OFFICIAL MATCH DAY PROGRAMME | ISSUE #5 | £1.50







REG MADGWICK STADIUM, KT11 1AA Saturday 16th September 2023 Combined Counties | Premier South Kick-Off: 3.00pm



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

OFFICIAL CLUB WEBSITE www.epsomandewellfc.co.uk

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES **MEL TOUGH**

At last another league game at our new home. welcome Sheerwater's management, plavers. supporters and committee.

Welcome to the Reg Madgwick Stadium for our fourth league game. It only seems like yesterday when last season finished and the new team started pre-season, cup games and no rest for the wicked.

We have primarily been occupied with FA Cup competitions for the season, with wins over Horsham YMCA and Metropolitan Police in the FA Cup, before being knocked out in the last minute to Eastbourne United. We are also through to the next round of the FA Vase after an entertaining Friday night game against **AFC** Varndeanians in August. will undoubtedly be looking to extend our run in the Vase when we take on Bearsted next Saturday.

In the league however, a tricky start against Season Five vets in the shape of Redhill, Cobham, Fleet Town and Jeresy. A newly formed young squad, we will continue to push and develop together. Our first step is today.

Big shout to those who made the trip to Jersey last weekend and good luck to both teams today!





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SHEERWATER FC

WEBSITE: WWW.SHEERWATERFC.COM

FOUNDED: 1958

HOME GROUND: EASTWOOD LEISURE CENTRE, WOKING



Sheerwater Football Club was founded in 1958 by early members of the club, the late John French, Stan West, Ken May, Bill Hilleard, Herbert Taylor, Syd Morris, Derrick Thomas, Jim McDermott and players Dennis Hill, John Murray, Micky Wedge, Chris Robinson, Jose Garcia, Tony Minchinton, Don Stevens, Michael French, Jim Kelly, to name a few. Sheerwater joined the local Woking & District League. We then progressed through the Divisions and obtained Intermediate status in the Surrey Intermediate (Western) League in the 1967-68 season.

The club then progressed to the senior level, and we were promoted to the Surrey Senior League for the 1972-73 season and a highest finish of 6th in the 1974-75 season. In 1978 following the loss of clubs to the London Spartan League, Hampshire clubs were admitted to the Surrey Senior League with the title of the competition eventually becoming the Combined Counties League.

In 1981-82 the League had reached 22 members, and as a consequence was split into East and West divisions. In a dreadful season with only one win and one draw the club finished bottom of the East division, 16 points behind Clarion and both Sheerwater and Clarion were relegated to the newly formed Surrey Premier League.

In our first season in this new league, we had the highest position of 5th in 1982-83. However, in 1984-85 we finished only above the bottom side Heath End Wanderers and another relegation followed. Unfortunately, the vacancy at the lower level was a position in the Surrey Intermediate (Eastern) Division.

Fortunately, after one season in the Eastern Division, we were allowed to transfer to the Surrey Combination Premier Division for the 1986-87 season, but we were relegated at the end of the season. After twice finishing third, we were Champions of Division One in 1989-90 and promoted to the Premier Division for 1990-91, finishing in a mid-table position. However in June 1991 The Surrey Combination and Surrey South Eastern Intermediate Leagues merged, but we were able to move sideways to the Surrey Intermediate (Western) League. This was only for one season as we achieved promotion back to the Surrey Premier League. Our stay was, however, for only one season as we finished above bottom club Ashtead, only on goal difference, and were relegated once more. Yet again this was only for one season. In 1994-95 we were back in the Surrey Premier League and finished 9th. After many discussions, the Surrey Premier League became the first division of the Combined Counties league for the season 2003-04.

We are still in the Combined Counties today, striving to maintain league standards with no budget, few committee members and local helpers that maintain a good standard for the League.

Sheerwater moved out of the Athletics Stadium in 2018 to allow for the redevelopment of the area to progress. As part of that process, Sheerwater moved into The Laithwaite Community Stadium with neighbours Woking FC until 2021 which saw the club promoted to the Combined Counties Premier Division for the first time in their history. At the end of the 2020/21 season, Sheerwater were on the move once again, hopefully for the final time as they moved down the road to the Eastwood Centre, which is the £25m Leisure Centre built for purpose.

Epsom & Ewell FC SOCIALS



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We are also excited to announce that we have our web app, where you will soon have the option to register to different platforms such as:

*Design Your Training: This will be a unique training platform. The reason is that it contains so many features. The main feature is that you can pick and choose exercises you wish to perform, whilst following an effective and structured program. Additionally, there are workouts that you can select and follow during your training session. Our nutrition section will allow you to come up with your daily calorie needs, and you will be able to select and track your foods, either via our "foods database" or from your meals.

*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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MATCH ACTION AFC VARNDEANIANS

Epsom & Ewell v AFC Varndeanians

The Izusu FA Vase | First Qualifying Round

Friday 25th August 2023

YES, we are in the next round of the FA Cup after overcoming Step 4 side the Metropolitan Police in a replay on their home turf at Imber Court; we now progress into the first-round proper of the FA Cup away at Step 5 Eastbourne Town on Saturday 2nd September.

This was the best performance of the season thus far; the opposition is in a transitory stage having lost a lot of their playing squad from last year, but as someone with a good knowledge of football once said 'you can only beat the team that is put in front of you' - and we did

A healthy crowd of 215, which was just short of the 234 who watched the original tie last Friday night, was on hand to view what was a far better match than the previous rather attritional affair.

There were no changes to our team that started the previous tie and we set about our business confidently playing good possession-based football; we certainly had the pace in all areas of the team to trouble the opposition and this proved to be decisive later in the match.

After the opening exchanges, we took a 13th-minute lead through Ethan Nelson Roberts, one of our marauding wing backs, after a wonderful slide rule pass from Kiyo Brown. Would this bring the home team onto us much more? Yes, in patches, but we had enough quality in all areas of the pitch to nullify what they had to offer, and the half began to drift away to the break. In fact, we had a wonderful opportunity in first-half injury time to increase our lead, but the close-range shot went over the bar with the goalkeeper beaten. Overall, a very satisfactory first half.

We expected an onslaught in the second half, but this never really came, and we never really felt that threatened. Yes, there was the odd attack that looked promising from our opponent's attacks, but all too often, the final ball would typically drift out of play. We were looking very solid again but still needed that second goal to seal the tie and it eventually came in the 79th minute after clever work on the right wing from Ade Batula, who got to the bye line within the opposition box, crossed and there was Tino Carpene to make it 2-0. There was still just over ten minutes and plenty of injury time to see the game out, which we did and so we marched into the next round on Saturday week.









MATCH ACTION COBHAM FC

Cobham FC v Epsom & Ewell FC

Combined Counties | Premier South

Tuesday 29th August 2023

We were very much looking forward to the game against our Landlords at the Reg Madgwick stadium on Tuesday evening, especially after two fine performances in the FA Cup and FA Vase recently.

Our manager, James Scott kept the same team from those two matches with the only addition on the bench being the returning Tommy Williams after recovering from a slight injury incurred at the home match against Redhill a fortnight ago.

Some bizarre officialdom somewhat marred the game throughout the evening; more of that later. We started well with our passing game working well but with little or no penetration from our forward line. We had a couple of scares in the opening exchanges but after 20 minutes we were 'holding our own'. Our opponents then began to exert a little more pressure on our back line and from a corner took the lead around the half-hour mark with a 'toe poke' from near the goal line. We did not react too well to this setback and the half-ended 1-0 to our hosts.

We hoped that we could come back in the second half, but again apart from a couple of long-range shots we were 'second best' all over the field. This half will be remembered for decisions from all three officials that went against our team.



The first was the sending-off of Tommy Williams for a second yellow card after he went through on the keeper and then tried to leapfrog over him; he did catch him slightly but there was no absolute menace in the challenge. A video of the incident clearly shows that the referee's initial reaction to the challenge was to begin to wave play on only to be stopped by the Cobham players to remonstrate with him. The referee went to the linesman and discussed the incident with him and we could all see what was going to happen Tommy was shown his second yellow card. What we find hard to take is that the officials must be 100% correct in their decisionmaking before taking that course of action and they were not, especially when they were shown the video of the incident after the game.

Our ten men went further behind in the 89th minute and then an even more bizarre goal in injury time made it 3-0. As the attack for the third goal began the referee's assistant was waving his flag as if he had been to semaphore school and yet the referee played on and our opponents scored. Again when asked afterwards the officials informed us that the person he had been waving for offside was not interfering with play so that's why he had played on, The same player was the person who scored the goal so we are unsure if that decision was right how can a player not be interfering with play and then a few seconds later score the goal.

This all may seen as rather contrite an excuse for our display. These are not, we all just want the officials to make clear and consistent decisions. Having said all this, it was not a good performance and we deservedly lost. We now find ourselves at the foot of the table with no points; we need to pick up one point and very soon.







COMBINED COUNTIES PREMIER SOUTH

NEXTUP AT HOME





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MATCH ACTION EASTBOURNE UNITED

Eastbourne United v Epsom & Ewell FC

The Emirates FA Cup | First Qualyfying Round

Friday 2nd September 2023

We made the long journey down to play Eastbourne United on Saturday 2nd September in the first round of this year's FA Cup competition after coming through two tough preliminary rounds earlier in August.

We made one change from our loss to Cobham on the previous Tuesday with our Captain Callum Wilson returning after injury to take his place in the back three for us in place of Nick Inwugwu. On the bench, we saw the possible return of Jann Stanley again after a short injury break.

The opening exchanges of the match were mainly in favour of the home team, and we had the odd sporadic attack but all with no end product; it must be noted that the pitch was hard and bobbly and made it difficult to control the ball for both teams. The first 45 minutes petered out into a 0-0 scoreline and the supporters present were hoping for some more goalmouth action in the second half.

No sooner had the second half started we found ourselves 1-0 behind after a polished finish from the Eastbourne No9 who finished on the half-volley with our goalkeeper just looking at the ball as it found the corner of our net.

We really did not have any clear-cut chances even after this setback and did not do to trouble the opposition's goalkeeper. Then in the 79th minute, we found a way to equalise after a free kick caused mayhem in the opposition box and it found its way to Tommy Williams who crossed for Callum Wilson to equalise. Was there a winner to be found by either of the two teams in the time left. The answer was YES, In the 90th minute we found ourselves 2-1 down after breaking down the left flank and a ball into our box where the opposition player had the 'freedom of Sussex' to score the winner; there was not enough time to recover from this setback so our campaign in the FA Cup this year was over.







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MATCH ACTION JERSEY BULLS

Jersey Bulls v Epsom & Ewell FC

Combined Counties | Premier South

Saturday 9th September 2023

We made our longest journey of the season over to Jersey to play the 'Bulls' at their home stadium at Springfield.

The weather was the same as back home with temperatures in the low 30's this would make it difficult for both teams to play any type of free-flowing football in this attritional heat. The home team had designated this game as a match with a Caribbean theme with many supporters turning up in bright-coloured attire to match the weather. In the fan zone, we were entertained by an eight-girl singing group who were very good and helped create the Caribbean vibe. It must be reported that the 'Bulls' hierarchy welcomed us just like the weather; very warmly.

We made a couple of changes to the team that lost in the FA Cup the previous weekend with Ollie Thompson and Ayan Kugarthis returning to the starting lineup.

The game started at a very slow pace due to the intense heat and by far the busier goalkeeper was our one, Harvey Keough who made a few last-ditch saves to keep the scoreline goalless. As for ourselves, our attacks were very few and far between. One other notable feature of the first half was just after the first water break the referee went to both benches to explain that the heat was affecting his eyesight and was replaced by one of the assistant referees. The half ended 0-0.



As anyone involved in football will tell you it is imperative not to concede early in the second half and to keep it tight.

Unfortunately, this did not happen for us and soon after the break after we did not clear a corner a deflected shot went into our net. We found ourselves 1-0 down. In the intense heat, we all knew that this might prove to be very difficult to get back into the match and it proved to be so with the 'Bulls' increasing their lead with around 10 minutes to go after a break. We again had not conjured up any real chances of note apart from a possible attack that was thwarted by an offside flag which the vast majority of the crowd even the home fans could not see as being the right decision with Ethan Nelson-Roberts bearing down on the home goalkeeper to try to equalise. And so it ended 2-0 to our hosts.



FIRST TEAM 2023/24 APPEARANCES & STATS

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



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NICK-AARON INWUGWU

STEVE **SPRINGETT**

OLLIE THOMPSON

REECE TIERNEY

TOMMY WILLIAMS

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CHESTER CLOTHIER

RORY EDWARDS

ETHAN NELSON-ROBERTS

ASH **SNADDEN**

JAAN STANLEY

ADE BATULA

VALENTINO CARPENE

GEORGE OWUSU

BEN BAUCHOP

BEN **AMISSAH**

IAMES **KING**

JABARI OFOSU-HERNANDEZ



Sheerwater FC

Manager: John Comer

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Today's Match Officials

Referee: Thomas Murray Assistant: Phil Paice Assistant: Ashley Carley