SOUTHAMPTON FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

FINAL LEAGUE TABLES AND ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY—SEASON 1953/54

In presenting my ninth and the 40th Annual Report of the Association, it is with considerable pleasure I place on record that the position of the Association, both from a playing and financial point of view, has been well maintained during the past season. The Statement of Accounts [which is not included on these webpages—Ed] reveals that our financial position remains sound, and the number of teams taking part in our Competitions is sufficient testimony to support my claim that football in the S.F.A. area continues to thrive.

Whether the standard of play is as good as it was some years ago—how often this question crops up—is problematical, but there can be no disputing the fact that there are far more teams taking part in our Competitions than in bygone days, and that our object is to provide football for all who care to play the game in accordance with the Laws of the Football Association. All will agree that it is much better for a lad to be "in the game" than on the touch line, and there are hundreds of thousands of young men getting their regular game each week in the many local competitions up and down the Country.

So far as the S.F.A. is concerned, nearly 5,000 players registered with our Clubs during 1953/54, and no less than 7,339 goals were scored in the 1,272 League Fixtures, an average of nearly six a game, providing that goal scoring is not yet a lost art.

The annual report then summarised the Cup Finals and those played in this season can be found in the file entitled 'Cup Finals—Southampton FA—Seasons Ended 1951 to 1955' on this website.

Consistency has been the feature of the play of those teams who won the various Divisions of the Senior and Junior Leagues. There were some hard struggles for the honours, and in one Division of the Junior Section the championship was not decided until the last day of the season, and then only on goal average.

The annual report then summarised the various divisions and the comments are shown at the foot of each table below.

It is now my pleasure to refer to the Referees who controlled our games. Too often their services go unnoticed and are taken for granted, but I would like them to know how much we appreciate the grand job they have done in fair weather and foul. I must also pay tribute to the excellent work of the Appointment Secretaries—Mr. W. G. Bartlett and Mr. H. J. Wright—who cooperated wholeheartedly in overcoming the many difficulties that invariably crop up in local competitions.

The report concluded with thanks to the following:

Members of the Southampton Corporation

The Borough Engineer

The Public Lands' Superintendent and his staff, and particularly to Mr. Eric Ryder and his staff at the Sports Centre

Officers and Members of the Council. Some of our senior members have been in the game for perhaps more years than they care to remember, but they retain their youth as far as football is concerned and are never happier than when doing a job of work for the game to which they have given so much

President, Mr. R. A. Mathieson and Ex-President Mr. G. J. Eden for their wholehearted support and many words of wisdom

Hon Treasurer (Mr. C. J. Wheeler) and Assistant Hon. Secretary (Mr. N. W. Stride) and to the Southern Daily Echo, Football Echo and Officials of the Southampton Ex-Servicemen's Club for the facilities provided for our meetings.

H. J. MATHIESON, Hon Secretary.

SOUTHAMPTON FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FINAL TABLES AND ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY—SEASON 1953/54

SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR LEAGUE: DIVISION I —SEASON 1953/54

Constitution changes—Summer 1953:

IN: Old Bartonians, Bitterne Nomads and Harefield were promoted from Senior Division II. Harefield added Sports to their name.

OUT: Bitterne Park Sports (who left the League), whilst Pirelli General 'A' and Briggs Social Res were relegated to Senior II.

Pos	Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	Gl For	Gl Agst	Points	Notes
1	Harland & Wolff	26	20	3	3	90	29	43	
2	Ordnance Survey	26	19	1	6	80	39	39	
3	Austin Sports	26	16	2	8	83	53	34	
4	Bitterne Nomads	26	14	4	8	79	42	32	
5	Winsor United	26	13	6	7	63	51	32	
6	Old Bartonians	26	12	4	10	52	48	28	
7	Southampton Gas Employees	26	11	4	11	79	80	26	
8	N.D.L. C.	26	10	3	13	43	71	23	
9	Swaythling Athletic Res	26	9	4	13	55	65	22	First– Hampshire League
10	Sholing Sports Res	26	7	7	12	44	57	21	First– Hampshire League
11	Harefield Sports	26	8	4	14	63	68	20	Previously Harefield
12	Bramtoco Sports	26	9	2	15	38	62	20	
13R	St. Nicholas	26	7	3	16	43	66	17	
14R	Romsey Town Res	26	2	3	21	38	119	7	First– Hampshire League

Annual Report Comments: The Championship of Division I of the Senior League was won by Harland & Wolff, with O.S.O. (*this stood for Ordnance Survey Office, but Ordnance Survey was this club's official title*) in second place. The Wolves therefore enjoyed the honour of pulling off the "double" (*as they also won the Southampton Senior Cup*), a performance on which they deserve every congratulation. Since the recommencement of activities after the War, Harland & Wolff have proved themselves one of the foremost clubs in the area, and 1953/54 will go down in the records as one of their best seasons.

Other teams who took the eye were O.S.O., Austin Sports, Bitterne Nomads and Winsor United. The Survey proved worthy runners-up, and their immediate outlook is brighter than it has been for a long time.

Romsey Town and St. Nicholas find themselves relegated in accordance with rule. Romsey, particularly, had a bad time, with only seven points to show for their efforts, and the young St. Nicholas side, who played much better than their League position suggested, were unable to reach "safety" despite their efforts in the last weeks of the season.

Divisional Note: This note is emphasised mainly in this section of Senior II, but the three Hampshire League clubs with reserve teams in this section all finished in the lower half of the table, with one team relegated.

SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR LEAGUE: DIVISION II —SEASON 1953/54

Constitution Changes—Summer 1953:

IN: Pirelli General 'A' and Briggs Social Reserves were relegated from Senior Division I. The Junior I champions Awbridge were promoted. Three other clubs were elected from a 31 team ballot and Sarisbury Green (who'd finished mid-table in Junior Division V), St. Deny's Old Boys (Champions of Junior Division 2) and the newly formed Docks and Marine Sports Reserves were elected by the members.

OUT: Old Bartonians, Bitterne Nomads and Harefield (now Harefield Sports) were promoted to Senior Division I. The two bottom clubs were relegated to the Junior Leagues, but only Grove Celtic moved to Junior I, as Blackfield & Langley Reserves were not members of the League in this season.

Pos	Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	Gl For	Gl Agst	Points	Notes
1P	Netley Sports	26	23	3	0	125	20	49	
2P	Sarisbury Green	26	19	3	4	97	55	41	
3	Awbridge	26	16	6	4	137	68	38	
4	Marchwood United	26	17	3	6	90	49	37	
5	Warsash	26	16	3	7	114	43	35	
6	Old Edwardians	26	13	7	6	87	76	33	
7	Supermarine Sports	26	10	5	11	69	58	25	
8	Briggs Social Res	26	10	3	13	63	93	21*	First- Hampshire League
9	Shirley Warren	26	6	6	14	60	91	18	
10	Pirelli-General 'A'	26	6	4	16	69	111	16	See Divisional Note (1)
11	St Denys Old Boys	26	6	4	16	54	96	16	
12	Old Tauntonians Res	26	3	5	18	50	99	11	First– Hampshire League
13R	B.R. (Eastleigh) Athletic Res	26	4	3	19	44	117	11	First– Hampshire League
14R	Docks and Marine Sports Res	26	3	5	18	41	124	11	See Divisional Note (2)

Annual Report Comments: Netley Sports had an eight-point lead over Sarisbury Green, with Awbridge and Marchwood United in third and fourth places respectively. Unbeaten in their League programme, in itself a fine performance, Netley rounded off a brilliant season by also winning the Hampshire Intermediate Cup at the "Dell" on May 8th, an honour which they well deserved. They now look forward to promotion to the premier Division of the Senior League with confidence.

Sarisbury Green and Awbridge, both promoted from the Junior League, fully justified their preferment. They were undoubtedly two of the best teams in Division II and Sarisbury have every reason to feel of the fact that they won the right to a place in Division I at the first attempt. To Awbridge went the honour of scoring more goals than any other team in the two Senior Divisions.

At the other end of the League Table, Old Tauntonians, B.R. Eastleigh and Docks and Marine ended the season with only eleven points to their credit and the O.T.s narrowly escaped relegation, the fate of the other two, by virtue of a superior goal average.

Divisional Notes: * denotes points adjustment.

(1) The Pirelli General 'A' (or third) team were replaced by their reserves in Senior II in 1954/55 as they were not re-elected in the Hampshire League. (2) Ah, this was always going to happen at some point—a multi-coloured entry! The Docks and Marine Sports' first team were members of the Hampshire League. As mentioned in the Constitution Changes at the top of this page their reserves were a new team to the S.F.A. (and therefore the red part) but the club changed it's name to B.T.C. (Southampton) in the summer of 1954 (and the pink part of the name therefore also applies).

As a general comment, it is interesting to note that the five reserve teams of Hampshire League clubs in this Division all finished in the lower half of the table and two of them were relegated to the Junior League (see also comments in Senior I).

SOUTHAMPTON JUNIOR LEAGUE: DIVISION I — SEASON 1953/54

Pos	Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	Gl For	Gl Agst	Points	Notes
1P	Old Issonians	22	21	0	1	88	22	42	
2P	Thornycrofts (Woolston)	22	15	3	4	96	40	33	
3	Netley Sports Res	22	14	2	6	79	48	30	First- Senior 2
4	Fairey Aviation	22	13	3	6	64	38	29	
5	Millbrook Rangers	22	12	3	7	74	53	27	
6	R.V. Hospital	22	9	8	5	56	37	26	
7	St Nicholas	22	7	2	13	38	53	16	
8	Thornhill Deacons	22	5	5	12	33	58	15	
9	Southampton Telephone Area	22	4	5	13	39	66	13	
10	Winsor United Res	22	5	3	14	29	83	13	First- Senior 1
11R	Grove Celtic	22	5	1	16	36	79	11	
12R	Princess Sports	22	3	3	16	<i>37</i>	92	9	

Annual Report Comments: With forty-two points from twenty-two games, Old Issonians ran out good winners of Division I of the Junior League. Because of their successful run in the Cup Competition (reaching the final of the Junior Cup), they were at one time well behind with their fixtures, but as they gradually made up the leeway they shot to the top of the League table and finished well ahead of Thornycrofts (Woolston). This success gives the "Old Boys" promotion to the Senior League where they can be relied upon to give their best.

Thornycrofts (Woolston), Netley Sports and Fairey Aviation all played well and can look back on a successful season, but nothing went right for Princess Sports, who finished at the bottom of the League, two points behind Grove Celtic.

SOUTHAMPTON JUNIOR LEAGUE: DIVISION II —SEASON 1953/54

Pos	Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	Gl For	Gl Agst	Points	Notes
1P	Wellow	22	17	2	3	96	39	36	
2P	Follands	22	15	3	4	97	47	33	
3x	Totton 'A'	22	15	2	5	80	48	30*	First & Res- Hampshire Lg
4	Kestrel	22	13	1	8	60	48	27	See Divisional Note (1)
5	Bursledon	22	9	3	10	72	78	21	
6	Chandlers Ford	22	9	2	11	63	61	20	
7	St. Michaels	22	9	2	11	53	68	20	
8	Totton Stars	22	8	3	11	49	56	19	
9	Southampton Electricity	22	7	4	11	46	62	18	
10	Netley Sports 'A'	22	8	0	14	61	86	16	F- Senior 1; R- Junior 1
11R	Michelmersh	22	6	4	12	44	70	16	
12R	Briggs Social 'A'	22	2	2	18	29	87	6	F- Hampshire; R- Senior 2

For Annual Report Comments and Divisional Notes—see next page

Southampton League: Junior Division II (continued)

Annual Report Comments: Three Championships in successive seasons—Divisions V, III and II—is the proud record of Wellow and one which will take a lot of beating. They are a grand little side, and with all their players living in the village it is not surprising they have developed a fine team spirit. Whilst it may be too much to expect honours again next season, the Wellow lads will certainly be all out to add to their laurels.

Follands, Totton and Kestrel were Wellow's most serious challengers, with Follands playing the lead and obtaining the runners-up position.

Divisional Note: * denotes points adjustment.

(1) Kestrel were previously known as Dockland Settlement.

SOUTHAMPTON JUNIOR LEAGUE: DIVISION III —SEASON 1953/54

Pos	Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	Gl For	Gl Agst	Points	Notes
1P	A.C. Delco	16	14	1	1	84	22	29	
2	Central Co-op	16	10	4	2	50	28	23*	See Divisional Note (1)
3	Romsey Rangers	16	11	0	5	59	40	22	
4x	Nursling St. Boniface	16	8	2	6	48	42	18	
5	Maybush Community	16	6	3	7	44	55	15	
6	Langley Manor	16	6	2	8	52	53	14	
7	Gateway	16	3	5	8	32	49	11	
8R	Austin Sports Res	16	2	2	12	28	66	6	First- Senior 1
9R	Newtown Rovers	16	1	3	12	29	71	5	

Annual Report Comments: In Division III, A.C. Deco, Central Co-op and Romsey Rangers were outstanding. It was most unfortunate that three teams withdrew during the course of the season, a most unusual happening, thus reducing the Section to nine, which meant only sixteen League fixtures, and it is hoped that such a state of affairs will not occur again.

A.C. Delco completed an outstanding season by capturing the Championship and the Junior Cup, and the winning of three trophies in their first two seasons of Junior football is particularly praiseworthy.

Divisional Note: * denotes points adjustment. The three teams that withdrew during the season are not traced.

(1) It was very likely that the 'Co-Op Youth' team from 1952/53 became the Central Co-op side in this season (unconfirmed). Although finishing as runners-up in the Division they were not promoted.



SOUTHAMPTON JUNIOR LEAGUE: DIVISION IV—SEASON 1953/54

Pos	Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	Gl For	Gl Agst	Points	Notes
1P	Shirley	20	16	3	1	94	16	35	
2P	Ordnance Survey Res	20	16	3	1	108	20	35	F-Senior 1
3P	Lyndhurst	20	15	1	4	110	40	31	
4	Mottisfont	20	13	2	5	100	55	28	
5x	Shirley Warren Res	20	8	2	10	48	58	18	First- Senior 2
6	Old Tauntonians 'A'	20	8	2	10	59	89	18	F- Hampshire; R- Senior 2
7x	Southampton Gas Employees Res	20	7	1	12	58	61	15	First- Senior 1
8	Nutfield United	20	6	2	12	35	74	14	
9	Harland & Wolff Res	20	6	1	13	40	92	13	First- Senior 1
10x	Sherfield English	20	3	1	16	51	108	7	
11x	Braishfield	20	3	0	17	27	117	6	

Annual Report Comments: Division IV produced the greatest struggle of all, and it was only a convincing win in their last game of the season which enabled Shirley to pip O.S.O. on the post. Both teams lost one league game only during the season and a slightly superior goal average determined the Championship in favour of Shirley.

This was bad luck for the Survey, but their promotion to Division 3 is assured, and they will have the opportunity of continuing their tussle with the Shirley lads, who nearly threw the Championship away when they lost unexpectedly 1-0 against Shirley Warren in their last game but one.

SOUTHAMPTON JUNIOR LEAGUE: DIVISION V —SEASON 1953/54

Pos	Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	Gl For	Gl Agst	Points	Notes
1P	Minstead	20	14	4	2	69	31	32	
2P	Clarks C.O.S.A.	20	14	1	5	56	36	29	
3P	Cunard White Star	20	11	4	5	74	34	26	
4P	Awbridge Res	20	11	4	5	75	47	26	First- Senior.2
5	Thornhill Deacons Res	20	11	2	7	55	42	24	See Divisional Note (1)
6	Taplins Sports	20	9	1	10	50	70	19	
7	C.P.C Sports	20	7	3	10	52	55	17	Prev. in League in 49/50
8	Wadhams	20	7	2	11	45	52	16	
9	Jukes Sports	20	6	0	14	55	68	12	
10x	Mount Pleasant	20	4	2	14	26	60	10	
11R	Follands Res	20	3	3	14	37	99	9	First- Junior 2

Annual Report Comments: Congratulations are extended to Minstead on winning the Championship of Division V at the first attempt. Clarks C.O.S.A., Cunard White Star and Awbridge fought gamely throughout the season, but Minstead forged ahead and deservedly maintained their position at the top of the League table.

Divisional Note: (1) The Thornhill Deacons first team were in Junior I. The reserve team moved to the Eastern Division for the next season.

SOUTHAMPTON JUNIOR LEAGUE: DIVISION VI —SEASON 1953/54

Pos	Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	Gl For	Gl Agst	Points	Notes
1P	Shirley Social	22	18	1	3	105	42	37	To Junior Div.4
2P	Camper & Nicholsons	22	16	3	3	75	38	35	To Junior Div.4
3x	Thornycrofts (Woolston) Res	22	17	0	5	95	31	34	First- Junior 1
4P	Chandlers Ford Res	22	13	2	7	58	43	28	First- Junior 2
5P	A.C. Delco Res	22	10	4	8	58	57	24	First- Junior 3
6	Old Edwardians Res	22	11	0	11	74	51	22	First- Senior 2
7x	Mons Athletic	22	8	6	8	70	61	22	
8	Grove Celtic Res	22	10	1	11	51	56	21	First- Junior 1
9x	Newtown Rovers Res	22	6	1	15	53	97	13	First- Junior 3
10	Elephant & Castle	22	6	1	15	41	81	13	
11	Shirley Res	22	3	6	13	37	90	12	First- Junior 4
12	Picador United	22	0	3	19	26	96	3	

Annual Report Comments: In Division VI, Shirley Social, Camper & Nicholsons and Thornycrofts (Woolston) were always in the lead and for the major part of the season it appeared the Woolston team would prove to be Champions. Two defeats in their last fixtures, however, were their undoing, and finally Shirley Social pipped Camper & Nicholsons by two points.

Divisional Note: There was a strong presence of Junior (or reserve) teams in this Division (seven of the twelve clubs).

SOUTHAMPTON JUNIOR LEAGUE: EASTERN DIVISION — SEASON 1953/54

Pos	Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	Gl For	Gl Agst	Points	Notes
1P	Sarisbury Green Res	20	17	1	2	86	39	35	F-Senior 2; To Junior Div.2
2P	Harefield Sports Res	20	16	1	3	79	23	33	F-Senior 1 To Junior Div.3
3	Bitterne Athletic	20	13	1	6	76	40	27	
4x	St. Marks (Woolston)	20	10	1	9	49	52	21	
5	Hamble Stars	20	11	2	7	82	60	22*	
6x	Bursledon Brickworks	20	8	3	9	68	69	19	
7	Surrey & Butlocks	20	8	3	9	47	51	19	
8	Old Issonians Res	20	7	3	10	66	45	17	First- Junior 1
9	Warsash Res	20	7	3	10	56	71	17	First- Senior 2
10	Supermarine Sports Res	20	4	0	16	40	106	8	First- Senior 2
11	Old Simmarians	20	0	0	20	26	119	0	See Divisional Note (1)

Annual Report Comments: The Championship of the Eastern Division developed into a tussle between Sarisbury Green and Harefield Sports, with Bitterne Athletic their most serious challengers. After being top of the League for many weeks, Harefield had to give way to Sarisbury, and with their Seniors gaining promotion, and the Juniors winning their League championship, the Green can look back with pride on season 1953/54. The only team in the whole of our Leagues who failed to capture a point were Old Simmarians. Although they met with no success on the field it says much for their sportsmanship that they met all their commitments to the full and in this respect set an example which certain other clubs would do well to copy.

Divisional Note: * denotes points adjustment. (1) Old Simmarians appeared in Junior V in the next season (a promotion?!).

SOUTHAMPTON WEDNESDAY LEAGUE—SEASON 1953/54

Pos	Team	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	Gl For	Gl Agst	Points	Notes
1	H.M. Customs	20	18	0	2	127	38	36	
2	R.A.F., Calshot	20	16	1	3	105	32	33	
3	Southampton Post Office	20	15	1	4	116	37	31	
4	17 Port Training Regiment	20	14	0	6	113	39	28	Divisional Note (1)
5	Green Jackets	20	12	1	7	92	57	25	
6	Corporation Transport	20	9	2	9	58	62	20	
7	Woolston Wednesday	20	6	1	13	48	88	13	
8	49 Coy., R.A.S.C	20	5	0	15	56	97	10	
9	Embarkation Establishment	20	6	0	14	16	87	12	
10	R.A.F. Movements	20	5	0	15	29	105	10	
11	Hants & Dorset	20	1	0	19	22	160	2	

Annual Report Comments: H.M. Customs were champions of the Wednesday League and well deserved the honour. R.A.F., Calshot, winners of the competition in the three previous season, had to be content with the runners-up position, and Post Office were a good third.

Divisional Note: (1) The 17 Port Training Regiment team were previously known as 'Port Wing R.E.'



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

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