



SOUTHAMPTON FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FINAL LEAGUE TABLES AND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY—SEASON 1952/53

Another season has come and gone and in presenting my eighth Annual Report it is with pleasure I again record that the status of our Association has been well maintained. The Statement of Accounts reveals that our financial position is sound, and from the playing point of view the fact that no less than one hundred and twenty-two teams played in our League Competitions is evidence that the demand for membership of our League is as great or greater than ever.

Once again the number of Registered Players approached the 5,000 mark, and during the course of the season 7,853 goals were scored in the 1,356 League fixtures.

The report then went on to detail the cup finals (details for this season can be found in the following file 'Cup Finals—Southampton FA—Seasons Ended 1951 to 1955' available on this website). The report then summarised each Division of the Southampton League and that information can be found under the relevant Division below.

The Junior League Divisional winners will be promoted to higher Divisions in the coming season, in accordance with Rule and practice, and it is hardly necessary to say they will all be keen to justify promotion and prove their capabilities.

There were some splendid struggles in the various Divisions of the Senior and Junior Leagues and in one or two cases the Championships were not decided until the last week of the season (*including Division I of the Senior League, shown beneath that Division below*).

Having referred to the various League and Cup winners, I must now mention the few to whom we owe so much. I refer, of course, to the Referees who, as usual, have served us well. They seldom receive bouquets, but the Appointment Secretaries and all Referees in the Southampton F.A. area have done a grand job and once more we thank them most sincerely for all they have done, and their continued interest in the game.

The Hon. Secretary then thanked the following:

Southampton Corporation

The Borough Engineer

The Public Lands' Superintendent and his staff

Mr. Eric Ryder and the staff at the Sports Centre

Officers and members of the (S.F.A.) Council for their valuable contribution to the work of the Association

The Life Vice-Presidents who have served us faithfully and well for more years than perhaps they care to remember, but their enthusiasm is as great as ever and never wanes

Our president, Mr. R. A. Mathieson, and our ex-President, Mr. G. J. Eden, for their wise counsel and practical support

The work of our Hon. Treasurer (Mr. C. J. Wheeler) and Assistant Hon. Secretary (Mr. N. W. Stride). Mr. Wheeler continues to keep an eagle eye on the finances of the Association, and Mr. Stride appears to revel in anything connected with football, and I cannot speak too highly of the assistance he has rendered during an extremely busy season.

H. J. MATHIESON, *Hon Secretary.*

THE FINAL LEAGUE TABLES FOLLOW

SOUTHAMPTON FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FINAL LEAGUE TABLES —SEASON 1952/53

SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR LEAGUE: DIVISION I— SEASON 1952/53

Constitution changes—Summer 1952:

This was a new Division following the changes to the regional East and West Divisions.

IN: The top seven finishing teams were eligible to join this Division. Five of them who'd been members of the East Section, Harland & Wolff, Austin Sports, Bitterne Park Sports, Sholing Sports Res and N.D.L.C. did so. All of the top seven from the West Section, Romsey Town Res, Swaythling Athletic Res, Winsor United, Southampton Gas Employees, St. Nicholas, Ordnance Survey and Bramtoco Sports, did so. See 'OUT' below for the other two clubs that made up the initial fourteen team membership.

OUT: Two teams from the East Division, Champions Briggs Social and Pirelli General Reserves were elected to join the Hampshire League and they were replaced by their reserve and 'A' teams respectively in accordance with a League Rule. Briggs Social Reserves had been playing in Junior Division IV, whilst the Pirelli General 'A' team were new to the League, having finished in fourth position (of twelve) in the Eastleigh & District Junior League, Division I.

Pos	Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	GI For	GI Agst	Points	Notes
1	Austin Sports	26	19	5	2	93	40	43	
2	Harland & Wolff	26	19	4	3	114	34	42	
3	Southampton Gas Employees	26	17	3	6	86	41	37	
4	Bramtoco Sports	26	16	3	7	85	59	35	
5	Winsor United	26	14	6	6	73	56	34	
6	N.D.L.C.	26	12	4	10	48	50	28	
7	St. Nicholas	26	11	3	12	63	65	25	
8	Ordnance Survey	26	10	3	13	52	62	23	
9	Romsey Town Res	26	9	4	13	68	75	21*	First: Hampshire League
10	Swaythling Athletic Res	26	9	3	14	60	80	21	First: Hampshire League
11	Sholing Sports Res	26	10	1	15	54	72	21	First: Hampshire League
12x	Bitterne Park Sports	26	6	3	17	46	77	15	
13R	Pirelli General 'A'	26	6	1	19	49	114	13	First & Res: Hampshire
14R	Briggs Social Res	26	2	1	23	34	100	5	First- Hampshire League

Annual Report Comments: The struggle for the title was not decided until the last week of the season. It was ironical that, after being at the top of the League table from Christmas onwards, that Harland & Wolff were pipped on the post by Austin Sports. Only one point separated the teams, and the Wolves practically gave Austins the honours when they lost inexplicably to Bitterne Park Sports. Austins thus became the first winners of the newly formed Division I of the Senior League, and in view of their playing record of the past few seasons none will deny they thoroughly deserved that distinction.

Southampton Gas Employees, Bramtoco Sports and Winsor United were other teams who played well. O.S.O. (= Ordnance Survey Office) led the field for some while and then fell away badly ... Other clubs that found the going difficult were Pirelli General and Briggs Social, who, by filling the last two places in the League table, have to accept relegation to Division II in accordance with Rule.

Divisional Note: * denotes points adjustment.

SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR LEAGUE: DIVISION II —SEASON 1952/53

Constitution Changes—Summer 1952:

This was a new Division following the changes to the regional East and West Divisions.

IN: The bottom seven clubs from the East Section—Bitterne Nomads, B.R. (Eastleigh) Athletic Reserves, Warsash, Old Tauntonians Reserves, Old Edwardians and Netley Sports—and the clubs finishing 8th to 11th in the West Section—Shirley Warren, Marchwood United, Port Wing R.E. and Blackfield & Langley Reserves. The three other teams that formed the Division were promoted as Champions of their respective Junior Leagues—Harefield from Junior Division I and Old Bartonians from Junior Division II (with a 100 per cent record) and Grove Celtic from the Eastern Division.

OUT: Southampton Telephone Area and Esso (Fawley) Reserves appeared to disband (at least temporarily as both returned later), whilst Hythe & Dibden Reserves were relegated to Junior Division I.

ADDITIONAL NOTE: Bitterne Nomads' ground problems were resolved as they moved to their own new ground in West End Road.

Pos	Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	Gl For	Gl Agst	Points	Notes
1P	Old Bartonians	26	22	2	2	132	25	46	
2P	Bitterne Nomads	26	21	0	5	114	41	42	
3P	Harefield	26	18	2	6	97	48	38	N/C - Harefield Sports
4	Netley Sports	26	18	1	7	113	57	37	
5	Supermarine Sports	26	15	3	8	103	57	33	
6	Marchwood United	26	13	3	10	99	60	29	
7	Old Edwardians	26	10	6	10	72	63	26	
8	Warsash	26	12	1	13	65	68	25	
9	Old Tauntonians Res	26	8	6	12	71	77	22	First—Hampshire League
10	Shirley Warren	26	8	5	13	64	86	21	
11	Port Wing R.E.	26	8	1	17	65	114	17	See Divisional Note
12	B.R. (Eastleigh) Athletic Res	26	6	3	17	42	104	15	First—Hampshire League
13R	Grove Celtic	26	3	2	21	37	148	8	
14x	Blackfield & Langley Res	26	2	1	23	21	147	5	First—Hampshire League

Annual Report Comments: Supermarine Sports commenced the season in grand style. They failed to stay the course, however, and Old Bartonians went on to win the Championship with several points in hand. The Eastleigh team therefore completed the “double” (*they also won the Senior Cup*), and can look on a wonderful season.

Bitterne Nomads, who were also runners-up in the Hampshire Intermediate Cup, finished a good second in the League table, and Harefield completed their first season in Senior football by being third—a fine achievement.

Grove Celtic and Blackfield & Langley could not get going at all and had a very lean time. They did not appear to be strong enough for the opposition and a return to the Junior League would probably benefit both teams (*in fact, Blackfield & Langley Reserves didn't feature in the Southampton League final tables in the next season*).

Divisional Note: Port Wing R.E. also had a team in the Wednesday League in this season and they returned to play only in that Division after this campaign.

SOUTHAMPTON JUNIOR LEAGUE: DIVISION I — SEASON 1952/53

Pos	Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	Gl For	Gl Agst	Points	Notes
1P	Awbridge	22	20	1	1	104	40	41	
2	Princess Sports	22	18	0	4	115	45	36	
3	St. Nicholas	22	16	1	5	96	38	33	
4	Thornycrofts (Woolston)	22	14	2	6	111	59	30	
5	Millbrook Rangers	22	13	3	6	84	53	29	
6	Netley Sports Res	22	10	4	8	54	49	24	First - Senior Div.2
7	Thornhill Deacons	22	9	1	12	66	74	19	
8	Fairey Aviation	22	6	4	12	52	61	16	
9x	Winsor United	22	6	2	14	43	86	14	
10x	Hythe & Dibden Res	22	5	1	16	34	106	11	First- Hampshire League
11R	Nursling St Boniface	22	2	2	18	43	107	6	Down to Jnr.Div.3
12x	Stile Sports	22	2	1	19	36	120	5	

Annual Report Comments: Awbridge captured the Championship with a five point margin, a feat on which they are to be congratulated. They deservedly earned promotion to Division II of the Senior League., and it would not be surprising, if they can settle down quickly, to see them do well in the higher circle.

After a hectic 14 days at the end of the season, Princess Sports overtook St. Nicholas and Thornycrofts (Woolston). With a little more consistency either of these teams could have won the Championship, but they lost valuable points when least expected and Awbridge took full advantage of these lapses.



SOUTHAMPTON JUNIOR LEAGUE: DIVISION II —SEASON 1952/53

Pos	Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	Gl For	Gl Agst	Points	Notes
1P	St. Denys Old Boys	18	17	0	1	102	25	34	To Senior Div.1
2P	Old Issonians	18	12	1	5	71	32	25	
3P	R.V. Hospital	18	10	0	8	50	44	20	
4	Southampton Electricity	18	9	0	9	51	51	18	
5	Follands	18	8	2	8	49	53	18	
6	Totton Stars	18	8	2	8	33	49	18	
7	Netley Sports 'A'	18	8	1	9	44	43	17	F- Snr.2; R- Junior.Div.1
8	St. Michaels	18	6	3	9	41	59	15	
9R	Mottisfont	18	3	2	13	35	87	8	Down to Junior Div.4
10x	Old Tauntonians 'A'	18	3	1	14	32	65	7	F-Hampshire; R-Senior 2
	<i>600 Social Club</i>								Withdrew mid-season
	<i>Civic Sports</i>								Withdrew mid-season

Annual Report Comments: Because of the withdrawal of two teams halfway through the season, Division II was reduced to ten teams, of which St. Denys Old Boys were outstanding. Taking everything in their stride they looked certain to finish the season with an unbeaten certificate, but with only two games to play they were narrowly defeated by Follands. Although overshadowed by the leaders, Old Issonians had a good season and finished runners-up.

SOUTHAMPTON JUNIOR LEAGUE: DIVISION III —SEASON 1952/53

Pos	Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	Gl For	Gl Agst	Points	Notes
1P	Wellow	20	15	1	4	75	36	31	
2P	Totton 'A'	20	13	3	4	79	39	29	First & Res—Hampshire
3P	Chandlers Ford	20	11	3	6	82	40	25	
4	Dockland Settlement	20	11	3	6	73	44	25	N/C to Kestrel FC
5x	Royal Mail Lines	20	9	6	5	63	45	24	
6	Austin Sports Res	20	11	1	8	52	45	23	First - Senior Div.1
7	Maybush Community	20	6	4	10	37	77	16	
8x	Golding & Ansell	20	6	2	12	53	80	14	
9x	R.A.F. Association	20	3	6	11	32	63	12	
10	Baddesley United	20	6	2	12	48	75	8	See Divisional Note
11R	Shirley	20	3	1	16	25	75	7	
12	<i>Bitterne Park Sports Res</i>								Withdrew. First— Senior 1

Annual Report Comments: A margin of two points gave Wellow the Championship of Division III. Towards the end of the campaign they showed signs of cracking, but managed to hold on and stave off the challenge of Totton, who were not far behind.

Chandlers Ford, Dockland Settlement and Royal Mail Lines all played well and kept the Championship tussle alive to the end.

Divisional Note: Baddesley United joined the League in this season having previously finished third (of 12) in Eastleigh & District League Division I.

SOUTHAMPTON JUNIOR LEAGUE: DIVISION IV—SEASON 1952/53

Pos	Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	Gl For	Gl Agst	Points	Notes
1P	Briggs Social 'A'	22	20	1	1	120	21	41	F-Hants; R-Snr.1 To Jnr.2
2P	Michelmersh	22	19	0	3	104	29	38	To Junior Div.2
3P	Gateway	22	15	1	6	91	39	31	
4P	Co-Op Youth	22	11	4	7	71	53	26	See Divisional Note
5P	Newtown Rovers	22	9	3	10	48	43	21	
6x	Marchwood United	22	10	1	11	57	54	21	
7	Braishfield	22	8	2	12	62	73	18	
8	Southampton Gas Employees Res	22	7	1	14	50	75	15	
9	Lyndhurst	22	6	3	13	35	78	15	
10x	Bramtoco Sports Res	22	6	2	14	42	69	14	First– Senior 1
11	Sherfield English	22	6	2	14	41	92	14	Not relegated
12x	Terminus Athletic	22	4	2	16	32	127	10	

Annual Report Comments: Briggs Social and Michelmersh had a neck-and-neck race and the loss of four points in their last three games cost Michelmersh the honours. How they came to lose against Co-Op Youth and Newtown Rovers remains a mystery, but the fact that they did enabled Briggs to win the trophy after a most interesting struggle.

Divisional Note: A team named 'Central Co-Op' appeared in Junior Division III in the next season. This is likely to be a renamed Co-Op Youth, although unconfirmed.

SOUTHAMPTON JUNIOR LEAGUE: DIVISION V —SEASON 1952/53

Pos	Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	Gl For	Gl Agst	Points	Notes
1P	A.C.-Delco	22	20	0	2	121	24	40	To Junior Div.3
2P	Romsey Rangers	22	19	1	2	122	35	39	To Junior Div.3
3x	Weir Sports	22	12	3	7	72	59	27	
4P	Ordnance Survey Res	22	11	2	9	76	43	24	First– Senior Div.1
5P	Sarisbury Green	22	12	0	10	59	53	24	See Divisional Note (1)
6P	Harland & Wolff Res	22	9	2	11	70	72	20	First- Senior Div.1
7	Clarks C.O.S.A.	22	8	3	11	49	54	19	
8	Awbridge Res	22	9	0	13	64	76	18	First– Junior Div.1
9	Wadhams	22	8	2	12	41	71	18	
10	Follands Res	22	6	1	15	39	97	11*	First– Junior Div.2
11	Mount Pleasant	22	4	3	15	39	97	11	Not relegated
12R	Shirley Res	22	5	1	16	23	94	11	First- Junior Div.3

Annual Report Comments and Division Notes on next page

Southampton Junior League—Division V (continued)

Annual Report Comments: A.C.-Delco and Romsey Rangers were the two outstanding teams in Division V, and Delco won the Championship by the narrowest of margins—a single point. After losing their first two games they went from strength to strength and captured full points from their remaining fixtures. Congratulations are therefore extended to the Works' team on winning the Division at the first attempt, but it was hard luck on the Rangers to be overtaken in the last week of the season.

Divisional Note: * denotes points adjustment.

(1) Sarisbury Green had an average season in Junior Division V but they were elected to join Senior Division 2 for 1953/54.

SOUTHAMPTON JUNIOR LEAGUE: DIVISION VI —SEASON 1952/53

Pos	Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	Gl For	Gl Agst	Points	Notes
1P	Langley Manor	22	22	0	0	122	19	42*	To Junior Div.3
2x	Lockerley	22	13	2	7	81	40	28	
3P	Nutfield United	22	12	4	6	71	42	28	To Junior Div.4
4P	Jukes Sports	22	12	2	8	45	45	26	
5x	Old Issonians Res	22	10	3	9	47	48	23	First- Junior.Div.2
6x	Allom Sports	22	10	2	10	39	55	22	
7P	Thornhill Deacons Res	22	9	1	12	52	65	19	First- Junior.Div.1
8	Shirley Social	22	7	4	11	57	60	18	
9	Old Edwardians Res	22	7	3	12	48	66	17	First- Senior Div.2
10	Picador United	22	5	5	12	22	58	15	
11	Grove Celtic Res	22	4	5	13	27	69	13	F- Snr.Div.2. Not relegated
12	Newtown Rovers Res	22	4	3	15	32	76	11	F- Jnr.Div.4. Not relegated

Annual Report Comments: Langley Manor walked away with the Division VI cup and were the only team in all the Leagues to remain unbeaten—they were obviously much too strong for the Division and fully merit promotion. Lockerley, Nutfield United and Jukes Sports each enjoyed a good season and should make further progress.

Divisional Note: * denotes points adjustment.



SOUTHAMPTON JUNIOR LEAGUE: EASTERN DIVISION — SEASON 1952/53

Pos	Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	Gl For	Gl Agst	Points	Notes
1x	Bitterne Nomads Res	22	17	1	4	106	38	35	First- Snr.Div.2
2P	Bursledon	22	13	4	5	75	39	30	To Junior Div.2
3	Sarisbury Green Res	22	21	0	1	169	23	28*	First- Junior Div.5
4	Warsash Res	22	13	2	7	87	42	26*	First- Senior Div.2
5	Harefield Res	22	11	4	7	66	54	26	See Divisional Note (2)
6x	Old Netley Boys	22	9	2	11	74	70	22*	See Divisional Note (1)
7	Bitterne Athletic	22	8	4	10	63	63	20	
8	Surrey & Butlocks	22	9	2	11	63	77	20	
9	St Marks (Woolston)	22	7	4	11	58	72	18	
10	Supermarine Sports Res	22	6	3	13	57	93	15	First- Senior Div.2
11P	Elephant & Castle	22	2	3	17	28	113	7	To Junior Div.6
12P	Thornycrofts (Woolston) Res	22	1	1	20	18	180	3	F- Junior Div.1. To Jnr.D.6

Annual Report Comments: Bitterne Nomads won the Championship with Bursledon in the runners-up position. Sarisbury Green, the Junior Cup winners, finished third, but the loss of points through the playing of unqualified players in seven games ruined their record and cost them the Shield.

Divisional Note: * denotes points adjustment (this includes Divisional Note (1) where unusually, points were **awarded** to Old Netley Boys).

(2) Harefield's first team were in Senior Division 2 and their name was changed to Harefield Sports in the next season.

This Division used to be ranked between Junior Divisions III and IV but now featured beneath Junior VI, so the two bottom teams might not have received a promotion as suggested in the table but had just moved from this regional division.



SOUTHAMPTON WEDNESDAY LEAGUE—SEASON 1952/53

Pos	Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	GI For	GI Agst	Points	Notes
1	R.A.F., Calshot	22	19	0	3	124	26	38	
2	Green Jackets	22	17	1	4	99	35	35	
3	H.M. Customs	22	15	3	4	86	42	33	
4x	Southampton Fire Brigade	22	14	1	7	67	52	29	
5	Port Wing R.E.	22	14	3	5	90	49	27*	See Divisional Note (1)
6	Southampton Post Office	22	12	1	9	76	79	25	
7	Corporation Transport	22	9	1	12	49	86	19	
8	R.A.F. Movements	22	7	4	11	73	59	18	
9	49 Coy., R.A.S.C.	22	5	2	15	48	101	10*	
10	Woolston Wednesday	22	4	2	16	47	103	10	
11	Embarkation Establishment	22	2	5	15	44	96	9	
12x	Channel Sports	22	2	1	19	30	105	5	

Annual Report Comments: R.A.F., Calshot rounded off an excellent season by winning the Wednesday League for the third successive year—a splendid record. Green Jackets and H.M. Customs ran them close, and on the whole there was little to choose between these three teams.

Divisional Note: * denotes points adjustment.

(1) The Marchwood-based Port Wing R.E. team’s name was changed to ‘17 Port Training Regiment’ for next season.



STANDARD NOTES—ALL TABLES (AS APPLICABLE)

POS (POSITION) COLUMN

A number and no other symbol denotes the team remained in the same division for the next season.

P (next to position number) denotes promoted (or elected) to the next division up (an upward move of more than one division will be shown in the notes column on the far right). That team will also be shown in **BOLD** type.

R denotes relegated to the next division down (a move down of more than one division will be shown in the notes column on the far right). That team will also be shown in **BOLD ITALIC** type.

X denotes the team did not complete the following season in the league. It is possible the team either withdrew in pre-season or started and withdrew in the next season as they didn't appear in the final table. If it is known what occurred to the team then the far column will show, or a relevant Divisional Note. If no note is shown then further details are unknown.

A team in italic print and shown at the end of the table without a league record denotes it is known that the team was included in that season's constitution but did not complete the season (again, the notes column may reveal what occurred, if this is known).

TEAM COLUMN

Where a team is not the club's first XI the following suffix will be shown: Res for the club's reserve team and 'A' for the club's third team. This may continue with 'B' and 'C' etc.

A comment can be seen in the note column (far right) showing the status of the team's more senior sides. Often space is restricted so F: would denote firsts; R: would denote reserves; Sr denotes Senior and Jr Junior. An example of this in the note column would be F: Sr.1; R: Jr.5 means this is the club's third team and the firsts are in Senior League 1 and Reserves are in Junior Division 5.

A team shown in **red type** are a team that is new to the Southampton Football League at the start of the season. The notes column may add further information, where it is known. It is not necessarily a newly formed team.

A team shown in **pink type** has undergone a name change either during this or at the end of this season. The notes column will add further detail.

There are seasons where the goals for and against totals for divisions do not balance. Whilst these are not technically correct the tables are as published and no attempt has been made to correct them (unless otherwise stated).

PTS (POINTS) COLUMN

* denotes points adjustment. Two points were awarded for a win and one each for a drawn game.

NOTES SPECIFIC TO THE CURRENT SEASON

DIVISIONAL NOTES

There will be occasions where notes applicable to various divisions as applicable at that particular season apply. These notes will be shown separately at the foot of that table.

GENERAL NOTES

The information on these pages may be freely copied and used but please quote the source www.hantsoccerarchive.co.uk .

FINALLY further information is always appreciated if you, the reader, knows of any additional detail. E.&O.E.