

Andover Town Football Club est. 2013



Tuesday 11th October 2022
Wessex League Division 1
Andover Town v Downton



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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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

- 05/10/22— League v Fawley (away)
- 10/10/22—League v New Milton (away)
- 11/10/22—League v Downton (Home)

Tuesday 11 October

Premier Division

AFC Stoneham v Bournemouth
Alresford Town v Laverstock & Ford
Bemerton Heath H'quins v Hythe & Dibden
Christchurch v Moneyfields
Hamble Club v Horndean
Pagham v Fareham Town
Portland United v Blackfield & Langley
Shaftesbury v U.S. Portsmouth

Division One

Andover Town v Downton
Newport (IoW) v Verwood Town
Ringwood Town v Andover New Street

Southampton Senior Cup Second Round

Folland Sports v Hedge End Town
Romsey Town v Stockbridge
Sholing v Millbrook

Wednesday 12 October

Southampton Senior Cup Second Round

Fawley AFC v Folland Sports Reserves

Friday 14 October

Premier Division

Alresford Town v Moneyfields

Saturday 15 October

Premier Division

Bournemouth v Hamble Club
Brockenhurst v Portland United
Christchurch v Horndean
Cowes Sports v Hythe & Dibden
Fareham Town v Bemerton Heath H'quins
Laverstock & Ford v Blackfield & Langley
Pagham v AFC Stoneham
Shaftesbury v Baffins Milton Rovers
U.S. Portsmouth v AFC Portchester

Division One

Amesbury Town v New Milton Town
Andover New Street v Totton & Eling
Andover Town v Ringwood Town
Ash United v Millbrook
Folland Sports v Downton
Hamworthy Recreation v Fleet Spurs
Newport (IoW) v Fleetlands
Petersfield Town v East Cowes Victoria

THE WESSEX FOOTBALL LEAGUE



**NO DISSENT
MEANS
NO SIN BIN**



RESPECT

Wessex League Preview

League action only today and AFC Portchester march on at the top of the Premier Division – nine games played; nine games won. An attendance in excess of 300 witnessed the 4-2 home win over Hythe & Dibden courtesy of two goals apiece from Harrison Brook and Brett Pitman with Charlie Drury and Christos Papakonstantinou replying for the visitors. Bemerton Heath maintained their second place, three points behind, with an emphatic 8-0 defeat of Bournemouth. Reece Rusher claimed four with Ronan Clancy two, Jamie Beasley and Kane O'Keefe making up the eight and it is understood that Bournemouth were reduced to ten men in the first half. This season's surprise packet, Hamble Club, remain third after an impressive best of five goals victory over Shaftesbury with Mitch Byrne, Jack Barney and Will Gange on target. Cameron Beard scored one of the visiting goals but we are unaware of the other scorer. Horndean also joined the goal stakes, scoring eight without reply against Cowes Sports, whose dismal away record continues. There was a hat trick for Zak Willett, two for Tommy Scutt and singles from Chad Field, Rudi Blankson and Harry Jackson. Brockenhurst returned to winning ways with a 3-1 victory at Laverstock & Ford. Kieran O'Donnell, Tyler Edmondson and Mitch Speechley-Price were the marksmen with Archie Lovegrove replying as Laverstock slipped in to the bottom three in the table. AFC Stoneham are not being halted by having to play away from their home ground at present and scored four without reply against bottom club Blackfield & Langley with a hat trick from Duarte Martins and a single from Scott Hills. Just one goal at Baffins Milton Rovers and that from Joe Johnson was enough to give the home side the three points against Pagham. Alresford Town's poor run continues as Christchurch came out on top by the odd goal in three at Arlebury Park, a goal from Ilyas Warshow not enough against strikes from Nasim Meddah and Eder Batista. The same criteria applies with US Portsmouth who are also struggling for points and went down 3-0 in the local derby with Moneyfields thanks to goals from Chad Cornwell, Tom Cain and Jack Chandler. Finally, it was all square at Portland as Marcus Smith and Liam Sayers goals were cancelled out by Fareham's Gary Moody and Josh Benfield



A surprise in Division One where leaders Downton suffered a 2-1 home defeat at the hands of Hamworthy Recreation. The League new boys have slowly been making their presence felt but this is their best win yet with Chris Long and Frank Rosenwald on target. Ollie Davies replying for the home side. Two clubs very much in the promotion hunt at this stage of the season, New Milton Town and Andover Town, shared two goals and the points – Ben Cooper and Corey Taylor-Kelly – while Follands retained their place with a 5-1 win at Amesbury Town. Arshia Sheibatzadeh scored twice to add to singles from Fabio Manuel, Clayd Roach and Harvey Clark with the home consolation coming from Tyler Rutten. A solo goal from Zach Hine gave Andover New Street victory over visitors Verwood Town while Newport overcame a difficult hurdle with a 2-1 win at Fawley thanks to two goals from Joe Craig with the home reply coming from Liam Webber. Fleetlands, like Hamworthy Recreation, are beginning to make their mark and late goals from Sam Martin and Dale Mason gave them victory over Petersfield for whom Connor Hoare was on target. Totton & Eling continue to impress with two goals from Brenno Nazerri giving them victory at Ringwood Town. Ash United made their first visit to East Cowes Vics and shared four goals with their hosts – Henry West and Conor Lyon for the home side and George Hedley and Kareem Foster for the visitors, but still no joy for Fleet Spurs with Romsey scoring four without reply at Kennels Lane through Geoff Dunn (2), Jake Gower and Brad Cooper. Some interesting results but still AFC Portchester and Downton lead the way.



Downton

Downton Football Club was formed in September 1905, following a meeting which had been arranged by the Rev J.H. Phillips.

Early results were not very encouraging. However, after the First World War in 1919 the Robins fared better after entering the Salisbury & District League.

They gained promotion from Division Two to Division One in 1920, but returned to Division Two in 1924. The 1924/25 season saw Downton become the first winners of the Norman Court Cup, beating Alderbury in the final. They won the competition again in 1932, 1934, 1935, 1936 and 1939 and then on three further occasions after World War II.

Downton won the Wilts Junior Cup for the first time in 1949/50, defeating Atworth 6-2 in the final. The following season, the club entered the Bournemouth League and gained promotion to Division One, winning the championship five times. The 1958/59 season saw them secure promotion to Senior Division One, winning the title seven times between 1959/60 and 1967/68 – an achievement which resulted in Bournemouth FA presenting the club with a special plaque. Downton also won the Bournemouth Senior Cup in 1962/63 and 1979/80 and the Senior League Cup in 1961/62, 1963/64 and 1966/67.

In order to progress further, Downton joined the Hampshire League in 1968/69, winning promotion in 1971/72. More promotions followed in 1978/79 and 1979/80.

In 1992/93, The Robins were elected to the Wessex League – the club's reserves joining its Combination League. The 1995/96 campaign proved one of the club's best ever – winning both the Wessex League Cup and the Russell Cotes Cup, while its reserves finished runners-up in the Combination Cup. They also entered the FA Vase for the first time.

A highest ever league finish of eighth was achieved in the 1996/97 season. The club entered the FA Cup for the first time in 1997/98. Downton enjoyed county success in the Wilts Senior Cup, winning it in 1979/80 and 1980/81, and finishing runners-up in 1955/56, 1991/92 and 1994/95.

Closer to home, The Robins lifted the Salisbury Hospital Cup in 2008/09, beating Shrewton United in the final having defeated Laverstock & Ford and Amesbury Town en-route. They retained the cup the following season when they beat Chalke Valley in the final, staged at Salisbury City's Raymond McEnhill Stadium.

The 2010/11 campaign proved a highly memorable one. As well as securing promotion to the Premier Division after being crowned Division One champions in what was the league's 25th anniversary season, Downton also enjoyed their best ever run in the FA Vase, reaching the second round for the first time.

A number of other accolades followed - Jeff Softley picked up the Manager of the Year honour at the league's 25th anniversary celebrations with four players – Charles Aldridge, Calum Robertson, Nick Turpin and Declan McGregor – all named in the Division One Team of the Year.

Downton finished 6th in their first year back in the Sydenhams Premier League, their highest finish ever. They also won the Hospital Cup again, winning 4-0 against Laverstock and Ford.

Match Report

New Milton 1—1 Andover

Warm sunshine greeted the two teams at kick-off in this top of the table clash between second placed New Milton and third placed Andover Town. A good crowd was in attendance for this eagerly awaited match.

The game started at a brisk pace with the ball flowing from end to end. A nice though ball from JJ Tucker in the 11th minute freed up Ben Emans for a shot but the opposition keeper came out quickly to smother the shooting chance. The first yellow card came in the 12th minute when New Milton's centre back and captain Joe Kimber made a rash challenge on Matt Morris on the edge of the box but Town were unable to fashion a scoring chance. After the first 15 minutes the game settled down into a more controlled pace, both teams were playing well in midfield with little goalmouth incident. As the half progressed New Milton were going forward well and it felt like Andover were vulnerable to a swift break.

In the 32nd minute a wickedly deflected shot from the home side produced an outstanding save from keeper Steinborn-Busse. Both teams were pressing hard for the breakthrough as the half wore on and in the 38th minute centre back Corey Taylor-Kelly took, in the vernacular, one for the team and felled the number 10 on the edge of the box and got an obvious yellow card. The first half ended with both teams playing well and both coming close to scoring on a couple of occasions and it seemed this game could go either way in the second half. Half time score 0-0.

The second half started brightly and in the 49th minute a great through ball found Matt Morris one on one with the keeper who pulled off an outstanding save to keep the scores level. Play was still very much end to end but the deadlock was broken by Andover in the 68th minute when a corner from the right was powerfully headed in by **Corey Taylor-Kelly**. At this stage though it seemed pretty certain that the score would not remain the same because both teams continued to press and the action was certainly end to end. And in the 70th minute Town conceded a definite penalty when the New Milton striker was unceremoniously hauled down in the box. Ben Cooper stepped up and hit the penalty low and hard into the bottom left of the net giving Steinborn- Busse absolutely no chance. Substitutions from both sides followed and in particular the Andover subs of Qudos Ogunyemi and Charlie Chatee certainly upped the ante as the game entered the final quarter. Still at this stage in what was a very exciting duel either team could have easily scored the winner. In the 81st minute a certain goal for New Milton was thwarted by an outstanding tackle in the penalty area from Taylor-Kelly. Then in the 89th minute Ben Emans looked odds on to score the winner when he fired a fierce shot across the face of the goal which smacked against the left upright. The last few minutes were remarkably tense as both teams were hell bent on getting the winner but both teams had to be pleased with a 1-1 score line.

This indeed was a really exciting game full of good football and a pleasure for the crowd to see. It was played in a good spirit and a draw was a very fair result. It was easy to see why both teams are locked together near the top of the table and both will be looking forward to the return match at Portway next February.

Next match is another tough one when league leaders Downton travel the short distance to Portway on Tuesday next October 11th kick-off 7.45pm.

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

LEADING GOALSCORERS - LEAGUE GAMES ONLY

PREMIER DIVISION

Reece Rusher	Bemerton Heath Harlequins	11
Eder Batista	Christchurch	10
Brett Pitman	AFC Portchester	8

DIVISION ONE

Luke Stone	New Milton Town	10
Kris Krystofowicz	Downton	9
[two on]		8

Details are based on clubs being up to date with records on Full Time at time of going to press and may or may not include League goals from this weekend.

PREMIER DIVISION

Top three league attendances

AFC Portchester	v	Bemerton Heath Harlequins	552	4 October
AFC Portchester	v	Cowes Sports	384	2 August
Horndean	v	Moneyfields	331	2 August

DIVISION ONE

Top three league attendances

Andover Town	v	Whitchurch United	192	16 August
Downton	v	Amesbury Town	165	16 August
Andover New Street	v	Fleetlands	153	2 August

PREMIER DIVISION

Sharpest Attack

Bemerton Heath Harlequins	41
AFC Portchester	31
Hamble Club	22

Meanest Defence

Horndean	1
AFC Stoneham	7
Moneyfields	9

League Goals this week

54

DIVISION ONE

Sharpest Attack

Downton	32
New Milton Town	31
Millbrook	25

Meanest Defence

Andover New Street	10
Newport IOW	10
[three on]	11

League Goals this week

40

POINTS PER GAME - TOP THREE

PREMIER DIVISION

AFC Portchester	3.000
Bemerton Heath Harlequins	2.667
Horndean	2.571

DIVISION ONE

Newport IOW	2.500
Andover New Street	2.429
Downton	2.200

GOALS PER GAME - TOP THREE

PREMIER DIVISION

Bemerton Heath Harlequins	4.556
AFC Portchester	3.444
Horndean	2.857

DIVISION ONE

Newport IOW	3.333
Downton	3.200
Andover New Street	3.143

HAT TRICK HEROES THIS WEEK

6

Ross Cook (Andover New Street), Jack Odam (Romsey Town) and Mitch Speechley-Price (Brockenhurst) find themselves on the list for their midweek exploits against Amesbury Town, Overton United and AFC Stoneham Reserves respectively. Saturday saw three as well. Duarte Martins (AFC Stoneham), Zack Willett (Horndean) and Reece Rusher (Bemerton Heath Harlequins)- who had a plus one.