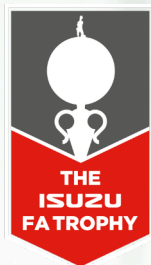


ROYALS REVIEW



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025

TAUNTON TOWN

**THE ISUZU FA TROPHY
THIRD QUALIFYING ROUND**



RESPECT



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**SCAN FOR
BOOKING ENQUIRY FORM:**



A VERY WARM WELCOME TO AFC PORTCHESTER

A very warm welcome to AFC Portchester for today's tie in the Isuzu FA Trophy.

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

After two more away games we are back here at The OnSite Group Stadium at the start of a month which will see six of our eight scheduled matches at home.

Since our last game here against Tavistock in the FA Trophy, we went to Fareham Town and recorded a 2-1 win to progress to the next round of the League Cup but then fell to a 3-1 league defeat at Hayes and Yeading United.

October will finally bring a run of league games after the opening two months of the season have been dominated by cup matches.

So far we have only played six league games – compare that to this stage last season when we had already completed 25 per cent of our league programme.

It is unusual to have played so few league matches by this stage of the season but progression in both the FA Cup and FA Trophy has seen scheduled league games having to be postponed.

However, this month will see us start to catch up on those matches and we will play six league games just in October alone – subject to any further progression in the FA Trophy.

On all four Tuesdays in October we are at home in the league and on two Saturdays as well so it brings the opportunity to put points on the board and progress our league campaign in a short period of time.

October and November are now both very busy months, with your Royals now playing every Tuesday and Saturday through to the beginning of December.

So the season is going to move forward very rapidly in the weeks ahead and the South Central table will start to take more of a realistic shape in terms of the true league positions of teams and how their seasons are shaping up.

As well as being a busy time for the team that will also mean a lot of commitment of your time from you, our supporters.

We appreciate that will be a lot of getting away from work in time to make the midweek matches as well as the usual weekend offerings but no doubt we will see you at our games in great numbers as usual and we all really appreciate that commitment and support.

Before all that though we have today's FA Trophy tie against a very good Taunton Town side, who have made a strong start to the season in the Southern League Premier South Division.

Taunton are up there with the likes of Gloucester City, Farnham Town and Sholing in their division so we face a tough task of trying to cause a cup upset this afternoon.

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

LADIES SECRETARY & CLUB AMBASSADOR: Trevor Brock

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



THE ONSITE GROUP



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.





The OnSite Group have over 20 years of experience providing high-quality labour to the Construction, Electrical, Mechanical, and Data Centre industries.

With a strong focus on consistency and reliability, they continuously ensure excellence from both their internal team and their contractors - ensuring that once a client partners with them, they have no reason to look elsewhere for labour supply.

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.

Many of their consultants have hands-on experience within the industries they now recruit for, giving them a genuine understanding of the challenges and nuances of each sector.

To learn more about the club's main sponsor, visit: www.theonsitegroup.co.uk



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Their primary role involves assessing the financial needs of businesses, understanding their goals and challenges, and then

sourcing appropriate funding options from a wide network of lenders, private investors and financial institutions.

Their brokers possess in-depth knowledge of various financial products and lending criteria, allowing them to match businesses with the most suitable funding option tailored to their specific requirements.

Additionally, their brokers provide guidance throughout the application process, helping businesses navigate complex paperwork, negotiate terms, and secure the best possible financing deals.

For more information on business finance and funding, visit their website at: www.onsitefinance.co.uk



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KeyTo Group operates to provide specialist project services to construction and the associated sectors.

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KeyTo Group make sure that not only do they reduce their clients' overheads but also provide protection from any unanticipated legislative non-conformance.

To find out more about KeyTo Group visit the company's website for full information at: www.keytoglobal.co.uk





PLENTY OF FRATTON FANS IN TO WATCH DERBY DAY CLASH

The much anticipated south coast derby got plenty of people along to The OnSite Group Stadium to watch the action on the big screens.

With tickets in short supply for the Championship clash at St Mary's, many Pompey fans had to settle for watching the action unfold

against Southampton on a television screen.

The bars were open from 11am for the noon kick-off on Sunday, September 14, and plenty of people came down to watch the action.

In the end it was honours even for south coast bragging rights as they played out a 0-0 draw.





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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THE NON-LI LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME



STEP 3 clubs enter the Isuzu FA Trophy at the Third Qualifying Round stage this weekend – and already the Road to Wembley is shaping up into another thrilling adventure.

They join the 40 clubs from Step 4 to progress from the previous round to make up 64 intriguing ties, starting with Bradford Park Avenue versus Heaton Stannington and Worcester City against Rugby Town last night.

As compiled by our friends at Non-League Factfile, two-time winners Grays Athletic are the last ones standing of the 32 clubs that started this season's campaign in the Preliminary Round.

The 2004-05 and 2005-06 winners visit Hanwell Town and are one of four former winners competing in this round, alongside Canvey Island (2000-01), Bishop's Stortford (1980-81) and Hednesford Town (2003-04).

Indeed, Hednesford, flying high in the Northern Premier League's Premier Division under manager Gavin Hurren, are involved in one of the ties of the round when they go to Southern League Premier Central leaders Harborough Town.

At the other end of the FA Trophy experience spectrum are seven debut clubs still involved, namely Lower Breck, Silsden, Shifnal Town, Sporting Club Inkberrow, Stanway Rovers, Hartpury and AFC Portchester – all bar one of which take on Step 3 opposition.

Hartpury have been handed a dream tie against high-flying Southern Premier South neighbours Gloucester City, similarly AFC Portchester, who can expect a big crowd at The OnSite Group Stadium when Taunton Town visit.

Silsden and Sporting Club Inkberrow are at home, to Stocksbridge Park Steels and Stratford Town respectively, while Lower Breck and Shifnal Town face tough trips to Stockton Town and Gainsborough Trinity.

Stanway Rovers are the only debut club to face Step 4 opposition when Uxbridge make the trip to Hawthorns.

Derby days are also aplenty this weekend with Suffolk pair AFC Sudbury and Bury Town locking horns, while Bracknell Town and Hungerford Town will be vying for Berkshire honours.

Local bragging rights are at stake at the game between Waltham Abbey and Walthamstow.

Elsewhere, there are 25 other clubs for whom victory would either equal or set a best FA Trophy run.

However, only AFC Rushden and Diamonds versus Malvern Town and Ashford United versus Biggleswade FC will guarantee that outcome.

Those two ties are two of five that guarantee a Step 4 club will be in the First Round.

St Ives Town versus Kettering Town is the most common tie of the round with St Ives ahead by two wins to one in past Trophy games. Meanwhile, Ashton United knocked out Clitheroe in both their previous Trophy matches separated by exactly 50 years in 1970 and 2020.

St Albans City and Bideford have had to wait 43 and 47 years respectively for the chance to avenge past Trophy defeats by Aveley and Dorchester Town, while the 7-2 win for Barwell over Bromsgrove Sporting the last time they met in the Trophy is the two clubs' respective biggest win and heaviest defeat in the competition.

A Step 3 side has won the FA Trophy as recently as Hornchurch in the Covid year of 2020-21 – and that will give lower league clubs hope that the Road to Wembley is very much open to all.

Step 2 Spennymoor Town made it all the way to Non-League Finals Day just five months ago, giving their fans a day out they will never forget. Dreams do come true.

BY JON COUCH

WOMENS FA CUP



3RD ROUND QUALIFYING VS WEYMOUTH

SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2025 | 2PM KICK OFF

£5 ADULTS | U16'S FREE | GATES OPEN 1PM



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FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR IS FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Things are starting to feel a bit autumnal and that can mean only one thing at AFC Portchester – the annual family fireworks display and laser show is on the way!

The popular event, which always sells out in advance, is being held at The OnSite Group Stadium on Friday, October 31, from 6pm and it promises to be an evening of traditional fireworks and Hallowe'en fun for all the family.

The event is particularly enjoyed by families with young children as there are plenty of activities on the night aimed at them and it gives youngsters the opportunity to enjoy a traditional fireworks display in a safe environment.

The introduction of a laser lights show has been a spectacular addition to the event in the last few years and the display will be back to wow the crowds again.

Also returning after its successful introduction last year is a special Hallowe'en spook room – do you dare to walk through the spooky and scary displays on what will be

Hallowe'en night?

There will also be children's entertainment on the night and prizes will be awarded to the best Hallowe'en-themed fancy dress costumes worn to the event by youngsters.

There's plenty to keep the adults entertained too – all three indoor bar areas will be open and there will also be an outdoor bar in the large, covered outdoor function area too.

There will also be plenty of hot and cold food and drink options available too, so no one will be going thirsty or hungry on the night.

New for this year's event is the VIP ticket option which includes an exclusive viewing area to watch the spectacular display from and light refreshments.

If you are thinking of attending this event organisers are advising people to purchase their tickets as soon as possible as this event is always sold out ahead of the night each year.

To purchase your tickets scan the QR code included on the event poster on the facing page.





AFC Portchester presents

Fireworks Show

FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2025

Limited
VIP Tickets
Available

Halloween House

Food & Drink

**HALLOWEEN COSTUME
COMPETITION**

GATES OPEN AT 6PM

SCAN ME

BOOK TICKETS

Family of 4 £30

Adults £10

Child £6

**TRICK
OR
TREAT**



OnSite Group Stadium, Cranleigh Road
Portchester, Fareham Hampshire PO16 9DP

FIRST TEAM STATS 25-26

APPEARANCES

PLAYER	GAMES
ARCHIE WILLCOX	15
CONOR BAILEY	14 (1)
CHARLIE WILLIAMSON	14
ALFIE STANLEY	13 (2)
CALVIN DAVIES	13
STEVEN MOWTHORPE	13
JACK LEE	12
LEE WORT	10 (5)
MARLEY RIDGE	9 (6)
ROB TAW	8 (6)
JAMES COWAN	7 (6)
ZACK WILLETT	6 (4)
RYAN WILKINS	6
RYAN PENNERY	5
CONNOR DUFFIN	4 (10)
TOMMY SCUTT	4
MAX SMITH	2 (6)
OLLY SEARLE	2 (4)
BRETT PITMAN	2 (1)
CAMERON SCOTT	2
ASH HOWES	1 (4)
CADE DYER	1 (3)
HARRISON BROOK	1 (2)
OWEN PELHAM	1 (1)
JOSH CLACK	0 (2)
OLI DAVIES	0 (2)



GOALS

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



FA TROPHY FIXTURES

THIRD QUALIFYING ROUND TIES

Hyde United v Warrington Town
Ashton United v Clitheroe
Dunston v Warrington Rylands
Workington v FC United of Manchester
Stockton Town v Lower Breck
Silsden v Stocksbridge Park Steels
Runcorn Linnets or Bury v Morpeth Town
Bridlington Town v Guiseley
Bradford Park Ave v Heaton Stannington
Whitby Town v Hebburn Town
Prescot Cables v Lancaster City
Evesham United v Ilkeston Town
Gainsborough Trinity v Shifnal Town
Barwell v Bromsgrove Sporting
Sporting Club Inkberrow v Stratford Town
Rushall Olympic v Spalding United
Anstey Nomads v Stourbridge
Quorn v Corby Town
Real Bedford v Stamford
AFC Rushden & Diamonds v Malvern Town
Halesowen Town v Leek Town
St Ives Town v Kettering Town
Worcester City v Rugby Town
Basford United v Alvechurch
Harborough Town v Hednesford Town
Cleethorpes Town v Redditch United
Stanway Rovers v Uxbridge
Royston Town v Welling United
Hanwell Town v Grays Athletic
Westfield v Brentwood Town
Leatherhead v Ramsgate

Aveley v St Albans City
Carshalton Athletic v Cheshunt
Broadbridge Heath v Billericay Town
Hadley v Dartford
Harrow Borough v Witham Town
Lewes v Leiston
Cray Valley PM v Berkhamsted
AFC Sudbury v Bury Town
Chertsey Town v Tilbury
Burgess Hill Town v Potters Bar Town
Bishop's Stortford v Cray Wanderers
Wingate and Finchley v VCD Athletic
Chatham Town v Needham Market
Ashford United v Biggleswade
Hayes & Yeading Utd v Walton & Hersham
Sittingbourne v Hashtag United
Waltham Abbey v Walthamstow
Whitehawk v Canvey Island
Dulwich Hamlet v Hendon
AFC Dunstable v Folkestone Invicta
Bracknell Town v Hungerford Town
Basingstoke Town v Shaftesbury
Hartpury v Gloucester City
Plymouth Parkway v Gosport Borough
Dorchester Town v Bideford
Thame United v Banbury United
Bishop's Cleeve v Sholing
Yate Town v Poole Town
AFC Portchester v Taunton Town
Chichester City v Farnham Town
Havant & Waterlooville v Tiverton Town
Wimborne Town v Weymouth

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

TAUNTON TOWN



LUFFMAN BACK IN HAMPSHIRE

Taunton Town's manager Richard Luffman needs no introductions to non-league followers in Hampshire following his previous management roles in the county.

He had spells in charge of Otterbourne and Alresford Town before moving west to Cribbs and guiding them into Step 4 by winning the Hellenic League.

He then joined Taunton Town in February last year.

Luffman is looking forward to his return to the south coast today but believes his team face a tough challenge at The OnSite Group Stadium.

Speaking in an interview on Taunton Town's X channel, he said: "I'm really looking forward to Portchester - It's a team and club I know well from my time down on the south coast.

"We know how much of a difficult tie it's going to be - they've got some top players there.

"Really looking forward to the game and it's one we want to try and progress in if we can but we're under no illusions of how difficult it is going to be."

The present Taunton Town Football Club was formed in December 1947 by a few local businessmen and played their first friendly fixture during Easter 1948.

They then played on a number of grounds such as Mountfields, French Weir, Victoria Park, Huish Old Boys and finished up at Denman's Park, Haines Hill.

Having played in the Somerset Senior League, the club gained admission into the Western League in 1953 and moved into Wordsworth Drive, where they continue to play today.

The club struggled financially and depended heavily on a very active supporters club during the late 1950s and early 1960s. Season 1968-69 saw an upsurge in the club's fortunes with manager Doug Hillard securing the Western League championship for the first time.

During the mid-1970s Ron Gingell became manager and the club were runners-up for four consecutive seasons. In 1977 the club were elected and they became a limited company in 1981.

The new board soon decided that Southern League football was too expensive and the club reverted to the Western League in 1983. Seven years later the championship pennant returned to Wordsworth Drive under the management of Keith Bowker.

In 1994 the team, then managed by Terry Rowles, battled through to the FA Vase final at Wembley but Diss Town won in extra time.

Russell Musker was appointed manager in November 1994 and another championship followed in 1996. After two seasons as runners-up three consecutive titles followed together with the club's first ever cup success - a 2-1 victory over Berkhamsted Town in the FA Vase final at Aston Villa's Villa Park stadium.

This ended a sequence of 18 defeats in cup finals since the 1950s. Another cup victory was achieved in 2003, lifting the Somerset Premier Cup for the first time with a 2-1 win over Yeovil Town in the final played at Clevedon Town.

Peter Beadle took over as manager in 2005 but left after only 14 games to join Newport County and former Hallen manager Gary Domone stepped into the hot seat.



After a disappointing start results began to improve and the club won its second Somerset Premier Cup by beating a strong Mangotsfield United side at Weston super Mare.

Domone resigned as manager in December 2007 and was replaced by Ian Jones, who himself resigned in April 2009.

Former player Paul West, who lifted the FA Vase in 2001, took over and re-built the team with a local emphasis. West then left the club in May 2012 and was replaced by Leigh Robinson.

In the previous season the club finished with a run of nine consecutive victories culminating with their third Somerset Premier Cup triumph, beating Frome Town 1-0 in the final played at Paulton Rovers.

In July 2010 Tom Harris stepped down as chairman after 29 years and was replaced by Kevin Sturmey, who also took on the roles of chief executive and head groundsman.

Since then the club have made major improvements on and off the pitch, continuing to maintain their ambitions to play at a higher level.

Off the field the club suffered a major blow in July 2011 when the clubhouse was badly damaged by a fire which was caused by an electrical fault.

What remained of the clubhouse was extensively smoke damaged and the whole building had to be demolished. A mobile bar was brought in on matchdays but the following year a modular building was opened despite the original builder going into administration.

Season 2014-15 was one of the most successful seasons in recent history For Taunton

with fourth place achieved in the league, and the retention of the Somerset Premier Cup, beating Yeovil Town in the final.

The club also retained the Southern League Groundsman of the Year award and were in fact voted the second best club at Step 3 and 4.

The club's programme also won a prestigious award being voted the best in the Southern League and 18th nationally.

The club reached the play-offs for three seasons in a row but finally it all clicked and the West Division title was clinched by a massive 19 points, with only one league defeat all season.

Manager Leigh Robinson left in September 2018 but the club maintained its successful run under head of football Rob Dray, assisted by coach Matt Villis.

Taunton finished runners-up in the Southern League Premier Division South, but lost out to Poole Town in the end of season play-offs.

They also reached the Fourth Qualifying Round of the FA Cup before losing 1-0 to Billericay Town in a replay.

After two seasons which were curtailed due to the coronavirus pandemic the club won the Southern League Premier Division South in 2021-22, which elevated them to the National League South - its highest level ever.

The first season was seriously disrupted by cup runs and bad weather but the club finished just below half way, an incredible effort.

The second season also started well but a combination of reasons saw the club finish in a relegation spot so they now go again in the Southern League.



INTRODUCING THE VISITORS TAUNTON TOWN

FRANKIE PHILLIPS – GOALKEEPER

Highly-rated keeper from Exeter with a huge future ahead of him. Joined on loan in July.

JAMES WALKER – GOALKEEPER

Walker joined as a free agent, having recovered from a long term knee injury sustained during the 2024-25 season. The former Bristol City academy keeper has also featured for Highworth Town, Roman St George and Larkhall Athletic.

NIALL THOMPSON – DEFENDER

Can play as a defender or winger but more recently he has been a wing back. After coming through the Torquay youth system, he was offered a professional contract at the beginning of the 2012-13 season. Had loan spells at Truro City and Bideford and has also played for Hucknall Town, Sheffield and Mickleover Sports. Thompson joined Taunton Town in May following three seasons with Tiverton Town.

RYAN LANE – DEFENDER

Ryan joined the club as a free agent, having made a full recovery after an injury that sidelined him for the 2024-25 season. He achieved three promotions with Plymouth Parkway during their rise through the divisions, and he rightfully earned the club captaincy before his injury.

AUSTEN BOOTH – DEFENDER

Austen's last club in England was Torquay United before he spent a year in Australia. Previously to that Austen had been a fans' favourite at Taunton.

BRODIE MONTAGUE – DEFENDER

Brodie joined from Barnstaple where he was captain. Impressed during pre-season to earn his move to Taunton.

MARLEY ROSE – MIDFIELDER

Had spells with Southamptn, Yeovil Town and Bristol Rovers before joining Bristol City at under-16s level. Signed a pro contract in March 2023 and had loan spells with Bath City and Taunton Town prior to joining Weston Super Mare on loan in September

2024. Rose was released from Bristol City in July.

JACOB TOWNS – MIDFIELDER

Came through the Hartpury system and won the league title with them last season, as well as reaching the FA Vase semi finals. The youngster is a throwback to a good old fashioned midfielder.

TOM SYMONS – DEFENDER

Tom has been promoted to the first team squad after impressing during loan spells at Cribbs and Tavistock last season.

JOSH OWERS – MIDFIELDER

The central midfielder progressed through the youth structure at Bristol City where his father Gary had made over 100 senior appearances. Has previously had loan spells with Bath City, Gloucester City and Yeovil Town – where he was part of the National League South title winning squad before moving to AFC Totton.

JAYDEN NIELSEN – MIDFIELDER

Highly-rated midfielder who is a former Bristol City apprentice. Joined Brislington and then Bristol Manor Farm, where his performances earned him a move to Frome Town. In 2023-24 he was named as a substitute in the Southern League Division 1 South's Team of the Season.

OWEN BRAIN – MIDFIELDER

Signed in the summer of 2024 from Gloucester City. Previously at Bristol Manor Farm, Merthyr Town, Yate Town and Bristol Rovers.

TOM PURRINGTON – MIDFIELDER

Purrington made his professional debut for Plymouth Argyle in November 2018 in an EFL Trophy match against Newport County. He then went on to play for Dorchester Town, Bromley, Tiverton Town and Plymouth Parkway. In summer 2024 he moved to Taunton Town.

BEN SEYMOUR – STRIKER

In April 2017, after progressing through Exeter City's academy, Seymour signed his first pro contract with the club. In August 2019 he made his debut for Exeter in an EFL Cup tie before



going on to make his league debut against Leyton Orient. He scored his first goal for Exeter in an EFL Trophy tie against Swindon Town in October 2020. Ben has previously been on loan at Weston Super Mare, Bideford, Gloucester City, Dorchester Town, Yeovil Town and Bath City. Following his release from Exeter he went on to play for Plymouth Parkway, Hampton and Richmond Borough and Torquay United. He has joined Taunton on a season-long loan deal for 2025-26.

JACOB HODGSON – MIDFIELDER

Signed in 2024 from Cribbs where he captained the side and made 293 appearances and scored 59 goals in ten years with the club. Known as 'Skip' to the players and 'Everton' to the fans. A true Bluenose.

ALFIE MOULDEN – MIDFIELDER

Signed in the summer of 2024 from Tiverton. Alfie has experience galore at this level as he has previously been with Weston Super Mare, Bideford, Guiseley, Plymouth Parkway and Willand, where he scored 12 goals in 24 games.

NICK GRIMES – DEFENDER

Inspirational captain who has led the team to winning the league title previously. Back at the club after a period away at Bath City.

KANE SIMPSON – STRIKER

Kane certainly needs no introduction at this level, having achieved consecutive Southern League promotions with Frome Town and Merthyr Town, recording double figures for both goals and assists in the process. Last season Kane scored 20 goals and assisted 16 times in all competitions for the Welsh outfit.

JACK RICE – STRIKER

Jack has returned to the club on loan after signing with National League North side Chorley Town.

BAILEY CROOME – STRIKER

Signed for Taunton towards the end last season and settled in really quickly from Cribbs.

RYAN CAINEY – MIDFIELDER

Signed from Cribbs recently, Ryan can play in a variety of roles in midfield and defence.

ARCHIE MORGAN – STRIKER

Under-18s team player who signed for the first team squad after greatly impressing at the end of last season.

ALENS POSKUS – MIDFIELDER

Another under-18s player who has signed for the first team squad after greatly impressing in pre-season.

TAUNTON'S COACHING STAFF

RICHARD LUFFMAN – MANAGER

Managed over 500 games as a manager at Steps 4 and 5. Has a win percentage of nearly 70%, winning eight trophies along the way.

Richard has managed at Otterbourne, Alresford and Cribbs, where he led them to the Hellenic League title and League Cup. Richard left Cribbs for Taunton in February 2024.

STEVE MURRAY – ASSISTANT MANAGER

Steve played for Wells City, Street, Taunton Town and Cribbs, winning three league titles, a League Cup and two Somerset Premier Cups, and he scored 379 goals. Steve was first team player/coach at Cribbs for two years before seeing out the last ten games of 2023-24 as manager.

LIAM HARDING – ASSISTANT MANAGER

Experienced non-league player with over 250 Southern League appearances, including spells

at Slimbridge AFC and Evesham United.

Serious injury brought an end to Liam's playing career at 25-years-old and he has since progressed into coaching.

He has been assistant manager at Roman Glass St George and head coach at Bristol Manor Farm. He is also a UEFA B licence holder for coaching.

ETHAN CHORLTON – PHYSIO

Qualified sports rehabilitator and physiotherapist. Currently working in Taunton with two years' experience in the NHS.

Previously worked for Liskeard Athletic in the South West Peninsula Premier West for two seasons as a sports therapist.

RICHARD SMITH – KITMAN

Promoted from being Wordsworth the Cat, the Club mascot, in August 2024 to his current role as kitman.



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CONNOR DUFFIN



Sean Wren, Castles
Estate Agents

RYAN PENNERY



PG Mechanical
Design

ALFIE STANLEY



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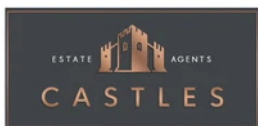
BRETT PITMAN

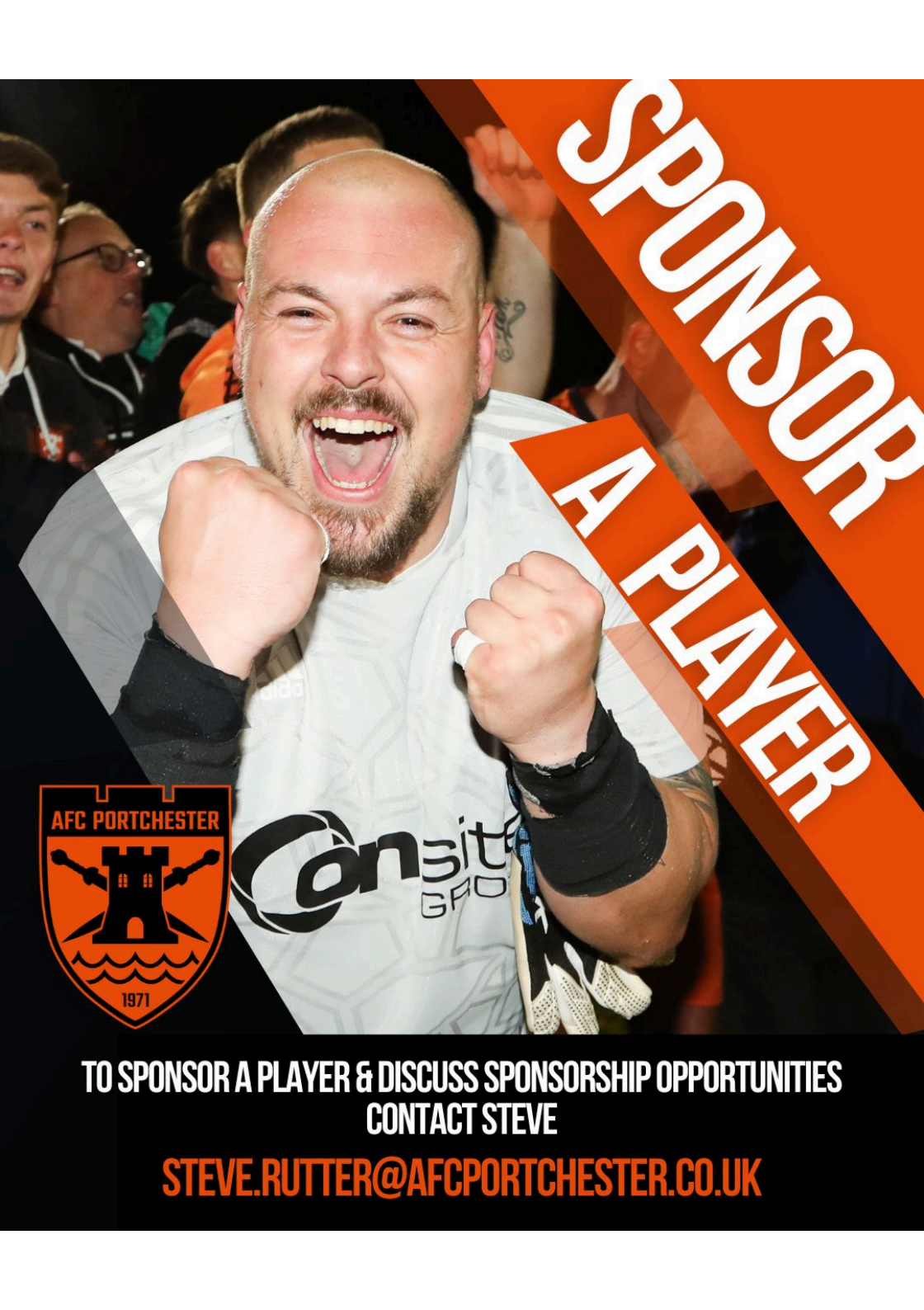


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CONTACT STEVE**

STEVE.RUTTER@AFCPORTCHESTER.CO.UK

REPORT: ROYALS BOW OUT OF FA CUP IN FEISTY ENCOUNTER

AFC Portchester bowed out of the Emirates FA Cup thanks to a 2-0 replay defeat at home to Gloucester City.

The game became an increasingly fractious affair the longer it went on – with a fair few of what could kindly be described as robust tackles and reckless challenges not helping the mood of the game.

One thing that did unite the teams was being left baffled and perplexed by a number of decisions from the match officials – which did little to help quell the increasingly spicy nature of this encounter.

The visitors had more of the rub of the green with these questionable decisions but both teams seemed to build up sizeable lists of incidents which vexed them.

Cup ties such as this one often swing on key, pivotal moments and one of these arrived after only 12 minutes.

Gloucester won a corner on the right and as the ball was swung towards the penalty area – and video footage shows the ball went out of play pretty quickly after it was taken – a player from each side took a tumble after their movement took them into each others' paths.

Inexplicably the referee pointed to the penalty spot – it took a while for both sets of players to realise what had happened as neither side had appealed for anything. One thing that was very certain was the way the penalty was dispatched into the net – Joe Hanks smashed it low and hard into the bottom corner.

The visitors dominated most of the first half and their flowing attacks threatened to quickly take the game away from Portchester.

They had a goal disallowed for offside on 17 minutes before they doubled their lead on 31 minutes. A free kick from the right was played into the box and King Baidoo was in the right place to guide the ball off the post and in.

Tempers were starting to flare though thanks to a number of incidents being allowed to go without punishment and a clash between Baidoo and Jack Lee brought things to boiling point.

As the two players jumped for the ball it looked like the visiting attacker may have caught Lee but as the duo came back down to

earth, there appeared to be contact with the Portchester defender's leg which left him needing treatment and it sparked a mass coming together of both sets of players and plenty of pushing and raising of hands in the melee.

From all of that just one yellow card was shown by the referee and several off the ball incidents passed without punishment.

The Royals were given the chance to get back into the game six minutes before half time when they were awarded a penalty due to a shove in the back on a player in the box.

However, Gloucester keeper Jared Thompson was equal to Marley Ridge's spot kick when he got down quickly to push his shot away.

The half time interval came at the right time to help ease some of the tensions and Portchester came out in the second half determined to give it everything they had to try and find a way back into the tie.

The combination of Gloucester's strong defensive performance and the finishing touch deserting them at the crucial moment meant the Royals were not able to stage a comeback.

On 62 minutes Connor Duffin and Rob Taw combined to get an attack going down the right and a pass inside found Alfie Stanley, whose shot to the near post had to be diverted behind by Thompson.

Gloucester were looking dangerous on the counter attack as the home side looked to push forward and on 74 minutes Baidoo played the ball to Sion Spence on the right side of the box. His shot beat keeper Steven Mowthorpe but hit the outside of the post.

On 83 minutes Ryan Wilkins put his header from the corner just over the top and four minutes later the visitors had a goal disallowed for offside.

With a minute to go Duffin popped up on the left to set up another chance for Stanley to shoot but this time his effort deflected up off a defender and dropped on the roof of the net.

Ed Williams was shown a red card in injury time before Charlie Williamson's run down the right set up a final chance for Portchester to score but again Stanley's shot was blocked – this time behind for a corner.





THE ROYALS IN ACTION



Rowans

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Through our many services, we support people with life-limiting illnesses and their families from diagnosis through to bereavement. We care for our community across **Portsmouth, Gosport, Fareham, Waterloooville, Hayling Island, Petersfield** and the surrounding areas.

All our services are offered FREE of charge, however we rely on our community to help raise **78%** of our **£10 million** running costs.

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per month for 12 months could fund a patient's physiotherapy session

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per month for 12 months could fund a Living Well Services session for a recently diagnosed patient

£25

per month for 12 months could fund meals for a day for six patients in our In-patient Unit

£54

per month for 12 months could fund a patient's stay at the Hospice for one day

However much you can spare, every penny will make a difference to someone's life in your community.



Find out more about Regular Giving:
www.rowanshospice.co.uk/regular-giving/

LADIES FIRST TEAM— FIXTURES AND RESULTS

DATE	H/A	OPPONENTS	COMP	RES	SCORERS
Aug 31	H	Winchester City Flyers	League	3-2W	Butterworth, Bradbury, Barron-Clark
Sept 7	A	Badshot Lea	League	3-0W	Aitken (2), Hillier
Sept 14	H	Beaconsfield Town	League	1-2L	Adaway
Sept 21	A	Havant & Waterlooville	FA Cup	3-2W	True (2), Bradbury
Oct 5	H	Weymouth	FA Cup		
Oct 12	H	Oxford City	League		
Oct 19	A	Southampton Women	League		
Nov 2	A	Badshot Lea	LC		
Nov 9	H	Sholing	League		

LEAGUE TABLE

SOUTHERN REGION WOMEN'S LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

	PLD	W	D	L	PNT	GD
Wycombe Wnds	4	4	0	0	12	+22
Beaconsfield Tn	4	3	0	1	9	0
Win City Flyers	3	2	0	1	6	+8
Reading Cm Trust	3	2	0	1	6	+4
THE ROYALS	3	2	0	1	6	+3
Sth'mptn Women	3	1	1	1	4	0
Oxford City	3	1	1	1	4	-2
Sholing	4	1	0	3	3	-1
Fleet Town	4	1	0	3	3	-17
Woodley United	1	0	0	1	0	-4
Badshot Lea	4	0	0	4	0	-13

GOALSCORERS

PLAYER	GOALS
LAUREN AITKEN	2
MILLIE BRADBURY	2
CHARMAINE TRUE	2
MIA ADAWAY	1
BETTY BARRON-CLARK	1
SARAH BUTTERWORTH	1
GEMMA HILLIER	1



ALL LADIES TEAM PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDSAY HYDE
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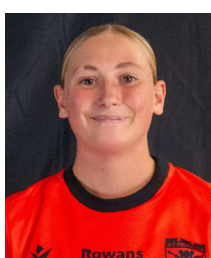
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LADIES TEAM IN ACTION





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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
to find out more



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THE SQUADS AND OFFICIALS

AFC PORTCHESTER

CONOR BAILEY
HARRISON BROOK
JOSH CLACK
JAMES COWAN
CLAUDE DA COSTA
CALVIN DAVIES
CONNOR DUFFIN
STEVEN MOWTHORPE
KANE O'KEEFE
JACK LEE
OWEN PELHAM
RYAN PENNERY
BRETT PITMAN
MARLEY RIDGE
CAMERON SCOTT
TOMMY SCUTT
OLLY SEARLE
ALFIE STANLEY
ROB TAW
RYAN WILKINS
ARCHIE WILLCOX
ZACK WILLETT
CHARLIE WILLIAMSON
LEE WORT



TODAY'S REFEREE IS
MITCHELL TERRY



TODAY'S ASSISTANTS ARE MARK SPENCE
AND DAVID LOFGREN

TAUNTON TOWN

FRANKIE PHILLIPS
JAMES WALKER
NIALL THOMPSON
RYAN LANE
AUSTEN BOOTH
BRODIE MONTAGUE
MARLEY ROSE
JACOB TOWNS
TOM SYMONS
JOSH OWERS
JAYDEN NIELSEN
OWEN BRAIN
TOM PURRINGTON
BEN SEYMOUR
JACOB HODGSON
ALFIE MOULDEN
NICK GRIMES
KANE SIMPSON
JACK RICE
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NEXT HOME MATCH

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7 — KICK OFF 7.45PM
HARTLEY WINTNEY — ISTHMIAN LEAGUE