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HAMPSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION SENIOR CUP Season XVI - 1902/03

**HOLDERS:
SOUTHAMPTON RES**

Club changes since the previous competition
The new HSC entrant in this season was:

Gosport Athletic, a team who were the previous season's Junior Cup finalists. The club, the first civilian team to enter the senior competition from the area, was strengthened by a merger between Gosport Progressives and Gosport Athletic Sports Club, circa 1900. As suggested in the match notes below, their home at Gosport Park was a public ground.

Not competing in this season having taken part in 1901/02 were:

The two Portsmouth area service teams - 11th Provisional Battalion (Gordon Highlanders) and the 4th Lancashire Regiment. The entries were therefore back at only eight with the Aldershot military sides once again absent.

FIRST ROUND

"It seems a hard thing to say that the best four elevens in Hampshire are the first teams and reserves of the Southampton and Portsmouth clubs ... I wish that amateur football in Hants were a little stronger". By 'OFFSIDE' - Bournemouth Guardian 08/11/1902.

01/11/1902; Fratton Park, Portsmouth

The draw showed Freemantle at home but it was reversed to Fratton Park. Bournemouth Echo: Before 2,000 spectators, as expected, the reserves did an easy job in disposing of the amateurs. Burnett scored the first goal after three minutes following a scramble. Portsmouth monopolised the game and added three more through Cobden, Cooke and Macdonald. After consecutive shots by Freemantle's Laidman and Watson, Halliday put the ball into his own goal. Half-time: 4-1. Close on time Cobden scored for Portsmouth, the ball passing through the legs of both Day and Hoskins.

PORTSMOUTH RES	5
Freemantle	1

SEMI-FINAL

The penultimate stage goes the way of the professional teams.

24/01/1903;
The Dell, Southampton (neutral)

PORTSMOUTH RES	5
Ryde	1

Isle of Wight County Press and Hampshire Independent: The Islanders were at full strength but the Pompeyites were lacking three regulars. The game failed to attract more than 200 supporters. The score of 5-1 in favour of Pompey does not correctly indicate how the game went, Ryde having almost as much of the play as their opponents. They were out of luck in front of the goal posts. Pompey led 3-0 at half-time through Lockyer, a twice-taken penalty by Turner and MacIntyre. Hodge scored twice for Pompey in the second half whilst Ryde's goal was scrambled (scorer not identified).

FINAL

The Freemantle ground in Southampton hosts its first ever HSC final, but no goals are scored.

18/04/1903;
Shirley Road Cricket Ground, Freemantle, Southampton (neutral)

PORTSMOUTH RES	0
Southampton Res	0

Hampshire Independent: Around 2,000 spectators were present. Sentiment inclined towards the Saints, as with one exception, they were all local lads whilst Pompey played several professionals. The game proved to be a tight struggle with Southampton's defence doing well to keep out the Portsmouth forwards. The Portsmouth club declined to play extra time.

FINAL REPLAY

The venue is Freemantle again, this being the only year the ground was chosen to stage the final. A single goal brings Portsmouth's first HSC final success.

25/04/1903;
Shirley Road Cricket Ground, Freemantle Southampton (neutral)

PORTSMOUTH RES	1
Southampton Res	0

Hampshire Independent: Portsmouth had the right to have the tie replayed in their own neighbourhood, but they kindly consented to play at Freemantle to assist the association. The goal came from Rule, who rushed the ball through close to half-time. Pompey defended well in the second half to hold on to their lead. The cup was presented by Mr. A.H. Wood, president of the Hampshire Football Association, whose speech could not be heard over the demonstrative crowd. When the president could be heard he stated that it is not often a captain had the honour of receiving three cups in 24 hours. In response, Halliday stated he could not congratulate the crowd on their sportsmanlike conduct.

25/10/1902; Partlands Ground, Ryde

Isle of Wight County Press: By arrangement, Ryde played their tie at Partlands (having been drawn away). Henley, dashing away from midfield, opened the score 15 minutes from the start with a 'clinking' shot that gave Bartlett little chance to save. Knox beat Pocock to level the scores in the first half. After the change over Henley had a good chance but he screwed the leather wide but he had another opportunity in the mouth of the goal and made no mistake.

RYDE	2
Eastleigh	1

01/11/1902; Gosport Park, Gosport

Portsmouth Evening News: Jackson opened the score after two minutes with a shot well out of (Wonders keeper) Legg's reach. Harrison again proved his worth as a marksman, and with a lovely oblique shot scored the second goal for Athletic. Gosport's Barter was howled at derisively by the crowd for missing an open goal. The visitors pressed on the resumption but Gosport gradually wore them down and Barter scored their third goal. The Bournemouth Guardian stated it was played on an 'unenclosed ground'.

GOSPORT ATHLETIC	3
Bournemouth Wanderers	0

07/03/1903;
Fratton Park, Portsmouth (neutral)

Gosport Athletic	0
SOUTHAMPTON RES	1

Hampshire Independent: Gosport had the better of the first half-an-hour with Moger saving well in the Saints' goal. Small scored with a shot from 20-yards out which deceived Grant and entered the corner of the net high up. The Southampton forwards showed good combination but Habens and Foster played doggedly. Southampton got the better of the second half but goalkeepers on both sides, Moger and Grant, were in good form.

01/11/1902; The Dell, Southampton

This was another 'reversed' game as Bournemouth were drawn at home. Bournemouth Echo: Southampton played Harrison in the centre-forward position and he scored seven of his team's goals. Norris scored the first goal early and a Hoare penalty got Saints' third in the first half after a Bournemouth player thinking the ball had gone out of play stopped it with his hands. The six second half goals were all scored by Harrison and his tally of seven 'splendid goals' equalled Albert Brown's performance against Northampton last season.

SOUTHAMPTON RES	9
Bournemouth	0

THE CUP FINAL LINE-UPS (the replayed game)

Portsmouth Res
Harris
E. Turner
Halliday (Capt.)
Gair
McIntyre
Cook
Cobden
Rule
Burnett
Wheldon
Corrin

NB: Rule didn't play in the first game, McDonald instead

Southampton Res
Robinson
Hoare
Pike
Riley
Whiting
Paddington
George
Norris
Bundy
Small
Temple

NB: The Saints team was the same for both matches.

Referee
Mr. M.S. Plomer
(Bournemouth) - both games

Linesmen
Not stated

SEASONAL TRIVA - 1902/03

Portsmouth Reserves were the Hampshire League champions, pipping Southampton Reserves to the title ... Southampton (first team) win the Southern League Division 1 title ... Portsmouth finish third but do win the Western League title (now having achieved it for all three seasons they'd been members of the league) ... Pompey's second team also won the Portsmouth Cup, thrashing Ryde 6-1 in the final at Fratton Park.

OTHER HAMPSHIRE F.A. COMPETITION WINNERS - SEASON 1902/03

JUNIOR CUP FINAL: SOUTH FARNBOROUGH 2-1 SOUTHAMPTON HIGHFIELD
Played on 14th March 1903. At Mr. Cannon's Meadow, Basingstoke. This was the first time a county cup final was played in the north of the county as football was growing in popularity. Attendance 600. Receipts £13.

MINOR CUP FINAL: SOUTHAMPTON CAMBRIDGE 5-0 SHIRLEY ST. JAMES
Played on 21st March 1903. At Cricket Ground, Shirley Road, Freemantle. The Cambridge club won it for the third time (all since 1900) whilst Shirley St. James were losing finalists for the second time (previously in 1897).