



WELCOME TO EDITION NUMBER 6 - WEEK ENDING SATURDAY 1 AUGUST

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

Keep up to date with all the news from around the League by following us on **Twitter/X** @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 21:30 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



Action from the opening League match of the season captured by Robin Caddy; where hosts Hamble came back from two behind to share the spoils against Andover New Street

TUNE IN

WESSEX LEAGUE FOOTBALL SHOW



Tune in to our official podcast live on
Fiesta 95FM and 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 Wessex League.

Listen back via the QR code!



Get In Touch with the Show!

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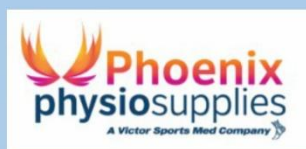
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PROGRAMME ADVERTS

Just a quick reminder that all Clubs must include the advertisements indicated by the League in **every** Match Programme they produce- in either the PRINTED or ON-LINE version.

New ones for 2026/27 are now available. Page 4 shows our Partners for 2026/27, this **must** be a full page and must also be in all programmes issued.

That for the "Wessex League Football Show" and the "Kick it Out" campaign are no longer compulsory for reproduction in club programmes.

QUIZ TIME

With the new season now upon us, time to perhaps get the footballing brain into gear. Answer the twelve questions below and, unless otherwise advised, take the first letter of your answer and re-arrange the twelve letters to form the name of an iconic Wessex League Ground. Answer on page 6

1. Manager of Leeds United between 1961 and 1974 (surname)
2. Arbroath's ground is some thirty metres from which Sea
3. Manchester United player who's Christian and Surnames begin with the same letter – tragically killed in the Munich Air crash.
4. Premier League football will be played at the MKM Stadium this season -who will be the home side.
5. Vikingur were Champions of which Country's Premier Division last season
6. Moved from Chelsea to Real Madrid in the close season (surname)
7. Diego Forlan played 63 matches for Manchester United and won 112 Caps for which Country
8. Which was Villa Striker Ollie Watkins first Professional Club
9. Liverpool's Dominik Szoboszlai has won 65 Caps for which Country
10. Which Football League Club are known as "The Spireites"
11. Played 150 games for both Liverpool and Nottingham Forest - Christian and Surnames begin with the same letter
12. What is the name of Heart of Midlothian's ground in Scotland

PRE-SEASON RESULTS

Saturday 25 July

Bournemouth 0-1 Civil Service FC

Cheddar 0-3 Wincanton Town

Monday 27 July

Fawley AFC 1-0 Bournemouth

Tuesday 28 July

Ash United 3-0 Tongham

Colden Common 3-2 Alresford Town [*Barry Small Trophy*]

Fareham Town 3-1 Locks Heath

Liss Athletic 1-5 Cove

Laverstock & Ford 0-1 New Milton Town

Poole Town 1-0 Petersfield Town

Ringwood Town 3-1 Fordingbridge Turks

United Services Portsmouth 1-2 Hayling United

Verwood Town 1-2 Christchurch

Wednesday 29 July

Whitecroft & Barton Sports 1-2 Newport IOW

Holt United 2-3 Hedge End Rangers

Thursday 30 July

Baffins Milton Rovers 4-1 Romsey Town

THE 2026 FOOTBALL & RUGBY TRADE DIRECTORY



THE A-Z OF SUPPLIERS TO THE
FOOTBALL & RUGBY INDUSTRY



The Football & Rugby Trade Directory is proud to announce the release of the latest edition of its comprehensive Football & Rugby Trade Directory. Serving as the UK's premier resource for industry professionals, this latest version continues to connect clubs with trusted suppliers, service providers and commercial partners across all levels of the game.

The updated directory includes a wide array of categories, such as stadium maintenance, ticketing systems, training equipment and web design, ensuring that clubs and organisations can find the services they need.

As part of the launch FTD is delighted to announce Yorkshire based Eco Energy Saving Solutions as the new main sponsors of the directory. Eco Energy Saving Solutions are the UK's leaders & creative innovators in the field of led sports lighting, energy saving & income producing solutions based on increased profitability, reduced running energy costs provided on a "turnkey" basis with zero upfront investment required.

FTD's MD, John Booth added:

"I am delighted that Eco Energy Saving Solutions are the sponsors for 2026 Directory. It continues a long run of prestigious sponsors of our directory. From what I know, their product and services are of interest whatever level of football you are involved in."

Visit www.footballtradedirectory.com/directory to view the latest edition of this Trade Directory.

To find out more about Eco Energy Saving Solutions visit www.ecoenergyss.co.uk or get in touch via 01924 688076 or info@ecoenergyss.co.uk

Quiz answers [1] Revie
[2] North
[3] Taylor
[4] Hull
[5] Iceland
[6] Cucurella

[7] Uruguay
[8] Exeter
[9] Hungary
[10] Chesterfield
[11] Lloyd
[12] Tynecastle

The initial letters spell out CHURCH
LITTEN, former home of Newport IOW
from 1898 to 1988

CLUB NEWS

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

ARE YOU COMING?

THE FA CUP IS COMING TO STUR!

HELP US PLAN FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENING

REACT TO THIS POST OR **COMMENT "WE'RE COMING!"**

LET US KNOW SO WE CAN PREPARE FOR EVERYONE!

TUESDAY 4TH AUGUST
5.00PM - 6.45PM
THE WE HEAT SOUTH STADIUM

FREE ENTRY TO THE CLUBHOUSE TO SEE THE FA CUP

148 YEARS IN THE MAKING!

BAR AND REFRESHMENTS FACILITIES AVAILABLE

EVERYONE WELCOME

FOLLOWED BY OUR 1ST TEAM FIXTURE V CHRISTCHURCH 7.45PM KICK OFF

LET'S MAKE HISTORY TOGETHER!

FOLLOWED BY OUR 1ST TEAM LEAGUE FIXTURE V CHRISTCHURCH 7.45PM KICK OFF

ADMISSION
ADULTS £8
CONCESSIONS £5

U16 £2
U12 (ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT) FREE

THE 148-YEAR WAIT IS OVER. COME ALONG AND BE PART OF HISTORY!

UP THE CHERRIES!

The countdown is on at **Sturminster Newton United**, and the club can't wait to welcome the REAL FA Cup Trophy to The We Heat South Stadium!

This is a once-in-a-generation occasion for the club and the local community as they celebrate their return to the FA Cup after an incredible 148-year wait. To help them prepare for what promises to be a fantastic evening, they'd love to know if you're joining them.

Visit their social media on Twitter/X @SturNewUtdFC and react to the post with the above graphic. It will really help them plan for the evening and make sure they're ready to welcome everyone. With FREE entry to the clubhouse to see the FA Cup Trophy, and then stay on for some Premier Division football.

RESULTS ROUNDUP



Tuesday 28 July

Premier Division

Hamble Club	2-2	Andover New Street	173
<i>Bailey Honeysett 61</i>		<i>Greg Peel 29</i>	
<i>Leo Taylor 89</i>		<i>Malachi Dotse 51</i>	

Salisbury Hospital Cup Final [2025/26]

Amesbury Town	2-7	Bemerton Heath Harlequins	*
<i>Aran Moore [2]</i>		<i>James McSorley [5]</i>	
		<i>Alfie Pawlak-Walsh</i>	
		<i>Jake Parton</i>	

Friday 31 July

Division One

Fawley AFC	1-1	Lymington Town	202
<i>Luke Harding 19</i>		<i>Ethan Fishlock 67</i>	

Saturday 1 August

Premier Division

Bashley	0-1	Hamble Club	253
		<i>Matt Casey 15</i>	
Bournemouth	0-2	Hythe & Dibden	92
		<i>Sam Woodward</i>	
		<i>Tremayne Moore</i>	
Cowes Sports	0-2	Brockenhurst	223
		<i>Ashton Palmier 18 pen</i>	
		<i>Ronan Moore 82</i>	
Downton	1-1	Petersfield Town	195
<i>Luke Burbidge 16</i>		<i>Freddie Beeson 63</i>	
East Cowes Victoria	0-1	Andover New Street	209
		<i>Claudio Herbert 16</i>	
Fleetlands	2-1	Laverstock & Ford	113
<i>Charlie Merritt 60</i>		<i>Carson Arnold 30</i>	
<i>Will Ayre 90+3</i>			
Horndean	1-2	Sherborne Town	125
<i>Kev Ngombi 9</i>		<i>Ollie Crisp 51</i>	
		<i>Billy Mullins 79</i>	
Millbrook	1-2	Hamworthy Recreation	70
<i>Archie Greenough 55 pen</i>		<i>Tyler Rudd 4</i>	
		<i>Bailey Rowe 13</i>	

Sturminster Newton United	0-1	Fareham Town <i>Dan Walster 2</i>	243
Division One			
Alresford Town <i>James Tennant 10</i> <i>Brett Denham 55</i> <i>Sam Freeman 75</i>	3-2	Blandford United <i>Lucas Phillips 22</i> <i>Dan Kelly 85</i>	192
Amesbury Town <i>Aran Moore [3]</i> <i>Ben Ashfield [2]</i> <i>Jack Pearce</i>	6-4	Folland Sports <i>Alfie Bailey</i> <i>Clayd Roach [2]</i> <i>Fred Penfold</i>	85
Frimley Green <i>Dan Bone</i>	1-0	Totton & Eling	107
Hamworthy United <i>Jamie Ross 45, 65</i>	2-3	Newport (IOW) <i>Joe Butcher 19</i> <i>Ji Nash 64</i> <i>Brad Young 68</i>	113
Kintbury Rangers <i>Jamie Wallin</i>	1-1	Sandhurst Town <i>Jacob Cowler</i>	60
New Milton Town <i>Noel McCarthy-Gardiner 28</i> <i>Joe Roberts 43, 56</i> <i>Callum Clarke 57, 60</i> <i>Elliott Pearce-Eavis 80</i>	6-1	Cove <i>Kay Hampson 50</i>	263
Ringwood Town <i>Ben Bradwell 42</i> <i>Danny May 76</i>	2-2	AFC Aldermaston <i>Anthony Bossman 33, 40</i>	60
Whitchurch United <i>Fifi Carter [2]</i> <i>Noah Chengun</i> <i>Cameron George</i>	4-4	Colden Common <i>Sam Middleton</i> <i>Brad Lethbridge</i> <i>Dale Mason</i> <i>Callum Archer</i>	140

MATCH REPORTS



TUESDAY 28 JULY - PREMIER DIVISION

Hamble Club 2-2 Andover New Street

Jon Renyard was pitchside

Season opener: 2nd v 4th from last season, the two losing playoff semi-finalists, both will have wanted to start the league campaign with a bang (and the chance to be top of the table, at least for a few days!). In the end, a point each, although the visitors will have been disappointed not to have been going home with all three.

I've often talked about games played on a "winter pitch". This was decidedly the opposite – think straw laid on concrete. The conditions no doubt contributed to making this quite a scrappy game, with the ball in the air a bit too much. The visitors looked dangerous from the start – 3 minutes, a great run from the impressive Malachi Dotse down the right and a cross which Herbert couldn't quite connect with; 8 minutes, Herbert himself down the left with a powerful run but again the cross just about blocked and scrambled away. We had the curious intervention of a hydration break: it was a pleasant enough evening but it was definitely not hot enough for that. And shortly after the break, Street took the lead – 29 minutes, a long ball forward towards Greg PEEL, flagged onside (we were nearly in line, probably correct), he mishit his shot and keeper Louis Knight should have picked it up but somehow he missed it and it went through him and in. Two minutes later, Dotse and a defender both went up for the ball, it ricocheted off both heads and landed into the gratefully waiting arms of Knight – a yard either side of him and it would have been two. And just before half-time, Peel with a flick-header from a corner which went just over the bar.

HT 0-1

You would expect the home side to come out with renewed purpose for the second half, and they did, including a clever header from Casey which the keeper palmed away, and then a corner which wasn't cleared and Fabio Manuel stabbed just wide – but the purpose didn't last long. 51 minutes, a pass forward to DOTSE who was stronger than his defender, beat Knight to the ball outside the box, took it past him brilliantly and slotted home from the angle – in off the post, 2-0 Andover. They were good value for it, and there only looked to be one winner from here. Indeed, by rights, the Swifts should have been out of sight in the next period. They played what football there was, with the Monks resorting to long punts forward towards the increasingly frustrated Gange. Within a minute, a pass back to Knight in the Hamble goal – risky that, with the ball bobbling around, his clearance wasn't great and Herbert returned it with interest but just over.

Street got themselves into some wonderful positions without quite finding the final ball to create a clear chance, and they started to sit deeper (first game, maybe some tiredness in the legs) and conceded both easy possession and a lot of territory to the hosts, and that gave them hope.

One back on 61, a free kick headed home powerfully by an unmarked Bailey HONEYSETT – credit to the scorer, but the defenders might wonder quite how he had so much space. The Swifts looked likely to add a third on the break – a couple of excellent runs from sub Clancy, one cross deflecting just wide of the near post off Sanders, and then a Hamble corner, cleared by Street to Harry Beckley near halfway who held off two challenges, raced to the edge of the Monks box, but was superbly tackled in the act of shooting and saw his deflected shot spin marginally wide. Time ticking away now – three minutes to go, a Hamble player was fouled on the far side from us. I honestly couldn't tell you how bad it was, but there was a proper melee of pushing and shoving, all of which ended with Street defender Higgins being shown a second yellow – early bath for him. Free kick caused chaos in the box, ball poked home by Leo TAYLOR to level things up.

FT 2-2

SATURDAY 1 AUGUST- PREMIER DIVISION

Horndean 1-2 Sherborne Town

Ian Craig was pitchside

Horndean's return to the Wessex League after a three-year absence ended in a 2-1 defeat at home to Sherborne Town at Five Heads Road. A minute's silence was observed prior to kick off for Bob Purkiss. The game didn't get off to a good start when the Referee left the match ball in the changing rooms. When the game got finally got underway Horndean pressed from the start and were rewarded after nine minutes when Kevin NGOMBI latched onto a ball behind the Sherborne Town defenders and slotted past the keeper. The game then got tetchy and was littered with fouls which produced a number of yellow cards from the Match Official.

HT 1-0

The second half started as the first when the Referee again left the match ball in the changing rooms!! With 50 minutes on the clock a defensive lapse allowed Ollie CRISP to equalise for the visitors. Both sides were struggling with the heat and as a result play became scrappy but on 79 minutes Billy MULLINS scored the winner for Sherborne Town.

FT 1-2

SATURDAY 1 AUGUST- PREMIER DIVISION

Cowes Sports 0-2 Brockenhurst

Jon Renyard was pitchside

Day one: a repeat of the final day of 2025/26, Yachtsmen hosting Badgers. And, as at the end of last season, a pretty comfortable win for the visitors. It wasn't a classic by any means – typical summer pitch, bone dry, unpredictable bounce, nothing really resembling grass – but Brock were more comfortable and more structured, and they always looked the more threatening.

A couple of early scares – one excellent block from Tyler Wellman when Fin Phillips was set clear down the left, one superb clearance from near the goalline from Ronan Moore (a welcome return to Badgers blue or, this afternoon, black and cream). Moore even thought he'd capped his return with a headed goal on 10 minutes but it was disallowed for offside. But Brock did finally break the deadlock on 18 minutes – Ashton Palmier made a clever run, taken out in the box by Ollie Flood, obvious penalty which PALMIER converted calmly. Two minutes later, a free header for Toby Colmer but straight at Ed Hatt. Long punt forward by the hosts, McFarlane down the right, superbly played across to Charlie Marsek who rifled his shot just over the bar. Their best move of the game would have been a blinding goal, if rather out of nowhere.

The Badgers were reasonably settled for the remainder of the half and could have added a second just before the break, a fine move between Dylan Walker and Harry McGrath, pulled back to Palmier in space on the edge of the box, but his shot curled just too high. He had more time... a presentable chance went begging.

HT 0-1

Everyone expected the hosts to come out with a flea in their ear and fire in their bellies but it didn't really happen. It was a frantic start to the half but with no clear openings and, while Wellman and Moore both made good blocks, it was Brock who had the ball in the net – Wellman with a good header from a corner, but he'd clearly pushed his defender and it was rightly disallowed. After that, a lot of huff and puff for limited effect, to be honest, for both teams – Colmer pulled a shot just wide with 15 to go and the Badgers fans were starting to get nervous that they hadn't yet put it to bed. Walker continued to be impressively lively down the left but wasn't able to find a killer pass... but with eight to go, MOORE headed in at the back post from a corner, 2-0 to the visitors, game done.

Sub Freddie Bullard should have added a third in injury time, clean through on goal but somehow he couldn't get the ball out from under his feet, although I think only he'll know how he didn't get a meaningful shot on target.

FT 0-2

SATURDAY 1 AUGUST- PREMIER DIVISION

Sturminster Newton United 0-1 Fareham Town

Robin Caddy was pitchside

It was a first ever game at step 5 this afternoon for Sturminster Newton United, and a Wessex League debut too. They welcomed Fareham Town to Barnett's Field - a picturesque ground, with a bumper crowd of 243 in attendance. Before the game there was much talk of the FA Cup coming to town on Tuesday, and I enjoyed hearing about the great progress the club has made in recent years from Director of Football Dan Carroll. As a club they are delighted to be in the Wessex League, and that's great to hear! Manager Nick Squires is on a two game ban carried over from last season, so sadly for him is away from the ground on this historic day.

The game started with Fareham on the attack. An early free kick on their right was whipped in, and centre-half Dan WALSTER made contact, his looping header finding its way in to the net and giving the Creeksiders the lead within minutes of their return to the Wessex League. On 10 minutes United want a penalty, and the crowd are pretty vocal about it too. It seems there is contact but the ref must think not enough - no penalty. The pitch, like so many, is suffering in this weather, but it does not seem to be negatively impacting the game too much. On 25 minutes Fareham's skipper, Dan Bennett, is frustrated by a throw-in decision and throws the ball to the ground - the first sin-binning of the new season? You think the Cherries will really push hard now, with the player advantage, but in truth they don't really make much of an impact. In fact

it's Fareham's left winger Matty Pates who continues to look the most attacking player on the pitch. At half time it remains 0-1.

HT 0-1

The Cherries start the second half stronger, and after wasting a free-kick on 48 minutes, they have a chance cleared off the line on 51 minutes. Moments later a defensive error at the other end lets Fareham in but they can't make it count. With 61 minutes on the clock, Fareham number 10 Callie Neal gets on the end of a great cross and Theo Crane, in goal for the hosts, can't keep it out. However Neal has strayed offside, no goal. On 72 minutes another big penalty appeal for the hosts is declined by the ref. A minute later Jamie Arnold chases down the Sturminster keeper, whose clearance cannons of him but goes behind for a goal kick.

Both teams go close again before the final whistle, and you do feel that the step five debutants deserve a share of the points, but it's not to be and Fareham return to the Wessex League with a win.

FT 0-1

SATURDAY 1 AUGUST- DIVISION ONE

Alresford Town 3-2 Blandford United

Paul Harris was pitchside

First league game of the season - always nice to spend an afternoon at Alresford, and I fancied watching them host one of the league's new boys, who won the Dorset Premier League last season.

The visitors acquitted themselves well and probably won the physical battle, but the hosts, who have had a lot of changes off the pitch over the summer, were the more incisive. Blandford may consider themselves a bit unlucky not to get a point, but the home goals were pretty soft from their point of view.

A scrappy start on a very dry surface, but good work had been done to it to make it decent to play on. The visiting Royals started well but it was the Magpies who took the lead on 10 minutes as a long throw saw James TENNANT challenge for the ball but end up on the floor. No matter, while on the deck he controlled the ball and fired it into the corner of the net.

A deflected Dallimore shot was also saved, but the visitors came back into the game and looked threatening. Home keeper Nash had to come out to clear long balls a few times during the match, Webb then provided a chance for Manson but he was denied by a great covering tackle. At the other end Bowerman produced a lovely turn to set himself free but blasted wildly over.

On 21 minutes came the equaliser, a lovely pass through the middle for the onrushing Lucas PHILLIPS, who finished well. Soon after the hydration break (necessary today) the Magpies' Morris stretched for a ball and spent several minutes down injured before being helped off. The Royals were on top at this stage and Manson produced a swerving shot from distance, well tipped over by Nash. He then forced another save with a header. Tennant for the Magpies then forced a couple of saves from Goad.

HT 1-1

After the restart Phillips had the first attempt for the Royals, a speculative shot over. The hosts relied more on the break this half, but took the lead again on 55 minutes another long throw caused a scramble in the area and was prodded in by Brett DENHAM. The Royals replied with a shot from sub Dan Kelly, easily saved, and a header from a corner by Laird, which was wide. At the other end Tennant forced a save from Goad.

On 75 mins the Magpies looked to have made the game safe as a defensive error was pounced upon by sub Sam FREEMAN. The visitors tried to come back and brought on another member of the Redknapp clan - Bobby. A foul by him caused some minor handbags, but despite it being very competitive the game was played in a good spirit. Laird had another chance, making space in the area but shooting just wide, but they did pull a goal back on 90 minutes as KELLY forced the ball in after a scramble from, yes, a long throw. But injury time only had a long shot over to show for it, and Alresford take the points. Both teams can take some encouragement for the season ahead. A good turnout by Blandford fans, who must have numbered almost half the crowd.

FT 3-2



SATURDAY 1 AUGUST- PREMIER DIVISION

Millbrook 1-2 Hamworthy Recreation

John Hutchings was pitchside

A winning start to the season for Rec in this best of three at Millbrook. Rec were two up in the first 15 minutes and played some impressive football in the first half, but the hosts always looked capable of getting back into it and scored from a penalty, early in the second period. They then put Rec under pressure, but the defence held firm and in fact, Rec could have added to the scoreline, late on, but were often let down by the final ball.

It was the perfect start to the new season for Rec, when, on 4 minutes, they went in front. A neat move ended with Tyler RUDD drilling the ball in from just inside the area. Millbrook responded straight from the re-start and Rec were grateful to Henry Barham for a vital defensive header. Gorman, for the hosts, saw his turn and shot saved by Rec keeper, Shane Murphy. After Chris Long had fired just wide Rec doubled the lead on 13. New signing Bailey ROWE finished off a neat move by weaving his way past four defenders and firing past Deacon, in the home goal, for a classy strike. Back came the hosts again and O'Connell's 30 yarder smashed against the Rec bar and to safety. Rec continued to threaten, with Long and Rowe both having chances, before Drake's effort for Millbrook was saved by Murphy.

HT 0-2

Millbrook pushed four men forward at the start of the second half and put Rec under pressure, which paid off on 55 minutes when they won a penalty. Gorman was tripped in the box, which seemed a debatable decision, but up stepped Archie GREENOUGH to smash in the spot-kick, for 1-2.

The home side were now in the ascendency and Murphy made a great tip over from Batley, before claiming Drake's dangerous cross. New Rec signing Isaac Stanley then cleared well, with Murphy off his line, before Greenhough's close-range header cannoned back off the Rec bar.

Eddie Hodge fired a Rec chance over the top, before O'Connell, for the hosts, beat two defenders and blazed over. Rec could have made it safe, late on, but Ash Pope was denied in a one on one with Deacon, as Rec held out for the points.

FT 1-2

SATURDAY 1 AUGUST- PREMIER DIVISION

East Cowes Victoria 0-1 Andover New Street

Russ Chapman was pitchside

Vics opened their Wessex premier league campaign against Andover New Street in Mediterranean weather on a bone hard pitch that in areas resembled a Mediterranean beach in spite of constant care for the last ten weeks from Vics groundsmen.

Vics with a new management team of Alex Smith and Elliot Wheeler had to shuffle the side with no Jordan Chapman, Liam Newbold and Charlie Urry, all unavailable. In came new signings Ollie West and Gabe Wall. Vics looked bright early on and Jake Wrights free kick was well saved by Luke Cairney in the New street goal. Andover opened the scoring on 16 minutes, a pin point free kick was met by Claudio HERBERT who headed home with power.

Issiaga Kaba was unlucky on 22 minutes, his header just over. Jake Wrights effort on 29 minutes was well saved.

Both teams battled hard to half time without creating any more chances.

HT 0-1

Vics came out with a little more vigour and Toby Snow's effort on 47 minutes was saved. The chances were very few and both sides were battling in the extreme heat, George Higgins was unlucky on 62 minutes, his effort just wide. Josh Neale had a great opportunity on 71 minutes but couldn't sort his feet out and the chance went. Raff Boyd-Kerr's effort on 75 minutes sailed over. Malachi Dotse could have doubled Andover's lead on 79 minutes but he shot wide.

With Vics pressing and Andover sat very deep, for the last 10 minutes, the crowd of 209 were urging the Vics to score and the chance came in the 90+2 minutes, Josh Neale's 20 yard free kick, heading for the top corner, was superbly saved by Cairney.

FT 0-1

SATURDAY 1 AUGUST- DIVISION ONE
Hamworthy United 2-3 Newport IOW

Tony Beck was pitchside

Both clubs with plenty of higher status football behind them would have been slightly disappointed with their previous campaign, despite comfortable top-half placings. Each new season however, after all the ins and outs, brings a fresh optimism, both clubs certainly hoping to start this one on a winning note. Pleasing was to see Jake Streams return as captain in his first competitive game since his serious injury almost a year ago. Joining him were new signings, keeper Ryan Knibbs and midfielder Elliot Birtwistle, with two fresh faces among the subs.

On another sunny afternoon it was the hosts who were making all the early running. Finding the net though was the hard part, a number of shots being blocked by defenders after some good approach work, with a couple of near misses. Probably the best of those chances came on 14 minutes when Louis Whetton expertly put Ryan Chavez-Munoz clear on goal, who could nudge the ball through the outrushing Port keeper Leon Pitman's legs before it clipped the outside of the post.

It was against the run of play when the visitors took the lead on 19 minutes. An over-the-top ball found Joe BUTCHER free on the edge of the penalty area who did well to chip Knibbs, finding the far right corner of the net.

United though continued to create plenty of chances. On 34 minutes a clean-through Whetton was forced wide of goal by Pitman. He finally laid the ball across to a better placed Brandon Williams, whose shot was nicely pushed around the post by the recovering Port keeper.

The Hammers were deservedly back on terms on 43 minutes and some goal it was. A perfect ball played down the left by Ryan Chavez-Munoz was picked up by Jamie ROSS just inside the Newport half. Racing towards goal he managed to beat his defender George Holbrook on the outside before cutting in and beating Pitman with a solid strike into the top near corner. On the stroke of half time another gilt-edged United chance went begging, a free Lewis Sainval on the far post somehow turning Josh Malpas' low ball across just wide when it seemed easier to score.

HT 1-1

Although it was United still doing the early pressing after the break, the Port were again back in front on 64 minutes. A free Newport header in a scramble from a corner was somehow headed off the line by Chavez-Munoz as he fell backwards, but there was no stopping Ji NASH's follow-up into the vacant net. This time United responded within a minute, midfielder Jamie ROSS completing surely a very rare brace with a controlled finish just inside the far post past a wrong-footed Pitman. This followed a neat ball through from Louis Whetton.

Agonizingly for United, the next goal was to come from a yellow shirt very soon after on 69 minutes. A scramble from another corner finally resulted in a free pinpoint header by Brad YOUNG into the back of the net.

The Hammers gave it their best as they searched for another equalizer, but in truth never looked like finding the net a third time. Ironically, they came closest in the last minute of injury time when Pitman spilled a long and powerful shot by substitute Harry Wilkinson. The ball may well have crossed the line, but the assistant referee was well back from the bye-line so rightly could not give what he could not see.

This was frankly a disappointing performance by the Hammers. They must have had about 80% of the play, but where it mattered most they were clearly short. Too many crosses and corners failed to clear the first defender, and too many shots were simply charged down or off-target. At their own end their man-for-man marking left much to be desired, allowing the Port to put away almost all the few chances they had. It is still though early days, and United will have a chance to put things right when Fawley AFC visit on Tuesday night.

FT 2-3

FIXTURES 2026/27

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

Tuesday 4 August

Hampshire Senior Cup Preliminary Round

Cowes Sports v New Milton Town
Folland Sports v Hythe & Dibden
Hamble Club v Brockenhurst
Petersfield Town v Romsey Town
Ringwood Town v Newport (IOW) [19:30]

Premier Division

Andover New Street v Bashley
Downton v Baffins Milton Rovers
Sturminster Newton United v Christchurch

Division One

Amesbury Town v Blandford United
Ash United v Frimley Green
Hamworthy United v Fawley AFC
Kintbury Rangers v Lymington Town

Wednesday 5 August

Premier Division

Sherborne Town v Hamworthy Recreation

Division One

AFC Aldermaston v Totton & Eling
Hedge End Rangers v Alresford Town
Whitchurch United v Sandhurst Town

Friday 7 August

Division One

Folland Sports v Fawley AFC

Saturday 8 August

Emirates FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round

Andover New Street v Christchurch
Badshot Lea v Brockenhurst
Bournemouth Poppies v Downton
Cowes Sports v Hamble Club
Devizes Town v Hamworthy Recreation
East Cowes Vics v AFC Stoneham
Horndean v Hartley Wintney
Laverstock & Ford v Eversley & California
Millbrook v Bradford Town
Paulton Rovers v Fleetlands
Petersfield Town v Fareham Town
Portland United v Sturminster Newton United
Shepton Mallet AFC v Bashley
Sherborne Town v Baffins Milton Rovers
Tadley Calleva v Bemerton Heath H'quins
Westbury United v Hythe & Dibden

Division One

Alresford Town v Kintbury Rangers
Ash United v Hedge End Rangers
New Milton Town v AFC Aldermaston
Romsey Town v Cove
Sandhurst Town v Colden Common
Whitchurch United v Ringwood Town

Tuesday 11 August

Wessex League Cup Second Round

Alresford Town v Whitchurch United

Premier Division

Bashley v Sturminster Newton United
Bemerton Heath H'quins v Sherborne Town
Bournemouth Poppies v Laverstock & Ford
Brockenhurst v Hamworthy Recreation
Downton v Christchurch

Fareham Town v Hythe & Dibden

Fleetlands v Hamble Club

Millbrook v Andover New Street

Petersfield Town v East Cowes Vics

Division One

Ringwood Town v Hamworthy United

Romsey Town v New Milton Town

Friday 14 August

FA Vase First Round Qualifying

Sandhurst Town v Wokingham Town

Division One

Fawley AFC v New Milton Town

Saturday 15 August

FA Vase First Round Qualifying

Andover New Street v Bemerton Heath H'quins

Bashley v Blandford United

Bridport v Folland Sports

Bristol Telephones v AFC Aldermaston

Clanfield v Romsey Town

Cove v Laverstock & Ford

Fareham Town v Baffins Milton Rovers

Fleetlands v Wincanton Town First

Hamble Club v Cowes Sports

Horndean v Totton & Eling

Kintbury Rangers v Mangotsfield United

Newport (IOW) v Colden Common

Pagham v Millbrook

Selsey v Hamworthy United

Wessex League Cup First Round

Ash United v Hamworthy Recreation

Premier Division

Brockenhurst v Christchurch

East Cowes Vics v Bournemouth Poppies

Sherborne Town v Petersfield Town

Sturminster Newton United v Hythe & Dibden

Division One

Amesbury Town v Whitchurch United

Hedge End Rangers v Lymington Town

Ringwood Town v Frimley Green

Tuesday 18 August

Hampshire Senior Cup First Round

Alresford Town v Totton & Eling

Alton v East Cowes Vics
 Bashley v Colden Common
 Fareham Town v Fleetlands
 Horndean v Cove
 Millbrook v Andover New Street
 Royal Navy F.A. v Bournemouth Poppies

Premier Division

Hythe & Dibden v Baffins Milton Rovers
 Laverstock & Ford v Hamble Club
 Sturminster Newton United v Downton

Division One

Frimley Green v Kintbury Rangers
 Hamworthy United v Romsey Town
 Sandhurst Town v Amesbury Town

Wednesday 19 August

Premier Division

Sherborne Town v Brockenhurst

Division One

AFC Aldermaston v Ash United
 New Milton Town v Ringwood Town

Friday 21 August

Division One

Folland Sports v Lymington Town

Saturday 22 August

Premier Division

Baffins Milton Rovers v Horndean

Division One

Alresford Town v Newport (IOW)
 Amesbury Town v AFC Aldermaston
 Colden Common v Cove
 Frimley Green v Fawley AFC
 Kintbury Rangers v Hamworthy United
 New Milton Town v Ash United
 Romsey Town v Blandford United
 Sandhurst Town v Hedge End Rangers
 Totton & Eling v Whitchurch United

Tuesday 25 August

Wessex League Cup First Round

Bashley v Romsey Town
 Hamworthy United v New Milton Town
 Newport (IOW) v Folland Sports

Premier Division

Andover New Street v Petersfield Town
 Baffins Milton Rovers v East Cowes Vics
 Bemerton Heath H'quins v Christchurch
 Brockenhurst v Bournemouth Poppies
 Hamble Club v Downton
 Horndean v Cowes Sports
 Hythe & Dibden v Sherborne Town
 Laverstock & Ford v Sturminster Newton United
 Millbrook v Fareham Town

Division One

Ringwood Town v Blandford United
 Totton & Eling v Lymington Town

Wednesday 26 August

Division One

AFC Aldermaston v Whitchurch United

Friday 28 August

Premier Division

Downton v Bemerton Heath H'quins

Saturday 29 August

Wessex League Cup First Round

Sturminster Newton United v Lymington Town

Premier Division

Bashley v Brockenhurst
 Bournemouth Poppies v Christchurch
 East Cowes Vics v Hamble Club
 Fareham Town v Cowes Sports
 Fleetlands v Baffins Milton Rovers
 Millbrook v Hythe & Dibden
 Petersfield Town v Horndean
 Sherborne Town v Andover New Street

Division One

AFC Aldermaston v Kintbury Rangers
 Ash United v Sandhurst Town
 Colden Common v Folland Sports
 Cove v Frimley Green
 Hamworthy United v Blandford United
 Hedge End Rangers v Newport (IOW)
 New Milton Town v Amesbury Town
 Ringwood Town v Totton & Eling
 Romsey Town v Fawley AFC
 Whitchurch United v Alresford Town

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
01-Aug-26	2,918	19	153.58	2,918	-1,197	2,918
08-Aug-26	*	*	*	*	*	*

EMIRATES FA CUP 2026/27 – A PREVIEW

The Extra Preliminary Round will be played next Saturday with clubs up and down the country looking to make a small mark in one of football's most prestigious competitions. In this Round there are sixteen ties involving Wessex League clubs from the Premier Division and the provision of £1125 and £375 to the winners and losers respectively adds to the occasion.

There are only five Ties where Wessex League clubs are drawn together, which happily is fewer than usual. After all, one of the joys of cup ties is the chance to play "different" opposition.

SHERBORNE TOWN entertain BAFFINS MILTON ROVERS. The home side won the corresponding league fixture 3-0 last season but the Portsmouth side will be a force this season and may take the spoils on the day. COWES SPORTS welcome HAMBLE CLUB to Westwood Park and will be hoping home advantage works in their favour. PETERSFIELD v FAREHAM TOWN is an all Wessex clash this season following Fareham's relegation and the odds could well be with the home Club.

ANDOVER NEW STREET and CHRISTCHURCH are old rivals but it should be "The Street" going into the hat for the next round. BOURNEMOUTH v DOWNTON looks an away win on last season's form and the Wiltshire side could figure strongly in the League this season.

Ties involving clubs from other leagues and predictions can only really be based on 2026 League positions and limited knowledge. Leading the way is Tadley Calleva hosting BEMERTON HEATH HARLEQUINS. Tadley enjoyed a spell in the Wessex League in the past their only league meeting here being eight years ago almost to the day- resulting in a home win, 3-0. Tadley are usually strong at home and should prevail with Bemerton still striving to reach their former Wessex League standards.

Portland United and STURMINSTER NEWTON UNITED both won promotion last season and are only some thirty-five miles apart and, strangely, met in the Vase last season. The "new" Wessex League side won on penalties but Portland have to be favourites this time round. Shepton Mallet against BASHLEY rather depends on the side Bashley can put together after relegation. The home side, firmly ensconced in the Western League Premier Division, are possibly favourites.

EAST COWES VICS were not treated kindly as regards the draw with all-conquering AFC Stoneham crossing to Beatrice Avenue and everything points to an away win after their Charity Cup victory. LAVERSTOCK & FORD welcome Eversley & California in the battle of the long names. Eversley is in Hampshire but not too far from Reading and they finished in the lower reaches of the Combined Counties Premier South League last season. Must surely be a home win.

Badshot Lea is within touching distance of Farnham and their football club entertain BROCKENHURST. Both sides finished mid table in their respective Divisions last season so home advantage may be the key. MILLBROOK have a home draw with Hellenic League Bradford Town travelling to Test Park from the outskirts of Trowbridge. Again, their League positions were very similar last time round but the visitors could come out on top in what will be a very close game.

Devizes were champions of Western League Division One last season and their reward from The FA is to be placed in the top tier of the Hellenic League this season from where they will welcome HAMWORTHY RECREATION. The latter have made great progress in their short time in the Wessex League and this should be another step forward. One wonders if the large and numerous potholes in the lane leading to the Devizes ground – a talking point for many seasons - have been filled in!

HORNDEAN and Hartley Wintney were in the same Division, the Isthmian League South last season, and in their two meetings the North Hampshire Club took four points from a draw and a 7-1 victory. The 'deans were of course relegated and it is difficult to see any other result than an away win. FLEETLANDS, following their promotion, celebrate their initial entry in the FA Cup with a trip to Midsomer Norton in Somerset to face Paulton Rovers who finished third in the Western League Premier Division last season. In 2009/10 they welcomed Norwich City to their Winterfield Road ground and lost 7-0 in front of the TV cameras. A tough tie for Fleetlands but another upward step on their footballing journey.

Last but not least is the tie between Westbury United and HYTHE & DIBDEN. Westbury finished mid table in the Southern League Division One South last season and reached the Third Qualifying Round of the FA Cup, so it is strange to see them at this stage of the Competition. Possibly a hard afternoon in prospect for our side but good luck to all our competing clubs.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Fixtures shown are reproduced in good faith and subject to alteration or late cancellation. Kick off times may vary at grounds where there are no floodlights, if you intend going, please check with the hosts

DORSET PREMIER LEAGUE

Saturday 8 August

Bournemouth Electric v Hamworthy Recreation Reserves

Bournemouth Sports v Sherborne Town Reserves

Cobham Sports v Mere Town

Hamworthy United Reserves v Gillingham Town

Swanage Town & Herston v Holt United

Wareham Rangers v Portland United Reserves

Westland Sports v Verwood Town

Wimborne Town Reserves v Balti Sports

HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

Tuesday 4 August

Denmead v Crofton Saints

Wednesday 5 August

Liphook United v Whitehill & Bordon

Meon Milton v Southsea Sports

AFC Netley v Bishops Waltham Dynamos

Blackfield & Langley v US Portsmouth

Saturday 8 August

Bishops Waltham Dynamos v Moneyfields Reserves

Crofton Saints v AFC Shirley

Denmead v Overton United

Liphook United v Locks Heath

Liss Athletic v Blackfield & Langley

Meon Milton v Whitehill & Bordon

Southsea Sports v Broughton

US Portsmouth v Hook

Results from today-

AFC Netley 3-0 Denmead

Bishops Waltham Dynamos 5-6 Hook

Blackfield & Langley 4-2 Locks Heath

Crofton Saints 1-2 Liphook United

Moneyfields Reserves 5-0 Broughton

Southsea Sports 2-1 Overton United

US Portsmouth 2-4 Liss Athletic

Whitehill & Bordon 0-2 AFC Shirley

WILTSHIRE SENIOR LEAGUE

Saturday 8 August

Bemerton Heath Harlequins Reserves v Bishops Cannings

Bradford Town Reserves v Shrivenham

Down Ampney v Royal Wootton Bassett Town Development

Faringdon Town v Pewsey Vale

Larkhall Athletic Development v Melksham Town Reserves

Park United v Hungerford Town Development

Purton Kingsdown v Trowbridge Town

Shrewton United v Devizes Town Reserves

LEAGUE TABLES

Meaningless as such, but nevertheless here are the tables after the first weekend of action

POS	PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS	PPG
1	Andover New Street	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4	2.000
2	Hamble Club	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4	2.000
3	Brockenhurst	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3	3.000
4	Hythe & Dibden	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3	3.000
5	Fleetlands	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3	3.000
6	Hamworthy Recreation	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3	3.000
7	Sherborne Town	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3	3.000
8	Fareham Town	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	3.000
9	Downton	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1.000
10	Petersfield Town	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1.000
11	Baffins Milton Rovers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000
12	Bemerton Heath Harlequins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000
13	Christchurch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000
14	Horndean	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0	0.000
15	Laverstock & Ford	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0	0.000
16	Millbrook	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0	0.000
17	Bashley	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0	0.000
18	East Cowes Victoria Athletic	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0	0.000
19	Sturminster Newton United	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0	0.000
20	Bournemouth Poppies	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0	0.000
21	Cowes Sports	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0	0.000

POS	DIVISION ONE	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS	PPG
1	New Milton Town	1	1	0	0	6	1	5	3	3.000
2	Amesbury Town	1	1	0	0	6	4	2	3	3.000
3	Alresford Town	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	3	3.000
4	Newport (IOW)	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	3	3.000
5	Frimley Green	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	3.000
6	Colden Common	1	0	1	0	4	4	0	1	1.000
7	Whitchurch United	1	0	1	0	4	4	0	1	1.000
8	AFC Aldermaston	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	1.000
9	Ringwood Town	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	1.000
10	Fawley AFC	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1.000
11	Kintbury Rangers	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1.000
12	Lymington Town	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1.000
13	Sandhurst Town	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1.000
14	Ash United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000
15	Hedge End Rangers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000
16	Romsey Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000
17	Blandford United	1	0	0	1	2	3	-1	0	0.000
18	Hamworthy United	1	0	0	1	2	3	-1	0	0.000
19	Totton & Eling	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0	0.000
20	Folland Sports	1	0	0	1	4	6	-2	0	0.000
21	Cove	1	0	0	1	1	6	-5	0	0.000

LAST WORD

An aide-memoire for you all about the key law changes for 2026/27

LAWS OF THE GAME KEY CHANGES FOR 2026/27

The main updates Players
Team Management & Match Officials
need to know.



1



SUBSTITUTIONS

Players have 10 seconds to leave when subbed, unless injured.

2



PLAYER EQUIPMENT

Accessories are allowed if they're safe and securely covered.

3



THE REFEREE

Players treated on the pitch must stay off for 1 minute after play restarts.

4



RESTARTS OF PLAY

Dropped-ball wording is clarified when a team would have gained possession.

5



FOULS & MISCONDUCT

No caution for DOGSO if advantage is played and a goal is scored.

6



PENALTY KICKS

Accidental double-touch: goal = retake, no goal = missed.

7



THROW-INS

A 5-second visual countdown can be used. If time is exceeded, the throw goes to the opposition.

8



GOAL KICKS

A 5-second visual countdown can be used. If time is exceeded, a corner is awarded; delaying can still be cautioned.



For the full law changes, check the IFAB Laws of the Game.

PHOTO FINISH



Midweek pre-season from Ringwood Town (red) where the hosts came back from an early goal to beat neighbours Fordingbridge Turks (of the Southampton League Premier Division) 3-1.



Another hot Wednesday evening at Petersham Lane, where hosts Holt United went down by the odd goal of five against new boys Hedge End Rangers (blue)



Courtesy of Roger Allen, action from Alresford Town's 3-2 win over new boys Blandford United (blue)



Action from Ringwood Town (red) and AFC Aldermaston this afternoon. Four goals and the points shared here- captured by Matt Gale



The goal that never was, Fareham Town (blue) had this one ruled out for offside this afternoon at Sturminster Newton United, but an early goal gave them the points. Photo courtesy of Robin Caddy



Sara Taylor was on hand to catch the action this afternoon from Bashley (gold) on their return to the Wessex family. The New Forest side went down 1-0 to Hamble Club