

# THE WESSEX POST

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
OF THE  
VELOCITY WESSEX LEAGUE

41



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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](mailto:newsletter.wessexleague@gmail.com) .

Keep up to date with all the news from around the League by following us on **Twitter/X** @WessexLeague That is where our main social output goes at present, but you may also find us on **Instagram** @wessexleague **Threads** @wessexleague **Bluesky** @wessexleague.bsky.social and also **TikTok** @wessex.football.l

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



*Midweek action from Test Park captured by Robin Caddy, which ended one apiece between Millbrook and East Cowes Victoria (red and white).*



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# VELOCITY WESSEX LEAGUE FOOTBALL SHOW



Tune in to our official podcast live on Fiesta 95FM and [www.fiestafm.co.uk](http://www.fiestafm.co.uk) every Sunday between 12-2pm, 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!**

[greg.fiestafmuk@gmail.com](mailto:greg.fiestafmuk@gmail.com)

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## STAT ATTACK

### TOP FIVE LEADING GOALSCORERS - LEAGUE GAMES ONLY

PREMIER DIVISION			DIVISION ONE		
Duarte Martins	AFC Stoneham	25	Charlie Glasspool	Folland Sports	34
Brett Pitman	Downton	22	Ji Nash	Newport IOW	33
Oliver Jenkins	AFC Stoneham	19	Lee Vint	Ringwood Town	26
Scott Hills	Millbrook	18	Danilo Pereira	Whitchurch United	22
[three on]		16	Bailey Rowe	Hamworthy United	22

*Details are based on clubs being up to date with records on Full Time at time of publication.  
This may or may not include League goals from this weekend.*

#### PREMIER DIVISION

#### Top five league attendances

Cowes Sports	vs	East Cowes Victoria	812	26 December
East Cowes Victoria	vs	Cowes Sports	639	3 April
Brockenhurst	vs	New Milton Town	341	27 December
Bemerton Heath Harlequins	vs	Laverstock & Ford	325	27 December
Portland United	vs	Wincanton Town	315	4 April

#### DIVISION ONE

#### Top five league attendances

Alresford Town	vs	Colden Common	329	6 December
Totton & Eling	vs	Romsey Town	258	28 March
Yateley United	vs	Frimley Green	226	2 September
Romsey Town	vs	Folland Sports	212	11 October
Whitchurch United	vs	Kintbury Rangers	204	8 October

#### PREMIER DIVISION- HIGH WINNING SCORES

<b>Home win</b>	AFC Stoneham	vs	New Milton Town	9-0	14 March
<b>Away win</b>	Hythe & Dibden	vs	Brockenhurst	0-7	19 March

#### DIVISION ONE- HIGH WINNING SCORES

<b>Home win</b>	Whitchurch United	vs	United Services Portsmouth	9-0	9 August
<b>Away win</b>	Frimley Green	vs	Yateley United	0-7	4 April
	Alresford Town	vs	Yateley United	2-9	20 September
	Lymington Town	vs	Fleetlands	1-8	18 October



*Action from Hurn Bridge where Christchurch (blue) went down 2-0 against Bournemouth this afternoon in the Premier Division*



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## TOP TWENTY STEP FIVE AND STEP SIX SIDES - RATED BY POINTS PER GAME

Reproduced courtesy of the Non-League HQ team, an invaluable source of information, to find out more check them out here- <https://www.nonleaguehq.com/>

League	Pos	STEP 5	Pl	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	PPG
5. ECP	1	Mulbarton Wanderers	31	27	1	3	93	19	74	82	2.645
<b>5. WXP</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>AFC Stoneham</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>2.613</b>
5. NL1	1	Guisborough Town	34	28	4	2	78	28	50	88	2.588
5. SCP	1	Steyning Town	34	27	5	2	110	37	73	86	2.529
5. CCS	1	Cobham	36	29	4	3	123	25	98	91	2.528
5. NL1	2	Shildon	33	25	5	3	90	38	52	80	2.424
5. SEP	1	Whitstable Town	32	24	5	3	76	34	42	77	2.406
5. NCP	1	Liversedge	37	27	8	2	84	27	57	89	2.405
5. UCS	1	Nuneaton Town	36	26	7	3	90	33	57	85	2.361
5. SCP	2	Haywards Heath Town	34	26	2	6	105	31	74	80	2.353
5. WLP	3	Torpoint Athletic	30	21	6	3	57	26	31	69	2.300
5. SCP	3	Guernsey	33	25	0	8	112	64	48	75	2.273
5. WLP	1	Clevedon Town	31	22	4	5	68	28	40	70	2.258
5. MLP	1	Hanley Town	32	21	9	2	85	33	52	72	2.250
5. NWP	1	Wythenshawe FC	42	30	4	8	107	49	58	94	2.238
5. SMP	2	Winslow United	35	25	3	7	89	43	46	78	2.229
5. WLP	2	Paulton Rovers	31	21	6	4	79	31	48	69	2.226
5. SMP	1	Haringey Borough	36	24	8	4	93	38	55	80	2.222
5. WLP	4	Barnstaple Town	31	21	5	5	74	37	37	68	2.194
5. SCP	4	Horsham YMCA	34	24	2	8	89	38	51	74	2.176
5. UCS	2	Atherstone Town	34	23	5	6	72	37	35	74	2.176

League	Pos	STEP 6	Pl	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	PPG
6. SWE	1	Bovey Tracey	24	22	1	1	110	23	87	67	2.792
6. SWW	1	Liskeard Athletic	26	23	2	1	65	13	52	71	2.731
6. ML1	1	Knowle	35	30	3	2	97	23	74	93	2.657
6. NCE1	1	Dearne & District	41	35	2	4	124	32	92	107	2.610
6. NW1S	1	Runcorn Town	32	26	5	1	107	23	84	83	2.594
6. ML1	2	Gornal Athletic	37	29	6	2	99	30	69	93	2.514
6. UC1	1	Retford FC	42	33	5	4	108	32	76	104	2.476
6. SE1	1	SE Dons	30	23	5	2	84	24	60	74	2.467
6. SE1	2	AFC Greenwich Borough	29	23	2	4	89	19	70	71	2.448
6. E1N	1	Kings Park Rangers	34	26	5	3	72	28	44	83	2.441
6. HL1	1	FC Stratford	30	23	3	4	72	24	48	72	2.400
6. SWW	2	Elburton Villa	23	18	1	4	85	25	60	55	2.391
6. SWE	2	Bridport	27	20	4	3	97	42	55	64	2.370
6. NL2	2	Redcar Town	36	27	4	5	86	32	54	85	2.361
6. UC1	2	Retford United	42	30	9	3	125	30	95	99	2.357
6. CC1	1	Penn & Tylers Green	40	29	7	4	99	53	46	94	2.350
6. SS1	2	Eaton Socon	35	27	1	7	84	41	43	82	2.343
6. SS1	1	Everett Rovers	37	27	5	5	124	46	78	86	2.324
<b>6. WX1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Fleetlands</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>2.324</b>
6. E1N	2	Holland	35	25	6	4	102	43	59	81	2.314

## THROUGH THE DOORS



These attendance figures are those **reported** by the home club this season for all their games in accordance with League requirements. They do **not** include FA Youth Cup ties but, in addition to League and League Cup games do include FA Cup, FA Vase and any County or District FA cup matches.

WEEK ENDING	TOTAL	QUALIFYING GAMES	AVGE	+/- ON LAST WEEK	+/- ON LAST YEAR	RUNNING TOTAL
02-Aug-25	4,115	27	152.41	4,115	-507	4,115
09-Aug-25	3,628	31	117.03	-487	-100	7,743
16-Aug-25	3,763	37	101.70	135	-460	11,506
23-Aug-25	3,782	35	108.06	19	255	15,288
30-Aug-25	3,818	32	119.31	36	-1,764	19,106
06-Sep-25	3,307	31	106.68	-511	-809	22,413
13-Sep-25	6,244	35	178.40	2,937	2,703	28,657
20-Sep-25	2,617	29	90.24	-3,627	-704	31,274
27-Sep-25	3,032	30	101.07	415	-87	34,306
04-Oct-25	2,981	32	93.16	-51	1	37,287
11-Oct-25	3,274	30	109.13	293	514	40,561
18-Oct-25	4,012	34	118.00	738	157	44,573
25-Oct-25	2,837	29	97.83	-1,175	346	47,410
01-Nov-25	3,166	30	105.53	329	-782	50,576
08-Nov-25	3,373	30	112.43	207	281	53,949
15-Nov-25	2,760	28	98.57	-613	-1,848	56,709
22-Nov-25	1,931	23	83.96	-829	739	58,640
29-Nov-25	2,137	21	101.76	206	-685	60,777
06-Dec-25	1,244	13	95.69	-893	758	62,021
13-Dec-25	2,261	24	94.21	1,017	-423	64,282
20-Dec-25	3,365	27	124.63	1,104	573	67,647
27-Dec-25	3,454	19	181.79	89	-155	71,101
03-Jan-26	760	6	126.67	-2,694	-204	71,861
10-Jan-26	1,833	18	101.83	1,073	-973	73,694
17-Jan-26	2,372	17	139.53	539	-141	76,066
24-Jan-26	1,644	17	96.71	-728	-1,691	77,710
31-Jan-26	2,089	14	149.21	445	160	79,799
07-Feb-26	1,126	10	112.60	-963	-1,141	80,925
14-Feb-26	2,229	18	123.83	1,103	-240	83,154
21-Feb-26	2,474	25	98.96	245	33	85,628
28-Feb-26	3,743	33	113.42	1,269	-513	89,371
07-Mar-26	3,947	41	96.27	204	-37	93,318
14-Mar-26	3,233	38	85.08	-714	29	96,551
21-Mar-26	3,848	39	98.67	615	420	100,399
28-Mar-26	3,832	36	106.44	-16	-1,681	104,231
<b>04-Apr-26</b>	<b>5,915</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>155.66</b>	<b>2,083</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>110,146</b>
11-Apr-26	*	*	*	*	*	*
18-Apr-26	*	*	*	*	*	*



## ATTENDANCE STATISTICS 2025/26

TEAM	24/25 AVGE	25/26 AVGE	+/- +/-	+/- AS A %	25/26 BEST
AFC Aldermaston	53.05	42.37	-10.68	-20.13%	80
AFC Stoneham	113.63	127.19	13.56	11.93%	203
Alresford Town	113.84	114.95	1.11	0.97%	329
Amesbury Town	82.53	71.44	-11.08	-13.43%	163
Andover New Street	166.05	178.65	12.59	7.58%	283
Ash United	86.58	70.84	-15.74	-18.18%	145
Baffins Milton Rovers	132.42	89.73	-42.69	-32.24%	136
Bemerton Heath Harlequins	0.00	139.47	139.47	0.00%	325
Blackfield & Langley	88.84	77.74	-11.11	-12.50%	107
Bournemouth	72.11	69.00	-3.11	-4.31%	124
Brockenhurst	161.47	163.61	2.14	1.32%	341
Christchurch	75.95	92.00	16.05	21.14%	151
Clanfield	60.47	61.56	1.08	1.79%	86
Colden Common	0.00	76.17	76.17	0.00%	145
Cove	69.53	85.16	15.63	22.48%	188
Cowes Sports	178.21	205.06	26.85	15.07%	812
Downton	135.84	125.17	-10.68	-7.86%	192
East Cowes Victoria	187.32	184.56	-2.76	-1.47%	639
Fawley	80.74	69.78	-10.96	-13.57%	171
Fleetlands	74.05	89.87	15.81	21.36%	150
Folland Sports	64.37	71.94	7.57	11.76%	104
Frimley Green	154.89	117.68	-37.21	-24.02%	202
Hamble Club	113.05	94.38	-18.68	-16.52%	162
Hamworthy Recreation	58.05	44.38	-13.68	-23.56%	76
Hamworthy United	128.16	96.90	-31.26	-24.39%	128
Hythe & Dibden	117.53	89.19	-28.34	-24.11%	130
Kintbury Rangers	0.00	80.06	80.06	0.00%	142
Laverstock & Ford	122.42	130.50	8.08	6.60%	221
Lymington Town	121.26	79.84	-41.42	-34.16%	109
Millbrook	86.42	73.56	-12.87	-14.89%	118
New Milton Town	170.84	137.63	-33.22	-19.44%	249
Newport IOW	167.21	138.06	-29.15	-17.44%	176
Petersfield Town	0.00	167.80	167.80	0.00%	262
Portland United	182.89	164.94	-17.95	-9.82%	315
Ringwood Town	66.95	59.22	-7.73	-11.54%	77
Romsey Town	125.68	113.56	-12.13	-9.65%	212
Sherborne Town	140.26	114.12	-26.15	-18.64%	192
Totton & Eling	92.95	116.35	23.41	25.18%	258
United Services Portsmouth	72.84	50.47	-22.37	-30.71%	73
Whitchurch United	72.32	112.95	40.63	56.19%	204
Wincanton Town	97.47	87.22	-10.25	-10.52%	233
Yateley United	0.00	113.47	113.47	0.00%	226
Premier Division running total	41,488	Average	123.84		
Division One running total	34,660	Average	86.87		



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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

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Young Minds [Our Charity partner for 2025/26]

# VELOCITY WESSEX LEAGUE



## NO DISSENT

## MEANS

## NO SIN BIN



**FOR ALL**

# RESPECT



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Or like things never  
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Finding small  
things triggering?

If you're feeling like this,  
there is help. And we're  
here to help you find it.

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Fighting for young people's mental health

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## BEST CURRENT UNBEATEN RUNS

Reproduced courtesy of the Non-League HQ team, an invaluable source of information, to find out more check them out here- <https://www.nonleaguehq.com/>

PREMIER DIVISION	GAMES	LAST MATCH DATE	LAST RESULT
AFC Stoneham	17	Tue, Mar 24, 2026	Won against Sherborne Town : 4-0 at home
Hamble Club	7	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Won against Petersfield Town : 2-1 away
Andover New Street	5	Sat, Mar 28, 2026	Won against Portland United : 2-1 at home
Baffins Milton Rovers	4	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Won against Hythe & Dibden : 2-0 away
Laverstock & Ford	4	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Won against Bemerton HH : 3-0 at home
Bournemouth	2	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Won against Christchurch : 2-0 away
Portland United	2	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Won against Wincanton Town : 2-1 at home
Brockenhurst	1	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Drew with New Milton Town : 1-1 away
Cowes Sports	1	Fri, Apr 3, 2026	Won against East Cowes Vics : 2-1 away
Downton	1	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Won against Millbrook : 2-1 at home
Hamworthy Recreation	1	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Won against Sherborne Town : 2-1 away
New Milton Town	1	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Drew with Brockenhurst : 1-1 at home
Bemerton HH	0	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Lost to Laverstock & Ford : 0-3 away
Christchurch	0	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Lost to Bournemouth : 0-2 at home
East Cowes Vics	0	Fri, Apr 3, 2026	Lost to Cowes Sports : 1-2 at home
Hythe & Dibden	0	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Lost to Baffins Milton Rovers : 0-2 at home
Millbrook	0	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Lost to Downton : 1-2 away
Petersfield Town	0	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Lost to Hamble Club : 1-2 at home
Sherborne Town	0	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Lost to Hamworthy Recreation : 1-2 at home
Wincanton Town	0	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Lost to Portland United : 1-2 away
DIVISION ONE	GAMES	LAST MATCH DATE	LAST RESULT
Yateley United	10	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Won against Frimley Green : 7-0 away
Fleetlands	6	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Won against US Portsmouth : 3-0 at home
Cove	5	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Won against Amesbury Town : 3-0 at home
Ringwood Town	5	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Won against Clanfield : 5-4 away
Colden Common	4	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Won against Alresford Town : 4-2 at home
Kintbury Rangers	2	Tue, Mar 31, 2026	Drew with Ash United : 1-1 at home
Lymington Town	2	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Won against Totton & Eling : 2-1 away
Blackfield & Langley	1	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Won against Fawley : 1-0 at home
Folland Sports	1	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Won against Newport (IOW) : 2-1 at home
Romsey Town	1	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Won against Hamworthy United : 2-1 at home
Whitchurch United	1	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Won against Ash United : 3-0 away
AFC Aldermaston	0	Tue, Mar 31, 2026	Lost to Ringwood Town : 2-3 away
Alresford Town	0	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Lost to Colden Common : 2-4 away
Amesbury Town	0	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Lost to Cove : 0-3 away
Ash United	0	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Lost to Whitchurch United : 0-3 at home
Clanfield	0	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Lost to Ringwood Town : 4-5 at home
Fawley	0	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Lost to Blackfield & Langley : 0-1 away
Frimley Green	0	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Lost to Yateley United : 0-7 at home
Hamworthy United	0	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Lost to Romsey Town : 1-2 away
Newport (IOW)	0	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Lost to Folland Sports : 1-2 away
Totton & Eling	0	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Lost to Lymington Town : 1-2 at home
US Portsmouth	0	Sat, Apr 4, 2026	Lost to Fleetlands : 0-3 away

How do our teams rank across Step 5 and Step 6 nationally based on PPG

**STEP 5 PPG RANKING**

AFC Stoneham	2
Andover New Street	79
Baffins Milton Rovers	79
Bemerton Heath Harlequins	254
Bournemouth	277
Brockenhurst	101
Christchurch	258
Cowes Sports	215
Downton	119
East Cowes Victoria Athletic	215
Hamble Club	29
Hamworthy Recreation	111
Hythe & Dibden	260
Laverstock & Ford	75
Millbrook	161
New Milton Town	313
Petersfield Town	114
Portland United	46
Sherborne Town	139
Wincanton Town	299

**STEP 6 PPG RANKING**

AFC Aldermaston	233
Alresford Town	252
Amesbury Town	193
Ash United	253
Blackfield & Langley	305
Clanfield	208
Colden Common	49
Cove	56
Fawley	294
Fleetlands	19
Folland Sports	43
Frimley Green	181
Hamworthy United	143
Kintbury Rangers	192
Lymington Town	238
Newport (Isle of Wight)	68
Ringwood Town	138
Romsey Town	109
Totton & Eling	283
United Services Portsmouth	313
Whitchurch United	44
Yateley United	55

**THE MIDNIGHT BOAT- LIFE AS AN ISLAND TEAM IN THE WESSEX LEAGUE**

*Words and images, Harry Holder*



*Looking towards Cowes from the main stand at Westwood Park*

It's just four miles as the crow flies from Cowes, the Isle of Wight's most northerly town, to Langley, the mainland's nearest settlement of note in the Waterside area of the New Forest. But between them lies The

Solent and a ferry crossing that's often claimed to be mile-for-mile, one of the most expensive in the world. For teams on the Isle of Wight, this barrier adds an extra challenge to life in the Wessex League.

The town of Cowes is synonymous with yachting and is home to the famous Cowes Week regatta. Away from the marina, the town's football club, Cowes Sports, is growing steadily. They are one of three teams on the Isle of Wight to play in the Wessex League, alongside East Cowes Victoria and Newport. Any Island team that makes its way to regional leagues and manages to stay there will be defying the odds. Some have been and gone, finding the financial and travel commitments too steep to be viable, but Cowes have been ever-present. The yachtsmen have been playing Wessex League football since 1994 and are now an established premier division club.

Life is good for Cowes. They have won the highly contested Isle of Wight Gold Cup in each of the last three seasons, their average attendances are consistently among the highest in the league, facilities are being developed over time and the committee and management staff are creating partnerships around the area and mainland, opening pathways for young players to experience senior semi-professional football.

That said, being on the Island doesn't make things easy. The team are no strangers to the ferry terminal, making a minimum of 19 trips across the water each season. Right now, the club are in a run of away games that almost exclusively fall midweek, which itself brings a greater challenge. "It's the Tuesday night midweek games [that are the hardest]", explained First Team Manager, Mark Woodhouse [pictured left]. "Normally we don't have too many but the last six Tuesdays, we've been away from home. The lads all jump back on



the Red Jet as foot passengers and get home just after 11 whereas for us driving the minibus or taking cars, we're back on the Island gone one o'clock in the morning. To get back into work mode early the next day is rough." Six of their last seven away games have been midweek and trips to Baffins Milton Rovers and Hamble Club occupy the next two Tuesdays.

It's not just the time burden the club has to bear - the crossings come with significant financial implications, too. To try and save costs and ease logistics, the team travel on a minibus to away matches, with another car for management staff, the social media team and any other committee members making the trip.

Most journeys wrack up over £200 of ferry expenses. Some can be over double that if players can't get away from work in time to catch the ferry on the club minibus. Ian Potts, Cowes' Director of Football understands the impact on the club but knows it's a sacrifice they make to play at this level. "It's a big commitment [the cost]. It's the joys of living on the Island. We all do it, it's part of the game. It's the level we want to play at and we accept it."

Cowes Sports are the joint-highest level team on the Isle of Wight alongside their neighbours on the other side of the River Medina, East Cowes Victoria. Even so, the huge increase in travel compared to the Isle of Wight League can prove a sticking point when it comes to signing some of the Island's most talented footballers. Woodhouse values commitment to the club highly when looking for players for his team. "There'll be certain players in the Isle of Wight League who are very good footballers but if they can't commit [to the travel] then that's a non-starter. That's the first thing we look for - people who are committed, going to train twice a week, going to make the travel."

Despite the increased travel, the level Cowes play at will always be a draw and Potts says their arrangements can make it easier for players to adapt to the long days. "Once they do it and they play the level, the facilities they play at, the camaraderie and the social side, it's not too bad."

Woodhouse and Potts both emphasise the togetherness within the squad and how it helps them to get through long days with tough matches and frustrating journeys. Club Captain John McKie has played for teams on both the Island and the mainland, citing the time the squad spends together on the minibus as a positive. "I found it bizarre people travelling to games on their own [when playing for a mainland team]. We've forever been all together on a minibus and there's a bond there and that's probably why we've come through so many relegation battles. We were all best mates for however long and I don't know if you can replicate that without forcing people to be together for such a long period of time so I think that's unique."



The pool of players available is much smaller than those of clubs on the mainland. The Island, with a total population of just over 140,000 (over 100,000 smaller than Southampton's population and just under 100,000 less than Portsmouth), has three Wessex League clubs all vying for the best players. Squads can be small and fatigue isn't uncommon, especially in a period of fixture congestion. Efforts from the squad don't dwindle regardless of the schedule - recently, Cowes midfielder Finn Phillips played the full 90 minutes in eight consecutive games that took place across just 11 days. In a run like this, McKie [pictured left] says tiredness is higher than ever. "It's really hard. You end up in almost a state of not quite delirium, but we've seen each other more than our families at some points. We're with each other from three o'clock on a Tuesday until we get back at one in the morning; 24 hours later we see each other again for the same thing, then the same on Saturday. It just takes a toll on your body. Wednesday at work, or not at work, is a write-off because people are so fatigued from

it, it's hard to manage."

The club is doing what it can to bolster the squad for away trips and a partnership with AFC Portchester to dual-sign some of their U23 players has been a benefit to both parties. Cowes have players on the mainland they can call upon when they play away in the area, while Portchester see their youngsters develop through increased minutes in senior football.

Reduced options for players and for clubs means players tend to stick around for longer. On the mainland it's not uncommon for squads to go through large changes season-to-season, but the Island teams each have a core group of long-term players. McKie has been at Cowes for 12 seasons, even acting as player-manager for an interim basis. "There's definitely a family feel at the club. They've been a mainstay on the Island for god knows how long and there's really good people behind the club. When you stay for this long you become part of the furniture. Once you're ingrained so much in the community and club it becomes very difficult to pull yourself away."

The family feeling is strong outside of football operations at Cowes, too. A group of dedicated volunteers help to create a friendly, welcoming atmosphere for spectators on matchday. People like Toby Collard [pictured below], who has taken on roles across the club including writing the matchday programme at age 14, creating merchandise and stadium announcements, make the club what it is.



Like McKie, Collard has been around the club for years and can't get away. Unity stretches beyond the club itself and the people of Cowes sense a togetherness between the three Island clubs. Shared experiences and hardships undoubtedly help. Toby talks of Cowes' willingness to rearrange kick off times to enable the visiting team to travel on more convenient ferries and the feeling that this favour isn't always returned. McKie also brings up the same point. "Historically it's been very difficult for Island clubs with travel. It feels like there's a lot of accommodation for teams when they travel to the Island and sometimes it's not always reciprocated. We've turned up to games 15 minutes before kick off because the time can't be changed for whatever reason, but we will always accommodate when people come here. It's all relatable experiences. Each team's got that 'god did you have to get the midnight boat?' moment."

Stories of late night ferry issues are plentiful. Manager Mark Woodhouse recalls having to sleep in the minibus overnight. "Last season we went to Brockenhurst, the fog descended so we had to stay in the minibus overnight and wait for a boat back the next day in the morning so that was pretty crazy for the lads. It's something we still talk about now and it's just one of those things."

Games between Cowes, Vics and Newport are fiercely contested, each striving to claim top spot as the Island's premier team, but there is also a feeling that they are better off having one another. It's not an 'us vs them' mentality between the Island teams and the mainland, rather an understanding that by working together, football on the Isle of Wight will grow. The relationship between Cowes and Newport is strong, in part due to their ground-sharing agreement, but Woodhouse hopes the rapport they've forged will see the clubs evolve together.



Director of Football Ian Potts notes the healthy rivalry between the three Island clubs and McKie mentions how players will join each other for a drink if they see each other.

Playing Wessex League football consistently is an achievement for any team on the Island. Financial costs rise above the norm for this level and options for squads have a firmer cap than other locations. For Cowes, ongoing stability is always the top priority. The club is finding ways to grow through sponsorship and youth teams, but the underlying reason to their relative success is undoubtedly the cohesion across the club. Westwood Park is a traditional non-league ground with a picturesque grandstand that many including Woodhouse, Potts, McKie and Collard, in his own words, are "proud to call home."

## CLUB NEWS

*If you have any items- stories, initiatives etc., you wish to include please do send them in to the Editor.*

Some more player milestones to mention this week- Joe Craig has hit the 200m mark for **Newport IOW**, Henry Laurence-Napier is on 150 with **Sherborne Town** and we have two reaching the century mark at **Amesbury Town**- Zak Pickett and goalkeeper Mike Horne.

Club of the Month awards have been announced for March- congratulation to **Andover New Street** in the Premier Division and **Yateley United** in Division One, first time for both this season.

	<b>Premier Division</b>	<b>Division One</b>
Aug-25	Laverstock & Ford	Whitchurch United
Sep-25	Baffins Milton Rovers	Cove
Oct-25	AFC Stoneham	Colden Common
Nov-25	Hamble Club	Fleetlands
Dec-25	AFC Stoneham	Whitchurch United
Jan-26	AFC Stoneham	Newport IOW
Feb-26	Portland United	Colden Common
<b>Mar-26</b>	<b>Andover New Street</b>	<b>Yateley United</b>

## RUSSELL-COTES BENEVOLENT CUP NEWS

The Semi Final draw for the Russell-Cotes Benevolent Cup will be on our Radio Show tomorrow between 12:00 and 12:15. Teams in the hat are AFC Stoneham, Andover New Street, Baffins Milton Rovers and Fareham Town.

Here is how they got there after the Quarter Finals

### Quarter Final

Andover New Street	8-0	Millbrook
Baffins Milton Rovers	5-0	Clanfield
Fareham Town	3-0	Christchurch
AFC Stoneham	3-2	Locks Heath

## FIXTURES – 2025/26

*A general reminder that fixtures are subject to alteration and or cancellation at short notice.  
This list covers the games until the end of the season.*

### **Monday 6 April**

#### **Premier Division**

Sherborne Town v Wincanton Town [15:00]

#### **Division One**

AFC Aldermaston v Kintbury Rangers [15:00]

### **Tuesday 7 April**

#### **Premier Division**

Andover New Street v Laverstock & Ford

Baffins Milton Rovers v Brockenhurst

Bemerton Heath Harlequins v AFC Stoneham

Christchurch v Portland United

East Cowes Victoria v Downton [20:00]

Hamble Club v Cowes Sports [19:30]

Petersfield Town v Hythe & Dibden

#### **Division One**

Cove v Ringwood Town

Fleetlands v Romsey Town

Folland Sports v Totton & Eling

Lymington Town v Ash United

Newport (IoW) v Fawley AFC [20:00]

United Services Portsmouth v Frimley Green

[at Gosport Borough]

### **Thursday 9 April**

#### **Premier Division**

Baffins Milton Rovers v AFC Stoneham

Cowes Sports v Millbrook

Hamworthy Recreation v East Cowes Victoria

Hythe & Dibden v Laverstock & Ford

#### **Division One**

Fleetlands v Newport (IoW)

Totton & Eling v Yateley United

### **Saturday 11 April**

#### **Premier Division**

Andover New Street v East Cowes Victoria

Baffins Milton Rovers v Millbrook

Bemerton Heath Harlequins v Downton

Cowes Sports v Sherborne Town

Hamble Club v Christchurch

Hythe & Dibden v Bournemouth

Laverstock & Ford v Brockenhurst

New Milton Town v Wincanton Town

Petersfield Town v Hamworthy Recreation

Portland United v AFC Stoneham

#### **Division One**

AFC Aldermaston v Newport (IoW)

Alresford Town v Frimley Green

Ash United v Fleetlands

Clanfield v Cove

Colden Common v Blackfield & Langley

Fawley AFC v Kintbury Rangers

Hamworthy United v Totton & Eling

Romsey Town v Lymington Town

United Services Portsmouth v Amesbury Town  
[at Fareham Town]

Whitchurch United v Ringwood Town

Yateley United v Folland Sports

### **Tuesday 14 April**

#### **Velocity Wessex League Cup Semi Final**

Hamble Club v Wincanton Town

#### **Premier Division**

AFC Stoneham v Cowes Sports

Baffins Milton Rovers v Andover New Street

Brockenhurst v Sherborne Town

Christchurch v East Cowes Victoria

Hamworthy Recreation v Downton

Hythe & Dibden v Millbrook

Laverstock & Ford v Petersfield Town

#### **Division One**

Amesbury Town v Fawley AFC

Blackfield & Langley v Totton & Eling

Cove v Whitchurch United

Fleetlands v Frimley Green

Folland Sports v Romsey Town

Newport (IoW) v Clanfield

United Services Portsmouth v Kintbury Rangers

### **Thursday 16 April**

#### **Premier Division**

AFC Stoneham v Andover New Street

Petersfield Town v Millbrook

Sherborne Town v Bemerton Heath Harlequins

#### **Division One**

Fleetlands v Folland Sports

Totton & Eling v Colden Common

### **Saturday 18 April**

#### **Premier Division**

AFC Stoneham v Hythe & Dibden

Bournemouth v Sherborne Town

Cowes Sports v Brockenhurst

Downton v Laverstock & Ford

Hamble Club v Bemerton Heath Harlequins

Hamworthy Recreation v Christchurch

Millbrook v Andover New Street

New Milton Town v Portland United

Petersfield Town v East Cowes Victoria

Wincanton Town v Baffins Milton Rovers

#### **Division One**

Amesbury Town v Whitchurch United

Clanfield v Hamworthy United

Colden Common v Newport (IoW)

Folland Sports v Alresford Town

Frimley Green v Fawley AFC  
Kintbury Rangers v Ringwood Town  
Lymington Town v Cove  
Romsey Town v Blackfield & Langley  
Totton & Eling v Ash United  
United Services Portsmouth v AFC Aldermaston  
Yateley United v Fleetlands

**Tuesday 21 April**

**Hampshire Servio Senior Cup Final**

Basingstoke Town v Sholing  
[at AFC Totton]

**Velocity Wessex League Cup Semi Final**

Cowes Sports v AFC Stoneham

**Premier Division Play Off Semi Final**

[Second v Fifth]

**Division One**

Ash United v Folland Sports  
Fawley AFC v Romsey Town  
Fleetlands v Cove  
Kintbury Rangers v Amesbury Town  
Ringwood Town v Newport (IoW)  
Totton & Eling v Hamworthy United  
Yateley United v United Services Portsmouth

**Wednesday 22 April**

**Premier Division Play Off Semi Final**

[Third v Fourth]

**Division One**

Whitchurch United v Frimley Green

**Thursday 23 April**

**Aldershot Senior Cup Semi Final**

Wokingham Town v Yateley United

**Saturday 25 April**

**Premier Division Play Off Final**

[Venue to be determined]

**Division One**

Alresford Town v Ash United  
Amesbury Town v Cove  
Blackfield & Langley v Lymington Town

Fleetlands v Whitchurch United  
Folland Sports v Hamworthy United  
Frimley Green v United Services Portsmouth  
Kintbury Rangers v Fawley AFC  
Newport (IoW) v AFC Aldermaston  
Ringwood Town v Totton & Eling  
Romsey Town v Colden Common  
Yateley United v Clanfield

**Tuesday 28 April**

**Division One Play Off Semi Final**

[Second v Fifth]

**Wednesday 29 April**

**Wiltshire Premier Shield Final**

Laverstock & Ford v Westbury United  
[at Melksham Town]

**Division One Play Off Semi Final**

[Third v Fourth]

**Saturday 2 May**

**Division One Play Off Final**

[Venue to be determined]

**Monday 4 May**

**Velocity Wessex League Cup Final**

[at Downton]

**Wednesday 6 May**

**North Hants Senior Cup Final**

Andover New Street v Basingstoke Town  
[at Andover New Street]

**Thursday 7 May**

**Russell-Cotes Benevolent Cup Final**

[Venue to be confirmed]

**Monday 11 May**

**Southampton Senior Cup Final**

AFC Stoneham v Millbrook  
[at Eastleigh]

**Sunday 17 May**

**Isuzu FA Vase Final**

[at Wembley Stadium]  
AFC Stoneham v Cockfosters

**RESULTS**

*An asterisk in this section indicates that the club failed to provide attendance and or scorer details.*



**Tuesday 31 March****Somerset Francis Hillier Premier Cup Semi Final**

Portishead Town	7-0	Wincanton Town	256
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*Kyle Egan 2*  
*Ethan Feltham 7, 58*  
*Jay Murray 10*  
*Sam Watkins 60*  
*Corey Evans 75*  
*Jaden Neale 90*

**Russell-Cotes Benevolent Cup Quarter Final**

Fareham Town	3-0	Christchurch	*
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*Dan Sibley 38*  
*Cam Sullivan 52*  
*Joe Chidyausiku 85*

**Premier Division**

Baffins Milton Rovers	4-1	Cowes Sports	136
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*Danny Burroughs 7*  
*Connor Bailey 67*  
*Harrison Brook 81, 85*  
*Emerson Tattersall 7*

Brockenhurst	0-2	Portland United	144
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*Remus Nixon 8, 28*

Hythe & Dibden	2-1	Downton	106
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*Ben Satterley 87*

Millbrook	1-1	East Cowes Victoria	58
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*Scott Hills 23*  
*Jake Wright 48*

Petersfield Town	4-2	Bemerton Heath Harlequins	135
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*Max Bray 9, 54*  
*Ilya Ihnatenko*

*Harry Close 42, 48*  
*Alfie Burke*

Amesbury Town	2-0	Folland Sports	74
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*Arran Moore 6*  
*Brett Denham 56*

Clanfield	0-2	Fleetlands	81
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*Max Blake 19*  
*Oli Page 49 pen*

Kintbury Rangers	1-1	Ash United	86
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*Shemar Pettet 40*  
*Dan Roach 66*

Newport (IoW)	2-0	Romsey Town	107
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*Ji Nash 4, 34 pen*

Ringwood Town	3-2	AFC Aldermaston	63
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*Ted Bignell 44, 64*  
*Sheikh Mboge 11*  
*Jacob Wallace 73 pen*

Totton & Eling	6-3	Frimley Green	98
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*Dylan Male 6, 13, 24*  
*Pemi Yakubu 24, 87*  
*Jalil Conteh 9, 66*  
*Logan Lowes 41 pen*

Yateley United	7-0	Blackfield & Langley	84
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*Tyler Robinson 3, 15, 57*  
*Josh Smith 38, 66*  
*Nathan Connolly 45*  
*Conor Allison 79*

**North Hants Senior Cup Semi Final**

Andover New Street 2-0 Stockbridge 141  
*Jake Rawkins*  
*Cam Thatcher*

**Wednesday 1 April****Premier Division**

Sherborne Town 0-2 Laverstock & Ford 121  
*Lewis Wakeford 9*  
*Hubert Cegiela 29*

**Division One**

United Services Portsmouth 1-4 Cove 63  
*Felix Coles 38*  
*Harvey Everard 18*  
*Will Peters 33*  
*Dan Roche 41*  
*Kay Hampson 61*

**Thursday 2 April****Russell-Cotes Benevolent Cup Quarter Final**

Baffins Milton Rovers 5-0 Clanfield 112  
*Jamie Truckel 42, 65*  
*Harrison Brook 47*  
*Zack Willett 75*  
*Chad Cornwell 85*

**Premier Division**

Wincanton Town 2-1 Hamworthy Recreation 104  
*Kye Simpson 10*  
*Ben Wood 62*  
*Max Wilcock 85*

**Friday 3 April****Premier Division**

East Cowes Victoria 1-2 Cowes Sports 639  
*Connor Kelly 30*  
*Fin Phillips 22*  
*Emerson Tattersall 88*

**Saturday 4 April****Isuzu FA Vase Semi Final Second Leg**

AFC Stoneham 3-1 Hallen 851  
*Alex Welch 26, 43*  
*Tyrrell Sampson 67*  
*Sam Deuchars 78*

**Premier Division**

Christchurch 0-2 Bournemouth 141  
*Jake Cope 32*  
*Henry Nevill 46*

Downton 2-1 Millbrook 133  
*Harry McGrath 34*  
*Brett Pitman 90+4*  
*Mikey O'Connell 81*

Hythe & Dibden 0-2 Baffins Milton Rovers 76  
*Kieran Clark*  
*Zack Willett*

Laverstock & Ford 3-0 Bemerton Heath Harlequins 200  
*Kane O'Keefe*  
*OG*  
*Harvey Roberts*

New Milton Town <i>Louis Thompson 63</i>	1-1	Brockenhurst <i>Noel McCarthy-Gardiner 5</i>	249
Petersfield Town <i>Max Bray 37</i>	1-2	Hamble Club <i>Matt Casey 70</i> <i>Brad Johnson 69</i>	206
Portland United <i>Josh Williams 34</i> <i>Jacob Coombs 79</i>	2-1	Wincanton Town <i>Joe Beckey 50</i>	315
Sherborne Town <i>Josh Williams 40</i>	1-2	Hamworthy Recreation <i>Ash Pope 20</i> <i>OG 45+7</i>	115
<b>Division One</b>			
Ash United	0-3	Whitchurch United <i>[not provided by club]</i>	56
Blackfield & Langley <i>Dan Reynolds</i>	1-0	Fawley AFC	98
Clanfield <i>Joe Briggs 1, 5, 82</i> <i>Brandy Ndum 72</i>	4-5	Ringwood Town <i>Ben Harris</i> <i>Ollie Brown</i> <i>Lee Vint [2]</i> <i>Will Orchard</i>	50
Colden Common <i>Joao Ferreira [2]</i> <i>Sam Woodward</i> <i>Brad Lethbridge</i>	4-2	Alresford Town <i>Jack Welch 58, 84</i>	145
Cove <i>Stephan Langley 36</i> <i>Harvey Everard 76</i> <i>Adam Grant 78</i>	3-0	Amesbury Town	115
Fleetlands <i>Oli Page 40</i> <i>OG 49</i> <i>Sam Lewis 90</i>	3-0	United Services Portsmouth	114
Folland Sports <i>Charlie Glasspool</i> <i>Marvin McLean</i>	2-1	Newport (IoW) <i>Jack Egerton-Read</i>	70
Frimley Green	0-7	Yateley United <i>Lynford Sackey 37, 48, 80</i> <i>Nathan Connolly 45+1</i> <i>Callum Wright 76</i> <i>Tyler Robinson 86, 88</i>	129
Romsey Town <i>Brandon Hill 61</i> <i>Maciej Marcinkowski 90</i>	2-1	Hamworthy United <i>Bailey Rowe 3</i>	124
Totton & Eling <i>Adam Woodcock [pen]</i>	1-2	Lymington Town <i>David Wyatt 43</i> <i>Jamie Craven 81</i>	120



## MATCH REPORTS

*Whilst it is not mandatory to send in match reports, any budding Fabrizio Romano's, Henry Winter's or Miguel Delaney's are more than welcome to send in their offerings which will be included each week. Midweek reports need to be in by the Friday evening of the relevant week, whilst for Saturday games I must have them before 21:30 to allow time to process for the publication deadline. Thanks in advance.*



### TUESDAY 31 MARCH

#### DIVISION ONE- Newport IOW 2-0 Romsey Town

*John Davies was pitchside*

THESE two sides hadn't met since the opening day when Romsey had prevailed 4-1, 7 months later on a beautiful evening Newport extracted revenge to keep in touch with the play offs.

Macauley Watterson was forced to sit out the game with the effects of the ankle injury picked up on Saturday, Keelan Walsh though shrugged off his own ankle knock to start in midfield, Mikey Thompsett starting in the holding midfielder position after starting the last 2 games on the bench.

The game was only four minutes old when that man Thompsett played a lovely ball between the Romsey centre halves and Ji NASH nipped in, rounded a flat footed keeper to tuck away his 36th goal of an outstanding season. Newport were in control and certainly more fluid than the first half at Alresford and just after the half hour mark they were two up, Ji NASH slotting home goal 37 from the spot sending the keeper the wrong way.

Romsey were certainly creating chances and their industrious midfield were posing threats but the finishing was often high and handsome. In the 38th minute disaster struck for the home side, as was their want a Romsey attacker felt a touch and went down, Neo Lamb receiving a straight Red for being the last man, probably just about the right decision but there was often similar going on the other end of the pitch that not until late in the game was picked up on, Ji Nash picking up a yellow having been man handled for most of the half and after again getting no protection from the official his frustration got the better of him.

HT 2-0

Half time allowed Newport to regroup and reorganise. Mikey Thompsett slotted into the back four alongside George Holbrook and with the full backs of Matt Benford and Kai Grace they for 45 minutes shut out the Romsey attacks, there were periods of concerted pressure and corners but the afore mentioned defence put in a performance as good as seen by a Newport defence all season, considering the age of them it was a quite brilliant effort.

Newport were now sitting deep , relying upon the counter attack but once Jordan Browne was lost to a facial injury and Ji Nash removed due to a combination of fatigue and being on a yellow it was about digging in and putting bodies on the line. Kudzi Mazambara provided fresh energy in midfield and was also the recipient of some robust challenges, Ollie Linington worked the channels and Jack Egerton Read showed what a player he will be with some deft touches towards the end. Romsey piled forward but Leon Pitman was up to everything thrown at him, two excellent saves coupled with command of the penalty area airspace meant he could help manage the defences workload.

After six minutes of injury time the final whistle sounded to the roar of both relief and pride in the second half performance, one of the best this season and a credit to everyone involved.

FT 3-0

### TUESDAY 31 MARCH

#### PREMIER DIVISION- Brockenhurst 0-2 Portland United

*Jon Renyard was pitchside*

PENULTIMATE visitors to the Meadens this season, the Blues of Portland. 5th v 3rd in the table, sounds like a decent match-up, and so it was. But in the end, there was a gap between the teams. Not a gulf, but a gap, especially in the first half. Portland were that bit smarter, that bit more experienced, and it showed in

the important moments. Fast start from the Badgers, forcing Stainer-Reid to fumble and then grab a header from McCarthy-Gardiner within 4 minutes; but four minutes later the visitors were ahead. One long ball forward which bounced awkwardly but there was no immediate danger when Remus NIXON squared up to the bouncing ball near the corner of the box – bang, worldie into the top corner, no keeper with a chance of saving that.

After that, the Blues looked the stronger side: excellent off the ball, winning every defensive header, holding Brock at arm's length. One magic moment from Freddie Beale near the corner flag, pulled back to Toms near the edge of the box but his shot curled high. 23 minutes, Archie Woolford with a powerful shot, pushed away by Valero and Borthwick could only find the side-netting with the rebound. Both Drake and Tornainen were called on to make excellent interceptions... finally, 26 minutes, some Brock pressure resulting in pinball in the box, but no clear strike at goal... a break from Portland, Woolford down the left with a superb cross, Brock looked favourites to clear the ball but NIXON stole in to head home his second.

The visitors should have been out of sight by half-time: Bailey lost the ball in his own half, giving Jenkins a clear run on goal, but he somehow rolled his shot wide; then Nixon set up Camp 14 yards out who cleared the bar; and Jenkins again, in overtime, completely missed his kick on the edge of the box.

HT 0-2

The Badgers did improve in the second half – a little less safe, a little more progressive – but Portland were largely comfortable, continuing to look a very solid defensive unit. First-half sub Will Giles was lively down the right, but was generally well marshalled (Woolford did a very good job here) – the one occasion Giles truly lost his marker was on 58 minutes, arriving in the box to head a Walker cross over the bar. It was probably the best chance Brock created all evening and maybe that could have changed the momentum. In the last 20, the Badgers didn't exactly lay siege to the Portland goal, but they did at least ask some questions and force the visitors to show their defensive qualities.

The Blues were mostly playing on the break but they continued to look very dangerous, Wellman and in particular MacFarlane needed to be alert. MacFarlane then seemingly got tired of what he saw going on in front of him and took matters into his own hands with a great run into the opposition half, 1-2 with Giles, a shot just over the bar! But in the closing stages the visitors looked the more likely – Nixon was played through down the left but took the ball too wide and his shot was eventually blocked before Woolford hit the rebound into the trees; and then Nixon again, two minutes from time, left alone 15 yards out but dragged his shot wide.

FT 0-2

## **TUESDAY 31 MARCH**

### **PREMIER DIVISION- Millbrook 1-1 East Cowes Victoria**

*Tim Smith was pitchside*

ON a moonlit Tuesday evening, an end of season fixture between the clubs placed 12th and 13th in the Wessex Premier table didn't look very enticing, but Millbrook and East Cowes Victoria served up a hard-fought and entertaining one-all draw.

In front of a crowd of 58, Millbrook made three changes from their last league match against Baffins, whilst East Cowes made five from their Saturday defeat by Laverstock & Ford, possibly with one eye on their big Good Friday derby against Cowes Sports.

Vics made the early running at Test Park – Jake Wright had a shot on the turn saved by Alex Walder and then Charlie Hart latched on to a good through ball and struck the post.

But it was the Dockers who had the ball in the net on 19 minutes when Josh Ball calmly tucked the ball home after some neat inter-passing. Having initially awarded the goal, the referee then ruled it out for offside, leading to some confusion in the crowd. Four minutes later though, Millbrook scored for real. Callum Drake went past a couple of Vics defenders on the left and his cross was headed home by Scott HILLS at the far post.

Millbrook were now edging the game, with Drake shooting wide after good work by Mikey O'Connell and Keegan Kelly.

But it was the islanders who ended the half stronger. Wright intercepted a stray Dockers' ball in their own box but Walder saved his effort and in added time Liam Triggs saw his shot from distance parried by the keeper.

HT 1-0

It was the same story at the start of the second period with East Cowes getting their reward in the 48th minute when WRIGHT turned in the box to tuck a cross inside the near post.

This was the cue for a spell of intense Millbrook pressure. O'Connell had a fierce shot deflected over the bar for a corner, then his good ball led to a cross from Ryan Fuller which caused panic in the East Cowes box. The game then settled down, but Millbrook continued to have the better openings with Drake hitting the bar from 25 yards in the 68th minutes. Kelly then saw a shot from distance saved and then fired wide after latching on to a long ball.

Both sides were going for the win in the last ten minutes, but with no clear cut chances, until Hart's last minute run and shot for the Vics, which was pushed away by Walder.

That was the end of the action, with the draw a fair result, although it will be East Cowes who will be happier with the point as they caught the late-night ferry back across the Solent.

FT 1-1

### **WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL**

#### **DIVISION ONE- United Services Portsmouth 1-4 Cove**

*Paul Harris was pitchside*

A visit to Fareham tonight (now operational again after the winter, with a good pitch) to see two teams in very contrasting situations.....

United Services are bottom and haven't picked up a point after losing in the Russell-Cotes to Locks Heath in mid-January. News of the Victory Stadium being unfit means there looks to be a bleak future ahead for the club. Cove are well in with a shout for that final playoff place, but hadn't won in four, admittedly three of them were draws against decent teams.

As expected, US battled hard but were generally second-best against a decent Wasps side, who should have won by more. Some early chances for the visitors as Lycett headed wide from a corner and he then put a free-kick wide too. Okine-Peters then tested home keeper Morgan with a long shot. The hosts had a great opportunity after 15 minutes but Clucas put his shot just wide. Straight down the other end and the Wasps took the lead as a long ball saw EVERARD run clear and he put a lovely lob over Morgan.

Upson then had a header from a corner cleared off the line and Hampson forced Morgan into a good save, before the Wasps doubled their lead on the half hour as OKINE-PETERS ran clear down the left and, as Morgan went down a bit early, found the net with a nice chip. Lycett had another effort wide before the hosts pulled one back on 37 minutes with a nice shot on the turn by COLES across the keeper and into the far corner. But three minutes later Cove restored their two-goal advantage as a good long ball found right-back ROCHE take a great touch and provide a good finish. Not sure what he was doing up there. Hampson nearly had another as Morgan hesitated but his flick went over the keeper and over the bar.

HT 1-3

More dominance from the Wasps after the restart, Everard had an early shot over, then a cross hit the US bar, and the shot from the rebound hit the post. The hosts then had a shot over before Cove hit the post again. But on 60 minutes they struck again as the ball bounced in the home area; Morgan made a weak attempt to catch it but HAMPSON challenged him and headed the ball into the net, perfectly fairly.

After that the visitors looked for more but their opponents continued to put up stern resistance. A couple of shots over, a couple of good saves by Morgan from King, and a couple other misses kept the score at 4-1 and a comfortable victory.

FT 1-4

### **THURSDAY 2 APRIL**

#### **PREMIER DIVISION- Wincanton Town 2-1 Hamworthy Recreation**

*John Hutchings was pitchside*

A bad day at the office for Rec, as their unbeaten run came to an abrupt end. Wincanton may be struggling near the bottom of the league, but have certainly been Rec's bogey team this season - dumping them out of the League Cup, earning a draw at Magna Road a few weeks back and now this win.

The hosts never allowed Rec to settle into their normal game and although there was plenty of effort there was a distinct lack of quality, with chances few and far between.

Max Wilcock nearly got Rec off to a flyer in the opening minutes, when he cut in from the left, only for his shot to be saved by home stopper, Radovanovic. But on 10 minutes Wincanton were in front. SIMPSON

chased a ball down the right, looking clearly offside, but no flag came and he cut in and hit a beauty, dipping over Rec keeper, Shane Murphy, for the opener.

The Wasps were looking to extend their lead and Simpson was unlucky with another shot, just over the bar, before Murphy made a vital save to deny Wood, tipping his close-range shot onto the bar. Rec were struggling to create anything - Chris Long's attempt was too high and Lewis McMurdo's header, from a corner, was saved by Radovanovic.

HT 1-0

Rec started the second half looking livelier, but the only real chance saw Long fire wide from Henry Barham's cross. But Wincanton's vital second goal came on 62. Murphy made a great save at the expense of a corner, from which WOOD was in the right place to poke the ball in, from close-range.

Rec rallied and Long did have the ball in the net, only to be ruled out for offside, before Long's cross was too pacy for Jimmy Fry, who could only head wide.

But on 85 minutes Rec got one back. Subs, Reuben Moggeridge and Ash Pope set up WILCOCK to bundle the ball over the line, to set up a tense finale.

Immediately, Long beat his marker, but shot straight at the keeper and Pope fizzed a shot wide. Seconds from the end Aaron Roberts created a chance for himself, but again, his shot was wide of target, which summed up Rec's evening.

FT 2-1

### **FRIDAY 3 APRIL**

#### **PREMIER DIVISION- East Cowes Victoria 1-2 Cowes Sports**

*Russ Chapman was pitchside*

VICS welcomed their local rivals to Beatrice Avenue for this long awaited Wessex league game. With the teams sat 13th and 14th respectively in the league this was always going to be a close game, and so it proved.

The opening minutes were fast and furious with challenges going in to set the tempo, Ryan Hughes's effort on 8 minutes was saved by George Bridi, Finn Phillips effort on 10 was deflected wide and a minute later Phillips' effort was put wide under pressure. Toby Snow's thunderous run and cross shot was deflected wide on 12 minutes. In the 19th minute Connor Kelly looked in on goal but a last minute tackle from Harrison Dempsey, deflected the Vics striker's effort wide.

Seconds later Will Bridi's effort was cleared. Ed Hatt pulled off a terrific save from a Josh Neale effort on 21 minutes. Cowes took the lead on 22 minutes, Fin PHILLIPS' effort beating Bridi.

The game was pulsating and Vics equalised 8 minutes later, Connor KELLY slotting home in a carbon copy of the Cowes goal.

Kelly's free kick on 45 minutes- well saved by Hatt was the last action of a very competitive first half.

HT 1-1

Vics started the second half at a furious pace and chances for Kelly, Neale and Elliot Wheeler weren't taken. Liam Triggs all alone 8 yards out connected with a Jake Wright free Kick on 60 minutes but his header was wide of the target.

The decisive moment of the game came in the 67th minute, Jacob Reynolds effort stretched Hatt in the Cowes goal, the save popped out to Jake Wright and his effort was going into an empty net but Harrison Dempsey's block was out of this world and the young defender got up fist pumping the air, like he'd scored the winner.

At this point Cowes started to get a foothold in the game, George Colson in particular driving Cowes on. Callum Chase's header on 73 minutes, saved by Bridi. Colson himself unlucky on 78 minutes, Bridi again saving. Josh Neale's effort was well saved on 80 minutes by Hatt. It was Colson again on 87 minutes, his effort to make a ball that wasn't his and his fine pass into Emerson TATTERSALL, saw the Cowes striker maybe not connect as he would have liked with the ball, but the effort looped over Bridi into the top corner. Vics had a couple of chances from Josh Neale and Toby Snow before the final whistle but just couldn't find the equaliser.

FT 1-2



## **SATURDAY 4 APRIL**

### **PREMIER DIVISION- Sherborne Town 1-2 Hamworthy Recreation**

*John Hutchings was pitchside*

AFTER a midweek defeat Rec needed to get back to winning ways and this was a very hard-fought three points. The start of "Storm Dave" brought strong, swirling winds to north Dorset, which meant this was going to be a battle and not a great spectacle - and that is how it turned out. It was "backs to the wall" for long periods, for Rec, especially in the second half when the wind was against them. But a gritty team effort, with everyone putting in a shift, saw them through. Manager, Wayne Smith, was down to the bare bones and his cause wasn't helped when defender, Tony Rolls, was forced off, early on, with concussion.

With little happening early on, Rec went in front on 20 minutes, in bizarre fashion. Eddie Hodge chased a wind assisted pass, which ran on to Sherborne keeper, Marshall. He fumbled the ball, allowing Hodge to set up Ash POPE for a tap in.

Sherborne were forcing a series of corners, which Rec were managing to scramble clear and could have added to their lead, but Ash Boyt just failed to get contact on Max Wilcock's ball across goal. But on 40 the hosts were level and it was from another corner. Herrin's delivery found the head of the unmarked Josh WILLIAMS, to level for the Zebras.

Sherborne were now on the front foot and Geraghty was denied by a Taylor Edwards tackle, before Herrin missed a sitter, blazing, high, over the bar. But it was Rec who nudged themselves in front in the 7th minute of stoppage time. Boyt dashed down the right and sent over a low cross. Home defender, Budden lunged at the ball and could only divert it into the top of the net, beyond the despairing Marshall.

HT 1-2

The second period started with Long's volley just over the bar, but it was the hosts surging forward, with the wind behind them. Cornish created a chance for himself, but shot straight at Shane Murphy, in the Rec goal, before the same player was denied again by a brave block by Murphy. The tricky Hughes, who had been a problem all game for the visiting defence, then had a goalbound shot deflected for a corner, before Shephard drilled his shot wide, following a corner.

But Rec were defending for their lives, with Lewis McMurdo in dominant form at the back and the whole team giving 100% effort to deny the hosts and earn a welcome three points.

FT 1-2

## **SATURDAY 4 APRIL**

### **PREMIER DIVISION- New Milton Town 1-1 Brockenhurst**

*Jon Renyard was pitchside*

BIG local derby today, but for New Milton this was the last chance saloon – anything but a win would see their stay in the Premier Division end after one season. They were supported by a great crowd of 249 – and they might have made the perfect start. Rossi, back for Brock after his lengthy suspension, underhit a clearance and offered Jake Carswell a golden chance after just 25 seconds, brilliantly saved by Valero. Two minutes later, Carswell found space on the right but overhit his cross... but the Badgers responded positively, and took the lead on 5 minutes when the home defence backed off Noel McCARTHY-GARDINER 20 yards out who found the corner of the net.

But New Milton weren't going to go down without a fight, and there followed a litany of missed opportunities: 8 minutes, a cross from Coat, volleyed wide by Harry Smith. 12 minutes, Carswell beat two defenders, played a neat 1-2, good shot brilliantly tipped over by Valero. 20 minutes, the best chance of the lot – Drake judged to have fouled Broad (I think) in the box, Harry Smith blazed the spot-kick high and wide. Justice done, possibly. 31 minutes, Coat curled an effort towards the top corner, caught by Valero; 35 minutes, Carswell again, twisting and turning, pulled back to Smith ten yards out, lifted over the bar; 38 minutes, the ball broke to Smith in the box, brilliant save from Valero, rebound superbly blocked by MacFarlane. That makes it sound like one-way traffic, and it was more even than that, but Brock were struggling to create clear chances despite some very promising positions. One superb shot from Demira, turned away by keeper Thomas; and a neat combination between Walker and Beale, with Walker's shot saved.

But the hosts finished the half strongly – Valero missed a corner and MacFarlane cleared off the line, then Dixon blasted over the bar, and right on the whistle Coat turned on a sixpence in the box and forced another fine save from Valero, tipping over.

HT 0-1

It will be obvious from the above that the Brickies were very definitely giving it a go, and they made another fast start in the second half – a quick break, deep cross but Coat couldn't control at the back post. Walker for Brock with a cross superbly blocked behind by Nixon, but it was a day when too many Brock crosses were hitting the first man or else being claimed comfortably by the keeper; and too many long balls forward were hopeful rather than accurate, and coming straight back at them. 53 minutes, a free kick: Lowes smashed it goalwards and it hit his own man Smith, and 5 minutes later another chance for Smith, a loose ball spinning in the box and his connection went just wide of the far post.

But finally, on 65, the Brickies found their equaliser, Louis THOMPSON finding the far corner from the edge of the box. Hard to say it was undeserved... But what followed was a lot of huff and puff with limited quality in the final third from both sides. 72 minutes, Lowes tried his luck from about 40 yards, the ball went wide but it might have troubled Valero if it had been a yard or two to the right... and then twice, in injury time, Niall Dixon found himself with the freedom of the Brock half as the Badgers pushed for a winner, but he pulled one shot wide of the near post, and hit one wide of the far post, and that was that.

In the end it didn't matter for New Milton because results elsewhere would have relegated them anyway; all the best for a swift return.

FT 1-1

#### **SATURDAY 4 APRIL**

#### **ISUZU FA VSE SEMI FINAL SECOND LEG- AFC Stoneham 3-1 Hallen**

*Tim Smith was pitchside*

AFC Stoneham booked their place in the Isuzu FA Vase Final with a comprehensive win over Hellenic League Hallen, winning the tie 6-1 on aggregate.

A brace for skipper Alex Welch and one for Tyrrell Sampson were the goals which ensure The Purps will face Spartans South Midland League Cockfosters under the Wembley arch on 17 May.

And Stoneham will be hoping to make it a double celebration on Tuesday evening when a win over Bemerton Heath Harlequins at the A-Class Arena will clinch their first ever Wessex League Premier title and promotion.

The match starts somewhat as the first leg finished – slightly cagey, and with Hallen trying to get back into the game. In fact, on 11 minutes a mix up between Stoneham's keeper and Dan Miller almost let the Hallen forward in. Skipper Alex WELCH opens the scoring for The Purps on 25 minutes. Nice work between Welch and Tyrrell Sampson ends with Welch driving into the area and lashing the ball into the top corner. 1-0 Welch celebrates with such glee. On 43 minutes a lovely through ball from Arty Kerton put WELCH clean through for his and Stoneham's second, 2-0 and that's how it stayed at half-time.

HT 2-0

Lewis Nagle almost gets on the score sheet early in the second half when his corner clips the top of the crossbar, and on 54 minutes the rampaging left-back has a free kick from distance well saved by Harry Thomas-Barker. A minute later the keeper is tipping over another Nagle effort (he may be the standout player over both legs). Hallen are trying to get back into it, with various chances over the next ten minutes, but Stoneham are generally absorbing the pressure well. Dan Miller in particular is winning everything at the back. On 72 minutes Tyrrell SAMPSON turns his defender well after being played in from a low free kick and fires home low into left hand corner 3-0 and The Purps must be feeling so good about this FA Vase campaign. 5 minutes later Hallen pull one back courtesy of a Sam DEUCHARS shot from 12 yards out, 3-1, and Stoneham have one cleared off the line in added time.

The final whistle was the cue for wild celebrations by the Stoneham players which will no doubt continue long into the night, as well as the home supporters in the record 851 crowd.

FT 3-1

*Stoneham become the fifth Wessex side to reach the Vase final, following in the footsteps of Wimborne Town, Winchester City, AFC Totton and Sholing.*

*And The Purps remain on track for an unprecedented five trophies, with the possibility of adding the Velocity Wessex League Cup, Southampton Senior Cup and Russell-Cotes Cup to their season's haul.*

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

*Fixtures listed are published in good faith and are subject to alteration or cancellation at short notice.*

*Kick off times will also vary- please check if planning to visit.*

*In this section, an [\*] in any league table means point adjustments have been made.*

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH- DORSET PREMIER LEAGUE

### RESULTS

#### Saturday 4 April

Blandford United 1-1 Westland Sports  
 Bournemouth Sports 2-5 Bournemouth Electric  
 Bridport Reserves 1-1 Sherborne Town Reserves  
 Cobham Sports 4-1 Verwood Town  
 Dorchester Sports 5-1 Wimborne Town Reserves  
 Hamworthy Recreation Reserves 2-1 Swanage Town & Herston  
 Holt United 8-1 Gillingham Town

### TABLE

POS	DORSET PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Blandford United	29	26	1	2	94	27	67	79
2	Cobham Sports	28	23	4	1	108	30	78	73
3	Dorchester Sports	28	20	4	4	68	30	38	64
4	Bournemouth Electric	28	18	5	5	83	41	42	59
5	Swanage Town & Herston	29	18	4	7	83	41	42	58
6	Holt United	28	17	4	7	68	33	35	55
7	Bournemouth Sports	30	17	4	9	83	64	19	55
8	Sherborne Town Reserves	32	14	2	16	51	71	-20	44
9	Hamworthy Recreation Reserves	29	12	3	14	39	63	-24	39
10	Westland Sports	28	10	5	13	55	54	1	35
11	Balti Sports	28	10	2	16	68	64	4	32
12	Wimborne Town Reserves	31	10	2	19	55	79	-24	32
13	Hamworthy United Reserves	32	9	3	20	48	90	-42	30
14	Verwood Town	31	8	3	20	31	72	-41	27
15	Gillingham Town	31	7	5	19	45	71	-26	26
16	Portland United Reserves [*]	30	5	7	18	32	71	-39	19
17	Poole Borough	29	4	4	21	29	80	-51	16
18	Bridport Reserves	27	2	6	19	30	89	-59	12

### FIXTURES

#### Tuesday 7 April

Hamworthy United Reserves v Bridport Reserves

#### Wednesday 8 April

Swanage Town & Herston v Holt United

#### Saturday 11 April

Balti Sports v Swanage Town & Herston  
 Blandford United v Cobham Sports  
 Bournemouth Electric v Westland Sports  
 Bridport Reserves v Verwood Town  
 Hamworthy Recreation Reserves v Wimborne Town Reserves  
 Holt United v Dorchester Sports  
 Poole Borough v Bournemouth Sports

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH- UHLSPORT HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

The Hampshire Premier Football League are saddened to report that popular hard working secretary Paul Crocker passed away during the week following a short illness. His partner Jess and sons were with him. Our thoughts and condolences are with them at this difficult time.

Paul was immensely popular with all clubs and committee members and liked to get out and about every Saturday watching a game in the league and compiling a match report for that weeks' Hog Post and threw himself head first into league business at all times. He was truly one of a kind.

There will be a minutes silence at all Hampshire Premier League matches this weekend and clubs at home Bank Holiday Monday and next midweek not at home Saturday are requested to also take part.

*On behalf of the Wessex League, our sincere condolences and thoughts goes out to friends and family at this difficult time.*

### RESULTS

#### Thursday 2 April

Locks Heath 3-1 Southsea Sports

#### Saturday 4 April

Andover Town 1-1 Whitehill & Bordon

Broughton 0-2 Liphook United

Crofton Saints 0-2 Denmead

Hedge End Rangers 2-0 AFC Shirley

Moneyfields Reserves 3-0 Hook

### TABLE

POS	HAMPSHIRE PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Locks Heath	22	16	2	4	49	20	29	50
2	Hedge End Rangers	26	14	6	6	52	33	19	48
3	Hook	24	13	4	7	52	41	11	43
4	Crofton Saints	23	12	6	5	52	27	25	42
5	Whitehill and Bordon	26	11	8	7	50	48	2	41
6	Denmead	24	11	5	8	56	45	11	38
7	Moneyfields Reserves	25	11	4	10	47	39	8	37
8	Bishops Waltham Dynamos	23	10	6	7	44	34	10	36
9	AFC Shirley	23	11	3	9	40	32	8	36
10	Liss Athletic	25	11	2	12	49	48	1	35
11	Broughton	27	9	6	12	42	53	-11	33
12	Southsea Sports	24	8	3	13	44	63	-19	27
13	Meon Milton	24	5	7	12	30	44	-14	22
14	Liphook United	23	5	6	12	28	44	-16	21
15	Stockbridge	24	5	2	17	36	71	-35	17
16	Andover Town	21	3	4	14	26	55	-29	13

### FIXTURES

#### Monday 6 April

Crofton Saints v AFC Shirley

Denmead v Liss Athletic

Hedge End Rangers v Bishops Waltham Dynamos

Meon Milton v Andover Town

Stockbridge v Southsea Sports

Whitehill & Bordon v Hook

#### Thursday 9 April

Locks Heath v Bishops Waltham Dynamos

**Saturday 11 April**

AFC Shirley v Whitehill & Bordon  
 Andover Town v Moneyfields Reserves  
 Bishops Waltham Dynamos v Hook  
 Liphook United v Crofton Saints  
 Locks Heath v Meon Milton  
 Stockbridge v Denmead

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH- CORSHAM PRINT WILTSHIRE SENIOR LEAGUE

**RESULTS****Wednesday 1 April**

Faringdon Town 1-2 Wroughton

**Friday 3 April**

Trowbridge Town 1-4 Park United

**Saturday 4 April**

Bemerton Heath Harlequins Reserves 0-0 Faringdon Town  
 Calne Town Reserves 1-3 Shrivenham  
 Devizes Town Reserves 1-0 Pewsey Vale  
 Down Ampney 2-1 Wroughton  
 Melksham Town Reserves 0-7 Larkhall Athletic Development  
 Purton Kingsdown 2-4 Letcombe  
 Swindon Supermarine Development 3-0 Royal Wootton Bassett Town Development

**TABLE**

POS	WILTSHIRE SENIOR	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Shrewton United	30	24	3	3	99	33	66	75
2	Swindon Supermarine Development	29	22	2	5	74	34	40	68
3	Larkhall Athletic Development	29	21	4	4	85	28	57	67
4	Shrivenham	30	16	6	8	64	47	17	54
5	Melksham Town Reserves	28	16	5	7	68	54	14	53
6	Letcombe	27	13	6	8	46	41	5	45
7	Pewsey Vale	28	11	10	7	51	31	20	43
8	Royal W Bassett Town Development	31	11	10	10	58	52	6	43
9	Trowbridge Town	32	11	6	15	45	67	-22	39
10	Devizes Town Reserves	31	10	6	15	49	69	-20	36
11	Purton Kingsdown	31	9	6	16	44	68	-24	33
12	Faringdon Town	31	8	7	16	42	48	-6	31
13	Park United	30	10	1	19	40	56	-16	31
14	Down Ampney	28	9	1	18	50	74	-24	28
15	Wroughton [*]	28	9	3	16	38	65	-27	27
16	Bemerton Heath Harlequins Reserves	30	5	6	19	29	69	-40	21
17	Calne Town Reserves	29	2	6	21	34	80	-46	12

**FIXTURES****Wednesday 8 April****Fountain Trophies Senior Cup Semi Final**

Melksham Town Reserves v Calne Town Reserves

**Saturday 11 April**

Wroughton v Larkhall Athletic Development  
 Down Ampney v Calne Town Reserves  
 Faringdon Town v Park United

Melksham Town Reserves v Royal W Bassett Town Development  
 Pewsey Vale v Purton Kingsdown  
 Shrivenham v Shrewton United  
 Swindon Supermarine Development v Letcombe

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH- THAMES VALLEY PREMIER LEAGUE

### RESULTS

#### Monday 30 March

Maidenhead Town 4-2 Finchampstead

#### Wednesday 1 April

Holyport Reserves 0-1 Burghfield

Westwood Wanderers 4-1 Wargrave

#### Friday 3 April

Maidenhead Town 2-1 AFC Winkfield

#### Saturday 4 April

Goring United 0-0 Holyport Reserves

Henley Town 2-1 Tadley Calleva Reserves

Reading City Reserves 2-1 Wokingham Town Reserves

#### Thames Valley League FA Cup Second Round

Berks County Reserves 3-5 Burghfield

Reading YMCA 3-0 Goring United Reserves

Rotherfield United 1-4 Wargrave

Woodcote 0-3 Newbury Town

### TABLE

POS	THAMES VALLEY PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Westwood Wanderers	20	19	1	0	63	16	47	58
2	Wargrave	21	16	4	1	72	18	54	52
3	Maidenhead Town	22	13	3	6	49	38	11	42
4	Tadley Calleva Reserves	20	11	3	6	51	36	15	36
5	Henley Town	21	10	4	7	40	37	3	34
6	Reading City Reserves	18	10	3	5	53	40	13	33
7	Burghfield	17	10	2	5	32	19	13	32
8	Newbury Town	21	10	1	10	53	40	13	31
9	Goring United	24	7	6	11	32	46	-14	27
10	Woodcote	20	8	2	10	55	66	-11	26
11	Reading YMCA	20	7	2	11	40	49	-9	23
12	AFC Winkfield	20	5	2	13	21	41	-20	17
13	Holyport Reserves	21	4	3	14	24	50	-26	15
14	Finchampstead	21	4	1	16	27	77	-50	13
15	Wokingham Town Reserves	22	1	1	20	21	60	-39	4

### FIXTURES

#### Monday 6 April

Maidenhead Town v Reading City Reserves

Reading YMCA v Burghfield

Woodcote v Reading City Reserves

#### Wednesday 8 April

Westwood Wanderers v Tadley Calleva Reserves

#### Thames Valley League FA Cup Second Round

Tadley Calleva Reserves v Chalfont Wasps

**Thursday 9 April**

Burghfield v Westwood Wanderers

**Friday 10 April**

**Berkshire Trophy Centre Senior Cup Semi Final**

Tadley Calleva Reserves v Bramley United

**Saturday 11 April**

Goring United v Newbury Town

Henley Town v Woodcote

Maidenhead Town v Holyport Reserves

Wargrave v Finchampstead

**Thames Valley League FA Cup Second Round**

Westwood Wanderers v Reading City Reserves

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH- HAMPSHIRE COMBINATION & DEVELOPMENT**

**RESULTS**

**Sunday 29 March**

**Under 18 Premier Division**

Petersfield Town 3-5 Wimborne Town

Winchester City Red 7-1 Fareham Town Black

**Under 18 East Division**

AB66 Portsmouth 8-1 Havant & Waterlooville

Baffins Milton Rovers 1-4 Bishops Waltham Dynamos

Meon Milton 2-1 Winchester City Blue

Sholing 13-0 Clanfield

**Under 18 West Division**

Brockenhurst 0-2 Salisbury

Cowes Sports 2-1 Millbrook

Ringwood Town 3-3 Pace

**Monday 30 March**

**Under 23 Division 1**

North Waltham 4-2 New Milton Town

**Tuesday 31 March**

**Under 23 Division 1**

Clanfield 2-3 Millbrook

**Wednesday 1 April**

**Under 23 Premier Division**

Hamble Club 3-2 Select Generation

**Thursday 2 April**

**Under 23 Premier Division**

Poole Town 0-3 Ringwood Town

**Under 23 Division 1**

Folland Sports 2-3 North Waltham

Laverstock & Ford 2-2 Verwood Town

**Saturday 4 April**

**Division One**

Amesbury Town 1-3 Hythe & Dibden

Liss Athletic 4-1 Liphook United

Meon Milton 3-1 Clanfield Development

## TABLES

POS	PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	United Services Portsmouth	14	10	1	3	42	19	23	31
2	Petersfield Town	13	9	2	2	31	23	8	29
3	Millbrook	17	8	4	5	38	26	12	28
4	AFC Stoneham	13	8	1	4	36	18	18	25
5	Laverstock & Ford	12	7	3	2	46	28	18	24
6	Brockenhurst	16	6	3	7	38	30	8	21
7	Downton	13	6	2	5	35	33	2	20
8	Ringwood Town	14	4	0	10	28	37	-9	12
9	Clanfield	15	3	1	11	20	58	-38	10
10	AFC Portchester	17	2	1	14	26	68	-42	7

POS	DIVISION ONE	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Liss Athletic	15	9	4	2	44	21	23	31
2	Clanfield Development	17	7	4	6	36	30	6	25
3	Meon Milton	15	7	2	6	42	44	-2	23
4	Hythe & Dibden	13	6	3	4	34	36	-2	21
5	Hedge End Rangers	15	5	2	8	33	33	0	17
6	Fawley AFC	15	5	2	8	33	41	-8	17
7	Liphook United	17	5	2	10	24	46	-22	17
8	Amesbury Town	11	5	1	5	21	16	5	16

## FIXTURES

### Sunday 5 April

#### Under 18 East Division

Meon Milton v Havant & Waterlooville

### Tuesday 7 April

#### Under 23 Division 1

Blackfield & Langley v Bemerton Heath Harlequins

Clanfield v Laverstock & Ford

Millbrook v North Waltham

### Wednesday 8 April

#### Under 23 Premier Division

Poole Town v AFC Stoneham

#### Under 23 Division 1

Verwood Town v Folland Sports

### Thursday 9 April

#### Under 23 Premier Division

Fareham Town v Dorchester Town

#### Under 23 Division 1

Romsey Town v New Milton Town

### Saturday 11 April

#### Hampshire Combination Cup Semi Final

Ringwood Town v Petersfield Town

#### Premier Division

AFC Stoneham v U.S. Portsmouth

Brockenhurst v Laverstock & Ford

#### Division One

Amesbury Town v Clanfield Development

Hedge End Rangers v Liss Athletic

Meon Milton v Fawley AFC

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH- ISTHMIAN LEAGUE SOUTH CENTRAL

### RESULTS

#### Tuesday 31 March

Hartley Wintney 1-0 Binfield

Hayes & Yeading United 0-0 Westfield

Horndean 3-3 Hendon

Raynes Park Vale 0-4 South Park Reigate

#### Wednesday 1 April

Leatherhead 3-0 Kingstonian

#### Saturday 4 April

AFC Portchester 4-0 Bedfont Sports

Ascot United 5-0 Fareham Town

Binfield 1-2 Southall

Bognor Regis Town 1-1 Harrow Borough

Egham Town 0-0 Hanworth Villa

Hayes & Yeading United 0-1 Moneyfields

Hendon 0-1 South Park Reigate

Kingstonian 1-2 Horndean

Littlehampton Town 0-2 Leatherhead

Metropolitan Police 2-2 Hartley Wintney

Westfield 3-1 Raynes Park Vale

### TABLE

POS	ISTHMIAN SOUTH CENTRAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Leatherhead	40	30	4	6	98	39	59	94
2	Westfield	40	25	6	9	88	51	37	81
3	Moneyfields	40	25	5	10	87	56	31	80
4	AFC Portchester	40	23	6	11	90	55	35	75
5	Hanworth Villa	40	20	14	6	79	34	45	74
6	Southall	40	18	10	12	70	58	12	64
7	Egham Town	41	16	13	12	75	63	12	61
8	South Park Reigate	41	18	7	16	53	50	3	61
9	Harrow Borough	40	16	10	14	62	66	-4	58
10	Hayes & Yeading United	40	17	7	16	59	72	-13	58
11	Bognor Regis Town	40	15	8	17	59	62	-3	53
12	Hartley Wintney	38	13	12	13	54	59	-5	51
13	Kingstonian	40	15	6	19	66	75	-9	51
14	Ascot United	40	15	3	22	69	68	1	48
15	Hendon	40	12	10	18	70	79	-9	46
16	Raynes Park Vale	39	12	10	17	57	68	-11	46
17	Bedfont Sports	40	11	11	18	52	68	-16	44
18	Binfield	40	12	6	22	62	77	-15	42
19	Metropolitan Police	40	11	9	20	61	84	-23	42
20	Littlehampton Town	40	10	10	20	51	79	-28	40
21	Horndean	39	9	10	20	51	93	-42	37
22	Fareham Town	38	4	5	29	42	99	-57	17

### FIXTURES

#### Monday 6 April

Bedfont Sports v Binfield

Fareham Town v Bognor Regis Town

Hanworth Villa v Westfield  
 Harrow Borough v Hendon  
 Hartley Wintney v Ascot United  
 Horndean v AFC Portchester  
 Leatherhead v Metropolitan Police  
 Moneyfields v Littlehampton Town  
 Raynes Park Vale v Kingstonian  
 Southall v Hayes & Yeading United

**Wednesday 8 April**

Hartley Wintney v Horndean  
 Fareham Town v Raynes Park Vale

**Saturday 11 April**

AFC Portchester v Southall  
 Ascot United v Horndean  
 Binfield v South Park Reigate  
 Bognor Regis Town v Raynes Park Vale  
 Egham Town v Moneyfields  
 Hayes & Yeading United v Hanworth Villa  
 Hendon v Leatherhead  
 Kingstonian v Harrow Borough  
 Littlehampton Town v Hartley Wintney  
 Metropolitan Police v Bedfont Sports  
 Westfield v Fareham Town

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH- SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SOUTH**

**TABLE**

POS	SOUTHERN DIVISION ONE SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Frome Town	38	31	5	2	92	25	67	98
2	Malvern Town	38	27	5	6	97	55	42	86
3	Portishead Town	37	25	5	7	92	36	56	80
4	Winchester City	38	22	9	7	84	47	37	75
5	Bishops Cleeve	37	21	8	8	70	50	20	71
6	Shaftesbury	37	22	3	12	83	59	24	69
7	Hartpury	37	19	6	12	80	49	31	63
8	Exmouth Town	38	18	5	15	64	60	4	59
9	Larkhall Athletic	37	17	6	14	68	64	4	57
10	Westbury United	38	16	5	17	40	44	-4	53
11	Sporting Club Inkberrow	36	13	7	16	48	64	-16	46
12	Didcot Town	38	13	6	19	51	68	-17	45
13	Bristol Manor Farm	38	11	10	17	52	71	-19	43
14	Bideford	37	12	7	18	48	74	-26	43
15	Swindon Supermarine	37	11	9	17	53	55	-2	42
16	Mousehole	37	9	13	15	51	58	-7	40
17	Falmouth Town	36	9	10	17	57	78	-21	37
18	Melksham Town	38	8	12	18	40	61	-21	36
19	Willand Rovers	37	9	8	20	42	65	-23	35
20	Brixham	36	10	4	22	44	79	-35	34
21	Bashley	38	8	5	25	42	68	-26	29
22	Tavistock AFC	37	3	4	30	27	95	-68	13

## RESULTS

### Tuesday 31 March

Bishops Cleeve 3-3 Falmouth Town

Tavistock AFC 0-4 Larkhall Athletic

### Friday 3 April

Bashley 1-2 Bristol Manor Farm

Didcot Town 1-0 Brixham AFC

Exmouth Town 0-2 Bishops Cleeve

Hartpury 0-1 Bideford

Larkhall Athletic 1-1 Portishead Town

Mousehole 0-0 Melksham Town

Shaftesbury 4-0 Falmouth Town

Sporting Club Inkberrow 0-3 Frome Town

Tavistock AFC 1-3 Malvern Town

Westbury United 1-0 Swindon Supermarine

Willand Rovers 0-0 Winchester City

## FIXTURES

### Monday 6 April

Bideford v Exmouth Town

Bishops Cleeve v Hartpury

Bristol Manor Farm v Larkhall Athletic

Brixham AFC v Willand Rovers

Falmouth Town v Mousehole

Frome Town v Shaftesbury

Malvern Town v Sporting Club Inkberrow

Melksham Town v Westbury United

Portishead Town v Tavistock AFC

Swindon Supermarine v Didcot Town

Winchester City v Bashley

### Thursday 9 April

Falmouth Town v Brixham AFC

### Saturday 11 April

Bashley v Brixham AFC

Didcot Town v Malvern Town

Exmouth Town v Frome Town

Hartpury v Melksham Town

Larkhall Athletic v Bideford

Mousehole v Portishead Town

Shaftesbury v Winchester City

Sporting Club Inkberrow v Falmouth Town

Tavistock AFC v Swindon Supermarine

Westbury United v Bristol Manor Farm

Willand Rovers v Bishops Cleeve

## LEAGUE AGM

Please be advised that the Velocity Wessex League 2026 AGM will be held at AFC Totton, Snows Stadium, Salisbury Road, Totton, Southampton SO40 2RW on Saturday, 20th June 2026 commencing at 11.00am.

Clubs have one vote each and should be represented by the Chairman, Secretary and Team Manager or their deputies, plus an optional additional Club Representative is allowed to attend if required.

Please be reminded of FA Rule 2.26 which states "Any Club failing to be represented throughout an Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff".

*The Agenda and any supporting documents will be forwarded nearer the time.*

## THE LAST WORD

Little to say here really except for the obvious. So it's congratulations to AFC Stoneham, and all involved with the club on their exciting Isuzu FA Vase campaign, a fine run has taken them to Wembley on Sunday 17 May.

Their opponents will be Cockfosters of the Spartan South Midland League. Here's how they both got there.

<b>Second Round Qualifying</b>	Long Melford 0-4 Cockfosters
<b>First Round</b>	Cockfosters 1-1 Tring Athletic [12-11 on penalties]
<b>Second Round</b>	AFC Welwyn 2-2 Cockfosters [3-4 on penalties] Kidlington 3-4 AFC Stoneham
<b>Third Round</b>	AFC Stoneham 4-0 Cinderford Town Cockfosters 1-1 Soul Tower Hamlets [[3-2 on penalties]
<b>Fourth Round</b>	Barnstaple Town 1-2 AFC Stoneham Cockfosters 2-1 Crawley Down Gatwick
<b>Fifth Round</b>	Haywards Heath Town 1-1 AFC Stoneham [3-4 on penalties] Whitstable Town 1-1 Cockfosters [4-5 on penalties]
<b>Quarter Final</b>	AFC Stoneham 3-0 Coventry United Droylsden 2-4 Cockfosters
<b>Semi Final First Leg</b>	Cockfosters 1-1 Punjab United Hallen 0-3 AFC Stoneham
<b>Semi Final Second Leg</b>	AFC Stoneham 3-1 Hallen [6-1 on aggregate] Punjab United 0-2 Cockfosters [1-3 on aggregate]

## PHOTO FINISH



Action from Moor Lane on Thursday where Robin Caddy caught this goalmouth action between Wincanton Town (yellow) who beat Hamworthy Recreation by the odd goal of three.



Action this afternoon from Stoneham Lane, where AFC Stoneham (purple) hit three again against Hellenic Premier outfit Hallen to reach the Isuzu FA Vase Final 6-1 on aggregate. Pictures reproduced courtesy of Robin Caddy. They'll become the fifth Wessex side to grace the Final of the competition on Sunday 17 May.



## LEAGUE TABLES

*In the League Tables section, an asterisk in any table means point adjustments have been made.*

POS	PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS	PPG
1	AFC Stoneham	31	26	3	2	94	24	70	81	2.613
2	Hamble Club	35	22	7	6	89	35	54	73	2.086
3	Portland United	35	22	3	10	79	40	39	69	1.971
4	Laverstock & Ford	33	17	9	7	68	47	21	60	1.818
5	Baffins Milton Rovers	33	18	5	10	67	44	23	59	1.788
6	Andover New Street	33	18	5	10	54	38	16	59	1.788
7	Brockenhurst	34	16	9	9	70	49	21	57	1.676
8	Hamworthy Recreation	34	17	5	12	63	44	19	56	1.647
9	Downton	34	17	4	13	73	65	8	55	1.618
10	Petersfield Town	33	17	3	13	57	46	11	54	1.636
11	Sherborne Town	33	14	7	12	59	50	9	49	1.485
12	Millbrook	33	13	5	15	67	60	7	44	1.333
13	East Cowes Victoria	33	11	4	18	44	66	-22	37	1.121
14	Cowes Sports	33	11	4	18	41	77	-36	37	1.121
15	Bemerton Heath Harlequins	34	9	5	20	44	83	-39	32	0.941
16	Christchurch	34	8	7	19	59	80	-21	31	0.912
17	Hythe & Dibden	33	7	9	17	51	85	-34	30	0.909
18	Bournemouth	36	7	8	21	45	83	-38	29	0.806
19	Wincanton Town	35	5	7	23	44	91	-47	22	0.629
20	New Milton Town [*]	35	4	7	24	39	100	-61	16	0.457

POS	DIVISION ONE	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS	PPG
1	Fleetlands	34	25	4	5	71	36	35	79	2.324
2	Colden Common	38	23	7	8	103	60	43	76	2.000
3	Whitchurch United	37	24	4	9	92	60	32	76	2.054
4	Folland Sports	35	23	4	8	88	48	40	73	2.086
5	Yateley United	37	23	3	11	104	50	54	72	1.946
6	Cove	36	20	10	6	63	36	27	70	1.944
7	Newport (IoW)	35	20	6	9	74	49	25	66	1.886
8	Romsey Town	36	18	6	12	70	54	16	60	1.667
9	Hamworthy United	38	16	8	14	84	61	23	56	1.474
10	Ringwood Town	37	18	2	17	79	75	4	56	1.514
11	Frimley Green	36	12	10	14	85	83	2	46	1.278
12	Amesbury Town	37	13	7	17	62	63	-1	46	1.243
13	Clanfield	38	14	3	21	62	70	-8	45	1.184
14	Kintbury Rangers	36	12	9	15	65	74	-9	45	1.250
15	AFC Aldermaston	38	12	6	20	60	71	-11	42	1.105
16	Lymington Town	38	12	5	21	50	87	-37	41	1.079
17	Alresford Town	39	10	10	19	68	89	-21	40	1.026
18	Ash United	37	10	7	20	41	79	-38	37	1.000
19	Totton & Eling	34	9	3	22	41	73	-32	30	0.882
20	Fawley AFC	36	7	9	20	37	77	-40	30	0.833
21	Blackfield & Langley [*]	38	9	5	24	44	97	-53	29	0.763
22	United Services Portsmouth	36	7	4	25	45	96	-51	25	0.694