

BURGESS HILL TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

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	BURGESS HILL TOWN FC Home: Green – Away: Yellow – 3rd Kit: White
From:	Roco Rees (gk)
	Hamish Morrison
	Bobby Price
	Reggie Ward
	Josh Spinks
	Marcus Allen
	Henry Curtis
	Ryan Worrall
	Harry Lawson
	Kieran Rowe
	Brannon O'Neill
	Jaden Perez
	Martyn Box
	Jay Beckford
	George Vorster
	Damien Theodore
	Ben Pope
	Chris Whelpdale
	Ade Gbolahan
	Tom Chalaye
	Alex Brewer

HEAD SHOTS OF PLAYERS CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.BHTFC.CO.UK

Burgess Hill Town FC Player Profiles

Roco Rees – Goalkeeper who joined the Hillians in the Summer. Roco started his career at Brighton & Hove Albion before departing the Seagulls and signing for Brentford B'. 2 years at Brentford passed by before departing the West Londoners and returning back to Sussex, signing for Adam Hinshelwood's Worthing in the National League South in 23/24. Hillians fans will recognise Roco as the keeper who faced us in the play off final against Sittingbourne. Roco played the second half of the season for the Brickies, making his debut in their memorable and extraordinary 0-1 away win at Southend in the FA Trophy.

Hamish Morrison – Now in his second season with the Hillians. The consistent defender enjoyed a fantastic first season helping the Hillians to promotion. Reliable right sided defender played 50 times for Whitehawk the season before and made 52 appearances the season before as he played a big part in helping the Hawks to promotion from the Isthmian South East. He featured in all the games that season winning supporters player of the year and was named in the leagues team of the year as well. Hamish was with Brighton & Hove Albion between the ages of 8 and 18 where he played 90 minutes at Oxford United in the EFL Trophy in 2017. A spell with Hamilton [Academical] for just over a year in Scotland followed before returning back South and playing for Haywards Heath Town and then secured a move to Whitehawk a couple of years later. The 24 year old has also represented Scotland at U17 level.

Bobby Price - Experienced full back who joined the Hillians last summer from Isthmian Premier side Horsham. Bobby enjoyed a great first season playing a major part in the Hillians promotion. The 29 year had been a mainstay of the Carshalton Athletic defence where in 10 years he notched almost 300 appearances and 26 goals for the Robins in a career that began at the age of fifteen. After relocating he moved to Horsham where he made 32 appearances last season as they enjoyed an excellent FA Cup run and reached the play offs. After making his debut at Carshalton in 2013, his surging runs from deep and knack of scoring important goals made his name one of the first on the teamsheet. Although suffering relegation in his first season at the club, he went on to win a Division One South champions medal with the Robins in 2018 and reach the play-off semi-final a year later as he remained in the Premier Division with the London side before the move to the Hornets.

Martyn Box - Full back who joined the Hillians originally on loan from Barnet in the 2019/2020 season and was made into a permanent move soon after. Local lad and a favourite amongst the Hillians faithful, Martyn loves to get forward and is a fantastic crosser of the ball with a knack of scoring some important goals. Alongside his playing role with the Club he also coaches BHTFC Junior Under 12 Girls team. Now made over 140 appearances for the Club. Boxy enjoyed a great season last year as he helped his hometown Club gain promotion back to the Premier Division.

Reggie Ward - Full back who likes to get forward and is now in his fifth season with the Club and the longest serving. He was previously on the books at Brighton & Hove Albion. Reggie is related to former Hillians manager and Brighton legend Ian Chapman. Despite being only 21, Reggie has already made over 160 appearances for the Club and last season picked up the Young Player of the Year award after an excellent season as the Hillians won promotion to the Premier Division.

Josh Spinks – Summer recruit who is no stranger to Leylands Park having made over 100 appearances for the Club. The central defender returns following a spell at Lewes after starting the last campaign at Haywards Heath but was signed up by Isthmian Premier side Lewes midway through, where he hit the ground running. Josh made 24 appearances during the second half of the season for Lewes, even going onto wear the Rooks captains armband in his short time there.

Marcus Allen - Now in his third season with the Hill after signing from Lancing where he won a trio of awards - players player, managers player and young player of the year award last season and was Dean Cox's first Hill signing. Commanding central defender who has previously played for Saltdean United, Peacehaven and Haywards Heath. Marcus is another who played a big part in the Hillians promotion to the Premier Division.

Henry Curtis – Tall defender Henry Curtis joins the Hill having spent some time in Ipswich Town's academy. Henry was a trialist in our friendlies with Three Bridges and at Havant & Waterlooville and has impressed enough to join us on a permanent basis. The left footed defender spent some time on loan at fellow Isthmian Premier side Hendon last season.

Kieran Rowe - In his fourth season and fast approaching 150 appearances with the Hillians having joined from Haywards Heath Town. He has picked up plenty of personal awards over the last three years winning Players Player and 1st XI Player of the Year last season as the Hill gained promotion and he made 51 appearances. The year before it was Players Player and Supporters Player of the Year awards to go with the Managers Player of the Year he won the previous season after many impressive performances in the Hill's midfield playing 47 out of 48 games. Versatile player who can also operate in defence. Never say die attitude and always gives 100%, Kieran has also played for Bognor Regis Town and is the second generation to wear the Hillians green and black after his dad Adie who played for the Club in the 1980's.

Brannon O'Neill – In his second season with the Hill. The Club Captain, who was top scorer as Hill gained promotion back to the Premier Division returned for a second spell after he appeared for the Hillians during the 2017/18 season in the Isthmian Premier. He made 17 appearances scoring one goal in that time. The dead ball specialist who has an eye for goal has also played for Crawley Town Whitehawk, Horsham YMCA, St Francis Rangers, Dorking Wanderers and Worthing where he enjoyed an excellent few years at Woodside Road. His most recent spell at Three Bridges saw him last season act as captain, first team coach and also Under 18's manager, a position he has held for the last 5 seasons. He played a big part in helping Bridges reach the play off final last season and has racked up over 200 appearances for them.

Ryan Worrall – In his second season with the Hill after joining from Isthmian Premier side Whitehawk. The popular midfielder played a big part as the Hillians were promoted to the Premier Division last season. Prior to his time at the Hawks he spent four seasons with Hastings United helping the club earn promotion alongside fellow new Hillian Ben Pope during the 2021/22 campaign. A roving midfield maestro, he was previously with the Hawks during their National League South days, and also played at that level for Eastbourne Borough. During that time with Borough he enjoyed a loan spell at Tonbridge Angels. A spell in New Zealand saw him play for Tasman United for 15 months but he returned to Sussex to feature for Horsham.

Jaden Perez – Summer signing back for a second spell from National League South side Salisbury FC. Jaden played for us 6 times under Jay Lovett on a short term loan, back in 2021, scoring in a memorable 2-4 win away at Ramsgate. Jaden is no stranger to Sussex, having spent his early years at Eastbourne Borough, playing for them in the National League South before departing Priory Lane in 2023. He then signed for fellow National League South side, Farnborough FC and remained with the Yellows until January 2024, until he signed for Salisbury FC in the Southern League Premier South. Perez played a huge part as his Salisbury team achieved promotion to the National League South in 2024, winning the play off final, via penalties. Jaden remained with Salisbury for the entirety of last season, playing 43 times in the National League South as Salisbury avoided relegation and remained in the division.

Chris Whelpdale - Signed during the 2024/25 season from Isthmian Premier side Whitehawk. Chris played youth football for Norwich City, Arsenal and Ipswich Town, but had to make his climb into the professional game the hard way, playing first for Maldon Town and then Billericay Town. He made the step up from the Blues to Peterborough United, and after playing more than one hundred matches for the Posh moved on to Gillingham, where another hundred plus appearances followed. Stevenage was his next stop, and he also spent some time with AFC Wimbledon before moving into National

League South with Chelmsford City. The experienced and influential player has also played for Eastbourne Borough and Lewes and played a big part in his first season at the Club helping us gain promotion.

Harry Lawson - Another player who has really impressed in the Under 18's and broke into the first team and seized his chance two years ago. Once he broke into the first team there was no moving him as he put in some excellent performances which resulted in him picking up the Young Player of the Year award in 2023/24. He totalled 29 appearances in the first team last season and scored once in a 4-0 away victory over Beckenham Town. Last season he was a regular and played a massive part in the Hillians promotion to the Premier Division. Despite only being 19 he has now made nearly 70 appearances for the Club.

Ben Pope - Powerful forward who re-joined Burgess Hill Town at the beginning of last season from Lancing and played a big part in Hillians promotion to back to the Premier Division. Ben joined the Hillians for his second spell at Leylands Park having originally scored 9 goals in 28 appearances in a short spell at the Club in the Isthmian Premier during the 2018/19 season. The forward has previously played for Whitehawk, Hastings United where he played a big part in their promotion to the Isthmian Premier, Lewes and Worthing.

Ade Gbolahan – Big striker who joined the Hillians in the Summer. Ade was top scorer last season with Southern League side Hertford Town having joined them from Northwood. Powerful striker who can hold the ball up well he has also played for National League North side Blyth Spartans and National League South side Eastbourne Borough for whom he scored on his debut against Concord Rangers before the season was cut short due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Tom Chalaye - Another to re-join the Hill last season but suffered an injury hit year. The forward was a league and cup winner with Steyning Town last season when they won the Southern Combination League and the Peter Bentley League Cup. A product of Aldershot's Academy, Chalaye was snapped up by Worthing back in 2019, with the striker making his Worthing debut as a substitute at Bowers & Pitsea in November 2019, scoring his first senior goal on the same night. After a successful spell at Pagham his Worthing career concluded with a move to Burgess Hill Town. From us Tom moved to Bognor Regis, where he spent some time with Chichester City on loan, before heading back to Nyewood Lane where he scored six goals. He joined Whitehawk last season in the Isthmian Premier before moving to Steyning helping them to a double before heading back to the Hill last season and playing a part in our promotion.

Alex Brewer - Broke into the first team squad two seasons ago after a hugely impressive start to the season with the U18's. He played a massive part in the Under 18's excellent season two years ago when he hit a superb 37 goals in 22 games including 9 goals in the FA Youth Cup. Big strong striker who looks to have a promising future ahead of him. Alex has also played for near neighbours Hassocks and had two loan spells last season at Eastbourne Town and Steyning Town.

Jay Beckford - Returned to the Hillians from Sittingbourne at the back end of last season and played his part in the Hillians promotion. He had previously signed the season before for us on loan from National League South side Eastbourne Borough. The 25 year old joined Borough towards the end of last season and originally came through the youth ranks at Arsenal playing for the Gunners U18's before he left to have a spell in Norway (playing for Lillehammer FK and Gjøvik-Lyn) followed by a spell in Sweden (playing for Ytterhogdals HK). He returned to the UK in 2022 and played for Isthmian Premier side Wingate & Finchley switching to Eastbourne Borough. Exciting winger with plenty of pace.

Damien Theodore – Damien rejoined us this summer on loan until Christmas from football league side, Gillingham. Damien signed a professional contract at Gillingham and has played in every one of the Gills first team friendlies, impressing for the Kent side. We are delighted to welcome back the teenage winger. He came through the youth team who made his debut for the first team on the last day of the 23/24 season. He lit up Leylands Park on his first chance last season when coming off the bench and hitting a wonderful strike to seal three points against East Grinstead before sealing a January move to the Gills.

George Vorster – Left footed winger who has signed on loan from Sutton Utd. The South African impressed on trial with us at Eastbourne Utd and scored our winning goal. A quick, tricky winger who is always looking to beat his man and get in behind, he spent time on loan at Isthmian South Central side Ashford Town where he won young player of the season.

Burgess Hill Town FC Club History

Burgess Hill Football Club was founded in 1882 and was a founder member of the Sussex County Football Association. The club attained the unique achievement of winning the Sussex Senior Cup three years running thus retaining it permanently in the process. The cup is on display in the trophy cabinet in the club boardroom. The current trophy was presented to the S.C.F.A. by Burgess Hill Town Football Club. In 1998 the club reached the Senior Cup final for the first time in 110 years but were narrowly beaten 2–1 by Hastings Town. In the club's formative years they were also founder members of the Mid-Sussex Football League, and won the League Championship in its inaugural season.

Following several successful seasons the club joined the Sussex County League for the 1958–59 season, and stayed until attaining promotion to the Southern Football League in 2003. In 1969 the club amalgamated with Worlds End F.C. and with the help of Burgess Hill Town Council were able to move to Leylands Park, the club's current home. In 1971, the club

gained promotion to Division One, only to be relegated two seasons later. 1974 saw the 'Hillians' reach another landmark achievement by becoming the only club ever to have won both the League Challenge Cup and the Division Two Cup in the same season. In 1976 a hat trick of achievements were completed by winning the Division One Championship by six points, having secured the Division Two title the previous season.

During the ensuing twenty years in the top flight of the County League success was modest. In 1980 the League Challenge Cup was secured and in 1992 the RUR Cup was added. However, all this changed in season 96–97 under the guidance of club manager, Alan Pook. The club became Division One champions by twelve points, won the Floodlight Cup, and were runners up in the League Challenge Cup. The 2nd XI finished runners up in the Reserve Premier and won the Mid-Sussex Charity Cup, while the Youth XI won their overall championship. In 1997–98, the club 1st XI attained even more success by again winning the League Championship and the League Challenge Cup, also reaching the last sixteen in the F.A. Vase. Additionally they reached the Sussex Senior Cup Final and were top of the county's merit table. The Youth XI also finished as 'Double Champions' in the sector.

1998–99 season saw the Hillians achieve a unique treble in winning the Championship for a post war record third time and again securing a league and cup double, back to back. The 2nd XI won their cup and were runners up in the league, missing out by a single point. Not to be out done, the Youth XI won their league and only missed out on a double by goal difference. All in all an historic season.

The club then welcomed new manager, Gary Croydon for season 1999–2000. He led the Hillians to take runners' up spot in the league and to a record fourth qualifying round FA Cup tie against Hereford United. Again, a last 16 place was achieved in the FA Vase as well as winning the RUR Cup and the Floodlit Cup.

The new millennium season saw Hillians take the league championship with the team remaining unbeaten in the league until April; the Club also had its best ever run in the FA Vase only being beaten after extra time by eventual finalists Tiptree United in the last eight, before a then club record attendance of 1598. With plans being laid for Southern League football, club directors, Gary Croydon and Eddie Benson appointed Danny Bloor as manager for season 2002–2003. The club was rewarded with yet another championship crown, the fifth in seven seasons.

Gary Croydon took over the Hillians again as the club entered the Southern League for the first ever time. After just missing out on the play offs, Burgess Hill Town moved over to the Isthmian League due to the restructuring of the non-league pyramid.

For the next few years the Club established itself as a Ryman League club with a few mid table finishes and twice just avoiding relegation.

In 2012/2013 there was an upturn in the Hillians fortunes. The Club returned to their original green and black colours. Former Brighton & Hove Albion player and coach Ian Chapman was appointed as Manager and he guided the Hillians to eighth place in the table.

2013/14 saw the Hillians achieve their highest ever finish in the Football pyramid, finishing sixth in the table and just missing out on the play offs by one point. The newly formed Under 21 side finished third in the Ryman U21 League whilst the Youth Team, under former favourite Ashley Carr, had their most successful season ever. They won the Ryman Youth League and the Ryman Youth Champion of Champions whilst also lifting the Sussex County Youth Cup. Two Ladies teams were also introduced as part of Burgess Hill Town FC and they enjoyed mid table finishes in their first season.

2014/15 saw the Club enjoy the greatest season in the Club's History. Ian Chapman's side were unbeaten in the league until mid - March and went on to win Ryman League Division One South title by 11 points and gain promotion to the Ryman Premier League for the first ever time. They also equalled their best - ever FA Cup run, eventually losing away to Dartford in the 4th qualifying round but having gained a memorable 3-1 victory at Sutton United in the previous round. In the FA Trophy, the club reached the 2nd round, finally losing at home to Dartford FC. In the previous round the team had beaten Aldershot Town of the National League 1-0 away.

A confident start to the Hillians first season in the Isthmian Premier Division before Christmas saw the team 8th in the league, but a disappointing second half saw them finish in 20th position. The club avoided relegation due to Farnborough FC being relegated for financial irregularities. The following two seasons saw the Hillians avoid relegation on the last day of the season to keep its Isthmian Premier status although the next season the Club were relegated and returned to the Isthmian League Division One South where after a few covid hit years have remained until this season after a super season last year saw Gary Mansell and Jay Lovett lead the Hillians back into the Premier Division following a play-off final win away at Sittingbourne on penalties.

Under the new owners of David Corney and Vicky Gaffney the Club are laying a new 3G pitch this season and are massively upgrading the facilities at the Stadium.

Burgess Hill Town FC Facts

Founded: 1882

Ground: Leylands Park

Capacity: 2500

Record Attendance: 2005 v AFC Wimbledon – 30th April 2005

Nickname: The Hillians

Best FA Cup Performance: 4th Qualifying Round 1999/00, 2006/07, 2014/15 & 2016/17, 2017/18

Best FA Trophy Performance: 2nd Round proper 2003/04, 2004/05 & 2014/15

Record Club appearances: Paul Williams 499

Record Club goals: Steve Harper 200, Ashley Carr 179

Biggest win: 12-0 v Saltdean United 2001/02 Sussex County League

Burgess Hill Town FC Honours

- Isthmian Division One South Champions – 2015
- Isthmian South East Play Off Winners - 2025
- Sussex County League – Division 1 champions 1976, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2003
- Sussex County League – Division 2 Champions: 1975
- Floodlit Cup winners: 1997, 2000
- The Sussex Royal Ulster Rifles Charity Cup winners: 1992, 2000
- John O'Hara League Challenge Cup winners: 1974, 1980, 1998, 1999
- Sussex Senior Cup winners: 1884, 1885, 1886
- Sussex County League Division 2 Cup: 1974
- Roy Hayden Trophy 2003
- Norman Wingate Trophy 2002
- Isthmian Under 23's Central Division Winners 2018
- Suburban League Winners 2007
- Sussex County Reserve Section champions: 1978, 1980, 1983, 1985, 1990, 1992
- Sussex County Reserve Section Cup winners: 1983, 1990, 1993, 1999, 2003
- Sussex Intermediate Cup Winners 1977
- Mid Sussex Senior Cup Winners 1993, 1997, 2002
- Sussex Junior Cup Winners 1890
- Isthmian Youth League Winners: 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016
- Isthmian League Youth Champion of Champion Winners 2014
- Sussex County Youth League champions: 1984, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2003, 2005, 2013, 2024
- Sussex County Youth League Cup winners: 1998, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2013
- Sussex Youth County Cup winners: 1977, 1984, 1992, 2000, 2005, 2011, 2012, 2013
- Mid Sussex League Champions 1901, 1904, 1940, 1947, 1957
- Montgomery Cup Winners 1940, 1957
- Mowatt Cup Winners 1946