

THE MATCHDAY CHRONICLE

MINEHEAD v LISKEARD ATHLETIC

FA CUP EXTRA PRELIMINARY ROUND

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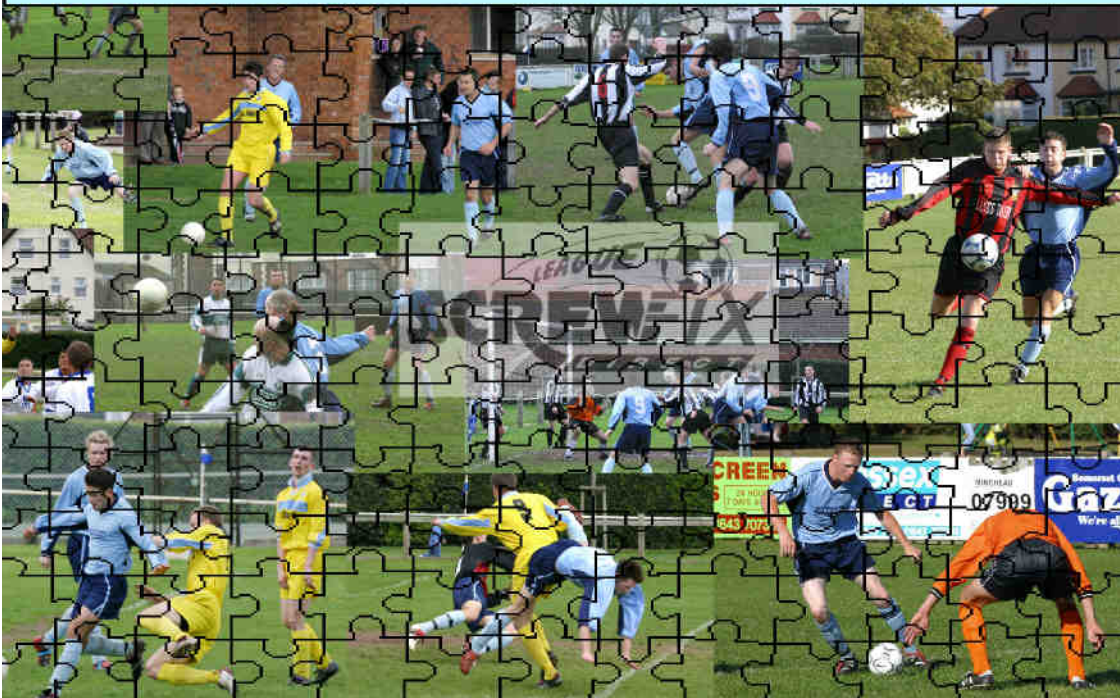


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TODAY'S VISITORS



LISKEARD
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DEREK MERSON
FULL PAGE
COLOUR
ADVERT



First of all may I welcome our visitors today, Liskeard. I hope they had a good trip up. This is Charlie and myself's first home game in charge.

I would like to thank Andy Hodgson for all his hard work last year as manager. We have already found out that the job is not as straight forward as it seems. Andy stepped down to allow someone else to bring in fresh blood. We have agreed to give it our best shot and so far are thoroughly enjoying the responsibility.

Regular supporters will see over the coming weeks different players to last year. We have recruited Shaun Pople and Robbie Fearn from Bridgwater and encouraged local players Rob Matcham, Ross Baker, James Browning, Tony Hills and Sam Jordan from local football.

We have trained hard during the summer and even though we have only picked up a point in our first two games the supporters who saw these games can see the commitment, effort and organisation we have. For sure when we have our full team out we will not be an easy team to beat. We believe we have a squad that needs a couple of additions but overall is honest and committed to Minehead Football Club. I hope our supporters believe in us as much as we believe in our team and they will see an improvement from last year.

Finally just to let you know that we have raised about £550.00 so far towards the cost of Gareth Morgans operation.

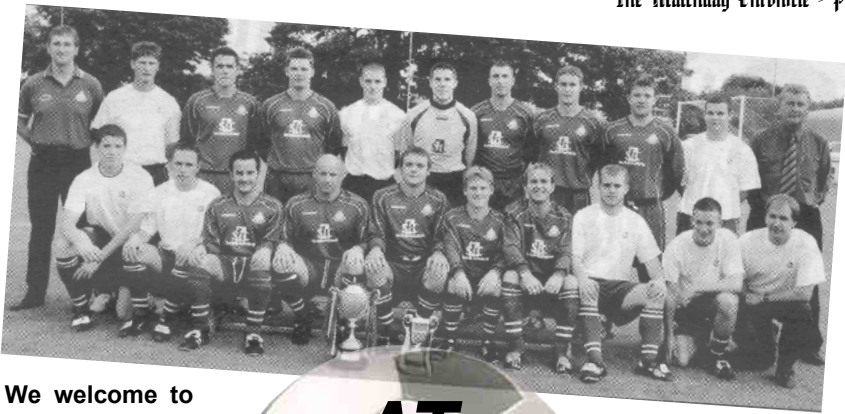
Enjoy your day

Mark and Charlie

&
Mark
Antonelli



by
Charlie
Lewis



We welcome to Irnham Road this afternoon our distant friends from Cornwall, Liskeard Athletic. We trust they had an uneventful journey. The last time Liskeard were seen at this ground was in March 1994 when they gave us a 0-5 thrashing.

AT THE REC TODAY

Liskeard, who had joined the Western League for the 79-80 season, made the difficult decision to move back to the South Western League in 95-96 season, having been a strong force throughout their 15 year stint. Having won promotion

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from the First Division at the first attempt (finishing 3rd), today's opponents went on to enjoy 15 seasons in the Premier Division, becoming Champions in 87-88 and Runners Up in both 85-86 and 89-90.

On their return to the South Western League the first few seasons saw them in mid table positions, however the past four seasons have seen them finish in the top five each year.

The FA Cup has brought some exciting times to Lux Park, though this season sees Liskeard entering the competition for the first time since 91-92. That season saw them lose to against Tiverton in the 3rd Qualifying Round, (equalling their best run in the competition) having previously disposed of Falmouth and St Austell in the previous two rounds.

The club's best run in the FA Vase was in 94-95, when they eventually lost in the 4th Round in a all Cornish tie

against Falmouth. The run had seen them knock out Wellington, Bideford, Cinderford, and after the long journey to Tunbridge Wells they came away from Kent with a creditable draw before winning the replay at Lux Park.

This is the two clubs' first meeting in any cup competition, with all previous 18 matches having been in the Western League Premier Division. Liskeard hold the upper hand in results to date, with Minehead only having managed three victories against Liskeard's 11 successes.

1992 was Minehead's best year against Liskeard, winning 3-2 at Lux Park, following it up with a 4-2 win here at The Recreation Ground. Our new managers both played in both games, and both managed to get on the scoresheet, Mark scoring in the away match and Charlie scoring a rare goal in the home game.

FIVE STAR DISPLAY AT CLYST DESERVED A RESULT

CLYST ROVERS 1 MINEHEAD 0

Match Report by Tony Corrick

Minehead commenced their new season with a single goal defeat but they put up their best display in a very long time and few impartial supporters at the ground would disagree that the best team lost.

The match was played at Topsham, with whom Clyst are sharing the ground, and Minehead's new joint managers Marc Antonelli and Charlie Lewis must have been more than pleased with the performance of their new look, younger team.

As early as the 9th minute the Clyst goalkeeper Kenny Griffiths had to be alert to tip over a viscous cross by Luke Taylor. With newcomers Robbie Fearn, James Browning and Rob Matcham prompting from midfield Lee Todd threatened the home goal with two efforts which both flashed wide of an upright and the first danger to Sam Jordan did not come until the 23rd minute when the ever reliable Lee Nunn headed a free kick by Liam Ford off the goal-line. A few minutes later Jason Morris saw his powerful shot saved by Jordan.

With half time approaching Clyst should have taken the lead but Rob Speakman squandered a great chance when he failed to control a through ball from Richard Gomm but minutes later they did break the deadlock

when Gomm broke through the Minehead defence to score with a low shot just inside the post.

Within two minutes of the restart after the interval Minehead should have equalised when Luke Taylor burst clear on the right but the keeper managed to block his shot and then Lee Todd sent a shot crashing into the side netting. Showing an enthusiasm which was often lacking last season Minehead were now dominating the play and on the hour veteran Keith Graddon found himself clear of the defence but the Clyst keeper came to his team's rescue when he bravely smothered Graddon's shot. An injury to Rob Matcham saw him replaced by Dave Burr in the 65th minute but Minehead still continued to dominate and Griffiths again came to the rescue when he brilliantly turned a tremendous shot from Todd onto the crossbar. With time running out Griffiths was once again the hero when he brilliantly reached a close range effort by Graddon and it was a very relieved home side when they heard the referee's final whistle as they desperately hung onto their slender lead.



Early Minehead pressure at Clyst sees Keith Graddon in this aerial challenge

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BLUES FIGHTBACK BUT FIRST WIN STILL ELUSIVE

CHARD TOWN 2 MINEHEAD 2

Match Report by Tony Corrick

Following their unlucky defeat at Clyst on Saturday, Minehead put up another fine, spirited performance at Chard on Tuesday evening and came away with a well deserved point.

In the fifth minute of the game Chard squandered an excellent chance to take an early lead when the elusive Danny Wilson shot wide when well placed and with the home side making most of the early running the Minehead defence, with Shawn Pople outstanding, looked very sound under pressure.

Wilson again went close in the 20th minute with a fine shot just wide of an upright and Sam Jordan saved competently from Simon Baines. Although rarely looking dangerous in attack The Blues confidently contained their opponents and

half time was reached with the score sheet still blank.

Immediately after the interval the match really sprang to life and after Keith Graddon had seen his shot blocked by the keeper's legs the home side suddenly took the lead in the 50th minute. A long free kick from just inside the Minehead half was hoisted high

into the penalty area and with Jordan failing to reach the ball through a crowd of players Simon Baines rose to head home.

Despite being in arrears Minehead continued to play with admirable spirit and effort and they were rewarded after 62 minutes when Lee Todd who worked tirelessly throughout the game, was adjudged to have been brought down inside the penalty area and veteran Keith Graddon coolly scored from the spot.

With their tails up, Minehead now went all out for the winner and with the home defence showing signs of panic

the visitors took a well deserved lead in the 73rd minute when Lee Todd raced on to a superb through pass from Andy Hall to beat the keeper with a well placed low shot. After 87 minutes Minehead should have sealed victory when Todd again burst clear of the Chard defence but his shot was turned away by the diving keeper and unfortunately this was to prove vital. The home side pressed forward frantically in the dying seconds and following a tremendous melee in the Minehead goalmouth they grabbed a late equaliser when Jon Ritchie drove the ball into the net through a crowd of players.



↑ Keith Graddon's equalising penalty at Chard Town on Tuesday night

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Good afternoon to you all - today we welcome Liskeard to the Rec for an all important FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round Tie, and I believe this is the first time Minehead have appeared in this particular round.

I'm sure some of the home supporters will have memories of FA Cup runs in the past, perhaps today is the start of another.

I'd like to welcome a few new players to the club, namely Ross Baker, James Browning and Rob Matcham who have all chosen to try to make the grade in Western League football, having played the last few seasons in the Taunton and District League with neighbours Alcombe Rovers. Ross and James have worn Minehead shirts on occasions before.

A warm welcome also to our other two signings from local football, Shawn Pople and Robbie Fearn, who were both previously with the strong Bridgwater based Sydenham Rangers. Shawn had a spell at the club during the mid 90's under Chris Porter.

Today's game in fact sees Shawn making his 50th appearance, with his debut being made in 1994 against today's visitors Liskeard. He also celebrates his 30th birthday today, so hopefully there will be plenty for him to celebrate after the match. All five players have brought with them an enthusiasm for the game which has rubbed off on the rest of the

squad, with the two opening away games this season being probably the best away performances since the club went "amateur status" three years ago.

Another local youngster who has forced his way into the side this season is Sam Jordan. Sam made several appearances for us last season as a makeshift striker but he has returned this year and made his preferred position as goalkeeper his own. At 18 years old we feel he is a bright prospect for the future. Sam was first choice Somerset Under 18's goalkeeper last season. We also welcome back to the club Tony Hills, who has most recently been with Porlock.

Congratulations to Lee Nunn and his girlfriend Laura, who gave birth to a healthy boy (Joshua) a fortnight or so ago. Lee reckons he's going to follow in his footsteps and Laura can vouch for his kicking abilities.

THE EDITOR'S SOAPBOX

You may be aware that we have recently launched an ambitious fund raising scheme, with local businesses and supporters being urged to dig as deep as possible. Full details are on the wall inside the clubhouse, and we hope that the funds being raised can give us the financial stability needed to convince the Minehead Town Council that we are capable of taking on the lease on the premises.



I REMEMBER WHEN

A "Down Memory Lane" feature which we hope will be of interest to home supporters. A synopsis of how the team was faring 25 years ago. Having enjoyed what were undoubtedly the club's two most successful seasons in 75-76 and 76-77, the 77-78 season had seen the blues relegated from the Southern League Premier Division, having finished four places off the bottom, and just one goal from safety.

25 YEARS AGO

MACEY'S PAIN IN THE NECK

Minehead's pre-season friendlies have been a pain in the neck to player manager John Macey, the former Newport County goalkeeper, who is about to start his first full season in charge at Irnham Road.

After being forced to play all the warm up games away from home because of a legal wrangle over Minehead's council owned pitch, Macey injured his neck and is now fighting a desperate battle to be fully fit in time for the first competitive match of the season away to Taunton Town in the Southern League cup.

Having lost the services of last season's top scorer Andy Leitch, who signed for Weymouth straight after returning from Minehead's Anglo-Italian Cup trip, Macey has snapped up Mike Powell and Andy White, both recently released by Newport County. He is also hoping to sign Torquay United striker Willie Brown who has been given a free transfer. Minehead are waiting to see if Brown can get time off work to enable him to play for them this season.

BID FOR ALLIANCE

Southern League Minehead have joined the 45 clubs bidding for a place in the Alliance League - the so-called Fifth Division.

And officials say they are confident of being accepted, despite last season's relegation.

The new league will be made up of seven clubs from the Northern Premier and 13 from the Southern. They will be assessed not only on their playing record but also on their finances and administration facilities. Bath City and Yeovil, Minehead's nearest Southern League neighbours are also likely candidates for election.

DEFENCES HOLD UP ATTACKS

Taunton Town 0 Minehead 0

A HOT sun greeted the opening day of the new soccer season at Minehead last Saturday.

Minehead, without their player manager John Macey in goal, gave 18 year Phil Morris his first outing in the Southern League. He gave a good account of himself, showing a confidence which belied his years, although he was never extended.



25 YEARS AGO

In the first half there was plenty of effort, but attacks from both teams were blocked at the edge of the respective penalty areas. The whole match saw only five corners awarded. On the half-hour Mike Simmons put in a strong drive from 20 yards out, which was blocked by a defender near the goal line, and soon after a brave header by Steve Whitmore just cleared the crossbar from a Brian Durbin free kick. Taunton's best chance of the opening half came to Chris Davis, who flashed a good chance high and wide five minutes before the interval.

In the second half Minehead got the greater share of promising raids. Simmons almost got away from the

close marking Alan Hurford, while Bobby Brown, leading the attack in the second half due to a head injury to Steve Whitmore, caused some anxious moments.

GOAL-LESS MINEHEAD OUT OF CUP

Minehead 0 Taunton Town 1
(Taunton win 1-0 on aggregate)

Taunton bundled newly relegated Minehead out of the Southern League Cup last night.

The result was scarcely in doubt after Eddie Ahern cashed in on a 41st minute mistake by central defender Ken Mallender to put Taunton ahead.

(Continued on Page 12)

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(Continued from Page 11)

25 YEARS AGO



Only the skills of Minehead's young keeper Phil Morris, kept the score down.

Ahern narrowly missed adding another when he shaved the post in the 70th minute.

Minehead, who paid dearly for releasing their star players last season, never had the strength in their forward line to be effective. Only Mike Simmons went close with a shot which Brian McCauley pushed away in the 62nd minute.

TONY NEARS 700 MARK

Tony Clausen's recent injury problems have delayed his 700th appearance for the club.

Already holder of the Southern League club's appearances record, he has just 8 games to go to reach this

remarkable milestone.

The resolute defender - known locally as Mr Consistent, has been with the club since leaving school 15 years ago.

Apart from a spell with the Somerset County Youth side, he has only ever played for Minehead, and his amazing career even includes a hat-trick, scored from the left back position.

It was at St Blazey in the Pratten Cup four years ago.

His record, added to that of his elder brother Mike, takes the total of appearances of the two boys from Watchet to nearly 1200.

And Mike, who left the club four years ago, still holds the goal scoring record with nearly 300 in his 500 games.



Minehead's team which faced Taunton Town in the opening match (Aug 78)

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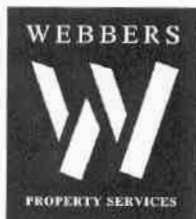
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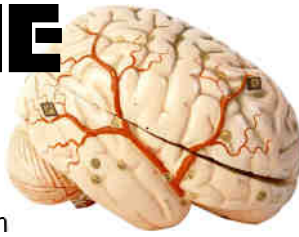
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THE



PUNDIT

After a mixed bag in pre-season matches the squad is now coming together. The energy sapping friendly at Cheddar showed that pre-season training was reaping dividends, and this was also highlighted in the first match of the season at Clyst where all the players were able to give 100% for all the 90 minutes.

Whilst the result was hugely disappointing, the performance was very pleasing. I don't know how we ended walking away from the Clyst match with nothing but we did. My only concern is that we do not reproduce the goods at all our matches this season. I can confidently predict that if we produce displays the same as at Clyst we shall not finish in the bottom three this year.

Realistically speaking any position outside the bottom two will be a bonus, but having seen what the squad can provide and the players commitment and attitude, results will come as long as we stay tight at the back. This will have to be a year where we close ranks at the back and take the chances provided at the front.

Keith Graddon played in the unfamiliar roll of forward, but it did produce dividends and caused the Clyst defence problems, this backed up by the hard work of Lee Todd made the reality of carving out goal scoring opportunities all the more believable.

Credit also has to go to Charlie Lewis and Mark Antonelli, as the squad set up

and team picked for the day produced what looked like a very well balanced team, with no area looking at all weak. When the sucker punch of a goal came from Clyst in the last minute of the first half we held firm and ensured that no more goals were leaked. In previous situations like this we would have conceded more, but the team regrouped and dominated the second half, again a rare treat for the Minehead travelling supporter.

However we have seen this before in our opening performances and only time will tell if the set up will be able to hold their own in this league. We must capitalise on any dominance or opportunity that presents itself, as good performances without the points will not see us rising up the table.

The new additions to the squad have settled in nicely and are a huge asset to the team. Overall all the squad from Saturday should be pleased with there performances. Match sharpness is there already although we did get caught in possession a couple of times.

Having looked at some of the other results on Saturday a couple of surprising results came up so it could be a very interesting season.

Some results of note were Streets home loss against Bitton as I had Street down as being a possible title

(Continued Overleaf)

(From overleaf)



contender, Clevedons' thrashing at the hands off Hallen and the first win and positive start for Shrewton at this level against Corsham!

With our first game under our belt the performance against Chard will be a good indicator of where we are in terms of being able to compete at this level.

Chard are a strong team and Tuesdays match was a very close game. Up until the 85th minute we were 2-1 ahead, and that was after conceding the first goal, so to see Chard equalise was a little frustrating. However it was another very strong performance from the squad and confidence and belief are beginning to tell. Today's game is winnable on paper, but easily a stumbling block, Liskeard will be a real challenge today. The FA cup brings such a buzz to any match that anything is possible on the day.

Liskeard have had mixed fortunes in the close season and is an unknown quantity. Most teams visiting Minehead these days expect to get some sort of result, but it must be a goal this season that we improve on last year's home record and the same goes for the away record. But if you can get the home games in order the form will follow thought to the away matches.

Lastly I must wish all the players, management and committee the best of success for this season, as we are long over due some. A lot of hard work has been put in both off and on the pitch and those involved deserve to see some fruits of their labour.

Good luck from The Pundit.

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↓ **Mark ANTONELLI** (10/04/70) Assistant Manager. Well traveled industrious midfielder, who made his Minehead as a 16 year old (against today's opponents Liskeard). Enjoyed several good seasons with the blues, and was an important member of the side which won the First Division Championship in 90/91. Left Minehead to further his football career in Sweden returning to the UK to have successful spells at Clevedon, Elmore and Bridgwater, before coming home to roost at the beginning of last season. Appearances 212 (plus 10 as sub), 47 goals.



Simon ANTONELLI (22/05/69) →→

Elder brother of Marc who also had a short spell with Minehead in the 89/90 season, who has played local football for the majority of his career, which has also included a spell with Minehead Barbarians RFC. A burly striker with a thunderous shot, who is an important squad member. Appearances 13 (plus 21 as sub), 3 goals.



←← **Ross BAKER** (26/10/73). Made his debut for the club at the start of 2000/01 when the "unpaid regime" commenced, but being unable to then command a regular place returned to local football. A keen, strong tackling central defender who likes to get forward whenever possible, has forced his way into the first team squad this season. Currently out through a suspension carried over from last season.



James BROWNING (25/12/76) →→

Another product of local football who has forced his way into the side this season. An intelligent midfielder with good vision and a high fitness level. Made his debut for the blues in 1993. Appearance 7 (plus 7 as sub).



←← **Dave BURR** (15/11/67) Tireless utility player who has spent much of his career at full back. Spent 2 seasons with his home town club Hull City (one on YTS, one as a young pro), plus a season at Goole Town in the NPL before moving to Minehead for the 87/88 season. Has remained at Irnham Road virtually ever since, apart from a spell back in the North and a season at Bridgwater. Has played in Minehead sides of particularly contrasting fortunes under numerous different managers. Appearances 338 (plus 16 as sub), 33 gls.

Robbie FEARN (09/09/74) →→

Signed from Bridgwater side Sydenham Rangers by the new management team this season, having spent 9 years in local football. An energetic hard working midfielder who has already made a big impact on the team.



←← **Keith GRADDON** (21/10/61) A player who needs absolutely no introduction to West Country football supporters. Made his debut for the blues 25 seasons ago in the Southern League days, and played alongside several well respected players in his earlier days at the club. Moved on to have a distinguished career during spells at Exmouth, Taunton Town and Bridgwater, and played in Taunton Town's FA Vase finalists at Wembley. An imposing central defender



who has this season returned to a centre forward position, where he had initially caught the eye as a schoolboy. Appearance 375 (plus 11 as sub),

Andy HALL (07/08/80) →→

Lively, tricky right sided striker or midfield player who made his full debut for the club in September 1997, after 18 matches as substitute in Chris Porter's side. Since returning from University in the middle of last season has become a regular member of the side. Appearances 25 (plus 25 as sub), 5 goals.



Hard working energetic utility player whose Minehead career started on the final day of the 97/98 season against Bishop Sutton. Has also enjoyed spells with other local sides including most recently Porlock, to where he returned last season after a spell of working out of the country. Making another attempt to make the grade at the higher standard this season.

Appearances 44 (plus 14 as sub), 2 goals



← Sam **JORDAN** (02/11/84) 18 Year Old who has this season made his preferred goal-keeping position his own, after having made several appearances last year in the attack. First choice (as keeper) for the County Under 18 side last year, Sam is being tipped as having a bright future ahead of him. Appearances 12 (plus 2 as sub).

Charlie **LEWIS** (30/03/62) →

The second half of the club's new management team, and another player with a very long, eventful history at the club. Known as a calm, collected player, and arguably the best reader of the game that the area has produced. Has spent most of his senior career in defence but is also a very capable midfield player. Charlie's Minehead career started in the late 70's, and he became a regular first teamer in the Southern League side



in the early 80's, alongside Minehead icons such as Alan Impey, Wayne Powell and Steve Summers. Appearances 469 (plus 17 as sub), 17 goals.

← Rob **MATCHAM** (14/09/79) Brother of Paul who had a short spell with the club in the 90's, Rob seems to have made the big step up from Taunton and District League particularly well. A solid dependable defender with a big appetite for the game, Rob's enthusiasm, along with this seasons' other new signings has helped make an encouraging start to 2003/4.



Lee **NUNN** (24/12/80) →

Made his debut at the start of the "new regime" in August 2000, and has been a dependable regular ever since. A tough, robust defender who always gives 100%, Lee won last season's coveted Gerry Hatrick Player of the Year Award. Signed for the blues from his



local club Watchet (Somerset County League), Lee is another youngster with a huge appetite for the game. Apps 80 (plus 15 as sub), 4 goals.

← Shawn **POPLE** (23/08/73) An imposing central defender, strong in the air with good distribution and vision. Made his debut for the blues as a player "borrowed" from Bridgwater, against Liskeard in 1993. Signed permanently during the 96/97 season. Makes his 50th appearance for Minehead today, having re-signed from local Bridgwater club Sydenham Rangers this season. Appearances 49, 5 goals.



Luke **TAYLOR** (30/09/79) →

Product of local football who signed for Minehead from Porlock at the beginning of the 01/02 season, in which he won the Manager's award as the most improved player. A fast, tricky, wide midfield player or striker, who now appears to have shrugged off a nagging injury which hindered him throughout most of last season. Apps 64, 6 goals.



Lee **TODD** (29/05/78) An enigmatic player who has finally managed to make the position of central striker his own. Has struggled to score consistently at this level, having been prolific in the Taunton and District League. A confident player, with a sweet left foot, who has found his scoring touch in pre-season friendlies. Is in the Guinness Books of records as being the fastest player sent off in a match, after an comment about the volume of the referee's whistle to start the match. Appearances 61 (plus 19 as sub), 8 goals.





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In an attempt to keep statistical information such as league tables, fixtures, results, appearances and all related charts in one section, "STATO's CORNER" has been created.



STATO's



C O R N E R



FIRST DIVISION

Up to and including Wednesday 20th August 2003

			HOME					AWAY					TOTAL				
	CLUB	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	F	A	GD	PTS	
1	Bitton	2	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	0	4	1	3	6	
2	Chard Town	2	1	1	0	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	1	4	
3	Clyst Rovers	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	4	
4	Hallen	1	1	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	4	3	
5	Larkhall Athletic	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	3	
6	Cadbury Heath	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	6	4	6	4	2	3	
7	Calne Town	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	3	
8	Bristol Manor Farm	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	2	3	2	1	3	
9	Shrewton United	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	2	1	1	3	
10	Shepton Mallet	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	3	3	4	4	0	2	
11	Wellington	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	
12	Minehead	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	2	3	-1	1	
13	Street	2	0	1	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	-2	1	
14	Weston St Johns	2	0	1	1	4	9	0	0	0	0	0	4	9	-5	1	
15	Westbury United	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	2	3	-1	0	
16	Corsham Town	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	-1	0	
17	Ilfracombe Town	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	-2	0	
18	Willand Rovers	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	-2	0	
19	Clevedon United	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	1	5	-4	0	

COMING SOON.....

STEP BY STEP FORM GUIDE COMPARING US WITH OUR OPPONENTS

MINEHEAD FC - FIXTURES, RESULTS, APPEARANCES

Date		Opponents		F	A	ATT	1	2	3	
16/08/03	L	SLFD	Clyst Rovers	A	0	1	Sam Jordan	Rob Matcham	Lee Nunn	Sha
19/08/03	L	SLFD	Chard Town	A	2	2	Sam Jordan	Dave Burr	Tony Hills	Sha
23/08/03	C	FAC X Pre	Liskeard Athletic	H						
06/09/03	L	SLFD	Larkhall Athletic	A						
13/09/03	L	SLFD	Chard Town	H						
16/09/03	L	SLFD	Shepton Mallet	A						
20/09/03	C	FAV 2Q	Bishop Sutton	H						
23/09/03	L	SLFD	Cabdney Heath	H						
04/10/03	L	SLFD	Corsham Town	A						
11/10/03	L	SLFD	Hallen	H						
18/10/03	L	SLFD	Bitton	A						
25/10/03	L	SLFD	Bristol Manor Farm	H						
01/11/03	L	SLFD	Calne Town	A						
08/11/03	L	SLFD	Larkhall Athletic	H						
15/11/03	L	SLFD	Westbury United	A						
22/11/03	L	SLFD	Willand Rovers	H						
29/11/03	L	SLFD	Street	A						
06/12/03	L	SLFD	Clevedon United	H						
13/12/03	L	SLFD	Shrewton United	A						
20/12/03	L	SLFD	Wellington	H						
26/12/03	L	SLFD	Ilfracombe Town	H						
03/01/04	L	SLFD	Clyst Rovers	H						
10/01/04	L	SLFD	Shepton Mallet	H						
17/01/04	L	SLFD	Weston St Johns	A						
24/01/04	L	SLFD	Cadbury Heath	A						
07/02/04	L	SLFD	Corsham Town	H						
21/02/04	L	SLFD	Bitton	H						
28/02/04	L	SLFD	Hallen	A						
06/03/04	L	SLFD	Calne Town	H						
13/03/04	L	SLFD	Bristol Manor Farm	A						
20/03/04	L	SLFD	Weston St Johns	H						
30/03/04	L	SLFD	Westbury United	H						
03/04/04	L	SLFD	Wellington	A						
10/04/04	L	SLFD	Street	H						
12/04/04	L	SLFD	Ilfracombe Town	A						
17/04/04	L	SLFD	Willand Rovers	A						
24/04/04	L	SLFD	Shrewton United	H						
01/05/04	L	SLFD	Clevedon United	A						

ES AND GOALSCORERS CHART - SEASON 2003-2004

[illegible]

CURRENT SQUAD DATA

(includes players who have played since start of this season).

Player	2003-04 Season			2002-03 Season			Complete Minehead Career Statistics			Team-mate Appeared Alongside Most
	Apps	Sub	Goals	Apps	Sub	Goals	Apps	Subs	Goals	
Keith Graddon	2	0	1	27	1	1	375	11	33	Charlie Lewis (233)
Lee Todd	2	0	1	21	2	4	61	19	8	Mat Heywood (45)
Luke Taylor	2	0	0	32	1	3	64	3	6	Mat Heywood (49)
Shawn Pople	2	0	0	0	0	0	49	1	5	Dave Burr (37)
Tony Hills	2	0	0	0	0	0	44	14	2	Mat Heywood (36)
Andy Hall	2	0	0	22	2	5	25	25	5	Lee Nunn (21)
Sam Jordan	2	0	0	8	1	0	12	2	0	Andy Hall (10)
James Browning	2	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	0	
Rob Matcham	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	
Robbie Fearn	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	
Dave Burr	1	1	0	12	6	0	338	16	33	Adrian Giblett (154)
Lee Nunn	1	0	0	36	2	1	80	15	4	Mat Heywood (63)
Charlie Lewis	0	2	0	35	4	0	469	17	14	Adrian Giblett (314)
Marc Antonelli	0	1	0	25	2	4	212	10	47	Charlie Lewis (172)
Simon Antonelli	0	2	0	11	15	3	13	21	3	Charlie Lewis (11)

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(Blue)

Sam Jordan
Rob Matcham
Charlie Lewis
Shawn Pople
Luke Taylor
Robbie Fearn
Andy Hall
James Browning
Simon Antonelli
Mark Antonelli
Lee Todd
Dave Burr
Keith Graddon
Tony Hills
Will Giblett
Adrian Giblett



MANA

Charlie Lewis/
Marc Antonelli

REFE

R Greenwo

REFEREE'S

A Raggett (West
T Inks

PLEASE

THE WINNERS OF TODAY'S T
WELTON ROVERS IN THE PR
SATURDAY (3

V LISKEARD ATHLETIC



Dave Rice
Lee Brown
Jon Dawe
Ian Stephens
Harry Richardson
Gary Williams
Adam Billing
Dave Larson (Cap)
Andrew Hampton
Carl Curtis
Lee Harvey
John James
Lee Bevan
Mike Roberts
Matthew Strickland
David Woodfield
Nick Senior

AGER

Chris Burchell
Martin Jones (Coach)

FREE

ood (Exeter)

ASSISTANTS'

ton-Super-Mare)

(Frome)

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0th AUGUST)

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RECENT RESULTS

20/08/03	WESTON ST JOHNS	1-6	CADBURY HEATH	First
19/08/03	BRISLINGTON	1-0	BISHOP SUTTON	Premier
19/08/03	DEVIZES TOWN	1-2	FROME TOWN	Premier
19/08/03	ELMORE	3-1	DAWLISH TOWN	Premier
19/08/03	EXMOUTH TOWN	4-1	BRIDPORT	Premier
19/08/03	TORRINGTON	2-3	BIDEFORD	Premier
19/08/03	BITTON	2-1	BRISTOL MANOR FARM	First
19/08/03	CHARD TOWN	2-2	MINEHEAD	First
19/08/03	SHEPTON MALLET	1-1	CLYST ROVERS	First
19/08/03	STREET	1-1	WELLINGTON	First
18/08/03	PAULTON ROVERS	3-2	MELKSHAM TOWN	Premier
16/08/03	BARNSTAPLE TOWN	1-0	PAULTON ROVERS	Premier
16/08/03	BIDEFORD	2-0	BRISLINGTON	Premier
16/08/03	BRIDGWATER TOWN	1-2	KEYNSHAM TOWN	Premier
16/08/03	DAWLISH TOWN	2-5	BRIDPORT	Premier
16/08/03	ELMORE	3-2	WELTON ROVERS	Premier
16/08/03	EXMOUTH TOWN	0-1	DEVIZES TOWN	Premier
16/08/03	MELKSHAM TOWN	1-2	BISHOP SUTTON	Premier
16/08/03	ODD DOWN	2-0	FROME TOWN	Premier
16/08/03	TORRINGTON	1-0	BACKWELL UNITED	Premier
16/08/03	CALNE TOWN	2-0	ILFRACOMBE TOWN	First
16/08/03	CHARD TOWN	3-2	WESTBURY UNITED	First
16/08/03	CLYST ROVERS	1-0	MINEHEAD	First
16/08/03	CORSHAM TOWN	1-2	SHREWTON UNITED	First
16/08/03	HALLEN	5-1	CLEVEDON UNITED	First
16/08/03	LARKHALL ATHLETIC	3-0	CADBURY HEATH	First
16/08/03	STREET	0-2	BITTON	First
16/08/03	WESTON ST JOHNS	3-3	SHEPTON MALLET	First
16/08/03	WILLAND ROVERS	0-2	BRISTOL MANOR FARM	First

THIS WEEK'S FIXTURES

23/08/2003	CLEVEDON UNITED v CLYST ROVERS	15:00:00	First
23/08/2003	CORSHAM TOWN v WELLINGTON	15:00:00	First
23/08/2003	HALLEN v SHREWTON UNITED	15:00:00	First
23/08/2003	ILFRACOMBE TOWN v LARKHALL ATHLETIC	15:00:00	First
23/08/2003	STREET v BRISTOL MANOR FARM	15:00:00	First
23/08/2003	WESTON ST JOHNS v WESTBURY UNITED	15:00:00	First
23/08/2003	WILLAND ROVERS v CALNE TOWN	15:00:00	First
23/08/2003	BARNSTAPLE TOWN v EXMOUTH TOWN	15:00:00	FAC (EP)
23/08/2003	CHARD TOWN v PAULTON ROVERS	15:00:00	FAC (EP)
23/08/2003	DEVIZES TOWN v CHRISTCHURCH	15:00:00	FAC (EP)
23/08/2003	FROME TOWN v TUFFLEY ROVERS	15:00:00	FAC (EP)
23/08/2003	MINEHEAD v LISKEARD ATHLETIC	15:00:00	FAC (EP)
23/08/2003	SHEPTON MALLET v FALMOUTH TOWN	15:00:00	FAC (EP)
26/08/2003	BITTON v CLEVEDON UNITED	19:45:00	First
26/08/2003	CHARD TOWN v WESTON ST JOHNS	19:30:00	First
26/08/2003	CLYST ROVERS v STREET	18:30:00	First

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The Matchday Chronicle is produced by SOCCASTATS, a company who specialise in computerised soccer statistics. They have on file records of every MINEHEAD team fielded since the beginning of the 1959/60 season, along with goalscorers. Any references made throughout the season to any specific records will therefore relate to games played since (over 2000 matches). Other than any specific features (such as Managers' Notes), the comments made in The Matchday Chronicle are not necessarily made by MINEHEAD FC. ALL revenue from advertisements goes directly to MINEHEAD FC. Should any supporters have any suggestions or comments regarding the content, or feel they could help with regular or one-off articles, SOCCASTATS can be contacted through Brian Walder, or e-mailed at editor@soccstats.co.uk

SOCCASTATS would like to thank the handful of persons who make regular editorial contributions to the publication.

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1999 (S) PEUGEOT 306 LX TURBO DIESEL ESTATE

Finished in Metallic Red. £3,995

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AC, Finished in Sapphire Blue Metallic. £3,495

1997 (R) PEUGEOT 306 1.6 LX 5 DOOR H/B

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AC, Finished in Sapphire Blue Metallic. £6,295

2000 (W) PEUGEOT 206 1.4 LX AUTO 5 DOOR

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Vauxhall

2000 (W) VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CLUB 5 DOOR H/B

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2000 (W) VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CLUB 5 DR H/B

AC, Finished in Light Green Metallic. £5,200

1999 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 LS 5 DOOR H/B

Recent History. Finished in Silver. £4,995

1996 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 GLS AUTO 5 DR H/B

2000 (W) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AUTO 5 DOOR

29,000 Miles. PAS, Finished in Blue Metallic. £4,800

VOLKSWAGEN/AUDI

2001 (Y) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.4 16V 5 DR H/B

Finished in Red. £4,995

2001 (Y) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 2.0 GTI 5 DOOR H/B

23,000 Miles. AC, Alloys. Finished in Jazz Blue. £9,995

1999 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF GTI 5 DOOR H/B

History. Finished in Jazz Blue Metallic. £7,495

1997 (R) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF GTI 16V 3 DR H/B

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1994 (M) VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT CL TDI ESTATE

Finished in Silver. £3,495

FORD FIESTA

2002 FORD FIESTA 1.3 FUN

PAS, 12,000 Miles. Finished in Burgundy Metallic. £4,995

1998 (R) FORD FIESTA 1.3 5 DOOR HATCHBACK

Finished in White or Blue. Choice. From £2,295

1997 FORD FIESTA SI 3 DOOR HATCHBACK

PAS, Alloys. Finished in Blue Metallic. £2,900

ESTATE CARS AND MPV'S

2000 (W) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 CLUB 7 SEATER

AC, PAS etc. 24,000 Miles. Finished in Silver. £8,795

2000 (W) PEUGEOT 406 TDI ESTATE CAR

History. AC, Finished in Silver. £6,495

1999 (V) FIAT MARIEA 1.6 SX ESTATE CAR

One Owner. Finished in Burgundy Red. £4,995

1998 FORD GALAXY GHIA X 110 TDI 5 DOOR

AC, Alloys. Finished in Blue Metallic. £8,995

RENAULT

2001 (51) MEGANE SCENIC AUTHENTIQUE

17,000 Miles. Finished in White. £8,495

2000 (W) RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 5 DOOR H/B

AC, PAS, Finished in Burgundy Metallic. £5,995

1996 (P) RENAULT MEGANE 1.4 RT 5 DR H/B

Bar-Sun Roof. PAS, Finished in Metallic Blue. £2,995

1999 RENAULT LAGUNA 1.4 RT 5 DR HATCHBACK

AC, 44,000 Miles. History. Finished in Silver. £4,495

1998 MODEL RENAULT LAGUNA 2.0 RT AUTO 5 DR

HATCHBACK Finished in White. £2,800

2000 (W) RENAULT CLIO RT AUTO 5 DOOR

AC, Finished in Blue. £5,995

2001 (Y) RENAULT CLIO GRANDE HATCHBACK

PAS, 26,000 Miles Only. Finished in Metallic Red. £5,295

NISSAN

1999 (T) NISSAN MICRA 1.0 5 HATCHBACK

PAS, Finished in White. £2,995

1996 NISSAN MICRA AUTO

PAS. £3,295

OTHER MAKES

2001 (51) HONDA ACCORD VTEC SE EXEC AUTO

24,000 Miles. Leather. Finished in Blue Metallic. £9,995

2002 FIAT PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE 5 DOOR HATCHBACK

5000 Miles Only. Finished in Silver. £5,995

2000 (W) TOYOTA COROLLA 1.6 VIT AUTO 5 DR HB

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1999 DAEWOO MATIZ SE PLUS

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1996 (P) DAEWOO NEXIA GLX 1.5 4 DR SALOON

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1994 FORD FIESTA 1.3 5 DOOR

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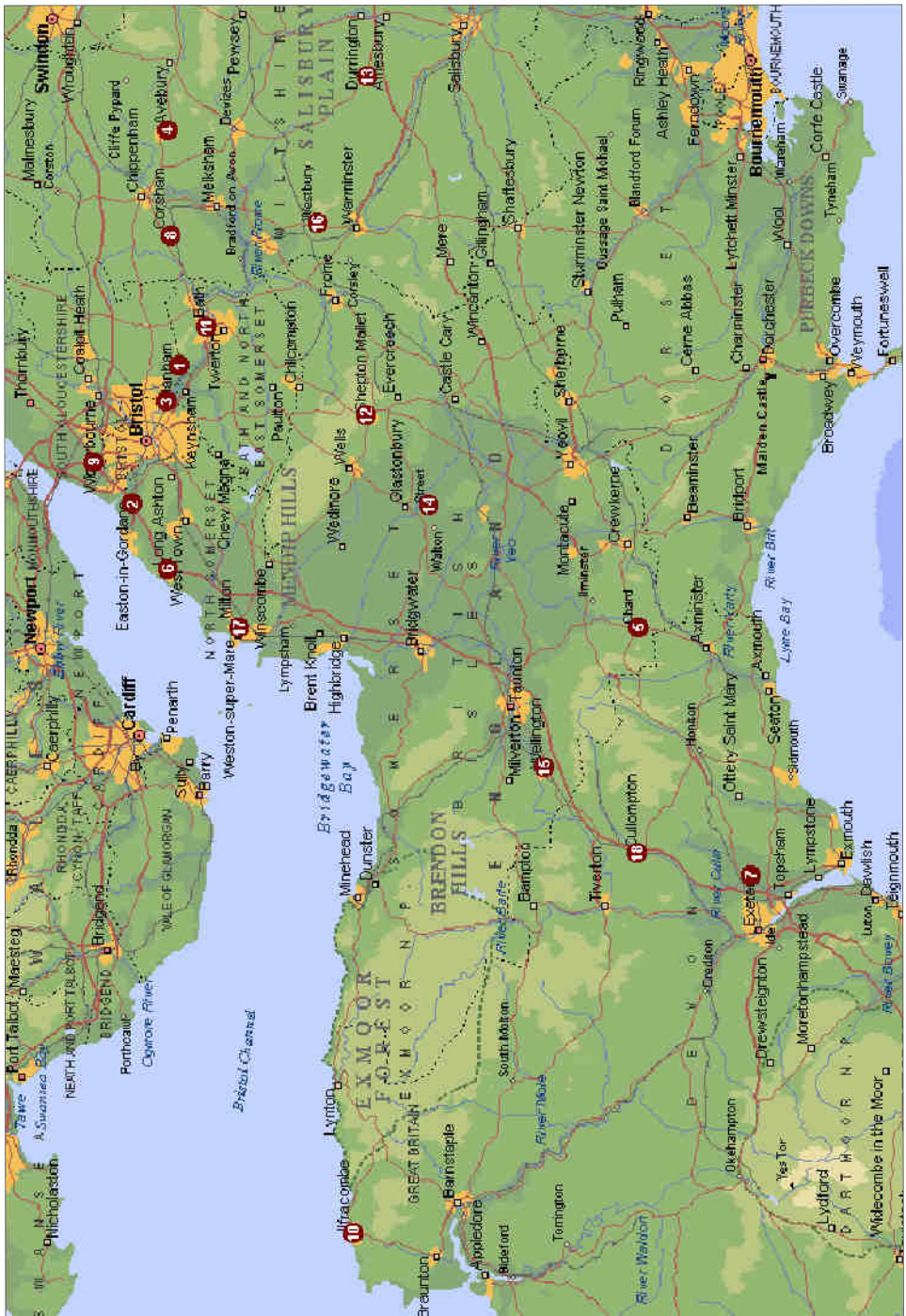
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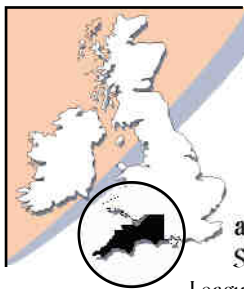
nb. Numbers shown relate to Map on Page 35 opposite

THIS SEASON'S



OPPONENTS

1	Bitton	Recreation Ground, Bitton	On A431 Bristol to Bath road at Bitton	62.8
2	Bristol Manor Farm	The Creek, Portway, Bristol	Leaving M5 at Junction 18, take A4 marked Bristol. U-turn on dual carriageway by Bristol and West Sports Ground. Ground is teln half a mile on the left.	66.1
3	Cadbury Heath	Springfield, Cadbury Heath Road, Bristol	Situated in East Bristol between Warnley and Oldland. Look for Spar shop and King William public house, then turn into Cadbury Heath Road. 20 yards on right find entrance to Social Club.	71.4
4	Calne Town	Bremhill View, Calne	Take A4 from Calne to Chippenham, turn left at first roundabout onto A3102 bypass. At next roundabout turn right, next left and then right and right again.	97.3
5	Chard Town	Dening Field, Zembard Lane, Chard	Follow Swimming pool signs via main Fore Street, Helliers Road, Crimchard, Zembard Lane.	40.5
6	Clevedon United	The Hand Stadium, Clevedon, North Somerset	Junction 20 M5. At bottom roundabout turn right, at Tesco roundabout turn left. Continue along road and cross river bridge, turn left into Davis Lane. Continue along Davis Lane to cross bridge over M5, ground is on right.	50.6
7	Clyst Rovers	Topsham Town FC, Coronation Field, Exeter	Exit M5 at Jct 30. Continue on the A379 to the Countess Wear roundabout. Take B3182 Exeter to Topsham road, ground is 3/4 mile after main Countess Wear roundabout.	56.6
8	Corsham Town	Southbank Ground, Lacock Road, Corsham	A4 into Corsham, at Hare and Hounds roundabout take the Melksham B3353 until the War Memorial, then Lacock Road. Ground is a half a mile on the right hand side.	94.8
9	Hallen	Hallen Centre, Moorhouse Lane, Hallen	From M5 J17 follow A4 towards Bristol. At roundabout turn right into Crow Lane, turn right at T junction and right again at mini roundabout. At next mini roundabout turn left and continue for 1.5 miles into Hallen. At crossroads turn left into Moorhouse Lane.	59.9
10	Ilfracombe Town	Marlborough Park, Ilfracombe	Take A361 for Ilfracombe and in town take first right after traffic lights. Follow Marlborough Road to the top where the ground is on the left.	38.2
11	Larkhall Athletic	Plain Ham, Charlcombe Lane, Larkhall	Take A4 East from Bath, for 1 mile, then left into St Saviours Road. In Larkhall Square fork left, then right at junction. Road bears into Charlecombe Lane, ground on right as road narrows.	65.8
12	Shepton Mallet	Playing Fields, Old West Rd, West Shepton, Shepton Mallet	From the town, take the B3136 Glastonbury Road for approximately 1/2 mile. Turn right at junction of Old Wells Road near King William public house. Approximately 300 yards up Old Wells Road turn left into the Playing Fields.	49.3
13	Shrewton United	Recreation Ground, Mill Lane, Shrewton	From A303 Left at Winterbourne Stoke and left at The Royal Oak. Turn right at mini roundabout on outskirts of village, turn left at The George Inn and follow Football Club signs	89.1
14	Street	The Tannery Field, Middlebrooks, Street	Signposted from both ends of A39 and B3151	38.8
15	Wellington	The Playing Field, North Street, Wellington	At town centre traffic lights take turning into North Street. Take the next left to the fire station and follow the road into the car park. Ground and clubhouse adjacent to car park.	29
16	Westbury United	Meadow Lane, Westbury	In town centre on A350, follow signs for the Railway Station, and Meadow Lane is on right. Ground is opposite the fire station.	69.3
17	Weston St Johns	Coleridge Road, Bourville Estate, Weston	Leave M5 at J21. Take main road into Weston-S-Mare. Turn left at the 4th roundabout into Winterstoke Road, take second right into Bryon Road, then first left into Coleridge Road.	38.6
18	Willand Rovers	Silver St, Willand, Gullompton	Leave M5 at Junction 27 and take the first right at the roundabout. Follow signs to Willand. After passing Willand village sign, ground is 400 yards on the left hand side.	42.9



NON-LEAGUE NEWS

A West Country Round-Up Provided by Tim Rawlings

As we begin another season in the Screwfix Direct Western League, I will take this opportunity of catching up with the honours taken at the end of last season and the news from around the region during the close season.

Team Bath won the Premier Division title by an eleven point margin over runners-up Brislington. The University based side have also been accepted to join the Dr Martens Western Division for the coming season, having had their ground and facilities pass an inspection from the League officials. Team Bath won the title following a remarkable 19 match unbeaten run at the end of last season and will now join the likes of Taunton Town, Mangotsfield United and Clevedon Town, all former Western League teams competing in the Dr Martens Western Division. Brislington held off a strong late challenge from Bideford to take runners-up spot in the Premier Division but ended a fine season without a trophy when they were beaten 1-0 at Bridgwater Town in the Les Philips Cup Final. A cracking 25-yard shot from Bridgwater's Paul Heywood was enough to separate the teams in a closely fought encounter. Although there were no teams relegated from the Premier Division it is worthy of note that both Barnstaple Town and Welton Rovers who occupied the bottom places for much of the season managed to climb out of the bottom two places, leaving Devizes and Elmore to replace them.

The Screwfix Direct League Division One title was won by Torrington having finally

pipped Exmouth by a single point. Both sides had spent the entire season swapping top and runners-up spot but it was eventually Torrington who snatched the title. A part of Torrington's success was due to the lethal strike partnership of Lee Langmead and Andy Stevens who between them fired in 68 league goals. Torrington manager Paul Hutchings, who took over the hot seat after just eight matches of the season, is confident of keeping his successful squad together for the coming season. Off the field there are to be a further 50 seats installed at the club's Vicarage Field ground to accommodate what the club are hoping will be increased attendances in the Premier Division.

As the Screwfix League decided not to relegate any teams from the First Division last season, the opportunity has arisen to welcome two new sides to the Western League. Team Bath and Bath City Reserves were the teams leaving the league, to be replaced by Champions of the Wiltshire County League Shrewton United and Clevedon United of the Somerset Senior League.

There have also been many managerial changes around the region since our last Matchday Chronicle publication. Bishops Sutton of the Screwfix Premier Division have appointed Terry Hooper as successor to Tony Cornelius. Hooper was manager last season of Keynsham Town Reserves who competed in the Somerset County League Premier Division. Meanwhile,

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Tony Cornelius has taken over as manager of Keynsham Town, where he will be assisted by Pete Wills with whom he worked under the Bristol Rovers youth academy set up. Melksham Town have lost the services of Robbie Lardner, who decided to quit after three years in charge of the Premier Division club. The vacancy has been filled by experienced defender Nigel Tripp who is making the transition from player to manager. Paul Rankin has returned for a second spell of management at Larkhall of the Screwfix First Division. Rankin was in charge at Larkhall for four years until he left at the end of the 2001 campaign. He will form a three man team alongside current boss Tommy Gilbert and coach John Newman. Colin Bush, previously assistant to Chippenham

Town boss Tommy Saunders, has taken over the managerial reigns at Corsham Town of the Screwfix First Division. Bush played for Corsham in the 1970s and also played an assistant manager's role in the 1990s. Former Bristol Rovers, Cheltenham Town and Bath City player Keith Brown has taken over as manager of First Division Bitton, where he will be assisted by midfielder Brendon King. Terry Hale left First Division Hallen at the end of last season but has since been replaced by Gary Domone who previously managed Gloucestershire County League side Hunbury Old Boys. Shepton Mallet will start the season with a new boss following the resignation of Gary Benfield. The managerial role for the Division One outfit will be filled by Shane Smith who will be assisted by former Bristol Manor Farm boss Geoff Bryant. Weston-St-Johns will



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also begin their First Division season with a new management duo following the resignation of Martin Dancey. Eric George and Gavin Berry will take over the helm at

the club, who this season aim to be self-funding as they will no longer rely on income from the clubhouse.

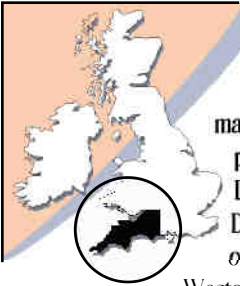
To cut a long story short.... almost every club has a new manager!!!! Weymouth manager Geoff Butler was sacked by new incoming chairman Ian Ridley at the end of last season. The cash strapped Dr Martens Premier Division club flirted with relegation last season but eventually finished 17th with 51 points. The ambitious new chairman had talks with Tiverton manager Martyn Rogers regarding the vacancy but Rogers opted to stay at Ladysmead to help fulfil their ambitions of Conference football. Weymouth have since pulled off a major coup by enticing former Millwall player Steve Claridge to become their new player manager. Claridge, a former striker with Cambridge Utd, Birmingham City, Leicester City and Millwall, rejected a one year extension to his contract with the Nationwide club in favour of joining the ambitious Dr Martens club. Weymouth have recently signed former Bristol City and Torquay United striker Scott Partridge on a three year deal.

Tiverton Town will be without their ace striker Phil Everett this season as he decided to quit football at Dr Martens level in favour of playing for Willand Rovers in the Screwfix First Division. Everett was with the

Devon club for 11 years, seeing them rise from Western League football to a leading Dr Martens league position. During his career with Tiverton, Everett scored an impressive 375 goals and had the honour of being voted non-league player of the year on one occasion. Another Tiverton favourite, goalkeeper Paul Edwards has also opted to call time on his distinguished career with the Dr Martens club and manager Martyn Rogers has now completed the signing of Exeter City second string keeper Stuart Fraser as his replacement.

Chippenham Town will begin the new season without goalkeeper James Bittner after the highly-rated keeper signed a two-year deal with Nationwide Conference newcomers Exeter City. Bittner impressed during a pre-season trial period in which he failed to concede a goal. Although no fee was changed hands, the Grecians agreed to play Chippenham in a pre-season friendly next season, and a sell-on clause has been included in the deal.

Taunton Town revealed in the close season that they lost £30,000 in their first season in the Dr Martens League. This was £10,000 more than they had anticipated but fortunately the club had sufficient funds to cover the loss and had now taken steps to reduce their costs in the coming season. Taunton's attendances had only risen by 19 per match compared with their previous successful season in the Screwfix Premier Division. As a result of the losses Taunton have released goalkeeper Ryan Draper, Ian Baistow, Rob Herrera and Dominic Richardson. However, the Peacocks have signed experienced former Exeter City defender Alex Watson and veteran goalkeeper Dave Mogg



from Clevedon Town. Weston-Super-Mare manager Frank Gregan is preparing for life in the Dr Martens Premier Division with a number of important new signings.

Weston, who finished runners-up to Merthyr last season, have signed former Bristol Rovers midfielder Justin Skinner from Scottish Division 2 side Brechin City. The Seagulls have also captured former Bristol Rovers defender Billy Clark and utility player Steve Benton from Dr Martens rivals Newport County, together with regular Screwfex League goalscorers Ryan King and Guiseppe Sorbara.

Yate Town are another club who celebrated promotion to the Dr Martens Western Division after three years in the Hellenic League. The South Gloucestershire based side finished runners up in the Hellenic League under the guidance of former Torquay United and Yeovil Town player Richard Thompson. A further bonus for Yate was that they were deemed to be the best supported club in the Hellenic League last season with an average home attendance of just over 131.

St Austell of the Carlsberg South Western League were in shock over their failure to be re-elected to the league after they finished in the bottom two for the second season running. This is the first time in the league's 52-year history that a team has faced the axe. However, St Austell successfully won an appeal against the decision and are now competing in the South Western League once again. The initial decision baffled St Austell particularly as they actually finished a massive 17 points above Bodmin Town who were

re-elected on a majority decision. Four other teams in Cornwall are celebrating being accepted into this season's F.A. Cup, none more so than today's opponents Liskeard Athletic who will be competing for the first time in twenty years. They will be joined in the early rounds of the famous competition by Falmouth Town, Porthleven and St.Blazey.

Last Saturday saw the beginning of the season in the Screwfex Direct Western League, with the match of the day in the Premier Division resulting in a 2-0 home win for Bideford against Brislington. A Lee Groves penalty and a Matt Hare volley ensured that Bideford collected the three points in front of a crowd of 400. Newly promoted Torrington got off to a winning start by beating Backwell United 1-0 thanks to a twice-taken Barry Yeo penalty. Bridgwater Town suprisingly lost 2-1 at home to Keynsham Town after missing a host of chances. Former Bristol Rovers midfielder Lee Zabek gave Keynsham the lead only for Danny Milford to equalise for Bridgwater, before Micky Adams drove Keynsham's winner on the hour mark. Barnstaple Town, keen to avoid a repeat of last season's struggle, won 1-0 at home against Paulton Rovers thanks to a Ryan Trudgeon strike 15 minutes from time. Melksham Town went down 2-1 at home to Bishops Sutton despite taking the lead through Simeon Allison after 35 minutes. However, second-half goals from Joe Parsons and Martin Cox gave Bishops Sutton the winning start to the season. Odd Down beat visitors Frome Town 2-0 courtesy of goals from Karl Whitecliffe and Lee Forristal. Dawlish Town took a two-goal lead through Chris Slough and Carl Turner at home to Bridport who then rattled in five goals from Darren Stewart, Simon Gale(2),



Ritchie Parkinson and Chris Armstrong to finally win the match 5-2. Elmore collected a welcome three points when they defeated Welton Rovers 3-2 at Horsden Park. Chris Bedford, Stuart Anderson and Matt Harvey were all on target for the 'Eagles'. In the remaining First Division encounter newcomers Exmouth were beaten 1-0 at home against Devizes Town.

In the Screwfix Direct First Division an Anthony Beecham hat-trick helped Hallen to a 5-1 home victory against newly-promoted Clevedon United. Strikes by Dave Truan and Martin Cook completed an impressive afternoon for Hallen. Calne gained a hard fought 2-0 home win over Ilfracombe Town thanks to second-half goals from James Lye and Jan Kozlovski. Chard Town raced into a three goal lead in their home match against much fancied Westbury Town, courtesy of a Danny Wilson brace and a Bruce

Gawen effort, but Westbury fought back with goals from Tom Welsh and former Blues striker Steve Perkins, to complete the 3-2 scoreline. With eight new signings on display, Street were beaten 2-0 at home against Bitton, whose goals came from a James Raynes header and a late chipped Adam Cole effort. Former Tiverton Town striker Phil Everett made his league debut for Willand Rovers but could not prevent the home side slipping to a 2-0 reverse against Bristol Manor Farm who won courtesy of two second-half goals from David Aniyanfah. Larkhall Athletic had impressive 3-0 home win over Cadbury Heath thanks to two goals from James Riccio and a Russell Howell effort. Shrewton United enjoyed a fine debut in the Screwfix Division One when they won 2-1 at Corsham Town.

In the Dr Martens Premier Division Tiverton Town came from behind to secure a 2-1 home win against Moor Green thanks to two goals from striker Jamie Mudge. Newly promoted Weston-Super-Mare got off to a winning start courtesy of a Mark McKeever goal in

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the second-half of their match at home to Cambridge City claiming the 1-0 victory. A Charlie Griffin equaliser earned Chippenham a 1-1 draw on their visit

to Nuneaton Borough, who have only just been relegated from the Nationwide Conference whilst Weymouth Town gained a point in a goalless draw at Hednesford.

Team Bath suffered a 1-0 home defeat against Solihull Borough in their first ever match in the Dr Martens Western Division, despite creating many scoring opportunities. Taunton Town went down 2-1 at Bromsgrove, despite taking an early lead through Derek Fields whilst Mangotsfield United fared better when they gained a 2-1 home win against Bedworth

United. David Seal gave Mangotsfield the lead but they only clinched the win thanks to an 89th minute effort from Mark Summers. Clevedon Town scored twice in the final minutes to secure a 2-0 first day win over Halesowen, with Shane Hobbs and Lewis Haldane proving to be their goalscoring heros. Meanwhile Exeter City are finding life in the Nationwide Conference very different from their Division 3 experiences, where most weeks they would perform in front of 2,000-4,000 crowds. Last Saturday their 1-0 victory at Margate was watched by a meagre crowd of just 890.

During last week Bideford continued their impressive start to their season in the Screwfix Premier Division when they beat local rivals Torrington 3-2 away from home. Bideford took the lead through Robert Gough only for Torrington to nose in front with two goals from

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Barry Yeo. However, Mike Southgate's overhead equalised for Bideford and Alex Crook sealed the win for the Robins with a goal three minutes from time. Elmore

maintained their 100% start to the season with a 3-1 win at home against Dawlish thanks to two goals from Matt Harvey and a further Chris Bedford strike. Exmouth Town achieved their first win since returning to the Premier Division when they had a 4-1 home victory over Bridport courtesy of goals from Richard Hope, Danny Burwood and a brace from Jamie Densham. Last season's runners-up

Brislington got off the mark with a 1-0 home win against Bishops Sutton whilst Devizes went down 2-1 at home to Frome Town.

In the Screwfix First Division Clyst Rovers drew 1-1 on their visit to Shepton Mallet, despite Darren Brown giving the Somerset side the lead. Liam Collins equalised for Clyst to maintain their unbeaten start to the campaign. Former Blues midfielder Damien Palfrey gave Street the lead at home against Wellington but an own goal by Street meant that the points were shared in a 1-1 draw. Bitton continued their 100% start to the season with a 2-1 home win against Bristol Manor Farm.



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Also interesting to note that most of the Vice Presidents' actually perform duties on matchdays too.

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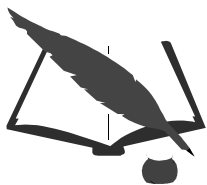
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MINEHEAD FC

THE STORY SO FAR.....

Minehead Football Club was originally founded in 1889 and spent their early years in local competitions. They turned semi-professional in 1949/50 when they joined the Western League, in which they played for 23 seasons. In spite of being one of the most consistent teams in the league, Minehead never actually won the Western League Championship, although they finished as runners-up twice (in 66/67 and 71/72).

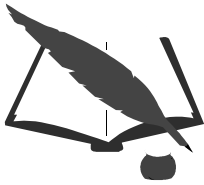
They joined the Southern League in 1972 and finished 5th in Division One (South). The following season saw them improve slightly by finishing 4th, followed by 3rd in 74/75. In the 75/76 season the club improved yet again to carry off the league title as champions, as well as the Southern League Merit Cup by scoring more goals than any other club in the Southern League (all 3 divisions), Andy Leitch leading the charge with 36 goals, (the highest tally recorded while Minehead were a Southern League side), closely followed by Jimmy Jenkins and Derek Bryant who both managed 30. The next season, the most successful in it's roller-coaster history, saw Minehead finish as runners-up to Wimbledon, as well as reaching the 2nd Round Proper of the FA Cup for the first time, when they were beaten 2-1 by Portsmouth at Fratton Park, witnessed by more than 16,000 spectators. At this stage the club were considered to be amongst the top 6 non league clubs in the country, reflected by being invited to represent England in the Non League Anglo-Italian Cup competition during 1978. Having won both matches at home, Minehead lost both return matches in Italy, one of which

was against Udinese. Within a few short years Udinese had progressed through to the Italian 1st Division, with their ground being chosen as a venue for the World Cup finals in 1990.

Another interesting piece of history was created the following season when Minehead's Andy Leitch found his name in the record books by scoring in 6 consecutive FA Cup matches, equalling Jeff Astle's record. Leitch had a scorching header hooked off the line with the keeper beaten during Minehead's 2nd Round Proper tie at home to Exeter City, which would have given him the record outright. Minehead were beaten 3-0 by the Devon club, a tie which attracted the club's second highest home attendance of 3,050.

Though the club were still a cup force to be reckoned with, their stunning strike partnership of Leitch, Jenkins and Bryant parted company. Struggling to score goals they were relegated from the Southern League Premier Division, finishing 17th of 20, just one point from safety. However the name had been put firmly on the non league map. On the occasion of the Southern League's centenary year (1994) manager Bob Boyd was chosen as one of the top one hundred managers in it's history, where his name stands proudly alongside such names as Malcolm Allison, Ron Atkinson and Barry Fry.

The 79/80 season saw a restructuring of the non-league pyramid, with the "creation" of the Alliance Premier League (now the Conference League). The Southern League, losing 13 clubs



in the switch, opted for a Midland/Southern divide. Minehead competed in the Midland Division, and after leading the division from

January, finally finished as runners-up to Bridgend. Season 80/81 saw them finish 12th, however the club were starting to experience the financial problems which have been with them ever since, and the decision was made to withdraw from the Southern League at the end of the 82/83 campaign.

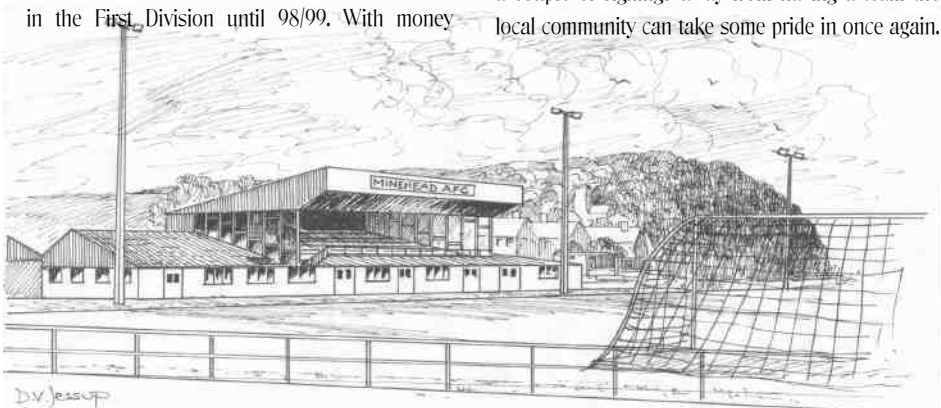
Having been accepted back into the Western League (Premier Division), the team were brought back to reality with an 8-0 thrashing at Frome Town on the first Saturday of the new season. Relegated to the First Division in 1989, the following year saw things get progressively worse, finishing bottom of the lower league. With no relegation that season, the blues lived to fight again, and the following season current first team manager Andy Hodgson enjoyed his best managerial season to date leading the team to the First Division Championship with a record number of points, with teenage striker Gareth Morgan scoring 44 times in 40 appearance and creating a Western League record for the club. Further off the pitch problems dogged the club and in the 93/94 season with 6 points being deducted the side were relegated again, staying in the First Division until 98/99. With money

appearing again they won the championship, recording their first league defeat of the season at the final match, away to neighbours Ilfracombe, having been presented with the trophy several games earlier. The high point of this season again being a lethal strike partnership between Woon, Morgan and Charlesworth, with all three appearing in the Screwfix league's top six scorers, scoring over 30 goals each.

On their arrival back in the Premier Division finances had dried up, with many of the successful team moving on. Woon stayed, and was again one of the top scorers in the league, however his goals alone could not prevent the side finishing bottom, avoiding relegation due to the restructuring of the league.

Now under a new regime, with a long term plan in place to repurchase the club's envious premises, the future has begun to look more secure. Andy Hodgson returned as manager in 2001 however the season saw Minehead's unpaid local players relegated from the Premier Division.

This season sees a joint management team of Charlie Lewis and Mark Antonelli in charge, and the long serving players have already installed a new belief into the local players and the commitment of all has been reflected in the opening performances. They both now feel the blues are just a couple of signings away from having a team the local community can take some pride in once again.



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LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

Southern League (Premier Division) Runners-up 1976-77

Southern League (Southern Division) Champions 1975-76

Southern League (Midland Division) Runners-up 1979-80

Southern League Merit Cup Winners 1975-76 (102 gls)

Western League Runners-up 1966-67 & 1971-72

Western League Division One Champions 1990/91 & 1998/99

Western Counties Floodlit League Champions 1974-75

CUP COMPETITIONS

FA Challenge Cup 2nd Round Proper 1976-77, 1977-78

FA Challenge Cup 1st Round Proper:

1970-71, 1976-77, 1977-78, 1979-80, 1980-81, 1981-82,

FA Challenge Trophy 2nd Round Proper 1973-74, 1976-77, 1978-79

F A Challenge Trophy 1st Round Proper:

1969-70, 1970-71, 1971-72, 1973-74, 1976-77, 1977-78, 1978-79, 1980-81, 1981-82

F A Challenge Vase 2nd Round Proper 1998-99

Western League Challenge Cup Runners-up 1970-71

Somerset Professional Cup Winners 1960-61, 1973-74, 1976-77

Somerset Professional Cup Runners-up 1954-55, 1957-58, 1959-60, 1964-65, 1978-79

Western Counties Floodlit KO Cup Winners 1976-77

Pratten Cup Runners-up 1974-75

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