

Malshanger 2-0 Netley Athletic Victoria (1-0)

Ref Number	2079/113	Competition	Hampshire League
Date	(Easter) Mon.04/04/1988		Division 2
Kick-Off:	3pm	Referee	Mr B D Baker
Ground:	Malshanger Estate	From	Andover
Visit Number	3 (prev. Mt.#1629; Jan.1986)	Linesmen	Not assessed

Match Details:

32	1-0	McElhinney	
53	2-0	Foyle	



Malshanger

No		sub	gl	Bkd	SO
1	Richard Bloomfield				
2	Ricky Bugg				
3	John Bloomfield				
4	John Stepney				
5	Frank Milligan				
6	Gerry Elward				
7	Kevin Foyle		1		
8	Dave Murphy				
9	George McElhinney		1		
10	John Crawford	60			
11	John Nicholls				

Sub(1):

12	Richard Mills	60			
	Mark Bankhurst				

1-0: Crawford's right-wing corner, Stepney headed the ball goalwards, Vics keeper Godwin punched poorly and **McElhinney** judged his volley well as it dropped to put promotion chasing Malshanger in front;

2-0: Malshanger increased their advantage eight minutes into the second half when Elward got down the left and his low cross got through to the far post for **Foyle** to knock it past the Netley keeper and into the far corner.

Netley Athletic Victoria provided a shock result on Saturday, inflicting a first Hampshire League defeat on SR Basingstoke (by 4-3 at Netley). However, today the truth of this one is only five players who appeared in that win turned out today. Apparently, this afternoon's Vic's goalkeeper scored two of the goals on Saturday (as an outfield player)! The regular 'keeper's wife is having a baby, so he was unavailable.

Netley's two managers were also involved, in fact, Herding played quite well, eventually giving his colleague a piece of the action late in the game. Netley's challenge was therefore a poor one and Malshanger could have scored more goals. It was quite easy for the home side and they did waste some chances but certainly did enough to win this match.

The referee was good. When he made a decision, whether right or wrong, he was firm and stuck by it in an unusual unmoved manner.

Other Notes:

At last, I visit this ground on a sunny day, but a very stiff breeze rather spoiled my idea of a peaceful setting miles from anywhere ... Despite that breeze, conditions were certainly much better than those two previous rainy visits ... Nothing changes here much, except some advertising on the far side, the club sponsors which, no doubt, has a lot to do with the club's programme production this year (a coloured front cover and some good content, but neither team was printed) ... The pitch here is even more incredible, completely green in the middle and just some very slight rough patches in the goal areas. To have a pitch like a billiard cloth at this time of the season is quite something ... A free cup of tea (the programme was free too) ... A crowd of about 40 or so, which is looking up on previous visits ... Malshanger have some strong players who have played a better standard in all departments, no doubt a major reason for their promotion challenging position ... Malshanger's sponsors are the same as West Ham United, their shirts having the Hammers badge on them.



Netley Athletic

No		sub	gl	Bkd	SO
1	Mick Godwin				
2	Kevin Sheath				
3	Sean Coles				
4	Gary Knight				
5	Hugh Fancett				
6	Colin Phillips				
7	Keith Sealey				
8	Peter Knapp				
9	Clive Downer				
10	Derek Herding	84			
11	Colin Bewick				

Sub:

12	Ray Harrison	84			
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The programme front cover for the game:

Did you play in this match or have any memory of playing for these teams? If so, why not complete a contact form and share your memories.



So, who were these clubs and what happened to them?

MALSHANGER FC

Malshanger is a tiny hamlet situated in rural surroundings about five miles west of Basingstoke. The club played on a private seven-acre sports field incorporating two pitches which were provided for their exclusive use by Sir Michael Colman (of Colman's Mustard fame). Close by was a spacious clubhouse with adjoining squash court and bowling green.

This was a reformed club, in 1967, originally playing in the Basingstoke Sunday League, making the transition to Saturday football by joining the North Hants Senior League (NHSL) in 1975. They were the first winners of the Basingstoke Senior Cup in 1977 and won it on three other occasions. They were NHSL champions in 1979 and were accepted in the former Hampshire League. Malshanger had an excellent 1990/91 season, winning the Hampshire League Division 2 title and the Hampshire Intermediate Cup (a competition now known as the Hampshire Trophy), all masterminded by their long serving manager Derek Litchfield. They completed 18 seasons in the Hampshire League in total, seven of them at the top level, with a best finish of fifth in 1992 and 1995, also winning the Basingstoke and North Hants cups in the latter season.

They struggled in 1996/97 and were relegated from Division 1. They started the next season in Division 2 but, having just managed to fulfil their first game, they were unable to raise a team thereafter leading to their withdrawal and an end to their existence.

NETLEY ATHLETIC VICTORIA FC

This club was located at Netley, which is within the southern parishes of the Borough of Eastleigh. They played at the Castle Ground in the village, situated on the banks of Southampton Water, providing a most unusual and spectacular backdrop

Formed as Netley Methodists FC, in 1954 (unconfirmed) the club joined the Southampton Football League, starting in Junior Division 6. They became Netley Athletic FC and had a terrific 1957/58 campaign, winning the Southampton Junior 'A' Cup and almost made it a 'double', but were beaten finalists in the Hampshire Junior 'A' Cup. In that momentous season they also finished runners-up in Junior Division 1. It was also around this period that the club won the 'All Britain Methodist Cup' having played in the final stage at Roker Park, the former ground of Sunderland FC. The team joined the senior divisions too but soon returned to Junior Division 1. They returned to Senior 2 in 1963. In fact, the club spent a total of only two seasons in the Premier Division before promotion to the Hampshire League for this (1987/88) season, also adding 'Victoria' to their title in this campaign.

The club spent just six seasons in the Hampshire League (the 10th place finish in this season being their best). They returned to the Southampton League in 1993 and having finished in a relegation position in Senior 1 in 1999, they didn't continue thereafter.