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Crush's spy mission

Yusuff leaves title winners

NEW BOSS REVEALS HE WAS AT FANS' FORUM

By Craig Tucker

New Hythe Town manager Andy Crush has told how he got a feel for the club before his appointment.

Crush attended a fans' forum at Reachfields to hear what supporters had to say following back-to-back relegations to Southern Counties East Division 1.

It gave Crush, who kept himself to himself, a chance to learn more about Hythe in the run-up to landing the job of reviving their fortunes after a tough couple of years.

"I went to the fans' forum before I was announced and just listened in," revealed Crush, who led Hawkinge to the Kent County League Premier Division title last season.

"There's people in the club who care.

"You see some of the negative stuff on social media but when you get there and sit in a room with 100+ people, they're all being positive and want the club to go in the right direction.

"I sat there, stayed out of the way and just listened to what people had to say.

"At that point, I hadn't had any agreement to be the manager but I wanted to see what it was all about and show that I was interested in the club.

"I wanted to know what fans thought, without them saying something because they thought I was there, because a few of them wouldn't have had a clue who I was anyway.

"It was good to see so many people there, on a random Thursday night, I think it was, and come matchday there'll be even more people.

"You've got to get that buzz back because they haven't had much cheer about for a while.

"Some of the signings I'm looking to make will bring excitement back and people will think 'blimey, we will go and start scoring goals and we will be a better team'."

Crush came to chairman Andy Nanda's attention with his work at Hawkinge, while he'd previously won back-to-back league titles with Deal Town Reserves.

The Cannons said the appointment wasn't about "bringing in a flashy name for headlines", with Crush quietly building a reputation for himself at lower levels.

However, he's ready to move up, having been denied the chance to do so at Hawkinge, with the club ineligible for promotion to Step 6 despite their title success.

"I had a good long talk with Andy before the announcement was made," said Crush.

"We spoke for quite a while and our vision of how we wanted to do things aligned quite quickly, so it was quite nice to speak to someone who understood what I was saying, and I exactly saw what he wanted to see.

"It made it a lot easier for us to come to an agreement on how we wanted to run things.

"Hythe have gone through quite a lot of managers and needed some stability and, as they said when it came out, I'm not a big, flashy name.

"Yes, I've just won the Kent County Prem with Hawkinge, so I deserve to be in Step 6 football in my own right, but at the same time Hythe's a different kettle of fish.

"It's a big club with a lot of history, really good fans who get behind them and care about the club.

"It's a great step for myself and a great step for some of the people that will come with me as well."



Ekansh Singh celebrates one of his two wickets on day two for Kent during their County Championship draw with Division 2 leaders Durham at Beckenham this week. They now turn their attentions to T20 cricket, preview page 42

Picture: Keith Gillard

Ade Yusuff heads the list of players to leave Folkestone Invicta this summer after the title-winning Isthmian Premier club released their retained list.

Striker Yusuff scored 12 goals this season but made just 15 starts as boss Jay Saunders largely went for 28-goal top scorer Jake Hutchinson and former Football League man Joe Pigott as his first-choice frontmen.

The 31-year-old has scored more than 100 goals for Invicta - only behind all-time record scorer Ian Draycott (150) and Jimmy Dryden (141). Full-back Montel McKenzie is also moving on for pastures new.

One-time Love Island star McKenzie, 28, netted twice but was among the non-league footballers involved in the televised six-a-side Baller League in the season run-in.

Others released by Folkestone ahead of an inaugural National League South season are second-choice goalkeeper Harley Earle, fans' favourite Ronnie Dolan and fellow midfielder Jack Jebb, who spent time on loan with Isthmian South East play-off finalists AFC Croydon Athletic and relegated National League South Eastbourne Borough. A club statement said: "We wish to thank all players for their contributions to an incredible and historic season at Folkestone Invicta Football Club.

"We also wish to thank all departing players for their efforts during their time at the football club and we wish them all the very best for their future careers."

Club captain Kevin Lokko and Pigott remain under contract for the 2026/27 campaign.

They have exercised clauses in the contracts of Hutchinson, Mikey Berry, Joel-Michael Odeniran, Donell Thomas and Josh Strouts, too.

Talks remain ongoing with No.1 Ted Collins, midfielder Adam Lovatt, full-backs Ben Mason and Ike Orji, defender Liam Smith, as well as injured vice-captain and midfielder Dean Rance.

Ryan Kingsford has left and joined Welling United.



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Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2015

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

25/1974/FH - Castle Barn, The Street, Lympne, Hythe, CT21 4LQ - Demolition of barn and erection of replacement building to provide wedding venue with associated parking and landscaping.

26/0619/FH - Flat 8, The Manor House, 1 Earls Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2EX - Listed Building Consent for the installation of an en-suite bathroom.

26/0677/FH - 13 Castle Mews, Folkestone, CT20 2BU - Single storey side extension, demolition of existing glazed bay / balcony, conversion of garage and alterations to existing garden and patio area.

26/0680/FH - 134 & 134a Sandgate Road, Folkestone, CT20 2BW - Listed Building Consent for external repairs & refurbishment, re-roofing, alterations to fenestration & associated alterations including replacement rainwater goods & re-pointing.

Representations can be made in writing either on line on the Council's website, by email to planning@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk or in writing to the Chief Planning Officer, Folkestone & Hythe District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY. Please always quote the application reference number. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. Please note that any representations received will be publically viewable on the Council's website.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

Note: This is not a full list of applications received. All planning applications can be viewed and comments made online at <https://folkestonehythedc.force.com/pr/s/be-home>

Under the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulations 2018, from 25th May 2018 all comments on applications will be held for 3 years.

Llywelyn Lloyd
Chief Planning Officer
Folkestone & Hythe District Council



WILLS & PROBATE

DOREEN SLATER
Deceased

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 anyone with a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased, late of 6 Homepine House, Sandgate Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2XA, who died on 02/09/2023, must send written details to the address below by 22/07/2026, after which the Estate will be distributed with regard only to claims and interests notified.

Knights Professional Services Ltd,
Olympic House, Lincoln, LN6 3SE.
Ref: LGAL1/SLA3125/1

MICHAEL WARWICK SMITH
Deceased

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 anyone with a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased, late of 31 Oak Road, Romford, RM3 0PH; 2 Bybrook Way, Sandgate, Folkestone, CT20 3BJ, who died on 24/10/2025, must send written details to the address below by 23/07/2026, after which the Estate will be distributed with regard only to claims and interests notified.

Lee John McClellan &
Jeremy Roy Lawrence Sirrell,
c/o Palmers Law Ltd,
19 Town Square, Basildon,
SS14 1BD. Ref: 51362-002

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