

OFFICIAL MATCH DAY PROGRAMME | ISSUE #6 | £1.50

# THE SALTS



REG MADGWICK STADIUM, KT11 1AA  
TUESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2023  
CHERRY RED RECORDS PREMIER CHALLENGE CUP  
KICK-OFF: 7.45PM



Reg Madgwick Stadium, Downside  
Bridge Road, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 1AA

OFFICIAL CLUB WEBSITE  
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PROGRAMME PRINTERS	KALLKWIK (L'HEAD)



# CHAIRMAN'S NOTES MEL TOUGH

Good evening to you all and welcome to The Reg Madgwick Stadium for our encounter in the Premier Challenge Cup.

We welcome AFC Croydon Athletic and their supporters.

More cup games than league this season, will we be getting a reputation as a cup team?

I had a conversation with James during pre-season and he asked what my expectations were, my reply was and still is survival and a good cup run, well he has nearly delivered half of that so there is no pressure! Our league form will change trust the process. He and the team have our full continued support.

I want to thank the supporters, the committee, the old team, and the new team for their continued support during my family's personal issues.

Mark Durbridge's last words to me were: "Regardless of what we think of each other we are football family" which is very touching, We celebrate his life on Friday, so today's game is in memory of him.

Rest in Peace Mark.

Mel



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# AFC CROYDON ATHLETIC

**WEBSITE: [WWW.AFCCROYDONATHLETIC.CO.UK](http://WWW.AFCCROYDONATHLETIC.CO.UK)**

**FOUNDED: 2012**

**HOME GROUND: EASTWOOD LEISURE CENTRE, WOKING**



**AFC Croydon Athletic was officially born on 6th February 2012 after a group of supporters gathered at Selhurst Evangelical Church in South Norwood to form a new club.**

The newly appointed Committee had just 7 weeks to put everything in place to convince the Football Association and the League that they were worthy of a place at Step 6 in the pyramid. Despite the challenge, it was a successful journey.

The need to form a new club came about because of the demise of Croydon Athletic FC who had become the innocent victims of an international cricket match-fixing scandal by their then owner. Valiant attempts to find a buyer, which looked very positive at times, turned out to be fruitless and with debts mounting and owners unwilling to pay what they owed the club folded playing its last game in December 2011.

Having secured the support of the Combined Counties League and the London FA, representatives of the Club met officials from the FA and made their case for being placed in Division One. Having made a presentation and answered questions for more than ninety minutes there followed a long wait to see if they would endorse the application. On the day of the first Annual General Meeting, on 10th May, the Club got the call that they had been recommended to be placed at Step 6.

The biggest challenge had been securing a stadium to play at. The club's real home remained the Mayfield Stadium off Mayfield Road but that currently lies empty as the owners of the old Club refused to give it up and back to the Council and whilst unused the clubhouse was destroyed by fire.

For the first season, the Club was indebted to both Croydon FC and Croydon Council who facilitated the use of Croydon Sports Arena as the Club's first home.

With a place in the League secured, the focus shifted from off-the-field priorities back to the team. On 29th May the Club announced the appointment of Antony Williams as its first manager and along with his management team he set about the task of putting together a squad capable of competing in the division. The preparations began in earnest with the first pre-season friendly against Fisher FC and the journey had really begun. We completed our initial season in Division One of the Combined Counties League in a creditable 8th position. The club also won its first piece of silverware by winning the Lemon Recordings Division One cup by beating Staines Lammas 5-0 at Windsor. The 2013/14 Season was more a season of continued consolidation. We finished one place higher in the League and with a little bit more consistency could have been in the final shake-up for promotion.

The Club returned to its Spiritual home of Mayfield Stadium on 15th November 2014 with a game against Banstead Athletic. This was later than had been expected as there were problems with the pitch and floodlights. Despite these problems and having to play their first 10 matches away from home the club maintained a promotion-chasing position all season and finally clinch 2nd place with a 3-0 victory over Cobham FC. The club also won its 2nd piece of silverware when winning the London Senior Trophy beating Interwood 4-3 after extra time.

With the FA Leagues Committee having placed the club in The Southern Counties East Football League (formally the Kent League) following promotion for the 2015/16 season the club then maintained their position in the League by finishing 11th.

Antony Williams resigned to take over at Chipstead FC and the club replaced him with Kevin Rayner as they looked to continue the progress they have made.

His first season saw a 7th place finish which remains our highest position. It was hoped that this would enable the team to progress further but successive seasons have seen mid-table finishes. In 2017/18 they slipped to 13th and the following year they went down to 15th. However, in 2018/19 saw progress in the FA Cup for the first time which coincided with their first home tie too. A 5-0 victory over Rochester United and then a 1-0 replay win over Hanworth Villa saw a First Qualifying Round tie.

Since then the global pandemic has curtailed two seasons. The 2019/20 season saw progress in the FA Cup again before succumbing to Herne Bay United after a replay but after 27 games the season was abandoned. Season 2020/21 started late with a thriller of an FA Cup tie against Sutton Common Rovers with a record 174 turning up but the season would again be curtailed after just 12 matches.

A reorganisation means that it is time to move back to the Combined Counties Football League Premier Division South for the 2021/22 season with the firm wish that we have a full season to look forward to.

## Last 4 in the League



**3-1 W | 16/09**



**0-1 L | 12/09**



**1-2 W | 30/08**



**4-2 L | 22/08**

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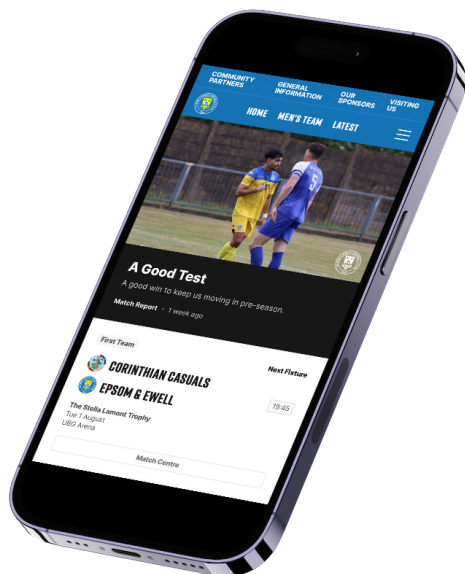
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\*The Athlete Academy App: a strength and conditioning platform for athletes who compete in multiple sports (football, basketball, rugby, hockey, and more). Like the “Design Your Training” platform, you will choose your exercises, following an effective, structured strength and conditioning program.

We also held our first showcase football trial, where we brought in multiple scouts representing clubs (Southampton FC, Gillingham FC, Bromley FC, and more) and observed players aged 8-22 to scout for their respective clubs. Out of 29 players who attended, 5 drew interest from the scouts and were put in contact with them. We hope to host more showcases soon. Head over to our website for further information!



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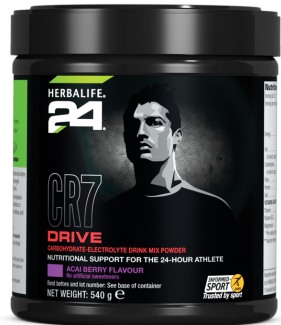
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# MATCH ACTION

## BEARSTED FC

Bearsted FC v Epsom & Ewell FC  
**The Izusu FA Vase | Second Qualifying Round**  
Saturday 23rd September 2023

**We took on Bearsted FC in the second round of the FA Vase on Saturday 23rd September. Bearsted play in the Southern Counties East and have had a good start to their season, so we were expecting a tough match.**

We made three changes from the team that started against Sheerwater the previous weekend, with our Captain, Callum Wilson returning, Rory Edwards back into the midfield and the return of Marlon Pinder back to our club occupying our striker berth.

The game started in a not too surprising nervy way for both sides, but the home side had the better chances in the first half and but for some good goalkeeping from our man 'between the sticks', Harvey Keough and some last ditch defending we may well have found ourselves behind. As for ourselves, yet again we played some good passing football but with little or no end product apart from one shot which was comfortably saved by the opposition goalkeeper. The half ended 0-0.

The second half started much the same way as the first ended with our hosts initially in the ascendancy and they took the lead in the 55th minute from what some observers at that end of the pitch said there was a 'hint of offside' about the goal from one of their strikers. We then eventually grew into the game and started to pose some questions of the Bearsted defence and in the 71st minute we equalised through our Captain Callum Wilson. This was after great work from Ade Batula on the right wing who left three Bearsted defenders in his wake as he crossed into the edge of the box to find Wilson who scored; the opposition goalkeeper made a valiant attempt to save the shot, but the ball nestled in the corner of the net.

Could we go onto to win the game, well we had a great chance when our substitute Tino Carpena was put through but was caught by a last-ditch tackle from an opposition defender. The referee blew for full time at nearly 5 o'clock. So we went to penalties to decide who would go through to the next round.

Unfortunately, we lost the penalty shootout 4-1 so were eliminated from the FA Vase for this year.





**COMBINED COUNTIES PREMIER SOUTH**

# **NEXT UP**

**AT HOME**



**REG MADGWICK STADIUM, KT11 1AA**  
**TUESDAY 3 OCT | KICK-OFF: 7.45PM**

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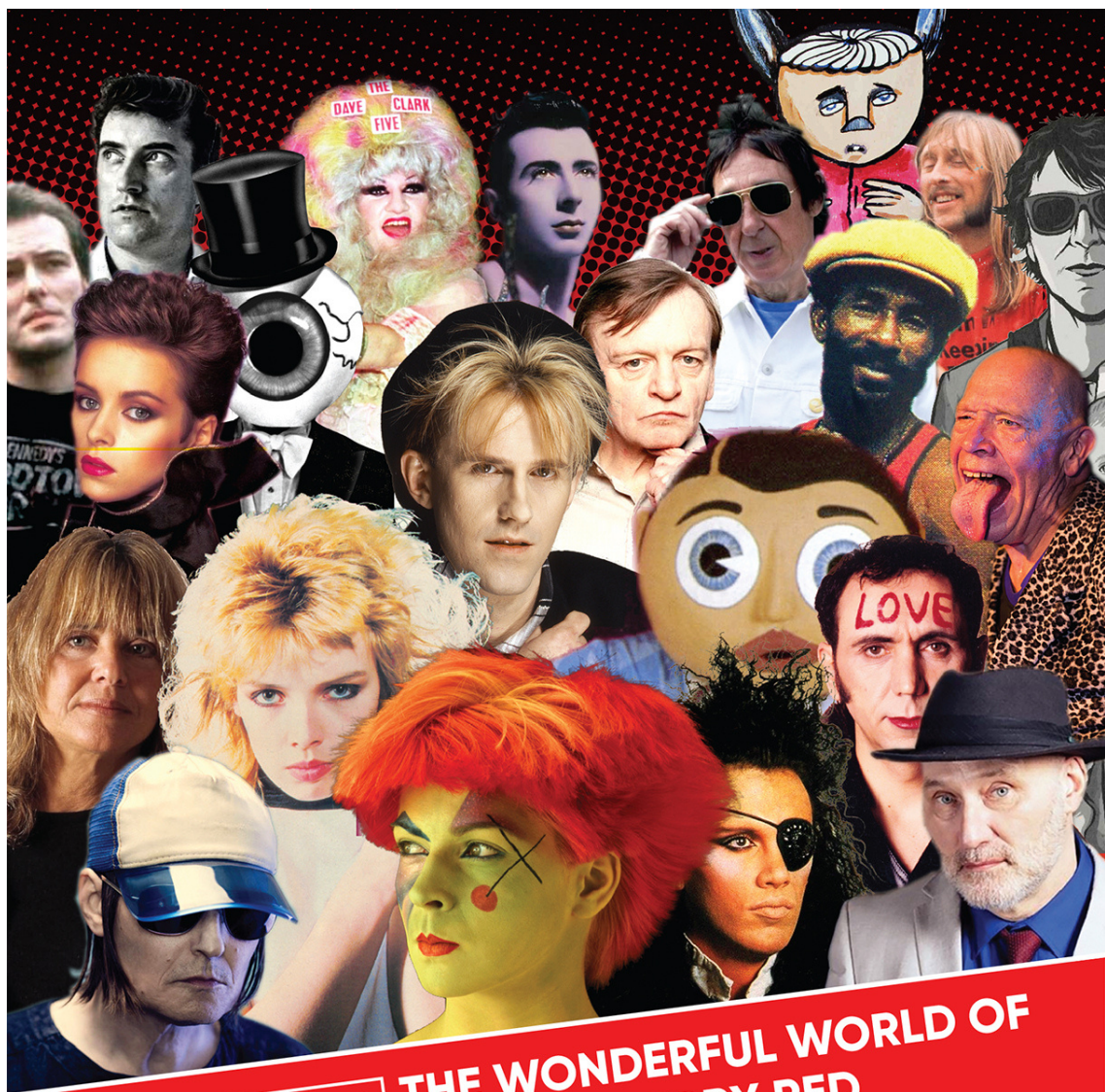
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# FIRST TEAM 2023/24

## APPEARANCES & STATS

	Appearances (Sub Appearances)	Goals
Adeyemi Thompson	1	0
Amissah Ben	6	0
Batula Ade	10	4
Bauchop Ben	1	0
Brown Kiyo	9 (2)	0
Carpene Tino	10 (2)	1
Clothier Chester	8	0
Colwell Toby	1	0
Edwards Rory	11 (2)	0
Inwugwu Nick-Aaron	10 (4)	1
Keogh Harvey	10	0
King James	1 (1)	0
Kugthas Ayran	8 (3)	0
Negassi Sirak	5 (3)	0
Nelson-Roberts Ethan	11	1
Ofosu-Hernandez Jabari	1 (1)	0
Owusu George	1 (1)	0
Pinder Marlon	1	0
Powell Zach	9	1
Snadden Ash	9 (2)	0
Stanley Jaan	7 (2)	1
Tierney Reece	3 (1)	0
Thompson Ollie	9 (4)	1
Williams Tommy	7 (1)	1
Wilson Callum	6	2





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MARLON PINDER



## **AFC Croydon Athletic**

**Manager: Danny Young**

### **Today's Match Officials**

**Referee: Jordan Crichlow**

**Assistant: Phil Paice**

**Assistant: Miroslaw Matlak**