



ROYALS REVIEW

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2025

BOGNOR REGIS TOWN

THE PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE
SOUTH CENTRAL DIVISION



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A VERY WARM WELCOME TO AFC PORTCHESTER

A very warm welcome to AFC Portchester for our first ever game at Step 4 level of the non league pyramid system – a day the club have waited a long time for.

We extend a warm welcome to our visitors Bognor Regis Town – welcome to the players, officials and supporters of today's visiting team and also to the match officials.

We hope you all enjoy your visit to The OnSite Group Stadium this afternoon.

We also thank the sponsors of today's Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division game, The OnSite Group, as well as for their continued support as the club's main sponsors.

Well the club certainly made the news this week thanks to Lee Wort's wonder goal. Millions of people have now seen his 'Rabona' style strike



into the net against Melksham Town here at The OnSite Group Stadium on Tuesday night.

It is one of those moments which will forever be written into Royals folklore and it capped a brilliant evening to kick off our home campaign for the 2025-26 season.

Today we start on a journey into the unknown – Step 4 football and the Isthmian League.

It is a day longed for by so many people at this football club who have put in years of hard work to enable AFC Portchester to reach this point.

It's an historic day for the club and whatever the result this afternoon, it is another important milestone in the club's progression.

As we've said so many times before you, our supporters, have a massive part to play in the season ahead.

There will be plenty of new challenges along the way and new places to visit. We have been so fortunate to have your backing home and away in such large numbers and we need that again during the season ahead.



AFC PORTCHESTER CLUB OFFICIALS

CHAIRMAN: Paul Kelly

VICE CHAIRMAN: Graeme Moir

SECRETARY: Simon Hawkins

TREASURER/FINANCE DIRECTOR:

Trevor Deacon

YOUTH CHAIRMAN: Phil Jeynes

LADIES SECTION CHAIRMAN: Mark Dugan

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Gav Spurway,
Lewis Millington

AFC Portchester Holdings Limited Company Number 12964219. Registered Office address : 223 Southampton Road, Portchester, Hampshire, PO6 4PY.

In accordance with rule 2.13: Publication of ownership in relation to step 1 to step 6 clubs within the football pyramid, we hereby confirm that the legal status of AFC Portchester Football Club takes the form of a company limited by shares.

It has a constitution which sets out the rules that govern its relationship and membership and elects a management committee to run the organisation on behalf of its members.

The following shareholders have PSC status TRL Investments Limited and Trevor Deacon



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He's The One

Lee Pashley as



Robbie Williams

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AFC PORTCHESTER HONOURS

FIRST TEAM

Hampshire Senior Cup Winners
– 2023-24
Runners-up – 2024-25

Wessex League Premier
Division Winners – 2024-25

Wessex League Premier
Division Promotion Play Off
Semi Finalists – 2023-24

Wessex League Division 1
Runners-up – 2011-12

Wessex League Cup Winners –
2014-15, 2017-18, 2024-25.
Runners-up – 2023-24

Wessex League Charity Cup
Winners – 2023-24, 2025-26

Russell Cotes Cup Winners –
2013-14, 2016-17, 2024-25

Portsmouth Senior Cup
Winners – 2024-25. Runners-
up – 2017-18

Hampshire League Division 2
Runners-up – 1999-2000

Division 1 Winners – 2001-02

Portsmouth and District League
Runners-up – 1997-98

RESERVES

Hampshire Intermediate Cup
Winners – 2011-12

Wyvern League Premier
Division Winners – 2014-15,
2015-16

Wyvern League East Division
Runners-up – 2011-12

LADIES

Southern Region Women's
League Division 1 South
Winners – 2023-24

Hampshire County Women's
League Division 3 Winners –

2015-16, 2020-21

Division 2 Runners-up –
2016-17, 2021-22

Division 1 Winners – 2022-23

Hampshire County Women's
League Invitation Cup Winners
– 2021-22

Hampshire FA Women's Junior
Cup Winners – 2015-16

Hampshire FA Women's Trophy
Winners – 2021-22

PDFA Women's Senior Cup
Runners-up – 2023-24

Reserves – Hampshire County
Women's League Division 2
Winners – 2024-25

Development – Hampshire
County Women's League
Division 6 Winners –
2024-25



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Ahhh competitive non league football, how we've missed you!

It doesn't seem all that long ago Oldham Athletic were partying on the Wembley turf as the curtain came down on the 2024-25 season.

But, for the vast majority in the National League System, a three month wait for league action is finally over.

Steps 5 and 6 are already under way and lots were in FA Cup action last weekend – now Steps 1 to 4 are also set for the big kick-off.

Of course, this time of the year is awash with optimism for so many. Those exciting summer signings, the new kits, the fresh unblemished pitches – there's not many supporters who don't feel this could be their year.

Will York City be quick to banish the memories of last season's play-off semi final defeat?

How do the Step 1 new boys like Brackley Town and Truro City start? Is the National League South title race going to be as epic as we expect?

Who will be this year's Step 4 club that race off into an early lead and canter to glory? Where will the FA Cup shocks come?

It's all ahead of us and we can't wait to tell those stories between now and May.

We'll even be talking about them on our new weekly Non-League Goal Mouth YouTube show. Check that out if you haven't already.

It's not all been sunshine and rainbows this summer. The ongoing Morecambe takeover saga has shown the other side of this so-called beautiful game, with their fans facing the very real prospect of not being able to watch their team this season.

There's been plenty of debate across the board – and in our pages – on their dire situation and we all feel for their supporters.

Thankfully there are plenty of success stories of clubs who have come through the other side that loyal Shrimps can hopefully take solace from.

Many of them are kicking off this weekend with a new sense of hope. They say it's time for the talking to stop – but it's only just beginning.

Make sure you check out our famous Non-League Fantasy Football game.

Pick your clubs to lead you to glory in 2025-26 with the overall winner bagging £1,000.

There are Manager of the Month prizes throughout the season too – even for finishing bottom! Check out The Non League Paper this Sunday for your entry form.

THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME



HISTORY BEING MADE AS ROYALS MAKE THE STEP UP

The Royals will be making history today when they finally play their first ever league game at Step 4 level of the non-league football pyramid system.

It has been a long time in the making – ever since the club won promotion from Wessex League Division 1 in 2012 they have harboured ambitions of joining the upper levels of non league football.

They went close a number of times – a third place finish in the Premier Division in 2014-15 under then manager Graham Rix and they endured final day heartbreak at the end of the 2022-23 season when after leading the division for most of the season, they went into their final game of the campaign in second place but lost to Bemerton Heath Harlequins and finished the night in fourth place.

The 2023-24 season saw them knocked out of the promotion play-offs at the semi final stage when Brett Pitman's goal against his old side put Shaftesbury through and set them on course for their eventual promotion.

However, 13 proved to be lucky for Portchester – 13 years after first gaining promotion to the Wessex Premier Division they secured automatic promotion thanks to winning the league title, and going on to add three further trophies to The OnSite Group Stadium's trophy cabinet to complete an unprecedented quadruple.

Over what felt like 13 very long years waiting for the next step up in the pyramid, plenty of investment was made on and off the pitch to ensure the club was in the right position to seize the opportunity of Step 4 football with both hands.

And that doesn't stop with that achievement – the improvements and upgrades keep on coming, with plenty of exciting plans in the pipeline for the future of the club.

Exciting times indeed and the club starts its journey into the unknown looking forward to the new challenges and adventures that lie ahead of it.

Today brings an exciting start to that journey with the visit of Bognor Regis Town to kick-off the new Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division campaign.



It's the first time the two clubs have met in a competitive fixture. There have been pre-season friendly meetings in the past but the clubs have been on different trajectories until now – Bognor enjoying plenty of Step 2 and 3 football while the Royals were stuck at Step 5.

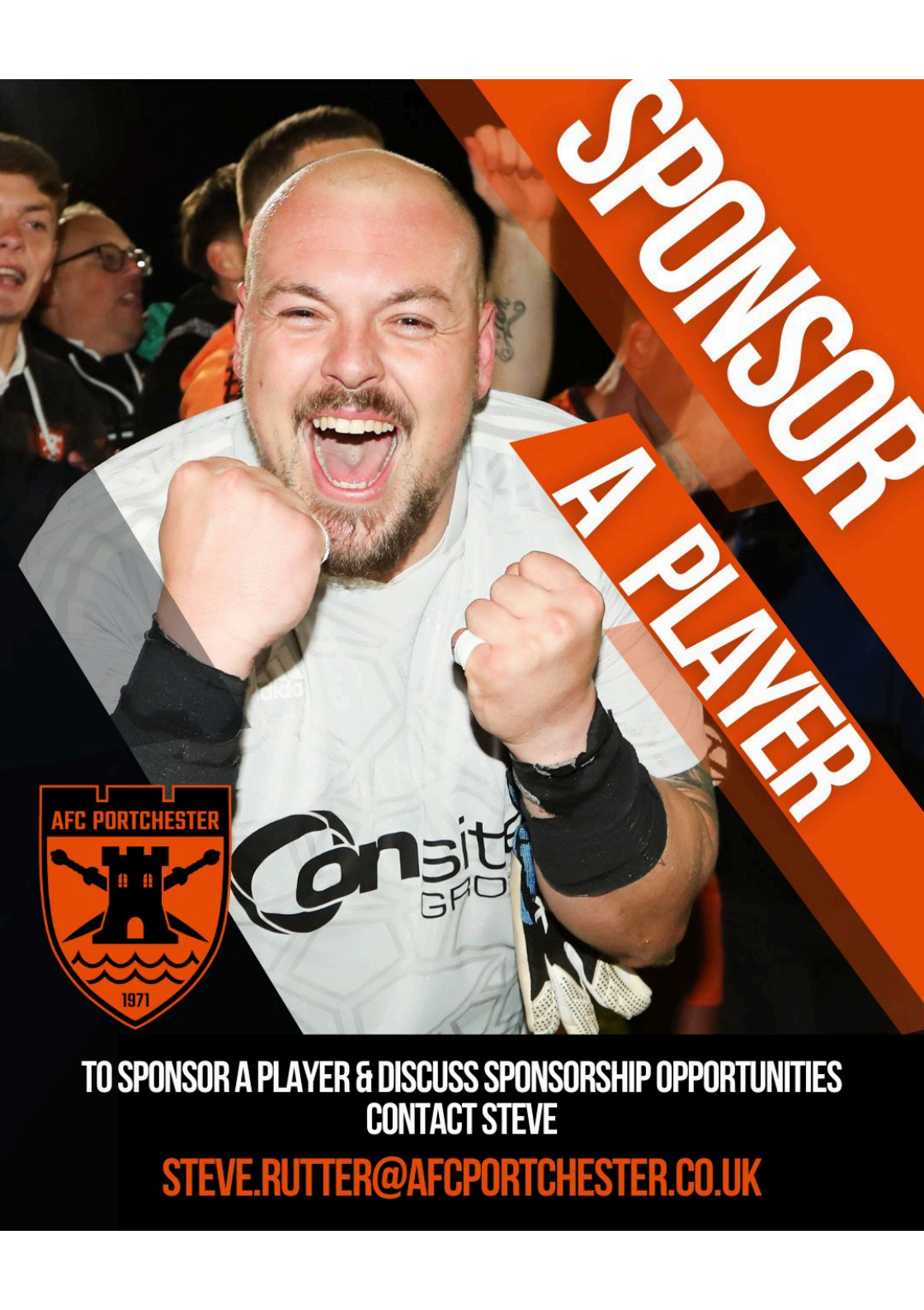
But as is often the way in football and how the fortunes of clubs swing in different directions over time, the two sides are now brought together in the same division and at the same step level for the first time.

It promises to be an historic and fascinating afternoon. History made as the club makes its debut at Step 4 level and fascinating to see how the afternoon pans out for both sides as they start new chapters in their own histories.

Both sides are well supported so a big crowd will no doubt be inside The OnSite Group Stadium to witness this new beginning for AFC Portchester.

It promises to be an exciting afternoon – one that has been long awaited but eagerly anticipated by those backing the Royals.





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A PLAYER**



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STEVE.RUTTER@AFCPORTCHESTER.CO.UK



GEORGE TAKES A LIKING TO THE ROYALS ON FIRST VISIT

He attended his first AFC Portchester game on Tuesday night and now he will be proudly leading out his new favourite team this afternoon as one of our mascots.

George Harmen is pictured above with Kane O'Keefe, Josh Clack and Olly Searle as he watched the Royals in FA Cup action at The OnSite Group Stadium against Melksham Town.

The ten-year-old will be back today to watch the lads in action against Bognor Regis Town in our first ever Isthmian League game.

He travelled from his home in Lancing on Tuesday with his father as they continued their journey around non-league football grounds.

To date the duo have visited 54 stadiums but on Tuesday night they fell in love with our stadium on their very first visit here.

The OnSite Group Stadium is the one they

have loved the most from over half a century of visits to different grounds, and they loved trip number one so much they decided they had to return as soon as possible.

George will be joined by a number of other mascots this afternoon from the youth section of AFC Portchester.

Members of the under-12s Pearls – a girls team within the youth section of the club – will be joining George on the pitch.

Also joining them are members of the AFC Portchester under-nines Castles boys team. We hope all of our mascots enjoy their afternoon with us and they have an important role to play when the two teams come out pre-match.

You will see all of the mascots together leading the home players out on to the pitch as the two teams come out of the dressing rooms.



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FIRST TEAM STATS 25-26

APPEARANCES

PLAYER	GAMES
CONOR BAILEY	2
CALVIN DAVIES	2
JACK LEE	2
STEVEN MOWTHORPE	2
RYAN PENNERY	2
MARLEY RIDGE	2
ALFIE STANLEY	2
ARCHIE WILLCOX	2
CHARLIE WILLIAMSON	2
MAX SMITH	1 (1)
ZACK WILLETT	1 (1)
LEE WORT	1 (1)
ROB TAW	1
CONNOR DUFFIN	0 (2)
OLI DAVIES	0 (1)
ASH HOWES	0 (1)
OWEN PELHAM	0 (1)



GOALS

PLAYER	GOALS
LEE WORT	3
RYAN PENNERY	1
ALFIE STANLEY	1



TODAY'S LEAGUE FIXTURES

PREMIER DIVISION

Billericay Town v Wingate and Finchley
Cheshunt v Welling United
Chichester City v Folkestone Invicta
Cray Valley (PM) v Carshalton Athletic
Cray Wanderers v Canvey Island
Dulwich Hamlet v Dartford
Lewes v Hashtag United
Potters Bar Town v Burgess Hill Town
Ramsgate v Whitehawk
St Albans City v Chatham Town

SOUTH CENTRAL DIVISION

AFC Portchester v Bognor Regis Town
Bedfont Sports v Kingstonian
Binfield v Horndean
Egham Town v Harrow Borough
Hartley Wintney v Hendon
Metropolitan Police v Hanworth Villa
Raynes Park Vale v Fareham Town
South Park Reigate v Hayes and Yeading United
Southall v Moneyfields
Westfield v Leatherhead

NORTH DIVISION

Bowers and Pitsea v Downham Town
Brightlingsea Regent v Newmarket Town
Cambridge City v Lowestoft Town
Concord Rangers v Gorleston
Grays Athletic v Takeley
Maldon and Tiptree v Redbridge
Mildenhall Town v Tilbury
Stanway Rovers Community v Brantham Athletic
Waltham Abbey v Felixstowe and Walton United
Witham Town v Heybridge Swifts
Wroxham v Walthamstow

SOUTH EAST DIVISION

Margate v Jersey Bulls
AFC Whyteleafe v East Grinstead Town
Broadbridge Heath v Crowborough Athletic
Deal Town v Sittingbourne
Hassocks FC v Herne Bay
Hastings United v Erith Town
Merstham v Beckenham Town
Sevenoaks Town v AFC Croydon Athletic
Sheppey United v Ashford United
Three Bridges v Eastbourne Town
VCD Athletic v Faversham Town

THE PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE RESPECT STATEMENT

"The Isthmian Football League strongly supports the Football Association's statement that there should be a zero-tolerance approach against all forms of discrimination.

Any inappropriate conduct towards others, including but not limited to that based on an individual's sex, race, colour, weight, size, religion and belief, national origin, age, marital or domestic-partnership status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender

identity or expression, will not be tolerated and will be reported to the relevant authorities.

The Isthmian League and our Member Clubs are committed to promoting equity and equality by treating all people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and providing access and opportunities for all members of our communities."



WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

BOGNOR REGIS TOWN



THE ROCKS

Bognor Regis Town's co-manager Michael Birmingham says his side will have a game plan for their match at Portchester.

Speaking to Bognor's official website after their 2-0 pre-season victory at Chichester City, Birmingham said he got the reaction he wanted following a 4-1 defeat at Wimborne, and the players would be working hard in training ahead of today's game.

Speaking after the win at Chichester, Birmingham said: "The boys did okay tonight, there is no point going, 'ah yeah, what a result, what a performance', because as we know six days in football is a long time.

"We had a good training session and the boys really took on board what we were asking of them and I thought they did that to a tee against Chichester, every single one of them. They bought into it, they understood their roles and responsibilities but we still have a few things to iron out.

"Portchy is going to be a very different side. They haven't lost at home since October 4 last year. They have won four trophies and it is a fortress there.

"It's a very tough place to go but we will have a game plan and we will work on it Tuesday and Thursday at training."

Bognor were founded in 1883 and the club became founding members of the West Sussex Football League in 1896, joining the Senior Division.

They won the championship of this league for five successive years in the early 1920s, after which they joined the Brighton and Hove District League in 1926.

Just one year later they joined the Sussex County League where they were to remain until 1972. The club became Bognor Regis FC in 1929 after King George V added the suffix 'Regis' to the seaside resort.

The club won the Sussex County Division 1 championship in the 1948-49 season. At the end of that season, they added 'Town' to their name so as not to be confused with the local rugby club.

At the end of the 1969-70 season they were relegated, but won Division 2 at the first attempt. The club won the Division 1 championship title the following season and were promoted to Division 1 South of the Southern League.

In 1972-73 they reached the First Round of the FA Cup for the first time, losing 6-0 at Colchester United. In 1976 Jack Pearce became manager at the age of just 26, and went on to hold the position until 2007.

In 1981 the club were transferred to Division 1 of the Isthmian League, and were promoted at the end of the 1981-82 season after finishing second.

In 1984-85 they reached the First Round of the FA Cup again, beating Swansea City 3-1 in a replay after a 1-1 draw at the Vetch Field. In the Second Round they lost 6-2 at Reading.

They reached the Second Round again the following season, beating Enfield in the First Round, before losing 6-1 at Gillingham.

They went on to reach the First Round again in 1986-87 (losing 1-0 in a replay to Slough Town) and 1987-88 (losing 3-0 at home to Torquay United). In 1988-89 they beat Football League opposition again, defeating Exeter City 2-1, before losing to Cambridge United.

In 1991-92 Bognor finished in the relegation zone, but were reprieved after Dagenham and Redbridge Forest merged. However, the following season they finished bottom of the Premier Division, and were relegated to Division 1.



In 1995-96 they reached the Second Round of the FA Cup for a fourth time, before losing 4-0 at Peterborough United.

In 2002-03 they finished second in Division 1 South, and were promoted back to the Premier Division. After finishing tenth the following year, the club were placed in the newly established Conference South.

They were relegated back to the Isthmian League Premier Division at the end of the 2008-09 season, and were relegated again the following season.

Season 2010-11 saw the club compete in the Isthmian League Division 1 South and they missed out on promotion by the tightest of margins. Having finished with a club record total of 96 points, they lost out in the title race to Metropolitan Police on goal difference by just one goal, having led the table by two points going into the last fixture.

As a result, they found themselves in the end-of-season play-offs, where they lost at home to Dulwich Hamlet who had finished 31 points behind. Revenge was sweet, however, in 2011-12 when they again finished second in Division 1 South. They won the end-of-season play-offs, defeating Godalming Town in a thrilling semi final, before beating Dulwich Hamlet 1-0 in the final, gaining promotion to the Premier Division.

The 2012-13 season saw them finish in 14th place in the Ryman Premier. The 2013-14 season saw Bognor finish in third place but they lost in the play-off semi final at home to Lowestoft Town.

Season 2015-16 saw them miss out on the Ryman Premier title by one point and they then lost in the play-offs to Dulwich Hamlet.

They did however, also enjoy their best ever run in the FA Trophy by reaching the semi finals. They beat Bath City, Maidstone United, Altrincham, Sutton United and Torquay United along the way but they were defeated in the semi final by Grimsby Town – losing 1-0 in the first leg at Nyewood Lane and losing the second leg 2-1 at Blundell Park – 3-1 on aggregate.

Season 2016-17 saw them finish in second place for the second season running, but this time they triumphed in the play-offs, beating Wingate and Finchley in the semi final, before victory over Dulwich Hamlet in the final, to win promotion to the Vanarama National League South for season 2017-18.

Season 2017-18 unfortunately saw the club relegated back to the Isthmian League but 2018-19 did at least bring the excitement of winning the Sussex Senior Cup for the first time in 32 years at Brighton's Amex Stadium, with a 2-1 win after extra time against Burgess Hill Town.

Robbie Blake, the former Premier League striker, was handed the manager's job in March 2022 and in 2022-23 he steered his side to the Sussex Senior Cup final only to lose on penalties to Worthing. The Rocks finished 14th in the league standings that season.

Bognor finished tenth in the Premier Division in 2023-24 but last season saw them finish in 21st position in the final league table and the Rocks were relegated to Step 4 football.



INTRODUCING THE VISITORS

BOGNOR PEN PICS

MAC CHISHOLM – Goalkeeper (Age 22)

Mac Joined the Rocks in July from Littlehampton Town. He also featured in the Baller League on Sky Sports and was in the under-18s set-up at Fulham before joining West Bromwich Albion.

ALFIE BARNES – Goalkeeper (16)

Alfie is a promising talent from Bognor's own youth system and is with the under-18s side.

HARVEY REW – Defender (22)

Harvey joined the Rocks in January and he plays either left centre back or at left back. Rew progressed through Pompey's youth ranks from under-13s and featured for Portsmouth in League 1 seasons 2019-20 and 2020-21. Formerly with Gosport Borough and Horndean.

RYAN THOMAS – Defender (20)

Full-back Ryan was recruited to the Rocks' ranks this summer. He plays predominantly in the right back berth where he is known for his dogged defending and darting runs forward. Formerly of Littlehampton Town, Ryan has also spent time at Horsham.

CHAD FIELD – Defender (28)

Chad re-joined Bognor in December 2024. A central defender, Field first arrived on loan at the Rocks in 2015 from Portsmouth before joining the club permanently a year later. But he tore his anterior cruciate ligament in 2020 and left the club as he focused on his recovery. He was a mainstay at the back for Horndean for several seasons.

TOMMY BLOCK – Defender/Midfield (24)

Signed for Bognor aged 18 and impressed to the point where he earned a big money move to Hibernian. Went on to play many times for Queens Park before returning south to Hampton and Richmond and then Dartford. Has returned to Bognor this summer.

CALLUM BECK – Defender (16)

Callum joined the Rocks in July from Worthing United.



RIO LONG – Defender (16)

After a few seasons away from one of Bognor's youth teams, Rio has impressed since re-joining the under-18s in the Isthmian Youth League, with some calm and composed defensive performances.

MATT JONES – Defender (29)

Matt (pictured above) was previously with Swindon, Chippenham, Farnborough, Hungerford and Weston Super Mare. Joined Bognor in July.

HARVEY WHYTE – Defender /Midfield (33)

Played for the club during two loan spells before signing permanently seven years ago from Havant and Waterlooville. Great ball control and blistering pace makes him very popular with the Rocks faithful. Son of 1980s Rocks favourite Dallas Whyte, Harvey began as a winger but is now an accomplished attacking midfielder. Harvey is the club's captain and lifted the Sussex Senior Cup in 2019.

SAMUEL HOOKEY – Midfield (28)

Sam signed for the club in July and was previously with Horndean and Gosport Borough.



BILLY ALLCOCK – Midfield (18)

Billy joined the Rocks in July, having previously played for Horndean and Liphook.

ETHAN ROBB – Midfield (23)

Utility man Ethan signed for Bognor in July, and it is his second spell at the club. He joined from Horndean.

TOBY KINGSWELL – Midfield (17)

A Bognor youth player, who has adapted well since joining the club's under-18s in the Isthmian Youth League. Shows great maturity in his midfield role and has taken stepping up to the first team in his stride.

ASHTON HORSTEAD – Midfield (17)

A Bognor youth player, who has stepped up well to the club's under-18s in 2024-25. A very tenacious midfielder.

LIAM MURPHY – Midfield (17)

Liam is another Bognor youth player and is now in his second season with the first team and still only 17.

TOMMY SCUTT – Midfield (26)

Progressive midfielder, Tommy joined Bognor for his second spell with the club after switching from Horndean during pre-season. He is a product of the Portsmouth youth set-up. Tommy made 32 appearances at Horndean last season, scoring five times. He also had a loan spell at

Baffins Milton Rovers.

LENNIE SMITH – Forward (17)

A Bognor youth developed player with the under-18s side and stepped up to the first team during 2024-25. A pacy, attacking midfielder with an eye for goal.

DAN GIFFORD – Forward (20)

A skilful forward who originally joined on loan from Portsmouth last season. Dan appeared in the first team at Portsmouth and then left to join Farnborough, returning to Bognor earlier this season. Has also played for Weymouth.

SIMBA MLAMBO – Forward (35)

Striker Simba signed in July and was previously with Winchester City and Fleet Town.

GEORGE BRITTON – Forward (23)

An attacking midfielder, George joined the Rocks after impressing in pre-season. He operates mostly on the left flank and is known for his penetrative attacking runs into the final third. George was formerly with Winchester City, Hungerford Town and Bemerton Heath Harlequins.

CALLUM LAYCOCK – Forward (35)

The Portsmouth-born goal-getter, previously with AFC Stoneham, has joined the Rocks during the close season from Moneyfields, where he was club skipper.

BOGNOR'S COACHING STAFF

MICHAEL BIRMINGHAM – Joint Manager

Michael returned to the club as joint manager with Jamie Howell in mid-December last year after Robbie Blake left the club.

Michael is a former player and skipper of the Rocks and was a fans' favourite thanks to his passion and dynamism in midfield.

He joined Bognor in his new role after managing at Isthmian League South Central Division Horndean.

JAMIE HOWELL – Joint Manager

Jamie returned to the club as joint manager with Michael Birmingham in mid-December last year after Robbie Blake left the club.

Jamie is a former player with the Rocks and managed the team between 2010 and 2017.

During that time, alongside coach Darin Killpartrick, Bognor gained promotion to the

then Conference South.

DAVID BIRMINGHAM – Strength and Conditioning Coach

David began his playing career at Bognor, recovering from a serious leg break at the age of 17 to earn a move to Portsmouth.

After several successful seasons at Fratton Park, David moved to AFC Bournemouth. On retirement from football David became a successful professional boxer and now runs a boxing gym in Portsmouth.

Came back to Bognor this season as fitness and conditioning coach.

Hannah Meaden – Physiotherapist**Justin Jones – Data Analyst****Wes Hallett – Goalkeeper Coach****Lynn Hallett – Kit**

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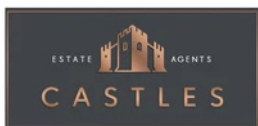
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ROYALS ROMP INTO THE NEXT ROUND OF THE FA CUP

AFC Portchester stormed into the next round of the FA Cup with a resounding 3-1 replay victory over Melksham Town.

The Royals raced into a 2-0 lead after only 22 minutes and Lee Wort's wonder goal on the stroke of half time ensured his side could see out the game in the second half in relative comfort.

Portchester made a fast start to the game and dominated the early exchanges and took the lead on 12 minutes.

Lee Wort picked the ball up in midfield and raced into the left hand side of the penalty area. He knocked the ball on to Ryan Pennery, who pulled it back into the path of Alfie Stanley and he fired home his first goal for Portchester.

Stanley went close to grabbing a second goal four minutes later when he picked up the ball on the right, cut into the penalty area but put his shot into the side netting.

It was 2-0 on 22 minutes when a corner from the right was knocked back across his own goal by a defender and Wort reacted quickest to turn the loose ball into the net.

The visitors had a couple of half chances to score from just outside the box around the half hour mark but on both occasions their shots sailed well over the goal.

The home side went close to getting their third goal on 36 minutes when a ball in from the right was heading straight to Pennery just outside the six yard box.

He would have had a simple tap in if it wasn't for keeper Adam Forster spotting the danger and he just about got across in time to cut the ball out.

A minute later the Royals went even closer when Zack Willett was sent clear thanks to a through ball from midfield and although his shot beat Forster it went narrowly wide of the far post.

There was no stopping Portchester in first half stoppage time though when they netted a goal which has been seen by millions of people on social media.

Some described it as the best goal they had ever seen – it's hard to disagree with them.

Charlie Williamson played the ball up from inside his own half into the right hand side of the penalty area. With his first touch Wort

brought the ball under control and cut inside two defenders and with Forster looking like he was in a good position to deal with any shots fired off, the odds were in the keeper's favour.

However, a touch of genius by Wort saw him try a rabona shot and the ball flew past the keeper's shoulder and into the net. If you haven't seen the video yet search for it on social media – it is a must watch.

The second half proved to be a more even affair with the home side comfortably in front, but they almost got a fourth goal on 54 minutes.

Willett was put in behind the Melksham defence and he tried to dink the ball past the keeper but Forster was able to push the shot away.

Jamal Lawrence had been the danger man up front for Melksham in the first game and he almost got on the scoresheet again three minutes later.

The ball was played into him from the left and he unleashed a vicious dipping shot which only just cleared the crossbar.

On 70 minutes Willett played the ball down the right to Williamson and his cross picked out Wort at the far post but the striker was denied his hat-trick when Forster managed to beat away his effort.

The visitors got themselves on the scoresheet on 76 minutes when keeper Steven Mowthorpe managed to block an initial shot after the ball was played into the box but Lawrence reacted quickest to turn the re-bound home from close range.

Portchester were still creating good chances and they almost restored their three goal advantage when Connor Duffin latched on to a high ball played towards the penalty area.

He turned past his marker and fired off a shot which was heading into the net before a defender's outstretched leg knocked the ball away.

The reward for Portchester's excellent performance is a trip to Moneyfields in the Preliminary Round stage of the Emirates FA Cup. The tie will be played at Moneyfields' John Jenkins Stadium on Saturday, August 16 – kick off is at 3pm.





THE ROYALS IN ACTION



TICKET OFFICE NEWS

Tickets have gone on sale for AFC Portchester's next home Isthmian League game at The OnSite Group Stadium – and supporters are being urged to buy their tickets as soon as possible.

Another opponent from the PO Postcode area will be coming to The OnSite Group Stadium on Bank Holiday Monday, August 25 – kick off 3pm.

Moneyfields are the visitors and these matches are always hotly contested between the two sides – as was the case when the teams met in the final of the Portsmouth Senior Cup at the end of last season.

Big crowds are always in attendance when these two clubs meet and with no Pompey game that day and the Victorious Festival already completed, what better way to enjoy the end of the Bank Holiday weekend than a local derby.

Scan the QR code on this page marked for Moneyfields tickets to purchase your match tickets now.

Our first Step 4 away game is coming up this

Tuesday evening, August 12, and it is our biggest away day of the season.

We make the short trip to Fareham Town for our first ever Step 4 away game – kick off at Cams Alders is at 7.45pm.

As is always the case when these two sides meet, a large crowd is expected on the night so Portchester supporters are advised to buy their match tickets in advance.

To buy tickets for the Fareham Town away game scan the QR code on this page marked for Fareham tickets.

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**SCAN THIS CODE FOR
MONEYFIELDS TICKETS**





Ever thought of volunteering to help your local football club?

There are many different volunteer roles in non-league football and Isthmian League football clubs need your help with them.

The Trident Leagues and Pitching In's online Volunteer Hub is the place where you can find opportunities and contact your local football club.

Please visit
Pitchinginvolunteers.co.uk
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LENNIE SMITH

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TODAY'S REFEREE IS
LEWIS WARD



TODAY'S ASSISTANTS ARE COLIN HUBBARD
AND JAMES BIDDLECOMBE

TODAY'S MATCH SPONSOR



NEXT HOME MATCH

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MONEYFIELDS – ISTHMIAN LEAGUE