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FROM THE EDITOR

BENJAMIN PENNELLS
OILERS EDITOR

Hello good evening and welcome back to the Brickability Group Stadium for tonight's Wessex 1 match with New Milton Town.

The season has started and the Oilers have taken 7 points from their opening 3 games with a 1-1 draw against Lymington town on opening day and two away wins as we beat Hamworthy United 1-0 and Folland Sports 2-1.

The under 23's opened their campaign last night with a trip to

Laverstock and Ford and came away with a 5-0 victory on debut.

The development squad open their campaign tomorrow afternoon at Oasis Mayfield as they travel to AFC Netley reserves.

The Under 16's squad welcome Totton & Eling U16's on Monday night in a pre season friendly.

In tonight's edition we look back at the opening three games of the season, from the history books

looking back at the first two season's of the Wessex League, A development squad update.

We welcome the players, staff and supporters of New Milton Town as well as this evening's match officials

We hope you enjoy the match and have a safe journey home this evening.

Up the Oilers

Ben

Kick Off // 3



Inside SO45



All the latest news and developments from the Brickability Group Stadium.

Oilers to host Brashfield in Southampton Senior Cup first round.

The first round Draws for the Southampton Senior Cup where drawn earlier in the week with the Oilers hosting Brashfield in the first round.

Fawley Season Tickets still on sale.

Season tickets are on sale still for the Oilers to order a 2026-27 season ticket talk to a member of the committee or check the poster in the programme.

6 // The Oilers



The Wessex League - Partners Page



The Wessex League are pleased to be working in partnership with the following:-

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The Club was formed as AGWI United in 1923 and joined the Hampshire League six seasons later.

In 1949 we changed our name to Esso Fawley. We won Division Three of the Hampshire League in 1995 and reached the Premier Division in 1999.

In 2002 we changed our name again to

our current name of Fawley AFC.

In 2004 when the Wessex League added a third division to its ranks we joined division two (now Wessex 1).

In 2010 the Oilers reached the Wessex Premier Division after finishing runners up in Wessex 1.

In the Wessex

Premier the Oilers were established as the underdogs and were competitive until their relegation back to Wessex 1 in 2017 on goal difference.

The 2016/17 season saw the Oilers face some off field issues with the closure of the Waterside Sports and Social Club due to financial difficulties.

The Oilers established themselves back in Wessex 1 with the potential to upset the more glamorous teams. With a solid team.

Despite the relegation and the off the field issues the season before the 2017/18 season will long live in the memories of Oilers supporters as they went on a Wessex League Cup run that took them to the final.

In that cup run the Oilers beat Shaftesbury, AFC Stoneham, Hamble Club and Sholing. Before losing to AFC Portchester in the final.

In more recent seasons the Oilers have reached the Southampton Senior Cup Semi Finals on two occasions in 2021 and 2024 beating higher opposition to reach that stage.

Lee and his management team are in the process of building a competitive team with Wessex experience an enthusiastic young local talent to play attractive football and enjoy it.

The development team has been a part of the set up for many seasons providing players a pathway between youth football and senior football.

Over the past few seasons the development team has been joined by a under 16's squad a former under 18's team and for the 2026-27 season a brand new under 23's team. To help and develop the youth become first team players for the senior team.

Over the last few seasons Kev and the committee have been fundraising for the new club house.

The village of Fawley is dominated by the Oil Refinery which has been there since 1921. It was rebuilt and extended in 1951 and is the largest of its kind in the United Kingdom.

Last 4 Fixtures

7th Aug  1-2  WX1	4th Aug  0-1  WX1	31st Jul  1-1  WX1	27th Jul  1-0  PSF
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ADM UNITED

EST 1923

ISCO FAMILY

2026/27 SEASON

UP THE OILERS

A PROUD COMMUNITY CLUB
DEVELOPING PLAYERS
SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL AREA

AGM UNITED

EST 1923

ESSO FAWLEY

SUPPORT THE LEADERS
BEHIND THE TEAM

FAWLEY AFC

A PROUD COMMUNITY CLUB
DEVELOPING PLAYERS
SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL AREA

PLAYER SPONSORSHIP

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CLUB

INVEST IN OUR PLAYERS • BE PART OF OUR JOURNEY

ONLY

£100⁰⁰

PER PLAYER FOR THE SEASON

A SMALL INVESTMENT.
A BIG IMPACT.

COACH SPONSORSHIP

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CLUB

INVEST IN OUR COACHES • INVEST IN OUR FUTURE

ONLY

£100

PER COACH FOR THE SEASON

BE SEEN.
BE APPRECIATED.
BE PART OF THE JOURNEY.

YOUR SPONSORSHIP INCLUDES

SOCIAL MEDIA EXPOSURE

Our company promoted across our social media platforms throughout the season.

MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Your company name featured in our official matchday programme all season.

MATCHDAY MENTIONS

Mentions on matchdays when your sponsored player has game involvement, goals and achievements.

MONTHLY CLUB NEWSLETTER

Your company will be mentioned in our monthly club newsletter sent to our members and supporters.

CLUB SEASON TICKET

1 x Club Season ticket to all home league fixtures.
(First Team, Development, U23s & U16s)

YOUR COACH SPONSORSHIP INCLUDES

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

Your company featured on our website and social media platforms.

MATCHDAY RECOGNITION

Acknowledgement of your support on matchdays and in programmes.

PHOTOS & UPDATES

Regular updates featuring our coaches and your support.

COMMUNITY EXPOSURE

Association with a respected local club making a real community impact.

PROUD MEMBERS OF THE WESSEX LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

ONE CLUB.

ONE COMMUNITY.

ONE GOAL.

TOGETHER WE SUCCEED.

ONE CLUB.

ONE COMMUNITY.

ONE GOAL.

TOGETHER WE SUCCEED.

The Wessex Years

HISTORY

1986-1988

Part 1: The Birth of a New Era — The Inaugural 1986–87 Wessex Football League Season

The 1986–87 season marked a historic turning point for non-league football in the south of

England with the formation of the Wessex Football League. Created to bridge the considerable competitive and logistical gap between local county league football and the Southern League, the new

competition successfully drew together ambitious clubs from Hampshire, Dorset, Berkshire, and West Sussex.

Origins and Setup

The foundations of the league

were laid following extensive discussions among local county Football Associations to accommodate clubs for whom stepping straight up to the Southern League proved too steep. The inaugural campaign kicked off with 17 founding members. The majority of these clubs transitioned from Hampshire League Division One, alongside selections from other regional circuits:

From Hampshire League Division Two:

Bashley

From Hampshire League Division Three: Bournemouth and Wellworthy Athletic

From the Southern League Premier Division: Road-Sea Southampton (who opted to drop down due to mounting travel costs)

From the London Spartan League: Thatcham Town

From the Sussex County League: Steyning Town

Championship

Glory and the Title Race

When the dust settled on a competitive 32-game schedule, it was Bashley that etched their name into history as the division's first-ever champions. Putting together a stellar campaign, Bashley claimed 24 wins and 3 draws to accumulate 75 points, finishing just two points clear at the summit.

Pushing the champions all the way was Road-Sea Southampton, who enjoyed a fantastic run in

their debut season under the banner, finishing as runners-up with 73 points and a division-high goal difference of +44. A.F.C. Totton rounded out the top three comfortably in third place with 67 points, boasting a tight defensive record that saw them concede only 21 goals all year.

Mid-Table Battles and Notable Departures

Further down the standings, Newport (IOW) secured fourth place with 53 points, followed closely by Havant Town (52 points) and

Thatcham Town (51 points). Wellworthy Athletic and Eastleigh finished level on 48 points in seventh and eighth positions respectively.

At the other end of the table, Brockenhurst endured a difficult maiden campaign, finishing at the foot of the table in 17th place with 17 points and a -55 goal difference. Crucially for the league's participants, there was no promotion or relegation enforced at the conclusion of this initial season. However, structural shifts

were already on the horizon; notable front-runners like Road-Sea Southampton, alongside Portals Athletic, ultimately left the league at the end of the season amidst changing club circumstances.

The 1986–87 season successfully laid down a robust blueprint for regional semi-professional football, sparking a legacy of competitive drama that would define the Wessex League for decades to come.

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Qualification
1	Bashley (C)	32	24	3	5	71	30	+41	75	
2	Road-Sea Southampton	32	22	7	3	70	26	+44	73	Left at the end of the season
3	A.F.C. Totton	32	20	7	5	62	21	+41	67	
4	Newport (IOW)	32	15	8	9	51	36	+15	53	
5	Havant Town	32	15	7	10	57	48	+9	52	
6	Thatcham Town	32	15	6	11	53	33	+20	51	
7	Wellworthy Athletic	32	14	6	12	48	50	-2	48	
8	Eastleigh	32	14	6	12	40	42	-2	48	
9	Sholing Sports	32	10	8	14	41	45	-4	38	
10	Lymington	32	10	8	14	31	37	-6	38	
11	Steyning Town	32	10	8	14	45	47	-2	37 ^[a]	
12	Portals Athletic	32	9	9	14	37	46	-9	36	Left at the end of the season
13	Portsmouth Royal Navy	32	11	2	19	43	58	-15	35	
14	Horndean	32	8	8	16	42	55	-13	32	
15	Bournemouth	32	7	9	16	33	59	-26	30	
16	Romsey Town	32	7	7	18	25	61	-36	28	
17	Brockenhurst	32	4	5	23	34	89	-55	17	

	AFC Totton	Bashley	Bournemouth	Brockenhurst	Eastleigh	Havant Town	Horndean	Lymington Town	Newport IOW	Portals Athletic	Portsmouth Royal Navy	Road Sea Southampton	Romsey Town	Sholing Sports	Steyning Town	Thatcham Town	Wellworthy Athletic
DIVISION 1 1986/87																	
AFC Totton		5:2	1:0	5:2	1:1	2:4	3:1	3:0	2:0	0:0	2:0	2:0	0:0	3:0	3:0	2:1	5:0
Bashley	1:0		5:1	6:2	3:2	0:3	1:1	1:0	0:1	2:1	3:1	2:0	7:1	6:2	4:0	1:0	2:1
Bournemouth	1:0	0:3		2:2	0:1	1:1	0:2	2:3	0:4	0:3	2:1	1:1	1:1	1:3	0:1	1:2	1:3
Brockenhurst	0:7	0:1	1:2		1:1	0:2	0:2	1:4	1:1	0:1	2:5	0:1	4:1	1:1	1:5	1:4	0:1
Eastleigh	0:1	0:1	2:1	2:0		0:1	0:1	0:0	0:0	0:1	3:0	1:2	3:0	0:3	2:1	1:0	2:1
Havant Town	1:2	2:3	3:3	5:2	5:0		1:0	2:1	2:1	1:3	2:1	3:2	2:0	0:4	3:2	1:2	1:2
Horndean	0:2	2:5	5:0	2:3	3:4	4:4		1:1	3:2	1:1	0:1	0:3	2:3	0:2	1:0	1:4	0:1
Lymington Town	0:0	1:2	1:1	2:1	1:3	0:1	4:2		2:0	0:0	1:2	0:1	0:1	0:1	1:1	1:1	1:0
Newport IOW	0:0	1:1	2:2	4:1	1:1	1:1	0:2	3:1		4:2	2:0	0:2	3:2	2:1	1:3	4:1	3:1
Portals Athletic	0:4	0:3	1:2	1:0	0:1	3:1	0:0	0:2	0:2		1:2	1:3	1:1	1:1	2:2	1:2	5:1
Portsmouth Royal Navy	1:0	1:0	1:1	1:2	1:1	1:2	0:1	0:1	1:2	2:1		1:3	1:2	2:1	1:2	4:2	6:2
Road Sea Southampton	5:1	1:0	1:1	5:0	3:1	0:0	1:1	1:0	1:0	2:2	7:1		5:1	4:2	2:0	2:0	2:1
Romsey Town	0:2	0:2	0:3	2:3	0:3	1:0	0:0	2:0	1:0	1:2	1:0	0:4		1:2	1:4	1:3	0:2
Sholing Sports	1:2	0:1	0:1	1:1	1:2	2:1	2:0	1:2	0:0	1:1	3:2	1:2	0:0		1:0	1:1	0:2
Steyning Town	0:0	0:0	4:1	3:0	1:2	1:1	3:1	0:0	1:2	0:2	1:2	1:1	3:1			0:2	3:2
Thatcham Town	0:2	0:1	0:1	6:0	4:0	3:0	1:0	0:1	1:3	3:0	2:0	1:1	0:0	1:1	3:0		2:0
Wellworthy Athletic	0:0	1:2	1:0	3:2	4:1	1:1	3:3	3:0	0:2	2:0	3:1	1:1	1:0	2:1	2:2	1:1	

Part 2: Back-to-Back Brilliance

Following a successful inaugural campaign, the Wessex Football League returned for its second season in 1987–88 with an expanded lineup of 19 clubs. With new arrivals entering the fray and familiar sides settling into the regional pyramid, the second-year chapter delivered heightened competition, impressive goalscoring feats, and significant structural changes off the

pitch.

Expansion and Title Dominance

The division expanded to accommodate new faces, resulting in a demanding 36-game fixture list for every participant. Ahead of the 1987–88 season, Christchurch, Folland Sports, and East Cowes Victoria joined the league after stepping up from the Hampshire League, while Wimborne made the switch by transferring from the

Western League. Despite the tougher competition and added fixtures, Bashley picked up right where they left off, successfully defending their crown to claim back-to-back league titles. Bashley put together an utterly dominant campaign, securing 26 wins and 6 draws from 36 matches to finish with 84 points and a staggering +65 goal difference.

Pushing the champions harder than anyone else was Havant Town, who

enjoyed a stellar season to finish as runners-up with 80 points, matching Bashley's high watermark of 91 goals scored. Romsey Town rounded out the podium places in third with 69 points, followed closely by Newport (IOW) in fourth with 65 points and Christchurch completing the top five with 62 points.

Mid-Table Stability and Struggles

Further down the table, sides like Wimborne Town (59 points), Sholing Sports (57 points), and A.F.C. Totton (56 points) fought

hard in a congested upper-middle pack. East Cowes Victoria Athletic also enjoyed a solid debut block in the upper reaches, securing 55 points for ninth place.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, the season proved exceptionally punishing for Lymington, who finished at the foot of the table in 19th place with just 7 points and 103 goals conceded. Brockenhurst also endured a difficult campaign, finishing 18th with 14 points.

Off-Season Evolution and

Mergers

The conclusion of the 1987–88 season brought major administrative changes and restructuring for several clubs:

Lymington and Wellworthy Athletic (who finished 15th) agreed to merge at the end of the season.

Steyning Town opted for a change of scenery, making the switch to join the Combined Counties League.

The second season firmly cemented the Wessex League's status as a vibrant hub for non-league

The second season firmly cemented the Wessex League's status as a vibrant hub for non-league football, showcasing elite regional talent and setting the stage for continuous evolution in the years to follow.

	AFC Totton	Bashley	Bournemouth	Brockenhurst	Christchurch	East Cowes Victoria	Eastleigh	Folland Sports	Havant Town	Horndean	Lymington Town	Newport IOW	Portsmouth Royal Navy	Romsey Town	Sholing Sports	Steyning Town	Thatcham Town	Wellworthy Athletic	Wimborne Town
DIVISION 1 1987/88																			
AFC Totton		0:1	2:0	6:0	2:2	2:0	2:0	0:1	1:4	1:1	5:1	1:0	0:1	2:0	3:4	2:0	4:0	1:1	2:0
Bashley	3:1		1:1	6:0	1:4	0:0	2:1	3:1	1:1	7:1	5:0	1:0	8:0	1:2	3:1	4:0	4:1	2:1	2:2
Bournemouth	0:1	0:2		5:0	1:0	0:2	4:0	1:0	0:1	1:0	4:0	1:1	1:0	3:4	1:4	2:0	1:1	1:1	0:2
Brockenhurst	0:1	0:3	0:3		1:1	0:3	0:4	0:2	0:3	0:2	1:1	0:2	3:2	1:5	2:2	2:2	1:3	1:3	0:2
Christchurch	0:0	0:3	1:0	1:1		1:0	2:1	2:0	3:0	1:1	4:0	1:0	0:0	2:2	2:0	1:0	0:1	1:0	1:1
East Cowes Victoria	0:0	0:1	0:0	1:0	0:0		0:0	1:0	0:1	4:1	4:1	1:0	0:2	0:2	2:2	3:0	0:1	0:0	3:1
Eastleigh	0:1	1:0	0:2	2:0	0:1	1:3		1:0	1:1	1:0	1:0	1:1	1:0	1:0	2:1	6:1	0:3	1:1	2:0
Folland Sports	0:3	2:2	1:1	3:0	0:3	1:0	2:0		3:3	3:2	7:0	0:3	0:2	0:0	0:1	6:0	1:0	1:4	1:0
Havant Town	3:1	1:1	1:0	3:0	5:0	2:2	1:1	1:1		3:0	4:1	3:0	3:2	2:0	3:3	3:0	3:0	5:0	0:2
Horndean	3:3	1:3	1:1	2:2	2:0	1:1	2:2	4:1	1:4		2:0	4:0	2:0	0:1	4:0	1:0	1:1	5:2	3:2
Lymington Town	2:3	1:3	1:6	1:1	0:3	1:3	0:3	0:0	0:3	0:2		1:1	3:4	0:6	0:1	0:3	3:3	2:4	1:2
Newport IOW	2:0	1:2	1:3	3:0	6:0	2:1	1:1	2:0	1:4	0:0	2:1		0:1	2:1	3:1	3:0	3:1	4:1	5:3
Portsmouth Royal Navy	2:0	0:4	0:4	1:1	2:5	1:5	1:2	2:0	1:4	1:0	1:0	0:5		1:2	0:0	0:1	3:1	0:0	0:2
Romsey Town	1:0	0:2	2:2	2:0	1:2	4:3	1:0	0:2	0:2	2:1	3:0	3:2	1:0		1:0	4:2	2:3	1:3	5:6
Sholing Sports	1:1	1:0	1:0	4:0	0:2	0:0	0:0	1:0	0:5	3:2	2:2	1:1	3:0	1:0		4:0	1:1	0:0	2:2
Steyning Town	0:0	0:3	3:3	0:3	1:1	0:2	1:0	0:1	1:1	2:0	2:1	0:0	1:8	0:1	0:1		1:1	0:2	0:5
Thatcham Town	0:1	0:2	2:1	3:1	0:1	1:3	1:0	5:0	1:3	3:0	3:2	0:0	3:1	1:2	0:1	0:1		2:1	2:0
Wellworthy Athletic	1:0	0:3	0:2	2:0	2:0	0:1	0:0	1:2	0:2	1:2	2:1	1:4	1:0	3:1	2:3	2:2	3:0		4:0
Wimborne Town	3:0	1:2	1:0	3:2	2:2	3:1	2:0	0:0	2:0	1:1	0:0	2:5	6:0	0:4	1:0	5:0	2:2	2:0	

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	Bashley (C)	36	26	6	4	91	26	+65	84
2	Havant Town	36	24	8	4	91	31	+60	80
3	Romsey Town	36	22	3	11	69	46	+23	69
4	Newport (IOW)	36	19	8	9	71	37	+34	65
5	Christchurch	36	17	11	8	50	40	+10	62
6	Wimborne Town	36	17	8	11	68	53	+15	59
7	Sholing Sports	36	15	12	9	50	45	+5	57
8	A.F.C. Totton	36	16	8	12	52	37	+15	56
9	East Cowes Victoria Athletic	36	15	10	11	49	32	+17	55
10	Bournemouth	36	14	8	14	55	38	+17	50
11	Thatcham Town	36	14	7	15	50	53	-3	49
12	Eastleigh	36	13	8	15	36	39	-3	47
13	Folland Sports	36	13	7	16	42	48	-6	46
14	Horndean	36	12	9	15	52	58	-6	45
15	Wellworthy Athletic	36	12	8	16	46	53	-7	44
16	Portsmouth Royal Navy	36	11	4	21	39	72	-33	35
17	Steyning Town	36	6	8	22	24	81	-57	26
18	Brockenhurst	36	2	8	26	23	93	-70	14
19	Lymington	36	0	7	29	27	103	-76	7



AFC Totton Where

HISTORY

Are They Now

From Grassroots Pioneers to National Contenders: The Complete Story of AFC Totton

For any supporter deeply entrenched in the heartbeat of English non-league football,

the trajectory of AFC Totton is a masterclass in ambition, resilience, and steady progression. Known affectionately to the faithful as The Stags, the club has carved out a reputation as one of the most progressive

forces in the south of England—moving a long way from local Hampshire circuits to make serious waves on the national stage.

Deep Roots: Before and During the Wessex League

Long before helping to lay the foundations of the modern non-league structure, AFC Totton's story began with their original formation as Totton Football Club in 1886. Operating for decades as a staple of regional Hampshire football, the club spent its early era competing across the New Forest League and the Hampshire League, collecting numerous local honors.

A major turning point arrived with the 1975 merger

between Totton and Totton Athletic, which unified local resources and sparked a golden era under the banner of AFC Totton. Dominating the Hampshire League—highlighted by an unforgettable quadruple-winning campaign in 1981–82 and further title glory in 1984–85—The Stags naturally positioned themselves as prime candidates when the regional pyramid evolved.

In the 1986–87

season, AFC Totton etched their name into history as founding members of the Wessex League. Competing against familiar local adversaries, they helped shape a division that would become a vital breeding ground for regional talent, eventually capturing the Wessex League title in 2007/08 alongside years of steady advancement.

Cup Pedigree: Wembley Heartbreak and National Upsets

While league promotions have defined their modern identity, AFC Totton have built an equally impressive history in national knockout competitions, featuring unforgettable giant-killing acts and a historic trip to the national stadium.

FA Vase:
Runners-Up
(2006–07)

Totton's most famous modern cup run came during a magical 2006–07 campaign. Managed by Stuart Carter, The Stags battled through

a grueling national knockout stretch to reach the Wembley Stadium final. Playing in front of a staggering crowd of over 27,000, Totton ultimately fell just short in a 3–1 defeat to a strong Truro City side, but the momentum from that Wembley journey galvanized the club for years to come

FA Cup:
Second Round
(2011–12)

The Stags' greatest-ever run in the world's most famous domestic cup competition

occurred in the autumn of 2011. After navigating the qualifiers, Totton hosted Conference North side Bradford Park Avenue in the First Round proper in front of a record Testwood Stadium crowd of 2,315. In a sensational display, The Stags routed their higher-tier visitors 8–1 to storm into the Second Round for the first time, where their dream run was finally halted by Football League side Bristol Rovers.

FA Trophy:
Third Round

(2021–22,
2024–25,
2025–26)

As the club has grown more competitive at Step 3 and beyond, they have consistently tested themselves against the upper echelons of the semi-professional game, matching a best-ever run to the last 32 of the FA Trophy across multiple recent seasons.

Ascending the
Pyramid

The years following their departure from the Wessex League saw Totton navigate

the competitive depths of the Southern League. Through squad rebuilds and structural re-organizations, the club built an infrastructure capable of supporting higher-tier football.

A monumental breakthrough arrived when they clinched the Southern League Division One South title, setting the stage for a sustained assault on Step 3. After knocking loudly on the door with consecutive near-misses in the Premier

South playoffs—including a heartbreaking penalty shootout defeat in the 2024 final—The Stags finally punched through. In the 2024/25 campaign, they secured promotion through the playoffs, overcoming Dorchester Town and Gloucester City in a dramatic postseason run.

Where They
Are Now:
Making Their
Mark in the
National
League South

Today, AFC
Totton proudly
competes in the
National
League South
(Step 2 of the
non-league
pyramid),
standing
shoulder-to-
shoulder with
some of the
biggest
community and
semi-
professional
clubs in the
southern half of
the country.

Reaching this
tier represents
a monumental
achievement
for a club that
spent decades
grinding

through local
and regional
divisions. True
to their
ambitious
character, The
Stags have
shown fierce
determination
at this elite
level, proving
that they
belong firmly
among the
heavyweights
of the modern
non-league
game.

Eastleigh Where



HISTORY

Are They Now

From
Swaythling
Roots to
National
League
Established:
The Story of
Eastleigh FC

For football
fans tracking
the relentless,
competitive
climb of non-
league clubs in
England, few

modern
journeys rival
that of
Eastleigh
Football Club.
Affectionately
known as The
Spitfires, the
club has
evolved from
humble local
origins in a
Southampton
public house
into an
established,

ambitious
fixture of the
fifth tier.

Pre-Wessex
Roots: The
Swaythling Era

Long before
their name
became
synonymous
with higher-tier
non-league
football,
Eastleigh's

story began on May 22, 1946. Founded by Derik Brooks and a group of friends inside the Fleming Arms public house in the Swaythling area of Southampton, the club was originally christened Swaythling Athletic (later shortened simply to Swaythling).

The early years were defined by local persistence:

Humble Beginnings: They initially played their home games on Southampton Common

behind The Cowherds pub before moving to 'Westfield' and eventually settling at their spiritual home, Ten Acres (now widely known as the Silverlake Stadium), in 1957.

Hampshire League Climb: After starting out in the Southampton Senior League, they joined the Hampshire League in 1950. Through decades of steady progress, they became a powerhouse in Division One during the early 1980s.

The Name

Change: In May 1980, the club officially dropped the Swaythling moniker to rebrand as Eastleigh F.C., aligning themselves closer to the local borough.

As regional football restructured in the mid-1980s, Eastleigh's rising stature earned them a prestigious spot in history. Ahead of the 1986–87 season, Eastleigh were accepted as founding members of the Wessex League.

They spent over a decade

steadily building infrastructure and on-field consistency. That foundation culminated in a sensational 2002–03 season where they clinched the Wessex League title under manager Paul Doswell, sparking an unprecedented triple-promotion charge that rocketed them out of the regional circuits and into the national consciousness.

Cup Pedigree: FA Cup Drama, Trophy Runs, and the FA Vase

Alongside their league climbs,

The Spitfires have forged a proud history in major national knockout competitions, delivering memorable giant-killings and deep runs.

FA Cup: Third Round Proper (2015–16)

Eastleigh's most famous chapter in the world's most prestigious domestic cup came during the 2015–16 campaign. After taking down Championship side Bolton Wanderers in a replay to reach the Third Round proper, Eastleigh drew a blockbuster home tie

against Bolton Wanderers (or rather, a dramatic encounter against Championship opposition, eventually facing Championship powerhouse Bolton Wanderers in a thrilling 1–1 draw at the Silverlake Stadium before narrowly losing the replay away). It remains the pinnacle of the club's FA Cup adventures.

FA Trophy: Semi-Finalists

In the FA Trophy—the premier competition for clubs across

Steps 1 to 4—Eastleigh have repeatedly knocked on the door of a Wembley final. Their deepest runs have seen them advance all the way to the semi-finals, proving their credentials among the elite semi-professional and professional outfits outside the English Football League.

FA Vase Days

During their long decades spent in regional and Wessex League football, the FA Vase served as Eastleigh's

primary avenue for national dreams, pitting them against fellow grassroots pioneers before their meteoric multi-division rise pushed them past Step 4 entirely.

Where They Are Now: Cemented in the National League

Today, Eastleigh competes proudly in the National League holding firm as a professional club testing its mettle against former Football League giants and heavily funded community

titans.

Having secured promotion as champions of the Conference South back in 2014, The Spitfires have successfully defended their status at non-league's top table year after year. Matt Gray and backed by the Silverlake faithful, Eastleigh continues to script new chapters—balancing a rich, proud history born in a local pub with the modern demands of fighting at the sharp end of the National League.

SIN BINS



Temporary Dismissals - otherwise known as 'sin bins' - are mandatory for acts of dissent across all of grassroots football.

HOW DO YOU FIND YOURSELF IN THE SIN BIN?



Players will only go into the sin bin for dissent cautions



For use of words, gestures, questioning or undermining the referee's decisions



EXAMPLES OF DISSENT:

Shouting at the referee, questioning the referee's ability, slamming the ball into the ground and sarcastically clapping a decision

DURATION OF A SIN BIN



For matches of 90 minutes, players spend 10 minutes in the sin bin



For matches of all other lengths, players spend 8 minutes in the sin bin



If the sin bin period has not expired at the end of:
1st half: Continues into the 2nd half
2nd half: Continues into extra time
Extra time: Players can participate in the penalty shoot out

THE MATCH DAY PROCESS



Dissent



Dissent caution: Referee issues a Yellow Card and directs the player to the touchline



Whilst in the sin bin, if the player commits a Yellow or Red Card offence they are sent off and can not be substituted



A player can only return to the field of play with the referee's permission at a stoppage in play



If a player receives a second Yellow Card for any type of offence, they will be shown a Red Card and dismissed from the field of play

Sin bins only apply to a player's first Yellow Card. If they receive a second Yellow Card they are dismissed from the field of play.

Offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or actions is still a Red Card offence!

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It's been a really positive pre-season for us as a Development Team, and I've been really pleased with what I've seen from the lads.

We've had a lot of faces come through the door during trials and

training, and selecting the final squad has certainly not been easy. As a management team, that's exactly the sort of problem we want to have. It shows the quality of players we're attracting to Fawley and the competition we

now have for places within the squad.

Wednesday night we wrapped up our pre-season fixtures with a good 4-2 win over Bishop's Waltham, which was another positive performance and a great

Itway to finish our preparations. Our attention now turns fully to our first league game this Saturday, away to Netley.

We've put together a young, energetic and exciting squad. The lads are in a really good place, there's a great atmosphere within the group, and one thing that has stood out throughout pre-season is that these players have no fear. They're willing to work for each other, compete for every ball and go out and

battle every single week.

Our focus now is on having a strong season and continuing to play the positive, exciting football that we've shown throughout pre-season. We know there will be challenges along the way with such a young squad, but we're excited about what this group can achieve.

A lot of hard work has gone in behind the scenes to get us ready, and now we can't wait to get the league campaign underway.

Up the Oilers!

Lee Bush
Development
Team Manager

Hamworthy United

0

Fawley

1

Both sides started off strong but it was the hosts that were to have slightly the better of the few chances that went begging, in a first period that never really came to life.

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.

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, The hosts 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.

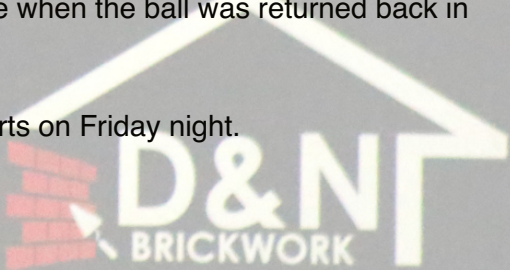
HT 0-0

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 the 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.

The Oilers continued their unbeaten run to three games and look to continue their current form away to Folland Sports on Friday night.


dandnbrickwork@gmail.com

35 // The Oilers

Last Time Out // 36

Development Fixtures

AFC Netley (A)- 15/8

**Bishops Waltham
Dynamo (A)- 22/8**

37 // The Oilers



U23's Fixtures

**Laverstock & Ford
(a)- W 5-0**

**Totton & Eling- (h)
20/8**

**Laverstock & Ford
(a)- 26/08**

Dev Corner // 38

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Get In Touch with the Show!

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Welcome
New Milton Town

Manager



Jamie Kay

Last Season

**20th
WXP**

League



Wessex 1

Ground



GD PRINT STADIUM

Distance



18 Miles

Founded

1998

Goals Scored

41

Last Meeting



3-0



23/03/25

Golden Boot



Nail Dixon (8)

Honours

- Wessex League Premier champions 1998-99 ,2004-05
- Wessex 1 Champions 2024-25

Did You Know-

During the 18th-century smuggling boom, local gangs hid foreign brandy and lace in secret hollows carved into gorse bushes and timber frames around New Milton.

Away Corner // 40

New Milton Town



The club was established in 1998 under the name Lymington & New Milton as a merger of AFC Lymington from the Wessex League and New Milton Town from Division Two of the Hampshire League, with the new club playing at New Milton Town's Fawcetts Field ground. The amalgamation of the two clubs also led to the formation of Lymington Town, who entered Division Three of the Hampshire League, and a new, New Milton club based in Milford-on-Sea, who joined Division Two for a single season before folding. In their first season, Lymington & New Milton retained the Wessex League title won by AFC Lymington in 1997/98. However, they

were unable to take promotion as their ground failed to meet the requirements. They were runners-up in the league in each of the next two seasons, making another failed application for promotion in 1999/20.

In 2003/04 Lymington & New Milton were Wessex League champions, earning promotion to Division One of the Isthmian League. However, after a single season in the Isthmian League, they were transferred to Division One South & West of the Southern League. Despite finishing above the relegation zone in 2006/07, the club resigned from the league at the end of the season after most of the club's officials resigned. Dropping back into the Premier Division of the Wessex League, the club were renamed New Milton Town. In 2012/13 they finished bottom of the Premier Division and were relegated to Division One after rescinding their resignation from the league when a proposed merger with Bashley fell through. The following four seasons saw New Milton Town

struggle to enter the top half of the table.

Lou Fern took over as Chairman at the beginning of the 2018/19 season and set out to get the club running in a more professional manner. Whilst things improved off the pitch the results did not improve on and the following years saw numerous managers take the hot seat,

Lou Fern became Chairman at the start of the 2018/19 season and aimed to improve the club's professionalism. While off-pitch matters improved, on-pitch results did not, leading to frequent changes in management, but no one making a real improvement until the appointment of Paul Turner from Poole Town FC. With a whole new management team and playing squad, the 2020/21 season, despite being a stop start one for all teams with the covid pandemic bringing a halt to the season early, New Milton Town had their best run in the FA Vase in years, reaching the 3rd round, finally being knocked out by Clevedon Town 2-0, who play a step

higher.

With 2021/22 back to normal, the Linnets had a cracking season with a 9th place finish in the league & a run to the 4th round in the FA Vase, losing to Brockenhurst, from the league above, in front of 952 people.

The 2023/24 season saw significant challenges for the club. Paul Turner and his management team resigned, and New Milton Town struggled to find a suitable replacement, managing only 3 points in 20 games. Having staged a remarkable "great escape", New Milton re-grouped with great success in 2024/25. Dan Wills took over as chairman, with John Breaker continuing his role as club president and Matt Maybury as team manager.

Re-organising off the field included a change of club nickname. Fans were asked to vote on whether to remain as The Linnets or change to something new. and the fans re-branded the club The Brickmakers - a nod towards one of the town's traditional industries.

Last 4 Fixtures

8th Aug  3-1  WX1	4th Aug  5-1  HSC	11th Apr  6-1  WX1	25th Apr  0-1  WXP
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Date	Fixture	Goal Scoreres
31/07	Fawley 1-1 Lymington Town	Harding
04/08	Hamworthy United 0-1 Fawley	Lynch
07/08	Folland Sports 1-2 Fawley	Male, Moody
14/08	Fawley v New Milton Town	
22/08	Frimley Green v Fawley	
29/08	Romsey Town v Fawley	
01/09	Newport (IOW) v Fawley	
05/09	Fawley v Whitchurch United	
08/09	Fawley v East Cowes Vics (WLC)	
12/09	Fawley v Ash United (FAV)	



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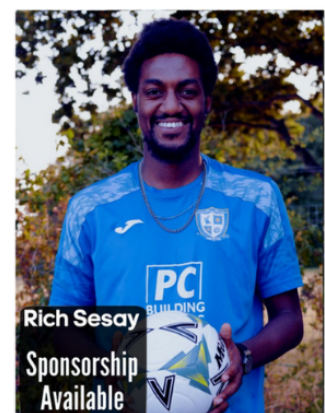
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Home	ALD	ALT	AME	ASH	BLA	CCN	COV	FAW	FOL	FGN	HWU	HER	KIN	LYM	NMT	NEW	RIN	ROM	SAN	TNE	WHI
AFC Aldermaston																				3-0	
Alresford Town					3-2								1-1								
Amesbury Town					0-0				6-3												
Ash United												0-1									
Blandford United																					
Colden Common																					
Cove																					
Fawley														1-1							
Folland Sports								1-2													
Frimley Green																				1-0	
Hamworthy United								0-1								2-3					
Hedge End Rangers		2-2																			
Kintbury Rangers														3-0					1-1		
Lymington Town																					
New Milton Town	3-1						6-1														
Newport IOW																					
Ringwood Town	2-2										1-1										
Romsey Town							1-3														
Sandhurst Town					4-1																
Totton & Eling																					
Whitchurch United						4-4											2-1		0-5		



50 // The Oilers

Full Time // 51



NO DISSENT

NO SIN BIN



RESPECT



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Frasier Craigen
Jamie Craven
Luke Dixon
James Elkins
Jack Good
Luke Harding
Dec Hartigan
Matt Hawkins
Fin Haws
Jacob Lynch
Dylan Male
Jesse Oshitola
Ollie Plunkett
Dan Reynolds
Alex Sawyer
Rich Sesay
Jamie Tribe
Adam Woodcock



Manager

Jamie Kay

Benjamin Blackaller
William Blunt
Jack Broad
Corey Burns
Jake Carswell
Callum Clarke
James Coat
Ellis Cousens
Niall Dixon
Ethan Duell-Merritt
Freddie Franklin
Darren Husher
Luca Lane
Oliver Lowes
Oliver Mayo
Noel McCarthy-Gardiner
Callum McHale
Dragos Neagu
Elliott Pearce-Eavis
Charles Raisen
Hector Rayner
Joe Roberts
Cameron Smith
Alfie Stokes
Harry Swager
Callum Taylor
Lloyd Thomas
Shea Woodsford

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Sean Jenkins



Oliver Brann



Samuel Burns