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**COMBINED COUNTIES FOOTBALL LEAGUE** PREMIER DIVISION SOUTH

# <u>ALTON</u> SOM & EWELL

SATURDAY 02 DECEMBER 2023 15:00

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME £2











### **ALTON FOOTBALL CLUB**

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### **STRUCTURE FOR SEASON 2023/24**

#### **ADULT COMMITTEE**

Chair
Vice Chair / Secretary
Treasurer / Commercial
Director of Football
Support & Development
Support & Development
Welfare Officer

Nigel Rhodes
Wayne Dickson
Carl Saunders
Dave Hawtin
Paul Dale
Bill Scholes
Kirsty Payne

#### **FOOTBALL MANAGEMENT**

First Team Manager Kevin Adair
Assistant Manager Leigh Keddle
Head Coach & Head of Steve Franks
Player Development

GK Coach Steve Smith
Physio Rosie Miron
Admin Wayne Dickson

Development Team Manager Matt Evans

Groundsman Tony Saunders

## **WELCOME**

Combined Counties League: Premier Division South Saturday 02 December 2023 Kick off 15:00

### **ALTON vs EPSOM & EWELL**

### Alton Football Club and its sponsors

extend a warm and friendly welcome to today's players, officials and supporters.

### FORTHCOMING HOME GAMES

Mon 04 Dec	19:45	Alton Youth vs Fleet Town
Sat 09 Dec	15:00	Alton vs Cobham
Sat 16 Dec	15:00	Alton Development vs Ash United
Sat 23 Dec	15:00	Alton vs Sandhurst Town
Mon 08 Jan	19:45	Alton Youth vs Badshot Lea
Sat 13 Jan	15:00	Alton vs Guildford City
Mon 22 Jan	19:45	Alton Youth vs Fleet Spurs
Thu 25 Jan	19:45	Alton Youth vs Fleet Spurs
Sat 10 Feb	15:00	Alton vs Sheerwater



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## **SECRETARY'S NOTES**



Good afternoon and welcome to The Exclusive Networks Stadium for today's Combined Counties league game against Epsom & Ewell. We welcome their players, management, committee and supporters too and hope they enjoy their short stay. We also welcome today's match officials.

The last home game saw us show real qualities to dig deep and come back from a goal down against a Spelthorne side who were obviously out for revenge for the defeat the week before. But a trade mark header from Pat Cox and a far post poachers' goal by Perry Coles secured the victory and kept us at seventh in the league.

Last Friday we travelled to Farnham and they showed why they are favourites for everything this season with a clinical display, by a team of players that have all mostly played at levels way above the Combined Counties League. But as was said to me at the game, if at the end of October, someone said you would collect fifteen out of the next eighteen points, you would have snapped their hand off. But that is exactly what Kev and the boys have done. We put Farnham behind us as a one off and go again today.

On Tuesday we travel to Hillingdon Borough in the next round of the league cup. A club I have fond memories of – albeit at a different ground, as back in the day [late 1970s] when they were in the Southern League a lot of Brentford players played out there final years there. We then return home on the 9th when we entertain Cobham in the League.

In the Hampshire Senior Cup our reward for beating Baffin's is an away trip in the New Year to either Christchurch or AFC Porchester in the quarter finals. They are due to play their game on 12th December after the first attempt was rained off. I know who I would prefer, as the pubs are nicer in the New Forest!!

Our Aldershot Senior Cup match at home to Badshot Lea is due to be re-arranged as Badshot now have a backlogged of league game that takes priority.

For all those of you looking for a weekend away – we can confirm our away trip to Jersey is scheduled for Saturday 6th January, a weekend away will be just what is needed to get over the Christmas festivities and clear away the January Blues.

We are now able to offer hot food in the way of pies, sausage rolls and burgers from the tea bar, where tea and coffee will also be available. The service will be available on all Saturday first team home games.

Like all clubs at our level, we are always we on the lookout for volunteers to assist in and around the club, not only on match days but during the week as well. It is surprising the number of jobs that need doing on a weekly basis, – speak to any committee member if you feel able to help, no matter how small, all help will be appreciated.

Enjoy the game, Up the Brewers Wayne



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# **MANAGER'S MESSAGE**

Good afternoon everybody and welcome to another Combined Counties league fixture, this time against Epsom and Ewell.

A warm welcome to those associated with their club and also today's most important people the match officials

This is another key fixture for us here at The Enclosure as all of our fixtures have and will be in this tough division.

It provides an opportunity to get some more points on the board and we really feel that our chances improve when we are playing here with the great support we have behind us.



Epsom and Ewell, like many teams, seem to be in a period of transition so will be equally keen to get a positive result for themselves in what is a very competitive competition this season. They are battling presently to make a swift rise up the division and will be up for today's game for sure. But we will be very determined to do our best to win this game at the same time.

We were disappointed last Friday away against arguably the league's best side but these things happen and it's how we react to it that's the key. Our performance wasn't good overall although we created enough opportunities to have given us a better chance to compete in the game.

We need to be more clinical as a team and certainly more resilient defensively and we are working constantly on this to continue to reach the levels we have in the majority of our games this season.

Hopefully this afternoon's game is another enjoyable one.

Up The Brewers

Keep Attacking

Kev



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### FARNHAM TOWN 6 - 1 ALTON

### Combined Counties Football League: Premier Division South Friday 24 November 2023

Match report by Dave Hawtin



Photo: Olly Dickson / Insta @oldsnaps\_

Alton should not spend too long breaking down this result. Farnham have committed resources and have aspirations on a completely different level and are by far and away the best side in the league.

The game was over after half an hour as Farnham ruthlessly took advantage of every Alton error, even though territorially the visitors had started the game well without seriously threatening the home goal.

With a lead of 4 nil at the break the home side played well within themselves in the second half adding two more goals and conceding a late consolation goal to Ed Dryden.

The challenge for Alton will be to quickly put this result fully behind them and get back to competitive ways as quickly as possible remembering the unbeaten sequence they had built prior to this fixture.

# **NEXT SATURDAY**

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**COMBINED COUNTIES FOOTBALL LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION SOUTH** 



# ALTON



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# **TODAY'S VISITORS**



# EPSOM & EWELL CLUB HISTORY 1918 - 2023

We were founded in March 1918 as Epsom Juniors Cricket Club and played throughout the summer. In the autumn, Epsom Juniors F.C. came into being and played a handful of games from what is now known as Alexandra Recreation Ground. Competitive football followed as we entered the Surrey Junior League in 1919, and became founder members of the Sutton & District League in 1920.

A change of name in July 1922 to Epsom Town F.C. heralded the start of a very successful era. By now resident at the Horton Hospital Sports Ground, we were unfortunate to lose 2-1 after extra time at Dorking F.C.'s Pixham Lane ground to Caterham Mental Hospital in a replay of the Surrey Junior Cup Final.

However, we won three other trophies that season, the Leatherhead Hospital Shield, the Sutton Hospital Cup, and the Epsom Hospital Cup. In addition, we also won the Sutton & District League, and under the forward-thinking of their visionary Chairman Hugh Bradley, took the step into Intermediate Football, where we won the Southern Suburban League without losing a match. Senior football was granted as we were unanimously accepted into the Surrey Senior League for 1924/25, where we finished third.

In September 1925, the club relocated to the old Ewell F.C. ground at West Street, which was purchased through the generosity of our future President Robert Bradshaw. In 1925/26 the Championship of the Surrey Senior League was attained, and the following season, we defeated Egham 1–0 at Egham in the League Charity Cup to complete a League and Cup "double". Election to the London League followed, and the title was claimed in the first attempt in 1927/28. Unfortunately, we were unable to repeat this, instead of finishing runners-up in 1931/32, 1932/33, 1934/35, 1936/37 and 1937/38. Cup Honours were limited, although in 1929 Redhill defeated us 3–2 in front of 4,600 at Guildford in our first Surrey Senior Cup Final, having seen off Wimbledon 4–1 in the semi-final!

The thirties were a very successful era, and we won the Surrey Charity (Senior) Shield in 1933 with an impressive 5-0 win over Woking at Kingfield. However, the proudest moment of our pre-war history was an appearance in the First Round Proper of the F.A.Cup in 1933/34. Woking (after a replay), Nunhead, Tooting & Mitcham, Beddington Corner, and Leytonstone were defeated, and a crowd of 9,485 at the Lea Bridge Speedway Stadium witnessed a 4-2 loss against the hosts Clapton Orient. At the end of that season, we changed our name to Epsom F.C.

In 1939 a newly formed team, Epsom Town (no connection to the earlier name) shared the ground with Epsom F.C. However, this arrangement was suspended when war was declared, and we folded for the duration. In the meantime, Club Chairman Charles Pettett threw in his lot with Epsom Town in an attempt to boost morale by keeping the football flag flying. It was successful, as that club competed continuously throughout the war years, winning the Surrey Combination in 1939/40, and reaching the Surrey Senior Cup Final in 1944, losing 3-1 to Tooting & Mitcham, at Sandy Lane. After the war, Epsom F.C. restarted, continuing in the London League and reclaimed West Street.

Temporary homes were found for Epsom Town while they competed for a season in the newly created Corinthian League, but disbanded in 1946. In 1949 we entered the Corinthian League ourselves, wherein in 1952 we reached the League Memorial Shield Final 1952, going down 2-1 to Champions Hounslow at Eastbourne after leading at half-time. Things improved further with the signing of the former English Amateur International Pat Lynch from Hendon, finishing third in 1952/53, while in 1954 we reached the Surrey Senior Cup Final for the second time ino ur history, losing unluckily 2-0 to Corinthian-Casuals in front of 6,159 at Selhurst Park. In 1955 we won the Surrey Senior Shield with a 1-0 win over Carshalton Athletic at West Street.

We appointed our first ever Manager, Kingstonian legend Doug Whitehead in 1955 and the Corinthian League double was almost achieved in 1956/57, but two losses in the final week, along with a 2-0 defeat in the Cup Final to Maidenhead United at Dorking ensured that we ended with neither, finishing fourth. However, in 1960, we finally raised the Shield with a 2-0 revenge win over Maidenhead at Vale Farm, home of Wembley F.C.

In 1960 we changed our name once again to Epsom & Ewell F.C. This was not because of any merger with Ewell & Stoneleigh as is often quoted, but was an attempt to increase support across the whole of the Borough. In 1963 the Corinthian League merged with the Athenian and Delphian Leagues, and we were placed in Division One of the new structure, but the sixties were full of poor results and we were relegated in 1965.

Despite a string of managers, most notably ex-Leyton Orient winger Jimmy Smith, and Tony Williams, now famous for his creation of the F.A. Yearbooks, our fortunes did not improve significantly and further relegations were avoided in the early seventies by the benefit of re-election. However in 1973, despite "improving" to finish second from bottom, the Athenian League ran out of patience and cut us loose. This was unfortunate timing as we had just cleared all of our debts, and in addition to a virtually new Committee, former Fulham player Pat O'Connell had taken over as Manager.

The Surrey Senior League took us in at the last minute, and the new squad including young striker Tommy Tuite, won the League Cup, and the following season, 1974/75 achieved a second Surrey Senior League "double". However, the season would always be remembered for reaching the Final of the inaugural F.A. Vase, where 9,500 saw the Blues edged out 2-1 by Hoddesdon Town at Wembley Stadium. The Athenian League welcomed us back, and promotion was achieved in that first season. In 1976/77 we reached the Athenian League Cup Final, losing 1-0 at Chalfont St Peter.

By then, we knew that we had been invited to join the expanding Isthmian League for 1977/78, and were placed in the new Division Two. Our first match under floodlights took place against Met Police in August 1977, and the title was clinched the following April, securing a move to Division One. In 1979/80 we won the Southern Combination Cup 7-2

over Hampton on their pitch, where the opposition was blitzed by five goals from Tuite. The following season a new clubhouse opened at West Street, and we finally won the Surrey Senior Cup in 1981, defeating Woking 2-1 at Tooting & Mitcham, although we just missed out on promotion. O'Connell resigned in 1982, being replaced by Adrian Hill and in 1983/84 we clinched a spot in the Premier Division as runners-up, although this time we missed out in the Surrey Senior Cup, defeated 4-0 by Sutton United in the Final at Imber Court.

We survived comfortably in our first season at the Isthmian Premier, but Hill's departure to Croydon in 1985 started a decline. Much of the squad left with Hill, and new Manager Alan Webb had too much to do. We were relegated in 1986, and also in 1987, by now under the Management of Ricky Kidd. Adrian Hill replaced Kidd for a second spell at the helm in 1990, but we were placed in the new Division Three in 1991 in league reorganisation following a finish one position below the required halfway mark.

In 1993 a large chapter in our history ended as we left West Street and moved in as tenants of Banstead Athletic. The decade was largely one of frustration, although we did reach the Final of the Associate Members Trophy in 1998, losing 2-0 to Bedford Town at Hendon's old Claremont Road ground.

In 2002 Adrian Hill took us back up to the newly created Division 1 South, where we topped the table for a month, eventually finishing 9th, but Hill's retirement at the end of the season led to relegation a year later and then in 2006 we were transferred into the Combined Counties League Premier Division. In October 2006 Lyndon Buckwell, a former player became our new Manager, and in his first full season (2007/08) we were back in the top ten. In 2008/09 we exceeded this achievement and finished in fourth place after heading the table for a few months.

In 2009/10 the club recovered from a slow start to finish fifth and also reached the last 32 of the F.A.Vase for the first time in 21 years, bowing out 3-2 in Northamptonshire to Long Buckby. In April of 2010, we terminated our seventeen-year ground-sharing agreement with Banstead Athletic and spent two unspectacular seasons at Merstham F.C. before relocating to High Road, home of Chipstead F.C. for the 2012/13 season, where we would spend eight seasons.

The season brought significant playing success as a slow start was followed by a spectacular run of form, including a club record of 12 straight league wins, which put us at the top of the table for over a month, before a tricky run-in resulted in a final position of fifth. However, any disappointment there was tempered by the club's first silverware since 1981 when we defeated South Park 3-0 at Farnborough to win the Combined Counties League Cup. On a sadder note, 2012/13 also marked one thousand games since we left West Street.

We carried our form into 2013/14 and led the league with eight straight wins, but couldn't hold on and had to settle for third place, our highest league finish since 1984, but the following September Lyndon Buckwell departed and Glyn Mandeville and new Assistant Matt Smith steered the club to seventh place and improved this to fourth in 2015/16.

In the summer of 2016, our club visited France and played a friendly against our twin town Chantilly, which was where the England team had been based before their Euro 2016 campaign. The players were able to meet Roy Hodgson and Gary Neville and performed admirably as ambassadors for our town.

In 2016/17 we started the season with an incredible 9-2 win at newly-promoted Bedfont & despite trailing 2-0 at halftime and went on to repeat our fourthplace finish in the League. In addition, we reached the League Cup Final but were defeated 4-1 by Westfield at Windsor FC.

However, in the summer of 2017, we suffered a large player exodus with a substantial number joining local rivals Sutton Common Rovers. Glyn was unable to replace them with enough players of real quality and three-quarters of the season were spent at the foot of the table. His resignation in January 2018 led to the club promoting our Coach Neil Grant into the Manager's role and although he managed to get us off the foot of the table, relegation was always likely and was confirmed in mid-April; not a great way to celebrate our Centenary!

The attempts at bouncing straight back did not start particularly well and Grant departed in October. He was replaced by Simon Funnell, who stepped up from his Assistant role and took us to the Division One League Cup Final at Meadowbank. Unfortunately, the new season of 2019/20 started poorly and Funnell resigned at Christmas. His Assistant Sam Morgan was appointed to the role and with his new Assistant Tim Moffatt, they oversaw an undefeated league run that took us up to the abandonment of the season.

The 2020/21 season commenced with another ground move, this time to Leatherhead's Fetcham Grove ground, although another seasonal curtailment left us in seventh place and we remained at Step Six, being transferred to the Southern Combination for the new season.

In August 2021, Sam Morgan was relieved of his duties after a slow start to the season. Barry Gartell was placed in interim charge while the club searched for a new manager. Barry and his brother Clive managed to get a good run of form under their belts. Winning 4 and drawing 1.

Darren Anslow was appointed as our new manager in September 2021 and was immediately impressed with a comfortable 4-0 win against Mile Oak in the FA Vase 2nd Round Qualifying.

2022/23 season saw a complete change at the top with Ex Horley Town manager Anthony Jupp coming in as joint manager alongside Ex Croydon manager Liam Giles along with Ex Horley Town Manager and coach Matt Chapman as coach. Giles left before Christmas and Jupp stepped down before the end of teh season. Coach Matt Chapman took over and lead the Club to the Runners up spot. In the play off semi final we drew one one with Selsey before going through in a nail biting penalty shoot out. In the final in front of almost 400 fans in our last game at Leatherhead F.C. We won two one against Wick. We were promoted back to step five. We were also moved across the Non league Pyramid back into the Combined Counties League Premier South.

2023/24 Season The Club also started a new ground share agreement with Cobham F.C. on their brand new 3G pitch. The Club appointed James Scott as manager. He was previously with Balham and Assistant manager at Tonbridge and Margate. James left in October when the Club was bottom of the league and with no wins. He was replaced with Steve Springett as Interim manager Meanwhile, the search continues for a new ground back in the Borough.....





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Quarter final fixtures to be played on the 16th January 2024



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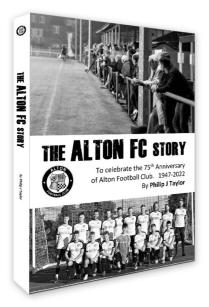
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# THE ALTON FC STORY

# A BOOK TO CELEBRATE THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALTON FC



Although football has been played in Alton for over 120 years, the club in its present from was formed after the cessation of World War Two.

This book by Philip J Taylor charts the team's progress, season by season from 1947 until the present, but looks back to the turn of the century and early reports of football being played in Alton.

The 275-page book features items on past players and officials, league tables and competition results for every season, as well as following press reports, 200 action and team photographs and some interesting stories along the way.

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### **TODAY'S TEAMS**

# COMBINED COUNTIES FOOTBALL LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION SOUTH SATURDAY 02 DECEMBER 2023 KICK OFF 15:00

### **ALTON**

#### VS

### **EPSOM & EWELL**

White shirts, black shorts, black socks

Squad from:
Lewis Mees
Jamie Phillips
Archie Larkham
Adam Brice
Matt Francis

Ed Dryden

George Winkworth Dylan Averiss Joe Sowden Cam Miller

> Jamie Hoppitt Liam Marshall

Matt Graham Luke Roper Alex Merrifield

Owen Lumsden Evan Anderson

Rob Carr Luke Perkins

Louis Russell Pat Cox

Perry Coles George Bowerman Scott Sanderson

Jack Fowler

Blue & white hoop shirts, blue shorts & blue socks

Squad from:

Harvey Keogh (GK)
Toby Colwell (GK)

Ollie Thompson

Zach Powell

Ethan Nelson Roberts Etahn Charles Brazier

> Reece Tierney Ayran Kugathas

Tommy Williams

Louis Elsom Steve Springett

Ash Snadden

Luke Miller Ben Bauchop Rory Edwards

Murisiku Adebayo Batuia

Kiyo Brown Ben Amissah Nick Wilson

Thompson Adeyemi

Musa Beegun Jaan Stanley Tijani Eshilokum George Owusu

Sirak Negassi Valention Carpence

Manager: Kevin Adair Assistant Manager: Leigh Keddle Head Coach: Steve Franks GK Coach: Steve Smith Physio: Rosie Miron Interim Manager: Steve Springett Interim Manager: Sam Groombridge Goal Keeping Coach: Kevin Espinosa Physio: Alfie Wylid

Referee: Ryan Woods Assistants: Radu Lungu & Phillip Chaykin

**Match Sponsor: Howden** 

# FIRST TEAM SQUAD

















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- ON YOUR PLAYER'S BIRTHDAY





# **APPEARANCES**

# FIRST TEAM PLAYER APPEARANCES UP TO AND INCLUDING FARNHAM TOWN, AWAY, 24 NOV

	App	pearance	es	V	Goals		Career	
Player	League	Cup	Total	League	Cup	Total	Appearances	Goals
Lewis Mees	17	7	24				53	
Matt Graham	16	3	19	1		1	226	16
Ed Dryden	14	5	19	2		2	94	12
ArchieLarkham	14	5	19		1	1	40	2
Adam Brice	13	4	17	3		3	35	6
Jamie Phillips	13	4	17				219	
Louis Russell	12	5	17	2	1	3	44	6
Scott Sanderson	10	6	16	5		5	264	87
Joe Sowden	10	6	16				16	
Jamie Hoppitt	12	3	15				15	
Luke Perkins	10	3	13	2	4	6	137	62
Pat Cox	10	3	13	5		5	13	5
Perry Coles	8	3	11	2	2	4	11	4
Owen Lumsden	8	3	n	1	1	2	24	2
Matt Francis	9	1	10				10	
Dylan Averiss	7	3	10				10	
Adam New	6	4	10	1		1	10	1
Nasim Regragui	5	5	10	3	3	6	10	6
Jack Fowler	6	2	8				126	17
Liam Marshall	4	4	8				8	
Oli Page	4	3	7	1	3	4	47	9
Evan Anderson	5	1	6	2		2	11	2
Alex Merrifield	5	1	6	1	1	2	6	2
Cameron Miller	4	1	5				5	
RobCarr	3	2	5				44	15
George Bowerman	2	3	5		2	2	130	50
Freddie Robins	4		4				5	
Ollie Kavanagh	4		4				7	
Jake Coltart	3	1	4				4	
Rowan Sharratt	2	2	4		- 1	1	4	2
Elijah Efumo		3	3				3	
Richie Hunter		2	2			188	7	
Asad Ssemwogerere	rere 1 1		1					
Josh Buchan	1 1 10		10	1				
Dan Hayward	1	1 1 1						
Kev Adair		1	1				9	

# **LEAGUE TABLE**

# COMBINED COUNTIES FOOTBALL LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION SOUTH

At 01.12.23

POS		Р	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Farnham Town	13	13	0	0	47	39
2	Knaphill	14	11	2	1	25	35
3	Jersey Bulls	16	11	2	3	23	35
4	Abbey Rangers	15	10	3	2	10	33
5	Balham	16	10	0	6	2	30
6	Redhill	14	9	1	4	21	28
7	Tooting & Mitcham United	16	7	3	6	-2	24
8	Alton	17	7	2	8	2	23
9	Fleet Town	16	7	1	8	1	22
10	AFC Croydon Athletic	14	6	3	5	5	21
11	Tadley Calleva	12	7	0	5	1	21
12	Horley Town	15	5	5	5	4	20
13	Guildford City	17	6	2	9	-19	20
14	Sandhurst Town	17	5	3	9	-7	18
15	Spelthorne Sports	17	4	5	8	-15	17
16	Cobham	15	4	4	7	-4	16
17	Camberley Town	16	4	4	8	-13	16
18	Epsom & Ewell	15	3	1	11	-15	10
19	Sheerwater	17	2	1	14	-37	7
20	Colliers Wood United	16	1	2	13	-29	5

## FIRST TEAM FIXTURES & RESULTS

07 Jul 15 Jul 18 Jul 22 Jul 25 Jul 29 Jul 01 Aug	Alton 1 - 2 Aldershot Town U21 (Pre-Season Friendly) US Portsmouth 2 - 2 Alton (Pre-Season Friendly) Alton 1 - 3 Moneyfields (Pre-Season Friendly) Alton 1 - 1 Cowes Sports (Pre-Season Friendly) Alton 0 - 1 Alresford Town (Pre-Season Friendly) Alton 1 - 1 Baffins Milton Rovers (Pre-Season Friendly) Storrington 0 - 2 Alton (Pre-Season Friendly)	
05 Aug 12 Aug 15 Aug 19 Aug 22 Aug 26 Aug 28 Aug	Tadley Calleva 5 - 2 Alton (Emirates FA Cup: Extra Preliminary Round) Alton 1 - 1 AFC Croydon Athletic Alton 0 - 2 Jersey Bulls Alton 3 - 2 Guildford City (Combined Counties League Challenge Cup) Ringwood Town 1 - 3 Alton (Servio Hampshire Senior Cup First Round) Alton 5 - 0 Newport IoW (Isuzu FA Vase: First Round Qualifying) Alton 0 - 2 Farnham Town	
02 Sep	Tooting & Mitcham 3 - 4 Alton	
09 Sep 12 Sep 16 Sep 19 Sep	Cobham 3 - 3 Alton Alton 3 - 2 Aldershot Town (Servio Hampshire Senior Cup Second Rd) Alton 1 - 3 Balham Sheerwater 1 - 8 Alton	
23 Sep 30 Sep	Alton 1 - 2 Cowes Sports (Isuzu FA Vase: Second Round Qualifying) Guildford City 0 - 3 Alton	
07 Oct 14 Oct	Abbey Rangers 2 - 1 Alton Alton 1 - 2 Redhill	
21 Oct 24 Oct	Alton 0 - 4 Abbey Rangers Knaphill 2 - 1 Alton	
28 Oct 04 Nov	Alton 4 - 0 Colliers Wood Utd  Alton 1 - 0 Fleet Town	
11 Nov	Spelthorne Sports 0 - 3 Alton	
14 Nov 18 Nov	Alton 2 - 0 Baffins Milton Rovers (Servio Hampshire Senior Cup Third Rd Alton 2 - 1 Spelthorne Sports	i)
24 Nov 02 Dec	Farnham Town 6 - 1 Alton  Epsom & Ewell (HOME) - Sponsored by Howden Insurance	15:00
05 Dec 09 Dec 16 Dec	Hillingdon Borough (Away) (Combined Counties League Cup: 2nd Rd) Cobham (HOME) - Sponsored by Howden Insurance Balham (Away)	19:45 15:00 15:00
23 Dec 30 Dec 06 Jan	Sandhurst Town (HOME) - Sponsored by Complete Financial Tadley Calleva (Away) Jersey Bulls (Away)	15:00 15:00 15:00
13 Jan 16 Jan	Guildford City (HOME) Christchurch or AFC Portchester (Away) (Servio Hants Snr Cup Qtr Final)	15:00 19:45

## 2023 / 2024 SEASON

20 Jan	Fleet Town (Away)	15:00
27 Jan	Sandhurst Town (Away)	15:00
10 Feb	Sheerwater (HOME) - Sponsored by OfficeCo	15:00
17 Feb	Horley Town (HOME)	15:00
24 Feb	Epsom & Ewell (Away)	15:00
02 Mar	Colliers Wood United (Away)	15:00
09 Mar	Knaphill (HOME) - Sponsored in Memory of Ken Harvey	15:00
16 Mar	Tadley Calleva (HOME)	15:00
23 Mar	Camberley Town (Away)	15:00
30 Mar	Tooting & Mitcham Utd (HOME)	15:00
06 Apr	Redhill (Away)	15:00
13 Apr	AFC Croydon Athletic (Away)	15:00
20 Apr	Horley Town (Away)	15:00
27 Apr	Camberley Town (HOME) - Sponsored by Robert Young / WaterAid	15:00



# FIRST TEAM MATCH SPONSOR

SUPPORT THE TEAM ON A MATCHDAY WITH HOSPITALITY AND PROMOTION

- ADMISSION TO FIRST TEAM MATCH FOR UP TO FIVE PEOPLE
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- FREE MATCHDAY PROGRAMME
- FREE TEA & COFFEE
- PAGE IN MATCHDAY PROGRAMME TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS OR PROMOTE A CHARITY
- MENTIONED WITH MATCH PROMOTION ON SOCIAL MEDIA
- MAN OF THE MATCH PRESENTATION

### **WHO PLAYS WHERE**

**Abbey Rangers** AFC Croydon Athletic Alton Ralham **Banstead Athletic** Camberley Town Cobham Colliers Wood Utd Epsom & Ewell Farnham Town Fleet Town **Guildford City** Horley Town Jersey Bulls Knaphill Redhill Sandhurst Town Sheerwater Spelthorne Sports

Addlestone Moor Addlestone Surrey KT 15 2QH Mayfield Stadium, off Mayfield Road, Thornton Heath CR7 6DN Anstey Park Enclosure, Anstey Lane, Alton GU34 2NB Mayfield Stadium, off Mayfield Road, Thornton Heath CR7 6DN Merland Rise, Tolworth KT20 5JG

Krooner Park, Wilton Road, Camberley GU15 2QW Reg Madgwick Stadium, Downside Bridge Road, Cobham KT11 1AA opposite 199–213 Robin Hood Way, London SW20 0AA

Reg Madgwick Stadium, Downside Bridge Rd, Cobham KT11 1AA

Memorial Ground, Mead Lane, Farnham GU9 7DY Calthorpe Park, Crookham Road, Fleet GU51 5FA The Spectrum, Parkway, Guildford GU1 1UP

The New Defence, Anderson Way, Court Lodge Way, Horley RH6 8SP Springfield Stadium, Janvrin Road, St Helier JE2 4LF

Brookwood Country Park, Redding Way, Lower Guildsford Road GU21 2AY

KilnBrow, Three Arch Road, Redhill RH1 5AE

Bottom Meadow, Sandhurst Memorial Park, Yorktown Rd, GU47 9BJ Eastwood Centre Woking GU21 5RL

Staines Road West 296, Ashford Comm, Middx TW1 1RY Barlows Park, Silchester Road, Tadley, Hampshire RG26 3PX Imperial Fields Stadium, Bishopsford Road, Morden SM4 6BF

### **NSPCC**

Tadley Calleva

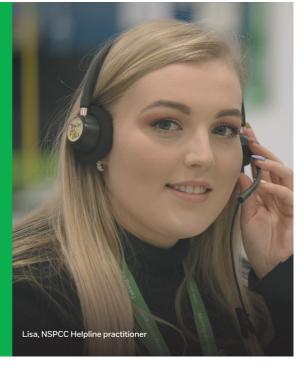
Tooting & Mitcham

### **Contact the NSPCC Helpline**

If you have concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing, get in touch now.

0808 800 5000 help@nspcc.org.uk nspcc.org.uk/helpline



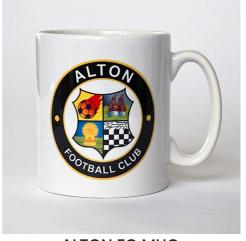


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The '100 Club' pays a £75 first prize and £25 second prize each month to randomly selected winners.

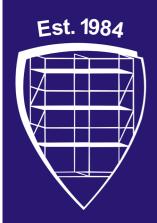
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## **DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

The Development team continue to go from strength to strength, and under Matt's guidance are still sitting top of the Suburban League Central Division.

Last Saturday they beat Godalming Town away, by three goals to nil. A feat made even more remarkable as our goalkeeper went off injured after thirty minutes. Goals from Evan Anderson, Dylan Bonner & Alec Cracknell secured the victory. Thursday this week they won away at Molesey 4-1.

They have no game today and at the moment no game scheduled for Sat 9th, although we will try to secure a friendly if no league game can be organised. Then they return to The Exclusive Networks Stadium on 16th December for a home game v Ash United.

In the League this season they play each team three times, once each at home and away and them the third game is pot luck. The league have said that the third games wont be played until after everyone has played each other twice, guessing that's in case of a lot of bad weather kicking in.

If you can't get to a First Team away game please come and support the young lads, admission is free and the bar is open approx. 45 minutes before kick off.

### **RESULTS & FIXTURES**

Sat 12-Aug	East Grinstead Town	Α	League	3 - 2
Sat 19-Aug	Eversley & California	Α	League	4 - 0
Sat 02-Sep	Godalming Town	Н	League	6 - 2
Sat 09-Sep	Eversley & California	Н	League	5 - 0
Sat 23-Sep	Ash United	Α	League	2 - 1
Sat 30-Sep	Tooting & Mitcham U23s	Н	League	1 – 0
Sat 07-Oct	Yateley Utd U23s	Н	League	3 - 1
Sat 21-Oct	Yateley Utd U23s	Α	League	1 - 3
Sat 28-Oct	Tring Athletic	Α	League Cup R1	1 - 2
Tue 31-Oct	Molesey	Н	League	0 - 1
Mon 06-Nov	Tooting & Mitcham U23s	Α	League	0 - 1
Sat 11-Nov	AFC Netley	Н	Hampshire Trophy	1 - 2
Tue 21-Nov	Rushmoor Community	Н	Aldershot Int Cup	3 - 1
Sat 25-Nov	Godalming Town	Α	League	3 - 0
Thu 30-Nov	Molesey	Α	League	4 - 1
Sat 09-Dec	No Game Scheduled			
Sat 16-Dec	Ash United	Н	League	

### **TOP GOALSCORERS**

At 29.11.23

	League	Cup	Total
Evan Anderson	5	1	6
Lloyd Smallwood	3	1	4
Max Anderson	3		3
Asad Ssemwogerere	3		3
Alec Cracknell	3		3
Henry Hunter	2		2
Oli Page	2		2
Dylan Bonnor	2		2
Ollie Kavanagh	1	1	2
Elijah Black	1		1
George Winkworth	1		1
Matt Topple	1		1
Charlie Grover	1		1
Alex Silva		1	1
Alfie Edmonds		1	1

# SUBURBAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE CENTRAL DIVISION

At 01.12.23

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Alton Reserves	12	9	0	3	20	27
2	Tooting & Mitcham United FC Under 23's	11	6	3	2	9	21
3	Yateley United Yateley United U23's	11	6	2	3	12	20
4	Molesey FC Development Team	9	5	1	3	6	16
5	Raynes Park Vale Raynes Park Vale Reserv	7	5	0	2	3	15
6	East Grinstead Town Under 23's	8	3	1	4	6	10
7	Godalming Town FC Under 23's	9	3	1	5	-10	10
8	Eversley & California Reserves	9	2	1	6	-13	7
9	Ash United Reserves	12	0	1	11	-33	1

# THE FA NEW EDICTS 23/24

### Love Football, Protect the Game campaign

The English football authorities are introducing a series of measures to help improve the behaviour of players, managers and coaches across the professional, National League system and grassroots game, as well as addressing the issue of football tragedy abuse. New policies, procedures, and regulations will come into force from the start of the 2023/24 season, to address unacceptable conduct on the pitch, on the side-lines and in the stands, to ensure that the actions of the minority do not spoil the game for all. This builds on the work carried out throughout last season to combat dangerous and illegal fan behaviour, supported by the 'Love Football. Protect the Game' football-wide campaign.

#### Managers, Coaches and Technical Area Occupants

Pre-match briefing, the Manager/Head Coach is expected to attend and participate in pre-match briefings.

#### **Conduct in the Technical Area**

All occupants:

- 1. Must behave in a responsible manner.
- 2. Compliance with the maximum number of staff and substitutes allowed by the competition.
- 3. Players and team officials not listed on the team sheet must not enter the technical area.
- 4. Must not use technology to challenge any decision made by the match officials.
- 5. Must remain within your own technical area during the match.
- 6. Must not enter the pitch to confront any match official at half-time or full-time.

### Coaching

- 1. Only one person is permitted to stand at the front of the technical area and coach during the match.
- 2. A second person may stand but must remain very close to the technical area seating.
- 3. All conversations between the two standing must happen close to the technical area seating.
- 4. All other technical area occupants should remain seated.

### Captains

Should take responsibility for the behaviour of their team-mates, encouraging them to play fairly and show respect towards the match officials and their decisions.

#### **Players**

- 1. Must not confront, invade the personal space of, or make physical contact with the match officials.
- 2. Two or more players surrounding a match official in a confrontational manner will result in a yellow card and be reported to The FA.
- 3. Must not instigate or escalate a mass confrontation with opposing players and/or technical area occupants.

### **TOPIC OF THE MONTH**

#### Extracts from F.A. directives on participant behaviour and time delays

Prior to the start of the new season, match officials and clubs at Step 6 and above in the football pyramid have received a consistent message regarding plans to reduce dissent to match officials and ensure that an accurate amount of playing time is completed at every game. The following are extracts of directives have been communicated by the FA to clubs and match officials:

#### Time delay and time consumption tactics

From the top of the game downwards there is a real drive and focus on the address of players who commit clear and deliberate tactics to consume/waste time. Football stakeholders are aligned in their views in wanting referees to take strong actions against players where we deduce their actions are clear, deliberate and impactful on delaying the restart of the game and wasting time for tactical advantage.

#### **Participant behaviour**

We are at a point in time in the game where everybody is aligned with their view that it is no longer acceptable to accept the unacceptable. For far too long we have normalised the poor behaviour towards match officials from some of the game's participants. Whilst there is still a strong need for pro-active communication and preventative management, there is need for match officials to be stronger generally in their address of players and coaches who are confronting them in an angry, aggressive and confrontational manner. Players and coaches who make a conscious choice to run at match officials at speed to question, challenge and be critical of decisions and or performance should be dealt with accordingly.

#### Stricter calculation of added time

There is a strong push from the top level of the game for match officials to take a more accurate and stricter calculation of added time. Whilst at step 2-6 we are perhaps not anticipating a total replication of what we will see in the Premier league/Women's super league and international competition we must work hard to be aligned with the ethos and principle that guess work from officials on the time needed to be added needs to stop. With pro-active player management and the address of time consumption tactics the need to add additional time should naturally reduce but we do anticipate to see a slight increase at least for a short term period whilst players and coaches adjust their behaviour.

#### Caution and send off procedure

The old process of taking each caution/send-off procedure as an opportunity to slow the game unnecessarily is obsolete, outdated, unhelpful and no longer recommended. The laws of the game provide no prescriptive way of which a referee should follow when cautioning and sending off players and we therefore remind everybody to be aware that the emphasis should be on identification (be clear who is being cautioned), the disciplinary sanction being issued and the relevant and accurate note being taken. Other than in the exceptional need of where a referee may need to calm the temperate of the game down – the routine procedure of cautioning and send off of any player should take a matter of seconds. This does not compromise the administration of denoting name/number etc, which is still required to be completed before the game is restarted. The issue of quick and efficient sanction to a player with minimal communication is often more powerful, sends a stronger message to other participants as well as defusing the incident and potentially guarding against the escalation of the situation and further misconduct developing.

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By Matt Badcock

WHEN The Football Association dropped the bombshell midway through last week that Barnsley were being booted out of the FA Cup for fielding an ineligible player, it may have made more people realise just what goes into running a football club.

We all turn up on a Saturday or midweek to watch a game but it's unlikely we ever think about the work that goes in away from the match day to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Every season we see a Non-League club fall foul of rules in cup competitions. Whether it's a player not registered properly, someone who is cup tied or even under suspension, there are many pitfalls to dodge.

On The Non-League Show podcast with Tim Fuell we've often talked about the pressures on volunteers of clubs and have come to the conclusion: Who would be a Non-League secretary?!

While having every sympathy for Barnsley fans, the news also brought a feeling that these things don't just happen to Non-League clubs and the full-time professional outfits can make mistakes too. Ultimately, that's what this is. Barnsley almost certainly weren't trying to gain any advantage over Horsham on the sly, they just made the error of playing a player in their replay who was out on loan when the original tie — a thrilling 3-3 draw — was played.

But the League One side's bad luck was Horsham's gain and this weekend they take on Sutton United.

It's funny how it's worked out for Dom Di Paola's side. The Isthmian Premier club were, understandably, aggrieved when they had to play their first game up at Barnsley on a Friday night under instruction from South Yorkshire Police.

As a result, a number of fans couldn't make it — even though the Lardy Army did travel in their droves and lapped up every minute of the six-goal thriller.

The draw meant back it was to Sussex in front of the live TV cameras with the benefits of a live TV fee and now this reinstatement for a chance to take on League Two Sutton.

Whether you believe in fate or not, the Hornets will no doubt be in south west London this Saturday full of belief and hope. Maybe it's meant to be!

#### **Bizarre VAR**

Anyone else sick of VAR ruining top level games? It's yet another reminder of why we love Non-League football. People getting frustrated with the game at the top will increasingly be drawn to this level of football. And we all know they'll enjoy it when they do.



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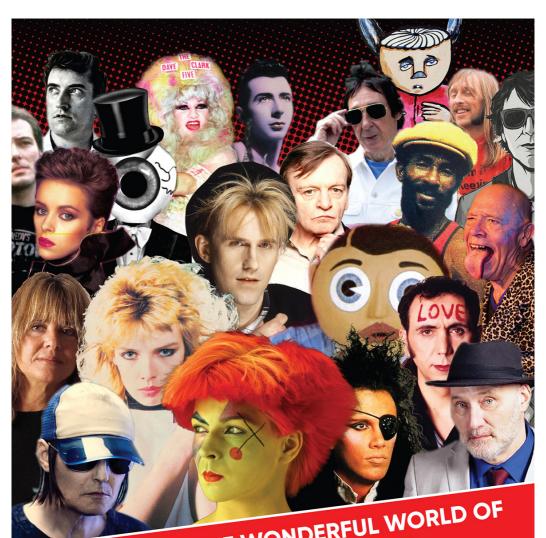












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### **ALTON FOOTBALL CLUB**

The club was formed by the merger of Alton Town FC and Alton United Youth FC in 2016.

Previously the senior section (Alton Town FC) was formed in 1990 when Alton's two senior clubs, Alton Town and Bass Alton, amalgamated. Alton Town had been fantastically successful, winning everything in Hampshire in the period from 1947 to 1956 including Hampshire leagues Divisions 3, 2 & 1 (1948, 1949 & 1958), the Hampshire Intermediate Cup in 1949, the Russell Cotes Cup in 1949 and the Hampshire Senior Cup in 1958.

Alton Town first joined the Hampshire League in 1946 and won Division 3 East in their first season. However they were denied promotion due to a league reorganisation and the addition of extra teams to the Hampshire League. More success followed with the Division 2 title in 1948/49 and they also won the Russell Cotes Cup and Hampshire Intermediate Cup that year. Although they dropped to Division 2 for one season in 1954/55, they bounced back immediately and went on to win both the Division 1 championship and the Hampshire Senior Cup in 1957/58. They stayed in Division 1 until they left in 1973 to join the Athenian League Division 2 which they won in their first year. After an initial period of success in that league the Club found itself unable to compete and dropped down to the Combined Counties League before returning to the Hampshire League in 1984, starting at the bottom in Division 3. They found themselves in Division 2 in 1986/87 by dint if winning the Division 2 title for the third time.

Bass Alton started life as Courage & Company (Alton) FC and joined the Hampshire League in 1928/29. The following year they were in Division 2 and then won promotion to Division 1 where they stayed until being relegated to Division 2 in 1938/39, just before the club was disbanded for the War.

Courage rejoined the North Hants division briefly in 1954/55 before beginning their longest spell in the County League in 1972/73 when they entered Division 4. Promoted to Division 3 in 1975, they only lasted two years before dropping to Division 4 again. In 1979/80 the Club changed its name to Bass Alton FC and its fortunes changed with the name as they won promotion in successive years to Division 3 in 1979/80, to Division 2 in 1980/81 and to Division 1 as Division 2 runners-up and the end of the 1982/83 season after a 45-year absence.

Since the amalgamation, the Club has played in the Hampshire League and achieved promotion to the Wessex League by topping the Premier Division in 2002, moving to the Premier Division of the Cherry Red Records Combined Counties League from season 2013-14. The Club were relegated to Division One for season 2014/15, but moved back to the Sydenhams Wessex League Division One the following season. They remained in Division One until gaining promotion to the Premier Division in 2021/22 where they finished in a creditable 10th place. However, yet another FA re-organisation saw Alton switched back to the Combined Counties Premier Division South for the season 2022/23.

ALTONFC.COM

The official website for

**ALTON FOOTBALL CLUB** 

Latest news, results, fixtures and more!

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