

**HELLO AND WELCOME
TO THE LATEST
EDITION OF YOUR
NEWSLETTER.**

If you have anything to contribute, please do get in touch- newsletter.wessexleague@gmail.com You can keep up to date with all the news from around the League by following us on Twitter at - @Sydwessex



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Don't forget that the AGM will be on Monday June 25th at the Totton Sports Club, Southern Gardens, Totton, Southampton SO40 8RW- time to be confirmed. Attendance by clubs is required under rule. Please make a note of the date in your Diary.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The Newsletter will continue to be produced throughout the Summer, and hopefully will include details of (dare I say it?!) pre-season friendlies, plus all the League and Cup news as and when it happens. Contributions for the Newsletter are always welcome. Currently the deadline for material is Sunday 10:00, but that will be reviewed ahead of 2018/19 starting.



PRE-SEASON NEWS

Clubs are requested to please do get in touch with the Newsletter Editor to promote and advertise their arrangements for next season, thanks in advance. The contact address can be found above. Clubs are reminded that the home club needs to obtain sanction from their County FA. These games are also liable to change and or cancellation at little notice.

DAY	DATE	<u>PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES</u>	.	<u>2018/19</u>
Saturday	30-Jun	<i>Bush Hill</i>	v	Downton
Saturday	30-Jun	<i>Hythe & Dibden</i>	v	<i>Colden Common</i>
Tuesday	03-Jul	<i>Fleet Town</i>	v	AFC Portchester
Wednesday	04-Jul	<i>Fawley</i>	v	Sholing
Thursday	05-Jul	<i>Romsey Town</i>	v	Bemerton Heath Harlequins
Saturday	07-Jul	<i>Amesbury Town</i>	v	Shaftesbury
Saturday	07-Jul	<i>Bournemouth</i>	v	Pagham
Saturday	07-Jul	<i>Bush Hill</i>	v	Whitchurch United
Saturday	07-Jul	<i>Calne Town</i>	v	Downton
Saturday	07-Jul	<i>East Cowes Victoria</i>	v	Lymington Town
Saturday	07-Jul	<i>Hythe & Dibden</i>	v	<i>Fleetlands</i>
Saturday	07-Jul	<i>Midhurst & Easebourne United</i>	v	AFC Portchester
Saturday	07-Jul	<i>Stockbridge</i>	v	Fareham Town

SYDENHAMS FOOTBALL LEAGUE NEWS

Monday	09-Jul	Verwood Town	v	<i>Wimborne Town</i>
Tuesday	10-Jul	Alton	v	<i>Basingstoke Town</i>
Tuesday	10-Jul	Brockenhurst	v	<i>AFC Totton</i>
Tuesday	10-Jul	<i>Selsey</i>	v	Horndean
Wednesday	11-Jul	Fawley	v	<i>Blackfield & Langley</i>
Thursday	12-Jul	<i>Andover Town</i>	v	Sholing
Thursday	12-Jul	<i>Gillingham Town</i>	v	Laverstock & Ford
Thursday	12-Jul	Hythe & Dibden	v	Lymington Town
Friday	13-Jul	<i>Farnham Town</i>	v	Alton
Saturday	14-Jul	Amesbury Town	v	<i>Oldland Abbotonians</i>
Saturday	14-Jul	<i>Blackfield & Langley</i>	v	Sholing
Saturday	14-Jul	<i>Blandford United</i>	v	Bemerton Heath Harlequins
Saturday	14-Jul	<i>Bush Hill</i>	v	Brockenhurst
Saturday	14-Jul	<i>Chipping Sodbury Town</i>	v	Fareham Town
Saturday	14-Jul	Corfe Castle	v	Bournemouth
Saturday	14-Jul	East Cowes Victoria	v	<i>Stockbridge</i>
Saturday	14-Jul	Horndean	v	<i>Havant & Waterlooville</i>
Saturday	14-Jul	<i>Sway</i>	v	Hythe & Dibden
Saturday	14-Jul	<i>Woodstock Town</i>	v	Downton
Monday	16-Jul	Fawley	v	<i>Colden Common</i>
Monday	16-Jul	Sholing	v	<i>Thatcham Town</i>
Tuesday	17-Jul	Alton	v	<i>Camberley Town</i>
Tuesday	17-Jul	Brockenhurst	v	<i>Winchester City</i>
Tuesday	17-Jul	<i>Pagham</i>	v	Fareham Town
Tuesday	17-Jul	Portland United	v	Dorchester Town
Tuesday	17-Jul	<i>Selsey</i>	v	AFC Portchester
Tuesday	17-Jul	<i>Wick</i>	v	Horndean
Wednesday	18-Jul	<i>Oldland Abbotonians</i>	v	Shaftesbury
Thursday	19-Jul	AFC Stoneham	v	Bemerton Heath Harlequins
Thursday	19-Jul	<i>SC Inzell</i>	v	Hythe & Dibden
Friday	20-Jul	Fawley	v	<i>QK Southampton</i>
Friday	20-Jul	Horndean	v	<i>Bognor Regis Town</i>
Friday	20-Jul	Sholing	v	<i>Winchester City</i>
Friday	20-Jul	<i>Wimborne Town</i>	v	Christchurch
Saturday	21-Jul	AFC Portchester	v	Portsmouth Under-18s
Saturday	21-Jul	Alton	v	<i>Abingdon United</i>
Saturday	21-Jul	Bournemouth	v	Downton
Saturday	21-Jul	Horndean	v	<i>Moneyfields</i>
Saturday	21-Jul	<i>Kintbury Rangers</i>	v	Laverstock & Ford
Saturday	21-Jul	Newport IOW	v	<i>Lancing</i>
Saturday	21-Jul	<i>SV Ruhpolding</i>	v	Hythe & Dibden
Monday	23-Jul	Fawley	v	<i>Sholing Development</i>
Tuesday	24-Jul	<i>AFC Totton</i>	v	Hamble Club
Tuesday	24-Jul	Bashley	v	<i>Winchester City [David Jose Trophy]</i>
Tuesday	24-Jul	Bemerton Heath Harlequins	v	<i>Westbury United</i>

SYDENHAMS FOOTBALL LEAGUE NEWS

Tuesday	24-Jul	Bournemouth	v	<i>Bournemouth Electric</i>
Tuesday	24-Jul	<i>Calne Town</i>	v	Shaftesbury
Tuesday	24-Jul	Horndean	v	<i>Gosport Borough</i>
Tuesday	24-Jul	<i>Horsham</i>	v	AFC Portchester
Wednesday	25-Jul	Alresford Town	v	Camberley Town
Wednesday	25-Jul	Hythe & Dibden	v	<i>Blackfield & Langley</i>
Thursday	26-Jul	Alton	v	<i>Portsmouth Under-18s</i>
Thursday	26-Jul	<i>Gillingham Town</i>	v	Bemerton Heath Harlequins
Thursday	26-Jul	Laverstock & Ford	v	<i>Bush Hill</i>
Saturday	28-Jul	Bournemouth	v	Fawley
Saturday	28-Jul	<i>Eversley & California</i>	v	Alton
Saturday	28-Jul	Horndean	v	<i>Swindon Town</i>
Saturday	28-Jul	Hythe & Dibden	v	Hamble Club
Saturday	28-Jul	Laverstock & Ford	v	AFC Portchester
Saturday	28-Jul	Newport IOW	v	<i>Fleetlands</i>
Saturday	28-Jul	Shaftesbury	v	<i>Gillingham Town</i>
Saturday	28-Jul	<i>Stockbridge</i>	v	Tadley Calleva
Saturday	28-Jul	<i>Storrington</i>	v	Downton
Monday	30-Jul	Alresford Town	v	<i>Chichester City</i>
Tuesday	31-Jul	Alresford Town	v	<i>Basingstoke Town</i>
Tuesday	31-Jul	Bemerton Heath Harlequins	v	Fawley
Tuesday	31-Jul	Laverstock & Ford	v	Shaftesbury

LEAGUE STANDINGS- PREMIER DIVISION

[*] – Points adjustment made.

RANK		PL	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Blackfield & Langley	42	31	7	4	118	28	90	100
2	Andover Town	42	32	3	7	116	56	60	99
3	Sholing	42	28	7	7	100	34	66	91
4	Horndean	42	24	7	11	94	55	39	79
5	Hamworthy United	42	24	4	14	83	72	11	76
6	AFC Portchester	42	23	5	14	81	53	28	74
7	Alresford Town	42	20	10	12	89	59	30	70
8	Lymington Town [*]	42	20	11	11	82	57	25	68
9	Baffins Milton Rovers	42	20	5	17	85	77	8	65
10	Hamble Club	42	18	9	15	104	72	32	63
11	Bemerton Heath Harlequins [*]	42	19	8	15	76	80	-4	62
12	Shaftesbury	42	16	8	18	63	75	-12	56
13	Brockenhurst	42	15	9	18	66	74	-8	54
14	Bashley	42	15	7	20	77	87	-10	52
15	Portland United	42	12	14	16	73	76	-3	50
16	Fareham Town	42	15	5	22	77	92	-15	50
17	Team Solent	42	12	10	20	95	107	-12	46
18	Bournemouth	42	11	9	22	54	78	-24	42
19	Cowes Sports	42	9	6	27	61	97	-36	33
20	Amesbury Town	42	8	5	29	64	130	-66	29
21	Newport (IoW)	42	7	5	30	49	117	-68	26
22	Petersfield Town	42	4	4	34	39	170	-131	16

SYDENHAMS FOOTBALL LEAGUE NEWS

LEAGUE STANDINGS- FIRST DIVISION

RANK		PL	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Christchurch	34	23	8	3	88	33	55	77
2	Andover New Street	34	24	0	10	82	56	26	72
3	Tadley Calleva	34	22	4	8	96	45	51	70
4	United Services Portsmouth	34	20	5	9	74	47	27	65
5	AFC Stoneham	34	18	8	8	75	38	37	62
6	Romsey Town	34	18	6	10	74	51	23	60
7	Laverstock & Ford	34	18	5	11	79	56	23	59
8	Alton	34	16	6	12	73	64	9	54
9	Fawley	34	16	3	15	53	56	-3	51
10	New Milton Town	34	13	7	14	55	63	-8	46
11	Ringwood Town	34	14	3	17	81	93	-12	45
12	Downton	34	12	2	20	51	77	-26	38
13	Whitchurch United	34	10	5	19	45	77	-32	35
14	Totton & Eling	34	9	6	19	55	82	-27	33
15	Hythe & Dibden	34	8	7	19	48	65	-17	31
16	East Cowes Victoria	34	7	7	20	53	78	-25	28
17	Verwood Town	34	8	3	23	47	83	-36	27
18	Folland Sports [*]	34	5	5	24	42	107	-65	17

For the last time of asking- If anyone would like a copy of the 2017/18 League Cup Final Programme then please send a stamped addressed envelope (9 x 6) to John Gorman, 6, Overton House, London Road, Overton, Hampshire, RG25 3TP.

SENIOR CUP ROUND-UP (Part 2 of 3)



DORSET SENIOR CUP 2017/18

2016/17 WINNERS-
Weymouth

1st Round

Bridport	2-0	Weymouth
Swanage Town & Herston	0-6	<u>Shaftesbury</u>
<u>Verwood Town</u>	2-1	Sherborne Town
Wimborne Town	8-2	Gillingham Town

Quarter Final

<u>Hamworthy United</u>	2-10	Poole Town
Wimborne Town	2-0	Dorchester Town
<u>Portland United</u>	4-2	<u>Verwood Town</u>
<u>Shaftesbury</u>	3-1	Bridport

Semi Final

Poole Town	1-1	Wimborne Town [2-4 penalties]
<u>Shaftesbury</u>	2-1	<u>Portland United</u>

Final

<u>Shaftesbury</u>	0-7	Wimborne Town
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At County Ground, Hamworthy United FC

TEAM	PLAYER	TEAM	PLAYER		
Verwood Town	Kris Anderton	3	Portland United	Sanchez Baker	1
Hamworthy United	Carl Preston	2	Shaftesbury	Ash Clarke	1
Portland United	Alex Godfrey	2	Shaftesbury	Nathan Connolly	1
Shaftesbury	Jack Mitchell	2	Shaftesbury	Sean Colohan	1
Portland United	Alex Halloran	1	Verwood Town	Joe Kimber	1
Portland United	Jamie Beasley	1			

SYDENHAMS FOOTBALL LEAGUE NEWS

HAMPSHIRE SENIOR CUP 2017/18

1ST Round



[AFC Stoneham](#)
[Alresford Town](#)
[Brockenhurst](#)
[Christchurch](#)
[East Cowes Victoria](#)
[Folland Sports](#)
[Hamble Club](#)
[Hythe & Dibden](#)
[Lymington Town](#)
[Newport IOW](#)
 Northerners
[Sholing](#)
[Tadley Calleva](#)
[Team Solent](#)
[Totton & Eling](#)
[United Services Portsmouth](#)

2ND Round

AFC Bournemouth *[at Newport]*
[Alresford Town](#) *[6-5 pens]*
 Basingstoke Town
[Blackfield & Langley](#)
 Cove
 Eastleigh
[Fareham Town](#)
 Fleet Spurs
 Fleet Town
 Hartley Wintney
[Hordean](#)
 Moneyfields
[New Milton Town](#)
[Romsey Town](#) *[6-5 pens]*
[Tadley Calleva](#)
 Winchester City

3RD Round

[AFC Portchester](#)
[Alresford Town](#)
 Eastleigh
 Farnborough
[Hamble Club](#) *[4-3 pens]*
 Moneyfields
[Tadley Calleva](#)
 Winchester City *[5-4 pens]*

Quarter Final

AFC Bournemouth *[at Eastleigh]*
[Blackfield & Langley](#)
 Havant & Waterlooville
 Winchester City

Semi Final

Winchester City
 Havant & Waterlooville

Final

[Blackfield & Langley](#)
at St Mary's Stadium, Southampton FC

2016/17 WINNERS- Basingstoke Town

0-1 Fleet Spurs
 5-1 [Andover Town](#)
 4-2 [Alton](#)
 3-2 [Baffins Milton Rovers](#)
 3-1 [Fawley](#)
 3-2 [Ringwood Town](#)
 4-1 [Andover New Street](#)
 0-0 [Romsey Town](#) *[2-4 pens]*
 2-2 [Hordean](#) *[4-5 pens]*
 3-2 [Petersfield Town](#)
 1-2 [Bashley](#)
 4-0 [Whitchurch United](#)
 3-2 [Cowes Sports](#)
 0-5 [Bournemouth](#)
 1-2 [AFC Portchester](#)
 2-2 Cove *[2-4 pens]*
 6-0 [Newport IOW](#)
 3-3 Eversley & California
 5-0 Gosport Borough
 8-0 [Folland Sports](#)
 1-7 [Hamble Club](#)
 2-1 Aldershot Town
 3-4 [Christchurch](#)
 1-9 Havant & Waterlooville
 2-2 Farnborough *[3-4 pens]*
 6-0 Brockenhurst
 1-3 [Bournemouth](#)
 3-0 [Sholing](#)
 0-2 [AFC Portchester](#)
 2-2 AFC Totton
 4-2 [Bashley](#)
 6-2 [East Cowes Victoria](#)
 1-0 [Romsey Town](#)
 2-1 Hartley Wintney
 3-1 [Bournemouth](#)
 2-2 AFC Bournemouth *[1-3 pens]*
 2-2 [Christchurch](#)
 0-3 Havant & Waterlooville
 0-2 [Blackfield & Langley](#)
 3-3 Basingstoke Town
 2-0 Eastleigh
 3-0 [AFC Portchester](#)
 8-1 [Hamble Club](#)
 4-3 [Alresford Town](#)
 0-1 [Blackfield & Langley](#)
 2-0 AFC Bournemouth
 0-3 Havant & Waterlooville

SYDENHAMS FOOTBALL LEAGUE NEWS



BSA REGAL
group

**saturday senior
cup sponsor**

TEAM	PLAYER	TEAM	PLAYER	
Hamble Club	James Thomson	5 Bournemouth	Aza Khider	1
Bashley	Lewis Ross	4 Bournemouth	Eder Batista	1
Blackfield & Langley	Kane Daysh	4 Bournemouth	Shiv Roushbaiani	1
Brockenhurst	Jude Nwachukwu	4 Christchurch	Harvey Wright	1
Blackfield & Langley	Lerone Plummer	3 Christchurch	James King	1
Bournemouth	Kev Foreman	3 Christchurch	Josh Kirkham	1
Bournemouth	Sami Makhloufi	3 Christchurch	Richard Gillespie	1
Christchurch	Max Wilcock	3 Cowes Sports	Darren Williams	1
East Cowes Victoria	Jimmi Burton	3 Cowes Sports	Jamie Wykes	1
Tadley Calleva	George Hallahan	3 East Cowes Victoria	Jordan Browne	1
AFC Portchester	Bobby Scott	2 East Cowes Victoria	Liam Newbold	1
AFC Portchester	Ollie Searle	2 Fareham Town	Curt Robbins	1
Alresford Town	Aaron Blaxall	2 Fareham Town	Sammy Kessack	1
Alresford Town	Matt Andrews	2 Fareham Town	Scott Hamilton	1
Alresford Town	Steve Hall	2 Folland Sports	Sheldon Green	1
Baffins Milton Rovers	Blu Boam	2 Hamble Club	Ben Kemplen	1
Blackfield & Langley	Joe Butcher	2 Hamble Club	Jack McCarthy	1
Blackfield & Langley	Sam Poole	2 Hamble Club	Matt Troon	1
Christchurch	Jack Satterley	2 Hamble Club	Prince McLean	1
Folland Sports	Charlie Cooper	2 Hamble Club	Charlie Wagstaffe	1
Hamble Club	Nathan Lynch	2 Horndean	Miles Everett	1
Hamble Club	Nick Watts	2 Lymington Town	Charlie Willett	1
Horndean	Harry Jackson	2 Lymington Town	Zak Pickett	1
Petersfield Town	Luke Kendall	2 Newport IOW	Aidan Sainsbury	1
Sholing	Jamie Bulpitt	2 Newport IOW	Emerson Tattersall	1
AFC Portchester	Josh Warren	1 Newport IOW	Scott Sampson	1
Alresford Town	Chris Mason	1 Ringwood Town	Matt Steer	1
Alresford Town	Craig Harding	1 Ringwood Town	River Smith	1
Alresford Town	Geoff Dunn	1 Romsey Town	Indrit Elezi	1
Alresford Town	Matt Simm	1 Romsey Town	Josh Harvey	1
Alresford Town	Sam Doswell	1 Sholing	Bradey Norton	1
Alresford Town	Tom Richards	1 Sholing	Dan Miller	1
Alresford Town	Tom Sands	1 Tadley Calleva	Aaron Parfitt	1
Alton	Scott Sanderson	1 Tadley Calleva	Archie Fawcett	1
Alton	Taylor Watts	1 Tadley Calleva	Connor Thorne	1
Andover New Street	Callum Sweeney	1 Tadley Calleva	Sam Hamilton	1
Andover Town	Jay Silver	1 Totton & Eling	Onandi Shepherd	1
Blackfield & Langley	Connor Doe	1 Utd. Services Portsmouth	Tom Jeffes	1
Blackfield & Langley	James Guthrie	1 Utd. Services Portsmouth	Josh Smith	1
Blackfield & Langley	Jamie White	1		

SYDENHAMS FOOTBALL LEAGUE NEWS



WILTSHIRE SENIOR CUP 2017/18

2016/17 WINNERS-
Swindon Supermarine

1st Round

Bassett Bulldogs [at Salisbury]	0-13	Salisbury
Bemerton Heath Harlequins	8-2	Warminster Town
Calne Town	2-0	Malmesbury Victoria
Devizes Town	1-3 aet	Bremhill
Downton	1-2	Highworth Town
Laverstock & Ford	4-3	Wroughton
Melksham Town	5-0	Mere Town
New College Swindon	0-5	Chippenham Park
Pewsey Vale	5-0	Corsham Town
Purton	1-2	Amesbury Town
Royal Wootton Bassett Town	4-1	Cricklade Town
Shrewton United	0-7	Chippenham Town
Swindon Supermarine	H/W	Ludgershall Sports
Westbury United	4-0	Marlborough Town

2nd Round

Bremhill	2-1	Amesbury Town
Calne Town	0-3	Bemerton Heath Harlequins
Chippenham Park	4-1	Pewsey Vale
Chippenham Town	2-1	Melksham Town
Highworth Town	H/W	Laverstock & Ford
Royal Wootton Bassett Town	4-0	Trowbridge Town
Salisbury	3-1	Swindon Supermarine
Westbury United	3-2 aet	Bradford Town

Quarter Final

Bremhill	0-3	Bemerton Heath Harlequins
Chippenham Town	3-1	Chippenham Park
Royal Wootton Bassett Town	2-5	Highworth Town
Westbury United	0-1	Salisbury

Semi Final

Chippenham Town at Melksham Town FC	8-0	Bemerton Heath Harlequins
Salisbury at Melksham Town FC	1-2	Highworth Town

Final

Chippenham Town At County Ground Swindon Town FC	3-0	Highworth Town
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TEAM	PLAYER	TEAM	PLAYER	
Bemerton Heath Harlequins	Jake Rawkins	5 Bemerton Heath Harlequins	Jake Burgess	1
Bemerton Heath Harlequins	Seb Dawes	3 Bemerton Heath Harlequins	Kelvin Robinson	1
Bemerton Heath Harlequins	Russell Jones	3 Bemerton Heath Harlequins	Jack Slade	1
Laverstock & Ford	Lewis Wykes	2 Downton	Ben Smith	1
Amesbury Town	Luke Greenway	1 Laverstock & Ford	Adam Bournier	1
Amesbury Town	Matt Sherfield	1 Laverstock & Ford	Olly Hoare	1
Amesbury Town	Kieran Stephens	1		

Next time we'll look at the other cup ties that our teams entered in 2017/18.

SYDENHAMS FOOTBALL LEAGUE NEWS

BEEN. SEEN – AND MOSTLY – ENJOYED.

A PERSONAL VIEW OF THE SEASON IN TERMS OF MATCHES SEEN. ALL THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ARE PURELY THOSE OF THE WRITER

On to MARCH and heading towards the business end of the season with the weather showing no sign of ceasing its interference as regards fixtures being played when scheduled. However March did bring an increase in the number of matches seen and the offer of the odd lift also stretched the travel boundaries a little further.

First port of call though was only twelve miles from home and the Denplan ground at Winchester, though it may perhaps bear another name nowadays. The Hampshire Senior Cup competition had reached the semi final stage and the Sydenhams League's last representatives, Blackfield & Langley, had been drawn away at Winchester, currently a level above them on the footballing pyramid. The visitors slowly worked themselves in to the game after a cautious opening and opened the scoring midway through the half and if there was a touch of luck about the goal then, as underdogs, they perhaps deserved it. They made ground down the left and a fierce cross or shot – it could have been either – took a wicked deflection off Joe Butcher and in to the net. From that point on Blackfield were simply the better side, defending strongly and always dangerous on the break, whilst the home side put on a rather laboured display and with no further goals it was the lesser side who moved on to the Final at St. Mary's. A good night for Blackfield – the first occasion they had reached the Final – and a taste perhaps of what would face them after their already almost assured promotion. Mention also of the best display of refereeing seen all season. James Robinson, formerly of the Wessex League, was in charge and never put a foot wrong all evening – one can but hope a few of his lesser compatriots were watching.

Back to the Premier Division and the visit of Portland to Andover. A nice Club with nice people who were struggling to repeat their success of the previous season and this was another chastening day on the road. An early goal put the home side ahead and after that there was only going to be one winner with the scoreline finishing at 4-0 as Andover continued to vie with Blackfield at the top of the table.

Midweek and a mile up the road from the Portway and the local Derby between Andover New Street and Whitchurch in the Andover Open Cup, though at what stage of the Competition is anybody's guess – it is a notoriously difficult Competition of which to keep track. Given that the two sides were roughly at differing ends of the Division One table a home win was always on the cards and so it proved, but not without a struggle. As they had done at the Portway a few weeks earlier, Whitchurch battled and fought for ninety minutes only to go down by the odd goal in three after a very enjoyable game.

Saturday and the accepted offer of a lift to Hamworthy which apart from Portland is the furthest in terms of miles from home. The Dorset side were enjoying a good season, especially at home, and on a cold and windy afternoon the two sides served up a very enjoyable game of football. The visitors scored first only to concede an equaliser on the stroke of half time, and the second half continued in the same vein until there were 20 minutes remaining at which stage Andover made a substitution that certainly was to warrant the description "inspired". On came Manny Soetan in minute seventy, four minutes later he lashed the ball in to the top of the net from some thirty yards and within a further four minutes he had completed his hat trick and it was game over, For Andover a case of "cometh the hour cometh the man(ny)" or "Manna from heaven". Either way it was a total game changer.

From 70 miles away to a mere 7-minute stroll to see Overton again in the Hampshire Premier League. The visitors were Infinity who were going well in the League and this was a first sighting of same. After twenty minutes all present were wondering as to the final outcome as by that stage Overton were four goals down and had had a player dismissed for a totally unwarranted volley of abuse at the referee. Perhaps Infinity, with a clutch of ex-Wessex League players in their ranks, took their foot off the pedal, and certainly Overton never gave up, but there were surprisingly no further goals in the rather tepid remaining seventy minutes.

Back to the Portway and the first ever visit of Baffins Milton Rovers and the first time I had come across them in the season to date. And they were impressive. From minute one they ran the game, were on top of the home side throughout, and thoroughly deserved their three goal victory. After performances such as that it

SYDENHAMS FOOTBALL LEAGUE NEWS

is perhaps unfair to single out one player but Callum Dart, the smallest player on the field, was outstanding and is obviously another off the Baffins production line.

Midweek saw a trip to Bashley, another always enjoyable place to visit, to see if Andover could bounce back from Saturday. They did but without a lot of conviction and Bashley could certainly rue the final result. No goals in the opening half but a “mad” ten minutes midway through the second period. Firstly a defensive mix up and an air shot from the home keeper gifted Andover the opening goal before each side were awarded a penalty in quick succession, with the Andover one being somewhat soft. Certainly had the referee had the same view as the writer it would surely not have been given but he can only give what he sees. Andover scored theirs and to add insult to injury from Bashley’s point of view theirs was saved by the visiting keeper. They did pull a goal back in stoppage time but too little, too late.

Good Friday was Boxing Day all over again. Only one Wessex League fixture scheduled – and that was rained off – and rain everywhere else as well. But the Western League came to the rescue with a lunchtime kick off at Devizes and a very helpful Club Secretary. He answered my e-mail of the previous evening saying the game was “almost certain to be played” and sent me a further e-mail on Friday morning saying “game on”. First visit to Devizes for about six years and little had changed though the pot holes encountered last time on the road to the ground probably now justified the description “craters”. Devizes and Corsham were a fair way apart in the table and the game resulted in a fairly routine win for the home side but no matter how many games one has seen there is always something new to crop up. Corsham’s goal was scored by their goalkeeper in open play – a long clearance that bounced once and sailed over his counterpart at the other end who was wandering around outside his penalty area at the time. I have never witnessed a similar goal before and to make it even more notable it was probably Corsham’s only shot on target in the ninety minutes. A very wet ride home over Salisbury Plain to complete the day and with the weather still winning it was the safe option the following day and another visit to Alton for their Division One fixture with New Milton. The visitors have a reputation of being hard to beat but on the day they had no answer to a first class performance from the home side who scored twice in each half to record a comfortable victory. If only they could take their home form away with them!

All in all an enjoyable month’s watching.

PLAYER AND CLUB NEWS

Christchurch Football Club are looking to fill the role of first team coach for the upcoming season, previous experience at this or a similar level is essential. If you’re interested in applying for the role, please contact first team manger Oliver Cherrett on 07788 282383.

THE LAST WORD-

With regard to next season the changes to the Premier Division are as follows;

Blackfield & Langley promoted to Step Four, Amesbury Town, Andover Town, Newport and Petersfield Town relegated to Division One.

Changes to Division One- Christchurch, Andover New Street and Tadley Calleva promoted to the Premier Division, no new clubs promoted into the First Division.

This means there will be 20 Clubs in the Premier Division and 19 in Division One.

There will be changes to how the Newsletter is distributed in the coming weeks, so please keep an eye out for how to continue to receive the Newsletter going forwards.