



# Give our clubs your support on Non-League Day

**NLD**  
LEAGUE DAY  
04.09.10

## EASTBOURNE UNITED AFC

vs Pagham

Sussex County League Division 1

The Oval, Channel View Road, Eastbourne, BN22 7LN  
Kick-off: 3pm

### FIRST TIMER'S GUIDE

#### MATCH IN A SENTENCE:

County League champions in 2009 look to earn their first win of the season.

**WHAT'S THIS LEAGUE LIKE?** It's the highest of three divisions in the Sussex County League, one below Town in the Ryman League.

**WHO'RE THE TOP SIDES & HOW'S OUR TEAM FARE?** Crawley Down are top having played seven matches but Three Bridges are looking strong, having won all of their first five games. United are bottom

I'm afraid, but what better time than to get their first league win?

**WHO'S THE GAFFER?** Ex-copper Brian Dennis, an experienced manager who used to be head honcho at Hailsham Town.

**I LIKE THE PROPER GRASS ROOTS STUFF. WHAT'S THE GROUND LIKE AND WHERE IS IT?** It's in need of a lick of paint but it's close to the seafront and gives you a chance to sniff some sea air. From the seafront head up Channel View Road, past Princes Park and its on the right.



**IF YOU'RE a football fan living in the Eastbourne area and have never been to watch any of our four local sides, this weekend is the perfect time to do it.**

With no Premier League or Championship matches scheduled due to the international break, and England playing tonight (Friday), supporters who would normally go to a top flight game are being urged to 'adopt' their local team for the day instead.

The brainchild of Queens Park Rangers supporter James Doe, 'Non-League Day' has the backing of the Football Supporters Federation, Conference sponsors Blue Square and the

**A campaign promoting the grass roots game is asking fans of top-flight clubs to support their local side. With all three Eastbourne teams at home this Saturday, Andrew Raeburn puts the case for Priory Lane, the Saffrons and the Oval...**

Portsmouth Supporters' Trust. It has also received national press coverage and is spreading fast across the Internet, via fans' forums and club websites.

James, who stands on the terraces at Harrow Borough when not at Loftus Road, said the idea was inspired by the warm welcome he and his fellow Rangers fans got on a pre-season trip to Tavistock.

When he heard about Harrow's fundraising campaign for new floodlights, it dawned on

him how tight finances were at non-league level, and how much hard work goes in to keep the clubs afloat.

He hopes NLD will encourage those who normally go to watch big teams like Chelsea, Manchester United and Liverpool to take in a game at a nearby club, such as Raynes Park Vale, Curzon Ashton or Prescot Cables.

To help promote the day, and themselves, many non-league clubs are offering discounted entry to their matches this Saturday to those with season tickets

for their bigger neighbours.

Locally, Eastbourne Borough are offering everyone with vouchers cut out of the Airbourne programme into their match with Darlington for free.

Over at the Saffrons, Eastbourne Town are going a step further - they're waiving their usual admission prices and letting everyone in for nothing

James insisted the scheme was not a protest movement but an opportunity for fans to 'experience life at the other end of the football spectrum where many clubs are kept alive by the benevolence of hard-working volunteers'.

For more information on Non-League Day, visit [www.non-leagueday.co.uk](http://www.non-leagueday.co.uk).

## EASTBOURNE BOROUGH v Darlington

Langney Sports Club, Priory Lane, Eastbourne, BN23 7QH. Kick-off: 3pm

### A FIRST TIMER'S GUIDE

**DESCRIBE THE MATCH IN A SENTENCE:** One of the biggest of Borough's season, it pits Eastbourne's highest-level side against a club who last season were playing in the Football League.

**HOW DOES THIS LEAGUE COMPARE TO WHAT'S ON MATCH OF THE DAY?** The Blue Square Bet Premier is the top flight of non-league football, what used to be known as the Conference. It is one division below League Two and four beneath the Premier League.

### WHO ARE THE TOP SIDES AND HOW DOES OUR TEAM FARE?

Mansfield are currently top of a league that also includes the likes of Luton, Grimsby and York. Borough are 14th but have scored more goals than any other side so far (14 in six games).

**WHO'S THE GAFFER?** Garry Wilson took the reins back in 1999 and, together with assistant Nick Greenwood, has led the club from the Sussex County League to the top flight of non-league football.

**ANY WELL KNOWN PLAYERS?** Striker Richard Pacquette scored in front of

### Blue Square Bet Premier

Web: [www.eastbourneboroughfc.co.uk](http://www.eastbourneboroughfc.co.uk)

the Kop when Havant & Waterlooville played at Liverpool in the FA Cup.

**WHAT ARE THE CROWDS LIKE?** Borough averaged 1,217 per game last season but they should get more for this one.

**I FANCY IT. BIG GAME ATMOSPHERE AND ALL THAT. HOW DO I GET THERE?** Boro' play at Langney Sports Club, off of Priory Road, roughly between Bishop Bell School and the Crematorium.

**HOW MUCH WILL IT COST ME TO GET IN?** £14 for adults, £10 concessions and £4 children. If you want to sit in the stand, that'll cost you £2 extra.



**GET IN FOR FREE:**  
Anyone with a Boro' voucher from this year's Airbourne programme can watch the match for FREE

## Tunbridge Wells vs HAILSHAM TOWN

FA Vase first qualifying round

Culverden Stadium, Culverdon Down, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 9SG. Kick-off: 3pm

### FIRST TIMER'S GUIDE

**I'M FROM HAILSHAM. WHERE ARE MY TEAM?** Hailsham Town are away at Tunbridge Wells, of the Kent League, in the first qualifying round of the FA Vase. Make the journey, they're only nine wins from

an appearance at Wembley. **HAILSHAM? AT WEMBLEY?** Possibly. Whitehawk, who won Hailsham's division last year, got to the semi-finals. **WHEN'S THE NEXT HOME GAME?** Tuesday night vs. Sidley. The ground is tucked away off Western Road.



## EASTBOURNE TOWN v Walton & Hersham

Ryman League Division One South

The Saffrons, Compton Place Road, Eastbourne, BN21 1DU. Kick-off: 3pm  
Web: [www.eastbournetownfc.com](http://www.eastbournetownfc.com)

### A FIRST TIMER'S GUIDE

**DESCRIBE THE MATCH IN A SENTENCE:** The oldest senior football club in Sussex (Town came into being in 1881) against a club who were two different teams until a merger in 1945 (think of it as the opposite of East and West Germany).

**HOW DOES THIS LEAGUE COMPARE TO WHAT'S ON MATCH OF THE DAY?** The Ryman League Division One South is three divisions below Borough's Blue Square Bet Premier and therefore seven below the Premier League.

**WHO ARE THE TOP SIDES AND HOW DOES OUR TEAM FARE?** Burgess Hill and Faversham, who have both played three games, are making the early running but Godalming, Metropolitan Police and Chatham have won both of their first two games. Town are unbeaten, but with two draws sit 16th. Like Borough, however, they are full of goals - they drew 4-4 with Sittingbourne on August 25.

**WHO'S THE GAFFER?** Danny Bloor assumed control in January after previous manager Ady Colwell carried the can for the club's poor league position. Bloor has previously been in charge of Sussex rivals Burgess Hill Town and Worthing.

**ANY WELL KNOWN PLAYERS?** Depends on how good your knowledge of local football is. Danny Simmonds, a former Brighton youth, is an experienced head in midfield, Ashley Robinson is a crowd-pleasing ex-Crystal Palace midfielder and the team is packed with local talent such as strikers Sam Crabb and Evan Archibald.

**WHAT ARE THE CROWDS LIKE?** Town's average crowd last season was precisely 150, but with the freebie offer for a winnable home game at a ground which is most charming when the sun's out, that could be increased.

**FREEBIE OFFER, YOU SAY?** Yep. Town are opening the gates to everyone for this match as part of Non-League Day. Take advantage of it - the usual price is £7 for adults.

**YOU'VE CONVINCED ME. WHERE'S THE GROUND?** Virtually in the middle of town, the entrance is in Grove Road, just past the Town Hall. The ground, next to the Saffrons cricket pitch, is hidden from view by a wall.



## How a Harrowing story opened my eyes to the plight of the grass roots

Non-League Day founder James Doe writes for Herald Sport on the background to the campaign

"NON LEAGUE Day is taking place on Saturday September 4 when there are no international, Premier League or Championship games being played in England.

"As a result I'm encouraging fans who might usually watch one of these to go and see a non-league game instead.

"Primarily I'm a Queens Park Rangers fan and I came up with the idea after attending our pre-season match at Tavistock in July.

"Our fans were made really welcome and it was obvious how financially important the match was to them.

"When not watching Rangers I try to follow the fortunes of Harrow Borough, a Ryman League side I used to follow

obsessively as a teenager when I couldn't afford trips to Loftus Road.

"The last time I went to Earlsmead [Harrow's home ground] I was made aware of a fundraising campaign to buy new bulbs for the floodlights which shocked me into realising how tight funds must have become at the club.

"Non League Day is about getting people to sample football at community and grassroots level who might otherwise not even think about it and in so doing bring some vital funds into their local club.

"The response has been great with fans, clubs and leagues all pledging support. We've also received the backing of the

influential Football Supporters Federation who in turn have got Blue Square Bet fully involved in promoting the event.

"How successful the event ultimately is depends on how clubs and fans decide to market the day and whether or not they can get some coverage in the media.

"Lots of clubs are offering discounted admission with the most popular deal being 50 per cent off for season-ticket holders of Premier League and Championship clubs but there are a few freebies out there too.

**GET IN FOR FREE:**  
Town are waiving their usual admission prices.  
**EVERYONE WILL GET IN FOR FREE**