



WELCOME TO EDITION NUMBER 7 - WEEK ENDING SATURDAY 8 AUGUST

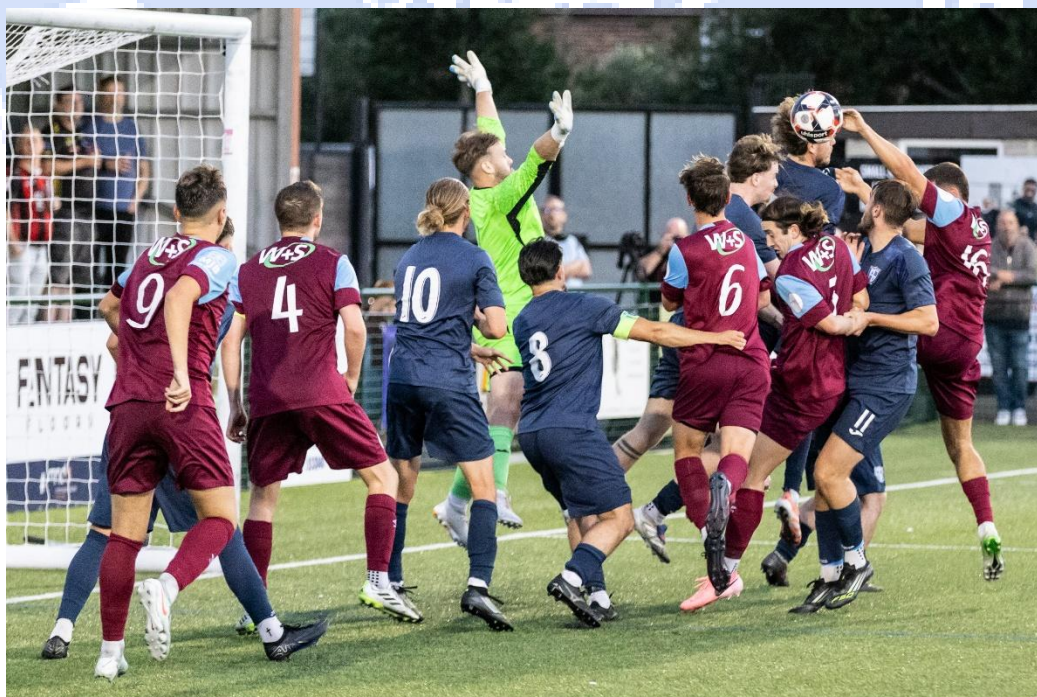
Hello and welcome to the latest edition of your Newsletter, if you have any contribution, be it Match Reports, player news or photos please get in touch at - newsletter.wessexleague@gmail.com.

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.

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



Midweek action from the County Ground, where Robin Caddy caught this goalmouth action between Hamworthy United and Fawley AFC (blue) – where the visitors won 1-0.

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
Greg Dickson and Josh Barton.

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around the Wessex League.

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Get In Touch with the Show!

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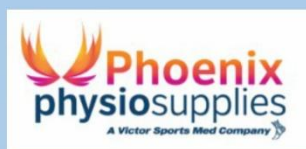
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PROGRAMME ADVERTS

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.

FEATURED PARTNER THIS WEEK



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Proudly supporting sports clubs and community venues across the UK.

Here's to a good start for our relationship with ECO Energy and maybe help by way of an opening introduction for their colleague Andrew Norris when he contacts our clubs over the coming weeks.

THROUGH THE DOORS



These attendance weekly total 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	5,395	34	158.68	2,477	1,767	8,313
15-Aug-26	*	*	*	*	*	*
22-Aug-26	*	*	*	*	*	*
29-Aug-26	*	*	*	*	*	*
05-Sep-26	*	*	*	*	*	*
12-Sep-26	*	*	*	*	*	*
19-Sep-26	*	*	*	*	*	*
26-Sep-26	*	*	*	*	*	*
03-Oct-26	*	*	*	*	*	*
10-Oct-26	*	*	*	*	*	*
17-Oct-26	*	*	*	*	*	*
24-Oct-26	*	*	*	*	*	*
31-Oct-26	*	*	*	*	*	*
07-Nov-26	*	*	*	*	*	*
14-Nov-26	*	*	*	*	*	*
21-Nov-26	*	*	*	*	*	*
28-Nov-26	*	*	*	*	*	*
05-Dec-26	*	*	*	*	*	*
12-Dec-26	*	*	*	*	*	*
19-Dec-26	*	*	*	*	*	*
26-Dec-26	*	*	*	*	*	*
02-Jan-27	*	*	*	*	*	*
09-Jan-27	*	*	*	*	*	*
16-Jan-27	*	*	*	*	*	*
23-Jan-27	*	*	*	*	*	*

WISH YOU WERE HERE - PORTUGAL (Part 1)

This is the first of an occasional series about football in other countries starting with Portugal.

Portugal is a country of 11.4 million and there are three main centres of population - the Algarve in the south, the central region around Lisbon, and the North centred around the city of Porto. The Algarve has contributed little to the footballing history of the country, being more famous for its miles and miles of sandy beaches and championship golf courses. Recently **Portimonense**, **Farense** and **Olhanense** have all had brief flirtations with the Primeira Liga but the first two are now anchored in the Segunda Liga (2nd tier) whilst the latter is in the 5th.

Portugal has always been a close ally of the United Kingdom and it was students returning home to Portugal that led to the formation of many of the clubs we know today. Like most Leagues there is a small nucleus of super clubs that contest the League title. Two of those clubs are based in **Lisbon** - Benfica and Sporting whose grounds are barely 2 kilometres apart.

Lisbon is a city of 600,000 people but the greater metropolitan area has 3.4 million inhabitants. It is situated on the northern banks of the River Tagus which opens out into the Atlantic Ocean. In all there are 6 Primeira clubs from the wider Lisbon area - **Benfica**, **Sporting Lisbon**, **Casa Pia**, **Estrela da Amadora**, **Alverca** and **Estoril Praia**.

By far the best supported club in Portugal is **Benfica**. They have clubs and bars dedicated to the club in all parts of Portugal - we think the support for Manchester United is diverse but, in Portugal, the support for Benfica is on another level. The club benefitted from the first major boost to Portuguese football when players were imported from the country's African colonies. The most famous of these players was Eusebio from Mozambique and he was the talisman that powered Portugal to the World Cup semifinal in 1966 and the following year Benfica to the European Cup Final - both games at Wembley.

By that time Benfica had already secured their two European titles beating both Barcelona and Real Madrid in the early 60s. In all Benfica have won 38 Primeira Liga titles and 26 Portuguese Cups though the latter is a much less prestigious competition than our own F.A. Cup.

Benfica's ground is the Estadio da Luz which has a capacity of 68,000. It has staged several European finals and hosted games in the Euro 2004 (including the final) where Portugal were runners up to surprise winners, Greece.

Not noted for players that have transferred to English League clubs but perhaps the most recent Benfica player is Ruben Dias who joined Manchester City in 2020. The player with local connections is Jose Fonte who played at Southampton for several seasons. Amongst the famous list of coaches of Benfica is Jose Mourinho, Ronald Koeman, Graeme Souness and Sven-Goran Eriksson and the new coach is Marco Silva who was at Fulham last season.

Sporting Lisbon, on the other hand, are a club that regularly sells its talented players. Some consider Cristiano Ronaldo the GOAT and others include Bruno Fernandes, Victor Gyokeres, Luis Figo, Nani and Pedro Poro. Because of this Sporting often have played third fiddle to Benfica and Porto. Famous coaches include Malcolm Allison, John Toshack, and more recently Ruben Amorim.

Sporting seem to have achieved short periods of success - around the turn of the century they did well when Peter Schmeichel featured in goal and recently they won the title in 2024/25, and last season finished runners up to Porto. In all they have won 21 League titles and 10 Portuguese cups. They play at the impressive Estadio Jose Alvalade which has a capacity of 52,700 named after one of the club's founders.

The third club based in central Lisbon is **Casa Pia**, whose own ground is situated 2 kilometres west of Benfica's ground but with only a fraction of the capacity. However this is misleading because, since 2023/24 they have been playing matches at Rio Maior some 80 kilometres north of Lisbon because of ground grading issues. Given their meagre resources they have done well to hold onto their Primeira Liga status though last season they were 16 of 18 clubs only surviving as relegation play-off winners. Here again Jose Fonte features as he is the current captain.

In the north west of Lisbon is situated **Estrela da Amadora** on the road out to the historic town on Sintra. The original club went out of business in 2011 because of bankruptcy but was reformed in 2020 when a merger was agreed with Club Sintra taking that club's place in the 3rd tier. The first season resulted in promotion to the Segunda Liga despite losing a promotion play off. In 2022/23 they had a play-off win (via penalties) to gain promotion to the Primeira Liga. They are now owned by an Indonesian company but struggled to hold onto their current status finishing 15th last season and only avoiding the play offs by virtue of Portugal's standings being determined by a head-to-head results system.

The fifth club in the Lisbon area is **Alverca** which is around 30 kilometres north east of downtown Lisbon. The club gained promotion to the Primeira Liga at the end of 2024/25 season and finished a creditable 11th in their first season. I have referred to the influx of players to the Portuguese leagues from Africa but another significant boost came with the number of Brazilians who took Portuguese citizenship. Probably the most famous was Deco who went on to gain honours with Porto, Barcelona and Chelsea. In his early days in Portugal, he was suffering injuries and he was loaned out to Alverca. To this day he and Ricardo Carvalho (who was also a loan signing) are the most famous players for the club.

The final Lisbon based club is **Estoril Praia**. One of the few words of Portuguese I know is Praia which means beach and the club is situated in the uptown resort of Estoril approximately 25 kilometres west of Lisbon centre. The club has played in the Primeira Liga since 2021/22 but has finished no higher than mid table. Blackstone, headed by American David Blitzler, purchased a majority holding in the club through the company, Global Football Holdings in 2019. The stadium called Estadio Antonio Coimbra da Mota holds a modest 8000 though part of it is currently closed due to structural defects.

Next time the clubs in the North.

Many thanks to Roger Allen in writing up this story, we look forward to reading Part 2.

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. NCP	1	Bottesford Town	3	3	0	0	15	1	14	9	3.000
5. UCS	1	Knowle	3	3	0	0	13	0	13	9	3.000
5. UCS	2	Atherstone Town	3	3	0	0	12	2	10	9	3.000
5. UCS	3	Coton Green	3	3	0	0	12	2	10	9	3.000
5. MLP	1	Runcorn Town	2	2	0	0	11	2	9	6	3.000
5. SCP	1	Roffey	2	2	0	0	11	2	9	6	3.000
5. NCP	2	Dearne & District	3	3	0	0	10	3	7	9	3.000
5. SCP	2	Eastbourne United	2	2	0	0	9	2	7	6	3.000
5. CCN	1	Penn & Tylers Green	2	2	0	0	8	2	6	6	3.000
5. ECP	2	March Town United	3	3	0	0	6	0	6	9	3.000
5. ECP	1	Walsham-le-Willows	3	3	0	0	8	2	6	9	3.000
5. ESL	1	Woodford Town	1	1	0	0	6	0	6	3	3.000
5. HLP	1	Bradford Town	2	2	0	0	6	0	6	6	3.000
5. NWP	1	Burscough	2	2	0	0	9	3	6	6	3.000
5. SMP	1	Biggleswade United	2	2	0	0	7	1	6	6	3.000
5. SMP	2	Tring Athletic	2	2	0	0	7	1	6	6	3.000
5. UCN	1	Clay Cross Town	3	3	0	0	9	3	6	9	3.000
5. SMP	3	Kempston Rovers	2	2	0	0	7	2	5	6	3.000
5. WLP	4	St Blazey	3	3	0	0	8	3	5	9	3.000
5. MLP	2	Stockport Georgians	2	2	0	0	7	3	4	6	3.000
5. NCP	1	Bottesford Town	3	3	0	0	15	1	14	9	3.000
League	Pos	STEP 6	Pl	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	PPG
6. ML1	1	Leicester St. Andrews	3	3	0	0	11	1	10	9	3.000
6. E1S	1	May & Baker Eastbrook	3	3	0	0	9	0	9	9	3.000
6. ML1	2	GNG Oadby Town	3	3	0	0	10	2	8	9	3.000
6. ML1	3	Lutterworth Athletic	3	3	0	0	10	2	8	9	3.000
6. NW1S	1	Wolverhampton Casuals	3	3	0	0	8	0	8	9	3.000
6. NCE1	2	Armthorpe Welfare	3	3	0	0	9	1	8	9	3.000
6. UC1	1	Clipstone	4	4	0	0	9	1	8	12	3.000
6. SWE	1	Ilminster Town	1	1	0	0	7	0	7	3	3.000
6. WX1	3	New Milton Town	2	2	0	0	9	2	7	6	3.000
6. HL1	1	Alcester Town	3	3	0	0	7	1	6	9	3.000
6. NW1N	4	Daisy Hill	2	2	0	0	7	1	6	6	3.000
6. NW1S	2	AFC Bridgnorth	2	2	0	0	7	1	6	6	3.000
6. WL1	4	AEK Boco	2	2	0	0	7	1	6	6	3.000
6. WL1	1	Longwell Green Sports	3	3	0	0	9	3	6	9	3.000
6. ML1	4	Birstall United	3	3	0	0	7	2	5	9	3.000
6. NW1N	5	Ashton Athletic	2	2	0	0	5	0	5	6	3.000
6. SWE	2	Elburton Villa	1	1	0	0	5	0	5	3	3.000
6. SWW	1	Sticker	1	1	0	0	6	1	5	3	3.000
6. ML1	5	Bustleholme	3	3	0	0	7	3	4	9	3.000
6. NW1S	5	Brereton Social	2	2	0	0	4	0	4	6	3.000

STAT ATTACK

TOP FIVE LEADING GOALSCORERS - LEAGUE GAMES ONLY

PREMIER DIVISION

George Coleman	Sturminster Newton United	3
Owen Fee	Downton	2
Greg Peel	Andover New Street	2
-	-	-
-	-	-

DIVISION ONE

Dan Bone	Frimley Green	4
Reece Miller	Sandhurst Town	3
Arran Moore	Amesbury Town	3
Jamie Wallin	Kintbury Rangers	3
-	-	-

*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

Sturminster Newton United	vs	Christchurch	402	4 August
Bashley	vs	Hamble Club	253	1 August
Sturminster Newton United	vs	Fareham Town	243	1 August
Andover New Street	vs	Bashley	238	4 August
Cowes Sports	vs	Brockenhurst	223	1 August

DIVISION ONE

Top five league attendances

New Milton Town	vs	Cove	263	1 August
Fawley AFC	vs	Lymington Town	202	31 July
New Milton Town	vs	AFC Aldermaston	221	8 August
Romsey Town	vs	Cove	201	8 August
Alresford Town	vs	Blandford United	192	1 August

PREMIER DIVISION- HIGH WINNING SCORES

Home win	Sturminster Newton United	vs	Christchurch	5-1	4 August
Away win	Bournemouth	vs	Hythe & Dibden	0-2	1 August
	Cowes Sports	vs	Brockenhurst	0-2	1 August

DIVISION ONE- HIGH WINNING SCORES

Home win	New Milton Town	vs	Cove	6-1	1 August
Away win	Whitchurch United	vs	Sandhurst Town	0-5	5 August

CLUB NEWS

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

Whilst they are no longer a member club, worthy of mention here is news on Shaquille Gwengwe who played for **Andover Town** in the 2018/19 season and was a prolific goalscorer for them. It was the season after they had been relegated for declining promotion and they were almost immediately relegated again. He has been at Blackfield & Langley, Dorchester Town and more recently Poole Town (where he notched nearly 50 goals in all competitions last term) amongst others. He has now signed fulltime for Newport County and made his debut in the prestigious Friendly with Roma last Tuesday. Nice game to start with!

East Cowes Victoria have a new name for their ground it will now be known as The J.A Dempsey Community Stadium.

Sherborne Town also have a new ground name- the Nuova Italia Arena

Hamworthy United are looking for a new Manager, anyone interested in the role ias asked to contact the club directly.

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

STEP 5 PPG RANKING

Andover New Street	64
Baffins Milton Rovers	248
Bashley	248
Bemerton Heath Harlequins	248
Bournemouth	248
Brockenhurst	1
Christchurch	248
Cowes Sports	248
Downton	76
East Cowes Victoria Athletic	248
Fareham Town	1
Fleetlands	1
Hamble Club	76
Hamworthy Recreation	76
Horndean	248
Hythe & Dibden	1
Laverstock & Ford	248
Millbrook	248
Petersfield Town	183
Sherborne Town	76
Sturminster Newton United	120

STEP 6 PPG RANKING

AFC Aldermaston	163
Alresford Town	130
Amesbury Town	91
Ash United	268
Blandford United	239
Colden Common	239
Cove	136
Fawley AFC	68
Folland Sports	268
Frimley Green	1
Hamworthy United	268
Hedge End Rangers	91
Kintbury Rangers	130
Lymington Town	239
New Milton Town	1
Newport (Isle of Wight)	1
Ringwood Town	239
Romsey Town	268
Sandhurst Town	68
Totton & Eling	268
Whitchurch United	163

RESULTS ROUNDUP



Tuesday 4 August

Hampshire Senior Cup Preliminary Round

Cowes Sports	5-1	New Milton Town	110
<i>Fin Phillips 22</i>		<i>Hector Rayner 10</i>	
<i>Charlie Marsek 24, 42</i>			
<i>Ryan Hughes 71</i>			
<i>John McKie 90+1</i>			
Folland Sports	3-1	Hythe & Dibden	70
<i>Fred Penfold 9, 28</i>		<i>Toby Marwood 16</i>	
<i>Clayd Roach 46</i>			
Hamble Club	3-5	Brockenhurst	132
<i>Ramon Barrow 3, 12</i>		<i>Henry Brooks 7, 59</i>	
<i>Matt Casey 37</i>		<i>Harry McGrath 13, 33</i>	
		<i>Dylan Walker 55</i>	
Petersfield Town	1-0	Romsey Town	142
<i>Iggy Cake 27</i>			

Ringwood Town 3-0 Newport (IOW) 64
Ben Bradwell 18
Pat Correia 43, 45

Premier Division

Andover New Street 2-0 Bashley 238
Greg Peel
Zach Hine

Downton 3-2 Baffins Milton Rovers 171
Owen Fee 18, 90+5
Max Wilcock 90+3
Florjet Vucaj
Jack Welch

Sturminster Newton United 5-1 Christchurch 402
George Coleman [3]
Nicke Hewlett
Sean Hart
Addwell Chipangura 40

Division One

Amesbury Town 0-0 Blandford United 152
 Ash United 0-3 Frimley Green 176
Dan Bone [3]

Hamworthy United 0-1 Fawley AFC 90
Jacob Lynch 72

Kintbury Rangers 3-0 Lymington Town 82
Jamie Wallin [2]
Harry Way

Wednesday 5 August

Premier Division

Sherborne Town 1-1 Hamworthy Recreation 177
Alex Murphy 53
Ash Pope 90+3

Division One

AFC Aldermaston 2-0 Totton & Eling 35
Nyero Lule 38

Josh Lambden 40
 Hedge End Rangers 2-2 Alresford Town 179
Brandon Caws
Josh Bowerman

Sanchez McLean
 Whitchurch United 0-5 Sandhurst Town 110
Callum Greenly
Tiago Moreno [2]
Jude New [2]
Reece Miller

Friday 7 August

Division One

Folland Sports 1-2 Fawley AFC 158
Jo Sutherden 81
Dylan Male 63
Josh Moody 71

Saturday 8 August

Emirates FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round

Andover New Street 5-0 Christchurch 178
Malachi Dotse [3]
Zach Hine [2]

Badshot Lea 6-3 Brockenhurst *

Fareed Hakeem-Habeeb 27
Ashton Palmier 41 pen
Alfie Edmonds 31, 35
Gian Aga-In 46
Stan Jones 41
Toby Colmer 66
Ben Jordan 45+2 pen, 89

Bournemouth Poppies <i>Harry Smith</i>	1-2	Downton <i>Max Wilcock 33</i> <i>Luke Burbidge 66</i>	110
Cowes Sports <i>Jordan Cook 25</i>	1-3	Hamble Club <i>Ramon Barrow 39</i> <i>Harry Hamilton 54</i> <i>Will Gange 87</i>	199
Devizes Town <i>Callum Demkiv 22</i>	1-0	Hamworthy Recreation	*
East Cowes Victoria	0-2	AFC Stoneham <i>Mat Bainbridge 46</i> <i>Tyrrell Sampson 63</i>	189
Horndean <i>Elliot Harrison 89</i>	1-4	Hartley Wintney <i>Calvin Camara 19, 22, 81</i> <i>Daniel Pereira 51 pen</i>	*
Laverstock & Ford <i>Devon Arnold [3]</i> <i>Carson Arnold</i> <i>Hubert Cegiela</i> <i>Chae Sykes</i>	6-0	Eversley & California	186
Millbrook <i>Archie Greenough 77</i> <i>Mendy Masuku 90+5</i>	2-0	Bradford Town	140
Paulton Rovers <i>Jamami Langlais 90+3 pen</i>	1-3	Fleetlands <i>Brad Snelling</i> <i>Oli Page [2]</i>	*
Petersfield Town <i>Tyler Burns 65</i> <i>Alfie Stringer 81</i>	2-1	Fareham Town <i>Stan Bridgman</i>	268
Portland United <i>Ben Morris 47</i> <i>Pat Jenkins 85</i>	2-0	Sturminster Newton United	290
Shepton Mallet AFC	0-0	Bashley	*
Sherborne Town <i>Archie Bryce 68</i>	1-3	Baffins Milton Rovers <i>Max Allen 19, 35, 38</i>	132
Tadley Calleva <i>Scott Costello</i> <i>Kieran Rodgers</i>	2-1	Bemerton Heath Harlequins <i>Artem Mosiakin</i>	179
Westbury United <i>Brad Selwood 31</i> <i>Leighton Thomas 55, 85</i>	3-0	Hythe & Dibden	210
Division One			
Alresford Town <i>Sam Freeman</i>	1-1	Kintbury Rangers <i>Archie Goode</i>	158
Ash United	0-1	Hedge End Rangers <i>Sanchez McLean</i>	56
New Milton Town <i>Joe Roberts 27</i> <i>Elliot Pearce-Eavis 87</i> <i>Callum Clarke 89</i>	3-1	AFC Aldermaston <i>Antony Bossman 45</i>	221

Romsey Town <i>Brandon Hill 2</i>	1-3	Cove <i>Cavan Atkinson 63, 67</i> <i>Nile Waite 84 pen</i>	201
Sandhurst Town <i>Reece Miller 4, 22</i> <i>Jacob Cowler 11</i> <i>Harry Greenwood 90</i>	4-1	Colden Common <i>Brad Lethbridge 55 pen</i>	110
Whitchurch United <i>Tyrell Reid</i> <i>Cameron George</i>	2-1	Ringwood Town <i>Ben Harris</i>	80

MATCH REPORTS



TUESDAY 4 AUGUST- HAMPSHIRE SENIOR CUP PRELIMINARY ROUND HAMBLE CLUB 3-5 BROCKENHURST

Jon Renyard was pitchside

So, who cares about the Hampshire Senior Cup? Turns out, Brockenhurst do. The Badgers were superb and thoroughly deserved their win with some excellent football on a difficult pitch – but it takes two to make a watchable game, which this most certainly was: a royally entertaining cup tie.

The evening started in the worst possible fashion for Brock, 3 minutes, rookie keeper Graydon with a poor clearance straight to Ramon BARROW, 25 yards out, who simply looped the ball back over him into the net to give the Monks an early lead. It felt like it could be a long evening... Barrow again a minute later with a shot deflected wide by Drake – but Brock weren't sitting back, driven forward by Toby Bailey with a commanding captain's performance. 7 minutes: a neat move and a cross from Palmier, just too high for McGrath but his header fell kindly for Henry BROOKS on the right side of the box and he powered the ball in to equalise.

All action: back came Hamble, Mason forcing a decent save from Graydon, follow-up blocked by Dan Bradford who was majestic at the back for the Badgers. It had become a basketball game, McGrath with a shot blocked by a defender and spinning just wide of the near post... and on 12 minutes Hamble were back in front. A corner – what else? – taken by BARROW, swung in towards the near post, deflected in off someone in blue.

Finally, things calmed down – ten minutes or so without a clear chance before Sol Mazi drove over the bar from a decent position... within a minute, the Badgers were back level, a really classy move finished by Harry McGRATH finding the far corner. He might then have put Brock ahead a couple of minutes later but shot tamely at keeper Harvey Doe; but on 33 McGRATH did give Brock an unexpected lead, the home defence disorganised and his shot beat the keeper and also the despairing efforts of Francis on the line, with the assistant ref confirming that the ball had crossed the line before being hooked away. 2-3... four minutes later, all square again, this time a corner reaching Matt CASEY who did well to control the bouncing ball before turning and hooking beyond Graydon.

HT 3-3

And you thought that sounded breathless? Fewer goals in the second half, to be sure, but probably more chances or at least half-chances. If I tried to comment on all of them, we'd be here until next week. The

first meaningful effort of the half came from Matt Casey after an uncertain clearance from Graydon reached him about 30 yards out but on the angle – his effort was on target but the keeper got back across to scramble the ball away... but on 55, Brock were ahead again, a fine shot lashed home from the angle from Dylan WALKER. And four minutes later, a cushion for the Badgers, another classy move set BROOKS through to score his second and make it 3-5.

How that was the last goal of the evening, I have no idea. The hosts looked dangerous at every set piece, with Dan Bradford blocking or heading pretty much every chance away... Mazi set up Mason with a great chance which came back off the inside of the post and rolled away, I think Graydon got a touch to that and if so it was a superb save. Brock weren't just sitting back in the face of the Hamble storm – sub Toby Colmer with a shot well turned away by Doe... then Dylan Walker sent clear from the halfway line, did everything right, cut inside the covering defender but placed his shot just wide of the post. Doe then made two absolutely blinding saves, one from McGrath, the other I'm afraid I couldn't identify because the action continued at pace... McGrath pulled a shot cross goal and narrowly wide... then the Monks with a succession of corners, mostly blocked by Bradford and five minutes into overtime he headed one away brilliantly from right under his own crossbar... but that was time and the win was secure.

FT 3-5

TUESDAY 4 AUGUST- WESSEX LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

HAMWORTHY UNITED 0-1 FAWLEY AFC

Tony Beck was pitchside

After last Saturday's disappointing result at home to Newport (IoW), Hamworthy were hoping this time to turn chances into goals, and get their season moving. Their Solent based visitors though might have something to say about that, having made a number of shrewd signings over the Summer, and having their first point on the board. After last weekend, Olli Woolley and Harry Wilkinson started, replacing the unavailable Jake Streams and Josh Malpas, with Lewis Sainval taking the captain's armband.

The Hammers kicked off towards the school end, and were to have slightly the better of the few chances that went begging, in a first period that never really came to life. As on Saturday, the lack of a goal menace in the six-yard box was again clearly evident. Some good moves resulted in decent early crosses from Jack Kinge-Phillips and Jamie Ross, but these were easily held on to by the Fawley keeper Ollie Plunkett, under no real pressure. Sainval who was out for almost the whole of last season, bravely played on for a while after taking a nasty impact on his left ankle, but shortly after had to leave the field. Hopefully it is not serious injury, his place was filled by Louis Bragginton in the 29th minute.

Hamworthy's best chance came on 39 minutes. After picking up a loose ball, Louis Whetton's sublime pass set up Elliot Birtwistle who managed to round the keeper and steady himself for a shot, only to see it well cleared off the line, and round the post by Jesse Oshitola. This had not been a half to ignite the home fans, United were prone to holding on to possession too long at the back, so when they did try and go forward, they were generally easy pickings for the Fawley defenders who had been given time to get back into their defensive positions.

HT 0-0

The second period did liven up a little. A three man build up put Brandon Williams clear, but he was caught just offside. Louis Whetton then saw his near post effort nicely tipped wide by Plunkett following good work on the right by Ross and Birtwistle. On 61 minutes substitute Corey Elwick's connection to a deep free-kick by Whetton somehow dropped onto, and over the bar. A minute later, a move started again by Whetton, after he had bravely won the ball in defence. It was followed by some good touches by substitute Sam Darlow and Whetton again, that set up another good shooting opportunity for Birtwistle. However, he could only ram his shot against a defender.

The game however, was to turn against United in the 72nd minute. A neat low diagonal ball by the Oilers found Dylan Male free on the right. As he homed in on goal, he forced Ryan Knibbs into a good block on his near post for a corner. This corner was played long, and when the ball was returned back in again from the opposite side, an unmarked Jacob Lynch thumped his close-range header into the back of the net. As on Saturday, the Hammers gave it their best to get back into the game, but to no avail. They worked in some good crosses, but always seemed to lack a solid aerial threat. Coupled with their poor marking on yet another set-piece, United still have a lot of work to do to be a force in Wessex One this season.

FT 0-1

**WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST- WESSEX LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION
SHERBORNE TOWN 1-1 HAMWORTHY RECREATION**

John Hutchings was pitchside

A goal by Ash Pope, three minutes into stoppage time salvaged a point for Rec, in an entertaining game at Sherborne. In fact, a point was the least Rec deserved. They edged the first half, but couldn't score, because of wayward finishing and a solid defensive performance by the home side. Sherborne took an early second half lead, but Rec then put them under constant pressure, but were denied by the Zebra's back four and keeper Jack Marshall, who made some vital saves.

Rec started on the front foot, with Tyler Rudd and Aaron Roberts catching the eye, in midfield. Lewis McMurdo headed just wide, from a corner and Henry Barham burst into the box and passed when a shot seemed the better option. The closest they came was Ollie Davies' shot tipped over by home keeper, Marshall- the first of many.

But it was Sherborne who had the best chance, when Hebbard outpaced the Rec defence, only to be denied by a fine save from Rec stopper, Shane Murphy.

HT 0-0

Sherborne started the second half well, with Herrin having his overhead attempt saved, before Alex Murphy was beaten to the ball by the alert Rec keeper.

But on 51 minutes the Zebra's took the lead. Alex MURPHY ran on to a long ball and hit a delightful, first-time lob, over his namesake, to put the hosts one up.

Rec came storming back and Rudd's dangerous cross was headed out for a corner, Roberts drew a good save from Marshall and Jake Dove fired over. They went close when Davies' free-kick, from the edge of the area produced a great save from Marshall, diving to his left, only for the same player to be denied again, by the keeper, from point-blank range.

It looked like it was going to be one of those nights, for Rec, with Davies, Stanley and Pope all blazing chances over the top, as Sherborne held on to their lead. But there was drama in stoppage time. First, on a rare venture forward, Herrin had a shot bounce off the Rec post, with Murphy beaten, but Rec went straight down the other end and Chris Long's shot beat Marshall, rattled the bar and there was Ash POPE to bundle the ball over the line, to earn Rec a draw. Good entertainment all round!

FT 1-1

**WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST- WESSEX LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
HEDGE END RANGERS 2-2 ALRESFORD TOWN**

Robin Caddy was pitchside

Anyone who knows Ryan Manship and Rory Anderson know just how much it means to them and their team that Hedge End Rangers have joined Wessex League Division One this season. It was one of those funny football coincidences that happens so often that Ryan missed their league debut - as he was on his honeymoon! 179 spectators flocked to Portsmouth Road for a match that got better as it went on.

The first chance of note came to the home team on 14 minutes when Corbyn Brown found some space a fair way outside the box, struck a great shot across the keeper but it drifted wide of the far post. Alresford Town responded two minutes later, when James Tennant headed over from a corner. Louis McClutchey had to go off injured after making a good challenge for the visitors, and soon after Rangers have the ball in the net after Harry Nash fumbles a corner and the ball is tapped in. The ref considers that the keeper has been fouled, no goal.

As we move toward the half hour mark Hedge End Rangers are growing in to the game, and a great move on 35 minutes almost sees them open the scoring. Kian Dugdale plays in Brandon Caws who moves the ball on before unleashing a wonderful effort that strikes the outside of the post.

HT 0-0

The second half starts with Rangers Harvey McLean crossing the ball in for Brown, who gets the ball to Jack Moteane whose great cross sets up Caws who can't quite get it on target. Rangers then have a chance from a set piece which an Alresford defender clears off the line but also all the way along the line, then the ball bounces off the goal-line side of the post and back along the goal-line! Several Rangers players think it's in but the ref's assistant is well placed and says no goal.

Then the moment came, one of pure joy for the boys in blue as they scored their first ever goal at this level. Brandon CAWS is the one whose name will be written in the history books. He gets on to the end of a long freekick, that has been knocked down by George Sharpe, to squeeze the ball home.

Four minutes later Alresford go close, before Sanchez McLEAN scores the most perfect diving header you will see this season to put the hosts 2-0 up with moments of the 90 to play.

Alresford Town, in their striking green away kit, were not ready to give up the points and clawed one back through Josh BOWERMAN, who scores with a low shot to the corner after a cross hasn't been cleared very well. Then a very late Magpies attack was only half cleared and Callum GREENLY absolutely smashed it in from outside the box to secure a share of the points.

FT 2-2

A thrilling game for the neutral, and much for both teams to be encouraged by.

SATURDAY 8 AUGUST- EMIRATES FA CUP EXTRA PRELIMINARY ROUND

EAST COWES VICTORIA 0-2 AFC STONEHAM

Russ Chapman was pitchside

Vics welcomed last season's multiple cup winners and FA Vase Victors AFC Stoneham to Beatrice Avenue for this Extra Preliminary Round FA cup game. Managers Alex Smith and Elliot Wheeler again having to reshuffle, Toby Snow (not available) and Jake Wright (Injured). Jordan Chapman back from Europe and Caleb Dyer coming in to start.



[Photo left reproduced courtesy of the club, many thanks]

With a lot of anticipation from our Loyal crowd, this was a game everyone was looking forward to from the day the draw was made. Stoneham started well and Arty Kerton's effort on 6 minutes was just wide of the mark. Josh Neale went clean through on 22 minutes his effort blocked by Brad Johnson, the rebound falling to Jordan Chapman whose effort went wide.

Tyrrell Sampson who was a constant threat, saw his effort on 24 minutes sail over, Sampson's effort on 27 minutes was drilled near post but George Bridi got down quickly to pull off a decent save.

Liam Triggs effort on 29 minutes was just wide of the target. The game was on a knife edge, Char Hart unlucky on 31 minutes, his far post header just over. Kian Towse had a great effort a minute later, with Bridi pulling off another good save. Tyrrell Sampson had another chance on 34 minutes but Bridi saved well at the Stoneham strikers feet.

HT 0-0

After the great work Vics had put in for the first 45 minutes, a total lapse of concentration 40 seconds into the second half saw Mat BAINBRIDGE nip in to fire past Bridi in the Vics goal for the opener.

Braydon Douglas put an effort wide on 50 minutes.

Vics almost equalised on 61 minutes, Char Harts cross was met superbly by Elliot Wheeler, his header was superbly saved by Ross Casey. Two minutes later Vics were two down, a great through ball found Tyrrell SAMPSON, who finished well.

From that point Vics tried to open up the solid back four of Stoneham, but just couldn't find that little bit of class needed to pull at least one back.

FT 0-2



SATURDAY 8 AUGUST- EMIRATES FA CUP EXTRA PRELIMINARY ROUND
MILLBROOK 2-0 BRADFORD TOWN

Paul Harris was pitchside

Last season: mid-table in Wessex Premier v mid-table Western Premier

As ever, nearly all FA Cup ties are pretty local games at this stage, so this one held a mild interest for me - Wessex v Western games have often been pretty spicy in my experience, although the visitors have moved to the Hellenic Premier this season. This was a competitive affair, which suited the home side, and they edged it with two late goals.

An interesting opening; both teams tried the long ball; the Dockers gave the Town plenty to think about, whereas the visitors caused a couple of goalkeeper clearances and a couple of blocked shots. The first proper effort on goal came from a nice snap shot from Drake, producing a decent save from Roberts. He had an easier one to make soon after this from a deflected effort by O'Connell. The hosts were winning most of the tackles in midfield, causing some (unjustified) complaints from the Town bench, and two crosses caused their defence problems, but neither came to much.

O'Connell had a couple of efforts wide, and Batley took a long pass on the volley but was off-target. The visitors started to threaten as we approached the break; a good free-kick by Shanley was pushed away well by Deacon. A header by Pagett, was then well tipped over by Deacon.

HT 0-0

The second half the Town continued their improvement and a Dunn free-kick was not too far over. Kelly for Millbrook has something about him and he nearly ran on to a good through ball, some good covering denying him. He then played a good one-two but sliced wide. A free-kick by Batley was also pulled wide but the hosts were again starting to look the better side. They nearly spoiled it on 66 minutes as Cole went in for a tackle and the ref called both him and the captain over, eventually deciding on a yellow card and a talking-to rather than a red. Cole was substituted soon afterwards.

Soon after this Greenough ran through but Roberts was able to block his shot. The best moment of the game was when Kelly picked up a long ball, turned sweetly and fired the ball from 45 yards over Roberts, but unfortunately also just wide. The breakthrough came after 77 minutes, a free-kick saw Batley run towards it and he was clearly barged off the ball. After a delay GRENOUGH placed it expertly into the corner, the keeper going the right way but not getting near it. The visitors tried to come back but didn't create much until injury time, when they certainly did; a free-kick was played to sub Ofosu-Hernandez but his shot was well cleared off the line by Batley, who rightly celebrated; Gallazi was then put in but missed his kick; Ofosu-Hernandez then glanced another free-kick just wide. On 90+5 mins a Dockers break was managed well, putting Greenough in; his shot was saved by Roberts' legs but Mendy was following up to score.

This was a good win for the home side; their opponents had started the season well but the Dockers handled them well today.

SATURDAY 8 AUGUST- EMIRATES FA CUP EXTRA PRELIMINARY ROUND
DEVIZES TOWN 1-0 HAMWORTHY RECREATION

John Hutchings was pitchside

No FA Cup run for Rec this year, as they bowed out at the first hurdle. Devizes looked a very capable side and were better in all departments. Rec struggled to get into their stride and never really threatened a strong home defence. In fact, they never had a shot on target all game - something that is rarely said about Rec!

From the off Devizes were in lively form, with Baker going close with a curling shot, hitting the post. Rec keeper, Shane Murphy, then rushed from his goal to clear, with his head, before Baker, again had a shot deflected for a corner.

The hosts were in the ascendancy and Bowyer was next to test the Rec defence - Murphy pushing his shot away, for a corner. It was from that corner they took the lead, on 22 minutes. Murphy punched the ball away, which resulted in a scramble, with the ball falling nicely for Callum DEMKIV to drill in, from close-range.

Devizes pushed for a second and Murphy had to be quick to deny Swann, before Baker fell foul of the offside flag. For Rec, Tyler Rudd's long throw found Chris Long, whose header was cleared.

HT 1-0

The second half started in similar fashion, with Walter, for the hosts, having his shot saved, before Thompson's run and cross created a chance for the impressive Parsons, only to be denied by a great save from Murphy.

Rec then came into the game more and had a spell of pressure, without really creating any chances. The closest they came was Long's header sailing just wide and Henry Barham's cross easily collected by Hotine, in the home goal.

But the best chance saw Lewis McMurdo nod the ball to the far post, where Bailey Rowe just failed to get a touch and in fact, Devizes could have added to their lead, but for another fine save from Rec Man of the Match, Shane Murphy.

FT 1-0

SATURDAY 8 AUGUST- EMIRATES FA CUP EXTRA PRELIMINARY ROUND

BADSHOT LEA 6-3 BROCKENHURST

Jon Renyard was pitchside

Four years (and two days) after losing 4-0 away at Badshot Lea in the FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round, Brock were back... but if they were seeking to avenge that result, they were to be disappointed. A much improved second half where they showed what they could do, but by then they were already 5-1 down, having conceded all 5 in the last 20 minutes of the first half...

For all that, the opening stages were quite even – one smashing cross from Stan Jones for the Baggies, which Hakeem-Habeeb couldn't quite reach at the back post; one tame shot from Mills; but then some super flowing football from Brock which ended with Brooks shooting across goal and wide. It was mostly quite scrappy, but the hosts were playing with two proper wingers, both with pace to burn and sticking wide, and they started to cause the high defensive line no end of trouble. Moore with a fine block on Jones; Wellman heading out from under his own bar; and 27, deadlock broken, HAKEEM-HABEEB turned his defender inside and out, twisting and turning into the box and shooting into the far corner. A very fine goal.

Four minutes later, Ben Jordan with a clear chance for the Baggies after some careless defending, good save Valero... but a minute later, Valero didn't get enough on a clearance and it came to Alfie EDMONDS, probably 30 yards out but central and unchallenged, and he lofted back over the keeper and in for 2-0. Exactly four minutes later: Stan Jones with another superb powerful run off the right, into the box, great save Valero but EDMONDS on hand to tap in from about three yards.

Sky falling in on the Badgers... until 41 minutes, Dylan Walker alive in the opposition box, nipped in front of a defender to pinch a careless pass, brought down, Ashton PALMIER with a powerful penalty and the lead was down to two. Two minutes on, Walker with the cross, Toby Colmer arriving perfectly with the header, looked sure to be 3-2 but a great save from Rileigh Hebditch in the home goal.

And within a minute, it went from game on to game over – a superb break from Hakeem-Habeeb, well saved by Valero, but the ball was never properly cleared and JONES hooked in for 4-1; to be fair, it was a goal he very much deserved. And then two minutes into overtime, Hakeem-Habeeb somehow retained possession near the touchline, twinkled his way into the box, brought down, penalty converted by JORDAN, and the first-half madness was complete.

HT 5-1

Brock made three changes at half-time, including bringing on Gian AGA-IN... who immediately capped his appearance by scoring his first goal for the club, 21 seconds after the restart, with a shot into the top corner from about 25 yards which keeper Hebditch seemed to stand and admire. Surely not, Badgers? Well, in the end no, but they certainly showed in the second half that they could have made a better game of it.

Of course, the hosts could afford to sit back a little more and play on the break; no doubt foot was off the gas slightly, although Hakeem-Habeeb still forced an early save from Valero, and then Jones with another great run but Jordan's shot bounced back off the post.

Could the Badgers find a proper foothold? 57 minutes, excellent run from Palmier, swerving shot parried by the keeper, another shot parried and McGrath couldn't quite keep the rebound down. 61 minutes, the moment from this match that I'll remember the longest: free kick to Brock on the halfway line, Toby Bailey waving the big men forward – and then hitting the inside of the post with a shot! Ball scrambled away but back it came, melee in the box, Aga-In fired over from about ten yards. You already knew, as a Brock fan, that these chances had to go in.

Back came Badshot, as ever Hakeem-Habeeb giving the defence the runaround, this time with a shot which was wickedly deflected towards the near post, superb save Valero. And 66: Bailey, to Aga-In, to Toby COLMER inside the box, calm finish to an excellent move, 5-3. Still time? Bailey with a powerful shot from 25 yards, bringing a scrambling save... a corner headed towards goal and deflecting off a defender's back and just wide... another scrambled save... around this time, the ref joined in the fun by barging over a Badshot Lea player, although that's harsh because he had an excellent game overall.

16 to go, Palmier cross, Colmer header – crossbar. Not to be outdone, two minutes later, Hakeem-Habeeb with all the hard work, this time, Edmonds hit the bar... the Badgers were pushing forward now and leaving more gaps, Hakeem-Habeeb set up sub Holley but he blazed wide... but time was running out for Brock, and when McGrath placed his shot wide after a lovely interchange between Brooks and Palmier, the game was up. 5-4 with 3 minutes left would have been fun!

Bailey with another piledriver just into overtime, tipped over by Hebditch, but the hosts put the seal on it two minutes later when JORDAN rounded off the scoring on the break.

FT 6-3

FIXTURES 2026/27

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

Tuesday 11 August

Emirates FA Cup Extra Preliminary Rd Replay

Bashley v Shepton Mallet AFC

Wessex League Cup Second Round

Alresford Town v Whitchurch United

Premier Division

Bemerton Heath H'quins v Sherborne Town

Bournemouth Poppies v Laverstock & Ford

Brockenhurst v Hamworthy Recreation

Downton v Christchurch

Fareham Town v Hythe & Dibden

[at Havant & Waterlooville]

Fleetlands v Hamble Club

Millbrook v Andover New Street

Petersfield Town v East Cowes Victoria [19:30]

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

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 Victoria 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 Victoria

Bashley v Colden Common

Brockenhurst v Lymington Town

Fareham Town v Fleetlands

Horndean v Cove

Millbrook v Andover New Street

Petersfield Town v Eversley & California

Ringwood Town v Christchurch

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

Hampshire Senior Cup First Round

Whitchurch United v Cowes Sports

Division One

AFC Aldermaston v Ash United

Friday 21 August**Division One**

Folland Sports v Lymington Town

Saturday 22 August**Emirates FA Cup Preliminary Round**

Andover New Street v Shaftesbury

Baffins Milton Rovers v Hartley Wintney

Downton v Millbrook

Fleetlands v Yateley United or Alton

Hamble Club v Tadley Calleva

Petersfield Town v Laverstock & Ford

Weymouth v Shepton Mallet or Bashley

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 Victoria

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 Victoria 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

Tuesday 1 September**Wessex League Cup First Round**

Christchurch v Totton & Eling

Premier Division

Bemerton Heath H'quins v Fleetlands

Brockenhurst v Sturminster Newton United

Cowes Sports v Baffins Milton Rovers

Hamworthy Recreation v Bashley

Horndean v Fareham Town

Hythe & Dibden v East Cowes Victoria

Millbrook v Bournemouth Poppies

Petersfield Town v Laverstock & Ford

Division One

Alresford Town v AFC Aldermaston

Folland Sports v Hedge End Rangers

Frimley Green v Colden Common

Kintbury Rangers v Amesbury Town

Newport (IOW) v Fawley AFC

Sandhurst Town v Cove

Wednesday 2 September**Premier Division**

Sherborne Town v Downton

Saturday 5 September**Emirates FA Cup First Round Qualifying****Wessex League Cup First Round**

Bournemouth Poppies v Kintbury Rangers

Premier Division

Andover New Street v Fleetlands

Baffins Milton Rovers v Millbrook

Bashley v Bemerton Heath H'quins

Brockenhurst v Horndean

Cowes Sports v Christchurch

Hamble Club v Sherborne Town

Hamworthy Recreation v Petersfield Town

Hythe & Dibden v Downton

Laverstock & Ford v Fareham Town

Sturminster Newton United v East Cowes Vics

Division One

AFC Aldermaston v Folland Sports
Amesbury Town v Newport (IOW)
Ash United v Totton & Eling
Blandford United v Frimley Green
Cove v Ringwood Town

Fawley AFC v Whitchurch United
Hedge End Rangers v New Milton Town
Lymington Town v Colden Common
Romsey Town v Alresford Town
Sandhurst Town v Hamworthy United

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For further information and to begin an application, visit the Premier League Stadium Fund website here <https://premierleaguestadiumfund.co.uk/> or speak to your County FA or League representative for guidance.



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

RESULTS

Saturday 8 August

Bournemouth Electric 3-1 Hamworthy Recreation Reserves
Bournemouth Sports 2-4 Sherborne Town Reserves
Cobham Sports 4-0 Mere Town
Hamworthy United Reserves 5-4 Gillingham Town
Swanage Town & Herston 1-3 Holt United
Wareham Rangers 3-0 Portland United Reserves
Westland Sports 3-3 Verwood Town
Wimborne Town Reserves 7-3 Balti Sports

FIXTURES

Tuesday 11 August

Balti Sports v Dorchester Sports
Bournemouth Electric v Cobham Sports
Bournemouth Sports v Hamworthy Recreation Reserves
Gillingham Town v Mere Town
Hamworthy United Reserves v Wimborne Town Reserves
Verwood Town v Holt United

Wednesday 12 August

Sherborne Town Reserves v Westland Sports
Swanage Town & Herston v Wareham Rangers

Saturday 15 August

Balti Sports v Wareham Rangers
Cobham Sports v Bournemouth Sports
Dorchester Sports v Mere Town
Gillingham Town v Hamworthy Recreation Reserves
Hamworthy United Reserves v Swanage Town & Herston
Holt United v Bournemouth Electric
Portland United Reserves v Verwood Town
Westland Sports v Wimborne Town Reserves

HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

RESULTS

Wednesday 5 August

AFC Netley 0-2 Bishops Waltham Dynamos
Blackfield & Langley 2-1 US Portsmouth
Liphook United 1-2 Whitehill & Bordon
Meon Milton 0-3 Southsea Sports

Saturday 8 August

Bishops Waltham Dynamos 2-4 Moneyfields Reserves
Denmead 0-4 Overton United
Liphook United 2-0 Locks Heath
Liss Athletic 0-0 Blackfield & Langley
Meon Milton 1-2 Whitehill & Bordon
Southsea Sports 0-3 Broughton
US Portsmouth 2-5 Hook

FIXTURES

Tuesday 11 August

Whitehill & Bordon v Liss Athletic

Wednesday 12 August

AFC Netley v Hook

Blackfield & Langley v Crofton Saints

Meon Milton v US Portsmouth

Saturday 15 August

Bishops Waltham Dynamos v AFC Shirley

AFC Netley v Meon Milton

Denmead v Hook

Liss Athletic v Overton United

Moneyfields Reserves v Liphook United

Southsea Sports v Blackfield & Langley

US Portsmouth v Broughton

Whitehill & Bordon v Crofton Saints

WILTSHIRE SENIOR LEAGUE

RESULTS

Saturday 8 August

Bradford Town Reserves 0-4 Shrivenham

Down Ampney 1-1 Royal Wootton Bassett Town Development

Faringdon Town 4-1 Pewsey Vale

Larkhall Athletic Development 2-0 Melksham Town Reserves

Park United 1-1 Hungerford Town Development

Purton Kingsdown 2-2 Trowbridge Town

Shrewton United 0-1 Devizes Town Reserves

FIXTURES

Tuesday 11 August

Down Ampney v Wroughton

Fairford Town Reserves v Park United

Faringdon Town v Hungerford Town Development

Pewsey Vale v Purton Kingsdown

Royal Wootton Bassett Town Development v Shrivenham

Shrewton United v Bishops Cannings

Wednesday 12 August

Melksham Town Reserves v Devizes Town Reserves

Saturday 15 August

Bemerton Heath Harlequins Reserves v Wroughton

Bradford Town Reserves v Bishops Cannings

Down Ampney v Park United

Larkhall Athletic Development v Hungerford Town Development

Melksham Town Reserves v Faringdon Town

Purton Kingsdown v Devizes Town Reserves

Royal Wootton Bassett Town Development v Trowbridge Town

Shrewton United v Fairford Town Reserves

Shrivenham v Pewsey Vale

League tables for these three competitions will appear next week.

Sorry, but no space available this week for any details for the Hampshire Combination & Development League.

FA VASE FIRST ROUND QUALIFYING PREVIEW

Following AFC Stoneham's success last season and Andover New Street & United Services Portsmouth going close in recent seasons, the League will be hoping that another club can carry the torch this season. The long road to Wembley starts here next weekend.

The First Round Qualifying draw includes 22 Wessex League clubs with most of the others getting a bye into the next round, although Amesbury Town, Hamworthy Recreation and Sturminster Newton United gain exemption to the First Round Proper- with Downton and Hythe & Dibden benefiting with an exemption to the Second Round Proper. We do not have a full complement though with Alresford Town and Lymington Town not featuring as they chose not to enter.

With so many clubs taking part there were bound to be all Wessex ties with seven drawn commencing with ANDOVER NEW STREET against BEMERTON HEATH HARLEQUINS first up. Old rivals and just twenty miles apart, recent form suggests a home win, but nothing can be taken for granted in Cup competitions. BASHLEY and BLANDFORD UNITED were two Leagues apart last season but both are now Wessex clubs. Both lost by a single goal on the opening day, but Blandford will be no push over despite Bashley being in a higher division.

COVE entertain LAVERSTOCK & FORD with both Clubs finishing in the top six of their respective divisions last time round. A long trip for the Wiltshire side but their Cup pedigree should see them through particular as Cove suffered a big defeat on opening day. FAREHAM TOWN against BAFFINS MILTON ROVERS could be the tie of the round. Fareham have retained the nucleus of last season's relegated side but could come off second best against a side who look sure to be among the Premier Division favourites.

COLDEN COMMON cross to the Island for a clash with NEWPORT, two of last season's "nearly" Division One sides who will be looking for promotion this time round. Home advantage could well be the difference on the day. HORNDEAN's pairing with TOTTON & ELING brings together two clubs who were far apart last season and whilst the Deans have no doubt had to rebuild their side a home win almost looks a certainty.

HAMBLE CLUB against COWES SPORTS is a repeat of today's FA Cup draw though this time played on the mainland. Hamble are strong at home and should be in the hat for the next round.

The ties with opposition from other Leagues start with Wessex new boys SANDHURST TOWN at home to Wokingham Town from Combined Counties Premier North. This is something of a local derby with the higher ranked away side likely to come out on top, please note that this tie is being played on **Friday** night- why not start your weekend there? A journey for AFC ALDERMASTON as they travel to the Stockwood district of Bristol to meet Bristol Telephones. The hosts finished in the top six of Western League last season and the outcome could be in their favour.

KINTBURY RANGERS, who went out of the competition at this stage last season, also face opposition from close to Bristol, though actually in Gloucestershire, in Mangotsfield United. The home side have played at a higher level in the past but last season were mid-table in the Hellenic Premier. Difficult to assess but perhaps a home win. The next tie – Clanfield v ROMSEY TOWN would have been a Wessex tie last season, but the former are now in the Southern Combination League this season. Home advantage may be the key.

MILLBROOK are Sussex bound as they head along the coast to Pagham who had a season in the Wessex League a couple of years ago. This could go either way, but Millbrook could be the ones to progress. HAMWORTHY UNITED make the same journey along the coast but will stop off at Selsey. The two Clubs finished in almost identical positions in their respective Leagues last season, but Hamworthy look the stronger.

Two to go and FOLLAND SPORTS are another Club on the road but heading west rather than east with the destination Bridport. Their hosts have fallen back over recent seasons but finished strongly in the South West Peninsula League in May. Follands however should still be too strong. The final tie under consideration would also have been an all Wessex meeting last season but as FLEETLANDS have come up so Wincanton Town have gone down and returned to the Western League. It should be another step forward for Fleetlands.

Good luck to all our sides.

LEAGUE TABLES

Meaningless as such, but nevertheless here are the tables after the second weekend of games

POS	PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS	PPG
1	Andover New Street	3	2	1	0	5	2	3	7	2.333
2	Downton	2	1	1	0	4	3	1	4	2.000
3	Hamble Club	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4	2.000
4	Hamworthy Recreation	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4	2.000
5	Sherborne Town	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4	2.000
6	Sturminster Newton United	2	1	0	1	5	2	3	3	1.500
7	Brockenhurst	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3	3.000
8	Hythe & Dibden	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3	3.000
9	Fleetlands	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3	3.000
10	Fareham Town	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	3.000
11	Petersfield Town	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1.000
12	Bemerton Heath Harlequins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000
13	Baffins Milton Rovers	1	0	0	1	2	3	-1	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	East Cowes Victoria Athletic	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0	0.000
18	Bournemouth Poppies	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0	0.000
19	Cowes Sports	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0	0.000
20	Bashley	2	0	0	2	0	3	-3	0	0.000
21	Christchurch	1	0	0	1	1	5	-4	0	0.000

POS	DIVISION ONE	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS	PPG
1	Sandhurst Town	3	2	1	0	10	2	8	7	2.333
2	Fawley AFC	3	2	1	0	4	2	2	7	2.333
3	New Milton Town	2	2	0	0	9	2	7	6	3.000
4	Frimley Green	2	2	0	0	4	0	4	6	3.000
5	Kintbury Rangers	3	1	2	0	5	2	3	5	1.667
6	Alresford Town	3	1	2	0	6	5	1	5	1.667
7	Amesbury Town	2	1	1	0	6	4	2	4	2.000
8	Hedge End Rangers	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4	2.000
9	AFC Aldermaston	3	1	1	1	5	5	0	4	1.333
10	Whitchurch United	3	1	1	1	6	10	-4	4	1.333
11	Newport (IOW)	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	3	3.000
12	Cove	2	1	0	1	4	7	-3	3	1.500
13	Ringwood Town	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1	0.500
14	Blandford United	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1	0.500
15	Colden Common	2	0	1	1	5	8	-3	1	0.500
16	Lymington Town	2	0	1	1	1	4	-3	1	0.500
17	Hamworthy United	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0	0.000
18	Romsey Town	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0	0.000
19	Folland Sports	2	0	0	2	5	8	-3	0	0.000
20	Totton & Eling	2	0	0	2	0	3	-3	0	0.000
21	Ash United	2	0	0	2	0	4	-4	0	0.000

LAST WORD

Clubs are reminded that they need to review the League directives that were sent out to them on 31 July- for Season 2026/27, and are strongly advised to read and familiarise themselves with the content

Following on from that it is disappointing to be told that even at this early stage of the season some Clubs are failing to notify their opponents of Match details.

Please be reminded that FA Rule 8.13 stipulates that home Clubs should notify their opponents and the Match Officials at least five days prior to the fixture taking place. Would all clubs please make sure this regulation is adhered to.

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 action from the Nuova Italia Stadium, the home of Sherborne Town who drew with Hamworthy Recreation (blue) with the visitors earning the point with a leveller in added on time



Midweek action from Hedge End Rangers (blue) Wessex debut. Captured by Robin Caddy the game against Alresford Town ended honours even at two apiece after the Magpies had pulled back from two down



Robin Caddy was at Test Park today, and here is goalmouth action from Millbrook's 2-0 win over Bradford Town (orange)



Action today from Horndean (red) who went down 4-1 at the hands of Hartley Wintney action on a parched surface captured by Roger Allen

CONGRATULATIONS to our eight FA Cup winners today, with the possibility of a ninth in a Replay this Tuesday. We hope for some good results in the competition in a couple of weeks' time, details for the Preliminary Round are shown on page 20 in the fixtures section.