

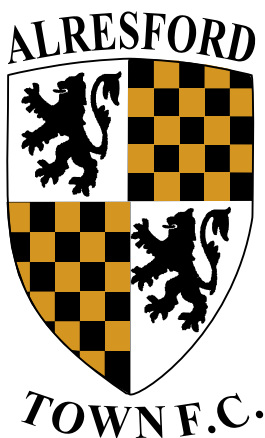
MAGPIES

ALRESFORD TOWN FC OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

ALRESFORD TOWN

V

COVE



WESSEX FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

TUESDAY 12th AUGUST 2025

7.40PM KICK OFF



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COVE

History of Cove FC Cove Football Club was formed in 1897 by a group of local friends playing on a field behind their favourite Public House.

Later moving to a more central location, Cove Green became their home until 1973, when they moved to their present ground at the Oak Farm Stadium. Playing their football in The Surrey Leagues, Cove enjoyed success for many years, winning more than their fair share of silverware including the League Championship 3 years in succession and a double in that period.

In 1973, the club decided to upgrade and were accepted into the Hampshire Leagues, but had to leave 'The Green' for safety reasons and play at Oak Farm. The Division 4 Championship was won at the first attempt, and the Division 3 title followed 2 years later. After a couple of seasons, Cove finished Runners-Up in Division 2, but decided to withdraw from this league due to the time incurred travelling to away matches at Portsmouth or Southampton. This was before the M3 motorway was built and all roads were A and B types.

They returned to the more local Combined Counties League in 1980 and won the League Cup beating close neighbours and rivals Ash United. Since moving into their new home, many changes have taken place at Oak Farm with the installation of floodlights, a concrete perimeter wall and stand in their quest to host senior non-league football.

In 1990, Cove was given the opportunity to join the Vauxhall League (now Ryman League) after finishing third. New manager 'Chick' Botley assembled a squad strong enough to finish a respectable fourth in their first season. Two more successful seasons followed, narrowly missing out on promotion, one being a final day defeat by the new Aldershot Town.

Due to the ever spiralling cost of football at this level, Cove were forced to withdraw from their league and after 3 unsuccessful attempts to join the Wessex League, had to revert back into The Combined Counties League, where they remained with little success. In 2009, the club appointed Koo Dumbuya as manager and a member of the Steve Beeks double winning team and well known around the area. Having played professional football for Aldershot and Brentford, the club decided his playing experience and knowledge could be invaluable and in his first season, Cove won the Southern Combination Cup with a 4-0 victory over Chessington and Hook.

In Season 2010-11, Cove won the Combined Counties League Cup with a 2-0 win over Bedfont, followed by a victory over Farnborough Town in the semi-final of the Aldershot Senior Cup before losing to Fleet Town in the final.

In 2011 manager Koo Dumbuya left the club after 4 years as player/manager to take up a post at Chertsey Town, leaving a big hole to fill as his knowledge of local football was immense.

During season 2012-13 following some poor performances, the club employed an ex-player Anthony Millerick who brought instant success with the winning of the Aldershot Senior Cup and a 3-0 victory over Fleet Spurs, also finishing 3rd in the League, our highest position for many a year.

2013-2014 was another successful season finishing 5th after a run of 22 games, 19 wins and 1 defeat and 2 draws. Cove thrived in 2014-2015 as well sitting on top of the league for half the season, but unable to go for promotion due to the cost of ground improvements and travel, saw a considerable dip in form, leaving Cove with a fifth place finish and a mass exodus of management and players. With hindsight a poor decision by the committee at the time.

A complete change of personnel followed with the appointment of Dave Matthews as manager, following his success as a Youth Team coach. However, our young team of hopefuls were unable to compete at this level and after some poor results found ourselves at the foot of the table many points adrift of safety. Following Dave's resignation at Christmas, new manager Paul Duncan and assistant Salvatore Diprima set about trying to save their Premier status, but despite some improved performances Cove had to face relegation for the first time ever.

Paul Duncan left so a decision to appoint Salvatore Diprima as manager soon followed. Diprima proved to be far below the required standard for step 6 of the NLS and was sacked in February 2018. Josh Taylor was appointed First Team Manager for 2018 -19 after his successful spell in charge for the last 12 games of 2017-18 and lifting Cove off the bottom of the league and ensuring Cove stayed in CCL div 1. Unfortunately, Cove were never far from the bottom three in the 2018 -19 season and finished last in CCFL Division 1 and faced relegation to step 7.

Josh resigned in May 2019. At the same time, we received the bad news we had been relegated to step 7 and the Hampshire Premier league. An all-time low for those involved at the club. The job of finding a new manager began and Joe Lawler who was managing Overton FC very successfully was appointed. Cove remained in CCL div 1 thanks to the FA.

Joe's first season was interrupted by the Covid 19 pandemic, but he had successfully managed the club to a mid-table position with several games left which could have improved based on the teams we had left to play, some of whom were struggling at the time. With the null and voided season of 2020—21 we continued to build while football was suspended. In October 2021 Joe unexpectedly resigned for an opportunity to manage Tadley Calleva FC.

After a recruitment campaign which saw many candidates apply, Chris Powell accepted the position of First Team Manager. Chris had been at the club for 2 years coaching the ACYL U18 and SYL U16's and when asked to help out in the interim he did not hesitate. He already has CCL experience at Sandhurst and additional experience in other leagues.

Chris had a huge task for the remainder of the 2021-22 season; firstly, fulfilling fixtures and secondly building a squad which might challenge for a mid-table position and safety. With the ever-changing squad, injuries and lack of quality players available locally, Chris and his management team struggled for results but we survived the season and fulfilled every fixture. Although finishing 2nd from bottom our PPG statistics saved us from relegation and Cove remained in CCL1 for 2022-23.

Chris set about building a squad to deliver better results in 2022-23 and keep us away from relegation. Target was mid table. By Christmas and shortly afterwards our results were very good, but our form dipped and we finished safely with a 16th place and a credible 40 points.

For the 2023-24 season we have been laterally moved by the FA to the Wessex league. An unknown task with many more miles to travel to away games. The squad was strong and with a great recruitment from Chris we finished 7th in the WFL just outside the playoffs.

During this present season and second year in The Wessex League Chris and club Chairman Bobby Kaler have made the decision to step back from managing the team. Chris decided to leave Cove by mutual consent. During the 24-25 season the club appointed Dan Goodall as First Team Manager and his assistants Josh Woodcock and Colin McCormack. Their first partial season in charge was a positive one despite injuries and absences. A mid table finish was very credible and we look forward to better in 25-26.

CLUB OFFICIALS

Chairman
Craig Scriven

Secretary
Lauren Young

Commercial Director
Lauren Young

Committee members
Lauren Young, Karly Cleeve
& Steve May

Managers
Ashley Clarke

Assistant Manager
Steve Bramwell

HONOURS & RECORDS

Wessex League Cup
Winners: 2012/13 & 2013/14

North Hants League
Champions: 1999/00

Hampshire Senior Cup
Winners: 2012/13

North Hants Senior Cup
Winners: 1991/92, 2011/12,
2012/13 & 2013/14, 2021/2022

Aldershot Senior Cup
Winners: 2013/14

Southampton Senior Cup
Winners: 2018/19

Best FA Cup Performance
Second Qualifying Round: 2016/17

Best FA Vase Performance
Fourth Round: 2013/14

Record Attendance
202 vs Basingstoke Town Sep 2023
Servio Men's Senior Cup &
211 vs Salisbury March 2016

NEXT FIXTURES

Romsey - Wessex League Division One
Saturday 16th August 3.00pm Arlebury Park

Whitchurch - Wessex League Division One
Saturday 23rd August 3.00pm Arlebury Park

Ash United - Wessex League Division One
Saturday 30th August 3.00pm Smurfit Westrock Stadium

ALRESFORD TOWN CLUB HISTORY

Football in Alresford has been found back to the late nineteenth century, but the formation year of the present ALRESFORD TOWN FC side is shown as 1989. Starting in the now defunct North Hants League, Town moved immediately into the Hampshire League before withdrawing in 1996. They returned, again from the North Hants League, in 2000 and then came the 2004 move; they've remained members of the Wessex League since and have been a top tier side since 2007.

The original Alresford Town was established in 1898 and were members of the Winchester & District League. The modern club was established in 1989 and joined the North Hants League. After finishing as runners-up in their first season, they moved up to Division Two of the Hampshire League. The club were Division Two runners-up in 1990/91, securing a second successive promotion to Division One. However, after finishing second-from-bottom of Division One in 1994/95, they were relegated back to Division Two. At the end of the following season the club left to re-join the North Hants League.

Alresford were North Hants League champions in 1999/00 and returned to Division Two of the Hampshire League. After finishing second in Division Two in 2001/02 they were promoted to Division One. In 2004 the Hampshire League merged into the Wessex League, with the club becoming members of the new Division Two. The division was renamed Division One in 2006 and Alresford were runners-up in 2006/07, earning promotion to the Premier Division. After five seasons in the lower-mid table, the club were Premier Division runners-up in 2012/13, a season that saw them win the Hampshire Senior Cup (beating AFC Bournemouth in the final), the League Cup and the North Hants Senior Cup. They were Premier Division runners-up again the following season, also retaining the League Cup and the North Hants Senior Cup, as well as winning the Aldershot Senior Cup.

In 2018/19 Alresford won the Southampton Senior Cup, beating AFC Stoneham 3–0 in the final. The 2019/20 season was abandoned due to the coronavirus pandemic with Alresford top of the Premier Division.

In 2021/22 Alresford won the North Hants Senior Cup beating Basingstoke Town 1-0.

League Cup wins - 2013, 2014

Local County FA Senior and other cup competitions winners in the Wessex era.

Aldershot Senior Invitation Challenge Cup 2013/14 Hampshire Senior Cup 2012/13

North Hants Senior Cup 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2021/22 Southampton Senior Cup 2018/19

These are wins only whilst the club were members of the Wessex League.

FA CUP

Furthest progress - 2016/17 2nd Qualifying - Cadbury Heath

Record victory 2009/10 Extra Preliminary Shaftesbury 8-0

FA VASE

Furthest progress 2013/14 4th Round - Hallen

Record victory 2013/14 3rd Round - Saltash United 7-2

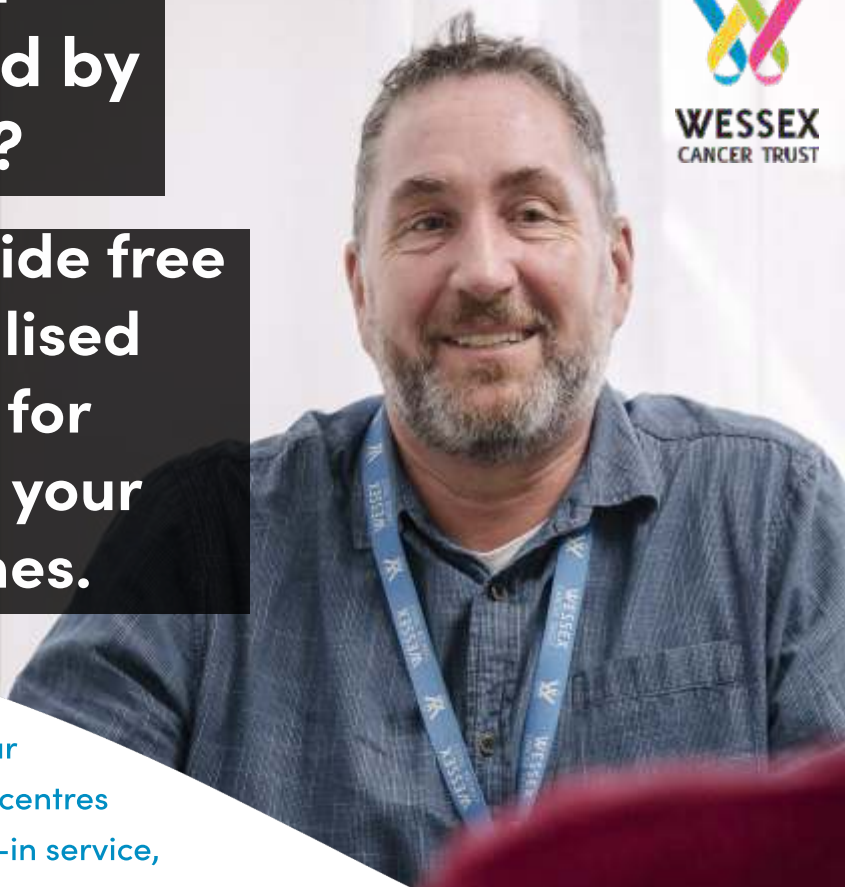
The FA Cup and FA Vase records are the best achieved whilst in Wessex League membership.

Where this has been on more than one occasion, only the last time it was achieved is shown here.

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The Wessex Football League Show is the official podcast of the Velocity Wessex Football League. We are on air live from Awaaz 99.8FM studios & simultaneously on Fiesta 95FM based in Southampton from 14:00 to 16:00 every Sunday and you can also listen live on www.awaazfm.co.uk from anywhere in the world.

Our aim is to promote all local football but specifically the 40 teams of the Wessex Football League. So far, we have had managers, chairpersons, players, press officers and secretaries joining us as studio guests, and via zoom and phone guests from many Wessex Football League clubs, as well as guests from local teams both higher up and lower down the pyramid.

This is your show and is a platform for your club to promote its events and raise its profile. If your club produces post-match interviews, please either email us a copy of the audio or give permission for us to play them on air straight from your website or social media sites, as we will aim to play them on the show.

Please come and join us one Sunday, we do have access to the two studios so it is easy to accommodate guests in the studio, for more information please email gregdickson94@gmail.com or cliffpledge@hotmail.com

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Today's Other Fixtures

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----|---|----------------------|
| Folland Sports |  | VS |  | Clanfield |
| Hamworthy United |  | VS |  | Blackfield & Langley |
| Ringwood Town |  | VS |  | Fawley AFC |
| Romsey Town |  | VS |  | Kintbury Rangers |
| Baffins Milton Rovers |  | VS |  | Totton & Eling |
| Eversley & California |  | VS |  | Yateley United |

Results 9th August 2025

| | | | | |
|----------------------|---|-------|---|----------------------------|
| Amesbury Town |  | 3 - 4 |  | Ringwood Town |
| Ash United |  | 3 - 1 |  | Newport (IoW) |
| Blackfield & Langley |  | 0 - 4 |  | Alresford Town |
| Fleetlands |  | 2 - 2 |  | AFC Aldermaston |
| Frimley Green |  | 5 - 2 |  | Colden Common |
| Kintbury Rangers |  | 1 - 1 |  | Cove |
| Totton & Eling |  | 1 - 4 |  | Folland Sports |
| Whitchurch United |  | 9 - 0 |  | United Services Portsmouth |
| Yateley United |  | 2 - 3 |  | Romsey Town |

| Division One | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|-----|
| POS | Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | PTS |
| 1 | Whitchurch United | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 3 | 12 | 9 |
| 2 | Alresford Town | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| 3 | Romsey Town | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| 4 | Ash United | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 5 | Fleetlands | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 6 | Frimley Green | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| 7 | Folland Sports | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 8 | Hamworthy United | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 9 | Ringwood Town | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 7 | -2 | 3 |
| 10 | United Services Portsmouth | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 10 | -6 | 3 |
| 11 | AFC Aldermaston | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 12 | Lymington Town | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 13 | Cove | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 14 | Clanfield | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 15 | Kintbury Rangers | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | -1 | 1 |
| 16 | Amesbury Town | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 | -3 | 1 |
| 17 | Fawley AFC | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | -3 | 1 |
| 18 | Yateley United | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 6 | -2 | 0 |
| 19 | Colden Common | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5 | -3 | 0 |
| 20 | Totton & Eling | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 7 | -4 | 0 |
| 21 | Newport (IoW) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 7 | -5 | 0 |
| 22 | Blackfield & Langley | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 6 | -5 | 0 |