The TOUCHLINE WITH DUGOUT NEWS

MATCH REPORT
Tuesday, 20 October 2026

Isthmian League South East Division

Steyning Town	0	3	Crowborough Athletic

Rushaar Samuel-Smikle
Harry Foster
Own goal

Tuesday, 20 October 2026 Attendance 85

CROWS' QUICKFIRE DOUBLE LEAVES BARROWMEN FACING UPHILL BATTLE

Two quickfire goals early in the second half settled this basement battle as Crowborough Athletic claimed three valuable points on a cold, rain-soaked evening at Steyning Town.



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With both clubs starting the night in the bottom four of the Isthmian League South East Division, there was more at stake than either side would have cared to dwell on. Crowborough arrived bottom of the table, albeit with games in hand following their impressive FA Cup run. Steyning, meanwhile, needed points themselves and could ill afford to give a fellow struggler encouragement.

The Crows' cup adventure had ended with a 2–1 defeat against Wimborne Town in the third qualifying round. There was plenty to take pride in from that run, but league football now demanded their full attention. Games in hand are useful only when you make something of them.

Crowborough began purposefully, setting a brisk tempo and forcing a succession of early corners. Steyning weathered that opening spell, cleared their lines and gradually found their feet.

Home captain Ryan Worrall tested Charlie Holmwood with a free-kick from a promising position, the visiting goalkeeper getting down sharply to palm the effort away.

Holmwood would have further work to do before the interval, producing a fine double save to frustrate the Barrowmen. In a game where neither side could afford to concede first, those interventions proved significant.

Then, five minutes before the break, Crowborough made the breakthrough. A mistake by Worrall presented Rushaar Samuel-Smikle with an opportunity, and the visiting number nine took full advantage to beat Alfie Mansell and put the Crows ahead.

For all Steyning's efforts, it was the visitors who went into the dressing room with something to protect.

If the opening half had been closely contested, the early stages of the second changed the complexion of the evening.

Crowborough doubled their advantage through Harry Foster, who finished past Mansell at the end of a well-worked team move. The visitors deserved credit for their approach play, though Steyning will have been disappointed with the defending that allowed the chance.

Before the Barrowmen could gather themselves, the Crows struck again. An own goal made it 3–0, leaving the hosts with a formidable task and precious little room for another mistake.

Steyning kept working and tried to find a route back into the contest, but effort alone could not loosen Crowborough's grip. The visitors defended their lines well, denying the home side the breakthrough that might have stirred a response.

There was little about the Crows' performance to suggest a side that had started the evening at the foot of the table. They had their goalkeeper to thank for important saves before the break, took advantage when their opportunity came and then settled the issue with a decisive burst after the restart.

For Steyning, the frustration was that a competitive first half had unravelled so quickly. At this end of the table, mistakes carry a heavy price, and Crowborough made sure theirs were punished.

Victory lifts the Crows off the bottom and into 20th place, while the Barrowmen remain 19th.

Both sides return to league action on Saturday 24 October. Steyning travel to Ashford United, while Crowborough welcome Margate, with both matches kicking off at 3 pm.

The TOUCHLINE

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