

HOOE FOOTBALL CLUB

The following are extracts from the "*Bexhill Chronicle*" (*B. C.*) and the "*Bexhill Observer*" (*B. O.*) and all these extracts concern the Hooe Football Club – they reports cover games played, to be played or events organised for the benefits of the Club and individual players.

These are by no means all the reports but they are ones that I have gathered over many years.

1912

20 Jan 1912	Hooe F. C. to play Crowhurst Park today	B. C.
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HOOE - Hooe football club will play Crowhurst Park today (Saturday)

20 Jan 1912	Hooe F. C. versus Battle	B. C.
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HOOE - Hooe F.C. opposed Battle, at Battle, on Saturday and lost by one goal to nil.

27 Jan 1912	Hooe F. C. – match against Crowhurst scratched	B. C.
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HOOE - The match between Hooe football club and Crowhurst Park, which was to have been played on Saturday, was scratched owing to Crowhurst Park team being unable to be present.

10 Feb 1912	Hooe F. C. play Ashburnham, today, at Hooe	B. C.
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HOOE - Hooe F. C. play Ashburnham, at Hooe, today (Saturday).

24 Feb 1912	Hooe F. C. defeated by "Windmill Hill"	B. C.
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HOOE - Hooe F. C. were defeated when they met Windmill Hill, at Hooe, on Saturday. Both teams were well represented, and Mannering scored in the first few minutes for Hooe. For the greater part of the game the play in was fairly evenly, but towards the end Windmill Hill broke away and notched two goals leaving the score at the end 2-1.

2 Mar 1912	Hooe against Battle	B. O.
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HOOE - Hooe F. C. will oppose Battle at Hooe today (Saturday)

09 Mar 1912	Football match between Hooe F. C. & Battle scratched	B. C.
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HOOE - The match between Hooe FC and Battle, which was to have been played at Hooe on Saturday, was scratched, owing to Battle being unable to raise the team.

Hooe Football Club

1920

24 Jan 1920	Hooe at Home to Ashburnham	B. C.
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HOOE - FOOTBALL -- In the Sedlescombe and District League on Saturday, Hooe were at home to Ashburnham, when a very good game was witnessed in spite of difficult ground conditions. At half-time the score stood at 4-1, in favour of Hooe, and when the whistle blew for finish, the score was 7-2. Both teams have greatly improved since playing their first match of the season at Ashburnham on 27th. September, when Hooe won by 3-1. Ashburnham on Saturday played a good game but lacked combination, and it was chiefly owing to the efforts of the "Greenback" forwards in this direction, who, considering the slippery nature of the field, played a good passing game, ably fed by an attentive half-back line, which made the result appear so one-sided. Smith, Ingram (3), Sargent (2), and Pont scored for the homesters. The match was well refereed by Mr Pets of Battle.

1923

12 May 1923	Hooe defeats rest of League	B. O.
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HOOE - THE CUP BROUGHT HOME - Hooe Football Club brought their successful season to a close on Saturday, when they defeated the Rest of the League by 3-1, at Sedlescombe. After the match, the cup and medals were presented to the captain, Alex Sargent, who suitably replied with congratulations to Battle on being runners-up. Players and supporters sat down to a tea provided by Mr Gregory. On reaching Hooe with the cup about eight, the team was welcomed by crowds of villagers and a peal from the church bells. Hooe's League record reads: - played, 22; won, 21; points, 43. This success is due to the energetic secretary, Arthur Sargent, the popular captain, Alex Sergeant, backed by good players and a strong committee.

26 May 1923	Hooe - Football Concert - many names B.O.	B. O.
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HOOE - FOOTBALL CLUB DINNER - Thirty-two members and friends of the Hooe Football Club sat down to an excellent repast at the Red Lion, given by Mr A. Lade, Mr L. Pont, Mr B. Smith, and Mr H. Barton, to celebrate Hooe winning the Sedlescombe cup. The carvers were Captain Clark and Mr Barton, and the following ladies waited in the table: - Mrs Clark, Mrs Barton, Miss Barton, and Mrs H. Sargent. At the close of the dinner Mr A. Lade, the President, presented the medals to the players. He said he noticed that Herstmonceux's name was on the cup three times in succession and he hoped Hooe would follow suit. Mr Fuller moved a vote of thanks to the hosts and all concerned. A smoking concert followed, songs being sung by Messers C. Mitchell, C. Tabb, A. Sargent, Alex Sargent, F Russell, F. Vidler, R. Jackson, and W. Lennard, Mr Bert Stevens was at the piano.

1924

15 Mar 1924	Hooe - Football Concert - many names B.O.	B. O.
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HOOE - FOOTBALL CONCERT – There was a good attendance at the Village Hall on Wednesday evening when a concert was given in aid of the funds of the Football Club.

It was arranged by Mr. A. Sargent and Mr. W. C. Priddy in conjunction with members of the Football Committee. Mr. F. Hayes (chairman of the Football Committee) presided and the evening proved most enjoyable. The artistes who contributed were Miss Lade, Mr. Rineham, Mr. Hall, Mr. W. C. Priddy, Miss Elliott and Miss Lloyd, Miss Alice Hayes, Mr. J. Vidler, Mrs. Langmaid and Mr. Jack Erry. In the second part of the programme there were also duets by Messers Priddy and Clifton. Songs by Mrs. Langmaid were greatly enjoyed and Mr. J. Vidler ably maintained the humour of the evening. The piano solos by

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Miss D. Lloyd and Miss Alice Hayes (pupils of Miss Elliott) won appreciation. At the conclusion, Mr. Hayes thanked the artistes and organisers.

1925

7 Feb 1925	Hooe 3 – Sedlescombe 1	B. O.
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FOOTBALL - Hats off to Hooe, who still maintain their unbeaten record in the Sedlescombe and District League. Sedlescombe were the visitors to Hooe on Saturday, and were beaten by three goals to one. A high wind was blowing, which made good football difficult.

Great interest in centred in this small village team, which is rather an innovation this year, the players being entirely Hooe residents, and reside within a mile straight travelling. Some very young blood has also been introduced, the right wing being not 16. Battle are at present the cupholders.

23 Jul 1925	Annual General Meeting of the Hooe Football Club	B. O.
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FOOTBALL CLUB MEETING - The annual general meeting of the Hooe Football Club was held at the Red lion Hotel on Monday evening, when Mr F. Hayes presided, supported by Mr E. Clifton (hon. Secretary), Mr C. Cuthbert (hon. Treasurer), and a good attendance. The balance sheet showed receipts amounting to £42 9s 10 1/2d and expenditure £29 2s 3d, giving a balance of £13 7s 7 1/2d. The balance sheet was adopted. The annual report stated that during last season 24 matches were played, 21 being won, two lost and one drawn, the goal average for being 81, and against 19. The Club tied for first place in the Sedlescombe League with Battle, and a deciding match will be played early next season. It was decided to enter the Sedlescombe and District League again and also compete for the Robertsbridge Charity Cup.

A discussion followed on the possibility of running a reserve side, but this was left over for a while, as also was the question of entering other competitions. The election of officers resulted as follows:- President, Mr S. Sargent; Chairman, Mr F. Hayes; Hon. Secretary, Mr E. Clifton; Hon. treasurer, Mr C. Cuthbert; Committee, Messers W. Barton, K. Smith, G. Pont, A Lennard, H. Clifton, A. Pocock, T. Sharpe, and A. Sargent. Mr Hayes, at the conclusion of the meeting, expressed thanks to the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer for the work they had done, and also thanked Mrs Amos and Mrs Lennard for organising a concert during the season, saying that it was largely due to their efforts that the financial position of the club was so good. Mr Barton was also thanked for lending the room for the meetings of the Club.

09 Sep 1925	Hooe Friendly match with Little Common	B. O.
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HOOE - FOOTBALL – Saturday, Hooe open their season's programme with a friendly match with Little Common at Hooe, when the opportunity will be taken to try out several new men.

10 Oct 1925	Hooe - Return Of The Cup	B. O.
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HOOE - RETURN OF THE CUP - On Thursday of last week the Sedlescombe League Cup, which was won jointly last year by the Battle and Hooe Football Clubs, was brought to the Village for the six months during which the club will hold it.

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The drum and fife band formed a guard for the trophy and played for its progress from the top of the Village to the Village Hall, where, in celebration of the event, a social evening was held to which all interested in the Club were invited. During the evening, the large attendance at the Hall were entertained with songs by Mr. A. Lennard, Mr. G. Seal, and Mr W. Barton, while pianoforte solos were given by Miss Barton and Miss Hayes. Dancing took place, Mr F. Hayes being the M. C. for the evening and before the close, he expressed the pleasure of the Club at the cup coming back to Hooe and hoped that the Village club would retain it during the coming season.

He also thanked the Ladies interested in the Club who had provided the refreshments that were handed round during the evening.

17 Oct 1925	Hooe 2 – Battle 1	B. O.
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HOOE 2 – BATTLE 1 - Hooe defeated Battle at Hooe on Saturday but it was only by means of a penalty goal that they secured the victory. Both sides played with great dash, and after Hooe had opened their account, Jenner equalised for Battle. Hooe subsequently went ahead from a penalty, and this lead they maintained until the end, despite the desperate efforts of Battle to get on level terms.

17 Oct 1925	Hooe Football Club – Arthur Sargent (late secretary) presentation	B. O.
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HOOE - PRESENTATION --- A very pleasing ceremony took place at the headquarters of the Hooe Football Club on Monday evening, when Mrs. B. Smith presented Mr. Arthur Sargent, the late secretary of the Club, with a handsome silver-plated spirit kettle and stand on behalf of the players and officials, on the occasion of his wedding, which took place on Wednesday.

17 Oct 1925	Ninfield – Wedding – Arthur Sargent to Alice Bartholomew	B. O.
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NINFIELD - WEDDING.—The wedding took place at the Wesleyan Church on Wednesday, the Rev. W. A. L. Taylor officiating, of Miss Alice Mabel Bartholomew, daughter of Mr and Mrs. George Bartholomew, of Laurel Cottage, Russell's Green, Ninfield, and Mr. Arthur Horace Sargent., eldest son of Mr. H. Sargent, of the. Manor House, Hooe. The bride has been organist at the Wesleyan Church for many years, while the bridegroom is a member of the Hooe F. C., and was formerly secretary. The service: was choral, Miss Wimshurst, of Bexhill, presiding at the organ. The hymns, "O Perfect Love " and "The voice that breathed; o'er Eden " were sung. The bride was attired in a dress of ivory satin with overlace trimmed with pearls, and veil and orange blossom. She carried a sheaf of lilies. Mrs. Miles acted as attendant, and wore a dress of apricot coloured silk, trimmed with fur to match, and a black hat. Her bouquet consisted of bronze chrysanthemums. Mr. Alec Sargent (brother of the bridegroom) acted as best man. The reception was held in the Schoolroom, at which 60 guests were present. The happy couple afterwards left for their honeymoon, which is being spent at Brighton, the bride travelling in a cinnamon coloured coat frock, with black hat. They will in future reside at Victoria cottage, Hooe. There were many useful presents, the bride being the recipient of a biscuit barrel, and jam spoon from the members of the congregation and trustees of the Wesleyan Church, and the bridegroom of a silver plated spirit kettle and stand from the Hooe F.C.

31 Oct 1925	Hooe 4 — Herstmonceux Reserves 1	B. O.
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SEDLSCOMBE LEAGUE - HOOE 4 — HERSTMONCEUX RESERVES 1

Herstmonceux Reserves played their first League team game of the season on Saturday, when they visited Hooe and conceded both points. Throughout the homesters were the slightly superior team, but the Reserves should show an improvement when they have worn off their summer stiffness. Only one goal

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was registered in the first half, for which the home inside right was responsible. C Buss was unlucky when one of his shots hit the upright. Angear, in the visitors' goal, made several good saves. Hooe netted three times after the interval, and Allcorn, accepting a pass from C, Buss, tapped the ball into the net for the visitors as the home custodian ran out to clear.

Herstmonceux Reserves – G. Angear; G. Harmer and J. Snatt; W. Buss and C, Reed; K.Sinden, A. Dean, C. Buss, G. E. Allcorn, and S.Dennes.

Referee – Mr Stroud, of Ninfield

07 Nov 1925	Hooe – Football Whist Drive	B. O.
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HOOE – FOOTBALL WHIST DRIVE – A whist drive in aid of the Hooe F. C. was held in the Village Hall on Tuesday, when 12 tables were occupied. Mr. J. E. Brand officiated as M. C. and the prize-winners were:- Ladies: 1. Mrs Collins, 175; 2, Miss R. Smith, 172; consolation, Miss Hayes, 135; most times at one table, Mrs A. Lennard (nine times); travelling prize, Miss Ellis. Gentlemen: 1, Mrs. Collins, 170; 2, Mr. C. Smith, 170; consolation, Mr. R. Jackson, 147; most times at one table, Mr. A. Lennard; travelling prize, Mr. E. Brand. A cake given by Mrs. B. Smith was won by Mr. G. Lewis.

Those who contributed towards the prizes included: Mr. Cleworth, Mr. Inman, Mr. G. Sargent, Mr. W. Barton, Mr. B. Smith, Mrs. Hole, Mrs. Collins,

Mrs H. Smith, Mrs A. Lennard, and Mrs. E. Vitler were responsible for the refreshments.

1926

13 Feb 1926	Football Match – Ninfield – Hooe B.O.	B. O.
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HOOE – HASTINGS AND ST> LEONARDS REASERVES 8 – HOOE 1

Hooe sustained a heavy defeat on Saturday at Brann's Field Hastings. Hastings were the superior side, but Hooe played up pluckily and were rather unlucky to lose by such a margin. At the Interval the score was 4-0. A. Sargent secured Hooe's solitary point.

1927

08 Jan 1927	Football – Hooe 7 – Brightling 2	B. O.
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FOOTBALL – HOOE 7 – BRIGHTLING 2

Although Hooe only fielded ten men against Brightling, at Hooe, on Saturday, they had no difficulty in winning easily. In this match the home side reshuffled the team about, and the changes, on the whole proved satisfactory. K. Smith, who usually plays at back, went to centre half, Lennard, the regular pivot for years, shifting to left half. S. Russell moved from the forward line to back and C. Clifton, from left half to inside left.

Chairman, C. Mitchell (2), an opposing back, and K. Smith netted for Hooe in the opening half and upon resuming, Clifton and the same Brightling defender added further goals. The Brightling goalkeeper and their outside right, a young lad, were the pick of the visitor, who played poor football.

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12 02 1927	Sedlescombe League - Hooe 1 — Battle 1	B. O.
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SEDLESCOMBE LEAGUE. HOOE 1 — BATTLE 1

Hooe playing at home on Saturday just managed to effect a draw, but in the closing stages of the game, the visitors made great efforts to force a victory. A Few of the spectators barracked the referee during play, which caused him to speak to them. The encounter was the best seen on the Hooe ground this season and from the start, until the finish of play, was of a ding-dong nature. Hooe opened the scoring when K. Smith netted with a first timer but ten minutes later Battle equalised. The two outstanding players on the field were K. Smith, and F. Douch of Battle.

19 Mar 1927	Hooe – For the Football Club – Jumble Sale at the Village Hall	B.O.
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HOOE – FOR THE FOOTBALL CLUB – In aid of the funds of the Football Club, a jumble sale, organised by Mrs. Lennard, Mrs. Bourner and Mrs Russell, was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday afternoon, and was followed by a whist drive in the evening. Mr. G. Fuller was the M. C. and the prize-winners were: Ladies – 1, Miss Ellis, 172; 2, Miss M. Thomas, 172; 3, Miss K. Pilbeam, 142; travelling. Miss R. Smith; Gentlemen – 1, Mr. Pescod, 175; 2, Mr. C. Smith, senr., 172; 3. Mr. Sheather, 137; travelling, Mrs. W. Pocock (playing as a gentleman); lucky chair, Miss M. Thomas; cake competition, Mr. F. Vitler.

The Committee wish to thank all who gave prizes and those who helped.

12 Mar 1927	Hooe – Friendly – Hooe 8 – Catsfield 1	B.O.
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FRIENDLY - HOOE 8 – CATSFIELD 1 Although fielding five reserves, Hooe gained an easy home victory over Catsfield on Saturday. The visitors, who were by no means disgraced by their defeat, held their opponents fairly well until the interval when the score was 2 – 0 against them, but, in the second half, play was dominated by Hooe. Pocock had a great time, netting on six occasions, while K. Smith secured the remaining two. Ransom was responsible for Catsfield point.

19 Mar 1927	Hooe – Football Club Concert – Village Hall	B.O.
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FOOTBALL CLUB CONCERT. An enjoyable concert was given in the Village Hall on Wednesday evening by the Silver-hill Minstrel Troupe, St. Leonards, in aid of the funds of the Football Club. There was a good attendance, and at the conclusion, Mr. F. Hayes (Chairman of the club) thanked the Troupe. Mrs. Lennard and Mrs. Bourner were responsible for the tasteful decoration of the stage, and they were also responsible for the refreshments.

21 May 1927	Hooe – Whist Drive in aid of Injured member of the Football Club	B.O.
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HOOE - WHIST DRIVE – A whist drive was held in the Village hall on Wednesday evening to assist an injured member of the Football Club. Six tables were occupied, and Mr. A. Lennard officiated as M. C., while the prizes were distributed by Mrs. B. Smith to the following winners: - - Ladies: 1, Miss K. Collins, 169; 2, Miss N. Banks, 167; consolation, Mrs B. Smith, 141; Gentlemen: 1, Mr. Collins, 167; 2, Mr. J. Luck, 166; consolation, Mrs Vitler (playing as a gentleman), 139. Mrs B. Smith, Mrs. F. Vitler and

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Miss R. Smith were in charge of the refreshments, and Miss Tibbles, and Messers. Arthur Sargent, A. G. Fuller, C. Pattenden, H. Clifton, and Newport gave prizes.

28 May 1927	Hooe – Football Social	B.O.
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HOOE - FOOTBALL SOCIAL ---An enjoyable social was held by the members of the Football Club at the Red Lion Inn on Wednesday evening, when Mr. A. Lade took the chair in the absence of the President, Mr G Sargent, and he was supported by Mr F. Hayes (Chairman), Mr H. Clifton (Hon. Secretary), and a good attendance of members and friends. Mr. Hayes said that though the team had been dogged by ill luck throughout the season, they were runners-up in the Sedlescombe League and the Robertsbridge Charity Cup Competition.

He regretted that they were losing the services of one of their best players, Mr C. Clifton, who was leaving for Canada, but wished him the best of luck in his new sphere of activity. The runners-up medals were distributed by Mrs Sargent, and the remainder of the evening was occupied by a smoking concert, those contributing including Messers G. Vidler, W. Barton, A. Lennard, and F. Russell, with Miss Barton discharging the duties of accompanist

1928

18 Aug 1928	Football Club Committee - to hold a practice game	B.O.
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HOOE - FOOTBALL –It was decided at the Football Club’s committee meeting to hold a practice game on August 25th, to which all prospective players are invited

01 Dec 1928	Whist Drive in aid of the Football Club	B.O.
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HOOE - WHIST --- To assist the funds of the Football Club a drive organised by Mrs. Lennard and Mrs. Bourner was held in the Village Hall on Saturday evening when seven tables were in play. Mr. C. Clifton acted as M. C. and the prizes were won by the following: -- Ladies: 1, Mrs. E. Elphick; 2, Mrs Philpot; Mrs. H. Smith, Gentlemen 1, Mr. K. Smith,; 2, Mr. H. Clifton; 3, Mr. J. Norris. Mr. Elphick won the cake guessing competition.

1929

27 Apr 1929	Football match – Hooe 4 – Boreham Street 1 - Friendly	B.O.
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FRIENDLY - HOOE 4 - BOREHAM STREET 1

Hooe and Boreham Street met in a friendly on the Ninfield Recreation Ground on Saturday, in aid of the Central Sports Fund. Hooe won easily after an entertaining game and defeated Boreham, who are in the Football League, by four goals to one. At half-time the score was two goals to one. Hooe were more enterprising than Boreham who slackened considerably in the second-half. C. Mitchell (centre-forward), G. Gordon (outside-left), C. Page (inside-left), and Alex Sargent, moved for Hooe. Boreham obtained their point through their centre-forward.

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04 May 1929	Football – Hooe 6 – Brightling 1	B.O.
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FOOTBALL - HOOE 6 - BRIGHTLING 1

Hooe concluded their Sedlescombe League fixture list on Saturday. It was a very one-sided game. At half-time, Hooe were leading by three goals to one. Pocock scored four for Hooe, thus bringing his total in the Sedlescombe League to 50. Mitchell, inside-right, and Alec Sargent added the other two.

1930

18 Jan 1930	Football – Away to Hollington	B.O.
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FOOTBALL – Away to Hollington Old Church on Saturday, Hooe hope to field the following side: - H. Smith; K. Smith and R. Barton; H. Packham, H. Creasey and C. Clifton; G. Bell, A. Sargent, A. Pocock,, C. Page and G. Pont. Hooe Reserves had to put off their game with Little Common on Saturday on account of the first eleven requiring the ground. This week they travel to Eastbourne to meet Louis Ford's XI. The selected team is :- O. Newport; S. Russell and L. Pocock, J. Luck, W. Farmer and R. Pescod, W. Smith, H. Wright, E. Wood, C. Ballard and L. Clifton. Conveyances for both the first and second elevens will leave at 1.30 p.m.

25 Jan 1930	Whist Drive – in aid of Football Club	B.O.
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WHIST – There were ten tables in play at a drive in aid of the Football Club, held at the Village Hall, on Wednesday evening. Mr. H. Clifton was M. C. and the prizes were presented by Mrs Collett to the following: - Ladies – 1, Miss D. Hoad, 175; 2, Mrs. H. Smith, 173; consolation, Mrs. Simmons, 133. Gentlemen – 1, Mr. H. Clifton, 174; 2, Mr. A. G. Fuller, 173; consolation Mr. D. Taylor, 138

25 Jan 1930	Football Club – Beat Hollington – Lists Members to play Sidley Reserves	B.O.
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FOOTBALL – Hooe accomplished a fine performance in bringing back a point from Hollington on Saturday as a result of their Hastings League match with the Old Church. The peculiarities of the ground proved a somewhat severe handicap to the visitors but, nevertheless, the exchanges were very evenly contested throughout. G. Bell, A. Pocock and A. Sargent netted for Hooe, who are making a great bid for league honours. This Saturday, Hooe are away to Sidley Reserves and are fielding the following side: - H. Smith; K. Smith, and R. Barton; H. Packham, H. Creasey and C. Clifton; G. Bell; A. Sargent, A. Pocock, C. Page and G. Pont. Hooe Reserves visited Eastbourne last week to meet Louis Ford's XI in a friendly, but after a keen game had to admit defeat by four goals to two. Woods and Ballard netted for the visitor. The Reserves are without a game this week-end.

01 Feb 1930	Football – Hooe beat Sidley Reserves.	B. O.
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HOOE –FOOTBALL - Hooe were away to Sidley Reserves, on Saturday, in Division 1 of the Hastings League, and gained a win by four goals to two. A. Pocock (two), G. Bell, and L. Clifton were the successful marksman.

The return game will be played at Hooe this Saturday when the villagers will be represented by the following: --

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H. Smith, K. Smith, and R. Barton; H. Packham, H. Creasey, and C. Clifton; G. Bell, L. Clifton, A. Pocock, C. Page, and G. Pont. Hooe reserves will also be at home, meeting Bodle Street, at the Recreation Ground, in an Ashburnham League fixture. The team will probably be: -- O. Newport, N. Russell, and L. Pocock; L. Luck, H. Munn, and L. Pescod; W. Smith, H. Wright, F. A. Wood, C. Ballard, and C. Lewis.

08 Feb 1930	Football – Reserves beat Bodle Street (Boreham Street?)	B. O.
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HOOE – FOOTBALL - Playing on the recreation ground on Saturday, Hooe Reserves gained the better of Boreham Street in the Ashburnham League, winning by four goals to two. J. Luck (2), E. A. Wood, and C. Ballard scored for the home side. This week the first eleven visit Battle and hope to line up as follows: --

H. Smith, K. Smith, and R. Barton: H. Packham, H. Creasey, and C. Clifton: A. Pocock, A. Sargent, G. Bell, G. Pont, and L. Clifton. The Reserves entertain Magham Down; the probable team being: -- O. Newport, W. Smith, and L. Pocock; J. Luck, W. Farmer, and R. Pescod; C. Lewis, H. Wright, H. Munn, C. Ballard, and E. A. Wood.

15 Feb 1930	Football – Hooe Reserves beat Magham Down	B. O.
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FOOTBALL – Hooe Reserves succeeded in obtaining the better of Magham Down, in an Ashburnham League match, at Hooe, on Saturday. The game proved well contested throughout, and some good football was served up. Both teams scored once in the opening half but the home side obtained two goals to their opponents' one after the interval thereby winning by the odd goal in five. J. Luck (2) and C. Ballard netted for Hooe. The first eleven are at home to Hollington Old Church in Division I of the Hastings League this Saturday. His game should attract a large crowd, for the teams are running neck and neck for the championship. Hooe will be represented by the following: H. Smith; K. Smith and R. Barton; H. Packham, H. Creasey and C. Clifton; A. Pocock. A. Sargent, G. Bell, G. Pont, and L. Clifton

22 Feb 1930	Football – at home to Winchelsea next week	B. O.
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HOOE - FOOTBALL. At home to Winchelsea on Saturday. Hooe hope to field the following side: - H. Smith; K. Smith and R. Barton; H. Packham, H. Creasey and C. Clifton; A. Pocock, A. Sargent. G. Bell, G. Pont and L. Clifton.

22 Feb 1930	Concert – In aid of injured footballer A. Isted	B. O.
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CONCERT – The Village Hall was packed on Wednesday evening when a concert arranged by Mrs. C. Bourner and Mrs. A. Lennard, was given in aid of A. Isted, the Sisley footballer, who was injured in a match at Hooe recently. The Bexhill Imps Concert Party kindly gave their services and presented a splendid programme, for which they were thanked by Mr. J. B. Sparke. Mr. Sparke also spoke appreciatively of the work put in by the organisers.

01 Mar 1930	Whist Drive – in aid of Football Club	B. O.
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HOOE - WHIST. A drive arranged by Mrs. A. Lennard and Mrs. C. Bourner, in aid of the Football Club, was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday evening; nine tables being occupied. Mr. F. Hayes was the M.

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C. and the prizewinners were: -Ladies: 1. Miss K. Collins; 2. Mrs. Philpotts; consolation. Miss I. Luck. Gentlemen: 1, Mr. A... G. Fuller; 2, Mr. Morris; consolation, Mr. C. Clifton.

01 Mar 1930	Football – Hooe First Eleven – Match didn't take place	B. O.
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FOOTBALL Owing to the fact that the Hollington club's ground at Silverhill Park is required for a cup match, the Hooe first eleven have no match for this Saturday,

The Reserves entertain Louis Ford's XI (Eastbourne) in a friendly and hope to field the following side: -

O. Newport, S. Russell, and L. Pocock; J. Luck, W. Smith, and R. Pescod; H. Wright, H. Munn, C. Wood, C. Page, and C. Ballard.

01 Mar 1930	Football – Hastings League – Hooe 1 – Winchelsea 0	B. O.
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FOOTBALL - HASTINGS LEAGUE, DIVISION 1

HOOE 1 - WINCHELSEA 0 A splendidly contested game was seen at Hooe on Saturday, when Winchelsea were the visitors. Play was of a ding-dong character throughout and there was very little to choose between the teams. The visitors experienced bad luck in not scoring on more than one occasion but the home side were splendidly served by H. Smith in goal. The all-important goal was scored by A. Pocock during the opening half.

08 Mar 1930	Football – First Eleven against Hollington	B. O.
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HOOE – FOOTBALL MATCHES. Both Hooe teams are engaged this Saturday. The first eleven visit Silverhill Park to meet Hollington Reserves in the Hastings League match which was postponed from last week. The following team will make the journey: - H. Smith; S. Russell and R. Barton; H. Packham, K. Smith and C. Clifton; A. Pocock, A. Sargent, G. Bell, G. Pont, and L. Clifton.

The Reserve team entertain Catsfield Reserves in a friendly. The probable team being: - O. Newport; H. Munn and L. Pocock; J. Luck, E. Piper and W. Farmer; C. Lewis, H. Wright. E. A. Wood, C. Ballard, and J. Lewis.

08 Mar 1930	Football Club – Meeting held Wednesday (J. B. Sparke presided)	B. O.
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FOOTBALL CLUB – A meeting of the Football Club was held on Wednesday evening when Mr. J. B. Sparke presided over an excellent attendance of members. The hon. Secretary (Mr. H. Clifton) reported that the club was in a fairly sound financial position.

Both teams were playing extraordinarily well and the club stood a very good chance of securing the championship of the Hastings League, Division II and the Ashburnham League. Sympathy was expressed with L. Creasey, the first eleven centre-half, who was suspended for a month as a result of a game against Hollington Old Church, in which he and two of the opposition players were ordered off the field. Mr. H. L. H. Gabb was elected a vice-president.

Hooe Football Club

19 Mar 1930	Whist Drive in aid of the Football Club	B. O.
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HOOE - WHIST – There were six tables in play at a drive in aid of the Football Club on Wednesday. Mr. F. Hayes acted as M. C. and Mrs. A. Lennard and Mrs. C. Bourner were in charge of the refreshments. The prizes were presented by Mrs. F. Hayes to the following:- Ladies: - 1, Mrs. F. Vitler; 2, Mrs. W. Parrott; 3, Miss Clifton; Gentlemen: 1, Mr. H. Clifton; 2, Mr. K. Smith; 3, Mr. W. Smith.

19 Mar 1930	Football – First Eleven against Rye Reserves	B. O.
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FOOTBALL – Both Hooe teams are engaged this Saturday. The first eleven are away to Rye Reserves in a Hastings League Division I match, and hope to field the following side: - H. Smith; S. Russell and R. Barton; H. Packham, E. Smith and C. Clifton; A. Pocock A. Sargent, G. Bell, G. Pont and L. Clifton. At home to Ninfield in a friendly, the Reserves will line up as follows: - O. Newport; W. Smith and L. Pocock; J. Luck, E. Piper and J. Lewis; H. Munn, H. Wright, E. A. Wood, C. Ballard and C. Lewis

20 Sep 1930	Hooe – Football – Hooe and Magham Down	B. O.
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FOOTBALL – Hooe and Magham Down, who tied for second place in the Ashburnham League last season, play off at Ashburnham on Saturday. The Hooe team has been selected as follows :- O. Newport; W. Smith and R. Barton; H. Packham, H. Creasey and E. Piper, L. Piper, A. N. Other, L. Clifton, C. Ballard and E. Wood.

27 Sep 1930	Football – Hooe versus Magham Down	B. O.
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FOOTBALL – ASHBURNHAM LEAGUE MAGHAM DOWN 5 - HOOE 1 At Ashburnham on Saturday, Magham Down and Hooe met to decide who should be the runners-up of the Ashburnham League last season. The honours were gained by Magham Down by a good margin. On such an exposed ground, good football was made impossible by the gale.

Hooe won the toss and kicked with the wind, which was blowing don the pitch. During the first period, the Magham Down defence were severely tested but showed up well, particularly the halves. After twenty minutes, Hooe took the lead when Latham, who played a good game in goal, failed to hold a long shot and the ball went out of his hands over the line. The Hooe goal-keeper had very little to do up to the interval.

After the change over, practically all the play was in the Hooe area. It was not until mid-way through the half that Richardson got the ball into the net but the point was disallowed for off-side. Magham Down were rewarded, however, a few minutes later when Richardson equalised.

They maintained the pressure and secured the advantage – a good shot by Riggs beating the custodian. Ransom put the Down further ahead with a shot from close in which entered the gaol off a Hooe defender, and the same player registered the fourth goal. Shortly before the end, the Down were awarded a free from about 18 yards out and Boniface was successful with the shot

Magham Down. J. Latham; E. Bartram and E. Page; G. Impey, W. Boniface, and F. Walker; G. Bennett, E. Ransom, W. Riggs, G. Richardson and B. Burgess.

Referee: - Mr. Elliot, of Battle.

Hooe Football Club

11 Oct 1930	Hooe – Football – Hooe to visit Dallington	B. O.
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HOOE FOOTBALL – Hooe visit Dallington in the Ashburnham League on Saturday, the probable team being: O. Newport; R. Barton and L. Pocock; H. Packham, H. Creasey, and W. Smith; L. Piper, E. Piper, L. Clifton, C. Ballard, and F. Wood.

18 Oct 1930	Hooe – Football – Hooe versus Dallington	B. O.
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HOOE – FOOTBALL ASHBURNHAM LEAGUE

DALLINGTON 5 - HOOE 1 If Dallington continue to show up as well as they did on Saturday the team will get plenty of local support well vocal anyhow. Dallington won the toss and elected to play with the slope in their favour. Combining well together, they scored five goals in the first half. Of these, Harry Tuffs, who had an afternoon out, scored four and the other was obtained by Fred Pearce by a fine piece of headwork. In a breakaway, Hooe beat the defence and scored.

It was thought that on the change of ends the visitors would meet with further success but the home forwards showed up even better than in the first half, although they could not increase their lead. Owen Newport played very finely in goal for Hooe, and their backs were stickers. Hooe forwards were fast but they did not show the same cohesion as the Dallington forwards. Tom Booth was very conspicuous in the Dallington half-back line, and Douglas Buss did well in goal. Every man in the home eleven was at his best.

Mr. Gibbs of Herstmonceux was referee.

Before the match the players, officials and spectators stood for two minutes in silence as a tribute to the gallant men who lost their lives in the R. 101.

Dallington:- D. Buss; E. Crouch and B. Cornford; C. Russell, J. Booth, and Arthur White; R. Harmer, H. Tuffs, F. Pearce, H. Duplock and E. Hollyoak.

Hooe:- O. Newport; L. Pocock and R. Barton; W. Smith, H. Packham and L. Piper; S. Piper, C. Ballard, E. Stubberfield, E. Woods and L. Clifton.

1931

14 Mar 1931	Football Club Drive – Whist Drive	B. O.
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HOOE - FOOTBALL CLUB DRIVE. A whist drive in aid of the football club was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday evening, six tables being in play. The prizes were won as follows: - Ladies: 1, Mrs Barton, 168; 2, Mrs. Carey; 167; consolation, Mrs. E. Elphick, 134. Gentlemen: 1, Mr Pocock, 189; 3, Mr C. Clifton, 167; consolation, Mrs. Collins (playing as a gentleman), 146. Mr Sparks carried out the duties of M. C. and Mrs. Sparks presented the prizes.

21 Mar 1931	Hooe – Wedding – K. Smith (Hooe Football Club)	B. O.
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HOOE WEDDING – The wedding took place at Eastbourne on Saturday last, of Miss Dorothy Steere, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Steere, of Eastbourne, and Mr. Kenneth Smith, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Smith, of Hooe Common. Mr. Ken Smith was until a few seasons ago the popular captain

Hooe Football Club

of the Hooe F. C. He is a cornet player in the Hooe Band. Mr. and Mrs. K. Smith were the recipients of numerous useful presents, including a clock from the bridegroom's fellow members of the band.

1932

23 Jan 1932	Football – Hastings League – St. Barnabas 10 – Hooe 2	B. O.
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HASTINGS LEAGUE DIV. II. ST. BARNABAS' 10 – HOOE 2 Following their cup victory over Bexhill II the previous week, St. Barnabas, had a large crowd at their league match with Hooe, on the Down on Saturday, when they scored a splendid win by ten goals to two.

It was a remarkable game in many aspects. Although scoring the first goal early in the game, the "Saints" fell off badly for a period of about a quarter of an hour, during which Hooe equalised and then took the lead. Just before the interval, however, St. Barnabas livened up and added two goals in quick succession, making the score 3 – 2 in their favour.

During the first twenty minutes or so of the second half Hooe held their own with the "Saints" and then the complexion of the game changed entirely. St. Barnabas' began to play inspired football and their forwards were irresistible. During the last 25 minutes Hooe, were completely overwhelmed, the "Saints" scoring seven goals at intervals of about three minutes each.

The St. Barnabas' marksmen were - H. A. Akehurst (2), B. C. Akehurst (2), P. J. Challen (2), K W Stickells (2), H. G. Kiff and F. White.

30 Jan 1932	Hooe – Football – Hooe defeated Hollington Old Church.	B. O.
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FOOTBALL - After a close and interesting game at Hooe on Saturday, the Villager team defeated Hollington Old Church by one goal to nil in Division II of the Hastings League. The home team were given the lead by L. Clifton about half-way through the first half, and their defenders had a busy time for the rest of the game, in dealing with the determined efforts of the visitors, to avoid defeat.

06 Feb 1932	Football – Hooe “robbed of victory” against Peasmarsch	B. O.
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FOOTBALL –Hooe were robbed of victory in the last ten minutes of their game with Peasmarsch at Hooe on Saturday, in Division II of the Hastings League, the result being a draw of two goals each. At the interval, the home team were leading 2-1, their goals being scored by G. Pont and A. Pocock. Play was very evenly shared in the second half and it was only after some fine efforts that the visitors scored the equaliser during the closing stages.

06 Feb 1932	Hooe – Whist Drive in aid of the Football Club	B. O.
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HOOE - WHIST DRIVE There were eight tables in play at a drive held in the Village Hall on Wednesday evening in aid of the Football Club. The duties of M. C. were discharged by Mr. A. Lennard and the prizes were kindly presented by Mrs. B. Smith. The winners were as follows: - Ladies; 1, Miss Taylor; 2, Mrs. Barton; consolation, Mrs. Clifton. Gentlemen: 1, Mr. Pocock; 2, Mr. F. Norris; consolation. Mr. A. Lennard.

Hooe Football Club

20 Feb 1932	Hooe – Football - Hooe won 7 – 4 (some team names)	B. O.
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HOOE – FOOTBALL – Hooe won 7-4 when they visited Peasmarsh on Saturday in Division II of the Hastings League. At the interval, Hooe were leading 3-2. Their goals were scored by A. Pocock (three), G. Bourner, J. Clifton, G. Pont and J. Luck.

19 Mar 1932	Football – Hastings League – Hooe 2 – Radcliffe’s Athletic 2	B. O.
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FOOTBALL - HASTINGS LEAGUE, DIV. II HOOE 2 – RADCLIFFE ATHELETICS 2
At Hooe on Saturday the villagers did well to draw. Radcliffe’s enjoyed a 1 – 0 lead at the interval and early in the second half they added another goal. In the closing stages, however, A. Pocock secured two quick goals for Hooe, thus bringing the scores level.

26 Mar 1932	Football – Hastings League – Hooe 4 – Staplecross 0 (some team names)	B. O.
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FOOTBALL - HASTINGS LEAGUE, DIV. II HOOE 4 – STAPLECROSS 0 In this game at Hooe on Saturday, Hooe completely outplayed their opponents. When the teams crossed over Hooe were leading by two goals to nil, their marksmen being A. Pocock and J. Luck, and after the interval they still further increased their advantage, two more goals being scored by A. Pocock and J. Luck. On Saturday Hooe meet Westfield.

02 Apr 1932	Hooe – Whist Drive in aid of the football club	B. O.
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HOOE - WHIST DRIVE There were two tables in play at a drive held at the Village Hall on Wednesday, in aid of the Football Club.

The M. C. was Mr. Lennard and the prizes were presented by Mrs. Luck. The winners were: - Ladies: 1, Mr. Barton (**JWN’s Note:** Shouldn’t this be Mrs. Barton?); 2, Miss Philpott; 3, Mrs. Hopkins; most fours, Mrs. H. Smith; lowest first half, Mr. S. Ballard; travelling prize, Mr. H. Barton. Gentlemen: 1, Mr. Hopkins; 2, Mr. C. Ballard; 3, Mr. H. Clifton; consolation, Mr. C. Clifton; most fours, Mr. Brown; lowest first half, Mr. Bradley; travelling prize. Mr. Kennedy. Mr. G. Pont was the winner of the cake.

02 Apr 1932	Football – Hastings League – Hooe 15 – Westfield 1 Team names	B. O.
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FOOTBALL - HASTINGS LEAGUE, DIV. II

HOOE 15 – WESTFIELD II 1 At Hooe on Saturday, Hooe completely outclassed their opponents, netting no fewer than 15 goals against the team which is likely to take the “wooden spoon”. At half- time, the score was 9-1 in Hooe’s favour. The Hooe marksmen were:- A. Pocock (9), L. Clifton (2), J. Luck, W. Smith and J. Munn, while a Westfield back deflected the ball into his own goal.

16 Apr 1932	Football – Hastings League – Hooe 1 – Crowhurst 1 – names	B. O.
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FOOTBALL - HASTINGS LEAGUE, DIV. II HOOE 1 – CROWHURST 1 The rain and wind made good football impossible when this match was played at Hooe on Saturday. A. Wisden opened the score for Crowhurst with a long shot, and a few minutes later A. Pont replied for

Hooe Football Club

Hooe. Until the final whistle was blown both sides were striving for the deciding goal, but neither was able to obtain it. The return match will be played at Crowhurst on Saturday.

22 Oct 1932	Hooe – Football – Hooe defeated by “Observer” team	B. O.
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HOOE – FOOTBALL At Bulverhythe on Saturday, Hooe were defeated by the “Observer” in Division II of the Hastings League by the odd goal in five. At half-time the score was 2-1 in the home team’s favour, Hooe’s goal being netted by A. Denson. In the second half, the “Observer” scored again and Hooe obtained their second goal through L. Clifton.

29 Oct 1932	Hooe football team drew with “Observer” Athletic – 2-2	B. O.
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FOOTBALL – HASTINGS LEAGUE, DIV. II

HOOE 2 – “OBSERVER” ATHLETIC 2. A fast game at Hooe on Saturday resulted in a draw, both teams scoring twice, Hooe had most of the game during the first half and attacked strongly, J. Munn scoring the first goal for Hooe ten minutes from the kick-off and another was netted before the interval by D. Catt.

When the game was resumed the “Observer” played brisk football and scored two goals in good style. Both teams strove hard for a further goal but the score remained unchanged. Hooe were pressing hard when the final whistle was blown.

1933

14 Jan 1933	Football Club – decision to withdraw from Hastings League	B. O.
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HOOE – FOOTBALL – It was decided at a meeting attended by three members of the Hooe Football Club at the Red Lion on Wednesday that the club should, owing to the lack of enthusiasm among the players, withdraw from the Hastings League, DIV. II. A letter was sent to the League Secretary notifying him of the Club’s decision.

1936

25 Apr 1936	Hooe – Whist Drive and Dance in aid of Hooe Football Club	B. O.
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HOOE – WHIST DRIVE AND DANCE. – A successful whist drive and dance, arranged for the benefit of the Hooe Football Club was held at the Village Hall last week. About 120 participated in this double event. Messers H. Clifton and S. R. Plester officiated as M. C.s assisted by members of the committee, Messers. S. Russell and T. R. Lee. The club wish to thank the donors of the prizes and Mrs. H. Barton and friends for their generosity in supplying refreshments. The prize-winners of the whist drive were – Ladies: 1, Mrs. Philpott; 2, Mrs. W. Freeman; consolation, Mrs. E. Brown; travelling, Mrs G. Carey; lucky chair, Mrs. R. Barton. Gentlemen: 1, Mr. G. T. Sutton; 2, Mr. A. F. Peacock. A special prize was awarded Master M. Brown for having sold most tickets. Other prizes were won by Mrs G. Pont and Mr. W. Smith.

Spot dances were won by Miss J. Hayward and Mr. G. F. Bullock, Miss G. Clifton and Mr. R. Cornish. C. Lade and his band from Ninfield offered their services at a greatly reduced figure, an item the club fully appreciated. A sum of over £5 will be available to add to the club funds.

Hooe Football Club

21 Nov 1936	Hooe – Whist Drive & Dance – Football Club – Village Hall	B. O.
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HOOE – WHIST AND DANCE – The Football Club held a whist drive and dance at the Village Hall on Wednesday. For the whist the M. C. was Mr. H. Clifton and there were ten tables. The winners were:- Ladies; 1, Miss E. Philpot (181); 2, Mr. C. G. Bullock (playing as a lady) (175); consolation, Mrs. J. Luck (135); highest half, Miss E. Clifton (69); travelling prize, Mrs. H. Smith. Gentlemen: 1, Mr. W. Smith (170); 2, Mr. L. Douglas (168); consolation, Mr. E. Stubberfield. Other prizes were won by Mrs. Parsons, Mr. D. Tayloer, and Mr. L. Piper. The prize donors were Mrs. F. R. Plester, Mrs. A. Freeman, and Messers A. A. Ward, G. C. Bullock, J. Goddard, L. Pocock, R. MacDonald, D. Gotto, J. Berthon Sparke, J. P., C. Caxton, and B. Smith. Mr. F. R. Plester was the dancing M. C. and music was supplied by Mr. Hugh Packham's Havana Band. Refreshments were aserved by Mrs. Barton and Mrs. A. Freeman. The effort realised just over £2.

1937

08 May 1937	Football – last game of the season – lists team members	B. O.
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HOOE – FOOTBALL – The last game of the season, played against Battle, at Battle, on Saturday, turned out to be a very close match. Hooe opened the scoring when S. J. Luck, on the right wing, sent a cross shot into goal. Battle equalised very soon, and at half-time the score was one all. In spite of a keen wind and the slope of the ground, Luck again scored in the second half, and it was through some excellent saves by "Smiler" Holland that the game closed with Hooe winning 2 – 1. The Hooe team was as follows:- L. Holland; A. Baker and S. Munn; J. Pont, H. Packham, and S. Ballard; J. Brooks, A. Freeman, A. Eldridge, S. Luck and B. Bourner. The season's record is as follows: - Played 26 games, won 17, drawn 1, lost 8, goals for 105, goals against 72, points 35.

04 Sept 1937	Hooe Football Club - opening league match.	B. O.
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HOOE – FOOTBALL CLUB – Hooe Footballers are keenly awaiting their opening league match, which is against Peasmarsh at home on September 18th, and are looking forward to a very successful season, both playing and financially. If enthusiasm counts they will have one. Several new members have signed on and these, together with the old members should play a big part in emulating Bexhill Juniors by winning promotion at the end of the season. At the general meeting, Mr. J. B. Sparkes, J.P., was again elected president and chairman, and the former officials were re-elected en bloc with the substitution of S. C. Ballard (team secretary) for Mr. S. Russell (assistant hon. secretary) and Mr. C. Page for Mr. J. R. Lee on the general and selection committees. It was decided to run a reserve team for friendlies only and to use as a changing room the Hooe Village Hall instead of the Red Lion Hotel. Much satisfaction was expressed at the £25 balance, the President remarking that his lot would be an easy one, if the players helped themselves so successfully.

11 Nov 1937	Hooe – Whist Drive – benefit for Mr F. Clark – Hooe footballer	B. O.
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WHIST DRIVE AT HOOE – Injured Footballer to Benefit A whist drive was held in the Village Hall on Friday for the benefit of Mr. F. Clark, a Hooe footballer who is in the Bexhill Hospital suffering from a fractured leg. Fourteen tables were in play. The duties of M.C. were ably carried out by Mr. A. Lennard, and the prizes were presented by Mrs. Pedrick.

The Hooe Football Club wish to thank all who supported the drive, and especially the following, who gave prizes: - Mrs. Hyde (Bexhill), Miss Brook (Ninfield), Mrs Creasey (Eastbourne), Mrs. Steele

Hooe Football Club

(Bexhill), Mrs Bourner, Mr. F. Pilbeam, Mr. H. Barton, Mr. Pedrick, and Mr. Mr. C. Bourner (Hooe), Mr. J. B. Sparke and Mr. J. Brook (Ninfield), Mr. Knight-Smith (Bexhill), and Mr. Hutchinson (Battle).

Mr. J. J. Newport, Mr. W. Pilbeam, Dr. Deller, Mr. Hayes, Mr. C. Pocock and Miss Barran gave donations.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. and Mrs. Bourner for their help in providing refreshments, collecting prizes, and arranging a cake competition, which brought in £1 0s 6d. Miss L. Morris won the cake.

The prize-winners were as follows: -

Ladies: 1, Mrs. Keen; 2, Mrs. Mitten; 3, Miss S. C. Ballard; travelling, Mrs C. Sinden; highest half, Mrs. C. Sinden; longest at one table, Mrs. C. Sinden, consolation, Mrs. E. Taylor.

Gentlemen: 1, Mr. D. Taylor; 2, Mr. J. Milton; 3, Mr. C. Pattenden; highest half, Mr. C. N. Page; longest at one table, Mr. C. J. Laker, consolation, Mr. A. F. Pocock. The sum of £4 10s was raised.

1938

30 Apr 1938	Hooe – Football Dinner – Music by Hugh Packham’s Havana Band	B. O.
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HOOE – FOOTBALL DINNER – The Hooe Football Club finished the season in grand style by holding a dinner and dance in the Village Hall on Saturday.

Mr. J. Berthon Sparke, J. P., presided and he congratulated the team on their season. Mr. Hart responded. Those present also included Mr. A. R. Hayward, and the M. C. for the dance was Mr. S. Plester, the music being supplied by Hugh Packman’s Havana Band and the Pooley Accordion Band alternatively.

22 Apr 2001	Hooe – Football Dinner – Music by Hugh Packham’s Havana Band	B. O.
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The following extract brings us much more up-to-date and the write-up gets more verbose, which seems to be typical of the newspapers and magazines in this modern era – in fact, typical of the modern era! Life was not so complicated so many years ago and people didn’t take things as seriously as now.

The extract come from the website of the Argus newspaper archives, which is at : -
<http://archive.theargus.co.uk/2001/4/22/179566.html>

Hooe do the league think they're kidding?

Hooe Sports have been told they will be left empty-handed despite clinching the East Sussex League Division Four title last month.

The East Sussex League have abandoned the season, except the Premier Division, and although Hooe completed their fixtures the campaign has been in vain.

Despite dropping just seven points all season and building an unassailable 14 point lead the league will not present them with any silverware.

Manager Sean Kirk, who targeted promotion this season, cannot believe it. He is furious the league has taken a decision without a meeting of clubs.

Hooe Football Club

He said: "We're gutted. After walking the league this season, surely we deserve some reward. It doesn't make sense.

"Promotion was our aim but that's now not going to happen. We should at least receive a cup."

But league secretary Doug Saunders said: "There'll be no presentation of cups. The season is a void. Only the Premier Division can be finished and there's nothing we can do about it."

That means striker Rob Hewitt's 23 goals for the team count for nothing.

Rob thinks the league should have come up with a better solution.

"Why not settle the division on a points average?" he asked. "I know the league might not have been able to finish, but we did win fair and square.

"When I first heard of the news, I thought it was a late April Fool joke. I wasn't laughing then and I'm not laughing now."

Ambitious Little Common, who lead Division One and looked set to bounce back into the Premier Division, are also outraged.

The club want to win back their County League status and through Lottery grants and fundraising are about to build a £500,000 clubhouse.

Chairman Ken Cherry said: "The season could've been completed. We had five matches left and many teams are playing double headers. I can't believe the league committee have taken it upon themselves to cancel the season.

"We now have to go through another year in Division One and delay our return to the County League.

"Our club have County League facilities and exciting things are happening here. But this has put a dent into everything."

Hooe Sports chairman Tim Bryant understood the league was in a pickle with fixtures but cancelling the season was going beyond their bounds.

"They should have called an emergency meeting some weeks ago about this," he said. "You have to ask why this is the only league to have abandoned."

But Saunders insisted the league committee have done everything correctly. The emergency committee acted in the best interests of the clubs, he said.

"We are so sorry that this has disrupted many clubs but the league can't be blamed," said Saunders. "The fuel crisis, floods and foot and mouth all contrived against us. Hopefully we'll have better luck next season."

Sussex FA chief executive Ken Benham was concerned about the news and was planning to speak with league officials.

He said: "I'm always dubious when a league takes this kind of action without a meeting of their clubs, but it depends what's stated in their rulebook."