

ALL THE FACTS, STARS AND FIGURES



"BEFORE WINCH'S FIELD"

A NOSTALGIC LOOK AT THE HISTORY OF HERNE BAY FOOTBALL CLUB

FROM THEIR FORMATION IN 1886
TO THE END OF THE
1952-1953 SEASON

RESULTS-SCORES-MATCH REPORTS-LEAGUE TABLES

Herne Bay Press.
Saturday, November 1st, 1902.

Football

HERNE BAY v. BIRCHINGTON
Ten Goals Scored in Drawn Game at the Park

HERNE BAY PRESS

HERNE BAY COASTERS
(2nd XI) versus
HERNE BAY ATHLETIC
(2nd XI) at
Victoria Athletic Ground, William Street
Admission 4d. (Including Tax). Kick-off 3

HERNE BAY v. WHITSTABLE.
A CRUSHING DEFEAT FOR THE REDS.
How are the mighty fallen! Last Saturday the Herne Bay team, after a very much one-sided game on their own ground, succumbed miserably to the Whites of Whitstable. Last Saturday's defeat was a crushing one over the Whites of Whitstable.

DOVER ROVERS BEATEN
Herne Bay Winners Kent Junior Cup Divisional Final

THURSDAY FOOTBALL.
FIRST MATCH IN THE PARK.
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL KICKS OFF.
Mr. G. Haiklock, J.P., Chairman of the Urban District Council, kicked off at the

HERNE BAY FOOTBALL CLUB (AMATEUR K.C.F.A.) FOOTBALLERS!
The above Club has pleasure in making the following announcement:—
A Team has been entered in the Kent Amateur League and for the coming season, and there are still vacancies for Promising Players. Why not join? The Secretary will be pleased to supply the necessary Application Forms to those who are interested.

THE "HERONS" HANDSOME!
TWO LEAGUE MATCHES.
HERNE BAY v. ASHFORD PARROVERS.
The Herne Bay senior team not only maintained their unbeaten record this season but also secured a superb victory over the Ashford Parrovers on Saturday. The weather, apart from being contrary, was definitely cold, and this was reflected in the form of the Mem...

HERNE BAY WINS THE CUP.
The North-East Kent Football League.
A good deal of uncertainty exists at that the Herne Bay team were successful on Tuesday afternoon at Sheerness.

SUPPORTERS' CLUB HAS RAISED £500

Herne Bay Win at Home
It will be good news for all lovers of football in Herne Bay to learn that the Herne Bay Club maintained their unbeaten record this season. The Herne Bay senior team not only maintained their unbeaten record this season but also secured a superb victory over the Ashford Parrovers on Saturday. The weather, apart from being contrary, was definitely cold, and this was reflected in the form of the Mem...

HERNE BAY TO RESUME IN HERNE BAY
Herne Bay to Meet Bobby's Sports Club in Memorial Park this Saturday

EAST KENT LEAGUE.

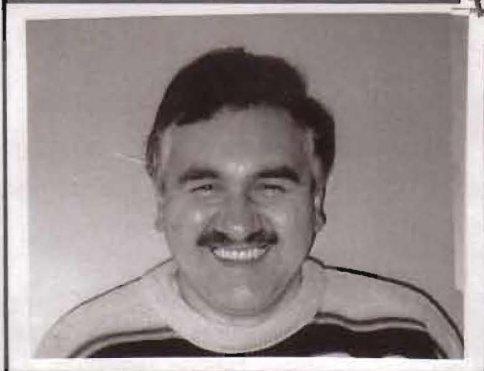
Team	P	W	L	D	F	Goals
Hamgate	3	2	0	1	10	
Folkestone Excelsior	4	2	2	2	2	
Herne Bay						



EDITOR : Doug Smith.

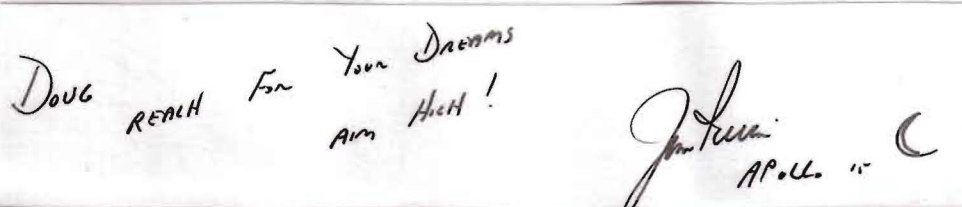
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

DOUG SMITH was born in Aberfeldy, Scotland. He played the 'obligatory' schools football before joining Bradstow United in the Thanet Sunday league. On moving to the South Midlands he played for the now defunct Milton Keynes City Sunday side, and then helped form Milton Keynes Sporting F.C. Apart from two separate trials with Margate F.C., and a couple of pre-season warm-up games with Kettering Town in the Gola League, his football 'career' is less than startling. He first watched HERNE BAY F.C. in 1985, but did not become a regular supporter until their first Kent League championship season in 1991-1992. In 1993 he was elected Treasurer of the Herne Bay F.C. Supporters Club, and became Programme Editor in the same season. He was elected to the Football Club committee for the 1994-1995 season.



INTRODUCTION

On Monday 15th January 1990, I had the pleasure of meeting Colonel James Irwin, the Lunar Module pilot on the Apollo 15 mission, and one of only twelve men to have set foot on the surface of the moon. Below is the inscription that he added to his signature on a photograph I have in my collection ;



Six years later, I decided to "aim high", and put together the book you are now reading. This, the First volume, covers the period between the formation of HERNE BAY FOOTBALL CLUB in November 1886, up to the end of the 1952-1953 season - the last before the Club's move to their present home at Winch's Field.

Research into a book of this nature relies heavily on the records of the local press, and the memories of those involved at the time. I have been very fortunate in both of these fields.

Many of the facts I have discovered, will, no doubt, be as much of a surprise to even the local reader, as they were to me! For instance, the part that Herne Bay Blue Triangle F.C. played in re-forming the Club in the mid 1930's, was something of which I had absolutely no previous knowledge.

The quality and inconsistent nature of the local press coverage prior to the Second World War, means that as well as some records being incomplete, errors may have crept in. If they have, I apologise in advance, and would ask that if you should spot an error, then please notify me so that the records can be put straight!

DOUG SMITH

SEPTEMBER 1997



PREFACE

As will be gleaned from the pages of this publication, matches between the Herne Bay and Whitstable Football Club's, have been, and continue to be, regular fixtures on the local footballing calendar.

The game on New Years day 1898, which ended in a 4-1 win for the Whitstable side, prompted one fan to pen the following.

The greatest pity, is that it is incomplete, but in the context of this book, it is a valuable, and wonderful piece.

(To the tune of :-) "THE SOLDIERS OF THE QUEEN"

Herne Bay folks did come up here and boast,
about the way they a game could play.
They thought that they would warm us up like toast,
when trying for to win the day.

*
*

Lots of people gathered for to see the fun,
while wondering who would be victorious?

*
*

Colley got the ball and shot for goal,
but Foad, he very nicely kept it out.

*
*

Up the field the ball, they quickly get, and try and force it,
in the net.
A shot from Stubbs, the ball is home,
and the verdict is a United goal.

*

All of them were against the referee,
but we thought he was as fair as man could be,
when trying for to please the men.

*
*

But Stupples was amongst them, and him we mustn't forget,
for with his head he gave a grand display.

*

From Ashby, Day and DUnn, we got a heap of fun,
and likewise from the good hardworking backs.

*
*



*
*

So when you're asked who are the champions,
remember, the United football team.

*
*

The game was fairly won,?.....
our flag blew out victorious,?.....

*

so the Herne Bay players must not crow,
for we'll soon let them know.
So when you're asked, who it was we conquered,
you must tell them, it was the Herne Bay team.

*
*

so the cunning Fox went into his den, and,
he's left the grapes behind.

***** (R.P. (Un-known) .)
(February 1898)

There were three other meetings between the two Clubs during the 1897/1898
season. They all went Herne Bay's way.

27th. November 1897	Herne Bay	2	Whitstable	0
26th. February 1898	Whitstable	1	Herne Bay	2
12th. March... 1898	Herne Bay	2	Whitstable	0

As I mentioned, there are several lines of the 'song' missing, and indeed,
the chorus, but all the same, it is a wonderful moody, period piece, that
sets the scene for the early chapters of this book.



TOM RIDOUT....

HERNE BAY F.C.....1886 to 1891

Pictures of those who played in Herne Bay F.C.'s first ever match, are, not surprisingly, fairly rare, but Tom Ridout, above, appeared in six of Herne Bay's eight matches during their first season, including the first.

Tom was one of seven brothers of which at least six played for Herne Bay. The others were Sidney, Ernest, Henry, Fred, and Ben.



The formation, in November 1886, of HERNE BAY FOOTBALL CLUB, owes much to the determination of the Mobbs family who ran the former Kent Coast College. At the time, the Town were without a Football Club, although a side from the College had played matches for several years prior to 1886.

On Saturday 11th of December 1886, the following article appeared in the Herne Bay Press.

HERNE BAY FOOTBALL CLUB.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

For some while past there has been an attempt to reconstruct the "Herne Bay Football Club." We are glad to be in a position to inform the public that under the captainship of Mr. Edgar Mobbs, of Kent Coast College, assisted by an influential patron and a useful committee, a thoroughly good organisation is established.

Practice has been carried on each Thursday afternoon during the last three weeks, in the field adjoining Mr. Curling's dairy, and some twenty-four names have been enrolled in membership, the fee for which is 2s. 6d. for playing and 5s. for honorary members. We shall be pleased to note the success of our young townsmen from time to time.

Any person wishing to join the club or requiring information may apply to the Secretary, Mr. F. A. Boulding, Brunswick Street, Herne Bay.

The reference to "...the field adjoining Mr. Curlings Dairy....", meant a further search of local records. Within minutes of starting to turn the pages of the 1887 volume of the Herne Bay Press, I came upon the advertisement shown below. Yet more research revealed that the 'field' was located in Eddington, but the exact location remains uncertain.

In their first match as HERNE BAY FOOTBALL CLUB, they faced
... Kent Coast College!

The Date :
Thursday 16th December
1886.

The Result :
a 0-6 defeat ! The first team ever to represent HERNE BAY FOOTBALL CLUB, were as follows ;

- F. Barker, W. Clarke, F. Sherwood, E. Ridout, P. Admans, F. Owen,
- F. Nunns, T. Ridout, E. Blyth, F. Riche, F.A. Boulding, E. Heaney.

The match was played in the College grounds, on a field, prepared for the occasion, adjoining the Tennis Courts.

Herne Bay Dairy Supply,

New Milk, Butter, Eggs and Poultry, delivered to any part of the town twice a day.

LAWN TENNIS COURTS,

CANTERBURY ROAD,
TEN COURTS TO BE LET BY THE HOUR OR DAY.
Arrangements made for Visitors joining the Club, and for teaching the Game.

COMPLETE PROVISIONS FOR PICNICS, LUNCHEONS OR TEAS AT SHORTEST NOTICE

For Full Particulars apply to
Miss CURLING, at the Dairy.



A further defeat, 0-2, at the hands of Teynham Football Club, followed just after Christmas, and the Club's first victory did not come about until Thursday the 10th March 1887, when they recorded a 5-2 win over St. Augustine Canterbury College.

There follows, probably seen together for the first time in over a century, a complete record of Herne Bay Football Club's playing record for the 1886/1887 season.

Match No. 1	Thu 16 Dec 1886	(A)	Kent Coast College	Lost	0-6
Match No. 2	Thu 30 Dec 1886	(A)	Teynham F.C.	Lost	0-2
Match No. 3	Thu 27 Jan 1887	(H)	Kent Coast College	Drew	2-2
Match No. 4	Thu 10 Feb 1887	(A)	St. Augustine's College	Drew	0-0
Match No. 5	Thu 17 Feb 1887	(A)	Kent Coast College	Drew	3-3
Match No. 6	Thu 24 Feb 1887	(H)	Teynham F.C.	Drew	1-1
Match No. 7	Thu 10 Mar 1887	(H)	St. Augustine's College	Won.	5-2
Match No. 8	Thu 24 Mar 1887	(H)	Faversham F.C.	Drew	0-0

Matches No. 3 and No. 6, were played on Mr. Curling's Field.

Matches No. 7 and No. 8, were played in Hanover Square, by kind permission of the land owner, Mr. T. Rogers.

Details of goalscorers are virtually non-existent. The exception being the 3-3 draw with Kent Coast College. A. Hogbin and F.A. Boulding were responsible for two, if not all three, of Herne Bay's goals.

The same cannot be said, however, in relation to Players appearances. Apart from the home match with Teynham F.C., all teams are on record. In all, some twenty-nine players represented the Club in their first season, and it is doubtful that a full listing of Players Appearances for the 1886/1887 season, has ever appeared before!

7 appearances :	F.A. BOULDING	1 appearance :	F. Barker
6 appearances :	E. Ridout	1 appearance :	E. Blyth
6 appearances :	T. Ridout	1 appearance :	J. Cremer
5 appearances :	H. Blackburn	1 appearance :	W. Clarke
5 appearances :	F. Sherwood	1 appearance :	C. Fagan
4 appearances :	P. Admans	1 appearance :	C. Fox
4 appearances :	C.E. Bell	1 appearance :	E. Heaney
4 appearances :	W.W. Clarke	1 appearance :	R. Heaney
4 appearances :	C. Godfrey	1 appearance :	P. Hawson
4 appearances :	F. Nunns	1 appearance :	F. Owen
4 appearances :	J. Welby	1 appearance :	F. Riche
3 appearances :	A. Hogbin	1 appearance :	P. Wood
3 appearances :	E.L. Mobbs		
2 appearances :	A. Fagan		
2 appearances :	A. Hill		
2 appearances :	E. Lee,		
2 appearances :	C. Sherwood		

The only slight doubt in this list, is if W.W. Clarke and W. Clarke, are one and the same player. It has proved impossible to establish this one way or the other.



On Wednesday 11th May 1887, at the end of their first season, the Football Club held their opening General Meeting at the Kent Coast College. The principal, Mr. S. Neal Mobbs, allowed the Club the use of a room, "...at no cost...". The meeting was Chaired by the Club President, Mr. Fenoulhet, who examined and passed accounts showing a first Season surplus of, 18/3 (91½p) !

The Club's first Season had started with a 0-6 defeat, but, as the saying goes, ' What a difference a day (well, year) makes!' On Wednesday 26th October 1887, the first game of the new Season was played on the Eddington Cricket Ground, which had been acquired as a home ground for the season. Their opponents were a side from the Kent County School at Birchington. Herne Bay won the toss, and played with the advantage of a strong wind. By half-time, they had built up a 6-0 lead, and the addition of three second half goals resulted in a final 9-0 scoreline! The line up for the first game of the 1887/1888 season was :-

W. Bowes, F. Sherwood, A. Hogbin, T. Ridout, F. Hall, J. Welby, S.R. Laver, C.E. Bell, F.A. Boulding, C. Fox, and E.L. Mobbs.

The Kent County School were represented by the following.

Smith, Elmer, Grace, Homer, Miller, Tourney, Graham, Hudson, Norris, Watson, and Munay.

In a match on 10th November 1887, Herne Bay made the short journey to Faversham, to play the local Grammer School side. Showing only two changes from their opening game line-up, they found the opposition somewhat more of a test, and returned home having suffered a 1-5 defeat.

A week later, Faversham Town were the visitors, and on a snow covered pitch, Herne Bay turned a 2-1 half-time advantage, into a convincing 6-1 victory.

Herne Bay's third game of the month took place on the 30th November, with a return match against the Kent County School. With several players not able to make the trip, plus two players missing the train, an already weakened side was down to nine men!

The School took advantage of their greater numbers, and scraped home by a single goal. The nine players were :-

C. Wood, F. Sherwood, H. Norris, G. Goldfinch, P. Admans, F.A. Boulding, W. Bowes, L. Watson, and E.L. Mobbs.

Played on the 7th December, Herne Bay encountered new opponents in the shape of the Clergy Orphan School, Canterbury. The game was described as one of, "...several missed chances...", and the School ran out 3-1 winners, although the report comments that Sherwood and Bell played well at the back.



The first game of 1888, took place on Wednesday 4th January. Again playing new opponents, Herne Bay travelled to Canterbury to play the City side. Canterbury won the toss, and in the first-half, played with the wind. A fairly even first half saw Herne Bay take a 2-1 lead. Playing in the second half with the advantage of the wind in their backs, they added another five goals, to record a fine 7-1 win over a side that they would meet on a regular basis over the next century or so!

In the long history of our two Club's, meetings with Whitstable Football Club have always been 'special' occasions!

The very first match between the two sides took place on Saturday 28th. January 1888, on Whitstable's ground. Leading by a single goal at half-time, Herne Bay went on to notch up a 4-0 victory.

The Herne Bay side for that first encounter were :-

L. Hogbin, F. Sherwood, A. Hogbin, C. Fox, M. Welby, R. Butcher, F.A. Boulding, C. Admans, E.L. Mobbs, C.E. Bell, L. Laver.

Herne Bay's next match was played at Margate, against a side from Thanet College. Virtually no details of goal scorers seem to appear in press reports of this era, although this game is a rare exception to the rule. It is recorded that, Mobbs, Boulding, and Bell were the scorers in Herne Bay's 3-0 win.

The second meeting between Herne Bay and Whitstable took place two weeks after the first. On Saturday 11th February 1888, in a match played on Eddington Cricket Ground, the two sides shared the honours, with a 3-3 draw.

Another match against ST. Augustine's College followed. Half-time arrived with neither side having found the back of the net, but in the second half, Herne Bay scored twice, without reply, to record another victory.

Saturday 17th March saw the return match against Faversham. Leading 2-0 at half-time, Herne Bay let things slip in the second half, and the home side scored twice, to earn themselves a 2-2 draw.

The Herne Bay side was :-

G.S. Wood, A. Hogbin, F. Sherwood, G.S. Butcher, T. Ridout, C. Fox, C. West, C. Boulding, C.E. Bell, S.R. Laver, E.L. Mobbs.

On Thursday 22nd March, Thanet College were the visitors to Eddington. Late arrivals meant Herne Bay started the match with just eight players, but, once up to full strength, Herne Bay's class showed, and 6-1 in the home sides favour, was the result of a one-sided game.

The second General Meeting took place on Monday 23rd April 1888, with Dr. Fenoulhet once again in the chair.

The accounts were described as, "...healthy....", (?), with receipts recorded as £5-3s-9d, and expenses of £5-1s-8d, leaving the treasurer with a balance of 2/1 (10½p). The Club's full playing record in the 1887/1888 season was :-

P. 16 W. 6 D. 3 L. 7 F. 53 A. 50



Although not a complete listing, here are the names of those players who are known to have represented Herne Bay Football Club during the 1887/1888 season.

P. Admans	C.E. Bell	F.A. Boulding
W. Bowes	R. Butcher	H. Crouch
C. Fox	H. Fuller	S. Gibbs
G. Goldfinch	F. Hall	A. Hill
A. Hogbin	L.W. Hogbin	L. Laver
S.R. Laver	E.L. Mobbs	P. Moore
H. Morris	T. Ridout	F. Sherwood
A.M. Usher	T. Usher	L. Watsom
J. Welby	C. West	C. Wood
	G.S. Wood	

Herne Bay Football Club's third season started with a home defeat. On Wednesday 24th October 1888, Margate College were the visitors to Herne Bay. The resulting 2-4 defeat was certainly not what the home side wanted, especially as they had taken an early lead. The Herne Bay side for the opening game was :-

F.A. Boulding, A. Hogbin, F. Sherwood, C. Fox, G. Butcher,
T. Ridout, C.E. Bell, S. Gibbs, E.L. Mobbs, S. Laver, B. Vasse.

Details of the Margate College side are not complete, but, for the record, they certainly included the following.

L.C. Baker, T. Palmer, ?. Roland, G. Kingsmill, C. Hazelwood,
J. Baker, A. Lewis.

November the 5th saw a local derby against the Kent Coast College. Several regular Herne Bay players, notably E.L. Mobbs and C.E. Bell, turned out for the College side. The weakened side were no match for their hosts, and went down to a 1-6 defeat.

Herne Bay played their second match in three days on November the 8th., when they visited Faversham Town. Although, somewhat unusually, team details are not on record, it is known that Herne Bay changed their goalkeeper at half-time. Quite why is lost in the mists of time, but suffice it to say, that at half-time they were losing 0-2, and finished up on the wrong end of a 0-8 scoreline!

The return fixture against Faversham Town took place on Saturday the 19th of January 1889. Faversham had the advantage of a stiff breeze in the first half, and took a 2-1 lead. In the second half, the advantage turned Herne Bay's way, and two further goals enabled the home side to record a 3-2 win. Herne Bay's scorers were, E.L. Mobbs, C.E. Bell, and S. Laver. The Herne Bay side for this match was :-

H. Crouch, F. Sherwood, A. Hogbin, T. Ridout, C. Fox, W. Benton,
S. Laver, F. Benton, C.E. Bell, P. Admans, and E.L. Mobbs.



The following Saturday, 26th of January, Whitstable were the visitors. Herne Bay once again had the better of things, and proved to be the better side in the course of a 4-1 victory.

February 1889 saw Herne Bay contest four matches, two at home, and two away. Victories over St. Augustine's College, (2-0), and The Cavalry Depot, (2-1), preceded Herne Bay's first ever visit to play Sittingbourne Football Club. Described as a, "...close and well fought contest...", the home side went on to record a narrow 1-0 win.

On the 28th of the Month, the side travelled to Margate to take on Thanet College. The College had reached this stage of the season unbeaten, but within five minutes of the match starting, Herne Bay had established a two goal lead. Although the College pulled back one goal, it was still Herne Bay who held the half-time advantage. The second half proved to be even more profitable for Herne Bay. The College managed to add a further two goals to their own tally, but four more strikes from their visitors, upset the odds, to see Herne Bay record a fine 6-3 victory.

On the 9th of March, Whitstable played hosts to Herne Bay, but they did not make the most of their home advantage, and the visitors 4-2 victory meant that it was another 'derby' defeat against their neighbours.

Two games followed, both at home, against a team simply known as The Volunteers. In the two matches, Herne Bay recorded a remarkable twenty-three goals without reply. Their 14-0 victory on the 14th of March, stood for many years, as their biggest victory.

Herne Bay played one last game in the 1888/1889 season, when, for the first time in their history, they played a London based team.

On Easter Monday, they entertained The Caledonians, a team comprising largely of Scotsmen. Many of the Caledonian players were vastly more experienced than their Herne Bay counter-parts.

The outcome never supposed to be in doubt, but at half-time, the sides were locked together at 2-2. Herne Bay's keeper, H. Crouch, was described as the home teams hero, and the Caledonian's managed just one more goal, to record a face-saving 3-2 defeat of their hosts.

HERNE BAY : H. Crouch, A. Hogbin, F. Sherwood, C. Fox,
W. Benton, T. Ridout, S. Laver, H. Morris, C.E. Bell,
H. Darney, E.L. Mobbs.

By the end of the season, Herne Bay Football Club had played a total of twenty-two matches. Once again, it is very doubtful if a full listing in this format has ever been published before.

24 OCT 1888	(H)	Margate College	Lost	2-4
05 NOV 1888	(A)	Kent Coast College	Lost	1-6
08 NOV 1888	(A)	Faversham Football Club	Lost	0-8
10 NOV 1888	(H)	Kent Coast College	Won.	6-3
15 NOV 1888	(A)	St, Augustine's College	Lost	0-2
21 NOV 1888	(A)	Margate College	Lost	1-6



29 NOV 1888	(A)	Faversham Grammer School	Lost	1-2
06 DEC 1888	(A)	Kent College, Canterbury	Won.	3-2
13 DEC 1888	(H)	Thanet College	Lost	0-2
19 DEC 1888	(H)	Sittingbourne Football Club	Won.	7-0
10 JAN 1889	(A)	Cavalry Depot	Won.	2-0
19 JAN 1889	(H)	Faversham Football Club	Won.	3-2
26 JAN 1889	(H)	Whitstable Football Club	Won.	4-1
31 JAN 1889	(H)	Faversham Grammar School	Won.	7-2
09 FEB 1889	(H)	St. Augustine's College	Won.	2-0
14 FEB 1889	(H)	Cavalry Depot	Won.	2-1
20 FEB 1889	(A)	Sittingbourne Football Club	Lost	0-1
28 FEB 1889	(A)	Thanet College	Won.	6-3
09 MAR 1889	(A)	Whitstable Football Club	Won.	4-2
14 MAR 1889	(H)	The Volunteers	Won.	14-0
28 MAR 1889	(H)	The Volunteers	Won.	9-0
APR 1889	(H)	The Caledonians	Lost	2-3

P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.
22	13	0	9	76	50

The Players Appearances list for the 1888/1889 season, is far from complete, but listed below are the players who are known to have represented the Club during the season.

P. Admans	C.E. Bell	F. Benton
W. Benton	F.A. Boulding	G. Butcher
H. Crouch	H. Darney	C. Fox
S. Gibbs	A. Hogbin	L.W. Hogbin
S. Laver	E.L. Mobbs	H. Morris
T. Ridout	F. Rothschild	F. Sherwood
	B. Vasse	

It is fairly certain that several other players took part in matches, but, unlike the previous two seasons, the local press did not always list a full team

The 1889/1890 season got under way in October, with the 'annual' home and away fixtures against the Kent Coast College. It is very difficult to describe these games as actually being "home" OR "away", as the College was located in Canterbury Road....Herne Bay.

The two games were shared, with the College winning the "away" match by a 2-0 margin, and then Herne Bay winning their "home" game by a single goal.

The following game entailed the trip to Margate, to play Thanet College. The side got little reward from the trip, and returned home having suffered a 1-5 defeat.



Canterbury were the next visitors, and in what was to prove to be a close game, a late goal gave Herne Bay victory by the smallest of margins. Two more home matches followed. First came the London side, New Court. Normally a very strong side, New Court made the journey with only eight regular players, and three 'friends'. The match proved to be something of a one-sided affair, with Herne Bay running out 4-0 winners.

The following week, Faversham suffered an even heavier defeat, losing 6-2, although at one stage, they only trailed 3-2.

The winning momentum came to a halt in the match against ST. Augustine's college in Canterbury. Having scored ten goals in their last two matches, Herne Bay failed to find the back of the net in this one. Their hosts found this task somewhat easier, and emerged as 3-0 winners.

The first game of 1890 was played on the 11th. of January. Whitstable were the opponents, in what was to be the only meeting of the season, between the two Club's. Herne Bay made the most of their home advantage, and once again, proved too strong for their visitors, in scoring six goals without reply.

In what was proving to be a see-saw season of goalscoring, (their last four results had been 4-0, 6-2, 0-3, and 6-0,) the next match, away at Faversham, continued the trend, when the home side chalked up a 5-2 win. Although they had suffered defeat, the two goals scored in this match, brought their tally to eighteen in just five matches.

Played on the Old Park ground, Canterbury were hosts for a match played on Thursday the 30th. of January 1890. Included in the Canterbury line-up, was the Reverend T. Field! Indeed it was he who scored Canterbury's opening goal. Simpson, the home sides centre-forward, added a second to give his side a 2-0 half-time lead. Early in the second half, Benton pulled a goal back for Herne Bay. Any thoughts of further advancement were quickly squashed, when the Reverend scored his second goal of the game, to restore Canterbury's two goal cushion. Simpson went on to complete his hat-trick, to round off a convincing 5-1 victory for the City side. For the record, both sides are recorded below.

HERNE BAY : E. Taylor, F. Sherwood, G. Parry, J. Welby, A. Freear,
H. Crouch, T. Ridout, Jones, S. Ridout, B. Welby, F. Benton,
CANTERBURY : Allen, Rennie, Comyns, Macfarlane, Letts, Blore,
Simpson, Lancaster, Fricker, Rev.T. Field, Scudamore.

Herne Bay got back to winning ways with a 5-3 away win over Faversham Grammar School, before continuing in the same vein, with a 4-1 home win over Thanet College.

The 1889/1890 season concluded with two victories over London sides, both on Easter Monday the 7th. of April. The Caledonians, who had also provided the opposition on the same day in the previous season, at one time held a 2-1 lead. Herne Bay drew level, before a headed goal from Tom Ridout, enabled the Home side to reverse the scoreline of twelve months earlier.



In the second match of the day, New Court were the visitors. Herne Bay played the first half with only ten men, but by the final whistle, they had concluded their season with a 2-1 victory.

The season had only stretched to fourteen matches, but the highlight was the fact that they had recorded a 100% home record. Here are the seasons details.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.
<u>HOME</u>	8	8	0	0	27	6
<u>AWAY</u>	6	1	0	5	9	23
<u>Total :</u>	14	9	0	5	36	29

For some unrecorded reason, the 1890/1891 season got off to a very late start for Herne Bay F.C. Their first fixture, away against Kent College, in Canterbury, did not take place until Thursday the 4th. of December 1890.

Prior to this game, many of the Herne Bay players had been turning out for the Kent Coast College side. On Thursday the 20th. of November, the College played a match against Mr. C. Lumley's XI. The game ended in a 3-3 draw, and afterwards the two teams "took tea" at the New Pier Hotel. The Kent Coast College team consisted mainly of Herne Bay F.C. players.

C. Lumley, A. Hogbin, T. Ridout, J. Welby, E. Taylor, B. Welby,
F. Ridout, H. Boulding, C. Fox, F. Sherwood, Williams.

In that first game against Kent College, things went nearly all Herne Bay's way. By half-time, Sherwood, Sims, and Ridout had put the visitors 3-0 in front. A second goal for Sherwood, and one from Fox, rounded off a convincing 5-2 victory.

A home fixture against New Court followed on Boxing Day. Played on Mr. Curling's ground, Herne Bay once again built up a 3-0 half-time lead. On this occasion however, they could not add to that total, eventually running out 3-1 winners. The team for this match bore a very strong resemblance to the side that had represented the Kent Coast College back in November!

C. Lumley, T. Ridout, F. Sherwood, E. Taylor, J. Welby, F. Ridout,
S. Laver, Walker, E.L. Mobbs, C. Fox, A. Walker.

The first recorded match of 1891, against Kent Coast College, took place on Thursday the 26th. of February. A Charlie Fox hat-trick, and a single strike from Wilson, saw Herne Bay to a comfortable 4-1 win.



Saturday the 7th. of March saw Herne Bay travel to Whitstable, for what was already becoming a regular fixture. Just for once, the game went very much Whitstable's way, as they led 2-0 at half-time. Charlie Fox pulled one goal back, before two further goals gave the home side a 4-1 win. For the record, both sides are listed below.

HERNE BAY : E. Taylor, A. Hogbin, T. Ridout, J. Welby, F. Ridout, P. Admans, G. Williams, J. Walker, H. Wilson, C. Fox, F. Sherwood.

WHITSTABLE : T. Evans, E. Rigden, E.J. Nicholls, E. Brett, P.Wood, W.H. Reeves, W. Hedley, C. Mercer, P. Browning, E. Humphrey, E.Court.

Another defeat followed on Wednesday the 25th. of March 1891, when Sittingbourne were the visitors. They had brought a strong team, and Walker's goal was Herne Bay's only reply to two from Sittingbourne.

New Court, for the third season running, closed Herne Bay's season with an Easter Monday visit. The same club had also made the journey over the Christmas holiday, when they suffered a 3-1 defeat. Things went no better for them this time, as Herne Bay went one better, and eased their way to a 4-1 victory.

HERNE BAY F.C. 1890/1891 SEASON



Back Row (l. to r.) C.H. Fox, J. Welby, F. Sherwood, A. Hogbin, A. Freear.
 Middle Row (" " ") C.A. Lumley, T.F. Ridout, E.L. Mobbs, A.S. Walker.
 Front Row (" " ") H. Boulding, P.G. Admans.



Although other players, certainly, turned out for Herne Bay, the following are known to have played during the 1890/1891 season.

P. Admans	H. Boulding	?. Calvert
A. Freear	C.H. Fox	?. Goulder
R. Greaves	A. Hogbin	L. Hogbin
S. Laver	C. Lumley	C. Minter
E.L. Mobbs	F. Ridout	T. Ridout
F. Sherwood	G. Simms	E. Taylor
A. Walker	J. Walker	H. Welby
J. Welby	G. Williams	H. Wilson
	J. Wilson	

At the start of the following season, the traditional curtain-raiser against Kent Coast College, took place on Thursday the 1st. of October 1891.

Straight away though, I run into a small question of accuracy! In the report of this match in the Herne Bay Press, the score is given as 6-2 in favour of the college. However, in the Club's end of season summary, the result is given as 5-1 to the college. Whatever the true score was, the mention in the first report, of, "...Herne Bay being short of practice....", is obviously correct!

Two further defeats during October were to follow. On Thursday the 15th., the 11th. Hussars inflicted what was to prove to be, Herne Bay's heaviest defeat of the season. At half-time the Hussars led 2-1, and by the end of the match, they had increased this to a 7-2 winning margin.

Two weeks later, Thanet College inflicted October's third defeat, when they ran out 3-2 winners on their own ground.

October had proved to be a difficult opening month. Without a win, Herne Bay had conceded fifteen (or sixteen) goals, while scoring just five (or six) themselves.

For the away fixture against Margate College on the 19th. of November, Herne Bay could only muster nine players, as Hogbin and Sherwood were not able to travel. The college had a spare player, H. Batchelor, who agreed to turn out for Herne Bay. The college had much the better of things, and, by all accounts, thoroughly deserved their 4-0 win. The ten-man Herne Bay side, (including the 'loan' player), lined up as follows.

McVea, H. Batchelor, T. Ridout, E. Humphries, P. Admans,
J. Wilson, C.H. Fox, E. Taylor, F.S. Walker, E.L. Mobbs.

At Last! On the 6th. of November 1891, Herne Bay recorded their first win of the season.



Their opponents were intended to have been St, Augustine's College, but when they withdrew, a game was quickly arranged with the 3rd. Buffs Regiment. Played on the Dairy Field, the game turned out to be a one sided affair. A Mobbs hat-trick, and two more from Fox, securing a 5-0 win for Herne Bay.

Having at last managed to chalk up a victory, they continued with the habit in their next game on the 8th. of December. Another military side, this time the 16th. Lancers, visited Herne Bay, and suffered defeat by exactly the same score as their 3rd. Buffs counterparts.

The 11th. Hussars, who had already handed out a 7-2 defeat to Herne Bay, visited again on New Years Eve. Although they could not prevent another defeat, Herne Bay's recently improved form, did enable them to restrict the Hussars to a 3-1 winning scoreline.

In their next match, on Thursday 28th. of January 1892, Herne Bay entertained Faversham on the Dairy Field. Despite the month-long break in their fixtures, they soon found their route to goal, and yet again recorded a 5-0 win, their third such scoreline in their last four games!

Having got the season off to such a poor start, they continued in their winning streak, with a 2-1 win over Margate College on the 4th. of February. A week later, the 3rd. Buffs once again visited the Dairy Field, and again suffered defeat, this time by a 4-2 margin.

A single goal from Mobbs gave Herne Bay a 1-0 away victory over Faversham on the 10th. of March. This victory made it six wins in their last seven outings for Herne Bay. The team line-up against Faversham was as follows.

HERNE BAY : A.H. McVea, A. Hogbin, H. Panting, J. Wills,
G. Tomlin, P. Admans, H. Boulding, C.H. Fox, J. Wilson,
A.S. Walker, E.L. Mobbs.

March the 23rd., and March the 30th., saw the respective away and home matches against Sittingbourne Football Club. In the away game, Godfrey, for Sittingbourne, and Mobbs, for Herne Bay, scored the goals in a 1-1 draw. In the home match, Herne Bay were defeated for the first time in 1892. Sittingbourne led 3-1 at half-time, and held on to record a 4-3 victory.

Easter Monday, the 18th. of April, saw Herne Bay bring their season to a close with two matches. In the morning, the Cavalry Depot held their hosts to a 3-3 draw, while new opponents, in the shape of Faversham News provided the afternoon's opposition. Several players took part in both matches, with A.H. McVea playing in goal in the first match, and at half-back in the second. In that second match, Herne Bay led by a single Fox goal at half-time. The second period, however, was a different story, and four more goals, including one from Laver, saw Herne Bay finish things in sparkling form, with a 5-0 win.

Thirty players had pulled on a Herne Bay shirt during the 1891/1892 season, and ten of those had got their name on the scoresheet. Details of those players follow.



The following players are known to have represented Herne Bay Football Club during the 1891/1892 season.

P. Admans	H. Batchelor *	W. Benton
H. Boulding	G. Burge	H. Darney
W. Drennen	C.H. Fox	A. Freear
A. Hogbin	E. Humphries	S. Laver
E.L. Mobbs	A.H. McVea	H. Panteny
B. Ridout	F. Ridout	H. Ridout
T. Ridout	F. Sherwood	E. Taylor
W. Taylor	G. Tomlin	H. Vasse
G. Veness	A. Walker	F.S. Walker
G. Williams	J. Wills	J. Wilson

* H. Batchelor "guested" for Herne Bay in one match.

GOALSCORERS

14	E.L. Mobbs	2	H. Boulding	1	? . Taylor
11	C.H. Fox	2	G. Williams	1	G. Burge
3	F.S. Walker	2	S. Laver	1	F. Sherwood
3	G. Wilson				

1892/1893 SEASON

On Wednesday the 21st. of September 1892, the Football Club held their A.G.M. at the New Pier Hotel.

The following were elected to the committee :-

<u>Hon. Secretary and Treasurer</u>	:	Mr. P. Admans
<u>Club Captain</u>	:	Mr. C.H. Fox
<u>Club Vice-Captain</u>	:	Mr. A. Hogbin
<u>Management Committee</u>	:	E.L. Mobbs, F. Sherwood, T.K. Warhurst, F. Bible, E.C. Hobbs, C.J. Veitch, W. Freear.

The treasurer announced that a shortfall of 14/-, (70p), would be carried forward to the new season.

A week after the A.G.M., the 28th. September, Herne Bay played their first game of the new season. Their opponents were a mixed team of local players, and the 4-2 win was sealed with two goals from A. Freear, and one each from W. Freear and A. Hobbs.

On Saturday the 8th. of October 1892, it was announced that the Club had hired, "...the field opposite the Gas works." This is the first recorded mention of the ground which was subsequently to become known as the Victoria Recreation Ground, and then Mitchell's Enclosure.



One of the early games played on the new ground, was against The Buffs, on the 31st. of November. At half-time, the Buffs led 1-0, but at that time, there was no indication of the ill-feeling that would later rear it's ugly head. Ten minutes into the second half, a goal from Mobbs put Herne Bay on level terms. Fox added a second shortly after, and then the Buffs thought they had equalised, only for the effort to be ruled off-side. Just minutes later, Herne Bay added a third through Bible. The visitors made strong claims for off-side, but the referee would not alter his decision, and the goal was allowed to stand. The Buffs renewed their protest, and with the referee still unmoved, the Buffs did no more than to refuse to play on, and left the field. The game ended in a 3-1 victory for Herne Bay, and the Buffs Captain later sent the Club an apology for his side's actions.

A Boxing Day fixture was arranged against St. Saviours, Pimlico. Herne Bay won 2-1 through goals from Freear and Fox, and a collection box passed among the spectators raised 16/- towards the visitors expenses.

On the 28th. of December, the Club were playing away at Sittingbourne. In front of, "... about 1,000 spectators....", Mobbs scored for Herne Bay, but Hibbard scored twice for the home side, to enable them to record a 2-1 win.

The trip to play Faversham on Friday the 31st. of March 1893 proved to be an un-fruitful journey. The home side won by a clear-cut 5-0 margin, although in Herne Bay's defense, it should be said that they were without several of their regular players.

Sheppey United were, at this time, considered to be the top side in Kent, and on a visit to the Island in April, Herne Bay played, "...a splendid game....", and were considered unlucky to lose 3-5.

By the end of the season, Herne Bay's record was :-

PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST
31	14	7	10

1893/1894 season

Early season matches against the Kent Coast College were still 'standard' procedure, and although Herne Bay won their 'away' fixture, the 'home' contest turned out to be a real see-saw affair. The lead changed hands frequently, but by full-time the College had recorded a 6-5 victory.

In between the two games against the College, Herne Bay played a home match against the 7th. Dragoon Guards, on Saturday 23rd. of September 1893. Private Hill scored for the Guards, but this was their only reply to the six goals scored by Herne Bay. Colley and Fox were responsible for four of the six goals.

During half-time, a collection amongst the spectators raised 1/3, (7p), towards Club funds.

Football.

HERNE BAY V. CHATHAM "A" TEAM.

This match was played on the Home Ground, on Saturday, and after a tough game resulted in a win for the visitors by five goals to one.

Chatham "A."—Goal, Brown; backs, Brockwell and Meaken; halves, Tyler, Brisley & Rose; forwards, Hull, Incedon, Lines, Kainnear, and Edgerton.

Herne Bay.—Goal, Taylor; backs, Sherwood and Hogg; halves, Turner, Veitch and Barrow; forwards, Hawkes, Fox, Colley, Walker, and Smith.

Chatham kicked off against a strong wind, and the home forwards soon pressed. Brockwell relieved and the Chatham men paid a flying visit to the home quarters but the attack was repulsed, the ball going into touch. From the throw in Colley got possession and sent in a shot which went wide. The home team continued to press, and at times the Chatham defence was sorely taxed. At length, Kainnear and Edgerton got the ball, and after a good run up the right wing the former put in a centre which was sent over the cross-bar. The play was then very even and each side strove hard for the initial point which soon came, Fox doing the needful, after a fine individual run. This roused the Chatham men and going up the field in a line one of the forwards sent in a hot shot which Taylor successfully negotiated, but the backs failed to clear, and the ball was sent through the uprights, making the score level. Herne Bay soon forced two corners but nothing came of them. On the right wing the play ruled very fast, the ball travelling rapidly from one goal to the other. Hull and Incedon passed the home halves, and looked like getting through, but Sherwood took the ball away and after dribbling by several of his opponents passed out to Smith, who, after a good run, centred well but the backs cleared and the ball was sent well up the field. Till half-time the remainder of play was pretty equal, and the teams crossed over one all.

On resuming Chatham at once pressed, but Hogg and Turner cleared. Smith and Walker then made a good run, and the former finished up with a capital shot which caused the goalkeeper to handle. Colley followed suit and sent in a warm shot which was quickly disposed of by Brown. The Chatham right wing soon afterwards broke away, and passing the backs a long shot was sent in which Taylor thought was going behind, but the ball curled in and rolled through the goal. This misfortune apparently had a dampening effect on the home team for they seemed to go all to pieces. The Chatham men played up with renewed vigor and quickly added another point. All hopes to save the game were then gone, and within a few minutes the visitors put on two more goals making the score five to one. The home defence was strengthened, and the forwards made a spirited attack on the Chatham goal, and experienced hard luck in not scoring. The visitors again tried hard to increase their score, but Sherwood and Hogg booted well and kept the ball well out of the goal. Colley and Walker then got by the Chatham halves but nothing resulted from their effort and the whistle sounded with the score standing—

Chatham "A" ...	5 goals.
Herne Bay ...	1 goal.



The match report opposite, comes from the 'Herne Bay Press' of Saturday the 7th. of October 1893.

It describes the Herne Bay versus Chatham "A" match that took place on the 30th. of September. The season's trend of 'goals - aplenty' continued in this match, though not in Herne Bay's favour.

Later in October, Herne Bay faced the Cavalry Depot, and with seven reserves in the team facing them, the Cavalry emerged as 2-0 winners.

An away match followed on the 18th. of October, against one of the sides then regarded as, "...one of Kent's finest.", Sittingbourne Football Club. The 'Bourne' took the lead, but, before half-time, Mobbs equalised for Herne Bay. The home side went back in front mid-way through the second half, and then, late on, Mobbs scored his, and Herne Bay's second goal that ensured the game ended honours even, in a 2-2 draw. The opposing teams were ;

HERNE BAY : Monk, Sherwood, Smallwood, Turner, C. Boulding, Hogg, Hawkes, Colley, Mobbs, Fox, E. Boulding.

SITTINGBOURNE : Pantenay, Gregory, Charlesworth, Wills, Watson, Blea, Hobart, Bishop, Plummer, Charlesworth, Williams.

Another 2-2 draw followed, from a home fixture against the 11th. Hussars Regiment. The soldiers looked to be heading for a 2-1 victory, but their tactic of trying to hold onto the ball for the remaining seconds, backfired, when Fox nipped in to secure a very late 'point' saver. The soldiers were said to be, "...astounded..." at their mistake, and words were exchanged for several minutes, among their players!

Kent College were the visitors on Saturday the 4th. of November 1893. The match was played on the Eddington Ground. The College took the lead, but two goals from Wilson gave Herne Bay a 2-1 half-time advantage.



Playing with the wind at their backs, the home side scored a further five times in the second half, to end the match as 7-1 winners.

Two weeks later, Herne Bay faced the daunting prospect of a 'friendly' against the Kent Senior Cup holders, Ashford United, on their opponents ground. Colley scored a second half goal for Herne Bay, but their stronger and superior hosts put eight goals past 'keeper E. Taylor.

While researching this book, I have frequently come across occasions where sides have started games with ten, nine, or even eight players. However, I think the match between Kent College, Canterbury, and Herne Bay, played on Saturday the 9th. of December 1893, possibly sets some sort of record! Sixteen players took part, and the ten men of the College beat the six men of Herne Bay, by a 2-1 scoreline. When the considerable disadvantage in the number of players is taken into account, this should really be recorded as a 'victory'.

On the same day, Herne Bay Reserves were at home to a local Faversham side. The Reserves lost 0-6, but it does appear that the officials may have had some bearing on the outcome of the game. These 'snippets' from the report of the match make interesting reading.

".... judge the astoishment when the referee declared the ball had gone wide."

".... and Pettman sent the ball over the bar. The visitors claimed a goal, and strange to say it was allowed."

".... this crowning piece of incompetency produced loud murmers."

During the half-time interval, the Reserves asked for another referee, and it was agreed that the visitors linesman would officiate in the second half. The local reporter, known as "Forward", summed up the referee's performance, thus ;

The absurd decisions of the first referee showed his primitive knowledge of the game. I have witnessed a good many matches, but such erratic judgment as what was, and what was not a goal, I have never before seen. It simply took the 'cake'.

In the week before Christmas, Herne Bay travelled to Folkestone to take on the Town's reserve side in a Kent Junior Cup group semi-final. Freear opened the scoring, and then Colley notched Herne Bay's second goal before half-time. Fox added a third, and two late goals completed a resounding 5-0 win for Herne Bay.

HERNE BAY : Taylor, Sherwood, Smallwood, Turner, Boulding, Adley, Wilson, Fox, Colley, Freear, Hawkes.

This comfortable win put Herne Bay through to the Kent Junior Cup final, where they would meet another Folkestone side.



In a Herne Bay Press report on Saturday the 6th. of January 1894, covering Herne Bay's 4-0 victory over the Cavalry Depot, reference is made to Herne Bay kicking off from the, ".... Gas Works end. The Gas Works stood on the area that now houses Herne Bay's Saturday market.

The Herne Bay line-up that day, was as follows :-

Taylor, Sherwood, Fox, Turner, Heer, Hudson,
Hawkes, Freear, Mobbs, Adley, and Wilson.

Leading 2-0 at half-time through goals from Mobbs and an un-named player, Freear scored twice in the second half to secure an easy victory.

A fascinating insight into the style of play, can be gained by reading closely the text of the match report. Here is just a sample.

".... Fox at the back played a sound game, but he does more dribbling than is necessary. Turner was better than Heer or Hudson, but these two put in some useful work. The forwards worked well together, and passed accurately."

".... a timely save was however, effected, and the soldiers retaliated with a rush. The ball went into touch, and Hudson who was relieved, centered to Mobbs, but that player was deprived when he got into the visitors quarters. "

The age-old question of the 'ineligible player' was raising it's ugly head even as far back as February 1894.

Herne Bay travelled to take on FOLKESTONE HARVEIANS for the KENT JUNIOR CUP DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP. The game kicked-off at 2.45 pm, and with only 20 minutes gone, Folkestone were already 3-0 ahead! Alec Freear pulled one goal back before half-time, and in the second half, Mobbs and Arthur Freear both scored to level the scores at 3-3 at the end of normal time. Extra time of 15 minutes was played, and a further goal from Mobbs, saw the 'Bay' record a 4-3 victory.

There was, however, the 'ineligible player' scenario. Folkestone lodged an appeal, claiming that Charlie Fox had played a match for Canterbury - an un-affiliated Club.

An appeal was heard at the Sun Hotel, Chatham, on the following Wednesday, and the outcome was that the game should be replayed.

The Herne Bay side was :-

Taylor, Sherwood, Adley, Fox, Turner, Hudson,
Mobbs, Alec Freear, Arthur Freear, Hawkes, Wilson.

(Veitch was down to start, but was injured.)

(Herne Bay lost the re-match by a 6-0 margin, so losing the Cup.)



Heavy snows marked the winter of 1894/1895, and after drawing with Sittingbourne on December the 17th., Herne Bay did not play again until Saturday the 23rd February 1895.

Their first game after the enforced break, was a North-East Kent League fixture against Milton Football Club, in the Recreation Park. On a pitch described in places as a "quagmire", both sides did their best to overcome the conditions, and it was twenty-five minutes before the first corner of the match, in Milton's favour. On the half-hour mark, Gipson put Herne Bay in front. Brown had a second 'goal' ruled out for off-side, before Fox legitimately made it 2-0. A second half goal from Mobbs put Herne Bay firmly in the driving seat, and although Milton made, "..... several spirited attempts....", they got no reward. The 3-0 final score-line secured a further two league points for Herne Bay.

The Herne Bay line-up was :-

Admans, Colley, Addison, S. Ridout, S. Barnes, Hudson,
Gipson, Brown, E.L. Mobbs, C. Fox, Halcombe.

Luton Albion were the visitors on the 9th of March. Having suffered a 0-3 defeat in the reverse fixture back in September, things looked more promising for Herne Bay when goals from Morris and Colley put them 2-1 ahead at half-time. Luton had the better of things in the second half, and, having drawn level, they clinched the match with a goal described as, "....as a real fluke....". The Herne Bay side saw four changes from the game against Milton, with Bootes taking over in goal, and Browning making his debut at the back.

Saturday the 23rd March saw the return (away) fixture against Milton. Milton included several new players from the recently disbanded Sittingbourne "A" side. Herne Bay had another change of 'keeper, Morris this time, and it was he who was to blame for Milton's opening goal, when he failed to hold a cross. As the ball ran free, the Herne Bay defense could not get the ball clear, and a Milton forward stabbed the ball home. Trailing 0-1 at half-time, Herne Bay came back well, and goals from Mobbs and Brown, secured a 2-1 victory.

Herne Bay played host to Canterbury based, The Buffs, early in April. Played on the Recreation Ground, goals from Fox, Boulding, and Colley saw Herne Bay to a comfortable 3-0 half-time lead. Another goal each from Colley and Boulding made it 5-1 to the home side at the final whistle.

HERNE BAY : Whiddett, Browning, Barnes, Robinson, Hudson,
S. Ridout, C. Fox, F.A. Boulding, Colley, Brown, Gipson.

A trip to Sheppey, to play Alma Road Athletic, followed on the 13th April 1895.

In all the research I have done for this book, the events of this game, certainly rank among the strangest!

- 1) The match was scheduled to take place in Herne Bay, but Alma said they were unable to muster enough players willing to travel.



- 2) The first half was played on Sheppey's ground.
- 3) The second half was played on the Alma Road ground!

Quite why is not recorded, although the text of the match report described the Sheppey Ground as being in, "...good condition...", which makes the reason for the switch even more obscure.

Turning to the match, at half-time there was no score, but, (on the Alma Road ground), a goal from Turner secured a 1-0 win for Herne Bay.

On the Bank Holiday Monday, Herne Bay were hosts to the 18th. Hussars, Canterbury. Herne Bay took a 3-1 half-time lead, but in the second half, the Hussars drew level at three goals apiece. It needed a late goal from Colley for Herne Bay to record a narrow 4-3 victory.

Again a few changes in the Herne Bay team, which lined up as follows.

Admans, Barnes, E.H. Turner, S. Ridout, C. Hudson,
Robinson, W. Gipson, Watson, Colley, S. Root, C. Fox.

On Tuesday the 16th. April, the game that would decide the North-East Kent League Cup, was played against Sheppey. Taking place on the island, the game attracted, "...about six or seven hundred Sheppeyites...". Herne Bay's Captain, C. Fox, had been unable to call on two of his favoured players, E.L. Mobbs and A. Freear, for several weeks, and his hopes of having their services for this match, were dashed when both men said they would not be able to make the journey.

Herne Bay played into the wind in the first half, and after ten minutes, took the lead when Watson converted a Fox cross. Sheppey drew level before half-time, (which only lasted five minutes), but early in the second half, Herne Bay went back in front thanks to a Colley goal. Although Sheppey pressed hard, the visiting defense held out until the final whistle. Herne Bay had won the Cup, and, although in the vast minority, the few Herne Bay fans who had made the journey, enjoyed the moment. They certainly knew how to celebrate in those days, as this section of the original match report clearly shows!

...therefore, be entitled to the possession of the Cup for one year.

On the news of their success being wired to the Bay the Drum and Fife Band was requisitioned and at the Station, the victorious home comers received quite an ovation as they emerged footsore and earth stained from the train.

The Herne Bay team responsible for securing the Cup were as follows.

Admans, Browning, S. Barnes, S. Ridout, C. Hudson,
E. Turner, W. Gipson, Watson, Colley, E. Brown, C. Fox.



1895/1896 SEASON

In their coverage of the 1895/1896 season, the local paper carried reports on every match played by both Herne Bay's first and reserve sides. Two new opponents, played for the first time during the season, were Milton Football Club, and the Queensborough Club. Herne Bay reached the third round of the Kent Junior Cup, before losing 3-1 to Dover Post Office.

The highlight of the Reserves season was their 11-1 victory over Margate College on the 14th. of December 1895. Their opening game for the Reserves, was against local holidaymakers who were invited to form a side to take on the local Football Team.

There follows a complete list of Matches played by the Herne Bay sides almost exactly 100 years ago!

First Team

07 Sep 1895	(H)	The Buffs Regiment	L.	0-1
14 Sep 1895	(H)	Alma Road Athletic	W.	4-2
21 Sep 1895	(H)	Milton Football Club	D.	2-2
28 Sep 1895	(A)	18th. Hussars, Canterbury	D.	3-3
05 Oct 1895	(H)	Margate College	D.	2-2
12 Oct 1895	(A)	St. Augustine's College	W.	3-1
19 Oct 1895	(H)	Faversham Town	L.	0-7
02 Nov 1895	(H)	Queensborough Club	W.	2-1
23 Nov 1895	(H)	The Buffs Regiment	W.	2-1
07 Dec 1895	(A)	Margate College	D.	2-2
14 Dec 1895	(A)	Folkestone Post Office	W.	2-1
21 Dec 1895	(H)	20th. Hussars, Canterbury	W.	2-1
26 Dec 1895	(H)	New Brompton Excelsior	L.	1-2
28 Dec 1895	(H)	20th. Hussars, Canterbury	W.	4-2
18 Jan 1896	(H)	Major Walkers XI	W.	6-2
25 Jan 1896	(A)	Faversham Town	L.	1-3
08 Feb 1896	(H)	Faversham "A"	L.	0-2
20 Feb 1896	(H)	St. Augustine's College	W.	5-3
27 Feb 1896	(H)	The Cavalry Depot, Canterbury	L.	1-3
05 Mar 1896	(H)	Kent Coast College	W.	4-1
19 Mar 1896	(A)	The Cavalry Depot, Canterbury	L.	0-2
04 Apr 1896	(H)	Orion Gymnasium, London	L.	1-7
06 Apr 1896	(H)	New Brompton Excelsior	W.	1-0
07 Apr 1896	(A)	Alma Road Athletic	D.	1-1
11 Apr 1896	(A)	Whitstable Swifts	L.	0-6
25 Apr 1896	(H)	Whitstable Swifts	W.	1-0
30 Apr 1896	(H)	"Twenty-Two Gentlemen"	W.	4-0

Kent Junior Cup

26 Oct 1895	(H)	Dover Star Football Club	W.	3-2
09 Nov 1895	(H)	Folkestone Post Office	D.	0-0
16 Nov 1895	(A)	Folkestone Post Office (Replay)	D.	1-1
30 Nov 1895	(H)	Folkestone P.O. (2nd. Replay)	W.	3-1
04 Jan 1896	(A)	Dover Post Office	L.	1-3



The Reserves

07 Sep 1895	(H)	Herne Bay Visitors	D.	3-3
05 Oct 1895	(A)	Margate College	D.	4-4
12 Oct 1895	(H)	Margate Rovers	W.	4-2
16 Nov 1895	(A)	Margate Rovers	L.	1-2
07 Dec 1895	(H)	Margate Swifts	W.	2-0
14 Dec 1895	(H)	Margate College	W.	11-1
21 Dec 1895	(A)	Whitstable Swifts	L.	4-9
26 Dec 1895	(H)	Margate Swifts	W.	4-2
25 Jan 1896	(H)	Whitstable Swifts	L.	2-3
01 Feb 1896	(H)	Faversham 'Melbourne'	W.	2-1
07 Mar 1896	(A)	Faversham 'Melbourne'	L.	0-6
06 Apr 1896	(H)	Margate United	L.	1-3
16 Apr 1896	(H)	Herne Bay College	W.	3-1

A comparison of the First and Reserve sides seasons results, shows that both sides had a similar percentage of wins, draws, and losses, although the Reserves did manage to keep their ' goals for' column in credit.

	<u>P.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>A.</u>
<u>First Team</u>	32	15	7	10	62	65
<u>Reserve Team</u>	13	6	2	5	41	37

The first team figures include all friendly and Kent Junior Cup games.

1896/1897 SEASON

At the Annual General Meeting of the Football Club, held at the beginning of May, the following were either elected or re-elected as officials for the 1896/1897 season.

<u>Club President</u>	:	Dr. E.C. Fenoulet
<u>Vice-Presidents</u>	:	Rev. T.B. Watkins, DR. C.K. Bowes, Mr. F.H. Wilbee, Mr. E.L. Mobbs, Mr. R. Burnaby, Mr. H.C. Jones, Dr. E. Senior, Capt. Broadbent, Mr. T.K. Warhurst, Mr. J. Briggs
<u>Hon. Secretary</u>	:	Mr. T. Morris
<u>Assistant Secretary</u>	:	Mr. C.H. Fox
<u>Hon. Treasurer</u>	:	Mr. A.S. Ingleton
<u>Committee Members</u>	:	P.E. Iggulden, H. Hall, S. Moyce, D. Whiddett, S. Keen, E. Briggs, Dr. E. Senior

For the first time, ten years after their formation, Herne Bay Football Club entered the Kent League, competing in Division Two.



The Herne Bay Press of the 12th. September 1896, somewhat unusually, in previewing the season, gave details of players old and new. C.H. Fox and C. Colley were to be Captain and vice-captain respectively. B. Admans had recently returned to live in Herne Bay, and would rejoin the Club. Among the new players was Felix W. White, who played County football for Surrey, and in the previous season had played for the London Welsh Club. Other players who had signed Kent League forms were ;

W. Matthews, L. Attfield, P. Robinson, C. Hudson, E. Moore, S. Moyce.

The new season opened with an away friendly against New Brompton Excelsior, on Saturday the 19th. of September. Playing in stripes, Herne Bay fell behind to an early defensive error. Right on half-time however, Colley equalised for the visitors. Both sides had chances in the second half, but at full time the score remained at 1-1.

The following Saturday saw Margate College as visitors to the Victoria Recreation Ground. By half-time, Herne Bay led 5-0, and another four second half goals emphasised their superiority. Felix White, on his debut, scored a hat-trick, while Colley, Moore, and Moyce shared the remainder of the goals. The Herne Bay line-up was ;

HERNE BAY : W. Mathews, R.A. Brown, C.H. Fox, E. Moore,
P. Robinson, H. Joy, F.W. White, G. Hamilton, C. Colley,
H. M. Smith, S. Moyce.

One more friendly, a 3-4 home defeat by the 18th. Hussars, was Herne Bay's last 'warm-up' before their first ever Kent League fixture. This came about on Saturday the 3rd. of October 1896. The match was a home fixture against Folkestone "A". At the end of their Kent League debut, Herne Bay had earned themselves a first point, from a 2-2 draw.

With their next Kent League fixture not scheduled until the 14th. of November, Herne Bay were able to fit in a further five friendlies. Their record in those five matches was certainly impressive.

10 Oct 1896	(A)	The Buffs Regiment	W.	4-0
24 Oct 1896	(H)	The Riding Establishment	W.	6-1
31 Oct 1896	(A)	18th. Hussars, Canterbury	D.	3-3
05 Nov 1896	(H)	Herne Bay Amateur Minstrels	W.	7-1
07 Nov 1896	(H)	St. Augustine's College	W.	10-0

The team could not have wished for a better preperation for their second Kent League fixture, which was away against New Brompton "A". The team were however, to soon discover that there is a big difference between friendly and League matches, as they returned from their trip with New Brompton having recorded a comfortable 4-0 win.

Their next Kent League outing was to follow on the 28th. of November, again away, this time against Cray Wanderers "A". Two friendlies were squeezed in between the two Kent League fixtures. Both at home, Herne Bay lost 2-3 to the 18th. Hussars, but recorded a 2-0 win over Herne Bay Amateur Minstrels.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1896.

Football Notes.

The news by telegram of another defeat of the local club in the League, on Saturday last, at the hands of Cray Wanderers "A," at St. Mary Cray, greatly surprised many of the local enthusiasts. For some short time I could hardly believe that the strongest team of "Herons" the Bay could possibly turn out, were beaten by this team, which is considered by no means one of the strongest in the competition.

All praise then to the "A" team of St. Mary Cray, for doubtless they played hard to win, and happily (for them) their efforts were rewarded. How keenly they must have watched their opponents' movements and how earnestly they must have adhered to the game—these, and many others, were my conclusions after settling myself down to the inevitable—my favourites had been weighed and were found wanting.

An ardent critic, on reading the selected team prior to the match, gave it as his opinion that Herne Bay would prove themselves by three goals superior to Cray Wanderers "A." But football is not played on paper. The merits of various players dancing before one's eyes as the list is scanned can make us all prophets, but how often are our forecasts proved vain prophesies.

The "Herons" lined up as follows:—
W. Matthews, goal; A. Smallwood and C. Cooley, backs; E. Moore, P. Robinson and T. Black, halves; G. Hamilton and A. G. Bright (left), C. Colley (centre) C. H. Fox and R. A. Brown (right), forwards.

The opening half was hotly contested, and although playing with the wind, the homesters failed to score, nor did they seriously trouble Matthews, the unique defence and dashing play of Smallwood at back, and that of his able partner, being more than the opposing forwards could cope with. Therefore at half time the teams crossed over with a clean sheet.

A free kick in front of goal enabled the homesters to take the lead in the concluding forty-five, and this they held to the finish, despite the attacks of the visiting team in their struggle to place matters equal.

The Herne Bay Press of Saturday the 5th. of December 1896, had the task of relaying news of another Herne Bay Kent League defeat, to its readers.

The 1-0 defeat by Cray Wanderers "A", meant that the Club's initial foray into the Kent League, had produced just a single point out of a possible six.

Herne Bay got back to winning ways on the 2nd. of December, though only in a friendly. Their opponents, in an away match, were Margate College, who it should be recalled, were soundly beaten 9-0 in Herne Bay's second friendly of the season. Although the outcome was no different, the College this time restricted Herne Bay to a 6-0 winning margin.

The 3rd. Buffs Regiment were beaten 4-2 at home, before the Club resumed Kent League duty with two successive Saturday fixtures on the 19th. and 26th. of December.

In the first of these games, Sittingbourne were the hosts, and they did Herne Bay no favours in recording a 7-0 home victory. In the second match, on Boxing Day, the home fixture against New Brompton "A" took place on the Recreation Ground.

The appointed referee failed to turn up for the game, but it was agreed to play the match with a local referee in charge. The game ended in a 0-0 draw, Herne Bay thus securing their second point of the campaign.

The K.C.F.A. committee later ruled that as both Club's had been quite happy with the performance of the local referee, that the result would stand, and be counted as an official Kent League game.

With no League fixtures scheduled for January 1897, it was back to friendly matches, to keep the Club's players, match fit.

The first of these was away, against South Ashford Invicta on the 2nd. of January. Ashford had only been beaten once during the season, and although Herne Bay played well, they could not prevent the home side securing a 2-1 victory.



Although the pitch was described as being, "...in a shocking state and totally unfit to be played upon...", Herne Bay played host to Margate on Thursday the 7th. of January 1897.

Perhaps the condition of the ground had something to do with Margate's performance, but five goals from Admans, together with one each from Fox, Hamilton and Golder, completed a resounding 8-1 Herne Bay victory.

HERNE BAY : W. Mathews, E.W. Turner, A. Smallwood, W.B. Taylor, H. Britton, P. Robinson, G. Hamilton, J.A. Golder, E.L. Mobbs, H.W. Admans, C.H. Fox.

Two more friendlies, both at home, saw a 3-0 win over Whitstable, and this was followed by a 0-0 draw against Faversham "A".

HERNE BAY PRESS,

SATURDAY,

JANUARY 16, 1897.

COUNTY FOOTBALL: IMPORTANT MATCH TO BE PLAYED AT HERNE BAY.

To the Editor,

Sir,—I have arranged for the return match at football between a team picked from the Thames and Medway Combination against a team picked from the clubs composing the Kent Leagues to be played at Herne Bay, on March 10th, subject to satisfactory terms being arranged.

The match has been removed from a larger town, where a considerable sum would have been taken at the gate, and the Kent Football Association will require that all expenses be guaranteed. I therefore purpose starting a guarantee fund of which Dr. E. C. Fenoulhet has agreed to act as Treasurer. The receipt that will be forwarded to all subscribers will give free admission to the ground, and myself and the local club hope you will give this match a notice in your paper.

Any subscriptions forwarded to any of the Committee of the local club, to myself, or Dr. Fenoulhet, will be acknowledged in the local press from time to time.

Yours faithfully,

T. KING WARHURST.

January 13th, 1897.

The announcement of an Inter-League match to be hosted by Herne Bay, as seen opposite, was followed by a K.C. F.A. statement that £15.0.0 expenses must be raised before the match could take place.

In the first two weeks, locals had pledged £8.13.0, and by the end of February, the total had risen to £14.1.0, and then eventually, to £15.2.6. The match was played on the 17th. of March, and the result was 4-2 in Thames & Medway's favour.

The following players represented the two sides.

KENT LEAGUES : Fairclough (Arsenal)
Harris (Folkestone)
Sinclair (Arsenal)
Crawford (Arsenal)
Welch (Folkestone)
Fox (Herne Bay)
McAvoy (Arsenal)
Colley (Herne Bay)
Perkins (Herne Bay)
O'Brian (Arsenal)
Russell (Dover)

THAMES & MEDWAY LEAGUES :

Sunderland (Gravesend)
Humphrey (Chatham)
Roadley (New Brompton)
Walker (Sheppey)
Wright (Nortyfleet)
Hughes (Chatham)
Mortimer (Chatham)
Porter (Gravesend)
Rule (Sheppey)
Frettingham (Brompton)
Dickenson (Chatham)

Winch's Field....



Saturday the 13th. of February 1897 saw Herne Bay return to the business of trying to secure Kent League points. This entailed making the journey to take on Folkestone "A". The two sides had shared the points in the reverse fixture back in October, but on this occasion, Folkestone made full use of their home advantage, and secured a 2-1 win, and maximum points.

Just one friendly, a 0-6 defeat at the hands of Sheppey "A", was played before Herne Bay's next Kent League fixture.

Having secured just two points from their first six league games, the visit to Faversham "A" on the 6th. of March was not to improve the situation for Herne Bay. Leading 3-0 at one stage, Faversham went on to record a 4-2 victory.

Saturday the 27th. of March 1897 has a special significance for Herne Bay Football Club. On that date, they recorded their first ever Kent League victory. Their opponents for a home fixture, were Cray Wanderers "A". Herne Bay had the advantage of a following wind in the first half, and W. Nicholls took full advantage, scoring twice to give Herne Bay a 2-0 half-time lead. As the game moved into the last quarter of an hour, Cray pulled a goal back. Shortly after, Moyce in the Herne Bay goal suffered an arm injury, and Colley took over between the posts, with Moyce moving into an outfield position. As fate would have it, it was Moyce who scored a fine individual goal to ensure a debut Kent League victory, by a 3-1 margin.

HERNE BAY : S. Moyce, W. Matthews, E.W. Turner, E. Moore,
C.H. Fox, R.A. Brown, G. Hamilton, W.K. Nicholls, C. Colley,
H.W. Admans, S. Lunney.

At this time, a cycle track ran around the perimeter of the Victoria Recreation Ground, and on the Monday following the Cray win, Herne Bay captain, Charlie Fox, suffered a fall from his mount. He sustained bad cuts to both wrists, and deep lacerations to his left knee.

These injuries meant that Fox missed the last two Kent League fixtures. Both were at home, on the 3rd. and 10th. of April, against Sittingbourne "A" and Faversham "A" respectively. Unfortunately, both games resulted in defeat for Herne Bay. Sittingbourne ran out comfortable 5-1 winners, but Faversham had to work a lot harder to secure a 3-2 win.

Two further friendlies brought the season to a close.

Against the Club's reserve side, a Colley goal gave victory to the seniors by the narrowest of margins, and then in their final game of the 1896/97 season, Herne Bay recorded a 2-0 win over South Ashford Invicta, on the 19th. of April.

Herne Bay's reserve side had also had a busy season, and there follows a complete run-down of their fixtures and results during the 1896/1897 season.

12 Sep 1896	(A)	Ospringe	W.	4-1
26 Sep 1896	(A)	Margate College Second XI	W.	4-0
10 Oct 1896	(H)	St. Barnabas, Gillingham	W.	7-2



29 Oct 1896	(H)	Kent Coast College	W.	6-2
31 Oct 1896	(H)	Margate College Second <u>XI</u>	W.	3-1
07 Nov 1896	(A)	Herne Street	L.	1-2
14 Nov 1896	(H)	Margate "A"	W.	3-1
21 Nov 1896	(A)	Hook's Snodland (Kent Junior Cup)	L.	0-10
05 Dec 1896	(A)	Kent Coast College	L.	3-6
12 Dec 1896	(A)	Birchington	W.	6-0
19 Dec 1896	(H)	Margate Swifts	L.	1-2
26 Dec 1896	(H)	Herne Street	W.	4-2
02 Jan 1897	(H)	Faversham 'Melbourne'	W.	1-0
16 Jan 1897	(A)	Birchington	W.	2-0
30 Jan 1897	(A)	Margate Athletic	D.	1-1
06 Feb 1897	(H)	Luton Star	D.	2-2
13 Feb 1897	(H)	Margate Athletic	L.	0-2
20 Feb 1897	(A)	Margate Swifts	L.	0-1
06 Mar 1897	(H)	Luton Star	L.	0-1
13 Mar 1897	(A)	St. Barnabas, Gillingham	D.	1-1
16 Apr 1897	(A)	Herne	L.	0-1
17 Apr 1897	(H)	Herne Bay First <u>XI</u>	L.	0-1
19 Apr 1897	(H)	Brixton Geneva	W.	3-1
24 Apr 1897	(H)	Herne	L.	1-2

The Herne Street, (they dropped the "Street" during the season), listed above was the fore-runner to Herne United, and the Club was formed in October 1896. They played seventeen fixtures during the season, and apart from their matches against Herne Bay Reserves, other opponents included ; Whitstable (lost 0-6), Kent Coast College (won 3-1), and Faversham "B" (lost 3-1).

KENT LEAGUE - DIVISION TWO

1896/1897 SEASON FINAL TABLE

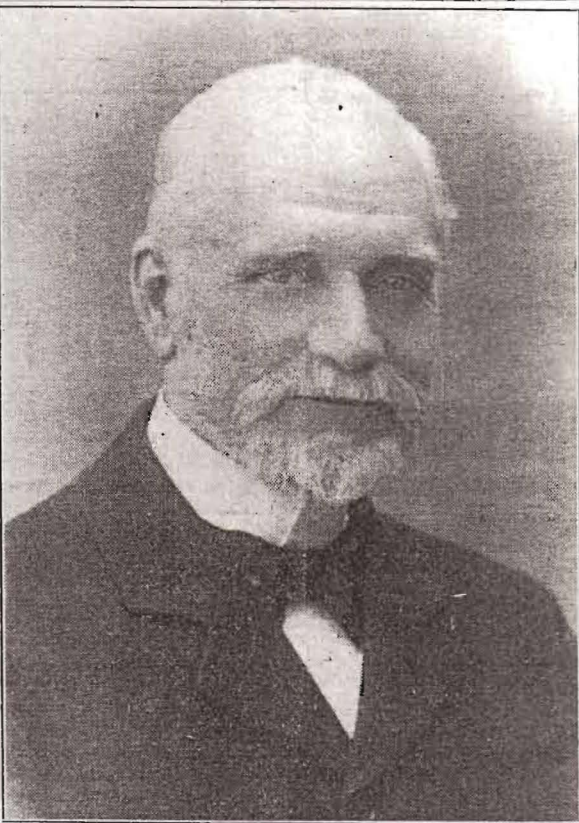
	<u>P.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>A.</u>	<u>PTS.</u>
1. New Brompton F.C. "A"	10	8	1	1	49	8	17
2. Sittingbourne F.C. "A"	10	8	1	1	47	11	17
3. Faversham F.C. "A"	10	4	3	3	23	24	11
4. Cray Wanderers F.C. "A"	10	2	2	6	19	31	6
5. Folkestone F.C. "A"	10	1	3	6	10	54	5
6. HERNE BAY F.C.	10	1	2	7	11	32	4

There is in existance a League Table that shows Herne Bay's goals for and against goals column, as 6 goals for and 26 against. This is not correct.



The following are known to have represented Herne Bay Football Club during the 1896/1897 season.

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| H.W. Admans | L. Attfield | T. Black |
| H. Boncey | A.G. Bright | H. Britton |
| R.A. Brown | C. Colley | C.H. Fox |
| J.A. Golder | G. Hamilton | A. Holliday |
| E. Hudson | H. Joy | S. Lunney |
| W. Matthews | E.L. Mobbs | E. Moore |
| S. Moyce | W.K. Nicholls | P. Robinson |
| A. Smallwood | H.M. Smith | S. Smith |
| W.B. Taylor | A. Town | E.W. Turner |
| A. Whiddett | E. Whiddett | F.W. White |



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LEFT : Mr. F.H. Wilbee who was re-elected as a vice-president of the Football Club for the 1896/1897 season.

RIGHT : This advert for Riley's Footballs dates from 1896.



1897/1898 SEASON

Herne Bay's second season in the Kent League proved to be an even tougher proposition than their first. The competition was thrown into disruption, by the withdrawal of Dover "A" towards the end of the season. Although Herne Bay recorded a 2-1 win over Dover in November, this was in a friendly, and neither the Kent League home or away fixtures took place.

September 1897 was a virtual write-off. A 0-2 home defeat by New Brompton Excelsior, in a friendly, was followed by three consecutive Kent League fixtures on the 11th., 18th., and 25th., of the month. Herne Bay failed to score a single goal in these three fixtures, and conceded eleven. They lost 0-3 at home to Faversham "A", 0-6 away to Sheppey "A", and then 0-2 at home to Sittingbourne "A". The Herne Bay side for the Sittingbourne fixture was as follows :-

W. Matthews, W. Tester, E.W. Turner, A. Chandler, R.A. Brown,
S. Moyce, G. Harrison, A. Town, R. Gleeson, H. Admans, C.H. Fox.

Herne Bay stopped the rot somewhat, on October the 2nd., with a 6-0 home win over the 3rd. Buffs, but this proved to be only a brief respite. Their next match was a Kent League fixture, away against Folkestone "A". In what was to be their heaviest defeat of the season, the Bay scored one goal.....to Folkestone's eleven.

Wins of any kind were proving difficult to accomplish, although the Club did manage four-in-a-row during December. Margate College were defeated 4-1 on the 11th., Canterbury Invicta 7-0 on the 16th., the Training Battalion 1-0 on the 18th., and Rochester Eastgate 4-1 on the 27th.

Some 'revenge' was taken on Folkestone "A" on the 5th. of February 1898, when, in the reverse fixture, Herne Bay secured their only Kent League victory of the season, winning by the odd goal of three.

Towards the end of the season, Herne Bay finally ran into their best form, winning seven of their last nine matches.

Once again, I have been fortunate in tracing every Herne Bay First and Reserve Team result from the 1897-1898 season. They are as follows.

FIRST TEAM

04 Sep 1897	(H)	New Brompton Excelsior	L.	0-2
11 Sep 1897	(H)	Faversham "A"	K.L. L.	0-3
18 Sep 1897	(A)	Sheppey "A"	K.L. L.	0-6
25 Sep 1897	(H)	Sittingbourne "A"	K.L. L.	0-2
02 Oct 1897	(H)	3rd. Buffs	W.	6-0
09 Oct 1897	(A)	Folkestone "A"	K.L. L.	1-11
16 Oct 1897	(A)	Margate	L.	0-2
23 Oct 1897	(A)	New Brompton Excelsior	K.L. L.	0-6
30 Oct 1897	(H)	Margate College	W.	3-1
06 Nov 1897	(A)	Ramsgate	W.	2-1
11 Nov 1897	(H)	10th. Hussars	D.	1-1
13 Nov 1897	(H)	Dover "A"	W.	2-1



The 1897/1898 season was certainly a successful one for Herne Bay's reserve side, with the 'stiffs' losing only 5 times in the 22 matches they played during the season. Numbered among those defeats, was a 0-10 reversal at the hands of Faversham Melbourne. This defeat was, however, more than counter-balanced by the match against Margate College on the 11th. of December. In what is still a record score for either Herne Bay's first or reserve sides, Herne Bay Reserves won 20-0, with Spice scoring eight of the goals.

The seasons full results were as follows.

RESERVES

04 Sep 1897	(H)	Herne	W.	2-0
11 Sep 1897	(A)	Birchington	L.	0-2
25 Sep 1897	(A)	Faversham Melbourne	L.	0-10
02 Oct 1897	(A)	Margate Athletic	D.	2-2
09 Oct 1897	(H)	Kent College	W.	2-1
16 Oct 1897	(H)	Herne Bay Invicta	D.	4-4
23 Oct 1897	(H)	Throwley	W.	6-0
30 Oct 1897	(A)	Margate College Reserves	W.	3-0
06 Nov 1897	(H)	Birchington	W.	5-1
13 Nov 1897	(A)	St. Barabas	W.	2-1
27 Nov 1897	(A)	Kent College	W.	5-0
04 Dec 1897	(A)	Herne Bay Invicta	W.	3-0
11 Dec 1897	(H)	Margate College Reserves	W.	20-0
27 Dec 1897	(H)	Herne	W.	1-0
01 Jan 1898	(H)	Faversham Melbourne Reserves	D.	0-0
15 Jan 1898	(A)	Herne	W.	2-1
22 Jan 1898	(H)	Luton Star	L.	1-2
19 Feb 1898	(H)	St. Barnabus	W.	5-1
26 Feb 1898	(H)	Margate Athletic	D.	2-2
12 Mar 1898	(A)	Westgate United	W.	5-0
09 Apr 1898	(A)	Luton Star	L.	0-1
23 Apr 1898	(A)	Faversham Melbourne Reserves	L.	0-2

The following players are known to have represented Herne Bay Football Club during the 1897/1898 season.

B. Admans	H.W. Admans	H. Britton
R. Brown	A. Chandler	C. Colley
F. Corbin	A. Dainton	?. Farrell
C.H. Fox	R. Gleeson	C. Golder
G. Hamilton	G. Harrison	A. Holliday
E. Hudson	H. Joy	W. Mathews
E. Moore	S. Moyce	S. Root
A. Smallwood	H.M. Smith	?. Spice
S. Root	E. Taylor	W. Tester
A. Town	E.W. Turner	A. Whiddett
	?. Upex	



The last full season of the 1800's, is remembered in local football circles, for the so-called 'riot' that ~~was~~ the match between Whitstable United and Herne Bay on Saturday the 4th. of February 1899. The match was an East-Kent League fixture, and the events surrounding the game, led to the closure of Whitstable's ground.

More of the 'riot' later, but the season had started way back on the 3rd. of September. With the doubts surrounding the continuation of Division Two of the Kent League, it was decided that the Club would enter the East-Kent League. The Kent Junior Cup was also entered, and in the first round of that competition, Chatham Wednesday were the visitors to the Athletic Ground. What was described as a, "...record crowd....", saw 'Dandy' Knight give Herne Bay a first-half lead, but 20 minutes into the second half, Chatham scored to level the tie. The side that represented Herne Bay in that match, were :-

HERNE BAY : B. Foley, E.W. Turner, W. Tester, ?. Keeler,
R.A. Brown, C.H. Fox, H. Boncey, R. Gleeson, E. Knight,
A. Whiddett, F. Corbin.

The first meeting of the season with Whitstable United took place on Saturday the 14th. of January 1899. Boncey scored both of Herne Bay's goals in the 2-2 draw, and Whitstable spurned a golden opportunity to claim both points, missing a penalty late in the game, awarded following a foul by Mathews.

Two weeks later, on the 28th. of January, the 3rd. Buffs were the visitors. Between the 13th. and 23rd. minutes, five goals were scored as Herne Bay took a 4-1 lead. Boncey completed his hat-trick before half-time, to stretch the advantage to 5-1. After the break, Knight, and Boncey with his fourth, added goals, and at the final whistle, the final score was 7-4 to Herne Bay.

On the following Thursday, the side took their goal tally to fourteen in less than a week, as they routed Ramsgate Town to the tune of 7-1.

Next came that 'infamous' encounter with Whitstable United. As far as the match is concerned, Harrison gave Herne Bay a 10th. minute lead, and before half-time Whiddett added a second. Boncey then added a third before Whitstable scored their only goal of the game. A 3-1 win for Herne Bay was the final result, but what happened after the match was what led to an official inquiry.

Probably the best way of relating the story, is to quote from the report of that inquiry, held at the Chatham offices of the Kent County Football Association.

The first part of the report related to the statement given by Mr. R.A. Brown, a Herne Bay player, and the club's Secretary. Extracts from his statement included the following :-

" The Herne Bay goalkeeper was pelted with mud, and the referee had to caution some of the spectators."

" Herne Bay players and supporters were abused and pelted with mud, while two Herne Bay men (supporters ..ed.), not so fortunate, were seriously assaulted, and had to take refuge in a public house, 'The Two Brewers'."



"At the railway station in the evening, there was an immediate rush by the Whitstable 'roughs', and as the players and others were going up the stairs, they were generally set upon.
 ... the Railway porters had the greatest difficulty in holding the barriers, and finding this, several Whitstable men purchased tickets to obtain access to the platform. a man called Tindall was kicked and had three ribs fractured."

(The players and several supporters were attempting to board the 6.34 pm train back to Herne Bay. ...ed.)

The Whitstable side of the story was put by Mr. John Stubbs, who was a spectator at the match. He claimed to have seen no mud throwing, and added that Tindall was in fact drunk, and had been cautioned by the police for his obscene language.

Another witness, Mr. S. Moyce, gave what was described as "clear evidence" of the mud throwing, and also said that it was, "...the hostile feeling of the spectators displayed towards the Herne Bay players ", that caused the problem.

Referring back to the incidents at the railway station, another witness, Mr. Walter Targett, estimated that there were about 120 people on the stairs at the time.

At the end of the hearing, these were the main conclusions :-

- A) The case is proven in the favour of Herne Bay Football Club.
- B) The Whitstable club's ground shall be closed for two weeks.
- C) The men who caused the disturbance, to be refused admission to all matches for the remainder of the season.

With the case now behind them, the club returned to action on the field, and on the 25th of February 1899, Whiddett, Turner, and Harrison, scored the three goals which secured a 3-1 away win in the East Kent League, against The 7th. EDRA. This was the home sides eighth defeat in their last nine matches!

With Sittingbourne 'A' also winning on the same day, Herne Bay remained in 3rd. place in the League, and following those games, the table looked like this.

EAST KENT LEAGUE DIVISION 2

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	PTS.
Folkestone 'A'	10	6	2	2	35	8	14
Sittingbourne 'A'	6	5	1	0	19	3	11
HERNE BAY F.C.	10	5	1	4	19	28	11
SoutheAshford Invicta	6	3	2	1	13	7	8
Ashford Park Rovers	10	3	2	5	20	18	8
Whitstable United	8	3	1	4	15	14	7
Faversham 'A'	9	0	1	4	13	24	6
7th. Co. E.D.R.A.	9	0	1	8	6	38	1



Easter 1899 proved to be a busy time for Herne Bay. The 'seniors', as they were described, beat London & Westminster Banks 2-1 on Good Friday afternoon, and on the Saturday they drew 2-2 with the 10th. Hussars. In an East Kent League fixture on Easter Monday morning, South Ashford Invicta were beaten by a 2-1 margin. If that were not enough, some of the players turned out for the Reserves in the afternoon, and helped the team to a 3-1 victory against Canterbury Invicta.

The side which defeated South Ashford Invicta, was :-

HERNE BAY : W. Tester, E.W. Turner, H. Britton, C.H. Fox, R.A. Brown, W. Matthews, E. Knight, A. Whiddett, G. Harrison, F. Corbin, J. Golder.

The match was refereed by Mr. W. N. Rule from Sheppey.

A final 3-1 win over Faversham 'A' at The Mall, meant that Herne Bay finished as runners-up to Sittingbourne 'A' in the East Kent League standings for the 1898-99 season. Politics and withdrawal's meant that the final table looked like this.

EAST KENT LEAGUE DIVISION 2

FINAL TABLE SEASON 1898-1899.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	PTS.	
Sittingbourne 'A'	12	9	1	2	28	10	19	
HERNE BAY F.C.	12	6	1	5	20	32	13	
Folkestone 'A'	12	5	2	5	30	17	12	
Whitstable United	12	5	2	5	33	26	12	
South Ashford Invicta	10	4	2	4	19	14	10	*
Ashford Park Rovers	11	3	2	6	19	20	8	*
Faversham 'A'	11	3	0	8	15	45	6	*
7th. Company E.D.R.A. withdrew							*

* = South Ashford Invicta refused to play Ashford Park Rovers. Faversham 'A' scratched to South Ashford Invicta. 7th. Company Eastern Division Royal Artillery made a late withdrawal from the competition, and their results were expunged.

The following players are known to have represented Herne Bay during the 1898-1899 season.

H. Boncey	H. Britton	R.A. Brown	E. Clark
F. Corbin	B. Foley	C.H. Fox	R. Gleeson
J. Golder	G. Harrison	F. Holman	E. Hudson
?. Keeler	E. Knight	W. Matthews	S. Moyce
W. Tester	E.W. Turner	A. Whiddett	



The turn of the century saw Herne Bay F.C. return to the East Kent League to play their competitive football.

Little or no local press coverage was given to their matches, and then, following the death of Queen Victoria, a period of National mourning brought about a five week break in local football.

Herne Bay's first match after the break, was a home fixture against Chatham Athletic F.C. A half-time scoreline of 2-2 was turned into a 5-3 victory for the 'Herons', courtesy of goals from Darvell (2), Irvine, Browning, and Sporne.

A full report of the match appeared in the 'Herne Bay Press', interest perhaps revived due to the nature of the break in proceedings.

HERNE BAY PRESS, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1901.

FOOTBALL.

HERNE BAY v. CHATHAM ATHLETIC.

The local eleven, after some five weeks inactivity, principally occasioned by the death of her late Majesty, the Queen, took the field last Saturday against Chatham Athletic, and treated their supporters to a very interesting game, in which they came out the winners by five goals to three. The ground was in fine order, and the teams maintained a fast pace throughout. In the first half, the home team having lost on the spin of the coin, defended the William Street end, but were to all appearances placed to no disadvantage as from the commencement they possessed themselves of the major share of the play, causing the opposing defence to be ever on the alert. Irvine, for the "Herons," nicely headed through some ten minutes after start, and shortly after a second goal was notched through the agency of Darvell. The great feature of this forty-five minutes, and it might be safely said also of the second moiety, was the cleverly contested exhibition given by the visiting goal-keeper who, doubtless, saved his side from a severe drubbing. The visitors opened their scoring through a mis-kick by Corbin at back, and just before the interval was sounded they placed matters again on an equal footing. The early stages of the concluding moiety were rather tame to witness, being almost entirely devoid of incident, till Browning gave his side once more the lead after a pretty piece of individual work, which was followed up by Darvell making victory more certain with a sharp long shot. The visitors then retaliated bringing the score to 4-3 till Sporne sent in a grand ground shot over which the goal custodian had no possible chance. This happened shortly before the finish and there being no further scoring the teams left the field with the game decided as above-stated.

A press report on the HERNE BAY V's CHATHAM ATHLETIC match, that took place on Saturday 9th. February 1901.

Saturday the 9th. of March saw Herne Bay travel to take on Whitstable Town in an East Kent League fixture. Whitstable's home was then the Manor House ground, and they were at that time, heading the League table, with Herne Bay in second spot.

Although no official crowd figures were given, it was reported that this match had drawn a 'record' crowd for a fixture between the two Clubs.

Irvine gave Herne Bay a first half lead, and Browning added a second-half header, ensuring that the visitors collected the full points.

The following players represented Herne Bay in this match.

W. Matthews, F. Corbin, Sporne, F. Holman, Humphrey, Philpot, E. Knight, H. Britton, Irvine, P. Browning, A. Whiddett.



The 2-0 win over Whitstable enabled Herne Bay to leap-frog them to the top of the League table, and after the match, the League positions looked like this :-

<u>East Kent League</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>A.</u>	<u>PTS.</u>
HERNE BAY	7	4	2	1	19	6	10
Whitstable	7	4	1	2	18	7	9
St. Mary's Dover	4	3	1	0	19	4	7
Ashford Park Rovers	4	3	0	1	16	7	6
Folkestone Invicta	5	2	0	3	20	15	4
Hythe	9	0	0	9	11	64	0

In October 1901, STROOD provided the opposition in a NEW BROMPTON & DISTRICT LEAGUE match. Although a goal ten minutes before half-time settled matters in Strood's favour, the text of the match report once again provides some fascinating insights. One of the more notable of these, concerned a penalty awarded to the 'Herons'. The text reads as follows :-

".... the homesters returned from the goal-kick, and Browning receiving an opponent in his back, a penalty was awarded. Sporne was chosen to take the kick. THE GOALKEEPER ADVANCED TO THE SIX YARDS LINE, and Sporne approaching steadily, banged a hot shot over the cross-bar, which caused a roar of disappointment round the ground."

One can only assume therefore, that the keeper was allowed to stand where he did!

HERNE BAY :- W. Matthews, F. Corbin, Parham, Harrison, Sporne, Gleeson, Allen, Upex, P. Browning, Irvine, A. Whiddett.

During the same week-end as the match against Strood, Herne Bay also played a friendly match against St. Johns Guild. Played at Margate, the Guild went down by a 3-4 margin with Philpott and Gore amongst the Herne Bay scorers. One item worthy of mention, is that yet another nickname had emerged. This time it was the "Baymen"!

Herne Bay's next fixture in the New Brompton and District League, was to be a home fixture against Luton.

A quick mention at this point, for the Reserves, who were playing in the FAVERSHAM AND DISTRICT LEAGUE, and on the same day as the Luton fixture, were away at Faversham Invicta.



Herne Bay's first opponents of 1902 were Ramsgate Town, who were the visitors on Saturday 11th. January. Having already beaten Ramsgate back in December in the Kent Junior Cup, the "Heron's" completed the double with a 3-2 victory.

Ramsgate began the match defending the William Street end. Herne Bay took the lead, before Ramsgate equalised with a goal that the Herne Bay players disputed as being off-side. Having then gone 1-3 behind early in the second half, Ramsgate put all their efforts into attack, but could only manage a late consolation goal.

On the same day, Herne Bay Reserves were away to Gore Court, (a local Sittingbourne side) but returned having lost to the only goal of the game.

Next came the 4th. round of the Kent Junior Cup, with an away tie against Folkestone Excelsior facing Herne Bay.

The tie took place on Saturday the 18th. January, and on a cold, bleak day neither side managed to find the back of the net. The replay took place on Herne Bay's Mitchells Enclosure ground the following Saturday, and the home side took full advantage of their second chance, running out as clear 5-1 winners. Rawlings opened the scoring, with further goals from Browning and Harrison before the half-time whistle. Folkestone pulled a goal back from the penalty spot, but two goals from Knight put the game well beyond their reach.

February 1st. 1902 saw Herne Bay and Margate contest the Divisional Final of the Kent Junior Cup competition. Margate were considered to be much the stronger of the two sides, but at half-time the score stood at 1-1, Knight scoring Herne Bay's goal. Margate had brought a, "...large band..." of supporters with them, and it was they who had cause to celebrate at the final whistle, as the 'Gate', (as they were known even then), scored from a late free-kick to earn them a 2-1 victory.

The Herne Bay side which contested the final, was as follows :-

W. Matthews, F. Corbin, R. Gleeson, W. Upex, H. Boncey, C.H. Fox,
G. Harrison, F. Knight, P. Browning, W. Rawlings, A. Whiddett.

Although a full Margate team was not given in local reports, it is known that the team included :-

Brown (Right-Back), L. Lewis (Centre-Half), Leethem (Left-half)

Having moved into the Brompton & District league for the 1901-1902 season, Herne Bay found the going tough during the first half of their League programme. By the middle of February, the League table was as follows.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	PTS.
Whitstable	10	9	0	1	36	17	18
H.M.S. Pembroke	7	5	1	1	29	7	11
Rochester	8	5	1	2	16	13	11
New Brompton Amateurs	7	2	1	4	13	13	5
Chatham Hill	7	2	1	4	16	25	5
HERNE BAY	6	1	2	3	13	12	4
Strood	7	1	2	4	8	23	4
Luton	7	0	1	6	6	22	1



March 1st. 1902 saw Herne Bay's heaviest defeat of the season, when they suffered a 1-9 reversal on their visit to play H.M.S. Pembroke, but their fortunes were reversed in two friendly matches against two London banking houses at the end of March, when no less than eighteen goals were scored.

On the 28th. March, London & Westminster Banking were the visitors, and Herne Bay recorded a 6-4 victory. On the 31st., National & Provincial Bank provided the opposition, and Herne Bay were again victorious, this time by a 5-3 margin.

The early part of April saw consecutive 1-1 away draws against New Brompton Amateurs and Chatham Hill, both in League fixtures, and the final game of the season saw honours shared as Herne Bay and Strood drew 2-2.

Once again, I have been fortunate in tracing a complete listing of all 54 matches competed by Herne Bay's first and reserve sides during the 1901-1902 season. The complete lists are as follows.

FIRST TEAM

07 Sep 1901	(H)	Daneville	W.	5-0
14 Sep 1901	(H)	Rochester	W.	6-1
21 Sep 1901	(H)	Daily Chronicle	W.	4-0
28 Sep 1901	(A)	Ramsgate	L.	0-2
05 Oct 1901	(H)	Whitstable	W.	6-2
19 Oct 1901	(A)	Birchington	D.	1-1
26 Oct 1901	(H)	Strood	L.	1-2
02 Nov 1901	(H)	Luton	D.	1-1
09 Nov 1901	(A)	Daneville	W.	4-1
23 Nov 1901	(A)	Rochester	L.	0-1
30 Nov 1901	(H)	H.M.S. Pembroke	L.	2-4
07 Dec 1901	(H)	Ramsgate St. George	W.	4-1
14 Dec 1901	(H)	Chatham Hill	W.	4-1
26 Dec 1901	(H)	Rochester Amateurs	W.	2-1
28 Dec 1901	(A)	Ramsgate	W.	3-1
11 Jan 1902	(H)	Ramsgate	W.	3-2
18 Jan 1902	(A)	Folkestone Excelsior	D.	0-0
25 Jan 1902	(H)	Folkestone Excelsior	W.	5-1
01 Feb 1902	(H)	Margate	L.	1-2
08 Feb 1902	(H)	New Brompton Amateurs	D.	3-3
22 Feb 1902	(A)	Whitstable	L.	0-3
01 Mar 1902	(A)	H.M.S. Pembroke	L.	1-9
08 Mar 1902	(H)	Whitstable	D.	2-2
22 Mar 1902	(H)	New Brompton & Dist. League Team	L.	2-3
28 Mar 1902	(H)	London & Westminster Banking	W.	6-4
31 Mar 1902	(H)	National & Provincial Bank	W.	5-3
05 Apr 1902	(A)	New Brompton Amateurs	D.	1-1
12 Apr 1902	(A)	Chatham Hill	D.	1-1
17 Apr 1902	(A)	Twenty-Two Tradesmen	W.	5-3
19 Apr 1902	(A)	Whitstable	L.	1-5
26 Apr 1902	(A)	Strood	D.	2-2



RESERVES

21 Sep 1901	(A)	Daily Chronicle	L.	0-1	
28 Sep 1901	(H)	Gore Court	W.	2-0	FL
05 Oct 1901	(A)	Bapchild	L.	0-1	FL
12 Oct 1901	(H)	Sittingbourne Melbourne	W.	5-1	FL
19 Oct 1901	(H)	Faversham Melbourne	W.	6-2	FL
26 Oct 1901	(A)	St. Johns Guild	W.	4-3	
02 Nov 1901	(A)	Faversham Invicta	L.	1-2	FL
09 Nov 1901	(H)	Hall & Sons Rangers	W.	1-0	FL
14 Dec 1901	(A)	Thanet Electric	L.	1-3	
26 Dec 1901	(H)	Whitstable Argyle	L.	1-2	
04 Jan 1902	(H)	Ramsgate 'A'	W.	3-2	
11 Jan 1902	(A)	Gore Court	L.	0-1	FL
18 Jan 1902	(A)	Sheerness Dockyard	L.	0-16	FL
22 Jan 1902	(A)	Whitstable Argyle	D.	2-2	
08 Feb 1902	(A)	Faversham Melbourne	D.	2-2	FL
15 Feb 1902	(H)	Daily Chronicle	W.	5-1	FL
22 Feb 1902	(A)	Hall & Sons Rangers	D.	2-2	FL
01 Mar 1902	(H)	Faversham Invicta	W.	2-1	FL
08 Mar 1902	(A)	Sittingbourne Melbourne	L.	0-3	FL
15 Mar 1902	(H)	Sheerness Dockyard	L.	0-1	FL
31 Mar 1902	(H)	Brixton Minerva	W.	4-3	
05 Apr 1902	(A)	Daily Chronicle	D.	1-1	FL
12 Apr 1902	(H)	Bapchild	H.	3-0	FL

FL = Faversham & District League fixture.

I have been unable to track down a final League table for the Faversham & District league, or indeed, a final table for the First Teams New Brompton & District league.

HERNE BAY'S NEW BROMPTON & DISTRICT LEAGUE

RESULTS, AT-A-GLANCE.

	<u>HOME</u>	<u>AWAY</u>
V's Chatham Hill	4-1	1-1
V's H.M.S. Pembroke	2-4	1-9
V's Luton (Chatham)	1-1	N/P
V's New Brompton Amateurs	3-3	1-1
V's Rochester	6-1	0-1
V's Strood	1-2	2-2
V's Whitstable	2-2	0-3

<u>P.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>A.</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
13	2	6	5	24	31	10

Luton (Chatham) failed to complete their fixtures.



KENT JUNIOR CUP DIVISIONAL COMPETITION

1901-1902 SEASON.

1st. Round	AWAY	V's	Daneville	W.	4-1
2nd. Round	HOME	V's	Ramsgate St George's	W.	4-1
3rd. Round	AWAY	V's	Ramsgate Town	W.	3-1
Semi-Final	AWAY	V's	Folkestone Excelsior	D.	0-0
S/F Replay	HOME	V's	Folkestone Excelsior	W.	5-1
Divisional Final	HOME	V's	Margate	L.	1-2

The following players are known to have represented Herne Bay during the 1901-1902 season.

?. Allen	H. Boncey	P. Browning
F. Corbin	C.H. Fox	R. Gleeson
?. Hamilton	G. Harrison	C. Irvine
E. Knight	W. Matthews	R. Parham
N. Philpott	W. Rawlings	W. Upex
	A. Whiddett	

1902-1903 SEASON

Charles H. Fox, who had first played Football for Herne Bay as far back as 1887, was still very much involved with the Club both as a player and secretary..

Early in October 1902, he gave an interview to the Herne Bay Press, and as an important part of the early history of Herne Bay Football Club, it is reproduced here in it's original form.

A Notable Footballer.



Chat with Mr. C. H. FOX, Capt. and Sec. of the Herne Bay Football Club.

When I happened this week upon Mr. C. H. Fox, the energetic captain and secretary of the Herne Bay Football Club, he was in the midst of a multitude of correspondence relating to the Club. There was before him a minute book, and he was evidently "writing up" the proceedings of a recent meeting. Affable to a fault, the popular football Captain was easily persuaded to put aside the task he had in hand for a spell the while I plied him with a few straight questions. The fire—although 'twas but early October—was burning brightly in the grate of the cosy sitting-room into which I had been ushered, and I felt I could talk of football without infringing upon the demands of a possibly late summer.

"You were born?" I commenced.
 "In the year 1869," was the quick response. "I'm a Londoner—a Hoxtonite in point of fact."

"Where did you receive your first lessons in the game of Association football," was my next query.

"Where? Why at Ardinglev College, Sussex, where I was educated. Messrs. Bran and Hume, the famous cricketers, were members of the teaching staff, and they both took a deep interest in the College football team."

Interrogating Mr. Fox as to his first connections with the Herne Bay Football Club, he readily informed me that for fifteen years he has played football, and for 12 years has been captain of the local Club.

"I was discovered casually," he observed, "by some of the then members, and have played regularly ever since."

"But you are also Secretary?" I shot.
 "Yes, you see I combine the two duties."

Mr. Fox need not be considered egotistical if he deems himself to be the most useful man in the team, for whenever necessity arises he is perfectly capable of playing any position on the field.

"Tell me some of the first class matches in which you have played?" I asked.

"Well, I have played in connection with the Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, and have assisted Sittingbourne, Faversham, Canterbury, Ramsgate, and elsewhere. You can also mention," he added, "that I have played in no less than 60 matches in the course of one season."

"What do you think of the present team?"

"I think that the team comprises a number of fine, sturdy fellows. I attribute the success which has attended the team to the suitability of the men, and the understanding among the players and officials."



"What are the prospects for the present season?"

"We shall be competing in the Faversham and District League, East Kent League, and the Kent Junior Cup. We hope to pull off a brace of these."

"I notice you have not been playing this year. How is that?"

"Well, to tell the truth, I give way to younger members. I have had my pennyworth. Still, for all that, if called upon to do my part I am not found wanting."

Further conversation with the genial Capt. elicited the interesting information that he is the oldest member of the team, and as such he has witnessed a good many changes.

"But, tell me," I continued, as I pursued my interrogations, "is it not true that not content with playing football with human beings you have entered the lists with an elephant?" Mr. Fox sought refuge in a laugh. Then replied, "You're quite right. I met the elephant in Lord John Sanger's Circus for three years in succession."

Mr. Fox then escorted me to his private room where my attention was directed to a cabinet wherein were cups he had won. And they were such of which any sportsman might be proud. When we had got back to our seats by the fire I ventured to enquire what the football enthusiast thought of the national pastime in East Kent.

Mr. Fox told me that he considered Kent Junior football was almost equal to Senior teams in other counties. He added that he was of opinion there were a splendid lot of teams in East Kent.

"How do you account for having been knocked out of the Cup last year?"

Mr. Fox shrugged his shoulders. Then he shortly replied, "We were very unfortunate in not winning the Kent Junior Cup last season, as I think ours was the best team."

Mr. Fox has not alone allied himself to the game of football. In past days he took an active part in rowing, racing, cycling, and billiards, and for these he has secured prizes. "But," he remarked as we cordially shook hands in parting, "I have always taken the greatest interest in football."

And every body in Herne Bay who takes any interest in the national game will thoroughly believe it.



On the field, Herne Bay's opening fixture in the Faversham & District League was against Whitstable, on Saturday 20th. September 1902. Whitstable came into this game as the League Champions, having won the league the previous season. The summer break though, appeared not to have suited them! Herne Bay took a 20th. minute lead, and by half-time led 3-0. If the first half had proved to be a one sided affair, then the second half was to prove to be no different, as Herne Bay ran in a further six goals, to end the match as 9-0 victors. This victory remains as one of the largest in the long history of matches between the two Club's.

For the record, here are the line-up's of both teams :-

HERNE BAY

Foley, R. Parham, Holmans, W. Upex, F. Corbin, Brewer, Smith, Watson, C. Irvine, E. Knight, J. Golder.

WHITSTABLE

Pierce, Odden, ? , Allen, Warner, Foad, Dunn, Carlton, Philpot, Humphreys, Browning.

The referee for the match was Mr. F.C. Wood from Faversham.

Herne Bay's next Faversham & District League fixture meant a trip to Sheerness to play the Royal Naval Gunnery School.

Irvine scored Herne Bay's first, and what proved to be, only goal, midway through the first half. Foley's performance in the Herne Bay goal was described as...."particularly brilliant"...., and it would appear that it was mainly due to him that the 'Herons' held on for the victory.

On the same day, the reserves were playing Ramsgate reserves on their Dumpton Park ground. The match ended in a 1-1 draw, Neves scoring for Herne Bay.



HERNE BAY PRESS, OCTOBER 11, 1902.

FOOTBALL.

HERNE BAY v. R.N. GUNNERY SCHOOL.

FAVERSHAM AND DISTRICT LEAGUE (DIVISION I.)

A very hotly contested game was seen at Sheerness, on Saturday afternoon, between the above teams. Winning the toss, the visitors kicked with the wind behind them, and, as was naturally supposed, they were at once the aggressors. The home-sters, though a fine muster and possessing a good guard, it was not till midway through the interval before their "goalie" was defeated. Irvine was the scorer, and it was one of his best shots. Much encouraged the "Hérons" continually attacked, but the "sailors" prevented any further scoring, though they had to cross over at the interval being a goal in the minority. Aided by the strong wind the Naval team opened the second half in very ominous style, but the "Hérons" have justly to be credited with playing against odds to greater advantage than their opponents. Foley in goal was particularly brilliant in the defence, and excellent assistance was rendered him by the backs and middle line. As the end grew near, and the Bay were still the goal ahead, the play became of a very fast and vigorous character. Excitement ran high when several times the home attack were within short range of the Bay stronghold, but it was always met with the cool dash that always characterises Holmans and Parham. When "time" was sounded the Bay were the winners by 1-0.

Herne Bay Team—Foley, goal; Parham and Holmans, backs; Upex, Brewer and Stockwell, halves; Smith and Watson (right), Irvine (centre), U. N. Known and J. Golder (left), forwards.

Linesman: C. H. Fox (capt. and hon. sec.)

Referee: M. Chambers (Faversham).

Herne Bay's opening fixture in the East Kent League took place on October 18th. Ramsgate were the visitors to Mitchell's Athletic Ground, and it was the visitors who took an early lead. Herne Bay drew level within a few minutes, when a shot from Gold-er was deflected into his own net by a Rams-gate defender. Midway through the second half, Ramsgate regained the lead, but "... within seconds..", the scores were once again level through Irvine, whose goal ens-ured a share of the points.

Two further East Kent League points were secured in a 4-1 away win over Ashford Park Rovers on October 25th. Not to be out-done, the Reserves notched up an equally straight forward 6-1 victory over J. Halls Rangers, on the same day.

The reserves side for this match was :-

Admans, E. Philpott, Neves, Wells, Griggs, Norris, Barrett, Young, N. Philpott, Robinson, Davey.

It was back to Faversham & District League action the following week, with the visit of Sheppey Amateurs. Golder, Whiddett, and Smith scored the goals in a comfortable 3-0 victory.

Following this match, Herne Bay were still pace-setters in the League, and their record justified their lofty position.

P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	PTS.	POS.
8	7	1	0	29	5	15	1st.

At the same early stage of the EAST KENT LEAGUE season, the league standings were as follows.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	PTS.
Ramsgate	3	2	1	0	10	4	5
Folkestone Excelsior	4	2	0	2	8	8	4
HERNE BAY	2	1	1	0	6	3	3
Ashford Park Rovers	2	1	0	1	2	4	2
South Ashford Invicta	3	1	0	2	4	5	2
Whitstable	2	0	0	2	1	7	0
Faversham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



In these times it was not often that an attendance figure was announced for any match, but for Herne Bay's Kent Junior Cup 2nd. Round tie at Ramsgate on 29th. November 1902, the local press, in their report on the game, reported a crowd of, "...fully 1,300 persons."
Herne Bay deservedly won the match, though only by the slimmest of margins, Knight scoring the all important only goal of the game.
It was however, the aftermath of the match that drew the greater attention.

As will be seen from the press-cuttings below, Ramsgate, (at a cost of 10/6) protested at the inclusion in the Herne Bay side of Percy Browning. Following a Kent County Football Association meeting on Monday 15th December, the committee ruled in favour of Herne Bay Football Club, and the result stood.

HERNE BAY PRESS, DECEMBER 13, 1902.

THE RECENT FOOTBALL CUP TIE MATCH.

RAMSGATE PROTESTS AGAINST BROWNING.

On Saturday, November 29, the second round of the Kent Junior Cup competition was played off. Herne Bay was drawn against Ramsgate Town and won by one goal to nil. We are enabled to print a copy of the letter which has been sent from the Ramsgate Club to the Kent County Football Association, protesting against Herne Bay's victory. The ground of complaint is the inclusion of P. Browning in the Herne Bay eleven—but let the letter speak for itself.—

December 4th, 1902.
Kent Junior Cup.
Ramsgate Town v. Herne Bay.

Dear Sir,

The above match was played on Saturday, November 29th, and resulted in a win for Herne Bay by one goal to nil, but my committee desire me to protest against the match being awarded to Herne Bay on the following grounds:—

(1) That Percy Browning, one of the Herne Bay team, has taken part in Midland League matches this season, having played for Sheffield United.

(2) That the same player is not a resident in the county of Kent having left Herne Bay some months ago and now residing in Sheffield—in fact he was brought down here especially for this match.

In accordance with Rule 16 I am enclosing protest fee of 10/6 and shall be glad to receive your acknowledgment.

My committee regret having to protest but under the circumstances feel justified in hereby formally claiming the match and await the decision of your committee.

I remain, yours truly,

L. S. G. LANGLEY,

Hon. Sec.

Ramsgate Town F.C.

J. Albert, Esq.,
Chatham.

HERNE BAY PRESS, DECEMBER 20, 1902.

THE RAMSGATE PROTEST. VERDICT IN FAVOUR OF THE HERNE BAY CLUB.

Last week many of our readers were surprised to hear that the Ramsgate F. C. have lodged a protest with Kent County Football Association against Herne Bay on their victory in the second round of the Kent Junior Cup. Consequent on that protest a Committee of the Association was appointed and the matter was fully gone into on Monday evening at Chatham. Mr. L. S. G. Langley, Hon. Secretary. Ramsgate F. C. supported the protest and Mr. C. H. Fox, watched the interests of the Herne Bay Club of which he is Captain and Hon. Sec. Mr Langley's points were that P. Browning, one of the Bay players in the recent cup match, was not eligible to play owing to his living now at Sheffield and having played in Midland League matches—a competition which he contended was senior to the Kent Junior Cup.

Mr. Fox, in reply, took his stand on the rules and maintained that Browning was eligible to play having the qualification of being born within five miles of Herne Bay—at Whitstable. Dealing with the other point of Browning having played in a senior competition, he again appealed to the rules and showed that the Midland League was not included in the various competitions which debarred a player from competing in the Junior Cup. The competitions which prevented a player from assisting a team in the Junior Cup were—Amateur, London, Army, or any other county Senior Cup competition in the same or previous season; or having played three times in the Kent County League competition in league matches. On the rules, therefore, he asked that the protest should be dismissed.

After deliberation the Committee dismissed the protest, but ordered the protest fee of 10/6 to be returned as they did not regard it as a frivolous protest.

Winch's Field....



Back on the field of play, Herne Bay's next match was a Faversham & District League fixture against the Royal Naval Gunnery School. The 'Gunners' turned a 0-0 half-time scoreline into a 2-0 one in their favour by the end of the game.

Moving into 1903, and in February Herne Bay met Whitstable in an East Kent League fixture. Herne Bay led 2-1 at half-time with the goals coming from Irvine and Smith. On their own ground, the 'Reds' started the second half with, "...numerous.." raids on the Herne Bay goal, and were rewarded when a fine individual goal drew them level. Herne Bay later secured both points when Smith finished off a three man move to collect his second goal of the game.

This was already the fourth meeting between the two Club's during the season. The previous meetings were as follows :-

Sat 21st September	Fav.&Dist.	HERNE BAY	9	Whitstable	0
Sat 15th November	East Kent	HERNE BAY	0	Whitstable	3
Sat 03rd January	Fav.&Dist.	Whitstable	2	HERNE BAY	2

The home East Kent League meeting between Herne Bay and Folkestone Excelsior took place on the 21st of March. Just before the half-time whistle blew, Watson headed Herne Bay into the lead, and in the second half, a hotly disputed goal gave the home side a winning two goal advantage. The reserves were away on the same day to Whitstable Argyle, and won by the odd goal in seven.

On the following Thursday, the 26th March, the Football Club played a return match against the Hockey Club. The final scoreline of 7-2 in the Football Club's favour, gives a fair insight into the pattern of the game.

Herne Bay's final East Kent League match, away to Folkestone Excelsior, resulted in a 4-0 win. This meant that Ramsgate had to win their last fixture, at home to South Ashford Invicta, by seven clear goals to claim the League title.

In the end they could only manage a 0-0 draw, and so HERNE BAY FOOTBALL CLUB became East Kent League champions for the 1902-1903 season.

Although not quite complete, this league table clearly shows Herne Bay's winning position.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	PTS.
HERNE BAY	12	9	2	1	41	11	20
Ramsgate	12	7	5	0	36	12	19
Whitstable	11	6	0	5	31	21	12
Folkestone Excelsior	11	3	3	6	16	22	8
South Ashford Invicta	12	3	2	7	15	29	8
Ashford Park Rovers	10	3	0	7	7	36	6
Faversham	10	2	1	7	16	31	5

Matches not included in the above table were, Whitstable V's Ashford Park Rovers, Folkestone Excelsior V's Faversham, and Faversham V's Ashford Park Rovers.



HERNE BAY'S EAST KENT LEAGUE RESULTS

1902-1903 SEASON

Match 01	October	18th.	1902	HOME	V's	Ramsgate	2-2
Match 02	October	25th.	1902	AWAY	V's	Ashford Park Rovers	4-1
Match 03	November	8th.	1902	AWAY	V's	South Ashford Invicta	4-0
Match 04	November	15th.	1902	HOME	V's	Whitstable	0-3
Match 05	January	17th.	1903	HOME	V's	Faversham	6-0
Match 06	January	31st.	1903	HOME	V's	Ashford Park Rovers	5-0
Match 07	February	7th.	1903	AWAY	V's	Whitstable	3-2
Match 08	February	14th.	1903	AWAY	V's	Ramsgate	1-1
Match 09	March	7th.	1903	AWAY	V's	Faversham	3-2
Match 10	March	14th.	1903	HOME	V's	South Ashford Invicta	7-0
Match 11	March	21st.	1903	HOME	V's	Folkestone Excelsior	2-0
Match 12	April	18th.	1903	AWAY	V's	Folkestone Excelsior	4-0

The following players are known to have represented Herne Bay during the 1902-1903 season.

S. Anderson	R. Barham	? . Brewer
P. Browning	F. Corbin	L. Charlesworth
? . Foley	J. Golder	F. Holmans
? . Ingledon	C. Irvine	E. Knight
? . Odden	J. Smith	? . Stockwell
E.W. Turner	W. Upex	? . Watson
..	? . Watson	..

1903-1904 SEASON

Herne Bay's opening fixture in defense of their East Kent League title was away against Folkestone Excelsior. The match took place on Folkestone's Walton Farm Ground, and was refereed by Mr. G. Mills.

At half-time there was no score, but goals from Craker and Champion soon established a two goal lead for the home side. Robinson did pull back a goal for the 'Hérons', but with the home 'keeper in, "...fine form.", an equalising goal fro Herne Bay was not forthcoming. The Herne Bay side for this opening fixture was as follows :-

Foley, Allen, Neaves, Farley, Fox, Wells, Golder, Watson,
Smith, Irvine, Robinson.



Successive seven-goal scorelines followed on 24th. and 31st. of October 1903. Daneville were beaten 7-0, and then Cinque Ports lost an East Kent League fixture 7-1 to an in-form Herne Bay side.

The return fixture against Folkestone Excelsior took place on the 7th. November, and this time the scoreline was reversed as goals from Irvine and Smith set up the 2-1 victory.

After Herne Bay's first three East Kent League matches, the League table showed them in third spot.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	PTS.
Ramsgate Town	4	3	1	0	12	6	7
Folkestone Excelsior	4	3	0	1	16	3	6
HERNE BAY	3	2	0	1	10	4	4
South Ashford Invicta	3	1	0	2	6	4	2
J. Hall Rangers	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Cinque Ports	5	1	0	4	5	17	2
Whitstable	2	0	1	1	2	6	1
Ashford Park Rovers	1	0	0	1	0	11	0

The two Saturday's before Christmas 1903 saw Herne Bay take on their old rivals, Whitstable, both home and away. The home match ended in a 2-2 draw. Neither side had found the target in a tight first half, but two goals in the space of five minutes from Watson and Robinson gave Herne Bay a useful cushion. However two late strikes from Wilkinson enabled the 'reds' to gain a share of the spoils.

The two teams for this match were :-

HERNE BAY Foley, Farley, Neaves, Upex, Watson, Boncey, Golder
Robinson, Allen, Smith, Fox.

WHITSTABLE Manooch, Barham, Odden, Lott, Allen, Clothier, Adeler,
Pettman, Wilkinson, Philpott, Rowden.

On the following Saturday, the 19th., Whitstable were the hosts, and a goal in each half, without any reply from the "Heron's", saw the home side through to a 2-0 victory.

A third meeting of the season, this time for East Kent League points, took place on 9th. January 1904. Whitstable were again the hosts, with the match being held on their Manor House Ground. A goal from Smith gave Herne Bay a 1-0 half-time advantage, but within seconds of the second-half getting underway, Whitstable were level. Herne Bay however, made sure of the full quota of points with a late winner from an un-named source.

Easter 1904 saw the usual visit of London sides for matches on the Friday, Saturday, and Monday. On the Friday, the 2nd, April, Gunnersbury Football Club were defeated 4-1. On the Saturday, Tottenham Park restored some 'London Pride' with a 4-1 win of their own.



Monday 5th. however, provided the 'Match-of-the-Weekend'. London and Westminster Bank were the opposition, and, indeed, scored five goals. Herne Bay however,scored six!

J. Hall rangers were defeated 3-1 away, and 4-1 at home, as Herne Bay strengthened their challenge for the East Kent League title.

With Herne Bay's league fixtures completed, Folkestone Excelsior had to win at J. Hall Rangers to finish on the same points, 18, as Herne Bay. This they duly accomplished. A play-off was needed, and this took place on 30th. April at Whitstable's Manor House Ground.

The match attracted a great deal of local interest, and at the kick-off the crowd was estimated at between 2,000 and 3,000 spectators. Irvine headed Herne Bay into the lead, and in the words of the local press reporter, "...the cheering was some time in subsiding." Irvine then had a second goal ruled out for off-side, but at half-time the score still stood at 1-0 to Herne Bay.

Munns then put his side 2-0 ahead, but Herne Bay were somewhat fortunate to retain the two goal margin when 'keeper Foley dropped a Folkestone cross, but the ball ran just outside the post. A foul on Smith led to the award of a penalty, and Charlesworth made no mistake from the spot.

Folkestone could find no way back, and with a 3-0 scoreline in their favour, Herne Bay were once again champions of the East Kent League.

The two teams that contested the play-off were as follows.

HERNE BAY : Foley, Allen, Neaves, Upex, Parkin, Watson, Smith
Charlesworth, Irvine, Munns, Golder.

FOLKESTONE
EXCELSIOR : Smith, Harrison, Corks, Milton, Friend, Saunders,
H. Hall, E. Hall, Kennedy, Tribe, Champion.

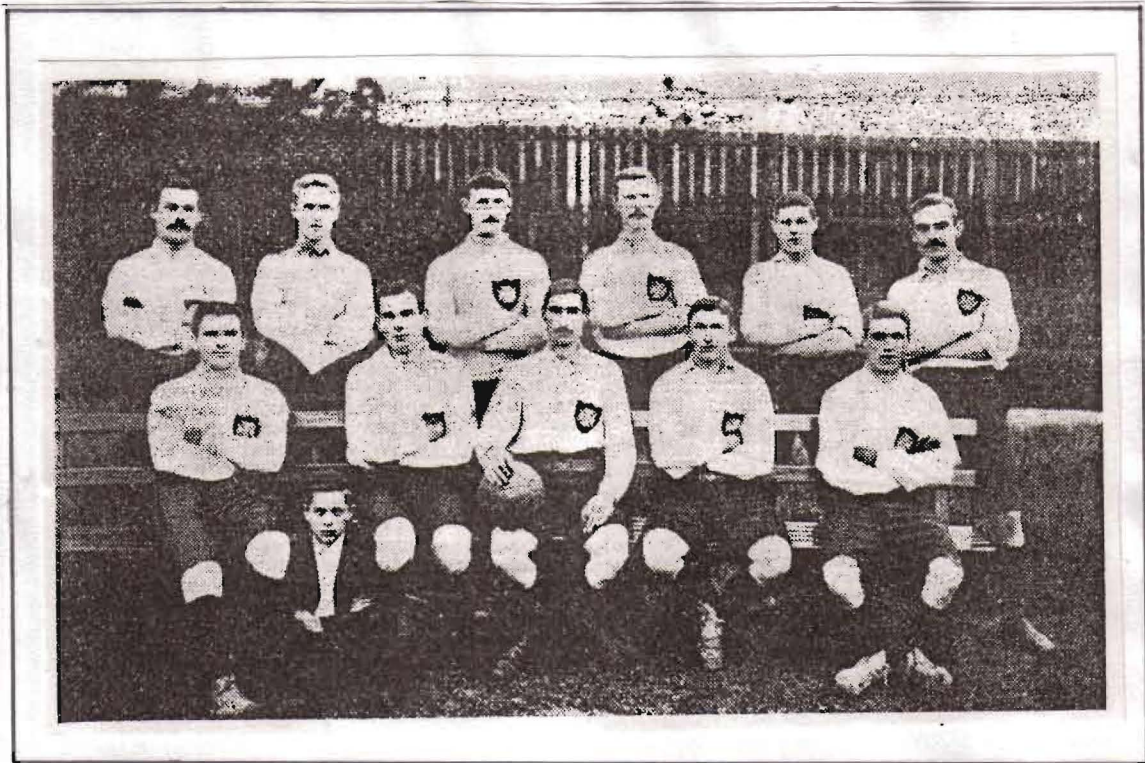
HERNE BAY F.C. - EAST KENT LEAGUE RESULTS 1903-04

	<u>HOME</u>	<u>AWAY</u>		
Cinque Ports F.C.	7-1	0-1		
Folkestone Excelsior	2-1	1-2	Play-off	3-0
J. Hall Rangers	4-1	3-1		
Ramsgate	5-2	1-0		
South Ashford Invicta	6-0	3-1		
Whitstable	0-1	2-1		

<u>P.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>A.</u>	<u>PTS.</u>
12	9	0	3	34	12	18



HERNE BAY F.C. - 1903-1904 SEASON



Back Row : B. Wells, W. Upex, N. Farley, C.H. Fox,
F. Watson, A. Neaves.

Front Row : L. Charlesworth, C. Irvine, J. Smith (Captain),
F.G. Allen, C. Robinson.

The following players are known to have represented Herne Bay F.C. during the 1903-1904 season.

F.G. Allen	H. Boncey	? . Brewer
? . Carrie	L. Charlesworth	N. Farley
? . Foley	C.H. Fox	J. Golder
? . Hicks	C. Irvine	? . Munns
A. Neaves	? . Parkin	W. Redwood
C. Robinson	J. Smith	F. Watson
? . Welch	B. Wells	W. Upex



HERNE BAY F.C. 1903-1904 SEASON FIRST TEAM RECORD

Sat 05 Sep 1903	(A)	J. Hall Rangers	lost	3-5
Sat 26 Sep 1903	(H)	J. Hall Rangers	won.	4-3
Sat 03 Oct 1903	(A)	Folkestone Excelsior	lost	1-2
Sat 10 Oct 1903	()	H.M.S. Pembroke	lost	0-2
Sat 17 Oct 1903	()	Canterbury	lost	2-4
Sat 24 Oct 1903	(H)	Daneville	won.	7-0
Sat 31 Oct 1903	(H)	Cinque Ports	won.	7-1
Sat 07 Nov 1903	(H)	Folkestone Excelsior	won.	2-1
Sat 14 Nov 1903	()	The Buffs	won.	1-0
Sat 21 Nov 1903	(A)	Daneville	lost	1-3
Sat 12 Dec 1903	(H)	Whitstable	drew	2-2
Sat 19 Dec 1903	(A)	Whitstable	lost	0-2
Sat 26 Dec 1903	(H)	Acton	won.	6-3
Sat 02 Jan 1904	(H)	Ramsgate Town	won.	5-2
Sat 09 Jan 1904	(A)	Whitstable	won.	2-1
Sat 16 Jan 1904	()	Ramsgate St. Georges	won.	5-0
Sat 23 Jan 1904	()	Whitstable	drew	2-2
Sat 30 Jan 1904	()	Royal Naval Gunnery School	drew	1-1
Sat 06 Feb 1904	(A)	South Ashford Invicta	won.	3-1
Sat 27 Feb 1904	(H)	Whitstable	lost	0-1
Sat 05 Mar 1904	(H)	Rochester Amateurs	won	5-1
Sat 12 Mar 1904	(H)	South Ashford Invicta	won	6-0
Sat 19 Mar 1904	(A)	Cinque Ports	lost	0-1
Fri 02 Apr 1904	(H)	Gunnerysbury	won	4-1
Sat 03 Apr 1904	(H)	Tottenham Park	lost	1-4
Mon 05 Apr 1904	(H)	London & Westminster Bank	won.	6-5
Sat 09 Apr 1904	(A)	J. Hall Rangers	won.	3-1
Sat 16 Apr 1904	(A)	Ramsgate Town	won.	1-0
Sat 21 Apr 1904	(H)	J. Hall Rangers	won.	4-1
Mon 23 Apr 1904	()	H.M.S. Immortalite	won.	3-0
Mon 30 Apr 1904	(N)	Folkestone Excelsior	won.	3-0 *

* = Played on neutral ground. (Manor House, Whitstable)

ALL MATCHES

<u>P.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>A.</u>	<u>PTS.</u>	<u>G/D</u>
31	19	03	09	90	50	N/A	+40