

Hythe Town 3 v East Grinstead Town 0 – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2018

New-look Wasps are still looking for their first points of the Bostik League season after three first-half goals condemned them to defeat on Saturday. Grinstead have rarely made fruitful trips to the Kent coast during five years at this level and despite a much-improved second-half display the damage had been done.

There is no doubt Wasps' fans will have to be patient as Matt Longhurst's side bed in after a summer of change in personnel and he will be hoping that two home games over the Bank Holiday weekend - when Wasps entertain South Park in the FA Cup on Saturday and Whyteleafe in the league two days later - can kick-start their campaign.

He was unable to field his preferred line-up again with Leo Mazzone serving his one match ban and Steve Sargent, Drew Cooney and Orlando Smith injured.

Callum Emptage moved into midfield and 18 year old attacker Donvieve Jones started at right back having just recovered from injury. Ryan Johnson played his first match against his former club.

Hythe are one of the favourites for promotion and they were on their way to a second win as early as the seventh minute.

Nigel Nrita found space down the left and his cross was stroked home by Zak Ansah, the striker left getting in just in front of Karn Miller-Neave to beat Sheikh Ceesay.

Ex-Wasp Mitchell Dickenson had a header cleared off the line by Karn Miller-Neave before the Cannons made it 2-0 on 17 minutes when Ansah headed home Kieran Campbell's shot.

Moments later Grinstead should have pulled one back. Sid Sollis found Ainsley Everett whose cross went agonisingly across goal without a touch as Marcus Elliott and Mitchell Dickinson slid in without getting a touch when any sort of contact in front of an open goal would have got Wasps back into things.

Everett fired over and Emptage wasn't far away with a volley as Grinstead continued to press but they conceded another disappointing goal in the 34th minute. A defensive clearance after a misplaced pass and slip by the Wasps meant Ansah was free in the centre circle and he raced in on goal and placed his shot past Ceesay to make it 3-0.

One 18 year old replaced another at half time with Harvey Killick on for Jones and Wasps certainly looked more solid defensively in the second half.

Sollis smashed a shot against the bar from 25 yards and Wasps were much more of a threat with Everett, Sollis and Elliott all going close, but Hythe were deserved winners, although it was a much closer match than the scoreline suggested.

Team: Sheikh Ceesay, Donvieve Jones (45 Harvey Killick), Karn Miller-Neave, Michael Wilson, Joe Tennent, Ryan Johnson, Ben Wilson (70 Robin Deen), Callum Emptage (c) (78 Dan Hogan), Marcus Elliott, Sid Sollis, Ainsley Everett Unused Subs: Jack Bray, Steven Springett

Attendance: 233