



HANTS SOCCER IN THE 19TH CENTURY: BOURNEMOUTH AREA –A TIMELINE

- 1868 Formation of Fordingbridge Turks FC—the County’s oldest existing football club.
It is said that the club adopted the name “Turks” and a crescent badge during the war between Russia and Turkey when Plevna was defended in 1879 which aroused enormous interest in this country. For further details of this club visit: <https://www.fordingbridgeturks.co.uk/history>
- 1874 Formation of Breamore FC, located close to the Wiltshire border. They played six matches in that year, winning three of them. Their ground was located at Breamore Marsh and the headquarters was at the ‘Bat and Ball’ public house.
- 1875 Eight enthusiasts and inhabitants of Bournemouth attended a meeting and formed a club known as Bournemouth Rovers. This club had its ups and downs and scratched its remaining matches in January 1888 but was kept alive under the name Dean Park. A year later the Rovers amalgamated with Bournemouth Arabs FC to become Bournemouth FC (now known as the Poppies) who continue to exist today. For further information regarding this club visit: <https://bfc-poppies.co.uk/the-club/> [For further details of the ‘Arabs’ see 1883]
- 1876 The first known mention of football in Lyminster and considered to be the foundation of the present day Lyminster Town FC. For further information see <http://lymingtontownfc.co.uk/history/>
- 1879 Ringwood Hornets FC formed, apparently adopting the local pest within their title!
This club, like Fordingbridge Turks and Bournemouth FC, continues in existence, via some name changes, now known as Ringwood Town FC. More information can be found here: <https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/ringwoodtown/teams/210809>
- 1880 Formation of Bournemouth Premier FC.
- 1883 Formation of Bournemouth East FC.
Bournemouth Arabs FC were formed by two brothers, C J and F H Hankinson, and their tutor, E C Duchesne, who frequently played for Hampshire. The club played on a ‘roughish pitch’ at Rush Corner and later via amalgamation, formed Bournemouth FC.
- 1885 Christchurch FC formed, another club from this area formed in the 1800s that have remained in existence.
A club in Pennington was also in existence,
- 1886 A Boscombe club was formed, one of several such clubs before the formation of the current professional side—see 1899.
- 1887 Pokesdown FC formed and were nicknamed ‘The Stingers’
Bournemouth Wanderers FC formed, who were locally known as the ‘Wonders’.
- 1888 A Ringwood Colts team and Christchurch Star FC were in existence.
- 1899 The present day AFC Bournemouth club was formed as Boscombe FC, beginning as a Lads’ Institute and for two seasons played at Castlemain Road, Pokesdown. The club were playing at King’s Park, Boscombe by 1904. They joined the Football League in 1924.

C. 1900 A Junior League was formed in Bournemouth..

[Principal Source: Hampshire Football Association Golden Jubilee 1887-1937 (W Pickford)]