

Andover Town Football Club est. 2013



Tuesday 28th March 2023
Wessex League Division 1
Andover Town v Millbrook



Club Management Structure

- **Manager—Ron Bertie**
- **Assistant Manager—Gerwyn Griffiths**
- **Coach—Kieran Stockwell-Smith**
- **Sports Therapy—Caroline & Darren Cross**

Andover Town Football Club was formed in 2013 by Andover and Sparsholt Colleges. Its aim was to return football to the Portway Stadium, by providing:

1. A teaching and coaching venue for the Andover College Football Academy
2. A playing venue for the Southampton (Sparsholt) Second Chance Academy programme
3. A senior Football side which would provide an opportunity for talented academy players to further develop within an adult setting, whilst providing further opportunities for local players to play at the highest possible level
4. A pathway for young people from 6-19 which enables them to identify both playing and studying opportunities within Andover

International Honours

The club finally moved into the stadium in December 2013 and, after an abortive start due to the weather, played its first competitive game in the newly refurbished Portway Stadium beating Team Solent 4-0 in front of a crowd of 161. Success in our first year was beyond that we could have hoped for, including witnessing a crowd of over 300 for our early March fixture with Andover Lions in the Andover Open Cup. In addition, a number of Sparsholt Saints Academy scholars appeared within the Andover Town Senior side over the last few years with Adam Grange following in the footsteps of Charlie Gunson, becoming Andover Town's second player to represent England at an international level.

Andover enjoyed their most successful year since their formation in 2017/18. The new season opened with a 6-1 home league win against Bemerton Heath Harlequins. The club then progressed on an unbeaten run in the league of 16 games, finally losing 3-0 at Alresford Town on 8th November. Whilst their cup encounters didn't fare as well - after two wins in the F.A. Cup, including beating Southern League, Wimborne Town after a replay, before losing at home to Cadbury Heath from Bristol. Then a quick exit from the F.A. Vase losing to Horndean after extra time. Half way through the season after 21 games, the club were riding high at the top of the table. By the end of the season with two matches left, the club clinched promotion to the Southern League West division, for the first time in their short history.

Honours Board

**Club of month—August 2017,
October 2017, October 2021,
December 2021, January 2022**

Russell Cotes Cup—2018

**Wessex Premier Division—
Runners up 2018**

**Wessex League 1—Runners up
2014**

Salisbury Hospital Cup—2014

Player Performance

Most Appearances—Alex

Dockree 166

**Top Goalscorer—Josh Bertie 71
(in 116 appearances)**



The season also saw us achieve the most goals scored (116) since our formation in 2013 and the most points in a season (99) plus of course the highest ever finish as runners up (second place) in the Sydenhams Wessex Premier league. The club won the final of the Russell Cotes Cup beating AFC Stoneham 1-0. The club won "Club of the Month" twice during the season - August & October 2017. Another success for the 2017 / 18 season, for the second year in succession, our Portway groundsman Chris White was been nominated for the National FA Groundsman of the Year awards, representing the entire Wessex League (i.e. best Wessex League groundsman) and, of course Andover Town Football Club.

A New Chapter

The loss of playing staff and the management team meant 2018/19 was built around trying to establish the foundations for future success. A difficult year resulted in Andover finishing second from bottom but progressing to the semi-finals of the Andover Open Cup. Further changes during the summer with the introduction of some new faces on the field provided renewed optimism that the club will be on the rise again very soon. This led to a much improved performance during the curtailed 2019/20 season although when the league was finished due to the pandemic, the club were mid-table. Nevertheless, it was a step in the right direction and this optimism continued in the first part of the 2020-21 season, challenging for top position and progressing to the quarter-finals of the League cup. The season was halted in November for another lockdown and when the league and cup resumed, Andover's form slumped losing three quick games in succession before the season was paused again with the club fighting for a top four position but having been deposed from the league cup convincingly by US Portsmouth. Sadly, the season was again curtailed with Andover in 6th place.

In 2021/22, Andover made significant strides, going top of the league in the Autumn after a 16 game winning streak. It looked like Town would be serious title contenders and, at the very least, play off certainties. However, injuries in the final few months crippled the side and a loss of form saw Town end the season one place outside the playoffs and facing another year in Wessex 1.





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CAN YOU HEAR ME?



The Wessex Football League Show is the official podcast of the Wessex Football League. We are on air live from Awaaz 99.8FM studios & simultaneously on Fiesta 95FM based in Southampton from 14:00 to 16:00 every Sunday and you can also listen live on www.awaazfm.co.uk from anywhere in the world. You can listen back again from the following link <https://awaazfm.co.uk/listen-back/wessex-football-league/>

Our aim is to promote all local football but specifically the 40 teams of the Wessex Football League. So far, we have had managers, chairpersons, players, press officers and secretaries joining us as studio guests, and via zoom and phone guests from many Wessex Football League clubs, as well as guests from local teams both higher up and lower down the pyramid. This is your show and is a platform for your club to promote its events and raise its profile. If your club produces post-match interviews, please either email us a copy of the audio or give permission for us to play them on air straight from your website or social media sites, as we will aim to play them on the show.

Please come and join us one Sunday, we do have access to the two studios so it is easy to accommodate guests in the studio, for more information please email gregdickson94@gmail.com or cliffpledge@hotmail.com



ATFC Upcoming Fixtures

- 04/04/23 v East Cowes—
7.45pm KO
- 11/04/23 v Fawley—7.45pm KO
- 13/04/23 v Newport—7.45pm
KO

Monday 27 March

Division One

Totton & Eling v New Milton Town

Tuesday 28 March

Wiltshire Senior Cup Final

Wroughton v Downton

At Westbury United

Wessex League Cup Semi Final

Fareham Town v Petersfield Town

Premier Division

Baffins Milton Rovers v Horndean

Bemerton Heath H'quins v Brockenhurst

Hamble Club v Moneyfields

Laverstock & Ford v Hythe & Dibden

U.S. Portsmouth v Blackfield & Langley

Division One

Andover Town v Millbrook

Ash United v Andover New Street

Fleet Spurs v Newport IOW

Romsey Town v Amesbury Town

North Hants Senior Cup Semi Final

Basingstoke Town v Alresford Town

Wednesday 29 March

Division One

Fawley AFC v Hamworthy Recreation

Fleetlands v Folland Sports

Whitchurch United v Verwood Town

Friday 31 March

Division One

Folland Sports v Millbrook

Saturday 1 April

Premier Division

AFC Portchester v Baffins Milton Rovers

Alresford Town v Brockenhurst

Bournemouth v Moneyfields

Christchurch v Laverstock & Ford

Cowes Sports v AFC Stoneham

Fareham Town v Blackfield & Langley

Horndean v Bemerton Heath H'quins

Pagham v Portland United

Shaftesbury v Hamble Club

U.S. Portsmouth v Hythe & Dibden

Division One

Amesbury Town v Andover Town

East Cowes Vics v Verwood Town

Fleetlands v Downton

Hamworthy Recreation v Petersfield Town

New Milton Town v Ash United

Newport IOW v Whitchurch United

Ringwood Town v Romsey Town

Totton & Eling v Andover New Street

Monday 3 April

Division One

Totton & Eling v Fawley AFC

Tuesday 4 April

Hampshire Senior Cup Quarter Final

AFC Portchester v Basingstoke Town

Russell-Cotes Cup Quarter Final

Bemerton Heath H'quins v Lymington Town

Premier Division

Alresford Town v Hamble Club

Brockenhurst v Shaftesbury

Fareham Town v Pagham

Horndean v Christchurch

Hythe & Dibden v Bournemouth

Moneyfields v Baffins Milton Rovers

Division One

Andover Town v East Cowes Vics

Fleetlands v Andover New Street

Fleet Spurs v Millbrook

Isle of Wight Gold Cup Semi Final

Newport IOW v Shanklin [KO 19:30]

At Cowes Sports

Wednesday 5 April

Division One

Whitchurch United v Romsey Town

Friday 7 April

Division One

Newport IOW v East Cowes Vics [KO 15:00]

Hamworthy Rec v Verwood Town [KO 19:45]

THE WESSEX FOOTBALL LEAGUE



**NO DISSENT
MEANS
NO SIN BIN**



RESPECT

Wessex League Preview

Last Tuesday saw Baffins put up a plucky display against Aldershot Town in the Hampshire Senior Cup, but a Semi Final place wasn't to be - a penalty shootout defeat after a 1-1 draw after 90 minutes. In the other cup tie that night, Romsey Town's visit to Tadley Calleva also went to penalties. However in this case a winning one for our member club. Our League Cup Semi Final involving Fareham Town and Petersfield Town fell by the wayside, they try again this coming Tuesday. In the Premier Division, Bemerton felt to only their third league reverse of the season at Moneyfields, so failed to close the gap at the head of the table. Hamble inflicted a heavy defeat on Blackfield & Langley – the Watersiders stay in a relegation spot although with Pagham and Brockenhurst also losing, just six points separate 14th from 19th . With AFC Portchester not in action, AFC Stoneham closed the gap at the top to four points scoring four at Shaftesbury. Division One saw Andover New Street collect maximum points with a 4-0 win on the road to go top of the table. With New Milton, Newport and Petersfield all missing out on a game, a 4-0 win at Magna Road saw Hamworthy Recreation jump to fourth place. Downton could only share the spoils at lowly Ash, it looks like a sixth place finish is the best the Robins can hope for, although Fleetlands with games in hand on all those above them may have something to say about that. At the other end, East Cowes Vics opened a five point gap over the bottom four with a win over fellow strugglers Ringwood Town, who are in real danger of falling into the relegation trap. Just one game on Wednesday, where Sholing perhaps not surprisingly beat Hythe & Dibden to reach the Southampton Senior Cup Final.



The difficult weather conditions continued into the weekend, with two games lost, at Andover Town and Hythe & Dibden.

The Fareham game was called off due to Travellers pitching up at Cams Alders, and although they were moved on fairly soon, not without incident where we understand that there was an incident in the ground, but the decision to postpone had already been taken by the League. Not a great deal of goal action across the remaining 15 games that did get played on the Saturday, with 45 scored- representing three at each game. AFC Portchester continued their march towards the title, but it took an own goal in the 80th minute to get them the points, a gate of 298 at The Dell being the biggest there in the League this term. Another best of the season was at Stoneham Lane second place took on third as promotion rivals AFC Stoneham and Horndean attracted 237 through the gate. The 'deans won 1-0 meaning the gap at the top has opened up to seven points, although Horndean have four in hand on both teams above them.

It was also Stoneham's first defeat at home in the League this season. The other top gate was at Brockenhurst. 144 saw the Badgers win an important clash with Pagham, that may have been enough to lift them out of the relegation zone, whilst the Lions remain in the danger zone. Another best of five win was at United Services, where Portland hit two in added on time to make it five wins on the trot. In Division One, there was no change to the top three spots. Andover New Street could only draw at fifth place Petersfield in front of a crowd of just over 300, a score that probably didn't help either side. New Milton Town though came unstuck at Beatrice Avenue where East Cowes Vics made it four unbeaten winning 1-0. Newport's game at Andover Town was off due to the weather and Hamworthy Recreation took advantage notching up a 2-0 win over Fleetlands. The Lederle Lane side have games in hand on all those above them- and if they win all of those and other results go their way they could find themselves in a play-off berth, but at this stage of the season are points in the bag better than games in hand? Downton also returned to winning ways with a 4-1 win at Ringwood. With Whitchurch United, Amesbury Town and Fleet Spurs all losing there's no real change in the relegation zone. The latter returned home on the back of the biggest losing margin of the day when Verwood hit five, with five different scorers.

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Millbrook FC started life as Bush Hill FC (22 years) and Oakwood Youth FC (25 years), who combined forces in 2021 to create a club that offers football from 4-years-old and upwards.

The first team gained promotion from the Hampshire Premier League Senior Division in 2021/22 on PPG following the curtailment of the season due to the covid pandemic - reward for its consistency at the level - with the club having never been outside the top five places since winning the Hampshire Premier League Division One title in 2013/14.



Our elevation into the Wessex League has enabled the club to continue its growth and development within the local community, alongside a clear pathway into adult football for our youth teams to aspire to.

Promotion to Step 6 also saw the first team depart Mansel Park; we are now honoured and grateful to hold a partnership with Solent University whose Test Park Sport Facility we now use to play Step 6 football.

THE WESSEX FOOTBALL LEAGUE



Anti-Racist Notice

The use of unacceptable language is prohibited anywhere within the club facilities or on the pitch.

Any Racist or Discriminatory comments related to Gender, Sexuality, Disability, Racial Origin, Ethnicity or Religion by Players, Spectators, or Officials must be reported to the Club, Referee or League who are required to take the appropriate action.

This includes any comments made on a Social Media platform.

Any infringement of the above may first be dealt with by the relevant F.A. then by the league under Rule 4.2 & Rule 17. If you are unsure or would like guidance; contact the league's Race Relations and Youth Protection Officer.

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By order of The Wessex League Management Board.

STAT ATTACK

TOP FIVE LEADING GOALSCORERS - LEAGUE GAMES ONLY

PREMIER DIVISION

DIVISION ONE

Brett Pitman	AFC Portchester	43	Ross Cook	Andover New Street	34
Zack Willett	Horndean	37	Chris Long	Hamworthy Recreation	31
Callum Laycock	Moneyfields	21	Jack Odam	Romsey Town	23
Duarte Martins	AFC Stoneham	21	Luke Stone	New Milton Town	23
Greg Peel	Bemerton Heath Harlequins	19	Tyrrell Sampson	New Milton Town	21

Details are based on clubs being up to date with records on Full Time at time of publication.

This may or may not include League goals from this weekend.

PREMIER DIVISION

Top five league attendances

AFC Portchester	vs	Fareham Town	1,598	2 January
Fareham Town	vs	AFC Portchester	1,107	4 March
Moneyfields	vs	AFC Portchester	1,012	27 December
AFC Portchester	vs	Bemerton Heath Harlequins	552	4 October
AFC Portchester	vs	Moneyfields	448	11 March

DIVISION ONE

Top five league attendances

Andover Town	vs	Andover New Street	340	27 December
East Cowes Victoria	vs	Newport IOW	324	26 December
Petersfield Town	vs	Andover New Street	308	25 March
Petersfield Town	vs	New Milton Town	203	18 February
Downton	vs	New Milton Town	193	19 November

PREMIER DIVISION

Sharpest Attack

AFC Portchester	110
Bemerton Heath Harlequins	103
Horndean	102

Meanest Defence

Horndean	18
Bemerton Heath Harlequins	30
AFC Stoneham	34

DIVISION ONE

Sharpest Attack

New Milton Town	106
Hamworthy Recreation	92
[two on]	84

Meanest Defence

Petersfield Town	29
Newport IOW	30
Andover New Street	32

POINTS PER GAME - TOP THREE

PREMIER DIVISION

DIVISION ONE

AFC Portchester	2.647	Andover New Street	2.438
Horndean	2.567	Newport IOW	2.281
AFC Stoneham	2.441	New Milton Town	2.143

GOALS PER GAME - TOP THREE

PREMIER DIVISION

DIVISION ONE

Horndean	3.400	New Milton Town	3.029
Bemerton Heath Harlequins	3.323	Hamworthy Recreation	2.706
AFC Portchester	3.235	Andover New Street	2.625