

THE GATE

The Official Matchday Magazine of Margate Football Club

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Tonbridge Angels
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Next Home

Saturday 19 August
v Leiston

Away Travel

Saturday 26 August
v Wingate & Finchley

Wingate play their home games at the Harry Abrahams Stadium which currently has a capacity of around 1,500 fans.

Although the stadium is dominated by the old grandstand the rest of the ground is generally neat and tidy. Opposite the grandstand is a covered standing enclosure named the Jack Fisk Stand and has a large clock perched on top of it.

Behind both goals there is a small amount of concrete terracing although only one end has cover. For a team currently in step four of the Non-League pyramid the Harry Abrahams Stadium is more than good enough for that standard of football and would certainly not look out of place in a higher league.

Welcome

Good evening and welcome to Hartsdown Park for tonight's Bostik Premier League fixture against Tonbridge Angels.

I am sure you will all join me in welcoming our visitors to Hartsdown Park and hopefully they enjoy everything Margate FC has to offer. What a historic night tonight will prove to be with the first competitive match taking place on the 3G pitch at Hartsdown Park.

It has been a whirlwind of a summer at Hartsdown Park with the new pitch installed, a new squad being formed by Steve Watt and his staff and also various changes around the ground at Hartsdown Park.

Something else we have improved is the Matchday Magazine that I hope you will like and enjoy. A new modern look whilst re-introducing some fantastic features was the remit and I would like to think we have achieved this.

Enjoy today's Matchday Magazine and the game of course and we will see you back here on Saturday as we entertain Leiston in our next Bostik Premier League fixture.

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GOALS. That's where the glory is. Wearing the number nine on your back, banging them in and being hailed as the hero.

As kids, most of us dream of scoring the winning goal in the World Cup final. For Non-League fans it might be the winner in the Red Insure Cup, who knows. But it's always the defining strike.

But there's also those who dream of stopping the goals. Non-League has its fair share of talent in that department too. Here is a look at just a few defenders who have gone on to bigger things.

Chris Smalling - Maidstone United

Perhaps one of the most famous, given he's gone onto play for Manchester United and England. Smalling was fresh out of Millwall when he arrived at the Stones' youth set-up.

He made his debut in the Kent Senior Cup and eventually made his Ryman League debut in December 2007 against Harlow Town.

In total he made 11 appearances for the Kent club, and scored one goal against East Thurrock United, before Fulham came calling.

Ten years later he has 31 caps for his country, has played in a World Cup, won two Premier League titles - and been sent off in an FA Cup final.

Ashley Williams - Everton

Williams made a big impact at Hednesford Town. But his mum Lyn wanted more recognition and phoned The NLP offices demanding stories to showcase her son's undoubted talent.

Williams always believed he would make it in the professional game if he was given a chance. When Oldham were interested but would only pay £5,000 of the £20,000 asking price, he weighed up the idea of asking banks for a loan.

Out-of-contact four months later, his college tutor and coach at Cannock Chase Technical College Andy Blakeley persuaded Williams, with four months left on his contract, that would be unwise.

Sure enough he got a move to Stockport County and later helped Swansea win promotion to the Premier League.

Last summer he was Wales' captain as they starred at Euro 2016 and sealed a £12million move to Everton.

Alfie Mawson - Swansea City

OK, so perhaps not strictly a Non-League player, Mawson did have loan spells in the Conference South with Maidenhead United and the Conference Premier with Luton Town - cut short by injury - and Welling United.

Five years on and after impressing at Barnsley, he's a regular in the Premier League with Swansea and was a mainstay in the England U21 back four that reached the semi-final in the recent Euro 2017 U21 tournament. Keep an eye out.

Marc Roberts - Birmingham City

Barnsley have found Non-League football to be a seriously profitable place. Last season three of the Championship side's back four had played at this level. Andy Yiadom, who is being tipped for a Premier League move and has been capped by Ghana, former Salisbury City and Torquay man Angus MacDonald and Marc Roberts.

Roberts isn't like many footballers who have dropped out of academies. He's gone up the hard way. Starting out at Wakefield, Worksop Town and Buxton, where he was spotted by FC Halifax Town boss Neil Aspin.

One of his Shay team-mates contacted me to predict Roberts will play in the Premier League. Big, powerful, a monster throw, the degree-educated centre back moved to Birmingham this summer after excelling for the Tykes. MacDonald has since been appointed skipper.

Aden Flint - Bristol City

Flint could be at Birmingham City too by the time you read this, but ten years ago he was playing in the Central Midlands League for Pinxton.

A proper out-and-out defender, Flint won the Conference North with Alfreton - with Burton Albion's Kyle McFadzean as his centre-back partner - and was capped by England C before Swindon Town took the plunge. Within two years he'd signed for Bristol City where he's been a popular figure. Not least because he scored a hat-trick against Walsall a couple of years ago in a season where he found the net 15 times!

A look to the future...

So who's next? Two to watch out for this season are Ethan Pinnock and Sean Raggett. Pinnock is another gem off Dulwich Hamlet's famous production line. Last season he stepped-up to the National League with Forest Green Rovers and was outstanding. So much so, that Barnsley - them again - forked out for him this summer.

Raggett has been one of the most talked-about Non-League talents in recent years. A colossal centre back, Raggett moved from Dover Athletic to Lincoln City before last season.

And the England C international was immense all years at the Imps won the title. He even scored the goal against Burnley that put Lincoln through to the FA Cup quarter-finals.

Imps boss Danny Cowley thinks he can go right to the top.

A Word from Watts

The future is looking positive



We Start a New Chapter Tonight

Good evening and welcome to Hartsdown Park for tonight's first home game of the season. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Steve, his players, management team, officials and supporters from Tonbridge Angels. I hope you enjoy your time with us and have a safe journey back after the game.

Tonight is a special night as it starts a new chapter in the history of Margate FC as we play our first ever competitive game on the new 3G pitch here at Hartsdown Park. There have been lots of positive changes for the club over the summer break, both on and off the pitch and I am excited for what the future holds for the club.

It was great to get off to winning start on Saturday and I was proud of the team, they all performed well and every player gave 100%. Thanks to all the supporters who travelled to Thurrock and got behind the boys, you all played a big part in helping to get us over the line, especially in the second half. It's never easy going to a newly promoted team away from home as they are full of confidence and

have built up great momentum, it's even more difficult when you don't have your full squad available for selection. We lost some key players to injury during pre-season which has meant that preparation hasn't been as good as it could have been for the last two weeks. Injuries are frustrating but are a common part of football and we are hoping to have a few of the lads back sooner rather than later. It's always important when starting a season to get your first 3 points on the board as quickly as possible and I'm glad we achieved that along with a clean sheet on Saturday.

Tonight we welcome a very strong outfit who I would expect to be in the playoff places or challenging for automatic promotion itself. They are an established side and will be a tough test for us this evening. Steve has built a strong and efficient side during his time at Tonbridge and our players and management are looking forward to tonight's challenge.

Thanks for your continued support as always. Enjoy the game.

Welcome Today's Opponents



Pictures from www.tonbridgeangelsonline.co.uk



Steve McKimm's

Tonbridge Angels

Tonbridge FC was formed in October 1947 and took the bold step of applying to enter the Southern League, then one of the strongest leagues in the country, for the 1948/49 season.

The founding of the club had been at the suggestion of local businessman Herbert Portch and he became the club's first chairman. The club took out a lease on the Angel Ground, named after an adjacent public house, which had previously been a home to Kent County Cricket Club, just a few minutes walk from the railway station.

In the early seasons the Angels, an obvious nickname, struggled in the league, but cup competitions brought some cheer. Starting in 1950 Tonbridge reached the first round of the FA Cup in three consecutive seasons, only to lose each time in replays. Their opponents were Chelmsford City, Aldershot and Norwich City respectively. The Aldershot game attracted a record crowd of 8,236 to the Angel Ground, while the last match, away to Norwich at Carrow Road, was settled by a late goal, which many thought should have been disallowed for offside. It was to be fifteen years before Tonbridge again reached the 1st Round, losing 1-0 at Dagenham in 1967.

The Southern League expanded to two division in the 1950s and Tonbridge were relegated from the Premier Division in 1962, but were promoted two seasons later having just missed out the year before. In 1964/65 Tonbridge lifted the Kent

Senior Cup for the first time but the following season were relegated back to Division One.

The 1960s saw two local players leave Tonbridge to pursue careers in the Football League. Goalkeeper Tony Burns signed for Arsenal in 1963 and full-back Malcolm MacDonald joined Fulham in 1968.

In 1972/73 Tonbridge were promoted back to the Premier Division and in the same season reached the first round of the FA Cup again. Charlton Athletic were the visitors to the Angel Ground and they won 5-0 in front of a crowd of 7,770.

The 1975/76 season ended in relegation but it was also the season that the club went into voluntary liquidation. Tonbridge Angels FC emerged from the chaos but there was another major problem just around the corner.

The club's landlord was the local council who wanted the Angel ground, a site just off the high street, for development. A battle in the High Court ensued before the club was offered a new ground at the north end of Tonbridge. What was begun by Albert Robson in 1948 was ended by the appropriately named Micky Angel. He netted the last ever goal at the Angel Ground, during a 2-2 draw with Hounslow on Monday 21 January 1980.

The club played its first game at Longmead Stadium on 18 August 1980, a Southern League Cup match against Crawley Town watched by an encouraging crowd of 707.

Hopes were high for the club's 40th anniversary season in 1988/89, encouraged by the appointment of former Tottenham player Terry Naylor as manager. But Naylor's reign ended after seven games and just one point, and the season ended in disaster as Tonbridge were relegated from the Southern League.

It took Tonbridge four years to win the Kent League and return to the Southern League.

They reached the 4th qualifying round of the FA Cup, losing narrowly to Yeovil in October 1991 in front of a then record Longmead crowd of 1,483.

That crowd was beaten in 1997/98 when Crystal Palace, then a Premier League side, sent their full first team squad to Tonbridge for a charity match in aid of two local hospices, a game watched by 2,412.

In 2006/07 the club reached the 4th qualifying round of the FA Cup again, losing 1-0 at home to Newport County. It was also a season in which Jon Main broke all the club's scoring records with 44 goals including 7 hat tricks.

Following an FA Cup 4th qualifying round defeat at Ware in October 2007 the Angels parted company with manager Tony Dolby and Tommy Warrilow was appointed.

In 2008/09 the close season saw a major ground development. The old covered stand, which had been transported from the Angel Ground to

Longmead in 1980, was a hollow shell except for a pathway and 200 temporary seats. It was completely refurbished and transformed into a smart 720 capacity all-seater stand.

In 2009/10 the Angels missed out on the play-offs but after a poor start to the 2010/11 season they embarked on a run of just one defeat in eighteen matches and put themselves in contention for a play-off place. That place was eventually won and Harrow were beaten 3-2 after extra-time in the semi-final to set up a final with Lowestoft at Longmead.

A nail biting match saw the Angels just edge out their Suffolk visitors 4-3 to take their place for the first time in the Football Conference South Division - their highest ever place in the non-league pyramid.

Manager Tommy Warrilow resigned at the end of the 2013/14 season and his place was taken by Steve McKimm who had been coach at Sutton Utd and whilst his first season in charge saw a flirtation with relegation, there followed an immediate change in fortune with 4th place achieved in 2015/16.

We can be sure that Steve and his assistants Barry Moore and Justin Luchford will be once again striving to gain cup and league success for the Angels in 2017/18.

Four to Watch

SONNY MILES (Defender)

Came through the Angels youth system and apart from one season with local rivals Maidstone Utd from where he came back a stronger player, has stayed loyal to his spiritual Longmead home. Capable of scoring vital goals at set pieces and appointed 1st team vice-captain last season.



ALEX AKROFI (Striker)

Came to Longmead in November 2016 from Hastings Utd and made a significant impact hitting the back of the net for the Angels 15 times in that season. Alex's other previous clubs are Maidstone Utd and Concord Rangers. Plenty of pace makes him a genuine threat to opposition defences.



NATHAN ELDER (Striker)

Put simply, a goal scoring machine for the Angels. There is however much more to Nathan's game than just simply scoring goals. His aerial prowess and hold up play provide a great outlet allowing other teammates to become involved and taking the pressure of his defence. Since his arrival in March 2015 when his efforts helped to avoid relegation, he has been banging in the goals with his Angels career tally at the end of last season standing at 53. Joined us from Dover Athletic but also includes Billericay Town, Brighton & Hove Albion and Ebbsfleet Utd as other previous clubs.



TOM PARKINSON (Midfield)

One of our longest continuously serving 1st team players, Tom joined from Leatherhead in June 2014 with other previous clubs listed as Maidstone Utd and Ramsgate. Usually employed in the heart of midfield but equally capable of performing in central defence, he has an appetite for scoring goals from open play or at set pieces. Runner up three years in succession in the Supporters Player of the Year competition demonstrates 'Parky's' consistently high performances in which he lets his playing do the talking. Deservedly appointed 1st team captain last season.



The Squad

STEVE McKIMM (Manager)

Appointed Tonbridge Angels manager in May 2014 from Sutton Utd. As a central midfielder Steve represented with distinction Hayes, Kingstorian, and Ebbsfleet Utd before joining Sutton in May 2008.

JONATHAN HENLY (Goalkeeper)

Joined the Angels in August 2018, having previously been with Hemel Hempstead Town.

LIAM SMITH (Defender)

An exciting young prospect who broke into the Angels 1st team from the club's successful youth system.

CRAIG STONE (Defender)

Experienced player who can operate at full back or in central defence. Arrived at Longmead in July 2017 from National League South side Eastbourne Borough.

JEYASIVASIVAPATHASUNDARAM (JEYA SIVA) (Defender)

Another of Steve's summer 2017 signings, Jeya keeps calm under pressure and always looks to pick a pass when clearing his lines.

GEORGE BEAVAN (Defender)

Joined the club in July 2016 having previously been 1st team captain at Billericay Town.

CALLUM ADONIS-TAYLOR (Defender)

A successful product of our youth system, Callum broke into the 1st team from our U18 side last season.

CHRIS KINNEAR (Midfield)

A ball winning central midfielder capable of turning defence into attack in the blink of an eye. A summer 2017 signing for the Angels from Dover Athletic.

DAMIAN SCANNELL (Midfield)

Arrived at Longmead from Dulwich Hamlet during the summer of 2016.

LUKE BLEWDEN (Midfield)

Re-joined the club at the start of the 2015/16 season from Lewes. Came through our youth system before graduating to the 1st team.

DOM WELSH (Midfield)

Broke into the 1st team last season from the U18s and Reserves and despite his modest size is a tenacious ball winner who shows tremendous potential.

JOE TURNER (Midfield)

A talented left sided player who joined the Angels in August 2017 from Kingstorian.

TOMMY WHITNELL (Striker)

One of Steve McKimm's first signings during the summer of 2014.

DANIEL THOMPSON (Striker)

Arrived at Longmead in January 2017 from fellow Bostik Premier club Burgess Hill Town.

ANDRE McCOLLIN (Striker)

Suffered the misfortune of a leg fracture last season having joined the club just one month previous. Battled his way back to full fitness last February and is determined to show supporters this season what they have been missing.

TASHI-JAY KWAYIE (Striker)

Another product of the Angels successful youth system, Tash signed for the 1st team at the start of last season.

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This season is a fresh start for everybody here at Margate.

Chris Sessegnon talks to Ryan Day

Margate Defender Chris Sessegnon is hoping for a good season at Margate after extending his stay at Hartsdown Park this summer.

Sessegnon signed for the Blues last September and was part of the squad that endured relegation from the Vanarama National League South. However, the former Ebbsfleet United and Leatherhead defender predicts a much brighter season for the 'Gate.

"We have signed some very good players this summer. The Manager has gone out and bought in quality and everyone is looking sharp in training and I hope we can have a really good year".

After last season's relegation, Sessegnon is keen to put that behind him and thinks this season presents the opportunity for Margate to have a fresh start.

"It was a long season last year but now we have to look forward. I have played

with Watty before and have worked with Steve Brown for a few years and I know and like the way they want to play football".

In the summer it remained unclear whether the defender would extend his Margate career but Sessegnon revealed the vision of the club moving forward convinced him to stay.

"The way the club was sold to me by the management team was the reason I stayed. I know that I still have a lot to learn in the game and I know I can do that here. I am here to win games and hopefully I can do that here".

"Everything is in place for us to move forward as a club. Last year it was difficult to keep your head on the pitch because of everything going on off it, but now we have the new owners and the 3G pitch and the future is looking very bright."

2017-18 Fixtures & Results



DATE	FIXTURE	RESULT	STARTING LINE-UP											SUBS	GATE
Sat 12th	Thurrock (A)	1-0	Pidgeley	Sessegnon	Mills	Rogers ©	Friend	Wynter	Bodkin	Evans	Prescott *	Collin	Martin *	Sollis, Swift (10), Brown, Smith (9), McFarlane	178
Tues 15th Aug	Tonbridge Angels (H)														
Sat 19th Aug	Leiston (H)														
Sat 26th Aug	Wingate & Finchley (A)														
Mon 28th Aug	Dorking Wanderers (H)														
Sat 2nd Sept	FA Cup 1QR														
Sat 9th Sept	Worthing (A)														
Tues 12th Sept	Merstham (H)														
Sat 16th Sept	Tooting & Mitcham (A)														
Sat 23rd Sept	Harrow Borough (H)														
Wed 27th Sept	Leatherhead (A)														
Sat 30th Sept	Met Police (H)														
Tues 3rd Oct	Tonbridge Angels (A)														
Sat 7th Oct	Enfield Town (A)														
Sat 14th Oct	Thurrock (H)														
Sat 21st Oct	Harlow Town (A)														
Sat 28th Oct	Staines Town (A) - FAT 1QR														
Sat 4th Nov	Staines Town (H)														
Tues 7th Nov	Merstham (A)														
Sat 11th Nov	Brightlingsea Regent (H)														
Tues 14th Nov	Leatherhead (H)														
Sat 18th Nov	Lowestoft Town (A)														
Sat 25th Nov	Needham Market (H)														
Sat 2nd Dec	Burgess Hill Town (A)														
Sat 9th Dec	Hendon (H)														
Sat 16th Dec	Kingstonian (A)														
Sat 23rd Dec	Wingate & Finchley (H)														
Tues 26th Dec	Dorking Wanderers (A)														
Sat 30th Dec	Leiston (A)														
Mon 1st Jan	Folkestone Invicta (H)														
Sat 6th Jan	Billericay Town (A)														
Sat 13th Jan	Dulwich Hamlet (H)														
Sat 20th Jan	Tooting & Mitcham (H)														
Sat 27th Jan	Harrow Borough (A)														
Sat 3rd Feb	Lowestoft Town (H)														
Sat 10th Feb	Brightlingsea Regent (A)														
Sat 17th Feb	Burgess Hill Town (H)														
Sat 24th Feb	Needham Market (A)														
Sat 3rd Mar	Kingstonian (H)														
Sat 10th Mar	Hendon (A)														
Sat 17th Mar	Met Police (A)														
Sat 24th Mar	Enfield Town (H)														
Sat 31st Mar	Worthing (H)														
Mon 2nd Apr	Folkestone Invicta (A)														
Sat 7th Apr	Harlow Town (H)														
Sat 14th Apr	Staines Town (A)														
Sat 21st Apr	Billericay Town (H)														
Sat 28th Apr	Dulwich Hamlet (A)														

KEY: Blue Name - Goalscorer, x - Penalty, # - Own Goal, * - Yellow Card, * - Red Card, © - Captain, (2) - Sub appearance and no. of player replaced



Congratulations to Matt Bodkin who is making his 150th appearance for Margate this evening.

Familiar Faces

by Ryan Day

Fans from both ends of the terrace may find a few of the faces familiar this evening as players from both sides have strong connections to their rivals from across Kent. Four from our starting line-up above that do not need many introductions to both sets of fans tonight are:

Scott Chalmer-Stevens- The former 'Gate keeper signed for the Blues in 2006 after impressing then Manager Robin Trott in several trialist games. Scott went on to make 91 appearances for the 'Gate before in May 2013 he was appointed the Angels Goalkeeper player-coach.

John Beales- John Beales is simply classed as a legend by both Tonbridge and Margate fans. The centre half featured over 250 times for the Angles before making the switch to the Blues. Beales ended up making over 100 appearances for the 'Gate which included some time as the Blues skipper.

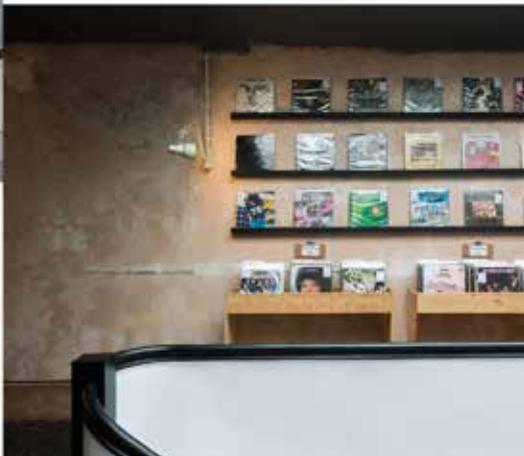
Steve McKimm- McKimm hasn't played for both sides but has in fact managed both teams. McKimm joined Margate in 2006 from Gravesend & Northfleet and made 60 appearances for the Blues which

also includes two matches as Caretaker Manager after Robin Trott was sacked. In May 2014, McKimm was appointed Tonbridge Angels Manager and remains their Gaffer today.

Tom Phipp- A strong Midfielder who has featured for both clubs. Phipp signed for Margate in 2015 from Ebbsfleet United. Phipp was part of the Margate side that won promotion via the play offs in our 1-0 play off final win over Hendon. When Phipp was surprisingly released by Terry Brown upon promotion he signed for Tonbridge and was part of the Angels side that just missed out on the play-offs. Phipp recently announced he was temporarily retiring for the season to focus on opportunities outside of football.



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We have the character to get results.

Frannie Collin talks to Charlotte Richardson

Thurrock 0 v 1 Margate

Margate kick started their Bostik Premier League campaign with a solid 1-0 win away to Thurrock thanks to Frannie Collin's strike two minutes in to the second half.

Margate lined up without summer signings Alex Flisher, Liam Enver-Marum and Harry Stannard as Steve Watt went in search of a win against the newly promoted Thurrock FC managed by former Gillingham manager Mark Stimson.

The Blues started the game strongest with David Martin threatening with some early runs down the left, however his early crosses were dealt with by a solid Thurrock defence. The visitors almost took the lead in the fifth minute as Jack Evans whipped in a low ball which was toe poked goalwards by Liam Friend although the home keeper saved well.

Thurrock threatened very little as Tom Wynter and Liam Friend marshalled the back four as Margate continued to dominate the possession without creating much. Margate Striker Collin continued to be the most threatening player on the park and almost gave the 'Gate the lead with an audacious lob from 25 yards which sailed inches over the cross bar.

There was to be just one more chance before the break and it was the hosts turn to threaten as some neat play led to Dennis Oli being free in the box but a last minute air shot meant the chance was gone and the teams went in level at half time.

Margate found the breakthrough in the 47th minute as Dave Martin produced some magical skill on the left before whipping a ball into the box which was superbly turned home by Collin for his first goal of the season.

Margate almost doubled their advantage moments later as Martin again crossed a beautiful ball into the box which Liam Friend headed at the far post straight at the keeper however the offside flag was raised.

With twenty minutes remaining the tide turned as Thurrock went in search of an equaliser. Dennis Oli was the first to get in a good position but his effort went harmlessly wide.

Wynter came to the rescue minutes later as he hacked an effort off the line to preserve their one goal lead.

The season started in positive style on Saturday afternoon with a professional and gritty display at Thurrock FC sealing Margate's first three points of the campaign.

A competitive battle from the start, a Frannie Collin finish was enough to ensure fans travelled home happy and the Gate striker was equally content with how the afternoon unfolded.

"I always like to get off the mark in the first game" said Collin, "But for us today it was more important to get the clean sheet."

"During the last few pre-season games, we'd let in a few sloppy goals, so keeping a clean sheet was massive for us and getting the goal and win was a great start."

Collin nudged the visitors in front shortly after the interval, being in the right place at the right time to make the most of Dave Martin's good work down the wing.

"I remember Dave doing well on the left, getting a yard on his full back and I gambled near post, met it nicely on the fall and it managed to go in."

"The first 5-10 minutes of the second half we pushed further up the pitch and it worked well for us. They put us under pressure as they threw men forward but we withstood that really well and Pidge didn't really have a save to make all game."

With just the one goal separating the teams, Collin believes Margate were able to show a different side to their game.

"One thing people might have questioned about us, considering some of the pre-season trips, was would we have the character to grind out results and I think today we've shown we can. Even amongst ourselves we have shown that we can."

"It wasn't pretty and we will play better than that and even maybe lose, but for the first game of the season it's about getting those three points whatever way you can."

The winning goal was scored just yards away from a good travelling crowd who Collin was delighted to send home smiling.

"The fans were great. It's a fair old way for them to travel from Margate. It's nice for us and the fans to go into Tuesday night after this win. It should be a good atmosphere against Tonbridge Angels and a game to look forward to."

This evening's game sees Collin take on his former club and he knows only too well the threat they will present.

"I know a lot of the boys there and they're always in and around the play-offs, so the aim will be the same for them this season. "

"They'll be there or thereabouts and they've got a good squad. They've recruited well so, for us, it's a big Kent derby and when you're playing teams you expect to be in and around the top, you want to take points off of them as soon as possible."

Besides being a Kent derby to savour, tonight is a historic moment for Margate as it's the first competitive game on the club's brand-new 3G pitch. Having had plenty of experience playing on the artificial surface at various clubs, most notably neighbours Maidstone United, Collin hopes the investment can serve as an advantage as the season progresses.

"It's a really good surface. They've relayed the surface at Maidstone with the same one we've got and the boys there are saying how good it is. I've also played at the one at Sutton which is good too."

"The pitch is as good as any artificial surface I've played on. There will be few moans from anyone about our pitch this season and hopefully we can use that to our advantage."

HOME



I am sure there will be some eyebrows raised

The Wait is Over

Good evening everyone and welcome to a very different looking Hartsdown Park for our first home game of the campaign. I'd like to extend a warm hand to The Officials, Management team and staff, players and of course the supporters of Tonbridge Angels and wish them well this season.

So, it's finally here. It seems forever since we saw Maidenhead Utd crowned as champions but the work literally started two days later. It's very difficult to imagine we'd have such a fantastic facility to be able to play on but credit has to go to our new owners who bought into our idea that having a 3G pitch was the way forward. The hard work done behind the scenes by Ricky Owen, Chris Chambers, Rob Marriott and Terry Painter along with the introduction of Charlotte Richardson is there for all to see. There will be eyebrows raised as to the reasons why

I'm sure, but for us to be able to build a sustainable club that can compete at the level we should be at, something drastic had to change at this club. Gone are the days people should throw money away, I've said since day one that it wasn't going to happen....and it won't! (not at this club anyway!!)

You just need to look at the ridiculous amount of money is now being spend in football. £200 million for Neymar? A reputed £110 million for Coutinho? The footballing world has gone absolutely crazy, and sadly that will filter down. It's almost becoming unaffordable for the football fan to watch their team if they compete at the highest level, and make no mistake, in time it will filter down through the leagues. This is the biggest reason why we've taken the decision to build the 3G pitch, it will enable us as a club to be more self-sustainable in the long term and all we

can do is hope that we can get the product right on the pitch to encourage as many people to come back through the turnstiles and support the team. We want everyone to buy into our philosophy and genuinely want to re-build this club into something that everyone can be proud of.

Speaking of on the pitch, I was delighted for the squad to get off to a winning start on Saturday. I don't think I've ever known a pre-season to be disrupted by so many different problems and issues, but I think a huge credit must go to everyone for digging in and not letting their heads get down. For Watty, it's been a bit of a baptism of fire over the past few weeks but I've been thrilled in how he's dealt with it. For me he's shown a maturity beyond his years and with having Brownny alongside him, has kept a very level head when others may have not. It's a long hard road ahead but feel

very comfortable we have these guys at the helm.

My final piece on tonight's notes is to publicly thank and applaud one person who has been through more than anyone at this club. Ryan Day has experienced the steepest and hardest learning curve for the past few years at this club, sometimes very unfairly. I'd love to let everyone know just what he's given to this club over that period but there isn't enough room on this column. I genuinely hope that he can start to enjoy his involvement again here at Margate Football Club, he has so much to offer all of us and I know for many of us within the club, he's an inspiration. Thanks for all you've done and I'm sure all you'll continue to do Ryan, you are a real club legend.

Enjoy the game.

Alistair Bayliss

League Table - Premier Division

Team	PI	HW	HD	HL	AW	AD	AL	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1. Merstham	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	1	3	3
2. Metropolitan Police	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	2	3
3. Harrow Borough	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
4. Leatherhead	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
5. Kingstonian	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
6. Leiston	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
7. Margate	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
8. Tonbridge Angels	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
9. Brightlingsea Regent	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
10. Burgess Hill Town	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
11. Dulwich Hamlet	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
12. Enfield Town	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
13. Folkestone Invicta	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
14. Needham Market	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
15. Staines Town	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
16. Tooting & Mitcham	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
17. Harlow Town	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
18. Lowestoft Town	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
19. Billericay Town	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
20. Dorking Wanderers	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
21. Hendon	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
22. Thurrock	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	-1	0
23. Worthing	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
24. Wingate & Finchley	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	4	-3	0

THE Bostik LEAGUE
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Player Stats

	League		FA Cup		FA Trophy		ILC		KRSC		Total	
	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G
Lenny Pidgeley	1										1	
Chris Sessegnon	1										1	
Tom Mills	1										1	
James Rogers	1										1	
Liam Friend	1										1	
Tom Wynter	1										1	
Matt Bodkin	1										1	
Jack Evans	1										1	
Lee Prescott	1										1	
Frannie Collin	1	1									1	1
David Martin	1										1	
Stan Waller	0										0	
Ben Swift	1										1	
Sidney Sollis	0										0	
George Brown	0										0	
Orlando Smith	1										1	
Khalil McFarlane	0										0	
Liam Enver-Marum	0										0	
Alex Flisher	0										0	
Harry Stannard	0										0	



Frannie Collin has opened his account for the season with the winning goal away to Thurrock on Saturday.



Player Sponsorship

 LENNY PIDGELEY Home & Away: TERRY SCOTT	 BEN SWIFT Home: DANIEL BOYLE Away: AVAILABLE	 LIAM FRIEND Home: DAVID MILES Away: BARBARA BAPS	 LEE PRESCOTT Home: AVAILABLE Away: AVAILABLE	 TOM WYNTER Home: ROB MARRIOTT Away: AVAILABLE
 TOM MILLS Home: AMBASSOR ELECTRICAL SERVICES Away: AVAILABLE	 CHRIS SESSEGNON Home & Away: ARTHUR SCOTT	 JACK EVANS Home: MARTIN BLACK Away: AVAILABLE	 ALEX FLISHER Home: RYAN BULLOCK Away: GRAHAM IVES	 JAMES ROGERS Home: ALISTAIR BAYLISS Away: AVAILABLE
 ORLANDO SMITH Home & Away: RICHARD DELLAWAY	 DAVE MARTIN Home & Away: MAGGIE LEES	 MICHAEL THALASSITIS Home: AVAILABLE Away: AVAILABLE	 STEVE WATT Home: PETER COCKLE Away: AVAILABLE	 STEVE BROWN Home: PETER COCKLE Away: SLIMMERS WORLD
 FRANNIE COLLIN Home & Away: STEVE & MEL WILLIAMS	 HARRY STANNARD Home: MARGATE SUPPORTERS CLUB Away: AVAILABLE	 MATT BODKIN Home: SWINNOCK FAMILY Away: SLIMMERS WORLD		

Margate Supporters Club

Good evening one and all and welcome back to Hartsdown Park.

With so many changes happening at the ground, a new playing surface, new dugouts, new club shop and a new home for the supporters club with the blue and white chalet now positioned by the turnstiles. Here you will be able to renew your Supporters Club membership, claim any winning 50/50 tickets, book away coach places and speak to members of the Supporters Club committee on any issue have as a supporter which you would like us to take up with the club board. There will be notice boards on the hut giving people as much information as possible concerning events and other goings on at the club.

Membership of the Supporters Club this year has been frozen again at £7 for adults and £5 for children and concessions. This year we would like to attract more young supporters to join us and will offering all supporters under 18 a welcome gift and they will receive a birthday card signed by their favourite Margate player. We are also looking into the possibility of a special draw just for Junior Blue and White members so look out for further announcements.

Turning to opposition tonight some of our supporters may have long enough memories to recall the days of Thanet United and a cold night in October 1981 when the teams met in the Kent Senior Cup with Tonbridge coming out on top by two goals to nil. During the game Thanet United had four new players unable to play as they had been signed too late under the Kent FA competition rules. It was then discovered that Tonbridge had played a player also

ineligible under the rules so Thanet appealed to the Kent FA. They were told yes the player should not have been allowed to take part, but instead of removing Tonbridge from the competition they allowed the result to stand and promptly changed the rules. Others will remember one of the fastest hat-tricks by a Margate player when Charley Side cracked in three goals in 7 minutes against Tonbridge in September 2007 in a 3-1 win and finally there was the supporter who turned up on his wedding day with his best man in March 1980 to watch the first half of the Margate Tonbridge league encounter leaving at half time for his 4pm wedding with Tonbridge leading 1-0. When he got to his reception he was greeted with the news of a Margate 4-1 victory. Don't think his best man ever forgave him for missing the 4 Margate goals.

In this column we will also be looking back on the record books to see what happened 40, 20 and 10 years ago.

13th August 1977 and we were away to Folkestone and Shepway in the Southern League Southern Division and came away with a two all draw with goals from Gary Bacon and Ian Cook.

10th August 1997 after beating Ramsgate a fortnight earlier to win the Link Music Cup we faced Trowbridge in the Southern League Southern Division at Hartsdown and a Paul Sykes goal helped shared the points

18th August 2007 home again in the Rymans League to Chelmsford and again we had to settle for a one all draw with Luke Coleman netting for us in front of 807 fans.



Margate Football Club
 Founded 1896
 Hartsdown Park,
 Hartsdown Road, Margate,
 Kent CT9 5QZ

Chairman: Alistair Bayliss
 Director: Rob Marriott
 Director: Terry Painter
 Director: Chris Chambers
 Director: Ricky Owen
 Director of Football: Steve Brown

1st team Manager: Steve Watt
 Assistant Manager: Steve Brown
 1st team coach: Mike Sandmann
 Fitness Coach: Matt Bodkin
 Development Squad
 Manager: Jay Stubberfield
 Head Scout: Sonny Gladdish

Marketing & Communications:
 Charlotte Richardson
 Football Secretary: Ryan Day
 Facilities Manager: Steve Albon
 Events Manager: Chris Lurcock
 Magazine Editor: Ryan Day
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If you would like to advertise
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ryan.day@margate-fc.com

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Margate **V** Tonbridge Angels

MANAGER: STEVE WATTS
 ASSISTANT: STEVE BROWN

MANAGER: STEVE MCKIMM
 ASSISTANT: BARRY MOORE

	Played	Subbed	Goals
LENNY PIDGELEY			
BEN SWIFT			
LIAM FRIEND			
LEE PRESCOTT			
TOM WYNTER			
TOM MILLS			
CHRIS SESSEGNON			
JACK EVANS			
ALEX FLISHER			
JAMES ROGERS			
ORLANDO SMITH			
DAVE MARTIN			
MICHAEL THALASSITIS			
FRANNIE COLLIN			
HARRY STANNARD			
MATT BODKIN			

Goals	Subbed	Played	
			JONATHAN HENLY
			CRAIG STONE
			JEYASIVA SIVAPATHASUNDARAM
			DAMIEN SCANNELL
			SONNY MILES©
			GEORGE BEAVAN
			ALEX AKROFI
			CHRIS KINNEAR
			NATHAN ELDER
			LUKE BLEWDEN
			CALLUM ADONIS-TAYLOR
			LIAM SMITH
			DAN THOMPSON
			TOMMY WHITNELL
			DOMINIC WELSH

Today's '12th Man'

Becky Wainwright is our 12th Man today as she celebrates her 23rd Birthday here at Hartsdown Park. Becky has followed the Gate for a few years now and has become a fanatic following the Gate home and away. Becky has also played a huge part in the success of the

Ladies Team rise up the woman's league.
 Everyone at Margate FC would like to wish Becky a happy 23rd Birthday

#InThisTogether



Match Officials

Referee: I Searle
 Asst. Referee: J Mckay
 Asst. Referee: Z Konkoly



"The Isthmian Football League strongly supports the FA statement that there should be a zero tolerance approach against racism and all forms of discrimination. Accordingly any form of discriminatory abuse whether it be based on race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, faith, age, ability or any other form of abuse will be reported to The Football Association for action by that Association." (The FA 0800 085 0508 / Kick it Out 020 7253 0162)



BANK HOLIDAY FUN

AT MARGATE FC

Monday 28th August

1pm onwards

Margate FC vs Dorking Wanderers

3pm Kick-off

Inflatable pitch games • Food and drink offers • Face painting

Chance for 11 lucky young Margate fans to be picked out the crowd to be mascots!

Half-time penalty shoot-out

Margator goody giveaways

Lucky draw for signed Margate FC shirt to be presented by Manager Steve Watt

Adults

£10

Concessions

£8

11-17 year olds

£5



Mini Gators
(Under 11s)

FREE



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