

Andover Town Football Club est. 2013



Saturday 29th October 2022
Wessex League Division 1
Andover Town v Fleet Spurs



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

- 01/11/*22—Home v Hamble (League Cup)
- 05/11/22—Away v Verwood Town
- 12/11/22—Away v Newport
- 19/11/22—Home v Amesbury Town

Saturday 29 October

Premier Division

AFC Portchester v Hamble Club

AFC Stoneham v Shaftesbury

Bemerton Heath H'quins v Alresford Town

Brockenhurst v Horndean

Christchurch v U.S. Portsmouth

Cowes Sports v Bournemouth

Fareham Town v Moneyfields

Hythe & Dibden v Portland United

Laverstock & Ford v Baffins Milton Rovers

Pagham v Blackfield & Langley

Division One

Amesbury Town v Romsey Town

Andover Town v Fleet Spurs

Downton v East Cowes Victoria

Folland Sports v Verwood Town

Hamworthy Recreation v Andover New St

New Milton Town v Whitchurch United

Newport (IoW) v Ringwood Town

Petersfield Town v Fawley AFC

Totton & Eling v Millbrook

Tuesday 1 November

Dorset Senior Cup First Round

Portland United v Hamworthy Recreation

Shaftesbury v Gillingham Town

Verwood Town v Hamworthy United First

Wessex League Cup Third Round

Andover Town v Hamble Club

Brockenhurst v AFC Stoneham

Premier Division

Baffins Milton Rovers v Alresford Town

Horndean v Fareham Town

Division One

Fleet Spurs v Andover Town

Folland Sports v Fleetlands

Petersfield Town v Ash United

Wednesday 2 November

Portsmouth Senior Cup Second Round

Royal Navy F.A. v Moneyfields

THE WESSEX FOOTBALL LEAGUE



**NO DISSENT
MEANS
NO SIN BIN**



FOR ALL

RESPECT

Wessex League Preview

The rather unusual FA Vase draw gave thirteen Wessex League sides the chance to progress but sadly, on the day, only four were able to move in to the Second Round Proper.

Pride of place goes to Andover New Street who travelled to Somerset and Western League Premier Division One Side Street and won 5-1 after going behind in the fifth minute. Matt Scott and Shane Lock put them 2-1 up at the break and two goals from Ross Cook and one from Scott Hassell made it five after ninety minutes.

All four wins were away from home with Laverstock & Ford *[pictured left]* winning 3-0 at Bradford Town; the regular names of Russ Jones, Archie Lovegrove and Chae Sykes on the scoresheet to secure their first appearance in the Second Round- while Shaftesbury went through 4-3 on penalties after a goalless draw at Western League Oldland Abbotonians. Cowes Sports completed the quartet when they put their poor League away form to one side and won by the best of three goals in Middlesex against Rayners Lane, John McKie scoring both goals after they had been behind at the break.

AFC Portchester, so outstanding in the League, went down 3-2 at home to Phoenix Sports with Brett Pitman scoring both goals, while not too far up the road Horndean, the home side, ahead at the break through Rudi Blankson, conceded two second half goals to Sussex visitors Bexhill United. AFC Stoneham led Fisher by two goals to one deep in to stoppage time but a last ditch equaliser was sent the game into penalties with Fisher winning 5-3 meaning the goals from Jim Orvis and Lewis Nagle in normal time were to no avail. Portland found Hellenic League leaders Cribbs too strong in Bristol, going down 4-2 with Franklyn Clarke and Liam Sayers on the scoresheet while one goal gave Ascot United victory at Newport. Bemerton Heath Harlequins faced a long ride home from Devon after a 2-0 defeat at the hands of Cullompton Rangers while another single goal gave Sporting Bengal victory at Pagham.

Blackfield & Langley are still struggling for victories and lost 3-1 at Kennington – Callum Hockton the scorer - and Southern Combination League leaders Broadbridge Heath scored five without reply at Whitchurch.



With the Baffins Milton Rovers Bournemouth game being postponed there were only three games in the Premier Division. Hamble Club and Fareham shared four goals – Matt Casey and Leo Taylor for the home side and Ethan Jones and Dan Bennett for the visitors -while Alresford suffered their eleventh League defeat thus far as Brockenhurst scored four without reply in the Forest through Enrique Russell, Joe Chamberlain, Brad Magookin and Ollie Dennett.

Lastly, three goals from Harrison Fay, Filippos Terzidis and Christos Papakonstantinou gave Hythe & Dibden the points at Christchurch for whom Steve Flynn notched a consolation.

New Milton Town remain on top of Division One after a 2-1 home defeat of Petersfield Town thanks to goals from Ben Cooper and Luke Stone with a lone Archie Greenough goal in reply while Downton scored six at home against Romsey Town, a hat trick from Ollie Davies: two from Kris Krystofowicz and one from Will Mackie ensuring the emphatic victory. The visitors missed a penalty at 4-0, but the Robins were on top from the first whistle- Jack Odam with the consolation goal for the visitors.

Follands dropped two points in a goalless draw with East Cowes Vics on the Island, though it was a good result for Vics, and there was just one goal at Fleetlands, Luke Heard giving the hosts victory over Amesbury Town. Ringwood got back to winning ways and ended Hamworthy Recreation's recent run of good results with a best of three goals victory at Long Lane, Ben Harris and Harrison Clarke for the home side and Joe Kimber with the Rec goal.

A good win for Ash United, 2-1 at Fawley courtesy of goals from Shaydon Bayley and Kareem Foster with the reply coming from Stuart Green. And still no joy for Fleet Spurs with them going down 5-0 at Totton & Eling thanks to goals from Jireh Oyebamiji (2), Jordan Smith, Owen Pelham and Dan Sowinski. The game between Millbrook and Andover Town was postponed because of a waterlogged pitch.

Unusually for a Saturday there was a Russell-Cotes Cup tie with Moneyfields winning 5-0 at Hampshire Premier League Paulsgrove with two goals from Charlie Bell and singles from Chad Cornwell, Josh Bailey and Callum Laycock.

Overall a disappointing day in the Vase and no changes of note at the top of either Division.



Fleet Spurs

Fleet Spurs Football Club started in 1948, shortly after World War II, when a group of young footballers began playing friendly matches in the Fleet and Aldershot area. Opponents included the Royal Medical Corps, Royal Engineers, Royal Artillery, Royal Army Service Corps, Parachute Regiment, and Wellington Press. Tradition holds that Fleet Spurs FC was formed as a reaction, or an alternative, to the long-established "semi-professional" Fleet Town FC. The purpose was to provide an amateur football club for local players with a strong social environment.

The first club badge was a cockerel on a ball, and was the same as for Tottenham Hotspur FC, one of the rising stars of English football at the time. The Fleet Spurs cockerel has altered over the years, notably a few seasons ago when the London club threatened legal action if the Fleet club didn't change their logo. Financial might triumphed, and a new logo was designed. Sadly, bullies don't always lose. The original club colours were black and white, similar to Tottenham's navy & white. Subsequently, they changed to red and black stripes, like AC Milan, and eventually to the present dark blue and red.

In 1951, Fleet Spurs FC joined the Aldershot and District League. They progressed through that and other local leagues, winning many honours along the way, notably becoming champions of the Aldershot Senior League four times. In 1991 they joined Hampshire League Division 3. By this time, they also fielded three Aldershot League teams - the Reserves and the A & B teams.

Up until 1997, the club had played at various grounds in the Fleet area. In the 1997/8 season, they finally established a home at Kennels Lane in Southwood, part of neighbouring Rushmoor. At the same time, the first team was promoted to Hampshire League Division 2 and became champions in 1998/99 and so was promoted to Division 1. They played two seasons in that division, finishing in sixth position, but were immediately relegated to Division 2. This was done not for football reasons, but because they failed to meet the new standards set by the league for Division 1 grounds.

After a reorganisation of local football, the club moved into Wessex League Division 3 in 2004/5. Following further reorganisations, including the renaming and renumbering of the divisions, it moved to Wessex League Division 1, which was, and still is, at Step 6 in the English Football League Pyramid. This necessitated significant ground improvements, including the installation of state-of-the-art floodlights. These improvements were supported by grants from the Football Foundation's Football Stadia Improvement Fund, the Hampshire Playing Fields Association, the Mike Ritchie Sports Fund and donations from club members. Over the period up to 2016/7, the club remained in Wessex League Division 1, where their fortunes fluctuated. Their most successful season was 2010/11 when after losing eight of their first 11 games, they narrowly missed promotion, finishing third in the table.

The Club were relegated back into Division One in 2013-14, having remained there since with a number of mid-table finishes. In 2017-18, the Youth section was added to the club, with four teams now playing under the Downton badge, ranging from Under 12's to Under 18's. The club remains committed to building out a Senior and Youth squad for the area to be proud of, with the aim of having a full range of 10 youth clubs over the next few years.

Match Report

Andover Town 2—1 Ringwood Town

Ringwood Town were the visitors to Portway on a warm and sunny October afternoon. With absolutely no wind and with a perfect playing surface a good contest ought to ensue for the sizeable crowd. Before kick-off Alan Musson made a presentation to skipper Brendan Holmes to recognize that with 174th matches he became Andover's leading number of matches played.

If Andover were looking for a quick start they certainly got it in the 4th minute when Ben Emans fired in an excellent cross at the feet of **Matty Morris** for an easy tap in. Town were starting very brightly with crisp passing and great running into space and were in total control during the first 20 minutes. In the 12th an audacious flick from Morris almost produced the second goal and the general standard of play from Andover was excellent. No surprise then in the 24th minute a great cross from the right by Brendan Holmes found Harrison Hale on the penalty spot who planted a firm header into the net – cue great celebrations which were dashed when the offside flag was raised by the linesman, the player definitely looked to be level and surely VAR would have reviewed it and the goal would have stood. But the second goal was not long in coming when **Corey Taylor-Kelly** who was up for the corner pushed the ball into the net from 6 yards following a goalmouth melee. As the half progressed Andover were playing really well and creating several chances. Kimron Quashie was giving an outstanding display in the first half with dominant box to box midfield play and for such a slightly built player his control and presence up and down the pitch was impressive. The first half ended with the score at 2-0 and with the crowd not knowing where the added time of 6 minutes had come from. A really excellent first half performance by Andover and one which promised more goals in the second half.

Jake Watson tried to start the second half after a leg injury but to no avail and in the 46th minute he was replaced by Musa Stamburi. This resulted in fairly significant positional changes – Brendan Holmes moved into midfield, Kimron Quashie moved to left centre back with Stamburi slotting in at right back. It was to be hoped that these changes would not disrupt the play and that the first half dominance would continue. It looked like it would in the 51st minute when Morris broke free, ran unchecked into the penalty area was one on one with the keeper and a goal looked certain until the Ringwood keeper pulled off another excellent save. As the second half progressed somehow Andover lost all the initiative which they had had in the first half maybe caused by the several substitutions which they made, none of which seemed to be a result of injuries. Ringwood were now growing into the game and with Town looking distinctively sluggish Smith scored in the 79th minute. After their first half performance it was perverse that Andover ended the second desperately holding onto a slender lead. The game finished 2-1 and it should have been much more comfortable for them than that.

Still Andover maintained their top six place and look forward now to their next match on Saturday October 22nd away at Millbrook.

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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THE DO-NOTHING OPTION DOES NOT EXIST.**

Failure to display this sign is subject to a £50 fine.

By order of The Wessex League Management Board.

STAT ATTACK

LEADING GOALSCORERS - LEAGUE GAMES ONLY

PREMIER DIVISION

Brett Pitman	AFC Portchester	12
Reece Rusher	Bemerton Heath Harlequins	12
Eder Batista	Christchurch	11

DIVISION ONE

Luke Stone	New Milton Town	13
Ross Cook	Andover New Street	10
	[five on]	9

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

		<i>Top three league attendances</i>	
AFC Portchester	v	Bemerton Heath Harlequins	552 4 October
AFC Portchester	v	Cowes Sports	384 2 August
Fareham Town	v	Bemerton Heath Harlequins	351 15 October

DIVISION ONE

		<i>Top three league attendances</i>	
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	Meanest Defence	League Goals this week
Bemerton Heath Harlequins 45	Horndean 3	12
AFC Portchester 34	AFC Stoneham 9	
Horndean 27	[two on] 11	

DIVISION ONE

Sharpest Attack	Meanest Defence	League Goals this week
New Milton Town 45	Andover New Street 11	26
Downton 39	Andover Town 12	
Newport IOW 30	[two on] 13	

POINTS PER GAME - TOP THREE

PREMIER DIVISION

AFC Portchester	3.000
Horndean	2.667
Bemerton Heath Harlequins	2.545

DIVISION ONE

Newport IOW	2.625
Andover New Street	2.556
Andover Town	2.100

GOALS PER GAME - TOP THREE

PREMIER DIVISION

Bemerton Heath Harlequins	4.091
AFC Portchester	3.400
Horndean	3.000

DIVISION ONE

Newport IOW	3.750
Downton	3.250
New Milton Town	3.214

HAT TRICK HEROES THIS WEEK

4

Braydon Douglas for Hamble in midweek against Fleetlands, and Blackfield have two, Sam Woodward (who was a four-bagger) and Charlie Rattley, both got theirs in the midweek win over Sway. One on the Saturday where Ollie Davies hit a first half hat trick for Downton in their win over Romsey Town.