

TEAMS

OFFICIAL MATCH DAY PROGRAMME | ISSUE #1 | £1.50

# THE SALT



COBHAM FC, REG MADGWICK STADIUM, KT11 A11  
SATURDAY 5TH AUGUST 2023  
EXTRA PRELIMINARY ROUND  
KICK-OFF: 3.00PM



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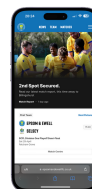
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# MANAGER'S NOTES

## JAMES SCOTT

A warm welcome to all our fans as well as our opponents today for the start of the 2023/24 season.

Pre-season has been an especially busy one with a number of new faces joining the club. I have also been familiarising myself with the club surroundings and everything so far has been positive. Today we welcome Horsham YMCA in an FA cup game that is sure to be a tough test for our group but one that we feel prepared for.

We also are preparing to play at our new ground for the season and we would like to thank Cobham FC for being so welcoming to us and the upcoming season. The brand new artificial pitch should be a real asset to us for this season and all of the boys are excited to be playing on the surface and showing what they can do.

Welcome all supporters and sponsors to feel free to come and say hello to me, the staff and the new players to make them feel welcome. I am incredibly excited for the new season which brings so much hope with it.

James





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# MATCH PREVIEW

# HORSHAM YMCA

Epsom & Ewell FC v Horsham YMCA

**FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round**

Saturday 5th August 2023

A game that may have been played during the season if we didn't move into the combined counties, but a game that will be a tough test for both.

Horsham YMCA plays in the Southern Combination Premier Division where they have been for a few years. Last season, they finished 12th in the SCFL Premier Division. After losing their opening game of the season to Eastbourne United they went on to win their next five league games without conceding one goal.

Horsham hasn't made it past the extra preliminary round since the 2019/20 season when they beat Croydon FC 2-1, before beating Egham Town in the preliminary game but were beaten by Margate in the first qualifying round. In the last two seasons, they have been beaten by Jersey Bulls and Beckenham Town in the extra preliminary round. Their best performance in the FA Cup was back in 1999/2000 when they made it all the way to the fourth qualifying round when they hosted Chelmsford City but ended up exiting the competition.

After our promotion success last term, we are finally back in the FA Cup for the first time since 2018.

Our last time out in the FA Cup was also against Beckenham Town where we lost 0-3 at home in a replay. We drew 2-2 with them away a couple of days prior but we were knocked out at the preliminary round after we defeated Langley Wanderers 1-2 in the extra preliminary round.

Our best performance in the FA Cup came back in 1934/35 when we reached the first round only to exit the competition to Leyton Orient when they beat us 4-2.

We are yet to start our season, unlike Horsham YMCA who kicked off their season at home to Newhaven last Saturday. A game which ended in a 1-1 draw, they followed this up in mid-week with another 1-1 draw against Haywards Heath Town. We open our campaign next Saturday away to Fleet Town.





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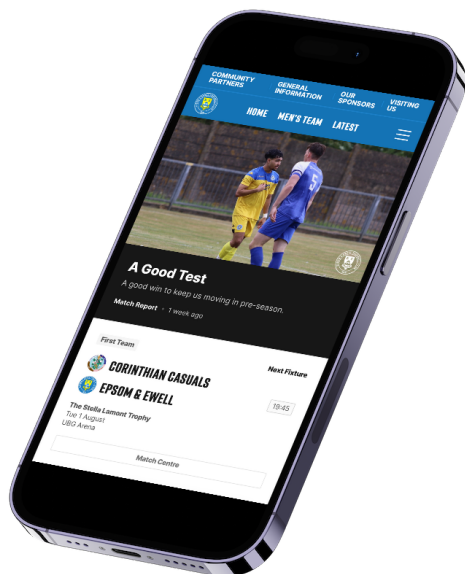
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We also held our first showcase football trial, where we brought in multiple scouts representing different clubs (Southampton FC, Gillingham FC, Bromley FC, and more) and observed players aged 8-22 years old to scout for their respective clubs. Out 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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Photo Credit: Horsham YMCA Website

# HORSHAM YMCA

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

**FOUNDED:** 1898

**NICKNAME:** THE YM

**HOME GROUND:** GORINGS MEAD, HORSHAM



Horsham YMCA Football Club was formed in 1898. During the first 31 years of the club's existence they played at Lyons Field, the name of which is derived from the Bowes-Lyons family who owned a substantial amount of land around Horsham at one time.

In 1929 the club moved to its present ground at Gorings Mead for which they were able to secure the freehold at a later date. In the early years 'YM' played in the Horsham District League before moving to the Crawley League and subsequently to the Mid Sussex League. Their rise through the later two leagues was swift and facilitated the club's entry into the Sussex County League in 1959.

In that first season, YM finished twelfth out of fifteen teams and then began a gradual improvement. They spent seven years in Division 2 before gaining promotion in 1966 as Champions, two points ahead of Newhaven. During that season they dropped just four points from 34 matches, scoring 141 goals in the process - a superb performance. The club gained Division 1 status along with Newhaven and remained there for sixteen seasons until the end of the 1981-82 season, when unfortunately they were relegated. The best performances during that period were two consecutive third place finishes in 1977-78 and 1978-79. Despite relegation, the club bounced straight back as Division 2 champions in the following season.

his time, YM spent five seasons in the top division before being relegated for the second time at the end of the 1987-88 season. Promotion back to Division 1 for the third time was achieved by finishing third in 1994-95. The past six seasons have seen YM consolidate their Division 1 status by finishing twelfth, eighth, thirteenth, a very creditable third in our Centenary Season and fifth in the last two seasons.

During the past two seasons, all of YM's previous achievements were put into the shade and despite their league positions being disappointing, this was probably due to the enormous number of cup matches played.

In the 1999-00 season, YM had their best ever results in both the FA Cup and the FA Vase, and it was only dubious decisions by match officials that halted progress in both competitions. In their FA Cup Fourth Qualifying Round tie at home to Chelmsford City, the winning goal was scored by a player who was so far offside, the linesman probably did not notice him before it was too late, whilst in their Fourth Round FA Vase tie away at AFC Totton, a dubious penalty late in the second half ended YM's dreams of reaching Wembley.

During that season the club also reached the semi-finals of the Sussex Senior Cup, losing a close fought tie to Hastings Town, but beating near neighbours and 'friends over the fence' Horsham FC 4-0 in a Third Round home tie in front of over 400 spectators.

In September 1999 the club's attendance record was smashed when a crowd of over 940 people crammed into 'The Mead' for the Fourth Qualifying Round of the FA Cup against Chelmsford City.

During the 2000-01 season, YM graciously bowed out of the FA Cup at Whyteleafe, and at Cowes Sports in the FA Vase, but reached the semi-finals of the Sussex Senior Cup before losing to Bognor Regis. Despite these three cup defeats, YM did manage to add some silverware to their trophy cabinet by winning the Sussex RUR Cup, with an emphatic 3-0 victory over Burgess Hill Town, whilst the Reserve Team achieved a League and Cup double.

A rather disappointing 2001-02 season saw a mid-table league finish but another piece of silverware was brought back to the Mead, courtesy of an excellent 2-0 Good Friday defeat of Ringmer in the John O'Hara Cup Final at Wick.

The 2002-03 season saw the re-establishment of a Youth side at YM, with the aim being to grow new players over the following few years in order to participate in the senior teams. YM cruised high in the league all season, recording a record 22-1 victory over Littlehampton Town, before finally being pipped into third position at the end of the season. The Reserves finished mid-table and the new Youth team finished second in Division One of the Arun & Chichester League, losing out only on goal difference, although they beat the League Champions 1-0 in the League Cup.

Despite slightly increased attendances, YM's thirteenth placed finish the following season was disappointing by comparison, and few were prepared for the improvement shown in 2004-05 that saw John Suter's side bring the League title to Goring's Mead for the first time. Having looked in an unassailable position for most of the campaign, there were a few wobbles in the final months, but fortunately the team recovered to ultimately romp home fifteen points clear of runners-up Rye & Iden United.

The season was tinged with disappointment when Gorings Mead failed grading requirements for entry into the Isthmian League, and many pundits wondered whether YM might have missed the boat.

With YM trailing Ringmer by twelve points as the 2005-06 season reached its climax, and struggling to find the money for the required work on the ground, it looked like that might have been it for YM. But remarkably, however, the players maintained their resolve as their rivals buckled, and YM not only over-turned the deficit, but romped home by nine points to achieve back-to-back League titles.

Gorings Mead was deemed fit by FA inspectors to allow the club to take its place in the newly created Isthmian Division One South for the 2006-07 season, completing a fantastic year for the town, with neighbours Horsham also winning promotion to the Premier Division.

After competing for two seasons in Division One South, the club finished second from bottom in the 2007-08 season and were relegated back to Sussex County League Division One.

Returning to the County League saw YM go through a number of changes on and off the field. Manager of nineteen years, John Suter, left the club, as did most of the players. John was quickly replaced by the very capable Chris White, who built a new YM team from scratch and steered them to promotion back into the Ryman League at the end of his first season in charge.

The 2009-10 season saw another change at Gorings Mead, with YM becoming landlords of former neighbours, Horsham FC. This highlighted the challenges of ground shares across the country, but both teams did well, YM achieving eleventh place and their highest ever points total in the Ryman League. Sadly, at the end of the season Chris White left the club for Worthing.

The following two seasons saw the club in a state of flux, with a number of managers (Colin Jenkinson, John Cumberbatch and Sammy Donnelly) coming and going, and even more players doing the same. At the end of the 2011-12 season, Peter Buckland stepped in to steady the YM ship, saving the club from relegation by winning the last game of the season.

Buckland then built a squad for the 2012-13 season, which produced a very respectable mid-table finish. The nucleus of this same squad then pushed on in the 2013-14 season to be real promotion contenders - though finally losing out on that accolade thanks to an 89th minute Littlehampton Town winner on the final day of the season.

Nonetheless 2013-14 was an impressive season, with YM reaching the semi-finals of the Sussex Senior Cup and winning the RUR Cup on penalties in their final game of the season.

In comparison to 2013-14's fourth placed Sussex County League finish, RUR Charity Cup triumph and Sussex Senior Challenge Cup semi-final appearance, YM must view the 2014-15 campaign as a huge underachievement.



A 4-2 win over Chichester City on the final day of the season secured a respectable fifth placed Division 1 finish for Peter Buckland's side, but this was one spot lower and eight points worse off than the prior year, and with double the number of defeats. Perhaps even more disappointing was YM's poor record in the season's cup competitions, with runs in the FA Cup and FA Vase, Sussex Senior Cup, RUR Charity Cup and Peter Bentley League Challenge Cup all over by December.

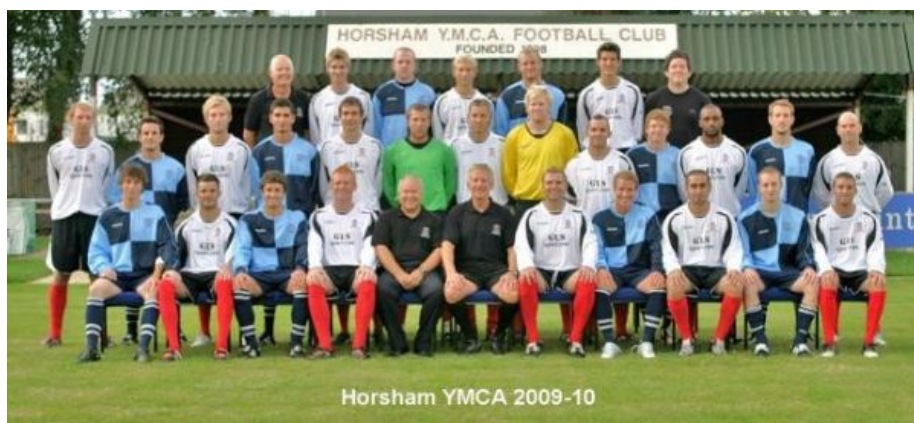
2015-16 season saw the Sussex County Football League renamed the Southern Combination Football League and the top division renamed as the Premier Division. YM finished in fourth place in that season and in 10th position in 2016-17 season. However, the club did not distinguish itself in cup competitions in either campaign.

Non-league league restructuring meant that there were two promotion places available for season 2017-18 and in a determined effort to gain promotion YM led the division for several months before falling away to a fourth-place finish.

However, significant progress was made in cup competitions as YM bowed out of the FA Vase at the First-Round stage away at the eventual Vase winners Thatcham Town. The club also reached the final of the Peter Bentley League Challenge Cup for the first time in many years. However, YM were defeated by league champions Haywards Heath Town.

Season 2018-19 saw YM put in a strong challenge in the league. However, disappointing results in the final quarter of the campaign saw YM finish as runners-up by nine points to champions Chichester City. 2019-20 season saw YM in 12th place in the league before the season was curtailed, and results were expunged.

The 2020/21 season saw YM struggle following the restart of the SCFL after the relaxation of covid19 regulations before the season once again was curtailed and ultimately voided early in 2021 with the club sitting in the bottom end of the division.



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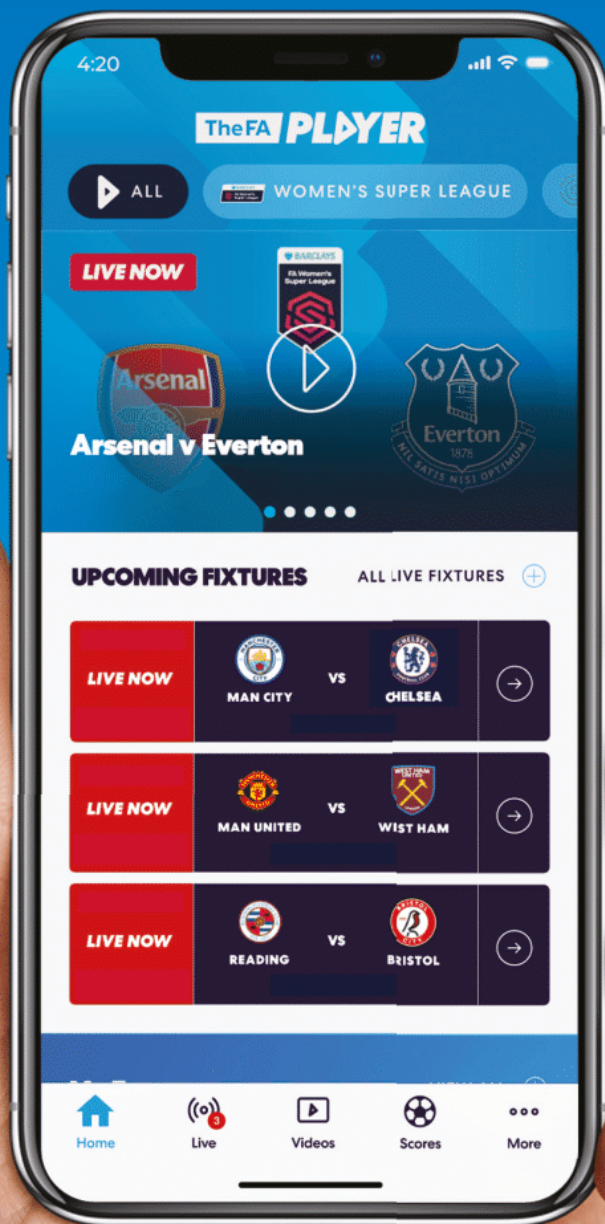




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