



The Non-League Football Grounds of Sussex

by David Bauckham

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Bound soft cover with spine. 84 pages. 62 grounds. 263 photographs

Reviews

Simon Inglis – author of ‘Sightlines’ and ‘The Football Grounds of Great Britain’

Non-league grounds are now by far the most interesting grounds left in post-Taylor Britain, and Sussex has a surprising concentration of some of the quirkiest. If the names in David Bauckham's affectionate book don't tempt you: The Dripping Pan at Lewes, Peacehaven & Telscombe FC at Piddinghoe Avenue, or Pease Pottage Village FC then the parade of dug-outs will. Thoroughly enjoyable and an invaluable addition to the non-league series.

Kerry Miller – author of ‘The History of Non League Football Grounds’

Two of non-League football's best known southern-based characters, Mike Floate and David Bauckham, have combined to produce yet another simple but effective A5 size book, the seventh in Mike's series, on the non League grounds of Sussex. The county's fascinating and diverse grounds are pictured and discussed here in some detail, along with those in other leagues up and down the coastline.

From Bosham in the west to the wonderful wooden edifice at Bexhill in the east, David's narrative and superb photo work compliment each other and the idea that a football ground is not simply gauged by how big its stand is, is aptly demonstrated in the book where David checks out the idiosyncrasies such as quaint entrances and pay huts and picturesque signs, all of which add up to some blissful grounds.

Quite rightly David's Eastbourne Borough FC gets top billing in the book and he is equally complimentary to many other grounds, although he is not shy to point out those in need of a little care and attention.

With the County League often staging Friday football and most of the county's grounds

being on or near the sea Sussex is as near a perfect setting for a weekend trip as there can be and David and Mike's 86 page book is a splendid companion.

Groundtastic – the football grounds magazine

Volume 7 of Mike Floate's popular series of regional non-league football grounds is devoted to Sussex, with respected authority on Sussex grounds, David Bauckham, on had to describe what the county has to offer. For the first time in the series, the book comes with a paperback style binding and a full colour cover. A total of 62 grounds are featured, including all those in the three divisions of the Sussex County League, together with the county's eight representatives in the Isthmian League and Southern League.

Photographs and descriptions of each of the grounds are given and, as we have come to expect from Mike Floate's publications, the illustrations are of the highest standard. A welcome extra feature is a gallery section, in which the spotlight is turned on some of Sussex football's more quirky features, including the surprisingly wide selection of dug-outs on offer.

Sussex Soccer

A new publication of interest to enthusiasts of local football is 'The Non League Football Grounds of Sussex' written by *Nomad* (aka David Bauckham). The *Nomad* articles started out appearing in the Eastbourne Borough match programme, describing outings to the team's away matches. This has since expanded to an amazing website – which gives every detail imaginable for each of the grounds in Sussex – and now a book is available providing photos and descriptions of everywhere from Crawley Town's Broadfield Stadium down to the recreation field at Hurstpierpoint.

Although the book primarily serves as a 'A-to-Z' of grounds, it also contains a welter of quirky information and slightly more unusual pictures – including dug-outs, signs and a variety of obscure outbuildings. Many of the lesser known venues, such as Franklands Village or St. Francis Rangers, provide a certain type of appeal – not only for their simple rural charm, but because most readers will have never seen the ground in question.

Overall, this is a great little book that will inspire any follower of non-league Sussex football to go and watch a game at somewhere they've never visited before.

Sussex Express

To say David Bauckham is a busy man is an understatement. He is in sole charge of the much-lauded official Eastbourne Borough FC website, acts as the club's PA announcer on match-days, and contributes to the match-day programme under the pseudonym of 'Nomad'. He is also the creator of two other websites, one of which details the history of Langney Sports FC (Borough's guise until their name change in 2001) and the other, the award-winning 'Nomad-Online', which acts as the ultimate one-stop guide to non-league football in Sussex.

So how he has found time to visit, and photograph in detail, every non-league ground in Sussex for his latest book is anyone's guess. But he has achieved it and, in the process, authored a book that celebrates the good, the bad and the ugly of football architecture in the county.

David visits as many other non-league stadia as is humanly possible when he travels across the country with Borough. Many would describe him as 'obsessive' – some may even utter the word 'anorak'. But there's no doubting his passion and enthusiasm for every dugout, penalty area, terrace, stand and floodlight detailed in this 84-page guide. Every non-league ground in the county has been snapped for posterity, from the plush homes of Crawley Town and Eastbourne Borough to the smaller surroundings of Upper Beeding, St. Francis Rangers and Pease Pottage Village – where there have almost been more goals than spectators this season. The Dripping Pan ('one of the most distinctive grounds in the county') features, as do the

Victoria Pleasure Grounds, Alderbrook, the Beaconsfield and the Caburn – the homes of Uckfield Town, Crowborough Athletic, Hailsham Town and Ringmer respectively.

Even the oddities get their own section, with many clubs' dugouts, entrances, signs, floodlights and club huts given pride of place in a pictorial appendix. Light-hearted moments include a council warning against 'dog fouling' adorning the entrance to the playing field which acts as Franklands Village's ground – and the coarse graffiti that is listed as Shinewater's entry in the 'sights' section.

But this excellent book is not just for the 'ground-hopper' or 'anorak' – it is a must read for every supporter of non-league football in Sussex.

Eastbourne Herald

Is David Bauckham sad or mad? Some would say both after his latest publication, 'The Non League Football Grounds of Sussex'. What there can be no argument about, however, is that his unique book is a marvelous guide for regular watchers of Non League football.

David has traveled the length and breadth of Sussex to photograph and detail every County League ground as well as the Isthmian and Southern League venues. Signs, sights, floodlights, huts and dugouts are also featured in an amazing pictorial display.

David, who runs the official website for Eastbourne Borough and writes under the pseudonym 'Nomad' in the club programme, has brilliantly captured the character and interest to be found in some of the smaller venues. He has used his local knowledge to comprehensively detail 62 grounds, including contact details and no fewer than 263 quality photos, including many quirky shots.

This wonderful little publication could only have been produced by an 'Anorak' – and David gets my vote as 'Anorak of the Year'. But let's face it, where would people like us be without them?

The Sports Argus

'The Non League Football Grounds of Sussex' is unlikely to top the Amazon bestsellers list, but for groundhoppers it will be a 'must read'.

Not just for groundhoppers, ordinary supporters will be grateful of the contact details when considering whether to step out of the front door for Piddinghoe Avenue on a windy and wet night. Its 84 pages are crammed with information and some quirky photos.