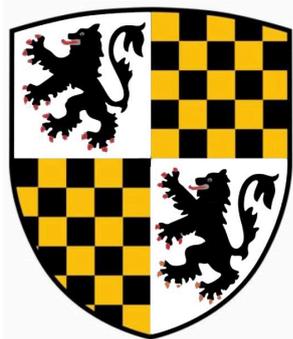


OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



**ALRESFORD TOWN FC**  
v  
**NEWPORT IOW FC**



WESSEX LEAGUE ONE

**SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026**

3.00pm

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*“Kieran is a top lad, who’ll be a big miss”*

Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to Arlebury Park for today’s match against Newport IOW FC. It’s great to see you all here once again, and as always, your support means a huge amount to everyone at the club.

As we head into the final stretch of the season, we now have five games remaining, and the focus is clear — we want to put together a strong mini run and finish the season on a real positive note. The players are determined to do that, and there’s a real sense of purpose in the group as we look to end the campaign in the right way.

Our last outing was a tough one. Yateley were possibly the best side we’ve faced this season, and in my view, they have the best individual player in the league as well. Coupled with the disgusting weather conditions, it made for a very difficult evening all round. That said, the lads gave everything, and I want to place on record our thanks to the supporters who braved the elements to be there — your commitment didn’t go unnoticed and is hugely appreciated.

We welcome Newport IOW FC this afternoon, who themselves are well positioned in the league and will provide another strong test. We know we’ll need to be at our best, but these are the kind of games we want to be involved in.

Unfortunately, we’ve also had a blow with the loss of Kieran Connell for the remainder of the season following a recurrence of his knee injury. Kieran has been a big presence both on and off the pitch, and his character around the squad will be a real miss. Everyone at the club wishes him all the best in his recovery.

For us, it’s about sticking together, showing the right attitude, and giving everything in these final games. With your support behind us, we’ll be pushing to finish the season strongly.

Thank you again for your backing — enjoy the game and get right behind the lads.

Up the Mags!

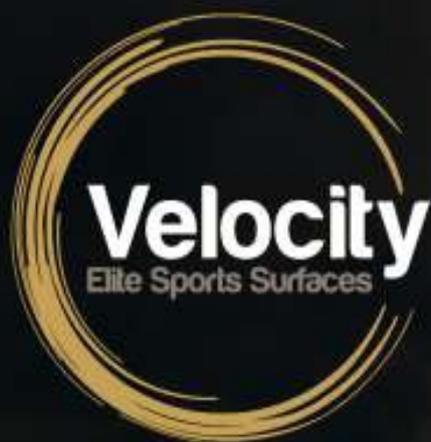
**Ash Clarke**

Manager, Alresford Town FC

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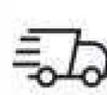
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## THE OPPOSITION



NEWPORT was formed in January 1888. Like many others around in these times it is inaugurated from a public meeting, this one being held at the Warburton Hotel. Once more, a vote was taken whether to play rugby or soccer. The earliest recorded game was on 7th March when the team was defeated 2-1 by Lugley House School.

The first ground was 'Wells Field' which became known as Church Litten, their home for 100 years. In 1911 the club merged with another side to become Newport United, but that title lasted for just the 1911/12 season, when the club were beaten finalists in the Hampshire Junior Cup. Port were one of the Wessex League's founders and are current members having re-joined in 2008.

The modern Newport IOW Football Club, with its well-appointed St George's Park facilities, (which the club officially vacated at the end of the 2018/19 season), presented a different picture from that conjured up by the club's origins on January 27th 1888. The actual date of formation can be established from the original minute book, which is still in the club's possession.

At that time, over 130 years ago, Newport played on a piece of land known as Well's Field, which later became known as Church Litten. Those early days meant a walk from the local public house, where the players changed, to a field, in order to clear the cows before play could commence. Newport became founder members of the Isle Of Wight League in 1898 and were League Champions on four occasions.

In 1927 the club became members of the Hampshire League, taking over the fixtures of the defunct Gosport Albion Club in mid-season and within three seasons Newport had won the County League championship for the first time. The 1930's saw further wins in the Hampshire League and also the Hampshire Senior Cup being won in 1932. The 1935/36 season saw Newport reach the 2nd Round of the FA Cup for the first time, bowing out at Southall.



## THE OPPOSITION



In the 1960's we had further Hampshire Senior Cup wins in 1961 and 1966 and in the 1970s a hat trick of Hampshire League titles in 1979, 1989 and 1981 and two Hampshire Senior Cup successes in 1980 and 1981.

In 1986, Newport became founder members of the Wessex League, finishing a creditable fourth place in that debut season. In the 1989/90 season Newport were promoted to the Southern League. The 2000/01 season saw us win the Dr Martens League Eastern Division Championship. However, we found the top-flight too much and returned the Eastern Division after just one season.

Soon after in the 2003/04 season the club was in administration and the fight to keep the club alive was taken up by the supporters, with The Save Newport (FC) Action Group saving the club. 2004/05 saw Newport make its debut in the Isthmian League.

The 2006/07 season saw a return to the more familiar Southern League, playing in the South and West division. On 1st August 2007 The Port played a friendly against a full-strength Portsmouth team which drew 3112 supporters to St George's Park, the highest crowd ever to watch a match at the ground. The club was relegated back to the Wessex league at the end of the 2007/08 season after finishing bottom of Division One South and West of the Southern league. The club then remained in the Wessex League Premier Division but went on to win the Russell Cotes Cup in 2010/11.

Andy Sampson took over at the start of the 2015-16 season with the club finishing 7th in the Wessex Premier, followed by 10th and 15th in the two following seasons. At the end of the 2017/18 season the club was relegated to Wessex Division One. Soon after the start of the 2020/21 season Andy stepped down, with Stewart Shepherd and Steve Brougham taking the reins as joint managers.



## THE OPPOSITION



The club finally moved from St. George's Park at the end of the 2018-19 season and, for the past five seasons we have ground-shared at East Cowes Vics or at Smallbrook Stadium, home of Isle of Wight Speedway and Ryde Saints FC.

2024-25 promises to be an exciting season. Our new joint managers Joe Butcher and Martin McDonough have assembled an exciting squad of both young and experienced players as the club looks to build for the future on and off the pitch.



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## #MattsStats



Reverse Fixture	Newport 2 - 1 Alresford Town
Table	20 points separate Newport in 7th and Alresford in 15th
Players used this season	Alresford 62 Newport 31
Season	
Alresford Home form	Won 6 Drawn 7 Lost 5
Newport Away form	Won 6 Drawn 2 Lost 7
Recent Form	
Alresford	6th in the table - Played 6 - Won 3, Drawn 2, Lost 1 - scored 10 conceded 4
Newport	19th in the table - Played 6 - Won 1, Drawn 0, Lost 5 - scored 4 conceded 12
Goals Scored Average	
Alresford	1.76 per game
Newport	2.03 per game
Goals Conceded Average	
Alresford	2.03 per game
Newport	1.44 per game
Top Goal Scorers	
Alresford	21 goals - Jack Welch, 8 goals Billy Grimes
Newport	31 goals - JiNash, 12 goals Joe Butcher
Where the points have come from.	
Points Alresford	25 of Alresford's 40 points have been won at home
Points Newport	20 of Newport's 60 points were won away home



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## *ALRESFORD TOWN FC HISTORY*

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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.

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, the club 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 Town 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.

## *ALRESFORD TOWN FC HISTORY CONT.*



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.

The Men's team is led by Manager Ash Clarke, who joined the club in the pre-season of the 2025 season. Ash joined Alresford from Worthing Town F.C. where he was first team manager after having spent time at AFC Porchester, Moneyfields, and in the youth game with Portsmouth and Brighton and Hove Albion. With a young side, playing expansive football, the Club is excited for the future!



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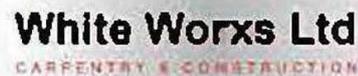
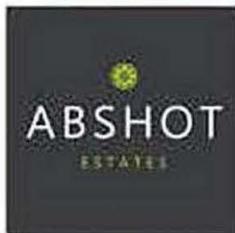
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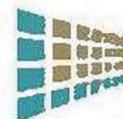
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## CLUB OFFICIALS

**Chairman**

Craig Scriven

**Secretary**

Martin Cooke

**Commercial Manager**

Ross Holt

**Committee Members**

Steve May, Karly Cleeve, Grant Young

**Manager**

Ash Clarke

**Assistant Manager**

Carter Smith

**Coach**

Simon Routledge

**GK Coach**

Dan Kempson

## CLUB HONOURS

**Wessex League Cup**

Winners: 2012/13 & 2013/14

**North Hants League**

Champions 1999/2000

**Hampshire Senior Cup**

Winners 2012/2013

**North Hants Senior Cup**

Winners: 1991/1992, 2011/2012, 2012/2013, 2013/2014,  
2021/2022

**Aldershot Senior Cup**

Winners 2013/2014

**Southampton Senior Cup**

Winners 2018/2019

**Best FA Cup Performance**

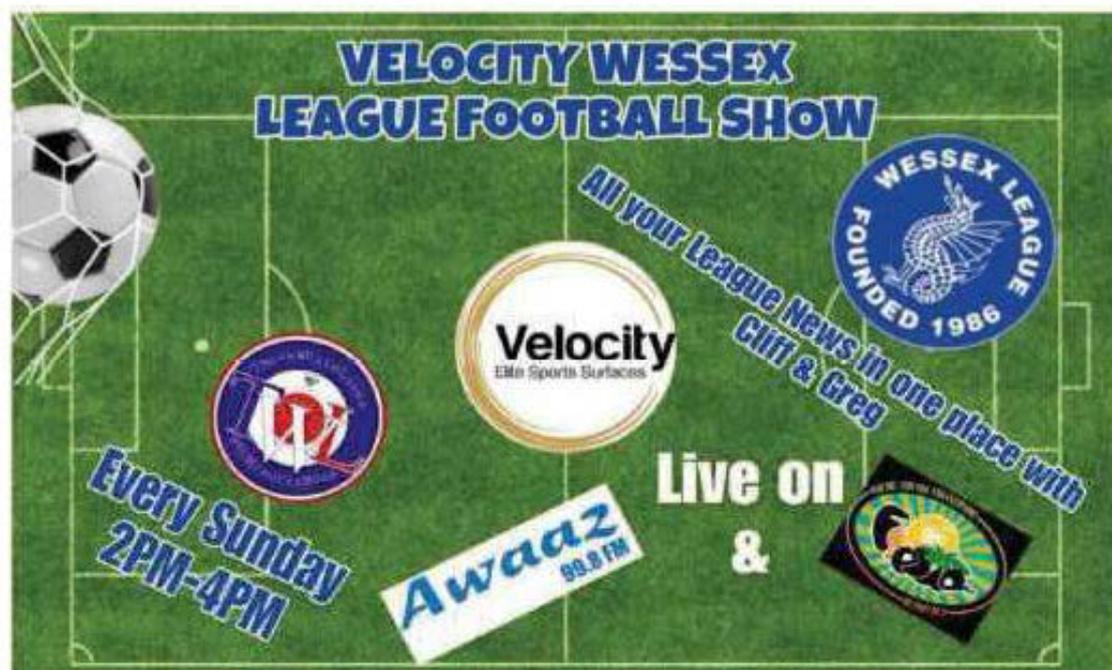
2<sup>nd</sup> Qualifying Round 2016/2017

**Best FA Vase Performance**

Fourth Round 2013/2014

**Record Attendance**

339 v Colden Common 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025



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](http://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](mailto:gregdickson94@gmail.com) or [cliffpledge@hotmail.com](mailto:cliffpledge@hotmail.com)

**LISTEN BACK WITH OUR QR CODE:**





## LEAGUE TABLE & UPCOMING FIXTURES



Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Whitchurch United	35	23	4	8	89	56	33	73
2	Colden Common	36	22	6	8	97	56	41	72
3	Fleetlands	31	22	4	5	64	36	28	70
4	Folland Sports	32	22	3	7	86	45	41	69
5	Yateley United	34	20	3	11	84	48	36	63
6	Cove	33	18	9	6	56	35	21	63
7	Newport (IoW)	32	18	6	8	65	46	19	60
8	Romsey Town	33	17	6	10	68	49	19	57
9	Hamworthy United	36	15	8	13	80	59	21	53
10	Ringwood Town	34	15	2	17	69	69	0	47
11	Frimley Green	33	12	9	12	80	68	12	45
12	Clanfield	35	14	2	19	56	61	-5	44
13	Amesbury Town	34	12	7	15	60	58	2	43
14	Kintbury Rangers	34	11	8	15	61	72	-11	41
15	Alresford Town	37	10	10	17	65	79	-14	40
16	AFC Aldermaston	36	11	6	19	54	68	-14	39
17	Lymington Town	36	11	4	21	46	84	-38	37
18	Ash United	34	10	6	18	38	69	-31	36
19	Fawley AFC	34	7	9	18	37	74	-37	30
20	Blackfield & Langley	35	8	5	22	43	87	-44	26*
21	United Services Portsmouth	33	7	4	22	43	86	-43	25
22	Totton & Eling	31	7	3	21	32	68	-36	24

Date / Time	Home Team	Away Team	Venue
28/03/26 15:00	Alresford Town 	<b>VS</b>  Newport (IoW)	ARLEBURY PARK
04/04/26 15:00	Colden Common 	<b>VS</b>  Alresford Town	CHARTERS COMMUNITY STADIUM
11/04/26 15:00	Alresford Town 	<b>VS</b>  Frimley Green	ARLEBURY PARK
18/04/26 15:00	Folland Sports 	<b>VS</b>  Alresford Town	THE ARROW ARENA
25/04/26 15:00	Alresford Town 	<b>VS</b>  Ash United	ARLEBURY PARK

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