

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

Saturday's weather, apart from being contrary, was quite different from the Memorable one.

HERNE BAY PRESS

HERNE BAY FOOTBALL CLUB (AFFILIATED 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 wish to join.
H. P. [Name]

HERNE BAY COASTERS (2nd XI) versus **HERNE BAY ATHLETIC** (2nd XI) at Victoria Athletic Ground, William Street
Admission 4d. (Including Tax). Kick-off 3.30

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, retired victorious over Whitstable—lads of the name of East Kent.

DOVER ROVERS BEATEN
Herne Bay Winners Kent Junior Cup Divisional Final
Playing on Saturday, Herne United's ground, Herne Bay brought off a very good weather, a good time was spent in the game, and Herne went to victory.
Dover, who were backed with the Herne supporters.

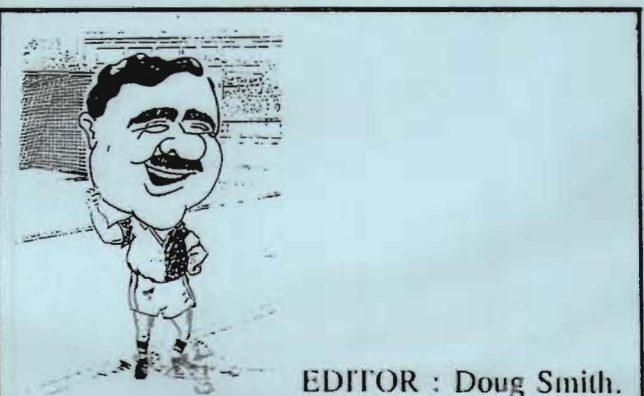
HERNE BAY WINS THE CUP.
The North-East Kent Football League.
HERNE BAY WINS THE CUP.
It is a good deal of uncertainty that the Herne Bay team will be in the Sheerness on Tuesday afternoon.

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

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 Saturday.

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

HERNE BAY v. ASHFORD PAR ROVERS.
The Herne Bay senior team not only maintained their unbeaten record this Saturday, but they also won a superb victory over Ashford Park Rovers.



EDITOR : Doug Smith.



1904-1905 SEASON

The East Kent League underwent some major changes in its constitution for the 1904-1905 season. J. Hall Rangers and Ashford Park Rovers both withdrew from the competition, while four new teams, Canterbury, Dover National Harbour, Folkestone, and Folkestone Rovers joined the League bringing the member clubs up from eight to ten.

Herne Bay also entered a 'Thursday' side in the East Kent Thursday League. The majority of Clubs in this league came from Town's where the local shops closed for half-day on a Thursday.

One early league fixture for the 'thursdays' was at home against Faversham Thursday. The match took place on 3rd. November 1904, and due to the late arrival of the Faversham team, two halves of thirty minutes each was all that could be fitted into the available daylight. Refereed by Mr. Pout, the match ended in a 4-1 win for Herne Bay, with Smith (2), and F. Redwood and Robinson with one apiece, the goalscorers.

The Herne Bay Thursday side was as follows :

Farley, C. Fox, Smith, Wivorn, W. Redwood, Angus, F. Redwood,
J. Smith, F.G. Allen, C. Robinson, W. Hamilton.

Herne Bay "A", (the reserves), were playing in Division Two of the Faversham & District League. Their opponents on Saturday 29th. October were the Royal Naval Gunnery School. Two first-half goals from Robinson looked to have settled matters in Herne Bay's favour, but the 'Gunners' scored three second-half goals to 'pinch' the two points.

The Herne Bay "A" side was as follows :

Letty, Hamilton, Joy, Sandy, Hougham, Horwell, Collard,
Golder, Young, Robinson, Redwood.

On Saturday 3rd. December, Herne Bay travelled to play Canterbury in the Third round of the Kent Junior Cup. A crowd of between 400 and 500 spectators was on hand to see Herne Bay progress to the fourth round with a narrow 2-1 victory.

Allen scored the first for Herne Bay, from the penalty spot, and then Weaving equalised for Canterbury. It was left to Barham to claim the winner with a well taken headed goal.

The Herne Bay side was as follows :

Farley, Barham, Odden, Upex, Allen, Neaves, Smith, Mansfield
Watson, Robinson, Golder.

Herne Bay's East Kent League away fixture with Folkestone Excelsior took place on Saturday 21st. January 1905. Folkestone led 2-0 at half-time, but Allen pulled Herne Bay back into the match half-way through the second-half, but despite their best efforts, the visitors could not find a way through to record an equaliser. This victory allowed Excelsior to move into third spot in the League table, with Herne Bay two points and two places further back.



EAST KENT LEAGUE (as at 28th January 1905)

	<u>P.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>A.</u>	<u>PTS.</u>
Dover National Harbour	9	6	3	0	29	10	15
Folkestone	10	5	3	2	28	15	13
Folkestone Excelsior	10	6	1	3	18	18	13
Folkestone Rovers	7	5	2	0	15	6	12
HERNE BAY	9	5	1	3	25	15	11
Ramsgate	9	4	2	3	18	13	10
Canterbury	9	1	3	5	17	32	5
Deal Cinque Ports	7	2	0	5	10	26	4
South Ashford Invicta	5	1	0	4	5	12	2
Whitstable	10	0	1	9	13	36	1

EAST KENT THURSDAY LEAGUE (as at 28th January 1905

	<u>P.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>A.</u>	<u>PTS.</u>
Margate Thursday	6	5	0	1	21	7	10
Christ Church	7	4	1	2	17	8	9
Deal Thursday	7	4	1	2	15	14	9
Ramsgate Thursday	9	3	2	4	15	23	8
Canterbury Thursday	6	1	2	3	13	14	4
Broadstairs Thursday	4	0	1	3	4	16	1
HERNE BAY THURSDAY	3	0	1	2	7	10	1

When Dover National Harbour visited Herne Bay on 28th January 1905, they arrived with an un-beaten East Kent League record. Herne Bay, by comparison were very much a mid-table side.

Dover had much the better of things early on, but with Herne Bay working their way back into the match, a goal from Allen put them in front. The score still stood at 1-0 well into the second-half, but Dovers pressure eventually brought them an equaliser. With full-time fast approaching, Rudling went on the attack and laid the ball into the path of Watson. With valuable points at stake, Watson made no mistake, and therefore secured both points for Herne Bay.

This victory was even more satisfying when it is considered that Herne Bay were well below strength for the match.

HERNE BAY : Farley, Odden, Kingsland, Cooper, Mansford, Upex,
Rudling, Watson, Allen, Wilkinson, Strand.

The programme of Easter friendlies featured the same three London sides as in the previous season. Tottenham Park were beaten 4-0 on the Saturday. Two games were scheduled for Monday 23rd. April. In the morning, Gunnersbury proved much too strong and cruised home by an 8-2 margin. Herne Bay returned to winning ways in the afternoon, with a 3-1 defeat of London and Westminster Bank.



Herne Bay's efforts to capture a third successive East Kent League title fell short, with newcomers Folkestone Rovers, Dover National Harbour, and Folkestone filling the top three places. Herne Bay finished in fourth spot, a point ahead of the previous seasons runners-up, Folkestone Excelsior. Whitstable, who had lost nine of their first ten league fixtures, withdrew late into the season.

EAST KENT LEAGUE - FINAL TABLE
1904-1905 SEASON

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	PTS.
Folkestone Rovers	16	9	5	2	36	20	23
Dover National Harbour	16	7	7	2	37	24	21
Folkestone	16	7	6	3	38	28	20
HERNE BAY	16	8	2	6	38	31	18
Folkestone Excelsior	16	5	7	4	21	21	17
Ramsgate	16	6	3	7	36	24	15
Deal Cinque Ports	16	5	3	8	29	48	13
South Ashford Invicta	16	3	3	10	22	46	9
Canterbury	16	3	2	11	29	49	8

The following players are known to have represented Herne Bay, Herne Bay "A", or Herne Bay Thursday, during the 1904-1905 season.

F.G. Allen	G. Allen	? . Allen
? . Barham	? . Collard	? . Cooper
N. Farley	C.H. Fox,	? . Gates
J. Golder	? . Grey	W. Hamilton
? . Herrington	? . Hörwell	? . Hougham
? . Joy	? . Kingsland,	? . Letty
? . Mansfield	A. Neaves	? . Odden
F. Redwood	W. Redwood	? . Roberts
C. Robinson	? . Rogers	? . Rudling
? . Sandy	? . Shearing	J. Smith
? . Smith	? . Stickles	? . Strand
? . Tester	W. Upex	F. Watson
? . Welch	? . Wilkinson	? . Wivorn
.....	? . Young	.....



1905-1906 SEASON

For the 1905-1906 season, Herne Bay were entered for the Faversham and District League, the Kent Senior Cup, and the Margate Charity Cup.

Early in September, it was announced that the prominent M.P. Sir John Dewer had been invited to become, and had accepted, a vice-president of the football club. The invitation had been instigated by B.C. Fenoulhet J.P., the clubs president.

The first match of the season was a friendly home game against Whitstable United on Saturday 17th. September 1905. The match kicked off at 3.30 p.m., and Whitstable, who won the toss, defended the William Street end. They soon found themselves behind when, with just three minutes gone, Mansfield put Herne Bay ahead. Shortly after, the lead should have been doubled, but the Whitstable 'keeper brought off a great penalty save.

He could do nothing however, to prevent Watson making it 2-0 with a solo effort. One point of interest, is that the two goals were scored with different balls, as the first had burst after hitting a post.

Whitstable came more into the game in the second half, scoring twice, but in the end it was Herne Bay who ran out comfortable 5-2 winners.

On the 28th. October in the Kent Senior Cup, Herne Bay faced Rochester Football & Sports Club. The match ended in a 1-1 draw, and the replay was scheduled for Wednesday 1st November. However it proved impossible for Herne Bay to raise a team to play on a Wednesday afternoon, and the tie was awarded to Rochester.

One of the junior sides in the Town were HERNE BAY RAMBLERS F.C. Several past, and indeed present, Herne Bay players, also turned out for the Ramblers. The two sides met in a friendly on Saturday 19th. November 1905. The match proved to be a very one-sided affair, with the senior side winning by a 12-3 margin!

Herne Bay's goalscorers, in order, were :-

Watson, Watson, G. Allen, G. Allen, G. Allen,
Rowden, Shearing, Rowden, F. Allen, Joy, Joy,
G. Allen.

Herne Bay Ramblers replied through Hougham, with two, and Harris.

The two sides lined up as follows ;

HERNE BAY : Farley, G. Allen, Odden, Elsmere, F. Allen,
Upex, Swann, Joy, Watson, Rowden, Smith.

H.B. RAMBLERS : Letty, Shearing, Gray, Redwood,, Welch, Gates,
Gore, Corbin, Robinson, Hougham, Harris.

The following Herne Bay Ramblers team photo, which was taken on Mitchell's Athletic Ground, is from the 1905-1906 season, and contains eight of the players who took part in the 12-3 defeat.



HERNE BAY RAMBLERS F.C. 1905-1906 SEASON



Back Row (L. to R.) : A. Welch, F. Gray, E. Letty,
B. Shearing, E. Furley.
Middle Row (L. to R.) : F. Gates, J. Wells, F. Welch,
B. Angus, P. Gore.
Front Row (L. to R.) : J. Roberts, F. Hougham, A. Young,
C. Robinson, H. Hamilton.

On the 17th. December, Canterbury were the visitors to Mitchell's Athletic Ground for a friendly match. Refereed by Mr. Norris, the match ended in a 3-0 victory for Canterbury.

The visitors on the 22nd. December were the 7th. Dragoon Guards. After going a goal behind, Herne Bay eventually won by a 3-1 scoreline.

Boxing Day 1905, saw Herne Bay play host to London side, Acton F.C. The first half was dominated by the home side, and the 2-0 lead they held at half-time was the very least they deserved. The second half however, produced a completely different picture. This time it was Acton who dominated, and it was their turn to score two goals, to force a 2-2 draw.

Mr. Black refereed the match between Herne Bay and the Royal Garrison Artillery on 21st. January 1906. The 'Heron's' as they were still being referred to, went behind to a "...solo effort.." from a Garrison forward. It took two goals from Watson and one late strike from Barham to secure a 3-1 victory.



Thursday 1st. February 1906 saw the Match-of-the-Season at Mitchell's Athletic Ground when Herne Bay were hosts to New Brompton F.C. New Brompton had based themselves in Herne Bay to prepare for their second round F.A. Cup tie against Southampton F.C. on Saturday 3rd February.

(The match at New Brompton ended 0-0, with Southampton winning the replay 1-0 on the following Wednesday.)

Herne Bay's 'big' match was well advertised in the local press, and included were details of admission, and availability of tickets.

Admission was 6d for adults and 2d for children. Tickets, at the reduced price of 4d, were however, available in advance from several local Public Houses. They were as follows :-

Mr. W. Charlesworth	DRUIDS HEAD HOTEL
Mr. F. Deacon	THE ROSE INN
Mr. T. Mills	TOWER HOTEL
Mr. H. Berry	PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL
Mr. Marshall	PIER HOTEL
Mrs. Wilson	THE RISING SUN (Beltinge)

When the match got underway, the two teams lined up as follows :-

HERNE BAY F.C. Ellesmere, Odden, Anderson, Upex, Allen
Watson, Smith, Joy, Latchford, Mansford, Allen.

NEW BROMPTON F.C. Griffiths, Webb, Carrie, McLachlan,
Orr, Lloyd, Page, Burns, McKie, Hall, Evans.

The president of Herne Bay Football Club, Dr. E.C. Fenoulhet, kicked-off the match at 3.00 p.m., and in what was to prove to be a one-sided affair, goals from Page and Hall gave New Brompton a 2-0 half-time lead. Further second half strikes from McKie, Orr, and a second from Page, gave the visitors a comfortable 5-0 victory.

The battle for the title of Champions of Division One of the Faversham & District League went right to the wire.

Herne Bay and Sheppey Reserves found themselves tied at the top on both points and goal difference. It was therefore decided that a play-off game should take place on Saturday 30th April 1906 at Faversham.

The, "...good size..." crowd contained about 150 Herne Bay supporters, and things got off to a good start when their Captain, Watson, won the toss! An individual goal from Latchford after only six minutes gave Herne Bay an early advantage, and their lead was doubled shortly after when G. Allen scored their second. A third goal, from Barham, before half-time virtually ensured Herne Bay's victory.

The two teams shared the second-half goals, with Latchford getting his side's fourth, before an un-named Sheppey forward charged goalkeeper Ellesmere, and the ball, over the line.

The Championship Trophy was later presented to Herne Bay at The George Hotel, Sittingbourne.



When the victorious team arrived back in Herne Bay on the 9.51 p.m. train, they were greeted by The Excelsior Brass Band, who headed a parade of the trophy through the Town.

Herne Bay were represented by the following team :-

Ellesmere, Odden, F.G.Allen, Upex, F. Allen, F. Watson,
H. Rowden, L. Charlesworth, P. Latchford, W. Barham, Wilkinson.

This match brought the 1905-1906 season to a close for Herne Bay, and in all competitive matches, their record was as detailed here.

P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	G/D
31	20	3	8	113	62	+51

The following players are known to have represented Herne Bay Football Club during the 1905-1906 season.

F.G. Allen	G. Allen	? . Anderson
W. Barham	L. Charlesworth	? . Ellesmere
N. Farley	C.H. Fox	J. Golder
W. Joy	P. Latchford	? . Mansford
W. Odden	H. Rowden	? . Smith
? . Swann	W. Upex	F. Welch
	? . Wilkinson	

1906-1907 SEASON

Details from the early part of this season have proved to be very difficult to track down.

The local press, for once, do not seem to have given the Football Club a pre-season write up, and there appears to have been no details made public with regard to the Clubs officers or officials.

The club did however, line up for a team photograph, posing proudly with the Faversham & District League Championship Trophy, won the previous season.

The photograph, shown on the following page, once again illustrates Mr. C.H. 'Charlie' Fox who continued his long association with the Football Club, this time as Chairman.



HERNE BAY FOOTBALL CLUB 1906-07



Standing at back : C.H. Fox (Chairman)

Back Row (includes) : J. Panton, N. Farley, F. Allen.

Middle Row (L. to R.) : Don Pitcher, W. Upex, F. Watson, W.G. Odden,
W. Barham, W. Foad.

Front Row (includes) : W. Joy, J. Allen, R. Gambrill.

Early in December, Herne Bay made the trip to Queensborough to play Sheppey Wanderers in a Faversham & District League fixture.

The 'Wanderers' were unbeaten at home, but at half-time Herne Bay led 2-1 thanks to a 20th minute Holmans goal and a 30 yard effort from Joy. Barham added a third goal, without reply, in the second half to complete a 3-1 victory, and spoil Sheppey's proud home record.

HERNE BAY : Farley, Pilcher, Odden (Captain), Panton,
F. Allen, Gambrill, Rowden, Joy, Watson, Barham, Holmans.

For some unrecorded reason, local press coverage improved noticeably from January 1907. Between 12th January and 13th April, Herne Bay completed a further seven Faversham & District league fixtures.

Those fixtures resulted in five wins and two defeats, and details are as follows.



Sat 12 Jan 1907	HOME	Sheerness Garrison	Won.	2-0
Sat 19 Jan 1907	AWAY	7th. Dragoon Guards	Lost	2-7
Sat 16 Feb 1907	HOME	Royal Naval Gunnery School	Won.	3-0
Sat 23 Feb 1907	AWAY	Royal Naval Gunnery School	Won.	2-1
Sat 09 Mar 1907	AWAY	Sittingbourne Reserves	Won.	3-1
Sat 16 Mar 1907	HOME	Sheppey Wanderers	Won.	3-0
Sat 13 Apr 1907	AWAY	Garrison Artillery	Lost	3-4

Herne Bay had also entered the Margate Charity Cup, but got no further than a 1-4 home defeat by St. John's Guild, on Saturday 2nd February 1907. Two home friendlies against the oddly named Faversham Nondescripts took place during February and March. The first, on Saturday 9th February ended in a 2-3 defeat, but on 23rd March, a goal each from Barham, Watson, Joy, and Foad saw Herne Bay through to a 4-2 victory.

By the beginning of March, Herne Bay sat atop the Faversham & District League table. Following their 2-1 away win over the Royal Naval Gunnery School, the League table looked like this.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	PTS.
HERNE BAY	6	5	1	0	19	5	11
Sheppey Wanderers	5	3	1	1	15	7	7
Sittingbourne Reserves	6	2	1	3	11	11	5
Sheerness Garrison	6	1	3	2	7	10	5
Canterbury	3	1	1	1	6	10	3
R.N. Gunnery School	6	0	1	5	4	19	1

Although I have been unable to trace a Faversham & District League final table for the 1906-1907 season, one thing is certain. Herne Bay had become champions for a second successive season!

On the first Saturday in May, at the Limes Hotel, Faversham, the presentations in the form of a 'smoking concert' took place. The trophy was presented by the Mayor of Faversham to 'Charlie' Fox, who collected the Trophy on behalf of the Club.

The following players are known to have represented Herne Bay Football Club during the 1906-1907 season.

F. Allen	W. Barham	N. Farley
? Foad	? Gambrill	? Holmans
W. Joy	? Letty	W. Odden
? Panton	? Pilcher	H. Rowden
? Stannard	? Watson	W. Upex

Before taking a look at the 1907-1908 season, mention should be made of Herne Bay's home ground, Mitchells Athletic Ground.

During the summer of 1907, it appeared, at one time, that the owner had new plans for the land on which the ground stood. However, towards the end of August, Mr. C.H. Fox made the following statement.



"All the negotiations have been completed, and we shall retain our old ground for another season, for certain. We did not want to leave it if we could help it, as it is in the most central part of the town, and within easy distance of all parts. We are erecting new dressing rooms for the players, and a new grandstand for our patrons, whom we hope will show up in larger numbers this winter than was the case last."

Originally known as Victoria Recreation Ground, the area was taken over by Mr. N.S. Mitchell, who had been in business in Herne Bay since 1888, running a cycle shop in the high Street, backing on to the Ground. The area is now the town's central car park, situated between Safeway's and the Kavanagh Cinema / Herons Swimming Pool complex.

Right : An advertisement from 1896 announcing the opening of the cycle track that had been created around the perimeter of the Victoria Recreation Ground.

Below : This advertisement from 1906 details some of the services available from Mitchells Cycle Works.

Victoria
Recreation Ground

CYCLE 

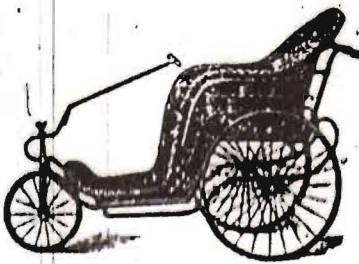
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NOW OPEN.

Admission - - SIXPENCE

2336

N. S. MITCHELL'S CYCLE WORKS
CYCLE HALL, HIGH STREET, HERNE BAY.

<p>For SALE or HIRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycles, Prams, Mail Carts, Children's Trolleys, Baby Carts, Wicker Bath Chairs, Carriage Bath Chairs, Spinal Curringes, Carrying Chairs, &c., &c. 		<p>REPAIRS . . . of all description</p> <p>PROMPT AND AT MODERATE CHARGES,</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: auto;"/> <p>RE-PLATING and RE-ENAMELLING</p>
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TO BE LET OR SOLD, HOUSE AND SHOP, No. 28, High-st.
Apply to N. S. MITCHELL.

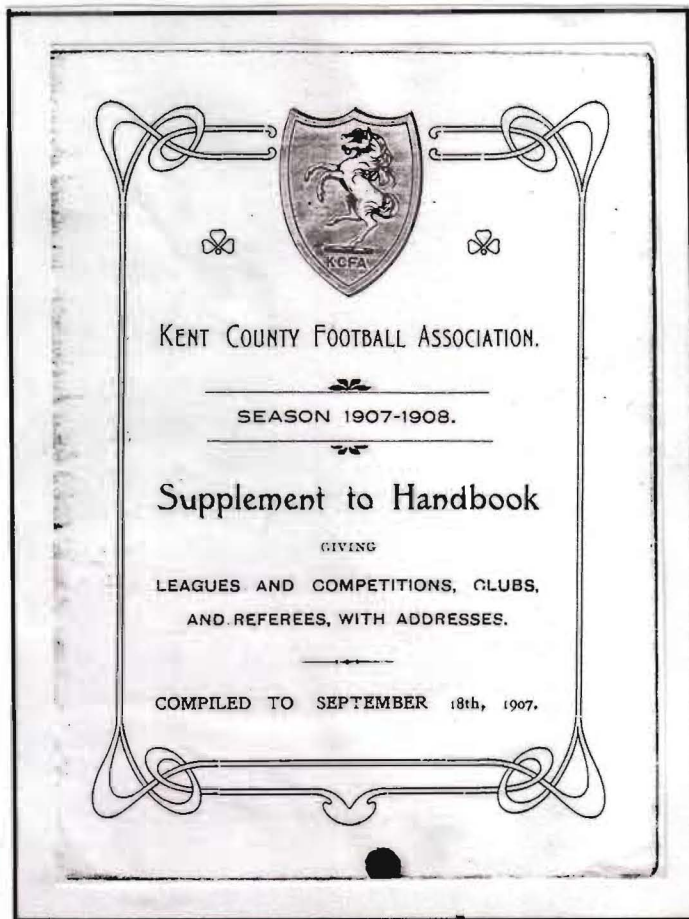


1907-1908 SEASON

With competition in the Faversham & District League being somewhat restrictive, Herne Bay re-entered the East Kent League for the 1907-1908 season. Competition would also be stronger, with the likes of Folkestone Town, Deal Cinque Ports, and Ramsgate Town among the opposition.

Cup competition had not been forgotten, and Herne Bay had entered the Kent Senior Cup, the Kent Amateur Cup, and the Margate Charity Cup.

In August 1907, the Kent County Football Association Handbook had been issued, at the price of 6d., but several late changes meant a Supplement had to be printed by Parrett & Neves of Chatham, updating the information to the 18th. September 1907.



THE K.C.F.A. HANDBOOK SUPPLEMENT
FOR THE 1907-1908 SEASON.

The season got underway with three league fixtures on successive Saturday's in September. Having had things go very much their own way in the previous two seasons in the Faversham & District League, Life was to prove very much tougher in the East Kent League.

A 0-2 home defeat by Folkestone on 14th. September was hardly the start Herne Bay wanted, but a 4-2 defeat of South Ashford Invicta a week later, went some way to steady the nerves. On 28th September those nerves were unsettled again, with a 5-0 trouncing by Folkestone Excelsior.

Even a friendly away at Margate brought no relief, as a 0-3 half-time deficit turned into a 2-4 final scoreline.

The 12th, 19th, and 26th of October brought three more league defeats.

Watson and Robinson scored the goals in a 2-4 defeat by Ashford Railway Works - Allan and Roberts were on target the following week as Folkestone Excelsior won 3-2 on their home ground. Herne Bay's next fixture, on the 26th October, is probably best glossed over!!



The opponents :- The 7th. Dragoon Guards. The half-time score :- The 7th Dragoon Guards 5 Herne Bay 0. The full-time score :- The 7th. Dragoon Guards 11 Herne Bay 0.
And so we move on !

The scheduled East Kent League fixture, at home to Deal Cinque Ports, on Saturday 2nd. November, was the victim of a very late postponement due to "...adverse weather conditions...".

Herne Bay were probably glad of the break, as their record in the East Kent League must have left them feeling somewhat flat.

p.	w.	d.	l.	f.	a.	points
6	1	0	5	8	27	2

Their next East Kent League fixture was three weeks away, and so friendlies were arranged with both Canterbury and Margate.

Without the pressure of fighting for league points, Herne Bay recorded a 4-1 victory over Canterbury on the 9th. November, and then drew 3-3 with Margate on the 16th November.

It was back to the business of league matches on the 23rd. November, with a home fixture against the unbeaten Ramsgate Town. The match was refereed by Mr. W. Hildyard of Sittingbourne, and in front of a, "...large number of spectators...", the two teams lined up as follows.

HERNE BAY : Farley, Barnham, Pilcher, Gambrill, Watson,
Johnson, Rowden, Roberts, Marks, Joy, Foad.

RAMSGATE : Stevenson, Hawkes, Money, Deblin, Marsh,
Lenting, Larkins, Brooks, Henson, Boulden, Martin.

Both sides had early chances, but with thirty minutes gone, it was Ramsgate who took the lead. Boulden hit a poor shot which wrong footed Farley, and although the Herne Bay goalkeeper got a hand to the first effort, he could do nothing as Boulden made sure from the rebound. It was well into the second half before Herne Bay forced an equaliser, and I will quote from the match report in the local press to describe the goal.

" Herne Bay had practically everything their own way now, and Ramsgate could not get hold of the ball. The Ramsgate goal had had some narrow squeaks, and at last Roberts set to work again and ran through the lot, and sent in the equalising goal which evoked tremendous cheering."

It appears that Herne Bay's goalkeeper Farley was the Man-of-the-Match, saving Herne Bay on several occasions. When their previous form is taken into consideration, the point that Herne Bay earned from this match, was one of which they could be justifiably proud.



A Roberts penalty was the only return Herne Bay got from a 1-2 home defeat in the league, by St. John's Guild on Saturday 30th. November, as they returned to all-too-familiar losing ways.

A week later came a friendly against Margate Holy Trinity. When Herne Bay's last six league results, (drawn 1, lost 5) are taken into account, the result of this friendly really does take some understanding. The two teams lined up as follows.

HERNE BAY : Farley, Barham, Pilcher, Johnson, Watson,
Allen, Foad, Keene, Marks, Joy, Roberts.

MARGATE HOLY TRINITY : Cade, Docking, Wright, Smith, Matthew,
Allen, Boulden, Kennett, Devine, Maybourn, French.

To say the game was one sided would be thr preverbial 'under-statement', but goals from, Roberts(3), Keene(3), Marks(2), plus one each from Foad, Johnson, Joy, and Allen, took the final scoreline to HERNE BAY 12 Margate Holy Trinity 0 !

Was this to be the turning point in Herne Bay's season ? Perhaps so! Here are the results of Herne Bay's next three matches.

Sat 14 Dec 1907	Kent Senior Cup (A)	Margate Town	Won.	3-1
Sat 21 Dec 1907	East Kent League (H)	Deal Cinque Ports	Won.	4-2
Thu 26 Dec 1907	East Kent League (H)	7th Dragoon Guards	Won.	3-1

And a very merry Christmas was had by all !

The last of those three results must have been particularly pleasing, as it was the Guards who had inflicted the 11-0 defeat back in October. Johnson, after 25 minutes, and Roberts after 60 and 75, scored the goals that brought about the 3-1 victory, and, what must have been, sweet revenge!

Weather reduced the East Kent League programme to just three matches on Satyrday 19th. January 1908. Goals were aplenty, with the home sides scoring no less than than 26 goals between them.

The 7th. Dragoon Guards put twelve past the St. John's Guild, without reply, while Ramsgate Town were defeating South Ashford Invicta by a 4-1 scoreline. The third match involved Leicester Regiment and Herne Bay.

For the second time in the league programme, Herne Bay fell to a 'double-figure' scoreline, this time conceding ten goals to the regiment.

Saturday 8th. February saw Herne Bay make the journey to Folkestone's Canterbury Road ground, for a Kent Senior Cup tie. I think it would be fair to say that they did not enjoy their day on the South coast, as Folkestone made the most of home advantage, and ran out comfortable 5-0 winners.

There were three other Kent Senior Cup ties taking place on the same day, and the results of those ties were as follows.

Tunbridge Wells Rangers	6	Ashford Railway Works	0
Dartford	5	Bromley	2
Faversham	3	Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders	1



In a return to East Kent League action, Herne Bay were away to South Ashford Invicta on Saturday 22nd. February 1908. The reverse fixture had resulted in a 4-2 win for Herne Bay, so they travelled to the Paddock Ground with some expectation.

The match was played in a strong gale combined with torrential rain, and a goal from Luckhurst gave the home side a 1-0 half-time lead. In a one-sided second half, Skinner, Fordham (2), and Mackenzie (2) added a further five goals to make the final scoreline 6-0 in South Ashford's favour.

T. F. SWANN

Saddler & Harness Manufacturer

5, Mortimer Street, Herne Bay.

Footballs. Footballs. Footballs.

A REDUCTION of 20 per cent. of all balls, size 5; also 10 per cent. off sizes 2, 3 and 4.

A Great Reduction off the following Articles—Hockey Sticks, Knee Rugs, Travelling Trunks, Portmanteaux, Dress Baskets, Gladstones, &c.

A few Punching Balls and Second-hand Sets of Harness, Cheap.

We also stock the various Compos—Harris, Wrens, Day & Martin, Tanner & Prest, Evans, Page, Carr's, Jamieson's, Everett's; also their well-known Boot Polishes in Black and Brown, from 1d. box.

UMBRELLAS MADE TO ORDER FOR PRESENTATION.

REPAIRS of every description to Umbrellas, Dress Baskets and Portmanteaux on the Premises.

"At the Sign of the Umbrella."

OPPOSITE TURNER'S DRAPERY.

T. F. SWANN'S ADVERTISEMENT
FROM THE HERNE BAY PRESS
(February 1908)

It is, of course, impossible to say what kind of 'stock' of football's Herne Bay had at this time, but if they were thinking of investing in some new ones, then it is hoped that they were aware of the special offer being made by T.F. Swann.

Not only could they have obtained some cheap footballs, they could have polished their boots,..."..from 1d a box" !

Back on the field of play, Thursday 12th. March saw the Athletic Ground stage the semi-final of The Margate Charity Cup. Herne Bay were hosts to the strong 7th. Dragoon Guards side. The Guards, unlike Herne Bay, were able to field a full strength side. The match was refereed by Mr. Cutting of Faversham in what were described as, "...ideal conditions."

Although Herne Bay had their fair share of the first-half action, they found themselves 0-2 behind at half-time. Latchford put his side ahead after 15 minutes, and Cluny stretched the advantage to two five minutes before half-time. The Guards started the second-half in a similar frame of mind, and Farley in the Herne Bay goal did well with a double save from Donaghue and then Vince. Latchford then put his side 3-0 in front with a long range effort, before Joy failed to take advantage of a rare Herne Bay opportunity. Twenty minutes from the end, Treacher put the game well

and truly out of Herne Bay's reach with his sides fourth goal, and secured the Guards place in the final. The two teams lined up as follows.

HERNE BAY : Farley, Odden, Foad, Upex, Watson, Allen,
Rowden, Roberts, Joy, Keem, Gray.

7th. DRAGOON GUARDS : Perry, Miller, Taylor, Reed, Booth,
Meadows, Donaghue, Treacher, Latchford, Cluny, Vince.

Winch's Field....



On the following Saturday, both sides returned to East Kent League duty. Herne Bay were at home to Ashford railway works, and the game ended in a 1-1 draw. The Guards continued in their winning ways with a 2-1 defeat of Deal Cinque Ports.



1908-1909 SEASON

Before Herne Bay got their East Kent League fixtures underway, they played host to Faversham Invicta in a pre-season friendly on Saturday the 12th. August 1908.

Fordham gave Herne Bay the perfect start with a goal after just five minutes. Watson and Wilkinson soon made it 3-0 as the home side took control of the game. More was to come as Beckinsale made it 4-0 before half-time. Pullen pulled back a couple of goals for Faversham before Fordham made the final score 5-2 in Herne Bay's favour.

Folkestone provided the opposition a week later for Herne Bay's opening East Kent League fixture, and the match report from the Herne Bay Press is shown below.

FOOTBALL.

EAST KENT LEAGUE.

HERNE BAY v. FOLKESTONE.

Herne Bay ...	...	1
Folkestone ...	...	1

Herne Bay played their first league match of the season on Saturday, when they met Folkestone on the ground of the latter.

The fixture attracted a large crowd, who were treated to an interesting and exciting game, for the issue was long in doubt; but eventually the match ended in a draw.

The visitors had a good team out; while Folkestone were fairly well represented, so that there was not a dull moment throughout.

For the first half-hour Herne Bay had by far the best of the game, and hurled many good shots at Tribe's charge. Only one of these, however, proved effectual, and that came from Fordham. This player was the best forward on the field; his partner, Marx, helping him very considerably.

Folkestone were a long time before they got together, and then their forwards spoiled many of the best efforts by poor shooting.

Half-time arrived with the Bay leading.

On the restart Folkestone pressed. They drove home several good attacks, and some nicely-placed shots were cleared by Farley, who played a grand game throughout.

Ten minutes before time Dampt equalised, and although both teams strove hard for the odd point neither was successful.

The teams were:—

Herne Bay.—Goal, Farley; backs, Pilcher and Potts; half-backs, Johnson, Pearce and Allen; forwards, Watson, Joy, Fordham, Marx and Beckinsale.

Folkestone.—Goal, Tribe; backs, Beavis and Champion; half-backs, Dimell, Holloway and Southon; forwards, Philpott, Page, Dampt, Taylor and Waddell.

Herne Bay had also entered the Thanet & District League for the 1908-1909 season, and on Saturday 3rd October 1908 they took on Ramsgate Town on their Dumpton ground.

Referee Mr. Hiscock from Margate officiated, as goals from Fordham and Joy gave Herne Bay a 2-0 victory.

During the same week, the Town's other two teams, Herne Bay Ramblers and Herne Bay Thursday were also in action. In the Kent Amateur Cup, the Ramblers went down 1-4 away at Whitstable, while in the Canterbury District League Division One, the Thursday drew 2-2 with Faversham Thursday thanks to goals from W. Watson and F. Watson.

Although the Thursday's team is not on record, the following represented Herne Bay and Herne Bay Ramblers.

HERNE BAY : Farley, Pilcher, Potts, Johnson, Pearce, Allen, Watson, Fordham, Beckinsale, Joy, Wilkinson.

HERNE BAY RAMBLERS : W. GammOon, G. Gazard, R. Gambrill, E. Hatchett, F. Welch, H. West, J. Wells, B. Shearing, J. Roberts, W. Fright, W. Tupp.

On the 21st. November 1908, again in the East Kent League, Herne Bay were at home to Ramsgate. Playing in red, Ramsgate had the first real opportunity when Laming shot over the bar.



However, after eight minutes of play, it was Herne Bay who took the lead. A three-man move involving Wilkinson, Watson, and Fordham, ended with Fordham scoring from close range. A Debling header mid-way through the second half, ensured a share of the points for both sides.

Probably the strangest name for any opponents Herne Bay have ever met, where RABBITS F.C. !, (honestly). Herne Bay won 3-2 in a match refereed by MR. FOX!, (honestly). The match took place on 9th. January 1909, and below, if only to confirm the details, is a copy of the match report.

FOOTBALL.

HERNE BAY v. RABBIT'S F.C.

A FRIENDLY MATCH RESULTS
IN A WIN FOR THE BAY.

Herne Bay ...	...	3
Rabbits ...	...	2

Herne Bay met Rabbit's F.C. in a friendly match on the Athletic Ground on Saturday last, and after a good game ran out winners by three goals to two.

Play was fairly even in the first half, neither side claiming an advantage. Just before the interval Roberts got away with the ball and opened the scoring for the Bay. Shortly after the Rabbits equalised, and the teams crossed over on level terms.

In the second half the Bay completely outplayed their opponents for a while, and only the fine goalkeeping of Harris kept them from scoring.

About half-way through the second half Holmans gave the Bay the lead again; but the Rabbits equalised.

Towards the close Roberts scored one more for the Bay, and the game ended in a win for the homesters by three goals to two. Mr. C. H. Fox was the referee.

In the week ending 30th. January 1909, three of Herne Bay's teams were again in action. In the Kent Amateur Cup, on a bitterly cold day, Herne Bay recorded a fine 3-1 win over Margate. Finding themselves 0-1 behind to a first-half Sinclair goal, the home side scored three second-half goals through Johnson, Wilkinson, and then Fordham.

Herne Bay Thursday had a comfortable 6-0 home win over Red Rose F.C. in Division One of the Canterbury and District League, while Herne Bay Wanderers made it three out of three for the Town sides with a 1-0 away win against the 21st. Lancers Band in a fog shrouded Canterbury.

On Saturday 6th. February Herne Bay met Margate for the second time in a fortnight. While The 'Baymen', (as they were being refered to), had triumphed in the Kent Amateur Cup, Margate extracted some revenge with a 1-0 victory in this Margate Charity Cup tie. For this second meeting, the two teams lined up as follows :-

HERNE BAY : Farley, Fordham, Swann, Holmans, Pearce, Johnson, Roberts, Beckinshill, George, Keech, Wilkinson.

MARGATE : Pettit, Abbott, Thurley, Hunt Bowden, Docking, Ashbee, Melpas, Harris, Randall.

Mr. J. Mills of Ashford refereed Herne Bay's 3-0 defeat by Deal Cinque Ports, with May, Smith, and Watson inflicting the damage with a goal apiece.

While Deal's first team were involved in this match, their 'A' team were the hosts of Herne Bay Ramblers. The Ramblers had things their own way



from the penalty spot, and then Sparrow, completing his own hat-trick, scored the games ninth and tenth goals.

HERNE BAY : George, Potts, Marks, Swann, Allen, Johnson,
Hooker, Beckinsale, Keech, Panton, Holness.

FAVERSHAM : Lough, Minter, Cornford, Lightfoot, Rogers,
Ruffold, Walsh, Morrell, Nuttall, Sparrow, Longley.



For the 1909/1910 season, Herne Bay rejoined the Kent League in the Eastern Section of Division Two.

The league comprised of Town teams from, Faversham, Ramsgate, Whitstable, Folkestone, Deal, Dover, and Herne Bay. Work sides were represented by Ashford Railway Works and Folkestone Gas. There were two military sides. The Royal Irish Rifles, and the 3rd. Worcestershire Regiment.

Victories were to prove few and far between during the season, but the visit to Faversham proved to be a profitable one. Faversham were playing at 'The Mall', and the game attracted, "... a large attendance of spectators....". The game was played in a strong wind, and although Faversham had most of the play, they found themselves 2-0 down at half-time, Watson and Shearing scoring for Herne Bay. The home side pulled a goal back through Bernard Smith, but the visitors survived to record one of only six league victories during the season.

By contrast, the visit to Folkestone for another League fixture, proved to be anything but profitable. Playing the first half with only nine players, Herne Bay found themselves 4-0 behind. The two other players turned up in time to join the second half action, but could do little to prevent Folkestone scoring three more times, to inflict a 7-0 trouncing on their visitors.

On the 7th April 1910, Herne Bay played a friendly match against the Royal Engineers. Played at the Athletic Ground, and watched by "... a reasonable crowd....". Herne Bay almost took the lead when Griggs saw his effort rebound from the bar. A further opportunity came and went, with the award of a penalty that was not converted. Half-time arrived without the deadlock being broken. A second half goal from Watson settled the match in favour of Herne Bay.

Here is the final League Table for the 1909/1910 season, which shows several fixtures not completed. The 'culprits' were the 3rd Worcestershire Regiment. According to the KCFA handbook for the following season, they were, "...dealt with." No record of how though!!

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	PTS.
Royal Irish Rifles	20	14	3	3	75	- 24	31
Ashford Railway Works	20	14	1	5	75	- 38	29
Folkestone Town	19	11	2	6	57	- 33	24
Whitstable	20	10	2	8	59	- 50	22
Folkestone Gas	19	10	1	8	32	- 38	21
3rd. Worcestershire Regiment	17	9	1	7	51	- 46	19
Deal Cinque Ports	20	7	2	11	34	- 60	16
Ramsgate Town	20	4	6	10	35	- 56	14
Faversham	20	6	2	12	33	- 63	14
<u>HERNE BAY</u>	19	6	1	12	32	- 58	13
Dover	20	5	1	14	34	- 52	11



The 1911/1912 season, signals the start of a long period of uncertainty as far as the side simply known as Herne Bay Football Club is concerned.

What is certain, is that during the time between 1911 and the start of the 1935/1936 season, the Town did not go without representation in the local leagues.

In 1912 alone, no less than three sides with a Herne Bay prefix were playing competitive football.

The senior side were known as Herne Bay UNITED, who were playing in Division One of the Faversham & District League. Herne Bay THURSDAY and Herne Bay WANDERERS were both playing in the Thursday Section of the Canterbury & District League.

In January 1912, United, playing on "...the Athletic Ground....", faced the Royal Engineers in a league match. Leading 1-0 at half-time through a Shearing goal, further strikes from Cade, and then Parsons, secured a 3-1 win for United.

HERNE BAY UNITED : Letty, Scott, Wyborn, Gates, Welch, Tupp, Parsons, Cade, Shearing, Hettenbach, Austin.

Another Faversham & District League match took place on the Athletic Ground early in February. Bapchild were the visitors, and although a goal from Iggulden gave United a half-time lead, the visitors eventually ran out winners by a 1-2 scoreline.

On the 15th February 1912, a very early version of the 'local derby' took place when, in the Canterbury & District League, Herne Bay Thursday played host to Herne Bay Wanderers.

Refereed by Mr. Cutting, the game ended in a 2-1 win for the Thursday's. It appears that several of the Wanderers side were also playing for Herne Bay United, as Letty, Shearing, Tupp and Cade, all certainly appear in earlier and later press reports from United games.

HERNE BAY THURSDAYS : Cummings, Ells, Wyborn, Scott, Watson, Banks, Rowden, Field, Pressley, Austin, + A.N.Other.

HERNE BAY WANDERERS : Letty, Spratt, Shearing, Griggs, Tupp, Hart, G. Philpott, Cade, S. Philpott, Summers, Banting.

Towards the end of the month, United played host to the team with the longest official name that I have yet come across. In full it is :-

'K' Battery, The Royal Horse Artillery Sports Club!

It hardly seems important now to record that the RHA won the match by a comfortable 4-0 scoreline!



A week later, with F. Pepper in goal, the Thursday's went out of the Kent Mid-Week Shield, losing by the only goal of the game, to Woolwich Town on their South London ground. On the same day, Herne Bay Thursday reserves just scraped home against Broadstairs Thursday Reserves,.....13-0!

The beginning of March saw a further League win, with a 4-0 away victory over Ramsgate Albion. A Philpott hat-trick, and a single Cade goal secured the points.

Later in the month, the Thursday first team notched up their biggest win of the season. Although not quite managing to equal the thirteen their reserve side recorded, they did manage to see off Sandwich Town by a comfortable 11-1 margin.

Those eleven goals, brought their tally to 53 in just twelve games,- an average of almost 4½ per game. After this land-slide victory, their league record was :-

P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	POINTS	POSITION
12	10	1	1	53	10	21	1st.

On the 17th of April 1913, Herne Bay Thursday played their last game of the season, making the trip to Broadstairs to take on their Thursday side. Herne Bay struggled to dominate in the first half, and only had a 2-1 advantage at the break. The second half saw league form come to the fore, as Herne Bay went on to record an 8-3 victory. The highlight of this game was the personal tally of seven goals for S. Philpott. For the record, D. Cade scored the other goal!

As had been the case throughout most of the season, the battle for top-spot had been between Herne Bay Thursday, and Margate Thursday. At the end of the 'hostilities', both sides finished level on wins, draws, and defeats. The league constitution, stated that points would decide the outcome of the league, so a 'decider' was deemed to be necessary. Very little detail of this game is on record, for instance, why was it not played on a neutral ground, but on Thursday 24th April 1913, Margate staged the decider. Herne Bay Thursday scored first through a Wyborn penalty kick, but Margate went on to take the Championship with a 3-1 victory. It is worth recording, that had the league been decided on either goals scored, or goals difference, then Herne Bay would automatically have been Champions! Here are the top two's final details.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	POINTS
Herne Bay T.	14	12	1	1	65	14	25
Margate T.	14	12	1	1	59	18	25



In the second half of March 1914, Herne Bay Rovers were paired against both of the Faversham sides in consecutive weeks. In the first match, their opponents were Faversham Rangers. Two goals from Hougham, and one from Tupp, saw the Rovers complete a 3-0 victory.

In the second match, the Rovers were at home to Faversham Cotton Powder Mills. In the reverse fixture back in November 1913, the Faversham side completed a 3-2 win, but on this occasion, the Rovers, having taken an early lead, and then going 1-2 behind, fought back to take a share of the points from a 2-2 draw. Tupp and Anderson were on target for the Rovers, and the team lined up as follows.

Herne Bay Rovers : H. Walker, R. Paterson, F. Spratt, R. Banks, H. Anderson, R. Griggs, J. Woudenberg, F. Hougham, C. Tupp, S. Rowden, L. Gates.

Their next match was away at the Royal Engineers, in a Thanet League fixture, on the 28th. of March. One goal from Rowden was enough to secure both points.

Moving into April, and the Rovers were to suffer one of their biggest defeats on the 4th. Playing on the Spenser Road Ground, again in a Thanet League match, Deal Cinque Ports were the visitors. Shortly before half-time, and with the score still at 0-0, the Rovers' goalkeeper, F. Pepper collided with a Deal forward. With Pepper, "...in apparent agony..", Mr. F. Spencerly of the local St. John's Ambulance Brigade, arranged for the player to be taken to Herne Bay Cottage Hospital. On arrival, it was found that Pepper had broken his leg.

Although it is not recorded who took his place in goal, the 0-6 scoreline suggests that he did not have a very good time of it!

Both Herne Bay Waverley and Herne Bay Rovers decided that proceeds from their games over the Easter period would act as a 'benefit' to Pepper, who, it was reported, was "humbled" at this news.

Rovers and Waverley both played two matches over the weekend, and listed below, are the results of those games.

Good Friday (a.m.)	Herne Bay Waverley	3	Cinema United	4
Good Friday (p.m.)	Herne Bay Rovers	4	Cinema United	2
Easter Saturday	Herne Bay Waverley	1	North End Rangers	3
Easter Monday	Herne Bay Rovers	2	Old Arlingtonians	3

The Rovers games were on the Spenser Road Ground, while the Waverley fixtures were both played on the Station Estate. In the match against Old Arlingtonians, Tupp and Rowden scored for the Rovers.

An away Faversham & District League fixture against Whitstable United was next on the agenda, on the 18th. of April. Five weeks previously, Rovers had triumphed 7-1 in the reverse fixture. This time however, the roles were to be completely reversed. With three first team players unavailable, and only two replacements on hand, Rovers were straightaway at a disadvantage.



In a match that saw four penalties awarded to the Whitstable side, (two converted, and two missed), the Rovers were out-played to the tune of a 7-0 defeat.

On the 25th. April, Rovers faced Faversham Rangers on their own Mall Ground. Building on an early goal, Faversham finished with a narrow 2-1 victory. Representing the Rovers in this match, were ;

Herne Bay Rovers : S. Pullen, S. Gates, R. Banks, H. Tunnell, H. Anderson, T. Wilson, C.J. Woudenberg, S, Rowden, C. Tupp, F. Hougham, E. Roberts.

The following players all represented one or other of the Town's sides during the 1913/1914 season.

H. Anderson	R. Banks	C. Barham
S. Barker	? . Blake	A. Brown
R. Brown	R. Bryant	S. Deighton
B. Furley	L. Gates	S. Gates
R. Gore	R. Griggs	H. Harrison
F. Haywood	F. Hougham	G. Huggett
? . Moat	W. Neill	R. Paterson
F. Pepper	C. Pullen	S. Pullen
E. Roberts	S. Rowden	L. Sinden
F. Smith	F. Spratt	H. Tunnell
C. Tupp	H. Walker	T. Wilson
	J. Woudenberg	

1914 - 1918 THE GREAT WAR

On the 10th. of October 1914, the Herne Bay Press gave details of the situation with regard to the town's footballing sides.

As far as Herne Bay Rovers were concerned, seven regular first-team players were not available.

R. Banks, F. Spratt, S. Pullen, C. Tupp, R. Clarke, F. Jordan, were all on active service, while F. Pepper was still suffering the effects of his broken leg. Although the Rovers said that they could probably call on replacements, the uncertainty surrounding the long term availability of players, forced them to announce that they would not be competing during the 1914/1915 season.

The early situation with the other two sides, Herne Bay Thursday, and Herne Bay Waverley, was slightly better. Although the situation soon deteriorated, I have managed to trace results from three competitive matches.

They are as follows :-



HERNE BAY WAVERLEY

15 Oct. 1914 (H) New College, Eddington W 6-3
 26 Nov. 1914 (H) B. Company, Kent Cyclist Battalion L 2-4

HERNE BAY THURSDAY

08 Oct. 1914 (H) New College, Eddington W 4-1

The next reference to a game involving a Herne Bay side, does not appear until May 1918. Played on the 2nd. of the Month, on the West Cliff Pitch, (possibly located at Hampton), Herne Bay went down 3-4 to the Royal Garrison Artillery, having held a 2-1 half-time advantage.

During the War years, many military 'camps' were positioned in and around Herne Bay, and I have been very fortunate in obtaining a photograph of the Football team of the 2nd. Battalion / 1st. Royal East Kent regiment. The photograph, from 1915, although not directly linked to Herne Bay F.C., is important as a piece of local sporting history.



1919-1920 SEASON

Local football did not return to any sort of normality until the later part of 1919.

During the War years, the grounds of the Kent Coast College had been used as a drill square. The proprietor however, allowed the grounds to be used by the newly reformed Herne Bay Coasters F.C.



<u>Committee</u>	:	Capt. Bliss, Mr. Ahearn, Mr. Barley, Mr. Betts, Mr. Clemow, Mr. Gay, Mr. Wood.
<u>Headquarters</u>	:	The Dolphin Hotel, Herne Bay
<u>Club Ground</u>	:	Victoria Athletic Ground
<u>Club Colours</u>	:	Shirts :- Royal Blue with white collars and cuffs, with H.B.C. on left breast.

Details of the Herne Bay Town club were somewhat more scant. The president was Mr. Ronald McNeill MP, and the Hon. Secretary was Mr. G.C. Taylor. The Club would compete in the Faversham & District League, and would also play in the Kent Junior Cup competition.

It was the Town side who got their matches underway first on the 11th. of September, and they did so in some style. Their opponents, in an away friendly, were Maple & Hoath United. In a one-sided match, goals from Lennard(3), Locock(2), Newman(2), Wilson, and Croud, saw the Town side home to a 9-1 victory.

A week later, the Coasters, in their first match of the season, went down 1-4 at home to Motor Union Athletic F.C., who the previous season, had been runners-up in the London Business Houses Cup.

As if to confirm that local football had put the Great War well and truly behind it, as a Town, Herne Bay could boast a further two sides in Herne Bay Thursday F.C. and Herne Bay Ex-Servicemens Club.

Fortunately, photographs exist of both the Thursday and Ex-Servicemens sides.

HERNE BAY THURSDAY F.C. - 1920-1921





A second versus third clash took place on the 10th. December, when Herne Bay played hosts to Canterbury Waverley. The match turned out to be a one sided affair, with Herne Bay turning a 3-0 half-time lead into a 5-1 final scoreline.

An identical scoreline ushered in 1913, when on the 2nd January, Margate Tradesmen were the home side. Herne Bay's goalscorers in the 5-1 victory were, Cade (2), Field, Willding, and Watson. At this point in the season, Herne Bay Thursday, Margate Thursday, and Canterbury Waverley, were pulling away from the chasing pack. The League Table, as at 18th January 1913 was as follows.

THANET THURSDAY LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	POINTS.
HERNE BAY THURSDAY	7	6	0	1	30	7	12
Margate Thursday	7	6	0	1	36	11	12
Canterbury Waverley	7	5	1	1	27	10	11
Deal Thursday Invicta	8	2	2	4	12	15	6
Ramsgate Albion	5	2	0	3	13	17	4
Broadstairs Thursday	5	2	0	3	10	21	4
Margate Tradesmen	6	1	0	5	9	23	2
Sandwich Town	7	0	1	6	12	42	1

This league form was reflected in Herne Bay's next league match, an away fixture against Broadstairs Thursday. With the benefit of a 5-0 lead from the first half, Herne Bay went on to record a 6-1 winning margin. Wilding, Philpott, and Shearing all scored two goals apiece, and the match referee was Mr. C.C. Norwood.

HERNE BAY THURSDAY : H. Cummings, A. Ells, F. Spratt, G. Scott, W. Watson, B. Shearing, T. Field, E. Wilding, S. Philpott, D. Cade, J. Wyborn.

I should mention at this point, the apparent confusion over Willding and Wilding. In press reports from the time, up to this match, the spelling had always been W i l l d i n g, but in this and later reports, it is spelt with only one 'L'. I don't think that it is two seperate players, but if I manage to track down any further confirmation, I will include it in any further issues of this book.

On the 6th February 1913, a match was played on the Spenser Road ground, where, "...the home side defended the railway end...". This was the all imprtant top-of-the-table clash with Margate Thursday, and it ended with the honours shared, the final score being Herne Bay Thursday 1 Margate Thursday 1. W. Watson scored for Herne Bay, with Owens replying for the Margate side. Herne Bay's goalkeeper, H. Cummings, was involved in an accidental collision with a Margate forward late in the game, and although he managed to continue until the end of the match, he was later found to have suffered a broken collar bone.



<u>Committee</u>	:	Capt. Bliss, Mr. Ahearn, Mr. Barley, Mr. Betts, Mr. Clemow, Mr. Gay, Mr. Wood.
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It was the Town side who got their matches underway first on the 11th. of September, and they did so in some style. Their opponents, in an away friendly, were Maple & Hoath United. In a one-sided match, goals from Lennard(3), Locock(2), Newman(2), Wilson, and Croud, saw the Town side home to a 9-1 victory.

A week later, the Coasters, in their first match of the season, went down 1-4 at home to Motor Union Athletic F.C., who the previous season, had been runners-up in the London Business Houses Cup.

As if to confirm that local football had put the Great War well and truly behind it, as a Town, Herne Bay could boast a further two sides in Herne Bay Thursday F.C. and Herne Bay Ex-Servicemens Club.

Fortunately, photographs exist of both the Thursday and Ex-Servicemens sides.

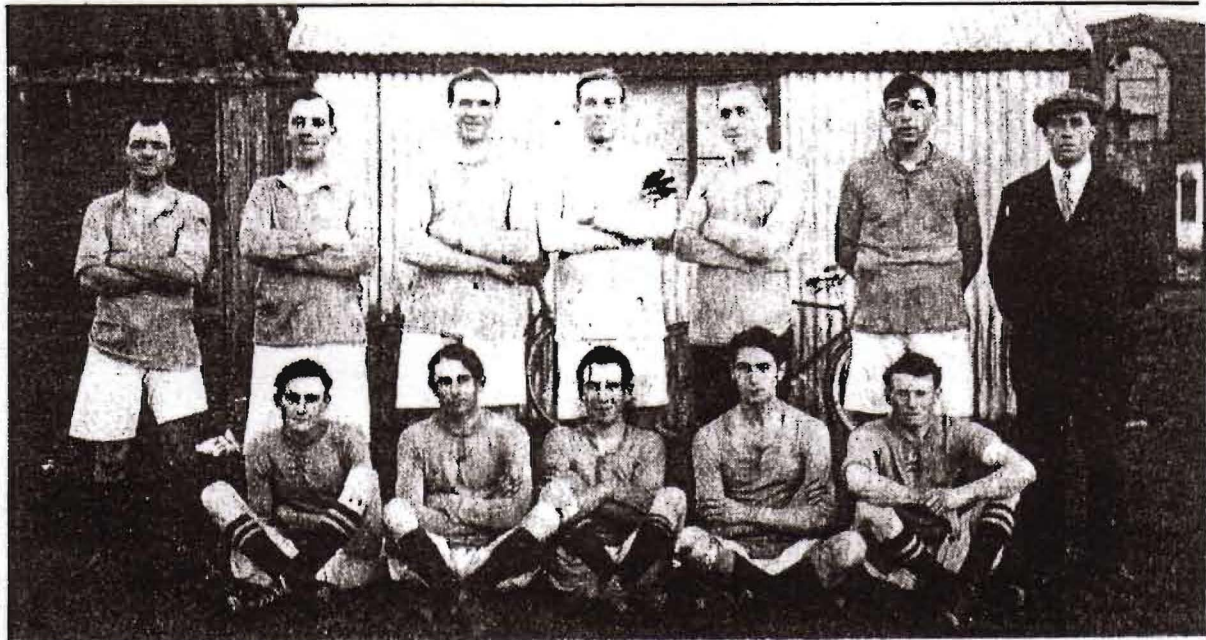
HERNE BAY THURSDAY F.C. - 1920-1921





HERNE BAY EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB F.C.

1920-1921 SEASON



A local 'derby' between the Town and Thursday sides took place on the 4th. of October 1920. The match was played in the grounds of the Kent College, and was won by the Thursday side by a 5-3 margin.

On the 11th. of October, the Coasters played Herne Bay College. The College led 2-0 at half-time, but a "....stirring..." match ended in a 4-4 draw. The line-up's for that match were, :-

HERNE BAY COASTERS

Bliss, Monroe, Arnold, Chapman, ? , Dunn, Allardyce, Hart, Betts, Rigden.

HERNE BAY COLLEGE

Cautley, Wilson, Balding, Thomas, Wright, Logan, Thomas, Cautley, Storie, Green, Bloom.

At the end of October, the Coasters made the journey to Margate to play Thanet Banks F.C. A brace from Brading was not good enough for victory, and the Banks held a 4-2 advantage at the final whistle.

Herne Bay Thursday took part in a benefit match for one of their players, Mr. A. Friend, who had been injured in a previous match. The game, against 'Mr. Woods XI', ended in a 2-2 draw.



Herne Bay Town were facing financial difficulties, and this report, (left) appeared in the Herne Bay Press on 27th. November 1920.

It would be interesting to know what the members reaction was to a 100% increase in their subscription fee's !

FOOTBALL CLUB'S POSITION.

FUNDS URGENTLY NEEDED.

A general meeting of the Herne Bay Town Football Club was held at the Richmond Inn on Monday evening to consider the means of raising funds. At present the club has a debt to face of about £12. The ground rent, £10, forms a large proportion of the sum, and the goalposts account for another 50s.

After a long discussion various steps were decided upon with a view to securing financial aid.

The subscription, which has been 3d., was raised to 6d. per week, and a collection was taken at the meeting to help the funds.

Mr. T. Pettman attended the meeting, and promised to do all he could to help the club.

Any subscriptions to the club will be gladly received by the secretary, Mr. J. Trigg. At present all travelling expenses to play matches away are paid by the players, and not by the club.

Other business was dealt with, and Messrs. G. Townsend and E. Smith were elected on the selection committee in addition to V. Dale and W. Lenarth.

A team was also selected to play the Herne Bay Railwaymen's Homes on Thursday, and the following team, Herne Bay Reserves, were picked to play a friendly match on Saturday with Herne Bay Athletic :-

Goal, Reg Fox; backs, S. V. Wood-
yer and E. Pallen; half-backs, Harry Lit-
cher, F. Mussett and G. Summers; for-
wards, F. Croud, W. Wilson, W. R. Sher-
man, R. D. Lewcock and W. Barham.

The 'Letters-to-the-Editor' column of the 11th. December carried the letter below. It would appear that it was partly in response to the 'crowd' that watched the friendly between the Town and Coasters sides the previous week.

The match in question was watched by a crowd of, "...not more than twenty people....", although the match report speaks of the game being played during the course of a great storm

CORRESPONDENCE.

WHERE ARE THE FOOTBALL ENTHUSIASTS ?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—For years it has been customary for one to witness—if not take part in—football matches. Before the war Herne Bay had a football team which made a reputation for itself, and helped considerably the town at the same time. Now, presumably through the war, the Coasters are not up to the same standard, but could be with a little fostering. Surely there are enough of enthusiasts of football in the Bay to be able to form a club capable of entering the Kent League, the Folkestone or Thanet Leagues. Why sleep so peacefully? Why not make hay while the sun shines? Probably this will catch the eye of some enthusiast of the premier winter game of football. If the task is considered too great, cannot a Herne Bay and District League be formed to encourage "soccer" more?—Yours faithfully,

ENTHUSIAST.

Herne Bay, December 8th, 1920.

The friendly match mentioned in the above report, brings the first mention of Herne Bay Athletic, therefore bringing to five the amount of footballing sides vying to attract the obviously small amount of supporters from around the town!

The match did not take place on the given day, but was infact played two weeks later, and ended in a 3-2 victory for the Town Reserves.



FOOTBALL.

December 18th.

HERNE BAY COASTERS F.C.

v.

HERNE BAY RINK HOCKEY CLUB

— AT —

Victoria Athletic Ground,

BEACH STREET. (Behind G.P.O.)

Admission 4d. Kick-off 3.0 p.m.
(including Tax.)

Advertising football fixtures in the local paper was by no means a regular occurrence, and I have been unable to trace the cost of placing such an announcement.

Whatever the cost was however, on this occasion it was wasted, as the match advertised on the left was called off due to heavy snow!

On the 15th. January 1921, the Coasters drew 1-1 with Northdown in Margate, and in a Faversham & District League fixture, Herne Bay Town went down 7-2 to Canterbury Alliance, and this despite Lenarth giving them the lead within two minutes of the start.

The Town's scheduled fixture on February 5th., against Canterbury Rovers, was also postponed - this time due to a waterlogged pitch. On the same day however, the match at Herne between Herne United and Herne Bay Athletic was played. The first half of this match failed to produce a goal, but following an early second-half free-kick award, Athletic took the lead. Herne then equalised through Bowley, and then late on, Gates gave the home side a decisive second goal.

Towards the end of the season, the local branch of the Y.M.C.A. announced their intention to form a side to compete in the 1921-1922 season. To this end, a friendly was arranged with Herne Bay Athletic to ascertain how their present membership could perform against an established side.

The match was arranged for Saturday 16th April, and was played on the Athletic ground. Mr. George Cursons MBE JP, the Chairman of the Herne Bay Y.M.C.A., officially kicked-off the match.

It took twenty minutes for the Athletic to make their experience tell, with Marsh opening the scoring. Newman added two further goals to give them a 3-0 half-time lead. Lewcock with two, and Foad with a single strike, put the Athletic 6-0 ahead, before Laranaga scored the Y.M.C.A.'s only goal.

The side which represented the Y.M.C.A. in their first match, was as follows.

Foulds, S. Pullen, Hogbin, Cautley, Gordon, Taylor,

Cautley, D. Galpin, Laranaga, R. Galpin, F.T. Adkins.

Y.M.C.A. obviously enjoyed the occasion, as just a week later, they again met Herne Bay Athletic, this time in a charity match to raise funds for the St. Dunstons Hostel for the Blind.

1921-1922 SEASON

Three Herne Bay teams, Coasters, Thursday, and Athletic were to the fore at the start of the 1921-1922 season.

Herne Bay Athletic were competing in the Canterbury & District League. Herne Bay Thursday in Division Two of the Thanet Thursday League, and although the Herne Bay Coasters competed in the Kent & Canterbury Hospital Cup, they do not appear to have entered a league.



Herne Bay Thursday were also in the Hospital Cup, and on the 8th October met Canterbury Battists, in Canterbury, in a first round tie. The home side held a 2-0 half-time lead, but two second half goals from Panton allowed the Thursday's to return home with a share of the spoils.

At the end of November, the Thursday's recorded a 4-3 away league victory over Faversham Co-operative. What is very noticeable is that the teams who represented the Thursday's at the beginning of October and the end of November bore little resemblance to each other.

October Team : Spry, Woodger, Hogbin, Scott, Pressley, White, Dudley, B. Wells, C. Wells, Panton, Francis.

November Team : Summers, Spice, Furley, Standen, Hinks, Marriott, Panton, Dudley, Francis, Barham, Wells.

The reserve sides of Herne Bay Coasters and Herne Bay Athletic met on the Recreation Ground on the 3rd. December, with the Coasters winning by a 5-2 scoreline. Although the Coasters scorers are not known, T. Wilson and C. Griggs scored for the Athletic.

A week earlier the two first teams had met, and that too ended with the Coasters defeating the Athletic. Hart, in the first half, and Tatham scored the goals in a 2-0 victory, and Lewcock could have increased the margin had his penalty kick not struck a post.

Among their pre-Christmas fixtures, the Coasters played host to the South Eastern Agricultural College, while the Athletic travelled to play Whitstable Reserves. Both were friendly fixtures.

The Athletic side was as follows ;

Woodger, McClean, Lewcock, Wells, Cane, Pullen,
Newman, Rowden, Griggs, Magee, Hobbs.

One ground now being used was variously known as The Water Tower Ground or The Aviation Ground. Located at the top of Mickleburgh Hill, to the East of the town, the area is now occupied by the Queen Victoria Hospital.

On the 28th. January 1922, the Coasters were at home to the Royal Dental Hospital. The Hospital's trip down from London brought some reward, as the game finished in a 1-1 draw. J. Veevers gave the home side a late first-half lead, but the Referee, Mr. Wheildon, was kept busy, having to speak to two of the visitors following a foul on Brading. In the second half, Barrable equalised for the Hospital with a headed goal.

Herne Bay Coasters : Healing, Guttridge, Balding, A. Veevers, Southern, Ahern, Dyer, Coward, Brading, J. Veevers, Betts.

On the same day, Athletic were away to G.P.O. Engineers in a Canterbury & District League fixture. In a one-sided match, Hobbs was the only Herne Bay player to find the net in a 1-4 defeat.



Saturday the 4th. of February was a day of, "....sleet and snow, driven before an easterly wind....", but in the horrendous conditions, Herne Bay Coasters overcame Herne United by the only goal of the game.

The Herne Bay Press of the 11th. February 1922, although not showing league tables, gave an up-date of how the Athletic and Thursday were faring in their respective leagues.

HERNE BAY ATHLETIC

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.
All Matches	21	9	5	7	42	28

Leading Goalscorers

? Lewcock	10
H. Hobbs	7
E. Newman	6
G. Cane	5
C. Griggs	4
P. Wells	3
G. Magee	3
W. Sherman	2

HERNE BAY THURSDAY

Thanet Thursday League

Division Two

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	PTS.
1) Canterbury Waverley	•	•	•	•	••	••	11
2) Victoria Institute	•	•	•	•	••	••	10
3) Free Church Athletic	•	•	•	•	••	••	8
4) HERNE BAY THURSDAY	6	3	1	2	13	23	7
5) ? ?	•	•	•	•	••	••	•

On Thursday 16th. February, Herne Bay Thursday were involved in the Final of the Thursday section of the Kent & Canterbury Hospital Charity Cup. Their opponents were Canterbury Waverley and the match was played on the Wincheap Grove Ground. Influenza and work commitments meant a mixed team of first and reserve players had to face a full strength Waverley side.

To make matters worse, just ten minutes after Canterbury Mayor Mr. Wright-Hunt got the game under way, the Thursday's were down to ten men when Spice collected an injury that meant he was unable to continue.

Canterbury Waverley led 3-0 at half-time, and added a further four goals in the second half, to win the Cup by a 7-0 margin. The Cup was presented to the winners by Mrs. B. Prescott-Westcar.

Herne Bay Thursday : Summers, Spice, Hargreaves, Marriott, Scott, Woodger, Barham, Panton, Francis, Pressley, Wells.



FOOTBALL!

SATURDAY, February 4th.

HERNE BAY COASTERS

versus

HERNE UNITED

— AT —

Victoria Athletic Ground, William Street.
Admission 4d. (Including Tax). Boys 2d.
Kick-off 3 p.m.

FOOTBALL!

SATURDAY, February 18th.

HERNE BAY COASTERS

(2nd XI) versus

SALMESTONE GRANGE

— AT —

Victoria Athletic Ground, William Street.
Admission 4d. (Including Tax). Boys 2d.
Kick-off 3 p.m.

Above : Two press announcements for the February 4th. and 18th. Herne Bay Coasters fixtures

At the end of the month Herne Bay Athletic were away to Broad Oak & Sturry in a friendly match. E. Cane scored with a first-half header, and added a second before half-time to give the visitors a 2-0 lead. Groggs, Hobbs, and Pantling added goals in the second half, with a late consolation goal being the home sides only reply.

Returning to Canterbury & District League action on the 4th. March, the Athletic were at home to Canterbury Rovers. The match was a 'no-contest' as far as the visitors were concerned. Hobbs(3), Newman(3), plus Cane, Pullen and Smith with one apiece, accounted for the goals which saw the Athletic chalk up nine goals without reply.

CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH

In aid of the Herne Bay Philanthropic Society

Herne Bay Thursdays

versus

Faversham Co-operative Stores.

AT

KENT COAST COLLEGE GROUND,

(By kind permission of M. Hochbaum, Esq.)

On THURSDAY, March 16th.

Mr. J. P. GALPIN, Chairman of the Herne Bay Philanthropic Society, will Kick-off at 3 o'clock.

Admission 6d. Tickets purchased before the day of Match, 4d. Tickets may be obtained from the "Press" Office.

The match, detailed left, between Herne Bay Thursday and Faversham Co-operative Stores, was played using a new ball donated by Mr. W.J. Singleton, and the match referee was Mr. J. Wells.

Within 15 minutes of the start goals from Panton and Standing had given the Thursday side a 2-0 cushion. There were no further goals before half-time, and in the second half, the home side would have the help of a strong following wind. In the middle of the second half, goals from Panton and Standing put the game beyond the reach of the Faversham side.

The match raised over £6 for the Philanthropic Society, which included the sum of £1-1s-6d from the auction of the match ball.



In the thirteen matches they had played during the season, H.M.S. Tiger F.C. had a goal record of forty-five goals for and nought goals against. On Saturday 18th. March Herne Bay Athletic became the first side to pierce the Tiger's defense in the course of a 1-1 draw that attracted a crowd of around 300 to the Mickleburgh Hill ground.

Two weeks later, on the same ground, Griggs and Hobbs scored the goals in Athletic's 2-1 win over Veevers XI.

The Athletic recorded two draws and a win over the Easter week-end. On Good Friday Northdown were the hosts. The home side opened the scoring, but Harrison levelled matters to ensure a share of the spoils.

A 4-2 home win over the 10th. Hussars followed on Easter Saturday, and the Easter programme was completed on Monday with a 1-1 draw against the Buffs Depot.

The A.G.M. of Herne Bay Thursday F.C. was chaired by their President, Mr. W. Godden, and Vice-President Mr. T. Wiffen.

The Club had finished the season well in profit. Over £11 had alone been raised from a concert held in the Pier Theatre during January. In all competitive matches, the Thursday's record for the 1921-1922 season was as follows.

P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.
27	9	8	10	50	61

Herne Bay Athletic F.C. held their A.G.M. a few days later. Their seasons record was somewhat better than their neighbours.

P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.
34	17	8	9	82	43

The Athletic also gave details of their leading scorers. They were :-

H. Hobbs	17
E. Newman	13
G. Cane	12
R. Lewcock	11

Their accounts were in credit to the tune of £6-4s-11d.

Herne Bay Coasters F.C. were the last of the Towns Clubs to hold their Annual General Meeting.

Mr. H.E. Betts presided, and was supported by the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. F.W. Gutridge. The playing records of both their First and Reserves sides were announced, and were as follows.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.
First Team	26	13	7	6	57	43
Reserves	16	6	3	7	30	40



Despite raising over £30 from their run in the Hospital Charity Cup, where they reached the 4th. Round, the Club declared what was only described as , "... a small deficit."

At the same meeting, the following were to be invited to become vice-presidents of the Club.

Col. J.M. Lacey	S. Bates	C.E. Betts
G.P. Bliss	H. Brading	J.W. Champion
T.G. Cartmell	G. Cursons M.B.E.	S. Fowler
S.D. Gordon	R. Grace	G.L. Griffin
S.J. Kightley	W. Wooster	J. Young
L.A. Blackburn	G. Devonshire	A. Primrose-Petchey
W. Randell	C. Chapman	N. Wacher
E. Scott	.....	J.P. Galpin

Officers for the following season were also elected.

<u>Club President</u>	:	Mr. Fred W. Wacher JP
<u>Honorary Treasurer</u>	:	Mr. F. Guttridge
<u>Honorary Secretary</u>	:	Mr. H.E. Betts
<u>Club Committee</u>	:	Mr. J. Ahern, Mr. L. Chapman, Mr. L. Clemow, Mr. W.B. Gay, Mr. J. Southern, Mr. J. Coward, Mr. B. Galpin, Mr. H. Pullen, Mr. J. Ridout, Mr. A. Wooster.
<u>Club Captain</u>	:	Mr. F. Dyer
<u>Mrce-Captain</u>	:	Mr. A. Veevers
<u>Reserves Captain</u>	:	Mr. S.D. Gordon

The following are known to have represented Herne Bay Coasters F.C. during the 1921-1922 season.

J. Ahern	? . Balding	? . Betts
? . Black	? . Brading	? . Coward
F. Dyer	? . Galpin	? . Guttridge
S. Gordon	? . Hart	? . Healing
W. Munto	? . Southern	? . Tatham
A. Veevers	.....	J. Veevers

The above list may well be short of several names as the local press coverage often fell short of listing the full team in their match reports. They were also, in the main, very formal, and simply gave a Surname with no initial.



The War years took their toll of local football, but in the periods before and after the 1939 - 1945 break, Herne Bay were still regularly playing football.

Playing in Division Two of the KENT AMATEUR LEAGUE, they started 1938 with a New Years Day 3-1 home victory over neighbours Herne United. Griggs and Chillingworth put Herne Bay 2-0 by half-time, and although Herne pulled a goal back, Broyad scored with a header to secure a 3-1 win.

HERNE BAY : W. Martin, S. Burley, S. Postle, D. Chillingworth, H. Holmans, T. Tritton, E. Mannering, S. Griggs, J. Broyad, G. Goldfinch.

Three weeks later, another home fixture resulted in a 6-2 defeat of Thanet Banks. On a pitch described as "...heavy and slippery..", the visitors took an early lead. A Mancini shot was deflected into the net for the Herne Bay equaliser, before Mancini, again, put Herne Bay in front with a shot that went in via the cross-bar. The 'Banks' scrambled another goal, to level the scores at 2-2 at half-time, A second half hat-trick from Griggs, and a single Marshall strike, rounded off a convincing win.

HERNE BAY : J. Clark, L. Burley, S. Postle, H. Hudson, J. Marshall, E. Manthorpe, Adlington, S. Griggs, E. Mannering, T. Mancini, G. Goldfinch.

Herne Bay's first ever success in the KENT JUNIOR DIVISION 'B' CUP, came on Saturday 12th February 1938, when DOVER ROVERS were defeated 4-0. The match was played on Herne United's ground, and despite Dover having the advantage of a strong tail wind, half-time arrived without a goal being scored.

Herne Bay lost Holmans with an injury just after Broyad had given them the lead, and further goals from Griggs and Mannering secured the victory.

The cup was presented to Herne Bay, by Mr.H.Reeves of the K.C.F.A.

HERNE BAY : W. Martin, L. Burley, S. Postle, T. Mancini, F. Marshall, H. Holmans, Anderton, E. Mannering, S. Griggs, E. Chillingworth, J. Broyad.

The teams first home defeat of 1938 came during March, when R.A.F. Manston Reserves won 2-1. Anderton was the Herne Bay scorer. During this match, a collection was taken around the ground, which raised £3-6-0 (£3.30p), for the Storm Relief Fund.

During the 1938 Easter Week-end, Herne Bay defeated Kolstar-Brandes 3-2 on Good Friday, and then drew 3-3 with Jackdaws F.C. on Easter Monday. In the game against Jackdaws, Herne Bay were 0-2 and 1-3 behind before securing the draw.



Their last home game of the 1937/38 season, was on April 23rd, when they met League leaders, Hythe.

Although Herne Bay went down 4-5, it was a match that was described as "...anybody's up to the final whistle." Indeed, Herne Bay led 2-1 at half-time through a Marshall header, and a "...twenty yard shot...", from Mannering. However they soon found themselves 2-4 behind, before a Griggs penalty made it 3-4. Griggs, again from a penalty, made the scores level, before Hythe secured the points, three minutes from time.

HERNE BAY : J. Clark, L. Burley, Anderton, E. Mannering,
J. Marshall, E. Manthorpe, Nissan, Lond,
J. Broyad, S. Griggs.

R.A.F. Manston Reserves inflicted a 2-0 defeat on Herne Bay, in their final Kent Amateur League fixture of the season on May 1st. The match was refereed by Mr. B. Coleman, and the Herne Bay line-up for that final game was ;

J. Clark, T. Offredi, V. Offredi, Bomber,
J. Marshall, H. Hudson, Anderton, E. Mannering,
S. Griggs, J. Broyad.

Players known to have represented HERNE BAY during the 1937/38 season, include the following.

?. Adlington	?. Anderton	?. Bomber	J. Broyad
L. Burley	S. Burley	D. Chillingworth	E. Chillingworth
J. Clark	?. Crunden	G. Goldfinch	S. Griggs
H. Holmans	H. Hudson	?. Kent	?. Lond
T. Mancini	E. Manthorpe	E. Mannering	F. Marshall
J. Marshall	W. Martin	T. Offredi	V. Offredi
S. Postle	T. Tritton		

A mention here, for Herne Bay Reserves who had competed in the CANTERBURY & DISTRICT LEAGUE that season, and had finished in ninth place. Their league record was as follows.

<u>P.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>A.</u>	<u>PTS.</u>
20	5	4	11	42	69	14

The League Champions were Willesborough Rovers with 31 points.



The year 1946 saw two friendly matches played between Herne Bay and Ramsgate. Early in the New Year, Ramsgate won 2-1 on their own ground, with 'Titch' Willett scoring Herne Bay's only goal.

On St. Valentines day, 14th February, in the Memorial Park, the two sides drew 3-3 after Ramsgate had led 1-0 at half-time. The Herne Bay scorers were; Chillingworth (2), and Holman.

The two Herne Bay sides were as follows.

- AWAY : K. Holness, S. Postle, Harris, Coulson, White,
T. Mannering, Carr, Sands, Shilling, G. Goldfinch,
Chillingworth, Crocker, 'Titch' Willett.
- HOME : Holness, S. Postle, Harris (Captain), Coulson,
Tritton, White, Carr, J. Broyad, A. Holman,
Chillingworth, G. Goldfinch.

Herne Bay's KENT AMATEUR LEAGUE fixtures for March and April 1946, included the following;

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|------------------|
| Anchor Sports (Littlebourne) | (A) | |
| Betteshanger Colliery | (H) | |
| Deal | (A) | 3.15 pm kick-off |
| Chislet Colliery | (H) | 3.15 pm kick-off |

One other friendly fixture during 1946, was a match in the Memorial Park against H.M.S. Robertson. A hat-trick from Goldfinch, plus a goal apiece from Carr, Shilling, and Chillingworth, saw Herne Bay record a comfortable 6-3 victory, having held a 4-1 half-time lead.

- HERNE BAY : D. Holness, S. Postle, Harris, Coulson,
T. Mannering, White, Carr, Sands, Shilling,
Chillingworth, G. Goldfinch.

The management Committee of the Football Club for the 1946/1947 season, was ;

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>President</u> : | Councillor N.F. Wacher |
| <u>Chairman</u> : | Mr. T. H. Baines |
| <u>Hon. Treasurer</u> : | Mr. A. E. Cox |
| <u>Hon. Secretary</u> : | Mr. D. F. Rawlins |

Bad weather saw the 1946/47 season run on until the end of May, and at one point, the First Team suffered eight consecutive postponements.

The First Team were once again to play in the KENT AMATEUR LEAGUE, while the Reserves would contest the CANTERBURY & DISTRICT LEAGUE.



1947 did not get off to a very good start, with Whitstable winning 5-4 in a Kent Amateur League fixture in the Memorial Park. The pitch was described as "...very, very sticky..", and Whitstable took an early lead. Herne Bay soon drew level through Blackburn, who scored from close range after a Goldfinch shot had been parried by the Whitstable keeper. Blackburn then turned home a 'Titch' Willett cross to put his side 2-1 in front, although Whitstable equalised just before half-time.

Goldfinch restored the Herne Bay lead in the 57th minute, and then Blackburn completed his hat-trick, to open up what should have been a comfortable two goal margin. However, Whitstable scored three times in the last fifteen minutes, to secure an improbable victory.

HERNE BAY : Holness, Darby, Harris, Coulson, Elwin,
White, Blackburn, Williams, Goldfinch,
Pooley, Willett.

Two more fixtures in the Kent Amateur League were completed before the bad weather brought a halt to the action.

Blackburn was again on target, with both goals in a 2-1 away win over Birchington, both goals coming in the first half. Two weeks later Herne Bay were again away, this time to the League leaders, Robert Bretts. Despite being only 1-0 ahead at half-time, Bretts pulled away to win by a clear 4-1 scoreline. Yet again, it was Blackburn who netted for the visitors.

This game was to prove to be the first teams last match before the snow arrived.

On the 1st March, the Memorial Park saw it's first game for nearly six weeks. In the CANTERBURY & DISTRICT LEAGUE, Herne Bay Reserves battled out a 2-2 draw with Bekesbourne. This provides an ideal opportunity to give some details of the Reserve side.

HERNE BAY RESERVES : Tobutt, Petley, Pooley, Cumming,
D. Baird, Coulson, A. Baird, Carter,
Roberts, Palmer, Winskill.

The one point from this game did nothing, unfortunately, to improve their League position. They remained at the foot of the table, and their record was as follows ;

<u>P.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>PTS.</u>
10	1	2	7	4

It was the beginning of April before the first team resumed their fixtures, although the break clearly did them no good at all, as they went down 7-1 to Metro Gas.

During the season, a total of fifty-six players had been used, but remarkably, only five had come from outside the Town.



At the end of the 1946/47 season, the First team record in all matches was as listed below.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	PTS.
LEAGUE	20	3	1	16	34	87	7
CUP	2	0	0	2	1	3	n/a
FRIENDLIES	6	2	0	4	14	28	n/a
<u>Totals</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>-</u>

As mentioned earlier, 56 players had represented Herne Bay during the season, and they included the following.

A. Baird	D. Baird	? Blackburn	? Carter
A. Coulson	B. Cullen	? Darby	? Elwin
G. Goldfinch	? Harris	D. Holness	K. Holness
? palmer	? Platt	? Pooley	? Tritton
? Watson	? White	'Titch' Willett	? Williams
	? Wilmshurst	? Winskill	

Leading goalscorers for the season, were :-

10	Blackburn
8	Carter
4	Willett
4	Roberts

October 1948 saw the first round ties in the KENT JUNIOR CUP. Herne Bay were given a home, (Memorial Park), tie against local opponents, Bekesbourne.

Herne Bay started with only ten men, but once they were up to full strength, they soon forced four successive corners. Shortly before half-time, Bekesbourne took the lead with a long range effort that, ".... deceived Skelton in the home goal and found it's way into the top far corner of the net."

In the second half, Wilmshurst equalised following up a Toze overhead kick, before Bekesbourne again took the lead. Before the ninety minutes were up, Bubb had equalised for Herne Bay, and with the score at 2-2, the game went into extra time.

Although a Wilmshurst effort hit the post, it was Bekesbourne who went back in front from the penalty spot. However, with, "...only minutes remaining...", Bubb converted a Miller corner to take the tie to a replay.



Herne Bay Football Club

(Affiliated to K.C.F.A.)

President : Councillor N. Wachter
Chairman : C. Dabba, Esq.

Hon. Treasurer : A. E. Cox, Esq., 54 Spenser Road, Herne Bay. Telephone 101

Hon. General Secretary :
E. F. Chillingworth, Esq.
"Joydene,"
Bognor Drive,
Herne Bay.
Telephone 402.



Hon. Match Secretary :
H. E. W. Hudson, Esq.,
"Kirkley,"
Stanley Road,
Herne Bay.

Aug 3rd/48

H. Schrader, Esq.
"Ladyfield"
Chippenharn.

Dear Herbert,

Your letter to Albert, has been passed on to me, and I read its contents with much regret. You, and Ali, made all the difference to our team, and we thoroughly enjoyed having you, and sneaking for myself, and the rest of the team, we very much enjoyed playing with you. We are going to miss your services very much, and our supporters are going to miss you also. I am continually being asked, if you two will be playing this season, and it's going to be hard to say "No" to them now. Well Herbert, and Ali, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you both for your services to the Club, and express the Clubs best wishes for your future. If you would like to get back this way, and you think there is a possibility of getting you back, let us know who to write to, and we will get in touch with them right away. If there is no possible chance, well once again, the best of luck to you both, and thank you.

I remain,
Yours in Sport,
E. F. Chillingworth

Hon Secretary.

Among the playing staff during the 1947-1948 season, were two ex German P.O.W.'s, HERBERT SCHRADER and ALI EISENTRAGER.

In a letter to the Club in 1996, Herbert recall's :-

" We were billeted in a hostel in Herne village with about a further thirty ex P.O.W.'s, and we went to watch Herne Bay play at week-ends. After a kick-about, someone was impressed, and got us to sign on for the Club."

Above is a copy of the letter sent to the two players when they moved to the West Country in July 1948.

Ali Eisentrager, born on 20th July 1927, joined Trowbridge Town, and then between 1949 and 1957, played 228 games for BRISTOL CITY, scoring forty-six goals during that period.



In the KENT AMATEUR LEAGUE, January 1949 started with a 3-1 away victory over Chartham, thanks to goals from Miller, Toze, and Blackburn.

February was a particularly successful month, and in successive weeks they beat Deal Town Reserves 4-2 after holding a 3-1 half-time lead, Birchington by a 2-1 scoreline, and then Thanet Press by the only goal of the game. Played in the Memorial Park, the scorers against Deal Town Reserves were, Blackburn with another two to add to his growing tally, and Miller also with a couple. Against Birchington, Tritton and Barelli were on target, while Millers second half goal was enough against Thanet Press.

The South coast was to the fore at this stage of the season, with SR Dover, RM Deal, and Hythe holding the top three places in the Kent Amateur League. Following their victory over Thanet Press, Herne Bay were in seventh spot, and their record was :-

P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	PTS.
12	7	2	3	31	27	16

March saw an away fixture against the 47th Coastal Regiment, whose 'Home' ground was in Dover.

It would appear that the local press reporter was having an off day, with some less than complimentary remarks concerning both sides! Some examples follow.....

".... was spoiled by a strong wind which made good football practically impossible."

".... the goalkeeper appeared to stand and watch the ball pass him into the net."

".... a shade over-confident with his efforts to dribble past the entire defense".

".... this somewhat dis-spirited match...."

".... when no less than three forwards were standing in front of the Herne Bay goal..... had little difficulty in beating Skelton from close range."

And a real classic to round things off nicely!

".... as the game ambled on to it's conclusion."

The game ended in a 4-2 victory for Herne Bay, with the goals coming from Barelli, Blackburn, Miller, and Toze.

Eleven years previously, a collection was made around the ground to raise funds for the Storm Relief Fund, and now in March 1949, more bad weather had led to local flooding which necessitated another collection during the home League match against Bekesbourne,



FOOTBALL

KENT AMATEUR LEAGUE

**This Saturday
March 19th**

**COLLECTION FOR
FLOOD RELIEF FUND**

**HERNE BAY
v
BEKESBOURNE**

War Memorial Park
KICK OFF 3.15 p.m.

Herne Bay v. Bekesbourne,
War Memorial Park, 3.15.
Collection for Flood Relief
Fund.

ABOVE: Two advertisements from The Herne Bay Press announcing the Flood Relief Fund collection that was to take place on 19th March 1949, during the Herne Bay V's Bekesbourne fixture.

Before moving into the 1950's, and closer to Herne Bay's move to Winch's Field, we take a quick look at some of the players known to have represented Herne Bay during the 1948/1949 season.

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| D. Baird | ? . Barelli | ? . Blackburn |
| ? . Bubb | ? . Chillingworth | A. Coulson |
| ? . Elwin | J. Gadsden | ? . Hall |
| ? . Homersham | ? . Miller | ? . Patton |
| ? . Pooley | ? . Silk | ? . Skelton (G/K) |
| ? . Toze | ? . Tritton | E. Wilmshurst |

The Kent Amateur League fixture list, had thrown up the home and away matches against Birchington on successive Saturday's in January 1950. On Saturday the 6th., Birchington were the hosts. The home side took a fourth minute lead, before Carter scored to pull Herne Bay level. Toze then scored the goal of the game, - a left foot volley into the top corner angle of bar and post -, to put the visitors in front. Blackburn added a third before half-time, to establish a 3-1 lead for Herne Bay. Within the first twenty minutes of the second half, Birchington scored twice to put themselves back in the game. Herne Bay had the chance to secure both points with the award of a pnanalty. The pppportunity was spurned however, as Pooley hit a weak shot straight at the 'keeper. At the final whistle, both sides had to be content with a share of the points from the 3-3 draw.

The following Saturday, the 13th., it was Herne Bay who took the lead, when Carter scored with a long-range effort.



Despite the wet conditions, the game had drawn a good crowd to the Memorial Park, but the home fans had little to cheer about as Birchington went 2-1 ahead before half-time. Mid way through the second half, they scored again, to hold a two-goal cushion. For the second time in as many matches, Pooley was guilty of missing a penalty, and although the same player did pull one goal back, Herne Bay could not find the back of the net again, and lost by the odd goal of five, 2-3. The next home game saw Sandwich as the visitors, again in a Kent Amateur League fixture. Played in a "....biting east wind....", Eric Wilmshurst put Herne Bay in front after ten minutes..Sandwich equalised from the penalty spot, and neither side could add to their tally before half-time. A goal from Barrelli, that went in off the 'keeper and the bar!, restored Herne Bay's lead, before a defensive mix-up between Pooley and 'keeper Skelton led to a second Sandwich equaliser. Herne Bay finally secured both points, when Silk scored to make it 3-2 in the home sides favour.

HERNE BAY : Dick Skelton, Alan Coulson, W. Hall, L. Silk,
Ginger Pooley, Jack Gadsden, G. Barrelli, Doug Toze,
Eric Wilmshurst, Ted Carter, and Harry Blackburn.

A much more convincing win followed on Saturday the 4th. of February 1950. The "victims" were Bekesbourne F.C. On their own ground, they never came to terms with Herne Bay, and goals from Wilmshurst and a Barrelli brace gave them a 3-0 half-time lead. Two more goals, both from Blackburn, eased Herne Bay to a 5-1 victory. One more worrying statistic to emerge from this game, was that for the third time in their last four matches, Herne Bay were 'guilty' of failing to convert a penelty kick!

A third successive victory, 4-0 over Canterbury Gas & Water, followed a week later. The goals were evenly spread over the two halves. Barrelli and Bubb scored in the first half, and with Blackburn and Silk adding their contribution in the second half, Herne Bay coasted to a comfortable win.

With no league fixture on Saturday the 11th. of March, Herne Bay hosted a friendly against Whitstable in the Memorial Park. It was not until the 30th. minute that the home side took the lead, when Silk headed home a cross from Standen. Five minutes later, Silk scored his, and Herne Bay's second. With no further goals before half-time, Whitstable found themselves two goals in arrears. Shortly after the break, Barrelli added a third. A solo effort brought Silk his hat-trick, which was in stark contrast to Herne Bay's fifth goal. The build up to the goal involved some close passing between Coulson, Wilmshurst, Silk, and Gadsden, before Silk turned the game into a personal triumph with his fourth goal. Just before the final whistle, Whitstable did scramble a consolation goal to reduce the defecit to 5-1. Hall was the scorer of the Whitstable goal.

Herne Bay continued their league fixtures with a home game against Cheriton. Both Blackburn and Wilmshurst hit the woodwork, before Cheriton took the lead against the run of play. The Herne Bay defense stood and waited for an off-side decision that never came. Blackburn pulled Herne Bay level before the break, but twenty minutes into the second half, Cheriton again went in front with a close range effort.



With only minutes to go, a point was secured when Tritton just got a touch to an effort from Blackburn that looked to be going wide.

By the end of the 1949/1950 season, Herne Bay had secured a mid-table position, finishing sixth out of ten teams, but the highlight of the season belonged to the Reserves.

On Saturday the 22nd. of April, Herne Bay F.C. Reserves met Herne Bay United F.C., in the final of the Canterbury Challenge Trophy. Fielding four regular first team players, the Reserves proved too strong for the United side, and in a slightly one-sided game, they ran out 3-0 winners. The goals came from Bubb, and Winskill who found the back of the net twice.

The picture below, shows Herne Bay Reserves Captain, S. Tritton, being presented with the trophy by Mr. A.T. Fox, Vice-Chairman of the Canterbury and district League.



HERNE BAY F.C. reserves : D. Holness, J. Lond, A. Coulson,
W. Hawkes, H. Elwin, M. Houghting, J. James, C. Winskill,
E. Wilmshurst, R. Bubb, S. Tritton.

HERNE BAY UNITED F.C. : S. Gilbert, R. Watson, I. Caddick,
G. Wise, J. Conroy, H. White, H. Homersham, R. Dicks, T. Gurney,
D. Jennings, K. Ward.



The players listed below, are those known to have represented Herne Bay Football Club, during the 1949/1950 season.

G. Barrelli	H. Blackburn	R. Bubb
T. Carter	E. Chillingworth	A. Coulson
H. Elwin	J. Gadsden	W. Hall
W. Hawkes	D. Holness	G. Pooley
L. Silk	D. Skelton	W. Standen
D. Toze	S. Tritton	E. Wilmshurst

HERNE BAY F.C. OFFICIALS...1949/1950

<u>President :</u>	Mr. N. Wachter
<u>Chairman :</u>	Mr. C. Dabbs
<u>Vice-Chairman :</u>	Mr. H. Baines
<u>Honourary Secretary :</u>	Commander S.W. Lockwood
<u>Match Secretary :</u>	Mr. H. Hudson
<u>Honourary Treasurer :</u>	Mr. Abel

KENT AMATEUR LEAGUE FINAL TABLE 1949/1950 SEASON

	<u>P.</u>	<u>W.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>A.</u>	<u>PTS.</u>
Royal Marines (Deal) F.C.	18	12	5	1	75	29	29
Birchington Town F.C.	18	13	2	3	61	37	28
Hythe F.C.	18	8	6	4	48	33	22
Cheriton F.C.	18	8	5	5	58	39	21
Chislet Colliery Welfare F.C.	18	9	1	8	38	36	19
<u>HERNE BAY F.C.</u>	18	6	6	6	46	38	18
Sandwich Town F.C.	18	6	1	11	38	51	13
Deal Town F.C. Reserves	18	4	3	11	35	58	11
Canterbury Gas & Water F.C.	18	4	2	12	23	63	10
Bekesbourne F.C.	18	2	5	11	32	69	9



1950/1951 SEASON

One early encounter in the new season, was the visit to Hythe for a Kent Amateur League fixture, on Saturday the 7th. of October 1950. Wearing their new white shirts, sporting the Heron badge for the first time, Herne Bay found themselves a goal behind, when the referee awarded a penalty against them, the reason for which, only he knew! The question of the referee's neutrality was again 'questioned', when he disallowed what looked a perfectly good 'equaliser!'. The visitors luck changed somewhat, as goals from Blackburn and Barelli, put them 2-1 in front. Things were all square again five minutes before half-time, when Hythe scrambled their second goal. Early in the second half, Hythe scored twice more, to put themselves in the driving seat, with a 4-2 lead. Herne Bay however, refused to give up, and the same two players who scored goals in the first half, Blackburn and Barelli, both scored again to make the final score 4-4. The side for this match was;

D. Skelton, A. Coulson, . Elwin, E. Wilmshurst, G. Pooley,
J. Gadsden, H. Blackburn, R. Bubb, E. Carter, D. Toze, G. Barelli.

The following week, Herne Bay were again away, this time in the Kent County Amateur Trophy. Their opponents were Rochester & Borstal F.C., who played at the Rochester Stadium. By half-time the teams were level at 2-2, and in fact, with twenty minutes left, that was still the score. Having held their hosts so well for three-quarters of the game, Herne Bay for no apparent reason, then fell apart. Thirteen minutes later, Rochester led.....8-2! Their inside-right, Martin, had scored four goals, and the match report described him as, "....a footballer of some consequence...". In the final few minutes, Carter scored for Herne Bay, adding to the two first half strikes from Blackburn. The match ended without further goals, and the final score was 8-3 in Rochester and Borstal's favour.

Having suffered such a heavy defeat, the team were probably glad to get back to League business the following week. Playing in the Memorial Park, their visitors were the 47th Coastal Regiment. Pooley soon put Herne Bay ahead, but a mistake by goalkeeper Skelton, allowed the 47th. to draw level almost from the re-start. In a complete reversal of the occurrences of the previous week, Herne Bay scored four more times before the half-time break. The goals came from Bubb, Pooley, Barelli, and then Bubb again. In the second half, the home side failed to keep the momentum going, and added just one further goal, through Barelli, but the 6-1 victory was just what they wanted after their Amateur Trophy trouncing.

In November, Herne Bay visited League leaders, Cheriton F.C. Injuries meant that the visitors had to field a weakened side, and Cheriton were soon 2-0 ahead, before Pinder pulled a goal back for Herne Bay. They then fell further behind when Cheriton scored their third. Once again, Herne Bay fought back, and Postle scored their second. But for a missed penalty kick, the points would have been shared, and indeed, Cheriton were said to be happy to have held on for their 3-2 win.

HERNE BAY : D. Skelton, A. Coulson, . Hall, E. Wilmshurst,
D. Tritton, J. Gadsden, L. Postle, . Pinder, A. Wright,
A. Winskill, D. Toze.

Winch's Field....



A point was won however, from the visit to Birchington. A late goal from Eric Wilmshurst, equaled out a first half goal from the home side. Blackburn had earlier had what looked a perfectly good goal disallowed.

On Christmas Day morning, the Memorial Park staged a local derby against Bekesbourne. At one time Herne Bay found themselves 0-4 in arrears. A determined fight back almost pulled the match out of the fire, but time ran out for the home side, and at the final whistle, the score was 4-3 in Bekesbourne's favour.

Boxing Day 1950, saw one of the 'Great-Escapes' in Herne Bay's history. The reserves were playing a fixture against Sentinels F.C., and at half time, Herne Bay trailed 1-5. Almost from the whistle to start the second half, they scored to pull back to 2-5, to give themselves some hope. Incredibly, with five minutes of the game left, the score stood at 6-6. Not satisfied with this, the Reserves continued to push forward, and with only seconds remaining, they forced the winner! To have won 7-6 after trailing 1-5, was a remarkable achievement.

One of the first games of 1951, was against Birchington United Services Club, in a Kent Amateur League Cup tie. In a one-sided match, Blackburn and Barelli each scored twice, and a goal apiece from Chillingworth, Bubb and Pooley, completed the 7-0 rout.

Back in League action, Herne Bay met Birchington on Saturday the 3rd. of February. Eventually winning by a 2-0 scoreline, Herne Bay scored both goals in the first half. Barelli converted a Winskill cross with the help of a post, and then Bubb made no mistake from the edge of the box. The team for this match was ;

D. Skelton, A. Coulson, W. Hall, E. Wilmshurst, H. Elwin, G. Barelli, J. Gadsden, S. Tritton, R. Bubb, H. Blackburn, C. Winskill

In the Kent Benevolent Cup, Canterbury Gas & Water were the visitors on the 10th. of March. This proved to be another real see-saw match, with Herne Bay soon finding themselves 2-0 behind. With only fifteen minutes of the match remaining, Herne Bay had managed to turn the tide, and were leading 4-2. This should have been good enough, but Canterbury fought back, and somehow managed to scramble two more goals to snatch a draw.

At the start of the season, The 47th. Coastal Regiment were also members of the Kent Amateur League, but by the end of February, they had withdrawn. At a special meeting, the League Management Committee ordered that their records be expunged.

Players known to have represented Herne Bay Football Club during the 1950/1951 season, include those listed below.

G. Barelli	H. Blackburn	R. Bubb
T. Carter	E. Chillingworth	A. Coulson
H. Elwin	J. Gadsden	W. Hall
? Hargraves	D. Holness	? Pinder
G. Pooley	? Postle	D. Skelton
D. Toze	S. Tritton	E. Wilmshurst
C. Winskill		? Wright



HERNE BAY F.C. SUPPORTERS CLUB

On Monday the 9th. of July 1951, at a meeting held in The New Dolphin Inn, in William Street, The Herne Bay F.C. Supporters Club was formed. MR. G.N. Hall of Avenue Road was appointed Secretary, and among the fund raising activities that he announced, were 'whist drives', and, 'novelty dances'. Shown below is a Membership Card from that first season, issued to Mr. Bill Gardner. Forty-two years later, Mr. Gardner's son, Bob, was elected secretary of the Supporters Club. By the middle of August, membership was described as being, "...well into treble figures."

The Supporters Club also decided that they would publish a fixture list. A copy was sent to every member, and they were also available at several news-agents throughout the Town.

HERNE BAY FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS CLUB.

MEMBERSHIP CARD

1951-52

HOLDER *W.G. Gardner* No. 88

MEMBERSHIP FEE TWO SHILLINGS

Herne Bay Football Club

(Affiliated to K.C.F.A.)



Season 1951-52

Ground :
WAR MEMORIAL PARK

Colours :
1st XI. WHITE SHIRTS
2nd XI. BLUE & WHITE
QUARTERS

Telford Printing Works, Herne Bay

The Herne Bay Press of August 31st. 1951, in previewing the forthcoming season, revealed, for the first time, the intention of the Club, to, "...obtain Winch's Field for their home ground, and prepare it at a cost of £1,000....". The report goes on to say; "the present lack of their own ground is a great handicap, and limits the class of football for which they could enter.

1951/1952 SEASON

For their first game of the season, Herne Bay faced a strong Cheriton side, on Saturday the 22nd. of September. The Memorial Park pitch was said to be in, "....fine condition...", and with Herne Bay fielding a weakened side, Cheriton took full advantage of the circumstances. Despite their dominance of the first half, the visitors led solely through a 24th. minute penalty. The second half, saw them turn that dominance into goals, and by full time, Herne Bay had suffered a 0-6 reversal.

Winch's Field....



Herne Bay were at home to Royal Marines (Deal) on Saturday the 6th. of October 1951. Toze put Herne Bay ahead in the 5th, minute, but half way through the first half, Russell equalised for the visitors. In the last minute of the half, the Marines went ahead when Datlen and Coulson left the ball for each other, and a forward ran between the two and slid the ball into an empty net. Coulson soon made up for his error, when he scored early in the second half, to put Herne Bay level again. Russell was on hand to put the Marines back in front, before Graves then put the game out of Herne Bay's reach, with his side's fourth goal.

On the following Saturday, Herne Bay recorded their first win of the season. Hythe were the home side, and the match was played on a pitch described as "wet and slippery." Hythe struggled to make any headway, and it was no surprise when Blackburn put Herne Bay ahead after thirty minutes. Just three minutes later, Winskill lifted the ball over the stranded keeper, to consolidate the visitors advantage. Although Hythe had their fair share of second half possession, Miller scored a third for Herne Bay, and with Datlen keeping a clean sheet, their first Kent Amateur League points of the season were secured.

Although not directly linked to the History of Herne Bay football club, it is worth recording that on the same day as Herne Bay were defeating Hythe, another town side, Broomfield United, were recording one of the highest scores ever registered in the Canterbury & District League. C. Taylor scored six times, and L. Sands five times, in Broomfield's 19-1 demolition of East Kent Road Car Company!

Herne Bay continued in their winning ways in their next game. Chislet Colliery were the visitors to the Memorial Park, and Herne Bay were ahead, through Barelli, in the first ten minutes. Despite almost constant pressure, this proved to be the only goal of the first half. Blackburn increased the lead early in the second period, and shortly after, Bubb made it 3-0. In a storming last fifteen minutes, Chislet piled on the pressure, and Dickinson and Wilson scored a goal each, to pull the visitors back to 2-3. The Herne Bay defense managed to repel any further attacks, and at the final whistle, they could celebrate their second straight win, and their first of the season at home. The team responsible for that first home win lined up as follows.

L. Datlen, A. Coulson, A. Redman, C. Miller, E. Wells, J. Gadsden,
W. Elliot, R. Bubb, H. Blackburn, C. Winskill, G. Barelli.

Chislet Colliery were represented by :-

L. Johnson, S. Hougham, M. Serginson, V. Perkins, D. Deavon,
C. Baillie, C. Wilson, D. Dickenson, G. Johnson, H. Hubbard,
J. Dickenson.

One week later, and it was three wins in a row. On Saturday 27th of October, the team had a Kent Amateur League fixture, away at Birchington. It was Herne Bay who almost took the lead within thirty seconds, when Elliott's shot rebounded to safety off the crossbar. This was clearly a sign of



things to come, as Blackburn, Barelli, and then Blackburn again, put Herne Bay 3-0 in front by half-time. Birchington gave themselves some hope, with a good goal early in the second half, but a penalty, won and converted by Bubb, restored the three goal cushion. Blackburn then completed his hat-trick, and Bubb was given the chance to increase the lead, with the award of another penalty. This time, with the 'keeper beaten, his shot came back off the woodwork. Barelli scored Herne Bay's sixth goal, to round off a 6-1 victory.

November 1951, was something quite special, in terms of goals scored by Herne Bay.

On Saturday the 3rd., the Team made the short journey to take on Canterbury Post Office Telephones. The home side scored once! For Herne Bay, Bubb with four, Blackburn with three, Elliott and Goddard with two each, and one from Winskill, completed a 12-1 away win!

Following this victory, Herne Bay were in third spot in the Kent Amateur League, and, at that point of the season, the table looked like this.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	PTS.
Royal Marines (Deal) F.C.	8	4	2	2	25	16	10
Sandwich Town F.C.	6	4	1	1	23	11	9
<u>HERNE BAY F.C.</u>	6	4	0	2	24	14	8
Cheriton F.C.	5	3	1	1	18	8	7
Birchington F.C.	7	3	1	3	12	14	7
Bekesbourne F.C.	7	3	1	3	12	17	7
Canterbury Post Office Tele.	6	2	1	3	15	27	5
Hythe F.C.	5	2	0	3	11	12	4
Canterbury Gas & Water F.C.	6	1	0	5	9	26	2
Chislet Colliery Welfare F.C.	4	0	1	3	4	10	1

Two weeks later, the return fixture against Canterbury Post Office Telephones took place in the Memorial Park. This time, Herne Bay could 'only' manage five goals, with Canterbury scoring just once. Herne Bay's goal scorers were, Elliott, Blackburn, Bubb, Elliott again, and then Winskill scored, "....the best goal of the match....", to round things off.

Seventeen goals in two games was quite spectacular, but even better was to come!

On Saturday the 24th. of November 1951, Herne Bay were involved in a Kent Junior Cup tie against Canterbury Gas & Water F.C. By half-time, Herne Bay had built up a 4-0 lead over their hosts, with two goals apiece from Blackburn and Bubb. Thompson scored Gas & Water's lone goal within minutes of the re-start, but it was only a matter of time before both Bubb and Blackburn both completed their hat-tricks. By now, all the action was centred on the home sides goal, and Blackburn soon brought his personal tally to five. Winskill with two goals, and Elliott and Barelli with one each, had added to the total before Bubb notched his fourth, to round off a 13-1 victory.

One other statistic from this match that must not go un-recorded, is the fact that Herne Bay had a further six goals disallowed during the course of this match!!!



Out of the total of THIRTY goals in just THREE matches, eighteen of them had been shared by two players. Harry Blackburn and Reg Bubb had ended the Month with nine goals apiece!

In the Kent Amateur League Cup, Herne Bay were at home to Bekesbourne on Saturday the 15th. of December. The visitors struggled to contain Herne Bay's attack, and were trailing 4-0 by half-time. Fading light forced the teams to turn straight round at half-time, and although Bekesbourne did their best to limit the damage, the home side found the back of the net once more to bring the final score to 5-0 in their favour. Bubb continued to add to his tally with two more goals, with Elliott, Blackburn, and Winskill responsible for the other three.

HERNE BAY : L. Datlen, A. Coulson, W. Hall, C. Miller, E. Wells,

J. Gadsden, W. Elliott, R. Bubb, H. Blackburn, C. Winskill, G. Barelli.

BEKESBOURNE : C. Jull, J. Baldock, E. Bradshaw, N. Hopkins, R. Fox,

N. Carpenter, J. McCormick, A. Lunn, L. davis, E. Cheeseman, P. Weather.

Whitstable Reserves were the visitors in a Kent Junior Cup tie, played on Saturday the 12th. of January 1952. In view of Herne Bay's recent form, the final scoreline of 6-2 in Whitstable's favour, was somewhat of a surprise. Herne Bay found themselves 2-0 behind after just four minutes, and although Jack Gadsden pulled one goal back, as the result of a free kick, the visitors scored a third and fourth goal before half-time. Whitstable added a fifth goal early in the second half, and were leading 6-1 before Elliott scored a late second goal for Herne Bay.

On the same sports page that carried the above match report, the HERNE BAY PRESS, announced that a certain Eddie Davies would make his Herne Bay debut on Saturday the 19th. of January 1952 against Chislet Colliery Welfare. Eddie, who had scored hat-trick's at both Wembley and Hampden Park during his Schoolboy career, played either side of the War for Port Vale F.C., but had now re-signed amateur forms.

Eddie's subsequent career with Herne Bay F.C., was to be quite spectacular in terms of goalscoring..... but more of that in Volume Two!

One of the highest scoring draws in Herne Bay's history, resulted from the home Kent Amateur League Cup tie against Birchington F.C. With the sides level 2-2 at half-time, Birchington pulled ahead 5-3, before a late twice taken penalty, enabled the 'Bay' to end the game with the share of the honours from a 5-5 draw.

The following week, the team travelled to Bekesbourne, again in a Cup match. Goalscorers in the first two games of Eddie Davies' Herne Bay career are not on record, but in this match, Eddie's third, he scored two second half goals, as well as laying on a goal for Barelli. The other scorers in this 6-1 win were Blackburn, Elliott, and Winskill.

Coincidentally, the league encounter between Bekesbourne and Herne Bay, followed on the next Saturday. In a game described as, "...their poorest game of the season.", Elliott scored the only goal in their 1-2 defeat.



EDDIE DAVIES in 1952...

The nature of their defeat was further reflected in another comment in the local Press. "Their play deteriorated out of all recognition to that of recent weeks."

It was back to League Cup action on Saturday 16th. of February, when, in the Park, Chislet Colliery Welfare were the visitors. This was the last of the Kent Amateur League Cup 'group' matches, and a comfortable 5-1 victory saw Herne Bay through to the final rounds. Reg Bubb recorded a hat-trick, while Harry Blackburn and Eddie Davies each added one more goal to their seasons tally.

Since November 1951, Herne Bay had every reason to feel proud of their goalscoring record. 12-1 and 13-1 scorelines had been recorded in November. 5-0, 5-5, and 6-1 soon followed. A 5-1 had already been registered in February, when the team made the short journey to take on Canterbury Gas & Water F.C. in a Kent Amateur League fixture. It was Gas & Water who had previously suffered the 13-1 reversal, and this game was to prove little different.

By half-time, Herne Bay led 7-0, and by the end of the second half, they had increased their total to 12 without reply. Although the scorer of Herne Bay's 12th. goal is not recorded, Blackburn (4), Bubb (4), Davies (2), and Jennings (1), were responsible for the other eleven!

Later in February, the Supporters Club were able to hand over £500 to the Football Club, as a first instalment towards

their aim of raising enough money to allow the Club to take-over Winch's Field. They also announced that they would be opening a permanent Supporters Club office in Avenue Road, Herne Bay, from March 1st.

On Saturday the 22nd. of March 1952, Herne Bay F.C. recorded their highest ever score. Canterbury Gas & Water F.C. had already conceded twenty-five goals in two previous meetings during the season, and were to suffer further in this match, to the tune of one goal for, and fifteen against!

P. Swain scored for Gas & Water. Herne Bay's scorers, in order, were :-

Blackburn, Blackburn, Bubb, Davies, Bubb, Bubb, Bubb, Elliott,
Bubb, Elliott, Davies, Gadsden, Davies, Bubb, and Blackburn.

Winch's Field....



The score was 7-1 in Herne Bay's favour at half-time, and the match was refereed by Mr. G. Noble. The two teams were as follows.

HERNE BAY : L. Datlen, A. Redman, W. Hall, T. O'Connell, J. Gadsden, E. Wells, W. Elliott, R. Bubb, H. Blackburn, E. Davies, P. Jennings.

CANTERBURY GAS & WATER : L. Oliver, P. Collard, E. Brian, J. Tutt, C. Harlow, W. Tutt, P. Swain, ?. Pierce, W. Dudley, C. Winskill, N. Parker.

Gas & Water were two men short as the match was about to get underway, and, with regulations much more relaxed in those days, two Herne Bay players agreed to 'guest' for their opponents. They were C. Winskill, and Pierce.



I have managed to un-earth just one 'action' shot from a match involving Herne Bay playing in the memorial park.

I do however have three team photograph's from the 1946-1947, 1947-1948, and 1951-1952 seasons.

1946-1947 SEASON



Back Row : ?. Williams, Ron Harris, George Watson, 'Ginger' Pooley, Alan Clarke, ?. Roberts.

Front Row : Eric Wilmshurst, Alan Coulson, 'Titch' Willett, Ted Carter, Donald Baird.

Between Williams and Harris' shoulders, can be seen part of the gas holder which stood on what is now Herne Bay's market car-park.

Of the above players, Ted Carter still lives less than a mile from Winch's Field. Eddie 'Titch' Willett, born on 7th. January 1923, died of cancer on the 8th. August 1995, while Eric Wilmshurst passed away on Sunday 24th. March 1996.

Eddie Willett's family donated a trophy to be played for annually, and the first match for the TITCH WILLETT MEMORIAL SHIELD was played on Saturday the 10th. August 1996, when Herne Bay lost 1-2 to a Gillingham F.C. side.



Herne Bay are known to have played in striped shirts prior to the Second World War, and indeed played in stripes during the 1946-1947 season.

Quartered shirts took their place however, for the following season.

The team line-up below, is memorable for one thing in particular, and that is the inclusion of Herbert Schrader, an ex German P.O.W.

(See page for that story.)

1947-1948 SEASON



Back Row : Ted Carter, Alan Coulson, Dick Skelton, Ron Harris,
Eric Chillingsworth, Jack Gadsden, George Watson.

Front Row : Herbert Schrader, Cyril 'Dusty' Miller, Eric Wilmshurst,
Doug Toze, Jock Bissett.

Ali Eisentrager, the other ex German P.O.W. to play for the Club, was not in this Team photograph, as he signed for the team one week after it was taken.

Jack Gadsden was involved with the Club right up until the 1970's. I have in my collection, his copy of the 1970-1971 Athenian League Handbook.

Cyril 'Dusty' Miller was another who had a long association with the Club, and is a member of an elite band who played for Herne Bay both in the Memorial Park and at Winch's Field.



The first photographic evidence of a 'logo' type badge appears in this 1951-1952 season team photo. It is difficult to ascertain if there is any initials beneath the Heron symbol, but the shield it's self is certainly prominent against the background of the white shirts.

1951-1952 SEASON



Back Row : W. Hall, Cyril 'Dusty' Miller, Len Datlen, E. Wells,
Reg Bubb, T. O'Connell.

Front Row : Harry Blackburn, N. Elliott, Jack Gadsden,
Eddie Davies, Peter Jennings.

The building behind goalkeeper Len Datlen was formerly part of a garage complex, but now houses the 'Hippodrome' childrens play area.

During the season in which this photograph was taken, Reg Bubb (back row, second right), set a post-war record of six goals in a match, achieving this figure in Herne Bay's 15-1 drubbing of Canterbury Gas & Water on the 22nd. March 1952.

Harry Blackburn, (front row, far left), fell just one goal short of setting the record four months earlier against the same opponents!

Friday

HERNE BAY PRESS

November 21, 1952



Photo]

[Scrivens

A tense moment in front of the Bekesbourne goal during their match with Herne Bay on Saturday. Davies (jumping centre) heads to Silk

PLAYED
15TH NOVEMBER 1952

NEW GROUND OPENED

Football Club's First Home Game

The Herne Bay Football Club's new ground at Winch's Field was officially opened by Ald. W. F. Rule (Chairman of the K.C.F.A.) at a short ceremony in front of the pavilion on Wednesday evening, before Herne Bay's game with Tunbridge Wells Reserves which they drew 2-2.

Introduced by Mr. D. F. Rawns, Ald. Rule said how glad he was to see Herne Bay now among the senior clubs of Kent. Perhaps in two or three years time they would be knocking on the door of Division 1. To do this they must average a gate of at least 10 per cent of the population. He wished the Club the best of luck in their new venture.

Mr. E. Mills (Chairman of the Supporters' Club) said that 18 years ago he and a few other members visualised the day when Herne Bay would play their first Kent League game and now thanks to the voluntary work of the supporters club that dream had come true.

Mr. H. Lissenden (President of the Club) thanked Ald. Rule for coming to perform the ceremony.

CUT THE TAPE

Ald. Rule then cut the tape and declared the ground open.

For their match with Tunbridge Wells Reserves Herne Bay made one change from the side that drew with Chatham Reserves. Ward (ex Canterbury City) came in for Drewett at inside left.

There was plenty of start-of-the-season signs about the home side's play, sliced kicks and passes that went astray, but they were always willing to have a shot at goal.

The Tunbridge Wells approach work was good and by swinging the ball across the field the forwards were able to split the Herne Bay defence wide open time and time again.

In the first ten minutes when the visitors' defence was still settling down, Herne Bay were able to dominate the play.

During this period they notched their first goal through

across the goalmouth and inside left Dodd headed the ball home.

Herne Bay, since their opening goal, had not looked like scoring but during one of their few breaks away, Nunn, the Tunbridge Wells centre half handled in the penalty area and Miller scored from the spot.

Soon after this the visitors equalised through Pearce.

Bailey put the ball off for a corner. Butcher with an out-swing found Nunn who after several attempts managed to get the ball through to his centre forward who had no difficulty in scoring.

In the closing seconds of the game Tunbridge Wells made an all out effort to press home the winning goal. Butcher cut in towards goal and fired in a good left foot shot which Bailey deflected with his head and Smith had to make a diving save.

Teams were:

Herne Bay. H. Smith; C. Bailey, G. Northrop; T. O'Connell, P. Robinson, C. Miller; L. Northrop, E. Davies, E. Jenkinson, T. Ward and C. Taylor.

Tunbridge Wells Reserves. Fairweather; Jeffrey, Wood; Scully, Nunn, Wheeler; Davies, Farrington, Pearce, Dodd and Butcher.

particular is to get the right kind of people to be collectors, and for more people to come on to the Committee who are willing to pull their weight.

Winch's Field Project

"We are out for this great project to get Winch's Field. For years Winch's Field has been a liability to the town and the rates. If this work that we have undertaken matures, it is to be an asset. Instead of paying out there will be something coming in. Instead of waste ground, something of beauty, I think, will arise. The way we are going on now, it will take about six years to get that field in order—to get the stands and the dressing rooms and all the things that a football club requires.

HERNE BAY FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS CLUB

Membership Card

1953-54

HOLDER MR. W. GARDNER No. 1554

MEMBERSHIP FEE — ONE SHILLING



THE KENT COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

KENT AMATEUR LEAGUE

EASTERN SECTION

SEASON 1954-55

Express Typo. Dover.

HERNE BAY FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS CLUB

MEMBERSHIP CARD

1952-53

HOLDER MR. W.G.F. GARDNER No. 1530



● **FOOTBALL** ●
WAR MEMORIAL PARK
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1953
KENT AMATEUR LEAGUE
HERNE BAY v. MAINTON SPORTS
KICK-OFF 3.15 p.m.

● **FOOTBALL** ●
WAR MEMORIAL PARK
SATURDAY, MARCH 28th
KENT AMATEUR LEAGUE CUP SEMI-FINAL
HERNE BAY v. BOWATER LLOYDS "A."
KICK-OFF 3.15 p.m.

● **FOOTBALL** ●
WAR MEMORIAL PARK
EASTER SATURDAY, APRIL 4
KENT AMATEUR LEAGUE Kick-off 3.15 p.m.
HERNE BAY v. CHISLET COLLIERY WELFARE
EASTER MONDAY, APRIL 6
FRIENDLY MATCH Kick-off 3 p.m.
HERNE BAY v. CHISLEHURST ATHLETIC

ABOVE : Illustrated here are three examples of the regular match announcements that were taken up in the Herne Bay Press.

These from the 1952/1953 season, are of special interest, as they relate to some of Herne Bay F.C.' last home matches, played in the Memorial Park, during February, March and April.

OFFICIALS

President :
Councillor R. H. PARTRIDGE.

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Captain 1st XI :
J. GADSDEN.

Captain 2nd XI :
C. WINSKILL.

Committee :
W. G. Abel, D. F. Rawlins, E. Laws,
R. Taylor, D. R. Taylor, J. Thompson,
H. E. W. Hudson, A. Clevendon,
A. C. L. Coles, K. Standen, H. Moxon

KENT AMATEUR LEAGUE			CANTERBURY & DISTRICT LEAGUE		
Date	Opponents	Gnd.	Date	Opponents	Gnd.
1951			1951		
Sept. 22	Cheriton	H	Sept. 22	Dawes Institute	A
" 29			" 29	Bridge	H
Oct. 6	Royal Marines	H	Oct. 6		
" 13	Hythe	A	" 13		
" 20	Chislet Colliery	H	" 20		
" 27	Birchington	A	" 27	Thannington	H
Nov. 3			Nov. 3		
" 10			" 10		
" 17	Post Office Telephones	H	" 17	Tyler Hill	A
" 24	Post Office Telephones	A	" 24		
Dec. 1	Sandwich (League Cup)	H	Dec. 1	East Kent Sports & Social	A
" 8	Chislet Colliery (League Cup)	H	" 8		
" 15	Bekesbourne (League Cup)	H	" 15	Thannington	A
" 22	Birchington (League Cup)	A	" 22	Dawes Institute	H
" 25			" 25		
" 26			" 26		
" 29			" 29	Broomfield United	A
1952			1952		
Jan. 5	Sandwich (League Cup)	A	Jan. 5	Post Office Telephones Res.	H
" 12			" 12	Post Office Telephones Res.	A
" 19	Chislet Colliery (League Cup)	A	" 19	Broomfield United	H
" 26	Birchington (League Cup)	H	" 26		
Feb. 2	Bekesbourne (League Cup)	A	Feb. 2	East Kent Sports & Social	H
" 9	Bekesbourne	A	" 9	Chislet Colliery Res.	A
" 16			" 16	Wickhambreaux	H
" 23	Canterbury Gas & Water	A	" 23	Chartham Sports	A
Mar. 1	Birchington	H	Mar. 1		
" 8			" 8	Wickhambreaux	A
" 15	Cheriton	A	" 15		
" 22	Canterbury Gas & Water	H	" 22	Chilham	A
" 29	Royal Marines	A	" 29	Chartham Sports	H
Apr. 5	Hythe	H	Apr. 5		
" 12	Chislet Colliery	A	" 12	Chilham	H