



Royston Town 2 Hythe Town 0

Buildbase FA Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round

Saturday 31st October 2020

Hythe Town, minus four first team regulars, put up a good show but were unable to overcome Step Three opposition as they went down 2-0 at Royston Town in the Buildbase FA Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round on pitch very damp from the early Saturday afternoon rain.

Hythe gave a first start of the season to Jarred Trespaderne and had Liam Smith and James Rogers in the centre of defence as both Dean Beckwith and Tom Wynter were out. Also missing were Alex Flisher and Charlie Webster. It was the Cannons who started the game the brighter as after only two minutes Nick Dembele forced Royston keeper Ron Yates to tip the ball over the bar from a rasping shot. Royston had their first effort three minutes later as Josh Williams attempted to lob the ball over Hythe keeper Nathan Harvey, but it was not high enough to cause a problem.

Despite chances coming at each end, The Cannons were having the majority of the play as Alex Brown launched a shot just over the bar and then at the other end Isaac Galliford drove a low shot which was smothered by Harvey. The deadlock was broken against the run of play as Brandon Adams was brought down in the penalty area and the referee pointed straight at the spot. Adams got up and sent Harvey the wrong way to give the hosts a 24th minute lead. This seemed to revitalise Royston who took control of the game and had a couple of attempts and then increased their lead a minute before half-time as Williams crossed into Adams who headed home his second.

The second half started in a similar pattern as Adams hit a shot against the cross bar and then Hythe man of the match, Harvey denied Williams three times in quick succession with good saves. A period of Hythe pressure followed as they sought to get back in the game, but they were unable to make the breakthrough as the home defence stayed firm. It was Royston who came closest as Spyros Mentis forced another Harvey in the dying minutes.

The Cannons adventure in the FA Trophy is over for another year and now they can concentrate on league action. It looks likely that due to the government announcement after the game that due to the new lockdown there will be a month's break from football although we await confirmation from the FA. More details will follow on the website.

Team: Nathan Harvey, Kaka Dembele, Nathan Gordon, Alex Brown, James Rogers, Liam Smith, Jarred Trespaderne (Kane Phillip 54 mins), Darren Oldaker, Tom Walmsley, Frannie Collin, Nick Dembele (Bradley Ihionvien 71 mins)

Scorers: Royston Town - Brandon Adam 24 mins (pen) & 44 mins

Attendance 290



Hythe Town FC are obviously sorry that supporters of both clubs and neutrals were unable to get their football "fix" on Tuesday evening (27th October) at Reachfields against Sittingbourne. There were several stories going around immediately after the postponement but despite these "Chinese whispers" the truth is as simple and straightforward as this.

Firstly, there never was any danger of the pitch being unplayable providing the weather forecast was anywhere near correct--which it was.

Secondly only one player had been tested for Covid19 at his workplace and despite having no symptoms whatsoever he received a positive result. On Monday Hythe Town FC contacted last Saturday's opponents Haywards Heath and our next opponents Sittingbourne FC and put in a call to the league office who quoted the current FA advice which was to carry on playing whilst observing all of the precautions we have all become used to as a nation.

As an extra precaution our players took tests all of which so far have been negative, as have the tests taken by the affected player's family.

However the match referee, whilst complimenting the club on taking this stance pointed out that a number of players who had NOT received their results should according to the law of the land, and despite them not having any symptoms, have gone into isolation.

Of course, had they not taken this extra step all would have played against Sittingbourne and both the League and the FA would have been perfectly happy. Therefore, it was the players as a group wanting to make certain of things, and with the very best of intentions, that had created a situation that the referee felt powerless to ignore.

That is where we are currently, and we will report to the league who will make any decision based on the evidence put before them.



Haywards Heath Town 4 Hythe Town 2

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 24th October 2020

A very off-colour Hythe Town suffered a surprise 4-2 defeat on Saturday at bottom off the table Haywards Heath Town on a damp and windy afternoon.

Hythe, who were unchanged, in fact started the brighter but it was the hosts who created the first opportunity on three minutes as Samuel Ogunseye spun but turned his shot over the bar. The Cannons started to have the lions share of the game at this stage and had an attempt on eight minutes as Darren Oldaker, from the left, blasted across the face of goal. Oldaker was in the action again when he hit a rasping free-kick from 25 yards that was pushed around the post by Haywards Heath keeper Sam Freeman. The Cannons were increasing the pressure without breaking through with the next chance coming at the other end as Jordan Clark hit a dipping shot just over the cross bar.

Hythe at this time looked the more likely to break the deadlock as Oldaker crossed into Dean Beckwith whose shot was blocked by the defence. The hosts got their noses in front on 31 minutes as Clark had a shot blocked which came out to Kieran Rowe who stroked the ball home. However, the lead was only to last eight minutes as an Oldaker free kick from the left looped over to Beckwith who headed home his first Hythe goal. On the stroke of half-time the visitors found themselves behind as the defence failed to clear the ball and Michael Hill was on hand to thread the ball home to give Haywards Heath a 2-1 half time lead.

Things got worse ten minutes in the second half as Hill cut through the Hythe defence to slot the ball past Hythe keeper Nathan Harvey. It was now Haywards Heath who were on top as Hill unleashed a shot that drifted just wide. The game was put out of The Cannons' reach on 68 minutes as a Rowe cross was not intercepted by the Hythe defence finding its way to Tom Gilbert to tap home from close range. Chances fell to Hythe for Frannie Collin and Nick Dembele with the latter forcing a save from Freeman. Deep into injury time Hythe got a

consolation goal as a poor clearance from Freeman was intercepted by Nick Dembele who blasted home.

After such a good run of form, it was a very disappointing performance from Hythe but they have the opportunity to bounce straight back as they entertain Sittingbourne on Tuesday evening (October 27th) – Kick off will be 7:45pm.

Team: Nathan Harvey, Liam Smith (Charlie Webster 68 mins), Nathan Gordon, James Rogers, Dean Beckwith, Tom Wynter, Kaka Dembele, Darren Oldaker, Tom Walmsley (Nick Dembele 68 mins), Alex Brown, Alex Flisher (Frannie Collin 61 mins).

Scorers: Haywards Heath Town - Kieran Rowe 31 mins, Michael Hill 45 & 55 mins, Tom Gilbert 68 mins. Hythe Town - Dean Beckwith 39 mins, Nick Dembele 90 mins

Attendance: 230



Hythe Town 2 Ashford United 2

Hythe won 7-6 on pens

Buildbase FA Trophy 2nd Qualifying Round

Saturday 17th October 2020

On Saturday, Hythe Town beat local rivals Ashford United to advance to the Third Qualifying Round of the FA Trophy. Hythe only made one change from their 6-0 win over Whitstable, with injured Charlie Webster being replaced by Nathan Gordon.

Ashford took only 18 seconds to take the lead, with Bradley Simms receiving the ball on the left-hand side, and crossing into Tashi Kwayle, whose header went into the back of the net. Hythe dominated the chances for the next 25 minutes, before Johan Ter Horst sent a ball into the box for the Nuts and Bolts, with a scrambled shot from Jack Steventon grabbed by Nathan Harvey. Hythe got their first significant chance on 28 minutes, with Alex Brown's shot from Tom Walmsley's pass deflected wide by Sam Mott in the Ashford goal. On the half hour mark, Alex Flisher's shot was parried by Mott, with Tariq Ossai clearing off the line just before Tom Walmsley could put it away.

The second half was very lively, with a ball from Alex Brown on 53 minutes falling to Tom Walmsley, whose shot went wide. A minute later, Darren Oldaker's cross headed wide by Tom Wynter. Two minutes prior to the hour mark, a ball into Ashford's Josh Wisson was headed past the goal. Ashford got their second goal after 70 minutes, with Thomas Fagg getting through one-on-one with Nathan Harvey, slotting past him to give Ashford an even greater advantage. However, Hythe hadn't been silenced yet, as two minutes after, an excellent ball into Tom Walmsley was headed into the goal to put Hythe back in the game. With one minute of normal time left to go, Tom Wynter's looping header into the back of the net sent the match to penalties.

The first five penalties were all scored. Liam Smith, Alex Flisher, Darren Oldaker (who produced a cheeky Panenka), Kaka Dembele and James Rogers all put the ball into the net for Hythe, while Johan Ter Horst, Josh Wisson, Thomas Fagg, Aaron Condon and Bode Anidugbe all scored for Ashford. Tom Wynter stepped up to take Hythe's sixth spot-kick, but his shot was fired over the bar. Jack Steventon's shot for Ashford also went over, before Nick Dembele and Ben Gorham both put the ball away for Hythe and Ashford respectively. The eighth Hythe penalty was scored by Tom Walmsley, before Tom O'Connor's shot for Ashford was saved by Nathan Harvey to knock the Nuts and Bolts out of the FA Trophy and send Hythe through to the Third Qualifying Round.

Hythe's next match is on Saturday 24th October away to Haywards Heath Town, with the match kicking off at 3PM.

Report by Tom Ellerby

Team: Nathan Harvey, Liam Smith, Nathan Gordon, James Rogers, Dean Beckwith, Tom Wynter, Kaka Dembele, Darren Oldaker, Tom Walmsley, Alex Brown (Nick Dembele 79 mins), Alex Flisher.

Scorers: Hythe Town - Tom Walmsley 72 mins, Tom Wynter 89 mins. Ashford United - Tasha Kwayle 1 min Tommie Fagg 70 mins

Attendance:388



Whitstable Town 0 Hythe Town 6

Pitching In Isthmian League South East

Tuesday 13th October 2020

Hythe completed an impressive victory on Tuesday night as they comprehensively beat Whitstable Town 6-0 at the Belmont.

It was Hythe who took the early initiative and after eleven minutes Alex Brown broke through but was denied by Whitstable and ex Hythe keeper Dan Eason who came off his line quickly to block. The Cannons were to take the lead on the 17th minute as Simon Kabamba unnecessarily brought down Tom Walmsley. Up stepped Alex Flisher who rifled his shot into the middle of the net. The hosts had to wait until the 20th minute for their first meaningful attempt as Kabamba broke in but his effort was smothered by Hythe keeper Nathan Harvey.

The Cannons continued to dominate and went further ahead on 38 minutes when the ball came loose to Brown who slammed the ball home and then three minutes latter a corner from Darren Oldaker reached Brown who headed in to make it three. There was one more chance for Whitstable two minutes before the break as Liam Gilles had a shot easily caught by Harvey.

The second half was only five minutes old when the Cannons made it four as another Oldaker corner found Liam Smith who headed home. The goals kept coming as on 54 minutes it was five as Brown got his first hat-trick in senior football as he broke through and planted his shot past

Eason. The icing was put on the cake on 66 minutes as a Nick Dembele throw went into Walmsley who hammered the sixth home to complete the rout.

Credit to Whitstable that they did not give up and as Hythe took their foot off the pedal the hosts did create some opportunities but could never find a way through the Hythe defence who remained resolute. It was an excellent evening for all who had travelled up from Hythe in a win that takes them up into second place in the table.

Hythe will take a break from League football on Saturday as they entertain Ashford United in the 2nd Qualifying Round of the Buildbase FA Trophy. Kick off at Reachfields is 3pm.

Team: Nathan Harvey, Liam Smith, Kaka Dembele, James Rogers, Dean Beckwith, Tom Wynter, Charlie Webster, Darren Oldaker (Morgan Williamson 84 mins), Tom Walmsley, Alex Brown (Nick Dembele 59 mins), Alex Flisher (Jarred Trespaderne 69 mins).

Scorers: Hythe Town – Alex Flisher 18 mins (pen), Alex Brown 38, 41 & 54 mins, Liam Smith 50 mins, Tom Walmsley 66 mins.

Attendance: 255



Hythe Town 1 Herne Bay 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 10th October 2020

On Saturday, Hythe edged past rivals Herne Bay 1-0 thanks to a Darren Oldaker strike. Hythe made two changes from their 2-2 draw against Sevenoaks Town. Tom Walmsley and Darren Oldaker replaced Kaka Dembele and Alex Flisher. Steve Watt described last weekend's 4-0 defeat against Phoenix Sports as a game of two halves, after dominating the first-half.

Hythe had the first chance of the game, which fell to Liam Smith, who's cross for Nick Dembele was nodded wide. A quiet first half an hour was followed by a Tom Walmsley cross on 33 minutes, which was cleared off the line by ex-Cannon Ryan Cooper. Six minutes later, Herne Bay's Bradley Stevenson had the ball on the edge of the box but took too many touches and had his shot deflected for a corner. Stevenson had another chance just before half-time, unleashing a shot which went over the bar.

Just a minute into the second-half, the ball was given to Darren Oldaker, whose powerful shot went past ex-Hythe stopper George Kamurasi and into the back of the net to give the Cannons the lead. On 73 minutes, former West Ham, Bournemouth and Yeovil Town player Anthony Edgar had a shot, which bounced off the bar and was cleared off the line. Soon after, substitute Kaka Dembele's through ball to Tom Walmsley was saved brilliantly from the feet of George Kamurasi.

After 89 minutes, former Arsenal, Charlton and Hythe striker Zak Ansah had a shot saved by Nathan Harvey, who was then tripped over by another former Hythe man in Dean Grant, with the referee awarding him a yellow card. One minute into injury time, an attempt from Anthony Edgar produced an excellent save by Nathan Harvey. The full-time whistle blew shortly after, with Hythe getting their third win of the season and moving up to eighth in the table, one place above The Bay.

Hythe travel to Whitstable Town on Tuesday evening, Kick off is at 7:45pm

Match report by Tom Ellerby

Team: Nathan Harvey, Liam Smith, Nathan Gordon, James Rogers, Tom Wynter, Dean Beckwith, Charlie Webster, Darren Oldaker (Kaka Dembele 73 mins), Tom Walmsley, Frannie Collin (Alex Brown 43 mins), Nick Dembele (Alex Flisher 54 mins)

Scorer: Hythe Town - Darren Oldaker 73 mins.

Attendance: 263



Sevenoaks Town 2 Hythe Town 2

Pitching In Isthmian League

Wednesday 7th October 2020

Hythe Town came away from Sevenoaks Town with a well-deserved point on Wednesday evening in frenetic 2-2 draw. The game was a great improvement on the performance in 4-0 defeat last Saturday.

The Cannons made one change with Alex Flisher, returning from suspension, replaced Darren Oldaker who was on the substitute's bench. Both sides settled well into the game and the early exchanges were fairly even, but it was the hosts who created the first opportunities with Joseph Taylor sending in a dipping drive that went just over the cross bar. Tyrell Richardson-Brown was next in the action as he drove the ball into the arms of the impressive Hythe keeper, Nathan Harvey.

Hythe Town came close on 19 minutes as Dean Beckwith fed the ball out to Kaka Dembele on the right with his final shot forcing Sevenoaks keeper Ben Bridle-Card to tip the ball onto his crossbar. Hythe thought they had taken the lead on 24 minutes. Collin sent in a free kick that was met by Nick Dembele who forced Dean Gunner to clear off the line with the Cannons certain that the ball had crossed the line.

Finally, the deadlock was broken on 27 minutes as Flisher got the ball into Collin who swivelled and turned the ball past Bridle-Card to give the Cannons the lead. The hosts levelled on 31 minutes as Beckwith's clearance was intercepted by Richardson-Brown who buried his shot past Harvey into the corner of the net. Before the break, Harvey produced two excellent saves from deflected shots by former Cannon Dan Parkinson and Ryan Fowler.

The high tempo of the game continued in the second half with Hythe edging the game at this stage. A couple of chances fell for the visitors as Charlie Webster played the ball across to left-

back Nathan Gordon whose curling shot went just outside the far post. On 57 minutes Liam Smith played the ball into the ever-dangerous Nick Dembele but his header went over the crossbar. Another save from Harvey kept the scores level with Fowler's shot being pushed around the post.

With ten minutes left of normal time Sevenoaks took the lead in controversial style as a Parkinson cross hit the arm of Tom Wynter and the referee had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Up stepped Kyle De Silva whose penalty went straight into the middle of the net with Harvey going down to his left. The Cannons didn't lie down and die and got the point their performance deserved as, with four minutes to go, a deep corner from Collin found Smith on the far post whose looping header sailed over a defender and into the back of the net.

Hythe will now look forward to Saturday's game as they entertain Herne Bay in a league fixture. Kick off is 3pm at Reachfields.

Team: Nathan Harvey, Liam Smith, Nathan Gordon, James Rogers, Tom Wynter, Dean Beckwith, Nick Dembele, Charlie Webster, Alex Flisher (Tom Walmsley 83 mins), Frannie Collin, Kaka Dembele (Alex Brown 83 mins).

Scorers: Sevenoaks - Tyrell Richardson-Brown 31 mins, Kyle De Silva 80 mins Hythe Town - Frannie Collin 27 mins, Liam Smith 86 mins.

Attendance: 207



Hythe Town 0 Phoenix Sports 4

Pitching In Isthmian League South East

Saturday 3rd October 2020

On Saturday, Hythe were thrashed 4-0 by Phoenix Sports in a match that perfectly defined 'a game of two halves.'

Hythe had won their last two games, against Burgess Hill Town and Chalfont St Peter, so there was a lot of positivity going into the game. Manager Steve Watt made one change to his line-up, with Nathan Gordon returning from injury, coming in for Tom Walmsley. Kaka Dembele was moved forward to the wing to free up Gordon's regular left-back spot, with Kaka's cousin Nick Dembele playing up front after making an impressive debut against Chalfont St Peter.

Phoenix had the first major chance of the match, with ex-Cannon Ben Fitchett heading a corner towards the top corner, with impressive keeper Nathan Harvey stretching to make the save. Hythe got their first big chance a minute later, with Nick Dembele's shot being blocked by the defence, and Kaka Dembele's rebound shot being saved. Nick Dembele had another chance soon after, beating Ben Fitchett, taking a few touches into the box and shooting, with the keeper getting down to catch it.

Frannie Collin had a free-kick on 28 minutes, with a decent shot being palmed away by Phoenix keeper Steve Phillips. Shortly after, a shot from Kaka Dembele was blocked by Phillips in the Phoenix Sports goal, before Nathan Gordon's rebound shot was saved again. Following the resultant corner, Liam Smith's long-range shot went wide. Frannie Collin won a free-kick on 33 minutes, which was punched away by Phillips. On the rebound, Liam Smith's ball was tapped on by Charlie Webster, whose shot was too weak and the keeper scrambled to grab it. Another Collin free-kick just outside the box was blocked, with Darren Oldaker's resultant corner being blocked. Four minutes into first half stoppage time, a shot from Charlie Webster went just wide of the post to top off a first-half with many missed chances.

The second half was the complete opposite to the first. Phoenix were on the front foot after just 52 minutes, with Lee Bird playing Kweku Ansah through, who drove home. Five minutes later, a free kick was launched into Fitchett who bundled home to make it 2-0. Two minutes after, Kweku Ansah made a run into the box, with Nathan Harvey making the block. A free kick on 73 minutes from Ainsley Everett after Nathan Gordon's shot went over the bar, before Phoenix had another chance, which Zak Bryon tapped in to rub even more salt into the wounds of Hythe. Then, on 83 minutes, Lauris Chin came forward on the counter-attack. Nathan Harvey could do nothing about it, as Chin scored to make it 4-0 to Phoenix Sports. Hythe were left to rue their missed chances in a very disappointing second-half performance.

Hythe travel to Sevenoaks Town in their next match on Wednesday 7th October, with the match kicking off at 7:30 PM, before returning to Reachfields the following Saturday to entertain Herne Bay. Kick-off is at 3PM.

Match report by Tom Ellerby

Team: Nathan Harvey, Liam Smith, Nathan Gordon, James Rogers, Dean Beckwith, Tom Wynter (Morgan Williamson 84 mins) , Charlie Webster (Tom Walmsley 65 mins), Darren Oldaker (Alex Brown 74 mins), Nick Dembele, Frannie Collin, Kaka Dembele.

Scorers: Phoenix Sports - Kweku Ansah 52 mins, Ben Fitchett 57 mins, Zak Bryon 77 mins, Lauris Chin 83 mins.

Attendance: 212



Hythe Town 3 Chalfont St Peter 0

Buildbase FA Trophy 1st Qualifying Round

Saturday 26th September 2020

On Saturday, Hythe made their way to the 2nd qualifying round of the FA Trophy, winning 3-0 against Chalfont St Peter.

Hythe made two changes from their last match. Patrick Lee was unavailable to play, so Nathan Harvey joined on loan from Charlton's under-23 side. New signing Nicki Dembele also started, in place of the injured Kane Phillip.

Hythe made a perfect start to the match. In the eighth minute, a corner from Darren Oldaker was knocked in by Frannie Collin to give the Cannons an early lead. The Cannons dominated many of the early chances, with another Oldaker corner being hit into the side netting by Tom Wynter on the half-hour mark. A few minutes after, Hythe's new stopper Nathan Harvey showed his quality when Sydney Ibie went through on goal on the counterattack. Harvey produced an excellent double-save from Ibie's shots.

Not long after, Ibie made a very nasty challenge on Kaka Dembele, which earned him a booking. On the stroke of half-time, a shot from Nicki Dembele was blocked, and went straight through to Frannie Collin, who finished into the top corner to put Hythe 2-0 up.

Only a minute into the second half, there was an eight-minute stoppage when Adam Roberts was booked for a clash with Dean Beckwith. The nosebleed got very bad, so in the end he had to be substituted. When the game resumed, Tom Wynter gave away a free kick, which was taken by Blake D'arcy and blocked and cleared by the Hythe defence. The hosts had another chance after 66 minutes, with a ball in from Charlie Webster headed away for a corner, which went in towards Tom Wynter, whose shot was blocked, with Wynter firing the rebound over the bar. On 77 minutes, Hythe got their third, when the Chalfont defence switched off following a break in play, allowing Frannie Collin to tap the ball in for his hat-trick.

Hythe's next game is back at Reachfields next Saturday (3rd October), against Phoenix Sports. Kick-off is at 3PM.

Match report by Tom Ellerby

Team: Nathan Harvey, Liam Smith, Kaka Dembele, James Rogers, Dean Beckwith (Ross Ibbertson 47 mins), Tom Wynter, Charlie Webster, Darren Oldaker (Morgan Williamson 90 mins), Tom Walmsley (Alex Brown 45 mins), Frannie Collin, Nicki Dembele.

Scorers: Frannie Collin 8, 45 & 77 mins.

Attendance: 178



Hythe Town 3 Burgess Hill Town 2

Pitching In Isthmian League South East

Saturday 19th September 2020

On Saturday afternoon, Hythe were back at Reachfields to play Burgess Hill Town. In last season's opening fixture, Hythe were thrashed 7-2 by the same opponents. This time, Hythe came out victorious after a late winner.

In the matchday programme, manager Steve Watt said that he was 'disappointed with the overall performance last week'. Hythe made two changes from that defeat against South Park, with new signing Patrick Lee and Tom Walmsley coming in for Ryan Nicholls and Alex Brown. Last week's goal scorer, Nathan Gordon, was left out of the squad due to injury, with Will Godmon also on the injury table, and Alex Flisher suspended.

The game got off to a perfect start for Hythe. Tom Wynter played the ball out wide to Kane Phillip, who made a run down the left-hand side of the pitch into the penalty area. He looked to be in a position to cross, but he caught out the defence, ghosting past them and taking a shot which sneaked in past Hillians keeper Josh James. Many of the early chances also fell to Hythe, with a ball into the box from Liam Smith headed away by the defence. Burgess Hill won a free-kick from Darren Oldaker on the edge of the box, with Alex Laing crossing into Scott Kirkwood, whose header went wide of the post. They won another free-kick a few minutes later, with the ball from impressive left-back Martyn Box headed across the face of goal by Nathan Cooper.

The Hillians eventually levelled the scores. On the half-hour mark, Alex Laing took a shot from outside the box which beat Patrick Lee. Hythe thought they had re-taken the lead a minute later, with a corner from Darren Oldaker headed into the back of the net by Tom Wynter. However, the linesman held up the offside flag. Another corner shortly after from Oldaker was headed on by Dean Beckwith, with Jordi Ndozid scooping the ball off the line for Burgess Hill for yet another corner. This time, the ball trickled near the goal and was cleared, and almost immediately after, Frannie Collin sent the ball into Kane Phillip, who's downward header bounced off the crossbar and was cleared.

Just before the break, there was a small brawl, in which Alex Laing shoved into James Rogers, which lead Liam Smith to shove into Laing. The referee broke it up, awarding Smith a yellow card. For a moment, Laing thought he'd gotten away scot-free, before the linesman reported him to the referee, who went back over to Laing and gave him a booking too.

The second period started with an early flurry of chances for both teams. Hillian Scott Kirkwood hooked the ball across the face of the Hythe goal, before a shot from Kane Phillip was blocked. Then, on 49 minutes, Charlie Webster sent the ball into Phillip, who was unmarked, and had no trouble in heading the ball into an almost empty net.

The game went a little quiet for a while until the 66th minute, when Tom Walmsley went one-on-one with keeper Josh James, who grabbed the ball from his feet. A cross into the box for Kaka Dembele was tackled away shortly after. The Hillians created a number of chances after, with substitute Charlie Bennett heading past the post from an offside position, and Reece Williams-Bowers also missing from an offside position.

A free-kick just outside the box from Williams-Bowers was saved by Patrick Lee, before a Burgess Hill shot was deflected by Alex Brown, with the ball being cleared just after it crossed the line to give Burgess Hill a precious equaliser on 83 minutes.

Both teams created late chances, with a free-kick from Box headed away for a corner by Rogers. A ball from Alex Brown into Frannie Collin was saved by Josh James, before a lifted ball from Dean Beckwith into Alex Brown was tackled away by the defence. Finally, Hythe created one last chance. In the dying minutes of the game, Tom Walmsley put an excellent ball into the box for Frannie Collin, who headed it into the net to give Hythe their first win of the season.

Next weekend, Hythe are back at Reachfields at home to Chalfont St Peter in the FA Trophy with kick-off at 3pm.

Team: Patrick Lee, Liam Smith, Kaka Dembele, James Rogers, Dean Beackwith, Tom Wynter, Charlie Webster, Darren Oldaker (Alex Brown 75 mins), Tom Walmsley, Frannie Collin (Morgan Williamson 90 mins), Kane Phillip (Ross Ibbertson 60 mins)

Scorers: Hythe Town-Kane Phillip 7 & 49 mins, Frannie Collin 90 mins. Burgess Hill Town-Alex Laing 30 mins, Alex Brown (OG) 83 mins.

Attendance: 161

Rerport by Tom Ellerby



Hythe Town 1 South Park 2

Emirates FA Cup Preliminary Round

Saturday 12th September 2020

On Saturday afternoon, Hythe were knocked out of the FA Cup by South Park, losing 2-1 at Reachfields.

Hythe made four changes from their friendly against Aveley, with Ryan Nicholls going in goal to replace the injured Will Godmon. Charlie Webster, Frannie Collin and Kane Phillip were also put in the line-up, with Paul Booth, Tom Walmsley and Connor Cheek making way. South Park did have one familiar face in their team. Nassim Dukali, who made a couple of appearances back in the 2018-19 season, was an unused substitute.

Hythe had the best of the early chances. In the first minute, captain Charlie Webster made a run into the penalty area, but took a few too many touches as the ball went out for a goal-kick. Just two minutes after, a ball in from Kaka Dembele, who had started at left-back, put a good ball into the box, which was fumbled by Sparks keeper Craig Bradshaw, and quickly cleared just in time before Kane Phillip could get a touch. A few minutes later, Darren Oldaker, who worked very hard during the match, fed the ball into Charlie Webster, whose shot from inside the penalty area went just wide of the post.

After 21 minutes, Kane Phillip, who put in a great first-half performance, received the ball on the right-hand side, and looked to cross into the box, but found nobody waiting. The ball was blocked and cleared by the South Park defence. Just after the half-hour mark, Dean Beckwith, a new signing from Havant and Waterloo, played a lovely through ball into Kane Phillip, who put Alex Brown, who started up front, one-on-one with Bradshaw, who blocked the ball away for a corner. The final significant chance before half-time went to South Park. Leon Lalor-Dell went for a shot from a tight angle, with Ryan Nicholls blocking it for a corner.

Both teams began the second half unchanged. The first chance of the second half came to Hythe, with Frannie Collin's ball into the box headed wide from Kane Phillip, with the linesman indicating he was offside a few seconds later. Unfortunately, Hythe went behind on 51 minutes, despite being the better side, with Connor French making a run into the box and firing past Ryan Nicholls to give South Park the lead. A few minutes later, Hythe had not one but two penalty shouts, with both James Rogers and Alex Brown being brought down in the box. The referee controversially waved away the penalty shouts. Sparks came forward on the counter attack immediately after, with Lalor-Dell's ball into the box missing his teammates.

Hythe made two substitutions after, with Tom Walmsley and Nathan Gordon replacing Alex Brown and Kane Phillip. Walmsley was immediately involved in the action, running down the left-hand side and getting the opportunity to cross, but taking far too many touches and playing the ball back to the defence. Hythe won a free-kick just outside the box, with Frannie Collin deflecting the ball into the wall, with Bradshaw making an easy save.

On 67 minutes, Lalor-Dell came forward on the break, getting one-on-one with Ryan Nicholls and putting South Park two goals up. A few minutes later, another Frannie Collin free-kick was saved by Bradshaw, who had to get down to his bottom-right hand corner to push the ball away, and immediately after, he attempted an overhead kick, which bounced off the crossbar. Kaka Dembele had a chance just outside the box, getting too much under the ball and firing over the bar.

Hythe made their final change, with veteran Paul Booth replacing Charlie Webster. Frannie Collin had another free-kick, which was once again blocked. Luckily, Hythe managed to pull a goal back. Nathan Gordon made his way into the box, firing past the keeper to put Hythe back in the game. Hythe had one notable late chance, with Liam Smith's ball into the box beating both the keeper and the Hythe attackers.

The referee blew the whistle after four minutes of added time. Once again, Hythe's hopes of having a cup run had been dashed.

The Cannons are due to entertain Burgess Hill Town next Saturday (19th September) with a 3pm kick off in the opening Pitching In Isthmian League South East fixture of the season.

Team : Ryan Nicholls, Liam Smith, Kaka Dembele, James Rogers, Dean Beckwith, Tom Wynter, Charlie Webster (Paul Booth 80 mins), Darren Oldaker, Alex Brown (Nathan Gordon 62 mins), Frannie Collin, Kane Phillip (Tom Walmsley 62 mins).

Scorers: Hythe Town - Nathan Gordon 81 mins. South Park - Connor French 51 mins, Leon Lalor-Dell 67 mins.

Attendance 163



Aveley 2 Hythe Town 0

Pre-season Friendly

Saturday 5th September 2020

Hythe, who were without eight first team regulars, went down 2-0 at Aveley on a sunny Saturday afternoon in Essex.

It was the Isthmian League North side who took the early initiative with their first opportunity falling on eight minutes as they crashed the ball against the cross bar and then very soon after Hythe man of the match Kaka Dembele was on hand to clear the ball off the line. The early pressure was rewarded on twelve minutes as the hosts took the lead as George Sykes hammered home from the middle of the penalty area.

Paul Booth had the first meaningful attempt for Hythe on 28 minutes as he hit a shot that was gathered easily by the Aveley keeper. Dembele was on hand again to have shot blocked and then fired just wide. However, it was still the hosts who looked the more likely as Wyan Reid sent in a looping shot from the right that Hythe keeper Will Godmon did well to tip over at full stretch.

The second half started badly for the Cannons as they went further behind on 49 minutes when Aveley were awarded a penalty. Up stepped Sykes who sent Godmon the wrong way to make it 2-0. There was little threat from Hythe to get back in the match with two notable exceptions as Tyrone Guthrie rattled the cross bar on 65 minutes and the in the dying minutes Morgan Williamson had a long-range shot that went just wide.

The Cannons will be looking forward to starting the season proper as they entertain South Park next Saturday (12th September 2020) in the Preliminary Round of the FA Cup.

Team: Will Godmon, Connor Cheek, Kaka Dembele, James Rogers, Tom Wynter, Dean Beckwith, Liam Smith, Darren Oldaker, Tom Walmsley, Paul Booth, Alex Brown. Subs: Jarrod Trespaderne, Morgan Williamson, Tyrone Guthrie, Sean Agum, Gary Sidley, Bradley Ihionvien,

Scorers: Aveley-George Sykes 12 & 49 mins.



Hythe Town 0 Dover Athletic 1

Pre-Season Friendly

Tuesday 1st September 2021

On Tuesday evening, Hythe finished their home pre-season programme with a 1-0 defeat at home to Dover.

The Cannons had a fairly recognisable starting line-up, as nine of the eleven players had played for us last season. New signings Connor Cheek and Liam Smith also started.

There were chances for both sides early on, as Dover put a ball into the box which was headed away by Eli Benoit. A shot from Kane Phillip, who re-joined the club from Sittingbourne, fell comfortably for the Dover keeper. On 11 minutes, Dover won a free-kick from Kaka Dembele's foul just outside the box. However, like many of their set-pieces, they wasted the chance, firing the ball over the bar. There were a few more chances at either end, before the deadlock was broken, as a Dover trialist slotted the ball past Will Godmon right on the half-hour mark.

Once again, Dover won a free-kick just outside the penalty area, with Eli Benoit making the foul, and once again, they hit it over the bar. Hythe managed to get a chance from Connor Cheek, with his header on 39 minutes being caught by the Dover keeper, and Alex Brown's shot on the edge of the penalty area stung the palms of the goalie.

The second half started fairly quietly, without many notable chances. Kaka Dembele, who was playing on the left wing, had a decent chance, and he came close to an equaliser, with his shot going into the side netting. It wasn't until the 70th minute when the next notable chance was created, as a shot from one of the Dover players was caught by Will Godmon in the Hythe goal. Kaka Dembele created another good chance, and attempted a shot just outside the box, but ended up kicking the ground instead of the ball. Shortly after, a through ball from Tom Walmsley was blocked and cleared by the Dover defence.

Hythe made a few changes deep into the second half, with Tyrone Guthrie, Bradley Ihionvien, Jarred Trespaderne and Morgan Williamson replacing Alex Brown, Liam Smith, Darren Oldaker and Eli Benoit. The game was very quiet towards the end, with Dover firing yet another shot over the crossbar.

The full-time whistle marked the final pre-season match at Reachfields this season. Unfortunately, both resulted in defeats, however we won two of our four away matches, drawing one and losing the other. We bring our pre-season to a close on Saturday as we travel to Aveley, before returning to Reachfields the following Saturday to play South Park in the FA Cup.

Team: Will Godmon, Liam Smith, James Rogers, Eli Benoit, Tom Wynter, Kane Phillip, Darren Oldaker, Tom Walmsley, Alex Brown, Kaka Dembele, Connor Cheek. Substitutes: Tyrone Guthrie, Bradley Ihionvien, Jarred Trespaderne, Morgan Williamson

Scorer: Dover Athletic – A Trialist 30 mins.

Attendance: 250

Match report by Tom Ellerby



Hythe Town 0 Deal Town 1

Pre-season Friendly

Tuesday 25th August 2020

It was a disappointing night as Deal Town stole the win with a goal in the 68th minute by Troy Howard to deservedly take the win from the game at a windy Reachfields on Tuesday evening.

The game started evenly with the first opportunity coming for the visitors with a shot that went just over the bar after four minutes. Two minutes later the trialist in the Hythe line up nearly rounded the Deal keeper but couldn't get a shot away to threaten. As the half progressed it was the Southern Counties East side who were beginning to take control and had several chances including a shot that curled just wide. As the half came to its conclusion Hythe did show some promise having a couple of attacks that could have seen a goal but both sides went in all square.

The second half started with Deal again looking the more likely as they had an attempt that went just wide. At the other end Alex Flisher had a shot blocked by the away keeper. The deadlock was finally broken on 68 minutes as a ball was played in from the right and Howard was on hand to turn the ball in at the near post. Hythe were denied by the Deal keeper on 79 minutes as Darren Oldaker had a shot that that was tipped around the post.

The hosts lacked the killer touch on the evening, and it was Deal who deservedly earned the win. With the Sheppey game now postponed on Saturday, the Cannons are back in action next Tuesday as they host Dover Athletic.

Team: Will Godman, Liam Smith, Eli Beniot, Tom Wynter, Nathan Gordon, James Rogers, Darren Oldaker, Kaka Dembele, Frannie Collin, Charlie Webster, A Trialist. Subs: Ryan

Nicholls, Jarred Tresperderne, Alex Brown, Connor Cheek, Kane Phillip, Tyrone Guthrie, Alex Flisher.

Scorer: Deal Town-Troy Howard 68 mins.

Attendance: 100



Hollands & Blair 2 v Hythe Town 2

PSF Behind Closed Doors

Tuesday 18 August 2020

The Cannons took on Hollands & Blair of the Southern Counties East Football League Premier Division this evening, who were looking to continue their fine form against Isthmian League opposition in recent friendlies, having already seen off Whyteleafe 3-0 away and drawn 2-2 at Cray Wanderers.

On a pleasant, calm evening in Gillingham, Steve Watt's starting eleven to contest the match on a noticeably sloping pitch was:- Ryan Nicholls; Ross Ibbertson, Joe Denny, Eli Benoit, Liam Smith; Darren Oldaker, James Rogers, Alex Brown; Kane Phillip, Luke Medley, Tom Walmsley.

As early as the 3rd minute Blair's new signing, the experienced Danny Kedwell, rattled Nicholls right hand post from 20 yards, with the keeper possibly blinded by the low sun shining in his face.

On 12 minutes a cross from the right wing by Walmsley to Brown in the box resulted in a shot comfortably saved by the Blair keeper. Six minutes later an excellent cross field ball from Medley found Walmsley on the edge of the 18 yard area, but his shot cleared the bar.

With Blair playing five across the middle of the park they had plenty of possession and were always looking to cause Hythe problems. In the 20th minute Kedwell had a shot blocked by Benoit, with a follow up shot from Darren Cooper going wide of the post.

On 25 minutes Benoit was in action again, bringing down an advancing Ricky Freeman on the edge of the box. On another day the last man scenario may well have played out, with the Cannons then being down to 10 men, but the referee decided a yellow card was sufficient. The resulting direct free kick by Kedwell beat the defensive wall but was pushed over by Nicholls.

In the 32nd minute Medley did well to create himself a chance in the box, but his shot was blocked. From the resultant Oldaker corner the ball was headed out to Rogers whose 20 yard shot sailed high over the bar. This was probably his “sighting” shot for what was to come later.

Six minutes later Medley showed clever ball control again to create a chance for himself in the Blair box, but his shot went wide of the left-hand post. As the half drew to a close the Cannons kept up the pressure with shots at goal, although just before the whistle blew a defensive slip gave Kedwell an opening, but his shot went over Nicholls crossbar.

At the break Medley was replaced by A. Trialist who was soon causing the home defence problems with his speed and strength in the final third. On 55 minutes Walmsley & Brown made way for Charlie Webster & Frannie Collin and Hythe started to dictate play more in the middle of the park than they had previously, although as the hour mark approached Nicholls had to push a Connor Heffernan shot over the bar.

On 61 minutes Collin received a pass from our Trialist and let fly from 30 yards straight at the keeper. Three minutes later it was Rogers turn to benefit from the Trialist's pass and, again from 30 yards, he made no mistake, rifling a shot into the back of the net, giving the Blair keeper Adam Highsted no chance. Four minutes later and it was 2 to the Cannons with an almost identical strike from 30 yards by Rogers once again.

On 72 minutes Hythe lost possession outside their own box and Hollands & Blair capitalised with a low shot from Caleb Bearman-Dyce, which evaded Nicholls dive to his right-hand post and brought the home side back into contention.

Oldaker was then replaced by Tyrone Guthrie, as both sides continued to attack without creating clear cut chances, although on 77 minutes Rogers attempted another long-range effort which sadly went nearer to a corner flag than the goal.

Further substitutions followed with Smith, Nicholls, Phillip & Denny being replaced by Kaka Dembele, Will Godmon, Jarred Trespaderne & Connor Cheek.

As the match drew to a close the home side were awarded a free kick just outside the Hythe penalty area. It was expertly taken left footed by Blair's Darren Cooper and in clearing the wall and beating Godmon, the home side ensured they remained undefeated against Isthmian league opposition in recent days, drawing the match 2-2.

Next up is our first PSF at home, with Deal Town of the Southern Counties East Football League Premier Division being the opposition next Tuesday night, 25th August.



Margate 0 v Hythe Town 2

PSF Behind Closed Doors

Saturday 15 August 2020

Margate of the Isthmian Premier Division were our amiable hosts today, with Hythe looking to erase the memory of a 5-2 friendly defeat at Hartsdown Park this time last year. Margate's only pre-season match so far resulted in a 4-0 defeat at Cray Valley PM earlier in the week, so a positive reaction from them was expected.

Conditions were good and thankfully somewhat cooler than had been experienced at Chipstead and Glebe. Steve Watt's starting eleven was: Will Godmon; Kaka Dembele, Eli Benoit, new

signing Liam Smith, Nathan Gordon; Charlie Webster, James Rogers, Darren Oldaker, Kane Phillip; Frannie Collin & A. Trialist.

The first real action occurred in the eighth minute when a Collin direct free kick from around 28 yards was saved at the left-hand post by the Margate keeper. Moments later an Oldaker cross into the penalty area was met perfectly by Collin rising above the home defence and Hythe were 1-0 up.

In the early stages the Margate players seemed to be more concerned with constantly berating the officials instead of concentrating on the job in hand, but in the eleventh minute the Hythe defence did well to block a blue shirted shot on the edge of the six yard box, sending the ball out for a corner.

There followed a period of Hythe pressure with an Oldaker free kick being taken comfortably by the Margate keeper and on 17 minutes the keeper did well to put off our trialist as their bodies clashed and the ball dropped onto the roof of the net.

On 18 minutes the experienced Liam Friend sent a long ball into the Hythe penalty area, only to see a defensive clearance header drift the right side of the post as far as the visitors were concerned and out for a corner.

Moments later the impressive Dembele sent a perfect pass into the stride of our trialist as he entered the Margate penalty area, but his attempt on goal was cleared for a corner.

On 23 minutes Dembele was involved again, superbly controlling a glorious long pass from Beniot and slipping the ball through to the trialist in the box, who saw his shot pushed wide for a corner. A drinks break was then taken. From the subsequent Oldaker corner Beniot unleashed a volley which sailed past the right-hand post.

On 27 Minutes the Margate no.10 let fly from 30 yards out, but his shot didn't trouble Godmon as it sailed over the bar.

Another typical mazy run by Webster in the 29th minute was fairly brought to a halt as he tried to create an opening on the edge of the box. Hythe continued to apply the pressure with both Dembele & Collin having further attempts on goal, including a 40th minute 35 yarder from Collin which just whizzed over the bar.

Two minutes into the second half and a clumsy challenge by the Margate no.19 on Gordon on the goal line and more importantly just inside the box, resulted in the referee Simon Finnigan

pointing to the spot. Gordon was then replaced by Ross Ibbertson before Collin stepped up and sent the keeper the wrong way to make it 2-0 to Hythe Town.

As the game wore on Margate had the lions share of possession, without really troubling the Hythe goal too often. A good bit of interplay by blue shirts resulted in a shooting opportunity on 51 minutes but the attempt was snuffed out by Beniot. Three minutes later their no.9 sent a shot goal bound which was palmed over by Godmon for a corner. They did get the ball in the net around 55 minutes but the assistant referee had already flagged for offside.

On 56 minutes Hythe showed that they were still a danger, with Dembele making another strong run through the Margate half before unleashing a shot which was palmed over by the keeper. The resultant corner fell to Ibbertson outside the box, but his shot was sadly more a concern for the seagulls than the Margate keeper.

As Margate continued to work hard to create chances, they were caught on the break on the hour mark, but our trialist couldn't make them pay. There then followed a number of substitutions with the trialist, Phillip, Webster being replaced by Luke Medley, Jarred Trespaderne & Bradley Ihionvien respectively. As the drinks break approached another blues chance went begging, although with a well marshalled defence the flag was up for offside anyway.

Further substitutions resulted in Oldaker & Smith having their places taken by 16-year-old Morgan Williamson & Joe Denny. Margate followed this up with another shot well saved by Godmon before Collin & Rogers made way for Alex Brown & Tyronne Guthrie and Hythe's ex player from last season Jamie Coyle, came on to bolster the home side's defence.

As the game entered the last 15 minutes Connor Cheek, Tom Walmsley & Ryan Nicholls entered the fray at the expense of Benoit, Dembele & Godmon.

With Margate still probing for a goal, Hythe had a couple of opportunities to press home their advantage on the break. Firstly, Walmsley's hard work resulted in a chance for Ihionvien but his shot was blocked and shortly after an excellent save from Nicholls from a speculative Margate shot, Medley found himself one on one with the keeper but stumbled at the critical moment and his shot looped over the bar.

Although Margate kept pressing, Hythe always appeared to have things in control and ran out comfortable 2-0 winners on the day.

Next up is away to Hollands & Blair of the Southern Counties East Football League Premier Division on Tuesday night.

Report by Clinton Johnson



Glebe 1 Hythe Town 2

PSF Behind Closed Doors

Tuesday 11 August 2020

Glebe, of the Southern Counties East Football League Premier Division, were affable hosts to the Hythe Town contingent on a very warm evening at their Foxbury Avenue ground in Chislehurst.

With the temperature still nudging 30 degrees as kick off approached, Steve Watt's starting eleven was: Will Godmon; Ross Ibbertson, Tom Wynter; Eli Benoit, Nathan Gordon; Charlie Webster, James Rogers, Darren Oldaker, Kane Phillip; Frannie Collin & Luke Medley.

Straight from the kick-off Glebe went on the attack winning a corner in the first minute. As play then moved to the opposite end of the field, Medley couldn't quite get onto a week back pass to trouble the Glebe keeper.

In the eighth minute a dangerous Ibbotson cross into the Glebe box fell to Collin whose effort didn't cause the keeper any real alarm.

In the eleventh minute a mazy run by Phillip down the left, beating a number of opponents, was eventually brought to an end before he could get a shot away. There were a number of similar moves along the left-hand touchline during the half where Phillips and left full-back Gordon often linked up well. The same applied to Ibbertson & Webster down the right-hand flank too.

Glebe had a shooting opportunity in the twelfth minute, but it drifted wide of the right-hand post. Five minutes later however a superb defence splitting ball from the Glebe midfield gave one of their forwards a great chance to shoot, but his effort was thwarted by a very timely Ibbertson sliding tackle.

The defender then turned provider in the 21st minute, with a long cross well taken by Phillip, whose shot just went over the bar. Moments later a Collin pass to Webster sent him away on another of his trademark surging runs, but no one could get on the end of his cross into the danger area. A drinks break followed.

When play resumed Glebe stepped up the pressure, having two good goal attempts in quick succession. The first was blocked by yet another excellent Ibbertson tackle and the second well saved by Godmon.

On 26 min we had the nearest to a goal so far as Medley shot on the turn from 20 yards out, only to see the keeper push his effort onto the cross bar and it bounced away to safety. Not to be outdone a minute later Glebe got a shot away themselves only to see Godmon palm it over the bar. For a few minutes it was then Hythe under the cosh, but good defending, another Godmon save and off target shooting meant we stayed at nil all.

As the first half drew to a close it was again Phillips in the thick of the action, firstly setting-up Medley whose shot was saved and then having his own shot from inside the 18 yard box well blocked by a Glebe defender.

At half-time Steve Watt gave the eleven a stern talking to, imploring them to try and cut-out some elementary mistakes and to take the game to Glebe more, as opposed to going sideways too often. As a consequence, the same eleven players took to the field for the second half and within five minutes Hythe Town were 1-0 up, courtesy of a crisp 20+yd shot from Collin leaving the keeper with little or no chance.

As the teams regrouped in their own halves Gordon & goal scorer Collin were substituted by Kaka Dembele & Tom Walmsley respectively. When the referee blew for the re-start an ex Hythe favourite, Frankie Sawyer, saw an opportunity with Godmon well out of his goal and lofted the ball 50+yards and watched it bounce into an empty net. 1-1 and so Hythe's turn to take a kick-off.

On 54mins Benoit & Rogers gave way to Joe Denny & Tyrone Guthrie and then on the hour it was 6 off (Godmon, Wynter, Webster, Phillip, Oldaker & Medley) and six on (Ryan Nicholls, Connor Cheek, Bradley Ihionvien, Morgan Williamson, Alex Brown & Jarred Trespaderne).

The final substitution occurred at the mid-half drinks break with Alex Flisher replacing Ross Ibbertson and a minute or so later a superb through ball from 16 year old Ihionvien found Flisher, who like Collin earlier, unleashed a shot from more than 20 yards out giving the Glebe keeper little chance.

On 76 minutes Glebe had a free kick in a dangerous position, but their effort went straight into the Hythe wall and away to safety. As we entered the last few minutes Glebe to their credit kept plugging away and on another day an 84th minute defensive lapse at the back for Town may well have been punished, but on this occasion the Glebe shot went wide of the goal.

The final action of note before the referee brought the game to a close occurred in the 87th minute when a Dembele pass was flicked on by Flisher to Brown, whose shot went just left of the goal.

All in all, an encouraging performance and we look forward to a stern test at Margate this coming Saturday.

Report by Clinton Johnson



Chipstead 1 v Hythe Town 0

PSF Behind Closed Doors

Saturday 8 August 2020

When season 2019/20 came to a premature halt in March, Chipstead were 10th in the Isthmian Division One South Central with 45 points from 28 matches, whereas Hythe Town had 40 points from 29 matches, so not a great deal between the two teams. Five months on and there still wasn't much between them. I don't think Chipstead would have begrudged HTFC at least a draw, but at the end of the day the result was probably secondary to the players of both teams getting back to competitive football after such a long lay-off.

On a sweltering afternoon with the temperature in the low 30's Steve Watt's starting eleven was:- Will Godmon; Ross Ibbertson, Tom Wynter; Joe Denny, Nathan Gordon; Kaka Dembele, James Rogers, Morgan Williamson, Kane Phillip; Frannie Collin & Tom Walmsley.

On nine minutes a powerful Dembele cross into the danger area was cleared away for a corner by the Chipstead defence. There then followed two Chipstead shots on goal well blocked on the six yard line by Denny & Wynter. Just prior to the mid-half drinks break a Collin cross from the right was taken by Rogers, but his shot was well saved by the Chipstead keeper.

Straight after the drinks break a flighted ball into the Hythe penalty area was met by David Graves, whose header went beyond the reach of Godmon to open the scoring for Chipstead.

On 27 minutes, a strong run by Dembele to the goal line resulted in an acute angle shot which was cleared away. Six minutes later a 25 yard shot from Collin was well saved. Moments later a direct free kick taken by Collin from the left was again saved by the Chipstead keeper. From the resulting corner Wynter managed to connect with the ball in the six yard box but could only see his effort sail over the bar. As the Hythe pressure continued at the end of the first half shots from Walmsley & Collin were saved and cleared by a resolute Chipstead defence and a Dembele 25 yard shot just whizzed over the bar.

At half time Eli Benoit replaced Denny; Charlie Webster came on for Phillips; Darren Oldaker took the place of teenager Williamson and Alex Brown took over from Walmsley.

Two minutes into the half a decent Chipstead shot was partially blocked and gathered by Godmon. On 51 minutes a glorious diagonal pass from Oldaker found Dembele on the left touchline who worked well with Gordon, who in turn had his shot blocked by a green & white hooped shirt. Two minutes later and it looked as though the score was going to be 2-0, but Godmon pulled off an excellent point blank save to keep the Cannons in the match. Not to be outdone, on 57 minutes the Chipstead keeper, at full stretch, managed to just push over a Collin free kick from all of 30yds which was heading for the top right-hand corner until the keeper's finger tips intervened.

On the hour mark Luke Medley & Tyrone Guthrie replaced Collin & Rogers. Two minutes later Medley couldn't quite get the touch he would have liked on a Dembele cross and his shot failed to trouble the keeper.

After the mid-half drinks break Ryan Nicholls took over in goal from Godmon, Connor Cheek & Jarred Trespaderne replaced Wynter & Gordon respectively.

On 70 minutes Medley had a shot from just inside the box which went the wrong side of the post and on 75 minutes Ibbertson made way for teenager Bradley Ihionvien. In the remaining minutes of the game each team had attempts on goal but all to no avail.

Despite the defeat there were positives to be taken from the performance and hopefully the team can build on them on Tuesday night at Glebe, in another behind closed doors PSF.

Report thanks to Clinton Johnson

Match Reports 2021-2022....



Hythe Town 0 Folkestone Invicta 2

Kent Senior Cup Semi Final

Wednesday 27th April 2022

Hythe went down honourably to a strong Folkestone side on Wednesday night at Reachfields. Following our 1-1 draw against East Grinstead, James Rogers returned to his strongest possible team. Nico Cotton, Luca Woodhouse and Ben Hermitage were all cup-tied, and Connor Cheek was replaced by George Crimmen. Jordan Sarfo, Tom Walmsley and Rogers himself all returned to the side too. The match was delayed by almost 20 minutes, due to the huge number of people waiting at the turnstiles – the attendance ended up being over 1,000 people!

However, just after 8pm, the game kicked off, and Hythe had the first chance from a free kick, which was taken by Alex Brown and punched away by Folkestone keeper Tim Roberts. Another chance came for Hythe, who started the better side, as a corner was headed towards goal by Liam Smith, before it was cleared off the line. Folkestone's first opportunity came from Scott Heard, who blazed a 25-yard shot just past the post. On 19 minutes, Hythe eventually crumbled, allowing Ade Yussuf to drift past their defence and slot through the legs of Sam Hignett to give Invicta the lead.

It was almost another goal two minutes later when George Crimmen gave away a free kick outside the box, but fortunately for the Cannons, former Hythe man Matt Newman slammed the ball just over the crossbar. Adam Yussuf had a chance to score a brace soon after, hitting a shot wide of the post. He put a cross into the box just a minute later, which evaded everybody but was enough to put Hythe fans' hearts into their mouths. Another opportunity fell to Invicta through Joseph Gbode, whose shot bounced off the chest of Ollie Gray and away. Eventually, Folkestone scored their second with four minutes remaining in the first half, and it was similar to the first, as David Smith ghosted past the Cannons defence to slot the ball into the net. Hythe almost reduced the lead just before the break, as George Crimmen's header was cleared off the line by ex-Cannon Ryan Johnson.

The second half began with two chances for Invicta, the first coming from Yussuf, who lifted the ball over the crossbar from a tight angle. David Smith almost had his second on 51 minutes, putting the ball over the line in a goalmouth scramble, however it was deemed to be a foul. The first chance of the half for the Cannons came on 54 minutes when a free kick from Alex Brown was headed on my Ollie Gray, however the keeper managed to make the catch. On 59 minutes, Jordan Sarfo managed to maintain his control of the ball and squeeze past the Folkestone defence, but blazed the ball over the bar. Moments later, Alex Brown had the ball in the net, but it was deemed offside. Brown had another shot which was deflected away, and it fell to top scorer Riley Alford, whose shot was saved by the feet of Tim Roberts, before the referee blew for offside.

Folkestone were back on the attack soon, as Yussuf's shot was deflected away by Crimmen. It wasn't until the 79th minute when the next chance came, and it fell to the Cannons, who were arguably the better side in the final 20 minutes. Substitute Morgan Williamson played a great

ball to the feet of George Sibley, who hit a good shot, but saw his effort saved by Roberts. Williamson was the creator once again with three minutes to go, as he controlled a pass beautifully and sent a delightful ball to Tom Walmsley, who tried to bundle the shot in, but the shot was parried by Roberts into the path of Riley Alford, who attempted to lob the Folkestone stopper, however his effort was caught.

The full time whistle blew slightly later than the fans had imagined. It was the end of a long season for the Cannons, who had managed to stay in the league after all – now all eyes will be on next season.

Team: Sam Hignett, Liam Smith, George Sibley (Tom Wynter 90 mins), James Rogers, Ollie Gray, George Crimmen, Alex Brown, Jacob Gilbert (Morgan Williamson 72 mins), Tom Walmsley, Riley Alford, Jordan Sarfo.

Subs Unused: Connor Cheek, Henry Newcombe.

Scorers: Folkestone Invicta – Adam Yusuff 19 mins, David Smith 41 mins.

Attendance: 1019



Hythe Town 1 East Grinstead Town 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 23rd April 2022

Hythe drew their final game of the Isthmian League South East season on Saturday afternoon at home to East Grinstead Town. The opposition were in a similar position to the Cannons, having secured their survival prior to this match, and with both sides having little to play for, James Rogers made four changes to his line-up, replacing himself, Henry Newcombe, George Crimmen, Jordan Sarfo and Tom Walmsley with Ben Hermitage, Riley Alford, George Sibley and backup keeper Sam Hignett.

The deadlock was broken after just four minutes by the visitors through Max Walsh, who broke free inside the box and slotted the ball into the corner of the net past Hignett to give East Grinstead the lead. It wasn't until 22 minutes that Hythe had their first chance of the game, as Nico Cotton's played a long ball to Luca Woodhouse, whose cross into the box lacked precision, and was easily caught by the goalkeeper. Four minutes later, Daniel Uchechi played a ball across the penalty area for the visitors, which missed everybody, eventually being tipped away by Sam Hignett before it was too late. With just five minutes remaining of the first period, Luca Woodhouse sent a free kick into the opposition penalty area, which reached Riley Alford, who was unable to control the ball with his chest, resulting in a clearance by the defence.

The second half began with a chance for the Wasps four minutes in, as Kie Douglas hit a swerving shot from outside the penalty area which clipped a defender, before being pushed past the post by Hignett. After 64 minutes, when Ben Aubrey made a run into the box, he was pulled down by Hythe defender Connor Cheek, who conceded the penalty kick. Daniel Uchechi stepped up in an attempt to make it 2-0 and, most likely, end the game, hitting a weak shot to Hignett's left, and luckily for Hythe, Hignett got down and stopped the ball to keep the visitors at bay. It proved key on 67 minutes, when a ball across from Jordan Sarfo was slammed home by Alex Brown, who was one on one with the keeper, to level the score.

The game was set alight with chances in the final ten minutes, starting on 81 minutes with Alex Brown's free kick, which was spilled by the keeper, who regained the ball as Sarfo was running towards it. Moments later, Jacob Gilbert's low raking drive was tipped past the post by the East Grinstead stopper, before they themselves had a chance to win the match through Omar Folkes, who sent the ball wide from a close distance but a tight angle.

As the game entered stoppage time, it was a happy moment for Tom Wynter, who made his way onto the pitch after spending months out injured - he made sure to lap up the applause from the home fans. A controversial moment followed this, as the referee stopped the match for a leg injury right outside the East Grinstead penalty box, just a second before Nico Cotton was brought down inside the box. However, as he had blown the whistle, the referee was unable to award any advantage to the Cannons, much to the crowd's disappointment.

The full-time whistle blew following a game of two halves. Hythe finished their league season in 17th, three points ahead of Lancing, who will take part in a relegation play off. However, the season is far from over for the Cannons, who are back in action on Wednesday night for a long-awaited cup semi-final as they entertain Folkestone Invicta at Reachfields in the Kent Senior Cup, with the match kicking off at 7:45pm.

Team: Sam Hignett, George Sibley, Nico Cotton, Jacob Gilbert, Ollie Gray, Connor Cheek (Tom Wynter 90 mins), Ben Hermitage (Jordan Sarfo 45 mins), Liam Smith, Riley Alford (Tom Walmsley 70 mins), Alex Brown, Luca Woodhouse. Subs Unused: Henry Newcombe, George Crimmen

Scorers: Hythe Town - Alex Brown 67 mins. East Grinstead Town - Max Walsh 4 mins.

Attendance: 245



Herne Bay 2 Hythe Town 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Monday 18th April 2022

There was relief at the end of Hythe's 2-0 defeat away at Herne Bay on Monday afternoon as other results came in to confirm that the Cannons have avoided relegation and will be playing Isthmian League football next season.

Hythe started the game unchanged from last Saturday and were under pressure as ex-Cannon Kieron Campbell had a shot which looped over the bar after being deflected. Hythe, who started brightly had their first opportunity on four minutes as Tom Walmsley weaved his way into the penalty area and sent his final effort just wide. Herne Bay's Mike West was proving to be a thorn in the side for the visitors as he firstly unleashed a shot that sailed wide and then sent in a free-kick from the left hand side forcing Hythe keeper Henry Newcombe to push the ball over the bar.

Jordan Sarfo was then to place a shot towards the corner of the net but it lacked power and was gathered easily by Herne Bay keeper Jordan Perrin. The hosts finally took the lead on the half-hour as West sent in a free kick from the left that found Rory Smith running in to convert. There were suspicions of handball, but the referee waived any protest away to award the goal. Before the break there was an opportunity for Hythe to get back in the game as Nico Cotton picked up the ball but sent his final attempt wide of the target.

The early part of the second period saw both sides battle in midfield with Hythe getting the first chance as Liam Smith played the ball into Sarfo but he ballooned over. However, Herne Bay were then to get the goal that sealed the points on 59 minutes with another former Hythe player

Zak Ansah planting the ball in the far corner of the net to make it 2-0 to the delight of the home fans.

Herne Bay continued to press as they looked for a third. Eddie Allsopp curled a free-kick around the wall into the arms of Newcombe and then a shot from Jack Parter went wide of the upright. Ansah continued to threaten as he side-footed wide and then Ollie Gray was on hand to breakdown an attack involving Ansah and substitute Aaron Millbank. There was one last effort from Hythe to narrow the gap as Alex Brown fired wide.

Whilst disappointed with the result there was relief as news came in that Lancing and Phoenix Sports had both lost and the Cannons were safe from relegation. They now prepare to celebrate their survival as then entertain East Grinstead Town on Saturday afternoon. Kick off at Reachfields is 3pm.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Liam Smith, Nico Cotton, James Rogers, Ollie Gray, George Crimmen (Connor Cheek 53 mins), Jordan Sarfo (Ben Hermitage 77 mins), Alex Brown, Tom Walmsley, Jacob Gilbert (Riley Alford 64 mins), Luca Woodhouse. Subs Unused Sam Hignett, George Sibley.

Scorers: Herne Bay - Rory Smith 30 mins, Zak Ansah 59 mins

Attendance: 746



Hythe Town 0 Sevenoaks Town 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 16th April 2022

Hythe were beaten 1-0 on a sunny Saturday afternoon at Reachfields. The opposition, Sevenoaks Town, went into the match in a fine run of form, with Hythe coming off the back of a victory away at Whitehawk. Manager James Rogers named an unchanged starting lineup from that match.

The first half was very quiet in terms of chances, which were at a premium due to the game being played mainly in the midfield. On one occasion, Sevenoaks came close to scoring after a ball whipped over the head of George Crimmen almost found Frankie Sawyer, however Henry Newcombe managed to collect the ball before the former Hythe striker.

The second half was much brighter, and the first opportunity went Hythe's way, as a free kick into the danger zone was fired goal wards on the turn by Alex Brown into the hands of the goalkeeper. It was Sevenoaks who had their first chance of the half on 54 minutes, as Rhys Gillies hit a similar shot to Brown which was blocked by Crimmen for the Cannons, who had their best opportunity of the half through Luca Woodhouse, who hit a powerful shot from a difficult angle towards the top corner of the goal, which was tipped away by Tyler McCarthy in the Sevenoaks goal. On the hour mark, the Oaks took the lead through Bradley Wilson, who took his time on the ball and slotted home past Henry Newcombe. The Cannons responded by bringing Riley Alford onto the pitch, and he had a chance with his first touch, receiving a free kick and firing the ball goal wards before the shot was deflected away by a defender.

With just 11 minutes left of the match, Sevenoaks had the chance to seal the three points when Sam Johnson had plenty of space in the box to head the ball home, eventually sending it over the bar. Tom Walmsley also had a chance for a header, which went straight at McCarthy, before Walmsley hit a rebound into the path of a defender. There were two late chances for Hythe to steal a point, the first coming from young substitute Ben Hermitage, who hit a good shot past a crowd of defenders, with the keeper catching before it was too late. Jacob Gilbert attempted a ball in which was tipped away by McCarthy once again.

The full time whistle went and the Sevenoaks team celebrated wildly - this victory sealed their survival. Hythe are still in danger of going down as they sit four points clear of the drop zone, and the final two games of the season will be important for them. The first comes on Monday at 3pm away at Herne Bay as Hythe look to gain some more points.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Liam Smith, Nico Cotton (Ben Hermitage 86 mins), James Rogers, Ollie Gray, George Crimmen, Jordan Sarfo (Riley Alford 65 mins), Jacob Gilbert, Tom Walmsley, Alex Brown, Luca Woodhouse. Subs Unused: Connor Cheek, Sam Hignett, George Sibley.

Scorer: Sevenoaks Town - Bradley Wilson 60 mins.

Attendance: 212

Report by Tom Ellerby



Whitehawk 0 Hythe Town 2

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 9th April 2022

The Cannons eased their relegation worries as they came away with a comfortable 2-0 win at struggling Whitehawk on a breezy Saturday afternoon.

Hythe made two changes from the last home game as Alex Brown returned from suspension to replace George Sibley and Jordan Sarfo started in place of Riley Alford.

It was Hythe who settled quickest and had the first opportunity in the third minute as Luca Woodhouse whipped in a cross that found Sarfo. His header towards goal was easily caught by Whitehawk keeper, Nathan Stroomberg-Clarke. The Cannons continued to press and were deservedly ahead on 23 minutes with Jacob Gilbert charging down a loose ball as Whitehawk keeper tried to clear. It fell into the path of Tom Walmsley who was on hand to finish and made it 1-0. As the half progressed Whitehawk came more into the game, but a number of attacks were ended with over hit balls that went out for goal kicks.

The hosts had their first meaningful chance on 35 minutes when a shot by Alex Malins was blocked by the Hythe defence. On 39 minutes a free-kick from just outside the area summed up Whitehawk's afternoon as the ball was sent high over the bar by Leon Redwood. Whitehawk should have been level two minutes into injury time as Jamie Splatt broke free in the penalty area but Hythe keeper Henry Newcombe was quickly off his line to block.

The second half started with Hythe on the attack as Sarfo surged down the right playing the ball into Brown whose attempt was blocked. Whitehawk, playing down the hill, were wasteful with a couple of opportunities. Jamie Splatt had a shot from 25 yards that went high over the bar with

the same result from a free kick by Alex Laing from just outside the penalty area. Omarr Lawson also had effort that went just wide.

However, it was the Cannons who were to get that all important second goal in the 68th minute to the delight of the Hythe contingent in the crowd. Walmsley picked up the ball in the middle, playing it off to Alex Brown who played it into the path of Gilbert who finished well to put the game out of the reach of Whitehawk. Hythe sucked up any pressure from the hosts to get back in the game with the central defensive partnership of Ollie Gray and George Crimmen snuffing out a number of Whitehawk attacks. Newcombe did have to produce one fine save in the 81st minute as he palmed a shot from Lekan Orimolusi around the upright.

Every single Hythe player gave there all in a convincing performance that secured the vital three points and extended their unbeaten run to four matches. They will face a further test next week as they take on a resurgent Sevenoaks Town next Saturday with a 3pm kick off at Reachfields.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Liam Smith, Nico Cotton, James Rogers, Ollie Gray, George Crimmen, Jordan Sarfo (Riley Alford 78 mins), Jacob Gilbert, Tom Walmsley, Alex Brown (Ben Hermitage 90 mins), Luca Woodhouse (George Sibley (90 mins). Unused Subs: Sam Hignett, Connor Cheek

Scorers: Hythe Town – Tom Walmsley 23 mins, Jacob Gilbert 68 mins.

Attendance: 413



Hythe Town 1 Lancing 1

Pitching In Isthmian League

Saturday 2nd April 2022

The points were shared on Saturday afternoon as Hythe and Lancing played out a 1-1 draw at Reachfields. Following their emphatic penalty shootout win over Ashford United, manager James Rogers made four changes to his side, with Henry Newcombe, Nico Cotton, Luca Woodhouse and Ollie Gray all returning to the line-up, as Sam Hignett, Morgan Williamson, Alex Brown and injured Jack Mayhew made way.

The game went off to the worst possible start for Hythe, as Lancing took the lead after just three minutes, as a ball into the box was bundled past Henry Newcombe by Harrison Parker. Fortunately for the Cannons, the equaliser came just six minutes later through Riley Alford, who nodded home a cross from Luca Woodhouse to level the scores. It was Lancing who had the next opportunity, with Lorenzo Lewis firing across the face of goal. Hythe responded immediately through Luca Woodhouse, who took a shot very well, forcing the keeper to push the ball past his near post for a corner, which was headed over the woodwork by George Crimmen.

On 21 minutes, Lancing should have taken the lead when a ball squared into the box had nobody on the end of it, allowing the Hythe defence to clear the danger. Hythe had two decent chances within the next ten minutes, as Riley Alford hit the ball into the side netting and Jacob Gilbert looped a shot over the crossbar. As half time approached, it was once again the Cannons on the attack, and again it was Woodhouse playing it to Alford, who fired the ball across the face of goal. There was another *deja vu* moment with just two minutes of the half remaining as Woodhouse hit the ball goalwards, forcing the keeper to palm the ball away to keep the Cannons at bay.

Four minutes after the break, Lancing began on the front foot, as Lorenzo Lewis forced a save from Newcombe, who got to the ball with his knees. Five minutes later, Hythe had their first opportunity of the half with Jacob Gilbert's ball in headed away by the defence, before Riley Alford's attempted lob sailed away from the goal. Luca Woodhouse had another chance on 64 minutes, powering a free kick over the bar. With just nine minutes remaining, substitute Jordan Sarfo got involved, playing the ball into the middle of the box to Liam Smith, who bundled the ball over the bar. Two minutes afterwards, a ball in from Smith was headed past the post from a good angle by Alford.

The game got interesting in the dying minutes as Ollie Gray attempted an overhead kick which flew over the bar. Following this, Matt Daniel came close to winning the game for Lancing, as Newcombe robbed the ball from his feet. The visitors had one last chance to take the victory, and it was a close call, as Liam Hendy had his effort cleared off the line by a Hythe defender. The result was a disappointment for Hythe fans, who went away wishing they'd taken more points from the match. But as the Cannons dropped down to 16th, they'll be happy to take any points they can with four matches to play. Hythe will return to action next Saturday, as they travel to Whitehawk at 3pm.

Team: Henry Newcombe, George Sibley, Nico Cotton, James Rogers, Ollie Gray, George Crimmen, Jacob Gilbert (Ben Hermitage 86 mins), Liam Smith, Tom Walmsley, Luca Woodhouse (Jordan Sarfo 75 mins), Riley Alford. Subs Not Used: Connor Cheek, Sam Hignett.

Scorers: Hythe Town - Riley Alford 9 mins. Lancing - Harrison Parker 3 mins.

Attendance: 161



Hythe Town 1 Ashford United 1

(Hythe win 5-4 on pens)

Kent Senior Cup 3rd Round

Tuesday 29th March 2022

Hythe progressed to the semi-finals of the Kent Senior Cup in an entertaining Tuesday evening match. Manager James Rogers was forced into making several changes – Luca Woodhouse, Nico Cotton and Ben Hermitage were all cup-tied, Jordan Sarfo was ill, and Connor Cheek was suspended. Ollie Gray and Henry Newcombe were both rested, which gave Sam Hignett an opportunity in goal, and young midfielder Morgan Williamson made his return to the team.

It was a very even first quarter of the match, with the first major opportunity coming after 20 minutes from Ashford, whose ball in was hooked away by Rogers. The Cannons responded momentarily, as Alex Brown lifted the ball into the box towards Riley Alford, however his header

lacked conviction or power and was caught easily by the Ashford goalkeeper. Just a minute later, Alford had his second chance of the evening, looping the ball past the angle of post and bar.

As we approached the half-hour mark, the deadlock was broken, as Tom Walmsley's shot was deflected into the path of Alford, who turned the ball in past Jordan Carey to give Hythe the lead. Two minutes later, Tom Walmsley had a chance to double the lead, taking on a shot and lobbing it just over the crossbar. A similar chance fell to Mohammed Kamara of Ashford, who hit a powerful shot above the woodwork. Alex Brown nearly gave the Cannons a 2-0 half-time lead, as he attempted an ambitious 25-yard shot, managing to beat the keeper, but unfortunately for him, the ball bounced off the post.

The second period was also a balanced affair, as Ashford went close from a free kick on 54 minutes from Jack Richards, who curled the ball over the bar. With just 16 minutes remaining, Hythe came close to scoring again, as Riley Alford beat the goalkeeper to the ball, playing it across to Alex Brown, whose shot deflected off an Ashford defender. The Cannons were once again denied just a minute later, after James Rogers hit a long ball forward to Jacob Gilbert, who attempted to square it into the penalty area, with Ashford keeper Luke Carey taking the catch.

With just nine left on the clock, Ashford almost found their equaliser through Gary Lockyer, whose shot was saved brilliantly by Sam Hignett. However, this gave Ashford a corner, which was turned in by Josh Wisson. Two minutes later, Hythe fans had their hearts in their mouths as Luke Burdon hit a shot which bounced off the underside of the crossbar to deny Ashford a winner. As the game went into five minutes of stoppage time, it was a disastrous moment for defender Jack Mayhew, who went down injured, bringing out the stretcher. As the fans applauded him off the field, there was a question as to how we would replace him for the final few minutes, as we only had three substitutes, one of whom had already been used. The other two substitutes were unfit defender Tom Wynter and goalkeeper Henry Newcombe, who had been rested for the match – and he was the one who came on, putting on the number 19 jersey and getting stuck into the game.

The full-time whistle blew with the score still 1-1, which could mean only one thing – a penalty shootout. Ashford took first, and the opening six spot kicks were all scored through Gary Lockyer, Frannie Collin and Mamadou Diallo for Ashford, with Liam Smith, Riley Alford and Tom Walmsley all converting for Hythe. The seventh spot kick was blazed over the crossbar by Tashi-Jay Kwayie for Ashford to give Hythe the upper hand. James Rogers took next, as the ball deflected off the goalkeeper and found its way into the net. Wisson scored Ashford's fifth penalty, before Jacob Gilbert stepped up for Hythe and put the ball past Luke Carey to win the game for Hythe.

As the fans left the stadium at a late hour, the Hythe contingent were all content with the knowledge that they would be in a cup semi-final this season – something we haven't been able

to say for a long time at Reachfields. In the meantime, Hythe still have the league to focus on, as they return to Reachfields on Saturday to take on Lancing at 3pm on Saturday.

Team: Sam Hignett, Jack Mayhew (Henry Newcombe 90 mins), George Sibley, James Rogers, Liam Smith, George Crimmen, Morgan Williamson, Jacob Gilbert, Tom Walmsley, Alex Brown (Ollie Gray 81 mins), Riley Alford. Sub Unused: Tom Wynter

Scorers: Hythe Town - Riley Alford 28 mins. Ashford United - Josh Wisson 81 mins.

Attendance: 217



Phoenix Sports 0 Hythe Town 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 26th March 2022

The Cannons ground out a point that could be vital at the end of the season. This was despite being reduced to ten men on 80 minutes as Alex Brown was sent off for a second yellow card at fellow strugglers Phoenix Sports on Saturday afternoon.

Hythe had a couple of enforced changes as both Luca Woodhouse and Jordan Sarfo were unavailable due to illness and George Crimmen, despite being named as substitute, was stuck on the motorway after his car had broken down. Jacob Gilbert dropped to the substitutes bench and Riley Alford, Connor Cheek, Ben Hermitage and Brown were added to the starting line-up.

Phoenix were the first to create a chance as Steve Carvell sent a swerving shot that Hythe keeper Henry Newcombe was able to parry away. Hythe had their opening opportunity as Jack Mayhew drove the ball towards the top of the goal with young home keeper Charlie Martin doing well to tip the ball over the crossbar. The visitors then had a series of corners as they pressed but were unable to take advantage. Nico Cotton was next in the action as he blasted over a long-range effort.

As the half progressed it was the hosts who began to turn the screw as Craig McGee drifted an attempt wide and then an effort by Luke Leppard was clawed away by Newcombe and James Rogers cleared it away. Just before the break Alfie Evans broke into the penalty area but Newcombe was swiftly off his line to block. As the game went into injury time the Cannons were unlucky not to take the lead as Cotton unleashed an effort that was pushed onto upright by Martin and away for a corner.

The first 20 minutes of the second half saw both sides looking for openings as they battled in midfield without creating a meaningful chance. Brown had two bites of the cherry on 66 minutes as he first had an attempt blocked and then off balance got onto the rebound, but he couldn't get enough power on the ball, and it looped into the arms of Martin. Newcombe then saved with his legs as Roberto Ratti broke through. Hythe's defence with Cheek and Ollie Gray in the centre remained firm against the increasing pressure from the hosts. With seventeen minutes go Hythe found themselves on the break with Mayhew bursting down the right with a cross that found Tom Walmsley whose effort went straight into a crowd of players and was cleared away.

Then came the incident that saw the Cannons reduced ten men as Brown, who had earlier received a yellow card for a heavy challenge, went in with his foot high and received another booking that resulted in a red being shown. However, there were no real further alarms as Hythe held on for a deserved point which keeps them in 15th place. They take a break from league action on Tuesday night as they entertain Ashford United in the 3rd Round of the Kent Senior Cup.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Jack Mayhew, Nico Cotton, James Rogers, Connor Cheek, Ollie Gray, Ben Hermitage (Jacob Gilbert 74 mins), Liam Smith, Tom Walmsley, Alex Brown, Riley Alford. Unused Subs: Sam Hignett, George Crimmen, George Sibley.

Attendance 201.



Whitstable Town 0 Hythe Town 2

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 19th March 2022

Hythe Town came away from Whitstable Town with a vital three points in a relegation six-pointer on Saturday afternoon.

It was a game with limited opportunities for both sides as they scrapped in a midfield battle. The first half was fairly even with both sides looking nervous with what was at stake during the afternoon. The Cannons started the game with George Crimmen and Tyler Sterling coming back in to replace Alex Brown who was unavailable and Riley Alford who was on the bench. Hythe also included new signing Ben Hermitage on the bench following his loan move from Tonbridge Angels.

The first attack came from Hythe after six minutes as Jack Mayhew broke into the penalty area with his final shot blocked by Tom Mills. Whitstable had to wait until the 29th minute for their first meaningful effort as former Cannon Stephen Okoh shot straight at Hythe keeper Henry Newcombe. At the other end Liam Smith hit a curling shot high over the bar.

Whitstable probably had their best opportunity of the game as Charlie Heatley broke free but was denied by Newcombe who came quickly off his line to prevent any danger. Newcombe was hand again to save from Mills. As the game moved towards half-time and a melee in the home penalty area ended with Crimmen poking the ball wide.

The battle continued in the second half with neither side really taking the initiative and it wasn't until the 67th minute that Hythe got the all-important opening goal as a free kick from the left wing from Tyler Sterling was sent over to the far post where George Crimmen headed in from close range.

Things were made more difficult for Whitstable on 74 minutes as they were reduced to ten men after Tom Mills was sent off after a nasty challenge on Tom Walmsley. With the man advantage the visitors put the game out of the reach of the hosts two minutes later as Crimmen had an effort blocked as did Riley Alford before it fell to Jordan Sarfo to bundle the ball home to make it 2-0.

With Hythe now in control they closed the game down and their lead was never put under any threat and that was enough for Hythe to take the points and move away from the drop zone but left Whitstable firmly at the bottom of the table.

Hythe have another vital league fixture next Saturday as they travel to another relegation threatened side Phoenix Sports. Kick off is 3pm.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Liam Smith, Jack Mayhew, James Rogers, Ollie Gray, George Crimmen, Luca Woodhouse (George Sibley 89 mins), Jacob Gilbert, Tom Walmsley, Tyler Sterling (Jordan Sarfo 69 mins), Nico Cotton (Riley Alford 62 mins). **Unused Subs:** Connor Cheek, Ben Hermitage.

Scorers: Hythe Town – George Crimmen 67 mins, Jordan Sarfo 76 mins.

Attendance: 402



Hythe Town 0 Haywards Heath Town 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 12th March 2022

Hythe were beaten by Haywards Heath Town on Saturday afternoon. After losing 2-1 to Ashford United, James Rogers made a single change, as injured Tyler Sterling was replaced by Riley Alford.

The Cannons had the first chance of the match for seven minutes through Alford, who received the ball on the right and attempted to lob the ball over the keeper who had come out of position, however the ball went just wide of the post. It was Haywards Heath who had the next chance through Trevor McCreadie who attempted a shot in a crowded penalty area, however Henry Newcombe got down to his right to keep the ball out.

Alex Brown almost broke the deadlock after a quarter of an hour with a downward header which was caught by the goalkeeper. At the other end, Haywards Heath took the lead on 35 minutes, as Tom Cadman fired the ball towards goal, coming off defender Liam Smith on its way. The Cannons nearly found an equaliser with six minutes to go, as Alex Brown took a free kick just outside the box, with the goalkeeper spilling the ball slightly but grabbing the ball to prevent an equaliser before the break.

It was almost 2-0 after 58 minutes through Alahady Jalloh, who fired the ball just across goal. With just nine minutes to go, a melee in the Hythe town penalty area almost resulted in an own goal, as the ball went from player to player before it was hoofed clear.

The performance wasn't very easy on the eye for the Cannons as they edge closer to the relegation zone, but they will look to get back to winning ways next Saturday as they travel to local rivals Whitstable Town at 3pm.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Jack Mayhew, Nico Cotton, James Rogers, Liam Smith, Ollie Gray (George Crimmen 81 mins), Luca Woodhouse (Jordan Sarfo 85 mins), Alex Brown, Tom Walmsley, Jacob Gilbert, Riley Alford. Subs Unused: Sam Hignett, Connor Cheek, George Sibley.

Scorer: Haywards Heath Town – Tom Cadman 35 mins.

Attendance: 135

Report by Tom Ellerby



Hythe Town 1 Ashford United 2

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 5th March 2022

The Cannons got off to a good start and within the first few seconds of the match, a Jack Mayhew ball into the box following a run down the right hand side was deflected away for a corner kick by the Ashford backline. However, on 14 minutes, it was the visitors who almost went in front through Luke Burden, whose diving header was saved by a leaping Henry Newcombe, with the rebound bouncing off Burden's head and away from the danger zone. Four minutes later, Jacob Gilbert came close to scoring a superb solo goal, skipping past a sliding Ashford defender and attempting to round the keeper. However, Niemczycki was able to grab the ball from his feet.

It was the away side who broke the deadlock on 21 minutes after Ollie Gray's foul gave Ashford a free kick inside the D. Ex-Cannon Frannie Collin stepped up and slotted past Newcombe for 1-0. The visitors doubled their lead on 37 minutes, as Tashi-Jay Kwayie's cross was headed home by Luke Burden. Just before the break, the Cannons had the chance to pull one back, as the Ashford keeper fumbled with the ball, allowing Tyler Sterling to skew a shot away from goal. Sterling did have another chance to score, releasing a long range shot which dipped over the crossbar.

The second half began very evenly, and Ashford had the first major chance which came from Tashi-Jay Kwayie, who received a cross from Frannie Collin and headed the ball on the top of the crossbar. Hythe made two substitutions to try and turn the game around, bringing Riley Alford and Jordan Sarfo into the action. On 72 minutes, new signing Ollie Gray had the chance to pull a goal back, heading Luca Woodhouse's cross at the goalkeeper. Ashford had the chance to seal the points two minutes later through Collin, who forced Henry Newcombe into a spectacular save to his bottom right, with the rebound being fired wide.

With just nine minutes remaining of the match, Hythe got themselves back into the game when Jack Mayhew's ball into the penalty area was nodded against the inside of the upright by Riley Alford and the ball trickled over the line to put Hythe in a much better position. However, the Cannons were unable to produce any more chances, unlike Ashford, who forced Henry Newcombe to make a superb double save to keep the score at 2-1.

The full time whistle blew, and overall, the result was not too disappointing for Cannons fans, and the team can go away with the knowledge that they put up a good fight against a strong Ashford side. They will return to Reachfields next Saturday as they entertain Haywards Heath Town at 3pm.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Jack Mayhew, Nico Cotton, James Rogers, Liam Smith, Ollie Gray, Luca Woodhouse, Alex Brown (George Sibley 87 mins), Tom Walmsley (Riley Alford 62 mins), Jacob Gilbert, Tyler Sterling (Jordan Sarfo 69 mins). Unused Subs: Connor Cheek, Tom Wynter.

Scorers: Hythe Town - Riley Alford 81 mins. Ashford United - Frannie Collin 21 mins, Luke Burdon 37 mins.

Attendance: 446

Report by Tom Ellerby



Burgess Hill Town 3 Hythe Town 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 26th February 2022

The Cannons three game unbeaten run came to an end as they went down 3-0 at Burgess Hill Town on a sunny still Saturday afternoon.

There were limited opportunities in the first half with the first coming for Hythe on seven minutes as Jordan Sarfo came in from the right, but his angle was too tight, and he shot into the side netting. The rest of the early pressure came from the Hillians without really producing any clear-cut chances. On seventeen minutes Tyler Sterling unleashed a shot that sailed just over the cross bar.

However, finally Burgess Hill got the break through as with their first opportunity they took the lead on 26 minutes as a cross from Martyn Box eventually found its way to the far post where veteran midfielder Lewis Taylor swept the ball home. Luca Woodhouse then had an effort to bring the scores level, but he drove straight at Burgess Hill keeper Will Huffer who smothered the ball. The majority of the pressure still came from the hosts, but the Hythe defence remained firm as firstly a cross from Lewis Finney found Hayden Skerry whose attempt was blocked and then a volley from Josh Spinks flew over the bar.

Five minutes from the break and the Cannons had a chance to get back in the game as George Crimmen lifted the ball over the cross bar from a Tyler Sterling shot and then at the other end a cross from Tom Chalaye found Spinks but the away defence again did well to block his effort.

On the balance of play the hosts edged the half and just about deserved their lead.

The second half started slowly with Hythe looking like the more likely as a Woodhouse attempt flew just over and then Sterling played in Woodhouse who this time sent his effort wide. On 69 minutes the Cannons should have been level as Woodhouse played in substitute Riley Alford who was left with just Huffer to beat but the striker sent his shot wide. Woodhouse was in the action again as he rattled the ball against the top of the cross bar.

Then on 78 minutes, out of nothing, Taylor produced a sublime over head kick that sailed over Hythe keeper Henry Newcombe into the top of the net to extend the Hillians lead. Hythe did create another chance as a Sterling free kick found Woodhouse who fired wide. However the second goal had knocked the wind out of the visitors sails as Skerry blasted wide and then two minutes into injury time Skerry got onto the ball as they Hythe defence failed to clear. He finished neatly to make it 3-0 and seal all three points.

The final score flattered the hosts and with better finishing the Cannons could have been more competitive and the gap narrower between the teams. Hythe retain their place in 14th as only Sevenoaks Town below them gained a single point. Hythe have a tough local derby next Saturday (5th March 2022) when they entertain Ashford United in the league.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Liam Smith (Jack Mayhew 84 mins), Nico Cotton, James Rogers, Scott Doe, George Crimmen, Jordan Sarfo (Riley Alford 60 mins), Jacob Gilbert, Tom Walmsley, Luca Woodhouse, Tyler Sterling. Unused Subs: Sam Hignett, Connor Cheek, George Sibley

Scorers: Burgess Hill Town - Lewis Taylor 26 & 78 mins, Hayden Skerry 90 mins.

Attendance: 335



Hythe Town 2 Chichester City 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 19th February 2022

Hythe beat Chichester 2-1 on a stormy Saturday afternoon at Reachfields. James Rogers made three changes from the 3-3 draw at Three Bridges, as Tom Walmsley, Jacob Gilbert and Connor Cheek replaced Jordan Sarfo, Scott Doe and Alex Brown.

A large chunk of the action happened before the game even started, as fans entered the stadium wondering whether the game would still be going ahead. However, by 2:55, the players walked out of the tunnel, confirming that the game would go ahead, at least for the time being. Hythe made the most of the conditions by opening the scoring after just six minutes, as Luca Woodhouse made a simple run into the penalty area, slotting the ball into the goalkeeper's top right hand corner to give the Cannons an early lead. It was almost two after 17 minutes, as Riley Alford's cross was blown towards goal by the wind, however the keeper managed to catch it and avoid embarrassment. Tyler Sterling had an effort from a free kick halfway through the second half, which he fired just over the crossbar.

Unfortunately, Chi drew level halfway through the first period as Josh Clack skipped past Connor Cheek's sliding tackle, running into the box and slotting past the onrushing Henry Newcombe. They almost took the lead with seven minutes left of the half through Ethan Prichard, who found his way through, but the wind blew the ball over the line for a Hythe goal kick. Tyler Sterling had yet another chance for a goal from a free kick on the stroke of half time, and again, it went over the crossbar.

The half time break was certainly an entertaining one, as fans speculated as to whether the referee would allow the game to resume. However, he seemed to allow the players to decide if the game would go ahead, and so the players walked out of the tunnel to continue the match. Chichester had the bulk of the early chances, with Josh Clack having two of them. He pulled the first one wide of the post as a result of the wind, before sliding it under the legs of Henry Newcombe, who won the ball to prevent any danger.

Ethan Prichard fired a shot wide with 15 minutes remaining of the match, and by this point, the rain had stopped and the wind had calmed down, meaning the only problem was the pitch. Hythe fans held their breath for a moment as Jamie Horncastle fired the ball past Henry Newcombe, however the linesman signalled for offside. None of this mattered in the end, as it was the Cannons who took the three points through Jack Mayhew, who was making his return from a spell out injured. The young substitute hammered the ball home to send the fans wild, running over to the substitutes to celebrate.

The full time whistle blew a few minutes later, and the Cannons breathed a sigh of relief as they moved up to 13th in the table, seven points clear of the relegation zone. Hythe will look to make it back-to-back wins next weekend as they travel to Burgess Hill on Saturday at 3pm.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Liam Smith, Nico Cotton, James Rogers, George Crimmen, Connor Cheek, Riley Alford (Jordan Sarfo 55 mins), Jacob Gilbert (Jack Mayhew 79 mins), Tom Walmsley, Luca Woodhouse, Tyler Sterling. Sub Unused George Sibley, Sam Hignett.

Scorers: Hythe Town - Luca Woodhouse 6 mins, Jack Mayhew 88 mins. Chichester City - Josh Clack 23 mins.

Attendance:152



Three Bridges 3 Hythe Town 3

Pitching In Isthmian South-East

Saturday 12th February 2022

The Cannons came away with a well-earned point from Three Bridges and could have taken all three as they took the lead late in the game in a thrilling 3-3 draw on Saturday afternoon.

Hythe included new signing Nico Cotton, who started at left back replacing George Sibley who was on the bench and Riley Alford was in the starting line-up.

Three Bridges started the brighter and had their first opportunity on five minutes as Cameron Lawson blasted a shot from the left high over the bar and then on ten minutes they were ahead as a Charlie Lambert cross was swept home by Brannon O'Neill. However, Hythe weren't behind very long as two minutes later Tyler Sterling broke through and poked the ball past the advancing home keeper, Mitchell Bromage to bring the scores level. The game was going from end to end as the next effort came from the visitors as Alex Brown created space, but his final attempt went over the bar.

Lambert was in again on 20 minutes, but Hythe keeper Henry Newcombe spread his body well to block and then a long-range effort from Curtis Guylar sailed high over the bar. At the other end Jordan Sarfo had a shot blocked and the rebound was just out of the reach of Riley Alford. It was Three Bridges who then took the lead on 31 minutes as Lambert had a shot blocked by the Hythe defence, but the ball fell for Dan Perry who finished, nicely planting the ball in the bottom corner of the net.

Three Bridges started the second period on the front foot with Perry blasting over the bar, but the Cannons were starting to look more dangerous as Liam Smith sent a shot across the face of the goal. On 56 minutes Bridges' Perry broke free but Newcombe was quick off his line to prevent a goal. A couple of opportunities fell to Hythe as they upped their game with Alex Brown having a shot pushed away by Bromage and a Luca Woodhouse cross from the right found Alford who couldn't get enough on the ball to threaten. Sterling continued to create and his next shot stung Bromage's hands. Finally, the away pressure brought dividends on 71 minutes as the Cannons drew level. A free kick was played into the area ending with an overhead kick from George Crimmen from close range that found its way into the net.

At this stage of the game, it could have gone either way as a shot from Perry was pushed away by Newcombe. Crimmen had an effort cleared off the line and then on 84 minutes Sterling produced a something out of nothing. He spotted Bromage off his line and skilfully looped the ball from distance over the keeper's head dipping just under the cross bar and into the Three Bridges net to give the Cannons the lead. However right on 90 minutes Three Bridges got the equaliser as substitute Ben Bacon forced the ball over the line after a melee in the Hythe penalty area and both sides had to settle for a point each.

It was a good point against an in form Three Bridges side as the Cannons remain 16th place as they face Chichester City next Saturday in a league fixture at Reachfields. Kick off is 3pm.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Liam Smith, Nico Cotton, James Rogers, Scott Doe, George Crimmen, Tyler Sterling, Alex Brown (Jacob Gilbert 78 mins), Riley Alford, Luca Woodhouse (Tom Walmsley 69 mins), Jordan Sarfo (Connor Cheek 87 mins) Sub Unused: George Sibley.

Scorers: Three Bridges - Brannon O'Neill 10 mins, Dan Perry 31 mins, Ben Bacon 90 mins. Hythe Town – Tyler Sterling 12 & 84 mins, George Crimmen 71 mins.

Attendance: 90



Hythe Town 2 Whitehawk 2

Pitching In Isthmian South-East

Tuesday 8th February 2022

Hythe produced a dramatic fightback on Tuesday evening as they stole a point from Whitehawk. James Rogers made three changes from the defeat to Hastings, as George Crimmen, Jordan Sarfo and Tyler Sterling all returned to the starting eleven.

The game began brightly, with the first chance going to Hythe defender Scott Doe, who turned and shot towards goal, with the it being spilled by the keeper and cleared off the line by a defender. Whitehawk had their first chance shortly after, and it came from James Fraser, who had two shots punched away by goalkeeper Henry Newcombe. On 12 minutes, it was almost 1-0 to Hythe as Alex Brown's shot was caught by the keeper before any damage could be done. Another opportunity went Whitehawk's way a minute later, once again it went to James Fraser who received a ball from Javaun Splatt, side-footing it wide. Luca Woodhouse had yet another chance to break the deadlock, hitting a scorching drive just wide of the post.

It was eventually the Hawks who took the lead as an unfortunate error from the Hythe defence proved to be costly. James Fraser hit a weak shot from outside the box, which defender George Crimmen left for the keeper to collect, however Newcombe had positioned himself badly, and failed to catch the ball, which rolled past him to give the Hawks the lead. Fortunately, Tyler Sterling helped Hythe draw level, surging past the defence and firing the ball in from a tight angle. However, the Hawks scored a second just before the half-hour mark, as a ball into the box was tapped past Newcombe by James Fraser for his second, after more poor defending from the Cannons. A minute later, a shot from Ollie Munt went just past Newcombe's post. A free kick from Luca Woodhouse was touched wide by Alex Brown with a few minutes before half-time, and right before the whistle, Tyler Sterling unleashed a long-range effort, but it fail to hit the target and wasn't enough to go in level.

The second half started rather scrappily, with Harry Reed landing a hard challenge on Luca Woodhouse, rightly receiving a yellow card from referee Nick Dunn. On the hour mark, it was almost 2-2 from a Tyler Sterling free kick which ricocheted off the crossbar. With just 14 minutes remaining, Scott Doe's headed cross was bundled towards goal by Liam Smith, however, the keeper caught the ball right on the line. It seemed like the equaliser was on its way, and things became even more possible when Harry Reed received a second yellow after clipping Woodhouse once again. This put Hythe in an excellent position. All three substitutes were made, and it seemed as though Hythe had a pitch full of strikers (in reality, they had five). Whitehawk almost sealed their lead with six minutes to go, as Mo Kamara fired across the face of goal.

Eventually the referee signalled that there would be five minutes of added time. To nobody's surprise, Whitehawk wasted much of that time, and the referee had no choice but to add more on. Luckily, Hythe made the most of this, and in the sixth minute of injury time, the Whitehawk keeper went too far off his line, allowing substitute Riley Alford to lob the ball over him, much to the excitement and relief of the watching Hythe supporters.

The result gave Hythe a well-deserved point against a relegation rival, as Hythe sat in 16th at the time of writing. The Cannons return to action on Saturday as they travel to Three Bridges, with the match kicking off at 3PM.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Liam Smith, George Sibley (Tom Walmsley 63 mins), James Rogers, Scott Doe, George Crimmen, Luca Woodhouse, Alex Brown, Jordan Sarfo, Jacob Gilbert (Riley Alford 76 mins), Tyler Sterling (Jack Nelson 84 mins). Unused Subs: Sam Hignett, Connor Cheek

Scorers: Hythe Town - Tyler Sterling 25 mins, Riley Alford 90 mins. Whitehawk - James Fraser 17 & 26 mins.

Attendance: 147



Hastings United 3 Hythe Town 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 5th February 2022

Hastings United proved their position at the top of the table is well deserved as they easily beat the Cannons 3-0 at Pilot Field on Saturday afternoon in front of a bumper crowd of 1102.

The game marked the six hundredth appearance for ex-Cannon Sam Adams for Hastings United who played to the script as he struck two of the Hastings goals. The Cannons started the game without the injured Jack Mayhew and with George Crimmen sitting on the bench not quite ready for a start due a calf strain suffered at Horsham last Tuesday.

The hosts began the game on the front foot and should have been ahead in the first minute as Ben Pope pounced on an error from Connor Cheek and found himself one on one with Hythe keeper Henry Newcombe, but his lob bounced and ran the wrong side of the upright. Another effort on four minutes saw Tom Chalmers neatly work his way into a shooting position forcing a great save from Newcombe. Newcombe was to save again from Pope before Hastings finally took the lead on eleven minutes as Pope this time got the ball over to Adams who blasted home to make it 1-0.

Hastings continued to dominate as their attacks came in waves. A cross from Pope found James Hull who spooned the ball over the bar and then Pope was in the action again as his mishit shot fell into the path of Adams whose attempt was easily saved by Newcombe. The Cannons had to wait until 29 minutes for their first threat as Liam Smith played in free kick that found Riley Alford who got under his header and the ball looped high over the bar and then a similar kick again found Alford who this time headed wide. Hythe had Scott Doe to thank as he cleared the ball off the line from Hull and then Chalmers shot straight at Newcombe.

Then came the games most controversial moment on 40 minutes as Pope appeared to continue to run straight at Newcombe who already had the ball in his hands. The home striker went down as he ran into the keeper. The referee went over to his assistant, and they had a conversation that appeared to last an age before he turned and pointed to the spot to protests of the Cannons with many thinking the infringement was the other way round. Up stepped Adams who sent Newcombe the wrong way to make it two nil and get his second of the game. There was one more opportunity for the hosts before the break as an Adams header was well held by Newcombe.

The second half was less frantic with the hosts edging the possession but there more chances for Hythe to get back in the game. On 55 minutes Luca Woodhouse sailed a long-range effort high over the bar and then after 62 minutes Hastings sealed the game as a Hull cross found Jack Dixon who tapped home to make it 3-0. The hosts eased off and allowed a couple of opportunities for the visitors as Tom Walmsley pulled the ball back from the by-line to Jordan Sarfo who couldn't get any power on the ball and Hastings keeper Louis Rogers saved easily and then Tyler Sterling crashed a shot wide against the advertising boards.

Chances were coming for the Cannons as Sarfo delivered the ball to Sterling who lifted the ball over the bar, but Hythe could not get the consolation and it was Hastings had the final effort as ex-Hythe favourite Kenny Pogue shot from the left forcing Newcombe to push the ball away. Less than a minute additional time was added on by the referee at the end of the game and the

Cannons will need to regroup for Tuesday night's vital game at Reachfields against Whitehawk. Kick-off is 7:45pm

Team: Henry Newcombe, Liam Smith, George Sibley, James Rogers, Scott Doe, Connor Cheek, Riley Alford (Jordan Sarfo 59 mins), Alex Brown, Tom Walmsley (Jack Nelson 72 mins), Jacob Gilbert, Luca Woodhouse (Tyler Sterling 59 mins) Sub Unused: George Crimmen

Scorers: Hastings United – Sam Adams 11 & 40 (pen) mins, Jack Dixon 62 mins.

Attendance: 1102



Horsham 3 Hythe Town 1

Velocity Trophy 3rd Round

Tuesday 1st February 2022

It really was the game of two halves as the Cannons were knocked out of the Velocity Trophy at Premier Division Horsham on Tuesday evening as they went down 3-1.

From the kick-off it was Horsham who were on the front foot, and they went ahead with their very first meaningful attempt on goal on four minutes as a cross from Tom Richards found Shamir Fenelon at the far post who planted the ball into the back of the Hythe net. Attacks came in waves as the host piled the pressure on the Cannons defence. They had to defend a number of corners and were struggling to get the ball away. Unfortunately, the Cannons had two early injuries that upset plans as both George Crimmen and Jack Mayhew limped out of the action to be replaced by Riley Alford and James Rogers.

On 21 minutes a long-range effort from Tom Kavanagh sailed over the cross bar. Despite the constant pressure Horsham were struggling to turn their dominance into goals. The Cannons

did have their first effort of the half on 28 minutes as the ever-busy Tyler Sterling blasted a shot that stung the hands of Horsham keeper Sam Howes. However, this was a brief respite for the Hythe defence as a shot from Kavanagh was easily held by Hythe debutant keeper, Sam Hignett.

Horsham finally on 37 minutes turned their dominance into a goal as Charlie Harris sent in a free kick the found Fenelon who blasted home to make it 2-0. The home onslaught continued as a Lucas Rodrigues cross was headed wide by Will Miles and then Eddie Dsane had a shot smothered well by Hignett. The young keeper then did really well to save from Kavanagh. Hignett had a couple more saves to make before the break as he twice denied Miles. The visitors were relieved to hear the half time whistle having had to substitute Jack Nelson due to illness and probably relieved to only have conceded twice.

Despite an early second half effort from the hosts as Harris fired a shot straight at Hignett, the pattern of the game changed as finally the Cannons came into the game as Sterling cut in from the left and rifled a shot just the wrong side of the upright and then Luca Woodhouse struck an effort over the bar. Tom Walmsley then pounced on a loose ball but his attempt was blocked as was Alford's follow up effort.

At the other end Horsham were unlucky not to increase their lead as a cheeky back heeled flick by Miles hit the upright but despite this Hythe were now coming back into the game as a fine goal by Sterling on 61 minutes narrowed the gap. He unleashed a shot that was drilled into the bottom corner of the net giving Howes no chance. It was now Hythe who looked more likely as they searched for the equaliser. Sterling had a similar opportunity to his goal, but the ball sailed over and then on 64 minutes Walmsley broke through one on one with Howes but made it too easy for the keeper to save.

Horsham were getting a few chances to put the game to bed and Dsane had an attempt deflected for a corner and then Fenelon pulled a shot wide. Hythe were still on the look out to get the vital levelling goal as Alford whipped in a cross that was headed over by Sterling. However, the final blow came two minutes from time as the Premier Division side buried the game as Rodrigues scrambled home their third goal from a cross from Richards to make it 3-1.

All in all, it had been a good performance from the Cannons against higher level opposition but this year's Velocity Trophy venture was over as they now look forward to the difficult league trip to Hastings United on Saturday afternoon. The game kicks off at 3pm.

Team: Sam Hignett, Connor Cheek, Jack Mayhew (James Rogers 18 mins), Jacob Gilbert, Scott Doe, George Crimmen (Riley Alford 13 mins), George Sibley, Liam Smith, Jack Nelson (Tom Walmsley 43 mins) , Tyler Sterling, Luca Woodhouse. Sub Unused: Henry Newcombe

Scorers: Horsham - Shamir Fenelon 4 & 37 mins, Lucas Rodrigues 88 mins . Hythe Town - Tyler Sterling 61 mins.

Attendance: 261



Hythe Town 2 Faversham Town 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 29th January 2022

Hythe beat relegation rivals Faversham 2-1 on Saturday in an end-to-end local derby. The Cannons made two changes, with Henry Newcombe and George Crimmen returning to the side.

The Cannons had the first significant chance of the match on 11 minutes, as Jordan Sarfo headed across the face of goal, with the rebound going to Alex Brown, whose shot was saved by the keeper who got down to his right. Two minutes later, Sarfo had another chance, lifting the ball over the crossbar. It was almost Faversham who took the lead after half an hour, as Harry Harding bundled the ball past Henry Newcombe in goal, with Emmanuel Oluwasemo poking it in from an offside position, giving Hythe a goal-kick and keeping them in the match.

The second period had a much brighter start. A ball forward from the Hythe defence found Tom Walmsley who gave the ball to Riley Alford, who slotted past the keeper to give Hythe the lead. Only six minutes later, it was 2-0, and this time it was Sarfo playing the pass to Alford who tapped it in for his second. Unfortunately for the Cannons, Faversham pulled a goal back with just eight minutes to go, as a ball in was bundled over the line by Marcus Elliott, putting the Hythe fans in a very nervous state. A flurry of yellow cards from the referee followed this, as nine yellow cards were shown over the course of the match, with five of those going to Hythe players.

Fortunately, after five minutes of added time, the full-time whistle blew, giving Hythe their second victory in a row and propelling them three places up the table into 15th. The Cannons return to action on Tuesday as they travel to Horsham in the Velocity Trophy. Kick off will be 7:45pm.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Liam Smith, Jack Mayhew (George Sibley 67 mins), James Rogers, George Crimmen, Connor Cheek, Jacob Gilbert, Alex Brown, Tom Walmsley (Tyler Sterling 59 mins), Riley Alford (Luca Woodhouse 59 mins), Jordan Sarfo. Unused Subs Jack Nelson, Sam Hignett.

Scorers: Hythe Town - Riley Alford 52 & 58 mins. Faversham Town – Marcus Elliott 82 mins.

Attendance: 270

Report by Tom Ellerby



Ramsgate 1 Hythe Town 1

Kent Senior Cup 2nd Round

(Hythe won 5-4 on pens)

Tuesday 25th January 2022

For the second time in the Kent Senior Cup this season, the Cannons were reduced to ten men but still came out victorious in the penalty shoot out as they dumped out Ramsgate in the second round on Tuesday evening at the Southwood Stadium.

The Cannons made five changes as amongst others new signing Shannon Harris replaced the suspended keeper Henry Newcombe in goal, Scott Doe replaced George Crimmen and Alex Brown came in for the injured Charlie Webster

The first half was an even affair with chances coming at both ends. It was Ramsgate who were the first to show as after five minutes Tijan Jadama fired a shot from long range wide of the target and then on a quarter of an hour Tom Walmsley had Hythe's first effort as he skyed his attempt over the bar. Scott Doe was the next in the action as he also cleared the cross bar. At the other end Jadama has another effort that he spooned over. On the half hour Walmsley put in a dangerous cross that was headed over by Riley Alford. The last action of the half saw a chance for Ramsgate as a cross from the left was headed down by Josh Ajayi but it was too close to Harris who saved easily.

The Second Period started with drama as with the very first attack on 46 minutes the hosts were ahead as a cross from Ajayi found former Cannon Ashley Miller who finished neatly. However, within a minute Hythe were level as Liam Smith played in Alford whose audacious flick went past Ramsgate keeper Jacob Russell and into the Rams net.

Both sides battled to look to gain the advantage, but chances were limited. On 61 minutes Sterling fed the ball to Jack Nelson on the left but his right foot stab went straight into the arms of Russell. With 15 minutes to go the Cannons were reduced to ten men as Connor Cheek brought down a Ramsgate player as they pressed in on goal. Hythe dug in and in fact had the best chance to seal the game as with ten minutes to go Sterling worked his way along the edge of the penalty area before unleashing a shot that was deflected over the bar for a corner. In the closing two minutes Jadama did have an effort that sailed over for the Rams.

We were then left with the drama of a penalty shootout. The first two spot kicks for each side were buried in the back of the net with Smith and Sterling successful for Hythe. Jake McIntyre sent the Rams third high over the bar and Jack Nelson planted his to give the Cannons the advantage. The next three kicks found the net with Hythe player manager James Rogers getting his and it was left to the cool Jack Mayhew to make no mistake in send Hythe through to the 3rd Round to the delight of the travelling supporters.

The Cannons will now await the draw for the next round to find out their opponents, but this result will give them confidence as they are back in league action on Saturday as they entertain Faversham Town. Kick off at Reachfields is 3pm.

Team: Shannon Harris, Liam Smith, Jack Mayhew, James Rogers, Connor Cheek, Scott Doe, Jacob Gilbert, Alex Brown (George Sibley 68 mins), Jordan Sarfo (Tyler Sterling 46 mins), Tom Walmsley (Jack Nelson 58 mins), Riley Alford. Sub Unused: George Crimmen

Scorers: Ramsgate - Ashley Miller 46 mins. Hythe Town - Riley Alford 47 mins

Attendance: 371



Sittingbourne 2 Hythe Town 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 22nd January 2022

The Cannons can count themselves a little unlucky in a game they dominated but went down 2-1 partly down to an excellent home goalkeeping performance by Harry Brooks.

Hythe made three changes from the previous game against Cray Valley PM as Connor Cheek replaced the suspended Scott Doe, Jordan Sarfo came in for the unavailable Luca Woodhouse and Jack Mayhew returned to take over from George Sibley.

The first half started slowly with the Cannons having the bulk of the early chances as after eight minutes Tyler Sterling sent in a long-range effort that went wide of the goal and then Charlie Webster sailed an effort high over the crossbar. Sittingbourne had to wait until the 28th minute before they created their first opportunity as a shot from the right from Taylor Fisher forced Hythe keeper Henry Newcombe to block and then immediately former Cannon Alex Flisher pulled an attempt wide.

Sterling had a second long range effort which this time was smothered well by Brooks. Then came a mad five minutes that cost Hythe the match as firstly on 41 minutes Harry Stannard picked up the ball and smashed it past Newcombe and into the back of the net. Then on the stroke of half time they got a second as this time Stannard turned provider looping in a cross that found Taylor Fisher who made no mistake to give the Brickies a two goal half time lead.

The second half seemed to take place in the Sittingbourne half as Hythe looked to get back into the game. On 62 minutes Jordan Sarfo had a shot from well outside the area that drifted wide. The visitors had strong appeals for a penalty turned down as Tom Walmsley appeared to be brought down. The resultant corner ended in a melee in the Sittingbourne penalty area with the ball pinging around like a pinball machine with it being cleared away.

This was the period that Brooks came into his own as he stretched to save from Jack Mayhew and then collected the ball easily from a Webster strike. Mayhew was then denied by Brooks for a second time as the left back shot from the left. It wasn't until the 87th minute that Sittingbourne threatened as Tyler Christian-Law forced a save from Newcombe. Then came the worst moment of the afternoon as Webster had to be carried off with what appeared to be a nasty injury after being fouled on the edge of the area. As Hythe had made all their substitutions, they were left with only ten men. However, Alex Brown did give the Cannons some consolation as he curled the resultant free kick into the top corner giving Brooks no chance seven minutes into injury time. It was sadly too little too late for Hythe who sink into the bottom three.

The Cannons have a break from league action on Tuesday night as they travel to Ramsgate on Tuesday evening for a Kent Senior Cup 2nd Round tie. Please note kick off is at 7:30pm and admission is free.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Liam Smith, Jack Mayhew, James Rogers, Connor Cheek, George Crimmen, Tyler Sterling (Riley Alford 45 mins), Charlie Webster, Jack Nelson (Alex Brown 57 mins), Jacob Gilbert (Tom Walmsley 57 mins), Jordan Sarfo. Unused Sub: George Sibley

Scorers: Sittingbourne - Harry Stannard 42 mins, Taylor Fisher 45 mins. Hythe Town - Alex Brown 90 mins

Attendance: 257



Hythe Town 2 Cray Valley PM 4

Pitching In Isthmian League South East

Saturday 15th January 2021

A spirited Hythe side were defeated by a strong Cray Valley team on Saturday afternoon. James Rogers made just two changes from the 5-1 victory over South Park, with George Sibley replacing Jack Mayhew who picked up an injury shortly before kick-off, and Scott Doe coming in for Tom Wynter who was also out for the match.

The Millers started the game on the front foot and took the lead after just three minutes, as Denzel Gayle made a run into the box and fired the ball home. Scott Doe tried to push it clear, but despite taking a deflection, the ball still found the net. Fortunately, it took Hythe just a minute to respond, with Jack Nelson squaring the ball to Tyler Sterling who poked the ball in past the keeper. After 19 minutes, the Millers retook the lead through Marcel Barrington who ran past keeper Henry Newcombe and slammed it in. They almost scored their third ten minutes later, as Matthew A-Warren's shot was punched away by Newcombe. On 37 minutes, Hythe came back once again to level the scores through Jacob Gilbert, who turned and nestled a shot just under the crossbar from outside the box, much to the delight of the supporters.

The two teams went into the changing rooms level at half time, and Hythe almost took the lead on 47 minutes with Jack Nelson's run and shot from outside the box, however the ball sailed over the crossbar. A minute later the Millers almost regained the advantage in a goalmouth scramble, which Henry Newcombe dealt with by palming the ball away, allowing the Cannons defence to clear it.

In the 65th minute, Cray made it 3-2 with a highly controversial goal from Francis Babalola, who made a run through the Hythe defence, beating Scott Doe in the process, and hammering the ball home. The majority of the Hythe players and supporters believed there was a foul in the build-up, and they all surrounded the referee. However, his mind was made up and defender Scott Doe was sent off for his protests. Ten minutes later, Cray almost got their fourth, as Ali Tumkaya's shot deflected off the crossbar. They hit the woodwork once again through Denzel Gayle, whose shot hit the post, with his rebound being blocked by the defence. Unfortunately, there was one more goal left in the game, and it went Cray's way, as Francis Babalola backheeled the ball to Marcel Barrington who slotted the ball past Newcombe for a brace.

Despite the result, there were positives to be taken from the match for Hythe and James Rogers. The Cannons are back in action away at Sittingbourne next Saturday at 3pm.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Liam Smith, George Sibley, James Rogers, George Crimmen, Scott Doe, Luca Woodhouse (Riley Alford 72 mins), Charlie Webster, Jack Nelson (Jordan Sarfo 64 mins), Jacob Gilbert, Tyler Sterling. Sub Unused: Tom Walmsley

Scorers: Hythe Town - Tyler Sterling 4 mins, Jacob Gilbert 37 mins. Cray Valley PM - Denzel Gayle 3 mins , Marcel Barrington 19 mins & 88 mins, Francis Babalola 65 mins.

Attendance: 221

Report by Tom Ellerby



Hythe Town 5 South Park 1

Velocity Trophy 2nd Round

Tuesday 11th January 2022

Hythe won their first match since November on Tuesday night as they hammered South Park 5-1. The visitors had made several changes from their last match, with the Cannons also making four alterations from their last match against Sevenoaks. George Crimmen and Tom Wynter made their injury comebacks, with Jacob Gilbert and Jack Nelson also coming into the side. George Sibley and Riley Alford were dropped to the bench, whilst Scott Doe and Jordan Sarfo were unavailable for the match.

Within the first few minutes of the match, Tom Wynter went down inside the Hythe box, suggesting that his return to the team had come a little too soon. He went off injured and was replaced by George Sibley. It was the Cannons who created the opening chance of the game, which came through Tyler Sterling, whose shot from a one-on-one position was saved by South Park keeper Ryan Coltress. However, it was the Sparks who opened the scoring on 18 minutes, as Adam Aziz's ball into the box was swept in by Ben Jordan. It took Hythe just nine minutes to

respond, with Jacob Gilbert hammering the ball home to equalise for the Cannons. Gilbert had two more chances within the next few minutes, as he squared the ball to Luca Woodhouse who shot at the goalkeeper. He also received a good ball from Jack Mayhew but fired just over the crossbar. With just ten minutes of the first half remaining, Hythe took the lead on the counterattack, with Jack Nelson running forward and shooting at the keeper, before tapping the rebound in. Luca Woodhouse managed to score Hythe's third before half time, as a weak shot from him was spilled by the keeper into his own net.

The second half started just as brightly as the first half had ended, with Liam Smith having a shot at the near post cleared off the line. It took Hythe two minutes to score their first goal at home in the second half since September when a ball into the box was side footed in by Jack Nelson for a brace. He was later replaced by Riley Alford, who created a chance on 83 minutes for captain Charlie Webster to score the fifth, however his shot went just over the bar. Alford had another opportunity, with his shot palmed away by the keeper, before he did eventually put the Cannons 5-1 up, side footing in a cross from Woodhouse to put the icing on the cake for James Rogers's side.

It was only Hythe's third home win of the season but was a first at Reachfields for caretaker manager James Rogers. Hythe will look to keep the momentum going on Saturday as they entertain Cray Valley at 3pm.

Report to follow

Team: Henry Newcombe, Liam Smith, Jack Mayhew (Connor Cheek 75 mins), James Rogers, Tom Wynter (George Sibley 9 mins), George Crimmen, Tyler Sterling, Charlie Webster, Jack Nelson (Riley Alford 63 mins), Jacob Gilbert, Luca Woodhouse.

Scorers: Hythe Town - Jacob Gilbert 27 mins, Jack Nelson 39 & 47 mins, Luca Woodhouse 43 mins, Riley Alford 90 mins.

Attendance: 115

Report by Tom Ellerby



Sevenoaks Town 3 Hythe Town 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South East

Monday 3rd January 2022

It was a case of “what could have been” at Sevenoaks Town on Monday afternoon as Hythe Town’s bad run continued as they lost 3-1. The Cannons made one change as George Sibley came into the line up to replace the unwell Jarred Trespaderne.

The early exchanges were even with both sides fighting a midfield battle and it wasn’t until the 14th minute that the hosts created their first opportunity as Stephen Ikperne sent a long-range effort straight at Hythe keeper Henry Newcombe. Hythe followed four minutes later as Charlie Webster whipped in a dangerous cross that was only just out of the reach of Jordan Sarfo and Riley Alford. Kyle De Silva was next in the action for Sevenoaks as he sent a shot that didn’t test Newcombe and then at the other end Sarfo surged through but was easily denied by Sevenoaks keeper Daniel Colman.

The chances throughout the half were limited with both sides restricted to long-range efforts as Ikperne sent a shot high and wide of the target. Just before the break the Cannons created a couple of opportunities as Tyler Sterling sent in a corner that found Liam Smith who lifted the ball over the bar and then a Luca Woodhouse shot was palmed wide by Colman. Right on the stroke of half time Hythe had strong appeals for a penalty turned down as a Scott Doe effort crashed against a defender’s arm.

The second half could not have started better for the visitors as they were to take the lead on 46 minutes. James Rogers played the ball down the right channel which looked to be covered by Sevenoaks defender Steve Smith who slipped and Sarfo pounced on the loose ball. His first attempt was blocked by Freeman Rogers and Sarfo followed up to slam the ball into the far corner of the net. The lead only lasted five minutes as Louis Collins played in De Silva who cut in and then unleashed a left footed shot that flew into the top left hand side of the net to bring the scores level.

On 53 minutes a corner from the hosts found Smith who headed down and Newcombe was on hand to save and then Jason Fregene drove a swerving shot that went just wide. Chances were coming at both ends as Woodhouse side footed wide then De Silva forced a stretching save from Newcombe. Woodhouse was then in the action again as he rifled the ball just wide. On 71 minutes it was Sevenoaks who gained the advantage as they took the lead as Bobby Dunn sent in a deep cross that found Collins on the far post and he drilled his shot home.

The Cannons went on the look for an equaliser as Sterling had a shot palmed away and Liam Smith sent the rebound wide and then Woodhouse drove a shot over the bar. Sibley had a late effort from the left that was tipped over by Colman. With the game deep in injury time it was the hosts on the counterattack who supplied the killer blow as substitute Fjord Rogers sent the ball across Newcombe and into the net to make it 3-1.

It was a difficult afternoon for the Cannons who have now fallen to 15th place. They have a vital fixture on Saturday (8th January 2022) afternoon as they entertain Whitehawk in another vital league fixture. Kick off at Reachfields will be 3pm.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Jack Mayhew, George Sibley, James Rogers, Liam Smith, Scott Doe, Charlie Webster, Luca Woodhouse, Riley Alford (Jacob Gilbert 75 mins), Tyler Sterling (Jack Nelson 83 mins), Jordan Sarfo.

Scorers: Sevenoaks Town - Kyle De Silva 51 mins, Louis Collins 72 mins, Fjord Rogers 90 mins. Hythe Town - Jordan Sarfo 47 mins.

Attendance: 183



Hythe Town 1 Herne Bay 2

Pitching In Isthmian South-East

Saturday 1st January 2022

The Cannons can count themselves very unlucky not to come away with something as they were beaten 2-1 at home to Herne Bay on New Year's Day afternoon.

The Cannons included a new signing Luca Woodhouse as 17-year-old Tonbridge Angels academy player came into the team. However, they were without George Crimmen who had earlier tested positive for Covid and Kane Phillip who left Hythe on Saturday morning to join our visitors and he was on the their bench.

It was Herne Bay who were first to show as they had their first effort on two minutes with former Cannon Kieron Campbell firing across the face of goal and he threatened again as he shot straight over the bar. Another former Hythe favourite Zak Ansah was next in the action as he turned and shot forcing Hythe keeper Henry Newcombe to push the ball around the post. The early pressure paid dividends on 14 minutes as the ball was half cleared out to yet another ex-Cannon Laurence Harvey who slammed the ball home to give the Bay a deserved early lead.

Hythe did not let their heads drop and were nearly level with their first attack on 17 minutes as Tyler Sterling attempted to loop over the head of Bay keeper Jordan Perrin but the ball hit the inside of the upright. However, the Cannons were not to be denied and a minute later they were level as Woodhouse got an excellent debut goal and as he curled the ball into the corner of the net. The game was now balanced and both sides had opportunities to take the initiative. Rory

Smith flashed a shot from the right across the face of the Hythe goal and then at the other end Sterling crossed to Riley Alford who pulled his attempt just wide.

A cross from Campbell found Ansah close in but a combination of Newcombe and Jarred Trespaderne cleared the danger. However, on 36 minutes Herne Bay were to get the goal that proved to be the winner as Campbell broke into the penalty area and sent a swerving shot that beat Newcombe to his left to make it 2-1. The last action of the first half saw Sterling send in a free kick that went across the goalmouth and past the far post.

The second half started slowly with Hythe looking for the equaliser. Woodhouse was unlucky not to get his second as he worked his way into a scoring position before unleashing a rifled effort that cracked against the cross bar. There were limited chances as both sides worked hard to look for openings. Ansah had a shot blocked from close range and was then involved in a neat one-two with Campbell with the latter firing wide.

Herne Bay thought they had sealed the game on 77 minutes as a corner from Adem Ramaden found Aaron Millbank who headed home but the referee had blown for an infringement and the goal was disallowed. Hythe did have a chance to seal a point as Sterling played the ball into Scott Doe and Liam Smith who both were blocked.

It would be difficult to criticise Hythe Town as they put everything into the game and with a little bit more luck would have got at least a point in what was a much-improved home performance. Hythe, who moved down one place to 14th, are back in action on Bank Holiday Monday afternoon as they travel to Sevenoaks Town with the game kicking off at 3pm.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Jack Mayhew, Jarred Trespaderne (George Sibley 62 mins), James Rogers (Jacob Gilbert 76 mins), Liam Smith, Scott Doe, Charlie Webster, Luca Woodhouse, Riley Alford (Jack Nelson 66 mins), Tyler Sterling, Jordan Sarfo.

Scorers: Hythe Town - Luca Woodhouse 17 mins. Herne Bay – Laurence Harvey 14 mins, Keiron Campbell 36 mins.

Attendance: 356



Ramsgate 3 Hythe Town 3

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Monday 27th December 2021

For those Cannons who either chose or weren't able to travel to Ramsgate missed a "never say die" performance as they came from behind three times to gain a well-earned point in a 3-3 draw at Southwood on a damp Monday afternoon.

The early pressure came from the Rams and their first opportunity came on eight minutes as ex-Cannon Ashley Miller played the ball into Josh Ajayi who turned and shot forcing a save from Hythe keeper Henry Newcombe. Ajayi was denied again, this time by Liam Smith as the defender did well to block a shot. The visitors had to wait until the 19th minute for their first effort as a Tyler Sterling corner found Smith who headed just wide. On 21 minutes Ramsgate took the lead as Ollie Bate picked up the ball and calmly lobbed the ball over Newcombe's head and into the back of the Hythe net.

A couple of chances came in quick succession as the Rams looked for a second. A free-kick from 20 yards was deflected wide and from the resultant corner Ajayi curled a shot the wrong side of the upright. On 25 minutes a moment of Charlie Webster magic brought the scores level as the midfielder unleashed a shot that flew into the top of the net giving Ramsgate keeper Jacob Russell no chance.

Ramsgate were back in front on 34 minutes as the ever-dangerous Callum Peck found Ajayi who finished neatly. Peck was in the action again as he had a shot blocked by Newcombe and then had an effort that the keeper saved with Tijan Jadama sending the rebound wide. Hythe were to bring the scores level two minutes from half time. Kane Phillip had an attempt blocked with Jordan Sarfo on hand to follow up and score.

The second half started with the hosts on the front foot with Denzelle Olopade sending in a dipping shot that was parried away by Newcombe and then a far post header by Peck went wide. The chances in the second half were limited for both sides and Hythe had to wait until the 67th minute for their first threat as a Sterling cross was headed wide by Scott Doe. George Crimmen was to make an excellent interception as Ajayi broke through.

Hythe were still having their chances as Jack Mayhew jinked his way into the penalty area and unleashed a shot that brought the best out of Russell who saved well. On 75 minutes the Cannons gave away a penalty as Smith brought down Ajayi in the penalty area with the referee having no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Ajayi slammed the penalty into the net to restore the Rams lead. However, the Cannons never gave up and on 83 minutes they were yet again level as Sterling played in substitute Riley Alford who made no mistake in planting the ball in the Ramsgate net to gain the Cannons a much-deserved point as they held out well until the final whistle.

After some recent poor results, this was a hugely encouraging performance by the Cannons as they move up to 13th place in the table. They can look forward as they entertain high flying Herne Bay on New Years Day. Kick off is 3pm at Reachfields.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Jack Mayhew, Liam Smith, James Rogers, Scott Doe, George Crimmen, Charlie Webster, Tyler Sterling, Jordan Sarfo, Kane Phillip (Jack Nelson 81 mins), Jarred Trespaderne (Riley Alford 66 mins)

Scorers: Ramsgate - Oliver Bate, Joshua Ajayi 35 & 78 (pen) mins. Hythe Town – Charlie Webster 26 mins, Jordan Sarfo 44 mins, Riley Alford 83 mins.

Attendance: 622



Hythe Town 0 VCD Athletic 4

Pitching Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 18th December 2021

For the second game in a row, Hythe were defeated by four goals, losing 4-0 to VCD Athletic. The Cannons made three changes from their previous match, with Kane Phillip, George Sibley and manager James Rogers replacing Jarred Trespaderne, Jack Nelson and Tyler Sterling.

It was the home side who had the first major chance of the afternoon, as full-back George Sibley's long range shot forced goalkeeper Sam Mott to save to his right. The Vickers had their first opportunity just a minute later, as Youssef Bamba made a run into the box, leaving himself one-on-one with Henry Newcombe. However, he scooped the ball over the woodwork. George Sibley had another chance for Hythe, forcing a save from the keeper, with his rebound being cleared off the line by the defender, but VCD came forward on the break, as the ball ended up with Bamba, who rounded Newcombe and slotted it into the back of the net. On the stroke of half time, things got worse for the Cannons as a pinpoint cross into the box found Anthony Adesite in the six-yard box, whose bullet header went in for 2-0.

The second half started with another chance for the Vickers, with goalkeeper Newcombe producing a good save. A rather quiet period followed, but within half an hour, VCD scored their third through substitute Marcus Elliott, who turned and shot into the Hythe net. In second half injury time, as it seemed things couldn't get any worse, Elliott scored a brace, as he seized through on goal beating two Hythe defenders and putting the icing on the cake for the Vickers.

Hythe will look to end their three-match losing streak on the 27th December as they travel to Ramsgate.

Team: Henry Newcombe, George Sibley, Jack Mayhew, James Rogers (Morgan Williamson 73 mins), Liam Smith, George Crimmen, Charlie Webster, Jacob Gilbert (Jack Nelson 78 mins), Jordan Sarfo (Tyler Sterling 78 mins), Riley Alford, Kane Phillip.

Scorers: VCD Athletic – Youssef Bamba 25 mins, Anthony Adesite 42 mins, Marcus Elliott 82 & 90 mins.

Attendance: 153



Hythe Town 1 Burgess Hill Town 5

Pitching In Isthmian South-East

Tuesday 14th December 2021

Hythe went down to 5-1 to mid-table Burgess Hill on Tuesday night. James Rogers made two changes from the 2-1 defeat to Corinthian, with Alex Brown and George Sibley being replaced by Riley Alford and Jack Nelson.

It was the Cannons who had the better start, as on 20 minutes a ball in from in-form winger Jordan Sarfo was tapped into his own net by defender Josh Spinks. This advantage only lasted a matter of seconds, however, as striker Michael Uwezu was given far too much room in the box, as a cross came down to him. Despite being shorter than the Hythe defenders, the ball bounced off his head past Newcombe to level the scores. It took the Hillians nine minutes to score their second, as Uwezu scored his second, beating Newcombe in goal and tapping into an empty net. There was another one to come as Tom Chalaye got their third on 32 minutes. Hythe had a chance to pull one back when Sarfo made a run down the pitch on the counterattack, firing a decent shot just wide. However, it was almost four on the stroke of half-time when Chalaye forced a good save from Newcombe.

Ten minutes into the second half, Burgess Hill made matters worse for Hythe, when Hayden Skerry turned the ball in for yet another goal. Despite bringing Morgan Williamson and George Sibley onto the pitch, Hythe were unable to prevent a hammering, as with 15 minutes to go, Tom Chalaye won the ball off a Hythe defender and smashed the ball into the Hythe net to put the cherry on top of a strong Burgess Hill performance. Jack Nelson created two chances for Hythe following the fifth goal, firing both above and wide of the woodwork. Riley Alford also had a chance at the end of the match, turning and shooting, with his effort narrowly going over the bar.

There is a lot of work for the Cannons to do before their next match at home to VCD Athletic on Saturday. The match kicks off at 3pm at Reachfields.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Jack Mayhew, Jarred Trespaderne (George Sibley 45mins), Charlie Webster, Liam Smith, George Crimmen, Tyler Sterling, Jacob Gilbert (Morgan Williamson 64 mins), Riley Alford, Jack Nelson, Jordan Sarfo.

Scorers: Hythe Town – Josh Spinks (OG) 20 mins. Burgess Hill Town - Michael Uwezu 21 & 30 mins)

Tom Chalaye, 32 & 75 mins, Hayden Skerry 55 mins)

Attendance: 170

Report by Tom Ellerby



Corinthian 2 Hythe Town 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 11th December 2021

The Cannons conceded two late goals as they went down 2-1 on a damp afternoon away at Corinthian on Saturday.

It was Hythe who started the brighter as on four minutes a long range effort from Tyler Sterling sailed over the bar. Corinthian had their first effort on nine minutes as Louie Clarke shot straight at Hythe keeper Henry Newcombe. However, Hythe continued to look the more dangerous and were ahead on twelve minutes as a Sterling corner found Jordan Sarfo a yard out who rose to head the ball home with little resistance from the home defence. Newcombe was on hand to save from Clarke before Hythe were very unlucky not to extend their lead as Alex Brown had a shot blocked with the rebound falling to Jacob Gilbert's whose attempt was cleared off the line by Frankie Morgan.

On 22 minutes, at the other end Clarke, had another opportunity but headed wide of the upright when it looked easier to hit the target. The rest of the half saw both sides look for openings without too much success with the hosts having a chance on 43 minutes as Morgan scooped the ball over the Hythe bar.

The second half started with Corinthian hungrily looking for a way back into the game. Clarke had a shot that curled around the post and then a cross from Morgan looped over the bar. Harry Lashley forced a save from Newcombe who palmed the ball around the post. Newcombe had to be on hand again to save from former Cannon Kaka Dembele. The visitors were restricted to rare breakaways and the only significant effort of the half saw Liam Smith launch a free kick over the bar. However, Corinthian continued to create as both Ryan Sawyer and Conor Johnson missed the target as the hosts could not quite break through the Hythe defence.

The inevitable happened on 87 minutes as Corinthian were awarded a corner which Morgan sent into to be headed home by Dembele to bring the scores level. Five minutes into injury time the hosts were to get the winner as a similar corner was this time headed home by Jack Bath. It was perhaps tough on Hythe who had defended well with their backs against the wall but eventually the pressure told. The Cannons drop to 14th place in the table as they now prepare for their fixture at home to Burgess Hill Town on Tuesday evening. Kick off at Reachfields is 7:45pm.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Liam Smith, George Sibley (Jack Nelson 77 mins), Charlie Webster, George Crimmen, Jarred Trespaderne (Connor Cheek 90 mins), Jack Mayhew, Jacob Gilbert, Jordan Sarfo, Tyler Sterling (Riley Alford 60 mins), Alex Brown.

Scorers: Corinthian – Kaka Dembele 87 mins, Jack Bath 90+5 mins. Hythe Town – Jordan Sarfo 12 mins.

Attendance: 85



Hythe Town 1 Phoenix Sports 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 4th December 2021

It was a game of two halves as bottom of the table Phoenix Sports got a late equaliser to steal a point at Reachfields on Saturday afternoon.

Hythe started brightly and had their first chance in the first minute as Jack Mayhew played the ball into the path of Jacob Gilbert who drove his shot into the arms of Phoenix keeper Steve Phillips. The visitors had their first effort on ten minutes as Brian Moses turned on the edge of the penalty box but pulled his shot wide and then a cross from Steve Carvell saw Liam Smith clearing the ball over the bar under pressure. However, it was the Cannons who were looking the better side and they were ahead on 19 minutes as Jordan Sarfo picked up the ball on the right hand side and planted his shot superbly into the corner of the net giving Phillips no chance.

Sarfo nearly got his second as he pounced on some hesitancy in the Phoenix defence and stole the ball only for Phillips to block. A long-range effort from Guled Ahmed went straight at Hythe keeper Henry Newcombe and then a cross from Henry Douglas bounced on top of the crossbar.

The second period started with the Cannons on the front foot as a Sterling cross found Crimmen on the edge of the area. He rifled the ball towards goal, but the rasping shot was blocked. Newcombe was on hand to save Hythe as he blocked an effort with his legs from a shot from Byron Walker. Hythe were having their own chances as Phillips produced a double save from Mayhew and Tyler Sterling. As the half progressed it was the visitors who were getting stronger as Carvell had a shot deflected for a corner. The Cannons chances were now coming on the break as substitute Riley Alford pulled an effort wide.

On 74 minutes Phoenix were to be awarded a penalty as Newcombe brought down Walker in the penalty area. Walker was to take the penalty but was denied by a great save from Newcombe to retain the Hythe lead. Phoenix continued to press as Carvell pulled an attempt wide. Another breakaway saw Cannons substitute Jack Nelson sting the hands of Phillips with a shot. However, the pressure remained on the Hythe defence and finally Phoenix were rewarded on 89 minutes as Carvell crossed in for Emmanuel Shoderu to tap home to bring the scores level.

Eventually the Cannons had to settle for a point leaving them in eleventh place in the table as they now prepare for Tuesday night's Velocity Trophy fixture at home to South Park. Kick off is 7:45pm.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Liam Smith, George Sibley, Charlie Webster, Jarred Trespaderne, George Crimmen, Jack Mayhew, Jacob Gilbert, Jordan Sarfo (Riley Alford 62 mins), Tyler Sterling (Jack Nelson 84 mins), Alex Brown.

Scorers: Hythe Town – Jordan Sarfo 19 mins. Phoenix Sports - Emmanuel Shoderu 89 mins.

Attendance: 200



Hythe Town 1 Faversham Town 1

Hythe won 3-2 on penalties

Kent Senior Cup 1st Round

Tuesday 30th November 2021

What a great evening at Reachfields as a much changed Hythe Town team managed to win 3-2 on penalties at home to Faversham Town thanks to a magnificent performance by stand in goalkeeper Liam Smith on Tuesday evening.

New Interim Manager James Rogers brought in striker Riley Alford from ground sharing partners Ashford FC, George Sibley back from Lordswood and Jack Mayhew who has joined from Maidstone United. The rest of the squad was shuffled round to cover injuries to Tom Wynter and Tom Walmsley.

The patched up Cannons were first out of the blocks as Alford had a shot after only two minutes pulling the ball just wide. Faversham had their first attack on six minutes as Eddie Allsopp crossed into Matt Bourne whose header went straight into the arms of Hythe keeper Henry Newcombe. Early exchanges were open with both sides creating opportunities. Emmanuel Oluwasemo shot straight at Newcombe and then ex-Cannon Sam Bewick lifted an effort high

over the Hythe bar. At other end a neat interchange on the edge of the Faversham penalty area ended with Jordan Sarfo pulling his attempt wide of the target.

The Cannons took the lead on 23 minutes as Alford picked up the ball on the left hand side and lifted his effort neatly over Faversham keeper Patrick Ohman and into the far corner of the net. On 31 minutes Hythe had Newcombe to thank as he palmed the ball around the upright to retain the lead.

Soon after Hythe's Mayhew turned and shot with the ball coming off the body of Ohman and over the bar and then as the game closed in on half time Sarfo, who had tormented the Faversham defence, unleashed a shot from long range that forced Ohman to tip over.

The second half started with Hythe on the attack as Jacob Gilbert drove his effort into the arms of Ohman and then Charlie Webster did the same thing. Then came the moment that could have changed the pattern of the game completely as on 55 minutes Newcombe brought down a Faversham player who was adjudged to have been in on goal. The referee, after consultation with his assistant, reached for his red card and the Cannons were down to ten men. Defender, Liam Smith took the gloves to take his place in goal.

Hythe were now under the cosh as Faversham looked for away to get the elusive equaliser. Allsopp had two chances as he firstly hooked the ball over the bar and then slammed a shot against the underside of the bar with Smith beaten. In between Sarfo ran onto a pinpoint through ball from Tyler Sterling and struck his shot into the side netting. The pressure was rewarded when Faversham got the equaliser as Oluwasemo slammed the ball past Smith and into the net. At this stage of the game you could only see one result but the Cannons dug deep and defended for their lives. However, there was the occasional breakaway as Webster laid the ball off to Sterling who forced Ohman to save.

Faversham continued to press and Clark Woodcock forced a fantastic tip over by Smith. They were unlucky on 77 minutes as Lewis Chambers rattled the cross-bar. The rear-guard action continued with Smith again saving this time from Chambers. Hythe did have a late break that could have won the game as Sarfo broke through only to be dispossessed with appeals for a penalty turned down. It had been a remarkable performance for the Cannons to hold on.

Then came the drama of penalties. Up stepped "goalkeeper" Smith to slam the ball home. However, Hythe missed the next three to put Faversham well ahead until Sarfo fired kick five home and then Faversham missed theirs to take it into sudden-death. Faversham missed four on the trot to keep things level until Gilbert calmly stepped up to slam his penalty home. Faversham missed their next penalty and Hythe were through to the second round in a remarkable game.

Hythe now await who they will meet in the Second Round but can look forward with confidence to the next league game on Saturday at home to Phoenix Sports. Kick off is 3pm.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Liam Smith, George Sibley, Charlie Webster (Alex Brown 90 mins), Jarred Trespaderne, George Crimmen, Jack Mayhew, Jacob Gilbert, Riley Alford, Tyler Sterling, Jordan Sarfo

Scorers: Hythe Town – Riley Alford 23 mins. Faversham Town - Emmanuel Oluwasemo 66 mins.

Attendance: 124



Lancing 0 Hythe Town 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South

Saturday 27th November 2021

Last week it looked likely that Jordan Sarfo would leave for Canterbury City, but he was persuaded to stay and rewarded the Cannons with a neatly taken late goal to secure all three points in a 1-0 win at Lancing on Saturday.

The conditions were horrendous with a sweeping gale blowing across the pitch impacting on the quality of the football but both sides buckled down to make the best of it. The early exchanges were fairly even as both sides tried to adjust to the conditions with the first chances coming for the hosts. On five minutes a dangerous cross from Conrad Honore was caught by the wind and ended in the arms of Hythe keeper, Henry Newcombe. This was followed two minutes later when a cross from Ismaila Daillo found Finn Daniels-Yeomans who hooked the ball over the bar.

Hythe had their first opportunity on ten minutes as Tyler Sterling sent in a free kick across the face of goal but there was no one on hand to convert and then he fired a shot high over the bar.

Newcombe was then to make two excellent saves that kept the scores level. Firstly, a cross from Diaollo found James Rhodes forcing the keeper to save to his right and then he tipped over from a dipping shot from Harrison Parker. Hythe had to make a substitution on 29 minutes as Tom Walmsley left the field due to what appears to be a nasty knee injury and was replaced by Sarfo who was unlucky not to give the Cannons the lead after 32 minutes as he was played in by Alex Brown with his attempt to slide the ball past Lancing keeper Alieu Secka with the ball slamming against the post. As the game moved towards half time there was one more chance for the hosts as Matt Daniel broke in but Newcombe was on hand to scramble the ball away with Jarred Trespaderne making a timely challenge to prevent Daniel following through.

The second half started with Hythe on the front foot as both Nathan Gordon and Sarfo in quick succession having chances with the ball finally being cleared away. As the half progressed, Lancing were increasing the pressure with a rasping shot from Daniels-Yeomans stinging the hands of Newcombe as he saved well and then a threatening deep cross from Joe Rye was just out of the reach of Daniel. However, the game went into the last fifteen minutes it was Hythe who began to take the initiative as Alex Flisher forced a save from Secka and then Sarfo tried to lob the keeper but it didn't quite have the height and Secka was able to collect.

With six minutes to go Sarfo got the goal that was to give the Cannons the win as he picked up the ball and placed his shot neatly in the corner of the net to the joy of those who had travelled from Hythe. It was an excellent team performance in very difficult conditions in which everyone played their part in the win that takes Hythe into tenth place in the table. This victory should put the team in good spirits for the Kent Senior Cup tie at home to Faversham Town on Tuesday evening. Kick off at Reachfields is 7:45pm.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Liam Smith, Nathan Gordon, Charlie Webster, Tom Wynter (Bradley Schafer 55 mins), George Crimmen, Tyler Sterling (Alex Flisher 72 mins), Jacob Gilbert, Tom Walmsley (Jordan Sarfo 28 mins), Alex Brown, Jarred Trespaderne.

Scorer: Hythe Town – Jordan Sarfo 84 mins.

Attendance: 95

The Club Directors present at Lancing today would like to pass on their congratulations to today's team who ground out a good result in almost impossible conditions. To those who have left or are leaving the club, Good Luck in the future and thanks for your time at Hythe Town. To

the many players staying on, you are part of the next chapter under James and Tom and you will receive the full support of the board and the fans.



Hythe Town 0 Whitstable Town 3

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 20th November 2021

Hythe Town, now without Steve Watt in charge, were heavily defeated 3-0 by Whitstable Town on a dark, rainy Saturday afternoon.

Hythe lined up with four new players since their last home game. Goalkeeper Henry Newcombe, defender George Crimmen, midfielder Bradley Schafer and forward Andrew Sesay all started the match, with attacker Tyler Sterling on the bench.

Hythe had the first chance of the match, as an early shot from Charlie Webster stung the palms of Dan Eason. Whitstable very nearly took the lead on 11 minutes, when a shot was saved by Henry Newcombe, who spilled the ball to Tom Carlton. However, he blazed his shot wide of the post.

Six minutes later, Victor Aiyebola was subbed off for Whitstable after receiving a yellow card and a final warning from the referee. He was replaced by Luke Illsley, who turned out to be a game changer, as he slotted home just one minute after coming on following a ball in from Danny Walder. Just before half time, the Oystermen had a chance to go two goals up, as Tom Carlton's shot was saved again by Newcombe in the Hythe goal.

It didn't take long for them to gain that advantage however, as Alex Gaggin tapped in to make matters even worse for the Cannons. Caretaker manager Nathan Elder tried making substitutions to turn the game around, but nothing worked. In fact, Whitstable could've scored

another just one minute after their second, as Kemo Darboe's shot was palmed away by Newcombe.

New signing Bradley Schafer did have a chance to pull one back on 71 minutes, but his shot went into the side netting. With just five minutes remaining, ex-Hythe man Danny Walder sealed the three points for Whitstable, firing past Newcombe who could arguably have done better. Despite this, Newcombe played quite well in goal for us.

The Cannons will be hoping to bounce back next Saturday away at Lancing, with the match kicking off at 3pm.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Liam Smith, Charlie Webster, Bradley Schafer, Tom Wynter, George Crimmen, Darren Oldaker, Alex Brown (Tyler Sterling 45 mins), Andrew Sesay, Frannie Collin (Kane Phillip 64 mins), Jarred Trespaderne (Tom Walmsley 58 mins).

Scorers: Whitstable Town – Luke Illsey 18 mins, Alex Gaggin 57 mins, Danny Walder 85 mins.

Attendance: 304

Report by Tom Ellerby



Haywards Heath Town 0 Hythe Town 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 13th November 2021

A resilient Cannons came away from high flying Haywards Heath with a well-deserved 1-0 win Saturday afternoon.

Hythe had two enforced changes as both Darren Oldaker and Alex Brown were serving one match bans and James Rogers was still injured. Tyler Sterling was also on the substitutes bench. In came Jarred Trespaderne, Tom Walmsley, and new signings George Crimmen and Andrew Sesay.

The visitors started brightly and had their first attack as early as two minutes with Frannie Collin sweeping a free kick into the penalty area and several players had attempts but they were all blocked. Haywards Heath had their first opportunity on a quarter of an hour as Kieran Rowe had a shot deflected over the bar.

The Cannons took the lead on 23 minutes as Charlie Webster picked up the ball and forced his way in to round the Heath keeper Billy Collings who got his hand to the ball. However, Webster didn't give up and got the ball back and calmly get into a goal scoring position and then placed his shot into the back of the net. The rest of the half saw few chances as both sides battled in midfield. The hosts did have one opportunity as Hamish Robinson blasted over the bar.

The second half started with the Hythe defence having their backs against the wall as Heath piled forward looking for an equaliser but to their credit the Cannons stood firm with both Tom Wynter and Crimmen resolute at the centre of the back four. This rear-guard action prevented the hosts creating too many opportunities and when they got through Hythe keeper, Henry Newcombe was on hand to save. Luke Robinson found himself free heading towards goal but his final effort was well saved by Newcombe. Josh Click probably should have done better for Heath when he headed wide at the far post.

Haywards Heath were reduced to ten men on 73 minutes as Tom Cadman took a dive in the penalty only to receive a second yellow card for simulation.

Hythe were still creating chances on the break as Webster fired a shot that was easily saved by Collings. Hythe continued to demonstrate a resilience at the back that was missing in previous games against the promotion challengers. Rowe had a long-range effort that went over the Hythe bar and then at the other end Liam Smith sent in a shot from the right that was pushed away by Collings.

There was one more fright a minute into injury time for Hythe as ex-Cannon Jerson Dos Santos found space to shoot but his attempt rattled of the top of crossbar and away for a goal kick. The

last action of the game saw the Cannons also reduced to ten men as Nathan Gordon was shown a second yellow card for wasting time. But on the bright side the Cannons had come through a test against a very physical side refusing to be bullied and to hold onto a well-earned three points.

This was a really encouraging win for the Cannons as they moved up to 11th place in the table. They return to Reachfields next Saturday (20th November 2021) as they entertain Whitstable Town in another league fixture with a 3pm kick off.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Liam Smith, Nathan Gordon, Bradley Schafer (Jacob Gilbert 76 mins), Tom Wynter, George Crimmen, Charlie Webster, Jarred Trespaderne (Kane Phillip 60 mins), Tom Walmsley (Alex Flisher 82 mins), Frannie Collin, Andrew Sesay.

Scorer: Hythe Town - Charlie Webster 25 mins

Attendance: 375



Ashford United 4 Hythe Town 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 6th November 2021

Hythe collapsed again in the second half to go down 4-0 away at promotion chasing Ashford United on Saturday afternoon.

The early stages of the game saw neither team able to take the initiative and it became a battle in midfield with the first opportunity coming for Ashford on eleven minutes as a cross from Rhyle Ovenden was headed over by Daniel Hull. The Cannons had their first effort on a quarter of an hour as Darren Oldaker drove the ball wide of the target. The deadlock was broken by Ashford on 19 minutes as a cross found Josh Wisson heading the back to find Hull who nodded home giving Hythe keeper Henry Newcombe no chance.

Ashford were now on the front foot as Tashi Kwayi rifled a shot that was deflected wide for a corner. On 27 minutes the visitors could count themselves unlucky not to get back into the game as an Oldaker corner found Frannie Collin at the near post. His shot rebounded off the Ashford defence back to Scott Doe and his effort was deflected wide. Hot on the heels of that move Bradley Schafer had a shot that sailed into the arms of Ashford keeper Tyler McCarthy. However, the initiative was regained by Ashford before the break as firstly Ovenden picked up the ball on the edge of the penalty only to drill his shot wide and then a cross from Bradley Simms was headed just wide by Roberto Ratti. On the stroke of half time some desperate defending in the Hythe penalty area, as a melee gave the hosts a number of chances, prevented any more damage and the ball was finally cleared away.

The shape of the game in the early part of the second half saw Hythe pressing hard for an equaliser as Alex Brown played the ball into the path of Collin but the Hythe striker just couldn't get to the ball to divert it towards goal and then Schafer attempted a shot that went high over the bar. However, Ashford, on the break, managed to extend their lead as Wisson slammed the ball past Newcombe. This seemed to knock the stuffing out of Hythe who were three behind on 65 minutes as former Cannon Jay May headed back from a corner across the goal mouth to find Mamadou Diallo who redirected the ball into the net.

The salt was rubbed in the Hythe wounds on 88 minutes as substitute Johan Ter Horst sent the ball home to make it 4-0. There was one last chance for Hythe to get a consolation as Collin played in Jarred Trespaderne, but his attempt was blasted over. It was a bad afternoon for the visiting supporters who saw their side move down to twelfth in the table. Next week the Cannons are on the road again as they travel to high flying Haywards Heath Town in another league fixture. Kick off is 3pm.

Team: Henry Newcombe, Liam Smith, Nathan Gordon, Darren Oldaker, Tom Wynter. Scott Doe, Charlie Webster, Alex Brown (Jordan Sarfo 60 mins), Tyler Sterling (Tom Walmsley 60 mins), Frannie Collin, Bradley Schafer (Jarred Trespaderne 76 mins).

Scorers: Ashford United - Daniel Hull 19 mins, Josh Wisson 59 mins, Mamadou Diallo 65 mins,

Johan Ter Horst 88 mins

Attendance: 410



Faversham Town 1 Hythe Town 2

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Tuesday 2nd November 2021

The Cannons came away with a deserved 2-1 win at Faversham Town on a chilly Tuesday evening.

With new signings Bradley Schafer and goalkeeper Henry Newcombe starting and Tyler Sterling on the bench, it was Hythe who started the brighter as on five minutes a cross from Nathan Gordon was headed towards goal by Charlie Webster, but the ball was blocked. Faversham had their first opportunity on eight minutes as Mobalaji Dawodu scooped the ball over the bar. At the other end Liam Smith pulled the ball back to Schafer who also got underneath his shot and it sailed over. A long-range effort from ex-Cannon Sam Bewick followed but with the same result as the ball flew over the bar.

As the half-progressed Hythe began to take control of the game and they were unlucky as a rifled shot from Darren Oldaker slammed against the upright and then he delivered a free kick that was met by the head of Scott Doe, but the ball was easily collected by Faversham keeper Luke Watkins. The pressure brought the reward on 38 minutes as Liam Smith picked up the ball on the right-hand side and drilled his shot against the inside of the post. It deflected across the face of the goal and into the far corner of the net to give the Cannons a half-time lead.

Hythe were to extend their lead six minutes into the second half as Webster surged down the right delivering into Alex Brown who took his time to find the opening to skilfully place his effort

past Watkins into the net to make it 2-0. Hythe continued to control the play as the half progressed without creating many opportunities. As the game moved towards the last twenty minutes it was the hosts who began to press as they looked for a way back into the game as twice Eddie Allsopp sent shots over the bar.

Substitute Sterling then sent a shot over the Faversham bar, but it was the Lilywhites who were still looking for a way back into the game and they were rewarded on 86 minutes as the ball came over and Dawodu hooked it past Newcombe to narrow the gap. The pressure continued with a chance falling to Allsopp on the stroke of full time, but his attempt was easily collected by Newcombe. The Cannons held on and took away all three points which will give them confidence as they go into Saturday's game at Ashford United. Kick off is 3:00pm at Homelands.

Team Henry Newcombe, Liam Smith, Nathan Gordon, James Rogers (Jacob Gilbert 70 mins), Tom Wynter (Tyler Sterling 79 mins), Scott Doe, Charlie Webster, Darren Oldaker, Bradley Schafer, Frannie Collin, Alex Brown (Kane Phillip 64 mins).

Scorers: Faversham Town - Mobalaji Dawodu 86 mins. Hythe Town – Liam Smith 38 mins, Alex Brown 51 mins.

Attendance: 211



Cray Valley PM 4 Hythe Town 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Tuesday 26th October 2021

Another disappointing Tuesday evening as Hythe were hammered 4-0 at Cray Valley PM on Tuesday evening.

The early exchanges saw some pressure from the hosts, but the first meaningful chance came at the other end as on eight minutes a Darren Oldaker free kick from the left hand side went dangerously across the face of goal but nobody could get on the end of it to direct the ball towards goal. It was the hosts, however, who were looking the more likely as after ten minutes Nathan Green sent in a cross that found Denzel Gayle who was in an offside position. Another attack from Cray saw Gayle beat a number of defenders down the by-line eventually finding Marcel Barrington whose shot was well blocked by James Rogers.

As Cray continued to pile on the pressure, they took the lead on 22 minutes as Barrington cut inside and delivered the ball to Gayle who swept the ball home to make it 1-0. It could have been worse for the visitors as Rory Hill fired home from close range with the assistant referee flagging for offside. Green, who was controversially only given a yellow card after a reckless challenge on Rogers, then drove a dipping shot that Hythe keeper parried and the ball was cleared away. Ex-Cannon Jack Sammoutis then came into the action as he shot over the bar from 25 yards out and then Godmon tipped over from a Barrington effort. The Cannons did have a chance on the stroke of half time as Liam Smith played in Alex Brown who shot wide.

With only three minutes of the second half completed Connor Diamond pounced on a loose ball after Smith failed to clear. He surged forward playing the ball into Sammoutis who sent the ball into the net to increase the host's lead. Hythe may be able to count themselves unlucky for Cray's third goal on 56 minutes as the referee's assistant indicated a Hythe substitution. The Hythe team paused for the change, but the referee allowed a play to continue with a throw as Matthew Warren broke forward with his ball hitting the arm of Rogers in the penalty area. Up stepped Green who sent Godmon the wrong way to make it 3-0.

On the hour Cray rubbed the salt in to the Hythe wounds as they got their fourth. Barrington, who had been a thorn in the Cannons' side all evening, surged through the Hythe defence to place his shot under Godmon and into the net. A rare chance came for Hythe on 69 minutes as a Rogers cross found Kane Phillip who blasted over and then Rory Hill had an effort that was clawed away by Godmon. It could have been five as Barrington broke through again laying the ball off to Sammoutis but the final attempt was blocked.

It was a very poor night for Hythe who now have a weekend off due to their opponents being in FA Trophy action this Saturday so their next outing will be at Faversham Town next Tuesday 2nd November 2021 with a 7:45pm kick off.

Team: Will Godmon, Charlie Webster, Nathan Gordon, James Rogers, Tom Wynter, Liam Smith, Alex Brown (Noel Leighton 57 mins), Darren Oldaker, Kane Phillip, Frannie Collin (Jarred Trespaderne 77 mins), Jacob Gilbert (Jordan Sarfo 57 mins).

Scorers: Cray Valley PM - Denzel Gayle 23 mins, Jack Sammoutis 49 mins, Nathan Green 56 mins pen, Marcel Barrington 61 mins

Attendance: 98



Chichester City 1 Hythe Town 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 23rd October 2021

A late Jacob Gilbert strike gave the Cannons a point in a game that they could have taken all three as they drew 1-1 down at Chichester City on Saturday afternoon.

Hythe started with three changes from the defeat at home to Hastings on Tuesday night as James Rogers and Noel Leighton started on the bench and Tom Wynter was ruled out with an injury. Coming in was Kane Phillip, Jacob Gilbert and Frannie Collin. It was Cannons who dominated the first quarter of an hour as they were encamped in the Chichester half creating a chance on seven minutes as a Kane Phillip cross was whipped in finding Gilbert who slammed his effort against the upright.

However, it was the hosts who took the lead on 18 minutes as Ethan Pritchard picked up the ball 20 yards out and placed his shot in the top corner of the net. A minute later Hythe could have been level as Tom Walmsley played in Frannie Collin whose shot was blocked by the shin of a defender. Hythe keeper Will Godmon had to be at his best to tip over an effort from Lloyd Rowlett and then Callum Overton drove in a shot which he easily held. There was one more

chance before the break for Chichester as a cross from Rowlatt was met by the head of Emmett Dunn who put his effort wide of the target.

The early part of the second half saw few chances as both sides worked hard to create openings without too much success. As the half progressed it was Hythe who turned the screw looking for the equaliser and they had a series of corners as they pressed. The Cannons had an opportunity on 84 minutes as Collin laid the ball off to Leighton who fired straight at Chichester keeper Kieran Magee. At the other end Overton had the opportunity to seal the game but could only fire into the arms of Godmon when he should perhaps have done better.

Then with two minutes of normal time left Hythe were awarded yet another corner on the right. Oldaker sent in an in-swinging kick which the home defence cleared. But the ball only went out as far as Gilbert who was 25 yards out. The young midfielder rifled home with a net bursting shot to give the Cannons a deserved equaliser. The visitors continued to press looking for the winner but had to settle for the draw.

The Cannons will now move onto their next away game as they travel to Cray Valley PM on Tuesday 26th October 2021 with a kick-off 7:45pm.

Team: Will Godmon, Charlie Webster, Nathan Gordon, Darren Oldaker, Liam Smith, Scott Doe, Kane Phillip (James Rogers 59 mins), Alex Brown (Noel Leighton 59 mins), Tom Walmsley (Jordan Sarfo 74 mins), Frannie Collin, Jacob Gilbert.

Scorers: Chichester City – Ethan Pritchard 18 mins. Hythe Town – Jacob Gilbert 88 mins.

Attendance: 178



Hythe Town 0 Hastings United 3

Pitching In Isthmian League South East

Tuesday 19th October 2021

On Tuesday night, Hythe were defeated 3-0 by Hastings United.

Steve Watt was unavailable for the match as he was having an operation, so assistant Nathan Elder took charge, and he made one change from the 2-2 draw against Three Bridges, with Kane Phillip replacing the injured Liam Smith.

Hythe had the best of the chances throughout the first half. After just six minutes, Kane Phillip put a ball into Alex Brown, whose shot was too weak to trouble Louis Rogers in the Hastings goal. The Cannons almost went ahead on 28 minutes, when Tom Walmsley hit a rasping shot just past the post. At the end of the half, however, the game changed, when the referee gave a controversial penalty to Hastings for what he saw as a push in the Hythe box. After a lengthy discussion with his assistant, the referee stuck by his decision, and booked keeper Will Godmon for his protests. Sam Hasler was the man to take the penalty, and he slotted past Godmon, who dived the wrong way to his left.

Hastings were on the front foot in the second half, almost strengthening their advantage on 54 minutes, when Dave Martin's shot was knocked away by Godmon for a corner. On 62 minutes, ex-Hythe striker Kenny Pogue missed a sitter when he headed over the far post. Hythe also had a chance for a header when Tom Wynter headed past the post from a corner after Charlie Webster's shot was deflected out of play.

Unfortunately, Hythe's defensive woes continued, as James Rogers lost possession in Hythe's half, giving the ball to former Cannon Sam Adams, who made a run into the box and fired past Godmon. Things got even worse on 79 minutes when Pogue chipped the ball over Godmon to seal the win for the U's. There was nearly a fourth in second-half injury time, when Hasler fired across the face of goal.

A disappointing result for Hythe, but an encouraging first-half display. We return on Saturday 23rd away at Chichester City. Kick-off is at 3PM. Report to follow

Team: Will Godmon, Charlie Webster, Nathan Gordon, James Rogers, Tom Wynter (Jarred Trespaderne 86 mins), Scott Doe, Kane Phillip, Darren Oldaker, Noel Leighton (Frannie Collin 75 mins), Alex Brown, Tom Walmsley (Jordan Sarfo 67 mins)

Scorers: Hastings United - Sam Hasler 45 mins (pen), Sam Adams 78 mins, Kenny Pogue 79 mins.

Attendance: 225

Report by Tom Ellerby



Hythe Town 2 Three Bridges 2

Pitching Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 16th October 2021

Two lapses in concentration in the Hythe defence saw the Cannons throw away two points in a 2-2 draw against Three Bridges at Reachfields on Saturday afternoon.

The first opportunity came for the visitors on four minutes as Hythe keeper Will Godmon was on hand to save and the rebound by Ben Bacon was sent over the bar. A minute later the hosts had their first attempt as Darren Oldaker played the ball out to Liam Smith who had his shot blocked by Three Bridges keeper Dan Smith. Hythe were now taking control of the game as Tom Walmsley had a shot blocked with James Rogers following up sending his effort into the arms of Dan Smith. Hythe pressure was rewarded in the 17th minute when they opened the scoring. Alex Brown skilfully laid the ball into the path of Charlie Webster who surged into the area and placed his shot wide of Dan Smith into the back of the net.

The pressure continued as Oldaker sent in a free kick which found the head of Noel Leighton whose attempt crashed against the cross bar. At the other a rare Bridges attack saw a long-

range effort from Lee Hall went straight at Godmon who collected the ball easily. On 33 minutes the Cannons extended their lead as an Oldaker corner found Scott Doe rising above the away defence to slam his header into the back of net to give the central defender his second goal of the season. .

The Cannons continued to have the initiative in the early stages of the second period. Oldaker was unlucky not to get a third for Hythe as firstly a melee in the Bridges penalty area ended with the midfielder pushing the ball wide and then he sent a rasping shot which was blocked.

On 61 minutes the direction of the game changed as a free kick was awarded on the touchline. Curtis Gayler sent the ball deep into the penalty area finding Dan Perry who ran in to head home to narrow the margin. The Hythe defence was left wanting again in the 69th minute as a corner from the experienced Brannon O'Neill found its way to Ryan Brackpool who slammed a header in at the far post to bring the scores level.

The game was on a knife-edge and at this stage could have gone either way with chances coming at either end. Gayler sent a free kick from the left flank just over the bar for Bridges and at the other Oldaker delivered a corner that found Leighton whose header went just the wrong side of the upright. Hythe substitute Kane Phillip was unlucky to see an effort pushed against the post by the keeper. Bridges still threatened as a deep corner from Dan Ferreria was headed wide by Cameron Lawson. However, neither side could get the goal that would have settled the game and both teams had to settle for a draw.

Hythe will have a real test in their next fixture as they take on Hastings United here at Reachfields on Tuesday evening in another league fixture with the kick off at 7:45pm.

Team: Will Godmon, Liam Smith, Nathan Gordon, James Rogers, Tom Wynter, Scott Doe, Charlie Webster, Darren Oldaker, Noel Leighton, Alex Brown (Frannie Collin 64 mins), Tom Walmsley (Kane Phillip 72 mins).

Scorers: Hythe Town – Charlie Webster 17 mins, Scott Doe 33 mins. Three Bridges – Dan Perry 61 mins, Ryan Brackpool 74 mins.

Attendance 202



Welwyn Garden City 3 Hythe Town 3

Welwyn Garden City won 4-1 on pens

Buildbase FA Trophy 1st Qualifying Round

Saturday 25th September 2021

By Martin Whybrow

For the second time this season, we secured a 3.3 cup draw with the final touch of the game. Both were headers. Whereas the now sadly departed Eli Benoit was the contributor against Westfield, this time it was Liam Smith. Unfortunately, our joy was short-lived as we immediately went down the other end for penalties and lost 4.1.

Welwyn Garden City was the second garden city in the country, built to “exemplify physical, social and cultural ideals”. Unfortunately, the football club’s Utilita Stadium missed out on any of those attributes. It also didn’t seem to be particularly close to the city itself, located next to a golf course. And they struggle to attract supporters, with just 111 in attendance today.

They play at the same level as us, in the Southern League Division One Central. We couldn’t have started much better, with Tom Walmsley sweeping home a deep cross to give us the lead after only two minutes.

However, this season’s curse of the direct free-kick hit us again a few minutes later. A wide, low drive from Jordan Watson somehow eluded everyone for a soft equaliser.

We had a good spell after this and were rewarded when Kane Phillip headed home a deep Darren Oldaker free-kick just after the half-hour. An Oldaker shot then probably endangered some golfers but another brought a full length save from Charlie Crowley.

Half-time allowed us to take in this new venue a bit more. It has a small seated stand, no fewer than four aerial masts, and a small tea hut, with one offering being the rather unspecific “meat and chips”.

By the break, James Rogers in particular had made some new friends among the home supporters. It is always best, I think, not to bite when riled but that’s probably easier to type than it is to do.

There weren’t too many chances for the first 15 minutes or so after the restart but the referee had already brandished several yellow cards our way and now gave another soft free-kick in a fairly central position just outside the box. We feared the worst from the sidelines and, indeed, a fine strike by Dave Keenleyside flew into the top corner.

Other chances remained at a premium until the last few minutes when Welwyn grabbed the advantage with two minutes to go, a close range strike by Watson, from a low hard cross by Carl Mensah.

We pumped in a number of long balls in stoppage time and had a couple of chances before Liam, once more playing centre-back, headed that last gasp equaliser.

But sadly, having gone out of the FA Cup last week, our FA Trophy campaign came to an end with two penalty saves by Crowley.

So it was back on our rather luxurious coach – formerly Liverpool’s, now Charlton Athletic’s. Sue Giles, sitting in the same seat as on the way up, asked if she’d now be travelling forward. It is easy to get confused between a coach and a train after a long day.

We dodged the congestion caused by queues at petrol stations and, with several drop-offs of our geographically widely spread players, we rolled into Hythe at about 9pm. Just the one fish and chip shop had burnt down while we’d been away.

Team: Will Godmon, Charlie Webster, Nathan Gordon, James Rogers, Scott Doe, Liam Smith, Kane Phillip (Jordan Sarfo 75 mins), Darren Oldaker, Noel Leighton, Alex Brown (Jacob Gilbert 81 mins), Tom Walmsley (Jarred Trespaderne 90 mins).

Scorers: Welwyn Garden City – Jordan Watson 9 mins, Dave Keenlyside 60 mins, Jordan Watson 88 mins. Hythe Town – Tom Walmsley 3 mins, Kane Phillip 34 mins, Liam Smith 90 mins.

Attendance: 111



Dartford 5 Hythe Town 1

Emirates FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round

Saturday 18th September 2021

Statistically, it was the hardest draw we could have been given – away to the team top of National League South. And, in the end, so it proved, as we suffered a heavy defeat to opponents two levels above us.

Dartford's impressive Prince's Park Stadium is imposing but those of us with long associations with Hythe Town remember fondly our only previous visit, a 1-0 win over Dartford, a remarkable rear guard display, in the final of the Kent Senior Cup back in 2012.

Alas, it took the current Darts only three minutes to achieve what their earlier counterparts failed to do in 90. Latecomers – much of Kent was gridlocked due to accidents and roadworks – missed the header at the far post by Ade Azeez, in too much space and found by a deep cross.

Frannie Collin limped off with a groin injury on 20 minutes but, soon after, we were level. Darren Oldaker continued where he'd left off from Tuesday night's impressive display against

Sittingbourne, at the heart of most of our best moves. He went on a surging run, leaving a couple of Dartford players in his wake, then played in Alex Brown to slot home.

In fact, we then came close to taking the lead, when a 20-yard volley by Liam Smith was tipped over. Oldaker later in the first half brought another sharp save from Craig King, this time from a free-kick.

However, by then we were once more behind, in rather unfortunate fashion, a shot from Dart's best player on the afternoon, Danny Leonard, striking Tom Wynter's arm, with Azeez scoring the resultant penalty.

It was 3-1 before half-time as we were hit on the break, Leonard shooting home from a tight angle at the end of a break-neck move.

Having regrouped, our somewhat makeshift back-four kept Dartford at bay for half an hour but we didn't really threaten at the other end either. Their fourth once again had an element of bad luck from our perspective, a cross hitting Eli Benoit and flying into the net.

The final blow was Azeez's hat-trick, with a minute of normal time to go, putting away a cross from an unmarked position in the box.

So, our FA Cup run ended at the third hurdle. Dartford have good support (816 today), lots of backing and fine facilities. "Built by a Conservative Council" as an advertising board pronounces; reassuringly, this is now aluminum as players, presumably of a different political persuasion, used to enjoy making holes in it by firing shots at it.

Team: Will Godmon, Liam Smith, Jarred Trespaderne, James Rogers, Eli Benoit, Tom Wynter, (Jordan Sarfo 69mins), Charlie Webster, Darren Oldaker, Noel Leighton, Frannie Collin (Kane Phillip 21 mins) (Tom Walmsley 77 mins), Alex Brown.

Scorers: Dartford - Ade Azeez 3, 29 (pen), 89 mins, Danny Leonard 34 mins, Eli Benoit 89 mins. Hythe Town - Alex Brown 21 mins.

Attendance: 816

By Martin Whybrow



Hythe Town 2 Sittingbourne 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Tuesday 14th September 2021

Hythe won their third match in a row on Tuesday night with a 2-1 victory over local rivals Sittingbourne. The Cannons had three centre-backs unavailable for the match, with Eli Benoit and full-back Liam Smith lining up at the back.

Understandably, Hythe focused very much on the attack, and that paid off on 21 minutes, when a ball into the box was bundled in by Liam Smith for his first goal of the season. Three minutes later, Sittingbourne had their first opportunity of the match, when Toby Bancroft's ball into the box was headed against the post by ex-Cannon Johan Caney-Bryan.

It didn't take long for Hythe to score their second goal, as Darren Oldaker sent a ball through to Frannie Collin, who slotted in past the Brickies goalkeeper, scoring his fourth of the campaign. Collin had another opportunity just minutes after, when his shot was tipped past the left-hand post of keeper Harry Brooks.

Oldaker had a decent shot on target, which was pushed past the woodwork by Brooks. The Sittingbourne defence didn't seem great in possession of the ball, giving it away several times. On one of those occasions, Frannie Collin won the ball and went for the shot, with a defender clearing the ball off the line.

The second half started very quietly, but eventually, on 70 minutes, Hythe had their first major chance, with Tom Walmsley turning past the Brickies defenders and squaring the ball to substitute Jordan Sarfo, whose shot was saved. Two minutes later, Sittingbourne pulled a goal back through captain Kane Rowland, who broke through the Hythe defence and slotted home.

With ten minutes remaining, Darren Oldaker made a run through the defence, going for goal but his shot was saved by Brooks. In injury time, there was a late goal-mouth scramble when Sittingbourne won a corner, with fouls occurring all around the box, eventually resulting in a Hythe free-kick.

Hythe return to action with a tricky FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round match at Dartford. Kick-off at Princes Park is at 3PM.

Team: Will Godmon, Charlie Webster, Nathan Gordon (Jarred Trespaderne 65 mins), James Rogers, Liam Smith, Eli Beniot, Kane Phillip (Jordan Sarfo 68 mins), Darren Oldaker, Tom Walmsley, Frannie Collin, Alex Brown (Jacob Gilbert 75 mins).

Scorers: Hythe Town - Liam Smith 21 mins, Frannie Collin 27 mins. Sittingbourne - Kane Rowland 72 mins.

Attendance: 212



East Grinstead Town 0 Hythe Town 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 11th September 2021

The Cannons were thankful for a Frannie Collin second-half penalty as they came away with a 1-0 win at East Grinstead Town on Saturday afternoon.

The game started with the hosts having the edge creating the early opportunities as on seven minutes Dylan Cascoe shot straight at Hythe keeper Will Godmon. The Wasps had the ball in the net two minutes later as Seigo Sanogo tapped in at the far post but the referee's assistant on the nearside had his flag up for offside. The home pressure continued as Troy Walters lifted the

ball over the bar and then a corner from Liam Montague found Glenn Wilson who should have done better but sent his header straight at Godmon.

The Cannons had to reorganise their defence after twenty minutes as Tom Wynter limped off to be replaced by Jarred Trespaderne. However, the visitors began to threaten as Tom Walmsley laid the ball off to Jacob Gilbert who mishit his shot into the arms of East Grinstead keeper Mattee Pierson. Gilbert, whose work rate impressed, was in the action again a minute from the break as Collin nodded the ball down and the young midfielder was unlucky to see his shot deflected wide.

Hythe took control of the second half as Kane Phillip worked his way through and unleashed a shot that was deflected over by Sanogo. Hythe were unlucky again as James Rogers rattled the upright with Collin having a shot blocked from the rebound. However, on 69 minutes substitute Jordan Sarfo surged down the right-hand by-line and was brought down by Montague. The referee who had turned down a number of penalty appeals during the afternoon had no hesitation this time in pointing to the spot. Up stepped Collin who slammed the ball into the middle of the net with Pierson diving to his left giving Hythe the lead.

On 76 minutes Collin saw Pierson off his line and lobbed the ball from thirty yards but the keeper, back peddling, was able to catch. The hosts did try to breakdown the visitors defence, but Hythe stood firm and the final two chances in the dying minutes fell to the Cannons as Luke Carey shot straight at Pierson and then Collin pounced on a loose ball but fired wide.

The Cannons held on to take all three points to move them up to eighth place after four games. This win should give them confidence as they move into their next league game on Tuesday evening at home to fifth placed Sittingbourne with the kick-off at Reachfields at 7:45pm.

Team: Will Godmon, Liam Smith, Nathan Gordon, James Rogers, Tom Wynter (Jarrod Trespaderne 21 mins), Scott Doe, Charlie Webster, Jacob Gilbert, Tom Walmsley (Jordan Sarfo 61 mins), Frannie Collin, Kane Phillip (Luke Carey 83 mins)

Scorer: Hythe Town – Frannie Collin 69 min (pen).

Attendance: 132.



Hythe Town 1 Ascot United 0

Emirates FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round

Saturday 4th September 2021

On a hot Saturday afternoon, Hythe Town reached the second qualifying round of the FA Cup with a 1-0 win over Ascot United.

Hythe had the first chance of the match on 20 minutes, with Jacob Gilbert's header from a corner tipped away by Sam Gray in the Ascot goal. Gilbert was once again involved on 33 minutes, when his shot was spilled by keeper Gray, before being cleared by the defender. The final major opportunity of a rather quiet first half was from Darren Oldaker, who broke through the middle of the pitch and sent a shot just wide of the post.

In the second half, the Cannons seemed to find their feet in the match, and they nearly had a goal within eight minutes of the restart. Tom Walmsley had the chance to shoot, but his shot was a little too weak, as it beat the keeper but was blocked by an Ascot defender. Another opportunity came two minutes later, with Nathan Gordon sending a ball into Charlie Webster, whose header went over the bar.

Finally, on 64 minutes, the deadlock was broken when the ball found its way to Nathan Gordon in the penalty box, who seemed to scuff the ball a little on his shot, however the ball did cross the line to give Hythe a deserved lead. It was almost 2-0 on 69 minutes when Tom Walmsley was brought down just outside the penalty area, with Frannie Collin firing the resultant free-kick straight into the arms of the goalkeeper. In the 85th minute of the match, a Hythe corner found Scott Doe, who had two shots blocked by the Ascot backline.

Just as the game was drawing to a close, there was almost late drama in the 95th minute, when a succession of Ascot corners was blocked, cleared off the line and booted away, until eventually the referee blew his whistle.

Hythe return to action next Saturday afternoon away at East Grinstead, with the match kicking off at 3PM.

Team: Will Godmon, Liam Smith, Nathan Gordon, James Rogers, Tom Wynter, Scott Doe, Charlie Webster, Darren Oldaker, Tom Walmsley, Frannie Collin, Jacob Gilbert (Jordan Sarfo 76 mins).

Scorer: Hythe Town – Nathan Gordon 64 mins

Attendance: 285



Hythe Town 0 Ramsgate 3

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Monday 30th August 2021

On a rainy bank holiday, a Hythe side tired out after four games in ten days lost 3-0 to Ramsgate. The Rams dominated the match from start to finish, picking up all the loose balls and capitalizing from set-pieces and mistakes.

Hythe had the first chance of the match after eight minutes, when Darren Oldaker's pass into the feet of Noel Leighton was deflected away by the leg of a Ramsgate defender. The Rams had their first opportunity of the match nine minutes later, as Joshua Ajayi missed a header in front of an open goal.

They opened the scoring on 27 minutes with former Ashford midfielder Lee Prescott, whose free kick was badly dealt with by goalkeeper Will Godmon, who was unable to get a hand to the ball as it sailed past him into the net. The second goal was very similar but was scored this time by Jordan Chiedozie from just outside the box on 43 minutes.

The Rams managed to get a third in the 59th minute, as Jordan Chiedozie completed his brace, when a Ramsgate ball in evaded all the defenders, leaving Chiedozie to nod the ball in just before the hour mark. Tom Walmsley had Hythe's only chance of the second half, as he headed the ball wide of the goal following a Liam Smith cross. Ramsgate had two more chances late on in the game, with Callum Peck and Joshua Ajayi both firing shots far away from the goal.

Hythe will look to bounce back from this result on Saturday 4th at home to Ascot United in the 1st Qualifying Round of the FA Cup. Kick off is at 3PM.

Team: Will Godmon, Liam Smith, Nathan Gordon, James Rogers, Tom Wynter, Scott Doe, Charlie Webster, Darren Oldaker (Alex Brown 54 mins), Noel Leighton, Frannie Collin (Luke Carey 76 mins), Jordan Sarfo (Tom Walmsley 60 mins).

Scorers: Ramsgate – Lee Prescott 27 mins, Jordan Chiedozie 43 & 59 mins.

Attendance: 264



VCD Athletic 1 Hythe Town 2

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 28th August 2021

Ten-man Hythe Town came back to steal all three points in a 2-1 win at VCD Athletic on Saturday afternoon.

The first opportunity of the game fell to the Cannons on four minutes as the ball came out to Charlie Webster who drove just wide. Immediately at the other end Theo McKenzie tried to find some room but his final effort sailed over the bar. However, on a quarter of an hour VCD took the lead as Chris Edwards whipped in a cross with a stretching Anthony Adesite reaching the ball to redirect it into the net.

Hythe did have an effort six minutes later as a Darren Oldaker cross was headed over by Scott Doe and then Frannie Collin rifled a free kick from 25 yards straight at VCD Keeper Sam Mott. There was then a long period of stalemate as both sides tried to break through until on the stroke of half-time Oldaker sent in another deep cross which was again headed over by Doe.

The Cannons struggled to gain the initiative in the early exchanges of the second half with the only effort coming from Webster who hit a shot wide of the target. Youssef Bamba had a couple of attempts with the first being dragged wide and then he came in from the right and hit the ball against the inside of the upright with Hythe keeper Will Godmon clawing the ball away before it crossed the line.

Things got worse for Hythe on 66 minutes as a reckless challenge from Noel Leighton ended with the striker receiving a red card. Rather than demoralising the Cannons they came out fighting as with 15 minutes to go a Webster cross came in from the left. Mott failed to hold the ball and substitute Jordan Sarfo was on hand to put the loose ball into the net. Despite being a

man down it was the visitors who looked the more likely and on 81 minutes they took the lead as this time an Oldaker cross was flicked on by Collin to find Doe who headed home.

The hosts did have a couple of efforts to try to level the scores as Alex Gaggin fired wide and with a minute to go a dipping shot from Joe Bingham took a slight deflection, but Godmon was still able to tip the ball over and the chance was gone.

In the end it was a deserved win for Hythe after a fantastic fightback after all had seemed lost. Hopefully this impetus will go into the game on Monday afternoon at home to Ramsgate. Kick off at Reachfields will be 3pm.

Team: Will Godmon, Liam Smith, Nathan Gordon, James Rogers, Tom Wynter, Scott Doe, Charlie Webster, Darren Oldaker (Jacob Gilbert 87 mins), Noel Leighton, Frannie Collin (Luke Carey 90 mins), Alex Brown (Jordan Sarfo 61 mins).

Scorers: VCD Athletic – Anthony Adesite 15 mins. Hythe Town – Jordan Sarfo 75 mins, Scott Doe 81 mins.

Attendance: 91



Westfield 1 Hythe Town 3

Emirates FA Cup Preliminary Round Replay

Tuesday 24th August 2021

After the dramas of last Saturday, The Cannons eventually eased their way into the 1st Qualifying Round of the FA Cup with a 3-1 win at Westfield on Tuesday evening.

Hythe started the brighter and were ahead as early as the 10th minute as Noel Leighton headed the ball into the path of Tom Walmsley who buried his shot neatly into the corner of the net. The next period of the game saw a battle in midfield with neither side creating the final opportunity. Westfield had to wait until the 24th minute for their first meaningful chance as a shot from Troy Timothy was fired straight at Hythe keeper Will Godmon who gathered the ball easily.

However, on 34 minutes the hosts were level as IK Hill fed the ball through to Kai Hamilton-Olise who surged through the centre of the Hythe defence before slamming the ball past Godmon and into the Hythe net. Five minutes before half-time Hythe lost goal scorer Tom Walmsley who suffered a nasty gash on his head that required a visit to the local casualty department for stitches.

The second half started evenly as both sides looked to take the initiative with Westfield having the first effort as Hill had a shot blocked by the Cannons defence. On 68 minutes a Darren Oldaker corner came out to James Rogers who blasted high over the bar. At the other end Timothy struck a free kick but did not test Godmon as it sailed into his arms.

As the half progressed it was Hythe who began to take control and with quarter of an hour to go, they were ahead. Oldaker broke into the penalty area and his final shot was blocked by home keeper Harry Smart, but Leighton followed up to fire the loose ball home. It was now Hythe who went looking for a third as a long ball out of defence from Nathan Gordon found Alex Brown who blasted over the bar.

Substitute, Kane Phillip had shot blocked, but this time Leighton fired over. They finally sealed the game on the stroke of 90 minutes as the Westfield defence failed to clear and Frannie Collin was on hand to place the ball into the net. There was to be no repeat of the extraordinary finish last Saturday and the Cannons made their way comfortably through to the next round where they will have a home tie against Combined Counties Ascot United with game to be played on Saturday 4th September 2021.

Hythe can now look forward to the game on Saturday at VCD Athletic with confidence after this excellent win. Kick off at VCD is 3pm.

Team: Will Godmon, Liam Smith, Nathan Gordon, James Rogers, Tom Wynter, Scott Doe, Charlie Webster, Darren Oldaker (Jacob Gilbert 90 mins), Noel Leighton, Alex Brown (Frannie Collin 78 mins), Tom Walmsley (Kane Phillip 40 mins).

Scorers: Westfield – Kai Hamilton-Olise 34 mins. Hythe Town – Tom Walmsley 10 mins, Noel Leighton 75 mins, Frannie Collin 90 mins.

Attendance: 156



Hythe Town 3 Westfield 3

Emirates FA Cup Preliminary Round

Saturday 21st August 2021

A truly dramatic end to the game that saw the Cannons give away a two-goal lead and fall behind deep into injury time only for Eli Benoit to pop with an equaliser with the very last action in a 3-3 draw against Westfield at Reachfields on a humid Saturday afternoon.

The early exchanges in the game were very calm compared to what was to follow as the visitors waited sixteen minutes for their first effort as a shot from Kai Hamilton-Olise was saved by the legs of Hythe keeper Will Godmon. Westfield were then awarded a free kick but that was fired high over the bar by Troy Timothy. The hosts had to wait 23 minutes before their first attempt as Scott Doe sent in a cross that was headed over by Kane Phillip.

However, two minutes later a cross from the from Liam Smith from the right found Frannie Collin at the nearr post who rose above the Westfield defence to head the ball down and into the corner of the net. Both Afo Soyemi-Owlade and Azeez Alabi then sent efforts over the Hythe bar before, at the other end, deep into injury time Collin pulled a shot wide.

The visitors continued to struggle to hit the target as the game progressed as a cross from Afo Soyemi-Owlade found Hamilton-Olise who blasted well over when it seemed easier to score. Soyemi-Owlade then pulled a shot wide before Timothy hit a free kick straight at Godmon. On 53 minutes the Cannons increased their lead as a pinpoint pass from Darren Oldaker went straight into the path of Phillip who finished well to make it 2-0.

The game, which previously been played in a great spirit, then took a nasty turn as it all seemed to kick off around the bench area. A fracas followed which ended with the sending off of Phillip, unused substitute Jarred Trespaderne and Hythe manager Steve Watt. The Westfield assistant manager also saw red with it all leaving a nasty taste in the mouth. It will be interesting to see the video evidence to ascertain what actually happened.

This unsettled the hosts and on 68 minutes Soyemi-Owlade rolled an attempt against the upright and then Timothy blasted over. A minute into injury time Westfield pulled one back as Soyemi-Owlade broke through and fired home and then a minute later the scores were level when Kai Davis blasted the ball in. The Hythe defence were now shell shocked, and another goal followed a minute later as IK Hill sent the ball into the corner of the net.

However, somehow with the last action of the half, Benoit headed in to take the game to unlikely replay on Tuesday evening at Westfield. Kick-off will be 7:45pm.

Team: Will Godmon, Liam Smith, Nathan Gordon, James Rogers, Tom Wynter (Eli Benoit 84 mins), Scott Doe, Charlie Webster, Darren Oldaker (Jordan Sarfo 65 mins), Kane Phillip, Frannie Collin, Alex Brown (Tom Walmsley 90 mins).

**Scorer: Hythe Town – Frannie Collin 25 mins, Kane Phillip 53 mins, Eli Benoit 90 + 6 mins
Westfield – Afo Soyemi-Owlade 90 + 1 mins, Kai Davis 90 + 2mins, IK Hill 90 + 3mins.**

Attendance: 239



Hythe Town 1 Corinthian 2

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 14th August 2021

The Cannons sunk to defeat against League new-boys Corinthian on a warm Saturday afternoon at Reachfields.

It was in fact Hythe who created the first opportunity as Noel Leighton nodded the ball onto Alex Brown who shot straight at Corinthian and ex-Cannon keeper Aidan Prall who collected the ball easily. However, it was another former Hythe player who gave the visitors the lead on 11 minutes. A free-kick from just outside the area was blasted goal wards by Jack Mahoney. Hythe keeper Will Godmon appeared to have got to the ball but was only able to palm it into the roof of the net.

This seemed to stun the hosts and they weren't able to really regain the initiative during the rest of the half. On 21 minutes Godmon saved well tipping over a free kick from Oscar Housego but the referees assistant was flagging for offside. In a rare Hythe attack Brown fired a shot from the edge of the area which Prall pushed around the upright. Within the five minutes added on for injury time at the end of the half Jordan Sarfo and Leighton were unable to get on the end of a Brown cross. However, it could have been two with the last move of the half as from a narrow angle Mahoney sent a shot across the face of the goal.

Hythe came out with more purpose in the second half and began to look dangerous. Josh Gilbert mishit a shot wide and then Sarfo curled an attempt just the wrong side of the post. He was to repeat the feat seven minutes later. In between there was a chance for the visitors as an Andres Tobon cross was nodded wide by Mahoney. On 63 minutes Hythe struck back as Brown sent in a rasping shot into the top corner of the net giving Prall no chance and the scores were level.

The Cannons now looked the more likely as substitute Kane Phillip looked impressive as he forced his way through but the final effort was too close to Prall. He then turned provider as a cross found Tom Walmsley whose attempt was easily saved by the busy Prall.

However, it was Corinthian who had the last laugh deep into injury time as the Hythe defence failed to clear and Luke Tanner was left to tap the ball into an empty net to give the visitors the win and leave Hythe disappointed.

Hythe will now need to regroup before the important FA Cup tie next Saturday (21st August 2021) at home to Westfield. Kick off will be 3pm at Reachfields.

Team: Will Godmon, Liam Smith, Nathan Gordon, James Rogers, Scott Doe, Eli Benoit, Jacob Gilbert (Frannie Collin 59 mins), Darren Oldaker (Tom Walmsley 80 mins), Noel Leighton, Alex Brown, Jordan Sarfo (Kane Phillip 59 mins).

Scorers: Hythe Town – Alex Brown 63 mins. Corinthian – Jack Mahoney 11 mins, Luke Tanner 90 mins.

Attendance: 215



Margate 2 Hythe Town 0

Pre-Season Friendly

Saturday 7th August 2021

The Cannons completed their pre-season with a 2-0 defeat at a breezy Hartsdown Park on Saturday afternoon. Despite the result, it was a good performance from the team against an Isthmian Premier League team.

It was Hythe who started more brightly with an opportunity after seven minutes as Jordan Sarfo beat the Margate keeper Pat O'Haman but the ball was cleared off the line by Ben Swift. Margate soon had an attempt of their own as former Cannon Ryan Palmer sent a shot straight at Hythe keeper Will Godmon. Godmon was then to produce a great save as he palmed a shot, from another ex-Hythe player, Sam Blackman, around the post.

A trialist opened the scoring for the Gate on 68 minutes as he got on the end of a cross from Ben Greenhalgh which substitute keeper Ryan Pattison failed to collect. Hythe should have been level four minutes later as Alex Brown was brought down in the penalty area. He, however, sent the resultant kick too close to O'Haman who saved easily.

Prior to getting a second goal Margate rattled the upright before they sealed the game as Jake Embery finished neatly after 81 minutes.

Overall, the game had been a positive workout for the Cannons as they prepare for next weeks league season curtain raiser at home to Corinthian. Kick off at Reachfields is 3pm.

Team: Will Godmon (Ryan Pattison 65 mins), Liam Smith (Jarrod Trespaderne 61 mins), Nathan Gordon (Connor Cheek 87 mins), James Rogers, Scott Doe, Charlie Webster

(Morgan Williamson 71 mins), Darren Oldaker (Jacob Gilbert 61 mins), Noel Leighton (Frannie Collin 77 mins), Jordan Sarfo (Tom Walmsley 19 mins), Alex Brown (Kane Phillip 77 mins).

Scorers: Margate – Trialist 68 mins, Jake Embery 81 mins.

Attendance: 231



Hythe Town 1 Maidstone United 2

Pre Season Friendly

Thursday 29th July 2021

A dominant performance from Hythe resulted ended in a 2-1 defeat to Maidstone United on Tuesday night.

The Cannons had the first chance on 31 minutes, as Jordan Sarfo made a run into the box, playing the ball to Alex Brown who missed an open goal. Luckily, it was Sarfo who scored Hythe's opener in the 43rd minute. Darren Oldaker's corner was headed away, with the rebound going to Sarfo, who tapped the ball in. Unfortunately, it took Maidstone only a minute to reply. There were calls for a handball against Maidstone, who took advantage of Hythe's lapse of concentration to give the ball to TT Walters, whose shot from outside the box beat the keeper to send the Stones level.

The first chance of the second half went against the Cannons, who allowed Alfie Pavey a header in the box, but he blasted the ball past an open goal. Two minutes later, in the 57th minute, captain Charlie Webster made a run into the penalty area, with Tom Hadler saving the shot. The rebound went out to Alex Brown; however, he was unable to control the header. Maidstone

managed to get a late winner on 88 minutes, as a cross from Roarie Deacon was turned into the net by Hythe's George Sibley.

Despite the result, the performance was very encouraging going into the new season. Hythe's final pre-season match is away at Margate on August 7th, before returning to Reachfields for our opening game of the season against Corinthian on August 14th.

Hythe line-up: A Trialist, Liam Smith, Nathan Gordon, James Rogers, Eli Benoit, Scott Doe, Charlie Webster, Darren Oldaker, Noel Leighton, Jordan Sarfo, Alex Brown. Substitutes: Tom Walmsley, Jacob Gilbert, Jarred Trespaderne, George Sibley, A Trialist

Scorers: Hythe Town – Jordan Sarfo 43 mins. Maidstone United – TT Walters 44 mins, George Sibley (OG) 88 mins

Attendance: 268

Report by Tom Ellerby



Bearsted 1 Hythe Town 3

Pre-Season Friendly

Saturday 24th July 2021

A depleted Cannons side put up a good performance as they easily brushed past Bearsted in a 3-1 away victory on a warm Saturday afternoon.

Hythe dominated from the start and were ahead after 12 minutes as Darren Oldaker planted a free kick on the edge of the area coolly into the corner of the net. It could have been two four minutes later as Alex Brown got on the end of a Charlie Webster cross slamming the ball against the upright.

On 18 minutes they did take a deserved 2-0 lead as new signing Jordan Sarfo surged down the left putting in a cross that managed to get through to Noel Leighton who after a couple of stabs managed to poke the ball home.

The Cannons made it three on 24 minutes as another Oldaker free kick was spilled by the Bearsted goalkeeper and Alex Brown was on hand to tap in the rebound. The hosts managed to narrow the gap on 36 minutes as a ball was sent into the Hythe penalty area and it was side footed past Hythe keeper Will Godmon.

The second half was a lot quieter with a couple of notable chances as firstly Godmon was called to make a point blank save and then at the other end a Tom Walmsley header was tipped over by the Bearsted keeper.

It was a comfortable win for Hythe as they now look forward to their next pre-season fixture at home to Maidstone United on Thursday evening (29th July 2021) with kick off at 7:45pm.

Scorers: Hythe Town-Darren Oldaker 14 mins, Noel Leighton 18 mins, Alex Brown 24 mins. Bearsted-Unknown 36 mins

Attendance: H/C 101



Hythe Town 1 Tunbridge Wells 1

Pre-Season Friendly

Tuesday 23rd July 2021

On Tuesday night, Hythe played out a 1-1 draw against SCEFL side Tunbridge Wells. Ahead of the match, Steve Watt made four changes from the 2-1 defeat to Folkestone. George Sibley, Jacob Gilbert, Tom Walmsley and Charlie Webster all came into the side.

The Wells got off to a better start, hitting the post just two minutes into the game. They then took the lead in the eighth minute, with one of their players making a run into the box and squeezing the ball past Harry Brooks in the Cannons goal. Hythe had to wait 35 minutes until their first chance, as the Wells goalkeeper reacted late to a shot from Jacob Gilbert, just managing to get down to it. On the stroke of half time, the equaliser came. A looping cross from the left-hand side of the pitch was nodded down into an empty net by Noel Leighton, scoring his second goal of pre-season.

The second half was very quiet, with the only major chance coming from the Wells, whose left-back hit a powerful shot against the post. Hythe made five subs in the second half, with Jordan Sarfo, Alex Flisher, Eli Benoit, Connor Cheek and a trialist all coming onto the field. There was a moment of concern when centre-back Cameron Rearden stayed down injured for a number of minutes, but luckily, he was able to get up and make his way off the pitch with help from his team-mates.

Hythe are back in action away at Bearsted on Saturday 24th at 3PM, before returning to Reachfields to take on Maidstone United at 7:45PM on Thursday 29th July.



Folkestone Invicta 2 Hythe Town 1

Pre-Season Friendly

Saturday 17th July 2021

On Saturday, Hythe went down 2-1 to Folkestone Invicta on a hot and sunny afternoon. Steve Watt made three changes from the win over Canterbury, with Frannie Collin, Alex Flisher and goalkeeper Harry Brooks coming into the line-up.

Hythe got off to a dream start when a ball was played out wide to Alex Flisher, whose shot from the edge of the penalty area beat Tim Roberts in the Invicta goal to give the Cannons the lead

after just six minutes. However, that lead only lasted for five minutes, as a cross from Folkestone's Ade Yusuff was slammed into the back of the net by Ronnie Dolan. Things almost got even worse on 15 minutes, when Tyler Sterling made a darting run into the box, which resulted in a shot that hit the crossbar. Folkestone did eventually take the lead in the 18th minute, when Alfie Paxman went one-on-one with the keeper and went around him, only for Cameron Reardon to shove him over and concede a penalty, which Paxman himself stepped up and scored to the keeper's left, with Brooks diving the wrong way. Invicta had several more chances during the first half, hitting the post from a Sterling free kick on 36 minutes, as well as several shots going over the bar.

Hythe began the second half by bringing on Charlie Webster and new signing Jordan Sarfo, who both made a big impact on the match. Both Frannie Collin and Sarfo went one-on-one with Roberts in the Folkestone goal, with the keeper saving on both occasions. On 79 minutes, Hythe had arguably their best chance of the half. After narrowly hitting the crossbar, the ball rebounded to Tom Walmsley, who really should've done better, missing an open goal and firing the ball wide for a goal kick. During the second half, Hythe made three more changes, with Walmsley, Jacob Gilbert and George Sibley all getting onto the pitch.

Hythe return to Reachfields on Tuesday 20th July at home to Tunbridge Wells, with the match kicking off at 7:45PM.

Line-up: Harry Brooks, Liam Smith, Jarred Trespaderne, James Rogers, Cameron Reardon, Eli Benoit, Alex Brown, Darren Oldaker, Noel Leighton, Frannie Collin, Alex Flisher.
Substitutes: Charlie Webster, Jordan Sarfo, Tom Walmsley, Jacob Gilbert, George Sibley

Scorers: Folkestone Invicta - Ronnie Dolan 11 mins, Alfie Paxman 18 mins (pen). Hythe Town - Alex Flisher 6 mins

Attendance: 435



Hythe Town 1 Canterbury City 0

Pre Season Friendly

Tuesday 13th July 2021

Hythe enjoyed their first home win in nine months as a late Morgan Williamson free kick earned them a 1-0 victory over SCEFL side Canterbury City. Manager Steve Watt made three changes from the 0-0 draw against Kennington, with Jarred Trespaderne, Eli Benoit and a trialist all making their first home starts of the season.

The Cannons were all over Canterbury in the first half, dominating both the chances and the possession. In the seventh minute, Cameron Reardon headed the ball onto Noel Leighton, who in turn headed the ball just over the bar. Later in the half, on 39 minutes, one of the trialists forced a fine save from the foot of the Canterbury goalkeeper, with the ball going behind for a corner.

It took until the 69th minute for the first real chance of the second half, with Reardon's ball evading everyone but Charlie Webster, who was unable to get a good enough connection and the ball sailed away.

The deadlock was broken in the 81st minute, when another trialist won a free-kick on the edge of the penalty area, which 17-year-old substitute Morgan Williamson put into the back of the net, scoring his first senior goal. During the half, six changes were made for Hythe, with Alex Brown, Morgan Williamson, Tom Walmsley, Connor Cheek and two trialists all coming onto the pitch.

Hythe's next match is away at Folkestone on the 17th of July, with the match kicking off at 3PM.

Report by Tom Ellerby



Hythe Town 0 Kennington 0

Pre-Season Friendly

Saturday 10th July 2021

Hythe's first home match since 17th October finished goalless as Steve Watt's side played their third match of pre-season against SCEFL side Kennington. The game was rather uneventful, with very few chances going to either side. Hythe's line-up contained eight players who had been with us last season; Will Godmon, Liam Smith, Nathan Gordon, James Rogers, Darren Oldaker, Charlie Webster, Alex Brown and Alex Flisher all started the match. The eleven also contained new signings Cameron Reardon and Noel Leighton, as well as a trialist.

Hythe dominated the chances in the opening stages, with Cannons goalkeeper Will Godmon having to make a save in the 12th minute, denying Kennington's Ryan Philpott a goal against his former side. Another former Cannon was also involved a minute later, with keeper Joe Mant facing Noel Leighton one-on-one, grabbing the ball from the feet of Hythe's new number 9. On 32 minutes, Darren Oldaker, who spent some time with Welling United while the Isthmian League was on hold, had an opportunity from a free-kick, but the ball sailed wide to the top left of the goal.

The second half was also fairly quiet. A trialist came on at half-time and made quite an impact on the match, hitting the side netting on 72 minutes after being denied a penalty three minutes before. During the second half, Steve Watt made six substitutions, with Tom Walmsley, Jarred Trespaderne, Eli Benoit and Morgan Williamson all making welcome returns to Reachfields, as well as two trialists.

The Cannons are back in action on Tuesday 13th July at home to Canterbury. Kick-off is at 7:45pm.

Report by Tom Ellerby



Deal Town 3 Hythe Town 0

Pre-Season Friendly

Saturday 3rd July 2021

A depleted Hythe Town, who played a mixture of first team and young trialists, went down 3-0 at Deal Town on Saturday afternoon.

The Cannons were on the back foot as early as the second minute as a Connor Coyne shot flew just out of the reach of Hythe keeper Will Godmon and under the cross bar into the net to give the hosts the lead. They were two up in 14 minutes as the visitor's defence failed to clear the ball from a Coyne cross with Ben Chapman firing the ball home.

With the hosts taking a two-goal half time lead it required a great save from Godmon to save Hythe falling further behind. However, on 58 minutes Deal sealed their win as Sam Wilson bundled the ball into the net to make it 3-0.

Despite the result, this was a good workout and an opportunity for some of the younger players to show their potential prior to the new season. The Cannons follow this with their first home fixture next Saturday (10th July 2021) as they entertain Kennington at Reachfields. Kick off will be 3pm.

Scorers: Deal Town – Connor Coyne 2 mins, Ben Chapman 14 mins, Sam Wilson 58 mins.

Attendance: H/C 140

Match Reports 2022/2023



Whitehawk 1 Hythe Town 0

Isthmian League South-East Play-Off Final

Friday 28th April 2023

Hythe were defeated in the play-off final against Whitehawk on Tuesday evening. Steve Watt made just one enforced change from the semi-final win over Ramsgate, as the injured Marvin Hamilton was replaced by Jarred Trespaderne.

The game began in a similar fashion to the match against Ramsgate - the hosts dominated possession, while Hythe took their time to adapt to the pitch but doing their best on counterattacks. On 10 minutes, the Hawks had their first chance of the match, as a dangerous free kick into the Hythe penalty box was laid off into the path of Rob O'Toole, who lifted the ball straight into the stands. A few minutes later, a ball played into the path of Charlie Lambert resulted in the player blazing his shot just wide of the post, which was enough to put Hythe fans' hearts in their mouths.

After this, the Cannons began to get into the game more and have some chances, and they were the first team to have a shot on target, as a Frannie Collin free kick was drove into the hands of the goalkeeper. On 34 minutes, it was the Hawks who came close to scoring again, as Charlie Lambert was set free on a quick counterattack, hitting a shot at goal which was parried away by Steve Phillips, before the ball rebounded to Alfie Rogers who blasted his effort inches wide of the post.

Unfortunately, the Cannons eventually succumbed to the pressure from the hosts, who won a free kick on the edge of the box which was taken by Rogers. Initially, it was deflected against the wall, before the rebound was blasted home by Charlie Harris to give Whitehawk the lead going into half-time.

The second half began with Hythe as the better side, as they dominated the chances, much to the delight of the travelling Hythe fans, who were trying their hardest to chant louder than the 1,000+ Whitehawk supporters. On 54 minutes, Ethan Smith laid the ball off to Johan Caney-Bryan on the right-hand by-line, whose cross landed in the hands of the goalkeeper. Five minutes later, it was the Hawks on the attack, as Joel Daly made a run towards goal, before hoofing his shot over the bar. On 68 minutes, Steve Phillips showed once again how amazing he has been for the club, using his fingertips to push Joel Daly's header from a corner over the crossbar. Two minutes later, Hythe had arguably their best chance of the match so far, when there was a goalmouth scramble which led to Johan Caney-Bryan having a shot deflected away towards Jason Fregene, however goalkeeper Luke Glover was first to the ball.

On 78 minutes, the Cannons were still yet to give up. Shad Ngandu made a magnificent run past a number of Whitehawk defenders, making his way to the centre of the field but blazing his shot over the crossbar. On 83 minutes, the Cannons won a corner, which was taken by Frannie Collin

and met by Liam Smith, who knocked the ball into the side netting. With just two minutes remaining, substitute Sam Itauma darted down the right and made his way into the box, feeding the ball towards Johan Caney-Bryan, who was unable to get there ahead of Luke Glover. Finally, in the dying moments of the game, the hosts had a good opportunity to seal the victory in the sixth minute of injury time, as Joel Daly put Kris Oti in a one-on-one position with Steve Phillips, who tipped the ball away from goal.

The full-time whistle blew, signalling the end of Hythe's play-off journey. The home fans stormed onto the pitch to celebrate before the players were presented with their winner's medals and the play-off trophy. The large number of travelling Hythe fans went away with mixed emotions - despite the disappointment of falling at the final hurdle, it had been a remarkable second half of the season and a valiant attempt at gaining promotion. The season may be over, but the players fought hard until the very end, and will surely come back stronger next season.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Marcus Goldsmith (Nathan Elder 88 mins), Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Ethan Smith (Sam Itauma 80 mins), Jarred Trespaderne (Jeff Duah-Kessie 68 mins), Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin, Shad Ngandu.
Subs Not Used: Morgan Williamson, Josh Stirman.

Scorer: Whitehawk – Charlie Harris 43 mins.

Attendance: 1428.



Ramsgate 1 Hythe Town 1

(Hythe won 4-3 on penalties)

Isthmian League South-East Play-Off Semi Final

Tuesday 25th April 2023

Hythe conquered Ramsgate to secure a place in Friday's play-off finals on Tuesday night. Manager Steve Watt named an unchanged starting line-up from the 4-0 win over Haywards Heath Town on Saturday.

The match started very evenly - Ramsgate dominated the possession, while Hythe were very effective on the counterattack. The first chance of the match came from Hythe, when a free-kick from Frannie Collin was met by a succession of headers before Marvin Hamilton volleyed it over the bar. Moments later, it was the hosts on the counterattack when a Jake McIntyre cross from the left was met by a glancing header from Tijan Jadama, which sailed over the crossbar.

It was the Rams on the attack again on 28 minutes, when a ball into the box was narrowly hoofed away by Marcus Goldsmith for a corner, which was headed high and wide by the diving Rowan Liburd. On 36 minutes, Steve Phillips came to the rescue when Jack Paxman made a run forward and hit a scorching shot towards goal, which Phillips tipped over the bar with his fingertips. On 41 minutes, it looked like Ramsgate had taken the lead from Rowan Liburd's shot after making a run through the Hythe defensive line, but the shot bounced off the side of the post and away.

The second half began in Hythe's favour, and within three minutes they were on the attack, as a Frannie Collin free kick was glanced wide by Jason Fregene. There was a moment of controversy when Ramsgate defender Jerald Aboagye and kitman Mick Putman had an altercation which resulted in Putman on the floor clutching his leg, however the referee took no action, and moments later the Rams were on the attack, as Gil Carvalho darted forward and hit his shot narrowly wide of the post.

On 65 minutes, Hythe once again showed how lethal they are from set pieces. A throw in from Marvin Hamilton was met by a succession of headers in the box, before Jason Fregene attempted an acrobatic overhead kick, which sailed over the crossbar. A few minutes later, Hythe were inches away from scoring, as a Liam Smith free-kick from the edge of the box was met by Johan Caney-Bryan, whose shot looked as though it would go in, but it was cleared off the line by the Ramsgate defence. The second half continued quietly, but Hythe managed to take control of the chances. On 88 minutes, Hythe had a big chance to win the game from a free-kick. Frannie Collin stepped up, and his shot narrowly hit the outside of the post. There was one final shot in normal time, as the hosts came forward on the break with Rowan Liburd, who hit his shot whilst surrounded by Hythe players, before it was narrowly deflected away by Steve Phillips.

The referee blew the final whistle, meaning the match went to extra time. Unfortunately for the Cannons, the extra 30 minutes began in Ramsgate's favour, as Rowan Liburd made a run forward down the right and crossed the ball in from the byline into the path of substitute Theo Osinfolarin, who tapped the ball in, much to the delight of the home supporters. However, the

Cannons didn't back down, and whilst on the attack, a Hythe player was brought down inside the penalty area by goalkeeper Patrick Lee. Frannie Collin took the resultant penalty, which he slammed home to the keeper's left to level the scores.

The hosts still believed they could win the match, however, and an Ashley Miller free-kick from the edge of the box just after Hythe's goal almost sent them back into the lead, but Steve Phillips managed to tip the ball over to keep Hythe in the game. It could easily have been 2-1 on 105 minutes, when goal scorer Theo Osinfolarin hit a shot which looked like it was heading in, before it bounced off the crossbar.

The final 15 minutes were tricky for Hythe. With five minutes to go, Liam Smith was the hero, diving to head away a shot which was heading towards goal, before Ramsgate won a late corner, which was headed over the bar by ex-Cannon Ben Fitchett.

The final whistle blew, signalling there would be a penalty shoot-out. The hosts were the first to take, with Jake McIntyre sending his shot down the middle, before Shad Ngandu scored for Hythe. The following penalty, taken by former Hythe man Ashley Miller, was saved by Steve Phillips to his left, before Liam Smith smashed home his spot-kick to give the visitors the advantage. Jack Paxman, Johan Caney-Bryan, Blaise Riley-Snow and Jeff Duah-Kessie all slammed their penalties home, before Theo Osinfolarin stepped up, sending his shot to Steve Phillips' left, which he punched away to end the match and send Hythe fans wild.

Following the victory, manager Steve Watt said that 'it was a tough tight game, not a great deal of chances within the game, in terms of either keeper making any real teing saves. I think we had the best chances of the game where Johan's shot was cleared off the line and Frannie's shot hit the post, but it just epitomises our season. We were being tough, resilient and getting over the line'.

With regards to the play-off final, Steve said 'we won't change [the way we play], we are what we are, we'll do what we do, and then we'll see what happens at the end of it, and hopefully at the end of the day that's enough. It's a tough ask to go down there and win, but we'll go down there and try and do it, and these boys have found a way all season, they're an incredible bunch, I can't speak highly enough of them, and we'll prepare for a tough game on Friday night'.

The win means that Hythe will be in the play-off final on Friday night, as they travel to fellow finalists Whitehawk in the promotion decider. Kick-off will be at 7:45pm.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Marcus Goldsmith, Jack Steventon (Jeff Duah-Kessie 80 mins), Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Ethan Smith, Marvin Hamilton (Jarred Trespaderne 71

mins), Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin, Shad Ngandu. Subs Unused: Josh Stirman, Sam Itauma, Morgan Williamson.

Scorers: Ramsgate - Theo Osinfolarin 94 mins. Hythe Town – Frannie Collin 100 mins (pen).

Hythe Town won 4-3 on penalties.

Attendance: 1151

Match report by Tom Ellerby



Hythe Town 4 Haywards Heath 0

Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 22nd April 2023

Hythe Town reached the play-offs on Saturday afternoon, as they hammered Haywards Heath Town 4-0. Steve Watt made just one change from the 2-1 win over VCD Athletic, as Marcus Goldsmith returned to the side to replace the injured Duane Acheampong.

It was the Cannons who had the first chance of the afternoon, as a Frannie Collin free-kick into a crowded penalty area was headed just wide by Liam Smith. On 11 minutes, Marcus Goldsmith was set free on the left hand-side, darting into the box and hitting his shot just over the bar. The visitors had their first opportunity on 16 minutes, when Alex Laing hit a free-kick towards goal, which goalkeeper Steve Phillips managed to get down to grab.

In the 21st minute, Hythe had a similar chance from a Frannie Collin free-kick, which was once again swung into the path of Liam Smith, whose diving header was blocked by Billy Collings in the Haywards Heath goal. Finally, on 27 minutes, the Cannons took the lead, as a corner from Collin fell loose in the box, before Johan Caney-Bryan tapped the ball in to put Hythe 1-0 up and, as it stood, put them into the play-off places.

It was almost 2-0 before half-time, when another corner from Collin was met by a bullet header from Jason Fregene which went just over the crossbar. At this stage, Sheppey United had taken the lead against Cray Valley PM, meaning that Hythe dropped back outside of the play-offs on goal difference at the break.

Hythe immediately picked up where they left off in the opening minute of the second half, with an Ethan Smith shot from close range being clawed away by Billy Collings to his left. However, it was soon 2-0, when a melee in the box following a Collin corner was poked over the line by Jack Steventon. It was soon three, as Shad Ngandu found Liam Smith, who made a clever overlapping run to receive the ball and lift the shot home for an excellent goal.

An hour into the match, the scores had stayed the same in other matches, meaning that Hythe needed to score at least six goals to reach the play-offs if the scores elsewhere stayed the same. On 66 minutes, Ethan Smith drove a shot just past the post, before George Brown was sent off for using abusive language towards the officials. With 13 minutes to go, substitute Jeff Duah-Kessie had an excellent opportunity to put Hythe 4-0 up, as he darted forward to receive the ball, making his way into a one-on-one position with the goalkeeper, but hit a poor shot straight at him. Moments later, a penalty was awarded to the Cannons, when Shad Ngandu was brought down inside the box. Frannie Collin stepped up, but his shot rattled off the post.

81 minutes into the game, scores had changed elsewhere – Cray Valley PM had equalised against Sheppey United, and this meant that Hythe were back into the play-off spots as it stood. The visitors almost scored one, as a ball into the area was headed on by Cameron Dobell, which was clawed away by goalkeeper Steve Phillips. It wasn't long before Hythe were awarded their second penalty of the match, as Jeff Duah-Kessie was brought down in the box by Billy Collings, who was booked. Frannie Collin stepped up once again, and this time he made no mistake, slamming the ball home to give Hythe a 4-0 lead. There was one final attempt for Hythe to finish their season in style, as Johan Caney-Bryan's blocked shot caused a melee in the box, with both him and Frannie Collin having shots at goal. However, the ball was eventually cleared.

Unfortunately, the score lines elsewhere changed once again, as Cray Valley PM took the lead against Sheppey United. This meant that, had the score stayed the same, Hythe would not have made it into the play-offs. However, in the dying moments of the match, Sheppey United grabbed an extremely late equaliser, and as the full-time whistle blew, the Hythe players gathered around to wait for the other match to finish. When everybody saw that it had finished

2-2, the fans and players all went wild – Hythe had defied all the odds, winning 14 of their final 19 matches to somehow make their way into the Isthmian League South East Division play-offs.

Following the match and the post-season awards, Steve Watt said that the key to our outstanding second half of the season was ‘the players getting used to playing one-another. I believed in this group, and that never changed. I had an opportunity to leave, and chose to stay here with these players because of my belief in this squad. They were all picked in pre-season for a reason. We had to adjust the way we played midway through the season because we played a lot more football than what we have done recently. Back then, we didn’t get the results we deserved, and you have to adapt and see things that aren’t working and change things, which we did.’

‘Bringing Steve [Phillips] in has been massive for us, he was my first phone-call in the summer, but it wasn’t the right time for him. Marvin Hamilton has been a massive signing for us because of that experience and calmness in the middle of the park, as well as his long throw-ins. I was sent a screenshot by Frannie Collin of the table on Boxing Day, and we were in 16th, but 7 points off 9th – all we had to do was find a level of consistency and try and put some wins together, which we were able to do, and that put us in the position we’re in.’

When asked about today’s performance, Steve said ‘it could’ve and should’ve been eight or nine to be honest. Today was a celebration of the season, every single player today was an 8/9 out of 10, even down to Steve, who only had one save to make, which was outstanding. No disrespect to Hayward’s Heath (and I wish them all the best in the relegation play-offs) but it looked like a team a level or two above – we were dominant and assured, the only disappointment is it should’ve been a lot more. At one point, we needed those goals, but Sheppey did us a favour, and I’d like to congratulate them and Cray on the season’s they’ve had, two fantastic clubs with great people, but commiserations on them missing out on the play-offs. They played their part in what I think has been a special season, even if we hadn’t got there in the end – at one point we weren’t there!’

On the topic of Tuesday night’s match against Ramsgate, Steve said ‘we’ve got nothing to lose. We’ve lost both matches against them this season, but if there’s a side you do not want to play in a one-off game, I believe it’s us, because of how difficult we are to beat. That doesn’t mean we’ll be difficult to beat on Tuesday, but I’d just like the club, the players and the fans to enjoy today, because days like this don’t come around often in football. Mick [Putman] compared it to the Aguero title winning moment!’

‘After what happened last year and what this club’s been up against, they deserve a day like this, and I’m happy we’ve been able to give it to them. I’m happy for my staff, because of what they’ve sacrificed this season for us to get here, and I’m happy for the group of players – I don’t think there’s a group of players who deserve it more than this group. We’ve not been in the play-offs all season, but we’re there when it matters!’

The Cannons are back in action on Tuesday night, as they travel to league runners-up Ramsgate in their play-off semi-final. Kick-off will be at 7:45pm.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Marcus Goldsmith (Jeff Duah-Kessie 75 mins), Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Ethan Smith, Marvin Hamilton, Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin (Josh Stirman 90 mins), Shad Ngandu. **Subs Unused:** Morgan Williamson, Sam Itauma.

Scorers: Hythe Town - Johan Caney-Bryan 27 mins, Jack Steventon 49 mins, Liam Smith 58 mins, Frannie Collin (84 mins pen).

Attendance: 370

Report by Tom Ellerby



VCD Athletic 1 Hythe Town 2

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 15th April 2023

The Cannons had a double from central-defender Jason Fregene to thank as they came from behind to enhance their play-off chances winning 2-1 at VCD Athletic on Saturday afternoon. It was their fifth win on the spin.

Manager Steve Watt made two changes to the starting line up from the team that beat Faversham Town on Monday bringing Marvin Hamilton back to replace Sam Itauma and Shad Ngandu coming in for the unavailable Marcus Goldsmith.

The game started with VCD on the attack as they settled quickly and had their first opportunity on seven minutes as Andrew Allassani worked his way in but his final shot looped over the bar and then within 120 seconds they punished Hythe's slow start as Allassani was in the action again breaking through and slotting the ball past Hythe keeper Steve Phillips and into the back of the net to give the hosts the lead.

The Cannons had to wait until the 14th minute to create their first opening as Liam Smith had an effort from the edge of the area deflected over the bar for a corner and then soon after a Frannie Collin free kick found the head of Jack Steventon who headed back to Liam Smith whose attempt went into the arms of home keeper Jordan Gilmore.

Hythe were now taking control of the game but still had some counter attacks to deal with as Sam Williams broke through but Phillips was quickly off his line to clear the ball. However, chances were now coming for the visitors as firstly a freekick from right on the edge of the area saw Collin send his effort just over the bar and then on the stroke of half time as the ball came out to Fregene he thumped it into the net ensuring the Cannons went into half time all square.

The second half continued with Hythe on the front foot and they were unlucky not to take the lead on 53 minutes as Duane Acheampong got on the end of a loose ball and slammed it against the upright and then Liam Smith put in a cross that was met by the head of Johan Caney-Bryan but Gilmore easily saved. However, the Cannons were not to be denied as on 61 minutes a pin point Collin corner was headed home by Fregene for his second goal of the game and ninth of the season to the delight of the travelling Hythe supporters.

The pressure was now all on the home defence as a Marvin Hamilton trademark long throw was headed on by Lex Allan onto Steventon whose header went just wide. VCD were still creating some chances and were very unlucky on 72 minutes as a shot from Karl Dent was magnificently saved by Phillips to his left. There were only a couple more chances as firstly Steventon turned and shot just wide and then at the other end an overhead kick from VCD substitute Muranio Banjoko went wide.

The Cannons eventually came away with all three points that takes them up into the play off places as they go up to fifth in the table. Things are very tight with both Cray Valley PM and Beckenham Town just behind with a game in hand so much will be on next Saturday when Hythe entertain Haywards Heath Town and then it will depend how the other results go elsewhere. Maybe it will be play-offs despite where we were just ten weeks ago...

Kick off next Saturday is 3pm at Reachfields....

Team: Steven Phillips, Liam Smith, Shad Ngandu (Jeff Duah-Kessie 83 mins), Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Ethan Smith, Marvin Hamilton, Johan Caney-Bryan (Sam Itauma 76 mins), Frannie Collin, Duane Acheampong (Josh Stirman 88 mins). Subs Unused: Morgan Williamson, Nathan Elder.

Scorers: VCD Athletic - Andrew Allassani 9 mins. Hythe Town – Jason Fregene 45 & 61 mins

Attendance: 120.



Hythe Town 1 Faversham Town 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Monday 10th April 2023

Hythe took their fifth win in six games on Monday afternoon as they scraped a 1-0 win over Faversham Town. Manager Steve Watt made two changes from the rampant 4-1 victory away at Burgess Hill Town on Saturday, as Johan Caney-Bryan and Sam Itauma replaced Marvin Hamilton and Shad Ngandu.

The game began in Hythe's favour, with Ethan Smith making several useful runs towards goal. However, it was the visitors who had the first chance of the match, and it came on 13 minutes, as Shola Ayoola received the ball in the penalty area, hitting a succession of shots which were blocked by the Hythe defender. However, on 20 minutes, the Cannons struck first, as a long throw-in from Jack Steventon from the left-hand side of the pitch was headed on by Liam Smith into the path of top scorer Johan Caney-Bryan, who tapped the ball into an open goal for his first goal since the 11th February and his fifteenth of the season.

It was almost 2-0 on 23 minutes, as Ethan Smith was brought down just outside the D courtesy of a crunching tackle from Kieron McCann, who was booked. In-form Frannie Collin stepped up to take the free-kick, which was narrowly palmed away by goalkeeper Bailey Vose. Despite Faversham regularly having the ball inside Hythe's half, the Cannons looked deadly on the counterattack, and this was demonstrated on 33 minutes, when Sam Itauma made an impressive run from his own-half towards goal, laying the ball off to Caney-Bryan, who drove a shot into the chest of the goalkeeper. With seven minutes of the half remaining, the visitors came close to levelling the scores, as Matt Parsons drove the ball in from the left-hand by-line into the path of Ronald Sithole, who missed the shot from close range.

Hythe were the first to test their opponents in the second-half when, on 48 minutes, Ethan Smith sent a powerful shot towards goal which was narrowly tipped over by Bailey Vose. A quiet 30 minutes followed this, with neither side having any significant opportunities, but the visitors looking more likely to score. Steve Watt tried to combat this, bringing Josh Stirman and Marvin Hamilton onto the field, but the Cannons were unable to create any notable chances until the 74th minute, when Liam Smith made an exceptional run from his own half towards the by-line, beating two men on his way and squaring the ball into the box. However, nobody was there to receive it.

In the final ten minutes, the visitors put Hythe under serious pressure. On 82 minutes, substitute Ebang Gurung drilled a shot narrowly over the bar to put Hythe fans' hearts in their mouths. With just three minutes to go, Ronald Sithole broke through into the box and fired a shot goalwards, which was narrowly blocked by goalkeeper Steve Phillips.

The full-time whistle blew after three minutes of stoppage time, which meant that Faversham's relegation was confirmed. Meanwhile, the Cannons managed to climb to within just one point of the play-offs, with the current holder of the final play-off place, Cray Valley, a game behind after their match today was postponed. Following the match, manager Steve Watt said 'it's not the best we've played. I thought we were quite flat from start to finish if I'm being honest, but we got the job done and that's all that matters. It was probably an example of our season as a whole, where we dig in, everyone giving it everything they've got on the pitch. At times today I didn't think we had enough to win it, but I didn't feel like they [Faversham] caused us too many problems, with Steve only having to make one save right at the end.'

'It was a hard day at the office after Saturday, which took more out of us than what we anticipated. It's the twentieth game that they've played since the turn of the year. That's a lot of football, so full credit to the boys. They did what they had to do, got the goal and then just defended from front to back to make sure we came away with the three points we needed.'

With the season drawing to a close, Hythe travel to VCD Athletic on Saturday at 3pm, before returning to Reachfields for their final game of the season at home to Haywards Heath Town.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Marcus Goldsmith, Jack Steventon. Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Ethan Smith, Duane Acheampong (Josh Stirman 58 mins), Johan Caney-Bryan (Jeff Duah-Kessie 80 mins), Frannie Collin, Sam Itauma (Marvin Hamilton 58 mins). Subs Unused: Morgan Williamson, Shad Ngandu.

Scorer: Hythe Town – Johan Caney-Bryan 20 mins.

Attendance: 333.

Match report by Tom Ellerby



Burgess Hill Town 1 Hythe Town 4

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 8th April 2023

In an explosive first half, the Cannons put the game out of Burgess Hill Town's reach as they deservedly went into the half time break with a three-goal lead and despite a second period onslaught from the hosts were able to hold onto a 4-1 win on Saturday afternoon.

Manager Steve Watt made only one change as Shad Ngandu made a start replacing Johan Caney-Bryan who was rested for the game.

Hythe had their first opportunity on three minutes as Marvin Hamilton sent in one of his signature long throws that eventually found Duane Acheampong whose shot was deflected over the bar and then at the other end Josiah Bridgeman sent in a shot from the left that was also deflected this time into the side netting.

Hythe were ahead on 19 minutes as they were awarded a free kick 20 yards out. Frannie Collin's first attempt went just over but the referee saw some encroachment into the ten yards and ordered the kick to be retaken. This time Collin drilled his kick into the bottom left-hand corner of the net.

Within three minutes the Cannons went further ahead as they were awarded a penalty as Marvin Hamilton was brought down in the penalty area. Up stepped Collin who placed his kick in the bottom left corner to make it 2-0. The hosts had an opportunity to pull a goal back as Reggie Ward headed across goal finding Dan Perry who sent the ball wide.

However, it was still Hythe in the ascendency as the ball came out to Collin who scooped his effort high over the bar. At the other end an overhead kick from Perry found Kieran Rowe who headed over. As the game went into first half injury time Hythe took a three-goal lead. A deep Ngandu cross found Ethan Smith who headed in at the far post.

Whatever was said by Burgess Hill Town manager Lewis Taylor at half time, the Hillians came out with new purpose in the second half and with ten minutes gone their pressure paid off as Lewis Finney forced a save from Hythe keeper Steve Phillips, but the ball rebounded out to Dan Perry who finished off to make it 3-1. This led to some shaky moments for the Cannons as both Finney and Bridgeman fired wide.

The Cannons were able to release that pressure on 64 minutes as against the run of play they got their fourth as Collin was in the action again as he sent in a corner that was met with the head of Jason Fregene who headed home for his seventh goal of the season. However, the hosts continued to look for ways to get back into the game as Zack Lawrence sent in a cross that found Perry who went round Phillips, but Jack Steventon miraculously cleared the ball off the line.

Finney had another shot that went wide, and Martyn Box blasted over but they couldn't find the net and Hythe ended the game with a three-goal lead that took them up to seventh place and only two points outside the play-off zone.

The Cannons now face basement club Faversham Town on Monday afternoon as they look to continue their play-off push. Kick off at Reachfields is 3pm.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Marcus Goldsmith, Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Ethan Smith (Sam Itauma 79 mins), Marvin Hamilton, Duane Acheampong (Charlie Webster 85 mins), Frannie Collin, Shad Ngandu (Jeff Duah-Kessie 55 mins). Subs Unused: Josh Stirman, Johan Caney-Bryan.

Scorers: Burgess Hill Town – Dan Perry 56 mins. Hythe Town – Frannie Collin 19 & 24 (pen) mins, Ethan Smith 45 mins, Jason Fregene 67 mins.

Attendance: 411.



Hythe Town 4 East Grinstead Town 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 1st April 2023

Hythe recorded an emphatic victory over East Grinstead Town on Saturday as they put four past them at Reachfields.

Steve Watt made just one change from the 1-0 win away at Sevenoaks, as Johan Caney-Bryan returned to the side, in place of Josh Stirman. Making his long-awaited return to the side was Charlie Webster, who had spent over a year out injured but was on the bench for the match.

The game began with a chance for the visitors, as Matt Astle fired a shot over the top right corner of the bar. However, the Cannons struck first on 19 minutes, as a long free-kick from Frannie Collin was spilled by East Grinstead goalkeeper Matte Pierson, with Jack Steventon there to bundle the ball home for his first goal since the opening match of the season. A few minutes later, it was almost two, as a corner from Collin was met by a powerful header from Lex Allan, before the ball was tipped over the bar by Pierson.

Hythe managed to double their lead before the break, and the creator was once again Frannie Collin, who sent a free kick into the box which was headed down and into the net by Jason Fregene for his sixth goal of the campaign.

Despite the scoreline, the visitors weren't out of the game just yet. They managed to have the first chance of the second half, as a counter-attack gave Lewis Unwin the chance to make a run down the right, crossing the ball into Ben Aubrey who sliced his shot wide.

However, the game was put to bed on 67 minutes, as the ball came out to Frannie Collin, who casually hit a shot from outside the box which sailed in to give him a well-deserved goal.

It didn't take long for Hythe to score their fourth, when Duane Acheampong made a run down the right-hand side, crossing the ball into a very empty penalty area which reached Ethan Smith, who swept the ball home to put the cherry on top of the cake.

The Cannons had a late opportunity to score a fifth. Substitute Sam Ituama was brought down inside the penalty area, resulting in a spot-kick for Hythe. Ngandu himself stepped up to take it, however the shot was a weak one which went into the body of the goalkeeper, who scrambled to collect the ball away before a Hythe player reached it.

The full-time whistle blew to mark Hythe's biggest win of the season. Following the match, Steve Watt was more than happy with the outcome, and told us 'We outfought them, broke their will and we scored at key moments in the game. The main message from myself today was 'Let's just play a bit more territory football because of the conditions. Get the ball in their half, ask questions' and I thought we did that very well. I wasn't too pleased at how we started the second half, but the Frannie Collin goal knocked all the stuffing out of them.'

Speaking about Collin's performance today, and how he has recently been playing in a deeper central midfield role, Watt said 'no matter where you put him on the pitch, he gives you quality. If we were a bit lower down [in the table] I don't think you'd find Frannie playing deeper, but when we are in a position which we are now, it's key in the middle area of the park to have experience and calm heads, and that's what Fran gives you along with Marvin [Hamilton] who I think has been outstanding. It gives the rest of the boys a sense of calmness, and that unlocks Ethan [Smith] to go and do what he does. I can't speak highly enough of Frannie and the job he does for us. Obviously, he's getting on, but for me he's priceless for our team.'

Speaking about the remaining four games of the season, Watt told us that 'next weekend's big. Playing on Saturday and Monday and coming out of there with six points you'd probably be going in to the last two games of the season in even the play-offs, points behind now. There's big games being played up at that end of the season, but we with us being four can only concentrate on ourselves, and that's all we've done all season.'

As mentioned, the Cannons will be back in action on Saturday when they travel to Burgess Hill Town, before returning to Reachfields on Easter Monday to host Faversham Town. Both opponents are in the relegation battle and will be fighting as hard as possible for some points, so neither of the matches will be straightforward.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith (Sam Itauma 71 mins), Marcus Goldsmith, Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Ethan Smith (Shad Ngandu 84 mins), Marvin Hamilton, Johan Caney-Bryan (Jeff Duah-Kessie 71mins), Frannie Collin, Duane Acheampong. Subs Unused: Josh Stirman, Charlie Webster.

Scorers: Hythe Town - Jack Steventon 19 mins, Jason Fregene 45 mins, Frannie Collin 67 mins, Ethan Smith 75 mins.

Attendance:226

Report by Tom Ellerby



Sevenoaks Town 0 Hythe Town 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 25th March 2023

What a contrast to last week's defeat at Ashford United as The Cannons snatched a late goal to take all three points in a 1-0 win at Sevenoaks Town on a windy Saturday afternoon.

Hythe Manager, Steve Watt made two changes to the starting line up with Duane Acheampong coming in for Johan Caney-Bryan and Josh Stirman making a start in place of Shad Ngandu.

The first half was very low key with both sides not really threatening the goal during the 45 minutes. However, the first opportunity did come for Sevenoaks on three minutes as Joshua Ogunseye scuffed a shot that rolled into the arms of Hythe keeper Steve Phillips. Phillips was on hand to save again as a corner from Fumnaya Shomotun found the head of Ogunseye.

Hythe had to wait until the 18th minute when they created their first chance which went begging as Marvin Hamilton mishit his attempt wide of the target. There was one more goal threat in the half from the hosts as Solomon Baugh scooped the ball over the bar.

Hythe were quickly out of the blocks in the second period as a dangerous Frannie Collin cross was headed wide by Liam Smith. Emmanuel Mensah quickly had two efforts as firstly he worked his way through but shot straight at Phillips and then breaking in from the right his final effort went just wide.

The ever-dangerous Shomotun, whipped a ball in which was met by the head of substitute Freddie Parker that hit the post and rebounded onto the back of Phillips and away for a corner. At the other end the Cannons should have scored as substitute Ngandu put in a cross from the right that was met by Acheampong who put the ball over the bar from close range.

The game was now opening up as Mensah attempted to lob Phillips who clawed the ball away and then a shot from Shomotun was well blocked by Jack Steventon. The hosts were now pressing for the opening goal as Parker had another effort that was pushed wide by the ever reliable Phillips.

However, the visitors were also creating some opportunities and with their first effort on target after 86 minutes they broke the deadlock as Ngandu, who was causing problems on the right for the home defence, pulled the ball back to Collin who sent an exquisite curling shot from outside the penalty into the top left hand corner of the net to the delight of the travelling Hythe contingent.

Despite an onslaught from Sevenoaks towards the end of the game, the Hythe defence, led brilliantly by Jason Fregene and Lex Allan, held out to take home three hard-earned points.

Hythe now sit in eighth position four points outside the play-off zone, so all hope has not gone of promotion. They now await their next game when they entertain East Grinstead Town at Reachfields next Saturday (1st April 2023) with game kicking off at 3pm.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Marcus Goldsmith, Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Ethan Smith, Marvin Hamilton, Duane Acheampong (Johan Caney-Bryan 72 mins),

Frannie Collin, Josh Stirman (Shad Ngandu 62 mins). Subs Unused: Morgan Williamson, Micky Phillips, Jeff Duah-Kessie.

Scorer: Hythe Town – Frannie Collin 86 mins

Attendance: 213.



Ashford United 1 Hythe Town 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 18th March 2023

The Cannons can count themselves extremely unlucky to come away from Ashford United with nothing in this derby fixture as they went down 1-0 at Homelands on Saturday afternoon.

There were two changes in manager Steve Watt's starting line up with Shad Ngandu in place of Duane Acheampong and Marcus Goldsmith replacing Sam Itauma.

It was Ashford who created their first opportunity in the first 60 seconds as a corner from the right from Henry Muggerridge found Charlie Dickens who headed over. Hythe didn't have to wait long as Liam Smith took a snap shot that was saved by Ashford keeper Jacob Russell. Marvin Hamilton then had an effort from 25 yards that didn't test Russell as he scooped the ball up.

There was a long period as both sides looked for openings but didn't produce any meaningful chances ending when Frannie Collin sent a shot from the left with his right foot just over the bar.

The Cannons were just edging the game at this stage as Ethan Smith broke in from the left with the ball going past the mouth of the goal and wide.

At the other end the hosts had a free kick twenty yards out that Danny Parish sent just over the target. However, on the stroke of half time the visitors came nearest to breaking the deadlock as Collin sent a dipping free kick in that rattled the cross bar.

The second period started with Hythe creating the first chance of the half as Shad Ngandu neatly fed Ethan Smith whose final effort went straight into the arms of Russell. Ashford had their best chance to date as former Cannon Gary Lockyer turned and had an attempt pushed over by Hythe keeper Steve Phillips and then from the resultant corner from Muggeridge the ball was headed wide by Dickens.

On 76 minutes came the deciding moment of the game as Muggeridge crossed into Lockyer who forced the ball home to make it 1-0 to Ashford. Hythe were given a glimmer of hope towards the end as Ben Gorman received a deserved second yellow card and was on his way early to the changing room. The Cannons did press but couldn't find a way through as the hosts wasted as much time as possible and Hythe had to leave Homelands empty handed.

The Cannons had battled hard throughout the game as they now look forward to next Saturday (25th March 2023) when they travel to Sevenoaks Town with the game kicking off at 3pm.

**Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Marcus Goldsmith, Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Ethan Smith (Jarred Trespaderne 80 mins), Marvin Hamilton, Johan Caney-Bryan (Duane Acheampong 73 mins), Frannie Collin, Shad Ngandu (Jeff Duah-Kessie 80 mins).
Subs Unused: Sam Itauma, Josh Stirman.**

Scorer: Ashford United – Gary Lockyer 76 mins.

Attendance: 446



Hythe Town 1 Chichester City 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 11th March 2023

Hythe Town came away with a deserved 1-0 in a battling performance at home to fellow play-off hopefuls Chichester City on Saturday.

Steve Watt made two changes from the side beaten at East Grinstead Town in midweek with Frannie coming back to replace Shad Ngandu and Duane Acheampong making his first start for the Cannons replacing the unavailable Jarred Trespaderne.

The first half was a battle with both sides creating opportunities but failing to find the breakthrough, Frannie Collin had an early opportunity after only two minutes, but he scuffed a free kick from 20 yards wide of the target. Shortly afterwards Chichester had their first effort as Callum Overton forced Liam Smith off the ball and played his way in but his final attempt was deflected wide. At the other end Sam Ituama sent in a dangerous cross finding Collin, who on the turn, could not get the space to get a shot away. As we got to the halfway point in the first half Chichester's Emmett Dunn turned and shot which Hythe keeper Steve Phillips was able to claw away from the Hythe goal.

The game at this stage had limited opportunities as both sides cancelled each other out although there were a couple of chances for the hosts as the match moved towards the half time break. Firstly Acheampong got on the end of a ball from Johan Caney-Bryan but fired across the face of goal and then a Collin corner was headed over by Jason Fregene.

The second half started with Chichester on the attack as Ethan Prichard turned and shot straight at Phillips but it was then the Cannons who had a bright spell which started with a cross from Collin that was spilt by away keeper Kieran Magee but none of the Hythe front men could quite get to the ball to convert. However on 54 minutes the deadlock was broken as Collin sent

in a corner from the left which the Chichester couldn't clear and Fregene was on hand to hook the loose ball home and give Hythe the lead.

Hythe nearly went further ahead as Fregene unleashed an effort from a tight angle on the left but the attempt was blocked. As the time ticked away the task for the visitors was made harder as Chichester defender Rob Hutchings was shown a red card after an incident in the near corner. Before the final whistle there was a chance at each end as two minutes into injury time Jack Steventon headed over from a Collin corner and then four minutes into injury time the visitors were awarded a free kick 20 yards out however Prichard put the ball high over the bar and the game ended with all three points going to the hosts.

The result leaves Hythe four points outside the play-off positions in ninth place with their next game coming as they travel the short distance to Ashford United next Saturday (18th March 2023).

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Sam Itauma, Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Ethan Smith (Josh Stirman 90 mins), Marvin Hamilton, Johan Caney-Bryan (Jeff Duah-Kessie 81 mins), Frannie Collin, Duane Acheampong (Shad Ngandu 66 mins). Sub Unused: Charles Noyelle.

Scorer: Hythe Town – Jason Fregene 54 mins.

Attendance: 235.



East Grinstead Town 3 Hythe Town 2

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Tuesday 7th March 2023

The Cannons went down 3-2 to put a dent in their play off hopes at East Grinstead Town on a very chilly Tuesday evening.

Manager, Steve Watt made two changes as Jarred Trespaderne replaced Frannie Collin and Marvin Hamilton returned in place of Marcus Goldsmith.

The early exchanges were even with Hythe having the first chance as on 14 minutes a Shad Ngandu free-kick was headed down by Lex Allan but the East Grinstead keeper, Mattie Pierson got to the ball quickly to save. However, the hosts were ahead with their first meaningful attack on 20 minutes as the ball was played in from the left hitting a number of players before running loose to Matthew Daniel who fired the ball home. Daniel, who was a constant thorn in the Cannons side, then shot straight at Hythe keeper Steve Phillips.

Ngandu did create an opportunity as he turned in and unleashed an effort that flew just over the bar and then mid-way through the half Jack Steventon had three attempts as the ball bounced around the home penalty area but they were all blocked. The rest of the half lacked any real chances.

The second period saw the first attempt come from East Grinstead as Andrew Briggs sent in a curling effort from distance that went over the bar. Hythe were unlucky not to be level on 51 minutes as Ethan Smith, wide out on the left, sent in a shot from a tight angle that rattled the inside of the far upright. Ngandu perhaps should have done better as he broke through one on one with Pierson but he laid the ball off instead of going for goal and the chance was gone.

At the other end Daniel was through again but Phillips was off his line to block. Things got worse for Hythe as Jason Fregene was judged to have brought down Harrison Parker in the penalty area and up stepped Glenn Wilson who blasted home the spot kick to increase the East Grinstead lead. The Cannons, however, gave themselves hope as they reduced the arrears on 76 minutes as Trespaderne played in a free kick that eventually bounced out to substitute Duane Acheampong who slammed the ball into the net.

However, right on the stroke of full time it appeared that East Grinstead had sealed the points. There were claims by the Hythe team of an infringement just inside the Wasps half but the referee waved away the appeals as the hosts broke away and Max Walsh fired home to make it 3-1. However, the Cannons were not yet finished and got a goal back a minute into injury time as Hamilton played the ball out to Liam Smith who finished neatly to make it 2-3 but it was too little too late as East Grinstead held on for all three points.

Hythe now return to Reachfields on Saturday as they entertain Chichester City with a 3pm kick off.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Sam Ituama (Jeff Duah-Kessie 45 mins), Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Ethan Smith, Marvin Hamilton, Johan Caney-Bryan, Shad Ngandu (Duane Acheampong 66 mins), Jarred Trespaderne. Subs Unused: Josh Stirman, Charles Noyelle, Marcus Goldsmith.

Scorers: East Grinstead Town – Matthew Daniel 20 mins, Glenn Wilson 69 mins (pen), Max Walsh 90 mins. Hythe Town – Duane Acheampong 76 mins, Liam Smith 90 mins.

Attendance: 91



Beckenham Town 0 Hythe Town 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 4th March 2023

Like most Isthmian new boys before them Beckenham are showing signs of taking a while to settle to the many new demands being made of them off the pitch, but they have seemingly had very few problems with their actual football and have only suffered two home league defeats as they challenge convincingly for a play-off position in this their initial step 4 season. The Cannons came at them with the confidence of an impressive set of recent results though and the end result (aided by some glaring misses from both teams) was a fairly predictable stalemate.

Hythe's key man Marvin Hamilton had to pull out in the morning when his wife went into labour, later producing a baby boy, but numbers had already been strengthened by the addition of new strikers Duane Acheampong and Jeff Duah-Kessie the former Phoenix Sports striker more recently acquired from today's opponents, plus ex-Gillingham youth player Charles Noyelle recently returned from a spell in USA college football. Both the former came on as subs and whilst clearly not match-fit did enough to suggest that they will be more than a handful for many teams to cope with.

For Hythe, Jack Steventon was immense whilst young Ethan Smith clearly regards putting in 100% effort to be an absolute minimum requirement--but in truth nobody in Hythe colours went missing on a day when they needed to be showing an excellent team spirit that is being successfully demanded from the management team.

An early chance for Frannie Collin now adapting to a deeper role was headed just over but the main talking point came on 18 minutes when Johan Caney-Bryan was clearly clipped in the area with management from both teams expecting a penalty to be awarded. Shortly afterwards a Frannie Collin through ball found Caney Bryan clear but Blue was out swiftly to cover.

On 25 minutes an expected Steventon long throw was dropped short for a lively Sam Itauma to run into the glaring free space and centre for Liam Smith to head to the far post where veteran home keeper Nick Blue had to be at full stretch to save his side. Beckenham threatened with some enterprising forward play which often led to shots being fired high and wide or squared passes being well met by this always mean Hythe defence.

The second period saw much of the same and Ethan Smith was just wide following a good Fregene attacking run whilst at the other end Liam Smith was perhaps fortunate to be able to head straight into Steve Phillips arms after a goalmouth scramble. Becks player Nathan Paul was put through on goal but was pulled up.

when Liam Smith was clearly pushed off-balance. Another Sam Itauma run ended when his cross was beaten out by Blue while at the other end Steve Phillips just managed to gather a yard or so from the upright after the home side threatened.

The referee and his senior assistant had everyone puzzled when a home substitute was cautioned for what appeared to be not warming up correctly but although both officials seemed to struggle at times this was not a heated match with both sides respecting the opposition.

Hythe went close when Blue flicked away a Collin corner only for Liam Smith to blast a first-time shot just wide of the far post.

Duane Acheampong who had come on for the injured Marcus Goldsmith on the hour, thus necessitating a defensive reshuffle, accepted a flick on from Duah-Kessie to go close with what would have been a spectacular overhead kick but that was as good as it was going to get.

As with most no score draws each side thought they should have won the game, but the opinion of most Hythe folk was that to do just that you first need to score and then defend your lead, and results show that the Hythe defence is loath to permit that to happen,

For a more detailed report and reactions please head over to the Kentish Football website - but certainly do try to get to Reachfields on Saturday (11th March 2023) when Chichester City are the visitors. Before that though the league fixtures take us to East Grinstead on Tuesday 7th March 2023 with a slightly earlier 7.30pm kick off.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Marcus Goldsmith (Duane Acheampong 60 mins), Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Shad Ngandu (Josh Stirman 90 mins), Ethan Smith, Johan Caney-Bryan (Jeff Kessie 77 mins), Frannie Collin, Sam Itauma. Subs not Used: Charles Novelle, Toby Bancroft.

Attendance: 269



Hythe Town 1 Three Bridges 1

Pitching In Isthmian League

Saturday 25th February 2023

Hythe were unlucky as they were held by Three Bridges on Saturday afternoon at Reachfields. Following the 1-0 win over Burgess Hill on Tuesday evening, Steve Watt made two changes, as Sam Itauma and Frannie Collin replaced the unavailable Jarred Trespaderne and Jason Fregene, who went off injured on Tuesday but was still named as a substitute.

The game started in Hythe's favour, as they had the opening chance on 10 minutes, when a Marvin Hamilton throw-in was headed towards goal by a Hythe player, and the ball was palmed

away by the keeper for a corner. Just two minutes later, the Cannons had another chance from a set-piece, when a corner was sent into the box, resulting in a melee which ended with Lex Allan ballooning the ball over the bar.

On 28 minutes, the visitors managed to obtain their first chance of the game as Kieron Pamment surged into the box, hitting a shot whilst he was off balance which came off the upper right corner of the crossbar. A few minutes later, fan favourite Shad Ngandu had his first major opportunity of the match, as he rifled a shot towards goal which stung the palms of Three Bridges goalkeeper Leo Anderson. Moments after, Marcus Goldsmith sent in a dangerous cross from the left wing, which was headed on by Johan Caney-Bryan before it was palmed away by the keeper.

The first half saw Hythe dominate possession, but the Cannons were unable to break the deadlock. However, Three Bridges were by no means out of the game at this stage, and on 39 minutes, a ball in from Kieron Pamment came to Curtis Gayler, with Steve Phillips getting down to make the save. Within seconds, Hythe were on the break, resulting in Shad Ngandu hitting a firm shot towards the top corner which was tipped away by Leo Anderson.

It took the Cannons just six minutes to score in the second half, when a corner from Frannie Collin was swung onto the head of Liam Smith, who nodded the ball into the net to give Hythe a deserved lead. It was almost 2-0 on 54 minutes, as Ethan Smith hit a looping shot towards goal, which was spilled by the goalkeeper right in front of Johan Caney-Bryan, but a defender was on hand to hammer the ball away before the Hythe number 9 could get a shot away.

The match was rather even for a while, with both sides struggling to have any cutting-edge chances. Eventually, Shad Ngandu gave Hythe an opportunity on 75 minutes, threading the ball into the path of Ethan Smith, who was brought down in the penalty area. However, the referee ordered the players to continue, much to the disappointment of the home fans.

The game started to go the way of the visitors in the latter stages, and they won a free-kick in a dangerous position with eight minutes to go, but it was blasted over the bar by Curtis Gayler. Unfortunately for Hythe, the win was not to be, as the equaliser came on 88 minutes, when Cameron Lawson's ball into a crowded penalty area met the head of Jason Fregene, with the ball hitting Steve Phillips in the face and trickling over the line.

The full-time whistle blew to mark Hythe's first game without a win since the very start of February, and their first points dropped at home in 2023. This result leaves them in seventh, just two points outside of the play-offs with a game in hand.

Following the match, manager Steve Watt told us 'I feel for the players, I thought we deserved all three points - it came down to us not getting the rub of the green today. Regarding the goal, it's unfortunate, but I thought the boys were fantastic, I thought we were dominant in the first half, and in the second half Steve [Phillips] didn't have a save to make. They felt no pressure in the second half. As I said to the players, there's a lot of teams that have a lot more pressure around them than we have, so it's a point gained in our respect.'

When asked about the discipline of both teams, Watt said 'I thought the game was played well between both teams, but I think the ref didn't give us half the things we should've got. I think it's a foul on Lex for their goal which he doesn't give, but I'm not blaming him for us not winning today. We always look at ourselves first, and we should've taken more chances today which would've made it a lot more comfortable.'

The Cannons will return to action on March 4th when they travel to Beckenham Town, with the game kicking off at 3pm.

Team: Steve Phillips, Sam Itauma, Marcus Goldsmith (Jason Fregene 70 mins), Jack Steventon, Liam Smith, Lex Allan, Ethan Smith (Toby Bancroft 79 mins), Marvin Hamilton, Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin, Shad Ngandu. Subs Unused: Josh Stirman, Morgan Williamson, Micky Phillips.

Scorers: Hythe Town – Liam Smith 51 mins. Three Bridges – Steve Phillips 88 mins (OG).

Attendance: 247

Match report by Tom Ellerby



Hythe Town 1 Burgess Hill Town 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Tuesday 21st February 2023

It took just four minutes to break the deadlock, when there was a melee in the Burgess Hill penalty area, with the ball falling to Lex Allan, whose looping cross was headed away, before landing at the feet of Liam Smith, who sent a volley into the net to give Hythe an early lead. At this stage, Hythe were totally on top – they dominated possession and kept the ball in the Burgess Hill half. On nine minutes, goal scorer Liam Smith set the ball to recent star Shad Ngandu, who sent a looping shot just over the crossbar. It should've been 2-0 moments later, when Ngandu himself laid the ball off to Ethan Smith, who hit a good shot narrowly wide of the post.

As the half progressed, the visitors managed to get a foothold in the game, bringing the ball into the Hythe half more often and coming close to testing the defence. However, the solid partnership of Lex Allan and Jason Fregene at centre-half prevented any danger. With ten minutes remaining in the first half, Shad Ngandu beat his man down the right wing, threading the ball into Johan Caney-Bryan, whose shot was pushed past the post by Burgess Hill's former Leeds United goalkeeper Will Huffer. The resultant corner was then headed just over the bar by Jason Fregene.

The second half was more of a quiet affair, particularly for Hythe, who seemed to have lost their motivation from earlier in the game. They struggled to string a succession of passes together, hardly getting close to the Hillians' penalty area and giving away possession far too often, despite the introduction of Frannie Collin, Josh Stirman and Sam Itauma to the game. The visitors were on top, but struggled to test Steve Phillips in the Hythe goal, although full-back Martyn Box and winger Kai Brown made a number of good runs down the left-hand side.

Although the half was without chances, enough was seen by the Hythe fans to make them nervous, especially when Jason Fregene came off injured in the closing minutes, and there was massive relief when the full-time whistle blew. The win gives Hythe a record of seven wins in their last eight games, as they currently sit 7th in the table, just outside the play-offs based solely on goal difference. The Cannons will hope to make it into the top five on Saturday when they host 15th place Three Bridges at Reachfields at 3pm.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Marcus Goldsmith, Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene (Sam Itauma 80 mins), Lex Allan, Ethan Smith, Marvin Hamilton, Johan Caney-Bryan, Shad Ngandu (Frannie Collin 61 mins, Jarred Tresparde (Josh Stirman 79 mins). Subs Unused: James Jeffrey, Toby Bancroft.

Scorer: Hythe Town - Liam Smith 4 mins

Attendance: 134



Littlehampton Town 1 Hythe Town 4

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 18th February 2023

The Cannons had “a golden three minutes” when they turned the game around to eventually run out comfortable 4-1 winners at Littlehampton Town on Saturday afternoon.

Hythe manager Steve Watt made two changes from the side who won at home to Sittingbourne on Tuesday evening bringing back Frannie Collin and Toby Bancroft into the starting eleven to replace Marcus Goldsmith, who was on the bench, and Jarred Trespaderne who was unavailable.

What happened in the first half gave no clue to what would occur in the second period as Littlehampton started the game on the front foot as they created their first opportunity on eleven minutes as Josh Short surged forward eventually playing the ball off to Devon Fender. The striker was left one on one with Hythe keeper Steve Phillips who was quick off his line to block and soon after Phillips saved well from a long range shot by George Gaskin.

Hythe had to wait until the 14th minute for their first effort as Johan Caney-Bryan’s shot sailed into the arms of home keeper Alex Harris. However, it was the hosts who continued to have the upper hand as Phillips saved from a shot by Short with Fender unleashing an attempt from the rebound that rattled the cross bar. Littlehampton were unlucky not to take the lead on 21

minutes as Gaskin attempted to lob the ball over Phillips who was off his line with his attempt going just over the cross bar.

As it seemed the Cannons had seen off the worst of the pressure, they found themselves one down on 32 minutes as a cross from Lucas Pattenden found Dion Jarvis who hammered home from close range to give the hosts a deserved lead. The pressure continued as a corner from Dave Herbert was met with the head of Marshall Ball but the effort went over. The half ended with an attack from Hythe as a Collin corner was headed wide by Jason Fregene.

Whatever Steve Watt said at half time seemed to motivate the Cannons as they drove forward with Marvin Hamilton driving a shot wide of the target. On 59 minutes Hythe were level as Marcus Goldsmith crossed from the left finding Ethan Smith who sneaked in at the near post to glance his header past Harris and into the net. Within a minute the Cannons were ahead as a cross by Collin was headed firmly home by Marvin Hamilton to make it 2-1.

Within another two minutes Shad Ngandu produced a moment of magic as he curled an effort from 30 yards over Harris and under the cross bar into the net making it three goals in three minutes to turn the game around. The hosts did have a chance to get back in the game as Pattenden sent in a shot that missed the target.

The Cannons put further salt in the home wounds on 84 minutes as they were awarded a free kick 20 yards out. From the resultant kick Collin floated the ball over the wall onto the crossbar with the ball then coming off defender Marshall Ball and back into the net for an own goal to increase the visitors lead.

Gaskin shot wide for Littlehampton before Collin had another free kick which he this time drove into the midriff of Harris. With three minutes left on the clock a cross from Pattenden found substitute Charlie Pitcher whose header was saved well by Phillips and then the final effort for Hythe saw a break by James Jeffrey but he was denied by Harris who came off his line to block.

It was a result that barely seemed possible at half time and makes it six wins out of the last seven. It also was the first time they had scored four goals in a league game this season. Hythe now top the league form table for the last six games and also find themselves two points from the promotion play-off positions in eighth place.

They now can look forward to a home fixture on Tuesday night when they entertain Burgess Hill Town with kick off at Reachfields at 7:45pm.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith (Sam Itauma 71 mins), Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Ethan Smith, Marvin Hamilton, Johan Caney-Bryan (James Jeffrey 79 mins), Shad Ngandu, Frannie Collin, Toby Bancroft (Marcus Goldsmith 45 mins). Subs Unused: Morgan Williamson, Josh Stirman.

Scorers: Littlehampton Town – Dion Jarvis 32 mins. Hythe Town – Ethan Smith 59 mins, Marvin Hamilton 60 mins, Shad Ngandu 62 mins, Marshall Ball 84 mins (OG).

Attendance: 214



Hythe Town 1 Sittingbourne 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Tuesday 14th February 2023

Hythe picked up their fifth win in their last six games on a chilly Tuesday evening at Reachfields. The visitors, Sittingbourne, were in 18th, and given Hythe's recent run of form, they went into the game as favourites. Manager Steve Watt made a trio of changes, as Jarred Trespaderne, Shad Ngandu and Sam Itauma replaced Frannie Collin, Toby Bancroft and Marvin Hamilton, who all dropped to the bench.

It was the Brickies who were on the front foot after five minutes, as Youssouf Bamba broke free on the left-hand side, sending a shot towards goal which Steve Phillips went to the floor to collect. The Cannons had their first major chance twelve minutes into the match, when a melee in the penalty area resulted in Liam Smith winning possession, but he scuffed his shot high and wide of the goal. Bamba kept himself busy for the visitors, as he made another run down the left, blasting the shot wide in similar fashion to Liam Smith.

Moments after, Marcus Goldsmith had possession on the left, drilling a shot towards the Sittingbourne goal, which was parried away by stopper Harley Earle, as the ball fell to Johan Caney-Bryan, who was unable to pull off the shot, which was scrambled away by the keeper.

On the half-hour mark, Jack Steventon sent in a long throw-in from the right for Hythe, with Liam Smith heading the ball on to Shad Ngandu, who nodded the ball into the hands of the goalkeeper. The ball went down the opposite end of the pitch, before Sergio Uyi put in a dangerous tackle on a Hythe defender, resulting in a red card.

Just 17 minutes into the second half, things got worse for Sittingbourne, as Youssouf Bamba was deemed to be time-wasting by referee Kane Dempster, who showed him his second yellow card of the game. Two yellows make a strawberry, so despite Bamba's protests, he was given his marching orders.

The Cannons failed to capitalise on their two-man advantage after changing their game for the second half, opting to work the ball sideways and forward rather than immediately sending it forward. However, this proved to be ineffective, and with Sittingbourne still holding firm at the back, chances were at a premium. By this point, Steve Watt had made two changes, bringing Josh Stirman and Toby Bancroft onto the pitch. The latter had a chance on 72 minutes, as a Hythe corner was headed into his path, but his shot lacked placement and sailed over the bar.

It was panic stations with ten minutes to go, as Hythe fans were desperate for their team to use their numbers to their advantage. However, it was the Brickies who came close, as Chaynie Burgin made a run down the left-hand side, drilling his shot into the side netting. The referee pulled out his red card yet again in added time after Sittingbourne manager Ryan Maxwell's poor attitude on the touchline became too much for him to allow. It looked like it was over for Hythe at this point, but there was one last glimmer of hope when a free kick was awarded just outside the Brickies' penalty area. Substitute Frannie Collin stepped up to take, sending in the ball towards the keeper, who parried it away, straight into the path of Toby Bancroft, who slotted the ball past him. The Hythe players and staff celebrated wildly with one another, whilst the visitors were understandably frustrated.

The full-time whistle blew, leaving Hythe in ninth place in the table, ten points clear of relegation and just three points away from the play-offs. The Cannons can consider themselves lucky - after dominating against Chatham on Saturday, this performance certainly wasn't eye-catching, but three valuable points were won. Steve Watt's side will look to make it four wins in a row on Saturday, as they travel to 11th place Littlehampton Town at 3pm.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Marcus Goldsmith (Toby Bancroft 65 mins), Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Lex Allan (Frannie Collin 80 mins), Ethan Smith, Jarred

Trespaderne (Josh Stirman 45 mins), Johan Caney-Bryan, Shad Ngandu, Sam Itauma. Subs Unused: Marvin Hamilton, Morgan Williamson.

Scorer: Hythe Town – Toby Bancroft 90 mins.

Attendance: 158



Hythe Town 1 Chatham Town 0

Pitching In Isthmian South-East

Saturday 11th February 2023

Hythe pulled off a surprising victory over title challengers Chatham Town on Saturday afternoon. Following the last-minute win against Corinthian, Steve Watt made three changes to his side, as Lex Allan, Marcus Goldsmith and Ethan Smith all returned to the side, replacing Shad Ngandu and Sam Itauma, who both dropped to the bench, and Jarred Trespaderne, who was not involved in the game.

It took just nine minutes for the Cannons to take the lead in the match, as a long throw in from Marvin Hamilton was met by Frannie Collin, who was playing in a deeper role in the centre of midfield for the match. He headed it onto Johan Caney-Bryan, whose header went past the Chatham keeper to give Hythe the early advantage.

Unfortunately for the Cannons, the creator of their opening goal, Marvin Hamilton, had to be substituted through injury shortly after the deadlock was broken, and was replaced by Sam Itauma. Chances were few and far between in the first half, with the only other notable opportunity coming on 34 minutes, as Ethan Smith made a run down the right-hand side of the pitch, hitting a powerful shot which careered off the crossbar, but rebounding away from the goal to give the visitors a lifeline.

The second half continued in the same way as the first half finished - the Cannons were just about the better side, but both teams were struggling to have any significant chances. The first major attempt of the half went to Chatham, as a corner on the hour mark was headed on by Reece Butler, forcing the save from Steve Phillips. Just nine minutes later, Phillips was called into action again, as Billy Bennett hit a shot from the edge of the penalty area, with the Cannons stopper having to react quickly to parry the ball away, before it was eventually cleared to safety.

Billy Bennett managed to make a good impact, and was handed yet another chance to score when, with just eleven minutes remaining, he launched an effort from the D which rattled off the crossbar and, just like Ethan Smith's earlier effort for Hythe, did not find its way in, as the ball rose up into the air and was eventually collected by Steve Phillips.

As the game went into its closing stages, Hythe managed to regain their control of the match. They nearly doubled their lead with just four minutes remaining, as a corner from substitute Shad Ngandu found Liam Smith who, from a tight angle, nodded the ball just wide of the goal. However, the visitors were punished further, not by a goal, but by a sending off, as Ashley Sains was shown the red card by referee Jake Woodman following a challenge on goal scorer Johan Caney-Bryan, to put the visitors out of their misery.

The full-time whistle blew to the delight of the home fans, as Steve Watt's men managed to secure their fourth victory in the last five games. The result puts Hythe in eleventh, just five points away from the promotion play-offs and nine points clear of the relegation play-offs. The Cannons will hope to continue their good run of form on Tuesday, as they return to Reachfields yet again to take on 18th place Sittingbourne at 7:45pm.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Marcus Goldsmith (Shad Ngandu 80 mins), Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Ethan Smith, Marvin Hamilton (Sam Itauma 12 mins), Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin, Toby Bancroft (Josh Stirman 63 mins). Subs Unused: James Jeffrey, Morgan Williamson.

Scorer: Hythe Town - Johan Caney-Bryan 9 mins.

Attendance: 279



Hythe Town 2 Corinthian 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South West

Tuesday 7th February 2023

It took a matter of seconds for the Cannons to have a chance, as Jarred Trespaderne played a ball in from the left-hand side of the pitch to the returning Frannie Collin, who turned and shot just wide into the advertising hoardings. However, it was the visitors who broke the deadlock, as Ahmed Salim Futa's ball into the box was intercepted by Sam Itauma, whose attempt to clear the ball fell to former-Cannon Sam Bewick, who slipped the ball past Steve Phillips to give Corinthian the lead. On 27 minutes, Oscar Housego received the ball on the right, and managed to hit a powerful shot which went past the post. Towards the end of the half, with just five minutes remaining, Ahmed Salim Futa almost doubled their lead, hitting a long-range shot which dipped just over the bar.

On 58 minutes, Bewick had an excellent chance to make it 2-0, as he made a run from the halfway line into a one-on-one position with Steve Phillips, skipping past the Hythe stopper and unleashing a shot from a tight angle, which went off the post. The rebound did find its way to Oliver Box, but Phillips went down to grab hold of the ball. Despite Corinthian's dominance, the Cannons managed to find an equaliser just after the hour mark, as a long ball into the box found Johan Caney-Bryan, who caught the keeper unawares and bundled the shot home in a crowded penalty area to level the scores.

The change in scoreline seemed to motivate Steve Watt's men. However, their fighting spirit translated into an actual fight, as Jack Beerling put in a controversial challenge on Toby Bancroft as he made his way towards goal, which Bancroft reacted to by giving Beerling a shove, and a shoving war commenced between the two sides. Both players were booked for their actions. On 83 minutes, the game was almost lost, as a ball into Hythe's penalty box found the head of Oliver Box, but Steve Phillips was the hero, leaping to his right to make a crucial stop.

As the game went into its closing stages, it was all Hythe. A free-kick from Frannie Collin on 85 minutes took a deflection off the wall, finding substitute James Jeffrey, who made his way to the byline and squared the ball into Liam Smith, who lifted his shot over the crossbar. When it seemed the game was over and done with, in added time, the Cannons managed to steal the three points. A long throw-in from Marvin Hamilton found Jason Fregene, who hit an acrobatic shot past the Corinthian keeper to seal the three points.

In the remaining couple of minutes of injury time, there were two more brawls. The first occurred when Jarred Trespaderne was floored by an opposition player, bringing the physio onto the pitch and the rest of the players around him. Then, as soon as the full-time whistle blew, a Corinthian player went straight to Trespaderne to finish the fight, but this was stopped very quickly.

This was certainly a game of two halves, but if Hythe can replicate their second-half performance, they will certainly be taking a few more points this season. The Cannons return to action on Saturday, as they welcome 2nd place Chatham Town to Reachfields at 3pm, in a game that promises to be a big test for Steve Watt's Cannons.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Sam Itauma (Ethan Smith 45 mins), Marvin Hamilton, Jason Fregene, Jack Steventon, Toby Bancroft (James Jeffrey 79 mins), Jarred Trespaderne, Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin, Shad Ngandu (Josh Stirman 87 mins). Sub Unused: Lex Allan, Micky Phillips.

Scorers: Hythe Town - Johan Caney-Bryan 62 mins, Jason Fregene 90 mins. Corinthian - Sam Bewick 16 mins

Attendance: 109



Lancing 2 Hythe Town 0

Pitching In Isthmian League

Saturday 4th February 2023

The Cannons were brought down with a bump on Saturday afternoon as they were beaten 2-0 at Lancing.

Hythe went into the game on the back of two excellent wins but did make a couple of changes as goalkeeper Steve Phillips came back into the team after being unavailable last Tuesday. Also starting was Jack Steventon who replaced Jarred Trespaderne, and Ethan Smith was in for Toby Bancroft.

The early stages of the game were fairly even with Hythe creating their first opening on ten minutes as Marcus Goldsmith got himself into a shooting position and sent his effort straight at Lancing keeper Alieu Secka. Lancing's first attack came five minutes later as Reece Hallard shot to Phillips left but the keeper saved easily.

Sam Itauma, who was lively down the right, crossed in to find the head of Johan Caney-Bryan who nodded onto Ethan Smith whose attempt at the far post was forced away for a corner. At the other end, Phillips had to be at his best as shot came in from Marcel Powell after a number of attempts on goal. Hythe came closest to scoring on 31 minutes as a Shad Ngandu corner found Liam Smith dipping in at the near post but his header was pushed away by Secka and then from the resultant corner Ngandu, this time, sent in the kick that was headed down by Steventon but it bounced up and went over the bar.

Hythe were edging the game at this stage as Goldsmith came in from the left, but his driven attempt flew into the arms of Secka. Lancing were still creating chances as Hallard sent in a curling free kick which was saved well by Phillips. The final action of the half saw Liam Smith cross for Steventon to mishit his header wide and both sides had to settle to go in all square.

The second period started slowly but on 52 minutes the hosts snatched the lead as a freekick from the right sailed over onto the far post where Marcus Allen fired home. Hythe could have been level on 61 minutes as a Ngandu free-kick was headed wide by Lex Allan. The Cannons had a goal ruled out as Jason Fregene headed home from a free kick from substitute Frannie Collin but the referee ruled it out as he had seen an infringement in the penalty area.

Hythe could not find a way back into the game and the last two chances fell to Hallard who turned and shot but his effort was deflected wide. Then a minute into stoppage time he was not to be denied as the visitors failed to clear the ball and it fell to Hallard who fired home to seal the three points.

It was a disappointing afternoon for the Cannons, but they have chance to put things right as they entertain Corinthian on Tuesday evening. Game kicks off at Reachfields at 7:45pm.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Marcus Goldsmith, Jack Steventon (Frannie Collin 78 mins), Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Ethan Smith (Toby Bancroft 70 mins), Marvin Hamilton, Johan Caney-Bryan, Shad Ngandu (James Jeffrey 78 mins), Sam Itauma. Subs not Used: Josh Stirman, Micky Phillips.

Scorers: Lancing - Marcus Allen 52 mins, Reece Hallard 90 mins.

Attendance: 182



Three Bridges 1 Hythe Town 3

Pitching In Isthmian League

Tuesday 31st January 2023

What an evening for the Cannons as they came away with a fully deserved a 3-1 win at Three Bridges on Tuesday evening.

Manager, Steve Watt had made four changes to the side that won at home to Whitehawk on Saturday with new signing, Lucas Hanley, who is on dual registration with K Sports, coming in to replace the unavailable Steve Phillips in goal. Toby Bancroft, Sam Itauma and Jarred

Trespaderne came in to the starting eleven to replace Jack Steventon, Ethan Smith and James Jeffrey.

It was a bright start for Hythe as they had the first chance on eight minutes as Shad Ngandu had a shot palmed around the upright by Three Bridges' keeper Leo Anderson. The hosts began to pick up their game as former Cannon Noel Leighton had a shot pushed away by Hythe keeper Hanley and then Curtis Gayler dragged a shot wide.

There were limited chances in the first half but in the 41st minute, Toby Bancroft drilled an effort from 25 yards that took a deflection wide. From the resultant corner Ngandu sent the ball into the penalty area. It finally came out to Jarred Trespaderne who blasted home to give the Cannons the lead. Ngandu, who had an outstanding match, had a free kick that he sent in with Itauma coming in but he headed over.

There was one chance for Gayler just before the break as he firstly had a shot blocked and following up his next attempt was collected easily by Hanley.

The early period of the second half saw Three Bridges up the gears as they looked for the equaliser. Joe Stone fired an effort into the arms of Hanley and then on 55 minutes they were rewarded as a corner was cleared and Joe Tennent pounced at the back post to send the ball into the back of the net.

However, Hythe took back control and were ahead on 59 minutes. Ngandu was again in the action as he charged in and crossed into Johan Caney-Bryan who headed in at the far post. Ngandu followed that up when he saw Anderson off his line and sent in a ball that rattled off the cross bar and down but did not cross the line.

The hosts, who put in some heavy challenges early in the game, were reduced to ten men on 72 minutes as they lost their discipline as goal scorer Tennent received a second yellow card and it could be argued that they were lucky not to lose a couple more players to red cards on the evening. Hythe, however kept themselves out of trouble and were rewarded on 81 minutes as Itauma had his ankles clipped as he broke into the penalty area. Up stepped Ngandu who skilfully clipped his penalty past the diving Anderson to make it 3-1.

Deep into injury time substitute Josh Stirman worked his way in from the right and blasted a shot across the mouth of the goal and away for a goal kick.

It was an evening where it would be difficult to find any Hythe player who did not play their part in what was a great team performance. The win takes them up to eleventh place in the table

and will give encouragement to the team as they travel back to West Sussex on Saturday to play Lancing. Kick off is 3pm.

Team: Lucas Hanley, Liam Smith, Marcus Goldsmith, Marvin Hamilton (Jack Steventon 71 mins), Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Toby Bancroft (Ethan Smith 75 mins), Jarred Tresparderne Johan Caney-Bryan, Shad Ngandu (Josh Stirman 90 mins), Sam Itauma. **Subs Unused:** James Jeffrey, Micky Phillips.

Scorers: Three Bridges - Joe Tennant 55 mins. Hythe Town - Jarred Tresparderne 41 mins, Johan Caney-Bryan 59 mins, Shad Ngandu 81 mins (pen).

Attendance: 92



Hythe Town 1 Whitehawk 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 28th January 2023

The Cannons were victorious in their first home game of 2023, as they won 1-0 over promotion challengers Whitehawk. Manager Steve Watt made just one change from the 2-0 loss to Cray Valley PM, handing James Jeffrey his first start for Hythe, replacing the unavailable Frannie Collin.

It was a rather quiet first half – minor opportunities were shared fairly evenly between the two sides. The biggest opportunity of the half went to Jeffrey, who received a ball on the right-hand side of the penalty area, taking a touch which came off a Whitehawk player, but regaining possession and squaring the ball back to the onrushing Shad Ngandu, whose shot was deflected away from goal.

Fortunately, the second period got off to a livelier start. Marcus Goldsmith's ball from the by-line flew into the box, meeting the diving head of Ngandu, however the ball went straight to Whitehawk stopper Luke Glover, who initially spilled it but managed to regain the ball just in time. Immediately, the Hawks had their first major chance of the half, as Luke Robinson made his way to the by-line and attempted to square the ball to a teammate, but the opportunity was put past the post. It was just after the hour mark that Hythe took the lead, when Shad Ngandu's cross was met with a header from Liam Smith, who sent the ball past the onrushing keeper and gave the Cannons a deserved lead.

The match wasn't without jeopardy, especially in the later stages of the game as the visitors tried to score at least one goal to prevent them walking away without a point, but their efforts were futile. The most notable opportunity came on 79 minutes, as the ball went loose amongst a crowd of players in the box, and the Hythe defence had to scramble around to hoof the ball away. Immediately, the ball went to Johan Caney-Bryan, who set off and put himself in a one-on-one position with Luke Glover, but the shot lacked precision and was palmed away by the keeper.

There was an immense sense of relief at the full-time whistle – after almost two months, Hythe had won at home, albeit they had only played once at Reachfields since their last home win. Hoping to build on the victory, the Cannons travel to Three Bridges on Tuesday night, with the match kicking off at 7:45pm.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Marcus Goldsmith, Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Ethan Smith (Toby Bancroft 78 mins), Marvin Hamilton, Johan Caney-Bryan, Shad Ngandu (Josh Stirman 84 mins), James Jeffrey (Sam Itauma 64 mins). Sub Unused Micky Phillips

Scorer: Hythe Town - Liam Smith 62 mins.

Attendance: 224



Cray Valley PM 2 Hythe Town 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 21st January 2023

It was a tail of Déjà vu on Saturday afternoon as the Cannons dominated the first half but succumbed to two second half goals as they left Cray Valley PM pointless in a 2-0 defeat.

The pitch was in excellent condition despite the recent frosts and help in an entertaining game.

Steve Watt made one change from the previous game bringing back Shad Ngandu to replace the injured Josh Stirman. New signing from Faversham Town Toby Bancroft was on the bench along with Jarred Trespaderne who has re-signed on dual registration with Lydd Town as cover.

It was the Cannons who made a brisk start and could have been ahead in as little as two minutes as a Shad Ngandu shot deflected back to Johan Caney-Bryan whose close-range attempt was saved by Cray Valley keeper Chris Lewington. A couple of efforts followed from the hosts as Adam Coombes had a shot deflected over the bar and then Barney Williams fired into the side netting.

However, it was Hythe who had the initiative as the ball came out to Liam Smith who launched it over the bar and then Ngandu had an attempt blocked and Caney-Bryan following up shot straight into the arms of Lewington. Hythe had strong appeals for a penalty waved away as Caney-Bryan appeared to be brought down by Lewington.

The pressure continued as Marvin Hamilton played in Ngandu who reached for the ball, but it unluckily went over. Ngandu was in the action again as he worked his way into a shooting

position, but the final effort sailed over the top. Chances at the other end were limited with Ade Adeyemo launching the ball over the bar and on the stroke of half time Hythe keeper Steve Phillips saved well from Coombes.

Hythe really should have been two or three ahead at the break but it was not to be but they did have the first chance of the second period as a Frannie Collin cross was met by the head of Hamilton, but Lewington was on hand to save. As the half progressed the hosts became stronger and more threatening as Denzel Gayle broke through on the right, but Phillips was out of his goal to block well.

The pressure increased as Jack Steventon cleared off the Hythe goal line from an effort from Dan Bennett and then on 66 minutes the deadlock was broken as Bennett this time was not to be denied as he planted the ball past Phillips into the back of the net.

Substitute James Jeffrey had a chance to get the equaliser but he lifted the ball over the bar and then on the break after 77 minutes Cray Valley's Gayle surged through flicking the ball over the advancing Phillip into the net.

There was limited time now for the Cannons to get back in the game with only one chance as Collin sent a free kick looping over the target. It was another case of Hythe not taking their chances to put the game out of the reach of the opposition when the opportunities came and suffering a defeat which could so easily been a win.

Hythe will be back on the road again on Tuesday evening (24th January 2023) when they visit East Grinstead Town. Please note that the kick off is as 7:30pm.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Marcus Goldsmith (Sam Itauma 90 mins), Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Ethan Smith (James Jeffrey 60 mins), Marvin Hamilton, Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin, Shad Ngandu (Jarred Trespaderne 59 mins), Subs Unused Toby Bancroft, Micky Phillips)

Scorers: Cray Valley PM - Daniel Bennett 67 mins, Denzel Gayle 77 mins.

Attendance: 130



Sheppey United 1 Hythe Town 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 14th January 2023

Sheppey United edged a scrappy game with a single goal that gave them victory against the Cannons at Holm Park on Saturday afternoon.

Hythe started with an unchanged side from their victory at Faversham Town with the two new signings James Jeffrey and Riley Asaam both on the bench.

The game started slowly with both sides adjusting to the windy conditions that were to prevail throughout the afternoon and it wasn't until the 26th minute that Sheppey had their first meaningful chance as former Ashford midfielder Josh Wisson picked up the ball but screwed his final shot well wide of the bar. The Cannons had to wait until the 31st minute for their first opening as a long throw from Jack Steventon found Lex Allan who headed over.

A minute later the visitors were dealt a blow as Josh Stirman went down with what looked like a nasty knee injury and was replaced by Sam Itauma. With the game coming towards the break Sheppey had three chances as firstly a surging run from Danny Leonard ended with an excellent interception by Ethan Smith to end the danger. Hythe keeper Steve Phillips, who to that point had a quiet first half, had to be on hand to save as a cross from Frankie Del Morgan was headed on by Jake Embery and then he palmed a shot from former Cannon Bradley Schafer around the post.

The second period started with a little more pressure coming from the hosts as a dangerous cross from Connor Wilkins just fell out of the reach of Embery and Wisson who were moving in for the kill. Sheppey continued to press and a looping shot from Leonard had to be tipped over

by Phillips. Hythe then had an effort at the other end as Frannie Collin whipped in a cross that found Jason Fregene whose header went just over the bar.

The deadlock was broken on 73 minutes as a superb in swinging corner from Richard Hamell drifted over Phillips into the far top corner of the net to give Sheppey the lead. They should have put the game out of the reach of the Cannons on 83 minutes as a cross from substitute Luke Frost found Schafer who with the goal gaping he pulled his attempt wide.

In the final minutes Hythe pressed for an equaliser as firstly they had appeals for handball in the penalty area waved away and then Caney-Bryan hammered over from a Liam Smith cross but they couldn't find their way through. Sheppey held on to the three points with Hythe staying in 13th place.

They now look to bounce back at Reachfields on Tuesday evening (17th January 2023) when they entertain Burgess Hill Town. Kick-off is Subs unused Micky Phillips.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Marcus Goldsmith, Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Ethan Smith (James Jeffrey 79 mins), Marvin Hamilton (Riley Asaam 84 mins), Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin, Josh Stirman (Sam Itauma 35 mins).

Scorer: Richard Hamill 73 mins.

Attendance: 344.



Faversham Town 0 Hythe Town 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Monday 2nd January 2023

The Cannons battled well to come away with three hard earned points to move up to 12th place in the table as they won 1-0 at bottom of the table Faversham Town on Monday afternoon.

Steve Watt made only one change to the starting eleven from the last game at home to Ramsgate bringing in Josh Stirman for the unavailable Shad Ngandu.

Hythe edged the first half, but it was attritional as both sides looked to gain the initiative with the early chances coming for the visitors. On nine minutes Frannie Collin sent in a free kick that was headed over by Liam Smith and then he turned and shot wide. Faversham took 27 minutes to mount a real attack as Alex Addai, signed this week on loan from Sittingbourne, went down under pressure in the penalty area but the referee was on the spot waving away claims for a penalty. There was only one more effort before the break as Collin sent a long-range shot wide of the target.

The early stages of the second half saw more intent from the hosts as in the first five minutes former Cannon Kieron Campbell had two opportunities as firstly, he weaved his way into a shooting position, but his shot was deflected wide and he then fired an attempt over the bar.

However, it was the Cannons who got the breakthrough on 57 minutes as Marcus Goldsmith sent the ball into the penalty area where it eventually found Jason Fregene who slammed the ball home from close-range to make it 1-0. Almost immediately Campbell again had an effort that was blocked well by Hythe keeper Steve Phillips.

The game was becoming more open as Collin whipped in a corner that was met with the head of Jack Steventon whose bullet header was blocked by the Faversham defence. Faversham were now pressing for the equaliser, but the Hythe defence remained resolute with Lex Allan a tower of strength at the back restricting the hosts to limited opportunities with Frazer Shaw sending a shot wide.

Prolific ex-Hythe striker Zak Ansah was restricted to his chances but had two in the closing stages as he had a shot deflected wide and then a looping header that was well saved by Phillips and the Cannons held onto three vital points.

They now entertain Corinthian next Saturday (7th January 2023) as they look to increase the gap away from the lower reaches of the league. Kick off is 2pm.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Marcus Goldsmith, Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Ethan Smith, Marvin Hamilton, Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin (Harry Miller 83 mins), Josh Stirman (Sam Itauma 69 mins) Subs not Used: Connor Cheek, Morgan Williamson, Micky Phillips.

Goal Scorer: Hythe Town - Jason Fregene 57 mins.

Attendance: 310



Hythe Town 0 Ramsgate 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Monday 26th December 2022

Hythe lost their first league match at Reachfields this season, going down 1-0 to league leaders Ramsgate. Manager Steve Watt made just one change from the previous league match against Sheppey United on 8th December, as Marcus Goldsmith came in for the unavailable Sam Itauma.

The opening few minutes were dominated by Ramsgate, as Hythe struggled to get the ball out of their own half. However, after finding their feet, the Cannons had their first opportunity of the match on 13 minutes, as Shad Ngandu crossed the ball in from the right-hand side to the returning Marcus Goldsmith, whose shot lacked the conviction to trouble Josh Bexon in the Ramsgate goal. The visitors had their first major chance seven minutes later, as Nathan Wood guided the ball into a one-on-one position with Steve Phillips, attempting to lob the ball over the Hythe keeper, however Phillips reacted in time to catch the ball and prevent any danger.

It was Phillips who once again got Hythe out of trouble on 25 minutes, when ex-Cannon Ashley Miller found Kane Rowland, whose shot was met by the onrushing Phillips, who was able to deflect it away. Hythe had another opportunity to break the deadlock after 37 minutes, as a free kick from Frannie Collin found Lex Allan, who headed the ball wide.

However, it was the visitors who opened the scoring with five minutes remaining of the first half, as Jack Paxman's precise long-range shot caught out Steve Phillips, drifting into the back of the net and giving the Rams the lead at half-time.

The second half began with Ashley Miller running onto the ball and blazing it over on 54 minutes. From then on, there was very little goalmouth action, but the game itself was very even.

It wasn't until late on in the half when the second goal was almost scored, as a Hythe attack in injury time was cleared away by Ramsgate, and the ball found Nathan Wood, who took himself into a one-on-one with Steve Phillips, however, he ballooned his shot way over the crossbar, much to the amusement of the Hythe supporters.

It was, in fact, Hythe who had the final chance to settle the score line, as a long-range free kick from Frannie Collin was deflected just wide of the post, before the referee put the whistle to his lips to signal the end of the match.

The loss will disappoint several Hythe fans, however, given that they were playing the team top of the league, it could easily have been a heavier defeat, and the Hythe defence do deserve credit. The Cannons are back in action on the 2nd of January, as they travel to Faversham Town for a 3pm kick-off.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Marcus Goldsmith, Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene (Danny Taylor 82 mins), Lex Allan, Ethan Smith (Josh Stirman 80 mins), Marvin Hamilton, Jason Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin, Shad Ngandu (Izzy Adebayo 88 mins). Subs Unused: Veron Miege, Micky Phillips.

Scorer: Ramsgate – Jack Paxman 40 mins.

Attendance: 320

Report by Tom Ellerby



Herne Bay 2 Hythe Town 0

Mid-Season Friendly

Tuesday 20th December 2022

After the cold snap that resulted in three postponed games, Hythe Town arranged a friendly against Isthmian Premier Division Herne Bay on Tuesday evening. The game ended in a 2-0 win for the hosts, but it was a very useful work out for the Cannons as they prepare for their fixture on Boxing Day at home to Ramsgate.

The Bay edged the first half taking the lead on 25 minutes as Eddie Allsop surged through and planted the ball past Hythe stand in keeper Charlie Taylor and into the net. Taylor, brother of Hythe's new signing Danny Taylor was cover for Steven Phillips who was not available.

Charlie Taylor was in the action twice early in the second half as he made two great saves from a shot from Mason Saunders-Henry and then from a header by Briggs Ojemen. Hythe began to press as the half progressed as Josh Stirman found the net but only to see the referee's assistants flag raised for offside.

Herne Bay sealed the game with ten minutes to go as Kymani Thomas whipped in a cross from the right and Monty Saunders was on hand to fire home from close range.

The Cannons now look forward to the game on Monday (Boxing Day) with a 2pm kick off at Reachfields.

Team: Charlie Taylor, Liam Smith, Sam Itauma, Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Josh Stirman, Marvin Hamilton, Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin, Marcus Goldsmith
Subs all Used: Danny Taylor Izzy Adebayo, Veron Miege, Micky Phillips, A.Trialist.

Scorers: Herne Bay – Eddie Allsop 25 mins, Monty Saunders 80 mins

Attendance: Approx 150



Hythe Town 1 Sheppey United 0

Pitching in Isthmian League South-East

Tuesday 6th December 2022

A late goal from Johan Caney-Bryan was enough for the Cannons to take all three points in a 1-0 win over Sheppey United on a chilly Tuesday evening.

Manager, Steve Watt made one change bringing back Jack Steventon from suspension to replace the unavailable Jack Mahoney.

There was an opportunity for Hythe within two minutes as Shad Ngandu screwed a shot wide. The rest of the half saw limited chances with the next effort coming on 23 minutes as Liam Smith launched a shot high over the bar. Sheppey had to wait until the 27th minute for their first opening as former Cannon Warren Mfula worked his way into a scoring position before slicing his attempt over the bar.

Another chance followed for the visitors as a curling shot from Frankie Morgan went well wide. At the other end Sam Itauma shot across the Sheppey goal towards the far post but the ball was pushed away for a corner by Sheppey and ex Hythe keeper Aiden Prall. Neither side had looked like scoring in the first period.

At the start of the second half it was the hosts who were first to find an opening as a Frannie Collin corner found the head of Jason Fregene but the ball went over the bar. Josh Stirman then sent in a dipping shot from 25 yards that was tipped over by Prall.

Sheppey then had a couple of opportunities that put pressure on Hythe as firstly Jamal Ossai forced Hythe keeper Steve Phillips to push the ball around the post and then on 53 minutes Connor Wilkins nearly broke the deadlock as he unleashed a shot that forced a great save from Phillips to his right. Then at the other end Jack Steventon lifted a ball over the bar.

Mfula had an opening as he played the ball past Phillip but the angle was too tight to get a meaningful effort away and the ball was sliced wide. Itauma blasted wide for Hythe and then the decisive moment came on 84 minutes as Ngandu picked the ball up on the left and whipped in a cross that found Caney-Bryan whose glancing header from close range went in and gave the Cannons all three points to the relief and delight of the Hythe supporters who had braved the cold conditions.

It was a performance where the Cannons defence had stayed firm and they got the vital goal which takes them up to 13th place with another home game coming on Saturday when they entertain Burgess Hill Town in a league fixture. Kick off is 2pm.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Sam Itauma, Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Ethan Smith, Marvin Hamilton (Josh Stirman 45 mins) (Izzy Adebayo 90 mins), Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin, Shad Ngandu.

Scorer: Hythe Town - Johan Caney-Bryan 84 mins

Attendance: 119



Hythe Town 0 VCD Athletic 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 3rd December 2022

Hythe were held by VCD Athletic on a chilly Saturday afternoon at Reachfields. Manager Steve Watt only made one change to his team that lost to Haywards Heath, as Sam Itauma replaced Jack Steventon, who served a one-match suspension for picking up five bookings this season,

The Cannons looked to be the stronger side in the first quarter of the match, but chances were few and far between. 18 minutes in, Frannie Collin hit a shot across goal which was just about stopped by keeper Harry Brooks, who is local and has spent time on trial at Hythe. On 20 minutes, Johan Caney-Bryan released Ethan Smith, who sent a shot just wide. VCD's first chance of the match came on 24 minutes, as Soul Kader turned and hit a shot towards goal from a tight angle, which went just past the post. Kader had another chance with ten minutes to go in the first half, as he went through to a one-on-one position with Steve Phillips, and the Hythe stopper managed to block the ball away to prevent the danger. With just a minute left of the half, Byron Zak and Ethan Smith had a coming together, in which Zak's boot went high and seemed to strike Smith in the face, and, after having already picked up a yellow card earlier, the referee showed his yellow card once again. Two lemons make a strawberry, so Zak's day was over.

The second half began with a chance for The Vickers, as Karl Dent's shot was saved well by Steve Phillips. It took a while for another chance to come, but come it did, as Hythe had a goalmouth scramble with several shots going towards goal and being blocked by defenders on 76 minutes. The best of these chances came from Josh Stirman, who took too long to take his shot and allowed the defenders to position themselves effectively. Just a minute later, another melee came Hythe's way, and again they failed to capitalise, as the ball was eventually scrambled away by the keeper. With 79 minutes on the clock, the visitors almost snatched the three points, when Jordan Greaves' shot from outside the box ricocheted off the crossbar, much to the relief of the home fans. In the dying moments of the match, as stoppage time ensued, the

Cannons had a succession of corners, and one of them almost went in, as Frannie Collin's ball was met by Liam Smith's header, which was deflected away.

Hythe will look back at this game as a missed opportunity to take three valuable points, but with an encouraging performance, the Cannons will look to gain more points on Tuesday night, as they entertain Sheppey United at 7:45 pm.

Team: Steven Phillips, Liam Smith, Sam Ituama (Veron Miede 70 mins), Marvin Hamilton, Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Jack Mahoney (Josh Stirman 66 mins), Ethan Smith (Izzy Adeboya 88 mins), Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin, Shad Ngandu. Sub Not Used: Micky Phillips

Attendance: 151



Haywards Heath Town 2 Hythe Town 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 26th November 2022

The Cannons inconsistent season continued as an unchanged team sunk to a 2-1 defeat at Haywards Heath Town on Saturday afternoon.

It all started so well for Hythe as they took the lead on three minutes. Ethan Smith picked the ball up on the left-hand side and then put in a deep cross that took a couple of deflections before finding Johan Caney-Bryan who fired home at the far post. The early pressure continued as Liam Smith crossed into Caney-Bryan at the near post, but he hooked the ball just wide.

Frannie Collin had the next opportunity as he saw Haywards Heath keeper Billy Collings off his line, but the ball sailed over the cross bar. The hosts had to wait until the 35th minute for their

first effort as Thomas Collings unleashed a pile driver from 25 yards that forced Hythe keeper Steve Phillips into a fine save.

The Cannons continued to have the lions share of the chances and Jason Fregene headed just over from a Collin cross. Heath had one chance on the stroke of half time as a free kick from Nabeel Ghannam from just outside the area went well over the top and Hythe went in with a well-deserved lead.

However, the whole picture changed in the second half as the scores were level on 48 minutes as Ghannam was unnecessarily brought down in the penalty area. Up stepped Collings who planted his spot kick into the right-hand corner of the net just out of the reach of Phillips. Hythe could have regained the lead on the hour when Jack Steventon headed over a Collin cross.

As the half continued it was Haywards Heath who took the initiative and on 61 minutes they were ahead. A free kick was played into the Hythe box and eventually was slammed against the upright before Thomas Collings followed up and blasted the ball home. The visitors seemed to lose their shape with miss placed passes as Heath continued to press as on 63 minutes James Dickson broke through sending his shot past Phillips but with the ball smashing into the upright and away.

There were a couple of chances for Hythe before the end as Liam Smith drove a shot at the near post which was pushed away by Billy Collings and then a long throw from Marvin Hamilton found Lex Allan, but his header didn't test the keeper and it was Haywards Heath who held onto all three points.

It was a disappointing afternoon for Hythe and one they must learn from as they prepare to face VCD Athletic next Saturday (3rd December 2022) at Reachfields with an early kick off at 1pm.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Ethan Smith, Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Jack Mahoney, Marvin Hamilton, Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin, Shad Ngandu (Josh Stirman 83 mins).

Subs Not Used: Morgan Williamson, Veron Miege, Micky Phillips.

Scorers: Haywards Heath Town – Thomas Collings 48 (pen) & 61 mins. Hythe Town – Johan Caney-Bryan 3 mins.

Attendance: 307



Hythe Town 3 Lancing 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 19th November 2022

Hythe Town made their way to their second home league win of the season in the Isthmian South-East Division on Saturday, beating Lancing 3-1. Steve Watt made just two changes from the 2-0 defeat at Whitehawk, as Veron Miego and Josh Stirman were replaced by Shad Ngandu and Ethan Smith, who slotted into the left wing-back role, a position he had yet to play in this season.

However, it was his brother Liam who scored the opener for Hythe after just two minutes, as he made a run down the right-hand side of the pitch, driving a ball into the box which missed everybody and found its way into the back of the net to give the Cannons the early momentum. It was very nearly 2-0 just three minutes later, as Shad Ngandu fed the ball into top scorer Johan Caney-Bryan, who fired the shot straight at Lancing stopper Alieu Secka. The visitors then went on the counterattack, as Ash Mutongerwa came forward and went one-on-one with Steve Phillips, who blocked the ball away for a throw in to maintain the lead.

Hythe doubled that lead just after the halfway point of the first period, as Ethan Smith darted into the box and tried to slip past keeper Secka, who tripped Smith over, resulting in a Hythe penalty, which Frannie Collin slotted home to the keeper's left. The final major chance of the half also went to the Cannons, as Shad Ngandu attempted to lob the keeper, with the shot narrowly looping over the bar and onto the top of the netting.

Six minutes into the second period, Hythe almost had their third, when a ball into the box was headed across the goal by Jack Steventon, as it then bounced wide. The third did come on 70 minutes, when Shad Ngandu swung the ball onto the head of Johan Caney-Bryan, who took the chance to score his ninth of the season. Unfortunately, the clean sheet was not meant to be for Steve Watt, or his keeper Steve Phillips, who watched on as Lex Allan brought Ash Mutongerwa down, before Darius Goldsmith stepped up to slot the ball to Phillips' left and give Lancing a glimmer of positivity.

The game can be viewed as a much-improved Hythe performance, and hopefully some momentum to carry with them as they enter the winter phase of the season. The Cannons are back in action next Saturday as they travel to a Haywards Heath Town side who are struggling to replicate their strong 2021/22 season.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Ethan Smith (Veron Miede 90 mins), Jack Steventon, Lex Allan, Jason Fregene, Jack Mahoney (Josh Stirman 74 mins), Marvin Hamilton, Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin, Shad Ngandu (Sam Ituama 74 mins). Subs Unused: Morgan Williamson, Michael Phillips.

Scorers: Hythe Town - Liam Smith 2 mins, Frannie Collin 24 mins (pen), Johan Caney-Bryan 70 mins. Lancing - Darius Goldsmith 80 mins (pen).

Attendance: 200



Whitehawk 2 Hythe Town 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 12th November 2022

The Cannons can consider themselves very unlucky to come away from Whitehawk on the back of a 2-0 defeat on a bright chilly Sussex afternoon.

Hythe started with one change in the starting line up with Veron Meige coming in at left-back for the injured Marcus Goldsmith.

The Cannons definitely had the best of the play in the first half and had their first opportunity on five minutes as a dangerous Liam Smith cross nearly found Johan Caney-Bryan but a Whitehawk

defender, under pressure, did really well to prevent the chance turning into a goal. Hythe continued to have “the lion’s share” of the possession as they sought out chances to break the deadlock.

The hosts were restricted to breakaways with their first effort on 17 minutes as Joel Daly crossed into Charlie Lambert who sent the ball wide. Hythe continued to look the more likely as Josh Stirman worked his way into a shooting position but his final attempt lacked power and was easily collected by Hawks keeper Luke Glover.

It was however Whitehawk who got the first goal a minute from the break as Hamish Morrison sent in a deep cross to the far post finding Joe Shelley who made no mistake heading in. They could have gone two ahead in injury time as Hythe keeper Steve Phillips had to be at his best to intercept a cross from Shelley before the ever-dangerous Kai Brown got a shot in on goal.

The early part of the second half saw Whitehawk more on the attack as a cross from Harry Shooman was eventually punched away by Phillips and then he had a header saved again by the Hythe keeper. However, the Cannons continued to create chances as Frannie Collin sent in a free-kick that skimmed the top of the cross bar and then he fired a shot high over the bar.

Whitehawk were still creating chances as they forced a double save from Phillips but the Cannons could have been level on 75 minutes as captain Liam Smith fired in, but Shelley was on hand to clear off the line. On 81 minutes again Hythe were denied any luck as a Harry Miller strike that was going wide was deflected by Shad Ngandu with the ball just going the wrong side of the upright.

As the game moved into injury time Whitehawk finally sealed the points as Joel Daly worked his way into an excellent position before burying his shot into the net to make it 2-0. The score flattered the hosts and Hythe can count themselves very unlucky not to come away with a point.

There were positives in Hythe’s performance that they must take into the next game on Saturday as they entertain Lancing with a 2pm kick off.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Veron Meige (Shad Ngandu 45 mins), Jack Steventon, Lex Allan, Jason Fregene, Josh Stirman (Ethan Smith 45 mins), Marvin Hamilton, Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin, Jack Mahoney (Harry Miller 67 mins). Subs Unused: Sam Itauma, Micky Phillips.

Scorers: Whitehawk – Joe Shelley 44 mins, Joel Daly 90 mins.

Attendance: 464



Hythe Town 1 Cray Valley PM 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 5th November 2022

Hythe took a point against Cray Valley on a rainy Saturday afternoon at Reachfields. Following a 6-1 defeat to Chatham Town, Steve Watt made three changes to his side, as Lex Allan, Johan Caney-Bryan and Josh Stirman replaced Ethan Smith, Shad Ngandu and the departed Jarred Trespaderne, who returned to Ashford United earlier in the week.

Cray Valley had their first chance in the very first minute as Daniel Bennett struck a shot straight at Hythe keeper Steve Phillips. In the ninth minute Hythe had a penalty appeal for handball waved away by the referee and it was the Cannons who took the lead in the 16th minute as a deep looping cross by Josh Stirman from the right found Johan Caney-Bryan was on hand on the far post to head home his eighth goal of the season.

Hythe had a chance to score their second on 24 minutes, as Frannie Collin collected the ball and attempted to bundle it home, but it was smothered away by the keeper. Unfortunately for Watt's men, the visitors got the equaliser on 27 minutes, as a free-kick flew into the box, taking a deflection off the outstretched foot of Marvin Hamilton and falling to Daniel Bennett, who tucked it away. Hamilton almost got the Cannons back ahead on the half-hour mark, putting in a long throw for Lex Allan, who headed over the bar. On the stroke of half-time, Bennett almost scored his second for the visitors, however his driven shot went just over the crossbar.

The second half began with another Hythe opportunity, and another from a long throw, as Hamilton's throw resulted in a melee in the penalty area, before Frannie Collin drove a shot that found its way into the net. However, the linesman raised his flag for offside, meaning that the shot must've taken a deflection against an offside player on its way to goal. The Cannons tried again on the hour mark, as Marcus Goldsmith fired his shot over the bar from just outside the

box, and Liam Smith put a dangerous cross into the penalty area a few minutes later, which was volleyed away for a corner by a Cray defender.

It was the visitors who had the next chance, as a diving header from Adam Coombes was met by Steve Phillips, who had to change direction to palm the shot away. In the dying minutes of the match, Frannie Collin took on a shot just outside the box which was deflected away, before Liam Smith hit the rebound goalwards, which also took a deflection off a defender. Moments later, the Cannons had one final chance to take all three points, as Collin became the provider, putting a free-kick in towards the head of Jason Fregene, whose header went straight into the hands of the goalkeeper.

The Hythe players would be forgiven for being disappointed with the results, as Steve Watt's men clearly had the best of the chances. However, a point against a side challenging for promotion is nothing to be ashamed of.

The Cannons return to action on Tuesday night as they travel to Three Bridges with a kick off at 7:45pm.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Marcus Goldsmith, Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Lex Allan, Josh Stirman (Harry Miller 45 mins), Marvin Hamilton, Johan Caney-Bryan (Ethan Smith 66 mins), Frannie Collin, Jack Mahoney (Shad Ngandu 80 mins). Subs not used: Sam Itauma, Veron Miede

Scorers: Hythe Town - Johan Caney-Bryan 16 mins. Cray Valley PM - Daniel Bennett 27 mins

Attendance: 169



Chatham Town 6 Hythe Town 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 28th October 2022

The Cannons were humbled as they were swept away in a 6-1 defeat at Chatham Town on an unseasonably warm Saturday afternoon.

Steve Watt made two changes from the side who drew with Ashford United the previous Saturday as Johan Caney-Bryan was dropped to the bench as he was carrying a minor injury and Jarred Trespaderne came in for Mitchell Harman.

The first half was one way traffic as Chatham quickly got into their stride and they were ahead with their first attack of the game on seven minutes as a deep cross from Matt Bodkin found Emmanuel Oloyede on the far post and he headed home to make it 1-0. The pressure continued as Oloyede side footed wide of the target.

It was 2-0 on 25 minutes as prolific goal scorer Dan Bradshaw got on the end of another deep cross to plant his shot into the net at the far post. Nine minutes later things got worse for the Cannons as they found themselves three down as Jack Evans, 40 yards out, saw Hythe keeper Steve Phillips off his line and launched a high lob that flew over the stranded keeper and into the back of the net.

There was one more opportunity for the hosts before the break as Jack Evans saw a shot pushed around the post by Phillips.

There were changes at half time as Caney-Bryan replaced Trespaderne and Josh Stirman came on for Ethan Smith and immediately Hythe had a period when they started to fight back. Within a minute of the restart, they had their first effort of the game as Caney-Bryan got straight into the action as he played in Stirman, but his final attempt lacked power and Chatham keeper Ben Bridle-Card saved easily. Three minutes later Hythe got back into the game as Caney-Bryan had a header deflected in by Chats defender Ike Orji with the ball rolling into the net.

Hythe were now in their best period of the game as Marcus Goldsmith rattled the upright from the right when attempting a cross. However, this bright spell was not to last long as the hosts regained the initiative as Seidou Sanogo coming in from the right forced Phillips to save with his legs.

Eventually, on 62 minutes Chatham put the game out of the Cannons reach as Bradshaw got his second as he headed home from another Bodkin cross. Bodkin was to be provider again on 73 minutes as substitute Daniel Thompson headed home at the far post from another corner. With five minutes to go Phillips denied the Chats as he tipped over a strike from Prince Domafriyie. However, the humiliation was complete two minutes from time as Callum Peck fired home.

It was a poor performance from the Cannons, and they must now regroup before Tuesday night's League fixture at home to Sheppey United to regain the form of the previous few weeks. The game kicks off at 7:45pm.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith (Lex Allan 67 mins), Marcus Goldsmith, Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Marvin Hamilton, Ethan Smith (Josh Stirman 45 mins), Jack Mahoney, Shad Ngandu, Frannie Collin, Jarred Trespaderne (Johan Caney-Bryan 45 mins). Subs Unused: Mitchell Harman, Sam Itauma.

Scorers: Chatham Town - Emmanuel Oloyede 7 mins, Dan Bradshaw 25 & 62 mins, Jack Evans 34 mins, Daniel Thompson 73 mins, Callum Peck 88 mins Hythe Town – Johan Caney-Bryan 48 mins.

Attendance: 717



Hythe Town 1 Ashford United 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 22nd October 2022

Hythe can consider themselves unlucky not to come away with more than a point as they drew 1-1 against Ashford United in a really competitive and entertaining fixture at Reachfields on Saturday afternoon.

The starting line up was unchanged from the midweek victory at home to Beckenham Town last Tuesday.

It was Ashford who were first to show as after nine minutes George Nikaj saw Steve Phillips off his line and attempted to lob the ball from 35 yards over the Hythe keeper but his attempt sailed over the bar. The visitors continued to press and Lanre Azeez cut in down the by-line and fired over from a very tight angle. The Cannons had to wait until the 18th minute for their first opportunity as Shad Ngandu sent in a deep cross from the right finding Mitch Harman who blasted over.

On 26th minute the Hythe defence failed to clear and Nikaj forced his way through, but Jack Steventon was on hand to hook the ball away and then a dipping shot was tipped over by Phillips. As the game went deep into additional time at the end of the first half a corner from Marvin Hamilton bounced about in the penalty area before Frannie Collin lifted the ball over the bar.

The second started with Ashford still edging the game and on 53 minutes former Cannon Gary Lockyer turned in the Hythe area and unleashed a shot that gave Phillips no chance and gave the visitors the lead. This seemed to spark the hosts into action, and they were rewarded five minutes later as a Collin corner found Jason Fregene who managed to direct his header well out of the reach of Ashford keeper Jacob Russell and into the right-hand corner of the net to bring the scores level.

The whole shape of the game changed and it was now Hythe who took control of the game as they looked for a winner. On the hour Collin played in substitute Ethan Smith who forced Russell to save and then then a Collin corner was headed over by Hamilton.

The pressure continued as Collin crossed into Jarred Trespaderne who forced another fine save from Russell. Collin continued to provide as he crossed into Fregene who blasted a shot from close range into a crowd of players and then Fregene was unlucky when he forced another cracking save from the Ashford keeper. As the game went into injury time at the end of the match there was one more effort from the Cannons as Trespaderne sliced an attempt wide.

It was a tough encounter where both sides had periods in the game where they were dominant but, in the end, they both had to settle for a point.

The Cannons who now sit in tenth place can now take this positive performance in to next weeks difficult trip to Chatham Town on Saturday 29th October 2022 with a 3pm kick-off.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Marcus Goldsmith, Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Marvin Hamilton, Shad Ngandu (Jarred Trespaderne 66 mins), Jack Mahoney, Johan Caney-Bryan (Josh Stirman 10 mins), Frannie Collin, Mitch Harman (Ethan Smith 60 mins). Subs Unused: Lex Allan, Sam Itauma.

Scorers: Hythe Town - Jason Fregene 58 mins, Ashford United - Gary Lockyer 53 mins.

Attendance: 435



Hythe Town 3 Beckenham Town 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Tuesday 18th October 2022

Hythe took their first home league victory of the season on Tuesday night as they convincingly beat Beckenham Town 3-0. Steve Watt made two changes from the Cannons' loss to Chichester, as Sam Itauma and Jarred Trespaderne were relegated to the bench, being replaced by Shad Ngandu and Mitch Harman, who was making his home debut for Hythe.

The Cannons dominated the early chances, starting on 18 minutes, when Shad Ngandu picked up the ball just outside the box, skipping past his man and firing a shot over the angle of post and bar. The visitors had a chance to break the deadlock on the half-hour mark, as Alfie Bloomfield made his way into a one-on-one position ahead of stopper Steve Phillips, who managed to block the shot clear of the net.

Immediately Hythe responded, coming close to their first, with Liam Smith's cross being headed over by Johan Caney-Bryan. A few minutes later, another opportunity came their way, as a corner was swung into the path of Ngandu, whose ambitious overhead kick sailed over the crossbar. Luckily, Hythe finally managed to get their goal before half time, when Caney-Bryan made a run into the box down the left, slotting into the middle of the goal to give the home side the lead at the break.

Eleven minutes after the break, Caney-Bryan had the chance to make it two, when Frannie Collin's ball from the right-hand side was blasted over the bar by the Hythe number 9. The two then reversed roles a couple of minutes later, as Caney-Bryan ran onto a long ball down the left-hand side, whipping it back to Collin who blazed the shot wide. Hythe's dominance proved too

much for Beckenham, and the lead was doubled after an hour, as Mitch Harman, who had been playing for Kennington earlier on in the season, turned and hit a shot from just outside the box to mark his home debut with a goal.

It was soon three goals to the good, when on 71 minutes, Frannie Collin received the ball from 25 yards out and decided to go for the spectacular, hitting a shot goal wards and catching everybody out, including the goalkeeper, to make it 3-0. It was almost four a minute later, when Jack Mahoney's through ball was met by Caney-Bryan, who hit an acrobatic shot off a defender for a corner.

The full-time whistle blew to end a dominant display by Steve Watt's men, who moved into the top half of the table with this victory. The Cannons will be back in action on Saturday, as they entertain local rivals Ashford United at Reachfields.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Marcus Goldsmith, Jack Steventon, Jason Fregene, Marvin Hamilton, Shad Ngandu (Sam Itauma 66 mins), Jack Mahoney (Jarred Trespaderne 75 mins), Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin (Ethan Smith 81 mins), Mitch Harman. Subs not used: Ross Ibbertson, Mackenzie Gardiner.

Scorers: Johan Caney-Bryan 41 mins, Mitch Harman 60 mins, Frannie Collin 70 mins.

Attendance:140



Chichester City 1 Hythe Town 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 15th October 2022

The Cannons fail to score again as they went down 1-0 in a fairly dour contest at Chichester City on Saturday afternoon.

Manager, Steve Watt, only made one change from the previous league fixture against Littlehampton Town as Jason Fregene replaced the injured Lex Allan.

There were limited opportunities in the first half with neither side coming close to scoring. The first attempt came for Chichester on two minutes as Adam Biss shot straight at Hythe keeper Steve Phillips. Hythe had to wait until the twelfth minute for their first chance as a long thrown in from Marvin Hamilton found Johan Caney-Bryan who at full stretch managed to push the ball just wide of the target.

Another long-range effort from the hosts saw an easy save for Phillips and then Ethan Robb blasted over the Hythe crossbar. One more effort from the Cannons before the break saw Jarred Trespaderne have a shot, already going over, deflected for a corner. That was it for the half.

The second period saw little change with limited chances. Ethan Prichard had two efforts as firstly he attempted to lob the ball over Phillips, but the ball drifted wide and then he launched the ball high over the bar. Finally, the deadlock was broken on 73 minutes as Joe Clarke put in a deep corner that was headed back by Robb who found Josh Clack who nodded home.

Hythe looked for the equaliser as Marcus Goldsmith crossed into Sam Itauma who headed wide and then Caney-Bryan headed over from close range. The Cannons can probably count themselves unlucky not to steal a point as Frannie Collin slammed the ball against the cross bar right on the stroke of full-time.

However, they couldn't get the goal and they now face a difficult task as they entertain high flying Beckenham Town on Tuesday evening with kick off at Reachfields at 7:45pm.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Sam Itauma, Jack Steventon (Ethan Smith 84 mins), Jason Fregene, Marvin Hamilton, Jack Mahoney (Shad Ngandu 69 mins), Jarred Trespaderne, Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin, Marcus Goldsmith. Subs Unused: Ross Ibbertson, Connor Cheek, Micky Phillips.

Scorer: Chichester City - Josh Clack 73 mins.

Attendance: 207



Corinthian 2 Hythe Town 0

Kent Senior Cup 1st Round

Tuesday 11th October 2022

The Cannons put up a less than convincing performance as they limped to a 2-0 defeat at Corinthian on Tuesday evening to go out of the Kent Senior Cup.

Hythe made some changes bringing in Mackenzie Gardiner and Jimmy Witt for their Cannons debuts and reshuffling the rest.

It was Hythe who actually started the brighter as on eleven minutes Witt played the ball into Jack Steventon whose header was collected by Corinthian keeper Daniel Colmer. The hosts had their first opportunity on 16 minutes as a cross from Oliver Box found Oscar Housego whose effort forced Hythe keeper Steve Phillips to save well.

Corinthian were to take the lead on thirty minutes as Marcus Goldsmith barged into a Corinthian striker and the referee had no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot. Up stepped Housego who planted his penalty just out of the reach of the diving Phillips and into the corner of the net to make it 1-0. Twice in quick succession Phillips had to be at his best to save shots from Daniel Correia Lopes and Festos Kamara as Corinthian looked to increase their lead.

Hythe did have a chance three minutes before the break as Shad Ngandu hooked an effort just wide of the target, but it was the hosts who went in with a deserved one goal lead.

The second half started slowly with the first effort on goal coming on 58 minutes as Jarred Trespaderne rifled a shot that was parried away by Colmer. On the hour Housego, who was a constant pain in the side for the visitors, sent a free kick just wide.

On 64 minutes the result was sealed as Brandon Davey played in Housego who slammed the ball home to put the game out of the reach of the Cannons. There was little fight from the visitors and little sign they were going to get back in the game and in fact it was Corinthian who looked more likely as substitute Daniel Pepple had an attempt smothered by Phillips and then Housego fired wide. There was one late effort from Hythe as Ross Ibbertson had a shot deflected wide for a corner but this was too little and too late.

Hythe will need to regroup before their trip to Chichester City on Saturday afternoon. Kick off is 3pm.

Team: Steve Phillips, Marcus Goldsmith, Jimmy Witt, Jack Steventon, Lex Allan (Sam Itauma 62 mins), Liam Smith, Ross Ibbertson, Jason Fregene, Johan Caney-Bryan, Shad Ngandu, Mackenzie Gardiner (Jarred Trespaderne 55 mins). Subs Unused: Frannie Collin, Jack Mahoney, Marvin Hamilton.

Scorers: Corinthian – Oliver Housego 30 (pen) & 64 mins

Attendance: 60



Hythe Town 0 Littlehampton Town 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 8th September 2022

Hythe drew 0-0 with Littlehampton in their first game at Reachfields in over a month. Steve Watt made a number of changes from our friendly defeat to Tonbridge Angels, as Marvin Hamilton

and Jack Mahoney made their home debuts along with Steve Phillips, replacing Josh Stirman and fellow new signing Jimmy Witt, who started on the bench.

Hythe dominated the few chances that were had in the first half, their first coming on 8 minutes when Jack Mahoney's cross was headed over the bar by Frannie Collin. Ten minutes later, a Hythe corner was tapped goalward by Jack Steventon, only for the ball to bounce off the face of the goalkeeper before it was cleared to safety. Another chance came for the Cannons from a corner just before the half-hour mark, when Jarred Trespaderne received the ball inside the box with his back to goal, turning and firing the ball over the bar.

The second half again began with missed opportunities for the Cannons, starting with a melee in the penalty area after 49 minutes, with the ball eventually slamming into the body of Littlehampton keeper James Binfield. Following this, a succession of corners went Hythe's way, the best of which being swung in by Mahoney and tipped away by Binfield. It was then the visitors who took control of the game, as George Gaskin made a run into the box and unleashed a shot at goal, with Steve Phillips blocking to keep the scores level.

On 68 minutes, the best chance of the game went Littlehampton's way, as Joe Benn tried to place a shot between Phillips and his near post, firing the ball off the inside of the woodwork to somehow keep the game at 0-0. Soon after, George Gaskin played a ball into Josh Short, who was one-on-one with Phillips who managed to palm the ball away to make a good first impression at Reachfields. He was once again the hero with twelve to go, saving a shot from Gaskin. For the final ten minutes, Steve Watt opted to bring on player-coach Nathan Elder to try and break the deadlock, and in the third minute of added time, Shad Ngandu's ball into the box was headed over the bar by the towering Elder.

Hythe will return to action on Tuesday night as they travel to Corinthian in the first round of the Kent Senior Cup.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Sam Itauma (Ross Ibbertson 60 mins), Jack Steventon, Marvin Hamilton, Lex Allan, Jack Mahoney (Shad Ngandu 70 mins), Jarred Trespaderne (Nathan Elder 80 mins), Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin, Marcus Goldsmith. Subs Unused: Jason Fregene, Jimmy Witt.

Attendance: 203



Tonbridge Angels 3 Hythe Town 2

Friendly Fixture

Saturday 1st October 2022

With both clubs without a competitive fixture, it was agreed that they would take part in a friendly game to maintain match fitness and it was the hosts who ran out 3-2 winners on a warm afternoon.

Hythe included new signing Jimmy Witt in the line up which was impacted by a number of injuries within the squad.

The early stages of the game were even with chances coming at either end. On 15 minutes Tonbridge Angels had their first opportunity as Jeremy Santos curled a free kick against the upright. Hythe were to have an effort on 21 minutes from Johan Caney-Bryan that was well saved by Angels' keeper Kevin Manuel. It wasn't until the 41st minutes that the deadlock was broken as Santos side-footed the ball past Steve Phillips in the Hythe goal to give the hosts the lead.

The Cannons were unlucky just before the break as Frannie Collin slammed the ball onto the post from a tight angle.

The second half saw the National League South side turn the screw as they increased their lead on 53 minutes as Fynn Rutherford curled a shot that deflected off the inside of the post and into the net. Things got worse for the visitors on 68 minutes as Luke Holness placed an effort just out of the reach of Phillips to make it 3-0.

However, to their credit the Cannons did not "lie down and die" as on 72 minutes they pulled a goal back as Jack Steventon fed the ball to Caney-Bryan who flicked the ball past Manuel to narrow the lead. On 79 minutes Hythe coach Micky Phillips, who was filling in as a substitute,

rolled back the years and unleashed a shot that sailed into the top corner of the net to further reduce the deficit.

The equaliser was not to come, and Phillips produced a couple of great saves near the end to deny the Angels. An amusing moment came in the last minute as kitman Mick Putman came on to replace Sam Itauma to make his first and probably last appearance for Hythe.

All in all, it was an entertaining afternoon in a game played in an excellent spirit. The Cannons now prepare for their next fixture on Saturday as they play their first home league game in over a month as they entertain Littlehampton Town. Kick off is 3pm.

Team: Steve Phillips, Liam Smith, Jimmy Watt, Jack Steventon, Lex Allan, Marcus Goldsmith, Josh Stirman, Jarred Trespaderne, Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin, Sam Itauma. Subs all used: Ross Ibbertson, George Sibley, Micky Phillips, Mick Putman.

Scorers: Tonbridge Angels - Jeremy Santos 41 mins, Fynn Rutherford 53 mins, Luke Holness 68 mins. Hythe Town - Johan Caney-Bryan 72 mins, Micky Phillips 79 mins.

Attendance: 91



Ramsgate 2 Hythe Town 0

Velocity Trophy 1st Round

Wednesday 28th September 2022

A much-changed Cannons team were knocked out of the Velocity Trophy 2-0 at Ramsgate on a chilly Wednesday evening.

Hythe started with three players playing their debut's. Dan Smith was in goal with Mitch Harman up front. Sri Lankan International Marvin Hamilton was also playing his first game for the Cannons since signing for the club.

Ramsgate, who sit at the top of the Isthmian League South-East, took immediate charge of the first half and created their first opportunity on twelve minutes as Jack Paxman played in TJ Jadama whose effort was pushed away by Hythe keeper Dan Smith. Two minutes later Ramsgate took a well-deserved lead as the ball found its way into the Hythe penalty area a Jadama looped the ball over the head of Dan Smith and into the Hythe net.

The visitors soon had their first opportunity as Sam Itauma miscued a shot wide of the target. However, the Rams continued to press as two long range efforts from Paxman and Callum Peck were both saved easily by Dan Smith and then a glancing header from Jadama just went the wrong side of the upright. Hythe were still creating the odd chance as Ross Ibbertson crossed into Josh Stirman but his header went straight into the arms of Ramsgate keeper Josh Bexon.

Three minutes from the break and the hosts went further ahead as former Cannon Ashley Miller broke in from the right and finished easily to give the Rams a two-goal cushion at half-time.

The second half started slowly with the Rams having a couple of opportunities as Jadama had a strike well save by Dan Smith and then a header just wide of the target. A treble substitution for the Cannons on 62 minutes seemed to refresh the visitors and Jarred Trespaderne rolled a free kick to Shad Ngandu who drove the ball into the arms of Bexon. Ngandu had another effort that ended with the same result.

There were a couple of chances for the Rams to seal the game as Miller placed an attempt just wide and then Jadama broke through but also went wide. A couple of saves from Dan Smith following efforts from Kane Rowland and Theo Osinfolarin kept Hythe's hopes alive and then Itauma was to clear off the line from Miller.

The Cannons could not find away back into the game, and it is Ramsgate who deserved their passage into the Second Round. Hythe have to wait until Saturday week (8th October 2022) for their next competitive game when they entertain Littlehampton Town. However, they do travel to Tonbridge Angels on Saturday 1st October 2022 for a friendly fixture.

Team: Dan Smith, Liam Smith (Jack Steventon 45 mins), Ross Ibbertson (Ollie Gray 62 mins), Jarred Trespaderne, Marvin Hamilton (Conner Cheek 74 mins), Lex Allan, Josh Stirman (Mackenzie Gardiner 62 mins), Ethan Smith (Marcus Goldsmith 62 mins), Mitch Harman, Shad Ngandu, Sam Ituama.

Scorers: Ramsgate - TJ Jadama 14 mins, Ashley Miller 42 mins.

Attendance: 205



Sittingbourne 2 Hythe Town 3

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Tuesday 20th September 2022

In stark contrast to the previous week's rather meek FA Trophy exit at Merstham, Hythe tore into this local derby with a ferocity that in-form Sittingbourne found difficult to match. New keeper Steven Phillips took over from the now-departed Aaron Lee-Wharton and despite being at fault for the home side's first goal he was swift to link up with his new team-mates offering vocal and tactical help throughout the 90 minutes.

Sam Itauma and Marcus Goldsmith were given licence to move forward effectively leaving a back three of the returning Lex Allan, Ollie Gray and captain Liam Smith to do much of the defending. In reality though all eleven starters were on their game with Josh Stirman and the evergreen Frannie Collin complementing danger man Johan Caney-Bryan on his return to his old club. Newly signed Jack Mahoney had a storming match in midfield alongside Jack Steventon whose long throw-ins and midfield presence are always a real threat.

Early exchanges were lively with both sets of forwards regularly being caught off-side in their eagerness to throw caution to the wind, and with several ex-Bourne players in the Hythe side there was an edge to much of the tackling in a match that was just held together by impressive Essex Referee Reece Pinchback. Town took just 12 minutes to open their account when Josh Stirman neatly tucked away Sam Itauma's cross from the right wing.

Rather than falling back, Hythe maintained the pressure and a series of corners and long throw-ins threatened the home defences until on 24 minutes Stirman this time provided the assist for

Caney-Bryan to rise and plant a header wide of Sittingbourne keeper Matt Cafer. As the tackles continued to fly in both Steventon and Caney-Bryan found their way into the referee's notebook and Josh Stirman was a little fortunate to escape similar punishment.

The in-form home side were far from beaten though and they re-grouped and were always a threat--none more so then when Phillips failed to collect a low 20-yard free kick and Ben Gorham raced in to reduce the arrears.

As the Bourne continued to attack Ollie Gray found himself exposed on the left flank and his last-ditch tackle on Donvieve Jones was as fair as it was uncompromising and the Cannons retained the advantage, almost increasing that lead when a Frannie Collin free kick caused an almighty scramble in the home goalmouth that ended with a free kick to the home side.

The second half was hardly underway when Sittingbourne played their own long throw-in card and Jones was there to nod home his side's equaliser. Undaunted Hythe swept forward again with Stirman and Caney-Bryan bursting through into the home penalty are and the latter forcing the ball home to restore his side's lead.

The frenetic pace continued, and Sittingbourne went inches wide when Bagusan Graham's header went just wide of Phillips but also inches wide of the upright.

The battle-scarred Gray was replaced by Jason Fregene and Ethan Smith came on for the hard-working Stirman, with former Bourne man Harry Miller later replacing Steventon. This time though there was not to be any retreating to the edge of the penalty area and whilst Sittingbourne maintained their threat, they also had to be wary of the away side's scoring ambitions.

All in all, a well-deserved three points against one of the division's better sides and with Saturday games constantly threatened by other side's cup exploits Town must seek to retain that form next week when they travel to meet Ramsgate in the Velocity Trophy on WEDNESDAY 28th September 2022. Kick-off is 7.30pm.

Team: Steven Phillips, Liam Smith, Sam Ituma, Jack Steventon (Harry Miller 86 mins), Lex Allan, Ollie Gray (Jason Fregene 75 mins), Josh Stirman (Ethan Smith 75 mins), Jack Mahoney, Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin, Marcus Goldsmith.

Scorers: Sittingbourne - Ben Gorham 31 mins, Donvieve Jones 49 mins. Hythe Town - Josh Stirman 12 mins, Johan Caney-Bryan 24 & 53 mins. Subs Unused: Jarred Trespaderne, Shad Ngandu

Attendance: 184



Merstham 3 Hythe Town 0

The Isuzu FA Trophy 1st Qualifying Round

Monday 12th September 2022

Hythe Town were dumped out of the FA Trophy 1st Qualifying Round on Monday evening after putting up a below par performance.

The Cannons who started with new signing Jack Mahoney in the line-up but without the unavailable Lex Allan were first to show as in the second minute Jack Steventon sent in a long throw into the Merstham penalty area to find Liam Smith whose header landed on top of the net. But it was Merstham who began to take control and had a chance on three minutes as Aziz Sankoh, rifled a shot into the arms of Hythe keeper Aaron Lee-Wharton.

The Cannons did have a chance on the break as Shad Ngandu played in Frannie Collin who sent his effort just the wrong side of the post. However, it was Merstham who took a deserved lead on 15 minutes as Charlie Greenwood fed the ball to Lorenzo Lewis on the left and he threaded the ball at the near post past Lee-Wharton and into the corner of the net.

Merstham were now on top, and the second goal arrived in the 26th minute. Lewis played a pass to Greenwood who was brought down by Jason Fregene on the edge of the box. Lewis took the kick and planted a bullet into the net. Hythe should have got a goal back when Steventon got above the Merstham defence but headed wide from close range.

Hythe, who replaced Sam Itauma at half time with Ollie Gray, were better in the second half and Frannie Collin was denied by a block from Jordan Wilson on 50 minutes. The improvement didn't produce many chances and Merstham looked comfortable. There were still opportunities for the hosts to put the game out of the reach of the Cannons as Alpha Diallo had a couple of shots saved by Lee-Wharton and another that just missed the target.

On 87 minutes Bryan Zepo was bundled over in the Hythe penalty area by Jack Steventon. He got up to take the resultant penalty but drove his attempt wide. However, the hosts were not to be denied a third as in injury time Malakai Hyman blasted home from close range to rub salt in the Hythe wounds.

The Cannons now have to wait until next Tuesday (20th September 2022) when they have a difficult trip to Sittingbourne in the League. Kick off is 7:45pm.

Team: Aaron Lee-Wharton, Marcus Goldsmith, Sam Itauma (Ollie Gray 45 mins), Jack Steventon, Liam Smith, Jason Fregene (Josh Stirman 58 mins), Shad Ngandu, Jack Mahoney, Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin, Jarred Trespaderne (Ross Ibbertson 81 mins).
Subs not used: Mackenzie Gardiner, Ethan Smith, Dan Smith.

Scorers: Merstham - Lorenzo Lewis 15 & 29 mins, Malakai Hyman 90 mins.

Attendance: 136



Hythe Town 0 Hayes & Yeading United 2

Emirates FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round

Saturday 3rd September 2022

Hythe lost for the first time at Reachfields this season on Saturday afternoon as they entertained Hayes and Yeading United in the FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round. Steve Watt made just one change from the defeat to Ramsgate on Monday, as Frannie Collin replaced Shad Ngandu in attack.

The game began with a chance for the visitors, when a shot from Paul Hodges was parried away by Aaron Lee-Wharton, before the follow-up shot was deemed to be offside. It was an even first quarter of the match between the two sides, but the better build up play came from Hayes and Yeading, who almost capitalised before half-time, as Mo Bettamer moved the ball towards the box and began to line up a shot, but Liam Smith was there to put a strong foot in to prevent any danger.

At the break, Watt brought Josh Stirman on for Jarred Trespaderne, and the substitute seemed to make a difference for Hythe going forward. He managed to thread a ball in to Frannie Collin with just nine minutes gone, however the veteran blasted the ball wide. Another chance went the visitors' way on the hour mark, when Moses Emmanuel was sent through on goal on the left-hand side with plenty of space to run into, firing a shot goalwards inside the box which was smothered away by Lee-Wharton. Just a minute later, substitute Ayo Faniyan was set free, this time on the right, but Jason Fregene put in a bold but successful block. On 67 minutes, Hythe very nearly took the lead on two occasions as Jack Steventon played a corner to Liam Smith, whose cross found Fregene, however the ball was headed away before he could get his own head on it. The resultant corner was taken by Frannie Collin, which Steventon got his head onto and the goalkeeper had to be alert to, catching the ball right on his line. Just a minute later, the visitors once again had an opportunity as Moses Emmanuel's shot was palmed away excellently by Lee-Wharton to his left.

Unfortunately for the Cannons, the deadlock was broken on 73 minutes, when a melee in the Hythe box ended up with Emmanuel bundling the ball in. Hythe players appealed for offside, but the linesman's flag stayed down and the goal was awarded to Hayes and Yeading. There was an awful moment for everyone concerned with about 15 minutes to go, when Ayo Faniyan went down inside the Hythe half and hardly moved when he was on the ground. The injury was clearly very serious, and the stoppage lasted for some time, before he was eventually stretchered off to a huge applause of support by the Reachfields supporters. The injury seemed to encourage the visitors to seal the game, and they did on 87 minutes, as Paul Field wrong-footed Ethan Smith and went to his inside, slotting home to secure a place in the next round of the FA Cup.

The Cannons are back in action next Saturday afternoon as they travel to Merstham in the 1st Round of the FA Trophy.

Team: Aaron Lee-Wharton, Marcus Goldsmith, Sam Itauma (Shad Ngandu 84 mins), Jack Steventon, Lex Allan, Liam Smith, Ethan Smith, Jarred Trespaderne (Josh Stirman 45 mins), Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin, Jason Fregene.

Subs Not Used: Harry Miller, George Sibley, Ollie Gray, Dan Smith.

Scorers: Hayes & Yeading United - Moses Emmanuel 73 mins, Paul Field 87 mins

Attendance:227



Ramsgate 2 Hythe Town 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Monday 29th August 2022

The Cannons were left to rue a number of missed chances in the first 45 minutes as they fell to a second-half fight back from Ramsgate as they went down 2-1 at Southwood on Monday afternoon.

Manager Steve Watt made three changes as the suspended pair of Liam Smith and Jack Steventon returned to starting line up replacing Harry Miller and the injured Ollie Gray. Ethan Smith also started in place of Frannie Collin.

Hythe were first to show as on four minutes Ethan Smith broke through but was blocked by Ramsgate keeper Josh Bexon. Ramsgate had their first effort on twelve minutes as Lucas Atkins had a shot cleared away by Hythe keeper Aaron Lee-Wharton and then he saved from Joshua Ajayi. The Cannons should have been ahead after a quarter of an hour as Ethan Smith played the ball onto Shad Ngandu who could have done better but side footed wide.

Whilst Hythe were dominating possession there were some opportunities at the other end as a cross by ex-Cannon Jerald Aboagye found another former Hythe player Ashley Miller who fired wide and then Leon Redwood drilled a shot just wide from the right. However, Hythe were creating the better chances as Ngandu got a shot on target, but Bexon did well to block.

Finally, Hythe took a deserved lead on half an hour as Sam Itauma crossed and Johan Caney-Bryan was on the near post to bundle the ball over the line. Immediately after the restart the Cannons stole the ball and Caney-Bryan surged forward dangerously but the Ramsgate defence did well to block.

At the other end Aboagye crossed into Miller whose attempt looped onto the top of the cross bar. The Cannons had another golden opportunity as captain Liam Smith crossed into his brother Ethan, but he mistimed his header wide. On 36 minutes the visitors thought they had got their second as Lex Allan headed home only to find the Referees Assistant flagging for offside.

Whatever Ramsgate Manager Steve Lovell said at half time to his team changed the whole complexion of the game as firstly a cross from Tijan Jadama found Lucas Atkins, but Lee-Wharton was on hand to save and then a dipping free kick from Theo Osinfolarin forced a great save from the Hythe keeper. Eventually, the Rams turned their pressure into an equaliser on 66 minutes as another ex-Cannon Ben Fitchett had an attempt saved by Lee-Wharton, but Aboagye followed up to slam home.

The hosts continued on the front foot and deservedly went ahead on 72 minutes Ajayi played the ball into the path of Miller who made no mistake. Hythe searched for the equaliser with a Steventon throw finding Frannie Collin who blasted over and there was no way through the resolute Rams defence. In fact, Miller hit the bar on 82 minutes which could have made it worse for Hythe.

It was a disappointing half for everyone involved at Hythe after looking so dominant in the first period. Hythe move down to eleventh place as they now prepare for their FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round fixture on Saturday at home to Hayes & Yeading United.

Team: Aaron Lee-Wharton, Marcus Goldsmith, Sam Itauma, Jack Steventon, Lex Allan, Liam Smith, Ethan Smith (Josh Stiman 75 mins), Jarred Trespaderne (Harry Miller 62 mins), Johan Caney-Bryan, Shad Ngandu (Frannie Collin 59 mins), Jason Fregene. Subs Not Used: Morgan Williamson, Ollie Gray.

Scorers: Ramsgate - Jerald Aboagye 67 mins, Ashley Miller 72 mins. Hythe Town - Johan Caney-Bryan 30mins.

Attendance: 675



Hythe Town 0 Sevenoaks Town 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South East

Saturday 27th August 2022

Hythe were held against Sevenoaks Town on Saturday afternoon in a well-balanced Isthmian League affair. With both Jack Steventon and Liam Smith having been suspended for this match, Steve Watt made three changes to his side, as Frannie Collin, Shad Ngandu and Marcus Goldsmith came into the team, as Josh Stirman was moved back to the bench.

The game began with a chance for the visitors just three minutes in, when Yahaya Bamba was set free on the left hand side, making his way into a one-on-one position with Aaron Lee-Wharton, who managed to make the save before it was cleared by Jason Fregene. The first half was filled with a few chances, mainly going to Hythe, but most of them lacking conviction, until Bradley Wilson put a ball into the Hythe box which troubled Lex Allan, who headed the ball backwards towards Lee-Wharton, who fell onto the ball under pressure and almost collided with his own post in order to get rid of the danger. Just before the break, Hythe had a penalty appeal when Ollie Gray went down as he made a run in the penalty area, however the referee waved away the shouts, much to the annoyance of Steve Watt on the touchline.

Just seconds into the second period, the Cannons had their chance to take the lead, when Jason Fregene fed the ball to Shad Ngandu, who rifled a shot that went the wrong side of the upright. Another nervy moment for Hythe was had on the hour mark when Bradley Wilson chipped the ball to Ryan Gondoh, who tried to bring the ball forward before Jason Fregene, who had commanded the backline very well in the absence of Smith and Steventon, smashed the ball away. There was one late chance for the Oaks to steal the win, when Yahaya Bamba made the run into the box to put himself one-on-one with Lee-Wharton, taking on the shot and forcing the Hythe stopper to save the ball with his feet.

The full-time whistle blew to mark a continuation to Hythe's unbeaten start to the season. The Cannons are back in action on Monday afternoon as they travel to Ramsgate, with the match kicking off at 3pm.

Team: Aaron Lee-Wharton, Marcus Goldsmith, Sam Itauma, Harry Miller (Ethan Smith 71 mins), Ollie Gray (Morgan Williamson 89 mins), Lex Allan, Chad Ngandu (Josh Stirman 68 mins), Jarred Trespaderne, Johan Carney-Bryan, Frannie Collin, Jason Fregene. Subs not Used: George Sibley, Frankie Smith

Attendance: 202



Hythe Town 5 Raynes Park Vale 4

Emirates FA Cup Preliminary Round Replay

Tuesday 23rd August 2022

Hythe progressed to the 1st Qualifying Round of the FA Cup on Tuesday night, overcoming Raynes Park Vale at the second time of asking in a thrilling replay. Following the three red cards on Saturday, the match was bound to be a tasty encounter, and Steve Watt prepared for the game by making two changes, as Harry Miller and Josh Stirman replaced Shad Ngandu and Jarred Trespaderne.

The first goal of the match went to Vale, just as it had done on Saturday, and it came from the penalty spot after Liam Smith brought down an opposition player, and Jordan Gallagher dispatched the spot-kick to give the visitors an early lead. However, it wasn't long before Hythe drew level, and the goal came from Johan Caney-Bryan, who headed in his first of the season after Josh Stirman sent the ball into him. Vale almost retook the lead on 26 minutes, when goal scorer Gallagher worked his way past the Hythe defence and hit a shot at goal, which was tipped wide by Aaron Lee-Wharton.

Luckily for Hythe, they managed to take the lead with seven minutes to go in the first half, as Josh Stirman was once again the creator, this time swinging in a corner which Lex Allan rose above everybody to head in, scoring his second goal in as many games. Hythe almost made it three goals on 40 minutes, as Caney-Bryan headed the ball towards goal from a long ball forward, however the header lacked enough power, and the attempt didn't cross the goal line. Almost immediately, the visitors went forward and forced a spectacular double save out of Lee-Wharton, blocking the ball from Aaron Watson's shot from a one-on-one position, before regaining himself to stretch his hand out and tip away Daniel Moody's rebound effort to maintain Hythe's lead going into half-time.

Vale brought themselves back on level terms with just 13 minutes to go in the second half, as Watson played a long through ball to Jordan Gallagher, who slotted into the bottom corner. It wasn't long, however, before the visitors finally retook their lead, as Bradley Sweeney put in a cross for Callum Hope, who simply placed the ball past Lee-Wharton to make it 3-2 on the night.

However, the game wasn't over yet, and Hythe kept their heads up and continued to search for another goal to save their FA Cup campaign, and they found it with just a minute to go, as substitute Frannie Collin drove a free kick low towards goal, which was bundled in by Jason Fregene to send the game to extra time. There was more to come in normal time though, as Hythe coach Micky Phillips had an altercation with some of the members of the Vale dugout, which resulted in him being shown a red card by referee Kane Dempster.

Hythe came out for extra time looking like the stronger side, and after just two minutes they took the lead once again, when Jarred Trespaderne's shot came off the post and landed perfectly for Frannie Collin, who buried the ball home on the rebound to make it 4-3. It was almost five on 100 minutes, when Collin had another chance from a free kick which took a slight deflection off the wall and was tipped over the bar by Vale keeper Billy Bishop.

Despite this, Hythe did manage to get their fifth just a minute later, when Collin's corner was stabbed into the net by Caney-Bryan. The game was far from over, however, as the visitors scored their fourth just before the first period of extra time came to an end. The goal came from Nathan Lewis, who hammered a shot past a startled Lee-Wharton from 30 yards out to give Vale a fighting chance.

At around 10:25pm, the referee finally blew the whistle for full-time, signalling victory for Hythe in the Preliminary Round of the FA Cup, in a game and replay which saw thirteen goals, four red cards and countless questionable refereeing decisions in 210 minutes of football. Hythe will be relieved to have gone through to the next round, where they will take on Hayes and Yeading United at Reachfields on 3rd September. Hythe's next match will be this coming Saturday against Sevenoaks Town in the league, kick-off will be at 3pm.

Team: Aaron Lee-Wharton, Liam Smith, Sam Itauma, Jack Steventon, Ollie Gray, Lex Allan, Ethan Smith (Shad Ngandu 71 mins), Harry Miller (Jarred Trespaderne 63 mins), Johan Caney-Bryan, Josh Stirman (Frannie Collin 82 mins), Jason Fregene (Marcus Goldsmith 105 mins). Subs not used: George Sibley, Frankie Smith

Scorers: Hythe Town - Johan Caney Bryan 19 & 101 mins, Lex Allan 38 mins, Jason Fregene 89 mins, Frannie Collin 92 mins. Raynes Park Vale - Jordan Gallagher 6 (pen) & 77 mins, Callum Hope 85 mins, Nathan Lewis 105 mins

Attendance 227



Raynes Park Vale 2 Hythe Town 2

Emirates FA Cup Preliminary Round

Saturday 20th August 2022

Hythe managed a 2-2 draw on Saturday afternoon as they travelled to Raynes Park Vale in the FA Cup Preliminary Round. The hosts, who are based in South London, play in the Combined Counties Premier League (the division below Hythe), and have a stadium with a capacity of 1500, which contains one small stand on the south side of the pitch which seats about 140 people. To attempt to overcome this side, Steve Watt only made one change, which was enforced, as Ross Ibbertson was ruled out with an injury. Jason Fregene took his place in the side at left back.

The game started brightly for Vale, who dominated the chances, and hardly allowed Hythe into their own half. Their first chance came on five minutes when Ethan Archer went for a looping shot which sailed over the crossbar. At the midway point of the half, Hythe hearts were in their mouths as Aaron Watson hit a strong shot at goal, which was superbly saved by Aaron Lee-Wharton, who leaped to tip the ball past his left-hand post. However, just minutes later, Vale won a corner after Archie Havard-Goddard's shot was blocked on the line, which was swung into Callum Hope, who rose above everybody to head the ball home.

Luckily for the Cannons, their response was almost immediate, as just two minutes later, Shad Ngandu played the ball into the area from the left wing, which missed everybody aside from Samuel Itauma, who beat the keeper to his right to level the scores. On 45 minutes, Jack Steventon began threatening Vale with his long throws, the first of which found Johan Caney-Bryan, who got the shot away, forcing the keeper to dive to his right and send the ball away from goal. However, just moments later, Steventon sent in another throw, which found Lex Allan, who slotted home to give Hythe the lead before half-time. A deserved lead, given Hythe had dominated the half since the hosts scored their opener.

Just eight minutes into the second half, Hythe conceded a penalty when a Vale player was brought down in the Hythe penalty area. Jordan Gallagher made no mistake from the spot, slotting the ball down the middle of the goal. Things got rather nervy for Hythe, as not long after, they went down to ten men, as Jack Steventon received a second booking from the referee, and as we know in football, two yellows make a strawberry, as Steventon left the pitch for Hythe. On 68 minutes, Vale had their first of several chances to take the lead, as Jordan Gallagher fed the ball into Charlie Penny, whose shot was parried away by Lee-Wharton. Their next closest chance came on 73 minutes when Ethan Archer's shot from a tight angle bounced off the corner of the post and crossbar. Callum McAllister also had the chance to take the victory with twelve minutes to go, as his shot took a deflection on its way towards goal, but was eventually tipped away by Lee-Wharton.

Shortly after this, the game got messy. After the referee gave a decision Hythe's way, there was a big row between the players, as Vale's Jordan Gallagher went down holding his face. The referee decided to take action, booking Liam Smith for hitting Gallagher's face, and also booking Archie Harvard-Goddard, which was his second of the match, meaning Vale were also down to ten men. However, Hythe were once again a man down after Liam received his second booking for a shove on a home player. Luckily for the Cannons, this disadvantage didn't last for long, as the full-time whistle blew shortly afterwards.

The game will be reflected on as an even cup match filled with several controversial refereeing decisions towards both sides. The game will be replayed on Tuesday night at Reachfields, with the game due to kick off at 7:45pm.

Team: Aaron Lee-Wharton, Liam Smith, Sam Itauma, Jack Steventon, Lex Allan, Ollie Gray, Ethan Smith, Jarred Trespaderne, Johan Caney-Bryan (Josh Stirman 80 mins), Shad Ngandu (Harry Miller 62 mins), Jason Fregene (Frannie Collin 70 mins). Subs not Used: George Sibley, Frankie Smith, Marcus Goldsmith.

Scorers: Raynes Park Vale - Callum Hope 26 mins, Jordan Gallagher 53 mins (pen). Hythe Town – Sam Itauma 28 mins, Lex Allan 45 mins.

Attendance: 208

Report by Tom Ellerby



Corinthian 0 Hythe Town 2

Pitching In Isthmian South-East

Saturday 13th August 2022

It is hard not to use the cliché “a game of two halves” as Hythe dominated the first half to take a two-goal lead. They had, however, to weather an onslaught in the second half with the Cannons defence staying firm to take all three points in a 2-0 win away at Corinthian in sweltering conditions on Saturday afternoon.

Hythe made three changes from last week’s FA Cup game as Ross Ibbertson replaced the injured Marcus Goldsmith, Jarred Trespaderne replaced Morgan Williamson and Chad Ngandu came in for Frannie Collin.

Hythe were to get their first goal on nine minutes as they were awarded a free kick just outside the penalty area. Ngandu tapped the ball to Trespaderne who returned it and Ngandu then threaded his shot into the bottom corner of the net to make it 1-0.

Ngandu continued to threaten as Sam Itauwa crossed into him from the right but as he chased through, he was blocked. The hosts had to wait until the 17th minute for their first opportunity as Brandon Davey launched a shot high over the bar. However, Hythe continued to have control as Ross Ibbertson played in Ngandu whose attempt was forced away for a corner.

On 39 minutes the Cannons were awarded a penalty as Ethan Smith was fouled in the area. Up stepped Ngandu who cheekily side footed the ball into the corner sending Corinthian keeper Daniel Colmer the wrong way to double the Hythe lead. Ngandu had another couple of chances before the break but sent one wide and the other high over the bar.

The shape of the game changed after the break as right from the off it was the hosts who piled forward. On 47 minutes a defensive clearance looped onto the top on the cross bar and then a shot from Festos Kamara was well saved by Hythe keeper Aaron Lee-Wharton. Davey then broke into the Hythe penalty area but was superbly blocked by Trespaderne.

Corinthian continued to create chances but a number of efforts failed to find the target as firstly Daniel Lopes put in a deep cross that was fired over by Oladapo Olatunji and then he was to head wide from a long ball from Oscar Housego.

The Hythe defence continued to stay strong preventing a number of attacks and snuffing out the danger. The final chance of the game came with Hythe's first real attack of the half with ten minutes to go as Frannie Collin mishit an attempt that went off for a throw-in.

Hythe were to hold on for all three valuable points that kicked off their league season. After the postponement of this week's league fixture against Sheppey United, the Cannons travel to Raynes Park Vale next Saturday in the Preliminary Round of the FA Cup.

Team: Aaron Lee-Wharton, Liam Smith, Ross Ibbertson (Frannie Collin 53 mins), Jack Steventon, Lex Allan, Ollie Gray, Ethan Smith, Jarred Trespaderne (Jason Fregene 70 mins), Johan Caney-Bryan, Shad Ngandu (Josh Stirman 81 mins), Sam Itauma. Subs Not Used: Morgan Williamson, Harry Miller

Scorers: Hythe Town - Shad Ngandu 9 mins & 39 mins (pen).

Attendance 117



AFC Varndeanians 0 Hythe Town 1

Emirates FA Cup Extra-Preliminary Round

Saturday 6th August 2022

Hythe were victorious in their first game of the season, edging past AFC Varndeanians in the the Extra Preliminary Round of the FA Cup. The hosts play their football at the Withdean Stadium, the former home of Brighton and Hove Albion. Since Brighton left the ground in 2011, the stadium has been turned into an athletics ground, with a running track surrounding the pitch and a single stand for the fans to sit in.

Steve Watt's starting XI contained four players who were with the club last season, those players being Liam Smith, Ollie Gray, Frannie Collin and Morgan Williamson. It was the Cannons who got off to the best start, when after just two minutes, Ethan Smith played a ball through to Johan Caney-Bryan, who attempted to weave past the Varndeanians defence, who won the ball back to avoid conceding. Smith played another ball in three minutes later, this time to Frannie Collin, who hit a looping shot wide of the goal.

Following a drinks break midway through the first half, Hythe's secret weapon was drawn, when Jack Steventon took a long throw into the penalty area. Unfortunately for Steventon, Ollie Gray headed the ball over the bar. Gray had another chance from a header after the ball was crossed into him by Sam Itauma, and again, the shot was headed past the post. Steve Watt had some choice words for the officials just before half-time and was booked by the referee.

The second half saw several more Jack Steventon long throws. The first of those came after 46 minutes, when Liam Smith missed a header. The next came five minutes later, as Lex Allan's backwards header was cleared just off the line. The third Steventon throw was on 53 minutes, which once again fell to Liam Smith, who headed wide. Fifteen minutes into the half, Hythe won a corner, which was swung into the box by Frannie Collin and headed towards goal by Ollie Gray, before it was cleared off the line.

With 17 minutes to go, a goal was very much needed, and Jarred Trespaderne clearly got that message, attempting to shoot from 30 yards out, as the ball sailed narrowly over the bar. Two minutes later, the Cannons again went close, this time through Shad Ngandu, who's cross into the box was cleared for a corner by a Varndeanians defender before it could reach Ethan Smith. Finally, after 87 minutes, the goal came, as a melee in the box led to the ball falling to Jack Steventon, who bundled the shot home to send Hythe through to the next round.

A flurry of late opportunities for the hosts was fruitless, and the full-time whistle blew to mark the first win of the season for Hythe. The two clubs narrowly avoided a Tuesday night replay, much to the relief of everybody. The Cannons return to action next weekend as they travel to Corinthian next Saturday at 3pm.

Team: Aaron Lee-Wharton, Liam Smith, Marcus Goldsmith (Ross Ibbertson 30 mins), Morgan Williamson (Jarred Trespaderne 57 mins), Lex Allan, Ollie Gray, Ethan Smith, Jack Steventon, Johan Caney-Bryan (Shad Ngandu 68 mins), Frannie Collin, Sam Itauma. Subs not used: Jason Fregene, Josh Stirman, Harry Miller, Frankie Smith.

Scorer: Hythe Town - Jack Steventon 87 mins

Attendance:90



Hythe Town 1 Bowers & Pitsea 2

Pre-Season Friendly

Saturday 30th July 2022

Hythe were defeated in their final game of pre-season as they entertained Bowers and Pitsea. The team contained no trialists, as Steve Watt and his managerial team have now settled on their squad for the season. However, Watt wasn't at the match, and neither were his assistants Darren Blackburn and Micky Phillips, which meant that player-coach Frannie Collin took charge of the match.

The first opportunity of the match went Hythe's way, as Shad Ngandu was set free on the left-hand side of the pitch, forcing the opposition goalkeeper to block the ball away from a one-on-one position. Unfortunately, only a minute later a penalty was given to Bowers and Pitsea, which was given away by Liam Smith. Toby Ajala slotted home to give the visitors the advantage after ten minutes. Hythe's response came eleven minutes later when a hand in the face of Johan Caney-Bryan resulted in a penalty for the Cannons, which Shad Ngandu stepped up to take. The new signing rolled the ball into the net to level the scores on 21 minutes.

Frannie Collin made several substitutions for the Cannons in the second half, bringing four players onto the pitch. However, none of them were able to help Hythe score another, whereas

the away side were able to take the lead on 52 minutes. Bola Dawodu headed in a cross, which initially was deemed as offside by the linesman, but following a discussion with the referee, the goal was given.

The full-time whistle marked the end of Hythe's pre-season, finishing with six wins and two defeats - a strong record to have going into the new season. The season will begin next Saturday at 3pm as Hythe travel to Brighton to face AFC Varndeanians. The club have arranged for a coach to take the players and supporters to the match, more details can be found by contacting the club.

Team: Aaron Lee-Wharton, Sam Itauma, Morgan Williamson, Harry Miller, Liam Smith, Ollie Gray, Josh Stirman, Jason Fregene, Johan Caney-Bryan, Shad Ngandu, Ross Ibbertson.
Substitutes: Ethan Smith, Jack Steventon, Marcus Goldsmith, Frankie Smith

Scorers: Hythe Town – Shad Ngandu 21 mins (pen). Bowers & Pitsea – Toby Ajala 10 mins (pen), Bola Dawodu 52 mins

Attendance:100



Hythe Town 0 Folkestone Invicta 3

Pre-Season Friendly

Tuesday 26th July 2022

Hythe's pre-season winning streak came to an abrupt end against a rampant Folkestone Invicta side. The opposition lineup included former player-manager James Rogers, whilst Hythe's side contained a new signing in Franki Smith, who started on the bench.

It was the Cannons who had the first chance of the match, as Jarred Trespaderne flicked a ball to Johan Caney-Bryan, who tried to tip the ball past the Folkestone keeper, however the shot went narrowly past the post.

It wasn't long before Folkestone scored their opener on 20 minutes when Louis Yamfam played a cross to Kadell Daniel, whose shot hit the bar, before Ibrahim Olatude bundled the rebound in.

Invicta doubled their lead at the end of the half, when Frannie Collin attempted to play a pass to Jarred Trespaderne on the outside of the Hythe penalty area, however the pass was intercepted by Kadell Daniel, who simply placed the ball past the outstretched hand of Aaron Lee-Wharton.

Just eleven minutes into the second half, the visitors scored their third, as Kadell Daniel drifted from the right wing into the Hythe box and bent his shot in for his second of the game. After using all seven of their substitutes, Hythe had an opportunity to score a consolation on 82 minutes through Marcus Goldsmith, who hammered the ball just over the crossbar.

The full-time whistle marked Hythe's first defeat of pre-season. The Cannons will look to get back to winning ways in their final friendly at home to Bowers and Pitsea on Saturday at 3pm.

Team: Aaron Lee-Wharton, Liam Smith, Lex Allan, Ollie Gray, Jarred Trespaderne, Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin, Marcus Goldsmith, Ethan Smith, Sam Itauma, Jack Steventon. Subs: Josh Stirman, Franki Smith, Morgan Williamson, Shad Ngandu, Harry Miller, Jason Fregene, Ross Ibbertson.

Scorers: Folkestone Invicta – Ibrahim Olatude 20 mins, Kadell Daniel 43 & 56 mins.

Attendance: 290



Hythe Town 2 Tunbridge Wells 0

Pre-season Friendly

Saturday 23rd July 2022

Hythe continued their 100% pre-season record on Saturday as they won 2-0 in their first home match of the campaign. The opponents, Tunbridge Wells, came from the league below Hythe, but returning manager Steve Watt didn't underestimate the opposition, fielding a line-up that saw seven players make their first start at Reachfields for Hythe.

The first chance of the match went Hythe's way with nine minutes gone, as Ethan Smith played a pass through to Frannie Collin inside the penalty area, whose shot deflected off a defender and was tipped wide by the goalkeeper. It wasn't long until the Cannons had their first goal, as a lifted ball from Johan Caney-Bryan found new signing Jason Fregene, who headed home on 22 minutes.

Tunbridge Wells had an opportunity to level the scores five minutes into the second half with a penalty, which was given away by Jack Steventon. However, goalkeeper Aaron Lee-Wharton made a superb save to his right to maintain Hythe's lead. Later on in the half, another penalty was given, and this time to Hythe, as another new signing Shad Ngandu was brought down in the Wells' penalty area, which he himself converted.

The full-time whistle blew to signal a perfect return to Reachfields for manager Steve Watt. The Cannons will return to action at home to rivals Folkestone Invicta on Tuesday night. Kick-off is at 7:45PM.

Team: Aaron Lee-Wharton, Sam Itauma, Marcus Goldsmith, Morgan Williamson, Lex Allan, Ollie Gray, Ethan Smith, Jack Steventon, Johan Caney-Bryan, Frannie Collin, Jason Fregene.

Subs used: Jarred Trespaderne, Shad Ngandu, Josh Stirman, Ross Ibbertson, Trialist B, Trialist C

Scorers: Hythe Town – Jason Fregene 22 mins, Shad Ngandu 70 mins (pen)

Attendance:109..



K Sports 1 Hythe Town 4

Pre-Season Friendly

Wednesday 20th July 2022

There was more encouragement for Hythe Town in Pre-Season as they came away with a 4-1 win at Southern Counties East Premier League K Sports on Wednesday evening.

The Cannons were ahead on twelve minutes as Ethan Smith was brought down in the penalty area. Up stepped Frannie Collin who buried the ball in the left corner of the net. The hosts were nearly level on 17 minutes as a free kick was driven just wide off the post. K Sports' midfielder Luke Girt rattled the upright before Ethan Smith was again brought down in the area but this time Josh Stirman had his penalty saved.

However, Hythe went further ahead on 32 minutes as Ethan Smith swivelled close in and fired home with the ball deflecting off Collin into the net. Nine minutes later the hosts pulled one back as the defence failed to clear and Richard Jimoh lobbed the ball over the trialist keeper and into the net.

The Cannons continued to control the game and were 3-1 up on 53 minutes as a cross from the right by Ross Ibbotson found Johan Caney-Bryan who, under pressure, headed home. The icing

on the cake came on 73 minutes when the ball came out to one of the trialists and he rifled the ball home.

There two minutes left of normal time when the floodlights went out and sensibly the referee blew for time.

The Cannons return to Reachfields for the first time on Saturday (23rd July 2022) when they entertain Tunbridge Wells in another pre-season fixture. Kick off is 3pm.

Team: Trialist, Trialist, Ross Ibbotson, Jack Steventon, Lex Allan, Ollie Gray, Josh Stirman, Jarred Trespaderne, Ethan Smith, Frannie Collin, Marcus Goldsmith. **Subs Used:** Aaron Lee-Wharton, Four Trialists.

Scorers: K Sports - Richard Jimoh 41 minutes. Hythe Town - Frannie Collin 12 mins (pen), Ethan Smith 32 mins, Johan Caney-Bryan 53 mins, Trialist 73 mins.

Attendance: Approx. 60



Snodland Town 0 Hythe Town 3

Pre-Season Friendly

Tuesday 12th July 2022

Hythe Town again maintained their 100% record as they came away from Snodland Town with a comfortable 3-0 win on a hot and sultry Tuesday evening.

Both sides started the game evenly with the ambitious Southern Counties League 1st Division side providing strong opposition. The Cannons did have a couple of opportunities as a trialist fired a shot that was well saved by the Snodland Town goalkeeper and then on 27 minutes Frannie Collin curled a free kick from 25 yards that clipped the crossbar. At the half-time break the score stood at 0-0.

Seven minutes into the second half saw Snodland rattle the Hythe crossbar but eventually it was the Cannons who made the breakthrough. Alex Flisher surged into the penalty area and placed his shot neatly in the back of the net to make it 1-0. On 78 minutes it could have been two as Marcus Goldsmith sent in a curling and dipping effort that went just over the top.

However, Hythe were not to be denied as with five minutes to go Flisher played in Ethan Smith who finished clinically for his third pre-season goal and then on the stroke of full time one of the trialists picked up the ball on the right hand side finally slamming his shot past the home keeper.

It was a good night for Hythe who now have to wait until next Wednesday (20th July 2022) when they travel to K Sports in another pre-season fixture with an 8:15pm kick off.

Team: Aaron Lee-Wharton, Trialist, Jarred Trespaderne, Ollie Gray, Jack Steventon, Sam Itauma, Liam Smith, Ross Ibbertson, Frannie Collin, Johan Caney-Bryan, Trialist: Morgan Williamson, Marcus Goldsmith, Alex Flisher, Ethan Smith, Four more trialists.

Scorers: Hythe Town - Alex Flisher 67 mins, Ethan Smith 85 mins, Trialist 90 mins.

Attendance: Approx 100.



Carshalton Athletic 1 Hythe Town 2

Pre-Season Friendly

Saturday 9th July 2022

Hythe Town continued their 100% record in Pre-Season as they came from behind to win 2-1 at a sweltering Carshalton Athletic on Saturday afternoon.

The Cannons started, as in previous pre-season games, with a squad mainly of first team players but including a number of trialists.

The first 25 minutes saw both sides battle to gain control with few clear-cut chances but it was the hosts who took the lead on 28 minutes as Bobby Mills crossed from the right to find ex Herne Bay and Maidstone United striker Jake Embery who fired home.

However, Hythe struck back four minutes later as new signing Sam Itauma sent in a cross from the right which eventually found Ethan Smith who tapped home for his second goal in pre-season. Hythe were now dominating the game and were ahead on 38 minutes as Jack Steventon played a long ball that found Johan Caney-Bryan who smashed the ball past Carshalton keeper Liam Beech into the roof of the net.

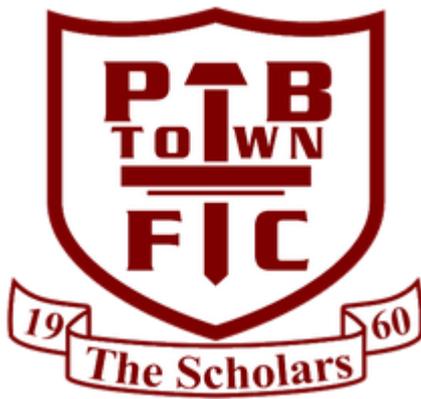
With a number of changes at half time, the Isthmian Premier side put Hythe under pressure with the defence resolute as they struggled to find the equaliser. The visitors were also grateful for two fine saves from goalkeeper Aaron Lee-Wharton from two efforts from Tommy Bradford. However, The Cannons held on for the win.

Hythe follow up today's game with another away friendly as they travel to Snodland Town on Tuesday evening. Kick-off is 7:45pm.

Team: Trialist A, Sam Itauma, Marcus Goldsmith, Morgan Williamson, Lex Allen, Liam Smith, Trialist B, Jack Steventon, Johan Caney-Bryan, Ethan Smith, Trialist C. Subs Used: Jarred Tresparderne, Aaron Lee-Wharton, Trialist D, Trialist E, Trialist F.

Scorers: Carshalton Athletic - Jake Embery 28 mins. Hythe Town - Ethan Smith 32 mins, Johan Caney-Bryan 38 mins

Attendance: 287.



Hythe Town 3 Potters Bar Town 0

Pre-Season Friendly

Tuesday 5th July 2022

At Wrotham School

The Cannons comfortably overcame Isthmian Premier Division League Potters Bar Town 3-0 on the 3G at Wrotham School on a warm Tuesday evening.

Again, Steve Watt chose a starting eleven including some Trialists.

The first clear cut opportunity came for Potters Bar on nine minutes when they should have taken the lead, but the ball was screwed wide. Hythe were, however, ahead on 14 minutes when Ethan Smith was fouled in the penalty area. Up stepped his brother Liam Smith who sent the goalkeeper the wrong way to make it 1-0.

Alex Flisher was unlucky on 32 minutes as a cheeky free kick to the near post was deflected wide for a corner. But Hythe were not to be denied a second as Ethan Smith was pushed in the

back on 42 minutes and this time took the kick himself putting the ball just out of the reach of the diving keeper into the corner of the net.

There were a number of changes at half time with a rare chance coming from Potters Bar with an effort that flew just over the bar. However, the Cannons finished off the win after 70 mins when the goalkeeper mishit his clearance into the path of a Trialist who tapped the ball into an empty net.

The early signs in pre-season are encouraging for Hythe as the defence looked strong and opportunities being created at the other end.

Hythe Town now go onto their next away game at Carshalton Athletic on Saturday in another pre-season friendly. Kick off is 3pm.

Team: Trialist A, Marcus Goldsmith, Trialist B, Morgan Williamson, Lex Allen, Jack Steventon, Josh Stirman, Liam Smith, Alex Flisher, Ethan Smith, Ollie Gray. Subs Used: Samuel Itauma, Trialist C, D, & E.

Scorers: Hythe Town – Liam Smith 14 mins (pen), Ethan Smith 42 mins (pen), Trialist 70 mins.

Attendance: H/C 42



Kennington 0 Hythe Town 1

Pre-Season Friendly

Saturday 2nd July 2022

The Cannons started their season in good form as they eased their way to a 1-0 win against Kennington on a warm Saturday afternoon at Homelands.

Manager, Steve Watt mixed up the team with all the signed players on show with only Jarred Trespaderne unable to start due to injury. He also included a number of triallists who were looking for possible places in the squad.

Hythe had the majority of the play in the first half, and it was a goal on sixteen minutes that sealed the game as captain Liam Smith unleashed a shot from the edge of the penalty area that flew into the top corner giving former Cannon keeper Joe Mant no chance to make it 1-0.

Hythe made a number of changes in the second half but still had the best chances as Josh Stirman forced a Kennington player to clear off the line and then with ten minutes left on the clock a Trialist rattled the crossbar with an impressive effort.

Throughout the game the reinforced Hythe defence prevented any scares.

This was an encouraging start with Hythe back in action with another friendly at Wrotham School on Tuesday evening (5th July 2022) as they take on Potters Bar Town. Kick off is 7:45pm.

Scorer: Hythe Town – Liam Smith 16 minutes.

Attendance: H/C 115