



Whitstable Town FC 2019-20
A forgotten season that will always be remembered



The 2019-20 season for clubs at our level of football was terminated due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and shortly afterwards it was confirmed that the results would be expunged and no promotion or relegation would happen. The football played beforehand had some memorable moments, with plenty of ups and downs, and this is a brief review of the action from a Whitstable Town perspective.



Steve Clayton with Joe Brownett

A summer of change

It was all change in the summer of 2019, as the members club was transferred to a new limited company and long serving chairman Joe Brownett handed over to Steve Clayton, who had been the chairman of the Whitstable Town Junior Football Club. The two clubs came together under a new board with an objective of creating opportunities for young local players to progress through the age groups into senior football. The successful Whitstable Town academy saw increasing numbers which enabled two teams to be run and a new classroom was installed at the Belmont Ground for their education. A new reserve team was also entered into the Kent County League to give some of the promising players further chances to play adult football and Josh Algar took on the job of manager in addition to his academy role. There was also an amicable change of first team manager, as Scott Porter stood down having achieved the objective of returning Whitstable to the Isthmian League and stabilising things on the pitch after relegation in 2016. Former Whitstable player and Ramsgate manager Lloyd Blackman was given the job of taking things forward and he was joined by coaches Paul Murray and Mark Lane. Andrea Gencarelli was appointed the new physio and Brian Stokes became the kitman.

Pre-season

Following a busy summer of player movements and training sessions, pre-season started in early July with an evening trip to Thanet United and a mixture of new and returning players eased to a 2-0 win as new striker Marcus Elliott scored twice. This was followed by a hard-fought 2-2 draw at Hollands and Blair, before the first game at the Belmont welcomed the previous season's league champions Cray Wanderers, who ran out 5-1 winners as Joe Taylor scored all five for the visitors. Some impressive training sessions continued throughout this period, including one on a very stormy Thursday evening of 25th July, which became the hottest recorded July day in the UK. A trip to Folkestone Invicta to play for the Sid Burvill Trophy followed and despite a promising performance, the Premier Division team won 3-1. This game was the only one that Whitstable goalkeeper Dan Eason missed during the whole season and he was replaced by Henry Newcombe who performed well, before being signed by Folkestone after the game! An incredible contest followed against Margate who won 6-4 at the Belmont Ground, but that evening saw the introduction of Aaron Millbank, who came on as a substitute in the 60th minute and scored a hat-trick, before signing after the game. Another stiff test followed as North Division winners Bowers and Pitsea made the journey from Essex and left with a 3-0 win. The last two friendlies resulted in home wins for Whitstable, as a Bromley XI were beaten 4-2 and New Romney 5-0 on a blustery day, as the final preparations were made for the season in the newly named BetVictor Isthmian League South East.

August (DLWWL)

The league campaign began with a sense of optimism and a home game against Sittingbourne. Whitstable only had three starters who had played in the last game of the previous season: Dan Eason, John Walker and Tom Bryant. A few other familiar faces had returned to the club during the summer, including Jake Mackenzie, Luke Girt and Tijan Jadama and there were also debuts for a number of others. Whitstable created plenty of chances, but fell behind to a penalty that was the only Sittingbourne effort on target. The Brickies were reduced to ten men before the break and Tijan Jadama equalised in the second half to ensure the points were shared.

A midweek trip to Hythe Town followed and the highly fancied home team, who had surprisingly been thrashed 7-2 in their opening game at Burgess Hill, scored a goal in each half as an unchanged Whitstable slipped to defeat in a poor game.

The Emirates FA Cup was next and a home tie in the Preliminary Round to Newhaven, who went on to have a good season in the Southern Combination League, losing only three times and still in with a chance of promotion to the Isthmian League when the season was halted. They had beaten Crawley Down Gatwick in the opening round, but arrived at the Belmont with a young side and Whitstable eased to a 3-1 win. Tarik Ibrahim and Alex Anderson made their first starts for Whitstable, having been used as substitutes in the two opening games, whilst Taylor Fisher returned as a substitute after illness. Goals from Aaron Millbank, Alex Anderson and an own goal saw Whitstable safely through.

A bumper Bank Holiday crowd of 532 turned out for a local derby on a warm and humid afternoon to see Whitstable comfortably beat a surprisingly ineffective Herne Bay team. Connor Sanders made his first appearance of the season after completing a held-over suspension. Marcus Elliott, John Walker and Aaron Millbank were on target in the 3-0 win that sent the home supporters home with a smile on their faces.

The month ended with arguably Whitstable's worst performance of the season, as they travelled to the Bourne Stadium to play Sevenoaks Town and despite a goalless first half, a penalty soon after the restart gave the home team the breakthrough and they then cruised to a 4-0 win, although a couple of late goals probably flattered them a little. Whitstable ended the opening month in 13th place.

Debuts:

17th: Marcus Evans, Marcus Elliott, Liam Gillies, Tarik Ibrahim, Alex Anderson

20th: Danny Patterson

26th: Liam Dickson, Josh Spencer



September (LDDDLW)

The FA Cup Preliminary Round was a tough assignment for the second consecutive season, as Whitstable were once again drawn at home to a team at the top of the Isthmian Premier Division. Bognor Regis strolled to a 5-0 win in 2018 and this time Folkestone Invicta ran out 4-0 winners, although Whitstable only trailed by a single goal until losing their captain, Tom Bryant, to injury early in the second half. There

was a however good crowd of 503 and a return to the Whitstable team for James Brown, who first played for the club in 2011.

The first game in the new look Velocity Trophy group stage was a return trip to Hythe. Whitstable were missing a number of regulars and trailed by two goals until an extremely late Marcus Elliott double took the game to an unlikely penalty shootout, when the extra point available was claimed by Hythe after a 6-5 win.

Haywards Heath were the next visitors to the Belmont in a return to league action, with John Ufuah and loan signing Marshall Wratten both making their Whitstable debuts. An Aaron Millbank free kick gave Whitstable the advantage after the away team were reduced to ten men and despite a few chances to seal the points, a special late strike by Heath substitute Callum Saunders earned his team a draw.

Three days later, there was another 1-1 draw, although this time it was Whitstable that scored a late equaliser when Marcus Elliott found the net in the 95th minute to prevent newly promoted Cray Valley going home with maximum points. Whitstable suffered a blow when promising young defender Marcus Evans picked up a serious knee injury that unfortunately ended his season.

In a game both defences might prefer to forget, an encouraging start with an early goal by Josh Spencer and a late effort by Liam Gillies proved in vain, as Burgess Hill scored three times in between to send Whitstable home from Sussex pointless in their final league fixture of the month, leaving them in 15th place.

The last Saturday in September featured the FA Trophy Extra Preliminary Round and a coach trip to new opponents, South Central Division Chalfont St Peter. Whitstable travelled without five players and a number of socks, but after the chairman had purchased some more (socks, not players) from a local shop, a great goal by John Ufuah was enough to win £1.500 and a place in the next round.

Debuts:

14th: John Ufuah & Marshall Wratten (1 month loan from Dover, later extended)

21st: Leo Mazzone



FA Cup action against Folkestone Invicta

October (WWDLWWD)

The Kent Senior Cup got underway with a visit to Badgers Sports Ground to play Cray Valley on a miserable evening with very heavy rain and blustery winds. The sparse crowd saw Whitstable race into a two goal lead with goals from Harry Stannard, on his first start of the season due to injury, and an Aaron Millbank penalty. The Millers pulled one back before the break and piled on the pressure towards the end, but Whitstable defended superbly and held on for a 2-1 win.

Whitstable collected three points from their next home league fixture against Three Bridges with first half goals from Leo Mazzone and Aaron Millbank. Their opponents then had two players and their manager sent off, but oddly seemed to create more chances with nine on the pitch than they had with eleven. Despite squandering numerous opportunities to add to their score, Whitstable had done enough.

South Central Division team Ware were the visitors in the FA Trophy Preliminary Round and a great game ended all square at 2-2. John Ufuah gave Whitstable the lead against the run of play, but Ware soon equalised and then scored again just before the break. Dan Eason made some good saves, before Whitstable gradually got on top and deservedly equalised through Tijan Jadama. Both teams had good late chances, but a Tuesday night replay would be needed to find a winner.

Whitstable travelled to Hertfordshire to settle their FA Trophy tie. They were without a few players, including Marshall Wratten who had been recalled from his loan spell by Dover, but the team played very well on the night. A tight game on a nice artificial pitch saw neither side able to break through and extra time was required. A penalty shootout looked inevitable, but Ware scored in the last minute to break Whitstable hearts and earn a trip to Leatherhead in the next round.

Whitstable returned to league action again with a visit to winless East Grinstead who started promisingly, but Whitstable ultimately collected a comfortable three points, as Marcus Elliott fired in the opener and second half goals by Tijan Jadama and Freddie Parker, starting a month's loan from Cray Wanderers, sealed a 3-0 win.

It was the first home fixture in the Velocity Trophy next, with Ashford United the visitors. A trophy, sponsored by City Awards, was presented to Dan Eason before the kick-off as this was his 200th Whitstable appearance since his debut in October 2015. A Harry Stannard goal gave Whitstable a half time lead, but Ashford equalised from the penalty spot early in the second half. A penalty at the other end gave Stannard the chance to put Whitstable back in front and a stoppage time third by substitute Aaron Millbank ensured a first win in the competition.

During the week, former manager Scott Porter announced that he was leaving his role as Director of Football to manage his local team Hawkinge Town. John Walker also departed for Hawkinge, whilst a number of other former Whitstable players also linked up with their former manager at the Kent County League club.

The seventh and final game of the month saw VCD visit the Belmont and take a first half lead on a miserable afternoon of wind and, later on, rain. Dan Eason made some good saves to keep his team in the game and Aaron Millbank scored in the 70th minute to earn an under par Whitstable a point, leaving them in 9th place at Halloween. They had now only lost two of their previous twelve games and one of those was the extra time FA Trophy defeat.

It was later announced that Whitstable had won the AB1 Golden Gloves award for conceding only one league goal in October.

Debut:

19th: Freddie Parker (1 month loan from Cray Wanderers)



200 games for Dan Eason

November (LLLLDW)

After a consistent run of promising performances, November was a disappointing month, not helped by a disrupted league schedule and three Velocity Trophy games, two of which were played after Whitstable were effectively out of the competition.

The November 2nd fixture was the long away journey to Guernsey and after a lot of planning and an early morning departure, not to mention those that had travelled out a day earlier, there was frustration at Gatwick airport with no pilot available to take the team to the Channel Islands. The game was eventually called off and rearranged for a later date. The next Saturday was also a blank because scheduled opponents Hastings United were still involved in the FA Trophy.

There were a couple of midweek Velocity Trophy games in the meantime, with Whitstable first travelling to Ramsgate on Guy Fawkes Night. There were more fireworks outside the ground than on the pitch, as an under strength Whitstable team managed only one effort on target and the hosts cruised to a 2-0 win. It might have been more, but for a Dan Eason penalty save and the result left Whitstable struggling to top the group and reach the knockout stages.

The following Tuesday was a rather strange Velocity Trophy local derby at the Belmont, as Whitstable were unlikely to progress any further and Herne Bay were already out. It was certainly a night to forget for Whitstable, who conceded an own goal and two penalties, before having their captain, Tom Bryant, dismissed. A Harry Stannard goal was little consolation in a 4-1 defeat,

League action finally returned on the 16th with a trip to Brighton to play a David Martin inspired Whitehawk and a rusty looking Whitstable team found themselves

two down in seven minutes and never looked like recovering against an impressive team who added another before the break. A better second half display at least meant there was no addition to the 3-0 score.

A useful Whyteleafe team came to the seaside next, with Whitstable seeking their first win for a month, but another slow start ensured the frustration would continue. Two goals in the first quarter of the game were enough for the visitors to coast to a win. There were a couple of noteworthy player changes for this game, as Freddie Parker's Whitstable loan had come to an end in the week and he was immediately loaned out to Whyteleafe, so he was straight back to the Belmont in a different shirt. Meanwhile, the new signing from Cray Wanderers, Charles Etumnu, was sent off on his debut in the closing minutes.

The midweek home game was a somewhat meaningless final group match in the Velocity Trophy against Faversham Town and both clubs agreed to reduce the admission charges. The game provided some entertainment, but no goals, on a wet night, For the record, Whitstable won a penalty shootout 4-3, with Aaron Millbank, Liam Gillies, academy player Muhammed Cham (on his debut) and Charles Etumnu all finding the net with their spot kicks.

Just four days later, Whitstable made the return trip to Faversham for a league fixture and collected a welcome three points to end the month in 12th place. In a commanding performance, first half goals by Tijan Jadama and Harry Stannard proved enough, as Faversham failed to register a single effort on target. The game saw the return of Marshall Wratten from Dover, this time on loan until the end of the season.

Debuts:

12th: Jez Hammond

23rd: Charles Etumnu

26th: Caleb Afoke, Muhammed Cham

December (LWWDL)

Unbeaten Hastings United were the first opponents in December, looking to climb to the top of the table. Former Whitstable manager Nicky Southall was joined by Andy Hessenthaler and Darren Hare at the Belmont for the evening, as the Dover management team watched their player Marshall Wratten in action. There were also scouts at the game from several English Football League clubs, to look at Davide Rodari, who had scored eight goals for Hastings against East Grinstead the previous week. It was indeed Rodari who put Hastings ahead with an early headed goal and although Harry Stannard equalised after the break as Whitstable fought back, two set piece headers by experienced central defender Gary Elphick ensured that all of the points went back to Sussex.

Paul Murray stepped down as coach and was replaced by Steve Nolan. Levi Girling became the physio, as Andrea Gencarelli moved to new job in Scotland.

Whitstable bounced back with a good 2-1 win against Phoenix Sports at the Belmont. Their bright start was rewarded with an Aaron Millbank goal. Phoenix equalised early in the second half, but Millbank scored the winner with ten minutes remaining.

The Guernsey trip was eventually rearranged for a Wednesday in mid-December, when five senior players were unavailable. Guernsey would have gone fourth with a win and their leading scorer Ross Allen was looking for his 250th goal for the Green Lions. Whitstable however produced one of their best performances of the season on a very wet evening and two late Marcus Elliott goals, the first a penalty, made the night and flight home the following morning more enjoyable.



The last game before the festive break was on the 14th at Ramsgate. Whitstable began confidently following two good wins, taking an early lead when a defensive error gifted a chance to Marcus Elliott. The home team equalised just before half time and then took control of the game, but could not find another goal. Dan Eason saved two penalties in three minutes and Whitstable finished with ten men after the dismissal of Josh Spencer, but went home with a Christmas gift of a point.



A waterlogged pre-Christmas Belmont Ground

The action resumed on a wet Boxing Day when Ashford United came to the Belmont for a game watched by 330. Ashford took a one goal lead into the break, but a great, long distance shot by Harry Stannard brought the scores level, only for Ashford to score a second shortly afterwards. They held on to win 2-1, although Whitstable were a little unlucky to take nothing from the game. That was the final game of 2019 and left Whitstable in 10th place heading into the New Year.

January (LDWDWW)

A new year began with a local derby and the marketing of the game by Herne Bay resulted in 831 people choosing to spend their Bank Holiday watching football. Whitstable had won 3-0 in the August fixture at the Belmont and their rivals reversed the score in this game, Tushaun-Tyreese Walters scored a goal in each half and sandwiched in between was the familiar sight of Zak Ansah converting a penalty. It was not a game that Whitstable supporters will remember fondly.



After posing for a squad photograph, Whitstable earned a point in the next game at home to Sevenoaks, but had enough chances to have taken all three. Liam King, who would later join Whitstable gave Sevenoaks an early lead and the equaliser did not come until the 89th minute when Marshall Wratten finished well to the relief of most in the 331 crowd. Late goals have been a feature of the games between these teams, with Sevenoaks scoring after the 90th minute in each of the three previous meetings, adding their fourth goal in the big win in August and twice equalising in the 2018-19 campaign.

In a break from the league, Whitstable progressed to the last eight of the Kent Senior Cup with a memorable win at Welling United. The National League South club had beaten Whitstable 6-1 in the final of the competition in 2009, but they had been on a poor run and only appointed a new manager a few hours before the game. They fielded most of their regular first team and took an early lead, but Whitstable were always in the game and two late Marshall Wratten goals saw them into the quarter finals.

The following Saturday, Whitstable made the long trip to face Chichester City on a windy day in West Sussex. Their newly promoted opponents were handily placed in

the league, with a number of games in hand after a fantastic run in the FA Cup, winning six matches, then receiving a bye before eventually losing 5-1 at Tranmere Rovers in the Second Round. Chichester were the better team in the first half and took a 1-0 lead, but Whitstable battled well after the break and Aaron Millbank made it 1-1. James Brown made a couple of great clearances off the line, but the Chichester goalkeeper also twice did well to deny Whitstable a late winner. This game also saw the return of Ada Hubbard to Whitstable from Ramsgate as the new kitman.

The home game against still winless East Grinstead was in doubt following copious amount of rain, but the pitch passed a morning inspection. Now under new management, the visitors had been showing glimpses of improved form and took the lead before Tijan Jadama levelled the scores on half time. The second half was largely one-way traffic on a tricky surface and an Aaron Millbank penalty followed by a great curling effort by Marshall Wratten brought a 3-1 win.

Whitstable then travelled to play a physical Three Bridges team and put in a good away performance to register another 3-1 win. An unstoppable shot by John Ufuah against one of his former clubs put Whitstable ahead and it stayed that way until half time. After a good save by Dan Eason, Whitstable made sure of the points with two Aaron Millbank goals, the first a very well-executed free kick. The home team pulled one back with a free kick of their own, but it only proved to be a consolation. Experienced centre back Ollie Rowe had just joined the club and started on the bench, but made his debut in unfortunate circumstances just before half time when Connor Sanders dislocated his shoulder, an injury that prematurely ended his season.

The heavy defeat at Herne Bay on New Year's Day turned out to be the only defeat of the month, as Whitstable found some consistent form and headed into February nicely placed in 9th.

Debut:
25th: Ollie Rowe

February (WLDLW)

February began as January ended, as Whitstable extended their winning run to three and their unbeaten run to six games with a 2-1 home win against Burgess Hill at a breezy Belmont. Now under new management, their opponents were looking to add to their recent Kent wins at Herne Bay and Ramsgate. Steve Nolan and Mark Lane took charge from the bench, as manager Lloyd Blackman, recovering from a hip operation, took a seat in the stand. Two great free kicks earned Whitstable the points, with Harry Stannard and Aaron Millbank both beating the young Brighton and England under 16 goalkeeper Fynn Talley, either side of an unfortunate James Brown own goal. The game also saw Jay Hards, on work experience from Gillingham, become the third generation of the Wilkinson family to play for Whitstable, after his grandfather Roger and uncle Stuart.

A midweek trip to fourth placed Cray Valley followed, with both teams in confident mood, having won their previous three games, The Millers had managed an aggregate 12-1 score in dispatching Ashford, VCD and Whyteleafe as they chased back-to-back promotions. It turned out to be an incredible game of football, although Whitstable were to suffer late heartbreak as a 3-2 lead turned into a 4-3 defeat in the last three minutes. Whitstable took the lead three times, with John Ufuah and Tijan

Jadama scoring in the first half, but Cray Valley went in level after netting from a corner deep into added time, much to the frustration of the Whitstable bench. Aaron Millbank looked to have given Whitstable a great win, but home substitute Ryan King-Elliott was the difference with an assist and then a thunderous shot in the dying moments.

The club decided to use the home game against Ramsgate on 8th February as an opportunity to thank all of its generous sponsors, with the new classroom being used as a hospitality suite for the afternoon. A crowd of 502 watched a 1-1 draw on a pitch made difficult by the continuing wet weather. The struggling Rams were under new management and took the lead in the first half and although Whitstable had much the better of the second period, a long distance free kick by Harry Stannard was the only time they managed to find the net. It was a good day for the club off the pitch however and the players joined the sponsors after the match to chat and enjoy some refreshments.



The rain continued to fall and the away fixture at Phoenix Sports the following Saturday was another postponement, so it was a two week wait for the next competitive action at VCD. On this occasion, it was the strong wind that spoilt the game and a slow start by Whitstable was decisive as a goal in the 8th minute by Alex Gaggin turned out to be the winner in a very scrappy game that offered little for the good proportion of Whitstable supporters in a small crowd.

Whitstable were drawn at home to Ramsgate in the Kent Senior Cup quarter finals, which was the fourth meeting of the season between the teams and after two league draws and a Velocity Trophy defeat, the Oystermen finally came out on top. The soft pitch was not helped by a heavy downpour just before the kick-off. It was a tight game and the visitors started positively, but Whitstable gradually improved and early in the second half, substitute Charles Etumnu scored the only goal with a shot from distance that found the bottom corner. They had to play the last half an hour with ten men after the dismissal of new signing Liam King, who became the second Whitstable player this season to be sent off on his debut, but took their place in the semi-final draw that delivered a home tie against Gillingham.

The last scheduled February fixture was the visit of Guernsey, but sadly it became another victim of the wet weather and so a month that began with Whitstable close to a play-off spot ended with the team sitting in 13th place.

Debuts:

1st: Jay Hards

25th: Liam King

March (L)

By this time, the outbreak of coronavirus was casting a shadow over football, along with many other aspects of everyday life in the UK. A difficult challenge awaited with an away game at title chasing Hastings United and the majority of the 721 people in attendance were hoping to see the home team go top of the league. The Isthmian League chairman Nick Robinson was also amongst the spectators and a conversation with him before the start did nothing to increase confidence of an upset when he looked back at the results from the previous Whitstable games he had watched! In a cagey first half, neither goalkeeper was called upon to make a save. A towering header by former Hastings centre back Ollie Rowe put Whitstable ahead and for a time in control, but they were undone by two penalties. The narrow 2-1 win did indeed see Hastings climb to the summit of the table, but Whitstable could consider themselves a little unfortunate to leave with no reward for their efforts, as they slipped to 14th place.



Whitehawk were due to visit the Belmont on Saturday 14th and the usual preparations were made for the game, including the printing of the match day programmes, but on the Friday came the unsurprising news that all of the Isthmian League games would be postponed. A few days later, following a Government statement and guidance from the FA, the Isthmian League confirmed that all of their matches would be suspended until April 3rd. As the situation deteriorated, the government announced on the 20th that all pubs and clubs would have to close and so Whitstable Town along with all other football clubs were left with no football and little opportunity to raise any income, meaning an uncertain future for everyone. Just

six days later, the FA stated that for non-league clubs from Steps 3 to 7 the season would be terminated and all results expunged, meaning no promotion or relegation.

April (“null and void” season confirmed)

On April 9th, the FA Council ratified the earlier decision to expunge all results, effectively making the 2019-20 season “null and void”. The rationale was to provide clubs at this level with some certainty and allow them to focus on planning for the resumption of football, whenever that may be. The decision was not met with universal approval, as a number of clubs felt they had been denied the chance of promotion, although with around a quarter of the games yet to be played and little chance of an early resumption, it was understandable. It was pointed out that in general, the league rules state that any club not completing their fixtures would have their record expunged and that is what has now effectively been applied to all clubs.

For Whitstable, 28 of the scheduled 38 league games had been played and the loss of five home games, a Kent Senior Cup semi-final against Gillingham and numerous end of season local cup finals and other events does present a financial challenge, but everyone is working hard behind the scenes to ensure that things will be ready for when football starts again. The club are extremely grateful to all those who have offered their support in a variety of ways during these uncertain times

The Future?

2019-20 was a season of transition for Whitstable, with Lloyd Blackman building a promising new first team on the pitch, a good start for the reserves, continued progress for the academy and an ever expanding junior section. Meanwhile, the board, employees and a number of volunteers were all working hard to improve facilities and increase the profile of the club in the community. Match attendances were significantly increased and other events at the club well supported. Special thanks are due to the sponsors of Whitstable Town and indeed everyone who played a part during the season. The aim is to continue to build on the progress made over the past year, but most importantly at this time, please stay safe until football and other aspects of normal life can return.



Whitstable Town FC 2019-20

A season in statistics



A look at some facts at figures from the season that did not finish. The results may have been expunged, but some team and individual records are shown below.

Complete playing records 2019-20

Date	Opponents	V	Comp		Score	Att	Goals
17-Aug	Sittingbourne	H	League	D	1-1	318	Jadama
20-Aug	Hythe	A	League	L	0-2	263	
24-Aug	Newhaven	H	FA Cup	W	3-1	219	Millbank, o.g., Anderson
26-Aug	Herne Bay	H	League	W	3-0	532	Elliott, Walker, Millbank
31-Aug	Sevenoaks	A	League	L	0-4	143	
07-Sep	Folkestone Inv	H	FA Cup	L	0-4	503	
10-Sep	Hythe	A	Velocity	D	2-2*	157	Elliott 2
14-Sep	Haywards Heath	H	League	D	1-1	242	Millbank
17-Sep	Cray Valley	H	League	D	1-1	141	Elliott
21-Sep	Burgess Hill	A	League	L	2-3	346	Spencer, Gillies
28-Sep	Chalfont St Peter	A	FA Trophy	W	1-0	84	Ufuah
01-Oct	Cray Valley	A	KSC	W	2-1	54	Stannard, Millbank (pen)
05-Oct	Three Bridges	H	League	W	2-0	239	Mazzone, Millbank
12-Oct	Ware	H	FA Trophy	D	2-2	282	Ufuah, Jadama
15-Oct	Ware	A	FA Trophy	L	0-1^	145	
19-Oct	East Grinstead	A	League	W	3-0	116	Elliott, Jadama, Parker
22-Oct	Ashford	H	Velocity	W	3-1	159	Stannard 2 (1 pen), Millbank
26-Oct	VCD	H	League	D	1-1	270	Millbank
05-Nov	Ramsgate	A	Velocity	L	0-2	114	
12-Nov	Herne Bay	H	Velocity	L	1-4	254	Stannard
16-Nov	Whitehawk	A	League	L	0-3	273	
23-Nov	Whyteleafe	H	League	L	0-2	215	
26-Nov	Faversham	H	Velocity	D	0-0"	104	
30-Nov	Faversham	A	League	W	2-0	323	Jadama, Stannard
03-Dec	Hastings	H	League	L	1-3	162	Stannard
07-Dec	Phoenix Sports	H	League	W	2-1	157	Millbank 2
11-Dec	Guernsey	A	League	W	2-0	652	Elliott 2 (1 pen)
14-Dec	Ramsgate	A	League	D	1-1	219	Elliott
26-Dec	Ashford	H	League	L	1-2	330	Stannard
01-Jan	Herne Bay	A	League	L	0-3	831	
04-Jan	Sevenoaks	H	League	D	1-1	331	Wratten
07-Jan	Welling	A	KSC	W	2-1	101	Wratten 2
11-Jan	Chichester	A	League	D	1-1	178	Millbank
18-Jan	East Grinstead	H	League	W	3-1	314	Jadama, Millbank (pen), Wratten
25-Jan	Three Bridges	A	League	W	3-1	74	Ufuah, Millbank 2
01-Feb	Burgess Hill	H	League	W	2-1	293	Stannard, Millbank
04-Feb	Cray Valley	A	League	L	3-4	95	Ufuah, Jadama, Millbank
08-Feb	Ramsgate	H	League	D	1-1	502	Stannard
22-Feb	VCD	A	League	L	0-1	79	
25-Feb	Ramsgate	H	KSC	W	1-0	152	Etumnu

Date	Opponents	V	Comp		Score	Att	Goals
07-Mar	Hastings	A	League	L	1-2	721	Rowe
14-Mar	Whitehawk	H	League	P			
17-Mar	Phoenix Sports	A	League	P			
21-Mar	Haywards Heath	A	League	P			
TBA	Gillingham	H	KSC	P			
28-Mar	Chichester	H	League	P			
31-Mar	Guernsey	H	League	P			
04-Apr	Sittingbourne	A	League	P			
11-Apr	Hythe	H	League	P			
13-Apr	Ashford	A	League	P			
18-Apr	Whyteleafe	A	League	P			
25-Apr	Faversham	H	League	P			

* lost 5-6 pens

"won 4-3 pens

^ aet

BetVictor Isthmian South East Division at the time of league termination

Whitstable finished in 14th place with 35 points from their 28 completed matches, winning 9, drawing 8 and losing 11, with 38 goals for and 41 against.

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Hastings United	28	18	8	2	53	21	62
2	Ashford United	30	19	2	9	75	41	59
3	Cray Valley PM	28	17	6	5	53	29	57
4	Whitehawk	28	16	8	4	61	33	56
5	Herne Bay	28	15	6	7	53	40	51
6	Chichester City	25	13	6	6	46	34	45
7	Whyteleafe	28	13	6	9	47	40	45
8	VCD Athletic	30	12	6	12	48	53	42
9	Phoenix Sports	27	13	2	12	46	40	41
10	Sevenoaks Town	29	11	8	10	43	37	41
11	Hythe Town	29	11	7	11	34	37	40
12	Haywards Heath Town	27	10	9	8	37	33	39
13	Guernsey	28	9	9	10	39	47	36
14	Whitstable Town	28	9	8	11	38	41	35
15	Burgess Hill Town	27	9	4	14	47	60	31
16	Sittingbourne	29	8	4	17	31	42	28
17	Faversham Town	30	7	7	16	30	51	28
18	Ramsgate	30	4	8	18	35	68	20
19	Three Bridges	29	5	3	21	35	68	18
20	East Grinstead Town	26	1	7	18	25	61	10

This was the 11th season in which Whitstable competed at Step 4 and, based on points per game (PPG), their second best performance.

For interest, here are the previous records:

Season	Position	League	Played	Points	PPG
2007-08	14	22	42	50	1.190
2008-09	16	22	42	50	1.190
2009-10	17	22	40	42	1.050
2010-11	15	22	42	49	1.167
2011-12	18	22	40	40	1.000
2012-13	17	22	42	44	1.048
2013-14	20	24	46	53	1.152
2014-15	8	24	46	71	1.543
2015-16	23	24	46	26	0.565
2016-18	SCEFL (Step 5)				
2018-19	12	20	36	43	1.194
2019-20	14	20	28	35	1.250

Cup Records

Emirates FA Cup

Whitstable were knocked out by the Isthmian Premier Division leaders Folkestone Invicta in the First Round Qualifying after beating Southern Combination League Newhaven in the Preliminary Round.

Buildbase FA Trophy

Following a narrow win at Isthmian South Central Division Chalfont St Peter, Whitstable played another team from the same division, Ware, in the Preliminary Round and after two competitive games, a goal in the last minute of extra time meant a replay exit for Whitstable against the team who went on to finish top of their division when the season was terminated.

The Velocity Trophy

Whitstable failed to reach the last 32 knockout stages, having failed to win their qualifying group 7, which finished:

	P	W	D	GD	Pts*
Ramsgate	5	3	2	4	13
Ashford	5	3	1	3	10
Herne Bay	5	2	0	0	6
Whitstable	5	1	2	-3	6
Hythe	5	1	1	-7	5
Faversham	5	1	2	3	5

*points include bonus for penalty shootout wins

Kent Senior Cup

Whitstable won three games in the competition, with good away wins at Cray Valley and National League South Welling United, then a narrow home win against Ramsgate that earned a home semi-final tie against Gillingham. The game was not able to be played due to the early end to the season.

Attendances

Whitstable played 14 home matches in the Isthmian League that attracted a total of 4,046 people through the gate at the Belmont Ground. The average attendance of 289 was an increase of 38% on the previous campaign when 18 matches were watched by 3,762 at an average of 209. Whitstable finished 5th in the home attendance table, although interestingly were top of the away attendance table where their games on the road were watched by an average of 308.

The top home league attendances for Whitstable were:

532 Herne Bay

502 Ramsgate

331 Sevenoaks Town

330 Ashford United

318 Sittingbourne

314 East Grinstead

503 watched the FA Cup tie against Folkestone Invicta at the Belmont

Top average league attendances:

Home		Away	
Guernsey	810	Whitstable Town	308
Hastings United	607	Herne Bay	282
Herne Bay	351	Ashford United	282
Burgess Hill Town	302	Sittingbourne	278
Whitstable Town	289	Hastings United	261

Some player statistics for the season and their Whitstable Town careers:

Whitstable used 31 players throughout the season, with goalkeeper Dan Eason being the only one to feature in all 41 games and he has now made 224 appearances since his debut in October 2015. By coincidence, October 2015 also saw the last and 253rd appearance of Scott Heard before his transfer to Folkestone Invicta and he was the most recent Whitstable Town player to feature in more games.

Aaron Millbank finished as top goal scorer with 15 goals from 39 appearances.

Appearances 2019-20		Goal Scorers 2019-20	
Player	Matches	Player	Goals
Dan Eason	41	Aaron Millbank	15
Jake Mackenzie	39	Harry Stannard	9
Aaron Millbank	39	Marcus Elliott	8
Tijan Jadama	36	Tijan Jadama	6
James Brown	35	John Ufuah	4
Luke Girt	35	Marshall Wratten	4
John Ufuah	34	Liam Gillies	1
Liam Gillies	33	Leo Mazzone	1
Marcus Elliott	32	Josh Spencer	1
Tom Bryant	30	Charles Etumnu	1
Harry Stannard	27	John Walker	1
Connor Sanders	25	Alex Anderson	1
Marshall Wratten	23	Ollie Rowe	1
Leo Mazzone	22	Freddie Parker	1
Josh Spencer	19		
Liam Dickson	14		
Charles Etumnu	10		
Marcus Evans	9		
John Walker	7		
Alex Anderson	6		
Osman Proni	6		
Ollie Rowe	6		
Taylor Fisher	5		
Tarik Ibrahim	5		
Freddie Parker	5		
Jay Hards	3		
Muhammed Cham	2		
Liam King	2		
Danny Patterson	2		
Caleb Afoke	1		
Jez Hammond	1		

Top Career Appearances For 2019-20 Players		Most Career Goals Scored For 2019-20 Players	
Player	Matches	Player	Goals
Dan Eason	224	Harry Stannard	16
Tom Bryant	147	Aaron Millbank	15
Jake Mackenzie	145	Tom Bryant	12
Luke Girt	83	Marcus Elliott	8
John Walker	67	Jake Mackenzie	7
James Brown	47	Tijan Jadama	7
Harry Stannard	46	John Ufuah	4
Aaron Millbank	39	Marshall Wratten	4
Tijan Jadama	38		
Connor Sanders	35		

Discipline

This season saw a much improved disciplinary record for the team.

2019-20: 4 red cards and 48 yellows (41 matches)

2018-19: 9 red cards and 100 yellows (48 matches)

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Thank you to everyone that helped support the club throughout the season.

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