

## **Book Review** **'Non-League Digest', August 2008**

This book was published in June 2008 and is written by non-league football writer and photographer David Bauckham, the work of which many readers will already be familiar. The publication is produced in collaboration with fellow photographer Terry Buckman and is in full colour with 128 pages and more than 100 colour photos inside. It tells the story of a season of football in 2007-08 in Sussex on a month-by-month basis reflecting on events from around the delightful county in football terms from the first section covering July/August right through to the final furlong in May 2008.

Some of the photography is quite superb with splendid ground and action shots throughout mixed in with the text and you know you are in for a real treat when observing the cover which really sums up to perfection what Sussex football is all about with a centrally positioned photo of Hill Park, the stunningly scenic ground of Saltdean United and the backdrop of the Sussex Downs.

Published by David's company 'Centre Circle Publishing' who specialise in publications such as this, with maybe smaller print runs than would be viable at bigger mainstream publishers, it really does provide a perfect pictorial reminder of everything positive in what was a memorable season for Sussex football. Brighton & Hove Albion are covered as well as the top Sussex non-league outfits and county league teams as well.

The oblong-shaped book is a superb and beautifully produced publication and even if you are not from Sussex, it would still be a great read wherever you live. The book finishes with an honours and season round-up involving Sussex clubs.

Also, what was good about the book was the way the fantastic photography was spread out evenly between all the clubs rather than making it top-heavy on the bigger clubs within the county. It is the photography that makes this one stand out and it comes highly recommended.

## Review: A Season Of Sussex Soccer

<http://www.footballgroundsinfocus.com/ASoSSRev.htm>

Just as one football season ends, so a new one begins! For the intrepid traveller there is nothing quite like that feeling of anticipation in early August when we plan to visit some more roped-off fields in the middle of nowhere. Over the coming weeks we are totally absorbed by it all - it is truly the stuff that memories are made of! Here joint authors, David Bauckham and Terry Buckman, paint a perfect picture for the football enthusiast as they chronicle the events over the course of a season in their native Sussex. This magnificent book highlights the hopes and dreams; highs and lows; success and disappointment of clubs competing within the boundaries of this beautiful, leafy outpost in South-East England. Nirvana!

Following on from the highly acclaimed 'Dugouts' book, this latest offering is another masterpiece and represents everything that is great about our favourite obsession. The presentation of '**A Season of Sussex Soccer**' is outstanding as the reader is expertly taken on a journey from one match to the next reflecting all the twists and turns along the way. Every club in the county is featured as the authors convey their extensive knowledge in a clear and concise manner.

But what sets this special review apart is the unique collection of photographs placed carefully within the main text. The pictures are breath-taking as the lens masters capture the very best in ground, action and matchday digital photography. Each frame has a superb composition to rival the work of any professional snapper. Each photo comes with a small caption to give travellers those essential match details before 'hopping' on to the next page for more. FGIF fans will simply love those sumptuous soccer 'scapes and mouth-watering backdrops found at Saltdean United FC (on the cover as shown above); Peacehaven FC; St. Francis Rangers FC and Seaford FC. A true pixel paradise!

Every picture tells a story. You can definitely feel the sense of occasion and tension clearly etched on the faces of those Eastbourne Town players after realising their goal scored against Worthing had just been disallowed. Gut wrenching moments! Contrast this then with the end of season celebrations at Second Division East Grinstead FC who face the camera in the aptly named Final Furlong section. Priceless! And what about that amazing ground photo from Bexhill United FC? To the discerning eye it represents much more than just a County League Division Three fixture against Little Common Albion at The Polegrove. The angled lines, shapes and colours contrast perfectly as the viewer's focus moves from the main stand; neighbouring apartment blocks and cloudy December skyline to the pick out the action on the pitch in the foreground. You really do feel like you're there. Great stuff!

Supported by the Sussex County Football Association, this book is everything that you would want and more. It will definitely appeal to all readers and visitors to FGIF. Once you've picked it up you won't want to put it down again. It is that good! Whether you have been lucky enough to visit some of the grounds in this county or not you will certainly be inspired by what you see here, making it a worthy addition to your collection of football books. And finally thanks must go to David and Terry for coming up with such an ingenious idea in the first place, showing great commitment and dedication for completing the project and finally for sharing all their memories in '**A Season of Sussex Soccer**'.

The joys of 'hopping continue!

## **Pair deserve praise for a superb record if a season in Sussex**

<http://www.midhurstandpetworth.co.uk/449/Pair-deserve-praise-for-superb.4252904.jp>

If you like your football, and Sussex happens to be the county in which you watch it, A Season of Sussex Soccer is a must.

Football fanatics and photographers David Bauckham and Terry Buckman spent the whole of last season travelling around the county's familiar and not-so-familiar grounds plotting the season in pictures.

The emphasis is on the photos – each page is dominated by one good-quality bit of action or something more offbeat. Each picture is supported by just a couple of lines of text which give an outline of the game it was taken at.

Clubs from the Observer area are well-represented. The authors made a number of visits to Bognor games as they battled to stay afloat in Conference South – including the vital home win over St Albans which took them to within a few points of safety in April.

And watch out for Rocks groundsman Eddie Broadbent digging his fork in his beloved Nyewood Lane pitch before the pre-season friendly against Worthing.

Our local county league sides also get plenty of exposure. There's a poignant picture of the players leaving the pitch at the end of Chichester City United's last game played at Church Road. And there's images from games involving Selsey, Pagham, Midhurst, Sidlesham and Bosham.

The inside cover pays tribute to stalwarts of Sussex football who didn't live to see out the season, such as Observer sports editor Ben Steppel.

David and Terry got to almost 140 matches in their quest to record a season of Sussex soccer. They can now have a well-earned rest safe in the knowledge they did the county proud.

## **Captured – Sussex Football At Its Best**

[http://www.theargus.co.uk/mostpopular.var.2316837.mostviewed.captured\\_sussex\\_football\\_at\\_its\\_best.php](http://www.theargus.co.uk/mostpopular.var.2316837.mostviewed.captured_sussex_football_at_its_best.php)

A new book has captured the essence of Sussex football.

A Season Of Sussex Soccer, a collaboration by David Bauckham and Terry Buckman, is a world away from the ghost-written selective memoirs of Premier League players.

Bauckham and Buckman have criss-crossed the county and beyond to capture the atmosphere at 62 clubs, from Brighton and Hove Albion in League One to Uckfield Town in Sussex County League Division Three.

Featuring 105 photographs and a month-by-month round-up of the football scene in the county, the book has been a labour of love for the duo and represents the fruition of a long-time ambition for Bauckham.

They have clocked up countless miles to see the good, bad and sometimes ugly which non-league football offers in all kinds of weather but Bauckham happily embraced the challenge.

Bauckham, who used to run Eastbourne Borough's website and was the matchday announcer, said: "It has been something I have been mulling over for a long time. But I had become so involved with Borough and doing the website for six years that it was never going to happen until I extricated myself from my jobs there.

"I contacted Terry, who had retired to the area and he had gained a reputation for taking pictures of local football that he put on his website.

"I was in the east and he was in the west and there was no way I could do it all on my own. He welcomed the opportunity and has been brilliant. I could not have done it without him.

"I chose this season because I had a feeling it could be something special.

"That wasn't so much because I expected the ding-dong battle between Lewes and Eastbourne Borough but because I could see there was ambition in the County League with clubs looking to go up and do work on their grounds.

"I don't think we could have picked a better season. The County League was maybe a little less interesting as it looked like Crowborough would win it for a long time but there was the battle between Borough and Lewes, Crowborough going up, the Majeeds at Crawley and also, sadly, a few deaths.

"The last photo was Eastbourne Borough getting promotion which was especially good for me."

Even if Borough and Lewes had not achieved their success, Bauckham insists the book's purpose would have been served.

He said: "People have said why isn't it called A Season Of Sussex Soccer 2007-08? But that's not the point of the book.

"It is supposed to be a snapshot of football in Sussex but could be any part of the United Kingdom. It is trying to capture the essence of local football."

"We had different styles as photographers. Terry was more known for taking traditional action while I often took more atmospheric shots.

"I am more interested in the culture of football and the setting of the game but as time went on I got better at action shots and Terry got better at the artistic pictures. I would hope now that if we took the credits off the pictures, nobody would know who took what."

Bauckham and Buckman would take up to 200 photos at each game they went to before finally settling on one for the book.

They would also cover more than one game in a day when kick-offs were staggered. Bauckham went to a half at Peacehaven, Rottingdean and also Seaford on one occasion.

Bauckham felt no publisher would have touched the book because it was too parochial and raised funds through pre-orders.

He is hopeful that players and non-league fans will support the book when it is published on Friday.

Bauckham said: "I got about 200 pre-orders, with a lot from club officials and non-league enthusiasts, but I am disappointed that more players have not ordered it.

"I get the feeling that people are waiting to see it before they buy. It will either bomb or become a cult seller."

## **The Story Of A Sussex Footballing Season**

<http://www.worthingherald.co.uk/worthing-sport/The-story-of-a-Sussex.4180747.jp>

A new book which tells the story of Sussex football during the 2007-08 season has just been launched. Photographers David Bauckham and Terry Buckman pictured more than 130 games, and there is a shot from every club from Brighton & Hove Albion down to County League Division 3 sides included. There are 105 pictures in total, and the book, called A season of Sussex soccer, also has a month-by-month review of how the season panned out.

It was launched at the Sussex County League presentation evening, and Buckman said: "I'm so pleased with the book. It was a nightmare selecting the final pictures, but I'm delighted with the final quality: "We crammed in six games in the last nine days of the season, but seeing the result, made it all worthwhile."

Bauckham, from Eastbourne, added: "Considering this was my first venture into self-publishing, and my first attempt at designing a book from scratch, I am delighted with how it has turned out. Although, there were a few nervy moments as the final deadline approached.

"Choosing the final pictures was desperately hard on a number of occasions, when we had several great shots from one game.

"We simply didn't have room to include every game we watched unfortunately - otherwise the book would have been half as big again."

The duo worked nearly every Saturday, and most Tuesdays and Wednesdays throughout the campaign. Buckman, who moved from Wick to Horsham during the season, added: "We had about 200 pre-orders, and sold a few copies at the presentation evening, so are not far off from recovering our production costs now. But, I don't think we'll ever get enough to account for our mileage!"

Buckman moved from Tadworth to Wick in 2002, and started taking football pictures only four years ago. He said: "I just went down to Arundel, and took a few tentative shots.

"And it's just snowballed from there. My son set up a website gallery ([www.littlehampton.co.uk](http://www.littlehampton.co.uk)), which people soon got to know about, and it's now had 750,000 hits.

"I even had to shift it to a different server this year, because the old server couldn't cope.

"It's all been a lot of fun. I've enjoyed the book and meeting lots of new people."

On his favourite shots in the book, Buckman said: "Off the top of my head, I like the one of Bognor's Mark Knee grabbing an opponent. The picture looks like a Vinnie Jones job, but it wasn't like that.

"I also like the one of Eastbourne Town's Simon Creighton and Burgess Hill's Steve Harper too. I also liked loads that didn't get in, and I'm going to put a gallery on my website of all my pictures which didn't quite make it into the book.

"The picture of Tom Rand looking really sad after conceding a goal, which David took, is another good picture. Tom's a good keeper, and a great guy, but I've never managed to get a decent picture of him.

"There's two matches which stick out in my memory from the season. The Horsham versus Swansea Cup match, when it was soaking wet. That was a great night, and so, too, when Eastbourne Borough won their play-off final at Stevenage."

Bauckham said: "My favourite pictures are those that have a story behind them, or those that were the result of careful planning.

"The Sidley versus Rye picture is a good example of the latter. I chose an angle and waited ages for the action to come into the frame.

"By coincidence, immediately after I got that picture, I dashed over to Eastbourne Town for the second half of their game against Worthing and took perhaps my favourite picture.

"It was raining and I had no decent pictures when referee Ashley Slaughter disallowed a Town goal . . . resulting in the inevitable protests. That was a good morning's work."

Despite moving to Horsham, Buckman hopes to be at local clubs a lot more next season. He said: "I'm hoping to do more stuff in the Arun area again. There's a lot of good people at those clubs, and I'd just like to thank Gareth Davies (Rustington FC manager] and Bob Marchant (Arundel FC chairman], who were both very encouraging with the book. They both made sure that a lot of people knew about it."

On the future, Bauckham said: "It's very unlikely there will be a follow-up book in the next couple of seasons.

"I deliberately didn't include 2007-08 in the title. The book was titled 'A Season of Sussex Soccer' for a reason - it was only ever intended as a snapshot of one season."