

THE MATCHDAY CHRONICLE

MINEHEAD v WATCHET TOWN

ERREA SOMERSET COUNTY PREMIER LEAGUE

Saturday 14th August 2010

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MINEHEAD	WATCHET TOWN
Goalkeeper: [Name]	Goalkeeper: [Name]
Defence: [Name]	Defence: [Name]
Midfield: [Name]	Midfield: [Name]
Attack: [Name]	Attack: [Name]

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WILLIE BROWN'S PEN 30 YEARS AGO



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WE NOW LOOK TO THE FUTURE

by Paul Newbold in Robbie's absence

Pre-season training has gone well the attitude and commitment of the players has been first class they have worked hard on their fitness and on the way we want them to play this season.

It has been pleasing to be able to attract some new players to the club this season all local lads Dave Sowden, Luke Freeman and Steve Sully from Porlock, Luke Bloys, Chris Newbold, Ross Addicott and Martin Phillips from Alcombe Rovers and 16 years old Liam Snell who's come up from the Under 16s.

We also welcome back some old faces to the club Mickey Burns, Stefan Phillips and Chris Meredith and it's good to see we have retained the services of Lee Todd, James Browning, Chris Yeates, Guy Burns, Luke Webber, Mike Mullen, Jack Furze, Andy Hall, Matt Cracknell and Rob Gurnett from last season.

As you can see we are putting together a squad of good local players who want to play for Minehead with an average age of 21 and the majority of them having come through the youth system at some point the future does look promising. However success is not going to happen overnight it is going to take time to gel the team together as a unit but with the right attitude, hard work and commitment hopefully we can bring some success back to Minehead football club.

Looking forward to today's game, firstly I would like to welcome our local rivals Watchet Town and their supporters to Irnham Road and secondly I would like to thank all the Minehead supporters old and new for coming to support the team today, it is appreciated by the management and players alike, and finally I hope you all enjoy what should be a well contested and entertaining game of football this afternoon.

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THE CHAIRMAN'S RAVE

(Rants no longer being allowed)

Good afternoon to you all and welcome to "The Rec" for this seasons' exciting opening home match of the 2010-11 season against Watchet Town.

As has been documented in the local press recently, this is the first league encounter between the two sides since they last met in the same competition way back in 1938/39, more than 70 years ago.

Barring the odd testimonial or friendly match, the only occasion since when the two clubs have met was in December 1980, when Willie Brown's penalty was the difference between the two sides. (See report and photo on page 22).

There has always been a huge connection between the two sides, along with a fierce rivalry. I am sure this afternoon is going to be no different. In the match 30 years ago the Watchet line up, which was managed by Mike Clausen (Minehead's highest ever goalscorer) contained six players who between them made over 2000 appearances for Minehead (Charlie Lewis 491, Keith Graddon 446, Nick Sully, 14, Mark Fitchew 48, Adrian Giblett 592, Mike Clausen 470). Mike's younger brother Tony, who is Minehead's highest appearance maker of all time with 828, was in the Minehead line up. (Hence the photo on the front which contains both brothers, from October 1970.

A study of today's Watchet squad shows similar statistics, with six of today's squad having worn the blue shirt. Namely captain Lee Nunn (145), Matt Heywood (167), Ed Barney (15), Adam Sparks (78), Brian Hall (114) and Adam Jeffries who made 8 substitute appearances. When you add to this list the currently suspended Aaron Deekes and Sean Kenny (29 & 73) and the injured Luke Taylor (246) it shows that the teams remain intrinsically linked.

To everyone who has made the short journey from Watchet to be with us this afternoon, we bid a warm Minehead welcome.

We would also like to bid a warm welcome to our new kit sponsor Richard Beaver of Beaver Ford, who have kindly pledged their support to us this season. I am hoping that Richard will be with us this afternoon. Beaver Garages are another example of connections between the two towns.

Today's Matchday Sponsor also has businesses in both Minehead and Watchet, and we bid yet another warm welcome to Marcus Kravis whose businesses The Arkade and The Betting Shop can be spotted on signboards on the ground. I hope we've got enough tea and biscuits for everyone at half time.

My final comment about connections between Minehead and Watchet is to ask whether anyone here today can remember the name of the character who used to walk in along the beach from Watchet to every home game at The Rec. The first person to tell me his name wins a pint! (Good opportunity for "Claus" if he's here today)

I would like to thank Alistair David of Gerald David's who has brought the pig roast along for anyone to savour.

Robbie Hopkins starts his first full season in charge with us today, and along with Paul Newbold who has re-joined us Assistant Manager, we feel we have a good management team in place. Several players have returned, and others are trying to force their way into the side for the first time, so competition for places is much higher than in previous seasons. Having also managed to retain most of last seasons' squad we are all eager for our first season in the Somerset County League since 1938/39 to start, and what better way than to host the Red & Blacks of Watchet.

Win, lose or draw, I hope this afternoon is a footballing feast which lives up to it's billing.

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INTRODUCING WATCHET TOWN

Founded in 1887 Watchet's most successful post war period was in the 1950's when they were runners up in the Somerset Senior Cup before winning the trophy in 1959.

Over the years the club has been well served by families in the town such as the Miltons, Webbers, Stevens' Clausens, Allens, Normans, Knights and Bindings.

The Red and Blacks were division one Champions in 1976 and 1982, and were in that division when they knocked out the top 3 Premier Division sides on their way to lifting the Somerset Senior Cup again in 2002. Goals from Dean Allen(2) and Steve Wild gave them a 3 -1 extra time victory over Wells City at Paulton Rovers ground.

Watchet regained their Premier division status in 2008 and last season acheived their highest finishing position (third) in over 40 years.

The Red and Black's have relied heavily on their youth set up with most of the squad today having represented the Club at that level. Lee Nunn, John Harris, Ed Barney, Matt Heywood and Aaron Deeks all left Watchet at various times to play in a higher standard of football but have since returned.

For today's match Watchet are hit by suspensions carried over from last season with Aaron Deeks, Royston Green, Tayler Maddock and Louis Allen all missing from their line-up.

2009-10 Final Table

POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS	
1	Bridgwater Town Res	34	22	10	2	48	76	
2	Bishops Lydeard	34	22	6	6	29	72	
3	Watchet Town	34	20	9	5	40	69	
4	Shirehampton	34	17	8	9	20	59	
5	Backwell United	34	16	6	12	15	54	
6	Castle Cary	34	17	2	15	7	53	
7	Cheddar	34	19	8	7	52	52	*
8	Nailsea United	34	15	7	12	23	51	*
9	Brislington Res	34	14	5	15	3	47	
10	St George Easton	34	14	4	16	-8	46	
11	Winscombe	34	12	6	16	-8	41	*
12	Mangotsfield Utd Res	34	12	5	17	-3	37	*
13	Cutters Friday	34	11	3	20	-25	36	
14	Paulton Rovers Res	34	10	5	19	-18	35	
15	Glastonbury Town	34	8	10	16	-34	34	
16	Taunton Blackbrook	34	10	4	20	-36	34	
17	Frome Town Res	34	9	6	19	-52	33	
18	Timsbury Athletic	34	5	2	27	-53	17	



Back Row Left to Right

Royston Green, Taylor Maddock, John Harris, Adam Bishop, Jamie Milton, Lee Nunn, Adam Jeffries, Callum Knight

Front Row Left to Right

Aaron Deeks, Joe Reynard, Matt Heywood, Chris Sully, Dornonic Richards, Ryan Jones.

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Home	Date	L/C	Competition	Round or Division	Opponents
News					
Fixtures & Results	2010-08-14	L		Somerset County Premier Division	Watchet Town
League Table	2010-08-18	L		Somerset County Premier Division	Clevedon United
History	2010-08-21	L		Somerset County Premier Division	Winscombe
Fund Raising	2010-08-25	L		Somerset County Premier Division	Shirehampton
Events	2010-08-28	L		Somerset County Premier Division	Cheddar
Links	2010-09-04	L		Somerset County Premier Division	Brislington Reserves
Contact Us	2010-09-08	L		Somerset County Premier Division	Nailsea United
	2010-09-11	L		Somerset County Premier Division	Mangotsfield United Reserves
	2010-09-18	C		Second Qualifying Round	Keynsham Town/Swanage & Hershham
	2010-09-25	L		Somerset County Premier Division	St George Easton in Gordano

Our new website has gone live (just about).
 It is still very “work in progress” and the content will grow over the coming weeks but drop by and have a look when you next go browsing. All polite comments and suggestions are welcome!

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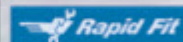


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Guy Burns



Luke Freeman



Stefan Phillips



Lee Todd



Jack Groves-Furze



Luke Webber



Liam Snell



THIS WEEK'S LEAGUE FIXTURES

TODAY

BISHOPS LYDEARD v ASHTON & BACKWELL UTD

CLEVEDON UNITED v BRISLINGTON RES

CUTTERS FRIDAY v ST GEORGE EAST. in GORD.

GLASTONBURY TOWN v CASTLE CARY

MINEHEAD v WATCHET TOWN

SHIREHAMPTON v MANGOTSFIELD UTD RES

STOCKWOOD GREEN v BRIDGWATER TOWN RES

TAUNTON BLACKBROOK v LANGFORD ROVERS 2000

WINSCOMBE v CHEDDAR

TUESDAY 17th AUGUST

ASHTON & BACKWELL UTD v BRIDGWATER TOWN RES

BRISLINGTON RES v SHIREHAMPTON

STOCKWOOD GREEN v CUTTERS FRIDAY

MANGOTSFIELD UTD RES v CHEDDAR

WINSCOMBE v NAILSEA UNITED

WEDNESDAY 18th AUGUST

LANGFORD ROVERS 2000 v CUTTERS FRIDAY

MINEHEAD v CLEVEDON UNITED

TAUNTON BLACKBROOK v BISHOPS LYDEARD

MANAGER: Robbie Hopkins

ASSISTANT: Paul Newbold

PHYSIO: Matt Thresher

REFEREE

Paul Brown

(Taunton)

MATCHBALL

Today's Matchba

GMCS (Gary Miele

WATCHET TOWN

(Red & Black)



Adam Bishop

Dominic Richards

Lee Nunn (Cap)

Matt Heywood

Jamie Milton

Chris Sully

John Harris

Ed Barney

Paul Raymond

Adam Sparks

Brian Hall

Adam Jeffries

Ryan Jones

Stuart Cowling

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ASSISTANTS

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Paul Shattock (Taunton)

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NEXT WEEK'S LEAGUE FIXTURES

SATURDAY 21st AUGUST

ASHTON & BACKWELL UTD v MANGOTSFIELD UTD RES

BISHOPS LYDEARD v WATCHET TOWN

CHEDDAR v CASTLE CARY

CUTTERS FRIDAY v SHIREHAMPTON

GLASTONBURY TOWN v CLEVEDON UNITED

LANGFORD ROVERS 2000 v BRISLINGTON RES

NAILSEA UNITED v BRIDGWATER TOWN RES

ST GEORGE EAST. in GORD. v TAUNTON BLACKBROOK

WINSCOMBE v MINEHEAD

TUESDAY 24th AUGUST

BRIDGWATER TOWN RES v BISHOPS LYDEARD

CLEVEDON UNITED v ST GEORGE EAST. in GORD.

CUTTERS FRIDAY v CASTLE CARY

NAILSEA UNITED v MANGOTSFIELD UTD RES


STOCKWOOD GREEN v BRISLINGTON RESERVES


WINSCOMBE v ASHTON & BACKWELL UTD

WEDNESDAY 25th AUGUST

CHEDDAR v TAUNTON BLACKBROOK

MINEHEAD v SHIREHAMPTON

			
Ashton and Backwell United			
Bishops Lydeard	Aug-14	Aug-28	Aug-17
Bridgwater Town Res	Aug-31	Aug-24	Dec-04
Brislington Res	Apr-30	Apr-23	Apr-09
Castle Cary	Sep-04	Oct-23	Dec-11
Cheddar	Nov-06	Oct-02	Feb-05
Clevedon United	Apr-02	Nov-13	Mar-05
Cutters Friday	Apr-16	Dec-27	Nov-06
Glastonbury Town	Mar-05	Mar-19	Dec-27
Langford Rovers 2000	Jan-03	Sep-18	Sep-25
Mangotsfield United Res	Jan-22	Apr-16	Mar-19
Minehead	Dec-04	Jan-22	Mar-30
Naïsea United	Sep-25	Dec-11	Aug-21
Shirehampton	Mar-12	Feb-19	Oct-02
St George Easton in Gordano	Nov-27	Feb-12	Aug-28
Stockwood Green	Oct-23	Mar-05	Aug-14
Taunton Blackbrook	Feb-19	Aug-18	Apr-23
Watchet Town	Sep-18	Apr-30	Oct-23
Winscombe	Aug-24	Aug-31	Jan-29
			Sep-18
			Nov-06
			Aug-14
			Oct-02
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			Oct-30
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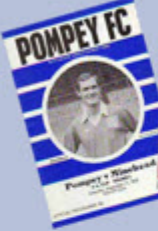

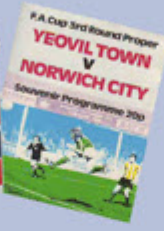


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| 4 Brislington Reserves | 16 Stockwood Green |
| 5 Castle Cary | 17 Taunton Blackbrook |
| 6 Cheddar | 18 Watchet Town |
| 7 Clevedon United | 19 Winscombe |
| 8 Cutters Friday | |
| 9 Glastonbury Town | |
| 10 Langford Rovers 2000 | |
| 11 Mangotsfield United Res | |
| 12 Minehead | |





FRIGHT FOR MINEHAD

WATCHET TOWN 0 MINEHEAD 1

SOMERSET PREMIER CUP 1st ROUND - SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER 1980

Southern League Minehead found themselves with an expected fight on their hands in this Somerset Premier Cup tie at Watchet last Saturday.

And it was only a 26th minute penalty - netted by player manager Willie Brown - which knocked out the plucky Somerset Senior League club.

Although Minehead were 1-0 victors they could not hide the blushes of embarrassment because it was Watchet who emerged with honours from this cup tie. Their enthusiasm and eagerness to do well against their rivals in this local derby was quickly evident as they matched Minehead for much of the game.

Certainly Minehead's form on a lively pitch was below par, but the Southern League side who struggled to beat Western League Weston Super Mare only a few days earlier in the FA Trophy, must have been surprised by Watchet's fighting display.

Minehead's lack of a midfield general was again very evident and although the Watchet defence was usually under pressure they managed to adequately cope with the best that Minehead had to offer.

In the first half Watchet's keeper Martin

Spoor had only two direct shots to deal with. The first saw him make a brilliant save to keep out Clint Boulton's header and the second shot was Willie Brown's penalty which he had no chance of saving. It was awarded after Peter Druce had been brought down just inside the box by Keith Graddon.

Spoor had more to do in the second half when he was Watchet's hero on several occasions. Twice he denied Clint Boulton and produced a finger tip save to turn over a shot from Jeff Richardson who was Minehead's best forward.

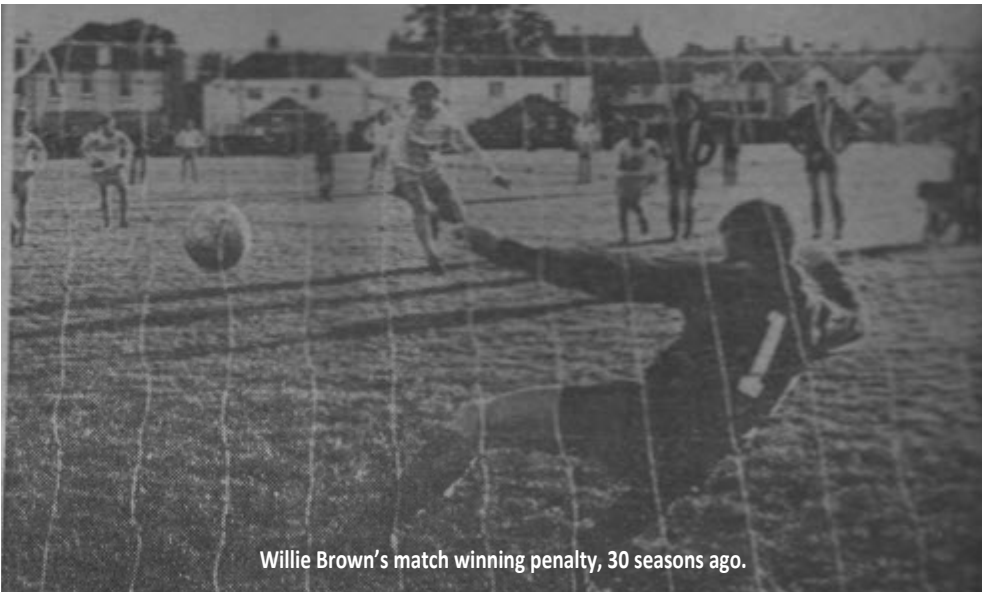
But with Minehead leaning heavily on their first half penalty lead, Watchet came close to forcing a replay when Graddon shot wide from a good position near the end.

Two players were booked - Adrian Giblett (Watchet) and Mark Hyatt (Minehead - both for heavy tackles.

Watchet Town: M Spoor, W Gates, M Lewis, K Graddon, P Bennet, R Cox, S Owens, N Sully, M Fitchew, A Giblett, S Allen. Sub: M Clausen.

Minehead: T Lee, T Clausen, A Impey, P Darke, R Walker, W Brown, M Hyett, T Chick, C Boulton, J Richardson, P Druce. Sub: S Ridler.

Attendance: 312



Willie Brown's match winning penalty, 30 seasons ago.

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THE STORY SO FAR.....

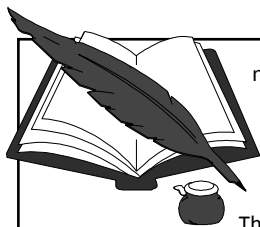
Minehead Football Club was originally founded in 1889 and spent their early years in local competitions. They entered the Western League at the start of the 1924/25 season, but after Division 2 had diminished to just 8 clubs returned to the Somerset Senior League for 1928/29, remaining in the league until WWII. After the hostilities the club enjoyed success in firstly the North Devon Senior League, followed by the East Devon and Exeter League, returning to the Western League ranks for the 1949/50 season. The club turned semi-professional in 1950/51 under former Exeter City captain Steve Walker, and in the late fifties became one of the strongest forces in the league under the guidance of Bristol based Ron Gingell. Though they remained in the Western League 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, finishing 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, plus winning the Southern League Merit Cup by scoring more goals than any other club in the competition (all 3 divisions). Andy Leitch lead 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 Fratten 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.

More history was created the following season when striker 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.

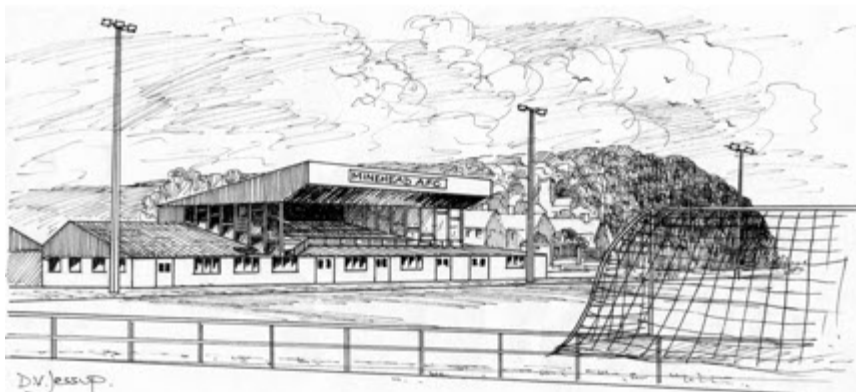
The 79/80 season saw a restructuring of the non-league pyramid, with the "creation" of the Alliance Premier League (now the Conference League). The Southern League, losing 13 clubs in the switch, opted for a Midland/Southern divide. Minehead competed in the Midland Division, and after leading the division from January, finally finished as runners-up to Bridgend. Season 80/81 saw them finish 12th, however the club were starting to experience financial problems, and the decision was made to withdraw from the Southern League at the end of the 82/83 campaign.

Back in the Western League, the team were brought back to reality with an 8-0 thrashing at Frome Town on the opening 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 manager Andy Hodgson led a locally based team to the First Division Championship, gaining a record number of points. Teenage striker Gareth Morgan scoring 44 times in 40 appearances, which remains a Western League record for the club.

Further off the pitch problems soon hit 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 when they won the championship. Their only league defeat came in 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, this time between Nick Woon, Gareth Morgan and Jason Charlesworth. All three appearing in the Western League's top six scorers, with 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 amongst the top scorers in the league, however his goals alone could not prevent the side finishing bottom, avoiding relegation due to a restructuring of the league. The club were relegated the following season however, and languished near the bottom of the First Division ever since.

At the end of the 2009-10 season the club finished ten points adrift at the bottom of the table, and having flirted with relegation for several seasons were relegated into the Errea Somerset County League Premier Division. Robbie Hopkins remains in charge with Paul Newbold as his assistant as the club looks to re-establish itself and to build again for the future.



CLUB HONOURS and ACHIEVEMENTS

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

Alan Young Trophy (Joint Holders) 1967-68

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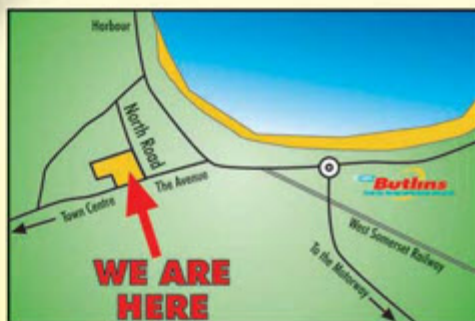
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