

Saturday 5th September 2026/ 15:00 Oilers / Issue 3 / 2026-27 Fawley V Whitchurch United



Tuesday 8th September 2026/ 19:45 Oilers / Issue 3 / 2026-27 Fawley V East Cowes Vics



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What's Inside

5th September 15:00



Fawley v Whitchurch United
Wessex 1

8th September 19:45



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Industrial Boilers Cup R1

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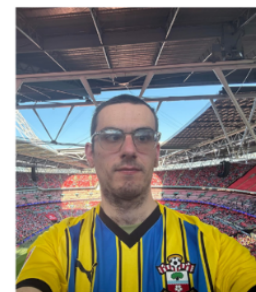
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EAST COWES



VICS. A.F.C.



Oilers Magazine Photography

Ben Pennells
Robin Caddy/ The Wessex Way
Carl Thompson
Lewis Ford
IOW County Press

Kick Off // 3

The Wessex Way



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FROM THE EDITOR

**BENJAMIN PENNELLS
OILERS EDITOR**

Hello and welcome back to Oilers Magazine for this double header edition for our Wessex 1 fixture with Whitchurch United and Tuesday Evening's Industrial Boilers League Cup First Round tie with East Cowes Vics.

This season has started strongly for the Oilers losing just two games in August as they lost to New Milton Town here and crashed out of the Hampshire Senior Cup at Hedge End Rangers. The Oilers currently sit second in the table.

Tuesday night saw the Oilers become the first team to win at Newport (IOW)'s brand new WightFibre Park with Josh Moody scoring a brace and Alex Sawyer on the scoresheet as the points returned to the mainland

Our editor Ben Pennells was in attendance at WightFibre Park for this momentous occasion for an overview of the new ground and a match report please see pages x to x.

Our development squads John Stimpson Memorial Shield campaign came to a close on Wednesday to Ringwood Town U23's as they lost 2-1.

On Saturday we begin our road to Wembley as we enter the second qualifying round of the FA Vase against Ash United here at the Brickability Group Stadium.

Tomorrow 6th September our U16's begin their season in the Hampshire Cup away at Newport (IOW).

We give a very warm welcome to the Players, Officials, Management and Supporters of Whitchurch United and to Saturday's Referee Chris Carpenter and Assistant Referees Simon Longhurst and Zak Elhajoui.

Tuesday we give a warm welcome to the Players, Management, Officials and Supporters of East Cowes Vics. And to Referee Paul Abrahams and Assistant Referees Gareth Heath and Charlie Fry.

We hope you enjoyed your visit to the Brickability Group Stadium please don't forget to check our social media for latest updates for all things Oilers.

I wish you all a safe Journey Home.

Ben

Kick Off // 5



Inside SO45



Bashley to visit in the Russell Cotes Cup.

Wessex Premier outfit Bashley will be visiting the Brickability Group Stadium in the first round of the Russell Cotes Cup.

The date of the tie will be announced in due course.

Planning application for our brand new club house has now entered it's public consultation period.

Our long awaited clubhouse has had its planning application submitted and has now been released for public consultation for your say on the building please follow the link below to add your comments to the consultation.

Season Ticket's are still on sale.

Your Oilers Season Passes are still on sale for £70 and can be purchased by talking to a member of the committee or by emailing the email address on the poster that's in this Magazine and around the ground. Perks of being a season ticket holder it gives you access to all home games for 1st team U23's and Development team Games.

8 // The Oilers



The Wessex League - Partners Page



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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

1st Sep  0-3  WX1	29th Aug  1-3  WX1	31st Jul  2-3  WX1	19th Aug  5-2  HSC
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Development Update

It has been a positive start to the season for our Development Team, with two draws from our opening two league fixtures and plenty of encouraging signs from what is still a very young squad.

In our opening game, the lads showed great character and resilience. We found ourselves having to fight our way back into the match, but the players never gave up, kept believing and showed the attitude we expect from this group to come from behind and earn a deserved point.

Our second game was a slightly different story.

We controlled large parts of the match, played some really positive football and created opportunities, but unfortunately just couldn't find that important second goal to put the game to bed. In the end, we had to settle for another draw, but there were plenty of positives to take from the performance.

What has impressed us most so far has been the attitude of our young players. They have shown resilience, confidence and absolutely no fear when stepping onto the pitch.

The effort levels in training have also been excellent,

with the lads continuing to work hard both on and off the pitch and showing a real willingness to develop and improve.

Preparations are now firmly focused on our next fixture. Training has been strong, confidence within the group is growing, and we will be going into the game looking to build on our performances so far and hopefully secure that first win of the season.

There is still a long way to go, but it has been a very promising start and we are excited to see how this young group continues to develop throughout the season.



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The Wessex Years

HISTORY

1988-1990

Part 3: The Treble-Crown Masterclass and Graduation
— The 1988–89 Wessex Football League Season

A Compact Field and Relentless Early Pace
Following the logistical complexities of an expanded 19-team division the previous year, the Wessex Football League streamlined its format for its third campaign in 1988–89, reducing the line-up to a tighter, highly competitive 17-member pool. This reduction compressed the schedule back down to a 32-game season per club, cutting down on mid-week fixture congestion while

amplifying the intensity of every single matchday.

The freshly minted amalgamation side, AFC Lymington—born from the previous summer's merger between Lymington and Wellworthy Athletic—stepped into the fray, adding an intriguing new dynamic to the southern circuit. Right from the opening whistle in August, it was clear that the competitive hierarchy of the league was sharpening, with clubs fighting tooth and nail for every point in a division that offered zero margin for error.

Bashley's Unrivaled Hegemony: Three Out of Three

If the first two seasons established Bashley as a competitive force, the 1988–89 campaign cemented their absolute dynasty over the division. In what would stand as a historic masterclass of non-league consistency, Bashley secured their third consecutive league title, marching to glory with a phenomenal record of 26 wins and 4 draws from their 32 matches, accumulating 82 points.

Their attacking output remained astonishingly lethal, firing home 87 goals while conceding a mere 24, resulting in a towering +63 goal difference. Having dominated the Wessex League from its very inception, Bashley proved they had entirely outgrown the regional circuit. Their historic campaign culminated in well-deserved promotion, as the champions made the permanent graduation up to the Southern League, leaving a colossal legacy for whoever dared to step into their shoes.

The Best of the Rest: Havant, Newport, and Thatcham
Behind the unstoppable champions, the battle for the remaining upper-tier places delivered incredible tactical duels. Havant Town once again proved themselves as the division's premier runners-up, putting together an exceptional 32-game campaign to finish second with 71 points. Havant's consistency was built upon a fluid attack that netted 67 goals, keeping the pressure on the top spot for long stretches of the season.

Newport (IOW) continued their upward trajectory on the island, securing a brilliant third-place finish with 66 points and a matching 67 goals scored. Meanwhile, Thatcham Town enjoyed a stellar campaign to claim fourth place with 58 points, just ahead of the newly formed AFC Lymington, who turned heads in their debut season by comfortably locking down fifth place with 57 points and a respectable +19 goal difference.

Mid-Table Scrambles and Lower-Tier Survival
The middle of the table proved to be an absolute battlefield. Wimborne Town secured sixth place with 48 points, while Romsey Town relied on a division-high 16 draws to grind out a seventh-place finish with 43 points. Further down, sides like East Cowes Victoria Athletic (41 points), Eastleigh (40 points), and Folland Sports (40 points) found themselves locked in a tight, congested cluster where a single winning run could catapult a team up the standings. At the foot of the table, survival was hard-earned.

Portsmouth Royal Navy endured a grueling campaign, finishing in 17th place with 19 points and 73 goals conceded. They were joined near the bottom by Brockenhurst in 16th (20 points) and Sholing Sports in 15th (24 points), who struggled to find consistency against a fiercely unforgiving tier of opponents.

Closing a Defining Chapter
The conclusion of the 1988–89 season marked the definitive end of an era. With Bashley successfully graduating to the Southern League, the landscape of the Wessex League was left wide open for a new contender to claim the crown. These first three foundational years had transformed regional football in the south, proving that the league could nurture elite non-league talent, deliver unforgettable title races, and provide a permanent stage for local sporting passion.

Pos ↕	Team ↕	Pld ↕	W ↕	D ↕	L ↕	GF ↕	GA ↕	GD ↕	Pts ↕	Qualification ↕
1	Bashley (C, P)	32	26	4	2	87	24	+63	82	Joined the Southern League
2	Havant Town	32	21	8	3	67	26	+41	71	
3	Newport (IOW)	32	20	6	6	67	32	+35	66	
4	Thatcham Town	32	17	7	8	60	26	+34	58	
5	AFC Lymington	32	16	9	7	51	32	+19	57	
6	Wimborne Town	32	14	6	12	59	55	+4	48	
7	Romsey Town	32	9	16	7	47	39	+8	43	
8	East Cowes Victoria Athletic	32	11	8	13	44	48	-4	41	
9	Eastleigh	32	10	10	12	39	34	+5	40	
10	Folland Sports	32	10	10	12	46	42	+4	40	
11	Horndean	32	11	5	16	45	70	-25	38	
12	Bournemouth	32	10	6	16	49	64	-15	36	
13	Christchurch	32	9	7	16	40	71	-31	34	
14	A.F.C. Totton	32	8	9	15	39	58	-19	33	
15	Sholing Sports	32	6	6	20	29	65	-36	24	
16	Brockenhurst	32	3	11	18	17	52	-35	20	
17	Portsmouth Royal Navy	32	5	4	23	25	73	-48	19	

Part 4: A New Horizon and Romsey's Ascent — The 1989–90 Wessex Football League Season

Life After Bashley and Fresh Expansion

Following three successive title-winning campaigns, powerhouse Bashley finally made their long-awaited graduation to the Southern League, leaving the Wessex Football League crown vacant for the very first time. Rather than dropping in momentum, the division expanded its horizons for its fourth season in 1989–90, increasing to a 19-club format.

The new campaign welcomed an exciting wave of fresh blood eager to make their mark on the regional circuit:

B.A.T. Sports stepped up directly from the Hampshire League.

Bemerton Heath Harlequins entered following a notable multi-club merger between Bemerton Athletic (Wiltshire League), Moon F.C. (Salisbury & District League), and Bemerton Boys (Mid-Wilts League).

Fleet Town made the switch by joining

from the Chiltonian League.

Romsey Town Seizes the Throne
With the undisputed giant of the division out of the picture, the title race blew wide open. Stepping into the spotlight with a brilliantly executed campaign, Romsey Town captured their first-ever Wessex League championship. Romsey put together a stellar run of 25 wins and 6 draws from 36 matches, accumulating 81 points while playing an exciting brand of attacking football that yielded 84 goals.

Pushing the new champions all the way was Newport (IOW), who enjoyed a magnificent season to finish as runners-up with 79 points and an identical +53 goal difference. Newport's stellar performance on the island earned them a historic reward at the end of the campaign, as they successfully earned promotion to join the Southern League.

The Upper-Midfield Scramble and New Entrants
Further down the table, the league's new arrivals and established contenders locked horns in a fiercely competitive upper tier. B.A.T. Sports enjoyed a sensational debut season at this level, comfortably securing a third-place finish with 70 points and 74 goals scored. Wimborne Town followed close behind in fourth with 68 points, while AFC Lymington rounded out the top five with 65 points.

Among the other new faces, Bemerton Heath Harlequins adapted smoothly to the step-up, putting together a solid mid-table campaign to finish eighth with 56 points.

Meanwhile, Fleet Town faced a rigorous introduction to the division, finishing toward the lower end of the standings as they fought to establish their footing.

Down at the Foot of the Table

At the opposite end of the spectrum, the 1989–90 season proved exceptionally challenging for the league's struggling sides. Portsmouth Royal Navy endured a difficult campaign at the base of the table, finishing in 19th place with 14 points and 70 goals conceded. They were closely accompanied by Fleet Town in 18th and Brockenhurst in 17th, as clubs scrambled for every vital point to secure their places for the seasons ahead.

The fourth season proved that the Wessex League could thrive dynamically even after losing its founding pacesetter, setting the stage for a new generation of title challengers.

1	Romsey Town (C)	36	25	6	5	84	31	+53	81	
2	Newport (IOW) (P)	36	24	7	5	82	29	+53	79	Joined the Southern League
3	B.A.T. Sports	36	21	7	8	74	35	+39	70	
4	Wimborne Town	36	20	8	8	83	48	+35	68	
5	AFC Lymington	36	19	8	9	68	44	+24	65	
6	A.F.C. Totton	36	17	8	11	58	45	+13	59	
7	Thatcham Town	36	15	12	9	56	45	+11	57	
8	Bemerton Heath Harlequins	36	16	8	12	61	47	+14	56	
9	Sholing Sports	36	16	8	12	57	51	+6	56	
10	Bournemouth	36	15	9	12	69	70	-1	54	
11	Havant Town	36	13	8	15	49	50	-1	47	
12	Folland Sports	36	13	6	17	42	47	-5	45	
13	East Cowes Victoria Athletic	36	11	10	15	47	54	-7	43	
14	Eastleigh	36	10	11	15	60	66	-6	41	
15	Christchurch	36	10	9	17	47	59	-12	39	
16	Horndean	36	10	6	20	56	75	-19	36	
17	Brockenhurst	36	5	8	23	35	98	-63	23	
18	Fleet Town	36	5	5	26	22	86	-64	20	

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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Whitchurch United



In 1887, two football clubs, the Albion and Rovers were in existence in Whitchurch. At a meeting on July 14th, 1903, they amalgamated to form Whitchurch United. The club became known as the "Jam Boys" because of the Jam Factory in the town, long since closed.

They took time to achieve their first success and had to wait 10 years before recording their first successes by winning the Andover Tournaments in 1913 and 1914, and the Basingstoke Cup in 1914. However, the 1920's brought

decade of successes with wins in the Basingstoke Junior League in 1925, the Basingstoke Cup in 1927, 1928 and 1929, and the North Hants Cup in 1927.

In the mid 1950's the club bought its own ground at Longmeadow and added a pavilion and changing rooms in 1959. In the same year, they entered the Hampshire League Division 3 and won promotion to Division 2 in 1990. The Club won the Basingstoke Senior Cup in 1994 and 1997.

After finishing as Hampshire League Division 2 champions in 1989/90, the

club had two good seasons in division 1, finishing fourth in 1990/91 and third in 1991/92.

This allowed Whitchurch Utd to have a successful application to join the Jewson Wessex football League in 1992. After a tough inaugural season finishing 15th, the club had an even tougher season in 1993/94 when they finished in the dreaded drop spot and it was all the way back to Hampshire League football.

A quick return to the Wessex League was planned and it was to prove successful. In 1996/97 Whitchurch became Basingstoke Senior Cup

Winners. The club continued to improve in the Wessex League and win the Hungerford Cup for two years running, 1998/99 and 1999/2000.

In 2011 Whitchurch reached the 1st qualifying round of the FA Cup and won the Andover Open Cup. In 2012 Whitchurch reached the 2nd qualifying round of the FA Cup, being knocked out by Gloucester City in front of a crowd of 560. In 2014 Whitchurch were promoted to the Sydenham's Wessex Premier Division.

After finishing in a relegation position in 2017 the club was relegated to Division One, with a joint-high finish of 13th in three of the completed six seasons since.

As a community club, Whitchurch United prides itself in the high level of coaching and football that it offers at all levels. Whitchurch fields teams across all age groups, for boys and girls, from U7 to U18.

Last 4 Fixtures

29th Aug  1-3  WX1	26th Aug  A-A  WX1	22nd Aug  6-1  WX1	19th Aug  0-1  HSC
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It was supposed to be a momentous evening of celebration on the Isle of Wight as Newport (IOW) finally returned to a place of their own. However, marching in with other ideas, the Oilers crashed the long-awaited homecoming, handing the hosts a comprehensive 3-0 defeat at the brand-new WightFibre Park.

After enduring more than seven years of wandering without a permanent home—following their departure from St George's Park—the anticipation surrounding Newport's first fixture at their new Whippingham

base was palpable. A bumper crowd of nearly 500 supporters poured through the turnstiles on Tuesday evening, eager to witness a fresh chapter for the club.

Unfortunately for the home faithful, the celebratory mood on the terraces was abruptly punctured on the pitch.

Clinical Oilers Take Control
The Oilers hit the ground running, stunning the hosts and silencing the celebratory crowd by seizing an early advantage inside the

opening moments. Josh Moody broke through the Newport defence and beat Leon Pitman to give the visitors an early lead (0-1). Newport almost produced the perfect response in the 9th minute when captain Macauley Watterson rose to meet the ball, only to see his header rebound off the crossbar. Port had come within inches of drawing level, but instead Fawley made their next opportunity count.

Moody found space to nod the visitors' 2nd past Pitman in the 28th minute (0-2), leaving Newport trailing

further behind the visiting side. Frustration began to creep into Port's play, and Jacob Reynolds was sin-binned for dissent in the 35th minute, temporarily reducing the hosts to 10 men.

Half Time: Newport (IOW) 0-2 Fawley

Newport needed the next goal to give themselves a realistic route back into the contest, but chances remained scarce against a disciplined Fawley defence. Instead, the visitors struck again in the 62nd minute. Josh Moody did superbly on the dead-ball line before setting up Alex Sawyer, who converted with a header to put Fawley 3 ahead (0-3).

As Newport's hopes faded, frustration increasingly came to the surface and the contest became fractious. Matters boiled over in the 70th minute when Reynolds pushed a Fawley player, received a 2nd card and was sent off.

Despite being reduced to 10 men, Port continued to push forward. Pitman found himself playing almost as an auxiliary defender close to the halfway line and twice made crucial interventions well outside his penalty area. There was almost a consolation for Newport close to full time when the Fawley goalkeeper dropped the ball, but substitute Jez Conway failed to capitalise.

Full Time: Newport (IOW) 0-3 Fawley









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UP THE OILERS!

The Wessex Years

HISTORY

1990-1992

Part 5: Havant's Crown and New Contenders — The 1990–91 Wessex Football League Season

League Expansion and Notable Identity Shifts
As the Wessex Football League entered its fifth season in 1990–91, the division expanded its footprint further to a 20-club format, demanding a rigorous 38-game schedule from every participant. The new campaign introduced fresh regional blood and notable administrative changes across the circuit:

Ryde Sports joined the league after stepping up from the Hampshire League.

Swanage Town & Herston made the strategic transfer in from the Western League.

Folland Sports F.C. underwent a notable identity change ahead of the campaign, officially renaming themselves Aerostructures Sports & Social F.C.

Havant Town Ascends to the Throne
Having finished as runners-up in previous seasons, Havant Town finally put

together the ultimate championship-winning campaign. Displaying remarkable consistency across the grueling 38 matches, Havant claimed 24 wins and 8 draws to finish at the summit with 80 points. Their clinical play yielded 76 goals while conceding just 30, earning them a well-deserved +46 goal difference. Their historic title triumph was crowned with promotion, as Havant Town successfully made the leap up to join the Southern League.

Pushing the champions right to the absolute wire were newcomers Swanage Town & Herston.

In one of the most astonishing debut seasons in the league's history, the Western League transferees racked up 24 wins and 78 points, finishing just two points shy of the title with a division-high 88 goals and a +47 goal difference. Bournemouth also enjoyed a stellar campaign, rounding out the podium in third place with 76 points.

The Chasing Pack and Mid-Table Battles
Further down the standings, defending champions Romsey Town secured a respectable fourth-place finish with 71 points, closely followed by Wimborne Town in fifth with 70 points and Thatcham Town in sixth with 68 points.

Among the new arrivals, Ryde Sports adapted seamlessly to life in the division, putting together a competitive campaign to finish 11th with 57 points—level on points with Fleet Town and AFC Lynton. Meanwhile, Aerostructures Sports & Social experienced a challenging adjustment period following their name change, finishing 16th with 39 points.

Relegation Pressures and the Lower Reaches
At the opposite end of the table, the 38-game marathon proved exceptionally punishing. Horndean endured a difficult season at the foot of the standings, finishing in 20th place with 20 points and 92 goals conceded. They were joined near the bottom by Sholing Sports in 19th (26 points) and Bemerton Heath Harlequins in 18th (32 points), as clubs fought tooth and nail to preserve their league status.

The 1990–91 season proved that the league could seamlessly integrate ambitious new arrivals while delivering thrilling, high-scoring title races right down to the final fixtures.

1	Havant Town (C, P)	38	24	8	6	76	30	+46	80	Joined the Southern League
2	Swanage Town & Herston	38	24	6	8	88	41	+47	78	
3	Bournemouth	38	24	4	10	69	33	+36	76	
4	Romsey Town	38	20	11	7	59	35	+24	71	
5	Wimborne Town	38	22	4	12	80	45	+35	70	
6	Thatcham Town	38	19	11	8	68	32	+36	68	
7	Brockenhurst	38	17	8	13	56	51	+5	59	
8	B.A.T. Sports	38	16	10	12	54	48	+6	58	
9	AFC Lymington	38	16	9	13	60	50	+10	57	
10	Fleet Town	38	17	6	15	64	57	+7	57	
11	Ryde Sports	38	17	6	15	62	55	+7	57	
12	Eastleigh	38	13	8	17	40	62	-22	47	
13	East Cowes Victoria Athletic	38	12	10	16	45	52	-7	46	
14	A.F.C. Totton	38	13	6	19	54	70	-16	45	
15	Christchurch	38	11	10	17	37	55	-18	43	
16	Aerostructures Sports & Social	38	11	6	21	32	62	-30	39	
17	Portsmouth Royal Navy	38	10	5	23	51	102	-51	35	
18	Bemerton Heath Harlequins	38	7	11	20	42	59	-17	32	
19	Sholing Sports	38	6	8	24	39	84	-45	26	
20	Horndean	38	5	5	28	39	92	-53	20	

Part 6: Wimborne's Glory and a Stable Horizon — The 1991-92 Wessex Football League Season

A Settled Lineup and Steady Foundations

As the Wessex Football League progressed into its sixth season in 1991-92, the division experienced a rare period of administrative stability. Unlike previous campaigns that saw a heavy influx of incoming clubs or sweeping structural alterations, no new clubs joined the league for the start of this season.

With a streamlined 19-team roster, every participant locked into a demanding 36-game schedule that prioritized consistency, tactical depth, and stamina.

Wimborne Town Claims the Crown
Having consistently hovered near the upper echelons of the table in prior years, Wimborne Town put together an extraordinary campaign to capture the 1991-92 league championship.

Wimborne dominated the division with 25 wins and 5 draws from their 36 matches, accumulating a commanding 80 points. Their attacking play was among the finest in the league, plundering 82 goals while conceding only 37, resulting in a stellar +45 goal difference.

The race for the runners-up spot proved intensely competitive. AFC Lymington enjoyed a fantastic season to secure second place with 74 points, backed by 73 goals scored and a solid +34 goal difference. Thatcham Town rounded out the podium in third place with 70

points, showcasing a potent attack that netted a division-high 85 goals. Meanwhile, defending contenders Romsey Town finished fourth with 69 points, closely followed by Swanage Town & Herston with 67 points.

Mid-Table Progress and Improvement

Further down the standings, several clubs demonstrated notable growth compared to previous years. Ryde Sports finished comfortably in seventh with 62 points, while Bemerton Heath Harlequins climbed into eighth place with 61 points. Aerostructures Sports & Social (formerly Folland Sports) secured ninth with 59 points, just ahead of Eastleigh on 58 points.

At the other end of the spectrum, the season proved uniquely merciful: due to the league's structural placement and a lack of incoming pressures, there was no promotion or relegation enforced at the end of the season,

allowing struggling sides like Portsmouth Royal Navy (17 points), Horndean (18 points), and A.F.C. Totton (29 points) a vital opportunity to regroup and plan for the future without the threat of the drop.

The 1991-92 campaign highlighted a mature, self-sustaining division where competition flourished purely for sporting supremacy and the ultimate honor of the championship shield.

Pos ↕	Team ↕	Pld ↕	W ↕	D ↕	L ↕	GF ↕	GA ↕	GD ↕	Pts ↕
1	Wimborne Town (C)	36	25	5	6	82	37	+45	80
2	AFC Lymington	36	23	5	8	73	39	+34	74
3	Thatcham Town	36	22	4	10	85	45	+40	70
4	Romsey Town	36	21	6	9	72	42	+30	69
5	Swanage Town & Herston	36	20	7	9	78	38	+40	67
6	Bournemouth	36	20	6	10	73	48	+25	66
7	Ryde Sports	36	18	8	10	61	51	+10	62
8	Bemerton Heath Harlequins	36	17	10	9	51	38	+13	61
9	Aerostructures Sports & Social	36	18	5	13	59	40	+19	59
10	Eastleigh	36	18	4	14	61	53	+8	58
11	Fleet Town	36	13	10	13	59	55	+4	49
12	Brockenhurst	36	12	9	15	47	52	-5	45
13	Christchurch	36	9	11	16	39	54	-15	38
14	East Cowes Victoria Athletic	36	9	9	18	36	72	-36	36
15	Sholing Sports	36	9	7	20	43	81	-38	34
16	B.A.T. Sports	36	9	4	23	41	57	-16	31
17	A.F.C. Totton	36	7	8	21	43	71	-28	29
18	Horndean	36	5	3	28	33	109	-76	18
19	Portsmouth Royal Navy	36	4	5	27	30	84	-54	17

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East Cowes Vics

East Cowes Victoria Athletic Football Club (The Vic's) were formed in 1885. The name incidentally is the longest registered with the English F.A. The Victoria part derives from the fact that the ground in Beatrice Avenue is part of the crown estate and in the area owned by Osborne House, the home of Queen Victoria.

For the first 30 years the club played only in the Island leagues. In 1889 the Isle of Wight F.A. introduced cup competitions including the Isle of Wight Senior Gold Cup, this trophy is reported to be the most valuable football trophy in the world

being made of solid gold. The only drawback is that if you win the Gold Cup you can't keep it! Most clubs insure it for the annual presentation night and then return it to the bank.

In 1947 Vic's joined Division 3 of the Hampshire League and spent nine seasons in Division 3, eighteen seasons in Division 2 and twelve in Division 1.

Without doubt the Vics most successful period was under the guidance of Graham Daish, who built a squad of

all Island players good enough to win Hampshire League Division One Championship twice, the first time remaining unbeaten all season. The club also won the Isle of Wight Gold Cup seven times during this period.

One of the most important years in the Vics' long history was 1968, when the club amalgamated with an East Cowes Junior side: East Cowes Athletic - thus becoming East Cowes Victoria Athletic.

The hard work of the committee enabled the club to progress into the Wessex League for the start of the 1987/88 season. Although the club lost key players before the start of the season they still managed to finish in 8th place and win the Wessex League Cup beating Romsey Town 2-0.

Then later, following relegation, the club formed a new committee and finished 4th in the Hampshire Premier Division. In 2001/02 season the Vics had their best season in recent years, when they narrowly missed out on promotion back to the Wessex League, finishing runners-up to Alton Town; but they did win the Hampshire Trophy-man Cup beating Liss Athletic 1-0.

In season 2003/04 Vics returned to the Wessex League after the Football Association's restructuring of the leagues and have continued ever since in Wessex Division One.

The last few seasons proved difficult for the club, but under the guidance of Manager Steve Brougham and his committed dugout team this came good for 2018/19 where the squad performed well finishing mid-table.

Richie Woodburn took over the managerial role when Steve Brougham stepped down and with Assistant Darren Arnold, saw us begin to climb the table early in the 2020-21 season until Covid closed down football. However, after that bright start, we are confident of continuing successfully when football resumes.

For the 2020/21 season our First Team continue in Wessex Division One, plus of course our Youth set-up in their various Isle of Wight leagues. The future looks good for all our teams and as always the club continues at the heart of the local community.





Oilers Magazine is taking you on a trip down memory lane this season as we want you to get to know the valuable members of our team from day to day life and football to give you a bit of a flavour of what our Oilers are upto not just on the football pitch.

Up first it's our Editor and Social Media Guru Ben Pennells.

1) What Is your role at the Club?

BP: I'm the media manager and Oilers Magazine Editor.

2) How Long have you been an Oiler?

BP: This is my third season involved with the club.

3) Former Clubs

BP: Umm there's too many to mention but I am proud of every team I've been involved with.

4) Best moment in your career?

BP: I think the Russell Cotes Cup victory in 2023/24 with Hythe.

5) Favourite Club

BP: I'm a Southampton Fan

6) Outside of all the oilers stuff you do whats your day job?

BP: Well funnily enough my day job is also in football at Southampton mainly working in bars but there's opportunities to work across the club.

7) Best Moment from your time with Saints?

BP: The 20 game unbeaten run last season but nothing can top the day out at Wembley.

8) Worst Moment?

BP: Spygate and for obvious reasons and no I did not know that it was happening behind the scenes. It ruined a perfectly good season. That's all I'm saying on the matter.

9) Earlist Memory of Football?

BP: Umm I don't actually remember but I do remember Zidane's headbut not for the right reasons but I think for me it was watching our greatest rivals Portsmouth lift the FA Cup against Cardiff because they were both underdogs.

10) Worst thing about football?

BP: I'm constantly doing something for football weather that's working or for Fawley it's my life. I am in football mode 24/7.

11) Football Idol?

BP: Le Tissier was an idol I know I followed after his career but growing up it either watch his highlights what got me into the beautiful game. But Growing up it was never Messi or Ronaldo it was Bale, Rickie Lambert and Ward Prowse

12) Worst match you've seen?

BP: I've seen two 9-0 defeats on the box no I absolutely hated it. But in a stadium it had to be England v Brazil at Wembley in a friendly it was just like watching paint dry.

13) What is one thing you would say to yourself at the start of your career?

BP: Don't be afraid to take advice from anyone. When I first started out I was looking at breaking into the sports media world but at my first club I was like I'll do this alone without any additional advice sometimes the coaches and other members of the club will give you feedback and advice to improve and make it better without some of the advice I've picked up I've certainly been able to get improvements into almost everything. Starting at the bottom or taking a step or two down isn't a reset it's just I need bad I took a downwoods step twice in my career I moved to step 7 from step 3 and from step 5 to here. it's given me the chance to be more creative

Without thinking this is a backwards move.

14) What Do you do outside of football and work?

BP: I enjoy relaxing, being with my friends and playing Football Manager but I also play lawn bowls at Lyndhurst but thats only in the summer.

15) Aims and Objevtives for the season?

BP: The main one this year is to keep Oilers very consistent throughout the season.

16) Best Moment of the Season?

BP: it's still early days but Tuesday's trip to Newport and becoming the first team to win at their new ground.



Welcome to
Wigh

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Full Time // 51

WESSEX LEAGUE FOOTBALL SHOW



ON AIR

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.

Featuring guest interviews and rounding-up all the latest news from around the Wessex League.

Listen back via the QR code!



Get In Touch with the Show!

greg.fiestafmuk@gmail.com

jpbarton2@gmail.com



The Wessex Way



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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

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ONE COMMUNITY.

ONE GOAL.

TOGETHER WE SUCCEED.

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TOGETHER WE SUCCEED.

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Filfi Carter
George Braithwaite-McGuinness
James Batchelor
Jeremiah Ige-Dasilva
Joseph Redmond
Kevin Ventura
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Leo Downing
Lewis Dankyi
Mark McAulay
Matthew Sweet
Maximilian Gawronski
Murat Ahmetaj
Noah Samuel Chengun
Ronnie Tomkins
Tyler Weiss
Tyrell Reid



Manager

Lee Shepherd

Sam Clark
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Frasier Craigen
Jamie Craven
Luke Dixon
James Elkins
Jack Good
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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

Alex Smith

George Bridi (gk)
Scott Jones
Liam Newbold
Josh Neale
Will Bridi
Raff Boyd-Kerr
Gabriel Wall
Charlie Haward
Liam Triggs
Charlie Hart
Jordan Chapman
Connor Mooney
Harrison Yates
Elliot Wheeler
Macca Barnes
Toby Snow
Caleb Neale
Caleb Dyer
Dylan Wightwick
Ollie West
Travis Pitman
George Hiorns

Match Officials



Chris Carpenter



Simon Longhust



Zak Elhajoui

Match Officials



Paul Abrahams



Gareth Heath



Daniel Fry