

Eastbourne Opposition Report

TEAM REPORTING ON: Eastbourne

DATE: 21/02/2023

FIXTURE: Hampton & Richmond vs Eastbourne

COMPETITION: National League South

SCORE: 3 - 2

GOAL SCORERS: Shiloh Remy 90' +2 (Pen.) Charlie Walker 22' ; Connor Kurran-Browne 81' Dean Inman 55' Alfie Whittingham 43'

CONDITIONS: Dry, torn up pitch

REFEREE: Jack Bloxham

RED CARDS: No

PENS: 90' +2

LINE UPS:



FORMATION & TACTICAL COMMENTS INCLUDING ANY CHANGES:

Started in a 4-4-2

Narrow shape in possession, reliance on full-backs for width.

Right-side dominant build-up, particularly through RB Bartley.

When level or ahead:

- Continued with same structure.
- Maintained high tempo and aggressive positioning.

When losing:

- Increased risk-taking.
- Full-backs pushed higher, especially LB **Woollard Innocent (3)** in second half.
- Defensive structure became stretched and chaotic.

No major formation change, but **positional discipline dropped** significantly in second half.

Visible physical drop-off after ~65-70th minute.

SUBS MADE:

'60 - Scarlett (22) on for Walker (10)

- Scarlett took wide/right-sided role.
- Bartley moved more centrally.

'64 - Beckford (27) on for Dickenson (5)

- Added pace and energy on right side.

'78 - Wabo (18) on for Kastrati (14)

- Minimal impact, rarely involved.

IN POSSESSION

Preference to build shortly initially but very conservative.

Quickly go long under pressure.

GK rarely involved in the build-up.

Strong right side bias:

- Bartley main outlet and overlap option.

Left side:

- Dickenson & Woollard Innocent often defaulted to long balls in first half.
- Low creativity and predictability.

Tempo:

- **Very high**, often rushed.
- Led to loss of structure and spacing.

Key creative influences:

- Walker (10) between the lines.
- Remy (16) linking midfield.
- Gravata (20) carrying ball centrally.

Effective in transition and counter-attacks.

Limited patience in sustained possession.

WITHOUT THE BALL:

Pressed aggressively but often uncoordinated.

High line used inconsistently.

Poor compactness between midfield and defence.

Large gaps appeared between units, especially after turnovers.

Midfield often bypassed.

Defensive recovery runs inconsistent.

Prone to:

- Players stepping out without cover.
- Breaking defensive line unnecessarily.

Intensity unsustainable over 90 minutes.

GOALKEEPER DISTRIBUTION:

Preference to play **short but safely**.

Under pressure:

- Looked to clear quickly.
- Overhit passes, creating issues for defenders.

Rarely used as an extra man in build-up.

Conservative setup from goal kicks.

DEFENSIVE UNIT COMMENTS

Defensive line:

- Medium to high, poorly managed.

CBs:

- Aggressive, physical.
- Will step into midfield when GK restarts.

FBs:

- RB pushes high consistently.
- LB more cautious early, more attacking second half.

Defensive issues:

- Poor communication.
- Players breaking line.
- Slow recovery in transition.

Vulnerable to pace late in the game.

MIDFIELD UNIT COMMENTS

Remy (16):

- Box-to-box.
- Main stabiliser and organiser.

Bendle (12):

- More defensive, supports CBs.

Kastrati (14):

- Creative, lines-breaking passes.
- Defensive contribution limited.

Gravata (20):

- Ball carrier, progressive.

Issues:

- Over-commitment forward
- Poor spacing
- Midfield became disconnected second half

FORWARDS UNIT COMMENTS:

Walker (10):

- Drops into pockets.
- Links play.
- Creative hub.

Pearce (17):

- Runs channels.
- Direct, pace threat.
- Inexperienced decision-making.

After Walker sub:

- Attack lost structure.
- No clear link between midfield and forwards.

TEAM STRENGTHS:

Very effective in **transition**.

Multiple players comfortable **operating in pockets**.

High technical level in midfield.

Good counter-attacking moments.

Confident passing between the lines.

High energy early in game.

TEAM WEAKNESSES:

Large spaces between defence and midfield

Poor tactical discipline

Unsustainable tempo

Physically average aerially in attack

Predictable build-up patterns

Poor game management when tired

Defensive line frequently disorganised

Vulnerable to quick attackers in transition

PLAYER	POSITION(S) PLAYED	AGE	HEIGHT	FOOT	COMMENTS FROM GAME
Lee Worgan (1)	GK	42	6'1	R	- Tall presence but limited agility and slow reactions when getting down to low shots. Not quick off his line in 1v1 situations. - Rarely risks distribution. Looks uncomfortable with the ball at his feet and often overhits passes when under pressure, putting defenders into difficult situations. - Hesitant decision-making when exposed in transition. Struggled to decide whether to close down or hold position in 1v1 moments. - Poor judgement on first and third goals. On '39 failed to commit early in a 1v1 and was easily lifted over. On '78 reacted late and did not extend frame effectively. Not at fault for second goal due to close-range finish from corner situation.
Ryan Bartley (6)	RB	22	6'1	R	- Strong, powerful full-back with a big frame. Lacks pace and agility, particularly when required to recover defensively. - Attacking-minded and provides regular overlaps. Links play well on the right side and frequently involved in throw-ins. Comfortable combining in wide areas. - Can lose defensive discipline by pushing too high. Occasionally breaks the defensive line and is slow to recover when possession is lost. - More advanced than LB early in the game. Mixed 1v1 defending due to limited mobility. Produced a crucial block inside the box ('71). Moved into more central areas late on.
Jack Burchell (2)	RCB	23	6'1	R	- Very physical and aggressive centre-back. Competitive in duels but lacks recovery

					pace and agility when exposed against quick attackers. - Comfortable receiving under pressure and stepping into midfield from GK restarts. Can be composed to the point of taking unnecessary risks. - Steps out aggressively to engage opponents but can be drawn out of position, leaving space behind. Fatigued late on and struggled against counters. - Decent aerial presence but inconsistent timing. Partially at fault for second goal after failing to attack the ball or clear effectively at a defensive corner.
Mitchell Dickenson (5)	LCB	29	6'1	L	- Lacks pace and struggles badly when defending space or recovering in transition. Adequate strength but limited mobility. - Conservative, no-risk defender. Clearly instructed to play long and executed long passes reasonably well, particularly from set-piece situations. - Vulnerable when isolated or turned. Was outpaced on a counter just before half-time and beaten inside the box. - Poor communication with LB on first goal, resulting in neither attacking the initial ball. Mixed aerially - capable but slow to adjust against quick second balls. Subbed '64.
Kai Woollard-Innocent (3)	LB	25	5'7	L	- Competitive and aggressive but lacks size and agility. Can struggle when required to change direction quickly. - Defensive-first full-back. Often recycles possession backwards. Decision-making inconsistent, though showed ability to dribble and cross when advancing in second half.

					- Aggressive in closing down wide players and uses arms well. Can be dragged out of position when supporting attacks, leaving space behind. - Mixed 1v1 defender - capable of strong tackles but unreliable at consistently stopping crosses. Set-piece delivery below required level, with underhit or overcurled balls.
Shiloh Remy (16)	RCM	25	5'5	L	- Small but energetic. Excellent stamina and mobility, allowing him to cover ground box-to-box. - Press-resistant and composed. Good awareness in pockets, links play well and capable of accurate long switches. - Very active defensively. Presses intelligently, tracks runners, and often drops in to cover for defenders who step out. - Operated as the main stabiliser in midfield. Scored penalty ('90) with a left-footed, powerful strike into the top-left corner with confident technique.
Alfie Bendle (12)	CM/DM	20	5'9	R	- Strong and competitive. Covers ground well but can lack sharpness late in games. - Good scanning and clean technique. Comfortable receiving with back to goal and retaining possession under pressure. - Works hard defensively but can drop too deep, leaving space at edge of box. Reacted slowly before third goal buildup. - Acts as a supporting defensive midfielder. Positional discipline inconsistent. Influence faded after 70 minutes.
Florian Kastrati (14)	CM	23	5'8	R	- Mobile early on but faded physically as the game progressed. Limited defensive intensity.

					- Technically strong with good vision. Capable of passing between the lines and evading pressure. - Defensive contribution limited. Rarely engages in tackles and did not consistently track runners. - Creative midfielder rather than ball-winner. Became ineffective late and was subbed '78.
Leone Gravata (20)	LM	24	5'8	R	- Quick and agile ball carrier. Draws fouls due to close control and acceleration. - Strong dribbler with good vision. Can carry the ball effectively through midfield but occasionally over-dribbles instead of releasing early. - Presses well initially but defensive concentration dropped. Failed to clear ball in own box leading to second goal. - Effective when driving centrally from left side. Involvement dropped significantly in second half.
Charlie Walker (10)	ST	35	5'8	R	- Lacks pace but strong balance and body positioning. Uses experience well. - Creative focal point. Excellent link-up play, vision, and ability to receive in pockets. Strong with back to goal. - Intelligent presser early on, helping screen midfield. Team structure dropped noticeably after his substitution. - Limited aerial threat but key creator between the lines. Scored well-taken goal ('19). Subbed '60, which significantly reduced attacking structure.
Luke Pearce (17)	ST	21	5'9	R	- Quick and direct with good acceleration. Still physically developing and can be outmuscled by centre-backs.

					- Good close control at speed. Decision-making inconsistent in final third, particularly in 1v1 situations. - Initially worked back and supported defensively but became passive second half. Rarely pressed centre-backs or made recovery runs. - Limited aerial threat. More effective attacking space in behind than holding the ball up.
SUBS USED					
Miquel Scarlett (22)	RB	25	5'9	R	- Came on 60th minute - Strong, quick - Aggressive 1v1 defender - Positional error on third goal
Jay Beckford (27)	RM	26	5'8	R	- Came on 64th minute - Short, agile - Good in tight spaces - Added energy - Won a penalty
Norman Wabo (18)	ST	27	5'7	R	- Came on 78th minute - Minimal involvement - No impact

SET PIECES

ATTACKING CORNERS LEFT:

3 corners won all game but these were all from the right

ATTACKING CORNERS RIGHT:

34' - Underhit inswinging kick by **Bendle (12)** aimed towards central penalty area, was too curled and went out. Dickenson (5) stood at the edge of the box and crashed the penalty area beating his man



70' - Overhit left footed inswinging kick by **Kastrati (14)**. **Remy (16)** running near-post dragging opponents away.

77' - Near-post inswinging kick by **Woollard-Innocent (3)**. Cleared

DEFENSIVE CORNERS:

'56 - Right-footed inswinging kick aiming at the penalty box. Poor clearance, communication and formation. Second ball conceded from penalty line (goal)

'74 - Played short. Went out after opposition player tried dribbling inside the box

ATTACKING FREE KICKS LEFT (IN HIGH AREAS):

'6 - Great delivery by **Bendle (12)** far post into the goal area, **Dickenson (5)** made a good run and shot from up close but right into the keeper.

'84 - poor left-footed underhit outswinging cross by **Woollard-Innocent (3)**. Cleared at the edge of the box

ATTACKING FREE KICKS RIGHT (IN HIGH AREAS):

All free kicks came from centre and left sides

ATTACKING FREE KICKS CENTRE (IN HIGH AREAS):

'45 - Short routine

'94 - Cross to the edge of the box by **Bendle (12)**. Cleared

THROW INS:

Prefer short options

Long throws used near opponent box

TEAMS BEST AERIAL PLAYERS: Burchell

TEAMS QUICKEST PLAYERS: Pearce, Gravata, Walker

STRONGEST PLAYERS: Bartley, Burchell

MOST TECHNICAL/CREATIVE PLAYERS: Walker, Kastrati, Remy

BEST CROSSERS OF THE BALL: Walker, Bartley

ANYONE WHO IS A THREAT FROM RANGE: Walker

ANYONE IN PARTICULAR WHO SHOULD BE CLOSED DOWN QUICKLY: Walker, Gravata, Remy

MAIN GOAL THREAT(S): Walker

WAYS TO BEAT THEM / STOP THEM THREATENING

Target space between midfield and defence

Force them into sustained possession

Isolate CBs against pace

Press GK distribution

Exploit fatigue late on

Switch play quickly to left/right side, depending on which full back lost position

GAME SUMMARY:

Eastbourne dominant early, strong in transition

Walker instrumental between the lines

Predictable build-up patterns

Physical and tactical drop-off second half

Loss of structure and creativeness after Walker substitution

Hampton & Richmond exploited transitions and set pieces effectively