



HANTS SOCCER IN THE 19TH CENTURY: THE ISLE OF WIGHT—A TIMELINE

Early 1870s

The Rev Hollins, Curate of St Mary's, Cowes is attributed to have introduced the game to the Island ^[1]

1871

First record of a Brading team, matches having been played against teams from Cowes, East Cowes, Ryde, Sandown and Ventnor ^[2]

1881

A record of the formation of the original Cowes FC ^[3]

1883

A photo of Sandown FC has been traced although there were no official records found of matches played ^[1]

1884

A successful military side, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, gave a vigorous impetus to football on the Island ^[1]

1885

- The Ventnor Cricket Club agree to form a club called “The Undercliff Cricket and Football Club” - the start of the Ventnor FC ^[1]
- Mr Lissaman, a schoolmaster, introduced football to East Cowes and forms a team called St James FC - the forerunner to the East Cowes Vics club three years later ^[4]

1886

Cowes FC was the first to play competitive football on the Island and enter the Hants & Dorset Junior Cup, reaching the final but are beaten following a replay. Cowes also competed in the Portsmouth & District Cup ^[1]

1887

- The Hampshire Football Association is formed following the dissolution of the Hants & Dorset FA ^[1]
- The game on the Island became more popular, but many of the earlier clubs had died out ^[1]

1888

New clubs are formed:

- Shanklin played their first game against Cowes (in January, a 0-0 draw) ^[1]
- An Osborne club existed around this period ^[1]
- First record of Newport (IW) FC when an inaugural meeting was held at the Warburton's Hotel (January) ^[5]
- Ryde FC is started by J B Purnall, the eldest of a strong quartet of brothers all distinguished in sport and business ^[6]

1890

Cowes White Star FC reach the final of the inaugural Hampshire Minor Cup but are beaten by Southampton St Luke's after a replay.

1892

Cowes FC win the county Junior Cup (and become a senior club) whilst Cowes White Star FC are again defeated in the Minor Cup final.

1893

East Cowes Victorias become joint holders of the Hampshire Minor Cup. The trophy is shared with Christchurch Star.

1895

Ryde FC are beaten finalists in the Hampshire Junior Cup and are then Senior Cup finalists in 1899 and winners in 1900.

1898

- Sandown Bay FC win the Hampshire Junior Cup
- The Isle of Wight Football Association is formed and an Isle of Wight Football League is established ^[1]

References: 1 Hampshire Football Golden Jubilee 1887-1937 (W Pickford); 2 Brading Town FC website (www.bradingtownfc.club); 3 Cowes Sports FC website (www.cowessportsfc.com); 4 The East Cowes Vics Football Magazine (1950s); 5 Newport (IOW) Football Club The First Hundred Years 1888-1988 (Peter Ranger); 6 Ryde For Pride 100 Years of Ryde Sports Club (Mike Bull). **For further information/ reading see—www.iowdfa.org.uk/history.html**