1990s (part1).....

1990-1991.....

Summer changes saw Newport Isle of Wight and Sudbury join the league and Sheppey United drop down to the Kent league. Neil Cugley, who had finished last season as manager of Folkestone, had moved to Premier Division Ashford. Folkestone themselves went into liquidation, reforming as Folkestone 1990 Ltd, but with a long running dispute with the receiver over the use of their assets, the social club and even the dressing rooms. One of Tony Walton's companies, Larchimage Windows, agreed a three-year deal to sponsor the Southern League Cup, taking over from Westgate Insurance services.

At Hythe both Kevin Smart and Dave Carr left the club in the summer. Dave Myers was signed from Dartford and could play at right back or right midfield. Hythe attempted to rejoin the Kent League Division Two for the reserve side but relations between the two had not healed and Hythe only received two votes. The reserves remained in the Kent County League but Hythe entered the newly formed Kent Midweek League for extra games instead of some training sessions.

With Dave Carr's departure, Walton named himself as manager, Lee Smelt being the assistant. Ex Harvey Grammar schoolboy Jamie Carney did well in the few pre-season friendlies and made the first team squad, but Mark Hyham was expected to miss a large part of the season with a knee injury.

Despite starting the season with a disappointing home 0-0 draw, results went well and by the end of the September Hythe were top of the table and had won the September Manager of the Month award – which in the official records went to Lee Smelt. Walton signed Tim Hulme back to Hythe, from Neil Cugley's Ashford and it would not be the last signing from just up the road. It was a swap deal with Mark Stanton and Simon Bryant moving in the opposite direction.

A couple of weeks later Hythe signed Alan Lester from Crawley for a fee and he was installed as club captain. The cup games had begun in earnest, although there was an early FA Cup exit at Kent League Tonbridge. Gravesend were overcome in the Southern League Cup (all ties were two legs) and Chatham conceded eight in the Kent Senior Trophy. The first Vase tie saw a trip to Pagham and Hythe found themselves 3-1 down after an hour but three quick goals rescued a narrow victory. Local rivals Ashford were beaten in the next round of the League Cup, despite Hythe losing the home leg, after a resounding 4-0 win at Homelands.

Just before Christmas Haverhill Rovers were beaten easily in the Vase, and Hythe signed Dave Arter and Jeff Ross from Ashford, a Silver Spring sponsorship of £25,000 exactly matching the rumoured transfer fees. Jed Nohilly moved to Ashford at the same time. The week before Christmas came the news that Folkestone had been expelled from the Southern League after failing to regain full use of Cheriton Road, which meant Hythe had no game on Boxing Day.

There was a holiday defeat at Margate before an easy 4-0 home win over bottom side Corinthian. But the new year started poorly with defeats to Salisbury and Newport that saw Hythe slip down the table. The cups, again, saw a different outcome with an easy Vase win at Harefield United that included a Dave Arter hat-trick, and a two-leg win over Premier Division Dover in the League Cup. A home league win over Sudbury saw a controversial sending-off for Tom Warrilow which would see him miss the important Vase tie at Hastings. Despite his absence Hythe drew 0-0 at The Pilot Field in front of a crowd of 1189 with the game refereed by David Elleray. Another Football League referee, David Axcell, took charge of the replay where Hythe won 3-1 to go through to a quarter-final tie with Trowbridge Town.

Once again, when Hythe returned to league action there was disappointment. A late equaliser saw lowly Dunstable draw 2-2 and then came a 1-0 home defeat to Baldock, the league leaders, which drew comments that the 'title race was over' in the local paper. But next up was that Vase tie at Reachfields where a crowd of 800 watched a tense goalless draw, after extra time. Three days later came the replay in Wiltshire and again the sides could not be separated over two hours, Arter scoring in a 1-1 draw in front of over 1600. Again the next league game, at home to Andover, was lost before the second replay, again in Wiltshire. Despite an Arter goal giving Hythe a first-half lead, three goals in eleven minutes in the second half saw Trowbridge through to the semi-final. The attendance, 2,468, remains the biggest crowd that have ever watched a Hythe Town game. In the aftermath, both Frank Ovard and Mark Weatherly left the club.

The Vase defeat was not even a chance to concentrate on the league, as Hythe remained in three other cups. A narrow victory over Waterlooville saw Hythe through to the semi-final of the League Cup, where they would meet Trowbridge again. An easy win at Corinthian saw Hythe reach the final of the Kent Senior Trophy, and a win and a draw over Dover saw them top their group again in the Knight Floodlight Cup. League games saw mixed results, a win, a draw and a defeat, then two wins, then two defeats saw Hythe in eighth place and out of any chance of promotion.

There was revenge over Trowbridge in the League Cup, a 2-1 away win was followed by a goalless draw at Reachfields to reach the final, against Premier Division Chelmsford City. Hythe lost the away leg 2-1, and two weeks later put up a good fight but also lost at home, 3-2. In between those games was the Kent Senior Trophy final, against Deal Town at Ashford, not a classic by any means but a lone Jeff Ross goal saw the silverware taken home to Reachfields.

There was a real fixture backlog, with eleven games played in March and thirteen in April and three occasions where games were played on Saturday and Sunday. Wins over Ashford and Sudbury saw Hythe finish in eighth place in the league, some distance behind champions Buckingham Town. But there was to be another cup won, this time on home turf. In the Knight Floodlight Cup two Dave Arter goals won the quarter-final at Harwich and Parkeston and another Arter goal, plus one from Shaun Carey won the semi-final at Harlow Town. Halstead Town were Hythe's opponents in the final and the game, Hythe's 74th of the season, was a classic. For the last three months goalkeeping duties were shared between Steve O'Brien and Simon Jolley and they were given a half each in this game. Hythe went behind but a fierce shot from Tim Hulme levelled things before two Andy Allon headers looked to have won the game. Halstead fought back to equalise and force extra-time where Allon completed his hat-trick with a fine lob to clinch the victory.

Steve O'Brien; defenders Tom Warrilow, Alan Lester, Malcolm Smith, Dave Lee; midfielders Jason Wheeler, Andy Allon, Tim Hulme and forwards Dave Arter, Jeff Ross, Shaun Carey and Frank Ovard all played more than 40 games. Hythe's 74 games saw 37 wins, 17 draws and 20 defeats, scoring 124 goals. Player of the Year was Tommy Warrilow.

The reserves won the Premier Division of the Kent County League, the second tier, and also reached the final of the KCL Invitation Cup, losing to New Romney in the final 4-1. In the Kent Midweek League Hythe played 16 games but failed to get out of the group stages of either the league or the league cup. It started off as a first team competition but after Christmas, with the huge fixture backlog, the reserves were used to fulfil the matches.

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	F	А	GD	Pts	Notes
1	Buckingham Town	40	25	8	7	73	38	35	83	
2	Trowbridge Town	40	22	12	6	67	31	36	78	
3	Salisbury	40	22	11	7	63	39	24	77	
4	Baldock Town	40	21	9	10	66	52	14	72	
5	Ashford Town	40	22	5	13	82	52	30	71	
6	Yate Town	40	21	8	11	76	48	28	71	
7	Hastings Town	40	18	11	11	66	46	20	65	
8	Hythe Town	40	17	9	14	55	44	11	59	-1
9	Andover	40	16	6	18	69	76	-7	54	
10	Margate	40	14	11	15	52	55	-3	53	
11	Burnham	40	12	16	12	57	49	8	52	
12	Bury Town	40	15	5	20	58	74	-16	50	
13	Sudbury Town	40	13	10	17	60	68	-8	49	

1990-1991 Southern League Southern Table.....

14	Newport IOW	40	13	9	18	56	62	-6	48	
15	Gosport Borough	40	12	11	17	47	58	-11	47	
16	Witney Town	40	12	11	17	57	75	-18	47	
17	Dunstable	40	9	15	16	48	63	-15	42	
18	Canterbury City	40	12	6	22	60	83	-23	42	
19	Erith & Belvedere	40	10	6	24	46	73	-27	36	
20	Fareham Town	40	9	9	22	46	74	-28	36	
21	Corinthian	40	5	12	23	34	78	-44	27	
22	Folkestone Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Folded mid-season, recor expunged
1990-	-1991 Kent Midweek League	e Table	·							
Pos		Ρ	W	D	L	F	А	GD	Pts	
1	Gillingham	10	8	0	2	36	11	25	24	
2	Sittingbourne	10	6	1	3	27	11	16	19	
3	Erith & Belvedere	10	4	1	5	17	24	-7	13	
4	Hythe Town	10	4	1	5	16	28	-12	13	
5	Fisher	10	3	1	6	18	24	-6	10	
6	Corinthian	10	3	0	7	15	32	-17	9	
1990-	-1991 Kent Midweek League	e Cup ⁻	Table	•••						
Pos		Ρ	W	D	L	F	А	GD	Pts	
1	Gillingham	6	4	0	2	28	7	21	12	
2	Sittingbourne	6	4	0	2	15	17	-2	12	
3	Whitstable Town	6	2	0	4	11	13	-2	6	
4	Hythe Town	6	2	0	4	7	24	-17	6	
1990-	-1991 Knight Floodlight Cup	ວ Grou	p 1 Lea	ague Ta	able					
Pos		Ρ	W	D	L	F	А	GD	Pts	
1	Hythe Town	4	3	1	0	7	0	7	10	
2	Dover Athletic	4	2	1	1	8	7	1	7	
3	Crawley Town	4	0	0	4	3	11	-8	0	
1990-	-1991 Results									
Date	Opponents		С	ompet	itionVe	enue	Score	Att	Sco	orers

04/08/1990	Crawley Town	F	Away	0-2		
07/08/1990	Slade Green	F	Away	2-1		Tom Warrilow, Jamie Carney
09/08/1990	Horsham	F	Away			
11/08/1990	Tunbridge Wells	F	Away	3-1		Terry White, Andy Allon, Shaun
18/08/1990	Burnham	SLSD	Home	0-0	249	
22/08/1990	Canterbury City	SLSD	Away	3-1	208	Frank Ovard 2, Simon Bryant
25/08/1990	Baldock Town	SLSD	Away	1-2	242	Ovard
27/08/1990	Margate	SLSD	Home	1-1	359	Warrilow
01/09/1990	Dunstable Town	SLSD	Home	4-0	238	Warrilow, Dave Myers, Ovard 2
08/09/1990	Bury Town	SLSD	Away	2-1	334	Carey 2
12/09/1990	Hastings Town	SLSD	Home	3-1	465	White 2, 2 pens, Warrilow
15/09/1990	Tonbridge	FAC1Q	Away	1-3	429	OG
18/09/1990	Crawley Town	KFC	Away	1-0		Bryant
22/09/1990	Salisbury	SLSD	Home	0-1	358	
26/09/1990	Erith & Belvedere	KML	Away	0-2		
29/09/1990	Burnham	SLSD	Away	1-0	54	Carey
03/10/1990	Gillingham	KML	Home	4-0		Smith 2 (2 pens), Allon, Nohilly
06/10/1990	Erith & Belvedere	SLSD	Away	4-0	160	Carey, Jason Wheeler, Allon, W
10/10/1990	Maidstone United	F	Home	1-2		Warrilow
13/10/1990	Gosport Borough	SLSD	Home	3-0	326	Ovard 2, Carey
16/10/1990	Gravesend & Northfleet	LC1R1L	Away	2-0	302	Carney, White
20/10/1990	Chatham Town	KST1	Home	8-0	290	Alan Lester, Carey 3, Ovard 2,
24/10/1990?	Corinthian	KML	Home	2-1		
27/10/1990	Trowbridge Town	SLSD	Home	1-0	333	Carey
31/10/1990	Gravesend & Northfleet	LC1R2L	Home	2-2	293	Carey, Ovard
03/11/1990	Andover	SLSD	Away	3-3	258	White pen, Hulme, OG
10/11/1990	Witney Town	SLSD	Home	1-0	337	Warrilow
14/11/1990	Sittingbourne	KML	Home	3-1		???
17/11/1990	Buckingham Town	SLSD	Away	0-1	146	
21/11/1990	Ashford Town	LC2R1L	Home	0-1	667	
??/11/1990	Corinthian	KML	Away	0-5		

01/12/1990	Pagham	FAV2	Away	4-3	140	Dave Lee pen, Ovard, Mark We
04/12/1990	Ashford Town	LC2R2L	Away	4-0	499	Lee 2, 1 pen, Carey, Ovard
??/12/1990	Fisher	KML	Home	2-2		??
08/12/1990	Danson	KST2	Away	2-0	44	Hulme, White
12/12/1990	Fareham Town	SLSD	Away	0-0	113	
13/12/1990	Sittingbourne	KML	Away	0-3		
15/12/1990	Haverhill Rovers	FAV3	Home	4-0	214	Hulme, Ovard 2, Carey
17/12/1990	Erith & Belvedere	KML	Home	3-1		Carey, White,Lee
19/12/1990	Ramsgate	F	Home?			
22/12/1990	Bury Town	SLSD	Home	2-1	325	Dave Arter 2
26/12/1990	Folkestone Town	SLSD	Away	NP		
29/12/1990	Margate	SLSD	Away	0-1	405	
01/01/1991	Corinthian	SLSD	Home	4-0	363	Arter 2, Allon, Ovard
05/01/1991	Salisbury	SLSD	Away	1-3	302	Lee pen
12/01/1991	Newport IOW	SLSD	Home	2-4	285	Ovard, Arter
15/01/1991	Dover Athletic	LC3R1L	Home	0-0	850	
19/01/1991	Harefield United	FAV4	Away	5-0	141	Lee, Jeff Ross, Arter 3
23/01/1991	Sittingbourne	KSTQF	Home	2-0	224	Weatherly, Ross
26/01/1991	Sudbury Town	SLSD	Home	2-0	402	Arter, Weatherly
29/01/1991	Dover Athletic	LC3R2L	Away	2-1	1050	Arter, Lee pen
02/02/1991	Trowbridge Town	SLSD	Away	0-2	446	
04/02/1991	Crawley Town	KFC	Home	2-0	155	Arter, Wheeler
05/02/1991	Gillingham	KMLC	Away	3-1	77	Ross, Ovard 2
16/02/1991	Hastings Town	FAV5	Away	0-0aet	1189	
19/02/1991	Hastings Town	FAV5R	Home	3-1	857	Arter, Weatherly, Lee pen
21/02/1991	Dunstable Town	SLSD	Away	2-2	95	Arter, Lee
23/02/1991	Baldock Town	SLSD	Home	0-1	323	
25/02/1991	Whitstable Town	KMLC	Home	3-0		Hulme, Germaine, White
26/02/1991	Waterlooville	LCQF1L	Away	2-2	109	Carey, Hulme
02/02/1991	Trowbridge Town	FAVQF	Home	0-0aet	794	
05/03/1991	Trowbridge Town	FAVQFR	Away	1-1aet	1656	Arter

09/03/1991	Andover	SLSD	Home	1-2	250	Arter
13/03/1991	Trowbridge Town	FAVQF2R	Away	1-3	2468	Arter
16/03/1991	Corinthian	KSTSF	Away	4-0	71	Arter 2, Ross, Carey
17/03/1991	Fareham Town	SLSD	Home	2-1	184	Arter 2
19/03/1991	Whitstable Town	KMLC	Away	0-7		
21/03/1991	Canterbury City	SLSD	Home	1-1	187	Ross
23/03/1991	Witney Town	SLSD	Away	0-1	138	
25/03/1991	Waterlooville	LCQF2L	Home	1-0	202	Myers
26/03/1991	Gillingham	KMLC	Home	0-7		
28/03/1991	Dover Athletic	KFC	Home	4-0	326	Gary Collins, Hulme 3
30/03/1991	Yate Town	SLSD	Home	2-1	184	Warrilow, Lee pen
01/04/1991	Corinthian	SLSD	Away	3-1	86	Lee, Arter, Ross
03/04/1991	Trowbridge Town	LCSF1L	Away	2-1	451	Arter, OG
04/04/1991	Dover Athletic	KFC	Away	0-0	237	
06/04/1991	Erith & Belvedere	SLSD	Home	0-1	151	
07/04/1991	Ashford Town	SLSD	Away	0-1	465	
09/04/1991	Gillingham	KML	Away	0-7	129	
10/04/1991	Trowbridge Town	LCSF2L	Home	0-0	272	
11/04/1991	Sittingbourne	KMLC	Away	1-6		
13/04/1991	Newport IOW	SLSD	Away	1-0	398	G Collins
15/04/1991	Chelmsford City	LCF1L	Away	1-2	978	Lee
16/04/1991	Fisher	KML	Away	2-6		
17/04/1991	Gosport Borough	SLSD	Away	1-1	111	Carey
20/04/1991	Deal Town	KSTF	Neutral	1-0	465	Ross
22/04/1991	Harwich & Parkeston	KFCQF	Away	2-1	152	Arter 2
23/04/1991	Sittingbourne	KMLC	Home	0-3		
24/04/1991	Hastings Town	SLSD	Away	0-5	253	
27/04/1991	Buckingham Town	SLSD	Home	0-0	143	
29/04/1991	Chelmsford City	LCF2L	Home	2-3	593	Lee 2, 1 pen
01/05/1991	Yate Town	SLSD	Away	0-1		
02/05/1991	Ashford Town	SLSD	Home	3-2	353	Ross, Myers, Hulme

04/05/1991	Sudbury Town	SLSD	Away	1-0	367	Arter
06/05/1991	Harlow Town	KFCSF	Away	2-1		Carey, Arter
13/05/1991	Halstead Town	KFCF	Home	4-3 aet	402	Hulme, Allon 3

1991-1992.....

During the summer Hythe again applied to enter their reserves into Kent League Division Two and this time they were successful. Steve McRaye was appointed as their new manager and the club withdrew from the Kent County League, where the reserves had played for the previous two seasons. The club again entered the Kent Midweek League. Another KCL club, Folkestone Invicta, won the right to use Cheriton Road after the old Folkestone club had folded the previous year, and they were placed into Kent League Division Two, along with Hythe Reserves. Invicta had a number of ex-Hythe players in their ranks, including Terry and Gary Collins, Clive Barham, Lee Harrington, Jamie Carney and Ivan Pickering.

Hythe had arranged a prestigious friendly at Reachfields against Fulham, with a first team promised, but due to the pitch not being ready in time the game was cancelled, along with the other five friendlies which had all been arranged at home. The club started the season with just the one warm-up game, an Eastern Floodlight Cup (Knight were no longer sponsoring the competition) group game at Ashford.

Two new signings arrived just in time for the start of the season, Sean Edwards, a right-back from Crawley and Chris Lyons, from Brighton youth, at left-back. A week into the season David Coldwell, a midfielder, was signed from Brighton. Leaving the club were Shaun Carey, loaned back to Tunbridge Wells and Tim Hulme on loan to Crawley.

Despite the far from ideal preparation, Hythe started the season strongly with four wins, including an impressive 7-2 win at Andover where Hythe were 5-0 up in 22 minutes. The FA Cup would prove a disappointment, losing to a lower side for the second season running, at Croydon Athletic in a replay. The first league defeat followed at Braintree but after a good win over Hastings at Reachfields the side moved to the top of the table. September also saw the signing of Peter Jarvis, a midfielder from Chelmsford, and the return from loan of Shaun Carey, but Jason Wheeler left the club. The reserves, after a disastrous start of eight successive defeats, replaced McRaye with ex-players Kevin Smart and Joe Valler.

After a good September, October saw one win and three defeats, although they were still second, and also an early exit from the Southern League Cup, which would at least ease the previous two seasons' fixture congestion. November saw a win over Salisbury, thanks to Peter Jarvis' first goal for the club, and the first games in the FA Vase, a narrow win over Herne Bay at Winch's Field after extra time in a replay.

This was achieved without Lee Smelt, who had moved to take the manager's job at Margate. Tony Walton remained as the effective team manager with club captain Alan Lester promoted to the role of player-coach. Walton also had a moan in the paper about poor attendances at Hythe and questioned whether the town deserved a team at the levels he was aiming at. League games to date had managed 200+ with a couple of local derbies getting around 400, although there were poor crowds in a couple of cup games. Belatedly, Hythe were sporting a new kit, yellow and green stripes and green shorts.

Christmas saw a derby defeat at Ashford and a draw at Buckingham as the club slipped to eighth place in the table, but at least another round in the Vase was reached after victory at Pagham. Hythe had warmed up for those games by putting the first team, without a Southern League fixture, out to fulfil the reserves game at Folkestone Invicta, achieving a 5-0 win and ending their 16-game unbeaten run, one of those occasions where doing the 'right thing' for Hythe was rather unfair on their opponents.

The new year started in the worst possible fashion with home defeats by Margate and Weymouth, dropping the club to twelfth and ending any faint chances of promotion. It was followed by another defeat, at Havant, which meant the club had taken only two points from the previous 21. But there was still the FA Vase where the fourth round draw gave a home game against Midland Combination side Evesham United. It would prove a long-running saga, similar to the previous season against Trowbridge. The tie was a classic, United leading 2-1 before Danny Whyman equalised to take the game into extra-time. Sean Edwards put Hythe ahead before Evesham scored to force a replay. Hythe travelled to Worcestershire for the Tuesday replay, only for the game to be postponed due to frost. Another attempt was made on the Saturday but this time the game only lasted 45 minutes before it was abandoned due to a waterlogged pitch. Hythe travelled again the following Saturday, after having played two midweek games, and lost 2-0 after extra time.

February saw the arrival of Graham Matthews, a big forward from Hastings but results did not improve. Two more defeats, one at home to Erith & Belvedere in front of a crowd of 78, and a draw with Braintree whose goalkeeper went off injured in the first ten minutes, meant Hythe had gone 14 league matches without a win. Peter Jarvis left the club and signed for Margate. Things would improve after the return of David Carr, from Sittingbourne. In his first game, Carr scored the winner against Baldock and it was followed by an impressive win at Hastings, who would end the season as league champions. Hythe were 2-0 down but came from behind to win 3-2 with a Dave Arter winner. There was a big attendance for the Kent Senior Cup semi-final against Ashford, when a lone Danny Whyman goal in the 85th minute saw Hythe through to the final at Gillingham's Priestfield Stadium.

The club's financial problems were becoming more obvious to all; March saw many of the better players leave Reachfields to reduce the wage bill. Warrilow, Arter and Ross, signed for fees of 35K, moved to well-off Sittingbourne for 'around half that figure'. Kevin Smart moved to Folkestone Invicta, Steve O'Brien to Canterbury and Andy Allon to Margate, both 'on loan' with returns planned for the Cup final. Hythe signed a number of replacements, Gene Clout from Tonbridge, Joe Radford from Margate, Adrian Lemoine from Ashford, Paul Collins from Tonbridge and Del Deanus, an ex-England youth international, from Spurs. The season ended quietly with a few wins and a few defeats and thirteenth place in the table.

Crowds had really dropped after the Vase exit, averaging only 140 even with a decent crowd for the Easter Monday win over Ashford. The Secretary, one Martin Giles, had a bit of a moan over the lack of interest in the town in booking coach places for the Kent Senior Cup final. Hythe's opponents were Bromley, then in the Isthmian Premier. Some of the newer signings were ineligible, so some of the loaned-out players returned, including Allon from Margate and Dave Coldwell from Crawley. Joe Valler, the reserves manager, was also called up. As with Hythe's Vase efforts, it was a case of so near but yet so far. Shaun Carey put Hythe ahead in the 8th minute, intercepting a poor back-pass to score. It was a lead Hythe held until the 84th minute, Bromley's equaliser forcing extra time, where they scored twice more to win the game 3-1.

There had been talk from the chairman as the season ended that next year the emphasis would be on young local players, with one or two older heads for guidance. But a month after that cup final Walton had resigned the club's place in the Southern League and the liquidator was called in, over money owed to a printing company, although the main debts were to Walton and the club's brewery. It was the end of the adventure.

Steve O'Brien was the regular goalkeeper until the last few weeks of the season, regular defenders were Dave Lee, Chris Lyons, Alan Lester, Tommy Warrilow and Malcolm Smith, midfielders Sean Edwards, Andy Allon, Jeff Ross and Peter Jarvis with Dave Arter, Shaun Carey and Danny Whyman up front. Hythe played 59 games, winning 21, drawing 14 and losing 24, scoring 85 goals. Dave Arter top scored with 29, Carey and Whyman both managed seven. The reserves finished bottom of Kent League Division Two, and again the club did not qualify from the Kent Midweek League group or League Cup group.

1991-1992 Southern League Southern League Table.....

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	F	А	GD	Pts	Notes
1	Hastings Town	42	28	7	7	80	37	43	91	
2	Weymouth	42	22	12	8	64	35	29	78	
3	Havant Town	42	21	12	9	67	46	21	75	
4	Braintree Town	42	21	8	13	77	58	19	71	
5	Buckingham Town	42	19	15	8	57	26	31	69	-3
6	Andover	42	18	10	14	73	68	5	64	
7	Ashford Town	42	17	12	13	66	57	9	63	

8	Sudbury Town	42	18	9	15	70	66	4	63	
9	Sittingbourne	42	19	10	13	63	41	22	61	-6
10	Burnham	42	15	14	13	57	55	2	59	
11	Baldock Town	42	16	10	16	62	67	-5	58	
12	Salisbury	42	13	16	13	67	51	16	55	
13	Hythe Town	42	15	10	17	61	62	-1	55	
14	Margate	42	13	16	13	49	56	-7	55	
15	Newport Isle of Wight	42	13	10	19	58	63	-5	49	
16	Dunstable	42	12	12	18	55	67	-12	48	
17	Bury Town	42	14	4	24	52	94	-42	46	
18	Witney Town	42	11	12	19	55	76	-21	45	
19	Fareham Town	42	12	8	22	45	71	-26	44	
20	Erith & Belvedere	42	11	10	21	44	67	-23	43	
21	Canterbury City	42	8	14	20	43	69	-26	38	
22	Gosport Borough	42	6	9	27	32	65	-33	27	
19	91-1992 Kent Midweek League 1	able								
Po	3	Р	W	D	L	F	А	GD	PTS	
1	Sittingbourne	8	5	3	0	21	7	14	18	
2	Gillingham	8	6	0	2	18	14	4	18	
3	Folkestone Invicta	8	2	1	5	12	15	-3	7	
4	Hythe Town	8	2	1	5	8	11	-3	7	
5	Margate	8	2	1	5	7	19	-12	7	
19	91-1992 Kent Midweek League (Cup Tabl	.e							
Po	8	Ρ	W	D	L	F	А	GD	Pts	
1	Gillingham	6	3	3	0	19	7	12	12	
2	Folkestone Invicta	6	4	0	2	17	14	3	12	
3	Hythe Town	6	0	4	2	4	10	-6	4	
4	Ashford Town	6	0	3	3	5	14	-9	3	
19	91-1992 Eastern Floodlight Cup	Table								
		Ρ	W	D	L	F	А	GD	Pts	
1	Dover Athletic	4	4	0	0	16	5	11	12	

2	Hythe 1	īown	4	1	1	2	3		5	-2	-2 4	
3	Ashford	d Town	4	0	1	3	3		12	-9		1
1991	-1992 Re	esults										
Date		Opponents	C	Comp	Ver	nue	Score		Att		Sco	orers
13/08	8/1991	Ashford Town	E	FC	Awa	ay	1-0		297		Allo	on
17/08	8/1991	Salisbury	S	SLSD	Ho	me	3-1		277		Lee	e, Arter, Myers
20/08	8/1991	Sittingbourne	S	SLSD	Awa	ay	2-1		888		Art	er, Myers pen
24/08	8/1991	Andover	S	SLSD	Awa	ау	7-2	1	93			e, Arter, Allon, Coldwell, Ros Ieeler
26/08	8/1991	Canterbury City	S	SLSD	Ho	me	1-0	:	299		Art	er
31/08	8/1991	Croydon Athletic	F	ACP	Но	me	4-4		253		Art	er 2, Allon 2
03/09	9/1991	Croydon Athletic	F	ACPR	Awa	ay	1-2	1	91		Ro	SS
07/09	9/1991	Braintree Town	S	SLSD	Awa	ay	1-2		240		Ro	SS
11/09	9/1991	Hastings Town	S	SLSD	Ho	me	2-1		461		My	ers, Arter
14/09	9/1991	Fareham Town	S	SLSD	Awa	ay	0-0		151			
21/09	9/1991	Bury Town	S	SLSD	Awa	ay	3-0		212		Art	er 2, Coldwell pen
28/09	9/1991	Fareham Town	S	SLSD	Ho	me	1-1		175		My	ers
05/10	0/1991	Erith & Belvedere	S	SLSD	Awa	ay	1-2		194		Art	er
08/10	0/1991	Crawley Town	S	SLC1R1L	. Aw	ay	2-3	;	344		Wa	rrilow, Coldwell
12/10	0/1991	Witney Town	S	SLSD	Hoi	me	3-1		211		Art	er 2, Warrilow
14/10	0/1991	Margate	k	(ML	Ho	me	1-2				?	
16/10	0/1991	Ashford Town	E	FC	Ho	me	0-0	:	356			
19/10	0/1991	Weymouth	S	SLSD	Awa	ay	1-3		790		Co	ldwell pen
23/10	0/1991	Folkestone Invicta	k	(ML	Awa	ay	2-0				Art	er, Smith
30/10	0/1991	Sittingbourne	S	SLSD	Но	me	0-2	;	367			
02/1 ⁻	1/1991	Salisbury	S	SLSD	Awa	ay	1-0	1	96		Jar	vis
06/1 ⁻	1/1991	Crawley Town	S	SLC1R2L	. Hoi	me	1-2	!	94		Ca	rey
09/1 ⁻	1/1991	Newport IOW	S	SLSD	Ho	me	2-2		211		Ro	ss, Arter
16/1 ⁻	1/1991	Dunstable Town	S	SLSD	Awa	ay	0-0		158			
23/1 ⁻	1/1991	Herne Bay	F	AV2	Но	me	1-1aet		334		Art	er
27/1 ⁻	1/1991	Margate	k	(SC1	Ho	me	1-0		122		Art	er

30/11/1991	Herne Bay	FAV2R	Away	2-1aet	216	Arter 2
02/12/1991	Folkestone Invicta	KML	Home	2-1		Whyman, Smith
07/12/1991	Dunstable Town	SLSD	Home	0-4	149	
14/12/1991	Pagham	FAV3	Away	2-1	175	Arter 2
18/12/1991	Gillingham	KML	Away	1-2		Arter
26/12/1991	Ashford Town	SLSD	Away	1-2	559	Allon
28/12/1991	Buckingham Town	SLSD	Away	1-1	113	Arter
01/01/1992	Margate	SLSD	Home	0-1	293	
04/01/1992	Weymouth	SLSD	Home	0-1	232	
06/01/1992	Gillingham	KML	Home	0-1		
11/01/1992	Havant	SLSD	Away	1-3	206	Arter
13/01/1992	Sittingbourne	KML	Home	1-2		Matthews
14/01/1992	Dover Athletic	EFC	Away	2-4	377	Warrilow, Lee
18/01/1992	Evesham United	FAV4	Home	3-3aet	279	Jarvis pen, Whyman, Edwards
25/01/1992	Evesham United	FAV4R	Away	0-0ab	720	
27/01/1992	Fisher Athletic	KSCQF	Away	2-0	52	Arter, Whyman
28/01/1992	Margate	KML	Away	0-2		
29/01/1992	Dover Athletic	EFC	Home	0-1	76	
01/02/1992	Evesham United	FAV4R	Away	0-2aet	636	
03/02/1992	Gillingham	KMLC	Home	2-2		Whyman 2
05/02/1992	Burnham	SLSD	Home	1-3	124	Carey pen
08/02/1992	Braintree Town	SLSD	Home	2-2	209	Folke
12/02/1992	Erith & Belvedere	SLSD	Home	1-3	78	Lyons
15/02/1992	Baldock Town	SLSD	Away	3-2	205	Graham Matthews, Ross, Dave (
18/02/1992	Hastings Town	SLSD	Away	3-2	707	Carey, Edwards, Arter
22/02/1992	Gosport Borough	SLSD	Home	2-0	189	Arter 2
26/02/1992	Ashford Town	KSCSF	Home	1-0	575	Whyman
04/03/1992	Canterbury City	SLSD	Away	0-1	112	
07/03/1992	Buckingham Town	SLSD	Home	2-0	105	Arter 2
10/03/1992	Newport IOW	SLSD	Away	1-1	203	Matthews
14/03/1992	Sudbury Town	SLSD	Away	1-2	342	Arter

16/03/1992	Folkestone Invicta	KMLC	Home	2-4		Matthews, Whyman
21/03/1992	Andover	SLSD	Home	1-1	146	Carey
23/03/1992	Gosport Borough	SLSD	Away	1-0	82	Matthews
28/03/1992	Burnham	SLSD	Away	1-3	100	Paul Collins
01/04/1992	Sudbury Town	SLSD	Home	1-3	75	Whyman
04/04/1992	Baldock Town	SLSD	Home	0-0	104	
06/04/1992	Ashford Town	KMLC	Away	0-0		
08/04/1992	Bury Town	SLSD	Home	3-1	102	Carey pen, Carr, Whyman
11/04/1992	Witney Town	SLSD	Away	0-2	117	
18/04/1992	Margate	SLSD	Away	1-2	289	Collins
20/04/1992	Ashford Town	SLSD	Home	3-1	308	Whyman 2, Del Deanus
22/04/1992	Gillingham	KMLC	Away	0-0		
25/04/1992	Folkestone Invicta	KMLC	Away	0-4		
30/04/1992	Sittingbourne	KML	Away	1-1		??
01/05/1992	Ashford Town	KMLC	Home	0-0		
02/05/1992	Havant	SLSD	Home	3-3	141	Joe Valler 2, Carey
04/05/1992	Bromley	KSCF	Neutral	1-3 aet	877	Carey
1990s (part 2)						

1992-1993.....

With the news of Hythe Town going into liquidation coming in mid-June, by the following week there was mention in the Folkestone Herald that Martin Giles was helping with an action group to ensure the continuation of football in Hythe. A month later, on the 22nd July, Hythe United was launched at a meeting at the Hythe RBL club with the hope of entering the Kent County League that season. Frank Ovard was to run the new team, assisted by Kevin Hughes, although it was complicated by the fact that Ovard was still signed to play for Ashford Town when needed during the season. The new club was hoping to lease Reachfields from the council but the council had to deal with the Official Receiver and the clock was ticking.

After some frantic tidying up, four home friendlies were played and the club, at the very last minute and well after the AGM, was placed in the KCL Division One East. This was the first year of a countywide Premier Division in the KCL and Hythe were placed one level lower, but it was better than Division Two East. The new kit was white shirts and red shorts, sponsored by Star Plant.

Remembering that the last game of the old Hythe Town was the Kent Senior Cup final at Priestfield, United's debut in the KCL was at the rather more modest venue of the Polo Ground in Folkestone, against White Lion (Cheriton), managed by an ex-Hythe player, Terry Byrne. It was an exciting start, winning 5-4, with Ovard scoring two of the goals. The following week saw the first home game and another win, 2-1 over Knatchbull with the crowd given as 70. Then came defeat at Lydd by 4-0 although the result was put in perspective when Lydd would finish as league champions by some distance. Hythe even ran a coach to the next away game, at Rye, which saw another defeat.

A win at home to Snowdown, in front of over 100 spectators was Hythe's last league win until just before Christmas and saw the club sit a lowly eighth in a division of only fourteen clubs. In the cups Hythe managed a revenge win at Lydd before nearly upsetting Sevenoaks Town, who were second in the Premier Division. Only a last-minute equaliser kept Oaks in the first tie where darkness prevented extra-time, although Hythe were easily beaten in the rematch, also played at Greatness Park.

January saw a revival with four wins, three in the league, that earned Ovard the Manager of the Month award. February was nearly as good, with four wins out of five and the club climbed to second in the table. But form petered out and only two wins from the last seven games saw the club slip to a final position of sixth, 23 points behind champions Lydd and ten points behind second-placed Tenterden. The club did reach the semi-final of the Les Leckie Cup, played between the eastern half of the KCL clubs, but lost by the single goal to Lydd who went on to do the double.

With Hythe being the only KCL club with floodlights, Reachfields hosted a number of neutral games under lights in the second half of the season, including all the games in the KCL Invitation Cup and some other semi-finals and finals. It seems the league were kind to Hythe and Hythe were kind to the league.

As soon as the season was over the club said that Frank Ovard was not being retained as manager. Three weeks later Tony Hunter, a former player and then boss at New Romney, was announced as Ovard's replacement.

With Hythe 'only' in the KCL, reporting in the Herald was rather thin with hardly any match reports, and midweek matches were lucky even to get the result published. Twelve goalscorers, all from midweek games, are missing. Only two matches had the full team line-up listed, other names have been noted when possible. The players at the start of the season were Mark Mahon (keeper), Paul Hackett, Dominic Scott, Richard Tearle, Colin Nash, Alby Allan, Frank Ovard, Paul Stanton, Kevin Hughes, Troy Germaine, Wayne Poetschke, Graham Cocks, Ray Bull and Gary Buchanan. Joining during the season were Adrian Bray, Dave Ratcliffe, Steve Coulson, Mark Nightingale, Mark Mason, Scott McRobert, Tim Page, Paul Miller (as goalkeeper, with Mahon playing as a striker), Shay Bates and Paul O'Shea. Poetschke scored twelve goals, Ovard and Germaine ten each.

1992-1993 Kent County Division One East League Table....

		Р	W	D	L	F	А	GD F
Lydd Town		24	19	4	1	88	25	63 6
Tenterden & S	St Michaels United	24	15	3	6	68	28	40 4
Rye United		24	14	3	7	58	38	20 4
Headcorn		24	13	5	6	54	46	10 4
Bromley Gree	en	24	12	4	8	66	44	22 4
Hythe United	1	24	12	2	10	41	46	-5 3
University of	Kent	24	10	2	12	48	56	-8 3
Cheriton		24	9	4	11	51	58	-7 3
Broomfield U	Inited	24	7	6	11	45	56	-11 2
Kennington		24	7	5	12	37	52	-15 2
Snowdown C	2W	24	7	4	13	43	66	-23 2
Knatchbull		24	6	2	16	34	66	-32 2
Houchin		24	2	2	20	41	93	-52 8
Sandwich Sp	orts withdrew, results exp	punged						
1992-1993 R	esults							
Date	Opponents		Comp	Venue	Sciore	Att	Scorers	
13/08/1992	Dover Reserves		F	Home	2-0	90	Kevin Hughe	es, Troy Germ
18/08/1992	Ashford		F	Home	0-5	200+		
27/08/1992	Woodnesborough		F	Home	3-1		Frank Ovarc	l, ? Wright, St
01/09/1992	New Romney		F	Home	1-0		Paul Stanto	n
05/09/1992	White Lion (Cheriton)		KCLOE	Away	5-4	70	Richard Tea	rle, Ovard 2,
08/09/1992	Kent Fire Brigade		F	Home	0-2			
12/09/1992	Knatchbull		KCLOE	Home	2-1	70	Hughes, Po	etschke
19/09/1992	Lydd Town		KCLOE	Away	0-4	80		
23/09/1992	Herne Bay		F	Home	0-3			
26/09/1992	Rye United		KCLOE	Away	2-4		Hughes, Po	etschke
03/10/1992	Snowdown Colliery Wel	fare	KCLOE	Home	2-1	100+	Ovard, Gerr	naine
10/10/1992	Lydd Town		KICS1	Away	2-1		Stanton, Ov	ard

13/10/1992	Danson Furness United	F	Home	1-4	
17/10/1992	Headcorn	KCLOE	Away	2-3	Ovard, Poetschke
24/10/1992	Houchin Rovers	IRCC1	Away	2-3	Scott McRobert, Hughes
31/10/1992	Broomfield United	KCLOE	Home	1-2	Hughes
07/11/1992	Bromley Green	KCLOE	Home	3-7	Germaine 2, Poetschke
14/11/1992	Tenterden & St Michaels United	KCLOE	Away	1-1	Hughes
21/11/1992	Sevenoaks Town	KICS2	Away	1-1	Poetschke (Match Abnd
28/11/1992	Sevenoaks Town	KICS2	Away	1-6	Germaine
12/12/1992	University of Kent	KCLOE	Home	3-0	Mark Mahon 2, Germaine
05/01/1993	Knatchbull	LLC	Away	6-1	
16/01/1993	Snowdown Colliery Welfare	KCLOE	Away	2-1	Mahon, Hughes
19/01/1993	Sandwich Sports	KCLOE	Home	4-2*	Germaine 2, Mahon, Sta
30/01/1993	University of Kent	KCLOE	Away	1-0	Ovard (or Stanton?)
02/02/1993	Lydd Town	KCLIC1	Home	0-4	
06/02/1993	Kennington	KCLOE	Home	1-0	Poetschke
09/02/1993	Houchin Rovers	KCLOE	Home	1-0	
13/02/1993	Headcorn	KCLOE	Home	0-1	
20/02/1993	Broomfield United	KCLOE	Away	2-0	Stanton, Ovard
27/02/1993	White Lion (Cheriton)	KCLOE	Home	1-0	Poetschke
09/03/1993	Danson Furness United	F	Home	4-0	
13/03/1993	Rye United	KCLOE	Home	0-3	
20/03/1993	Houchin Rovers	KCLOE	Away	9-3	Paul O'Shea 3, Ovard 2, 0 Bray
27/03/1993	Lydd Town	KCLOE	Home	0-3	
03/04/1993	Kennington	KCLOE	Away	2-0	Germaine, Poetschke
10/04/1993	Tenterden & St Michaels United	LLC	Away	3-3 aet	Bray, Ovard pen, Poetsch
14/04/1993	Tenterden & St Michaels United	LLC	Home	5-1	
17/04/1993	Bromley Green	KCLOE	Away	0-5	
22/04/1993	Lydd Town	LLCSF	Home	0-1	
01/05/1993	Knatchbull	KCLOE	Away	1-1	Poetschke
10/05/1993	Tenterden & St Michaels United	KCLOE	Home	0-2	

1993-1994.....

The new season saw a new division and a new manager. During the summer Hythe were moved into the (now unsponsored) Kent County League Premier Division, which was slightly strange for a side that had finished in sixth place in Division One East. The new manager was former player Tony Hunter, who had spent the last four years at New Romney, the last of which was in the Premier Division. It was no great surprise that a few of his former players moved to Hythe to strengthen the side, including Ian Hayes, Andy Ovenden, goalkeeper Paul McLean and former Hythe player Ian Daffin. Wayne Shingler joined from Folkestone Invicta and two other old players, Andy Bates and David Bible, also signed. A reserve team was entered into KCL Division Two East, to be run by Tony Hassan and Alby Allan.

The season was to prove one of mid-table mediocrity, perhaps not surprising after the jump in level. Only one win in the first five league games saw Hythe in tenth, but three wins from the next five moved the club up to sixth. There was another win and a defeat before the Christmas derby with New Romney which saw honours even with David Bible scoring the Hythe goal in a 1-1 draw. New Romney were the league leaders, followed by Greenways and then Teynham & Lynsted. In the cups Hythe had beaten Bromley Green in the Floodlight Invitation Cup, where all games were played at Reachfields, but lost to local rivals Lydd after extra time. In the Inter Regional Cup Hythe lost their first game at Tenterden. In October Hythe signed Mark Palmer in defence, he had formerly played for Lydd and had been New Romney's captain, and Frank Clarke returned to the club as trainer.

January saw bad weather wipe out most games, just a 5-1 defeat at would-be champions Teynham & Lynsted. February saw three wins and a draw and a rise to sixth but despite a run of three wins in a row the season ended with defeats to three of the top four sides and Hythe had to settle for tenth place. No joy in the other two cups either, with 1-0 home defeats in both the Weald of Kent Charity Cup and the Les Leckie Eastern Section Cup. Another former Hythe player, Kevin Smart, had signed again in January although he returned to Southern League football with Canterbury in April.

The reserve side had a season of two halves, they had been very bottom at Christmas, just the one win and only four points, before a remarkable revival under new managers Steve Ashton and Ian Daffin saw them climb to finish in fifth place. They used many of the players from the previous season's first team. The reserves also reached the sixth round of the Kent Junior Cup, losing 5-2 away to 'all conquering' Maidstone Invicta in front of a crowd of around 200. This was the first season back in adult football for Maidstone after they (as Maidstone United) had resigned from the Football League early in the 1992-93 season.

Again, the Folkestone Herald normally managed only a couple of paragraphs about Hythe matches during the season and only one match had a full team line-up. Appearance statistics are impossible to produce but the names noted through the season are: Paul McLean

(goalkeeper), Troy Germaine, Wayne Shingler, David Bible, Andy Ovenden, Andy Bates, Ian Daffin, Ian Hayes, Adrian Bray, Dave Geeler, Darren Walmsley, Richard Tearle, Paul McRobert, Mark Palmer, Paul Longman, Dominic Scott, Paul Stanton, Spencer Pinch and Kevin Smart. Our records are still missing one goalscorer but Bible top scored with eight, followed by Walmsley with seven, Geeler six and Hayes five.

	Р	W	D	L		F	А	GD	Pts
Teynham & Lynsted	28	17	6	5		55	31	24	57
Greenways	28	16	5	7		42	27	15	53
VCD Athletic	28	15	4	9		70	39	31	49
Lordswood	27	15	4	8		61	39	22	49
New Romney	28	13	7	8		43	39	4	46
Stansfeld O&B	27	14	4	9		49	48	1	46
Thames Polytechn	ic 28	13	4	11		46	36	10	43
Sevenoaks Town	28	12	5	11		45	36	9	41
Knockholt	28	11	6	11		43	45	-2	39
Hythe United	28	11	5	12		37	37	0	38
Aylesford Paper Mi	lls 28	9	4	15		34	41	-7	31
Oakwood	28	8	6	14		30	45	-15	30
Scott Sports & Soc	ial 28	6	11	11		41	44	-3	29
Otford United	28	7	4	17		31	56	-25	25
Woodnesborough	28	4	1	23		26	90	-64	13
* one game not pla	yed								
1993-1994 Results									
Date Opp	onents	Cor	np	Venue	Score	Att	Sc	orers	
24/07/1993 Dea	l Reserves	F		Away	4-1		То	ny Hunter, Ti	oy Germaine 2,
04/08/1993 Herr	ne Bay Reserves	F		Away	0-1				
07/08/1993 Folk	estone Invicta	F		Away	1-3		Wa	ayne Shingle	r
10/08/1993 Ram	isgate	F		Away	1-1		Ha	iyes	
21/08/1993 Hea	dcorn	F		Away	4-2		?		

1993-1994 Kent County Premier League Table....

28/08/1993	Colts '85	F	Home	4-0	Hayes, Richard Tearle, Germa
04/09/1993	Aylesford Paper Mills	KCP	Home	0-1	
11/09/1993	VCD Athletic	KCP	Home	2-1	Ian Daffin (pen), Hayes
15/09/1993	Bromley Green	KCLFC1	Home	5-2	Dave Gealer, Shingler, Darren
			Tionic	0 2	Daffin (pen), David Bible
18/09/1993	Knockholt	KCP	Away	0-1	
25/09/1993	Stansfeld O&B	KCP	Home	1-2	Paul McRobert
02/10/1993	Scott Sports & Social	KCP	Home	2-2	Germaine, Adrian Bray
09/10/1993	VCD Athletic	KCS	Away	3-4	Andy Ovenden, Shingler, Bible
20/10/1993?	Kennington	WOKC2	Away	5-0	?
23/10/1993	Oakwood	КСР	Home	3-0	Gealer 2, Bible
30/10/1993	Woodnesborough	КСР	Home	2-0	Ovenden, Paul Longman
06/11/1993	Sevenoaks Town	КСР	Away	1-2	Tony Hunter
13/11/1993	Otford United	КСР	Home	2-1	Gealer, Hayes
20/11/1993	New Romney	KCP	Home	0-1	
27/11/1993	Tenterden Town	IRCC2	Away	1-3	Gealer
01/12/1993	Rye United	KCLFC2	Home	1-2aet	?
04/12/1993	Oakwood	KCP	Away	4-3	Walmsley 3, Spencer Pinch
11/12/1993	Stansfeld O&B	KCP	Away	0-1	
27/12/1993	New Romney	KCP	Away	1-1	Bible
22/01/1994	University of Kent	LLC1	Home	2-1	Germaine, Hayes
29/01/1994	Teynham & Lynsted	KCP	Away	1-5	OG
05/02/1994	Scott Sports & Social	KCP	Away	1-1	Bray
08/02/1994	Bromley Green	WOKCQF	Home	0-1	
12/02/1994	Knockholt	KCP	Home	1-0	Andy Bates
16/02/1994	Sevenoaks Town	KCP	Home	1-1	Bray
19/02/1994	Aylesford Paper Mills	KCP	Away	1-0	Bible
26/02/1994	Woodnesborough	КСР	Away	3-0	Walmsley, Gealer, Hayes
05/03/1994	Thames Polytechnic	KCP	Away	1-3	Bible
08/03/1994	New Romney	LLCQF	Home	0-1	
12/03/1994	Greenways	КСР	Home	1-2	Bible (pen)

19/03/1994	Thames Polytechnic	KCP	Home	4-2	Paul Stanton 3, Pinch
02/04/1994	Greenways	KCP	Away	1-0	Bible (pen)
09/04/1994	Otford United	KCP	Away	2-1	Walmsley, Hayes
23/04/1994	Lordswood	KCP	Away	0-1	
30/04/1994	Lordswood	KCP	Home	1-1	Walmsley
10/05/1994	VCD Athletic	KCP	Away	1-3	?
13/05/1994	Teynham & Lynsted	KCP	Home	0-1	

1994-1995.....

Tony Hunter continued as manager for the 1994-95 season, where Hythe were aiming to do well in the Nuclear Electric Kent County League Premier Division to help the club's aim to make a return to the Kent League. There were a few new signings, Joe Latty and Andy Bennett joined from the manager's former club, New Romney, forward Eddie Davies joined from a Dover Sunday League club as well as Paul Hambrook and Paul Westall from Folkestone Invicta. Hythe's reserve side continued in the KCL Division Two East under joint managers Steve Ashton and Ian Daffin.

In an earlier start than usual, Hythe played a challenge game against a Folkestone Invicta side during the Hythe Festival week, ending in a 2-2 draw in front of around one hundred spectators. The friendlies went well with only a single defeat to Ashford's Southern League squad. This season's kit was all red with white flashes, again sponsored by Star Plant.

After opening the season with a home defeat to Stansfeld, the next game saw a fine 1-0 win over last season's champions, Sevenoaks Town. After another win and a defeat the club embarked on a long unbeaten run that lasted until February. In all it covered seventeen games with ten of those in the various cups. Hythe climbed to third in the table as a result and Hunter was awarded Manager of the Month for October. In the cup game at Woodnesborough Kent cricketer Trevor Ward played for the home side. Away to Scott Sports in the league Hythe were forced to start with ten men due to the late arrival of one car and scored the only goal of the game before its occupants arrived, with keeper Paul Miller later saving a penalty.

The good run ended with not one defeat but six in a row, three in the league and exits from the Kent Intermediate Challenge Shield in the semi-final, the KCL Invitation Floodlight Trophy in the semi-final and a quarter-final defeat at Teynham & Lynsted in the KCL Inter-Regional Cup, a game played at Sittingbourne's huge Central Park.

There was one successful semi-final; after wins against Techpro and Lydd Town Hythe managed to beat Tenterden & St Michaels on penalties to reach the final of the Weald of Kent Charity Cup.

The final was played on its traditional date and venue, Good Friday at Tenterden, against Bromley Green. Despite Hythe taking the lead through Joe Latty after only 20 seconds, a Green equaliser took the game to extra time where the Ashford side scored the winning goal.

The cup successes had left twelve league games to be played in April and May and only three wins saw Hythe slip to finish in ninth place. The club had confirmed that their application to join the Kent League would be heard in June, with Woolwich Town also applying.

The reserve side had a good season, finishing in fifth place in the league and, after big wins over Wittersham and Sandhurst, reaching the final of the Weald of Kent Charity Plate. But, like the senior side, there was disappointment with a 5-4 defeat at the hands of Tenterden & St Michaels Reserves. Hythe's goals were scored by Paul Westall (2), a young Roy Godden and Tony Heron.

The season ended with good news as at the AGM of the Kent League Hythe were voted into Division One with the KCFA granting the club senior status again a month later.

In a very small squad, goalkeeping duties were shared between Paul McLean and Paul Miller, defenders were Paul Hackett, Spencer Pinch, Andy Ovenden and Paul Hambrook, midfield was Dave Geeler, Paul Stanton and Ian Hayes with the forwards being Andy Bennett, Eddie Davies, Joe Latty and Andy Bates. One odd stat from the season is that the side scored the same number of league goals, 44, as cup goals. With ten goals still unaccounted for, we know that Bennett scored 25, Davies 22 and Latty 11.

1994-1995 Kent County Premier League Table....

	Р	W	D	L	F	А	GD	PTS
Stansfeld O&B	28	20	5	3	74	35	39	65
Lordswood	28	20	4	4	71	39	32	64
VCD Athletic	28	17	6	5	66	35	31	57
Teynham & Lynsted	28	15	6	7	67	37	30	47
Lydd Town	28	14	5	9	72	61	11	47
Aylesford Paper Mills	28	13	6	9	55	39	16	45
Greenways	27	12	4	11	56	53	3	40
Sevenoaks Town	27	11	6	10	52	46	6	39
Hythe United	28	11	6	11	44	46	-2	39

Oakwood		28	8	7	13	42	59	-17	31
Knockholt		28	7	7	14	54	68	-10	28
Thames Poly	technic	28	6	5	17	39	72	-33	23
Ten Em Bee		28	6	4	18	30	56	-26	22
New Romney	/	28	6	4	18	29	66	-37	22
Scott Sports	& Social	28	3	5	20	35	74	-39	14
* one game n	ot played								
1994-1995 R	esults								
Date	Opponents			Competiti	on Venue	F-A	Scorers		
09/07/1994	Folkestone Invicta			F	Home	2-2	Mark Ma	ihon 2	
02/08/1994	Ashford Town			F	Home	0-3			
06/08/1994	Deal Town			F	Home	4-0	Mahon 4	ţ	
10/08/1994	Maidstone Invicta			F	Home	4-1	Andy Be	nnett 2, M	ahon, Pa
13/08/1994	Ramsgate			F	Home	2-1	Joe Latty	y, Eddie Da	avies
20/08/1994	Hollington			F	Home	3-1	Bennett	3	
27/08/1994	Herne Bay Res			F	Home	12-0	Bennett OG	5, Mahon	2, Stant
03/09/1994	Stansfeld O&B			KCP	Home	0-2			
10/09/1994	Sevenoaks Town			КСР	Home	1-0	Bennett		
24/09/1994	VCD Athletic			КСР	Away	4-1	Davies 3	3, Bennett	
01/10/1994	Ten Em Bee			KCP	Home	0-1			
08/10/1994	Bishopsbourne			KICS1	Away	4-0	Bennett	2, Davies,	lan Hay
15/10/1994	Lydd Town			LLCP	Away	4-3	Davies,	Hayes, Be	nnett 2
22/10/1994	Oakwood			KCP	Home	2-0	Latty, Da	avies	
29/10/1994	Aylesford Paper Mi	ills		KCP	Away	3-2	Davies 2	?, Latty	
05/11/1994	Scott Sports & Soc	ial		KCP	Home	2-1	Ovende	n, Davies	
12/11/1994	Greenways			KCP	Away	2-2	Davies,	Bennett	
19/11/1994	Otford United			KICS2	Away	2-1	Bennett	(pen), Hay	/es
26/11/1994	Bishopsbourne			IRCC2	Away	4-2	Andy Ba	tes, Davie	s 2, Latt
??/11/1994	Techpro			WOKC1	Home	5-1	?????		
03/12/1994	Woodnesborough			LLC1	Away	6-1	Davies 2	2, Bennett	2, Bates

10/12/1994	Lordswood	KCP	Away	1-1	Bennett
17/12/1994	Sutton Athletic	KICS3	Home	3-2	Stanton, Latty, Davies
03/01/1995	Aylesford Paper Mills	KCP	Home	3-1	Paul Hambrook, Stanton,
07/01/1995	Scott Sports & Social	KCP	Away	1-0	Bennett
14/01/1995	Tenterden & St Michaels United	IRCC3	Away	2-0	Stanton, Davies
04/02/1995	Aylesford Paper Mills	KICS4	Home	3-1	Bates, Bennett (pen), Latty
11/02/1995	Lydd Town	WOKCQF	Away	3-0	Bates, Bennett, Davies
18/02/1995	Greenways	KCP	Home	0-3	
25/02/1995	VCD Athletic	KICSSF	Home	1-2 aet	Davies
28/02/1995	VCD Athletic	KCP	Home	0-2	
04/03/1995	Thames Polytechnic	KCP	Away	0-3	
11/03/1995	Teynham & Lynsted	IRCCQF	Away	2-4	Hambrook, Ovenden
14/03/1995	Lydd Town	KCLICSF	Away	3-5 aet	Bates, Davies, Bennett
18/03/1995	Ten Em Bee	KCP	Away	3-0	Bennett, Stanton, Hayes
25/03/1995	Stansfeld O&B	KCP	Away	1-3	Bennett
29/03/1995	Milton Athletic	LLCQF	Home	0-2	
01/04/1995	Tenterden & St Michaels United	WOKCSF	Away	1-1 aet	Latty (Won 4-1 on Pens)
04/04/1995	Teynham & Lynsted	KCP	Home	1-1	Latty
08/04/1995	Sevenoaks Town	KCP	Away	2-3	Bennett, Davies
11/04/1995	Lydd Town	KCP	Home	1-1	
14/04/1995	Bromley Green	WOK CF	Neutral	1-2 aet	Latty (at Tenterden & St Mi
17/04/1995	New Romney	KCP	Away	1-1	Bennett
22/04/1995	Lordswood	KCP	Home	1-2	Bennett
24/04/1995	Teynham & Lynsted	KCP	Away	1-3	Davies
29/04/1995	Thames Polytechnic	KCP	Home	2-4	Mahon, Hambrook
02/05/1995	Oakwood	KCP	Away	3-2	
06/05/1995	Knockholt	KCP	Away	4-2	Latty, Davies, Bennett 2
08/05/1995	New Romney	KCP	Home	3-0	Bennett 2, Ovenden
11/05/1995	Knockholt	KCP	Home	1-1	
15/05/1995	Lydd Town	KCP	Away	1-4	Bennett
The 1990s (p	art 3)				

1995-1996.....

The club's return to the Kent League saw the return of Martin Giles, as press and publicity officer, having spent most of the KCL seasons without an official post. The club also gained permission to use the Hythe town seal as its badge. Hythe United FC became a limited company, with Steve Walker as chairman and Jim Robb and Tony Zapp its other directors. Added to the playing squad was Mark Palmer, returning after spells at Lydd and New Romney, ex-Norwich City youth Lloyd Partner from Dover Reserves, Dave Little also from New Romney and Clive Barham, Jimmy McGill and Mark Warlosz from neighbours Folkestone Invicta. Ian Daffin continued to run the reserve side in KCL Division 2 East and an Under-16 side was started. The kit remained all red with white flashes, now sponsored by Colin A Morgan, Solicitors.

Hythe found the jump from mid-table KCL to the Kent League a big one. Despite some decent performances the first six games were all defeats; the first point came in a 1-1 home draw with Thamesmead, Andy Bennett volleying the equaliser. Two games later saw the first win, new signing Darren Light from Tenterden coming on as sub and his half-volley in the last minute earned all three points at Corinthian. Two more wins followed, 4-3 over Ramsgate after being 4-0 up in 33 minutes with Lloyd Partner scoring a hat-trick, then a 3-0 win over lowly Crockenhill.

After that burst had lifted the club above Faversham and the Crocks, it would be another ten games before victory was enjoyed again, at home to Faversham. In the poor run there was a nasty injury to Partner in the game at Greenwich that saw him taken to hospital where he had to have a kidney removed. Also there was defeat at Folkestone in the first derby game for six seasons, 4-0 in front of 407 spectators. In the Folkestone side that day were Ricky Reina and Frank Ovard.

Steve Ridley had joined from Invicta and Hythe also signed Justin Light, twin brother of Darren and his two goals helped Hythe to a 4-3 win over Whitstable on New Year's Day and a rise to 17th place in the table. After this was the return match with top-of-the-table Folkestone at Reachfields. Ian Hayes equalised in the second half and Hythe came close to getting a win in injury time. The crowd was 422, the second best in the league at that time. Again, Hythe could not capitalise on a couple of better performances, losing the next game heavily at Crockenhill but the game did see the return of Partner after his surgery. Five more defeats would follow before two Darren Light goals helped towards a 3-1 win at Faversham.

The following week, after defeats at Deal and at home to the eventual champions, Furness, Tony Hunter resigned as manager and reserve boss Ian Daffin took temporary charge for the final five games. There was one win, over Corinthian with goals from reserve players Paul Stanton and Joe Latty and the season ended in a narrow defeat at Dartford, who were sharing at Erith & Belvedere's old ground, Park View. Dartford lost out on goal difference to Furness for the league title, but were promoted to the Southern League. Hythe finished 19th, with only Faversham below them. There was no cup success, with first round defeats in the League Cup and Kent Senior Trophy. Hythe's elevation to the Kent League came too late to enter the FA Vase for this season. The reserves had a good season, finishing third in their division, manager Daffin winning Manager of the Month for February.

Hythe advertised the managerial vacancy and announced Micky Dix as the new manager on the last day of the season. He had been number two to Tim Hulme at Folkestone Invicta that season, but was taking temporary charge of the first team after Hulme's resignation in March.

Proper reports in the Herald mean this is the first season of complete statistics. Clive Barham appeared in 37 of the 40 games, followed by Mark Warlosz 36, Andy Bates 34, Paul McLean 33 and Jimmy McGill 31. Darren Light, Ian Hayes, Mark Palmer, Andy Bennett, Joe Latty and Lloyd Partner also played more than half of the games. Darren Light was top scorer with ten goals, Bennett got nine and Steve Ridley and Partner seven each. The Manager's Player of the Year was Mark Warlosz, Players' Player was Andy Bates. Paul Stanton was club's top scorer amongst first team and reserves.

	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Furness	38	27	8	3	87	19	68	89
Dartford	38	26	11	1	71	21	50	89
Chatham Town	38	24	5	9	79	48	31	77
Herne Bay	38	18	10	10	74	44	30	64
Deal Town	38	17	13	8	72	52	20	64
Slade Green	38	17	12	9	66	46	20	63
Sheppey United	38	19	5	14	66	49	17	62
Whitstable Town	38	17	7	14	85	61	14	58
Thamesmead Town	38	17	7	14	59	51	8	58
Folkestone Invicta	38	15	11	12	82	56	26	56
Greenwich Borough	38	15	7	16	60	66	-6	52
Cray Wanderers	38	16	5	17	70	70	0	50
Canterbury City	38	14	6	18	48	59	-11	48

1995-1996 Kent League Table....

Pomorata		38	13)	6		19		62	81	-19	45
Ramsgate Tunbridge We		38	10		0 10		18		45	64	-19	40
Beckenham To		38	9	,	9		20		45	60	-15	36
	JWII											
Corinthian		38	9		7		22		53	84	-31	34
Crockenhill		38	8		8		22		51	92	-41	32
Hythe United		38	8		6		24		58	101	-43	30
Faversham To		38	3		3		32	<u>.</u>	33	142	-109	12
1995-1996 Re												
Date	Opponents			Comp	D			Score	Att	Scorers		
25/07/1995	Margate			F		Hom	ne	2-0		Mahon,F	Partner	
27/07/1995	Ashford Tov	vn		F		Hom	ne	1-4		Stanton		
01/08/1995	Maidstone	Invicta		F		Hom	ne	5-3		Partner 3	3, Mahon, I	Hambrook
05/08/1995	Knatchbull			F		Awa	У	1-5		OG		
08/08/1995	Dover Rese	rves		F		Hom	ne	0-1				
12/08/1995	Slade Gree	n		KLD1		Awa	У	1-3	114	Bennett		
15/08/1995	Deal Town			KLD1		Hom	ne	2-6	149	Bennett,	Dave Gea	ler
19/08/1995	Beckenham	n Town		KLD1		Hom	ne	2-4	81	Bennett,	Partner	
24/08/1995	Canterbury	City		KLD1		Awa	у	0-4	63			
28/08/1995	Furness			KLD1		Awa	у	0-2	140			
02/09/1995	Thamesme	ad Town		KLD1		Hom	ne	1-1	82	Bennett		
09/09/1995	Cray Wande	erers		KLD1		Hom	ne	0-1	102			
16/09/1995	Corinthian			KLD1		Awa	у	1-0	51	D Light		
19/09/1995	Ramsgate			KLD1		Hom	ne	4-3	103	Partner 3	3, D Light	
23/09/1995	Crockenhill			KLD1		Hom	ne	3-0	90	D Light, \	Warlosz 2	
30/09/1995	Tunbridge V	Vells		KLD1		Awa	у	2-2	135	D Light, \	Warlosz	
07/10/1995	Sheppey Ur	nited		KLD1		Hom	ne	0-3	91			
14/10/1995	Thamesme	ad Town		KST1		Awa	у	2-4	36	Latty, Mo	Gill	
21/10/1995	Chatham To	own		KLD1		Hom	ne	3-4	73	Partner p	oen, Warlo	sz 2
24/10/1995	Canterbury	City		KLD1		Hom	ne	2-2	112	Palmer, I	Davies	
28/10/1995	Greenwich	Borough		KLD1		Awa	у	2-4	62	Gealer, F	Palmer	
04/11/1995	Dartford			KLD1		Hom	ne	0-0	221			

11/11/1995	Greenwich Borough	KLD1	Home	2-2	70	Hayes, J Light
18/11/1995	Folkestone Invicta	KLD1	Away	0-4	407	
25/11/1995	Tunbridge Wells	KLC2	Home	1-2aet	89	D Light
02/12/1995	Cray Wanderers	KLD1	Away	2-4	84	Palmer, Barham pen
09/12/1995	Faversham Town	KLD1	Home	5-2	94	Warlosz, Ridley 2, D Light, Barh
16/12/1995	Ramsgate	KLD1	Away	2-3	60	J Light, Ridley
01/01/1996	Whitstable Town	KLD1	Home	4-3	172	J Light 2, Warlosz, D Light
06/01/1996	Folkestone Invicta	KLD1	Home	1-1	422	Hayes
13/01/1996	Crockenhill	KLD1	Away	2-6	35	Ridley, Partner
20/01/1996	Herne Bay	KLD1	Away	1-5	152	J Light
03/02/1996	Slade Green	KLD1	Home	0-1	86	
10/02/1996	Beckenham Town	KLD1	Away	2-4	65	D Light, Ridley
17/02/1996	Sheppey United	KLD1	Away	1-3	62	Bennett
02/03/1996	Chatham Town	KLD1	Away	1-3	90	OG
13/03/1996	Faversham Town	KLD1	Away	3-1	33	D Light 2, Bennett
16/03/1996	Tunbridge Wells	KLD1	Home	1-0	87	Palmer
23/03/1996	Deal Town	KLD1	Away	1-5	134	Ridley
26/03/1996	Furness	KLD1	Home	0-3	74	
02/04/1996	Whitstable Town	KLD1	Away	1-4	96	Ridley
08/04/1996	Corinthian	KLD1	Home	4-1	70	Bennett 2, Stanton, Latty
13/04/1996	Herne Bay	KLD1	Home	0-2	102	
16/04/1996	Thamesmead Town	KLD1	Away	1-3	37	Bennett
27/04/1996	Dartford	KLD1	Away	1-2	390	Latty

1996-1997.....

The new season saw a new manager for Hythe United, Micky Dix, who had been the number two at Folkestone Invicta for the previous season. He quickly appointed Dave Linstrem, Invicta's Player of the Year, as player/assistant manager. There was a slightly nervous wait for the Kent League AGM in June but Hythe were successfully re-elected, after their lowly finish the previous season. Hythe's reserve side were accepted into the KL Division Two from the Kent County League with Ian Daffin remaining as manager. In Division One, Lordswood and Woolwich Town (soon to become Erith Town) were also elected. Hythe would make returns to the FA Vase and the Eastern Floodlight Cup. The season kicked off in mid-July with a game for the 'Hythe Festival Cup', a Hythe Invitation XI taking on Ashford but losing 4-1 in front of 300 spectators. It was intended to play this game every other year but this seems to have been the one and only occasion. Where is the cup I wonder? New signings included Danny Pickford, ex-Ramsgate and Invicta, Kevin Clifford, also ex-Invicta, Simon Joynes, a goalkeeper from New Romney and schoolboys lain Cameron and Keith Marshall.

The league season began well, with a 1-0 win at Cray Wanderers' sloping Oxford Road ground, but things went downhill straight away with heavy defeats to Ramsgate and Slade Green. Narrow defeats to Canterbury and Furness, where Hythe played really well, were followed by a streaky win over Tunbridge Wells. There was another win, over newcomers Lordswood, before an embarrassing defeat at Faversham, who had lost their previous 25 games across two seasons.

Hythe played their first game in the FA Vase for five seasons but missed their chances in a 2-1 defeat to Windsor & Eton, for whom ex-Hythe man Del Deanus played. There was little Corinthian spirit shown two weeks later as Hythe defeated the north Kent side 2-1 and lost the red card count 3-1.

November saw experienced defender Terry Collins return to the club and the signing of Phil 'Zammo' Hancock, a left-winger, from Deal. The month saw some good results and after a 5-1 home win over newcomers Woolwich Hythe sat in third place in the table. That game offered a 'money back if not satisfied' guarantee for which a mere 89 spectators attended risk-free. Despite adding Daran Wilkins from Invicta and fiery ex-Invicta man Dave Ward to the squad, league form would then take a dip with more defeats than wins. There was a big disappointment in the quarter-final of the league cup with a home defeat to Cray, a side Hythe had already beaten twice in the league.

Results continued to fluctuate, with some wins over the better sides such as Herne Bay and Deal but then dropping points when more was expected. The two derby games with Folkestone came late in the season and saw big crowds. There was 379 at Cheriton Road when an early penalty was enough for the home side to take the points. That Folkestone side included ex-Hythe players Bobby Wilson, Dave Gear, Dan Porter and our recent ex-manager Tim Dixon. The return at Reachfields on Easter Monday saw the biggest KL crowd of the season, 381, and a 1-1 draw and one sent off apiece. At this point Hythe were in eighth place but a poor finish, losing the last four games, saw the club finish in thirteenth position, but a marked improvement on the previous season.

Clive Barham played in all 48 games, Dave Linstrem, Andy Laker and Ian Hayes only missed a couple each. Andy Bennett, Steve Ridley, Kevin Clifford, Simon Joynes and Frank Ovard all managed over half the games, and Phil Hancock, Dave Ward and Daran Wilkins were regulars after joining midway through the season. Andy Bennett top-scored with 16 goals, Ridley

managed 13, Ovard 12 and 10 from supersub Danny Gooding, who made only 7 starts but 30 appearances from the bench. Manager's Player of the Year was Clive Barham, Players' Player was Andy Laker, Steve Hobbs was the club's top scorer, all his goals for the reserve side. Ian Daffin's team finished a creditable fifth in their first season back in KL Division Two.

Team	Pld	W	D	L	F	А	GD	Pts
Herne Bay	40	23	11	6	73	35	38	80
Ramsgate	40	24	5	11	82	47	35	77
Furness	40	23	8	9	66	38	28	77
Sheppey United	40	22	7	11	74	47	27	73
Deal Town	40	20	5	15	80	56	24	65
Folkestone Invicta	40	19	7	14	66	57	9	64
Whitstable Town	40	17	12	11	61	44	17	63
Chatham Town	40	16	11	13	60	52	8	59
Greenwich Borough	40	16	10	14	71	62	9	58
Faversham Town	40	16	9	15	58	73	-15	57
Beckenham Town	40	15	10	15	49	47	2	55
Canterbury City	40	15	10	15	47	55	-8	55
Hythe United	40	15	8	17	70	76	-6	53
Thamesmead Town	40	15	8	17	53	61	-8	53
Lordswood	40	14	8	18	57	72	-15	50
Slade Green	40	12	9	19	45	50	-5	45
Woolwich Town	40	10	13	17	40	62	-22	43
Cray Wanderers	40	11	6	23	43	66	-23	39
Crockenhill	40	9	11	20	51	80	-29	38
Tunbridge Wells	40	8	10	22	44	76	-32	34
Corinthian	40	8	6	26	37	71	-34	30
1996-1997 Eastern Floodligh	t Cup Grou	up 1 Table.	••					
	Р	W	D	L	F	А	GD	PTS
Ashford Town	4	4	0	0	12	3	9	12
Folkestone Invicta	4	1	0	3	4	8	-4	3

1996-1997 Kent League Table....

Hythe Town	4 1	0	3	5		10 -5 3
1996-1997 Re	esults					
Date	Opponents	Comp	Venue	Score	Att	Scorers
14/07/1996	Ashford Town	F	Home	1-4	300	Gooding
24/07/1996	Welling United	F	Home	0-3		
03/08/1996	Hastings Town Reserves	F	Home	4-1		Andy Bennett, Steve Rid Clifford
06/08/1996	Margate Reserves	F	Home	4-0		Clifford 2, Joe Latty 2 (O
10/08/1996	Charlton Athletic XI	F	Home	1-2		Latty
13/08/1996	Ashford Town	EFC	Away	2-3		Clifford, Bennett
17/08/1996	Cray Wanderers	KLD1	Away	1-0	76	OG
20/08/1996	Ramsgate	KLD1	Away	0-6	103	
24/08/1996	Slade Green	KLD1	Home	1-5	89	Frank Ovard
26/08/1996	Canterbury City	KLD1	Home	3-4	102	Bennett 2, 1 pen, Goodi
28/08/1996	Ashford Town	EFC	Home	0-4		
31/08/1996	Furness	KLD1	Home	0-1	149	
03/09/1996	Tunbridge Wells	KLD1	Home	2-1	89	Tim Hulme, Clifford
07/09/1996	Herne Bay	KLD1	Away	1-5	136	Ovard pen
14/09/1996	Lordswood	KLD1	Home	3-1	109	Ovard pen, Ian Hayes, D
21/09/1996	Faversham Town	KLD1	Away	0-1	55	
28/09/1996	Cray Wanderers	KLD1	Home	3-2	97	Clifford, Hayes, Ovard
05/10/1996	Windsor & Eton	FAV2Q	Home	1-2	151	Ovard pen
12/10/1996	Furness	KST1	Away	0-4	45	
19/10/1996	Corinthian	KLD1	Home	2-1	65	Ridley, Ovard pen
22/10/1996	Folkestone Invicta	EFC	Away	1-3	177	Lloyd Partner pen
26/10/1996	Beckenham Town	KLD1	Home	1-2	103	Ovard
02/11/1996	Crockenhill	KLD1	Away	2-1	104	Ridley, Clifford
09/11/1996	Thamesmead Town	KLD1	Home	3-1	109	Linstrem, Ovard 2, 1 per
12/11/1996	Deal Town	KLD1	Away	1-3	91	Bennett pen
16/11/1996	Chatham Town	KLD1	Away	2-1	101	Bennett, Linstrem
23/11/1996	Corinthian	KLD1	Away	2-2	51	Bennett 2

30/11/1996	Sheppey United	KLD1	Home	1-1	121	Bennett
07/12/1996	Woolwich Town	KLD1	Home	5-1	89	Hancock, Clifford, Bennett
10/12/1996	Tunbridge Wells	KLD1	Away	1-2	95	Hancock
14/12/1996	Thamesmead Town	KLD1	Away	0-3	63	
17/12/1996	Folkestone Invicta	EFC	Home	2-0	102	Linstrem, Gooding
22/01/1997	Sheppey United	KLD1	Away	0-1	69	
25/01/1997	Corinthian	KLC2	Home	4-0	75	Linstrem, Clive Barham, 2,
04/02/1997	Crockenhill	KLD1	Home	4-3	51	Bennett 3, Linstrem
08/02/1997	Furness	KLD1	Away	2-2	61	Ridley, Linstrem
15/02/1997	Cray Wanderers	KLCQF	Home	0-2	90	
22/02/1997	Woolwich Town	KLD1	Away	4-1	27	Clifford, Linstrem, Ridley, F
25/02/1997	Slade Green	KLD1	Away	1-1	42	Ovard
01/03/1997	Greenwich Borough	KLD1	Away	4-4	47	Ridley, Bennett, Hancock 2
04/03/1997	Whitstable Town	KLD1	Away	2-0	130	Ovard, Barham
08/03/1997	Faversham Town	KLD1	Home	1-2	89	Bennett
11/03/1997	Greenwich Borough	KLD1	Home	3-0	65	Ridley, Bennett, Gooding
15/03/1997	Canterbury City	KLD1	Away	1-1	37	Ridley
18/03/1997	Herne Bay	KLD1	Home	2-0	80	Ridley, Ovard
22/03/1997	Folkestone Invicta	KLD1	Home	0-1	379	
29/03/1997	Ramsgate	KLD1	Home	3-3	114	Ridley 3
31/03/1997	Folkestone Invicta	KLD1	Away	1-1	381	Gooding
05/04/1997	Deal Town	KLD1	Home	5-0	138	Gooding 2, Hancock, Ridle
08/04/1997	Chatham Town	KLD1	Home	1-2	82	Gooding
12/04/1997	Lordswood	KLD1	Away	2-4	68	Gooding 2
15/04/1997	Whitstable Town	KLD1	Home	0-2	87	
19/04/1997	Beckenham Town	KLD1	Away	0-4	176	

1997-1998.....

Mick Dix started his second season as first team manager, with Dave Linstrem as his assistant and Ian Daffin in charge of the reserves. The club was also running eleven youth sides from U9s to U18s, with a certain Paul Markland managing the U15s. The home strip remained all red but the shirt sponsors were now Hythe company HV Wooding. Kent County League champions VCD Athletic had been promoted to the Kent League and it would be the last season that non-floodlit grounds would be acceptable. The first team squad had lost Dave Ward to Folkestone and added Kevin Clifford and Daran Wilkins, with most of last season's squad remaining at Reachfields.

There had been much excitement during the summer regarding a pre-season friendly with Crystal Palace. Twice the Folkestone Herald had confirmed that a strong squad would be sent but in the end it was a team of young professionals, including Clinton Morrison, that won the game 6-1 in front of 1755 spectators, which remains Hythe's second biggest home attendance behind the FA Vase semi-final in 1990.

If you liked seeing goals and were not bothered at which end, this was a season to enjoy. Hythe's 48 games would total 216 goals, at an average of four and a half per game. The first five league games saw just one win, over the newcomers VCD, and four defeats, including a 6-0 Bank Holiday thumping at Folkestone Invicta. There was a good win over Chalfont St. Peter in the FA Cup, coming from behind to win 3-2 at Reachfields. In the next round Romford came to Hythe and left with a remarkable 7-4 win; they had led 4-1 after 22 minutes and even having a player sent off after half-an-hour could not help Hythe back into the tie.

Three wins, all by 2-0, in the next four league games saw Hythe climb to fifteenth position before an unusual game away to Chatham Town. Summer work at Maidstone Road had left the Chatham pitch unplayable for most of the season, and this game was their first played at Brompton Barracks using the pitch that the Royal Marines had played on in the Kent League in the 1950s. Chatham played a number of their games there and also played some games at Priestfield Stadium that season.

At the start of November Hythe had played only four home games out of thirteen but had risen to twelfth place. Youngsters Scott Wilkinson, Andy Towse and Scott Wilson had been introduced into the side in this period. Ian Daffin had resigned as reserve team manager and was not immediately replaced, and on occasions Mick Dix would take the reserve side leaving Dave Linstrem in charge of the first team game.

In December, after a run of six games without a victory, Dix made some changes which including putting himself in goal and putting goalkeeper Simon Joynes in attack for the game at Thamesmead, which was lost 3-2. Boxing Day was the home game with league leaders Folkestone and a big crowd, over a thousand, was anticipated but the dreadful weather saw the game postponed.

January saw former England international Mark Barham make another one-off appearance in Hythe colours, providing two assists in the win over Crockenhill. The following week Dix again played in goal, his hand forced by Joynes' injury in the warm-up, the result a 6-2 defeat to Sheppey in a game played at Sittingbourne's vast new Central Park. Scott Porter and Andy Bigginton were added to the squad. Results remaining disappointing, with more defeats than victories including a home defeat to Folkestone on a March Tuesday evening that saw 562 present, but a couple of wins at the end of April saw the club finish in fourteenth position. The season finished in the worst possible way, with a 10-1 defeat at Swanley Furness, which remains Hythe's biggest defeat in senior football. Herne Bay were champions, with a magnificent 107 points, but ground failings saw runners-up Folkestone take promotion to the Southern League.

Andy Laker and Phil Hancock made the most appearances, 47, followed by Kevin Clifford, Daran Wilkins, Clive Barham, Dave Linstrem, Danny Gooding and Steve Ridley. Simon Joynes made the most appearances in goal, of six different keepers used, with 25. Ridley was top scorer with 18, followed by Hancock with 14 and Linstrem, 13. An indication of Hythe's all-attacking policy was that eleven penalties were scored. Manager's Player of the Year was Kevin Clifford, with Paul Hackett for the reserves, Players' Player was Phil Hancock, Paul Miller for the reserves. The Golden Boot, combined between first and reserve sides, went to Steve Hobbs. In the boardroom, Steve Walker stood down as chairman and Mick Knight and Paul Markland joined as directors.

1997-1998 Kent League Table....

	Pld	W	D	L	F	А	GD	Pts
Herne Bay	42	34	5	3	105	29	76	107
Folkestone Invicta	42	31	4	7	127	42	85	97
Sheppey United	42	27	10	5	110	63	47	91
Swanley Furness	42	22	9	11	86	50	36	75
Greenwich Borough	42	21	11	10	83	42	41	74
Cray Wanderers	42	20	11	11	70	50	20	71
Beckenham Town	42	21	7	14	67	54	13	70
Whitstable Town	42	19	11	12	72	54	18	68
VCD Athletic	42	17	14	11	88	62	24	65
Lordswood	42	18	9	15	70	64	6	63
Tunbridge Wells	42	17	6	19	73	76	-3	57
Thamesmead Town	42	15	9	18	69	70	-1	54
Ramsgate	42	14	9	19	80	85	-5	51
Hythe United	42	15	5	22	75	103	-28	50

Faversham To	wn	42	14	12	16	62	68	-6	49	
Slade Green		42	12	13	17	58	67	-9	49	
Deal Town		42	15	4	23	75	97	-22	49	
Chatham Tow	n	42	12	12	18	56	66	-10	48	
Erith Town		42	12	6	24	48	85	-37	42	
Canterbury Ci	ty	42	8	6	28	45	96	-51	30	
Crockenhill		42	6	2	34	31	133	-98	20	
Corinthian		42	2	5	35	36	130	-94	11	
1997-1998 Res	sults									
Date	Opponents			Competit	tionVenue	Score	Att	Scorers		
19/07/1997	Gravesend &	& Northfle	et	F	Away	0-4				
23/07/1997	Crystal Pala	ce XI		F	Home	1-6	1755	Wilkinso	n	
30/07/1997	St Leonards	Stamcrof	t	F	Home	2-3		Linstrem	, Hancock	
09/08/1997	Whitstable Town			KLD1	Home	2-3	86	Stanton,	Ridley	
16/08/1997	VCD Athletic			KLD1	Away	2-1	108	Ridley, G	ooding	
19/08/1997	Tunbridge Wells			KLD1	Away	1-3	105	Stanton		
23/08/1997	Thamesmea	ad Town		KLD1	Home	1-2	81	Dix pen	Dix pen	
25/08/1997	Folkestone I	nvicta		KLD1	Away	0-6	718			
30/08/1997	Chalfont St	Peter		FACP	Home	3-2	72	Ridley, St	tanton, Haye	
13/09/1997	Romford			FAC1Q	Home	4-7	203	Ridley 2,	Bennett, Goo	
20/09/1997	Crockenhill			KLD1	Away	2-0	158	Gooding	, Bennett pen	
23/09/1997	Herne Bay			KLD1	Away	1-5	104	Dix		
27/09/1997	Tunbridge W	/ells		KLD1	Home	2-0	103	Wilkins,	Ridley	
04/10/1997	Tunbridge W	/ells		FAV2Q	Away	2-3	168	Gooding	, Hancock	
11/10/1997	Erith Town			KLD1	Home	2-0	89	Ridley, H	ancock	
18/10/1997	Chatham To	wn		KLD1	Away	2-2	82	Hayes, H	ancock pen	
21/10/1997	Faversham	Town		KLD1	Away	0-2	53			
25/10/1997	Lordswood			KLD1	Away	2-1	65	Wilkins,	Gooding	
01/11/1997	Cray Wande	rers		KLD1	Away	4-2	87	Ridley 2,	Linstrem, Ha	
04/11/1997	Deal Town			KLD1	Home	1-0	49	Gooding		
08/11/1997	Greenwich E	Borough		KLC2	Home	3-5ae	t 67	Hancock	2, Ridley	

15/11/1997	Beckenham Town	KLD1	Home	1-3	73	CBarham
22/11/1997	Swanley Furness	KLD1	Home	3-3	79	Hancock, Linstrem, H
29/11/1997	Ramsgate	KLD1	Away	2-2	97	Gooding, C Barham
03/12/1997	Canterbury City	KLD1	Away	2-3	47	Hancock, Linstrem pe
06/12/1997	Swanley Furness	KST2	Home	0-2	70	
13/12/1997	Thamesmead Town	KLD1	Away	2-3	20	Linstrem, Hancock
01/01/1998	Deal Town	KLD1	Away	1-3	172	Ridley
10/01/1998	Crockenhill	KLD1	Home	4-2	64	Ridley, C Barham, Hay
17/01/1998	Sheppey United	KLD1	Away	2-6	108	Linstrem pen, Wilkins
24/01/1998	Slade Green	KLD1	Home	1-4	67	Hancock
27/01/1998	Herne Bay	KLD1	Home	0-1	64	
31/01/1998	Corinthian	KLD1	Home	2-1	66	Ridley, Hancock
07/02/1998	Sheppey United	KLD1	Home	1-3	153	Steve Hobbs
14/02/1998	Ramsgate	KLD1	Home	3-2	71	C Barham, Linstrem, (
17/02/1998	Cray Wanderers	KLD1	Home	1-2	51	Bigginton
21/02/1998	Greenwich Borough	KLD1	Home	1-3	71	Bigginton
24/02/1998	Heybridge Swifts	EFLQF	Home	2-5		Gooding, Bigginton
28/02/1998	Erith Town	KLD1	Away	4-1	30	Linstrem pen, Hancoo
07/03/1998	Slade Green	KLD1	Away	1-1	72	Hancock
10/03/1998	Faversham Town	KLD1	Home	3-4	35	Ridley 2, Andy Towse
14/03/1998	VCD Athletic	KLD1	Home	1-0	62	Bigginton
17/03/1998	Folkestone Invicta	KLD1	Home	0-4	562	
21/03/1998	Beckenham Town	KLD1	Away	1-1	140	Hancock
28/03/1998	Chatham Town	KLD1	Home	3-1	75	Danny Pickford, C Bar
07/04/1998	Whitstable Town	KLD1	Away	2-4	65	Latty, Hobbs
11/04/1998	Greenwich Borough	KLD1	Away	2-3	74	Linstrem pen, Jason B
13/04/1998	Canterbury City	KLD1	Home	2-4	68	C Barham, Hobbs
18/04/1998	Corinthian	KLD1	Away	4-1	46	Clifford, Linstrem 2, 2
28/04/1998	Lordswood	KLD1	Home	3-1	62	Hobbs 3
02/05/1998	Swanley Furness	KLD1	Away	1-10	30	Linstrem pen
The 1990's (pa	art 4)					

1998-1999...

The 1998-99 season saw some changes in the Kent League. All grounds were now required to have floodlights, which forced four clubs to arrange groundshares, Cray Wanderers at Bromley, where they have remained ever since, Crockenhill at Erith & Belvedere's old Park View ground, Erith Town at Greenwich Borough's Harrow Meadow and VCD Athletic at Thamesmead's Bayliss Avenue. Folkestone had been promoted to the Southern League, Corinthian had resigned and Swanley Furness, also without lights, had dropped to the reserves division. The top division was now renamed as the Premier Division and would run with 19 clubs.

At Hythe United Mick Dix continued as manager with Dave Linstrem as his assistant. Joey Jones was in charge of the reserves. The big changes were off the field with the club getting a new chairman, David Clapson, who had recently retired from a senior position at Eurotunnel. Long-serving secretary Ted Maycock stood down and was replaced by Martin Giles, back in the role he held in Hythe Town's Southern League days. There was a new kit, again sponsored by HV Wooding, a variant on all-red, the shirt can best be described as white with a red 'Ajax' stripe front and back, and red sleeves.

On the field there were only a handful of additions to the squad, Goalkeeper Steve Chivers joined from Deal as first choice but the other new signings hardly featured. The first three league games saw narrow defeats but then came a 5-1 thumping at Tunbridge Wells on August Bank Holiday Monday. Two more league defeats followed and the club was pointless and, unsurprisingly, bottom of the table. The FA Cup proved a welcome distraction with a 2-1 win over Isthmian Division Three side Croydon Athletic.

Cup joy was followed by the first point of the season, surprising Tommy Sampson's expensive Deal Town side with a last-minute Kevin Clifford equaliser. Another league defeat was followed by three cup games; there was FA Cup defeat away to Isthmian Two side Witham Town, a Kent Senior Trophy victory over Swanley Furness and then an FA Vase defeat at Sussex Division One side Redhill.

The next game saw a home defeat to Crockenhill and manager Mick Dix announced he was taking a 'two-week break' leaving Dave Linstrem in caretaker charge. Linstrem's first game saw a remarkable 1-0 win away to unbeaten league leaders Ramsgate although this proved to be just a blip as the next three games were lost. But the board decided formally to remove Dix as manager and offer the job to Linstrem, which he accepted, with Ian Daffin as his assistant.

His first game as the fully-fledged manager was the start of a remarkable run of five successive games against Faversham Town. The first game, at Salters Lane in the Kent League Cup, was abandoned in the 84th minute due to partial floodlight failure. The second, at home in the league, saw a 2-1 win in front of Hythe's lowest-ever league crowd of 33. The third game was the restaged League Cup game that ended in a draw, the fourth saw defeat in the Kent Senior Trophy and the fifth gained Hythe a win in the League Cup replay.

Linstrem made efforts to strengthen the squad, signing ex-Charlton and Deal player Paul Murray from Dartford, Colin Binder from Ashford and Gary Miller from Whitstable, each of whom were well known in local football. A win at home to Canterbury over Christmas saw Hythe move off the bottom of the table in front of the best home attendance of the season, 152.

But the rest of the season was a real battle, a brief decent run saw three wins and three draws in six matches but although many games were close Hythe struggled to score goals, averaging less than a goal a game in the new year until a welcome 5-2 win over VCD brought the season to an end. Hythe finished in eighteenth position with only Tunbridge Wells below them and Ramsgate as champions. The reserves ended one position better, seventeenth out of nineteen.

Phil Hancock appeared in 41 of the 44 games, with Andy Laker and Andy Bigginton just behind him. Steve Ridley, Clive Barham, Steve Chivers, Jason Brazier, Dave Linstrem, Andy Towse, Steve Hobbs, Paul Stanton and Rhys Taylor-Ryall all played in over half the games. Hythe scored just 52 goals in their 44 games, Hancock led the way with nine, Bigginton, Ridley and Hobbs each scored six. Andy Bigginton was the Players' Player of the Year, goalkeeper James Howard won the Reserves' award.

Pld W F А GD Team D L Pts Ramsgate Deal Town **Greenwich Borough** Thamesmead Town Crockenhill Chatham Town VCD Athletic Whitstable Town Beckenham Town Slade Green **Sheppey United** -9 Herne Bay -16 Lordswood -24

1998-1999 Kent League Table....

Canterbury Ci	ty	36	9	8	19	34	73	-39	35
Cray Wandere	-	36	8	9	19	53	66	-13	33
Faversham To	nam Town 36 9		9	5	22	41	80	-39	29
Erith Town	wn 36 8		5	23	33	79	-46	29	
Hythe United		36	7	7	22	38	65	-27	28
Tunbridge Wel	ls	36	5	8	23	46	105	-59	23
1998-1999 Res	sults								
Date	Opponents			Comp	Venue	Sc	ore	Att	Scorers
25/07/1998	Leyton Orient >	KI		F	Home	2-0	C		Paul Stanton, Andy Bigginton
28/07/1998	St Leonards			F	Home	0-2	2		
08/08/1998	Hamstreet			F					
11/08/1998	Kent Fire Brigad	de		F	Away				
13/08/1998	Gravesend & N	orthfle	eet	F	Home				
15/08/1998	Thamesmead	ſown		KLP	Away	0-1	l	36	
22/08/1998	Ramsgate		KLP	Home	1-2	2	81	Steve Ridley	
29/08/1998	Chatham Town			KLP	Home	1-2	2	82	Steve Hobbs
31/08/1991	Tunbridge Well	S		KLP	Away	1-{	-5 90		Dave Linstrem pen
05/09/1998	Greenwich Bor	ough		KLP	Home	0-1	l	78	
12/09/1998	Whitstable Tow	/n		KLP	Home	2-4	4	92	Linstrem pen, Danny Gooding
19/09/1998	Croydon Athlet	ic		FAC1Q	Home	2-1	I	158	Hobbs, Gooding
22/09/1998	Deal Town			KLP	Away	2-2	2	287	Gooding, Kevin Clifford
26/09/1998	Beckenham To	wn		KLP	Home	1-2	2	74	Ridley
03/10/1998	Witham Town			FAC2Q	Away	2-	ō	79	Hobbs, Phil Hancock
06/10/1998	Swanley Furne	SS		KST1	Home	2-1	l		Linstrem 2, 1 pen
10/10/1998	Redhill			FAV2Q	Away	2-3	3	109	Linstrem, Bigginton
17/10/1998	Crockenhill			KLP	Home	1-3	3	59	Jason Brazier
24/10/1998	Ramsgate			KLP	Away	1-(כ	77	Barham pen
31/10/1998	Herne Bay			KLP	Away	1-2	2	100	Andy Towse
03/11/1998	Deal Town			KLP	Home	1-3	3	102	Bigginton
07/11/1998	Erith Town			KLP	Away	0-1	l	65	
21/11/1998	Faversham Tov	vn		KLC2	Away	2-2	2 ab		Barham pen, Gooding

						Abnd 84mins floodlight failure
28/11/1998	Faversham Town	KLP	Home	2-1	33	Bigginton, Gooding
01/12/1998	Faversham Town	KLC2	Away	2-2 aet	53	Bigginton, Hancock
05/12/1998	Faversham Town	KST2	Away	1-3		Bigginton
08/12/1998	Faversham Town	KLC2R	Home	3-1	50	Bigginton, Hancock 2
19/12/1998	Whitstable Town	KLP	Away	0-1	89	
28/12/1998	Canterbury City	KLP	Home	2-0	152	Towse, Ridley
06/01/1999	Canterbury City	KLP	Away	0-1	60	
23/01/1999	Crockenhill	KLCQF	Away	0-2	58	
30/01/1999	Faversham Town	KLP	Away	0-1	48	
02/02/1999	Thamesmead Town	KLP	Home	1-3	48	Barham pen
06/02/1999	Cray Wanderers	KLP	Home	1-0	52	Hancock
13/02/1999	Cray Wanderers	KLP	Away	1-0	96	Brazier
16/02/1999	Lordswood	KLP	Away	2-2	52	Stanton, Brazier
20/02/1999	Erith Town	KLP	Home	2-0	62	Ridley, Brazier
23/02/1999	Chatham Town	KLP	Away	0-0	93	
27/02/1999	Herne Bay	KLP	Home	1-1	68	Ridley
06/03/1999	Lordswood	KLP	Home	2-4	68	Barham, OG
09/03/1999	Sheppey United	KLP	Away	1-5	56	Hancock
13/03/1999	Slade Green	KLP	Away	1-3	62	Barham
20/03/1999	Sheppey United	KLP	Home	0-0	62	
27/03/1999	Greenwich Borough	KLP	Away	0-2	36	
05/04/1999	Tunbridge Wells	KLP	Home	0-0	107	
10/04/1999	Beckenham Town	KLP	Away	0-0	71	
17/04/1999	VCD Athletic	KLP	Away	2-4	69	Colin Binder, Hobbs
24/04/1999	Slade Green	KLP	Home	2-4	42	Barham pen, Hobbs
27/04/1999	Crockenhill	KLP	Away	1-3	72	Hancock
04/05/1999	VCD Athletic	KLP	Home	5-2	71	Hobbs, Hancock 2, Ben Bartlet Ridley

1999-2000.....

Hythe United returned for another season in the Kent League, now sponsored by Bass Brewers. Crockenhill had dropped out, Erith Town would play back at the Erith Sports Centre. The Herald reported that the club had given serious consideration in the summer about returning to the Kent County League, which seemed highly unlikely. £5,000 from an FA grant had been spent on improving the poor Reachfields pitch with the Secretary joking that at last there was a green surface to play on. Gary Towse became the new reserve team manager but perhaps the best new signing was Martin Whybrow as programme editor. He would go on to make over 340 (programme) appearances, not counting postponements. The club again had a new kit, all red but with red and white sleeves, sponsored by Autorite Finishers. Season tickets were on sale for £35, match-day admission was £3.

The pitch improvements were not quite complete in time for the pre-season friendlies. A home game with a Charlton Athletic XI was cancelled and a hasty rearrangement saw the Charlton side play at Folkestone that evening and a Folkestone side play at Hythe – unfit pitch or not.

The first two league fixtures were not kind to Hythe, firstly at Deal who would go on to win the League and the FA Vase this season, and then at home to Ramsgate, who would be runners-up to Deal and, often forgotten thanks to Deal's success, would reach the Vase Quarter-finals themselves. After the shock of 6-1 and 6-0 defeats, Hythe got their first points on the board with a home win over Cray Wanderers. Next up was Sussex County League side Burgess Hill Town in the FA Cup, Hythe losing 3-0 in a replay after a goalless draw at Reachfields.

Goals would prove hard to come by for the whole season, only managing more than two on four occasions. The next three league games would be goalless, although two were draws. The drought was ended by Steve Hobbs in a 1-0 win at Ramsgate, gaining revenge for the earlier beating and winning at Southwood for the second season running.

There was a mini run in the FA Vase, beginning with a 3-1 win at Sussex side Ringmer. However, it required an injury time equaliser from the head of Andy Bigginton to force extra time, with even goalkeeper Jason Hughes up for the corner. In the next round Hythe held out for a 1-0 win over Walton Casuals, then of the Combined Counties League. Hythe made their exit to another Combined Counties side in the following round, losing 2-1 away at the plane-spotters dream, Bedfont. In between these games, Hythe made first round exits to second-bottom Cray Wanderers in both the Kent Senior Trophy and the Kent League Cup.

In October Hythe played in the last-ever game at Canterbury's Kingsmead Stadium, where the developers moved in the following week. By December the club had dropped to sixteenth in the table so the win at Slade Green, only the third in the league, was very welcome. In fact it started Hythe's best spell of the season, winning six games out of seven to rise to ninth in the table. After a couple of defeats a run of four wins in a row, including scoring four goals for the only time that season, against Herne Bay, saw Hythe move to eighth in the table. Despite a final day

defeat at VCD Athletic where the club could only field ten players, they finished in eighth place. A very young reserve side finished tenth out of eleven clubs in Division One South.

Elsewhere it was quite a season for local clubs. Folkestone Invicta won promotion in the Southern League, Deal Town won the FA Vase at the old Wembley (Hythe had a run a coach to the game), Gillingham won the League Play-off final to reach the (now) Championship, and even Calais reached the French Cup final.

In 41 games, Andy Bigginton led with 36 appearances, now converted to a defender. Regulars were Steve Chivers in goal, defenders Gary Miller, Ben Bartlett and Andy Towse, midfielders Jason Brazier, David Gear, Daran Wilkins and Paul Stanton and strikers Dave Linstrem, Steve Ridley and Steve Hobbs. Dave Linstrem was top-scorer with eleven goals, Hobbs scored eight and Ridley six. Bigginton won both Manager's and Players' Player of the Year, the reserves awards went to James Howard and Martin Reene respectively. Steve Chivers won the Herald Trophy (for most man of the match awards).

Deal Town	34	26	5	3	87	28	59	83
Thamesmead Town	34	23	6	5	75	29	46	72
Chatham Town	34	23	3	8	76	40	36	72
VCD Athletic	34	18	10	6	53	32	21	64
Ramsgate	34	18	9	7	75	41	34	63
Greenwich Borough	34	17	5	12	70	44	24	56
Erith Town	34	16	8	10	56	54	2	56
Hythe United	34	14	6	14	38	50	-12	48
Sheppey United	34	12	6	16	45	60	-15	45
Beckenham Town	34	12	8	14	45	51	-6	44
Lordswood	34	12	6	16	55	63	-8	42
Herne Bay	34	12	8	14	56	48	8	41
Cray Wanderers	34	10	3	21	42	80	-38	36
Tunbridge Wells	34	9	6	19	49	72	-23	33
Slade Green	34	8	6	20	41	65	-24	30
Whitstable Town	34	6	9	19	38	56	-18	27

1999-2000 Kent League Table....

Faversham To	own	34	6	6	22	39		70		-31	24
Canterbury C	City	34	6	6	22	35		92		-57	24
1999-2000 R	esults										
Date	Opponents			Comp	Venue	Score	Att		Score	ers	
20/07/1999	Charlton At	hletic XI		F	Home	P-P					
27/07/1999	Folkestone	Invicta		F	Away	1-3			Andy	Biggintor	ı
31/07/1999	Dartford			F	Home	1-0			Lloyd	Partner	
03/08/1999	Ashford Tov	vn		F	Home	0-2					
07/08/1999	Deal Town			KLP	Away	1-6	180		Partn	er	
10/08/1999	Ramsgate			KLP	Home	0-6	81				
14/08/1999	Cray Wande	erers		KLP	Home	3-1	62		Partn	er 2, Bigg	inton
21/08/1999	Burgess Hil	l Town		FACP	Home	0-0	141				
24/08/1999	Burgess Hil	l Town		FACPR	Away	0-3	171				
28/08/1999	Chatham To	own		KLP	Away	0-2	102				
30/08/1999	Tunbridge V	Vells		KLP	Away	0-0	103				
04/09/1999	VCD Athleti	ic		KLP	Home	0-0	69				
11/09/1999	Ramsgate			KLP	Away	1-0	105		Steve	Hobbs	
18/09/1999	Beckenham	n Town		KLP	Away	1-4	70		Hobb	S	
25/09/1999	Ringmer			FAV2Q	Away	3-1aet	66		Biggir	nton, Par	tner pen, Phil H
02/10/1999	Slade Greer	n		KLP	Home	1-2	86		David	l Gear	
09/10/1999	Cray Wande	erers		KST1	Away	2-3	51		Hobb	s, Steve	Ridley
16/10/1999	Cray Wande	erers		KLC1	Home	0-1	52				
23/10/1999	Walton Cas	suals		FAV1	Home	1-0	106		Jason	Brazier	
26/10/1999	Greenwich	Borough		KLP	Home	0-1	50				
30/10/1999	Canterbury	City		KLP	Away	1-1	56		Hobb	S	
06/11/1999	Greenwich	Borough		KLP	Away	0-0					
13/11/1999	Bedfont			FAV2	Away	1-2	65		Dave	Linstrem	
16/11/1999	Thamesme	ad Town		KLP	Away	0-1					
20/11/1999	Erith Town			KLP	Away	0-0	37				
27/11/1999	Sheppey Ur	nited		KLP	Home	2-4	48		Andy	Towse, B	razier
04/12/1999	Erith Town			KLP	Home	1-3	35		Linstr	rem pen	

18/12/1999	Slade Green	KLP	Away	2-0	65	Linstrem, Hobbs
28/12/1999	Tunbridge Wells	KLP	Home	2-0	142	Linstrem 2
08/01/2000	Faversham Town	KLP	Away	1-0	67	Linstrem
15/01/2000	Lordswood	KLP	Away	0-3	60	
22/01/2000	Canterbury City	KLP	Home	1-0	62	Hobbs
29/01/2000	Chatham Town	KLP	Home	1-0	73	Hobbs
05/02/2000	Herne Bay	KLP	Away	2-1	158	Linstrem, Ridley
19/02/2000	Cray Wanderers	KLP	Away	2-3	90	Bigginton, Brazier
26/02/2000	Thamesmead Town	KLP	Home	0-2	102	
11/03/2000	Beckenham Town	KLP	Home	2-1	53	Ridley 2
18/03/2000	Sheppey United	KLP	Away	3-1	62	Hobbs, Andy Towse, Brazier
25/03/2000	Lordswood	KLP	Home	2-0	65	Bigginton, Ridley
01/04/2000	Herne Bay	KLP	Home	4-1	60	OG, Andy Towse, Linstrem 2
11/04/2000	Deal Town	KLP	Home	1-3	129	Ben Bartlett
18/04/2000	Faversham Town	KLP	Home	1-1	50	Linstrem
22/04/2000	Whitstable Town	KLP	Home	2-1	72	Brazier, Ridley
24/04/2000	Whitstable Town	KLP	Away	1-0	125	Linstrem pen
03/05/2000	VCD Athletic	KLP	Away	0-2		