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Saturday 28 August 2021

Newport IOW

3pm Kick-Off

Wessex Football League Division One

IN-EXCESS



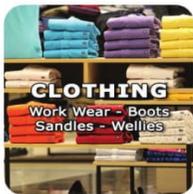
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**WELCOME
TO
DOWNTON F.C.**



Good afternoon and welcome to the nest to all the Newport officials players and supporters. I hope you enjoy your afternoon and have a safe journey back to the island.

I have been looking forward to today ever since we announced this was to be "Drinkys Day". Firstly can I say a huge welcome to Pat Drinkwater and all of Drinkys family. It's lovely to have you all back at the Nest. I would also like to say thank you to Pat and her family for making today possible and for giving all us Robins the chance to pay such a fitting tribute to such a very special friend of ours. I know Drinky would of been delighted but also a little embarrassed with all the fuss!!! I think the lead up to todays renaming of the stand has reminded us all how loved Drinky is. Thank you all on behave of Pat and Drinkys family for coming along today.

On the pitch we have made a superb start to the season and continued this on Saturday against a very good Andover side. We had 5/6 lads out on Saturday through Injuries and the dreaded illness but we still manage to grind out a superb win. The lads are really starting to gel as a team and I'm sure you would agree are very exciting to watch. I don't know how it does it year after year but I have so take my hat off to Benj. The side he has built once again this season is a credit to him. One thing for sure I wouldn't want his phone bill!!! Benj is a Robin through and through and we are very lucky to have him at the Nest .

As I'm sure you all would of noticed we have been

busy improving the facilities in and around the ground. The new scoreboard looks superb along with new club shop and physio room, we really are trying to make the whole Robins match day experience more professional and enjoyable for you guys and of course the lads playing too. The club shop has started selling Downton Fc merchandise so please don't be shy Christmas is approaching fast!!! As always the kitchen and clubhouse will be open for all your

refreshments. Gary makes a superb burger!

Once again thank you all for coming along today and I hope you all have a safe journey home. I hope the lads put on a show and keep that Robin bobbing up that Table.

Let's give Drinky the special day he truly deserves!!!

Best wishes

Dan Newman

Today's Match Ball Sponsor v Newport IOW

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Club History

Downton Football Club was formed in September 1905, following a meeting which had been arranged by the Rev J.H. Phillips.

Early results were not very encouraging. However, after the First World War in 1919 the Robins fared better after entering the Salisbury & District League.

They gained promotion from Division Two to Division One in 1920, but returned to Division Two in 1924. The 1924/25 season saw Downton become the first winners of the Norman Court Cup, beating Alderbury in the final. They won the competition again in 1932, 1934, 1935, 1936 and 1939 and then on three further occasions after World War II.

Downton won the Wilts Junior Cup for the first time in 1949/50, defeating Atworth 6-2 in the final. The following season, the club entered the Bournemouth League and gained promotion to Division One, winning the championship five times. The 1958/59 season saw them secure promotion to Senior Division One, winning the title seven times between 1959/60 and 1967/68 – an achievement which resulted in Bournemouth FA presenting the club with a special plaque. Downton also won the Bournemouth Senior Cup in 1962/63 and 1979/80 and the Senior League Cup in 1961/62, 1963/64 and 1966/67.

In order to progress further, Downton joined the Hampshire League in 1968/69, winning promotion in 1971/72. More promotions followed in 1978/79 and 1979/80.

In 1992/93, The Robins were elected to the Wessex League – the club's reserves joining its Combination League. The 1995/96 campaign proved one of the club's best ever – winning both the Wessex League Cup and the Russell Cotes Cup, while its reserves finished runners-up in the Combination Cup. They also entered the FA Vase for the first time.

A highest ever league finish of eighth was achieved in the 1996/97 season. The club entered the FA Cup for the first time in 1997/98. Downton enjoyed county success in the Wilts Senior Cup, winning it in 1979/80 and 1980/81, and finishing runners-up in 1955/56, 1991/92 and 1994/95.

Closer to home, The Robins lifted the Salisbury Hospital Cup in 2008/09, beating Shrewton United in the final having defeated Laverstock & Ford and Amesbury Town en-route. They retained the cup the following season when they beat Chalke Valley in the final, staged at Salisbury City's Raymond McEnhill Stadium.

The 2010/11 campaign proved a highly memorable one. As well as securing promotion to the Premier Division after being crowned Division One champions in what was the league's 25th anniversary season, Downton also enjoyed their best ever run in the FA Vase, reaching the second round for the first time.

A number of other accolades followed - Jeff Softley picked up the Manager of the Year honour at the league's 25th anniversary celebrations with four players – Charles Aldridge, Calum Robertson, Nick Turpin and Declan McGregor – all named in the Division One Team of the Year.

Downton finished 6th in their first year back in the Sydenhams Premier League, their highest finish ever. They also won the Hospital Cup again, winning 4-0 against Laverstock and Ford.

The Club were relegated back into Division One in 2013-14, having remained there since with a number of mid-table finishes. In 2017-18, the Youth section was added to the club, with four teams now playing under the Downton badge, ranging from Under 12's to Under 18's. The club remains committed to building out a Senior and Youth squad for the area to be proud of, with the aim of having a full range of 10 youth clubs over the next few years.

Club Honours

Wessex League

Division One Champions: 2010–11

Wiltshire Senior Cup Winners

1979–80 Park

1980–81 Tisbury Utd

Wessex League Cup Winners

1995–96 Wimborne Town 1-1 (3-2 Pens)
at Bemerton

Russell Cotes Cup Winners

1995–96 Bournemouth Poppies 2-1

Bournemouth Senior Cup Winners

1962–63 - Bournemouth

1979–80 - Trinidad Bluebird 1-0

Bournemouth League Div 1 Champions

1951- 52, 1952-53, 1954-55, 1955-56, 1956-57,

1959-60, 1960-61, 1961-62, 1963-64, 1964-65,

1966-67, 1967-68

Bournemouth Junior Div 2 Champions (Res)

1959- 60, 1965-66

Bournemouth League Challenge Cup Winners

1955-56 - Kinson & Throop

1956-57 - Boscombe B

1961–62 - Bournemouth Water Company

1963–64 - Bournemouth Water Company

1966–67 - Parley

Supplementary Lads Cup Winners

1963-64 - Longfleet

RT Hayward Cup Winners

1958-59 Vickers Res

1964-65 Redhill

Salisbury & District League

Norman Court Cup Winners

1924–25, 1931–32, 1933–34, 1934–35,

1935–36, 1938–39

Salisbury Hospital Cup Winners

1960-61, 1965-66, 1969-70, 1975-76, 1983-84,

1988-89, 2008–09, 2009–10, 2011–12

Wiltshire Junior Cup

Winners: 1949–50

EC Mills Sportsmanship Award

2018-19 Downton U18s

Testway U16 Div 2 Champions

2017-18

Testway U12 Div 1 Champions

2018-19

SYDL U12 Div 2 Champions

2018-19

Sportsmanship Award

2018-19

Testway U13 Div 1 Champions

2018-19

Testway U7s Oak Plate Cup Final

2019-20



DOWNTON FC Bournemouth League Circa 1962
Players (Left to Right) Back row - Cyril Smith (ex Arsenal) Rob Whalo, Fred Shuller, Derek Rattue (GK), Gordon Emn, Gordon Edwards
Front row - Lenny Allford, Bob Tanner, George Will, Brian Gunston and Micky Stone

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Quarter Page £ 75

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Training kit (Reserves) £500

Tracksuits (Reserves) £1000

Robins Club £5 per month

Tributes from the Drinkwater Family

Downton FC was a huge part of Drinky's life. His many years of involvement with the club, encompassing roles such as player, manager, chairman, vice chairman and committee member, brought him many happy (and occasionally painful!) times and lasting friendships.

He was most contented when the football season was in full swing and the Robins doing well. During his playing days nothing could beat pulling on his no. 9 shirt and getting out on the pitch to play for Downton. He also loved the social side of football, the camaraderie, the banter and getting together after the match for a drink.

Avoiding committing to anything other than football during the season was of high importance to Drinky. Any holidays or family events needed to be planned during the break. Downton FC was his top priority. One notable exception as a player was missing the Wilts Senior Cup Final in 1980 when his first child put in an appearance a month earlier than expected!

As a family we all know how much Drinky loved the club and how fulfilling it was for him to be part of the set up at Wick Lane. He was always keen to enlist the help of family members and friends over the years to assist with the varied range of duties at the club, whether on a short or long term basis.

We feel immensely proud the stand at Downton will be named after him and are overwhelmed at such a wonderful gesture from Downton FC.

Our best wishes to the Robins for a successful season,
The Drinkwater Family

This Day in Our History

5 Years Ago - 27/8/16

Home to New Milton Town 2-0

Robin scorers - Rossi Bentall , Paul Gulliver

Att -30

10 Years Ago - 29/8/11

Home to Laverstock & Ford 3-1

Robin Scorers - Joe Dorrington , Nic Turpin and Declan McGregor

Att - 124

15 Years Ago - 28/8/06

Away to Wimborne Town 1-3

Robin Scorer - Dan Sullivan

Att - ?

20 Years Ago - 27/8/01

Home to Brockenhurst 1-3

Robin Scorer - Unknown

Att - ?

Thank You To Our Sponsors

On behalf of every one here involved at the Football club we would like to say a massive thank you for all of our amazing and generous sponsors. During such a difficult time the generosity from so many local business has been incredible. The money we have received will make everything run easier for us and help us to provide better facilities and equipment for every team we run, from the u5s all the way up to the first team. We hope to meet as many of you in person over the next few home games to say a personal thank you.

Rocky Robin

Today we welcome Newport IOW to the Nest. The Islanders defeated Laverstock and Ford 5-3 at Smallbrook last weekend and certainly seem to be a free scoring team. They sit top of the table with a hundred percent record. We have however matched both Bemerton Heath Harlequins and Folland Sports, so have something about us to offer.

The day is about the naming of the stand after club legend Ian Drinkwater and the family and friends honouring a man who was the heart and soul of Downton Football Club, played for the club, and did every role possible within the club. This is what non league football is all about.

Imagine if we had no ground and stand to name after those who gave so much to a club? Our visitors have this situation as they wait for a new permanent home on the Isle of Wight. The situation has gone on to long for the club.

The situation at Newport with them having a perfectly good, centrally located Southern League/Isthmian League standard (as they were) ground borders on the ridiculous as the site is ring fenced by developers. You can build a supermarket anywhere, yet to wipe out one of your town's major focal points is somewhat shortsighted as Newport FC have put the Island on the map as much as anything or anyone.

Exiled to Smallbrook Stadium (Ryde Saints FC), a home of the defunct Ryde Sports from 1990-98 after a spell at East Cowes Victoria Athletic. This has at least kept this famous name going that once resided at Church Litten. How many homes can a club possibly have?

St Georges Park, was the Islands national stadium effectively, hosting the Gold Cup finals and other events. We now have Conifa, so the IOW hosting the tournament would attract interest. Imagine Lidl building on the Nest? That wouldn't happen as it's a public recreation ground with walkways, yet even so it would be unthinkable.

The same situation exists at Faraday Road, home of former Isthmian League side Newbury Town and later AFC Newbury (1996-2006). Non League football provides people with a chance to be involved and have a place to go. To give something back to society, help raise funds, and there is always a role to fill and that is what makes the Wessex League special.

Today is about Ian Drinkwater and the family, hopefully the team can repeat the result/game last Saturday when Downton came back to defeat Andover Town 4-3 to honour the occasion. This typifies what the club is about, endeavour and doing what you can to make the club the best it can be.

I have only recently have been involved since 2019 though having written the club history book alongside Chris Garvey, researching the club that has so many people that give their time to Downton FC over the years. Fly high Robins, fly high.

Rocky

Pictured - The Ian Drinkwater Stand



Around the Leagues

With the game at Denmead not taking place in midweek, the only games were in the Senior Division on Saturday, and there were plenty of goals. The division's only 100% record was maintained as Moneyfields Res won impressively, 6-1 at Colden Common, who had won their last two games. Six different scorers, three in each half – Jake Knight, Brandon Elliott, Toby Toman, Stanlie Hopkins, Brad Fairweather and Ollie Long all on target. Unfortunately, what promised to be a cracker between the only other unbeaten team, Stockbridge, and Paulsgrove, was called off. This left the surprise team of the season so far, Sway, the chance to move into second place with a good 4-1 win at Liss Athletic. Sanchez McLean bagged a treble for the visitors. Liphook United, with the help of a Steve Harding double, moved into third after an entertaining 4-4 draw at Clanfield, who thereby notched their first point of the campaign. Denmead made it three wins out of four with a 2-0 victory at Hayling United, Danny Lucas and Steve Field on target there.

Two fancied teams are now moving menacingly into the upper reaches after convincing wins – Fleetlands scored four first half goals, two for Calvin Robinson, to beat Lyndhurst, now the only team without a point, 4-1, and Locks Heath had a big 6-1 victory at Winchester Castle, again, six different scorers, Dave Dunkley, Ryan Bath, Tristan Dawson, Connor Johnson (all before half-time), Kian Hampshire, and Charlie Wakefield. In the final match today, Overton United got their first win of the season with a 4-1 win at Chamberlayne Athletic, Finley Hall scoring two of them.



		Overall					Home					Away					GD	PTS	
		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D			L
1	Moneyfields Reserves	5	5	0	0	20	5	1	0	0	5	0	4	0	0	15	5	+15	15
2	Sway	5	4	0	1	13	6	2	0	1	5	5	2	0	0	8	1	+7	12
3	Liphook United	5	3	1	1	12	6	3	0	1	8	2	0	1	0	4	4	+6	10
4	Stockbridge	4	3	1	0	9	5	2	1	0	7	4	1	0	0	2	1	+4	10
5	Denmead	4	3	0	1	17	4	2	0	1	15	4	1	0	0	2	0	+13	9
6	Fleetlands	5	2	2	1	10	6	2	1	0	7	2	0	1	1	3	4	+4	8
7	Locks Heath	5	2	1	2	15	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	15	7	+8	7
8	Paulsgrove	4	2	0	2	4	4	2	0	1	4	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	6
9	Colden Common	5	2	0	3	9	11	1	0	1	4	7	1	0	2	5	4	-2	6
10	Chamberlayne Athletic	5	2	0	3	6	11	0	0	2	1	8	2	0	1	5	3	-5	6
11	Liss Athletic	5	2	0	3	8	17	0	0	2	1	8	2	0	1	7	9	-9	6
12	Hayling United	5	2	0	3	6	17	1	0	1	3	3	1	0	2	3	14	-11	6
13	Overton United	4	1	1	2	10	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	10	9	+1	4
14	Winchester Castle	5	1	1	3	10	19	0	1	2	6	13	1	0	1	4	6	-9	4
15	Clanfield	5	0	1	4	10	15	0	1	2	8	10	0	0	2	2	5	-5	1
16	Lyndhurst	5	0	0	5	4	21	0	0	4	3	17	0	0	1	1	4	-17	0

Fixtures - August 2021

Saturday 28th August 2021			
HAMP	Chamberlayne Athletic	Liss Athletic	15:00
HAMP	Clanfield	Overton United	15:00
HAMP	Denmead	Colden Common	15:00
HAMP	Fleetlands	Liphook United	15:00
HAMP	Lyndhurst	Hayling United	15:00
HAMP	Moneyfields Reserves	Stockbridge	15:00
HAMP	Sway	Locks Heath	15:00
HAMP	Winchester Castle	Paulsgrove	15:00
Monday 30th August 2021			
HAMP	Colden Common	Clanfield	15:00
HAMP	Hayling United	Locks Heath	15:00
HAMP	Liphook United	Winchester Castle	15:00
HAMP	Paulsgrove	Lyndhurst	15:00
HAMP	Stockbridge	Liss Athletic	15:00
HAMP	Sway	Fleetlands	15:00

Newport IOW Pen Pics

Steve Brougham – Joint Manager: Steve, a past Newport Manager, has vast experience of managing Island clubs, from the heady days of Brading in Wessex Premier, former Manager at East Cowes Vics and now back at the Port as Joint Manager.

Stewart Shepherd – Joint Manager: UeFa B qualified. Highly respected coach who has worked with the youngest players right up to full adult teams. Calm and thoughtful and works well with fellow Joint Manager Steve.

Gary Streeter – Goalkeeper: Goalkeeper. Very experienced keeper who has had a long and rewarding career at both Newport and Cowes Sports. Has also played for Moneyfield Sports. Deceptively agile.

Joe McCormack - Goalkeeper: Experienced keeper who has played for a number of clubs on the Island - returning to the club this time around from West Wight.

Martin McDonough - Defender: A committed player who made his first team debut for the Port in the Southern League age 16. Has many years Wessex experience behind him and has been a mainstay in the Port's defence ever since joining.

Neo Lamb - Defender: Young left sided defender who has come through the Pompey Youth section. Broke into the Newport first team in 2017/18 and has impressed everyone with tackling, desire to get forward and delivery with a great left foot.

Spike Pearce - Midfield: Signed by Manager Andy Sampson during the 2015/16 season. Strong, tall central defender who can play in midfield. Puts in impressive performances quickly becoming a first team regular.

Mark Taylor - Midfield: Signed for Andy Sampson in October 2015. Determined midfielder and wing back, tigerish in the tackle and fantastic energy. Excellent touch, good technique and can play anywhere across the middle. Also likes to get forward too mixing with the forwards.

Scott Barron - Defender: Young defender who has made his way as a regular first team player. Stylish and calm under pressure. Plays with a maturity beyond his years and is one to look out for in the future.

Jacob Reynolds - Defender: Young defender who has come through the ranks at Newport before departing for First Team experience at East Cowes Vics. Returned half way through the 2018/19 season as a more confident and vocal player.

Liam Harper - Striker: Exciting young striker snapped up from Island League club Bembridge. Impressed in pre-season friendly where he scored against The Port. Knows where the

goal is and usually hits the target.

Josh Younie - Striker. Striker /Winger / Wing back. Versatile experienced Wessex League campaigner can play up front or out wide in a variety of positions and scores goals regularly. Previously at Brading Town. Has represented England at Beach Football.

Connor Kelly – Winger: Attacking midfielder /winger who likes to get forward and score. Came through Newport Youth into the first team and made immediate impact. Has had spells at Sholing and Horndean but enjoys being at the Port. Likes to run at defenders and scores plenty of goals.

Jordan Browne – Striker: Experienced striker back at the club for a second spell after a season at East Cowes Vics where played more of a midfield role. Has played for Cowes Sports previously after coming through Newport Youth teams. Regular goalscorer and a cool finisher in the box both with his feet and head.

Joe Craig – Striker: Returned to the Port after coming through the club's Youth system. Has played for East Cowes Vics in the Wessex League. Tall with good control, he will be looking to establish himself this season.

Joe Butcher - Striker: Prolific all over the park and hungry in front of goal. A true all-rounder having played previously with the Port a few years ago and more recently at Vics. Welcome home Joe.

Jared Cousins - Striker. Pacey striker who signed for The Port in November 2018 having come from local rivals Cowes Sports. Settled in quickly and has impressed in every performance.

Jared Wetherick - Striker. Tall strong centre forward who scores goals regularly. Underestimated in the penalty area where his nimble footwork can create opportunities to get a shot away.

Sam Phelps - Defender: Previous club East Cowes Vics. Lively, talented defender. Small in stature but tough in defence and difficult to gauge by the opposition. Quick and agile. Signed summer 2021.

Aaron Burford – Midfield: Strong dependable midfielder who can stuff out opposition attacks and create opportunities for his own strikers. Previous clubs include Brading Town and Cowes Sports. Can unleash a vicious shot if in sight of goal.

Henry West – Defender: Tall young defender signed from East Cowes Vics where he gained Wessex League experience. Has fitted in well at the Port and looks to establish himself as a regular in the first team.

Downton 4 (Clark 18, Laptas 77, Cummings 85, Dible 88)

Andover Town 3 (Owen 51, Bertie 58, Stamburi 90+2)

It was a Wessex League humdinger at the Nest as Ben Smith's Downton made it seven points from ten after a see saw game and a triple substitution from Smith turned this game around. Both sides had both seen 2-0 leads evaporated in the week with 2-2 draws. Downton, at Bemerton Heath Harlequins, and Andover Town seeing local rivals Andover New Street scoring twice in the last three minutes of normal time.

Andover Town had taken almost complete control in a second half with a wave of attacks on the Robins defence. Downton had gone in at the break comfortably 1-0 ahead through Dan Clark's 18th minute strike having been set up by Marcel Laptas.

The Robins even afforded the luxury of Laptas 29th minute penalty being saved by Jack Hopwood after the striker had been hauled down. The Andover keeper had defied the former AFC Stoneham forward twice with two great blocks to keep the visitors in the game.

With co striker TJ Moseley out through injury, Smith used his squad well. Paul Gulliver and Sam Moss shackled the Town threat of Joshua Bertie and Michael Owen effectively, though they were to show their ability in the second half.

Loan keeper Will Betts on loan from Salisbury was a safe pair of hands in goal for the unavailable Matty Fredericks. Betts, showed aptitude between the posts though was fairly untroubled in the first half. Hopwood was the busier of the two keepers, denying Clark in the 36th minute, then Sam Dible on half time to prevent the Robins flying out of sight.

The visitors came out a different side after the break. They levelled when Owen drilled home six minutes into the second half to restore parity and get a foothold in the match.

Bertie put Andover ahead in the 58th minute by finishing clinically past Betts and a static Robins backline. In fact, it was fortunate that they didn't go further ahead, and no one would have questioned that. Then dame fortune came into play when Alfie Moulding got involved ensuring a trip to the sin bin and Smith played his cards from the bench.

Josh Cummings (on loan from Poole Town) came on for Jamie Waters, this gave the home side the edge and

Laptas took his chance. The striker fashioning himself a 77th minute equaliser in the now crowded penalty box to turn the ball over the line with Hopwood sprawling to keep it out.

With Cameron Butler and Dan Savage on, it was all out front foot stuff. Cummings brought the house down when he put Downton ahead as Laptas shrugged off Town resistance to set up the on loan 'Dolphin' to smash it into the net. Butler then hooked in a cross which Sam Dible headed in to ice the cake and seal the deal with a fourth goal. A three goal salvage job putting the Robins 4-2 up.

Andover replied in injury time as Hasah Stamburi blasted the loose ball past Betts, though this was Downton's day and three points earned the hard way. Smith can enjoy a glass of wine tonight for his teams comeback.

Downton - Betts, J.Clark, Howe, Moss, Gulliver (Savage), Waters (Cummings), Mackie (Butler), Tyson, Laptas, D.Clark, Dible

Subs n/u - Osmond, Ford.

Andover Town - Hopwood, Stamburi, Pattison, Holmes, Cullingford, Moulding, Burkhill, Johnson (D Smith), Bertie, Owen, Emans.

Sub n/u - Burdock, Ogunyemi.

Booked - Mackie (Downton)

Sin bin - Moulding (Andover Town)

Referee - A .Hillier

Assistants - J.Rhodes, R.Stevens.

Attendance - 136.

Report/photo - Avril Lancaster.



Under-18s

The under 18s pre season starts tomorrow here at the Nest with a friendly against Christchurch . Kick off 3 pm . All are welcome to come along to watch

Upcoming Friendly Fixtures

Sun 29th - H Christchurch

Testway League Division 1

September

Sat 11th - A Littleton Juniors Lions

Sat 18th - H Shooters Youth

October

Sat 9th - H Braishfield Bees

Sat 16th - A Champion Sports Academy

Sat 23rd - H Wimborne Town

Sat 30th - H Laverstock & Ford

November

Sat 6th - A Laverstock & Ford

Sat 13th - H Littleton Juniors Lions

Sat 20th - A Andover Shooters

Sat 27th - H Alderbury

December

Sat 4th - A Braishfield Bees

Sat 11th - H Champion Sports Academy

Sat 18th - A Wimborne Town

January

Sat 8th - A Alderbury

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	PTS
1	Alderbury Youth U18	0	0	0	0	0
2	Braishfield Bees Youth U18 Gold	0	0	0	0	0
3	Champion Sports Academy u18	0	0	0	0	0
4	Downton Youth FC U18	0	0	0	0	0
5	Laverstock & Ford Youth FC U18 TVFL	0	0	0	0	0
6	Littleton Juniors Youth U18 Lions	0	0	0	0	0
7	Shooters Youth U18	0	0	0	0	0
8	Wimborne Town FC U18's Testway	0	0	0	0	0



Tributes to Drinky

Dan "trigger" Newman and how I remember Drinky

Drinky had this wonderful ability to be loved by every single person who walked through the gates at Downton Fc. Whether you were a young lad making your first team debut, a wife of one of the players or one of the officials from the opposing team. Everyone instantly felt welcome and comfortable in Drinkys company. On a typical match day Drinky would be hanging out kit, making coffees for the lads and welcoming the Referee before the game. Entertaining the opposite commitee, making burgers and listening to the Saints game in the kitchen during the game. You would then find Drinky and his beloved friend Dibby in the home changing rooms clearing up kit and sweeping the floor. If the robins had won the banter would be flying around between the players, Drinky and of course Dibby. If they had lost Drinky would always been respectful and trying to be positive unlike Dibby who we all know has no filter!!! The best times I remember with Drinky were in the bar after a game. Always first at the bar, always sharing a joke and always with a big smile on his face. Drinky loved the social side of non league football and was simply the best at what he did. It really is an honour to follow in your footsteps as Downton Fc chairman. If I do half the job you did I will be a proud man.

Drinky you're forever in the hearts of every single Robin.

From Dan Newman

Words will never be enough to explain just what 'Drinky' did for this club. Drinky was the most devoted and passionate Robin around. He would take on any role needed to drive our club forward. He absolutely loved and adored the Robins. The best thing for all of us though was that aside from Football, he was the kindest and most generous man you could ever wish to meet. Fly high mate. x

From Rae Hughes

Since Joining Downton Many years ago Drinky was always there. Watching away games & serving in the canteen when at home.

He was admired by everyone. On the pitch

If we lost he made it feel like a win and a win was always 10 times better than just 3 points.

When I took over as manager I made one promise that I would make him proud and do my best for his beloved football club. Over the last two season we've achieved goals beyond all our expectations and today's special day will be one of those days that I know he will be looking down on us with great happiness .

Smithy

Ben Smith tribute

• Drinky was always a massive presence at the club and still to this day it strange not to see and hear him in the club kitchen and in and around the ground arguing with his mate Dibby. Nothing was ever a problem and he supported the club week in week out. RIP mate.

• From Mark Gulliver

• Remembering Drinky on this special day for our football club.

• He was a fantastic player/club man and was always great to be around. He had a way of making you always feel better about yourself.

• Seeing his name on the stand I'm sure will inspire us all to better.

• He would have loved to see the club in its current state and I'm sure he is looking down with a smile.

• A well deserved momentum.

• Dec x

• From Declan McGregor

• Drinky was always there if Downton needed it Drinky did it. A Calming influence. Drinky was Downton FC through and through

• From Jim Blake

• When I left the club the first time, it was Ian who called me for a few hours to talk it through.

• When I turned up at a match a few years later, I remember it was his face beaming at me that I saw first.

• Let's face it, Ian was the overwhelming reason I returned to Downton for my second stint in the chair.

• The memories are plentiful: I still find myself chuckling at Dibby's reaction whenever he sauntered in late; or, as Drinky would say, "just in time"...

• Ian represented everything good about the club. The easy laugh, the friendly smile, the pretence of the melodrama when we lost. The joy of being involved, the first pint after the match. Washing down the changing rooms, not a single complaint about it all. The three of them - Dibby, Graham, Ian - in constant wind-up mode after a game, sitting in the club, righting all the wrongs of the world...

• As I write this, I realise just how much I miss him. It wasn't the same afterwards. Yet, there's also much comfort in knowing we shared so many good times.

• My best wishes, as ever, go to Pat and the family. Unfortunately, due to family commitments in London, I can't be there for what is a great celebration of Drinky.

• Fair to say, though, that I was thrilled to read that the committee had decided to name the stand after Ian. He was, is, and forever shall be, Mr Downton.

• From Mark Smith

• Drinky is club legend loved the robins came home and away, loved a trip to the island and loved a full house x

• From Paul Gulliver

• Ian Drinkwater was a true "Robin" as a player, as a vice chairman, as a bingo caller and in the nests kitchen.... Never missed a game....A true gentleman

• From Mitch Blake

• Drinky was so supportive of me, my reserve team and bought my then u12s their trophies out his own money. We were the only youth team then I will never forget that. We won that league and runners up in the reserves and got promoted. He was amazing for me.

• From Fran Mathers (Head of Youth)

Dibby's thoughts on Ian

I first met Drinky through local refereeing legend Clive Tanner in 1970. Ian was only 16 at the time.

I had met Clive for a drink in a pub (White Horse in Downton) with other mates, Drinky was amongst them. This was a start of a friendship which grew over the years.

Drinky had, by this time, moved to Greenacres in Downton with his mum, Edwina, and dad, Paul. Drinky had had a couple of trial games with Downton but was not yet ready for the team. Bob Witt, another DFC legend, suggested that he played for the Radnor Arms in Salisbury & District Saturday League.

I joined Downton in 1972 on the committee and was the team's sponge man! By this time Drinky was starting to make a name for himself at Radnor and I was asked to get him back to The Robins. He came back to the club in the 1974 - 75 season and stayed with the first team until the late 80s, then taking on the reserves as player manager. When Ian moved to the reserves, I was his support and bag man (with mad Rex Hillman ☹️).

Ian was loyal to the club, right up to his passing in 2018. During this time, not only as a player and coach, but he also had roles right up to that of Chairman during the club's darkest days. But it must be said that in his non-playing days, he most enjoyed serving & cooking burgers in the kitchen (for many years with Pat, his loving wife) and using the odd swear word to me when I made the odd mistake (every week ☹️)....

The other major input that we performed together was when Ian and I ran the bingo for the older Downton generation, which also raised funds for the football club. This was from 1998 ish

No words can describe my friendship with Ian and the great loss of his passing, but what a great laugh we had over the years...





A tribute to 'Drinky' an 'outsiders' view

Some of you might be asking why, as an outsider to Downton FC, I am writing this piece. Local football is still as competitive as it always has been but that is on the pitch and some things, and some people, associated with a local clubs cannot be ignored. There is a certain level of respect that has to be given to someone who commits themselves over many years to one club and especially to someone as popular as 'Drinky'. Like all football people when I was younger, if I wasn't paying football I was watching football. Local football was always well supported and I first saw 'Drinky' playing for Downton behind the Bull pub. Downton had a good successful team for many years and 'Drinky' was a large part of that so, even though they were local rivals, from a football point of view it was well worth the trip out to see them play. Later on when I got into our first team I played against 'Drinky' quite a few times and although I was a typical centre half he was difficult to play against. Why? Because not only was he a good player he was also a very sporting player and a really nice bloke so that made it difficult to apply some small amount of aggression when marking him. Win or lose we always had a drink (or two or three) after the game and that continued over all these years. Even after our playing careers were over, and we both committed ourselves to our own clubs, to help them survive and encourage new younger players to the respective clubs, we still enjoyed each others company and had a drink (or two or three) after our games. I also knew 'Drinky' outside of football when he used to pop in to our offices to sell us his wares and the talk was always about football then we just gave him an order. Local football is a small world and many of us know each other through football but it is not often that you get to know someone personally as well and with our mutual mate 'Dibby' I have enjoyed the times I spent with this gentleman.

Leo

BHHFC Vice Chairman







Respect



**NO DISSENT
NO SIN BIN**

Robin Hopping

Devizes Town 4 Stoke Gabriel and Torbay Police 0 (Pre season friendly)

A long standing Western League club, Nursted Road is a fine ground with a superb makeover on the stand and a lot of older historical parts of the ground still intact. There are Nissan style buildings with two retro pay huts at each end of the ground. The ground retains a real historic feel to it which is sadly becoming rarer these days.

Devizes once reached the FA Vase Quarter final entertaining Whicham AFC from the North East and it was a packed house that day. They also had spells in the Western League Premier Division yet like many clubs cut their cloth accordingly and source players without breaking the bank. The days of playing for the club and the badge for many players sadly a thing of the past in many cases. So credit to Devizes Town.

Today's visitors were the recently merged Stoke Gabriel and Torbay Police. Stoke Gabriel FC had unwanted attention for a horror season that saw some very heavy losses in the South West Peninsula League. The media failing to understand that once all your management and players leave and you carry on with youth players in a Step 6 league that is to be expected.

They looked more solid today with the help of the Torbay Police even though Devizes Town ran out 4-0 winners. I'm not really one for mergers to be honest yet in this case it makes sense. It's quite a long trip to make for a pre season friendly though!

Wiltshire is a county that offers many interesting grounds and the history of course relevant to Downton FC in the Wiltshire Senior/County cup. Devizes Town is just another one of the gems you find in non league football.

Photo and article - Avril Lancaster



Avon calling!

My first attempt to visit Keynsham was aboard a canal boat on the Kennet & Avon Canal. The fact that from Aldermaston we only made it Devizes, was not down to a lack of trying. 4 lads working in synchronised tandem, steering, opening locks, running to the next one, absolute clockwork. Our female companions also worked hard, and the evening whiskeys in the local pubs were welcome, alas the snow and ice gradually eroded the excitement. That wasn't in the brochure.

Years later my home town team Barnstaple Town are playing at Keynsham and my chosen transport this time was automobile. Keynsham were formed way back in 1895 so I'd certainly taken my time! I finally arrived at Crown Fields, not a loch or snowflake in sight and the programme was secured nice and early just how I like it.

The Barum 'massive' were in the bar already and I tried to join in the banter, even though my accent is more Essex and Hampshire these days.

The stadium looked new and shiny but this was mainly due to the Astro turf pitch, which also ensured this winter fixture was 'game on'.

My attentions turned as ever to the programme. 36 pages, A5 and an attractive colour front cover.

Overall it had the feeling of a proper programme. All the salient info you need, just lacking a general article or two to hold the attention.

On the pitch, Barnstaple took the points with a 3-1 win. "Barnstaple open gap at the top" screamed the North Devon Gazette the next day. New ground and top of the league, It had been a good trip.

As I got back in my car I took a minute to be thankful that I was heading home by road and not by boat. Then I hit the traffic on the A36...



TOOLSTATION LEAGUE DIVISION ONE	
Saturday 3 rd January 2015 Kick off 3.00pm	
KEYNSHAM TOWN	V BARNSTAPLE TOWN
<i>Amber shirts</i>	<i>Red shirts</i>
<i>Black shorts, Amber socks</i>	<i>Red shorts White socks</i>
Ashley Wintle	1 Ryan Draper
Lewis Sealey	2 Scott Huxtable
Mark Branton	3 Liam Gregory
Ryan Day	4 James Mayne
Ben Stiff	5 Aaron Harper-Pennan (Capt.)
Rob Sheriton (Capt.)	6 Billy Tucker
Pat Davison	7 Lee Francis
Jason Adams	8 Ross Jones
Tom Morgan	9 Jack Jenkins
Liam Robson	10 Dave Pearse
Ben Harris	11 Ryan Turner
Jordan Hawkins	12 Josh Phillips
Matt Curnock	14 Jimmy Thorne
Scott Brain	15 Shaun Copp
Aaron Marshall	16 Tom Roslter
Ryan Beak	17 Steven Holland
Kyle Box	18 Mark Clunie
Chris King	19
	20
	21
Managers - Chris King & Sean Day	Manager - Barry Yeo Assistant - Karl Baggaley Physio - Luke Evans
REFEREE - Mr. Alan Overthrow	
Assistant Referees	
Mr. Mark Vipond, Mr. Sam Hollingshead	

THE ROBINS CLUB

You're chance to win whilst supporting the Robins.



THE ROBINS CLUB MONTHLY DRAW

Calling all Robins Fans! We'd like to bring you a special club membership where you can help the club even further all whilst having a chance to win also. Every Month we will draw a name from the list of Robins Club members [currently only 100 spaces available] and that lucky winner will receive 50% of the prize fund [£250 when membership is full]. The other 50% will be donated to the club. See below for further details.

The Club is open to Players & Downton FC Staff also if they so wish to take part.

HOW TO PLAY: THE ROBINS CLUB

The Robins Club is an exclusive online membership for Robins supporters in which you can help support the club financially whilst also being part of a monthly draw to win up to £250. Remember there are currently only 100 spaces available in this elite club and this costs £5 per month.

Robins fans may enter on the Downton FC website, £5 per month which will be set up as a direct debit by the club.

AM FIXTURES & RESULTS

2021/2022



7	8	9	10	11	SUBS
Clarke	Waters	Laptas	Moseley	Osmond	Wolfarth (11), McGregor (6), Ford, Savage, Mackie
Sain	Mackie	Molesey	Laptas 2	Prentice	Cummings (11), Waters, J Smith (7), Ford, McGregor (4)
Clarke	McGregor	Molesey	Laptas	Dible	Savage, Mackie (8), Ford, Gulliver, Cummings
Mackie	Tyson	Laptas	D Clark	Dible	Savage (5), Cummings (6), Butler (7), Osmond, Ford

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Newport (IOW)	4	4	0	0	18	6	12	12
2	Folland Sports	4	4	0	0	15	6	9	12
3	New Milton Town	4	4	0	0	12	4	8	12
4	Bemerton Heath Harlequins	4	3	1	0	14	6	8	10
5	Andover New Street	4	2	1	1	13	7	6	7
6	Downton	4	2	1	1	13	8	5	7
7	Whitchurch United	4	2	1	1	6	7	-1	7
8	Verwood Town	4	2	0	2	11	8	3	6
9	Millbrook	3	2	0	1	7	7	0	6
10	Andover Town	3	1	1	1	8	6	2	4
11	Ringwood Town	4	1	1	2	8	11	-3	4
12	Totton & Eling	4	1	1	2	6	12	-6	4
13	Ash United	4	1	0	3	6	6	0	3
14	Laverstock & Ford	4	1	0	3	13	16	-3	3
15	Romsey Town	4	1	0	3	8	13	-5	3
16	Petersfield Town	4	1	0	3	6	11	-5	3
17	Infinity	4	1	0	3	5	12	-7	3
18	East Cowes Victoria	3	0	2	1	5	7	-2	2
19	Fawley AFC	3	0	1	2	6	10	-4	1
20	Fleet Spurs	4	0	0	4	1	18	-17	0

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Downton F.C.

Manager Ben Smith

Newport IOW

Managers S Broughman S Shepherd

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Ben Smith
Sam Howe
Jamie Smith
James Clark
Theo Wolfarth
Sam Dible
TJ Moseley
Shaun Prentice
Cam Butler
Will Mackie
Keiran Winman
Conor Ford
Jamie Waters
Dylan Gain
Danny Clarke
Sam Moss
Marcel Laptas
Craig Tyson
Paul Gulliver
Declan McGregor
Dan Gain
Sebastian Osmond
Ellis Roy

Gary Streeter
Josh Younie
Neo Lamb
Aaron Burford
Martin McDonough
Spike Pearce
Conor Kelly
Jacob Reynolds
Jordan Brown
Joe Craig
Joe Butcher
Scott Barron
Liam Harper
Jared Wetherick
Ollie McAuthur
Joe McCormack

Colours Red/White/Red

Colours Yellow/Blue/Yellow

Referee

TBC

Assistant Referees

TBC and TBC