

The FINAL



AFC ROMANS vs. VALLEY ROVERS OLD BOYS

SUSSEX SUNDAY CHALLENGE TROPHY FINAL
THURSDAY 7 MARCH 2024 | KICK-OFF: 7.30PM

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



SimonRoe

P H O T O G R A P H Y

Official Photographer to the Sussex County FA



All photographs from this event are available to purchase in a selection of sizes and formats, just scan the QR code below...



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Chairman Gary Millis

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Sussex County FA.

SAFEGUARDING IS OUR TOP PRIORITY IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS HERE TODAY PLEASE REPORT THEM TO OUR SAFETY OFFICER / DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD.



WELCOME

Welcome to the Sussex County FA Headquarters for today's Sussex Sunday Challenge Trophy Final between AFC Romans and Valley Rovers Old Boys.

Should the score be level after ninety minutes, the result will be decided by kicks from the penalty mark.

We are pleased to extend a warm welcome to our match officials, and we congratulate each of them for their appointment to this game.

The trophy and individual mementos will be presented to the players and officials on the field of play following the conclusion of the match.

Please make use of the facilities, the licensed bar and servery will be open throughout for hot food, drinks and other refreshments.

Finally for those of you that embrace social media you can keep up to date with all the latest news from the Sussex County FA by following on Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok and LinkedIn.

Enjoy the match and have a safe journey home.

Thura

Thura KT Win
 Chair of the Sussex County FA



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ROUTE TO THE FINAL



SUSSEX SUNDAY CHALLENGE TROPHY

* Received a bye in previous round

FIRST ROUND

HOVE LAWNS	2	4	CREW CLUB HAWKS
HORSHAM CRUSADERS	6	2	WEST SUSSEX WAND.
HAYWARDS HEATH HAM.	4	3	WOODINGDEAN WAND.
HOVE LIONS	1	12	WESTFIELD SUNDAY

VALLEY ROVERS OLD BOYS	13	1	HOVE
RENNYMEN	3 ⁽⁴⁾	3 ⁽³⁾	AFC GORING
CRAWLEY BOROUGH	4	11	ANGMERING SUNDAY

SECOND ROUND

CREW CLUB HAWKS	5	1	*SEASIDERS
*WEST HOVE JAGUARS	5	3	*RUDGWICK PANTHERS
*AFC ROMANS	3	2	*BISON BEER
HORSHAM CRUSADERS	3	1	*HORSHAM CRUSADERS RES.

*ALDRINGTON RANGERS	16	3	*HAMPDEN ARMS
HAYWARDS HEATH HAM.	1	4	*AFC GORING
WESTFIELD SUNDAY	2	3	VALLEY ROVERS OLD BOYS
AFC GORING RES	0	9	ANGMERING SUNDAY

QUARTER-FINAL

AFC GORING	2	0	ALDRINGTON RANGERS
CREW CLUB HAWKS	7	1	WEST HOVE JAGUARS

AFC ROMANS	5	0	HORSHAM CRUSADERS
VALLEY ROVERS OLD BOYS	11	4	ANGMERING SUNDAY

SEMI-FINAL

CREW CLUB HAWKS	1	4	AFC ROMANS
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AFC GORING	0	2	VALLEY ROVERS OLD BOYS
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**THERE'S NO SPACE
FOR HATE IN OUR GAME.**

**ABUSE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
DISCRIMINATION WILL BE PUNISHED.**

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH



LOVE FOOTBALL. PROTECT THE GAME

AFC ROMANS



Pre-Match Preview: Charlie Martin

For Charlie Martin's AFC Romans, next week's Sussex Sunday Challenge Trophy Final could be the cherry on the cake of a remarkable season for the Shoreham-by-Sea side.

Yet as Martin is keen to stress, their road to the final was hardly straightforward.

"First up for us was a really tight game against Bison Beer," said Martin, "but that's a side we've played countless times over the years, and there's always not much to separate us, so that 3-2 win really had to be earned that day.

"That game in the Semi's against Crew Club Hawks proved again a difficult one, but in this team there's just so much experience, I was never really too concerned we'd be able to get the result we wanted."

This good form for the Romans very much extends to the Sussex Sunday Football League, where Martin's side are in the driving seat to win their division.

"Since the end of October we've won 15 games on the bounce," said Martin, "and there's been some good performances in there, but we're not the kind of team that go in and smash teams for six or seven.

"As a group we just know how to win, and once we go a goal up that experience just kicks in.

Such a consistent run can only be put down to an impressive performance from the whole team.

"Everyone has been a solid performer this season," said Martin, "but of course there are those players that have consistently stepped up, such as Dion Jones, who's bagged 24 goals for us.

"We've also got some great lads at the back, who would probably say that they should have got a few more goals themselves, what with the amount of good chances from set-plays that we've created.

"But overall a good solid squad and a great group of lads, and it's been a long time coming in terms of putting together a run like this together."

A long time coming it has been indeed for Romans, with Martin himself having first joined as a player nearly nine years ago.

"There are about five or six of us who've been with a club approaching nine years," said Martin, "we all played for a man called Jeremy Allan, who unfortunately passed away a few years back.

"Then five or so years ago I took up the player/manager role, but then I did my anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), so haven't been playing much this season.

"But this is a great group, win, lose or draw, we're all having a drink together afterwards and that social side, same as for many clubs at this level, is what it's all about."

Looking ahead to the final, just what kind of test are Roman's expecting against Valley Rovers Old Boys?

"It's going to be one of the toughest games we've played this season, that's for sure," said Martin,

"They certainly know where the goal is, but at the same time I don't think it'll be a goal-fest.

"It's a test we're looking forward to and one that hopefully we can come away with a win from!"

PLAYER PROFILES



George Watts • Goalkeeper

Has made some big saves for us this season, leader on the pitch and has a serious set of pins on him. The sides fortunes took a turn once his Grandad started watching.



Jack Stenning • Defender/Midfielder

New addition and has been great since we got him fit, good attitude but does like a set of tight trackies.



Jeff Porton • Defender

Man Mountain of a CB who's been on it from the start this season. Runs with a rather large parachute on his back at times.



Reece Dakin • Defender

Bleeds for the club, co-sponsor and having his best season by far but that isn't saying much judged on the rest of his career. Always leads the way in the yellow card charts.



Keiron Beales • Defender

Great addition to the squad, calm on the ball and often the sensible head in big games. 1 of 3 Romans needing a flight to Turkey.



Ryan Nutt • Defender

Skipper for the past 9 seasons, dependable and was solid until his injury. Keen wrestling fan. 2nd of 3 needing a flight to Turkey.



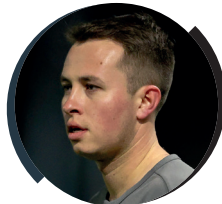
Jon Sklar • Defender

Adds some much needed pace to the defence and knows how to manage a game. The Darren Anderton of the team who once complained about his knee after knocking our GK out with it.



George Ewing • Defender

Slide tackler, Some of his pre match meals can be described as 'questionable'.



Connor Kirkland • Midfielder

The Dutch touch, one of our best technical players and always gives 100%. Often shares the rather large parachute with Jeff.



Jonny Gray • Midfielder

Works hard, does his job and happy to play anywhere. Holds the record for shortest appearance in Romans history at 37 seconds.



Scott Carpenter • Midfielder

Mr. Consistent, solid every week and gives loads at both ends of the pitch. Is being outscored by one of our centre backs this season however.



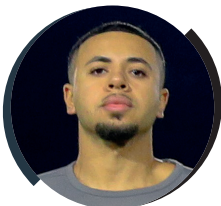
Josh Daly • Midfielder

Experienced head who knows the game and likes a wind-up. Suspiciously made his debut the week after we won the Divisional cup.



Ben Symes • Midfielder

Provides real quality in attacking area's and always a threat from distance. Stated in pre season he gets nose bleeds in the defensive half of the pitch, we've not seen him there since.



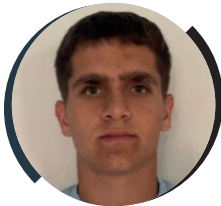
Dion Jones • Forward

Has led the line superbly this season, scoring important goals and always there for his teammates. Its about time he got in shape really we could of done with this a few seasons ago.



Omar Sattar • Forward

Hard working front man who had a stormer at CB a few weeks ago. Known to score the spectacular. Been working overtime to pay fines from a recent double header.



Taylor Harding • Forward

Youngster who has impressed when he's played, always listening and working hard. Yet to tell his Dad he wants to be a full-time Roman.



Josh Newman • Forward

Provides real quality in attacking area's and always a threat from distance. Stated in pre season he gets nose bleeds in the defensive half of the pitch, we've not seen him there since.



Louis Denyer • Utility man

The star boy of the team, a threat going forward and solid defensively. The next wannabe contestant for Love Island with a great perm.



A LITTLE THANKS
GOES 
LONG WAY



EVERY VOLUNTEER YOU NOMINATE
WILL KNOW THEY'RE VALUED



 **ENGLAND FOOTBALL**



GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL AWARDS 2024

**Who will you nominate
for an award?**

The Grassroots Football Awards are here, and it's time for you to say thank you to all the people and organisations who give their time to make football happen.

Our awesome volunteers give so much week-in, week out, come rain or shine.

They are the parents, coaches, clubs, leagues, fellow volunteers, match officials and more who give everything to the beautiful game.

Across Sussex we want to find these amazing people, share their story nationally, celebrate them, and just say a huge thank you.

Award Categories:

- Coach of the Year
(Male / Female / Disability)
- Grounds Team of the Year
- Club of the Year
- League of the Year
- Match Official of the Year
- Young Volunteer of the Year
- New Volunteer of the Year
- The Lioness Award
- Positive Football Environment
- The Bobby Moore Award

This season, our volunteers have worked hard to show the true power of football in connecting people, in building communities and enabling more players to enjoy playing our beautiful game.

Let's show them how much we appreciate their effort, commitment and impact!

**Nominations are open until
Wednesday 3 April 2024.**

You can nominate your club, league or organisation but you cannot nominate yourself for an individual award.

Nominations can be submitted via the England Football website which is accessible via the QR code on the previous page [8].

For further information about England Football Grassroots Football Awards please contact our Awards team.



Sussex County FA

01903 753547

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VALLEY ROVERS OLD BOYS



Pre-Match Preview: Ian South

For manager Ian South, the final holds special significance as he approaches the end of his 25th and final season with the club.

Yet, much like Romans, South's Valley Rovers have had a far from an easy run to the final.

"I remember as soon as I saw the draws we got that I knew it was going to be a difficult one," said South, "of course we started strong against Hove's reserve side, but then to get drawn to Westfield Sunday away was a real punch in the gut.

"But I'm lucky in the sense that a lot of our boys haven't won the County Cup, so there's that hunger in the group to make it each season, which always means they make themselves available for those ties, even if it means travelling all the way to Hastings!

"So yeah we got the job done and it was mostly smooth sailing until the Semi-Final when we had a real test against AFC Goring. But thankfully in the second-half we just went up a gear and got the job done."

When it comes to the makeup of South's side, it's very much one of experience across the board.

"What makes us so unique as a team is that 75% of us are over 40," said South, "and those players play in three different teams across different leagues.

"Along with that we're also an incredibly close group, made up of several fathers and sons, brothers, brothers-in-law', or even old school mates going back decades."

With such a tight knit group, South's keen to stress that each player has put in a real shift for the team this season.

When it comes to the final though, who does he see as being the difference makers?

"One of the first names that comes to my mind is Dane Amiet," said South, "he's one of those players that, if he was 6 foot tall, he'd be a professional, he's that good.

"Then you've got the likes of Lewis Cash, he scored two free-kicks in our cup final last weekend, and they were Soccer AM worthy!

"But it's a team game and everyone does everything together, be it walking out onto the pitch, or attending one of the lads' weddings in a few weeks' time - our social life is football, and it's proper Sunday football."

Of course, for South, such is the nature of being manager and secretary of a club, that there are more jobs he does do than doesn't at Valley Rovers.

"At this club the jobs I need to do day-to-day can range from being a bank manager to the kit man," said South, "honestly there's nothing you don't do, but you do it because you love it.

"But this is going to be my swansong with the club, and with this being the last trophy I'm yet to win, this is a game that I'm going to be well up for, that's for sure."

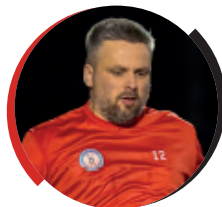
With that in mind, what South's message to the players going to be?

"Don't let your friends down, don't let the person next to you down, and enjoy it, because you just never know if you'll ever get to a final again.

"As a team, we win together and we lose together, but whatever happens, we can say that we put a shift in.

"For us it's more than football, it's meeting up with your mates on a Sunday, and that's how it should be."

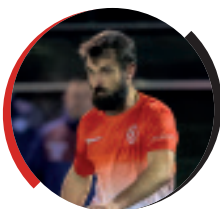
PLAYER PROFILES



Steve Thompson • Goalkeeper
Big voice at the back who will literally go through a wall for the team. recently made his on field debut for the vets too.



Ellis South • Defender
On his day one of our best attacking players and one that needs to play the game ahead and not the occasion. hoping for big things tonight.



Josh Bartlett • Defender
Big part of a successful partnership this season and one that never fails to deliver.



Rob Busby • Midfield Workhorse
Enjoying a superb run of form across all 3 sides and one of the highest appearance makes this season.



Dane Amiet • Defender/Captain
Started every game including the Vets recent cup win. Arguably our best player and always the first name on the sheet. Captain tonight.



James Rhodes • Midfielder
Superb gifted player who can unlock a defence with one pass, played a superb part in the 1/4 final win vs Angmering and will be a key player tonight



Jake Foskett • Midfielder
Was MoM in last weeks cup final vs horsham, playing at both ends of the pitch. On his day a superb player who is getting married in 2 weeks so this will be his last final as a single man.



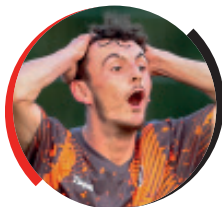
Chris Webb • Utility Genius
Team joker who will play anywhere put and always plays with a smile and one eye on the other pitch. Has a part time hobbie collecting pat butcher earrings.



Billy Cooper • Midfield Engine Room
Only games he misses are when injured, reliable and quality all rolled into one big ball of ginger loveliness. The ginger pirlu.



Nick Williams • Defender
Sweet left foot and another whos having a decent run of form after the christmas arrival of his little one.



Lewis Cash • Awesome Everywhere

What can you say about Victor that hasn't been said already. Class, hardworking and probably the most popular member of the squad. Scored both goals in last weeks 2-0 cup final BOTH goals AMAZING



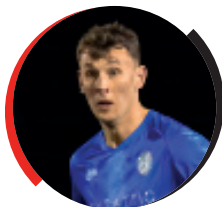
Ian South • Defender

Team manager who's happy to fill in any position that needed, kept 5 clean sheets and scored 3 goals across all 3 sides this season.



Ryan Warwick • Striker

Very skillfull player who embodies all there is about sunday league with your mates. Top scorer and one to keep an eye on tonight.



Tom Shelley • Midfielder

Fierce midfield battling box to box player who loves to get down and dirty and also seems to get regular cards from nice referees.



Lee Brett • Striker

Technically nippy striker who scores goals for fun and is another one who will play anywhere for the team across all 3 sides. Big part to play in the management team tonight.



Craig Marchant • Striker

Never on time and never warms up but despite his obvious lack of energy he has scored some superb goals when hes not talking. God.... can he talk.



Jason Gathern • Puppetmaster

With a wand of a left foot he loves to collect the ball and do nothing else but cut defences apart. He's been waiting for this game a long time. Hi Jeff.



Jack Dickens • Midfielder

Loyal servant to the club over the last 19 seasons and one of the few who's lifted the SCFA cup on two occasions.



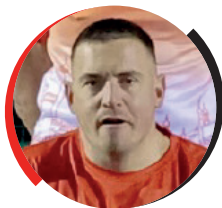
Alex Urben • Defender

HUGE signing this year BUT one who's currently on the treatment table with knee damage. Hopefully we will see him back on the pitch soon. Helping manage the side tonight.



Mattie Batchelor • Defender

Local celebrity who's as fast with the one liners as he was in his award winning jockey days. Helping manage tonight but relishing playing again after a new hip and a new spring in his football career.



Damon Cox • Defender

Back from a season long injury and starting to find his feet again. Unlucky with injury over the last 2 seasons



Alfred Otley • Midfielder/Striker

Amazingly fast player who has had to have limiters fitted to slow him down. Joined us this season and is a massive part of this years success.

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PREVIOUS WINNERS

SUSSEX SUNDAY CHALLENGE TROPHY

1967	PIDDINGHOE	1987	WHEATSHEAF	2007	THE WINNER
1968	BEAGLE AIRCROFT	1988	ROSE & CROWN	2008	REABURN RANGERS
1969	NEWICK RANGERS	1989	FORESTERS '88	2009	GORING RANGERS
1970	WORTHING ATHLETIC	1990	THE LION	2010	HORSHAM JUVENTUS 1979
1971	BIRDS EYE	1991	THE LION	2011	HILLBARN ATHLETIC
1972	BIRDS EYE	1992	WHYKE	2012	BL UNITED
1973	WHITE HART	1993	PAGHAM SOCIAL CLUB	2013	AFC SHOREHAM
1974	VOLUNTEER	1994	LAVANT SUNDAY	2014	UNICORN UNITED
1975	DURRINGTON YOUTH CLUB	1995	IFIELD AZTECS	2015	JARVIS BROOK
1976	EASTERGATE UNITED	1996	THE GEORGE INN	2016	BEVENDEAN ATHLETIC
1977	BUCKINGHAM ROVERS	1997	THE WHITE HORSE	2017	ROMANS OLD BOYS
1978	VOLUNTEER	1998	FORESTERS	2018	HANGOVER 96
1979	DINNAGES UNITED	1999	THE TOP HOUSE	2019	UNICORN UNITED
1980	BERKELEY SPORTS	2000	CROWN CRAWLEY	2020	COMPETITION CURTAILED
1981	MONTAGUE SPORTS	2001	COMPETITION ABANDONED	2021	COMPETITION CURTAILED
1982	BERKELEY SPORTS	2002	LANCING EMPIRE	2022	HASSOCKS FATBOYS
1983	BERKELEY SPORTS	2003	LANCING EMPIRE	2023	HOVE
1984	CROWN JEWELS '83	2004	BEWBUSH MANOR	2024	
1985	ALDWICK BAY ROWDIES	2005	COLOURFAST ALBION		
1986	ROSE & CROWN	2006	A C AZZURRI		

DONATE UNWANTED FOOTBALL KIT

Do you have any old or unwanted
football kit and/or equipment?

With the football season drawing to a close, many clubs may take the opportunity in the off-season to purchase a new kit. Players may also buy new boots, shin pads or goalkeeper gloves.

But spare a thought for that old football kit or pair of boots, what happens to those items now?

The Sussex County FA, together with charity partners Sussex to Africa, is encouraging all clubs and players to donate any of their unwanted football kit or equipment, so that it can be put to good use and bring joy to communities in Africa.

What football kit and equipment can be donated:

- Shirts
- Shorts
- Socks
- Tracksuits
- Boots
- Goalkeeper Gloves
- Shin Pads
- Footballs
- Trainers
- Training Equipment

All donations should be clean and kept together in a plastic bag, bin bag or box. Donations of both adult and children's kit and equipment is welcome.

How to donate:

- Drop into the Sussex County FA Headquarters in Lancing
- Contact the Sussex County FA who can arrange local collection

Sussex to Africa started in 2007 and is a non-profit organisation, aiming to bring hope and joy to communities in Africa through well coordinated sports programmes. It is a collaborative network of people and organisations designed to link Sussex to all things African.

The main objective of **Sussex to Africa** is to introduce and encourage street children and orphans to sport at the community level and to offer the children a chance to play a sport they appreciate the most.



Sussex County FA

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AFC ROMANS

GREY - BLACK - GREY
Manager Charlie Martin

VALLEY ROVERS OLD BOYS

RED - WHITE - WHITE
Manager Ian South

George WATTS (GK)		Steve THOMPSON (GK)
Keiron BEALES		Dane AMIET
Scott CARPENTER		Anthony BARNES
Reece DAKIN		Josh BARTLETT
Josh DALY		Lee BRETT
George EWING		Rob BUSBY
Jonny GRAY		Lewis CASH
Taylor HARDING		Billy COOPER
Dion JONES		Damon COX
Connor KIRKLAND		Jack DICKENS
Josh NEWMAN		Jake FOSKETT
Ryan NUTT		Carl JACKSON
Jeff PORTON		Craig MARCHANT
Omar SATTAR		Freddi OTLEY
Jon SKLAR		Tom SHELLEY
Jack STENNING		Ellis SOUTH
Ben SYMES		Mark SOUTH
		Lee THOMPSON
		Matt TIPLADY
		Ryan WARWICK
		Chris WEBB
		Nick WILLIAMS

OFFICIALS



Ciaran Bird
Thomas Philllips
Richard Lamprell
Olga Svailkevici
Malcolm Bowden

