



## HANTS SOCCER IN THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: PORTSMOUTH – A TIMELINE

- 1883** The *Hampshire Telegraph* and the *Evening News* featured match reports featuring Portsmouth Rovers, Southsea Rivals, United Services, Royal Academy (Gosport), HMS Marlborough, Milton Rangers, Victorias, Gosport Junior Ramblers and Southsea Rovers. One of those teams, the Victorias' were due to play Cowes but had concede as the Victorias ordinarily played under the Rugby code (which was often a cause of confusion back in those times).
- 1884** Canon Norman Pares was instrumental in the development of the game in the Portsmouth area. He learned the game at Eton and Cambridge in 1879 and was in the winning side for the Old Etonians in the FA Cup final tie against Clapham Rovers. Clubs in existence included the "Sunflowers", Hilsea Ramblers, the Grosvenor and Havant Red Star & Church.
- Another club formed at this time was the Portsmouth Football Association Club which started at a meeting at the Albany Hotel in October 1884. The club were given two cups to be awarded to the two best players but they were never presented ... see 1886.
- 1886** Mr Hemmingsley of the Portsmouth FA club sold the two cups the club were given and the proceeds were retained towards the purchase of another cup. The club invited entries into a competition held under its management with a view to popularising the Association game in the district. The first winners of the Portsmouth & District Challenge Cup were the Portsmouth FA club, defeating Woolston Works 1-0 (in 1886/87). The cup later became known as the Portsmouth FA Senior Cup (from early in the 20th Century).
- 1889** The Portsmouth FA club reach the final of the Hampshire Senior Cup but are defeated. They retained the Portsmouth & District Challenge Cup.
- 1890** Formation of the Portsmouth Football Association which became one of the largest in the Kingdom in those times, and had more clubs in membership than some counties.
- 1894** St Simon's Institute, a team based at Southsea, become the first club from the Portsmouth area to win a county cup competition. They won the Hampshire Minor Cup competition, defeating St Mary's Rovers (a Southampton based minor club), in the replayed final (following a drawn game).
- 1895** The first Portsmouth Junior Cup final is held with Gosport Red Star the victors. A Portsmouth & District Junior League is operated, the 1895/96 champions being Vickery's School who won 13 of their 14 games. There were other entrants from the Southsea (Rovers) and Gosport (two clubs—Criterion and Progressive) areas.
- 1896** The Royal Artillery (Portsmouth) club, who were already a successful team in Army football, reached the FA Amateur Cup final (in the 1895/96 season) but lost to Bishop Auckland 1-0. The Royal Artillery club also reached the final of the Hampshire Senior Cup and were successful, beating Southampton St Mary's 3-1. Clubs from Fareham (FC) and Havant (Eclipse) join the Portsmouth & District Junior League for the 1896/97 season.
- 1899** The Royal Artillery reach Round 4 (Quarter Final) of the FA Amateur Cup (1898/99 season) but their preparations were deemed to be 'beyond the ideas of amateurism' and the club was ejected and their players suspended. Just prior to this (in 1898) the Portsmouth Football and Athletic Company Limited was launched with the idea of playing professional football. Fratton Park was purchased for £4,950 and the club joined the Southern League for the 1899/00 season (the present-day Portsmouth FC).

*Principal information sources: Hampshire FA Golden Jubilee 1887-1937 and Ian Denness*