

Andover Town Football Club est. 2013



Tuesday 31st January 2023
Wessex League Cup
Andover Town v Hamble



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

- 10/12/22—Away v Romsey Town—3pm KO
- 13/12/22—Home v Hamble—7.45pm KO
- 17/12/22—Home v East Cowes—3pm KO
- 27/12/22—Home v New Street—7.45pm KO

Tuesday 31 January

Wiltshire FA Premier Shield Quarter Final

Laverstock & Ford v Melksham Town

Wessex League Cup Third Round

Andover Town v Hamble Club

Wessex League Cup Quarter Final

Fareham Town v Andover New Street

Petersfield Town v Fleetlands

Premier Division

AFC Stoneham v Bemerton Heath H'quins

Baffins Milton Rovers v U.S. Portsmouth

Brockenhurst v Blackfield & Langley

Christchurch v Portland United

Pagham v Horndean

Hythe & Dibden v Cowes Sports

Shaftesbury v Bournemouth

Division One

East Cowes Victoria v Totton & Eling

Folland Sports v Whitchurch United

Hamworthy Recreation v Amesbury Town

Ringwood Town v Newport (IoW)

Romsey Town v Fawley AFC

Verwood Town v Downton

Aldershot Senior Cup First Round

Frimley Green v Fleet Spurs

Portsmouth Senior Cup Quarter Final

AFC Portchester v Meon Milton

Wednesday 1 February

Division One

Millbrook v New Milton Town

Thursday 2 February

Southampton Senior Cup

Folland Sports v Bashley

Saturday 4 February

Division One

Andover New Street v Romsey Town

Ash United v Verwood Town

Downton v Ringwood Town

Fleetlands v Fleet Spurs

Folland Sports v East Cowes Victoria

Hamworthy Recreation v Whitchurch United

Millbrook v Fawley AFC

Newport (IoW) v New Milton Town

Petersfield Town v Amesbury Town

Totton & Eling v Andover Town

THE WESSEX FOOTBALL LEAGUE



**NO DISSENT
MEANS
NO SIN BIN**



RESPECT

Wessex League Preview

Tuesday was another disastrous evening as far as the fixtures were concerned with only three games completed. Premier Division fixtures at Alresford, Bemerton Heath and Christchurch were lost plus the Division One matches at Fleet Spurs and Romsey. In the League Cup the ties at Andover Town and Petersfield were wiped out whilst the Fareham tie against Andover New Street was abandoned at half time as the pitch condition worsened. The postponement at Alresford is probably the most worrying as they and their opponents, Pagham, still have so many matches to play, including in the North Hants Senior Cup for the Magpies. Ties in the Wiltshire Premier Shield and the Southampton Senior Cup involving Laverstock and Ford and Hythe and Dibden were also lost.

The three games played were in the League Cup, the Premier Division and Division One.

The League Cup Quarter Final between AFC Stoneham and Baffins Milton Rovers got off to an explosive start with a goal for each side in the opening two minutes thanks to Duarte Martins and Miles Everett but that was the limit of the scoring and after ninety minutes the tie went to penalties with Baffins winning 5-4, not the first tie Stoneham have lost in that manner this season.

The remaining two games took place a few miles apart on the Isle of Wight. At Cowes Sports AFC Portchester moved eleven points clear at the top with a 3-0 win occasioned by goals from Marley Ridge, Scott Jones and Ashton Leigh. At the Speedway Stadium goals from Joe Craig and Jordan Chapman gave Newport a 2-1 victory over Ash for whom Ryan Ayling replied. Newport moved up a place in the table to third and a creditable performance and a long journey for the visitors.

Wednesday predictably followed Tuesday with the Division One matches at Fawley. Millbrook and Whitchurch all postponed and Millbrook, like Totton & Eling, are now looking at a possible backlog of fixtures.

A rare Thursday fixture, though there will undoubtedly be more before the end of the season, also came to nothing as Alresford's Southampton Senior Cup tie with Totton & Eling was postponed, adding to both sides' backlog of fixtures.

On to the weekend now and probably the best Saturday this year in terms of games played, with, surprisingly only one game called off, the Division One clash between Amesbury Town and Andover New Street.



With some clubs not having played very much of late, there were one or two perhaps surprising results, but it is the best weekend the Fixtures Secretary has had for a month. In the Premier Division some things never change as AFC Portchester maintained their 100% home record and their top of the table position with a 2-0 win over Christchurch with the goals coming from Brett Pitman and Scott Jones. And with their two nearest rivals both dropping points the lead at the top is now 13 points.

AFC Stoneham travelled down to Portland and took an early lead through a Liam Callaghan double before second half goals from Ben Morris and Liam Sayers gave the home side's new managers a good start. Horndean made a somewhat shorter journey, to Fareham, and went down by the odd goal in seven after the scores were level at two apiece at the break. Jack Breed with two, Curt Robbins and Josh Benfield scored the home goals with Sam Hookey, Connor Duffin and Harry Jackson replying for the Deans. These results enabled Bemerton Heath Harlequins to move in to third place after a 5-3 win at US Portsmouth. Stuart Green and Ronan Clancy both with doubles, with Greg Peel also on target; the home side goals came from Shawn Benjamin, Cam Quirke and Lamin Jatta.

Moneyfields are beginning to feel at home on Friday nights at Havant and scored five for the second week running. Callum Laycock and Ryan Pennery both scored twice with Charlie Bell the fifth as Laverstock & Ford went down 5-1, Russell Jones having given the Bulldogs the lead as well!

Hamble Club remain in contention for a top five finish after strikes from Braydon Douglas and Bailey Honeysett gave them a 2-0 win at Brockenhurst and Hythe & Dibden came out on top in a tight game with Baffins Milton Rovers. Kelvin Robinson gave the visitors an early lead but Charlie Drury and Harrison Fay ensured the points stayed with Hythe, and means the Waterside club have a points tally the same as last year already- with plenty of games to play.

A good and valuable win for Pagham at Shaftesbury with a late goal, the only one of the game, from 16 year old debutant Tom Holland and an important 3-0 win for Cowes Sports at Bournemouth that slightly eases their relegation worries but increases those of the home side. Fin Phillips with two and Jared Wetherick scored the all-important goals. Lastly Alresford's woes continue as Blackfield & Langley won by the odd goal in three on the Waterside. Sam Shearer and Nick Yeomans on target for the home side and Ashley Edward with the visitors' consolation.

In Division One Andover New Street's enforced rest due to their game at Amesbury being called off saw them overtaken in the table by Both New Milton Town and Newport. New Milton were given a fright by Romsey before finally winning by the odd goal in five. George Deem with two and Ben Cooper scored the home goals with Kieran Hancock and Jack Odam on target for Romsey. Goals from Jordan Browne and Rafferty Boyd-Kerr gave Newport a hard fought victory over Downton.

Petersfield recorded a best of three victory over Ringwood at Love Lane thanks to strikes from Matt Dougan and Connor Hoare proving too much for Joe Petty's single. A good win for Andover Town at the Portway as Follands went down 2-1 to goals from Ben Emans and David Jerrard, with Harvey Clark from the penalty spots being the Follands scorer. Goals at Fawley where the home side were 3-1 up at the break only for Verwood to fight back to three all and a share of the points. Dec Hartigan, Dylan Knight and Indrit Elezi with the home goals and three scorers also for the visitors in Kieran Burpitt, Joe Smith and Louis McWilliams.

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Hamble Football Club

More than one year has been traced for the formation of Hamble Club, but it is 1969 which is deemed to be correct. Formed as Hamble FC, they made steady progress through the Southampton Junior League before merging with a Sunday team called Hamble Club and adopted their current name in 1981. From the senior divisions, Hamble Club were promoted to the Hampshire League in 1993. They moved from their old Mount Pleasant base to the old College Fields and made a further move to what was then known as the Shell-Max Ground during the 2002/03 season, which remains their present home. Wessex members between 2004 and 2007, Hamble became Hampshire Premier League founders but failed to complete the 2012/13 season and had to start a division lower. This heralded the start of an upturn as they gained four promotions in five years, including one in their first season back in the Wessex League in 2017.

The Club was established in 1969, originally as a youth team. In 1993, they joined Division Three of the Hampshire League. The Club were Division Three champions in 1996/97 earning promotion to Division Two. In 2004, the Hampshire League merged into the Wessex League, with Hamble becoming members of the new Division Three. In 2006 the division was renamed division Two but at the end of 2006/07, the division was disbanded and the club became founder members of the Hampshire Premier League.

Hamble pulled out of the Hampshire Premier League during the 2012/13 season. Although they were readmitted the following season, they started in the newly formed second tier of the League, division One. The Club were Division One runners-up in the 2013/14 season and were promoted to the senior division and went on to win the Senior Division in 2014/15. After finishing third the following season, they were promoted to Division One and then were Division One champions in 2016/17, earning promotion to the Premier Division.

Match Report

Andover Town 2—1 Follands

Amazingly a Saturday afternoon with no frost and no waterlogging and the first football at Portway for several weeks. Folland Sports were the visitors and like Town sit just outside the play off places so another stiff challenge surely lay ahead. There have been many epic struggles with Follands over the years and Town would doubtless still be reflecting on the last minute equalizer back in April which gave Follands a play off place and denied the opportunity for Town to bid for promotion to the Premier League. Town welcomed back Corey Taylor Kelly in defence and kicked off on a dark and dismal January afternoon and pretty soon the players often found themselves slipping around no doubt because there were still icy patches in shaded areas of the pitch.

The game took quite a long time to develop into any kind of pattern and the first real action didn't come until the 12th minute when David Jerrard controlled well, slid the ball into the path of Ben Emans whose hard low cross shot skimmed across the face of goal and just past the right upright. But a couple of minutes later Andover went ahead somewhat fortuitously when a shot from Emans was deflected into the net giving opposition keeper Taylor no chance, so 1-0 after the first quarter. After the goal there were several niggly challenges from both sides which resulted in a lot of shoving and pushing which the referee did well to control with a couple of bookings. Follands were getting more into the game as the half progressed but with no real chances to score. Town almost scored a second when a pin point cross from Ben Emans found Malachi Johnson who rose to make good contact and fire his header just wide. The first half ended with neither side really looking like scoring and 0-0 at half time would have been a more accurate reflection of play. Sadly keeper Steinborn-Busse sustained what looked like a serious leg injury just before half time which would hopefully be attended to during the break.

Not surprisingly Steinborn-Busse was unable to continue in the second half which resulted in a major defensive reshuffle. Owen Trapnell donned the keeper's gloves, J J Tucker came on as substitute to play left centre back and Town went 3 at the back with Taylor-Kelly, Kimron Quashie and Tucker. Again the half progressed with little real action until the 58th minute when the game exploded into action with a totally unexpected rush of blood from Follands number 3 which saw him deliberately stamp on Zach Hines in the penalty area, a huge melee ensued, both linesman rushed onto the pitch to assist the referee and after a long deliberation the red card was produced for Long. So Town now had 30 minutes left to make the extra man count. They did just that in the 74th minute when a right wing cross from Holmes was met at the far post by Jerrard who comfortably slid the ball home. At this stage a 3rd goal looked very likely with Andover in control so it was a real surprise in the 84th minute when in a rare foray by Follands into the penalty area the striker was unceremoniously unended which was a definite penalty. Up stepped Clark who coolly converted to make the last ten minutes extremely nervy for Town but they held on to finish with a 2-1 victory. It should have been a much more convincing result but in the well worn cliché a win is a win.

So it was excellent to get back into action with a win after all the recent travails with the weather. Let's hope that the second half of the season pushes Town up the table towards a play off place. The next match is on Tuesday January 31st at Portway kick off 7.45 pm against Premier Division Hamble Club in the much postponed 3rd round Wessex League cup. Then on Saturday February 4th there is an away league fixture at 3pm at Totton & Eling.

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

Brett Pitman	AFC Portchester	29
Zack Willett	Horndean	19
Reece Rusher	Bemerton Heath Harlequins	15
Callum Laycock	Moneyfields	15
Duarte Martins	AFC Stoneham	13

DIVISION ONE

Luke Stone	New Milton Town	20
Ross Cook	Andover New Street	18
Chris Long	Hamworthy Recreation	16
Ben Cooper	New Milton Town	15
	[three on]	14

*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

		<i>Top five league attendances</i>	
AFC Portchester	vs	Fareham Town	1,598 2 January
Moneyfields	vs	AFC Portchester	1,012 27 December
AFC Portchester	vs	Bemerton Heath Harlequins	552 4 October
AFC Portchester	vs	Alresford Town	407 12 November
Baffins Milton Rovers	vs	Moneyfields	400 26 October

DIVISION ONE

		<i>Top five league attendances</i>	
Andover Town	vs	Andover New Street	340 27 December
East Cowes Victoria	vs	Newport IOW	324 26 December
Downton	vs	New Milton Town	193 19 November
Andover Town	vs	Whitchurch United	192 16 August
Andover Town	vs	Amesbury Town	188 19 November

PREMIER DIVISION

Sharpest Attack

AFC Portchester	77
Bemerton Heath Harlequins	68
AFC Stoneham	61

Meanest Defence

Horndean	13
Bemerton Heath Harlequins	22
AFC Stoneham	23

DIVISION ONE

Sharpest Attack

New Milton Town	75
Downton	56
Andover New Street	51

Meanest Defence

Andover New Street	18
Newport IOW	18
[two on]	19

POINTS PER GAME - TOP THREE

PREMIER DIVISION

AFC Portchester	2.818
Horndean	2.444
Bemerton Heath Harlequins	2.421

DIVISION ONE

Andover New Street	2.556
Newport IOW	2.474
New Milton Town	2.087

GOALS PER GAME - TOP THREE

PREMIER DIVISION

Bemerton Heath Harlequins	3.579
AFC Portchester	3.500
Horndean	3.056

DIVISION ONE

New Milton Town	3.261
Andover New Street	2.833
Downton	2.800