

The Sydenhams Football League (Wessex)



WESSEX WEEKLY



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WELCOME

Welcome to the Sydenhams Football League (Wessex) newsletter Issue number 28. If your club has any news, events that need advertising or any other publicity that they require, please contact

media.wessexleague@googlemail.com

LEAGUE NEWS

BOARD MEETING – There is a monthly, Sydenhams Football League (Wessex) Board Meeting for league officers to be held at Totton & Eling Sports Club on Monday 15th February 2010, commencing at 19.00pm.

CLUBS OF THE MONTH – Wimborne Town have been awarded with the Premier Division Club Of The Month award for January 2010 and Fleet Spurs have won the same award but for Division One. Congratulations to both of those clubs.

CLUB RECRUITMENT – As a league ran by volunteers, we at the Sydenhams Football League (Wessex) appreciate the difficulties with recruiting new volunteers and club officials. We would like to assist your clubs where possible in the recruiting and running of your clubs. The league can offer a range of methods to assist clubs with recruitment, from posters advertising vacancies to be distributed within the local community, to adverts on the official website and in the newsletter. The official website, www.wessexleague.co.uk regularly receives in excess of 800 visitors per day and on a weekend can often receive up to 2,000 visits in one day. Therefore we as a league would like to encourage any clubs that are seeking out new volunteers to contact us and we will assist you in any way that we possibly can.

CUP FINAL VENUES – Any clubs seeking to be considered a venue for a cup final are urged to contact Alf Peckham either by telephone, 02380 868620 or by post, 22 Bearslane Close, Calmore, Totton, Southampton, Hampshire, SO40 2FF.

NEW WEBSITE – The Sydenhams Football League (Wessex) are in the final stages of completing work on a new website. Whilst the website is not ready to launch yet, it is nearing completion and is taking great shape. The league will be in touch in due course regarding the launch of the new website.

PHOTOGRAPHS – Following a request in previous newsletters, I would like to pass on my thanks to those clubs that have sent images and logos for a photo montage that I will be producing in coming weeks for the Dinner Dance at the Novotel hotel on Saturday 19th June 2010. If you have any further images, please continue to send these to media.wessexleague@googlemail.com.

CLUB NEWS

BOURNEMOUTH FC – The Poppies have completed the signature of former Poole Town midfielder Andy Culliford. Culliford made his Poppies debut alongside fellow new signing James Pinder, in Bournemouth's 2-1 home Premier Division victory against Moneyfields at Victoria Park.

CHRISTCHURCH – Priory manager Graham Kemp has admitted that any success this season will be a fitting tribute to former player, Marc Burrows, who sadly passed away a year ago this week.

CHRISTCHURCH – held a drinks evening at their Hurn Bridge ground in memory of former player, Marc Burrows, and the evening, although not official, was a small gathering for club officials, players, supporters and anybody associated with the former Christchurch player.

HAMWORTHY UNITED – The Hammers have been dealt a blow with the news that midfielder Stuart Cannie will be out injured for at least two weeks after pulling his hamstring in his sides' 1-1 away draw at Romsey Town. Cannie limped off in the 35th minute but Hamworthy managed to salvage a draw with an equalizer in the second half at The Bypass Ground.

HORNDEN – The Division One club have signed goalkeeper Aaron Arms and they have also completed the signature of defender Ashley Donald from fellow Division One side, AFC Portchester.

MONEYFIELDS – Both the Chairman and Secretary at Moneyfields FC have new contact email addresses. These addresses are chairman@moneyfieldsfc.co.uk and secretary@moneyfieldsfc.co.uk.

RINGWOOD TOWN – have signed midfielder Jake Ormond from Premier Division side, Lymington Town. Ormond, who has previously played for Bournemouth Poppies, links up with former manager Wayne Lockey at Long Lane.

WIMBORNE TOWN – hosted a mid-week mid-season friendly against Dorset Premier League side, Portland United. The Magpies

MATCH REPORTS – MIDWEEK

Amesbury Town 1-3 AFC Portchester (Division One)

By TONY HINCHLIFFE at Bonnymead Park

Portchester made their intentions clear from the outset by taking a third minute lead as a cross field ball found Mamadou SANO in space just inside the area and he drilled the ball past Tommy Allatt. There was still belief in the Blues ranks that they could overcome this early setback but chances were few and far between at either end as both defences took control over their opponent's forwards. Neil Sole headed a Danny Western corner across the face of the Portchester goal but Daryl Charman's shot lacked the power to beat Peter Rice in the visitors' goal. Portchester were starting to boss the game with their defence, well marshaled by their skipper Phil Turrell, putting the shutters up and denying the Blues any chances to get

any clear shots on goal. The interval came with that early goal still separating the teams and there was certain reluctance for the sparse crowd to venture out of the warmth of the clubhouse to witness the second period. Allatt soon came to the Blues rescue saving well from a Portchester forward in a one on one situation and Danny Finnigan came on to replace Tom Western who limped off the field with an injury. It seemed that the away victory was secure though just past the hour mark when Dale CLARK latched on to a long clearance by goalkeeper Rice and beat Allatt from just inside of the box. At the other end the Blues had a glorious chance to reduce the arrears when, from a goalmouth scramble, Rice saved from Finnigan and Craig Wheeler blasted the rebound over the bar. With just ten minutes remaining Portchester were awarded a penalty when Dave Wade brought down Simon Woods in the penalty area and Neville FARLEY gave Allatt no chance with the spot kick. Within two minutes however the Blues were themselves awarded a spot kick (their 4th in two games) as Matt Western was adjudged to have been held back as he skipped through on the right and, brother, Danny Western took the kick. Rice though got down to block the shot but CHARMAN was on hand to convert the rebound.

Hayling United 2-5 Poole Town (Premier Division)

By STEPHEN HAYWARD at Hayling College

The first home game for some months for the first team squad couldn't have started much better against our illustrious visitors when Nathan Paxton took advantage of the rarity of the Dolphins defence being at sixes and sevens, slotting home with about three minutes on the clock. Poole made an immediate response, with skipper Carl Poore racing to the other end of the pitch from his right back position to give Tony Harrop in the Hayling goal his first hand warmer, saving really well down to his left, pushing it out for a corner, from which the visitors were unable to capitalise. After another quarter of an hour had passed with Poole getting themselves finally into gear, it was yet another pleasing upset as far as the Humbugs supporters were concerned when the Poole midfield were dispossessed by Burney, who then played it to Paxton who under a challenge returned it to his strike partner to apply a good finish from about 16 metres out past Nic Jones in the Dolphins goal. The 'Bugs had started at a great tempo and had managed to match high flying Poole for much of the half so far. Pity the ref couldn't blow up there and then to end the game! Poole hit back just minutes later, when, from a long throw by Stuart Brown, striker Steve Smith finished well to peg back the home side. 2-1. Hayling were nearly able to regain their two goal advantage straight away when almost from the restart Burney had a great chance in front of goal but was unable to take advantage. It was end to end stuff as both sides were playing open and expansive football and keeping the crowd amused, epitomised when Brown pulled a beautiful ball back across the box that had all the home fans wondering just who would poke it home, but no one did and they breathed a sigh of relief. There was a long stoppage for an injury to Paxton as he was on the end of an unfortunate clash with Taffy Richardson's boot, but even so the ref added what I made to be, about 13 minutes of injury time, and unfortunately for the home side the Dolphins leapt at a chance to equalise late on in that period. It came from a corner that made it to the centre of the six-yard box, and in his attempt to punch clear, and under some duress, Harrop punched the ball goal ward for the half time score of 2-2.

The second half got underway and it was fairly evident that the visitors were the ones that had got their heads around what to do next. Brown was thwarted by Harrop with another class save, and this was followed up by another set piece costing the hosts a third goal. From a corner the clearance was poor, and Ross Lloyd chipped the ball back into the six-yard box where Walker was there to knock in a simple finish at the far post. On 74 minutes Carl Preston was then denied by an inform Harrop, but only a minute or so later he was helpless to stop Smith, from another corner putting the visitors 2-4 up. The home side had given last season's champs a run for their money in a much improved performance, especially in the first half, but the Dolphins finished it off at the death when on 90 minutes that man Smith gained his hatrick when Hayling failed to contest a header and Smith reacted the quicker to force home Poole's fifth.

Romsey Town 1-1 Hamworthy United (Premier Division)

By ROGER NICHOLSON at The Bypass Ground

After a first half largely dominated by the Home side, and finding themselves a goal down at the break, the Hammers battled back in the second half to earn a well deserved point. Manager Simon Browne made one of his rare starts in place of the unavailable Steve Llewelyn. Max Crow took over the Captains arm band. The only down side of the game came when Stuart Cannie hobbled off with a reoccurrence of his hamstring pull, and now looks set for a long layoff. The game was played on a sticky bumpy pitch which led to a variable bounce of the ball and made close control very difficult. Despite this Romsey set off at a terrific pace, and soon had United on the back foot with some long accurate passes that exploited the space behind the Hamworthy defence for their fast forwards to run onto. It was all Romsey as the Hammers at times defended desperately to try and stem the continual flow of attacks that came at them. On a rare break Jamie Barron went very close with a shot that went just wide, and the Town Keeper struggling to cover. Just as it looked as though United were perhaps going to weather the storm they conceded a goal on twenty three minutes. Two Hamworthy defenders slipped as they desperately tried to clear the ball out of a crowded penalty box. This allowed the Romsey man the time and space to smash the ball past Max Frampton and give his Team the lead that they thoroughly deserved. To their credit United did not crumble as they might have done earlier in the season. They gradually clawed their way back into the game, and did well to keep the lead down to a single goal, and create a few chances of their own before the break. Hamworthy continued to improve after the break and gradually began to get the upper hand, and control the game. It was the Town's turn to spend most of their time defending as United came more and more into the game. Lee Diaper was now giving his full back a torrid time out on the wide right, going past his man almost at will. Greg Horlock scooped the ball just over the bar as he lunged at a low cross into the six yard box, and Joe Toghill hit the ball straight at the Keeper after being put through on goal. Lee Diaper got the winner cutting in from the right, and hitting a great shot past the stranded Keeper into the far corner of the net. The same player should have scored again a minute later, but this time hit the ball straight at the advancing Romsey Keeper. The last ten minutes of the game saw both Teams going all out for the winner with both defences at times at full stretch. Manager Simon Browne did well to make a last ditch clearance off the line with Max Frampton well beaten. Hamworthy I am sure would have gladly settled for a draw at half time, but must have been a little disappointed at the end not to have snatched a win, having created much the better chances in the second period.

MATCH REPORTS – WEEKEND

Amesbury Town 6-0 AFC Aldermaston (Division One)

By TONY HINCHLIFFE at Bonnymead Park

Without Ben Smith in the visitor's goal the Blues could so easily have taken the lead in the first minute but the Aldermaston keeper made two good stops from a goalmouth scramble to turn the ball around his post. Finnigan then headed over from a good position following a late run into the box and Daryl Charman's attempted lob from 25 yards lacked the power to go over Smith's outstretched arms. It was becoming one way traffic with Aldermaston offering little to trouble the Blues defence or give goalkeeper Tommy Allatt any shot of note to deal with. The first goal did come just after the hour mark with CHARMAN heading home a Danny Western corner and WESTERN himself added number two six minutes later running at the visitors defence from midfield and shooting home after keeper Smith had blocked his first effort. Western then saw his free kick hit the near post and roll along the goal line before Craig WHEELER scored the third goal just before the break, scoring from close range after good work on the right from Gareth Horner and Matt Western. After the interval the Blues continued their dominance and added a fourth in the 59th minute when Danny WESTERN beat Smith to a through ball and hooked the ball into an empty net whilst on the ground having been challenged in the area. Smith was having a good game for the visitors and he dived full length to turn Danny Western's free kick behind for a corner. Young defender Allan McPHIE came up score the fifth, heading home a Danny Western cross from close range and WHEELER bagged his second goal of the game after Smith could only parry Danny Western's stinging

angled shot. Both sixteen year old subs Vallis and Hope came on for the Blues with the latter making his debut and the game ended with Smith tipping Wheeler's header over the bar to deny the Blues winger his hat trick.

Bemerton Heath Harlequins 0-2 Alresford Town (Premier Division)

By GREGORY BOUGHTON at Western Way

Goals from defenders James Davis and Melvin Rogers capped Alresford's most impressive result of the season to date as they inflicted defeat on a Bemerton side that had started the day on top of the table with only three previous league reverses.

The hosts started at a gallop, with Danny Edwards heading a goalbound effort off his own line with only ten seconds on the clock. James Rowe then hit the Magpies' bar, while Dan Chapman made several good saves and the visitors survived some hectic goalmouth scrambles before settling down to take a grip they were never to relinquish. Martin Rogers served up a taste of what was to come with a 17th-minute header that was saved by Harlequins' Stuart Parsons. But six minutes after that the Magpies took the lead when Rogers miscontrolled Matt Dawson's pass and Davis slotted home the loose ball. The visiting side held out in relative comfort until the break, but the hosts started the second half with renewed vigor, and Chapman was soon in action again with a good diving save to deny Adam Jones. Then, on 52 minutes, Alresford clinched the game with a second goal. Central defender Melvin Rogers, who has been rather eclipsed by his striker brother in the goalscoring stakes this season, met Chris Morris's right wing corner with a thumping header that gave Parsons no chance. Dawson almost added a third when a penetrating Kieran Gallagher surge left him with only Parsons to beat, but he hesitated a little too long and ended up skying the ball over the Bemerton crossbar. At the other end, Chapman saved from Rowe on 71 minutes, but otherwise had little to do as his team-mates concentrated on holding on to their lead. In the end they accomplished their task in some comfort, and can look forward to this week's two home games with some confidence after this excellent performance and result.

Fleet Spurs 0-1 Stockbridge (Division One)

By JOHN PORTER at Kennels Lane

Spurs' long unbeaten run finally came to an end with a whimper rather than a bang against Stockbridge. Both sides were weakened by injuries and other absences, but Fleet started strongly and soon established a dominance which lasted for the whole of the first half. However, crucially they were unable to convert this dominance into goals, being foiled by some good saves by keeper Alex Thompson, but also missing a number of straightforward goal chances. The visitors were relieved to get to the break on even terms, but the home supporters felt a sense of impending doom following the inability to convert so much possession into even one goal. After the break, Spurs became increasingly desperate as they turned to route one football, although keeper Thompson had to make good saves from a well-placed free kick from skipper Luke Thorn and a point-blank effort from substitute Neil Selby. Stockbridge were coming more into the game with a number of threatening raids through the centre of Spurs' defence mainly featuring the dangerous Steve Witt, and it was no real surprise when the inevitable happened. Witt sidestepped a number of half-hearted attempted challenges and gave Nick Coates an easy chance which he dispatched coolly past Fleet keeper Mark Appleby. Spurs continued to attack but created very little, and the game finished with Spurs having only themselves to blame for the defeat.

Ringwood Town 2-1 United Services Portsmouth (Division One)

By JY TAYLOR at the Canotec Stadium

RTFC went into the game against United Services looking for a 5th win in 5 matches to ensure their unbeaten start to 2010 continued. Things did not go to plan after US Portsmouth took the lead on 8 minutes. Some poor pressure from Ringwood allowed the visitors to cut their opponents open far too easily down the home side's right. A diagonal ball over the top of Leadbetter at left back allowed a cross to be met easily by Barnes to open the scoring. From that moment on the game was Ringwood's. After a sluggish start the New Forest side sprang to life with Danny Taylor pulling the strings. Dominant for the

next 10 minutes Ringwood's equalizer was only a matter of time. Indeed on 25 minutes it was Taylor who created a bit of magic. As a ball over the top of the visiting right back was deftly brought down by Taylor, he then added a piece of awesome skill to beat his man and cross the ball for Burnett to smash high into the roof of the net. The rest of the half saw RTFC camped in the opponents half but they could not force an advantage. United Services obviously felt they were still very much in the match and looked dangerous on the break, although Page was happy to sweep up any long ball over the top. The second half continued much as the first with Portsmouth hoping to catch Ringwood on the break but with the home side having much of the territory. Ormond should have made it 2 goals in 2 appearances on 60 minutes following a through ball by Pete Clarke. However the nippy winger seemed surprised that the ball made it to him and his tame shot hit the keeper when faced one-on-one with the stopper. Ringwood adapted to a second-half dismissal for each side quickly, switching to 3 at the back and bring Dan Morrell on for the tiring Paul Burnett. Morrell was soon involved as RTFC took the lead on 82 minutes. A goal of real quality was needed to win the match and it came with a fantastic move from Ringwood. Skipper Burrett started with the ball at right back. He switched the play to Dan Morrell at left back who moved the ball forward to Pete Clarke on left midfield. A reverse pass back to Morrell who had continued his run on the inside of Clarke allowed the full back to carry the ball into the middle of the park. His left foot then produced a glorious ball over his opposite number to Danny Taylor who was left to execute and exquisite chip over the on-coming keeper.

THE WEEKEND BY CAMERA....



POOLE TOWN 3-0 ALTON TOWN thanks to Andrew Orman



MONEYFIELDS 0-3 WIMBORNE TOWN thanks to David Hayter

POINT TO PONDER

POOLE TOWN and WIMBORNE TOWN are both currently eight games unbeaten in the Premier Division. Both sides' excellent recent form has seen them rise towards the summit of the top flight. BRADING TOWN have also found some form of late as the Islanders are currently four games unbeaten.

In Division One, FLEET SPURS' incredible recent good form was ended by STOCKBRIDGE on Saturday. Now, RINGWOOD TOWN and DOWNTON are the two in-form sides in Division One as both teams are currently five games unbeaten and HAMBLE ASSC and PETERSFIELD TOWN are both four games unbeaten.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK?

On Monday night, there is a Combination cup quarter-final clash which sees GOSPORT BOROUGH RESERVES entertain BROCKENHURST RESERVES.

On Tuesday night, there is a Wessex League cup quarter-final which sees FAREHAM TOWN entertain NEWPORT (IOW).

In Combination Division One, RINGWOOD TOWN RESERVES entertain AFC TOTTON RESERVES whilst in Combination Division Two, WHITCHURCH UNITED RESERVES host AFC ALDERMASTON RESERVES.

In Division One, AFC PORTCHESTER are at home to WHITCHURCH UNITED whilst FLEET SPURS entertain FARNBOROUGH NORTH END in a local derby and HORNDEAN play at home to STOCKBRIDGE.

In the Premier Division, ALRESFORD TOWN host NEW MILTON TOWN, ALTON TOWN play at home against BOURNEMOUTH POPPIES and POOLE TOWN entertain LAVERSTOCK & FORD. TOTTON & ELING host CHRISTCHURCH and WIMBORNE TOWN play at home to LYMINGTON TOWN.

In the Portsmouth Senior Cup on Tuesday night, HAYLING UNITED entertain PAULSGROVE whilst PETERSFIELD TOWN are in action at home to LOCKS HEATH.

On Wednesday night, there is another Combination cup quarter-final which sees CHRISTCHURCH RESERVES at home to HAYLING UNITED RESERVES.

There are a couple of Combination Division One fixtures; HAMBLE ASSC RESERVES host PETERSFIELD TOWN RESERVES whilst VT FC RESERVES travel to MONEYFIELDS RESERVES.

In Combination Division Two, DOWNTON RESERVES are at home to ALRESFORD TOWN RESERVES.
In Division One, UNITED SERVICES PORTSMOUTH entertain DOWNTON whilst WARMINSTER TOWN are at home to SHAFTESBURY.
In the Premier Division, BROCKENHURST travel to BRADING TOWN.

On Thursday night, FARNBOROUGH NORTH END entertain FRIMLEY GREEN in the Aldershot Senior Cup.

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