

OFFICIAL MATCH DAY PROGRAMME | ISSUE #1 | £2

THE SALT

Epsom & Ewell Football Club



SCFL Division One
v Forest Row FC
Wednesday 17th August 2022
Kick-Off: 7.45pm

Fetcham Grove, Leatherhead, KT22 9AS



Sponsorship Opportunities

We are constantly looking for new sponsors to help and support the club.

Sponsor a match, player, our training kit or even our new website? We have several packages and can also meet your budget. Either speak to a member of our committee or direct message us on our social platforms below!



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Epsom & Ewell FC



From the Dugout

Good evening all, we are looking forward to our first competitive home game tonight hopefully we can start off with 3 points.

Our last pre-season game before the season began was at Fetcham Grove against a strong Leatherhead FC, a game where we knew we would be under the cosh for large periods and a chance to see how our new look Salts dealt with waves of attacks. I felt we held our own in large periods of the game and also bought an attacking threat of our own. Leatherhead did show the difference in levels in front of goal by winning 3-0 but a good shift put in by our lads.

Shoreham, was a bit of an eye-opener, with not much football played on a poor playing surface we come up against a very physical and direct team, we had our chances in the first half but didn't really test the goalkeeper, we found ourselves 2 down at the break from two defensive errors, on reflection of the play 0-0 would have been more than fair. We made changes at half-time and pushed Shoreham back for the first 15 mins but a later counter-attack sealed our fate and it was not the start we were looking for.

A change of shape and 4 changes to the lineup see us become a lot more direct at Seaford again on a poor surface, we fell behind against the run of play but went level from a superb finish by Jubril Adamson, we took the lead shortly after when Tiago Andrade finished on the half volley after a poor clearance from the Seaford defender.

Again we created enough chances to win two football games which is pleasing we need to now turn those chances into goals.

If you offered us 3 points out of our first 2 games away from home against two of the sides beaten in the playoffs we would have taken that, there are lots of signs of encouragement we just need to find the right formula now to kick on. As the saying goes Rome wasn't built in a day.

I hope you enjoy tonight's game and thank you for your continued support.

Gilesy + Juppy



Shoreham Away | SAT 6th AUG

Not the start that we wanted...

This season's opener saw us travel to a fellow playoff participant from last season, Shoreham FC. We traveled with some optimism after a good pre-season; however, it was not the start that we were looking for.

The pitch was, as many pitches will be at this time of the season after the drought we have all been suffering, not conducive to free-flowing football.

We started with the same formation we had been using during pre-season and as predicted it was challenging for either team to get a foothold in the game.

We started on the front foot and should have been two-nil up early on after two opportunities falling to Athan Smith-Joseph who was unable to trouble the Shoreham goalkeeper. Firstly, after a great run from Smith-Joseph, he couldn't hit the target. This was followed up when the ball dropped at his feet from a corner but again couldn't direct the ball on target.

In the 9th minute, we fell behind after a mix-up in the defence, and Shoreham's number 11 (Heath) was able to pass the ball into the net from 18-yards.



Ryan 'Butch' Smith

As the half was coming to a close we fell further behind after another mix-up between our goalkeeper and center-back. This was never a good time to concede and on the balance of play was harsh.

The second half was predominately played in the Shoreham half with the home side's game plan to defend at all costs. However, midway through the second half, we did score what was felt to be a legitimate goal but was ruled out for offside. It was tight, but this time the goal was ruled out.

We had a late sight at goal as Richard Pingling caught the ball sweetly 20 yards out, only for the ball to crash off the crossbar and behind.

As the game wore on Shoreham were reduced to relying on numerous breakouts from defence and in the 91st minute, it proved successful as Ross Myers passed the ball into the empty net after a quick counterattack.

Of course, it is very disappointing to lose on the first game of the season and yes, there is a lot to do on the training pitch before our next match, which will be an equally challenging away trip to Seaford Town. However, you cannot win the 'league on the first day of the season'. We need to regroup and learn from this defeat and move forward.



Athan Smith-Joseph

Welcome Forest Row



www.frowfc.co.uk

Founded: 1892

Home Ground: Memorial Ground

Frow is one of the oldest football clubs in Sussex, founded way back in 1892. The last 129 years has seen us ply our trade in the Mid Sussex divisions, playing at the Memorial Ground nestled in the heart of the village. It's a beautiful sports pavilion that's still home to our Reserves, the Juniors and other sports including tennis and cricket.



Courtesy of the Forest Row Website

After a new crop of players joined back in 2012, the club was fresh off the back of two successive demotions, managerless and languishing in the MSFL Division One. Fast forward 9 years and we're playing in the Southern Combination Football League for the first time in our existence. Despite three promotions in this time, recent silverware has eluded Frow, coming close in the Montgomery Cup against Lindfield in 2016 and then reaching the Sussex Intermediate Cup final in 2020 only for COVID to enforce the cancellation of the competition. It was a frustrating end to a successful season for Frow, who was also sitting pretty in second and going for the MSFL Prem title. Following a ground share agreement with Oakwood FC thanks to supporting from our sponsors Elliot Scott Group, Frow's high placed finish at the end of the 2020/21 season was enough to take us up to County 1 and enjoy step 6 football. It's an exciting journey to be part of and we look forward to testing ourselves against top opposition. We also bid a fond farewell to the Mid Sussex Football League after all this time and can vouch for the high level of quality in the Prem.

We are a club that likes to do things differently. We're tight-knit, pay to enjoy football rather than be paid, and we do it purely for the love of the game. As hopefully all past and present Frow players will testify, this is a special club.



Courtesy of the Forest Row Website

From the Archive

Our last outing against today's opponents finished with a 2-0 home win for Epsom.

A good victory and another clean sheet.

We took the field on Bank Holiday Monday with a couple of changes to our last lineup. In central defence came Paul Springett to partner with his brother Steve. The versatile Louis Chin moved to left-back and we welcomed back Athan Smith-Joseph and Michael Hill. We also welcomed Kofi Quartey for his home debut. A very healthy Bank Holiday crowd of 116 turned up to watch the game.

This was our third meeting of the season against Forest Row and of those three meetings we have won both the league games scoring 5 without conceding any. Today's 2-0 victory was hard-fought especially towards the end of the match as our players were suffering from a lack of match fitness having played only once in six weeks; they had trained every week but playing matches is the on.y way to get 'match fit.

The match - Epsom had the first chance as early as the 2nd minute, but Adam Grant's shot was just over. Both teams had further chances, the deadlock was broken in the 22nd minute by Kofi Quartey who finished well from within the penalty box after a free-kick. This was the last action of the first half to note.

In the second half, Epsom had numerous chances to add to the scoreline but none were taken until the 59th minute when again Kofi was on hand to beat the Forest Row goalkeeper after great work by Luke Miller on the right. Epsom went searching for the third goal and again had numerous chances; on two occasions the Forest Row goalkeeper had been beaten by two exquisite lobbs but both efforts went agonisingly over the bar. Forest Row was not without the odd chance or two and Matt Bishop in the Epsom goal had to make a couple of great saves to keep the scoreline 2-0.

It was great to see Jamie Byatt make a short cameo appearance from the bench in the 84th minute after a period on the sidelines with an injury. In summary, good all-round performance with everyone playing their part and included in that statement was the referee who 'set out his stall' to try and keep his cards in his pocket and this was achieved; the game was played in a good spirit.

Seaford Away | SAT 13th AUG

Up and Running

Another difficult fixture faced us today with an away game at last year's play-off semi-finalists, Seaford Town. And for our supporters the second long journey in a week. When we arrived a similar pitch awaited us with hotter temperatures than last week.

Our formation changed slightly from last week's defeat and we found ourselves behind after 6 minutes to a goal from Seaford after a smart turn and finish from their striker; it was not the start we were looking for. However, we were soon back on level terms after a great finish from Jubril Adamson who beat their central defenders for pace and left the goalkeeper flat-footed as the ball nestled in the net. Only a few minutes later we were ahead after a superb volleyed finish from Tiago Andrade; the ball fell to him on the edge of the penalty box and his finish was sublime, again the goalkeeper had no chance with the shot.

For the rest of the first half, no team really got into the ascendency and it was being played out in searing heat even though there were plenty of opportunities for the players to take water breaks either official or unofficial, the game took on an attritional sense.



Jubril Adamson celebrates his first goal for the club

We entered the dressing room at halftime with that precious halftime lead.

The heat never dissipated throughout the whole match and with the hard pitch, there was little chance of a free-flowing game. The second half produced very few chances for either side and all the players who took part should be congratulated for playing in the intense heat.

So we registered our first win of the season at a very tough place to go. The team played well and showed incredible game management to see the game out in the latter stages.

We move to our next fixture at home to Forest Row this coming Wednesday; it would be great to see a good attendance as we try to build on this success.

Come on you Salts



Tiago Andrade looking for our third of the match

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KIT: BLUE & WHITE

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ZACH POWELL

AARON BOGLE

ANDY HALL

BRAD PETERS (C)

GIDEON ACHEAMPONG

RYAN SMITH

LOUIS CHIN

JAHOBI MAHER

JUBRIL ADAMSON

TIAGO ANDRADE

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STEVE SPRINGETT

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ADAM GRANT

KAM ZAIN

JOSH ALDER

JOSH OWEN



FOREST ROW FC

MANAGER: RON HOLAH

KIT: WHITE & BLACK

BEN ABBOTT

CALLUM DUCKWORTH

TOM GREEN

ALEX EVANS

KIERAN JACKSON

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MATT BURROUGHS

ROSS JONES

BRETT CAIGER

STEVE MAJOR

REFEREE: A HALL

ASSISTANT: A HOWARD

ASSISTANT: K BISLEY



NEXT AT HOME: SELSEY FC

SAT 10TH SEPTEMBER 2022

KICK-OFF: 3.00PM