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A VERY WARM WELCOME TO AFC PORTCHESTER

A very warm welcome to AFC Portchester for today's game in the Pitching In Isthmian League South Central Division.

We extend a warm welcome to our visitors Metropolitan Police - welcome to the players, officials and supporters of today's visiting team and also to the match officials.

Today sees the start of a very busy month of league fixtures, with nine league games scheduled for November at present and matches to be played every Saturday and Tuesday throughout the month.

In some respects it is good to finally get a solid run of league games in the fixture list as we currently have only played 11 games in the South Central Division to date.

On the down side the fixture list reflects that we are now out of both national cup competitions after decent runs in both the FA Cup and FA Trophy, and we have made early exits in both the Velocity League Cup and Hampshire Senior Cup. The key now is to transfer our good cup performances into our league form so we can start picking up points regularly and start climbing up the table.

November brings a relentless schedule but one which now firmly focusses on the league. We have home league games against Met Police, Fareham, South Park and Kingstonian and we face trips to Westfield, Littlehampton, Hanworth Villa, Bognor Regis Town and Egham Town.



Some tough matches to come but it is currently a tight division with teams taking points off of each other regularly and anyone who can put a run of wins together will see themselves propelled up towards the top end of the table very quickly.

On the injury front most players are now back out on the pitch, with defender Kane O'Keefe and striker Ryan Pennery getting closer to full fitness once again.

November is a month which can deliver progress and momentum on the league front and we will be aiming to get this run of nine league matches off to a winning start 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

GR H



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REPORT: ROYALS WELL BEATEN ON THE ROAD IN LONDON AGAIN

AFC Portchester's London away day jinx continued when they were well beaten at high-flying Raynes Park Vale.

The good news is they are not due another trip to the capital until mid-November so there will be time to look at why they are not doing well when they head up the A3 and M3 and make the appropriate adjustments to put a stop to this continued capital punishment.

The bad news is this was the Royals' fourth straight away defeat at the hands of a London-based team and in truth they did not look like they were going to break their losing streak in the suburbs on this occasion.

The game got off to a frenetic start and the Portchester defence initially repelled the home side's quick passing and movement through midfield, not letting them have any real chances of note.

On ten minutes the Royals created the first half chance of the afternoon when a long ball forward found Josh Clack just outside the penalty area and he played a pass inside to Alfie Stanley who blazed his shot well over the target.

Two minutes later at the other end a ball played up into the box found Calvin Ekpiteta and after turning quickly he fired off a low shot from 12 yards out that was easily smothered by keeper Steven Mowthorpe.

On 15 minutes the home side won possession on the byline as the visiting defence were caught trying to shepherd the ball out of play for a goal kick.

After heading towards goal the home player set the ball back to Tyler Cox but his low shot was saved by Mowthorpe.

Raynes Park did get the breakthrough on 18 minutes. After some patient build up play in front of the visiting defence, the ball eventually found its way to Ibrahim Bangura and after playing a quick one-two with a team mate he hit a low shot which beat Mowthorpe and found its way into the net.

The home side threatened to extend their lead further before the half time interval.

On 39 minutes quick passing through midfield put Ekpiteta in space inside the box and his shot had to be deflected behind for a

corner by Jack Lee.

A minute later a cross from the right found Kareem Akinnibi at the near post but he headed over and after Ekpiteta got away from his marker on the right he played the ball low into the box to Omarr Lawson but he blasted his shot well over the target.

Portchester rallied a little at the start of the second half and they started to see their confidence rise as they created some half chances.

On 47 minutes Marley Ridge screwed his shot wide and five minutes later Tommy Scutt tried his luck from outside the box but his shot went over the crossbar.

The Royals' best chance fell to James Cowan on 53 minutes when some quick passing set him up with the chance to shoot from just inside the box but his shot went agonisingly wide of the post.

However, Portchester's bright start to the second half evaporated almost as quickly as it appeared when the home side doubled their lead two minutes later.

Ekpiteta crossed from the right hand side of the penalty area and Akinnibi met the ball at the far post and his first time shot beat Mowthorpe at his near post.

Royals boss Gav Spurway made a number of substitutions to try and give his side some fresh attacking impetus but they fell further behind on 70 minutes.

Quick passing down the right found Ekpiteta again and his low ball across the goal picked out Cox's run at the far post and he fired his low shot into the net.

The closing stages saw the home side go close on a number of occasions to making the final scoreline even more emphatic.

On 83 minutes Jordan Bilongo's shot was deflected wide of the goal by a defender and a minute later Ekpiteta raced clear from the defence but Mowthorpe made a good save to keep out his powerful shot.

In injury time Ekpiteta had another opportunity when he fired off a shot from the edge of the box but Mowthorpe managed to push his shot away from goal.



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



IN ON-LEAGUE PAPER

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The week leading up to Hallowe'en proved to be something of a horror show for non-league bosses everywhere as the managerial merry-go-round clicked into overdrive.

As a result, it caused endless nightmares for us at NLP Towers as the news pages had to be constantly updated and, in the case of John Coleman's Friday arrival at Aldershot Town, ripped up and re-written completely.

We were perhaps given a sign of what was to come when Kettering Town announced the departure of Simon Hollyhead just minutes after their 4-0 defeat at Redditch United, with the former assistant at Champions League side Malmö having resigned from his Poppies' post two days previously.

It's fair to say it wasn't a good week for Isthmian League bosses with a high percentage of departures coming in and around the M25. Club legend Drew Cooney left East Grinstead Town after four years in charge.

Cooney made over 500 appearances for the Wasps before taking over the hotseat in 2021.

He quit after picking up just one win from his opening 11 games at the Isthmian South East club.

League rivals Hastings United also made a change with former Whitehawk boss David Altendorff replacing Lee Carey, while former England manager Peter Taylor stood down at Isthmian North side Canvey Island following the Gulls' midweek defeat to Benfleet.

Tilbury have new joint-bosses with George Christou and Jack Toghli coming in for Marc Harrison and Liam Wallace, who left the Dockers by mutual consent.

It was all change also at Lewes after it was announced that popular former boss Craig Nelson had returned to the Dripping Pan, replacing Bradley Pritchard.

There's no busier owner in English football right now than Bracknell Town's Kayne Steinborn-Busse. He is looking for his fifth manager in the space of just 17 league games after dispensing with former Wealdstone and Notts County assistant Matt Saunders.

Saunders had just one point and an FA Cup win over Tadley Calleva to show for his seven games in charge – a tenure which will be remembered for releasing the club's two longest serving players after questioning the commitment of senior squad members.

Perhaps the highest profile departure was that of Altrincham chief Phil Parkinson after eight years at Moss Lane. The 44-year-old led the Robins to two promotions in three seasons, and then a play-off campaign in 2023-24, where they lost to Bromley in the semi finals.

However, after losing a plethora of key players in the summer the Robins have struggled to find the same consistency this season and Parkinson leaves after a sevenmatch unbeaten league run.

Altrincham will now be looking to appoint a new man in charge, much like league rivals Aldershot Town, who brought in John Coleman to replace Tommy Widdrington, who left a fortnight ago and has since re-joined Eastbourne Borough.

Harsh perhaps on Alan Dowson, who took interim charge of team affairs for the trip to Scunthorpe and told The NLP of his desire to make the most of his opportunity in the Shots hotseat.

At Step 5, Richard Brodie left Glossop North End after two years in charge and is now back playing with former club Skelmersdale United at the age of 38.

Dan Bailey quit as player/ manager and coach of Combined Counties Premier North strugglers Virginia Water, Mark Scott resigned from South West Peninsula Premier East side Axminster Town and Clay Cross Town's management team joined United Counties Premier North rivals AFC Mansfield

BY JON COUCH



ISTHMIAN LEAGUE NEWS

TRIO UP FOR THE FACUP

It's FA Cup First Round Proper weekend, and the Pitching In Isthmian League has three sides in action - one of them with a potential audience of millions.

St Albans City haven't had the ideal preparation for their tie today at Burton Albion, given their management duo departed the club on Tuesday for new roles at Kings Lynn Town.

At the time of writing the Saints haven't yet appointed replacements, not surprisingly given the abrupt nature of the departure, but with a six match unbeaten run behind them in the league the players shouldn't be short on confidence even if they have a leadership vacuum to contend with.

Their hosts are struggling a little in League 1, only one place and two points clear of the drop zone, and have been particularly troubled at home, losing four of their seven fixtures at the Pirelli Stadium.

But with two wins from their last three they will hope that they've turned a corner.

Chatham Town have been in fine form, and the Chats travel to Buxton with a 14 match unbeaten run in all competitions behind them.

They defeated National League South opposition in the last round, Tonbridge Angels beaten on their own patch, but Buxton may pose an even stronger challenge.

They sit in fifth place in National League North, and are protecting a nine match unbeaten run - and looking to add a seventh victory to a six match winning streak. They defeated Alfreton Town 6-0 last weekend.

On to Sunday, and if you aren't among the Maldon and Tiptree travelling contingent heading to Port Vale then you can watch the game live via TNT Sports.

The Jammers are having a fine season - top of Pitching In Isthmian North and in the First Round despite having to start in the Extra Preliminary Round back on August 2.

So far they've defeated Buckhurst Hill, Hadley, Canvey Island, Stanway Rovers, Waltham Abbey and Flackwell Heath, but Vale will, of course, pose a much tougher test than any of the sides previously vanquished.

The hosts haven't had the best of starts to the season, and find themselves fourth from bottom

of League 1. They've struggled particularly on their own patch, winning only one of their opening seven league matches, and October brought only one victory from five attempts, that coming in an EFL Trophy tie against Accrington Stanley.

The Jammers have no shortage of professional experience, with striker Freddie Sears notably scoring 15 goals so far, and we've no doubt that the home fans will recognise the opposition number 11 as he has played against their side on a number of occasions previously.

Here's hoping that they'll recognise his goal celebration, too!

KIMBLE IN AT CANVEY

Garry Kimble is the new boss at Canvey Island. When his departure from Witham Town was announced it was suspected it would soon be announced he was joining Canvey Island, and so it came to pass, as the Gulls have confirmed his appointment.

Garry took charge of Witham in the summer of 2023, steering them to 14th place and then to seventh last season. He leaves them in 11th place in Pitching In Isthmian North.

He was previously in charge at Spa Road during a five year period which saw his side win the Essex Senior League in 2012.

They followed that with a play-off semi final defeat in their first Isthmian North Division season, and then with a play-off final victory in 2013-14, a match which saw them defeat Harlow Town 3-0 to earn promotion to the Premier Division. Relegation followed after one season, and he departed the club in February 2016.

As a player, Garry had a fine career, playing for the likes of Charlton Athletic, Cambridge United, Doncaster Rovers, Fulham, Gillingham, Peterborough United and Dagenham and Redbridge.

As a manager, before his first spell at Town he spent time at Tilbury and Burnham, and he spent a little time in charge of Great Wakering Rovers during 2018-19.

DANIEL SIGNS FOR HASSOCKS

Hassocks have announced the signing of East Grinstead Town winger Matt Daniel.

Matt joined the Wasps three years ago, and has been an enormous success. He played 40 times for Lancing during 2021-22, and weighed in with 11 crucial goals as his side retained their Step 4 status via a relegation play-off.



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WEATHER CAN'T DAMPEN THE SPIRITS ON FIREWORKS NIGHT

The weather couldn't dampen the spirits at AFC Portchester's annual family fireworks display and laser light show.

The biggest non-football event of the year at The OnSite Group Stadium once again saw the crowds pack into the venue, with the various indoor and under cover facilities being put to good use as people dodged the showers.

The firework and laser lights display was no damp squib though - the traditional fireworks with a modern twist didn't disappoint those who braved the mild but sometimes damp weather conditions on Hallowe'en night.

The spook room was back again after its introduction to the event for the first time last year and there were plenty of additional scary things to endure for those who dared to take on the walk through the room.

Facepainting was also available for the younger visitors and there was plenty of food and drink options for people of all ages to enjoy across the stadium.



It may have been a typical British autumn evening on the weather front but the lights and fireworks brought plenty of light to the night sky and plenty of smiles on the faces of those in attendance



FIRST TEAM STATS 25-26

APPEARANCES

PLAYER	GAMES
CHARLIE WILLIAMSON	21 (1)
ARCHIE WILLCOX	21
STEVEN MOWTHORPE	20
ALFIE STANLEY	19 (4)
CONOR BAILEY	19 (2)
JACK LEE	19
LEE WORT	15 (7)
CALVIN DAVIES	15
ROBTAW	14 (7)
MARLEY RIDGE	13 (10)
JAMES COWAN	13 (8)
TOMMY SCUTT	11
ZACK WILLETT	8 (6)
CONNOR DUFFIN	7 (14)
RYAN WILKINS	6
OLLYSEARLE	5 (5)
RYAN PENNERY	5
JOSH CLACK	4 (6)
BRETT PITMAN	4 (3)
SPENCER SPURWAY	4
HARRISON BROOK	3 (7)
CAMERON SCOTT	3
MAXSMITH	2 (6)
ASH HOWES	1 (5)
CADE DYER	1 (3)
OWEN PELHAM	1 (1)
OLI DAVIES	0 (3)



GOALS

OUALU	
PLAYER	GOALS
LEE WORT	10
ALFIE STANLEY	8
CONNOR DUFFIN	6
ZACK WILLETT	5
BRETT PITMAN	4
RYAN PENNERY	2
JACK LEE	1
MARLEY RIDGE	1
SPENCER SPURWAY	1
RYAN WILKINS	1
CHARLIE WILLIAMSON	1



TODAY'S FIXTURES/TABLE

Premier Division

Aveley v Ramsgate
Brentwood Town v Wingate and Finchley
Burgess Hill Town v Canvey Island
Carshalton Athletic v Potters Bar Town
Cheshunt v Cray Wanderers
Chichester City v Dulwich Hamlet
Cray Valley PM v Lewes
Dartford v Welling United
Folkestone Invicta v Billericay Town

North Division

Concord Rangers v Lowestoft Town
Downham Town v Gorleston
Felixstowe & Walton United v Takeley
Heybridge Swifts v Brantham Athletic
Newmarket Town v Stanway Rovers
Redbridge v Wroxham
Tilbury v Walthamstow
Waltham Abbey v Cambridge City
Witham Town v Mildenhall Town

South Central Division

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

South East Division

Beckenham Town v Hassocks Broadbridge Heath v VCD Athletic Crowborough Athletic v Margate Deal Town v Sheppey United

PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN LEAGUE - SOUTH CENTRAL DIVISION

PLD	W	D	L	PNT	GD
12	9	2	1	29	+15
15	8	4	3	28	+12
12	9	0	3	27	+16
14	8	3	3	27	+7
14	7	4	3	25	+5
13	7	2	4	23	+15
11	6	2	3	20	+3
14	6	2	6	20	0
11	6	0	5	18	-4
13	5	3	5	18	-5
13	5	2	6	17	0
13	5	2	6	17	-9
13	4	4	5	16	-1
13	5	1	7	16	-2
12	4	4	4	16	-2
11	5	0	6	15	+3
12	5	0	7	15	+2
12	3	4	5	13	-2
15	3	2	10	11	-18
13	2	4	7	10	-9
14	2	4	8	10	-11
14	2	3	9	9	-15
	12 15 12 14 14 13 11 14 11 13 13 13 13 12 11 12 12 15 13 14	12 9 15 8 12 9 14 8 14 7 13 7 11 6 14 6 11 6 13 5 13 5 13 5 13 5 13 5 12 4 11 5 12 5 12 3 15 3 13 2 14 2	12 9 2 15 8 4 12 9 0 14 8 3 14 7 4 13 7 2 11 6 2 14 6 2 11 6 0 13 5 3 13 5 2 13 4 4 13 5 1 12 4 4 11 5 0 12 3 4 15 3 2 13 2 4 14 2 4	12 9 2 1 15 8 4 3 12 9 0 3 14 8 3 3 14 7 4 3 13 7 2 4 11 6 2 6 11 6 2 6 13 5 2 6 13 5 2 6 13 5 2 6 13 5 1 7 12 4 4 4 11 5 0 6 12 5 0 7 12 3 4 5 15 3 2 10 13 2 4 7 14 2 4 8	12 9 2 1 29 15 8 4 3 28 12 9 0 3 27 14 8 3 3 27 14 7 4 3 25 13 7 2 4 23 11 6 2 3 20 14 6 2 6 20 11 6 0 5 18 13 5 3 5 18 13 5 2 6 17 13 5 2 6 17 13 4 4 5 16 13 5 1 7 16 12 4 4 4 16 11 5 0 6 15 12 3 4 5 13 15 3 2 10 11 13 2 4 7 10 14 2 4 8 10

East Grinstead Town v Hastings United Eastbourne Town v Ashford United Erith Town v Three Bridges Herne Bay v Faversham Town Jersey Bulls v Sevenoaks Town Merstham v AFC Whyteleafe Sittingbourne v AFC Croydon Athletic

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 METROPOLITAN POLICE



MET'S EARLY BEGINNINGS

On July 6, 1829, Sir Robert Peel formed the Metropolitan Police, the first organised police force in the world.

It had an office overlooking the Thames at Whitehall known as Scotland Yard, a name that has become famous throughout the world, and also became synonymous with the Met Police.

Ninety years later, in 1919, the Metropolitan Police Football Club was formed, playing friendly matches until joining the Spartan League in 1928.

Apart from during the Second World War years, the club remained in that competition until 1960.

During that time the Blues were league champions eight times, runners-up once and League Cup winners once. In 1960 the Blues joined the Metropolitan League, winning the League Cup in 1969.

In 1971 the Blues were accepted into the Southern League and played in Division South until 1977 under manager Vic Rouse, the former Wales and Crystal Palace

goalkeeper.

In 1977, the Blues moved to the Isthmian League, becoming one of the founder members of the restructured Division 2.

A successful season in 1977-78 resulted in the club finishing runners-up to Epsom and Ewell and being promoted to Division 1. In Season 1981-82 the club finished third, missing promotion by just two points.

However, fortunes changed and in 1984-85, as a result of finishing third from bottom, the Blues were relegated to Division 2 South.

Ironically, that season the Blues enjoyed their best run in the FA Cup, reaching the First Round Proper. The home tie against Dartford was featured on Match of the Day.

On returning to Division 2 South the Blues finished seventh in both 1985-86 and 1986-87. During 1987-88 the Blues led the table in January by seven points but they were overhauled by Chalfont St Peter, who won their last two games of the season and became champions by just one point. The Blues were runners-up by virtue of a one-goal difference over Dorking.

The next two seasons saw the club finish in mid-table in Division 1 but in 1990-91 the club finished second from bottom and were relegated into the newly formed Division 2 of the restructured Diadora (Isthmian) League.

The club remained in Division 2 for several years, always finishing in the top half but just outside the promotion positions. In 1993-94 the Blues again reached the First Round Proper of the FA Cup, losing 2-0 to Crawley Town.

Season 1994-95 saw the club celebrate its 75th anniversary with a game against the Army and the opening of a new grandstand at Imber Court. The Blues finished in fifth position in Division 2 and ended the season with a thrilling victory in the Carlsberg Trophy, defeating Collier Row in a penalty shoot-out.

During the next few seasons the club continued to finish in the top half of Division 2 and in 1999-2000 they reached the Fifth Round of the FA Vase, losing to the eventual winners Deal Town.

In 2009-10 the Blues won the London Senior Cup for the first time in the club's history,

beating AFC Wimbledon 4-3 on penalties after the match ended 4-4 after extra time.

The 2010-11 season proved to be the most exciting in the club's history, culminating in the club winning the Ryman League Division 1 South championship by the narrow margin of one goal.

Bognor Regis Town had a two point advantage when the clubs lined up for the final match of the campaign. Bognor were held to an unexpected draw by Chatham Town and with the Met managing to scramble a 1-0 win against Merstham, it was enough to win the title with a goal difference of 61 against Bognor's 60.

The next few years saw The Blues establish themselves with a series of higher to mid-table finishes and a Surrey Senior Cup win in 2013-14 over Merstham.

In the 2018-19 season due to FA restructuring, the club were moved from the Bostik League to the Southern League which led to the departure of long serving manager Jim Cooper and a number of players, and it also greatly increased travelling costs.

Gavin Macpherson was appointed manager with Jon Nurse as his assistant and they gave youth a chance. Outstanding football and commitment saw them finish third in the league and they then beat Salisbury and Poole Town in the play-offs.

They then had to play a super play-off final against Tonbridge Angels, winners of the Bostik League play-off, to decide who got promoted to

the National League South but Met Police lost 3-2 after extra time.

The club had a tremendous run in the FA Cup, reaching the First Round Proper where they lost to AFC Newport County of League 2. The Blues also won the Surrey Senior Cup by beating Tooting and Mitcham 2-0 in the final.

Season 2021-22 proved to be yet another enthralling campaign, with the club eventually finishing fourth – their highest ever final position – before being beaten 2-1 after extra time in the play-off semi final by Farnborough.

The 2022-23 campaign was another season where the Met played good football. An eighth place finish was achieved and silverware was secured in the form of another win of the Surrey Senior Cup via an impressive 4-1 final victory over Virginia Water.

In the summer of 2023 the club held a number of discussions, manager Gavin MacPherson had departed for Enfield and with the FA League Committee deadlines approaching, it was decided to apply for relegation to Step 4 and a return to the Isthmian League.

Confirmation soon followed and a number of players departed the club. But with the new management team of Suj Singh Khera and Scott Kemp in place a new-look squad was assembled, with a number of players progressing from the development side and they were bolstered by key signings and one or two familiar faces returning to the club.



INTRODUCING THE VISITORS METROPOLITAN POLICE

LIAM BEACH - GOALKEEPER

'Beachy' is a highly respected stopper and Met Fans' Player Of The Season for 2021-22. He returned for a second spell with The Blues after leaving Carshalton Athletic in September 2023. Has also previously turned out for Farnborough and Hampton and Richmond.

ADAM LONGMAN - GOALKEEPER

Adam is a very promising young keeper who has come through the Met Police ranks with the under-23s. On loan/dual registered with Guildford City.

MAX FOULKES - GOALKEEPER

Joined on loan from Dorking Wanderers. A young agile keeper who is no stranger to the Isthmian South Central having featured for Ashford Town. Max is a product of the AFC Wimbledon academy and has also had senior experience with Molesey.

ZACK BASEY - GOALKEEPER

Zack has amassed plenty of experience at this level and has Merstham, South Park and Guildford City on his CV as previous clubs.

JOSH BASSEY - DEFENDER

Broke into the first team and made his debut at the age of 16. A young, exciting prospect who is showing he can hold his own at this level.

KELVIN BOAMPONG - DEFENDER

Kelvin is a quick wing back who loves to get forward and get crosses into the box. Joined the club following an impressive pre-season and his previous clubs include Enfield and Cockfosters.

ALFIE WALTERS - DEFENDER

Another player who has risen through the youth ranks and was with the under-23s. A very good defender who is also very impressive and comfortable in possession.

LAURENCE ERNEST - DEFENDER

Laurence, 20, is a product of the Met Police pathway, playing for the under-23s. Has developed into a very accomplished

defender and broke into Gavin McPherson's side at Step 3 level.

KYNAN KIRLEW-WRIGHT - DEFENDER

Kynan signed for the Blues after an extremely successful and promising season at Farnham Town. Has non-league experience with Tooting and Mitcham and a loan spell with Erith Town as a teenager.

ISAAC NKOSI - DEFENDER

Another powerful central defender with a high footballing pedigree, with former clubs including Charlton Athletic, Bishops Stortford and Heybridge Swifts. He brings great experience and is a natural leader.

KIONTE GILLFILLIAN-WAUL - DEFENDER

A young, talented and technical full back who can also play in midfield. Kionte broke into Gavin McPherson's Step 3 side and will be looking to continue his progress having been with the under-23s side previously.

AYOUB ENAJAR - DEFENDER

Joined the Met in January 2024. A hard working, energetic player who puts everything on the line for the team. Previous clubs include Leverstock Green and Hillingdon Borough. A versatile player who has added strength in depth to the squad.

MASON GALLOWAY - MIDFIELDER

Mason is a very accomplished, intelligent and creative midfielder who was with the under-23s squad and also broke into Gavin McPherson's Step 3 team. A very versatile player.

ARCHIE LOWERY - MIDFIELDER

A very competent and mature player who is equally as comfortable in central defence or midfield. His versatility and composure will provide the team with plenty of options as he looks to continue his progression.

SHEKINAH REID - MIDFIELDER

A technically gifted and energetic, box-to-box midfielder from the Met's under-23s side.

Another who impressed during pre-season to

play his way into the squad.

CHARLIE BROWN - MIDFIELDER

A talented and technical midfielder. Has already made an impact at Imber Court through his impressive performances after spending recent years on a US Footballing Scholarship at Roosevelt University, Chicago.

BEN MENDOZA - MIDFIELDER

Ben brings experience and quality to the squad and has had a positive impact since joining from Chertsey Town. As a youth player he won the Isthmian under-18 league with Bognor before departing for the United States. Ben's former clubs include Worthing, Bognor Regis, Chichester City and he also had a spell in the USA playing for the University of Rio Grande.

RYAN DAVEY - DEFENDER

A left footed centre back who joined the Blues from Bedfont. Comfortable on the ball and good in the air, Ryan has fitted well into the team since joining in January 2024.

LOUIS GATES - DEFENDER

A quick, athletic and strong defender, Louis has the versatility to also play out wide. Joined from Lingfield.

CADELL FRASER-ROBINSON - DEFENDER

A versatile player who can play as an orthodox right back, wing back or winger. Signed for the club from Chalfont St Peter and other previous clubs include Chelmsford, Brightlingsea and Walton Casuals

IGOR OLIVIERA-DE SOUZA - MIDFIELDER

Another product of the Met Police pathway, having put himself on the first team radar thanks to some outstanding performances in the under-18s side. Boasts power, great vision and superb passing as elements of his game.

DONNEL MOORE - STRIKER

A fast and direct centre forward who has also been at Corinthian Casuals and Wembley.

TYRONE SHIHAM - STRIKER

A product or the Aldershot Town academy where he finished top scorer in the 2022-23 season. A young striker who likes to run at defenders and can operate from either flank. Has also had spells with AFC Croydon and Broadfields.

SID GBLA - STRIKER

A prolific striker who finished last season with 39 goals for Woodley United and Berks County.

MET POLICE'S COACHING STAFF

SUJ KHERA - CO-MANAGER

Suj started out in management as a player/ manager with Surrey Police. Since then he has worked with Guildford Saints, Emmanuel, AFC Brooklands, Burpham, Surrey University Women's team, Guildford City, Eversley and California, and Fleet Spurs. Since 2010 he has been in a management partnership with Scott.

SCOTT KEMP - CO-MANAGER

UEFA 'B' qualified coach with over 30 years coaching and management experience at grassroots, non-league, professional clubs and in Collegiate NCAA football in the USA across youth, women's and men's football.

PAUL BURNELL - ASSISTANT MANAGER

Paul has been with the club since 2002 and has been involved in a coaching capacity across a number of the teams - from youth development to the under-23s, who he managed for seven seasons. Has joined the new look management team as assistant manager.

TOMMY NYAMA - COACH

Tommy has played for the Met and won the 2018-19 play-offs where he assisted the winning goal. He was also part of the side that won the Surrey Cup and played in the FA Cup encounter against Newport County. Was head coach of the Met Police Academy PDA side who were champions in 2023 of the SCL Development League, Has also coached the club's development side and the TK Born and Raised Academy UK and Sierra Leone. A UEFA B License holder who also has coaching experience with the Sierra Leone national team.

IAN GRIFFITH - ASSISTANT COACH

lan played for Worthing's youth and reserves sides before leaving for Burgess Hill Town. He went on to play for Lewes, Peacehaven and the Met Police. Managed the Met Police vets team and is currently completing his FA coaching badges.

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ACADEMY OPEN EVENINGS



MONDAY 12TH JANUARY CAMS HILL SCHOOL AGED 16-18 7PM -7:45PM PRESENTATION 8PM- 9:15PM TRAINING SESSION

BOYS Trials

MONDAY 20TH APRIL CAMS HILL SCHOOL AGED 16-18 7PM -7:45PM PRESENTATION 8PM- 9:15PM TRAINING SESSION GIRLS TRIALS

MONDAY 29TH JUNE CAMS HILL SCHOOL AGED 16-18 7PM -7:45PM PRESENTATION 8PM- 9:15PM TRAINING SESSION

BOYS TRIALS

TO ATTEND SCAN THE QR CODE OR EMAIL: ACADEMY@AFCPORTCHESTER.CO.UK



REPORT: SECOND HALF REVIVAL NOT ENOUGH TO STOP DEFEAT

A spirited second half fightback was not enough for AFC Portchester to avoid a 3-2 defeat at home to Westfield.

The Royals trailed the visitors 2-0 at half time but by midway through the second half they were back on level terms and searching for the goal which could have given them all three points.

However, Westfield grabbed their third goal of the night with 13 minutes remaining and held strong in the closing stages to ensure they headed back up the A3 with the victory.

The visitors took the lead with the first meaningful attack of the evening on 12 minutes. A ball down the right found Aderi Dede on the right hand edge of the penalty area and after keeper Steven Mowthorpe came off his line to try and block the danger, the Westfield player's shot beat him and bounced into the empty net.

Portchester should have drawn level again four minutes later after a free kick from the left was cleared as far as Harrison Brook just outside the box. His low shot was well saved by keeper Lewis Gallifent diving to his right but when the rebound was turned back across the six yard box Jack Lee skied his shot over the target from close range.

On 26 minutes a throw in on the left was flicked on into Alfie Stanley's path but he hooked his shot over and six minutes later Charlie Williamson's cross from the right found Brett Pitman but his attempt to guide the ball towards goal sailed just over the target.

The returning Spencer Spurway then got clear down the right and cut inside the penalty area but he put his low shot straight at Gallifent.

However, despite this bright spell by the Royals they found themselves 2-0 down on 37 minutes. Finn Evans got into the penalty area from the right and then played the ball to Caleb Wright, who tucked his shot home at the far post.

Portchester needed a strong start to the second half to have any chance of fighting their way back into the game and that's what they produced from the off.

On 47 minutes the ball was played through to Spurway and his low shot was deflected wide by a

defender but from a corner in their own box, Westfield broke quickly and the ball found its way to Tom Dryer. He took the ball up into the right side of the penalty area and Mowthorpe had to push his shot away from goal.

Portchester pulled their first goal back on 50 minutes when Spurway picked up the ball, went past a couple of defenders and then dispatched his shot into the net off the post.

The Royals' tails were now up and seven minutes later the ball found its way to substitute James Cowan 25 yards out but his shot went straight at Gallifent.

However, the equaliser came on 67 minutes when Pitman robbed the ball off a defender inside the box and he laid a pass off to Lee Wort (pictured below), who fired home his 90th goal for the club – only the second player ever to reach the 90 goal mark for AFC Portchester.

Just as the home side were looking to finish off what would have been the complete comeback had they found a winner, they conceded what proved to be the winning goal for the visitors on 77 minutes

Portchester's defence tried to clear their lines several times after a free kick had been played into the box but they couldn't quite completely clear the danger and eventually the ball was turned across the face of goal and Dryer knocked it home from close range.

That knocked the wind out of Portchester's sails somewhat and they were unable to produce any further chances of note in the time remaining to draw level again.







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**, **Waterlooville**, **Hayling Island**, **Petersfield and the surrounding areas**.

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LADIES FIRST TEAM— FIXTURES AND RESULTS

DATE	H/A	OPPONENTS	СОМР	RES	SCORERS
Aug 31	Ĥ	Winchester City Flyers	League	3-2W	Butterworth, Bradbury, Barron-Clark
Sept 7	Α	Badshot Lea	League	3-0W	Aitken (2), Hillier
Sept 14	Н	Beaconsfield Town	League	1-2L	Adaway
Sept 21	Α	Havant & Waterlooville	FA Cup	3-2W	True (2), Bradbury
Oct 5	Н	Weymouth	FA Cup	19-0W	Bath (6), Butterworth (4), Adaway (2), Hillier (2), True (2), Bradbury, Potvin
Oct 12	Н	Oxford City	League	2-2D	Adaway, Bradbury
Oct 19	Α	Southampton Women	League	2-2D	Nightingale, Bath
Oct 26	Н	Gloucester City	FA Cup	6-2W	Bath (3), Butterworth (2), Bell
Nov 2	Α	Badshot Lea	LC		
Nov 5	Н	Dulwich Hamlet	Isth Cup		
Nov 9	Н	Sholing	League		
Nov 16	Α	Fleet Town	League		
Nov 23	Α	Wycombe Wanderers	League		

LEAGUE TABLE

SOUTHERN REGION WOMEN'S LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

PREMIER DIVISION							
	PLD	W	D	L	PNT	GD	
Wycombe Wnds	4	4	0	0	12	+22	
Sthampton Wom	6	3	2	1	11	+3	
Win City Flyers	4	3	0	1	9	+10	
Reading Com Tst	4	3	0	1	9	+5	
Beaconsfield Tn	6	3	0	3	9	-3	
Fleet Town	6	3	0	3	9	-6	
THE ROYALS	5	2	2	1	8	+3	
Sholing	7	2	0	5	6	-1	
Oxford City	4	1	2	1	5	-2	
Woodley United	3	0	1	2	1	-11	
Badshot Lea	7	Ο	1	6	1	-20	

GOALSCORERS

PLAYER	GOALS
BECKI BATH	10
SARAH BUTTERWORTH	7
MIA ADAWAY	4
MILLIE BRADBURY	4
CHARMAINE TRUE	4
GEMMA HILLIER	3
LAUREN AITKEN	2
BETTY BARRON-CLARK	1
SOPHIE BELL	1
LUCY NIGHTINGALE	1
LAURIE POTVIN	1



ALL LADIES TEAM PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDSAY HYDE

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PLAYER SPONSORS

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LADIES TEAM IN ACTION





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LADIES RESERVES TEAM — **FIXTURES AND RESULTS**

DATE	H/A	OPPONENTS	COMP	RES	SCORERS
Sept 7	H	Mudeford Phoenix	League	4-0W	Keenan (2), Crewe, Niven
Sept 14	Α	Win City Flyers Res	League	6-2W	Ambler (3), Williams (2), West
Sept 21	Н	AFC Stoneham Dev	League	5-1W	Hall-Guy (2), Stoddart (2), Williams
Oct 5	Α	Basingstoke Town	League	3-1W	Hall-Guy, Taylor, Ambler
Oct 12	Н	Millbrook	League	1-1D	Palmer
Nov 2	Α	Mudeford Phoenix	LC		
Nov 23	Α	Gosport Borough	League		

League

LEAGUE TABLE

Nov 30

GOALSCORERS

Basingstoke Town

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY WOMEN'S LEAGUE -					LEAG	PLAYER	GOALS	
	PLD	/ISIC W	D D	L	PNT	GD	KALLY AMBLER	4
THE ROYALS	5	4	1	0	13	+14	AIMEE HALL-GUY	3
Shanklin	2	2	0	0	6	+6	ELINOR WILLIAMS	3
Mudfrd Phoenix	4	1	2	1	5	-2	CHARLOTTE KEENAN	2
US Portsmouth	2	1	1	0	4	+4	MOLLY STODDART	2
Millbrook	2	1	1	0	4	+3	LYNSEY CREWE	1
Basingstoke Town	4	1	1	2	4	-3	STACY NIVEN	1
WinCityFlyrsRes	4	0	3	1	3	-4	EIRA PALMER	1
Gosport Boro	4	0	1	3	1	-5	PAULA TAYLOR	1
AFC Totton	2	0	1	1	1	-5		!
AFCStnhamDev	3	0	1	2	1	-8	LILY-ELLA WEST	1



LADIES DEVELOPMENT— FIXTURES AND RESULTS

DATE	H/A	OPPONENTS	COMP	RES	SCORERS
Sept 7	Α	Farnborough Dev	League	2-4L	Levett, Moore
Sept 14	Н	Sholing Dev	League	1-3L	Levett
Sept 21	Α	Overton	League	5-0W	Gillam (3), Cleeve, Baillie
Sept 28	Α	Cowplain	League	1-1D	Moffat
Oct 5	Н	Petersfield Town	League	1-6D	Barrow
Oct 12	Н	Gosport Borough Res	Jnr Cup	8-0W	Levett (4), Moffat (2), Moore, Holloway
Oct 19	Α	Sherfield English	HFA Trophy	7-0W	Levett (3), Gillam (2), Baillie, Holloway
Oct 26	Α	Denmead	PJnr Cup	0-1L	
Nov 9	Н	Denmead	League		
Nov 16	Н	Overton	Jnr Cup		
Nov 23	Α	Clanfield	League		
Nov 30	Α	Denmead	League		
Dec 7	Н	Overton	League		

LEAGUE TABLE

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY WOMEN'S LEAGUE DIVISION 4

	PLD	W	D	L	PNT	GD
Sholing Dev	4	4	0	0	12	+18
Petersfield Tn	4	4	0	0	12	+15
Denmead	4	3	0	1	9	-2
Farnborough Dev	4	2	0	2	6	+1
Rushmr Com Res	5	2	0	3	6	-2
THE ROYALS	5	1	1	3	4	-4
Cowplain	4	1	1	2	4	-9
Clanfield	4	1	0	3	3	-4
Overton	4	0	0	4	0	-13

GOALSCORERS

PLAYER	GOALS
ASHLEIGH LEVETT	9
AMY GILLAM	5
HANNAH MOFFAT	3
TESSA BAILLIE	2
ROBYN HOLLOWAY	2
SHANIA MOORE	2
AMELIA BARROW	1
ROSIE CLEEVE	1



MEN'S RESERVES TEAM — **FIXTURES AND RESULTS**

DATE	H/A	OPPON
Sept 6	A	Ringwood
Sept 13	Н	Petersfield
Sept 20	Н	Millbro
Sept 27	Α	Meon M
Oct 4	Α	Laverstock a
Oct 11	Н	Brocken
Oct 25	Н	Hythe and
Nov 1	Α	Twenty
Nov 8	Н	Lymingtor
Nov 22	Н	AFC Ston
Nov 29	Α	US Portsr

OPPONENTS
Ringwood Town
Petersfield Town
Millbrook
Meon Milton
averstock and Ford
Brockenhurst
Hythe and Dibden
Twentyten
Lymington Town
AFC Stoneham
US Portsmouth

COMP	RES
League	0-3L
League	3-2W
League	0-7L
Lge Cup	2-5L
League	1-9L
League	1-3L
JS Shield	8-3W
Sat Trophy	
League	
League	

League

SCORERS

Tiller (2), Lambe Davis, Luckins McKenna Deane

Lambe (4), Kaba (2), Poulton, Tiller

LEAGUE TABLE

HAMPSHIKE COMBINATION AND						
DEVELOPMEN.	T LEA	GUE	- PRE	MIE	R DIVIS	SION
	PLD	W	D	L	PNT	GD
US Portsmouth	5	5	0	0	15	+18
Petersfield Tn	7	4	1	2	13	+1
Laverstock & Fd	6	4	0	2	12	+20
Brockenhurst	5	3	1	1	10	+6
AFC Stoneham	4	3	0	1	9	+16
Ringwood Town	6	3	0	3	9	+1
Millbrook	7	2	2	3	8	+4
THE ROYALS	5	1	0	4	3	-19
Lymington Town	4	1	0	3	3	-20
Clanfield	6	1	0	5	3	-21
Downton	3	0	0	3	0	-6

HAMPSHIDE COMBINATION AND

GOALSCORERS

PLAYER	GOALS
DANIEL LAMBE	5
STANLEY TILLER	3
JARELL KABA	2
TOBY DAVIS	1
MATTHEW DEANE	1
SEAN LUCKINS	1
CEDRIC MCKENNA	1
DEXTER POULTON	1



MEN'S VETERANS TEAM— FIXTURES AND RESULTS

DATE	H/A	OPPONENTS	COMP	RES
Sept 7	Α	Barnham Trojans	League	0-5L
Sept 21	Н	Denmead	League	2-3L
Sept 28	Α	Gosport Borough Yth	League	2-3L
Oct 5	Н	Sandhurst Social	Hants Cup	•
Oct 12	Н	Waterlooville Social	League	win pens) 0-4
Nov 2	Н	Fleur De Lys Yth	Hants Cup	
Nov 9	Α	Havant & Waterlylle Yth	League	
Nov 16	Н	Barnham Trojans	Vets Cup	
Nov 23	Н	Friends Fighting Cncr	League	
Nov 30	Н	Barnham Trojans	League	
Dec 14	Α	Denmead	League	
Jan 11	Н	Gosport Borough Yth	League	
Jan 25	Α	Waterlooville Social	League	
Feb 8	Α	Fleur De Lys Yth	League	
Feb 15	Н	Havant & Waterlylle Yth	League	
Feb 22	Α	Friends Fighting Cncr	League	

SCORERS

Bichard, Clark Bichard, Harding Barletta, Smith, Wainwright

LEAGUE TABLE

MEON VALLEY SUNDAY LEAGUE -VETERANS DIVISION 1

	PLD	W	D	L	PNT	GD
Gosport Boro Yth	5	4	0	1	12	+7
Barnham Trojans	5	3	1	1	10	+10
Friends Fight Can	3	2	1	0	7	+16
Hav & Wvle Yth PL	4	2	0	2	6	-5
Waterlooville Soc	5	2	0	3	6	-7
Fleur De Lys Yth	4	1	1	2	4	-4
Denmead	4	1	1	2	4	-6
THE ROYALS	4	0	0	4	0	-11

GOALSCORERS

PLAYER	GOALS
SAM BICHARD	2
ALEX MARULLI DE BARLETTA	1
IAN CLARK	1
WAYNE HARDING	1
PAUL SMITH	1
MATTHEW WAINWRIGHT	1



THE SQUADS AND OFFICIALS

CONOR BAILEY HARRISON BROOK JOSH CLACK **JAMES COWAN CLAUDE DA COSTA** CALVIN DAVIES OLI DAVIES **CONNOR DUFFIN** STEVEN MOWTHORPE KANE O'KEEFF JACK LEE RYAN PENNERY **MARLEY RIDGE CAMERON SCOTT** TOMMY SCUTT OLLY SFARLE SPENCER SPURWAY ALFIE STANLEY **ROB TAW RYAN WILKINS ARCHIE WILLCOX ZACK WILLETT CHARLIE WILLIAMSON LEE WORT**

LIAM BEACH **MAX FOULKES ADAM LONGMAN ZACK BASEY JOSH BASSEY KELVIN BOAMPONG** CHARLIE BROWN **LOUIS GATES RYAN DAVEY IGOR DE SOUZA** MASON GALLOWAY **AYOUB ENAJAR LAURENCE ERNEST CADELL FRASER-ROBINSON** SID GBLA **KIONTE GILLFILLIAN-WAUL RICKY JOHNSON** KYNAN KIRLEW-WRIGHT **BENJAMIN MENDOZA** DONNEL MOORE ISAAC NKOSI **BRUNO PEREIRA** SHEKINAH REID TYRONE SHIHAM ALFIE WALTERS





TODAY'S REFEREE IS HARRY WOOD



TODAY'S ASSISTANTS ARE PATRICK O'REILLY AND STEVEN FOGDEN

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