

# Andover Town Football Club est. 2013



Saturday 16th September 2023  
Wessex League Division 1  
**Andover Town v Cove**



## Club Management Structure

- **Manager**—Ron Bertie
- **Coach**—Kieran Stockwell-Smith & Craig Wise
- **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—Brendan  
Holmes 200**

**Top Goalscorer—Josh Bertie 83**



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.

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.

Entering the season with much optimism, 2022/23 did not lead to the success the club had hoped. Town finished outside of the playoffs in 7th place.





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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](http://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](mailto:gregdickson94@gmail.com) or [cliffpledge@hotmail.com](mailto:cliffpledge@hotmail.com)



## ATFC Upcoming Fixtures

- 16//09/23 v Cove—3.00pm KO
- 23/09/23 v East Cowes—  
3.00pm KO
- 30/09/23 v Downton—3.00pm  
KO

### Tuesday 12 September

#### Servio Men's Senior Cup Second Round

Alresford Town v Basingstoke Town  
Baffins Milton Rovers v Bournemouth  
Bashley v AFC Portchester  
Cowes Sports v Southampton

Eastleigh v Hamble Club

Eversley & California v Christchurch

Farnborough v Folland Sports

Moneyfields v AFC Bournemouth

#### Premier Division

Fareham Town v Lymington Town

#### Division One

Frimley Green v Whitchurch United

### Wednesday 13 September

#### Servio Men's Senior Cup Second Round

East Cowes Victoria v Whitchurch United  
Fleetlands v Horndean

#### Division One

AFC Aldermaston v Cove

Totton & Eling v Ringwood Town

### Saturday 16 September

#### Emirates FA Cup Second Round Qualifying

Yeovil Town v AFC Stoneham

#### Premier Division

AFC Portchester v U.S. Portsmouth

Baffins Milton Rovers v Laverstock & Ford

Bournemouth v Lymington Town

Brockenhurst v Sherborne Town

Christchurch v Blackfield & Langley

Hamble Club v Andover New Street

Hythe & Dibden v Fareham Town

Moneyfields v Shaftesbury

Portland United v Cowes Sports

#### Division One

Alresford Town v Millbrook

Andover Town v Cove

Ash United v East Cowes Victoria

Downton v Whitchurch United

Fawley AFC v Fleetlands

Frimley Green v Folland Sports

Newport (IoW) v Hamworthy Recreation

Ringwood Town v Clanfield

Romsey Town v Verwood Town

Totton & Eling v AFC Aldermaston

### Tuesday 19 September

#### Servio Men's Senior Cup First Round

U.S. Portsmouth v Royal Navy F.A.

#### Premier Division

AFC Portchester v Blackfield & Langley  
Baffins Milton Rovers v Andover New Street  
Hamble Club v Shaftesbury  
Laverstock & Ford v Hythe & Dibden  
Petersfield Town v Brockenhurst

#### Division One

Folland Sports v Fleetlands

Hamworthy Recreation v Fawley AFC

### Southampton Senior Cup First Round

BTC Southampton v Downton [at Downton]

Sholing v Romsey Town

Totton & Eling v Millbrook

### Wednesday 20 September

#### Premier Division

Sherborne Town v AFC Stoneham

### Saturday 23 September

#### Isuzu FA Vase Second Round Qualifying

Alresford Town v Downton

Blackfield & Langley v Brockenhurst

Cove v Glebe

Farnham Town v Millbrook

Frimley Green v Knapthill

Hamble Club v Andover New Street

Hamworthy Recreation v Bournemouth

Hythe & Dibden v Baffins Milton Rovers

Lymington Town v Fareham Town

Moneyfields v Fleetlands

Totton & Eling v Whitchurch United

Wincanton Town v Portland United

#### Premier Division

Shaftesbury v Laverstock & Ford

Sherborne Town v Petersfield Town

U.S. Portsmouth v AFC Stoneham

#### Division One

Newport (IoW) v Fawley AFC [14:45]

Andover Town v East Cowes Victoria

Clanfield v Ash United

Folland Sports v Ringwood Town

Romsey Town v AFC Aldermaston

Totton & Eling v Andover Town

Verwood Town v New Milton Town

### Tuesday 26 September

#### Berks & Bucks Senior Cup First Qual. Round

Woodley United v AFC Aldermaston

#### Premier Division

AFC Portchester v Hythe & Dibden

Christchurch v Andover New Street

Fareham Town v U.S. Portsmouth

Moneyfields v Laverstock & Ford

# THE WESSEX FOOTBALL LEAGUE



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# Welcome to Cove

Cove Football Club was formed in 1897 by a group of local friends playing on a field behind their favourite Public House. Later moving to a more central location, Cove Green became their home until 1973, when they moved to their present ground at the Oak Farm Stadium. Playing their football in The Surrey Leagues, Cove enjoyed success for many years, winning more than their fair share of silverware including the League Championship 3 years in succession and a double in that period. In 1973, the club decided to upgrade and were accepted into the Hampshire Leagues, but had to leave 'The Green' for safety reasons and play at Oak Farm. The Division 4 Championship was won at the first attempt, and the Division 3 title followed 2 years later. After a couple of seasons, Cove finished Runners-Up in Division 2, but decided to withdraw from this league due to the time incurred travelling to away matches at Portsmouth or Southampton. This was before the M3 motorway was built and all roads were A and B types.

They returned to the more local Combined Counties League in 1980 and won the League Cup beating close neighbours and rivals Ash United. Since moving into their new home, many changes have taken place at Oak Farm with the installation of floodlights a concrete perimeter wall and stand in their quest to host senior non-league football. These achievements are the more remarkable with Farnborough Town (then Conference League) and Aldershot Town (then Football League) just a couple of miles down the road. In 1990, Cove was given the opportunity to join the Vauxhall League (now Ryman League) after finishing third. New manager 'Chick' Botley assembled a squad strong enough to finish a respectable fourth in their first season. Two more successful seasons followed narrowly missing out on promotion, one being a final day defeat by the new Aldershot Town. Due to the ever spiralling cost of football at this level, Cove were forced to withdraw from their league and after 3 unsuccessful attempts to join the Wessex League, had to revert back into The Combined Counties League, where they remained with little success. In 2009, the club appointed Koo Dumbuya as manager and a member of the Steve Beeks double winning team and well known around the area. Having played professional football for Aldershot and Brentford, the club decided his playing experience and knowledge could be invaluable and in his first season, Cove won the Southern Combination Cup with a 4-0 victory over Chessington and Hook.

In Season 2010-11, Cove won the Combined Counties League Cup with a 2-0 win over Bedfont, followed by a victory over Farnborough Town in the semi-final of the Aldershot Senior Cup before losing to Fleet Town in the final. In 2011 manager Koo Dumbuya left the club after 4 years as player/manager to take up a post at Chertsey Town, leaving a big hole to fill as his knowledge of local football was immense. During season 2012-13 following some poor performances, the club employed an ex-player Anthony Millerick who brought instant success with the winning of the Aldershot Senior Cup and a 3-0 victory over Fleet Spurs, also finishing 3rd in the League, our highest position for many a year. 2013-2014 was another successful season finishing 5th after a run of 22 games, 19 wins and 1 defeat and 2 draws. Cove thrived in 2014-2015 as well sitting on top of the league for half the season, but unable to go for promotion due to the cost of ground improvements and travel, saw a considerable dip in form, leaving Cove with a fifth place finish and a mass exodus of management and players. With hindsight a poor decision by the committee at the time.

A complete change of personnel followed with the appointment of Dave Matthews as manager, following his success as a Youth Team coach. However, our young team of hopefuls were unable to compete at this level and after some poor results found ourselves at the foot of the table many points adrift of safety. Following Dave's resignation at Christmas, new manager Paul Duncan and assistant Salvatore Diprima set about trying to save our Premier status, but despite some improved performances the points difference right at the bottom was too much and hence we found ourselves relegated to the CCFL Division One. This is the first time in the clubs 120 year history that Cove had to face up to relegation. Paul Duncan left so a decision to appoint Salvatore Diprima as manager soon followed. The 2017-18 season started well enough but by Christmas Salvatore has been unsuccessful trying to build a new team and improve our football standard. Cove FC had been in the bottom three for most of the season, therefore he was sacked as first team manager in February 2018. Temporary management was passed to his assistant Josh Taylor for the remainder of the season. Josh was appointed First Team Manager for 2018-19 after his successful spell in charge for the last 12 games of 2017-18 and lifting Cove off the bottom of the league and ensuring we stayed in CCL div 1. The 2018-19 season was a huge challenge. Unfortunately, Cove were never far from the bottom three; the squad of players was not constant enough and too many changes brought bad results. Cove finished last in CCFL Division 1 and faced relegation to step 7. Josh resigned in May 2019. At the same time, we received the bad news we had been relegated to step 7 and the Hampshire Premier league. An all-time low for those involved at the club. The job of finding a new manager began and Joe Lawler who was managing Overton FC very successfully was appointed. We also received the great news that we had been granted a reprieve by the FA for relegation. Successful appeals by a local club had left a space for CCL div 1 so Cove remained. Joe's first season was interrupted by the Covid 19 pandemic, but he had successfully managed the club to a mid-table position with several games left which could have improved based on the teams we had left to play, some of whom were struggling at the time. With the null and voided season of 2020-21 we continued to build while football was suspended. In October 2021 Joe unexpectedly resigned for an opportunity to manage Tadley Calleva FC who are presently step 5 and have ambitions to expand a few years ahead of ours. Joe struggled with the decision and was very remorseful, but we wished him all the best and I am pleased to say we remain in contact. After a recruitment campaign which saw many candidates apply, Chris Powell accepted the position of First Team Manager. Chris had been at the club for 2 years coaching the ACYL U18 and SYL U16's and when asked to help out in the interim he did not hesitate. He already has CCL experience at Sandhurst and additional experience in other leagues. Chris had a huge task for the remainder of the 2021-22 season; firstly, fulfilling fixtures and secondly building a squad which might challenge for a mid-table position and safety. With the ever-changing squad, injuries and lack of quality players available locally, Chris and his management team struggled for results but we survived the season and fulfilled every fixture. Although finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> from bottom our PPG statistics saved us from relegation and we remain in CCL1 for 2022-23. Chris set about building a squad to deliver better results in 2022-23 and keep us away from relegation. Target was mid table. By Christmas and shortly afterwards our results were very good, beating teams in the top 5 and maintaining a top half position. As the rest of the season unfolded, the squad were hit with an unnecessarily high number of injuries or retirements and results were not as good. But the hard work done in the earlier part of the season secured our safety with a 16<sup>th</sup> place finish and a credible 40 points. For the 2023-24 season we have been laterally moved by the FA to the Wessex league. We did not request the move and we face much upheaval with the players and the travel but Chris and his team have vowed to do their level best to be competitive.

A special mention to Ron Brown, who in 1990 received an FA Award for 50 years' service to Cove FC, including 35 years as secretary. Ron retired in 1982 passing the reins to his son Graham who has himself reached the milestone of 35 years' service to the club. Sadly Ron passed away in 2009 after 70 years' service including 20 years as Club President.

# 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.

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**By order of The Wessex League Management Board.**

## STAT ATTACK

### TOP FIVE LEADING GOALSCORERS - LEAGUE GAMES ONLY

#### PREMIER DIVISION

|                 |                       |   |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---|
| Brett Pitman    | Shaftesbury           | 6 |
| Duarte Martins  | AFC Stoneham          | 5 |
| Liam Callaghan  | AFC Stoneham          | 4 |
| Kelvin Robinson | Baffins Milton Rovers | 4 |
| Callum Thompson | Sherborne Town        | 4 |

#### DIVISION ONE

|              |                      |   |
|--------------|----------------------|---|
| Jamie White  | Millbrook            | 7 |
| Tiago Moreno | Romsey Town          | 7 |
| Leon Course  | Alresford Town       | 6 |
| George Deem  | Hamworthy Recreation | 6 |
| Joe Smith    | Downton              | 6 |

*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

|                  |    |                            |     |             |
|------------------|----|----------------------------|-----|-------------|
| Fareham Town     | vs | Hamble Club                | 314 | 1 August    |
| Petersfield Town | vs | United Services Portsmouth | 254 | 1 August    |
| Sherborne Town   | vs | Bournemouth                | 252 | 2 August    |
| AFC Portchester  | vs | Laverstock & Ford          | 248 | 12 August   |
| Fareham Town     | vs | Sherborne Town             | 221 | 2 September |

#### DIVISION ONE

##### Top five league attendances

|                     |    |                |     |             |
|---------------------|----|----------------|-----|-------------|
| Romsey Town         | vs | Frimley Green  | 181 | 19 August   |
| Romsey Town         | vs | Folland Sports | 154 | 8 August    |
| New Milton Town     | vs | Downton        | 142 | 8 August    |
| East Cowes Victoria | vs | Romsey Town    | 136 | 5 September |
| Downton             | vs | Verwood Town   | 135 | 22 August   |

#### PREMIER DIVISION

##### Sharpest Attack

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| Baffins Milton Rovers | 26 |
| Cowes Sports          | 20 |
| AFCX Stoneham         | 16 |

##### Meanest Defence

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| AFC Stoneham   | 2 |
| Sherborne Town | 3 |
| [two on]       | 4 |

#### DIVISION ONE

##### Sharpest Attack

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| Millbrook            | 34 |
| Downton              | 26 |
| Hamworthy Recreation | 25 |

##### Meanest Defence

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Alresford Town      | 4 |
| Fleetlands          | 5 |
| East Cowes Victoria | 6 |

### POINTS PER GAME - TOP THREE

#### PREMIER DIVISION

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| AFC Stoneham   | 3.000 |
| Sherborne Town | 2.600 |
| Moneyfields    | 2.400 |

#### DIVISION ONE

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Alresford Town       | 3.000 |
| Hamworthy Recreation | 2.750 |
| Downton              | 2.625 |

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