



## 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](mailto: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



*We'll start with the finish so to speak, League Chair Nick Taplin presents the AFC Portchester skipper with the Charity Cup after their 2-0 win over Hamble Club this afternoon, thanks to Robin Caddy for the picture.*

TUNE IN

# VELOCITY WESSEX LEAGUE FOOTBALL SHOW



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around the Velocity Wessex League.

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**Get In Touch with the Show!**

[gregdickson94@gmail.com](mailto:gregdickson94@gmail.com)

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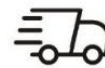
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## PROGRAMME ADVERTS

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**]

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# VELOCITY WESSEX LEAGUE



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## 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 22 July

Alresford Town 1-2 Southsea Sports  
Alton 1-4 Frimley Green  
Amesbury Town 6-1 Warminster Town  
Baffins Milton Rovers 4-1 Camberley Town  
Brockenhurst 0-2 Poole Town  
Cowes Sports 2-1 Newport IOW  
Eversley & California 1-1 AFC Aldermaston  
Fareham Town 1-1 Wimborne Town  
Fawley AFC 1-3 Hythe & Dibden  
Hamworthy United 3-3 Bournemouth  
Horndean 0-1 Christchurch  
Kintbury Rangers 1-2 Newbury Town  
Laverstock & Ford 3-2 Fleetlands  
Millbrook 3-1 AFC Shirley  
Molesey 2-0 Cove  
Moneyfields 0-0 Andover New Street  
New Milton Town 2-1 Folland Sports  
Pagham 2-0 AFC Portchester  
PFC Victoria London 0-4 Yateley United  
Portland United 7-0 Sturminster Newton United  
Radstock Town 0-2 Wincanton Town  
Shaftesbury 3-0 Hamworthy Recreation  
United Services Portsmouth 1-4 East Cowes Victoria  
Whitchurch United 5-1 Liphook United  
Wick 2-1 AFC Stoneham

#### Wednesday 23 July

Bashley 3-3 Totton & Eling  
Hamble Club 4-1 Blackfield & Langley  
Romsey Town 3-0 Colden Common [Eric Laversuch Trophy]  
Sherborne Town 5-0 Ilminster Town  
Wimborne Town Development 3-3 Bournemouth

#### Thursday 24 July

Bournemouth Sports 0-1 Downton  
Highworth Town 3-1 Kintbury Rangers

#### Friday 25 July

Dorchester Sports 3-2 Bournemouth  
Fawley AFC 3-1 Sway  
Hamworthy Recreation 1-2 Sturminster Newton United  
Wincanton Town 2-0 Odd Down

#### Saturday 26 July

AFC Aldermaston 2-4 Newbury Town  
AFC Stoneham 2-0 Alresford Town  
Amesbury Town 13-1 Inter Legends [Stars Appeal Fundraiser]  
Ash United 0-0 Tongham  
Blackfield & Langley 0-5 Infinity

Bournemouth Electric 1-1 Folland Sports  
 Brockenhurst A-A Lymington Town [*Match abandoned at 1-1 due to a serious injury to a Brockenhurst player- we trust that he has a speedy recovery*]  
 Cobham Sports 3-0 Bemerton Heath Harlequins  
 Cove 7-2 Epsom & Ewell  
 Devizes Town 2-1 Andover New Street  
 Fleetlands 0-1 Selsey  
 Hamworthy United 4-2 Blandford United  
 Hartley Wintney 3-0 Baffins Milton Rovers  
 Hythe & Dibden 2-0 Holt United  
 Millbrook 0-0 Bishops Waltham Dynamos  
 New Milton Town 4-2 Newport IOW  
 Paulsgrove 0-6 Totton & Eling  
 Poole Town 3-0 Fareham Town  
 Ringwood Town 1-3 Swanage Town & Herston  
 United Services Portsmouth 1-4 Cowes Sports  
 Verwood Town 1-2 Christchurch  
 Whitchurch United 4-1 Broughton  
 Wick 1-1 Clanfield  
 Yateley United 3-0 Downton

#### COMING UP

##### Monday 28 July

East Cowes Victoria v Whitecroft & Barton Sports

##### 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

Hamble Club v Colden Common

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

Laverstock & Ford v Winchester City

Ringwood Town v Poole Town

Shaftesbury v New Milton Town

Shrewton United v Amesbury Town - [Salisbury Hospital Cup]

##### Saturday 2 August

Selsey v Colden Common [13:30]

#### FIXTURES – 2025/26

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

##### Saturday 26 July

##### Wessex Charity Cup

AFC Portchester v Hamble Club

##### Tuesday 29 July

##### Premier Division

Brockenhurst v Petersfield Town

Cowes Sports v Baffins Milton Rovers

Hamworthy Recreation v Millbrook

Wincanton Town v Bournemouth

##### Saturday 2 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 Vics

Bradford Town v Bournemouth

Christchurch v Bemerton Heath H'quins  
[at Shaftesbury]

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**

Alresford Town v Totton & Eling  
Amesbury Town v Clanfield  
Ash United v Blackfield & Langley  
Fleetlands v Kintbury Rangers  
Hamworthy United v Fawley AFC  
Ringwood Town v U.S. Portsmouth  
Romsey Town v Newport IOW  
Whitchurch United v Yateley United

**Monday 4 August**

**Hampshire Senior Cup Preliminary Round**

Totton & Eling v Baffins Milton Rovers

**Tuesday 5 August**

**Hampshire Senior Cup Preliminary Round**

Bournemouth v Newport IOW  
Cowes Sports v Tadley Calleva  
Eversley & California v Yateley United  
Fleet Town v Blackfield & Langley  
Folland Sports v Fawley AFC  
Lymington Town v Alresford Town  
*[at Hythe & Dibden]*

**Velocity Wessex League Cup First Round**

Romsey Town v AFC Stoneham

**Premier Division**

Downton v Bemerton Heath H'quins  
Petersfield Town v Andover New Street  
Wincanton Town v Portland United

**Division One**

Whitchurch United v Amesbury Town

**Wednesday 6 August**

**Hampshire Senior Cup Preliminary Round**

New Milton Town v Hythe & Dibden

**Friday 8 August**

**Division One**

Fawley AFC v Lymington Town

**Saturday 9 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**

Amesbury Town v Ringwood Town  
Ash United v Newport IOW

Blackfield & Langley v Alresford Town  
Fleetlands v AFC Aldermaston  
Frimley Green v Colden Common  
Kintbury Rangers v Cove  
Totton & Eling v Folland Sports  
U.S. Portsmouth v Whitchurch United  
Yateley United v Romsey Town

**Tuesday 12 August**

**Hampshire Senior Cup Preliminary Round**

East Cowes Vics v Alton

**Velocity Wessex League Cup Second Round**

Amesbury Town v AFC Aldermaston

**Premier Division**

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

**Division One**

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

**Wednesday 13 August**

**Velocity Wessex League Cup First Round**

New Milton Town v Hamworthy Recreation

**Thursday 14 August**

**Division One**

Colden Common v Fleetlands

**Saturday 16 August**

**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  
U.S. Portsmouth v Ash United  
Whitchurch United v Newport IOW

## **Monday 18 August**

### **Division One**

Totton & Eling v Fawley AFC

## **Tuesday 19 August**

### **Hampshire Senior Cup First Round**

Andover New Street v Christchurch

Fleetlands v Whitchurch United

Petersfield Town v Clanfield

U.S. Portsmouth v Millbrook

### **Premier Division**

Hamworthy Recreation v Portland United

Hythe & Dibden v Laverstock & Ford

### **Division One**

Amesbury Town v Hamworthy United

Yateley United v Kintbury Rangers

## **Wednesday 29 August**

### **Premier Division**

Sherborne Town v AFC Stoneham

### **Division One**

AFC Aldermaston v Frimley Green

## **Saturday 23 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 Vics v Brockenhurst

Folland Sports v Bemerton Heath H'quins

Hamble Club v Fleetlands

Hythe & Dibden v Badshot Lea

Petersfield Town v Hamworthy Recreation

Selsey v Ringwood Town

Sturminster Newton v Ash United

Totton & Eling v Romsey Town

U.S. 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

## **Tuesday 26 August**

### **Velocity Wessex League Cup First Round**

East Cowes Vics v Cowes Sports

Fleetlands v Folland Sports

Hamble Club v Andover New Street

Laverstock & Ford v Bemerton Heath H'quins

Petersfield Town v Kintbury Rangers

Portland United v Downton

Ash United v Totton & Eling

Brockenhurst v Yateley United

Frimley Green v Whitchurch United

U.S. Portsmouth v Newport IOW

### **Premier Division**

Wincanton Town v New Milton Town

### **Division One**

Clanfield v Lymington Town

## **Friday 29 August**

### **Division One**

Fawley AFC v Amesbury Town

## **Saturday 30 August**

### **Premier Division**

Baffins Milton Rovers v Millbrook

Bournemouth v Andover New Street

Brockenhurst v Laverstock & Ford

East Cowes Vics v Wincanton Town

Hamble Club v Downton

Hythe & Dibden v Hamworthy Recreation

New Milton Town v Bemerton Heath H'quins

Petersfield Town v Christchurch

Sherborne Town v Cowes Sports

### **Division One**

Ash United v Alresford Town

Blackfield & Langley v Clanfield

Colden Common v Hamworthy United

Cove v U.S. Portsmouth

Fleetlands v Yateley United

Kintbury Rangers v Folland Sports

Newport IOW v Lymington Town

Ringwood Town v Frimley Green

Romsey Town v AFC Aldermaston

Whitchurch United v Totton & Eling

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

*It's intended to show fixtures (and results) for these four competitions as we progress through the campaign.*

### **DORSET PREMIER LEAGUE and HAMPSHIRE COMBINATION & DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE**

League programme doesn't get under way until Saturday 9 August.

### **UHSLEAGUE HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE and CORSHAM PRINT WILTSHIRE SENIOR LEAGUE**

League programme starts next Saturday and for both competitions, the opening rounds of fixtures are shown below, starting with those for Hampshire.

**Saturday 2 August**

AFC Shirley	v Moneyfields Reserves
Bishops Waltham Dynamos	v Andover Town
Denmead	v Stockbridge
Hook	v Southsea Sports
Liphook United	v Locks Heath
Liss Athletic	v Broughton
Meon Milton	v Hedge End Rangers
Whitehill & Bordon	v Crofton Saints

**Tuesday 5 August**

AFC Shirley	v Hedge End Rangers
Liss Athletic	v Denmead
Stockbridge	v Broughton
Southsea Sports	v Locks Heath
Moneyfields Reserves	v Bishops Waltham Dynamos

**Wednesday 6 August**

Liphook United	v Whitehill & Bordon
Meon Milton	v Crofton Saints

**Saturday 2 August**

Calne Town Reserves	v Faringdon Town
Cricklade Town	v Bemerton Heath Harlequins Reserves
Devizes Town Reserves	v Letcombe
Down Ampney	v Park United
Larkhall Athletic Dev	v Wroughton
Pewsey Vale	v Swindon Supermarine Dev
Purton Kingsdown	v Trowbridge Town
Royal W Bassett Town Dev	v Melksham Town Reserves
Shrewton United	v Shrivenham

**Tuesday 5 August**

Cricklade Town	v Purton Kingsdown
Letcombe	v Shrivenham
Wroughton	v Royal W Bassett Town Dev
Calne Town Reserves	v Larkhall Athletic Dev
Faringdon Town	v Pewsey Vale

**Wednesday 6 August**

Swindon Supermarine Dev	v Down Ampney
Melksham Town Reserves	v Devizes Town Reserves
Park United	v Trowbridge Town

**Friday 8 August**

Larkhall Athletic Dev	v Trowbridge Town
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**HAMPSHIRE COMBINATION & DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE****UNDER 23 COMBINATION CUP 2025/26****Second Round** *[First Round draw was covered last week]*

Bemerton Heath Harlequins/New Milton Town	v	Dorchester Town
Fareham Town	v	Hedge End Rangers/U.S. Portsmouth
Folland Sports	v	Clanfield
Laverstock & Ford/North Waltham	v	Millbrook
Lymington Town/Blackfield & Langley	v	Poole Town
Ringwood Town/Whiteley Wanderers	v	Hayling United/Hamble Club
Romsey Town	v	AFC Stoneham
Verwood Town/Bashley	v	Winchester City/Select Generation



## JOHN STIMPSON MEMORIAL SHIELD 2025/26

### First Round

Clanfield Development	v	Hayling United U23
Downton	v	Romsey Town U23
Folland Sports U23	v	Fawley AFC
Hythe & Dibden	v	Southsea Sports

### Second Round

AFC Portchester	v	Hythe & Dibden or Southsea Sports
Amesbury Town	v	Verwood Town U23
Baffins Milton Rovers	v	Blackfield & Langley U23
Bashley U23	v	Folland Sports U23 or Fawley AFC
Bemerton Heath H'quins U23	v	Hamble Club U23
Dorchester Town U23	v	Brockenhurst
Downton or Romsey Town U23	v	Lymington Town
Liphook United	v	AFC Stoneham
Meon Milton	v	Ringwood Town
Millbrook	v	Fareham Town U23
New Milton Town U23	v	Hedge End Rangers
North Waltham U23	v	Liss Athletic
Petersfield Town	v	Whiteley Wanderers U23
Select Generation U23	v	Laverstock & Ford
U.S. Portsmouth	v	Clanfield Development or Hayling United U23
Winchester City U23	v	Clanfield

## WESSEX CHARITY CUP

AFC Portchester 2-0 Hamble Club

The On-Site Group Stadium has hosted many memorable moments in the Velocity Wessex League in recent years- most recently AFC Portchester completing their quadruple season with a League Cup win over Hamble Club, just 12 weeks ago. So it was that today's Charity Cup match was played between those two same sides in front of a crowd of 172 *writes Robin Caddy*. At times the weather was more April showers than start of school summer holidays, the threat of rain passed though and the second half was played in some decent sunshine.

Sadly for Hamble, by the start of the second half the result was not in much doubt. Two odd goals in a matter of minutes shortly before the break were a bitter blow to the Monks. The first saw the ball somehow squirm under the keeper and in as he looked on in horror. The Hamble bench were apoplectic that a half chance had developed in such unlikely circumstances. Then just a matter of minutes later a defensive howler put the hosts in again as the Royals pounced, 2-0. **Lee Wort** and **Oli Davies** the goal-scorers.

The second half had one major talking point - a sin-bin offence for clean-sheet expert Steven Mowthorpe. A contentious hand-ball penalty had been awarded to Hamble and Mowthorpe lost his cool in the blazing sun. An outfield player went in goal for the next ten minutes, but to sum it all up for Hamble the penalty kick sailed straight over the crossbar.

2-0 the final score, and the last time we will see AFC Portchester in action for the foreseeable future. With planned improvements to their ground in the next year or so, it will be interesting to see if our big games are still played there. One things for certain they will be looking to make a go of things in the Isthmian League. Good luck to them. Hamble have had an excellent couple of seasons, on a much tighter budget, and they too will be looking to build on last season's run to the play-offs and League Cup final defeat.

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## PRE-SEASON PERAMBULATIONS

A warm evening pitch side at Blandford School kicked off the season for me, where **Portland United** provided the opposition for Dorset Premier League outfit Blandford United. The hosts had ended last term with a fourth place in the League and runners up medals in the Dorset Senior Trophy. They looked a vastly



changed side from that evening, and the visitors made for a good start netting inside the first couple of minutes chasing down a poor back pass. Blandford went two down with one of those unfortunate goalkeeper errors where the ball squirms through the hands. Portland didn't look back and eventually romped home 7-0. Remus Nixon provided me with the first hat trick of the season. The game also saw my first penalty; producing the first penalty save as well-coming from the beleaguered home custodian to redeem his earlier misfortune. The game was played under lights, but in all honesty they simply were not needed.

The following evening lights again were not required- which is just as well as there are none at Petersham Lane, the home of Holt United in the Dorset Premier League. Again it was a Premier Division side in action, with **Bournemouth** providing the Bulls with a stern test. The hosts took the lead but it was all square at one apiece at the interval. With the usual changes that you get with these games at half time, three goals late in the game secured a 4-2 win for the Poppies, playing in their yellow change kit tonight.



I decided to stay in the office so to speak on the Friday as the Wessex Post needed attention with the FA competition draws being made and the need to get these down in black and white in the newsletter taking precedence over a jaunt west to a game that ended 2-6, can't win them all.

Anyway on to Saturday and a change in weather- almost late Winter with a chill wind blowing down the pitch at the Rossmore Leisure Centre, at least it didn't rain which it did on my previous visit close to a year ago. After two evening games needing nothing more than shorts and a t-shirt, the weather dictated an attire of t-shirt, top and wind cheater. **Cobham Sports** from the Dorset Premier League welcomed Division One side **Totton & Eling** to the 3G cage off Herbert Avenue in north Poole, as their pitch at Merley is under repair. Despite only being one goal in front at the break they ran in a further five in the second period, including my second hat trick of the season from Faustino Maher. A consolation penalty from the Millers saw the game end 6-1.



So. On to the next one, and another artificial surface, at **Ringwood Town**, where **Laverstock & Ford** were the visitors on a warm Tuesday evening. The visitors won by the odd goal in five, all goals coming in the first half, and all from the same player- so another hat trick under the seasons belt. Pictured below is the second goal for the Bulldogs, who wore yellow on the night.



A busy pre-season continued for me with three games in as many days first up was a late addition to the schedule with **Bridport** coming to Magna Road to face **Hamworthy Recreation**. Despite taking an early lead the Bees got stung as the hosts hit four- with Max Wilcock bagging a hat trick, the game ending 4-2. Next up was a visit to the County Ground (right) where **Hamworthy United** welcomed Southern League Premier Division outfit **Dorchester Town**, the Magpies had a number of triallists amongst their number and it was perhaps no surprise that they ran out as winners- hitting three without reply, although the Hammers keeper made several good saves.



The final game of the week ending 12 July saw a swift return to Magna Road. This time **Fareham Town** newly promoted to the Isthmian were the visitors. This was not the original selection, but a late cancellation meant a change of plan. The Creeksiders barely got going in sweltering conditions with the hosts, **Hamworthy Recreation** again in red and white- pictured left, running in four without reply. The first was one that saw the keeper fumble a header into the net, and the second a free header from inside the goal area. The third and fourth saw striker Chris Long bag a brace with two excellent strikes.



A brief interlude before a visit to the Potterne Park home of **Verwood Town**, who ended 2024/25 with relegation to the Dorset Premier League (effectively Step 7). It was the Steve Moore Memorial Trophy game against former members **Wimborne Town** this time around, the Magpies ran out as 5-1 winners which was probably not a surprise given the visitors are a Step 3 side. It was a good turn out- somewhere in the region of 240 in memory of a player who had played for both sides. Lewis Williams a new arrival at the New Cuthbury from Andover New Street contributed a double, with Joe Smith also on the score sheet.



Another day another artificial surface. This time the new facility at Chapel Gate, where **Bournemouth Sports**- Dorset Premier League champions, took on **Ringwood Town**. The pitch is inside a very large fenced off area, also with markings for American Football and the distance from touchline to the watching area (on three sides) is not really conducive to a great viewing experience sorry to say. Anyway it was the Wessex Division One side who ran out winners by the odd goal of three, Lee Vint and Pat Correia with the goals, the visitors were in white (left) that evening.

And then suddenly it was Saturday once again. In very humid conditions it was a trip to Merley for **Cobham Sports'** match against relegated side **Blackfield & Langley** next up. It was the first time I'd been there in over a year, and the pitch looked in good nick despite the hot dry weather spell. The pitch is also now enclosed by a permanent pitch surround and they hope to be in the shake-up come April for a promotion place. The hosts hit four without reply with the Watersiders providing the author with his first sin bin of 2025/26. The player didn't learn and had to go late in the second period for a similar unwarranted outburst, but the game was settled long before that, with newcomer Callum Clarke hitting a hat trick in a 4-0 win.





A return to the County Ground on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> where hosts **Hamworthy United** took on geographically near rivals **Bournemouth** (yellow). The Poppies led early but the Hammers turned it round and led by two goals as we approached the end. It ended all square at three each though, with the Poppies equaliser nearly being the last kick of the game, with what was a fine 35 yard drive from skipper Carkeet that barely lifted 35 centimetres off the ground.



Thursday night football beckoned once more, and once again on the artificial turf out at Chapel Gate. This time **Bournemouth Sports** hosted **Downton**. As in the previous visit it was the Wessex visitors who bagged the win. The hosts made the Robins work for their win which came from a Delaney penalty around the half hour mark.



An unexpected bonus for a Friday game nearly slipped under the radar, but it was a third visit to Magna Road. This time it was Western League Division One outfit **Sturminster Newton United** who provided the opposition for **Hamworthy Recreation** the hosts took an early lead and looked good value for that. However the Cherries struck back and eventually collected the bragging rights winning by the odd goal of three. The hosts had lost to the Cherries 6-0 on the grass next door (Canford School) back in 2023 in somewhat wetter conditions- but won 4-1 here just over a year ago. The hosts were in their blue kit on another balmy evening, pictured below.





To complete my pre-season, another local game in the Bournemouth Poole conurbation with Dorset Premier League side **Bournemouth Electric** welcoming **Folland Sports** to their Broadway Lane ground. Showers had been expected but after a mid-morning bust nothing wet came from above during the game, although a sprinkler nearly caught out your intrepid reporter shortly after kick off. My tenth visit down the years- averaging 4.0 exactly. Sadly viewing here is restricted to one side of the pitch and half behind one goal.

It ended honours even at one apiece with the hosts edging ahead midway through the first half with the Planemakers levelling the affair with around 15 to go. Both sides had chances to grab more goals as well but a draw was probably the right result.



## PHOTO FINISH



*Midweek action comes from the Country Ground, where Hamworthy United and Bournemouth (yellow) shared six goals with the Poppies netting twice in the last five minutes to earn the draw.*





*Next up we head to Five Heads Park for the next one. With thanks to Sara Taylor; above we have action from Horndean (red) against Christchurch. Our Premier Division side won 1-0.*



*Friday night action from Magna Road, where Western League Sturminster Newton United (red) provided Hamworthy Recreation with a stern test. The Cherries edged the contest winning by the odd goal of three after the hosts had taken an early lead.*





*A humid afternoon today at Broadway Lane (above), where Dorset Premier League outfit Bournemouth Electric (blue) played Division One side Folland Sports. It ended honours even at one each*



*And finally. With thanks to Robin Caddy we sign off with action from the OnSite Group Stadium, where League Champions AFC Portchester (pink) beat Hamble Club in the Wessex Charity Cup, see page 12.*





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