

DENLY TO KEEP BAY IN THE FAMILY

By Emily Liles

AS PLAYERS finish their playing career, they often say the next best job is management and now Horne Bay boss Sam Denly is no different.

After retiring through injury two years ago, Denly decided to turn to coaching and management.

And his appointment to the Winch Field hotseat comes a decade after his father Nick was the Bay's boss.

A difficult campaign left them 18th in the Ryman Division One South and former manager Simon Halsey dismissed, with 36-year-old Denly appointed last week.

The Bay's league and Kent rivals Faversham Town reached the play-off final, and the new boss wants the club to follow their example.

He said: "When you consider the size of the club, what Faversham achieved was absolutely fantastic. We need to follow their lead and try to do the same.

"Ray Turner is in his first year of senior management, so I also take heart from that."

Denly is a familiar name on the Kent sport scene. Brother Joe is a Middlesex cricketer and father Nick, managed Bay from 2000 to 2004.

With these links, Winch's Field seemed the ideal place to begin this new challenge.

He said: "I am very fond of the club and enjoyed playing there. My Dad was manager and I played under him.

"The club has a great history and after managing the reserves, it felt right to make the step up to the first team."

Denly also believes his captaincy experience during his playing days will be beneficial in his new role.

He added: "When I was captain, I demanded respect from the players and tried to lead by example.

"I have the help of my head coach Neil Brown and assistant Gavin These. Neil has coached at a much higher level with Gillingham so I know we're in good hands."