

THE WESSEX POST

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF THE
VELOCITY WESSEX LEAGUE

3



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WELCOME

Hello and welcome to the latest edition of your Newsletter, if you have any contribution, be it Match Reports, player news or photos please get in touch at - newsletter.wessexleague@gmail.com.

Keep up to date with all the news from around the League by following us on Twitter/X at - @WessexLeague. You are more than welcome to use any material (excluding attributed photographs) but it would be appreciated if any material used is acknowledged. It is hoped you enjoy reading this each week. With readership quite widespread, not only within our own competition, but across the three counties and beyond- if ANY club has anything they would like to have published in here, whether that be a request for helpers, promotion of forthcoming events, items required or available for sale please do get in touch.

The Wessex Post will be published each Saturday night. Please would all contributors note that the deadline for anything is 22:00 on the Saturday and this includes match reports- all home clubs are reminded to get their reports in before then, although if an away side does the report that will also be welcome. It should also be noted that whilst all contributions are welcome, they are subject to editorial scrutiny.

KICK OFF



Friday night football this weekend featured amongst others, Hamworthy United (blue and claret) up against Dorchester Town at the County Ground in Hamworthy. In humid conditions the Magpies ran out as 3-0 winners.

TUNE IN

VELOCITY WESSEX LEAGUE FOOTBALL SHOW



Tune in to our official podcast live on
Fiesta 95FM and www.fiestafm.co.uk
every Sunday between 2-4pm, with
Cliff Pledge and Greg Dickson.

Featuring guest interviews and
rounding-up all the latest news from
around the Velocity Wessex League.

Listen back via the QR code!



Get In Touch with the Show!

gregdickson94@gmail.com

cliffpledge@hotmail.com





Official Charity of the Velocity Wessex League 2025/26

YoungMinds is a UK-based charity focused on improving the mental health of young people.

They work to ensure young people have the support they need, when they need it, and that their voices are heard by decision-makers. YoungMinds achieves this through various programs and initiatives, including direct support for young people, empowering adults to help, and advocating for policy changes.

Here's a more detailed look at how YoungMinds operates:

Direct Support for Young People:

1. Online Resources:

YoungMinds provides a wealth of information and advice on their website about various mental health challenges, such as anxiety, depression, and self-harm.

2. Support Services:

They offer a textline service (text YM to 85258) for crisis support and a Parents Helpline for adults seeking advice on supporting young people.

3. Activism:

YoungMinds has a large number of young activists who help shape the charity's work, ensuring it reflects the needs and experiences of young people.

Just a £25 donation enables one of our Parents Helpline advisors to support a parent or carer like Sarah when they are struggling with their child's emotionally based school avoidance.

£100 allows us to reach nearly 50 young people like Jessica with the help and advice they need, when they need it.

£300 is enough to train 4 young people like Imogen to join our Activists programme – empowering them to use their voices to create the change young people need.



Contact Details:

youngminds.org.uk

Parents Helpline 0808 802 5544

Main Switchboard 020 7089 5050

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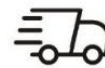
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PROGRAMME ADVERTS

Just a quick reminder that all Clubs must include the advertisements listed below in every Match Programme they produce- in either the PRINTED or ON-LINE version, they can be all be found here in the Wessex Post or are available to be downloaded from the League website:-

Velocity Sports [**THIS MUST BE A FULL PAGE**]
Wessex League Football Show
MJM Sports
Respect Notice
Kick it Out
Young Minds [Our Charity partner for 2025/26]

*These may change
for 2025/26- watch
this space*

VELOCITY WESSEX LEAGUE



**NO DISSENT
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RESPECT



IF YOU SEE IT OR HEAR IT, REPORT IT

'It' is discrimination, in all its forms.
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the QR code to report it to Kick It Out.
Together, we can put an end to it.



Take action today at kickitout.org

AROUND THE GROUNDS – REFLECTIONS ON THE SEASON

With Robin Caddy and Tim Smith

Ringwood Town v AFC Stoneham 18 February 2025. A three-man team headed west on a cold Tuesday night to take in Wessex League 1 Ringwood Town's Southampton Senior Cup quarter-final against high-flying Premier Division AFC Stoneham.

Despite the best efforts of the satnav to take us down ever-narrower New Forest country lanes we arrived in plenty of time at the Ringwood Community Hub. It has a different look and feel to many Wessex League venues with a new and impressive pavilion housing the clubhouse and dressing rooms and bright floodlights cutting through the winter night. There's a small stand on the far side of the pitch from the pavilion and dugouts.

Ringwood have been based at their Long Lane ground since the middle of the last century but the ground has been completely transformed over the last few years to provide a modern sporting and social facility, both for the town's football team and residents of Ringwood and the surrounding area.

The multi-million pound investment in the new facilities has come from New Forest District Council, Ringwood Town Council, AFC Bournemouth Community Sports Trust, Ringwood and District Round Table and a grant from the Football Foundation (the FA, Premier League and government charity). The new pavilion was officially opened in November last year.

There's a fair bit of AFC Bournemouth branding around the ground, as it's home to the Premier League club's community sports activities and various Cherries' teams, including their Women's National League side. On the far side of the pavilion is a 3G pitch for Ringwood's reserve and youth sides, first used in February 2023.

Stoneham put in a dominant performance to run out 5-0 winners. First half strikes by Mat Bainbridge and Ash Pope were followed up by further goals from Dan Miller, Oli Jenkins and Jamie Johnston in the second period to delight their noisy band of ultras in the crowd of 120.

The Purps advanced to a semi-final with Hampshire League Broughton, which they won comfortably to set up a St Mary's showdown with Millbrook, where Stoneham took the trophy with a 3-0 win.

Ringwood could hold their heads up though after a spirited performance and who knows, their new-look surroundings could prove the inspiration for a promotion push this season and a return to the Wessex Premier for the first time since 2008.



PRE-SEASON 2025/26

Please do contact me with any corrections and additions through the usual channels.

Please do NOT forget that the HOST team also MUST obtain sanction from their County FA before the game is played. Games are subject to change at little or no notice and are listed in GOOD FAITH, but please note that the League have no control over the schedule, nor as to whether any games are changed or called off at short notice. ***Spectators are strongly recommended to check nearer the time if making a special journey.***

RESULTS

Tuesday 8 July

AFC Aldermaston 1-5 Marlow
AFC Shirley 1-5 Colden Common
AFC Stoneham 1-3 Winchester City
Alresford Town 3-0 Hayling United
Alton 1-3 Millbrook
Amesbury Town 2-0 Broughton
Balti Sports 0-0 Bournemouth
Chipping Sodbury Town 2-1 Kintbury Rangers
Colden Common 5-1 AFC Shirley
Hamworthy United 3-1 Portland United Reserves
Holt United A-A New Milton Town
[1-1 when abandoned very late in the game, due to a serious injury, we wish the player a speedy recovery]
Pagham 1-0 Fareham Town
Ringwood Town 2-3 Laverstock & Ford
Street 3-0 Wincanton Town
United Services Portsmouth 2-0 Southsea Sports

Wednesday 9 July

Cranleigh 2-5 Cove
Fleetlands 1-0 Army FA U23
Hedge End Rangers 2-4 Hamble Club
Sherborne Town 1-2 Yeovil Town (attendance 965)

Thursday 10 July

Bournemouth Sports 0-3 Lymington Town
Cowes Sports 10-1 Brading Town
Hamworthy Recreation 4-2 Bridport
Verwood Town 0-3 Crofton Saints
Wimborne Town 2-1 Christchurch [Gerry Page Trophy]

Friday 11 July

Hamworthy Recreation Reserves 0-4 Bournemouth [Jack Bellows Trophy]
Hamworthy United 0-3 Dorchester Town
Horndean 2-1 Baffins Milton Rovers
Nailsea & Tickenham 2-1 Wincanton Town
United Services Portsmouth 2-3 Newport IOW

Saturday 12 July

AFC Shirley 4-0 Totton & Eling (**not** confirmed by either club)
AFC Stoneham 0-2 Basingstoke Town
Andover New Street 0-1 Colden Common
Ash United 2-1 Cranleigh
Clanfield 1-4 Hedge End Rangers [Clanfield Cup Semi Final]
Cove 4-1 Dial Square
Downton 3-2 Lymington Town
Fleetlands 1-4 Moneyfields
Hamworthy Recreation 4-0 Fareham Town
Hythe & Dibden 3-4 Hungerford Town
Keens Park Rangers 0-11 Yateley United

Laverstock & Ford 0-5 Salisbury
Locks Heath 1-1 Folland Sports
Midhurst & Easebourne 0-3 Petersfield Town
Newhaven 2-2 New Milton Town
Portland United 3-1 Bridport
Selsey 3-5 Liss Athletic [Clanfield Cup Semi Final]
Sholing 3-1 AFC Portchester
Stockbridge 2-3 Ringwood Town
Tadley Calleva 8-3 Blackfield & Langley
Wantage Town 1-0 Kintbury Rangers
Whitehill & Bordon 0-5 Amesbury Town
Wick 6-3 Romsey Town (also reported as 5-3)

COMING UP

Tuesday 15 July

Andover New Street v Shrewton United
Clanfield v Christchurch
Colden Common v Bemerton Heath Harlequins
Cove v Godalming Town - Venue TBA
Fawley AFC v Crofton Saints
Fleetlands v Locks Heath
Folland Sports v Winchester City
Hamworthy Recreation v Dorchester Town
Hamworthy United v Swanage Town & Herston
Hythe & Dibden v Lymington Town
Kintbury Rangers v Hungerford Town
Millbrook v AFC Portchester - [Mansel Park, 19:30]
Moneyfields v Bournemouth
Romsey Town v Stockbridge - [Wide Lane, 18:30]
Selsey v Fareham Town
Sheerwater v Yateley United
Street v Sherborne Town
United Services Portsmouth v Petersfield Town - [HMS Temeraire, 19:45]
Verwood Town v Wimborne Town - [Steve Moore Trophy]

Wednesday 16 July

Hedge End Rangers v Brockenhurst - [Deer Park]
Paulsgrove v New Milton Town - [KGV, Cosham]

Thursday 17 July

Bournemouth Sports v Ringwood Town
Horndean v Petersfield Town - [Hanna Cup]

Friday 18 July

Amesbury Town v New Milton Town
Andover New Street v Alresford Town
Bradford Town v Bemerton Heath Harlequins
Chichester City v Christchurch - [Steve Bernard Trophy]
Fawley AFC v Hamble Club

Saturday 19 July

AFC Aldermaston v Windsor & Eton - [Scours Lane]
AFC Stoneham v Newport IOW - [14:30]
Andover Town v Lymington Town - [Sparsholt College]
Arundel v Romsey Town
Ash United v Milton United - [Alderwood 4G]
Bournemouth v Frome Town
Brockenhurst v Binfield
Clanfield Cup 3rd/4th Place Final, Clanfield v Selsey- [Westleigh Park, 12:30]

Clanfield Cup Final, Liss Athletic v Hedge End Rangers- [Westleigh Park, 15:30]

Cobham Sports v Blackfield & Langley - [14:00]

Cove v Alton - Venue TBA

Cowes Sports v Havant & Waterlooville

Denmead v Folland Sports

Downton v Totton & Eling

East Cowes Victoria v Saltdean United - [13:30]

Fareham Town v Hamble Club

Holt United v Hamworthy United

Kintbury Rangers v Tadley Calleva

Millbrook v Fleetlands - [Mansel Park, 15:00]

Petersfield Town v AFC Portchester

Ringwood Town v Hamworthy Recreation

Shaftesbury v Laverstock & Ford

Spelthorne Sports v Yateley United - Venue TBA

Street v Portland United

Sturminster Newton United v Sherborne Town

United Services Portsmouth v Locks Heath - [HMS Temeraire, 14:00]

Verwood Town v New Milton Town

Wells City v Wincanton Town

Wick v Baffins Milton Rovers

Tuesday 22 July

Amesbury Town v Warminster Town - [19:30]

Baffins Milton Rovers v Portsmouth

Brockenhurst v Poole Town

Cowes Sports v Newport IOW

Eversley & California v AFC Aldermaston

Fareham Town v Wimborne Town

Fawley AFC v Hythe & Dibden

Frimley Green v Alton

Hamworthy United v Bournemouth

Horndean v Christchurch

Laverstock & Ford v Fleetlands

Millbrook v AFC Shirley - [Mansel Park, 19:30]

Molesey v Cove

Moneyfields v Andover New Street

New Milton Town v Lymington Town

Pagham v AFC Portchester

PFC Victoria London v Yateley United - Venue TBA

Portland United v Sturminster Newton United

Radstock Town v Wincanton Town

Shaftesbury v Hamworthy Recreation

United Services Portsmouth v East Cowes Victoria - [HMS Temeraire, 19:30]

Wick v AFC Stoneham

Wednesday 23 July

Bashley v Totton & Eling - [19:00]

Hamble Club v Blackfield & Langley - [Ganger Farm, 19:30]

Petersfield Town v Bognor Regis Town

Romsey Town v Colden Common - [Eric Laversuch Trophy-Wide Lane, 18:30]

Sherborne Town v Ilminster Town

Wimborne Town Development v Bournemouth

Thursday 24 July

Bournemouth Sports v Downton

Friday 25 July

Fawley AFC v Sway

Wincanton Town v Odd Down

Saturday 26 July

AFC Aldermaston v Newbury - [Aldermaston Recreational Society, 14:00]

Amesbury Town v Inter Legends - [Stars Appeal Fundraiser]

Andover Town v Laverstock & Ford

Ash United v Tongham

Bournemouth Electric v Folland Sports

Brockenhurst v Lymington Town

Cobham Sports v Bemerton Heath Harlequins

Cove v Epsom & Ewell

Crofton Saints v Colden Common

Devizes Town v Andover New Street

East Cowes Victoria v Bashley

Fleetlands v Selsey

Hamworthy United v Blandford United

Hartley Wintney v Baffins Milton Rovers

Hythe & Dibden v Holt United

Infinity v Blackfield & Langley - [Noadswood, 15:00]

Millbrook v Bishops Waltham Dynamos- [Mansel Park, 15:00]

New Milton Town v Newport IOW

Paulsgrove v Totton & Eling - [KGV- Cosham, 14:00]

Poole Town v Fareham Town

Ringwood Town v Swanage Town & Herston

United Services Portsmouth v Cowes Sports - [HMS Temeraire, 15:00]

Verwood Town v Christchurch

Whitchurch United v Broughton

Wick v Clanfield

Yateley United v Downton

Tuesday 29 July

AFC Portchester v Bashley

Ash United v Rushmoor Community

Bournemouth Electric v Lymington Town - Venue TBA

Downton v Bemerton Heath Harlequins - [Salisbury Hospital Cup]

Fareham Town v Gosport Borough - [19:30]

Folland Sports v Hythe & Dibden

Holt United v Totton & Eling - [19:00]

Laverstock & Ford v Winchester City

New Milton Town v Wimborne Town

Ringwood Town v Poole Town

FIXTURES – 2025/26

A general reminder that fixtures are subject to alteration and or cancellation at short notice.

Bearing in mind that caveat, here's the list for the first few weeks.

Saturday 26 July

Wessex League Charity Cup

AFC Portchester v Hamble Club

OnSite Group Stadium, KO 15:00

[supporting Young Minds our Charity partner for 2025/26- see page 3 for more details]

Tuesday 29th July

Premier Division

Brockenhurst v Petersfield Town

Cowes Sports v Baffins Milton Rovers

Hamworthy Recreation v Millbrook

Wincanton Town v Bournemouth

Saturday 2nd August

Emirates FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round

AFC Stoneham v Fleet Town
 Alton v Wincanton Town
 Andover New Street v New Milton Town
 Baffins Milton Rovers v Shaftesbury
 Bashley v East Cowes Victoria
 Bradford Town v Bournemouth
 Christchurch v Bemerton Heath Harlequins
 Cowes Sports v Laverstock & Ford
 Downton v Fareham Town
 Hamworthy Recreation v Hartley Wintney
 Hythe & Dibden v Portland United
 Moneyfields v Brockenhurst
 Paulton Rovers v Hamble Club
 Tadley Calleva v Millbrook
 Thatcham Town v Petersfield Town
 Westbury United v Sherborne Town

Division One

AFC Aldermaston v Folland Sports
 Alresford Town v Totton & Eling
 Amesbury Town v Clanfield
 Ash United v Blackfield & Langley
 Colden Common v Lymington Town
 Fleetlands v Kintbury Rangers
 Hamworthy United v Fawley AFC
 Ringwood Town v US Portsmouth
 Romsey Town v Newport IOW
 Whitchurch United v Yateley United

Tuesday 5th August

Velocity Wessex League Cup First Round

Romsey Town v AFC Stoneham

Premier Division

Baffins Milton Rovers v East Cowes Vics
 Bournemouth v Brockenhurst
 Downton v Bemerton Heath H'quins
 Millbrook v Cowes Sports
 Petersfield Town v Andover New Street
 Wincanton Town v Portland United

Division One

Yateley United v Frimley Green

Wednesday 6th August

Premier Division

New Milton Town v Laverstock & Ford

Friday 8th August

Division One

Fawley AFC v Lymington Town

Saturday 9th August

Premier Division

AFC Stoneham v Wincanton Town
 Brockenhurst v Hamworthy Recreation
 Cowes Sports v Bournemouth
 Downton v Petersfield Town
 East Cowes Vics v Bemerton Heath H'quins
 Hythe & Dibden v Christchurch
 Laverstock & Ford v Baffins Milton Rovers

Millbrook v New Milton Town
 Portland United v Hamble Club
 Sherborne Town v Andover New Street

Division One

AFC Aldermaston v Fleetlands
 Amesbury Town v Ringwood Town
 Ash United v Newport IOW
 Blackfield & Langley v Alresford Town
 Clanfield v Hamworthy United
 Frimley Green v Colden Common
 Kintbury Rangers v Cove
 Totton & Eling v Folland Sports
 US Portsmouth v Whitchurch United
 Yateley United v Romsey Town

Tuesday 12th August

Premier Division

AFC Stoneham v Millbrook
 Andover New Street v Wincanton Town
 Bemerton Heath H'quins v Hythe & Dibden
 Portland United v Sherborne Town

Division One

Alresford Town cv Cove
 Folland Sports v Clanfield
 Hamworthy United v Blackfield & Langley
 Ringwood Town v Fawley AFC
 Romsey Town v Kintbury Rangers
 Totton & Eling v Lymington Town

Wednesday 13th August

Velocity Wessex League Cup First Round

New Milton Town v Hamworthy Recreation

Thursday 14th August

Division One

Colden Common v Fleetlands

Saturday 16th August

Emirates FA Cup Preliminary Round

Premier Division

Andover New Street v Hamworthy Recreation
 Baffins Milton Rovers v Hythe & Dibden
 Cowes Sports v AFC Stoneham
 Downton v East Cowes Vics
 Hamble Club v Sherborne Town
 Laverstock & Ford v Christchurch
 Millbrook v Bournemouth
 Petersfield Town v New Milton Town
 Portland United v Bemerton Heath H'quins
 Wincanton Town v Brockenhurst

Division One

Alresford Town v Romsey Town
 Blackfield & Langley v AFC Aldermaston
 Clanfield v Fawley AFC
 Cove v Colden Common
 Fleetlands v Amesbury Town
 Frimley Green v Totton & Eling
 Hamworthy United v Folland Sports

Kintbury Rangers v Lymington Town
Ringwood Town v Yateley United
US Portsmouth v Ash United
Whitchurch United v Newport IOW

Tuesday 19th August

Premier Division

Bournemouth v Christchurch
Bemerton Heath H'quins v Andover New Street
Hamworthy Recreation v Portland United
Hythe & Dibden v Laverstock & Ford

Division One

Amesbury Town v Hamworthy United
Ash United v Cove
Blackfield & Langley v Ringwood Town
Newport IOW v Fleetlands
Romsey Town v US Portsmouth
Totton & Eling v Fawley AFC
Yateley United v Kintbury Rangers

Wednesday 20th August

Premier Division

Sherborne Town v AFC Stoneham

Division One

AFC Aldermaston v Frimley Green

Thursday 21st August

Division One

Colden Common v Folland Sports

Saturday 23rd August

Isuzu FA Vase First Round Qualifying

AFC Aldermaston v Bristol Telephones
Alresford Town v Whitchurch United
Amesbury Town v Blackfield & Langley
Bridport v Millbrook
Corsham Town v Kintbury Rangers
Cove v Clanfield
Cowes Sports v Wincanton Town
Devizes Town v Yateley United
East Cowes Victoria Athletic v Brockenhurst
Folland Sports v Bemerton Heath Harlequins
Hamble Club v Fleetlands
Hythe & Dibden v Badshot Lea
Pagham v Newport IOW
Petersfield Town v Hamworthy Recreation
Selsey v Ringwood Town
Sturminster Newton United v Ash United
Totton & Eling v Romsey Town
United Services Portsmouth v Laverstock & Ford

Premier Division

AFC Stoneham v Portland United
Andover New Street v Downton
Bournemouth v Christchurch
New Milton Town v Sherborne Town

A LIMITED FUTURE FOR THE FAREHAMS?

(Sportsman Gossip, Portsmouth News 17/3/1967)

Where does the future lie for teams such as Fareham, who stand head and shoulders above most of their rivals in the Hampshire Football League?

Fareham who look certain to win the Hampshire League for the 5th year in a row are too far away to gain admission to the big metropolitan area amateur leagues and the Western League, quite apart from the fact that the general standard is little higher than Hampshire League level involves too much costly travelling.

Perhaps the stimulus for the ambitious Fareham Town will spring from the FA's investigation of regional leagues. It is recognised that when clubs are consistently successful, fresh avenues should be open for them to progress and this is not peculiar to the Southern League clubs who seek admission to the Football League. The idea is to devise a scheme by which all the leagues of the country are closely connected through a system of promotion and relegation, providing in theory at least a chance for any club to reach the top. The pattern already exists and a lot of goodwill the idea could be turned into reality.

Wessex League

Regional Leagues will be an important item on the agenda when Hampshire Football League clubs shortly hold a meeting to discuss problems and the future.

Mr Fred Tyler (Secretary of the Hampshire FA) considers that the outlet for top Hampshire League Clubs would be a Wessex League covering Hampshire, Sussex, Dorset, Wiltshire, Berkshire and perhaps part of Surrey.

Within this area are sufficiently strong clubs to form an interesting and crowd pulling competition, perhaps with promotion to the Southern League as the next step up the soccer ladder.

A Wessex League would certainly add zest to Hampshire Football and lead to a general raising of standards of football in the county.

Thanks to Paul Proctor for sending in the story.

CLUB NEWS

Dawn Page, **Christchurch** Life President has been recognised in the Hampshire FA Grassroots Football awards for her service to football- 50 years.

The same awards saw our own Nick Spencer collect a Service to Football award.

In the north of our area, Gareth Watmore has collected the Grounds Team of the year award from the Surrey FA for his endeavours for **Ash United**.

Congratulations to all three and indeed to all those mentioned for their achievements last season.

THE EMIRATES FA CUP EXTRA PRELIMINARY ROUND

The Draw for the above was included in last week's newsletter but there was insufficient time to comment on same so some thoughts now.

Sixteen ties involving Velocity Wessex League Clubs but happily only four where current Clubs face each other but for the sake of ease the ties will be looked at in no particular order. First up is one of the all-Wessex ties with LAVERSTOCK & FORD crossing the Solent to meet COWES SPORTS and the result could easily go either way. FAREHAM TOWN, who gained promotion through the play offs, return to familiar pastures with a trip to DOWNTON and should progress to the next round while HAMWORTHY RECREATION, in only their second season in the Competition, welcome HARTLEY WINTNEY to Magna Road. Long time members of the Combined Counties League, Hartley Wintney have been at Step Four since 2017 and the Rec may have their work cut out on the day.

BAFFINS MILTON ROVERS also welcome old friends with SHAFESBURY travelling down to Portsmouth. The home side look like being a force in the League this season and could well make FA Cup progress as well. At this stage last season MILLBROOK journeyed to TADLEY CALLEVA and won by the odd goal in five. Now, through a quirk of the draw, they have a chance to repeat the result, again in north Hampshire. ALTON, currently in the Combined Counties League, will welcome WINCANTON TOWN to Anstey Park. The Somerset side had a difficult first season in the Wessex League with a lot of travel and this could be a difficult afternoon for them on the artificial turf.

Newly promoted EAST COWES VICS head for BASHLEY, Champions of the Wessex League in its first three seasons. They have generally found life at the higher level difficult but may well come out on top on their own ground. HAMBLE CLUB have shown themselves to be difficult to beat in various Cup Competitions of late and a win at PAULTON ROVERS may not be beyond them. Paulton, based at Midsomer Norton, finished mid-table in the Western League Premier Division last season after relegation from the Southern League. AFC STONEHAM are another to face ex-Wessex League opponents with FLEET TOWN their visitors. Fleet have never settled in the Wessex League, finding themselves in the Combined Counties for a sixth consecutive term, but they could find Stoneham a difficult proposition.

BOURNEMOUTH travel to BRADFORD TOWN, near Trowbridge, and will have every chance against a side who have fluctuated between the Western and Hellenic Leagues over recent seasons. An all-Wessex tie sees PORTLAND UNITED travel along the South Coast to HYTHE & DIBDEN and with both Clubs not having the best of seasons last time round, home advantage may tell. BEMERTON HEATH HARLEQUINS voluntarily ended their spell in the Southern League and have been drawn away to CHRISTCHURCH. With no indication to date of the Salisbury side's current squad, prediction is difficult and the Hurn Bridge side have a chance, at time of writing the venue for this tie is yet to be confirmed.

MONEYFIELDS versus BROCKENHURST would have been a Wessex League fixture in the past but the Portsmouth side have climbed the ladder in recent seasons and should be too strong for the Badgers. SHERBORNE TOWN meet up with old Western League rivals when they make the 30 mile trip to Southern League WESTBURY UNITED. The Zebras have often proved difficult to beat since joining the Wessex League and will be fancying their chances over the ninety minutes. Newly returning PETERSFIELD TOWN after a season of Sussex by the sea travel to former members THATCHAM TOWN, who are in the Combined Counties South for the first time this season following relegation from the Southern League. Lastly an all Wessex tie as newly promoted NEW MILTON TOWN travel to ANDOVER NEW STREET. Both sides come into the game on the back of successful seasons and home advantage may just be the difference.

For completeness, AFC PORTCHESTER, looking forward to a season at the higher level, can test themselves at MELKSHAM TOWN. The Wiltshire side, after many years in the Western League, attained Southern League status in 2017 and their 8th place last season is their highest finish to date but the current Wessex League Champions have a good chance of success on the day.

Good luck to all our sides, next week we'll have a look at the Isuzu FA Vase.

NON LEAGUE DAY



PHOTO FINISH

Thursday action saw a late addition to the pre-season schedule with Bridport (yellow) visiting Hamworthy Recreation. The hosts won 4-2 after the Bees took an early lead. Max Wilcock hitting a hat trick.



Thanks goes to Cameron Gale who was at the Dell this afternoon for the Laverstock & Ford (green and white) derby pre-season game against Salisbury. The Southern League side ran out as 5-0 winners on a very hot afternoon.



Below, it was back to Magna Road this afternoon, when Hamworthy Recreation (red and white) were again in action. This time Fareham Town were the visitors. Hamworthy ran out as 4-0 winners.





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