



Testimonial match for two Boro' stalwarts

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Lily chases dream of becoming a Gunner



AN EASTBOURNE teenager has her sights set on becoming an England international after being offered a place on the Arsenal academy.

The Gunners are the dominant force in women's football and 16-year-old Lily Agg (pictured above) has been given the chance to join their under-19 ranks in September.

She would have to combine the intensive two-year course with taking three A-levels, after leaving Bishop Bell School this summer.

Lily has played football from the age of five, starting out with Eastbourne Borough before joining Polegate Grasshoppers aged 11.

She has played for the Brighton and Hove Albion Centre of Excellence for the last five years and her talent has also been recognised at international level.

She captained England under-15s in a game against France and is

FOOTBALL

now involved in the England under-17 training programme.

But Lily needs some assistance if she is to pursue her dream of joining the Gunners. She said, "This is my greatest achievement and will give me a chance to become an international player."

"I need some help as my mum works full-time as a Macmillan nurse and I am not able to access any funding for talent or education."

"The reality is, with a brother and two sisters, the cost is not within our reach."

"If anyone, in any way, can help me get to Arsenal I would be very grateful."

Lily, who has been working every day recently to raise money, can be contacted via mum Ruth on 07920 087059.

SIX MATCHES TO SAVE OUR SEASON

Eastbourne Cricket Club's 'most important month in a decade', warns skipper

EASTBOURNE Cricket Club captain Mark Tomsett believes the month ahead is the most important period the club has faced in a decade.

Following the eight-wicket defeat to Brighton last weekend, Tomsett's men sit in the Sussex Premier League relegation places, with just

CRICKET

by Henry Milward

six matches left to drag themselves out of the mire.

But the Saffrons side have not won in five league outings and visit table-topping Horsham tomorrow (Saturday).

Tomsett said, "It's certainly a hard challenge and we'll be trying our socks off but they're a very experienced side and they'll be looking at us as a team they should beat."

"We've got to stand up, make sure that doesn't happen and fight tooth and nail."

A victory, or even a narrow defeat, could see Eastbourne climb out of the bottom two for at least seven days, but with a number of sides battling against the drop, it looks set to go down to the wire.

"It's very tight," said Tomsett. "You look at it and most people would think it'll be two from four – us, Bexhill, Hastings and Three Bridges but others could be dragged into it."

"It's down to us – we play those three teams in the next few weeks."

"The next month is probably the biggest the club has had since they were pushing for the league 10 years ago."

Tomsett is still not certain of the exact make-up of his XI for the weekend, and the captain insists it is this inconsistency of selection which has put the mockers on the 2010 campaign.

He said, "It's a massive factor. For example at Chichester a lot of their players are mid-20s, they've been at the club for five or six years playing week in, week out together, and it shows in their performance."

"We have players batting three or four one week and six or seven the next."

But the skipper is confident he can instil in his charges sufficient belief that they can beat the drop.

He said, "I'm not a massive screamer or shouter, but I try to do the right things, set an example."

"On Saturday I'll remind them they're playing for Eastbourne Cricket Club, remind them of the history, but they don't need reminding."



EASTBOURNE skipper Mark Tomsett, pictured here on his way to a century against East Grinstead last month, will remind his players what it means to play for the club.

"I'm confident we can get out of it – all the boys at the club are."

Tomsett is yet to discover whether he will have Sussex professionals Ragheb Aga or Ben Brown available at the weekend.

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A season in numbers...

26.....players used by Eastbourne in 13 Sussex Premier League matches

1.....league matches played by Sussex paceman James Kirtley ▶▶

4.....times Eastbourne have been bowled out for less than 120 in the league

3.....times Eastbourne have bowled out the opposition in league matches

0.....consecutive league matches for which Eastbourne have named an unchanged side



Bloor's new boys sharpen up against fledgling Seagulls



NEW BOYS IN TOWN: Brad Manton (right) and Sam Crabb congratulate each other after combining to put Town 1-0 up against Brighton.

EASTBOURNE Town produced an impressive display against a youthful Brighton and Hove Albion outfit at the Saffrons on Tuesday night.

Danny Bloor's new-look side warmed up for their Ryman League campaign, which starts at Chipstead on August 21, with a 1-1 draw.

Town were lively and bar a few defensive lapses looked a solid unit against their skilful opponents.

The additions of Evan Archibald and, in particular, Sam Crabb and Brad Manton gave them a cutting edge up front which was severely lacking last season – and it was the Crabb-Manton combination which gave Town a 40th minute lead.

Bloor's men had been under pressure for long periods. Danny Simmonds, who played right-back, was forced to head off the line from Leon Redwood and 'keeper Sam Reed produced a string of fine saves to keep Brighton at bay.

But as the first half neared it's conclusion, Crabb picked out Manton with a clever through ball

Eastbourne Town 1, Brighton & Hove Albion 1

and the ex-United striker expertly picked out the bottom corner with a first-time effort from 18 yards.

Bloor changed almost the entire team for the second half and despite battling well the visitors levelled through Conor Hider on 76 minutes, after good work from England under-17 international Jake Caskey.

After the match, Bloor said, "I was very pleased. I wouldn't want to single out individuals but the three boys we've got from County League football – Brad Manton, Sam Crabb and Sam Reed – I've been impressed with them."

The Town boss is also targeting another addition to his squad in Brett Patton, whom he labelled 'one of the best midfielders in Sussex'.

He said, "He's a player I've admired for a long while now. I'm very confident he will sign."

Patton is a former Eastbourne Borough reserve, and impressed

for the second string in the same midfield as current Sports first-teamer Simon Johnson during the 2008/09 campaign.

He was at Worthing last term, managing 33 outings and one goal for the Rebels in Ryman Division One South.

Bloor has also paid tribute to his new coaching team. Town appointed Scott Harrison (head coach), Paul Wadham (goalkeeping coach) and Danny Simmonds as player-coach in a close season shake-up of the backroom staff, and the boss admits he is already reaping the rewards.

"Scott Harrison has been magnificent," said Bloor, "Him and Paul have been really good around the place."

TOWN STARTING XI: Reed, Simmonds, Storrie, Carruthers, Brooks, Altendorf, Patton, Davidson, Archibald, S. Crabb, B. Manton.