill Town v Eastbourne Town
East Grinstead Town v Sevenoaks Town
Herne Bay v Margate
Lancing v Littlehampton Town
Merstham v Three Bridges
Phoenix Sports v Erith Town
Ramsgate v Deal Town
Sheppey United v Hythe Town



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Sevenoaks Town Fixtures & Results 2024-25

KEY:

- 1 = Goal Scored
- * Player subbed
- = Red Card
- + = Own goal
- ★ Oaks win 7-6 on penalties

- ISE = Isthmian SE
- FAC = FA Cup
- FAT = FA Trophy
- ATT = Alan Turvey Trophy
- KSC = Kent Senior Cup
- TBC = To be confirmed

- All Saturday home fixtures kick off at 3pm
- Wednesday fixtures at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated

	DATE	V OPPONENT	COMP	RES	ATT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Sub 1	Sub 2	Sub 3	Sub 4	Sub 5
AUG	Sat 3	H Whitstable Town	FAC	2-1	253	Perrin	Sawyer	JHM	Bath	Futa	AM	McLeod	Eruotor 1*	Martin 1*	Efambe*	WHM	Kileba	JA	Divine		
	Sat 10	H Burgess Hill Town	ISE	3-1	129	Perrin	Divine*	Futa	Bath	JHM	AM	McLeod*	Eruotor	Martin	Adesite*	Mfula*	Hagan	Mahoney	JA	Kileba	
	Sat 17	H Leatherhead	FAC	0-2	319	Perrin	Divine*	Gray	JHM	Futa	DD	McLeod	Eruotor*	Martin*	Adesite*	Mfula	Kileba	Sarpong	Gray	Albangbee	
	Sat 24	A Sheppey United	ISE	1-3	352	Perrin	Divine*	Futa	Bath	JHM ■	McLeod	JA	AM*	WHM*	Eruotor 1	Martin*	Sawyer	Efambe	DD		
MON	Mon 26	H East Grinstead	ISE	2-2	107	Perrin	Divine	Sawyer	Bath	JHM	McLeod	JA*	AM*	Eruotor 1*	Adesite	WHM1	DD	Mahoney	Kileba	Gray	
	Sat 31	H Beckenham Town	ISE	0-5	112	Perrin	Futa	Sawyer	Bath*	Gray	McLeod	JA*	AM*	WHM*	Eruotor	Adesite*	Divine	DD	Efambe	Kileba	
SEPT	Wed 4	H Phoenix Sports	ATT	3-0	63	Northwood	Sawyer	Lehan	Gray*	Divine	McLeod*	JA	Futa 1*	WHM	Kileba 1*	Martin 1	DD	AM	Eruotor	Hagan	
	Sat 7	H Harrow Borough	FAT	3-0	134	Perrin	Divine	Futa	Sawyer	Lehan ■	McLeod	JA 2	Wisson	Kileba	Eruotor 1	DD	WHM	Martin	AM	Hagan	
	Tue 10	A Beckenham Town	ISE	3-4	165	Perrin	Divine	Futa	Wisson	Sawyer	Lahan	JA	McLeod 1*	WHM	Eruotor 1	DD	Jeffrey	Hagan 1	Kileba		
	Sat 14	H Hythe Town	ISE	1-0	123	Perrin	Divine	Futa	Bath	Wisson	JA	McLeod*	WHM	Kileba*	Jeffrey*	Eruotor	Hagan	AM 1			
	Tue 17	A Ramsgate	VT	1-1	355	Northwood	Divine*	Futa	Bath	Gray	JHM	Kileba	AM 1	Jeffrey	Eruotor	Sarpong	Wisson	Lahan	Sarpong	Kileba	Jeffrey
WED	Sat 21	H Leatherhead	FAT	1-2	137	Perrin	Sawyer ■	Futa	Bath	JHM*	Wisson	JA 1	AM	WHM*	Eruotor*	McLeod*	Gray*	Sarpong	Kileba	Jeffrey	Northwood
	Wed 25	H Beckenham	KSC	1-3	66	LN*	Divine	Futa	Bath	Lahan	Wisson	Kileba	AM	Sarpong	Eruotor	Jeffrey	Perrin	Efambe	Sawyer	JA 1	Driver
OCT	Sat 5	H Three Bridges	ISE	0-4	137	Perrin	Diomande	Futa	Bath	Lahan	Wisson*	JA	AM	WHM	Jeffrey*	Sarpong ■	Eruotor	DD			
	Sat 12	A Herne Bay	ISE	5-3	382	Perrin	Diomande	Dickens	Bath	Sawyer	McLeod	JA 1	AM*	WHM 2	Jeffrey 1*	Eruotor 1	Kileba	Gray	Lahan		
	Wed 16	H Sittingbourne	ISE	1-1	146	Perrin	Diomande	Dickens	Bath	Sawyer	Wisson	JA 1*	McLeod*	Jeffrey*	Eruotor*	AM	Kileba	Futa	DD	Gray	
	Sat 19	H Erith Town	ISE	0-0	231	Perrin	Diomande	Futa	Bath	Sawyer	Wisson	Kileba*	McLeod*	WHM	Eruotor	AM*	Jeffrey	JA	DD		
	Wed 23	H Cray Valley PM	VT	2-4	96	Northwood	Sarpong	Futa	McLeod	Sawyer	Babalola*	Wisson 1	DD*	Jeffrey*	Kileba	JA	Eruotor	Bunclark			
TUE	Sat 26	A Steyning Town	ISE	3-0	85	Northwood	KD 1	Futa	Bath	Sawyer	McLeod*	JA*	Wisson*	WHM 1*	Eruotor 1*	Babalola	Sarpong	JHM	Jeffrey	AM	Kileba
	Tue 29	A Ramsgate	ISE	1-5	937	Perrin	Diomande	Futa	Bath*	Sawyer	McLeod*	JA 1	WHM	AM	Eruotor*	Babalola	JHM	Jeffrey	Wisson		
NOV	Sat 2	H Littlehampton T	ISE	1-1	103	Perrin	Diomande	Futa	McLeod*	Sawyer	JHM	JA*	Wisson	WHM	Jeffrey 1*	Babalola	AM	Kileba	Eruotor		
	Sat 9	A Hythe Town	ISE	4-2	249	Perrin	Diomande	Futa	McLeod*	Sawyer ■	JHM	JA	Wisson 3	WHM*	Eruotor 1*	Jeffrey*	Bath	AM	Kileba	Kileba	
	Tue 12	A Broadbridge Hth	ISE	2-2	89	Perrin	Diomande	Futa	Bath	JHM	McLeod*	JA	Wisson	WHM 2	Eruotor*	Jeffrey*	AM	Babalola	Kileba		
	Sat 16	H Ramsgate	ISE	2-3	293	Perrin	Diomande	Futa	Bath	JHM	McLeod	Wisson	Babalola*	JA 1	Eruotor	Jeffrey 1*	Kileba	Sarpong	Kileba		
	Sat 23	A Sittingbourne	ISE	0-3	197	Perrin	Splatt	Futa	Bath	JHM	McLeod	JA	Wisson	WHM*	Eruotor	Jeffrey	Babalola	Sarpong	Kileba	Eruotor	
DEC	Sat 30	H Deal Town	ISE	3-1	112	Perrin	Diomande	Futa	Splatt*	JHM	McLeod	Kileba	Wisson	JA	Eruotor*	Jeffrey*	DD	Sawyer	Bunclark		
	Sat 14	H Eastbourne Town	ISE	4-1	117	Perrin*	Diomande	Futa 1	Splatt*	JHM	Sawyer	JA	Wisson	WHM 1	Eruotor 1*	Jeffrey*	DD	Kileba 1	Olugbodi	Eyers	
	Sat 21	A Lancing	ISE																		
JAN	Thu 26	H Merstham	ISE																		
	Sat 28	A Burgess Hill Town	ISE																		
	Wed 1	A East Grinstead	ISE																		
	Sat 4	H Phoenix Sports	ISE																		
FEB	Tue 7	A Croydon Athletic	ISE																		
	Sat 11	A Margate	ISE																		
	Sat 18	H Ashford United	ISE																		
MAR	Sat 25	A Deal Town	ISE																		
	Sat 1	H Croydon Athletic	ISE																		
	Sat 8	A Three Bridges	ISE																		
APR	Sat 15	H Herne Bay	ISE																		
	Sat 22nd	A Erith Town	ISE																		
	Sat 1	H Steyning Town	ISE																		
MAY	Sat 8	A Littlehampton T	ISE																		
	Sat 15	A Eastbourne Town	ISE																		
	Sat 22	H Lancing	ISE																		
	Sat 29	A Ashford United	ISE																		
	Sat 5	H Margate	ISE																		
JUN	Sat 12	A Phoenix Sports	ISE																		
	Sat 19	H Broadbridge Hth	ISE																		
	Mon 21	A Merstham	ISE																		
	Sat 26	H Sheppey United	ISE																		

The Oaks Report

As he made his way over to the home goalmouth at start of the second half, Jordan Perrin was asked by a couple of the Oaks' younger fans if they could appear in one of his Tik Tok videos.

They'd told him he'd made some great saves in the first half and he promised them a couple more in the second. Perrin was as good as his word.

His second consecutive man-of-the-match performance, combined with some clinical finishing proved the difference between two mid-table sides.

It was tense and at times the Oaks seemed to be clinging on, but having taken a 2-0 lead just before the break they survived an onslaught early in the second half before breaking Eastbourne with two late goals.

Perrin was involved early and often, including one stop that rebounded off the bar to safety.

At the other end Rodney Eruotor hit the post on 15 minutes before Kevin Diomande glided through the midfield and played in Warren Mfula to give the Oaks the lead on the half hour.

Just before the break it was 2-0 with Eruotor bursting into the area and scoring from an acute angle via a deflection. If that was a sickener for Eastbourne, they shrugged it off to score within a minute of the restart and for the next 20 minutes or so they were dominant, only to squander a hatful of chances.

When they did hit the target Perrin was equal to everything they threw at him and as the game entered the final 20 minutes they ran out of steam.

With six minutes left Jefferson Aibangbee's cross found sub Gael Kileba and with the defence backing off he scored via another deflection. With the East-

bourne players now arguing amongst themselves there was still time for Salim Futa to score his first goal for the club, with a neat finish from just outside the box in the first minute of added time.

Sevenoaks Town: Jordan Perrin, Kevin Diomande, Salim Futa, Jamie Splatt, Jahmal Howlett-Mundle, **Ryan Sawyer 47**, Jefferson Aibangbee, Josh Wisson, Warren Mfula, Rodney Eruotor James Jeffrey

Substitutes: Dan Duncanson (Jamie Splatt 56 mins), Gael Kileba (Rodney Eruotor (75 mins),

Adadapo Olugbodi (James Jeffrey 86 mins), Kian Eyers (Jordan Perrin 90 mins)

Eastbourne Town: Chris Winterton, Leon Greig, Jack Murphy, Harvey Greig, Nathan Hover, Dan Hull, James Waters, Alfie Simmons, James Ding, James Hull, Marcin Ruda

Substitutes: Harry Hammond (Marcin Ruda 25 mins), JJ Walker (Harvey Greig 71), Sonny Walsh (JJ Walker 80 mins)

Referee: Stephen Hawkes (Hampshire)

HT: 2-0 (48:40)

FT: 4-1 (96:30)

Att: 117

Reaction: Marcel Nimani:

"I often speak of how productive we are - and the chances we create, and this was a very clinical performance against a very good side.

Eastbourne got a lot of balls into our box and they pinned us in at times in both halves but I thought we dealt well with that - having set up the team defensively correct.

"It allowed us to play on the counter attack, and we got a lot of joy out of that."

Eastbourne Town



Match Stats

Shots on target

7

12

Shots off target

3

12

Corners

2

4

Offsides

1

1

Free-kicks conceded

7

5

STFC Club News



■ STFC Women

Oaks finished the year in fine style with two away victories – scoring 15 goals.

Eight of them came in the second half as the first team won 10-1 at Woodcombe Sports.

Caroline Kemp's hat-trick led the scoring with Natalie Graves and substitute Charlotte Bennett adding two each.

Anwen Donaldson Scach, Ruth Goode and Chloe Jardine completed the double figure success to head the South East Women's League Premier Division table by six points, boasting an impressive goal difference of plus 33.

Meanwhile Libby Whately and Matilda Noble netted two apiece as the Development team completed the double with a 5-3 success at Old Pepys.

Lucy Blackmore got the other as they head into 2025 in fourth spot in the Division 2 West table.

■ STFC Reserves

Ten-man Oaks Reserves bowed out of the Sevenoaks League's Craske and Wells Cup after losing 4-3 at Kemsing. They were forced to play a man short for

all but the first 20 minutes of the opening round tie following Luis Tippey's red card. Oaks led through Bernard Abbo's opener, before Tippey was shown red after reacting to being fouled, and doubled the lead immediately after his red card when Sam Manktelow headed in the resulting free kick.

Kemsing pulled one back two minutes before half-time, Oaks maintaining their lead until 20 minutes time when they lost centre back Nick Johnson through injury. With no replacement defender on the bench, Manktelow switched to cover, Kemsing making the most of their advantage, by scoring three times Naz Phillips got Oaks' third just before the end, but it came too late to make a difference.

Meanwhile Colin Igboma was named among the substitutes in the first team's 4-1 win over Eastbourne Town.

Igboma has played two games since joining from the Chatham Academy, and manager Steve McGinn said: "Marcel got him in to train with them, and it looked like he impressed.

"It was excellent to see him involved and it was no doubt a great experience for him. In the two games he played for us he excelled, he's a talented young footballer and everyone in our squad was really happy for him."

Oaks start the New Year with a trip to Kent County League Division 2 West leaders Farnborough Old Boys Guild in the Kent Junior Cup on Saturday January 11.



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JAMIE DECruz: MANAGER

Jamie started his managerial career at Sutton United where he was first the U18s manager and from there he progressed to the U23s, before gaining experience working with the first team. In 2021, Jamie took the reins at Colliers Wood United. He gave the club their highest finish in 20 years. In the summer of 2023, he joined Kingstonian as their assistant manager, before accepting the Merstham job at the end of September.

ROB TOLFREY: GOALKEEPER

Rob is a genuine Isthmian League legend. Last Easter, Rob made his six hundred and fiftieth appearance for the K's and he was already the clubs record appearance holder. He made thirty-three of those appearances last season, and still had time to play a match on loan at Raynes Park Vale. He previously played for Horsham, way back in the mists of time, but signed for the K's in November 2009 and the rest is history.

ENDURANCE JOHNSON: GOALKEEPER

Endurance was at Kingstonian with Jamie Decruz and the Merstham boss was quick to add him to the first team squad. Endurance started his career in Brentford's development squad at the age of 15 before signing for Colchester United. He was with the Essex side for three years, signing for Hampton and Richmond Borough at the start of last season. For most of the season Endurance was on loan with Sutton Common Rovers.

OLLIE KHINDA: DEFENDER

Ollie joined us last season on loan from Sutton United and quickly displayed his versatility by playing both as a holding midfielder and right back at various times during the campaign. Ollie was also voted Players Player of the Year and boss Jamie Decruz was delighted when Ollie signed for us permanently in the summer.

DEAN GUNNER: DEFENDER

A commanding central defender with vast experience, Dean was part of the

Merstham side that won promotion to the Isthmian Premier in 2014-15 and then did the same with Dorking Wanderers in 2016-17. He re-signed for us last season after being at Haywards Heath. He has a great deal of experience at this level, turning out for Three Bridges, Horsham YMCA, Whyteleafe, Greenwich Borough, Chipstead, Sevenoaks and East Grinstead Town.

MATT DRAGE: DEFENDER

Matt joined us at the tail end of last season from K's and made his debut in an away win at Hythe Town. Matt spent most of last season at Kingstonian, making thirty-eight appearances. He joined the club from Hartley Wintney, where he had spent four seasons. Earlier in his career he was a big part of the Dulwich Hamlet squad, making an incredible fifty-four appearances as they reached the Premier Division Play Off Final in 2015/16. The following season, he played fifty times as Hamlet again fell in the Play Off Final.

HARRY POINTING: DEFENDER

A commanding central defender, with great potential. One of the modern breed of centre backs, very comfortable with the ball at his feet. Harry was dual registered with Walton & Hersham last season, but made the move to the Moatside permanent after Christmas.

HARRY MURPHY: DEFENDER

A left back with a lot of grit and determination, Harry was one of Jamie's first signings when he took the job last season. Harry joined us from Kingstonian where Jamie had been the assistant manager. He previously played for Decruz at Colliers Wood United.

JUDE MALLOY: DEFENDER

Jude signed for Merstham last January and quickly made the left back position his own. Defensively sound, he also gets up and down the left flank to offer an attacking option with his buccaneering runs. The ex-Walton & Hersham and Leatherhead defender joined us from South Park.

CHARLIE GREENWOOD: MIDFIELD

A fans' favourite, Charlie returned to the Moatside last season on loan from K's as he recuperated from injury, before making the move permanent. Charlie's first joined Merstham at the start of the 21/22 season from Sevenoaks and impressed, despite the club being relegated from the Isthmian Premier. Charlie decided to move to East Grinstead, before signing for K's. Everyone at the Moatside was delighted to see the return of the midfield maestro last term.

LEE LEWIS: MIDFIELD

Lee joined us in January 2023 from Erith & Belvedere and quickly became a vital cog in midfield, with his powerful running and blistering shooting from distance. Scored one of the goals of the season last year at Phoenix Sports from all of 30 yards. Started his career at Cray Wanderers and also had spells at Chertsey and Kingstonian.

BILLY ORAM: MIDFIELD

One of Jamie Decruz's first signings, Billy moved to the Moatside from Isthmian South-Central side Badshot Lea. He quickly established himself as an integral part of the midfield and a fans' favourite. An attacking midfielder who has the vision and ability to pick a pass. His first season at the Moatside was disrupted by a knee injury, which ruled him out for a couple of months.

SAM KING: MIDFIELD

Sam is another close season signing from South Park Reigate, where he had a fine 23-24, playing forty-seven times, scoring fifteen goals, and assisting many more. He scored the winner as the Sparks lifted the Surrey Senior Cup at the end of the campaign. He played thirty-three times for the Sparks- with six goals- during 22-23, and eleven times with four goals after making his debut in February 2022.

OLU LAWAL: FORWARD

Olu joined Merstham this summer from St Albans City City where he came through their Academy programme. Olu Lawal made 9 appearances for the Saints

last season before being loaned out to Berkhamsted FC on a dual registration agreement until the end of the season. The wide man has blistering pace and an eye for goal.

BEN SENIOR: FORWARD

Ben joined the Moatsiders last October from Cobham where he won the Players Player, Managers and Supporters Player of the Season in 2022/23. Has also had spells at South Park and Sutton Common Rovers. A whole-hearted player who never gives less than 100%.

KORREY HENRY: FORWARD

Korrey became a fans' favourite when Frank Wilson signed him for the Moatsiders. He formed a prolific partnership with John Ufuah and the two were banging in goals for fun before Carshalton came calling and signed the striker. He started his career in West Ham United's U18's and also has had spells at Yeovil, Poole, Braintree, Bromley & Dulwich Hamlet.

AIDAN BROWN: FORWARD

Aiden joined Merstham in pre-season from South Park Reigate. Last season he played forty-five times and scored seventeen goals- including a Velocity Cup hat trick against...Merstham. In between his two spells as a Spark, he turned out for Bedfont Sports, where he managed five goals in twenty matches. Previously a youth player with Sutton United, he has also spent time at Raynes Park Vale and with East Grinstead.

ABEL VENDRELLS: FORWARD

Abel had a debut to remember last February, when the Moatsiders defeated the then league leaders Ramsgate 2-0 in front of 1200 people. Earlier in the season, he also played down the road at Chipstead, featuring ten times with one goal, and prior to his time as a Chip, he was at Carshalton Athletic making six appearances and scoring once. The previous season he made twenty-three appearances for South Park Reigate. He has also spent time at Bedfont Sports, Welling United and Egham Town.

West Kent SPORT & WELLBEING

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MAN OF THE MATCH



West Kent
SPORT & WELLBEING



We could almost have used the same picture as last week, because for the second home match in a row, the winner of the West Kent Sport & Wellbeing man-of-the-match award, this time against Eastbourne Town was ... Jordan Perrin! He once again received his prize from chairman Paul Lansdale

Merstham FC

In **1897** Merstham were founder members of the Redhill & District League and playing in Division Two along with our old friends Whyteleafe

The club's first major success was winning the league in **1927**. In **1930**, the East Surrey Junior Cup was added to the trophy cabinet. In **1935** and **1936**, Merstham won the Redhill League Premier Division in consecutive years, a record later repeated in **1950** and **1951**. In **1951**, the club applied for intermediate status and accepted into the Eastern Section of the Surrey Intermediate League for the **1952-53** season. The move to the new league could hardly have got off to a better start, as the club claimed the title at their first attempt.

Merstham continued to play in the Surrey Intermediate League until they gained senior status in **1964** and joined the Surrey Senior League. In fourteen years in the Surrey Senior League, Merstham managed to win the title just once in 1971-72.

After a spell in the London Spartan League they joined the Combined Counties League in **1984-85** and the 1990-91 season saw the erection of floodlights and an official 'Floodlight Opener' against Crystal Palace, whose side included future England Manager, Gareth Southgate.

The FA Cup of **1996-97** saw Merstham's biggest home defeat when they crashed out in the First Qualifying Round, 1-8 to Aldershot Town.

The **2000-01** season was Merstham's most successful for nearly a decade. They reached the Second Qualifying Round of the FA Cup and finished eighth in the league after being in the top six for most of the season.

Silverware returned to Merstham in the **2004-05** season when they beat AFC Guildford 3-0 in the final of the Premier Challenge Cup and won the East Surrey Hospitals Charity Cup (ESHCC) with a victory over local rivals Redhill.

For the **2006-07** season manager, Mick Sullivan, along with assistants Micky Stratford and Rhys Williams built a team which surpassed expectations as the club enjoyed their best season for 20 years, finishing second in the league and winning the Premier Challenge Cup

by beating North Greenford Utd 4-1 in a hard-fought final.

In the league they notched up a fantastic 100 goals, nearly a quarter of which were scored by striker Kwabena Agyei.

Many thought Merstham had peaked, but the **2007-08** season, Mick Sullivan's seventh year in charge, brought the Club into a new era with a treble winning side, a fantastic run in the FA Vase and promotion to the Isthmian League South Division as they finally finished top of the league after two seasons as runners up.

After losing on the opening day of the season at Cove, Merstham went undefeated in the league for the rest of the season winning 35 times, gaining 111 points and scoring 114 goals with Kevin Lock and Kwabena Agyei scoring 53 between them. The dream of a Wembley final in the FA Vase vanished in the Quarter Final when they lost at home to Needham Market 2-3 in extra time in front of a crowd of 841.

With promotion to the Isthmian League South officially confirmed in May 2008, Merstham left behind them many friends after 24 seasons in the Combined Counties League.

The **2008-09** was Merstham's first season in the Isthmian South, finishing eighth, narrowly missing out the play-offs.

However, in May manager Mick Sullivan announced that, after eight seasons at the helm, he was leaving the club for local rivals Leatherhead. Former Banstead boss Graeme Banyard was appointed as the new manager.

The **2014-15** season was to be the best in the club's history to date, gaining promotion to the Isthmian Premier Division by winning the play-offs in style.

The semi-final went to penalties, which Merstham won 5-4 thanks to keeper Brannon Daly making a match-winning save. In front of a crowd of 1465, Merstham gained promotion at Folkestone beating the home side 3-0 with goals from Taurean Roberts, Tutu Henriques and skipper Fabio Saraiva.

The **2015-16** season was to be yet another record-breaking season for Merstham attaining their highest position in the 'Football Pyramid' finishing a very

A brief history

creditable tenth in their first season in The Isthmian Premier League.

In Merstham's second season in the Isthmian Premier, the Moatsiders reached the First Round Proper of the FA Cup for the first time in their history.

They achieved this with some of the finest football ever seen at the Moatside; They beat East Preston (4-1), Colliers Wood Utd (2-1 in a replay), Thamesmead Town (5-1) and Ebbsfleet Utd (2-1) on the way to a meeting with League One side Oxford United.

This saw a record-breaking crowd of 1,920 at the Moatside. Although Merstham lost 5-0, the scoreline somewhat flattered the League One side.

In **2017-18** saw the club celebrated its 125th anniversary, finish 12th in the league and for the second time in four years, win the Surrey Senior Cup, beating Leatherhead 3-1.

The **2018-19** was Merstham's best-ever season in the topflight. At Christmas, the side were flirting with relegation, but a superb run saw the Moatsiders put themselves in the hunt for the play offs. They finished the season needing to win away to Worthing to get into the play offs. Amazingly the visitors went 3-0 up inside the first ten minutes and held on for a 4-2 win.

In the play-off semi-final, another tough away game at Carshalton saw the Moatsiders shock the Robins with a 2-1 win, which set up a play-off final away to Tonbridge Angels in front of a crowd of 2,400. It turned out to be a physical and rather dour encounter marred by a double sending off just before the interval with Merstham's Ollie Cook given his marching orders. Tonbridge scored on 34' and the Moatsiders rarely looked like getting back on terms. A penalty in added time was largely irrelevant as the Angels clinched the play-off spot with a 2-0 win.

When football finally returned at the start of the **2021-22** season, the Moatsiders made a decent start in the league and progressed through two rounds of the FA Cup before losing at home to Hereford United. In the FA Trophy, Welwyn Garden City came to the Moatside and

caused something of an upset by winning comfortably 3-0.

However, Merstham began to slide down the table. The team lost their final 13 league games and relegation was confirmed on the final day of the season.

Merstham were one of the favourites for promotion from the Isthmian South Central in **2022-23**. However, Peter Adeniyi's young, new team failed to fire and after ten games, the team were bottom of the table and remained there for much of the season.

As the season drew to a close, Merstham were in deep trouble near the bottom. In the final league game of the season at home to Westfield.

After 45 minutes the Moatsiders were 2-0 down and staring relegation in the face, but a 2-2 draw earned a relegation play off against Egham Town, which they won 3-1, after being a goal down early on.

Adeniyi announced he was returning to manage Carshalton and former Moatsider Tony Reid was appointed manager for the **2023-24** season. The FA also decided (without any consultation) to move the team into the South-East Division, thought by many to be a far tougher league.

Reid got off to a poor start and when his side was dumped out of the Velocity Trophy with a 6-1 defeat, the Board replaced him with Jamie Decruz.

His first match in charge saw the team go in at half time 3-0 down at home to Beckenham, only to pull off a dramatic 4-3 win. That game was a microcosm of the season, with the side consistently inconsistent. There were with some notable wins, for example 2-0 at league leaders Ramsgate, but losing to most of sides at the bottom of the table kept the team flirting with the relegation zone. The most bizarre game was a 6-6 draw at Broadbridge Heath, when the Moatsiders led 2-0, 4-2, 5-4 and then fell behind 6-5 before an equaliser in the 94th minute! It wasn't until a 5-0 home win against Sevenoaks at the start of April that the club could finally breathe a sigh of relief and look forward to another season in the Isthmian SE.

Sevenoaks Town

Merstham FC

Jordan Perrin



Rob Tolfrey

Kevin Diomande



Oliver Khinda

Salim Futa



Jude Molloy

Sammie Mcleod



Harry Pointing

Rodney Eruotor



Dean Gunner

James Jeffrey



Lee Lewis

Josh Wisson



Charlie Greenwood

Warren-Hughes Mfula



Finlay Johnson

Ayomide Majekodunmi



Sam King

Ryan Sawyer



Korrey Henry

Dan Duncanson



Billy Oram

Jahmal Howlett-Mundle



Bradley Wilson

Gael Kileba



Aidan Brown

Jamie Splatt



Aaron Jenkins

Jack Mahoney



Olu Lawal

Jefferson Aibangbee



Endurance Johnson

Harry Bunclark



Liam Northwood



Colin Igboma



Kian Eyers



Adadapo Olugbodi



Manager: Marcel Nimani

Colours: Black/blue shirts, black shorts, black socks

Manager: Jamie Decruz

Colours: Amber and black



Manak
Solicitors

Match Officials:
Referee: Tolu Sangowawa
Assistants: James Black, Byron Beard
Next home match:
Sevenoaks Town v Phoenix Sports
Pitching In Isthmian South East Division
Saturday 4th January 2025, 3pm kick-off



Respect

