

**Hythe Town 1 Beckenham Town 5**

**Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**The Cannons season finished in a whimper as they continued their depressing run by going down 5-1 to Beckenham Town at Reachfields on Saturday afternoon.**

**The first half started poorly for the hosts as Beckenham took the lead on a quarter of an hour as Freddie Nyhus turned inside Amadeus Addotey and fed the ball to Joe Chalker who volleyed home from just outside the penalty area.**

**Within four minutes it was two as Alfie Bloomfield worked his way through the Hythe defence before stroking the ball home.**

**Hythe settled down and could have got one back as Ellis Brown broke down the left and sent in a shot that stung the hands of Becks keeper Mitchell Beeney.**

**However, it was Beckenham who were to get their third three minutes into additional time as Chalker picked up the ball and then slotted it through to Nyhus who played in prolific striker Louie Theophanous who slotted past Hythe keeper Charlie Wealands.**

**The second half started in a similar manner to the first with Beckenham getting their fourth on 49 minutes as Theophanous weaved his way in to eventually put the ball past Wealands to make it four.**

**A fifth came on 74 minutes from Nyhus, who received the ball from Theophanous, and finished well to rub salt in the home wounds.**

**There was a late consolation for Hythe as Javaun Splatt who fired home a minute into stoppage time to make it 1-5.**

**A dismal season came to an end when the referee blew his final whistle to the relief of all the home fans who have had to endure some very poor performances during the season. The Cannons, under management next season, will now have to play well to quickly regain their place in the Isthmian League.**

**Team: Charlie Wealands, Amadeus Addotey, George Taggart, Medy Elito (Jayden Nye 74 mins), Louie Procopi, Fikayo Ajayi (Harry Rowland 39 mins), Ifaz Abed (Charles Etumnu 45 mins), Javaun Splatt, Lucas Dent, Ellis Brown (Leo Simmons 69 mins), Kieron Agbebi (Harry Heath 67 mins).**

**Scorers: Hythe Town – Javaun Splatt 90+1. Beckenham Town - Joe Chalker 14 mins, Alfie Bloomfield 19 mins, Louie Theophanous 45+3 & 49 mins, Freddie Nyhus 74 mins.**

**Yellow Cards: Amadeus Addotey 80 mins, Charles Etumnu 90+2 mins, George Taggart 90+3 mins.**

**Attendance: 202**

### **Ashford United 5 Hythe Town 3**

#### **Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

#### **Monday 21st April 2025**

A young Cannons team put in a good performance as they sped to a 3-1 lead before eventually going down 3-5 at Ashford United in their last away fixture of the season on Bank Holiday Monday.

Caretaker Manager Martin Chandler made four changes with goalkeeper Joe Coleman returning to replace the injured Charlie Wealands. Medy Elito came in for the unavailable Charles Etumnu, Ifaz Abed in for Anthony Adesite who was playing for Punjab United and Harry Rowland coming in for the injured Fikayo Ajayi.

Ashford had the first attack on six minutes that saw former Cannon Gary Lockyer break through, but his attempted chip looped into the arms of Coleman. However, almost immediately youngster Abed broke into the Ashford area and was brought down by home keeper Javarn Pitterson with the referee having no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot. Up stepped Javaun Splatt who sent Pitterson the wrong way to give the Cannons an 8th minute lead. Within a minute the scores were level as Michael West picked up the ball 25 yards out and unleashed a shot that sailed out of the reach of Coleman and into the Hythe net.

The game was really open, and the Cannons produced an excellent move to retake the lead. Amadeus Addotey surged down the right feeding Kieron Agbebi who pulled the ball back to Ellis Brown who slid the ball home into an empty net. Hythe were to extend their lead on 27 minutes as George Taggart played the ball in to Splatt who made no mistake to make it 3-1.

The goal scoring in the first half was not complete as on 28 minutes Lewis Collins picked up the ball and placed his effort past Coleman to narrow the gap and then on 41 minutes Collins crossed into Lockyer who volleyed home at the far post to bring the scores level. Deep into injury Splatt had an attempt for the visitors as he sent a shot over the bar.

The second half started with the pressure coming from the hosts and they were ahead on 51 minutes as Barry Fuller crossed to Lockyer who headed home. Hythe did have a couple of efforts to get back in the game including a free kick from Splatt just outside the area that sailed over the bar.

As the half progressed the Cannons began to tire as Kane Penn had three opportunities as firstly, he fired wide and then he broke through, but Coleman was quickly off his line to block. Coleman was then to deny him as he tipped a rasping shot over the bar. However, with only two minutes of normal time left Ashford sealed the points as Collins surged through and placed his shot wide of Coleman and into the net to make it 5-3.

The Cannons effort could not be faulted on the afternoon and a number of the young players gave a good account of themselves.

**Team: Joe Coleman, Joe Procopi, George Taggart (Leo Simmons 87 mins), Medy Elito, Amadeus Addotey, Harry Rowland, Ifaz Abed (Harry Heath 59 mins), Javaun Splatt (Cody Stanton 87 mins), Kieron Agbebi, Lucas Dent (Jayden Nye 72 mins), Ellis Brown. Sub Unused: Hayden Wigston.**

**Scorers: Ashford United - Michael West 9 mins, Louis Collins 28 & 88 mins, Gary Lockyer 41 & 51 mins. Hythe Town – Javaun Splatt 8 (Pen) & 27 mins.**

**Attendance: 516**

**Hythe Town 0 Ramsgate 4**

**Pitching In Isthmian League South-East**

**Friday 18th April 2025**

Ramsgate were crowned Isthmian League South East Division champions on Good Friday as they beat Hythe 4-0 at Reachfields.

Goals from TJ Jadama, Jay Leader, Alfie Paxman and Joe Taylor gave the Rams the three points they needed to confirm their promotion.

Caretaker manager Martin Chandler made three changes from the defeat to Broadbridge Heath, as Kieron Agbebi, Amadeus Addotey and Lucas Dent replaced Henry Young, Harry Heath and Rob Curtis.

The first goal for Ramsgate came just three minutes in as the ball was squared in from the right to TJ Jadama, who slotted it past the keeper.

They almost made it two when Jadama gained possession with plenty of space to run into in the box, but eventually firing his shot wide past the goalkeeper.

Hythe did manage to create some chances - on 31 minutes, a cross from the right-hand byline from Amadeus Addotey was flicked on by Ellis Brown, with Anthony Adesite knocking the ball past the post.

Three minutes later, Jadama was causing problems again for Ramsgate, as he tried to put the ball to Charlie Wealands' left but the Hythe keeper managed to get down to make the catch.

Just a minute later, Hythe had their best chance of the game, as the ball fell loose to Javaun Splatt, who took the shot on first time and beat the keeper, but Joe Ellul was there to block the ball on the line for Ramsgate.

Three minutes before half-time, Amadeus Addotey put in another good cross from the right-hand side, which Javaun Splatt headed into the hands of Tom Hadler.

However, four minutes into the second half Ramsgate doubled their advantage, as Roarie Deacon's corner was nodded in by Jay Leader.

Hythe did have a good chance to pull one back as Javaun Splatt was brought down just outside the box. He stepped up to take the free kick from inside the D, with the ball deflecting off the wall onto the head of Anthony Adesite, who lifted it over the bar.

The Rams made it three on 79 minutes as Joe Taylor flicked the ball onto Josh Ajayi, whose pass was met by the overlapping run of Alfie Paxman, who tucked it away.

Shortly after, Joe Taylor put the icing on the cake as he received the ball in an unmarked position in the box from Josh Ajayi's cross, which he struck into an empty net.

The full-time whistle blew, with the Ramsgate fans running onto the pitch in celebration. The result leaves Hythe 21st in the league, with one point separating themselves and Lancing at the foot of the table. There are two games remaining this season, the first of them being a local derby away at Ashford United on Easter Monday at 3pm.

**Team: Charlie Wealands, Louie Procopi, George Taggart, Charles Etumnu, Amadeus Addotey, Fikayo Ajayi (Harry Rowland 83 mins), Anthony Adesite (Ifaz Abed 71 mins), Javaun Splattn(Kelvin Ogboe 86 mins), Lucas Dent (Medy Elito 53 mins), Ellis Brown (Harry Heath 88 mins), Kieron Agbebi.**

**Scorers: Ramsgate - Tijan Jadama 3 mins, Jay Leader 49 mins, Alfie Paxman 79 mins, Joe Taylor 90 mins**

**Attendance: 1226.**

### **Broadbridge Heath 3 Hythe Town 1**

#### **Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

#### **Saturday 12th April 2025**

It was another case of “deja vu” as the Cannons took the early initiative and gained a one goal lead before conceding a goal and then falling to another away defeat as they went down 3-1 at Broadbridge Heath on a warm and sunny Saturday afternoon.

Hythe started with an unchanged line-up from the home defeat against Merstham.

It was the hosts who were first on the attack as Eugene Moteane turned in the penalty area, but his shot went straight into the arms of away keeper Charlie Wealands. Then on four minutes the ball came out to Louis Evans who attempted to lob Wealands, but his attempt also cleared the cross bar.

The Cannons started to press, and George Taggart whipped in a cross that was turned wide by Charles Etumnu. Hythe were then to take the lead on 16 minutes as Ellis Brown worked his way down the left before crossing into Javaun Splatt who neatly hooked the ball home. Broadbridge Heath had a couple of opportunities as Mason Doughty sent in a dipping shot that went just over the cross bar and then a corner from Mark Goldson was headed over by Sean Terry.

Hythe were handling the pressure well and had an opportunity to increase their lead as Anthony Adesite forced his way through only to send his final effort over the bar. However, on 37 minutes the hosts were level as Evans picked up the ball and drilled his attempt into the corner of the net. This seemed to deflate the Cannons, and they were nearly behind on 42 minutes as Doughty stole the ball from Taggart and sent an effort wide.

However, two minutes from the break Broadbridge Heath went ahead as again Evans pounced on a loose ball and slotted home to make it 2-1. Typical of so many games this season, it was a half where Hythe could have been a couple up at the break but found themselves behind.

The second half started with Broadbridge Heath on the attack as Goldson broke free, but Wealands was quickly off his line to collect the ball. The visitors then had a spell where they had three opportunities as firstly Taggart sent a free kick just outside the area high over the bar and then Splatt had an effort that was deflected wide.

Taggart then turned provider as he played the ball into Harry Heath, but he headed over. However, on 58 minutes Broadbridge Heath increased their lead as Goldson had an effort blocked but the rebound fell to Doughty who fired home to make it 3-1 and seal all three points.

Heath was unlucky for Hythe on 65 minutes as home keeper Alfie Hadfield clawed the ball away and that was the last meaningful chance for the visitors to get back in the game and the only other opportunity fell to the hosts two minutes from the end of normal time as Evans had a shot that sailed over the bar.

It was another disappointing result for the Cannons whose only goal now is to avoid ending the season at the very bottom of the league.

**Team: Charlie Wealands, Louie Procopi, George Taggart, Charles Etumnu (Medy Elito 62 mins), Rob Curtis, Fikayo Ajayi, Anthony Adesite, Henry Young, Javaun Splatt, Harry Heath (Kelvin Ogboe 82 mins), Ellis Brown (Kieron Agbebi 77 mins). Subs Unused: Amadeus Addotey, Harry Rowland.**

**Yellow Cards: Charles Etumnu 40 mins, Kelvin Ogboe 90+4 mins.**

**Attendance: 101**

**Hythe Town 2 Merstham 5**

**Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

**Saturday 5th April 2025**

Finally, the inevitable happened as The Cannons were relegated to the Southern Counties East Football League as they sunk to another home defeat losing 5-2 to Merstham on Saturday afternoon.

There were two changes from the starting line-up in the previous game at Margate with Fikayo Ajayi and Anthony Adesite coming back to replace Amadeus Addotey (who was on the bench) and Medy Elito.

The early chances fell to Merstham, and they were ahead on seven minutes as Korrey Henry got onto the ball in the area then waiting until the time was right fired past home keeper Charlie Wealands to make it one nil. The second came on 23 minutes as the visitors were awarded a free kick on the edge of the Hythe penalty area. Up stepped Merstham captain Matt Drage who drilled his kick past the wall and into the corner of the net.

Hythe chances in the first period were limited with their opportunity coming on 27 minutes as Harry Heath sent in a shot that was held by away keeper Rob Tolfrey. However, the hosts were to give themselves a lifeline a minute into first half stoppage time as George Taggart laid the ball off to Javaun Splatt who tapped in to make it 1-2.

The second half started in the same way as the first with Merstham on top as Lee Lewis fired wide and then on 63 minutes the visitors were awarded another free kick on the edge of the area. This time Drage curled the ball around the wall into the corner of the net to get their third.

With a quarter of an hour to go the visitors got their fourth as Henry broke through placing his final effort past Wealands and into the Hythe net. There was little from the hosts until the 87th minute as Splatt laid the ball off to Agbebi whose attempt was blocked by Tolfrey and then right on 90 minutes the Cannons got their second. Ellis Brown crossed into Splatt who found Agbebi who then tapped the ball home. However, three minutes into additional time a shot from Sam King was blocked by Wealands with the ball rebounding to Aaron Jenkins who made no mistake.

Relegation was confirmed at full time but even if Hythe had won, they would still have been down as Littlehampton had won at home to Eastbourne Town. It is now for the club play out the rest of the season with some pride and then look to next season.

**Team: Charlie Wealands, Louie Procopi, Charles Etumnu, Rob Curtis, Fikayo Ajayi, Anthony Adesite, Henry Young, Javaun Splatt, Harry Heath (Kelvin Ogboe 75 mins), Ellis Brown, George Taggart (Lucas Dent 86 mins). Subs Unused, Amadeus Addotey, Hayden Wigston.**

**Scorers: Hythe Town - Javaun Splatt 45+1 mins, Kieron Agbebi 90 mins. Merstham - Korrey Henry 6 & 75 mins, Matt Drage 23 & 63 mins, Aaron Jenkins 90+3 mins.**

**Yellow Cards: Rob Curtis 31 mins, Kelvin Ogboe 85 mins**

**Attendance: 302.**

**Margate 3 Hythe Town 0**

**Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

**Saturday 29th March 2025**

It was another grim afternoon for the Cannons as Margate comfortably collected all three points in a 3-0 defeat at Hartsdown Park on Saturday afternoon.

Manager Nick Davis rang the changes with Charlie Wealands, Charles Etumnu, Amadeus Addotey, Medy Elito, Harry Heath and Louie Procopi returning to the starting line-up replacing

Lex Allan (following his departure to Sittingbourne). James Dillon & Alex Laing (who this week were released), Kieron Agbebi & Anthony Adesite (who were on the bench) and Siao Blackwood.

It was Margate who were first on the attack as on three minutes player-manager Ben Greenhalgh drilled a shot wide of the target and then almost immediately Hythe counter attacked as a corner from Ellis Brown found Henry Young who headed wide. Greenhalgh seemed to be calling the shots as he broke through, but Hythe keeper Charlie Wealands was quickly off his line to save. Hythe did have another effort on ten minutes as a cross from George Taggart found Harry Heath who fired wide.

However, Greenhalgh continued to threaten as he sent a curling effort from 25 yards over the bar and then laid off the ball to Tom Derry who shot over. Procopi, who was returning from injury, was to clear off the line before the hosts took the lead on 29 minutes. A cross from the left-hand side found Derry on the penalty spot and he headed home. Hythe could have got back level as Procopi fed Elito, but his final effort lacked power and drifted wide. However, most of the attacking was coming from "The Gate" as a free kick from Greenhalgh found Harvey Brand who headed straight into Wealands' arms.

Margate should have doubled their lead two minutes into first half injury time as a Lewis Knight cross found Brand who despite being close in managed to head over when it looked easier to score, and the hosts had to go in at half time only one up.

The second half started with Hythe dominating the play for the first ten minutes as they tried to get back in the game, but they lacked the final touch, and it was Margate who had the first effort of the half as Greenhalgh shot over from 25 yards. In the 62nd minute the hosts doubled their lead as the ball came in from the left with Ibrahim Olutade able to tap in to make it 2-0. Hythe were unlucky not to get one back as Heath played the ball in and Splatt tried a delicate lob over home keeper Tom Wray forcing him to catch at full stretch to prevent a goal.

Hythe were to be punished again ten minutes from time when Margate put the game out of reach as substitute Ben Allan pounced on a mistake in the Hythe defence and planted the ball in the Cannons net to make it three. There was no way back for Hythe and in fact the hosts could have made it four as Wealands was forced to push an Allen shot around the post to prevent more damage.

It is going to take a Herculean effort from the Cannons to have a chance to avoid relegation and will need other results to go their way.

**Team: Charlie Wealands, Henry Young, Charles Etumnu (Anthony Adesite 74 mins), Rob Curtis, Amadeus Addotey, Kieron Agbebi 79 mins), Louie Procopi, George Taggart, Medy Elito, Javaun Splatt (Kelvin Ogboe 87 mins), Harry Heath, Ellis Brown. Sub Unused: Harry Rowland, Hayden Wigston.**

**Scorers: Margate - Tom Derry 29 mins, Ibrahim Olutade 62 mins, Ben Allen 80 mins.**

**Yellow Card: Rob Curtis 13 mins**

**Attendance: 508.**

**Hythe Town 0 East Grinstead Town 1**

**Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

## **Saturday 22nd May 2025**

The Cannons chances of playing Isthmian League football next season have all but gone as they went down 1-0 to East Grinstead Town on Saturday afternoon. On paper this should have been one of the easier games in the run into the end of the season.

Hythe starting line up was unchanged from the team that played so well against Sittingbourne on the previous Tuesday.

The game did start brightly for the hosts as they had the first opportunity on five minutes as Ellis Brown sent in a cross from the left finding Henry Young who side footed wide. Two minutes later East Grinstead had their first opportunity as a corner from Charlie Gibson was headed down by Matthew Weaire but the ball bounced up and over the cross bar. The visitors continued to press as Warren Colman sent an effort from 25 yards high over the target.

East Grinstead were to break the deadlock on 18 minutes. Away keeper Matte Pierson sent in a long ball that cause problems for Alex Laing with Omar Folkes stealing the ball. He fed Connor Tighe who curled a right-footed effort past James Dillon in the Hythe goal into the top far corner to make it 1-0. The hosts did have a couple of chances before the break as a dipping shot from Laing was tipped over the bar by Pierson and then a Laing corner was headed back to Lex Allan who nodded on to Javaun Splatt who sent his attempt over the bar.

The second half started with the visitors on the attack as Colman pulled the ball back to Folkes who side footed wide and then Colman forced Dillon to claw the ball wide. The hosts did spurn some opportunities to get back in the game as Kieron Agbebi played in Anthony Adesite, but he shot wide and then Splatt was on the ball, and with other options, he chose to take it on himself and sent his final effort straight onto the arms of Pierson.

East Grinstead looked more comfortable with their lead as the game went on and in fact could have increased their tally as Colman turned and shot straight at Dillon and then the Hythe keeper was forced to tip the ball over the bar from an attempt by substitute Brady Ayoola.

There was no way back for the Cannons in a performance that disappointed the home crowd. With a difficult run in it will now take a miracle to avoid relegation.

**Team: James Dillon, Henry Young (Fikayo Ajayi 69 mins), Lex Allan, Anthony Adesite, Javaun Splatt, Alex Laing (Amadeus Addotey 90+1 mins), Ellis Brown, Rob Curtis, George Taggart, Siao Blackwood (Medy Elito 79 mins), Kieron Agbebi (Harry Heath 55 mins). Sub Unused: Kelvin Ogboe.**

**Scorer: East Grinstead Town – Connor Tighe 18 mins.**

**Yellow Card: Javaun Splatt 44 mins**

**Attendance: 287**

**Hythe Town 1 Sittingbourne 2**

**Pitching In Isthmian League**

**Tuesday 18th March 2025**



The Cannons showed a considerable improvement on Tuesday evening but still went down 2-1 to high flying Sittingbourne after initially taking the lead.

Hythe made three changes to the side who were hammered 5-0 at Burgess Hill Town last Saturday. James Dillon, Siao Blackwood and Kieron Agbebi returned to the starting line up replacing Charlie Wealands, Harry Heath (who was on the bench) and Fikayo Ajayi.

It was the Cannons who were first to show as on two minutes Alex Laing sent in a free kick that was scooped up easily by Sittingbourne keeper Roco Rees. The hosts were rewarded on eleven minutes as Agbebi broke into the penalty box and was brought down with referee Richard Joss having no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Up stepped Ellis Brown whose initial kick was saved by Rees, but the ball came loose and was bundled over the line by Ellis himself.

Sittingbourne had to wait until the twentieth minute for their first meaningful opening as Ade Adeez hooked the ball wide. However, "The Brickies" were level on 22 minutes as Mitchell May broke free rounding home keeper Dillon who did his best to prevent a goal, but after a couple of attempts May finally found the net off the inside of the far post.

Hythe had a good opportunity to retake the lead two minutes later as Alex Laing sent a pinpoint long ball into the path of Javaun Splatt who worked his way in but his final effort was easily saved by Rees. Sittingbourne were rewarded a penalty on 25 minutes as the ever-dangerous Azeez was brought down. Donvieve Jones took the penalty, and Dillon was to save well to his left and the rebound was sent into the side netting.

Sittingbourne began to take control of the game and did get the ball in the net, but the referee's assistant spotted an offside. Ryan Kingsford had a shot deflected wide and then Chris Arthur turned in the penalty area and sent the ball over the bar. The half-time score was a fair reflection of the balance of play.

The second period started slowly but finally Sittingbourne took the lead on 55 minutes as the ball was pulled back from the byline into the path of Henry Sinai who clinically finished to make it 2-1. Hythe were unlucky not to level within a minute as another free kick for Laing curled around the wall and was heading for the top corner before Rees managed to get a hand to the ball and divert it away for a corner.

The pressure intensified on the home defence as Dillon saved from an attempt from Kingsford and then substitute Richie Hamill fired wide. May also had a late free kick that also went wide of the target. There was no way back into the game for the hosts as their relegation worries deepened but there was real grit in their performance.

**Team: James Dillon, Henry Young, Lex Allan, Anthony Adesite, Javaun Splatt, Alex Laing, Ellis Brown (Harry Heath 87 mins), Rob Curtis, George Taggart, Siao Blackwood (Medi Elito 73 mins), Kieron Agbebi (Kelvin Ogboe 84 mins). Subs unused: Amadeus Addotey, Charles Etumnu.**

**Scorers: Hythe Town - Ellis Brown 11 mins. Sittingbourne - Mitchell May 22 mins, Henry Sinai 55 mins.**

**Yellow Cards: Javaun Splatt 14 mins, George Taggart 45+2 mins, Siao Blackwood 70 mins, Alex Laing 90+2 mins, Harry Heath 90+2 mins)**

**Attendance: 327**

Burgess Hill Town 5 Hythe Town 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South-East

Saturday 15th March 2025

It is very hard to find anything positive to report after the Cannons latest thrashing as they went down 5-0 at Burgess Hill Town on a chilly sunny Saturday afternoon.

There was only one change from the side who got a point at home to Deal Town as new signing George Taggart came in to replace Charles Etumnu who was on the bench.

It was Hythe who were first to attack as on three minutes a shot from Harry Heath was blocked and came back to Alex Laing, but he skied his attempt high over the bar. The Hillians had their first attempt on six minutes as Brannon O'Neill shot over from the edge of the area. On only eight minutes the Cannons were one down as the ball was played into the penalty area with O'Neill forcing himself in to slot the ball home.

The visitors did have an opportunity on ten minutes to get back in the game as Javaun Splatt hit a shot that was easily collected by Burgess Hill keeper Slav Hak. However, the hosts took the initiative as a cross from Dan Perry found the head of O'Neill with his effort going into the arms of away keeper Charlie Wealands. The pressure was maintained as a cross from Jay Beckford who found O'Neill whose header deflected off a defender a force Wealands to stretch to collect the ball.

Burgess Hill were now totally on top as a shot from Joseph Overy was driven towards goal but Wealands was again on hand to push the ball wide. However, on 25 minutes the inevitable second goal came for the hosts as a corner from O'Neill was met by the head of Chris Whelpdale who found the net at the near post. Wealands was on hand to save from Whelpdale before the Hillians got their third on 39 minutes. O'Neill sent in a free kick finding Logan Dodds who nodded the ball down. Wealands got to the ball clawing it off the line before it loops up for Bobby Price to head home from close range.

A three-goal lead was no more than Burgess Hill deserved at half time with the Cannons looking sluggish and disjointed.

Hythe did have the first opportunity of the second period as a speculative effort from Taggart on 52 minutes lacked power and rolled into the arms of Hak. However, a minute later it was four-nil as Overy squared the ball into Jay Beckford who made no mistake. A couple of chances fell at the other end as Splatt and Anthony Adesite sent efforts over the bar, but it was the hosts who continued to pile forward. Substitute Stefan Vukojic broke through a static Hythe defence to go through one on one with Wealands who was quick off his line to block superbly. Shortly afterwards he was through again, but this time sent his attempt wide of the target.

Without Wealands this defeat would have been worse as Beckford surged through, but the keeper came again to Hythe's rescue. Burgess Hill substitute, Reggie Ward, was on the score sheet on 78 minutes as he got on the end of a cross and looped the ball over Wealands and into the Hythe net to complete the Hythe destruction. Wealands was again to save the Cannons further embarrassment as he again blocked from Vukojic and the hosts had to settle for five.

Things look very bleak for the Cannons as they remain six points from safety with games quickly running out.

Team: Charlie Wealands, Rob Curtis (Kieron Agbebi 72 mins), Henry Young (Charles Etumnu 82 mins), George Taggart, Lex Allan, Fikayo Ajayi, Anthony Adesite (Amadeus Addotey 65 mins), Harry Heath (Kelvin Ogboe 79 mins), Javaun Splatt, Alex Laing (Siao Blackwood 54 mins), Ellis Brown.

Scorers: Burgess Hill Town - Brannon O'Neill 8 mins, Chris Whelpdale 25 mins, Bobby Price 39 mins, Jay Beckford 53 mins, Reggie Ward 78 mins.

Attendance: 480

## **Hythe Town 2 Deal Town 2**

### **Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

#### **Saturday 8th March 2025**

This was a game of two halves as the Cannons took a deserved 2-0 lead into the half-time break, but Deal dominated the second period to bring the scores level at full time on a warm and sunny afternoon at Reachfields.

There were three changes to the starting line up with goalkeeper Charlie Wealands coming in for James Dillon, new signing Rob Curtis for Amadeus Addotey, Fikayo Ajayi for Lewis White and Charles Etumnu for David Ozobia.

Hythe were first on the attack on six minutes as a shot from Etumnu was spilled by Deal and former Hythe keeper Adam Molloy. The ball was then cleared away. Deal's first effort came as another ex-Cannon Ashley Miller attempted to lob the ball over Wealands who, back peddling, managed to tip the ball over the bar.

Hythe took a deserved lead on eleven minutes as Anthony Adesite leapt onto a mistake by Molloy and was able to bundle the ball home. Defender Lex Allan made a great challenge to prevent Tom Chapman getting a shot away but that was a rare attack by the visitors. Harry Heath was to create the next chance for the hosts as he played in Javaun Splatt who was denied by Molloy who came off his line to block.

The Cannons were rewarded with a second on 24 minutes as a corner from the right-hand side by Alex Laing found Allan who rose above the Deal defence to head home. Hythe had Wealands to thank as a cross from Miller found Rory Smith, but the keeper was quick to save before Deal could capitalise. The last action of the half saw a Laing free kick find Curtis whose header looped into the arms of Molloy.

With two substitutions made at half-time, the second period saw Deal take the initiative as Smith had two opportunities in quick succession as he had two efforts blocked by man of the match Wealands. Very soon after Ben Chapman drilled an attempt wide of the target and then on the hour Deal got the goal their domination deserved as Miller cross into Tom Chapman who blasted home.

Ten minutes later the scores were level as a free kick from Miller found substitute Wes Hennesey who was able to bundle the ball home. The visitors look the more likely to get the

winner as a cross from Alfie Foster found the head of Wes Hennesey who forced Wealands to claw the ball away and prevent a complete turnaround. The Hythe defence stayed firm and were able to hold onto the point.

With their league position, the Cannons will see this as two points lost rather than one gained as they narrowed the gap to safety to five points and with difficult games to come, they will need to dig deep to drag themselves out of the relegation zone.

**Team: Charlie Wealands, Rob Curtis, Henry Young, Charles Etumnu (David Ozobia 45 mins), Lex Allan, Fikayo Ajayi (Amadeus Addotey 45 mins), Anthony Adesite (Kieron Agbebi 67 mins), Harry Heath, Javaun Splatt, Alex Laing (Kelvin Ogboe 85 mins), Ellis Brown. Sub Unused: Hayden Wigston.**

**Scorers: Hythe Town – Anthony Adesite 11 mins, Lex Allan 24 mins. Deal Town – Tom Chapman 60 mins, Wes Hennesey 70 mins.**

**Yellow Card: Ellis Brown 30 mins.**

**Attendance: 395.**

## **East Grinstead Town 2 Hythe Town 1**

### **Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

**Tuesday 4th March 2025**

It was another grim night for the Cannons as they went down 2-1 at East Grinstead Town on Tuesday evening.

There was only one change in the Hythe starting line up with the unavailable Fikayo Ajayi being replaced by Lewis White.

The early exchanges saw East Grinstead create the more meaningful chances as on eight minutes Charlie Gibson drilled a shot past the outside of the post and then on 22 minutes they were ahead. It came from a fluke as the ball flew around the Hythe penalty area. It eventually hit Lex Allan and looped over Hythe keeper James Dillon and into the away net to make it 1-0.

The visitors had to wait until the 26th minute for their first opportunity as Allan, up for a corner kick, turned and shot wide of the target. Hythe now came more into the game as Anthony Adesite broke down the left and then cut in and shot from a narrow angle but home keeper Matte Peirson was able to block. A dangerous cross from White followed but nobody could get close enough to convert.

The Cannons then had a hammer blow two minutes before the break as Dillon was to make a good save, but ball eventually came out to Finlay Lovatt who slammed the ball home to increase the host's lead. It could have been three as Gibson attempted a lob which went over Dillon and also over the cross bar. There was a chance for Hythe deep into injury time when a corner from Henry Young was headed over by Harry Heath.

The second half started with the visitors on the attack as striker Connor Tighe had two efforts that were to be saved easily by Dillon and then he sent a curling free kick from the edge of the area just over the bar. The visitors did go looking for a way back into the game as on 70 minutes

Young had a shot deflected off Javaun Splatt which went just wide and then Ellis Brown broke down the right with his cross hooked wide by Heath.

A Young corner followed that was headed wide by Allan and then on 86 minutes the Cannons got a goal back. The ball was bouncing around the penalty area before coming out to substitute Kelvin Ogboe who fired home to give the visitors some hope. The Cannons weren't able to get the goal that would have given them a point and in fact the only chance fell to East Grinstead's Alex Filipe whose effort was saved by Dillon.

Things look bleak for Hythe as they are still six points from safety and need a huge change in fortune to get the points necessary to stay up.

**Team: James Dillon, Amadeus Addotey, Henry Young, David Ozobia Charles Etumnu 85 mins), Lex Allan, Lewis White (Kelvin Ogboe 84 mins), Anthony Adesite (Kieron Agbebi 67 mins), Harry Heath, Javaun Spatt, Alex Laing, Ellis Brown. Subs Unused: Hayden Wigston, Charlie Wealands.**

**Scorers: East Grinstead Town – Lex Allan 24 mins (OG), Finlay Lovatt 43 mins. Hythe Town – Kelvin Ogboe 86 mins.**

**Yellow Card: Anthony Adesite 61 mins.**

**Attendance: 95.**

## **Lancing 1 Hythe Town 2**

### **Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

#### **Saturday 1st March 2025**

The Cannons achieved their first away win in just under a year when they came away with a deserved 2-1 win in the relegation battle at Lancing on Saturday afternoon.

Manager Nick Davis had made three signings since the drubbing at Littlehampton Town with goalkeeper James Dillon, midfielder Alex Laing and striker Harry Heath all making starts after joining from the day's hosts Lancing. With Lex Allan, Amadeus Addotey and Fikayo Ajayi also returning to the starting eleven, they replaced Tushaun Walters who has left to join Margate and the injured Joe Coleman, Vance Bola, Louie Procopi, Ollie Gray and Siao Blackwood.

The game started slowly with the first chance for Hythe coming on eleven minutes as Javaun Splatt worked himself into a shooting position before sending his attempt just over the bar. Immediately Lancing counter attacked as Liam Mensah hit a speculative effort from 25 yards that went straight into Dillon's arms.

It was Hythe who were looking the more likely to break the deadlock and on 21 minutes Henry Young threaded the ball into the path of Anthony Adesite who found himself free and calmly planted his shot past home goalkeeper Alieu Secka.

Javaun Splatt was to create an opportunity on 25 minutes as he laid the ball to Laing who drilled his effort into the arms of Secka. Dillon was to deny a couple of attempts from Lancing as he firstly saved well from a shot from the right by Reece Price-Placed and then he denied Mario

Quissaca. One more attack from the hosts saw Quissaca launched the ball high over the bar. However, the visitor's improvement from their previous game was notable and they deserved to go in at half time one-up.

The second half started brightly for the Cannons as Heath fired wide within a minute and then on 59 minutes Hythe were two up as Heath put in a pinpoint ball to Splatt who made no mistake from the middle of the penalty area to the delight of the visiting supporters. Hythe were now in charge, and it could have been three as substitute Lewis White played in Keiron Agbebi who was chasing onto the ball, but he couldn't quite get the touch that would have sealed the three points.

Just as it looked as if Hythe were going to hold onto their two-goal lead, the hosts were awarded a free-kick on the right hand side on 90 minutes. Neo Wooster whipped the ball in finding Scott Leslie who converted at the far post to give Lancing hope, but the Cannons held on to a well earned three points.

With all the other results going in Hythe's favour, there is still hope if they can continue this improved form until the end of the season.

**Team: James Dillon, Amadeus Addotey, Henry Young, David Ozobia, Lex Allan, Fikayo Ajayi, Anthony Adesite (Lewis White 76 mins), Harry Heath (Charles Etumnu 90 mins), Javaun Splatt (Kevin Ogboe 85 mins), Alex Laing (Kieron Agbebi 77 mins), Ellis Brown. Sub Unused: Charlie Wealands.**

**Goals: Lancing – Scott Leslie 90 mins. Hythe Town – Anthony Adesite 76 mins, Javaun Splatt 60 mins.**

**Yellow Card: Anthony Adesite 59 mins**

**Attendance: 280.**

## **Littlehampton Town 5 Hythe Town 0**

### **Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

**Tuesday 25th February 2025**

The Cannons sank to a humiliating defeat on Tuesday evening as they went down 5-0 at fellow strugglers Littlehampton Town on a very wet and muddy pitch.

There were two changes in the starting line up as manager Nick Davis brought back Tushaun Walters and Siao Blackwood to replace the unavailable Lex Allan and Lewis White.

Javaun Splatt was to hit the woodwork on seven minutes but that was a rare attack, and things were made hard for Hythe as Vance Bola and then Siao Blackwood left the pitch due to injury within nine minutes. Littlehampton took advantage as George Gaskin converted after 17 minutes.

Things were to take a turn for the worse on 38 minutes as an injury to Joe Coleman led to the third substitution in the first half as Hayden Wigston came on to make his debut between the

Hythe posts. The bad news continued as Gaskin was on target again on the stroke of half time as he doubled the host's lead.

The second half started grimly for the visitors as they found themselves three down as they conceded a penalty. Up stepped Kieron Pamment who planted his effort into the net. Nodirbek Bobomurodov was to rub salt in the Hythe wounds on 62 minutes as he scored Littlehampton's fourth, and the humiliation was complete in injury time as Evan Hoarty converted to make it 5-0.

It was an evening that will make it difficult for the Cannons in their relegation dog-fight as the gap grows between them and the safety zone. There must be an immediate massive improvement if they are to survive in the Isthmian South East this season.

**Team: Joe Coleman (Hayden Wigston 38 mins), Ollie Gray, Henry Young, Louie Procopi, Siao Blackwood (Charlie Etumnu 9 mins), David Ozobia (Kevin Ogboe 71 mins), Anthony Adesite (Amadeus Addotey 64 mins), Tushaun Walters, Vance Bola (Lewis White 4 mins), Javaun Splatt, Ellis Brown.**

**Scorers: George Gaskin 17 & 45 mins, Kieron Pamment 50 mins (Pen). Nodirbek Bobomurodov 62 mins, Evan Hoarty 90+3 mins.**

**Yellow Cards: Ollie Gray 57 mins, Tushaun Walters 70 mins, Javaun Splatt 72 mins, Louie Procopi 79 mins.**

**Attendance: 164**

## **Merstham 2 Hythe Town 1**

### **Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

**Tuesday 18th February 2025**

The Cannons hopes of survival took a knock as Merstham came from behind to win 2-1 on Tuesday evening.

Manager, Nick Davis made three changes to his starting line up as David Ozobia, Ollie Gray and Javaun Splatt returned to the starting line up in place of Kieron Agbebi, Siao Blackwood and Tushaun Walters.

The game started brightly as Merstham's Emmanuel Robe had a header after only four minutes but his it was deflected onto the cross bar before the ball was cleared. Hythe did create their first opportunity on seven minutes as a dangerous cross tested home keeper Rob Tolfrey.

Korrey Henry, who was a thorn in the Cannons' side all evening, was next to have an effort as he turned and shot wide of the target. The hosts continued to press as captain Matt Drage curled a free kick just over the top right hand corner of the net.

However, it was Hythe who were to take the lead on 18 minutes as a wonder goal from 25 yards by David Ozobia sailed into the top of the net to make it 1-0. A minute later Splatt had a golden opportunity to increase Hythe's lead but mishit his effort straight at Tolfrey who saved with his legs.

The hosts were slowly taking control of the play as Robe whipped in a cross to Henry but his header looped over the cross bar. Henry was finally to get the Merstham equaliser. A long ball down the middle from Dean Gunner fed Henry who controlled the ball with his first touch and then sent it past Joe Coleman in the Hythe goal to give the hosts a deserved leveller.

The goal seemed to kill the visitors as Merstham took control and could have taken the lead when Bradley Wilson fired over and then he sent in the cross that found Finlay Johnson who stretching could only get his toe to the ball sending it wide of the target.

However they were not to be denied as two minutes into injury time they took the lead. Charlie Greenwood got on the end of a pass from Henry sending his effort into the Hythe net.

The second half lacked the intensity of the first but it was the hosts who looked the more likely. Wilson had an attempt that went wide. Hythe's Lewis White did have an effort as he broke down the left but he hit the ball wide of the target. Henry was still the main danger as he found himself one on one with the Hythe keeper who came off his line to block.

Deep into injury time White sent in a cross to Splatt at the near post but his effort went wide and that was the last chance for Hythe to get back in the game.

**Team: Joe Coleman, Ollie Gary, Henry Young, David Ozobia, Lex Allan, Louie Procopi, Anthony Adesite, Lewis White, Javaun Splatt, Vance Bola, Ellis Brown. Subs Unused: Amadeus Addotey, Josh Theobald, Kelvin Ogboe, Charles Etumnu, Hayden Wigston.**

**Scorers: Merstham - Korrey Henry 37 mins, Charlie Greenwood 45+3 mins. Hythe Town - David Ozobia 18 mins.**

**Yellow Card; Vance Bola 58 mins**

**Attendance: 313.**

**Eastbourne Town 0 Hythe Town 0**

**Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

**Saturday 15th February 2025**

The Cannons gained their second away point of the season as they drew 0-0 at Eastbourne Town on Saturday afternoon.

Manager Nick Davis made one enforced change to the starting line up from the team that played against Broadbridge Heath last Tuesday with Kieron Agbedi coming in for his first start replacing the injured Harry Rowland. New signing Fikayo Ajayi was on the bench.

The game started quietly with both sides looking to get the initiative with Hythe creating the first opportunity on 17 minutes as Agbedi fired just wide. It only took Eastbourne a minute to respond as Alfie Simmons shot from the edge of the area forcing a good save from Hythe keeper Joe Coleman. The visitors then had Louie Procopi to thank as he cleared off the line from a header by Dan Hull.



Henry Young, who continues to impress, shot straight at home keeper Chris Winterton and Anthony Adesite pulled an effort wide of the target. As the game went into first half injury time Eastbourne did have the ball in the net from Hull, but the referee's assistant was waving his flag for offside and there was no complaint from the hosts.

The second period also started slowly as the first attempt came on 50 minutes as Harvey Greig fired over for the hosts and then at the other end a White breakaway down the left ended with a cross into Tushaun Walters who screwed effort wide when perhaps he should have found the target. Hythe were now looking the more likely to break the deadlock as Kelvin Ogboe charged in from the right, but his final shot was deflected wide for a corner.

Walters was to save the Cannons on 72 minutes as he cleared the ball off the line and then again at the other end Vance Bola also had an effort blocked on the goal line. Both sides were now cancelling each other out and both finally had to settle for one point.

The Cannons can perhaps count themselves unlucky not to steal the win, but at least a point was improvement on what they have achieved on the road this season.

**Team: Joe Coleman, Kieron Agbedi (Kelvin Ogboe 44 mins), Henry Young, Tashaun Walters, Lex Allan, Louie Procopi, Siao Blackwood (Amadeus Addotey 75 mins) , Anthony Adesite, Lewis White (Fikayo Ajayi 71 mins), Vance Bola, Ellis Brown. Sub Unused: Hayden Wigston.**

**Attendance: 242**

Hythe Town 1 Broadbridge Heath 2

Pitching In Isthmian League South East

Tuesday 11th February 2025

Two first half goals were to dampen the optimism around Reachfields as Hythe went down 2-1 to Broadbridge Heath on Tuesday evening.

Manager Nick Davis made one change to the starting line up from Saturday's win against AFC Croydon Athletic with Tushaun Walters returning from suspension to replace the unavailable Dean Beckwith. New loan signing from Dover Athletic Keiron Agbedi was on the bench.

Broadbridge Heath started the brighter and had their first attack after six minutes as Mark Goldson worked himself into a shooting position but sent his effort straight at Hythe keeper Joe Coleman. However, with Ollie Gray and Beckwith missing in the back four, the defence looked shaky, and the visitors took advantage on ten minutes as they took the lead as a long kick by Heath keeper Alfie Hadfield sent Adam Adam down the right wing. He played a one two with Charlie Parmiter before releasing Callum Dowdell who slammed the ball home.

The Cannons had their first chance on twelve minutes as Lewis White worked his way in. The move finished with an attempt that was saved by away keeper Alfie Hadfield. However, Heath were unlucky not to increase their lead when Parmiter played in Adam who slammed his effort against the upright and then a shot by Salvatore Marino deflected off Kyle Sim and went just wide with Coleman wrong footed. Adam continued to cause problems for the home defence as he had a shot deflected away for a corner.

The hosts came close to equalising against the run of play when Vance Bola played the ball off to Walters who unleashed a shot that went just the wrong side of the upright. However, it was Broadbridge Heath who continue to look the more dangerous and after 39 minutes they doubled their lead. Parmiter fed Adam who broke away down the right and then found Louis Evans who from 15 yards sent the ball under Coleman and into the Hythe net. Lex Allan was to prevent further damage as he cleared an effort off the line from Goldson.

The Cannons did have a couple of opportunities before the break to narrow the gap as firstly White played the ball into Siao Blackwood, but he lifted his shot high over the bar and then Bola forced a save from Hadfield, but the visitors went in with a well deserved two goal lead.

Hythe certainly tightened up in the second half although the first effort came on 46 minutes from Broadbridge Heath as Goldson sent in an effort that was easily saved by Coleman. On 61 minutes Harry Rowland had an effort that went wide of the target. Two minutes later Walters split the Heath defence feeding the ball to Anthony Adesite who ran on and rifled a shot past Hadfield and into the away net giving Hythe hope that they could get something out of the game.

However, there was very little goal mouth action in the rest of the game and the visitors held on comfortably for all three points and put a dent in the Cannons survival hopes. Another concern for Hythe was that defender Harry Rowland was stretchered off near the end and we await news of the seriousness of the injury.

Team: Joe Coleman, Henry Young, Lex Allan, Louie Procopi, Anthony Adesite, Tushaun Walters, Vance Bola, Lewis White (Kieron Agbedi 45 mins), Ellis Brown (Amadeus Addotey 83 mins), Harry Rowland (Shay Abegbehingbe (90+2 mins), Siao Blackwood. Subs Unused: Kelvin Ogboe, Hayden Wigston.

Scorers: Hythe Town – Anthony Adesite 63 mins. Broadbridge Heath - Mark Goldson 10 mins, Louis Evans 39 mins.

Yellow Card: Siao Blackwood 29 mins.

Attendance: 172.

Hythe Town 2 AFC Croydon Athletic 0

Pitching In Isthmian League South East

Saturday 8th February 2025

The Cannons finally turned their recent improved form into a deserved 2-0 victory at home to AFC Croydon Athletic on a chilly Saturday afternoon.

Manager Nick Davis had to make a number of enforced changes with Vance Bola, Lewis White and new signing Dean Beckwith (returning to Reachfields) replacing the suspended Javaun Splatt, David Ozobia and Tushaun Walters. Harry Rowland also came in to replace the injured Ollie Gray.

It was Hythe who started on the front foot as on nine minutes Vance Bola sent a ball from the right across the mouth of the goal but there was no one on hand to convert. However, the early pressure was rewarded when Louie Procopi crossed in after neat interchange work on the edge of the penalty area finding Bola who slammed the ball in at the far post to give the Cannons the lead.

Hythe continued to press, and Lewis White fed the ball to Bola whose final effort sailed over the bar. Ellis Brown was the next to threaten as he rifled a shot that stung the hands of Croydon keeper Amadou Tangara.

The visitors had to wait until the 35th minute to create their first meaningful attempt as Ibby Akanbi sent in a cross that was headed on by Daniel Kadell but Hythe keeper Joe Coleman saved easily and a cross from Brandon Pierrick found the head of Akanbi, but his attempt was blocked well by Beckwith.

However, the hosts continued to dominate as Anthony Adesite laid the ball back to Brown who forced a save from Tangara and following up White slammed his effort into the side netting and Hythe had to settle for a one goal half time lead.

The first chances of the second half fell to the visitors as Kadell had two efforts that went high over the bar but it the Cannons who increased their lead on 56 minutes as Adesite played the ball through to White who fired home for his first Cannons' goal. Tangara was to deny Bola twice as firstly the home striker came in from the right and sent a shot from a tight angle that was blocked by the away keeper and then a Brown cross found Bola whose attempt was well saved.

A Croydon attack saw Kadell play the ball off to Akinboye Ajayi who blasted over and then Nathan Mavilla played the ball out to Pierrick who blasted wide of the target. The Hythe defence remained resolute preventing any real threat to Hythe's lead and the score remained at 2-0.

Special mention should be made of match referee Richard Joss who had an outstanding afternoon letting the game flow.

The win lifts the Cannons off the bottom of the table and should give them confidence as they try to get themselves out of the relegation zone.

Team: Joe Coleman, Dean Beckwith, Harry Rowland, Louie Procopi, Lex Allan, Siao Blackwood, Anthony Adesite (Amadeus Addotey 82 mins), Lewis White (Kelvin Ogboe 73 mins), Vance Bola, Henry Young, Ellis Brown. Subs Unused: Shay Adegbefingbe, Hayden Wigston.

Scorers: Vance Bola 13 mins, Lewis White 56 mins.

Yellow Card: Amadeus Addotey 90+5.

Attendance: 227

**Hythe Town 0 Three Bridges 1**

**Pitching In Isthmian League South-East**

**Saturday 1st February 2025**

For the second week running Hythe were robbed of something out of the game as a late penalty denied them of a point. The game all pivoted on the 75th minute when the referee controversially showed Tushaun Walters a second yellow card which reduced the hosts to nine men.

Manager Nick Davis made a couple of enforced changes as Toby Young replaced the injured Medy Elito and Louie Procopi came in for Vance Bola who was unwell. Lex Allan was back in the starting line up to replace the now departed Dexter Peter.

The game started brightly for the Cannons as within the first two minutes Walters rifled the ball that took a deflection off a defender's ankle to go past the right-hand post. From the resultant corner the ball found David Ozobia who fired over. Three Bridges had their first opening on five minutes as Hayden Velvick attempted to loop a cross over Joe Coleman. The Hythe keeper at full stretch, managed the grasp the ball to prevent the move progressing further.

Hythe continued to press as Javaun Splatt came in from the left and sent in a shot from a tight angle that was blocked by away keeper Finn Holter. Then came the first controversy of the afternoon as an altercation off the ball saw Splatt of Hythe and Josh Hallard of Three Bridges sent off after only 12 minutes. It however appeared that Splatt was the innocent party and his dismissal was harsh.

Hythe continued to have the lion's share of the chances with Walters having two opportunities in quick succession as he firstly blasted just over from 30 yards and then fired into the side netting. Procopi was then to send a long ball into the penalty box finding Ollie Gray but his hooked shot was blocked by a defender.

The visitors had two efforts just before the break as Coleman pushed an attempt from 15 yards by Velvick over the bar and then a cross from Reece Hallard found Hayden Neathey who headed over. It was the hosts who had edged the first half and with bit more luck would have gone in a goal ahead.

The second period started quietly with the first opportunity falling for Ozobia who broke in but shot just over the bar and then at the other end Reece Hallard had an effort deflected wide.

The whole pattern of the game was changed when Walters appeared to be harshly given a second yellow card. There was concern around the ground that decisions were inconsistent, and this led to the feeling that the hosts were being hard done by.

Three Bridges took advantage and bombarded the Hythe defence with Coleman making a save from Velvick. The Hythe defence remained resolute as the minutes ticked by. As the game went into injury time the pressure intensified as Colman made a great block again from Velvick and then the Hythe keeper made a point blank save from Reece Hallard. Just as it seemed that the Cannons had held onto a point, they were dealt a bitter blow as a push was spotted in the penalty area and the referee pointed to the spot. Up stepped Reece Hallard who blasted home giving Coleman no chance to save and it was too late for Hythe to retaliate.

There was still time for another controversy as Ozobia received a second yellow card reducing the hosts to eight men. The crowd reacted at the end giving their view on some of the decisions that had been made by the officials during the afternoon with Hythe having three players sent off in what was a hard fought but not a dirty game. In fact, the Cannons had put in a shift and deserved something out of the game.

**Team: Joe Coleman, Ollie Gray, Tushaun Walters, Lex Allan, Louie Procopi, Henry Young (Kelvin Ogboe 90+5 mins), Anthony Adesite (Harry Rowland 84 mins), Siao Blackwood, Javaun Splatt, David Ozobia, Ellis Brown (Lewis White 62 mins). Subs Unused: Shay Adegbhingbe, Sammi Takaloo.**

**Scorers: Three Bridges – Reece Hallard 90+7 mins.**

**Attendance: 191**

### **Hythe Town 2 Margate 3**

#### **Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

**Saturday 18th January 2025**

The Cannons can count themselves very unlucky as Margate scored twice in second half injury time to turn the game around and rob the hosts who deserved something out of the game. The 3-2 score flattered the visitors on a cold Reachfields afternoon.

Manager Nick Davis brought in new signing Dexter Peter who replaced the injured Lex Allan and Ollie Gray returned from injury in place of the suspended Louie Procopi.

It was an even start to the game with the visitors having their first opportunity within the first two minutes as Ben Greenhalgh shot tamely straight at home keeper Joe Coleman. Hythe had their first effort on six minutes as Javaun Splatt turned and shot over the crossbar. Margate then had a couple of attempts from Ibrahim Olutade and Greenhalgh that both went wide.

The Cannons were to take the lead on 13 minutes as Medy Elito lifted the ball deep into the penalty area where Splatt, under pressure, was able to force the ball over the line. Another Splatt effort followed as he attempted a lob over away keeper Tom Wray, but the ball drifted over the bar.

Margate then pressed for an equaliser as another weak shot from Greenhalgh was easily collected by Coleman and then Harvey Brand drilled an effort wide. A free kick from Greenhalgh was headed over by Ben Allen. However, it was the hosts who had the last opportunity of the half when Splatt broke in from the left towards the byline and sent a shot from a tight angle that was blocked by Wray.

With Hythe going in with the edge at half time, it was Margate who got the equaliser five minutes into the second period as Allen crossed into Max Walsh who poked the ball home. Anthomy Adesite was then to get a chance that forced a save from Wray and then at the other end Peter, who impressed on his Hythe debut, was on hand to clear the ball off the line from an effort by Olutade. Margate were now looking the more likely as Coleman had to save from Olutade and then he blocked an attempt from Allen.

Hythe were still creating chances as Tushaun Walters unleashed a shot from 25 yards that forced a great save by Wray who pushed the ball around the upright. The Cannons then got the goal which gave them great hope as a long ball from Splatt found Adesite who slammed the ball home. Adesite then played in Splatt who perhaps should have done better but blasted over.

Second half additional time was a nightmare for the Cannons as two minutes in Ben Allen picked up the ball and slotted it under the body of Coleman to bring the scores level and then ten minutes in, with virtually the last kick of the game, a strike by Tyrone Sterling was headed into the net by Allen for his second to give Margate the win.

They say that when you're near the bottom you don't get your fair share of luck and that was certainly the case for Hythe who put up their best performance for some time. They will need to continue this effort to battle their way out of the relegation zone.

**Team: Joseph Coleman, Ollie Gray (Harry Rowland 78 mins), Dexter Porter, Anthony Adesite, Medy Elito (Henry Young 76 mins), Javaun Splatt, Tushaun Walters, Ellis Brown, David Ozobia, Siao Blackwood, Vance Bola. Subs Unused: Shay Adegbehingbe, Sammi Takaloo, Kelvin Ogboe.**

**Scorers: Hythe Town - Javaun Splatt 13 mins, Anthony Adesite 81 mins. Margate - Max Walsh 50 mins, Ben Allen 90+2 & 90 + 10 mins.**

**Yellow Cards: David Ozobia 28 mins, Dexter Peter 38 mins, Tushuan Walters 58 mins, Vance Bola 59 mins, Medy Elito 70 mins.**

**Attendance: 401**

Sheppey United 3 Hythe Town 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South East

Wednesday 1st January 2025

It was not a "Happy New Year" as the Cannons sunk to their fifth consecutive defeat as they went down 3-1 against a very average Sheppey United team on a wet and windy afternoon at Holm Park.

Manager Nick Davis made two changes from the side that lost at Phoenix Sports with Medy Elito coming back in for Sammi Takaloo and Siao Blackwood replacing the injured Ollie Gray.

Both sides created an opportunity in the first ten minutes with an early shot from Eitel Mouri Goueth going straight into the arms of Hythe keeper Joe Coleman. Then at the other end, a dipping shot from Tushaun Walters went just over the bar.

The hosts were ahead on 22 minutes when Joel Wakefield dispossessed Blackwood in the right-hand corner sending in a cross that found Victor Aiye who had a shot blocked by Louie Procopi with the rebound falling for Dan Bradshaw to side foot home. Sheppey were now in full control as Gil Carvalho sent a shot across the face of goal past the far post and away for a goal kick. Bradshaw was continuing to threaten as he lobbed the ball over Coleman and also over the bar.

Hythe's best chance of the half came on 33 minutes as a Walters free kick from 25 yards forced Sheppey keeper Aiden Prall to save well at his near post. Unfortunately, Prall sent a long drop kick over the Hythe defence to find Carvalho whose shot was pushed onto the cross bar by Coleman with the rebound falling for Bradshaw who was on hand to nod home to make it two.

Vance Bola did have a shot that went wide of the target, but the Cannons had Coleman to thank for keeping the score down as a dipping Aiye free kick was tipped over the bar. It had been a poor half for Hythe and they needed to respond in the second half.

Within two minutes of the restart Bradshaw surged through but Coleman was quickly off his line to deflect the ball over the bar. A Carvalho cross then found Aiye but he headed over. Hythe began to look dangerous as a shot from Anthony Adesite was deflected off a Sheppey leg and went wide and then Amadeus Addotey fired wide.

A long ball into the Sheppey penalty area from Elito found Bola who juggled the ball but screwed his final shot wide. At the other end James Taylor blasted wide but it was Hythe who were now pressing, and they were rewarded on 77 minutes as Walters surged into the penalty area and was tripped by Taylor and the referee had no hesitation but to point to the spot. Up stepped Bola who made no mistake. Hythe did go on the search for an equaliser as Bola sent a shot over the bar. Four minutes into injury time Hythe were awarded a free kick near the halfway line. Coleman went up to join the attack, but the ball was played out of the Sheppey box. Carvalho sent a long ball down the left to Bradshaw, who with Coleman out of his goal, was able to roll the ball home for his hat-trick.

The score did flatter Sheppey but did show up the frailties in the Hythe side and immediate improvement is required.

Team: Joe Coleman, Louie Procopi, Tushaun Walters, Medy Elito, Lex Allan (Amadeus Addotey 46 mins), Siao Blackwood, Anthony Adesite (Kelvin Ogboe 75 mins), David Ozobia, Javaun Splatt, Vance Bola, Ellis Brown (Kian Scott 73 mins). Subs Unused: Sammi Takaloo, D’Jean Spencer.

Scorers: Sheppey United – Dan Bradshaw 22, 34, 90+5 mins. Hythe Town – Vance Bola 80 mins (pen)

Attendance: 267

## **Phoenix Sports 2 Hythe Town 1**

### **Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

#### **Saturday 28th December 2024**

It was a case of “deja vu” as for the third time this season the Cannons threw away a one goal lead to go down 2-1 this time at fellow strugglers Phoenix Sports in the relegation battle on Saturday afternoon.

Manager Nick Davis made one change to the starting line up bringing in Sammi Takaloo to cover the injured Medy Elito.

The game started so well for Hythe as within two minutes they were ahead as Tushaun Walters whipped in a cross finding Javaun Splatt who headed home for his first Cannons goal. Ellis Brown was next to threaten as he worked his way in from the right-hand side, but his final effort blasted into the side netting.

Phoenix had to wait until the 13th minute for their first threat as Kiye Martin crossed into Richard Pingling. However, Hythe keeper Joe Coleman was quick off his line to block and Walters cleared away. Hythe were continuing to look the better side as David Ozobia shot but his effort brushed the upright and went away for a goal kick. Splatt was to threaten again as he burst through on the left, but his final side footed shot went just wide.

As the half came to its conclusion it was the hosts who had a couple of opportunities as firstly Martin charged through on the left, but his final effort went over from a tight angle and then a side footed effort from Issac Thompson lacked power and was easily collected by Coleman.

Right from the restart the second half changed shape, and it was Phoenix who were looking the more likely. A shot from Pingling was collected by Coleman and the Cannons again were punished for another lack lustre start to the second period as on 50 minutes the hosts were level as Issac Thompson ran in to put the ball past Coleman to make it 1-1.

Phoenix continued on the front foot and a cross come shot from the left by Deshane Dalling went past the far post. There was limited threat now from Hythe with the one chance of the half coming for David Ozobia as he worked into a shooting position but dragged his final attempt wide. During this time the two centre back Lex Allan and Ollie Gray were immense at the back as the latter brilliantly heading away a shot from Martin.

It felt inevitable that the hosts would get the winner as on 87 minutes Thompson surged in and , played the ball past Coleman into the path of Dalling who side footed into an empty net. There was a melee in the Phoenix penalty area seven minutes into injury time, but no one could get a toe on the ball to take advantage.

The result matched the earlier away games at Steyning Town and AFC Croydon Athletic where Hythe could not build on having an early advantage and having the initiative and as soon as an equaliser is scored their heads go down. That needs to be addressed urgently to prevent a continuing spiral down to the Southern Counties East.

**Team: Joe Coleman, Louie Procopi, Tushaun Walters, Sammi Takaloo (Kevin Ogboe 63 mins), Lex Allan, Ollie Gray (Harry Rowland 89 mins), Anthony Adesite, David Ozobia, Javaun Splatt, Vance Bola, Ellis Brown. Subs unused: Hayden Wigston, D’Jean Spencer, Amadeus Addotey.**

**Scorers: Phoenix Sports - Isaac Thompson 50 mins, Deshane Dalling 87 mins.**

**Attendance: 143**

**Hythe Town 0 Ashford United 2**

**Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

**Saturday 26th December 2024**

The Cannons missed another penalty and were duly punished as they went down 2-0 in the Boxing Day derby fixture at home to Ashford United in front of a bumper holiday crowd of 491.



Manager Nick Davis made two changes to his starting line up with Ellis Brown and Anthony Adesite returning to the starting line-up replacing Harry Rowland, who was on the bench, and Siao Blackwood.

The early exchanges were fairly even with Hythe having their first opportunity after eight minutes as Javaun Splatt sent in a shot from the left that slid past the far post. Only two minutes later Ashford had their first meaningful attack that ended with Hythe keeper Joe Coleman coming quickly off his line to smother the ball before Michael West could take advantage.

Hythe were looking the better side in these early exchanges as David Ozobia had a dipping effort that shaved the upright. At the other end Louis Collins worked his way into a shooting position but sent his final shot over the top of the bar. The Cannons were unlucky three minutes before the break when Tushaun Walters looped the ball over Ashford keeper Mitchell Beeney, but it also drifted just over the bar. Overall, the half time score was an accurate reflection of the balance of play in the first period.

It seemed that the hosts were still in their half-time break when on 46 minutes the ball was played across the penalty area by Noah Carney finding former Cannon Gary Lockyer who hooked the ball home from 15 yards out. The Hythe heads fell and it was the visitors who took the initiative as a shot from West was spilt by Coleman but luckily the ball rolled away for a corner.

Carney was having a big impact on the game as he played the ball into Ryan Hayes whose attempt drifted well wide and then Carney had a chance of his own as he fired wide. Then came the key moment of the game when Brown charged into the Ashford penalty area and was brought down. Anthony Adesite took the resultant penalty kick, but his effort lacked power and was easily saved by Beeney with Adesite blasting over the rebound.

Had the penalty gone in the result could have been very different but it seemed to stop any fight back from the hosts. Carney was through again on 69 minutes, but Coleman was quick off his line to block and then on 74 minutes a corner was whipped in finding Tolulope Jonah whose effort at the near post was blocked with the rebound coming to Lockyer who hooked in shot that found Jonah who redirected the ball into the goal to make it 2-0.

There was no way back for Hythe whose afternoon was made worse by the second yellow card given to Louie Procopi and his dismissal will mean he is missing for the next home game against Broadbridge Heath. Things are starting to look worrying for the Cannons as they need a speedy return to form to avoid the drop.

**Team: Joe Coleman, Louie Procopi, Tushaun Walters, Medi Elito (D’Jean Spencer 46 mins), Lex Allan, Ollie Gray, Anthony Adesite, David Ozobia, Javaun Splatt, Vance Bola, Ellis Brown (Sammi Takaloo 72 mins). Subs Unused: Hayden Wigston, Harry Rowland, Kelvin Ogboe.**

**Scorers: Ashford United - Gary Lockyer 47 mins, Tolulope Jonah 74 mins.**

**Yellow Cards: Lex Allan 49 mins, Louie Procopi 69 & 90+4)**

**Attendance: 491.**

**Hythe Town 0 Burgess Hill Town 2**

## **Pitching In Isthmian League South-East**

**Saturday 14th December 2024**

It was another grim day for the Cannons as they went down two-nil to play-off chasing Burgess Hill Town at Reachfields on Saturday afternoon.

Manager Nick Davis made two changes to the starting line up with Harry Rowland coming in for Tom Carlse and Lex Allan replacing the injured Ellis Brown.

It was an even start to the game with the first attack coming from Burgess Hill on four minutes as a free kick from Kieran Rowe found Marcus Elliott whose glancing header went wide of the target. At the other end Hythe had their first chance on ten minutes as Allan blasted over. Chances were still coming at both ends as a cross from Hillians' Chris Whelpdale found Noah Hoffman who also headed wide.

Hythe were to have the next attack as Tushaun Walters played in Javaun Splatt whose effort was deflected wide. From the resultant corner on 16 minutes Splatt was brought in the penalty area by Ben Pope. The referee had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Splatt was to get up to take the kick, but he sent in a poor penalty that was easily saved by Hillians keeper Slav Huk.

The visitors were to punish the Cannons for the wasted chance and went ahead on 19 minutes as Noah Hoffman played Damien Theodore in with his effort taking a deflection and looping into the net. The Cannons were stunned by the goal and were grateful to keeper Joe Coleman as he was quickly off his line to block Whelpdale as he broke through and then from the corner from Harvey Woollard that swung in and was cleared off the line by David Ozobia.

Whelpdale had another shot easily saved by Coleman and at this stage there was little threat from the hosts since the penalty.

The early stages of the second half saw the visitors on the front foot as a shot from Theodore was pushed wide of the upright by Coleman and then Rowe broke free and again the Hythe keeper saved the day as he was quickly off his line to smother the ball.

A brighter spell followed for Hythe as they pressed for an equaliser. A cross from the right led to a scramble in the penalty area as the away defence failed to clear. Walters couldn't quite capitalise, and the opportunity was over. Splatt was then to have a header cleared off the line. However, they were unable to find the vital opening and the visitors had weathered the storm.

Burgess Hill had a couple of chances as a deep corner from Hoffman found Nathan Cooper who headed into the side netting and then Hoffman had an effort of his own as he looped the ball into the arms of Coleman. However, they were to seal the win 13 minutes before the end as a quick free kick was played off to Tom Chalaye who unopposed slammed the ball past Coleman to put the game out of the reach of the hosts.

It was a really disappointing outcome for the Cannons who now have to quickly find a way of getting the ball in the net and getting some points on the board if they are to avoid the drop. They will have an opportunity to put things right next Saturday as they travel to East Grinstead Town. Kick off will be 3pm.

**Team: Joe Coleman, Louie Procopi (D'Jean Spencer 74 mins), Harry Rowland, Siao Blackwood (Amadeus Addotey 76 mins), Lex Allan, Ollie Gray, David Ozobia, Medy Elito,**

**Javaun Splatt, Vance Bola, Tushaun Walters (Sammi Takaloo 73 mins). Sub Unused: Damian Hopkins.**

**Scorers: Burgess Hill Town - Damien Theodore 19 mins, Tom Chalaye 77 mins.**

**Yellow Cards: Louie Procopi 38 mins, Ollie Gray 66 mins.**

**Attendance: 222**

### **Three Bridges 3 Hythe Town 0**

#### **Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

**Saturday 7th December 2024**

The Cannons were blown away in the first half as they went down 3-0 to Three Bridges on a windy Saturday afternoon at Maidstone Road, Chatham.

Manager Nick Davis brought in new signing Javaun Splatt, a striker who has come to us from Northern Premier League Clitheroe Town, who replaced Danny Parish. Also coming back into the starting line up was Siao Blackwood who replaced the unavailable Lex Allan.

Hythe were to play the first half into the strong wind caused by Storm Darragh and they were to have the first chance after six minutes. David Ozobia saw Three Bridges keeper Luke Glover down just outside his area and attempted a lob from well out that drifted wide.

However, it was the hosts who took the lead with their first attack on twelve minutes as Reece Halland picked up the ball and from 25 yards sent in a speculative shot that flew in the wind over Hythe keeper Joe Coleman into the top corner. Only two minutes later Three Bridges doubled their lead as a corner from Karim Kamhourri found Billy Irving, at the far post. He beat the defence to the ball and headed home to make it two.

Boosted by their lead the hosts were now in full control as Ozobia lost the ball and Francis Junior pounced on it to send a shot well over. The Cannons offered very little threat up front but did have an opportunity on 29 minutes as Ellis Brown broke down the left but off balance sent his final effort wide. Hythe again had Coleman to thank for keeping the score down as he blocked a shot from Kevin Rivera with his legs.

On 37 minutes the game was effectively over as Three Bridges got their third. Kevin Rivera worked his way in and drove the ball towards goal, but Coleman was on hand to push the ball around the post. From the resultant corner the ball found Hallard who slotted home with his left foot to get his second and make it 3-0. This left Hythe with a mountain to climb in the second period.

With the wind behind, Hythe did create some chances early in the second half as Ellis had a shot that was deflected wide and had a strong appeal for hand ball in the penalty area turned down by the referee. Vance Bola then sent in a corner that found Ellis whose effort was well saved by Glover. However, there were some breakaways at the other end as the Hythe defence had to scramble the ball away a couple of times. Ellis had an attempt that deflected off a defender and looped into the arms of Glover.

Tushaun Walters was to create the next chance as he crossed into substitute Harry Rowland who headed just wide. This was the last serious attack by the visitors and the last quarter of an hour saw Three Bridges take back the initiative. A cross from the right found Hayden Velvick who missed the target with the goal gaping and then George Falzon saw Coleman off his line and attempted a lob that caught the wind and went over the bar. Finally, Bryan Villavicencio should have done better as he shot straight at Coleman.

It was a really disappointing afternoon from the Cannons who must now do some soul searching before the next fixture which will be against Burgess Hill Town next Saturday. Kick off at Reachfields will be 3pm.

**Team: Joe Coleman, Ollie Gray (Harry Rowland 23 mins) (Amadeus Addotey 84 mins), Tom Carlse (Sammi Takaloo 46 mins), Vance Bola, Siao Blackwood, Louie Procopi, David Ozobia (D’Jean Spencer 75 mins), Medy Elito, Javaun Splatt, Tushaun Walters, Ellis Brown. Sub Unused: Caled Edorh.**

**Scorers: Three Bridges - Reece Hallard 13 & 37 mins, Billy Irving 15 mins.**

**Yellow Card: Javaun Splatt 40 mins**

**Attendance: 62**

## **Hythe Town 2 Littlehampton Town 2**

### **Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

#### **Saturday 30th November 2024**

The Cannons came from two goals down at half time to draw 2-2 in an exciting game at Reachfields on a mild Saturday afternoon.

For the first time this season, manager Nick Davis made no changes to the starting line up with Kian Scott and Siao Blackwood replacing Amadeus Addotey and Harry Rowland on the bench.

The first attack came from the visitors on five minutes as a shot in from the right was saved comfortably by Hythe keeper Joe Coleman. Hythe had their first attack two minutes later as Medy Elito whipped in a cross that was headed wide by captain Lex Allan. Hythe were having the majority of the possession at this stage as Ellis Brown played the ball off to Tushaun Walters whose effort stung the hands of Littlehampton keeper Mac Chisholm.

The visitors took the lead against the run of play as Hythe were temporarily down to ten men as Allan was off the pitch awaiting the referee to let him back on following an injury and yellow card. A deep free kick was sent in finding Rob O’Toole at the far post who headed home.

Despite having control of the game in midfield it was Littlehampton who were creating opportunities on the break. Firstly, a Dion Jarvis cross found Marshall Ball on the near post, but Coleman was quickly down to save and then Joe Benn hit a shot that forced Coleman to push the ball around the left hand upright.

Deep into first-half injury time the Cannons were to concede an unnecessary penalty and up stepped Jordan Layton who put the ball into the corner to double Littlehampton’s lead. Right on

the half-time whistle Danny Parish fired a free kick from the right that was saved by Chisholm. The hosts must be wondering how they let themselves go two down at half time.

Littlehampton did have an opportunity on 50 minutes as Kieron Pamment broke free, but his final effort was tame and rolled wide. The Cannons began to push to get back in the game as Tom Carlse sent in a cross from the left that found Parish on the near post but he sent his attempt into the side netting. But he was not to be denied on 55 minutes as he got on the end of a Walters free-kick and then turned and fired home to narrow the gap.

A couple of minutes later Littlehampton could have restored their two-goal lead as Benn broke free but Coleman was very quickly off his line to force the ball away for a corner. Within three minutes of the first goal Walters was again to feed Parish who blasted home to bring the scores level.

There was a second yellow card shown to Littlehampton's Delwin Duah right at the end to take the visitors down to ten men, but it was too late to have any influence on the game. Both sides could have gone on to win the match, but both had to settle for one point. The hosts kept looking for the winner, but the resolute Littlehampton defence stood firm and there were only two more meaningful chances as firstly on the break Benn, for the visitors, shot straight at Coleman and then a minute from time substitute Anthony Adesite worked his way through but his final effort drifted wide.

Deep into injury time Littlehampton were reduced to ten men as Delwin Duah received a second yellow card for simulation, but it did not give the Cannons a chance to capitalise on the man advantage and they had to settle for a point that didn't look likely at half-time.

Hythe can now build on the continued improvement in form as they travel to Chatham next Saturday to play Three Bridges. Kick off at Maidstone Road is 3pm.

**Team:** Joe Coleman, Ollie Gray, Tom Carlse, Vance Bola (Siao Blackwood 81 mins), Lex Allan, Joe Procopi, David Ozobia, Medy Elito, Danny Parish, Tashaun Walters (Anthony Adesite 82 mins), Ellis Brown. **Subs Unused:** Kian Scott, Sammi Takaloo, D'Jean Spencer.

**Scorers:** Hythe Town – Danny Parish 55 & 59 mins. Littlehampton Town - Rob O'Toole 21 mins, Jordan Layton 45+2 mins (Pen)

**Yellow Cards:** Lex Allan 19 mins, Danny Parish 70 mins, Tashaun Walters 70 mins, Tom Carlse 78 mins, Ollie Gray 81 mins.

**Attendance:** 191.

**Hythe Town 3 Steyning Town 2**

**Pitching In Isthmian League South-East**

**Saturday 23rd November 2024**

The Cannons managed to take all three points as they won 3-2 at home to Steyning Town on an atrocious wet & windy Reachfields afternoon.

Hythe manager Nick Davis made a couple of changes to the starting line up bringing in David Ozobia for the suspended Siao Blackwood and Louie Procopi coming in for Anthony Adesite who was on the bench.

Things didn't look good for the hosts as after only four minutes they went behind when Ed Kazlauskas jumped onto a loose ball and sent in a shot that deflected off Ollie Gray and over Hythe keeper Joe Coleman into the net. It was a slow start for the hosts as Jack Barnes hit a shot over the Hythe bar.

As the half-progressed the Cannons came into the game as they had their first opening on 19 minutes as a throw from Procopi was headed on by captain Lex Allan to Danny Parish who slammed an effort into the side netting. Almost immediately Tushaun Walters fed the ball to Parish who this time sent his shot into the arms of away keeper Nathan Stroomberg-Clarke.

Whilst things were looking better for the hosts, Steyning still provided danger on the break as Charlie Murrain pounced on a loose ball and sent his attempt straight at Coleman. On 28 minutes Hythe had a golden opportunity to get the equaliser as Vance Bola cut in and drove his shot towards goal forcing a block from Stroomberg-Clarke with the rebound coming out to Tom Carlse, who hit his left-footed effort over.

A couple of efforts from Steyning saw Kazlauskas send a dipping shot straight at Coleman and then Robert Malila played the ball onto Harvey Killick whose effort was this time smothered by Coleman. However, it was Stroomberg-Clarke who was the busier keeper as he saved from Bola and then again from Carlse who had pounced again on a rebound and then Stroomberg-Clarke was to save from an effort by Procopi.

However, two minutes before the break, The Cannons were rewarded with a deserved equaliser as Carlse crossed finding Ellis Brown who with a moment of magic blasted home to make it 1-1 to the relief of the home support who were sheltered from the wind and rain under the stands.

The weather conditions worsened in the second half and the pitch began to cut up making things difficult for both teams as Brown was again in the action as he fed the ball to Ollie Gray who lifted his effort over the bar. Then at the other end Charlie Meehan broke through, but the ever-reliable Coleman was quickly off his line to intercept. Hythe were looking the more likely to score as Walters blasted the ball into the chest of Stroomberg-Clarke and then on 70 minutes the Cannons took the lead as Procopi played the ball in to Bola who sent a shot into the net from close range.

To add insult to injury Steyning defender Billy Fuller inadvisably used some choice language to the referee's assistant and was shown a straight red card as the visitors' claimed Bola was offside. Procopi was then to force a save. As the home support began to believe that Hythe would hold on for three points they suffered a hammer blow as Steyning drew level. Barnes stole the ball from Brown and then released Killick who slid the ball under Coleman and into the net.

Two chances fell for the visitors to seal all three points but Coleman was on hand to keep the Cannons in the game and it was the hosts who were to seal the win two minutes into additional time as Elito played Brown in and he unleashed a shot that flew into the left hand side of the goal to give Hythe a well-earned win that will help them move away from the relegation zone.

Special mention should be made of the referee who managed the game well in the very difficult conditions. Hythe have this win to build on as they prepare for next Saturday's game at home to Littlehampton Town. Kick off at Reachfields will be 3pm.

**Team: Joe Coleman, Ollie Gray, Tom Carlse, Vance Bola (Anthony Adesite 77mins) Lex Allan, Louie Procopi, David Ozobia, Medy Elito (Harry Rowland 90+3 mins), Danny Parish (D'Jean Spencer 79 mins) Tushaun Walters (Sammi Takaloo 83 mins), Ellis Brown. Sub Unused: Amadeus Addotey**

**Scorers: Hythe Town - Ellis Brown 43 & 90 +2 mins, Vance Bola 70 mins. Steyning Town - Ed Kazlauskas 5 mins, Harvey Killick 85 mins.**

**Attendance 127.**

**Erith Town 3 Hythe Town 0**

**Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

**Saturday 16th November 2024**

It was another bad afternoon for the Cannons as they were beaten 3-0 at Erith Town on Saturday. This was despite having a good proportion of the possession during the afternoon, but Hythe failed to capitalise.

Manager, Nick Davis made only one change to the starting line-up bringing in Danny Parish with Louie Procopi on the bench.

The early stages of the game were fairly even with the visitors having the bulk of the possession with Tushaun Walters having the first effort after only four minutes as he sent a free-kick the wrong side of the upright. Erith's first chance came a minute later as James Dyer drove the ball from 25 yards straight into the arms of Hythe keeper Joe Coleman.

As Hythe continued to press Anothony Adesite cut in and sent his effort wide. Despite the possession the visitors failed to turn this into goals and on 35 minutes Erith created an opportunity that could have led to an opening goal as a swerving shot by Harry Taylor from outside the penalty area was punched away by Coleman.

The Cannons were punished on 39 minutes as firstly Taylor unleashed a shot that was well saved by Coleman. From the resultant corner kick, Hayden Bullas sent the ball deep into the penalty area finding Taylor who ghosted in at the far post to head home to give the hosts the lead. Soon after it could have been two as Taylor headed home but the Referee's Assistant was flagging for offside.

The second half started with Hythe on the front foot as on 50 minutes Tom Carlse whipped in a cross that found Ollie Gray who under pressure couldn't get any angle on his header to threaten the goal. Then Walters broke through the home defence sending his final effort high over the bar. Gray was to then make a vital interception as Taylor was close in on goal.

Hythe were punished on 75 minutes for not turning possession into goals as another corner from Bullas again found the far post where this time substitute George Goodwin was on hand to head home. This knocked the stuffing out the Cannons as Erith were now to take control as Dyer broke free, but Coleman was quick off his line to block. However, Erith were not to be denied as

they got their third on 80 minutes as Bullas whipped in a cross and again the Hythe defence failed to intercept, and Dyer was on hand to head home.

There was no way back for the Cannons as they sunk to another defeat. They must find away to turn possession into goals if they are to escape the difficult position, they find themselves ins. They have a must win game next Saturday as they entertain bottom of the table Steyning Town. Kick off at Reachfields is 3pm.

**Team: Joe Coleman, Vance Bola, Tom Carlse, Siao Blackwood, Lex Allan, Ollie Gray, Anthony Adesite (Louie Procopi 80 mins), Medy Elito, Danny Parish (Kian Scott 75 mins), Tushaun Walters (Sammi Takaloo 84 mins), Ellis Brown (D’Jean Spencer 84 mins). Sub Unused: Amadeus Addotey.**

**Scorers: Erith Town - Harry Taylor 39 mins, George Goodwin 75 mins, James Dyer 80 mins**

**Yellow Cards: Anthony Adesite 13 mins, Siao Blackwood 63 mins.**

**Attendance: 162**

## **Hythe Town 2 Sevenoaks Town 4**

### **Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

#### **Saturday 9th November 2024**

Ten-man Sevenoaks Town overcame The Cannons as they won 4-2 on a chilly Saturday afternoon at Reachfields.

For the first time in a long while there were no changes to the Hythe starting line-up and in fact the substitutes were also the same as the previous Saturday.

The Oaks were straight onto the front foot as on only one minute Jefferson Aibangbee broke through a static home defence to put the ball past Hythe keeper Joe Coleman. This was a shock to Hythe. Tushaun Walters had the first opportunity to bring the scores level as he weaved his way in but lifted his final effort over the bar. At this stage it was the visitors who were creating the better chances as former Cannon Josh Wisson picked up a loose ball but sent his shot wide and then Rodney Eruotor drove the ball into the arms of Hythe Keeper Joe Coleman. Coleman was then to save well before things got worse for the Cannons on 19 minutes as the visitors were awarded a penalty. Up stepped Aibangbee who sent Coleman the wrong way.

Ellis Brown came close a minute later when he headed the ball against the inside of the upright. The visitors were reduced to ten men on 29 minutes when Ryan Sawyer deliberately tugged back a Hythe attacker in the penalty area. Anthony Adesite slotted the resultant penalty home neatly past Oaks’ keeper Jordan Perrin. Adesite nearly had a second as he worked his way in and shot just over the bar.

It was all square on 38 minutes as Adesite bundled the ball home after an Ellis Brown cross bounced around the penalty area. A couple of opportunities for the visitors firstly saw Ollie Gray under pressure clear well and then Wisson, who was a constant pain in the Cannons side, send a free kick just wide of the target.



The expectation from the home support was that Hythe would use the man advantage to go onto win the game and in the early part of the half they did threaten as Walters sent the ball over the bar and then Adesite played in Amadeus Addotey whose effort went straight at Perrin. Brown then laid the ball off to Vance Bola who fired wide.

As the half progressed it was Sevenoaks who began to take back control of the game as Coleman saved twice. Firstly, he tipped over an effort from Wisson and then he came off his line to block Mfula. However, Sevenoaks were not to be denied as on 68 minutes another former Cannon Mfula scrambled the ball home as the Hythe defence failed to clear and then the game was sealed on 82 minutes as another penalty was awarded to Sevenoaks for a challenge on Mfula by Lex Allan. Aibangbee put the ball just out of the reach of Coleman to make it 4-2.

There were a couple of chances for Walters to narrow the gap towards the end but there was never enough to threaten Sevenoaks as they were well worth their win.

It was a day when too many passes went astray, and the Cannons lacked a cutting edge up front. They now have a week to put things right as Hythe travel to Erith Town next Saturday. Kick off at Bayliss Avenue will be 3pm.

**Team: Joe Coleman, Louie Procopi (Amadeus Addotey 33 mins), Tom Carlse, Siao Blackwood (Kian Scott 87 mins), Lex Allan, Ollie Gray (D’Jean Spencer 70 mins), Anthony Adesite, Medy Elito, Vance Bola (Danny Parish 60 mins), Tushaun Walters, Ellis Brown. Sub Unused: Sammi Takaloo**

**Scorers: Hythe Town – Anthony Adesite 29 (Pen) & 38 mins. Sevenoaks Town – Jefferson Aibangbee 1, 19 (Pen), & 82 (Pen) mins.**

**Yellow Cards: Vance Bola 45 mins, Anthony Adesite 51 mins.**

**Attendance: 249**

## **Herne Bay 1 Hythe Town 1**

### **Pitching In Isthmian League South-East**

**Tuesday 5th November 2024**

The Cannons came away from Herne Bay on Tuesday evening with a well-earned point as they drew 1-1 with the hosts but could have gone on to get all three points.

Manager Nick Davis made only one change to the starting line-up bringing back Siao Blackwood to replace David Ozobia.

The early pressure came from the visitors but without any meaningful opportunities until the 18th minute when Louie Procopi crossed in from the right into Vance Bola whose shot lacked power and was easily collected by Bay keeper Thomas Crump. Bola was to turn defender as he snuffed out an attack from Scott Heard. The next chance came for the Cannons as an effort from 25 yards from Anthony Adesite drifted wide.

As the half-progressed Herne Bay looked more dangerous as they came back into the game. Former Cannon Ethan Smith blasted over and then Michael Salako shot across the face of goal from a tight angle on the left just missing the inside of the far post. Kane Rowland was next to have a chance as he broke free, but Hythe keeper Joe Coleman was quick of his line to block.

Adesite was again to produce an opening for Hythe as he laid the ball off to Tushaun Walters who bulged the side netting with his effort. However, it was the hosts who were to take the lead on 36 minutes as Salako received the ball in the penalty and then laid it off the Smith who worked his way into a shooting position before firing home to make it 1-0. The Bay had two more opportunities before the break as Liam Friend was denied by Coleman and Heard launched a shot high over the bar.

The second half saw the Cannons slowly get back into the game although the early chances came for Herne Bay with Coleman saving well from Salako and on 70 mins the Cannons were rewarded with a deserved equaliser as they were awarded a free kick just outside the left corner of the penalty area. Instead of shooting substitute Danny Parish played the ball into the path of Walters who slammed his shot into the corner of the home net giving Crump no chance and the scores were level.

Coleman was on hand to save again as stretching he manage to claw the ball the ball around the post from a Salako effort but it was Hythe who got the best two chances before the end as a Parish shot drifted just wide and then two minutes from time Ellis Brown worked his way in and then fed Sammi Takaloo whose effort just brushed the outside of the upright.

Again, this was an improved performance from the Cannons who can now look forward with confidence to Saturday's game when they entertain Sevenoaks Town. Kick off at Reachfields is 3pm.

**Team: Joe Coleman, Joe Procopi, Tom Carlse, Siao Blackwood, Lex Allan, Ollie Gray, Anthony Adesite (Danny Parish 65 mins), Medy Elito (Sammi Takaloo 88mins), Vance Bola, Tushaun Walters (D'Jean Spencer 84 mins), Ellis Brown Subs Unused: Amadeus Addotey, Kian Scott.**

**Scorers: Herne Bay – Ethan Smith 36 mins. Hythe Town – Tushaun Walters 71 mins.**

**Yellow Cards: Siao Blackwood 51 mins, Tom Carlse 80 mins, Vance Bola 89 mins.**

**Attendance: 308**

**Deal Town 3 Hythe Town 0**

**Pitching In Isthmian League South-East**

**Saturday 2nd November 2024**

Deal Town seem to have a curse over Hythe Town as they beat them for the third time this season. The hosts turned out 3-0 winners against the ten men of The Cannons who had the returning Ollie Gray controversially sent off at the Charles Sports Ground.

Along with Gray, manager Nick Davis included two other new signings in left-back Tom Carlse and Taushan Walters in the starting line-up along with David Ozobia who was substitute in the last game. They replaced Riley Court and Sam Smith who have been recalled by Maidstone United. Amadeus Addotey was on the bench and Siao Blackwood was not in the squad.

It was the visitors who were first on the attack as Lex Allan sent a header just over the bar after only three minutes. The hosts had their first meaningful chance on six minutes as a shot from Archie Hatcher went wide of the target. Deal went ahead after 17 minutes as Ife Oni broke through and pushed the ball past Hythe keeper Joe Coleman in to the back of the net.

Anthony Adesite did have an opportunity, as he drove through the Deal defence, but his final effort was easily saved by home keeper and former Cannon Adam Molloy. Then came the controversial moment on 27 minutes that was to have a huge impact on the rest of the game as Gray was adjudged to have committed a reckless challenge. He was, to the surprise of many in the ground, shown a straight red card. Many thought it was very harsh on the visitors.

The Hythe defence held firm and nearly went level three minutes before the break as Vance Bola fed Ellis Brown who shot wide. The ten men of Hythe were exposed right at the end of the first half when Coleman failed to clear the ball and Oni was on hand to put the ball into the Cannons net and give Deal a two-goal cushion at half time.

It was the Cannons who pressed in the second half to get back in the game as Bola turned and fired a shot against the upright and then soon after Molloy rescued the hosts as he pushed a shot from Bola away for a corner. Hythe continued to create chances as Danny Parish passed to Sammi Takaloo who launched an effort over the bar. Deal were still creating chances on the break as Joe Reeves forced a good save from Coleman.

Ozobia was to have one more attempt for the Cannons as he sent the ball over the bar, but it was Deal who were to extend their lead eight minutes from time when the ball was pulled back to Hatcher who finished neatly to make it 3-0.

The travelling support were left wondering how things could have been different had they not been reduced to ten men with over an hour left in the game. The Cannons must now regroup and build on some of the positives in the match as they travel to Herne Bay on Tuesday night. Kick off at Winch's Field is 7:45pm.

**Team: Joe Coleman, Joe Procopi, Tom Carlse, Medy Elito, Lex Allan, Ollie Gray, Anthony Adesite, David Ozobia, Vance Bola (D'Jean Spencer 86 mins), Tushan Walters (Danny Parish 64 mins), Ellis Brown (Sammi Takaloo 71mins) Subs Unused: Anthony Adesite, Kian Scott.**

**Scorers: Ife Oni 17 & 45 mins, Archie Hatcher 82 mins.**

**Red Card: Ollie Gray 27 mins. Yellow Cards: David Ozobia 53 mins, Lex Allan 64 mins.**

**Attendance: 605**

**Hythe Town 3 Lancing 0**

**Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

## **Saturday 26th October 2024**

It was a great afternoon for Hythe Town as they comprehensively beat fellow strugglers Lancing 3-0 at Reachfields on Saturday afternoon.

Nick Davis made four changes from Tuesday's cup tie at Deal Town bringing in Sam Smith, Riley Court, Medy Elito and new signing Ellis Brown to the starting lineup. The other new face, Danny Parish was included on the bench.

The Cannons pressed from the start and had their first attack on only five minutes when captain Lex Allan got on the end of a longball and sent a looping header on to the roof of the net. Hythe were ahead on seven minutes when they were awarded a free kick on the left-hand side of the penalty area. Instead of sending in a cross Riley Court fired a pinpoint kick into the far corner of the net to make it 1-0.

Siao Blackwood was next into the action as he curled an effort into the arms of Lancing keeper Alieu Secka. The visitors had to wait half an hour before their first opening as a shot from Lewis Lembikisa was smothered by Hythe keeper Joe Coleman. However, it was Hythe who would extend their lead as they swept forward and were two ahead on 36 minutes as Vance Bola surged through the Lancing defence and released new signing Ellis Brown who fired home

Lancing were having the occasional attack as Luke Robinson sent an effort wide from 25 yards but it was the hosts who continued to dominate as the ever dangerous Anthony Adesite played in Bola who side footed wide. However, two minutes into injury time Hythe were three up as Bola surged forward and fed the ball off to Brown who finished neatly to extend their lead.

The second half continued with Hythe on the front foot as Sam Smith worked himself into a shooting position on the edge of the area, but his final attempt drifted just wide. Ellis was denied his hat-trick as Secka was quickly off his line to block and then he turned provider as he crossed into Bola who headed just wide. The visitors offered very little, and any attack was repelled by the much-improved home defence and Smith was to show this as he brilliantly dispossessed Shay Matthews before he could get a shot away.

Ten minutes from time Adesite drove forward down the left-hand side feeding the ball into the other debutant Parish whose final effort went just wide. There were a couple of late efforts from the visitors as Coleman saved from Robinson and Harry Docherty, but it was far too late to impact on the result. There was one more chance for the hosts as Parish, deep in injury time, had a shot saved by Secka.

This was an enormous improvement for the Cannons after a very difficult start to the season and this should give enormous confidence for the next game as they make their third visit of the season to Deal Town next Saturday. It is very hard to pick out a player who did not put in a shift and there was delight for the home supporters at the final whistle and encouragement of better times ahead.

**Team: Joe Coleman, Amadeus Addotey (David Ozobia 32 mins), Sam Smith, Siao Blackwood, Lex Allan, Louie Procopi, Anthony Adesite (Kian Scott 87 mins), Medy Elito, Vance Bola, Riley Court (Danny Parish 77 mins), Ellis Brown (Sammi Takaloo 66 mins). Sub Unused: D'Jean Spencer.**

**Scorers: Hythe Town – Riley Court 7 mins, Ellis Brown 36 & 45+2 mins.**

**Yellow Card: David Ozobia 90 mins.**

**Attendance: 186**

**Deal Town 3 Hythe Town 0**

**Kent Senior Cup 2nd Round**

**Tuesday 22nd October 2024**

The Cannons are out of all the Cup for 2024/2025 as they went down 3-0 at Deal Town in the Kent Senior Cup on Tuesday evening.

Manager Nick Davis made five changes to the starting line-up with Lex Allan returning from his one match ban and Theo McKenzie, D’Jean Spencer, Amadeus Addotey, and Kelvin Ogboe all coming in.

The early stages of the game were similar to the match at Sittingbourne on Saturday as both sides battled hard but failed to create an opening until the 12th minute when Vance Bola broke through the Deal defence but couldn’t get his shot away as the home defence cleared the ball away. With their first attack the hosts took the lead as a cross from the right from Zak Hammond found its way through to Morgan Page who finished neatly to make it 1-0.

Hythe keeper Joe Coleman was on hand to block a breakthrough from Archie Hatcher and he was again on hand as he was quickly off his line to prevent Ife Oni putting Deal further ahead. The Cannons were also saved three minutes before half time by some excellent defending by Louie Procopi and he intercepted the ball from Jack Paxman.

The second period started badly for the Cannons as three minutes into the half a deep cross from Alfie Foster caught out the Hythe defence and Oni was on hand to fire home on the far post. Things got even worse for Hythe six minutes later as Oni broke through and slotted the ball past Coleman to put the game out of the reach of the visitors.

However, this is where the story changed from last Saturday as the introduction of substitute Kian Scott seemed to spark new life into Hythe as firstly Addotey cut in from the right and unleashed a shot just over. The whole shape of the game changed as the Cannons laid siege to the home goal. Bola sent in a curling shot that was saved by former Hythe keeper Adam Molloy and then he had another effort that was deflected wide. With the away support willing them on, Scott had two efforts that didn’t quite hit the target and then Anthony Adesite had an attempt that was deflected over.

The Cannons continued to press and forced several corners as they looked to get back in the game including a chance that saw Bola cross into Scott who headed over. The travelling support had no hesitation in awarding the Away Player of the Match to Kian Scott (pictured receiving his award from Phil Basher) who fully deserved that accolade.

The last quarter of the game showed how the team could perform, and it was disappointing that this spark didn’t come until the last half hour of the game. They will be able to build on this improvement on Saturday when they have a must win game at home to struggling Lancing on Saturday. Kick off is 3pm.

**Team: Joe Coleman, Amadeus Addotey, Theo Mckenzie, (Kian Scott 50 mins), Siao Blackwood, Lex Allan, Louie Procopi, Anthony Adesite, David Ozobia, Vance Bola, D’Jean Spencer (Josh Theobald 60 mins), Kelvin Ogboe (Sammi Takaloo 62 mins).**

**Scorers: Deal Town - Morgan Page 20 mins, Ife Oni 48 & 54 mins.**

**Yellow Card: Siao Blackwood 90 +1 mins**

**Attendance: 343**

## **Sittingbourne 6 Hythe Town 0**

### **Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

#### **Saturday 19th October 2024**

If it wasn’t for Hythe keeper Joe Coleman, the 6-0 defeat at Sittingbourne on Saturday afternoon could have been far worse.

Manager Nick Davis made three changes to the starting line up with Medy Elito, Michael Aziaya and Riley Court coming into the side to replace the suspended Lex Allan, Sam Smith and D’Jean Spencer.

The early exchanges were very even with neither side creating any meaningful opportunities and the first chance didn’t come until the 17th minute when Court broke through for Hythe. He played the ball off to Vance Bola who couldn’t get his shot away. However, with their first real attack of the game on 25 minutes Sittingbourne were ahead. Joe Boachie played the ball over to Mitchell May who was able to walk the ball into the net.

The whole shape of the game changed as the spirit seemed to be taken out of the Cannons. In fact, only eight minutes later the hosts doubled their lead. Richie Hamill sent in a corner to the far post finding former Cannon Jack Steventon who headed the ball back to May who slid home for his second. Four minutes before the break it was three as Donvieve Jones picked up the ball just outside the area and blasted through a crowd of players and into the net.

There was no fight from Hythe and the first half ended as the demolition continued a minute into additional time as another former Cannon Troy Howard pulled the ball back into the path of May who side footed home to complete his hat-trick and make it four at the break.

Hythe did have the first attack of the second half as Court broke through but from a tight angle his shot went just wide but it was a mere rest bite as the hosts continued to swarm forward. Jones was to be denied by Coleman and then Howard unleashed a shot that was pushed onto the post by the Cannons keeper. They were not to be denied and on 53 minutes May got his fourth.

Coleman continued to prevent any further goals until three minutes into stoppage time when the final salt was poured onto the Hythe wounds as Henry Sinai and Ryan Kingsford combined down the left before the former pulled the ball back to Kingsford who fired home to complete the Cannons misery.

It had been a humbling defeat for the visitors and a number of players need to look at themselves to prevent this sort of defeat happening again. They will have the opportunity to put things right as they travel to Deal Town on Tuesday evening in the Second Round of the Kent Senior Cup. Kick-off at the Charles Sports Ground is 7:45pm.

**Team: Joe Coleman, Louie Procopi, Medy Elito (Josh Theobald 80 mins), Siao Blackwood, Harry Rowland (Amadeus Addotey 54 mins), Michael Aziaya, Anthony Adesite, David Ozobia, Vance Bola (Kian Scott 72 mins) , Riley Court (Kelvin Ogboe 60 mins), Sammi Takaloo (D’Jean Spencer 45 mins).**

**Scorers: Sittingbourne – Mitchell May 25, 33, 45+1 & 53 mins, Donvieve Jones 41 mins, Ryan Kingsford 90+3 mins.**

**Yellow Card: Anthony Adesite 38 mins**

**Attendance: 276**

## **Hythe Town 1 Eastbourne Town 2**

### **Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

**Saturday 12th October 2024**

Hythe can count themselves unlucky as they went down 2-1 at home to Eastbourne Town on Saturday afternoon.

Manager Nick Davis made a number of changes to the starting line-up with D’Jean Spencer, Harry Rowland, Siao Blackwood & Sammi Takaloo coming into the starting line-up. One special mention should be made of Lex Allan who was making his 100th appearance for the Cannons.

The first chance came for Eastbourne on only four minutes as James Waters pulled a shot wide and at the other end Vance Bola turned and shot through a crowd, but his effort also went wide of the target. The visitors should have gone ahead with the next move as the ball was played in to the box finding Waters who was free but he side footed wide. Alfie Simmons had the next effort with the Hythe keeper Joe Coleman getting down well to his right to save and then David Ozobia saved home blushes as he hooked the ball off the line.

Hythe were still creating opportunities, and it was Spencer who played the ball out to Louie Procopi whose shot was well saved by Eastbourne keeper Chris Winterton. Then, there followed an even spell where both sides worked hard but neither were able to create any meaningful openings until the 40th minute. Simmons played the ball through to James Stone, who whipped in a cross finding the unmarked Marcin Ruda who side footed home. Just before the break Coleman was to deny two efforts from James Ding and Jack Murphy but a second would have flattered the visitors.

The Cannons were level on 51 minutes as Sammi Takaloo got on the end of a long through ball and broke down the right-hand channel sending his final effort past Eastbourne keeper Chris Winterton into the net to make it 1-1. Hythe had deserved the equaliser and were playing with belief but the whole game changed on the hour as Ruda was brought down just outside the area by Allan. As he prevented a goal scoring opportunity, the referee had no hesitation in showing a

red card to the Hythe captain reducing the hosts to ten men. Up stepped substitute Leon Greig who buried the free kick into the corner of the net to give Eastbourne the lead.

To their credit the hosts didn't give up and went looking for the equaliser. Bola broke free and his side footed effort was pushed around the post by Winterton. There was a golden opportunity for the visitors to seal the game as a cross from Murphy found Freddie Warren who scooped the ball over from close range. But it was the Cannons who continued to press with two chances in injury time as a cross from Blackwood was headed on by Josh Theobald, but Winterton saved and then a effort by Blackwood himself sailed over the bar.

Despite showing great spirit the equaliser was not it was not to come, and Eastbourne went back to East Sussex with all three points in the bag. There was certainly continued improvement in the Cannons performance, but they now have a week to wait before they are back in action next Saturday when they face the tough trip to high flying Sittingbourne in a league fixture. Kick off at Woodstock Park is 3pm.

**Team: Joe Coleman, Louie Procopi, Sam Smith, Siao Blackwood, Lex Allan, Harry Rowland (Kelvin Ogboe 84 mins), Anthony Adesite, David Ozobia, Vance Bola, D'Jean Spencer (Josh Theobald 70 mins), Sammi Takaloo (Kian Scott 73 mins). Subs Unused: Amadeus Addotey.**

**Scorers: Hythe Town – Sammi Takaloo 51 mins. Eastbourne Town: Marcin Ruda 40 mins, Leon Greg 60 mins.**

**Red Card: Lex Allan 60 mins. Yellow Card: Siao Blackwood 85 mins.**

**Attendance: 208**

AFC Croydon Athletic 3 Hythe Town 1

Pitching In Isthmian League South East

Saturday 5th October 2024

Almost as a repeat of last week, the Cannons went in at half time a goal up but again were overturned in the second half at AFC Croydon Athletic as they went down 3-1 on Saturday afternoon.

Manager Nick Davis made two changes to the starting line-up as Michael Aziaya came in for Siao Blackwood and new signing from Ramsgate Vences Bola replaced Alex Gibson-Hammond.

Similar to the previous game it was Hythe who started the brighter as on ten minutes Riley Court broke through only to be denied by AFC Croydon Athletic keeper Amadou Tangara. Then came the incident on twelve minutes that would make life really hard for the Cannons as a reckless challenge by Theo McKenzie resulted in Hythe being reduced to ten men as the referee had no hesitation in bringing out his red card.

Hythe keeper Joe Coleman was immediately called into action as he saved a shot from Finlay Marjoram and then Kevant Serbonji blasted just over but the referee's assistant had his flag up for offside. Coleman was at his best again as Marjoram played the ball into Alpha Diallo, but the keeper was quick to stop.



The Cannons were then to take the lead as Riley Court, who had been a handful for the home defence in the first period, was brought down in the penalty area. Up stepped Anthony Adesite who sent Tangara the wrong way burying his kick into the corner of the net. Coleman again saved this time from Cian McCartney and then at the other end Court got into an attacking position but couldn't get his final shot away. A late free kick from Pape Souare curled just wide of the target.

Being down to ten men was always going to make it hard for the Cannons to hold on and on 55 minutes the hosts were level as Tom Collins broke through and planted his effort past Coleman and into the Hythe net. The visitors did have an opportunity on 65 minutes as Bola played the ball into Jahmal Hector-Ingram, but he couldn't get enough power on the ball to threaten Tangara. David Ozobia did have a chance but his final effort went high and wide.

Hythe were then punished as David Omilabu came in from the left and his shot deflected over Coleman and into the net to make it 2-1. That seemed to kill the Cannons resolve as they didn't threaten an equaliser, and it was AFC Croydon continued to have the initiative as a free kick from Souare curled just over and then Brandon Pierrick shot straight at Coleman. However, the hosts were not to be denied as they got their third deep into second half stoppage time as a cross from Majoram was side footed home by Pierrick to make it 3-1 to rub salt in the Hythe wounds.

The defeat was the fourth on the spin and must look to return to form when they entertain Eastbourne Town next Saturday. Kick off at Reachfields is 3pm.

Team: Joe Coleman, Louie Procopi, Theo McKenzie (Finn Whitton 71 mins), Michael Aziaya (Siao Blackwood 56 mins), Lex Allan, Sam Smith, Anthony Adesite (Finn Whitton 62 mins), David Ozobia, Jahmal Hector-Ingram (Kian Scott 78 mins), Vences Bola, Riley Court. Subs Unused: Sammi Takaloo, Oscar Webb.

Scorers: AFC Croydon Athletic – Tom Collins 55 mins, David Omilabu 80 mins, Brandon Pierrick 90+4 mins. Hythe Town – Anthony Adesite 34 mins (Pen).

Red Cards: Theo McKenzie 12 mins. Yellow Cards: Michael Aziaya 25 mins, Louie Procopi 53 mins, Siao Blackwood 88 mins, Riley Court 90+1 mins.

Attendance 133.

## **Steyping Town 2 Hythe Town 1**

### **Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

#### **Saturday 28th September 2024**

The Cannons came from Saturday's game at Steyping Town wondering how they let the hosts back into the game after dominating the first hour as they went down 2-1.

Manager Nick Davis made three changes to the starting line up as Sam Smith, Riley Court and Siao Blackwood returned.

Hythe were first on the attack as Jahmal Hector-Ingram took a little too long to get his shot away as he moved in from the right and the ball was blocked. The hosts had to wait until the 16th minute to threaten as Hythe keeper saved two efforts from Lloyd Francis in quick succession. However, it was Hythe who were having the lion's share of the game and on half an hour they got the goal that their performance deserved as Hector-Ingram played the ball onto Court who took his time before burying his shot into the far corner of the net.

An attempt from Anthony Adesite was slammed into the side netting and then at the other end Francis Coleman was on hand to steal the ball from Francis as he tried to round the keeper. The half ended with Riley Court who had been a thorn in Steyning's side worked his way into a scoring position before sending his final effort just the wrong side of the upright.

The second half started in the same pattern as a header from Hythe captain Lex Allan was blocked with the rebound falling to Siao Blackwood whose attempt was also blocked. Alex Gibson-Hammond was then to be denied by home keeper Nathan Stromberg-Clarke before a rare Steyning attack saw Ollie Hyland shoot over.

However, as the second period progressed Steyning began to come back into the game applying more pressure. The next Hythe attack was more on the break as David Ozobia played the ball out to Gibson-Hammond whose final attempt went wide. The pressure from the hosts was eventually rewarded on 75 minutes as Jack Barnes pocked the ball through to Alfie Rogers who managed to push the ball passed Coleman and into the Hythe net.

Steyning almost went ahead on 76 minutes as Charlie Meehan turned and shot but Coleman saved. The whole pattern of the game had changed and it was now the visitors who were hanging on as a last ditched clearance from Gibson-Hammond saved Hythe. However, the hosts were not to be denied as on 87 minutes Barnes whipped in a cross that was diverted into the net by Rogers.

There was no way back for the Cannons who should have already had the game dead and buried. They must look at how they lost their way as they travel to AFC Croydon Athletic next Saturday afternoon. Kick off is 3pm.

**Team: Joe Coleman, Louie Procopi, Theo McKenzie (Finn Whitton 71 mins), Siao Blackwood (Oscar Webb 78 mins), Lex Allan, Sam Smith, Anthony Adesite, David Ozobia, Jahmal Hector-Ingram (Bruno Tavares 65 mins), Riley Court, Alex Gibson Hammond (Sammi Takaloo 82 mins).**

**Scorers: Steyning Town – Alfie Rogers 76 & 87 mins. Hythe Town – Riley Court 30 mins.**

**Yellow Cards: Riley Court 45 mins, Joe Coleman 57 mins, Siao Blackwood 60 mins, Sam Smith 61 mins.**

**Attendance 140.**

**Sheppey United 1 Hythe Town 1**

**(Hythe Town won 5-3 on Pens.)**

**Kent Senior Cup 1st Round**

**Tuesday 23rd September 2024**

Whatever manager Nick Davis said to the team after the very poor performance on Saturday really worked wonders as the Cannons rebounded with an impressive performance as they won 5-3 on penalties after a 1-1 draw at Sheppey United on Tuesday evening in the Kent Senior Cup 1st Round.

There were a number of changes in the starting line up with Theo McKenzie coming in for his debut and Martin Aziaya, Oscar Webb, Anthony Adesite, Finn Whitton and Jahmal Hector-Ingram coming back to the starting line-up.

The first chance fell to the hosts on only four minutes as a shot went straight at Hythe keeper Joe Coleman with the visitors having their opening effort on ten minutes as David Ozobia worked his way into a shooting position, but his final attempt was lifted over the bar. There were chances coming at both ends as Victor Aiye drove a shot wide of the target and then a moment of magic led to Sheppey taking the lead on 22 minutes. Jordy Ndozid won a challenge on Oscar Webb with the ball coming to Rhys Wyborn who unleashed a dipping shot from the left-hand corner of the penalty area. The ball sailed over Coleman into the far corner of the net to the delight of the home crowd.

The visitors were denied by former Cannon keeper Aidan Prall who palmed an Adesite shot around the post. At the other end, just before the break, Coleman did well to come off his line and smother an effort from Dami Olorunnisomo.

After half time it was Sheppey who were first to threaten as Eitel Goueth should have done better when one on one with Coleman. He allowed the keeper to block and then a corner from Danny Leonard was headed wide by Dan Bradshaw.

The Cannons had a golden opportunity to draw level on 63 minutes when Olorunnisomo brought down Hector-Ingram in the penalty area. The referee had no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot. Up stepped Hector-Ingram but his effort was poor and easily saved by Prall. He nearly made amends a couple of minutes later when he broke through, but his final effort curled just the wrong side of the upright.

Hythe were now looking more positive as they looked for the equaliser with Ozobia firing over. At the other end Gil Carvalho played the ball into Jacob Lambert but he screwed his attempt wide. There was still more coming from the Cannons as debutant D'Jean Spencer hit a shot into the arms of Prall.

Then came the goal on 86 minutes that would take the game to penalties. Captain Lex Allan sent a long ball into the path of substitute Sammi Takaloo. Prall came off his line and calmly Takaloo lifted the ball over the oncoming keeper and into the Sheppey net. Spencer had a shot deflected for a corner and deep into injury time Aiye broke through, but Louie Procopi made an excellent interception to prevent a winner that would have been cruel on the Cannons.

The penalty shoot-out started well for Hythe as Spencer netted the first Hythe kick and Coleman saved Sheppey's first. The next four from Adesite, Siao Blackwood, and Ozobia all took perfect penalties that were all out of the reach of Prall and it was left to young striker Kian Scott to follow suit and take the Cannons into the Second Round where they will travel to Deal Town.

This win was well earned and will give the Cannons confidence as they travel to Steyning Town on Saturday afternoon. Kick off down in Sussex is 3pm.

**Team: Joe Coleman, Finn Whitton, Theo McKenzie (Kian Scott 68 mins), Michael Aziaya (Siao Blackwood 68 mins), Lex Allan, Louie Procopi, Anthony Adesite, David Ozobia, Jahmal Hector-Ingram (Amadeus Addotey 82 mins), Oscar Webb (D’Jean Spencer 74 mins), Alex Gibson-Hammond (Sammi Takaloo 73 mins)**

**Scorers: Sheppey United – Rhys Wyborn 22 mins. Hythe Town – Sammi Takaloo 86 mins.**

**Yellow Card: Finn Whitton 51 mins.**

**Attendance:177**

**Hythe Town 0 Erith Town 5**

**Pitching In Isthmian League South East**

**Saturday 21st September 2024**

The Cannons suffered a humiliating defeat on Saturday as they went down 5-0 at home to newly promoted Erith Town on a warm sunny afternoon at Reachfields.

Manager Nick Davis made four changes with Harry Rowland, Bruno Tavares, Kian Scott all returning to the starting line-up and new loanee Sam Smith making his debut for the Cannons.

It was Hythe who created the first opportunity on three minutes as Bruno Tavares tried to lob Erith keeper Nathan Edwards, but he mistimed his attempt, and the ball drifted well wide. However, the visitors then took control of the game as a cross from Ollie Milton found James Dyer who got the ball stuck between his feet and couldn’t get a shot away.

On 16 minutes the Dockers were ahead as the ball bounced around the penalty area before ending up with Callum McGeehan who found the net easily to make it one nil. The pressure continued with a shot from Milton that deflected off a defender meaning Hythe keeper Joe Coleman had to stretch to catch the ball. The second came on 34 minutes as Siao Blackwood brought Milton down as he cut in along the byline. There can be no argument as the referee pointed to the spot and Dyer slammed his kick into the left-hand corner of the net giving Coleman no chance.

It could have been worse for the hosts as a mistake from Louie Procopi was pounced on by Herry Taylor who rounded Coleman before sending his final effort wide. Hythe had an opportunity to get one back as the other loanee from Maidstone, Riley Court, got onto a ball from Tavares and forced a save from Edwards. However, the half ended in the worst way possible for the hosts as they failed to clear the ball, and Dyer was able to hook the ball into the net to put Erith 3-0 up at the break.

The Cannons seemed to be still on their half time break as Erith’s fourth came in the 46th minute as Dyer surged forward with little opposition and looped the ball over Coleman to make it four and complete his hat-trick. The debuts of both Court and Smith were one of the few positives that could be taken out of the Hythe performance and the former sent a shot that was caught by Edwards. This was a rare threat from Hythe and Erith were back on the attack as Finn Whitton was dispossessed by Milton who forced a good save from Coleman.

Erith rubbed salt in the Hythe wounds on 68 minutes as a shot from Hayden Bullas was blocked by Coleman, but the rebound came out to Taylor who slammed the ball home. There were a couple of chances for Hythe to narrow the deficit as Blackman firstly headed over from a Court free kick and then Tavares shot straight at Edwards. Finally, as the game went into injury time Court worked his way into a shooting position with his final effort pushed wide by Edwards.

The Cannons have a lot to think about to put things right ongoing and they have a chance as they travel to Sheppey United on Tuesday night for their Kent Senior Cup 1st Round tie. Kick off at Holm Park is 7:45pm.

**Team: Joe Coleman, Harry Rowland (Finn Whitton 47 mins), Sam Smith, Siao Blackwood (Michael Aziaya 73 mins), Lex Allan, Louie Procopi, Kian Smith (Jahmal Hector-Ingram 60 mins), David Ozobia (Riley Court 35 mins), Bruno Tavares, Sam Blackwood, Alex Gibson-Hammond (Sammi Takaloo 81 mins).**

**Scorers: Erith Town - Calum McGeehan 8 mins, James Dyer 34 pen, 44 and 46 mins, Harry Taylor 68 mins.**

**Yellow Cards: Joe Coleman 33 mins, Riley Court 46 mins.**

**Attendance: 252**

## **Sevenoaks Town 1 Hythe Town 0**

### **Pitching In Isthmian League South-East**

#### **Saturday 14th September 2024**

The Cannons can count themselves very unlucky as they succumbed to a late goal at Sevenoaks Town going down 1-0 on Saturday afternoon.

Manager Nick Davis made only change to the starting line up as Siao Blackwood came in for his first start for Hythe Town replacing Michael Aziaya who was on the bench. The hosts had three ex-Cannons in their line up as Danny Devine, Josh Wisson and Warren Mfula all were in the Sevenoaks starting eleven.

The Cannons edged the first half without cresting many openings. There was one clear cut chance for Sam Blackman, but the Sevenoaks defence held firm. Towards the break there were strong appeals from the hosts for a penalty for hand ball which were turned down by the referee.

As the game moved into the second half Sevenoaks came more into the game with the Hythe defence standing up to the increased pressure. On 83 minutes Hythe keeper Joe Coleman was on hand to save well but eventually Sevenoaks got the goal that proved to be the winner on 85 minutes. Mfula found Ayomide Majekodunmi who's first attempt is blocked but the rebound comes back to him, and he makes no mistake with the second attempt to give Sevenoaks the three points.

The defeat was harsh on the Cannons who continue to show improvement, and their luck must change sooner rather than later.

Hythe take a break from league action as they travel to Deal Town on Tuesday evening in the Velocity Cup. Kick off at the Charles Sports Ground in 7:45pm.

**Team:** Joe Coleman, Louie Procopi, Harry Rowland, Siao Blackwood, Lex Allan, Jake Goodman, Kian Scott (Michael Azaiya 58 mins), David Ozobia (Oscar Webb 58 mins), Bruno Tavares, Sam Blackman, Alex Gibson-Hammond. **Subs Unused:** Finn Whitton, Lesley Duru.

**Scorer:** Sevenoaks Town - Ayomide Majekodunmi 85 mins.

**Yellow Card:** Jake Goodman 89 mins.

**Attendance** 123

## **Hythe Town 1 Three Bridges 2**

### **Isuzu FA Trophy 1st Qualifying Round**

**Saturday 7th September 2024**

Hythe were narrowly beaten by Three Bridges in the First Qualifying Round of the FA Trophy on Saturday afternoon at Reachfields.

Manager Nick Davis made three changes from the mid-week defeat away at Ramsgate, as Jack Steventon (now departed to Sittingbourne), Stefan Wright and Sam Blackman (unavailable due to loan agreement), who were not in the matchday squad, were replaced by Lesley Duru, Sammi Takaloo and Louie Procopi.

The match got off to the worst possible start for Hythe as, after just five minutes, the ball was squared in from the left-wing to Elliott Romain for Three Bridges, who tapped the ball in to give the visitors the lead. Hythe did their best to level the game, as a corner was glanced wide of the goal by Louie Procopi on eight minutes, before a ball launched up field to Bruno Tavares on the right-hand side was met, with Tavares beating his man to the by-line and attempting an ambitious shot which was fired into the side netting.

On 31 minutes, Three Bridges doubled their advantage with a goal similar to their first - Hayden Velvick made his way down the left-hand side of the pitch and crossed to Kevin Rivera, who knocked the ball towards goal.

Goalkeeper Joe Coleman stuck a hand out but missed, and the ball went in to make it 2-0. It was nearly three on the brink of half-time, with Archie Burnett breaking free and hitting a shot at goal, which Joe Coleman managed to parry away.

The second half began without many chances, but it was obvious that the game had become more even - Hythe's build up play had improved since the introduction of substitute Oscar Webb, but the cutting edge was still missing. On 72 minutes, the Cannons had their best chance of the game so far, as Lesley Duru darted down the left wing and squared the ball towards Kian Scott, who beat his man to the shot which he dragged narrowly past the post.

Hythe had a chance from a free-kick with six minutes remaining, as Oscar Webb lined up a shot from 25 yards out, which he fired narrowly over the bar. However, Hythe did manage to find the back of the net right at the death, when a long ball from Harry Rowland was nodded on by Josh

Theobald onto the head of Bruno Tavares, who guided it past the keeper to give Hythe some hope.

Unfortunately, the Cannons were unable to build on their goal as the full-time whistle blew to call time on their FA Trophy campaign for the season. Hythe fans can take solace from their much-improved second half performance and will hope to see a similar display on Tuesday night as they welcome Herne Bay in the league at 7:45pm.

**Team: Joe Coleman, Finn Whitton (Harry Rowland 65 mins), Lesley Duru (Josh Theobald 88 mins), Louie Procopi, Lex Allan, Jake Goodman, Sammi Takaloo (Oscar Webb 58 mins), David Ozobia, Bruno Tavares, Kian Scott, Makhaya James.**

**Scorers: Hythe Town - Bruno Tavares 90 mins. Three Bridges - Elliott Romain 5 mins, Kevin Rivera 31 mins.**

**Attendance: 144**

## **Ramsgate 2 Hythe Town 0**

### **Pitching In Isthmian League South-East**

**Tuesday 3rd September 2024**

Whilst it was a third consecutive defeat for the Cannons, it was a much-improved performance as they went down 2-0 at title favorites Ramsgate on a warm and muggy Tuesday evening.

Manager Nick Davis made three changes to the starting eleven with Stefan Wright, David Ozobia and Makhaya James coming in for Joe Bingham, Lesley Duru and Martin Youngah.

High flying Ramsgate were quickly into their stride as on five minutes Medy Elito, who was reported to have joined Hythe at the start of the season, sent a shot high over the bar. A brilliant piece of defending from Lex Allan defused the next home attack as he dispossessed Joe Taylor as the Rams prolific striker broke through.

The Rams were ahead on 18 minutes as the ball came across the Hythe penalty area to the far post where Tushaun Walters was on hand to slot the ball home. It was an ex-Cannon in Aaron Barnes who was next to threaten but his final effort was saved well by Hythe keeper Joe Coleman. On 28 minutes the visitors had their first attempt on goal as Ozobia blasted a shot that stung the hands of Rams keeper Tom Hadler.

The hosts continued to dominate as Elito had a shot parried away by Coleman and then Tom Clifford launched a shot over the bar. Deep into first half injury time Wright sent in a dipping shot that he was unlucky to see just clear the Ramsgate cross bar. So, it was 1-0 at the break and the Hythe defence could be proud of their performance in the first period as they snuffed out many Ramsgate attacks.

The second period started in the same manner but finally the Rams got their second on 55 minutes, Barnes had a shot blocked and Taylor was on hand to follow up and blast the ball home. Coleman was to make a couple of great saves from Elito and Taylor, but chances were limited as again the Hythe defence stood strong and the hosts had to settle for the 2-0 win.

The Cannons now have a break from league action as they entertain Three Bridges on Saturday in the 1st Qualifying Round of the FA Trophy.

**Team:** Joe Coleman, Finn Whitton (Louie Procopi 73 mins), Stefan Wright, Jack Steventon, Lex Allan, Jake Goodman, Kian Scott (Sammi Takaloo 68 mins), David Ozobia (Harry Rowland 86 mins), Bruno Tavares, Sam Blackman (Oscar Webb 68 mins), Makhaya James (Lesley Duru 72 mins).

**Scorers:** Ramsgate - Tushaun Walters 18 mins, Joe Taylor 56 mins

**Yellow Card:** Jack Steventon 64 mins

**Attendance:** 656

## **Hythe Town 0 Sheppey United 4**

### **Pitching In Isthmian League South-East**

#### **Monday 28th August 2024**

The Cannons suffered their second 4-0 defeat of the Bank Holiday weekend as they went down to Sheppey United at Reachfields on Monday afternoon.

Manager Nick Davis made four changes with Finn Whitton, Martin Youngah, Jake Goodman and Kian Scott coming into the starting line up with David Ozobia, Makhaya James and Louie Procopi dropping back to the bench and Stefan Wright unavailable.

Despite the score this was a much better performance than the defeat at Beckenham Town with Jake Goodman creating the first chance on eleven minutes as he hit a shot from 25 yards was spilt by keeper Aiden Prall, but the former Cannon was able to recover. Sheppey had their first opportunity on 14 minutes as the visitors' captain Danny Leonard whipped a free kick into the side netting and then a dipping shot from Jordy Nzoid was tipped over by Hythe keeper Joe Coleman. This period of pressure was rewarded on 21 minutes as the Islanders took the lead. Lesley Duru failed to clear, and Leonard pounced on the loose ball to cross into Gil Carvalho who finished easily from close range.

Nzoid was then to hit a shot straight into the arms of Coleman. However, Hythe were still creating chances and should have been level on 28 minutes when Lex Allan played the ball into Joe Bingham who lifted his attempt over from close range. Seven minutes later the Cannons were punished when a mistake by Finn Whitton saw the ball stolen by Jacob Lambert and Danial Carr finished neatly to make it 2-0. There was little more goalmouth action before the break with Sheppey going in for half-time with a two-goal advantage.

It was important for Hythe to get an early goal at the start of the second period and Bruno Tavares had a breakaway ten minutes into the half as he ran in but delayed his effort and eventually had his final shot deflected wide. It was, however, Sheppey who began to regain the initiative as Leonard had a shot deflected wide for a corner and then Carvalho drove in a free kick that Coleman had to save at full stretch. In the following melee Hythe were grateful for a desperate clearance from Allan to save them going further behind.



Sheppey were rewarded with a third on 75 minutes as a Carvalho cross found Carr who headed home his second. Coleman was in the action again as a snapshot from Victor Aiyelabola was saved. Finally, Sheppey were to rub salt in the Hythe wounds a minute from full-time when a shot from Lambert was blocked with the rebound coming out to Eitel Moumi Goueth who slammed the ball home.

There were some positives to take out the game that gives some encouragement but there is still a lot to do for the management team. There is no game for Hythe on Saturday with the next match being a difficult trip to Ramsgate on Tuesday 3rd September 2024. The game kicks off at 7:45pm.

**Team: Joe Coleman, Finn Whitton, Lesley Duru (Louie Procopi 85 mins), Jack Steventon, Lex Allan, Jake Goodman, Kian Scott (Sammi Takaloo 66 mins), Joe Bingham, Bruno Tavares, Sam Blackman (Makhaya James 65 mins), Martin Youngah (David Ozobia 54 mins)**

**Goal Scorers: Sheppey United - Gil Carvalho 21 mins, Daniel Carr 35 & 75 mins, Eitel Moumi Goueth 89 mins.**

**Yellow Card: Jack Steventon 45 mins.**

**Attendance: 402**

Beckenham Town 4 Hythe Town 0  
Pitching In Isthmian League South-East  
Saturday 24th August 2023

The game on Saturday at Beckenham Town showed there is much to do for the new Hythe Manager Nick Davis as his new side were heavily beaten 4-0 at Eden Park Avenue on a damp afternoon.

There were three new signings on show with former Cannon Sam Blackman returning for another loan spell at Reachfields, this time from Folkestone Invicta. He replaced Ephraim Adanemhen, Experienced midfielder Stefan Wright has joined the club and was in for Oscar Webb and Fin Whitton was on the bench. Joe Bingham was also back in the side replacing Jake Goodman.

Beckenham were first out of the blocks as on only three minutes Louie Theophanous sent a header wide of the target and then a curling shot from Freddie Nyus was pushed on to the post by Hythe keeper Joe Coleman. The home attack were laying siege to the Hythe defence as Jamarie Brissett shot straight at Coleman who held onto the ball. The Cannons did have their first opportunity on 13 minutes as Blackman had a free kick just outside the Beckenham penalty area, but his effort curled into the arms of home keeper Sam Freeman.

However, on 15 minutes the hosts were deservedly ahead as Brissett picked up the ball, turned and shot past Coleman into the Hythe net to make it 1-0. The pressure did not relent as Steven Townsend force Coleman to save and then a corner from Theophanous found Jack Holland who turned and fired over the bar. In between the chances that were being created by Beckenham Makhaya James shot wide at the other end.

On 35 minutes Brissett was in the action again as he rounded Coleman but from a tight angle sent his effort across the face of the goal and wide. This was followed with Louie Procopi clearing off the Hythe line and then right on the stroke of half time a rare Hythe attack saw Bruno Tavares slam the ball into the side netting.

The Hythe defence were caught cold four minutes into the second period as the defence seemed to stand still allowing Brisset to fire home his second. Hythe had their best move of the game as a Blackman and Wright interplay saw the latter have his final attempt saved by Freeman.

Any chance of a Cannons comeback was ended on 62 minutes as a Beckenham break away saw Theophanous surge through and finish neatly to make it 3-0. On 76 minutes Brissett put the icing on the cake for Beckenham and himself as he completed his hat trick slotting the ball into the corner of the net. Brissett was then denied his fourth by Coleman before Hythe had a chance for a consolation as substitute Sammi Takaloo crossed to Lex Allan, but his header went over the bar.

A fast recovery is now required by the Cannons as they entertain Sheppey United this Bank Holiday Monday afternoon. Kick off at Reachfields is 3pm.

Team: Joe Coleman, Louie Procopi, Lesley Duru, Jack Steventon, Lex Allan, Joe Bingham, Stefan Wright, David Ozobia, Bruno Tavares (Sammi Takaloo 74 mins), Sam Blackman (Martin Youngah 86 mins), Makhaya James (Kian Scott 74 mins).

Subs Not Used: Jake Goodman, Finley Whitton.

Scorers: Beckenham Town - Jamarie Brissett 15, 49 & 52 mins, Louie Theophanous 62 mins.

Yellow Cards: David Ozobia 74 mins, Sam Blackman 77 mins, Lesley Duru 81 mins.

Attendance:299

Hythe Town 2 Phoenix Sports 1  
Pitching In Isthmian League South-East  
Saturday 10th August 2024

Hythe Town opened the season with their first home win since February as they won 2-1 at home to Phoenix Sports on a warm sunny Reachfields afternoon.

Manager Sammy Moore made three changes with Louie Procopi replacing Amadeus Addotey, Martin Youngah coming for Lesley Duru and David Ozobia starting for Joe Bingham.

Phoenix were first to show as a long ball from the defence on five minutes found Harvey Browne who played the ball into Noah Joyce with his effort going wide. It was the visitors who opened the scoring on only nine minutes as the Hythe defence failed to clear the ball and it fell to Alfawaz Dada who slid the ball home.

However, the lead only lasted for two minutes as an Oscar Webb corner eventually found Jake Goodman who bundled the ball over the line to make it 1-1. There were chances now coming at both ends as Bruno Tavares sent a chance wide of the target and then at the other end Alfadaz Dada attempted to lob the ball over Hythe keeper Joe Coleman with the ball drifting wide.

Phoenix then created a great opportunity as Joyce hooked the ball back from the by-line finding Browne whose scissor kick went wide. The Cannons then began to get into the ascendancy as David Ozobia moved in taking a couple of paces and sending his effort wide and then Webb picked up the ball and rifled his attempt just over the bar. A minute before the break Hythe got the goal that proved to be the winner as a deep cross found Jack Steventon creeping in at the far post to head into the Phoenix net.

The second period started with Hythe looking the more likely as Webb sent a free kick from the edge of the area to glance off the outside of the right hand upright. The Cannons defence was then to block a breakthrough by Alfie Bloomfield and then at the other end Lex Allan sent in a powerful effort that was deflected over the bar.

Webb was sending some searching crosses into the Phoenix penalty area and one of these found the head of Goodman who header was well saved by Phoenix keeper Bob Budd. Then came the real scare for Hythe as Steventon brought down former Cannon Joe Thomas who was charging in down the left-hand by-line. Up stepped Seye Okunlola whose penalty was saved by Hythe keeper Joe Coleman who had already made two penalty saves during pre-season. There was another scare nine minutes before the end as Joyce hit an effort that was spilled by Coleman but he was able to recover to claw the ball away before it crossed the line. Substitute Duru was unlucky when he sent an effort just wide of the upright.

With six minutes of stoppage time added it was the visitors who went for the equaliser as Harrison Mayhew drifted an attempt wide and then a free kick right on the edge of the area was awarded to Phoenix. Jack Marney sent the kick just over the bar and the Cannons survived to see out the game and collect the three points. They have to wait two weeks for their next match away at Beckenham Town on Saturday 24th August 2024 with the game kicking off at 3pm.

Team: Joe Coleman, Louie Procopi, Makhaya James (Harry Rowland 85 mins), Jack Steventon, Lex Allan, Jake Goodman, Martin Youngah (Sammi Takaloo 74 mins), David Ozobia, Bruno Tavares, Ephraim Adanemhen (Lesley Duru 56 mins), Oscar Webb. Subs Unused: Ollie Bussey, Amadeus Addotey.

Scorers: Hythe Town - Jake Goodman 12 mins, Jack Steventon 44 mins. Phoenix Sports - Alfawaz Dada 9 mins.

Yellow Cards: Oscar Webb 20 mins, Lex Allan 33 mins.

Attendance: 170

Hythe Town 2 Abbey Rangers 3  
Emirates FA Cup Extra-Preliminary Round Replay  
Tuesday 6th August 2024

It was a disappointing evening for the Cannons as they were dumped out of the FA Cup after a very late goal for the visitors as they sealed their 3-2 win on Tuesday evening.

Manager Sammy Moore made two changes to the starting line up from the first game on Saturday with Harry Rowland starting in place of the manager and Lesley Duru coming in for Martin Youngah who was on the bench.

Rangers were first on the attack after three minutes when Jae Kelly sent in a dangerous ball across the home goal mouth with Finlay Warren running in on his own, but he was just unable to get a touch on the ball. In the follow up move Tanaka Gabaza fired straight at Hythe keeper Joe Coleman. Hythe threatened first on nine minutes as a lovely through ball from Makhaya James to Bruno Tavares with the striker sending his final effort just to the left side of the upright.

Scorer of two goals on Saturday, Kelly was then to put the visitors ahead on 12 minutes as he cut in from the left, and choosing to shoot rather than cross, found the far side of the net to make it 1-0. Tavares tried to emulate Kelly as he also cut in at the other end, but his final shot went straight into the arms of Rangers keeper Shay Honey.

There were chances now coming at both end as Hythe captain Jack Steventon sent in one of his trademark long throws finding Lex Allan who headed over the bar and then at the other end Luke Robertson found himself one on one with Coleman, but his attempt was blocked.

The hosts were now starting to create chances as Amadeus Addotey curled a shot over the bar, an Oscar Webb corner was headed by Duru and Joe Bingham got on the end of another Steventon throw which he headed over.

However, the pressure didn't produce a goal, and it was Rangers who got their second on 39 minutes as the home defence failed to clear and Robertson slid the ball under the body of Coleman and into the net. On the stroke of half time the Cannons nearly got one back as Steventon got on the end of a Webb cross slamming his header against the cross bar. But with the game a minute into injury time they got one back as another Webb corner found the head of Steventon again who this time forced the ball past Honey and into the Rangers net to make it 2-1 at the break.

Rangers had a good effort early in the second half as Del Davies hit a dipping shot that deflected over for a corner. However, on 54 minutes a throw from Steventon found Lex Allan whose header

looped over the head of Honey and into the Rangers net.

Both sides then went looking for the winner but for a long period didn't create the chance that would put them in the next round. However, it was Rangers in the last ten minutes who began to look the more likely as on 83 minutes substitute Stuart Mortimer saw Coleman off his line and attempted a lob which drifted wide and then a dipping shot from Tremayne Wooliscroft landed on the top of the cross bar. The decisive moment came two minutes before the end of normal time as a deep cross from Kelvin Karanja found Jordan Ikala ghosting in at the far post to fire home.

The Abbey Rangers celebrations at the final whistle showed how much the win meant to them and the Cannons who were off colour must now look to improve for their next game on Saturday as they entertain Phoenix Sports. Kick off at Reachfields is 3:00pm.

Team: Joe Coleman, Harry Rowland, Amadeus Addotey (Kian Scott 69 mins), Jack Steventon, Jake Goodman, Lex Allan, Oscar Webb, Joe Bingham (David Ozobia 63 mins), Bruno Tavares, Lesley Duru, Makhaya James. Subs Unused: Sammi Takalo, Alfie Rogers, Harry Le Page, Ephraim Adanemhen, Martin Youngah.

Scorers: Hythe Town – Jack Steventon 45+1 mins, Lex Allan 54 mins. Abbey Rangers – Jae Kelly 12 mins, Luke Robertson 39 mins, Jordan Ikala 88 mins.

Yellow Card: Lex Allan 80 mins.

Attendance: 138

Abbey Rangers 2 Hythe Town 2  
FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round  
Saturday 3rd August 2024

The Cannons took a two goal first half lead before they were pegged back in a 2-2 draw at Abbey Rangers on Saturday afternoon.

Player-Manager Sammy Moore decided on his first eleven for the first game of the season giving Hythe debuts to a number of players.

It was Hythe who were first out of the blocks as on only two minutes Oscar Webb sent a looping shot just over the bar. The Cannons were ahead on eight minutes as a Moore free- Kick found Lex Allan who fired home to make it 1-0. Joe Bingham was involved in the next move as Amadeus Addotey played the ball into Joe Bingham who fired over and then Bingham was unlucky as he fired a shot against the inside of the upright.

On 28 minutes the Cannons were two ahead as Bruno Tavares picked up the ball and fired home. At this stage things looked comfortable for the visitors as Webb sent a free kick that

found its way to Allan whose header was forced onto the cross bar by Abbey Rangers keeper Shay Honey.

Hythe thought they were three ahead on 42 minutes as a cross from Martin Youngah found Taveres who fired home but the referee's assistant was flagging for offside. One more chance for Hythe, who dominated the first half, fell to Webb who picked up the ball and fired wide.

The second half saw Abbey Rangers come into the game and on 55 minutes they pulled a goal back as Jae Kelly pounced on a loose ball and lobbed over Hythe keeper Joe Coleman into the net. On 58 minutes the hosts were level as Kelly got his second. Hythe did have an opportunity to regain the lead as a Jack Steventon throw found Taveres who lifted a shot over the bar.

On 77 minutes Abbey had a chance that could have sealed the games as Kelly curled his effort over the bar. One sour moment saw Moore (now on the bench) receive a red card for something he said to the Assistant Referee.

Neither side were able to break the deadlock and they meet again on Tuesday evening at Reachfields in the replay. Kick-off is 7:45pm.

Team: Joe Coleman, Amadeus Addotey, Makhaya James, Jack Steventon, Jake Goodman, Lex Allan, Joe Bingham, Sammy Moore (Harry Rowland 61 mins), Bruno Taveres, Oscar Webb (Sammi Takaloo 75 mins), Martin Youngah (Joe Thomas 82 mins). Subs Unused: Kian Scott, Alfie Rogers, Ollie Bussey, Harry Le Page.

Scorers: Abbey Rangers – Jae Kelly 55 & 58 mins. Hythe Town – Lex Allan 6 mins, Bruno Taveres 31 mins.

Yellow Cards: Oscar Webb 37 mins, Martin Youngah 55 mins.

Attendance:137.

Canterbury City 2 Hythe Town 1  
Pre-Season Friendly  
Tuesday 31st July 2024

Hythe's pre-season ended with a worrying performance as they went down 2-1 at Canterbury City on Tuesday evening.

With manager Sammy Moore now looking ahead to the season proper that starts on Saturday, work needs to be done to ensure the Cannons are ready.

There were limited chances in the first half with the best falling to the Cannons as firstly on six minutes Oscar Webb had a free kick easily collected by City keeper Tom Benham and then on the stroke of half-time Webb charged through but his final effort was lifted over the bar.

Canterbury had their first meaningful chance on 59 minutes when Rob Lawrence played the ball into Mo Chan who forced a good save from Hythe keeper Joe Coleman.

Hythe broke the deadlock on 69 minutes as Webb played in a free kick that bounced around the penalty area before Ephraim Adanemhen forced the ball over the line to make it 1-0.

The lead only lasted nine minutes as a cross from Kaeden Jeffreys found one of the City trialists who fired home.

Things got worse for the Cannons on 82 minutes as another Jeffreys cross found Harry Maher who also finished well.

There was no way back for Hythe who must have much to do before Saturday's FA Cup trip to Abbey Rangers on Saturday. Kick off in that game will be 3pm

Hythe Town 1 Dulwich Hamlet 2

Pre-Season Friendly

Saturday 27th July 2024

The Cannons put up a much-improved performance and looked like beating Isthmian Premier Division Dulwich Hamlet on Saturday afternoon. However, the visitors struck back in the dying minutes to score twice and overturn Hythe's lead to win 2-1.

With the final squad beginning to bed down, the first half was a battle as both teams looked to gain the initiative and both sides cancelled each other out and it wasn't until the 44th minute that the hosts got the first clear cut chance of the game as one of the trialists forced Dulwich keeper Dillon Barnes to save well.

The second half saw the Cannons create the best chances as on 55 minutes Louie Procopi whipped in a cross that found Jake Goodman whose shot rattled against the underneath of the crossbar. However, the referee's assistant was flagging for offside so it would have been ruled out. Hythe took a deserved lead on 67 minutes when the referee saw an infringement in the penalty area and pointed to the penalty spot. Up stepped Oscar Webb who planted his kick into the corner of the net giving Barnes no chance.

However, just as the Cannons seemed to on their way to an excellent win Dulwich scored on 87 minutes as the ball was played into the penalty area and one of the visitor's trialists fired home and then within a minute a second cross also found another trialist who, at the far post, also planted his effort into the back of the net.

Despite the defeat, this was a very encouraging performance from Hythe as they now have their final pre-season friendly on Tuesday night when they travel to Canterbury City. Kick off at Hartsdown Park, Margate is 7:45pm before the competitive season starts next Saturday.

Attendance: 266

Kennington 5 Hythe Town 2

Pre-Season Friendly

Tuesday 16th July 2024

It was a "bad night at the office" for the Cannons as a mixture of experience and youth struggled as they went down 5-2 at Kennington on Tuesday evening.

They were behind on 19 minutes as Harry Linch turned and shot past Hythe keeper Joe Coleman. Life was made harder for Hythe on 35 minutes when Oscar Webb received a red card as he brought down a Kennington striker and as he prevented a goal scoring opportunity his evening was over.

Things got even worse for Hythe on 41 minutes as Liam Whiting blasted home. There was one bright moment for the Cannons just before the break as Kian Scott forced a fine save from former Cannon keeper Joe Mant.

The woes continued in the second half as Lynch got his second after 56 minutes as he slotted the ball under Coleman and into the Cannons net. On the hour the evening was summed up as Jack Steventon mistimed a lob back to Coleman but the ball flew off his foot and looped over the Hythe stopper and into the net. It was five on 68 minutes as a Kennington trialist headed home from a corner.

As the game was approaching full time Hythe were to get two consolation goals as firstly one of the trialists headed home and then another trialist jumped on a loose ball and finished neatly to bring the final score to 5-2.

It was a chastening evening for Hythe, and it gives much to think about for the management team. There is a further chance on Saturday to iron out any problems as the Cannons visit Rochester United. Kick off is 3pm.

Attendance: 95.

### **Snodland Town 0 Hythe Town 0**

#### **Pre-Season Friendly**

**Saturday 13th July 2024**

Both teams had opportunities to seal a win, but none were taken as the Cannons drew 0-0 at Snodland Town on Saturday afternoon.

For the third game running, manager Sammy Moore sent out a squad mixed with experience, younger players and trialists. A number of the expected starters for the new season were not available for the afternoon.

Both sides battled in an even first half with the first opportunity coming for Snodland as Hythe keeper, Joe Coleman's impressive start to his Cannons career continued as he made a good save early on in the game. The Cannons had their best chance of the half right on half-time when one of the trialists forced the Snodland keeper Jed Campbell to push the ball around the post.

After 50 minutes Jake Goodman forced another save from Campbell as he got in on the far post. With a number of substitutions being during the second half it was Snodland who came closest to scoring as substitute Dan Ashton turned and fired the ball against the upright.

The game petered out into a draw. The Cannons continue their pre-season with another game at Kennington on Tuesday evening. Kick off is 7:45pm at Homelands.

### **Larkfield & New Hythe 1 Hythe Town 0**

#### **Pre-Season Friendly**

**Tuesday 9th July 2024**

The Cannons were deservedly beaten 1-0 in their latest pre-season friendly at Larkfield & New Hythe on a damp Tuesday evening.



Manager Sammy Moore started again with a mixed team of signed players and trialists to have the opportunity to have a good look at who will be likely to start the season at the beginning of August.

The early exchanges were fairly even with both sides creating some chances but without breaking through. As the half progressed it was the hosts who looked the most likely and they had a golden opportunity in the 29th minute when they were awarded a penalty. It was a chance for new keeper Joe Coleman to shine again as he dived to his right to parry the ball away. As the game moved towards half time, Hythe had their best opportunity as one of the trialists rattled the upright.

Changes were made during the second half and it was the hosts that got the breakthrough on 65 minutes when one of their trialists turned in the penalty area and for once beat the impressive Coleman.

As always at this time of year there is a limited amount you can learn from a pre-season friendly about the prospects for the new season until the latter games. The Cannons now move onto an away fixture at Snodland Town on Saturday afternoon (13th July 2024) with the game kicking off at 3pm.