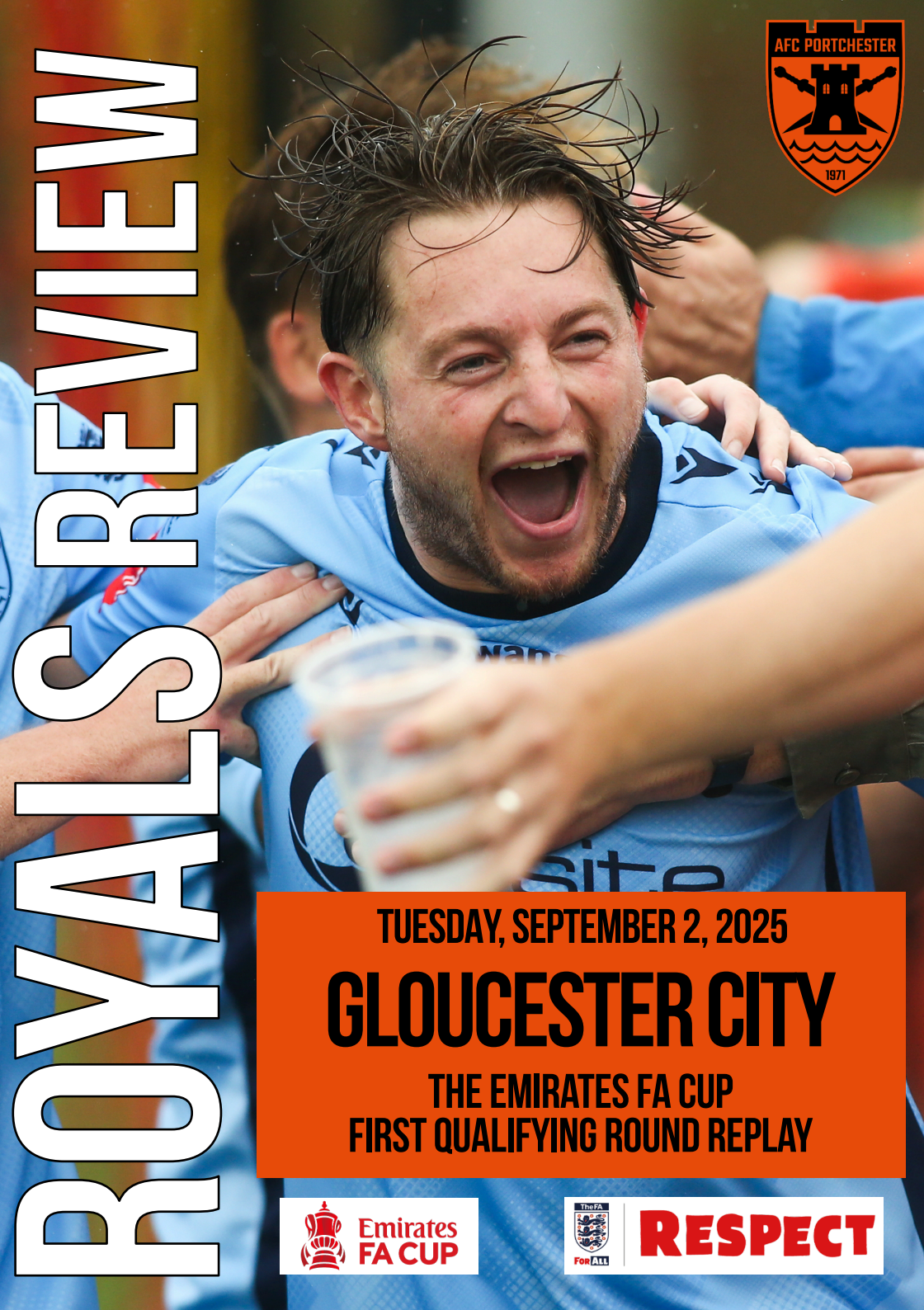


# ROYALS REVIEW



**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025**

**GLOUCESTER CITY**

**THE EMIRATES FA CUP  
FIRST QUALIFYING ROUND REPLAY**



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# A VERY WARM WELCOME TO AFC PORTCHESTER

A very warm welcome to AFC Portchester for this Emirates FA Cup First Qualifying Round replay.

We extend a warm welcome to our visitors Gloucester City – welcome to the players, officials and supporters of tonight's visiting team and also to the match officials.

We hope you all enjoy your visit to The OnSite



Group Stadium this evening.

Well we meet again after sharing a 1-1 draw in the wind and rain at Gloucester on Saturday.

The lads put in a battling and spirited performance against Step 3 opposition and came from a goal down to level the scores, thanks to Marley Ridge's equaliser with nine minutes remaining.

Both sides had chances to finish off the cup tie on the day but thanks to the draw we must both do it all again tonight.

We must pay tribute to the travelling Royals Army and their passionate and vocal backing of the club.

You were excellent again at the weekend – a near 250 mile round trip had to be navigated but we loved seeing you there and giving you something to celebrate before the long journey home. The reaction from the players and staff on the full time whistle shows how much we appreciate your excellent support.

Tonight we must use home advantage to try and finish the job and book ourselves a place in the Second Qualifying Round.

Both teams know the reward for victory in this replay – a home tie against National League South outfit Chippenham Town.

The games keep coming thick and fast and after tonight we are home again this Saturday in what will be our first ever match in the FA Trophy – another historic occasion to look forward to.

## 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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**The OnSite Group – sponsors of AFC Portchester – have over 20 years of experience providing the highest quality labour to valued clients throughout the UK and Europe.**







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Based in Portsmouth, The OnSite Group operate across the UK and Europe, with a well-established presence in major regions. But they're more than just a recruitment company.

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OnSite Finance serves as a crucial intermediary between businesses seeking financial solutions and lenders or investors.

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For more information on business finance and funding, visit their website at: [www.onsitefinance.co.uk](http://www.onsitefinance.co.uk)



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# THE ROYALS IN ACTION







# 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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It's easy to forget quite how big the National League System is and the broad church it represents.

From huge ex-Football League clubs with seven-figure playing budgets for their season to very small community clubs run by a handful of volunteers.

But that's what makes non-league – and football in this country, generally – so unique and special.

You may have heard The FA last year introduced a new board to oversee this level of the game along with the women's pyramid.

We sat down with the Head of National League System James Earl (pictured right), and National League System manager Matt Edkins to discuss all things non-league for a three-part series in The Non League Paper.

Don't miss this week's chat which covers club allocations and the pyramid's structure, before we move into club licensing and technology the week after.

The previous week we touched on the new National Leagues Pyramid Board, including the appointment of its first ever independent chair, Chris Brown.

"The important bit to say is it's still a fundamental moment where this level of the game in both the men's and the women's pyramid have a strong collective voice with a senior seat at the table at the FA," Earl told us.

"Historically, certainly the National League System has been positioned between the professional and the grassroots game and has sat in a governance structure that's been in and around the grassroots game.

"But there's been a recognition of the importance of the National League System – and the women's football pyramid – and that it is unique in how we should be servicing it at The FA.

"So its introduction last year for the first time was a really key moment.

"That has had challenges and



opportunities. Challenges is bringing two pyramids together that have been governed separately.

"One of the pieces of work we've been doing is around the brand and identity for the board, but also the level of the game.

"So there has been some work done around a new brand and hopefully that will be launched soon, which will bring a collective identity for not just the board, but leagues and clubs and other stakeholders to stand behind.

"It has been important to not make the board a repeat of committees that still exist.

"The intent is to make this a strategic board that looks at the broader direction of travel for clubs and leagues and players at this level of the game.

"We've still got a journey to go on to really understand what it is we want the board to do to be able to drive standards up, not just in the competitions, but the club landscape as well.

"I think after a year there's been some great success. We've had some good debates and good conversations, but actually the proof will be in delivery and I think that's going to come over the next couple of years."

You can find the full conversation on our website and pick up The Non League Paper to read more from this interview.

BY MATT BADCOCK



ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

# THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER



# SPECTATORS URGED TO HELP CLUB STOP PARKING ISSUES

Remember our neighbours – that's the key message to spectators ahead of a busy period of fixtures at The OnSite Group Stadium.

People attending matches at AFC Portchester are being reminded to use roads close to the stadium respectfully and responsibly and not to park where they are blocking access to junctions and drive ways.

The club have received an increase in reports from local residents during recent matches highlighting parking problems, and local people and club stewards have even received verbal abuse while trying to marshal match day traffic on nearby residential roads.

Much work has been done by the club in recent years to reduce parking and traffic problems and club officials have been working closely with local residents on ways to reduce any issues experienced.

Chairman Paul Kelly urged people attending matches at The OnSite Group Stadium to not block local roads and to follow any instructions given by stewards on match days.

He said: "It has been disappointing to receive an increase in reports of vehicles being parked irresponsibly on match days and it is completely out of order for people volunteering their time to act as stewards to be receiving verbal abuse when they are trying to help improve the parking and traffic situation – which will help residents and spectators alike.

"We have put a lot of work into forming a

close working relationship with local residents and we are not prepared to let the actions of a tiny minority of drivers wreck that.

"Bad parking on residential roads not only blocks access for people living there but it will also prevent the emergency services reaching call outs when they can't navigate along those roads.

"We urge anyone attending matches at AFC Portchester to drive to the end of Cranleigh Road where there are a lot of parking spaces available at Wicor Recreation Ground.

"Also allow yourself some extra time to find an appropriate parking space on match days. There is plenty of parking available within close walking distance of the stadium – allowing a little extra time to find a space will help to prevent vehicles being left where they will cause issues.

"Motorists should be aware that if your parking is blocking access on a local road the vehicle could be removed and towed away by the local authorities and emergency services – which is something you don't want to have to deal with after watching a game.

"Please help us and residents by travelling and parking on the local roads responsibly and following any instructions given from our friendly team of stewards."

The club are on the look out for additional stewards to help out on matchdays. For more information and to volunteer your services please email [Paul.kelly@afcportchester.co.uk](mailto:Paul.kelly@afcportchester.co.uk)







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# FIRST TEAM STATS 25-26

## APPEARANCES

PLAYER	GAMES
CONOR BAILEY	8
JACK LEE	8
STEVEN MOWTHORPE	8
ALFIE STANLEY	8
ARCHIE WILLCOX	8
CHARLIE WILLIAMSON	8
CALVIN DAVIES	7
MARLEY RIDGE	5 (3)
LEE WORT	5 (3)
RYAN PENNERY	5
ZACK WILLETT	4 (4)
ROB TAW	4 (3)
JAMES COWAN	4 (2)
RYAN WILKINS	3
CONNOR DUFFIN	2 (6)
MAX SMITH	1 (5)
ASH HOWES	0 (3)
OLI DAVIES	0 (2)
CADE DYER	0 (1)
OWEN PELHAM	0 (1)
OLLY SEARLE	0 (1)



## GOALS

PLAYER	GOALS
ALFIE STANLEY	5
LEE WORT	4
ZACK WILLETT	3
CONNOR DUFFIN	2
RYAN PENNERY	2
JACK LEE	1
MARLEY RIDGE	1
RYAN WILKINS	1





# TONIGHT'S FIXTURES

## Emirates FA Cup – First Qualifying Round Replays

AFC Portchester v Gloucester City  
Bishop's Stortford v Real Bedford  
Bootle v Silsden  
Chasetown v Worcester City  
Dartford v Bracknell Town  
Fareham Town v Winchester City  
Hanwell Town v Cray Wanderers  
Hastings United v Faversham Town  
Hitchin Town v Potters Bar Town  
Leek Town v Harborough Town  
Nantwich Town v Avro  
Poole Town v Didcot Town  
Prescot Cables v Hyde United

Shepshed Dynamo v Bourne Town  
Shildon AFC v Witton Albion  
Sporting Khalsa v Boston Town  
Stratford Town v Halesowen Town  
Whitehawk v Hayes and Yeading United  
Wingate and Finchley v Carshalton Athletic  
Yate Town v Westbury United

## Pitching In Isthmian League – South East Division

Beckenham Town v Sittingbourne  
**Velocity Cup**  
Newmarket Town v Wroxham  
Sheppey United v Margate

# FA YOUTH CUP TIE TOMORROW NIGHT

An AFC Portchester team will be in national cup action again here at The OnSite Group Stadium tomorrow night.

Details have been confirmed for AFC Portchester's opening fixture in this season's FA Youth Cup competition.

The young Royals have been drawn at home against Wimborne Town in the Preliminary

Round of the FA Youth Cup.

The tie will be played here at The OnSite Group Stadium tomorrow evening (Wednesday).

The stadium will be open for spectators from 6pm and the match will kick off at 7pm.

It's a chance to see the club's young players looking to push on from the youth ranks.

# 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 GLOUCESTER CITY



## BACK AFTER THE FLOODS

In July 2007 Gloucester City's home, Meadow Park, was affected by severe flooding. The club was hit with almost eight feet of water, almost submerging the crossbar.

The club's first season of exile was at Forest Green Rovers' New Lawn Stadium, and they finished a creditable sixth in the league, just outside the play-offs.

The club's second season of exile at Cirencester Town proved to be one of the greatest in its history. Gloucester finished third in the league and qualified for the play-offs. They beat Cambridge City and then Farnborough to end a 70-year association with the Southern League, and gained promotion to conference football for the first time.

The club then played at Cheltenham Town for two seasons before returning home in September 2020 to a re-built stadium with a new 3G pitch and the site was raised by around four metres from that of the Old Meadow Park to safeguard it from any future flood events.

The first season back in Gloucester came during the Covid-19 pandemic, so fans were not at games at the new stadium.

Thomas H Coleman sat down in his home in Tredworth and wrote a letter to the editor of The Citizen on Saturday, January 27, 1883, wondering why there was no football club playing under Association Rules in the City of Gloucester.

Thirty-seven days later the club was officially formed on March 5, 1883, as Gloucester Association Football Club and Thomas H Coleman became the club's first ever captain in the inaugural season of 1883-84.

Unfortunately, the first venture was to last only three seasons and folded in 1886.

A group of players keen to have a major team in Gloucester played eight fixtures in 1888-89 under the leadership of Algernon S King and called themselves initially AS King's XI.

After two games they were known as Gloucester Nomads due to the lack of a home venue.

It was these players who passed the baton on to two enthusiasts of the game who re-formed the club in September 1889 as Gloucester AFC – they being Rev Henry Lloyd Brereton, headmaster of the new County School in Hempsted, and Charles Poole, assistant headmaster at the Crypt Grammar School.

Gloucester's first competitive game was on Saturday, October 26, 1889, in the First Round of the Gloucestershire FA Junior Challenge Cup, beating Clifton Association Reserves 10-0 at Budding's Field.

The club became members of the Bristol and District League, which subsequently became the Western League.

During this era the club was noted as The Gloucestersians and The Citizens in the local media. In 1897 Gloucester AFC entered the Gloucester and District League.

The first time City was officially added to the Gloucester title was in 1902. In 1906 the club amalgamated with the Hempstead team of St Michael's prior to the start of the 1906-07 season and entered the North Gloucestershire League in 1907.

The club disbanded in September 1910 but many of the players joined Gloucester YMCA.

By 1925 they had assumed the name of Gloucester City once more and become founder





members of the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League. In 1934-35 City turned semi-professional, joined the Birmingham Combination and moved to a new stadium in Longlevens – where the club stayed for the next 26 years.

In 1939 the club played in the Southern League for the first time, albeit in a wartime competition.

After the war, City re-joined the Southern League and went on to become one of its longest serving members.

The club's all-time attendance record was set at Longlevens in 1952 when they beat Tottenham Hotspur 2-1 in front of 10,500 spectators.

It took until the 1955-56 season for Gloucester to taste their first success in the Southern League.

A famous Southern League Cup final win against Yeovil Town, in which City had lost the first leg 4-1 only to beat Yeovil 5-1 in the second leg, won the club their first major honour.

In 1964 the club moved grounds again, from Longlevens to the Horton Road Stadium, closer to the centre of Gloucester.

Although Gloucester were promoted to the Southern League Premier Division in 1968-69, the late 1960s through to the early 1980s was a barren spell for the club.

The club would change their primary colour to yellow before a move to a new stadium at Meadow Park in Hempsted.

Following the move to Meadow Park in 1986, the Horton Road ground became a housing estate which now boasts the names of City legends (Stan) Myers Road, (Dicky) Etheridge Place and (Ron) Coltman Close among others.

In 1988 the club appointed former Aston Villa and Wales player Brian Godfrey as manager and his squad eventually walked to the championship in the Midland Division.

The next big achievement of the Godfrey years was the club's best ever FA Cup run, which ended at Cardiff City in the Second Round.

City suffered heartbreak after being 2-0 up at Ninian Park with just five minutes to go, with the game ending 2-2. The club was beaten 1-0 in the replay at Meadow Park.

The 1990-91 season was one of the most exciting ever seen. Godfrey added several quality players to his squad as City challenged for the league title.

It all went down to the final day of the season at the Victoria Ground, the home of Bromsgrove Rovers.

Farnborough headed to Atherstone needing to win and went 1-0 down to the delight of the

thousand travelling City fans. In the final minutes, substitute John Freegard got his head to a long free kick to put The Tigers ahead.

City fans were on the pitch celebrating the championship and promotion to the Conference National, but all they had heard were premature radio reports from Atherstone.

Farnborough had scored a winner three minutes before the end of the game, and they were promoted instead.

In the mid-1990s, another formidable team was assembled by former West Ham United striker Leroy Rosenior, and they reached the semi finals of the FA Trophy in 1996-97, where they faced Dagenham and Redbridge.

Following a first leg 0-0 stalemate in East London, the second leg at Meadow Park was played in front of a packed house.

With City winning 1-0 with a goal from Dale Watkins and being moments from Wembley, there was heartbreak as Dagenham equalised late on to force extra time.

City went behind in extra time, but the dream of a Wembley visit was kept alive by a last gasp equaliser by Adie Mings. City went on to lose the replay at Slough.

The years that followed were overshadowed by financial difficulties. However, on the field manager and former player Chris Burns' young team upset a lot of the more fancied challengers and reached the quarter finals of the FA Trophy.

The run included memorable victories away at league leaders Merthyr Tydfil, then two wins at Conference sides Woking and Southport.

Aylesbury United of the Isthmian League proved to be too big of a challenge, however, and City bowed out.

After the club returned to Gloucester from their 13 years in exile following the major floods of 2007, no fans were able to attend due to the Covid-19 lockdowns but that first season back saw City fly out of the blocks – recording seven wins and two draws in their opening nine league matches.

This was their best start to a league campaign since the Second World War. However, with City sitting top of the National League North, it was announced that Step 2 of non-league football would cease with immediate effect due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic and the season was pronounced null and void.

In 2022-23, Steve King's City managed to clinch a National League North play-off spot on a dramatic final day of the season.

City scored two goals in injury time to set up a play-off quarter final with Brackley Town, which they would go on to lose on penalties.



# ROYALS GRAB THEIR FIRST STEP 4 VICTORY AT FAREHAM

AFC Portchester recorded their first ever Step 4 victory by coming from behind to win the El Creebio derby at Fareham Town.

A strong start saw them take the lead but the home side battled their way back into the game and held a 2-1 lead at the interval.

However, two goals in the space of three second half minutes put the Royals back in front and Fareham weren't able to put the Portchester goal under any serious threat in the last quarter of the game.

The win stretched the Royals' unbeaten away run in league games to 20 matches, with this result being win number 18 of this impressive run.

The visitors created a string of early chances on the Fareham goal. On six minutes Charlie Williamson's cross from the left found Ryan Pennery and keeper Declan McCarthy had to tip his shot over.

The corner was cleared as far as Zack Willett around 30 yards from goal and he glided past two Fareham players before firing off a shot which hit the top of the crossbar.

The Royals took the lead on nine minutes when the ball was intercepted in midfield and played forward to Connor Duffin and his first time shot from 20 yards out kept low and flew into the corner of the net.

Fareham caused a scare in the Portchester six yard box a minute later when a corner from the left dropped towards Ethan Quinlan but keeper Steven Mowthorpe was able to smother the ball.

However, the home side drew level on 22 minutes when they won a free kick around 25 yards out and Sam Godfroy fired his shot straight into the net.

Portchester were still pressing for goals and on 28 minutes a cross from the left by Williamson found Duffin in front of goal and his header had to be tipped around the post by McCarthy.

Two minutes later Ryan Wilkins tried to turn home a corner from the right but his effort from six yards out went just over the crossbar.

On 37 minutes Pennery took a free kick from the left hand edge of the box and after McCarthy pushed the ball out, Zack Willett tried to knock the re-bound home but the home keeper made another block.



Fareham took the lead three minutes before the interval when a defender slid in to try to block a cross from the right and the referee ruled the ball struck his arm. Jamie Arnold sent Mowthorpe diving the wrong way with his spot kick.

The visitors made a fast start to the second half and they equalised in some style on 54 minutes. A long ball played forwards found Willett about ten yards away from the right hand edge of the penalty area.

His control of the ball as it dropped towards him was excellent but the finish was even better – after taking a few strides forward he unleashed a swerving shot from outside the box which left McCarthy rooted to the spot as it flew into the far corner of the net.

The Royals took the lead three minutes later when Williamson and Pennery exchanged passes down the left and the former's cross to the far post found Duffin and he powered his header into the net.

The final quarter of the match didn't produce any late derby night drama, with the home side unable to muster any real chances of note.

Portchester almost stretched their lead on 72 minutes when a corner was knocked down by Duffin into Pennery's path but his shot from close range was blocked by McCarthy's foot and it looped up and over the goal.







# THE ROYALS IN ACTION



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AFC Portchester  
Youth Section

**JACK LEE**



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**ZACK WILLETT**



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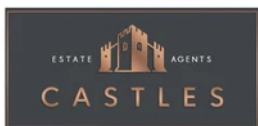
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# STANLEY'S ROCKET AND WORT'S STRIKE WIN CUP TIE

AFC Portchester booked their place in the First Qualifying Round stage of the FA Cup for the first time in eight years thanks to a 2-1 win over Moneyfields.

The Royals had to come from behind to record their victory – this was the fourth time in five games so far this season that they have conceded the first goal in a game.

However, another worldie wonder strike – this time a 25 yard rocket from Alfie Stanley – brought them level before Lee Wort notched his fourth FA Cup goal of the campaign with six minutes remaining to send Portchester through.

The visitors created plenty of chances during the first half but couldn't convert any of them, which allowed the home side to take the lead when they scored from their first real chance of the game.

Portchester's first chance came on seven minutes when a ball in from the right found Wort on the left hand side of the penalty area but his shot lacked the power to trouble goalkeeper Callum Smart.

Charlie Williamson was a constant threat down the right hand side and two minutes later he cut inside, delivered the ball low into the six yard box and although Ryan Pennery slid in to try and turn the cross home, Smart managed to block the ball before it crossed the line.

On 20 minutes a quickly taken free kick was played to Conor Bailey and his shot from 30 yards out whistled just wide of the target. Five minutes later another cross from Williamson found Wort but the striker dragged his shot wide.

The Royals had their closest chance yet on the half hour mark when a free kick played into the far post was headed back across the box and Archie Willcox's acrobatic effort flew just over the crossbar.

Moneyfields had their first real half chance of the game on 37 minutes when the ball was played up to James Franklyn on the right hand side of the penalty area but he put his shot straight at keeper Steven Mowthorpe.

On 39 minutes Marley Ridge flashed his header across the face of goal and narrowly wide from Williamson's cross before the home side took the lead two minutes later.



Another ball into the right hand side of the box allowed the home side to hit a low ball across the box and Franklyn slid in to turn the cross into the net.

The home side then had a goal disallowed due to a shove on a Portchester defender and in first half injury time the combination of Smart and the woodwork denied Portchester an equaliser.

A corner from the left was kept inside the penalty area by the visitors before the ball was eventually played to Wilkins, who saw his shot tipped on to the crossbar by the keeper.

However, the Royals only had to wait seven minutes into the second half to get back on level terms – and they did so in some style.

Jack Lee took the ball up towards the edge of the box and Ridge then laid the ball back to Stanley who blasted his shot from 25 yards out past Smart and into the net.

Chances dried up for both sides after this and the next notable shot on goal was what proved to be the winner on 84 minutes.

A throw in on the right found its way to Connor Duffin and his charged down shot ran towards Ridge 15 yards out. His low shot was pushed away by Smart but Wort was on hand to fire home the re-bound from six yards out.

The home side went close to levelling the scores again with a minute to go when Faris Khallouqi was set up with a chance to shoot from the left hand edge of the box but he put his shot straight at Mowthorpe.







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CHARLIE WILLIAMSON  
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