INTRODUCTION EASTLEIGH F·C· SEASON 1980/81

Swaythling F·C· opted to make a big decision as the 1979/80 season drew to a close· It changed its identity from an area within the city of Southampton to become the name of the town, the boundary it had played within (well, just about) since 1957· The change did have to be confirmed at the club's AGM which proved to be a formality·

So Swaythling F·C· was no longer and Eastleigh F·C· came about· It was, of course, the same club and looked to appeal to the locality which could provide potentially larger opportunities as sponsorship was playing a much bigger part in the game, even at Hampshire League level·

Eastleigh, the town, was well known for its railway links and with the manufacture of cables by the Pirelli company· It hadn't had a senior football team that bore the name since the sixties when the B·R· Eastleigh Athletic club had disbanded and therefore gave up its Hampshire League place· Pirelli General F·C· was considered to be the town's principal club but had a company identity playing within it· Their ground was only a short distance from Ten Acres· A·C· Delco, an even shorter distance from Ten Acres and located in the same lane, was another Eastleigh-based club and also playing in the county league, but whilst the sports ground was located in Eastleigh, it represented another company and that was also one based in Southampton· There was perhaps a void and credit to the Swaythling club for filling it·

Continued ...

Introduction continued …

The justification was there and there was wholehearted support. On a personal level there were some reservations as, being a resident of Southampton and indeed Swaythling itself, it was felt that something had been lost to the city. But there were club members, one in particular being a founding member in 1946, who'd gone along with it so it was a case of 'go with the flow'! Incidentally, many years later a club the writer was involved with took a similar decision to move away from its Southampton identity and a very much different conclusion was made, perhaps from experience?

What else had changed in the summer of 1980? Well the club decided to change their kit to sky blue shirts and navy shorts and a new badge from the Borough's coat of arms was adopted. There were some new signings too as Pirelli pair Dave Thackray and Clive Kimber, both defensive players, came in - the former having been with Swaythling previously and the latter being the new left-back as long serving Ian Knight had moved on to the Southern League with Andover F.C. Another former player, striker Brian Smith had returned from Sholing Sports, whilst Keith Vine (a midfielder, from Basingstoke Town), Peter Kelly (a locally-based left-winger) and another full-back Trevor Day (who'd been playing North Hants League football), also joined. Most of last season's players had re-signed and Ray Deane was appointed as the club captain.

The Hampshire League had increased its numbers from 16 to 20 clubs and that was the reason given for a surprising decision made to not compete in the F.A. Cup for this season. However, this was more likely to be due to the club not having a permanent fixed barrier in place at that time. This, in the writer's opinion, was short-sighted as there is no better way to announce one's perceived higher profile than to enter the world's oldest football competition.

Manager Sam Stevens didn't read too much into the friendly games played, the results of which were promising. So, what happened - let's take a look …

Match: 1 (1 League; 0 Cup)

Saturday 16th August 1980

Home @ Ten Acres (visit #57)

Hampshire League - Division 1

Ref: Mr A P Murphy (Basingstoke)

EASTLEIGH……(0) 2

King 74; Smith 89.

NETLEY CENTRAL SPORTS (1) 1

Janes 27.

Eastleigh Line-Up

1	Malcolm Harris
2	Danny Miller
3	Clive Kimber
4	David Hadfield
5	Ken Brady
6	David Thackray
7	Chris Scott
8	Ray Deane
9	Brian Smith
10	Chris Glover
11	Roy King
12	Des Black (dnp)

Match Notes

Following a few friendly matches, the season commenced for this newly-named football club, formed in 1946 as Swaythling Athletic, it had now taken the title of the local town. Both teams were introduced to the Mayor of Eastleigh before kick-off, remembering of course, that Netley is also located within the Borough of Eastleigh.

It was Netley that took the lead when Les Gatrell took a free kick and **Phil Janes** headed home. Smith was working hard for Eastleigh, particularly when he impressively turned a defender and then dummied another, but with a teammate well placed, he opted to shoot and miscued. Eastleigh had a great chance to equalise on 33 minutes when Deane set out on one his trademark runs and was brought down in the penalty box. Deane took the penalty himself but fired over the crossbar.

Both sides continued with fine attacking football in the second half. Smith tested Netley keeper Rafferty with a shot and Deane went up to challenge the keeper in the air, the ball came loose and was hacked clear. It was getting late, Netley still holding the advantage. Eastleigh levelled when a free kick was headed high into the net by **King** from around six yards. A draw was looking like the outcome but **Smith** had other ideas, working an opening and smacked a firm shot past Rafferty to complete which for so long looked to be an unlikely first match win for Eastleigh FC.

Additional Information

Although there were a number of summer signings the only debutant today was full-back Clive Kimber (Ian Knight having moved to play in the Southern League at Andover FC). Eastleigh FC's first manager was Sam Stevens and Ray Deane was captain. Sub Des Black didn't make a first team appearance. A programme was issued, which was going to be produced for all games (first and reserve team). It was a basic production with two pages of notes within a regular 'advert shell'.

Match: 2 (League 2; Cup 0)

Wednesday 20th August 1980

Home @ Ten Acres (Visit #58)

Hampshire League - Division 1

Ref: Mr Nicholson (Basingstoke)

EASTLEIGH 0

GOSPORT BOROUGH RES 0

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Malcolm Harris

2 Danny Miller

3 Clive Kimber

4 David Hadfield

5 Ken Brady

6 Dave Thackray

7 Chris Scott

(Sub: Terry Rawlins 57)

8 Ray Deane

9 Brian Smith

10 Chris Glover

11 Roy King

Match Notes

Eastleigh kept the same line-up that was successful on their opening game with Netley. Gosport's first team were in the Southern League and their line-up appeared to be an inexperienced one, with the exception of two deposed first team players in full-back Gary Juryeff and midfielder Trevor Williams.

Credit to the Gosport defence who weathered a fair amount of pressure, although it wasn't until the second half when Eastleigh made a concerted effort to break them down.

Smith's shot was blocked, the Gosport keeper made saves from both Deane and Glover. Williams was instrumental in Gosport's best effort when Harris got his hand to a cross and the ball came off the post. It was ironic that Gosport came closest to score having created much fewer chances.

Eastleigh's best move of the game came from a pin-point Smith cross that went over a defender's attempt to head clear and Deane, lurking behind, directed his header low but it was saved.

This result would be viewed with disappointment, particularly as Gosport had suffered a shock defeat to newly-promoted Horndean last Saturday. However, the visitors did play very well and were deserving of their point. It was a start that's brought 3 out of a possible 4 points for Eastleigh.

Additional Information

The closing sentence in the match notes was correct as only two points applied for a win back then. The programme notes showed disappointment with the Hampshire FA administration as four of the first five Hampshire League fixtures were scheduled to be at home. A comparison was made to the previous season when the same situation occurred at the start of the campaign and the last six matches were played away. It was hoped this would not be repeated. Others using the ground were Southampton Women, the most successful Ladies club in England, and Sunday team Corinthians.

Match: 3 (League 3; Cup 0)

Saturday 23rd August 1980

Home @ Ten Acres (Visit #59)

Hampshire League - Division 1

Ref: Mr N Sydenham (Portsmouth)

EASTLEIGH ..... (1) 1

Glover 38.

NEWPORT (IW) ..... (0) 2

Warwick 64; Watt 85.

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Malcolm Harris

2 Danny Miller

3 Clive Kimber

4 David Hadfield

5 Ken Brady

6 David Thackray

7 Terry Rawlins

(Sub: Chris Scott 86)

8 Ray Deane

9 Ray Light

10 Chris Glover

11 Roy King

Match Notes

This match was against the league champions for the past two seasons and it was going to be tough. As well as missing midfielders Steve Hills and Keith Vine with long term injuries, Brian Smith was added to the treatment table. Ray Light, who had come out of retirement to play for the reserve team at the end of last season, wore the number nine shirt.

Newport started on the attack, to the extent that midfielders Rawlins and Hadfield (both decent in centre-back roles) were playing very deep throughout most of the first half. Eastleigh were generally caught offside but Newport keeper Watson saved efforts from Glover and Light. Despite Newport's overall superiority it was Eastleigh that went in front when King slotted a fine pass which enabled **Glover** to sprint past the visitors back line, coolly manoeuvre past Watson to be left with a simple opportunity.

Into the second half and the Eastleigh lead never looked secure and Newport eventually scored with a low header by **Warwick**. Port now sensed victory and they achieved it with five minutes remaining when their full-back **Watt** sent a 35-yard screamer which flew into the net leaving Harris no chance. Just after Rawlins had received a knock and was replaced by Scott.

The reigning champions had to graft hard but in the end they took the points. Eastleigh (as Swaythling) had defeated Newport here in the past 2 seasons.

Additional Information

There were no team sheets exchanged back in those times but this was one occasion where the opposing line-up was known and it was as follows: 1. Michael (Willie) Watson; 2. Paul Young; 3. Steve Watt; 4: Micky Gee; 5. Tony Cleveland; 6. Peter Buckley; 7. Malcolm Wilkes; 8. Ian Hailes; 9. D (Bunny) Warwick; 10. Lennie Phillips; 11. Jeff Austin. Their substitute was used and was Wheeler (probably P. Wheeler, but they had more than one).

EARLY SEASON MATCH ACTION

(photos Eastleigh Weekly News)



VERSUS NEWPORT (IW)

The caption read: Goalkeeper Watson fails to stop Chris Glover from scoring Eastleigh's goal.



VERSUS ROMSEY TOWN

(Above) Goalscorer Brian Smith rounds a Romsey defender close to goal.

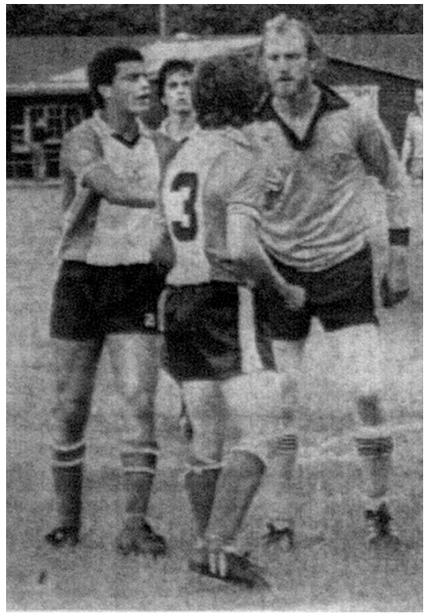


(Above) Chris Glover and Terry Rawlins are beaten to the punch by Romsey goalkeeper Kneller



VERSUS SOUTHAMPTON 'A'

Boyd Hilton launches himself for a flying header in the opening minutes but his effort flew wide.



A moment of tension at Ten Acres. Terry Rawlins clashes with Chris Hodge (3) of Southampton 'A'. Reuben Agboola attempts to be peacemaker.



Ken Brady is ready for action in the Southampton 'A' game. He shows off the club's new badge depicting the Eastleigh Borough coat-of-arms.

Match: 4 (League 4; Cup 0)

Tuesday 26th August 1980

At Jubilee Sports Ground, Eastleigh

Hampshire League - Division 1

Referee: Ron Dix (Portsmouth)

PIRELLI GENERAL …… (1) 2

Nash 37; Tyrrell 73.

EASTLEIGH ……. 0

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Malcolm Harris

2 Danny Miller

3 Clive Kimber

4 David Hadfield

5 Ken Brady

6 David Thackray

7 Terry Rawlins

8 Ray Deane

9 Boyd Hilton

(Sub: Chris Scott 72)

10 Chris Glover

11 Roy King

Match Notes

With the grounds of Ten Acres and what was better known as Chestnut Avenue no more than a short drive apart, this game was always one of great local rivalry. Now that Swaythling had taken on the moniker of Eastleigh there seemed to be an added significance. Pirelli General was a works team, connected with cable manufacture and a large employer in the town. They had practically been the only senior 'Eastleigh team' for many years.

Of the Eastleigh twelve, Kimber, Thackray, Glover and Scott now wore the Eastleigh sky blue but had all worn the royal blue of Pirelli in the past as players would regularly move between the two clubs.

Boyd Hilton was handed his first team bow for Eastleigh, replacing Ray Light up top.

Eastleigh were doing fairly well in the first half 'up the slope' without creating any meaningful opportunities. It was the Cablemen that went in front when Harris did well to palm away as shot but the loose ball fell to **Nash** to complete the formalities.

In the second half, Rawlins and Thackray both went for the same ball from a corner and a chance went begging. A ill-placed back pass produced an opportunity for a cross which was finished by **Tyrrell** and Eastleigh had already not looked like scoring by now. Hilton withdrew with a knock.

Additional Information

For the second match running there is an opposition line-up known (numbers not certain this time): Malcolm Hunt, Mick Geddes, Jeff Smith, Steve Blaxall, Steve Mills, Ray Sheehan, Nicky Tyrrell,Stuart Long, Danny Nash, Kevin White, Terry Brown. Sub: Tony Adams. There were at least five of those Pirelli players who'd either appeared for Swaythling or were going to become Eastleigh players in future.

Match: 5 (League 5; Cup 0)

Saturday 30th August 1980

Home @ Ten Acres (Visit #62)

Hampshire League - Division 1

Ref: Mr P Barrett (Portsmouth)

EASTLEIGH …… (0) 1

Smith 54.

ROMSEY TOWN …… (1) 1

Bowers 37 (pen).

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Malcolm Harris

2 Danny Miller

3 Clive Kimber

4 Chris Scott

5 Ken Brady

6 David Thackray

7 Terry Rawlins

8 Ray Deane

9 Brian Smith

10 Chris Glover

11 Roy King

12 Steve Broomfield

Match Notes

The opening game of the season remains the newly-named club's only win so far as Eastleigh battled out a one-one draw with Romsey Town.

Brian Smith returned to the starting line-up following injury, Boyd Hilton giving way and the other change was a start for Chris Scott in midfield in place of Dave Hadfield.

Eastleigh started well, creating a few chances in the early minutes without a threatening final consequence. It was Romsey who took a first half lead though when a visiting attacker got between Thackray and Harris and the Eastleigh keeper brought him down in the penalty area, **Bowers** converted the resultant spot-kick. There was one strange incident in this half when Terry Rawlins was clear of the home defensive line but to balance himself when running, the linesman appeared to raise his flag which prompted the referee to blow his whistle. The referee, subsequently realising what happened, had no option but to give drop ball.

Eastleigh levelled early in the second half when Roy King crossed low from the left and it evaded a defender's attempt to clear and ran on to **Smith** who controlled the ball well before striking a firm shot from around 12-yards. After that Chris Glover had two close range shots blocked and he subsequently fired over the bar. Eastleigh continued to press and from King's corner, Ken Brady headed firmly but inches over the bar.

Additional Information

The incident which stopped Rawlins running through was most unfortunate and, back in the day, a drop ball would be contested between a member of each side too. It was strange to get to the end of August and all the games played were in the Hampshire League. It is noted that Eastleigh didn't enter the FA Cup in this campaign as there was a new requirement to put into place a permanent fixed barrier and the pitch remained roped off meaning they were unable to take part.

Match: 6 (League 6; Cup 0)

Saturday 6th September 1980

At Birch Lawn, Sholing

Hampshire League - Division 1

Ref: Mr K R Bell (Southampton)

SHOLING SPORTS …… 0

EASTLEIGH ……. (0) 1

Smith 57.

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Chris Renny

2 Danny Miller

3 Clive Kimber

4 Chris Scott

5 Ken Brady

6 David Thackray

7 Ray Light

8 Terry Rawlins

9 Brian Smith

10 Boyd Hilton

11 Roy King

12 Pat Goatley

Match Notes

There were changes to the Eastleigh team as Malc Harris has decided to retire (but would play in some further games yet) and Chris Renny came in for his first team debut. Ray Deane had dual-signed with Athenian League Alton Town and decided to join former Eastleigh club men Steve Clarke and Andy Frith at Anstey Park. This brought Ray Light back to line up. Boyd Hilton also returned as Chris Glover was out with a knock.

It was only about six months ago when Brian Smith had worn Sholing colours and would be instrumental in knocking Swaything (Eastleigh's previous manifestation) out of the Russell-Cotes Cup and also in obtaining two league points for the Sports (scoring in both matches). Now he was in Eastleigh colours and was **Smith** who netted the all-important goal to bring his side two points. His goal came in the second half when Roy King played a smart ball through and he chased it, along with Sholing defender Kevin Roberts, with keeper Iain Watson advancing. He struck the ball into the net via the underside of the diving keeper and the ball trickled home. The scorer then gave a 'victory' sign to the home fans sitting in their quaint stand.

The rest was a fine defensive performance from Eastleigh as the home side got frustrated. Renny capped a decent bow by making a couple of alert saves. Smith had a late opportunity to add a second but the single goal proved to be enough.

Additional Information

The writer attended a game at Fleet on the previous Tuesday without realising that the match would be Deane's debut for the Alton Town club. He remained at Alton for a short time but they struggled on the field and he left following the manager's departure and was transferred to Hampshire League rivals AFC Totton. Deane's goalscoring record was an impressive one and he'd been a fine servant to the *[Swaything]* club.

Match: 7 (League 7; Cup 0)

Saturday 13th September 1980

Home @ Ten Acres (Visit #64)

Hampshire League - Division 1

Ref: Mr P M Scoble (Portsmouth)

EASTLEIGH …… 0

SOUTHAMPTON 'A' ….. (0) 1

Madden 54.

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Derek Jolly

2 Danny Miller

3 John Paine

4 Chris Scott

5 Ken Brady

6 David Thackray

7 Ray Light

8 Terry Rawlins

9 Brian Smith

10 Boyd Hilton

11 Roy King

12 Des Black

Match Notes

Two enforced team changes occurred since the last game. Derek Jolly came in between the Eastleigh sticks as Chris Renny was unwell. With Clive Kimber suffering from a knock John Paine replaced him at left-back. John was in his second spell with the club and had been playing in the right-back berth for the reserve team.

Games between these two teams often had a little bit of edge, possibly due to the Saints' home ground being just down Stoneham Lane at BTC as well as 'men' playing against 'young-uns'!

The only goal was scored by the Saints early in the second half when **David Madden** netted with a close range header following a right-wing cross.

This game was no exception and it came to boiling point in the 78th minute. When Rawlins was fouled by Saints full-back Chris Hodge the two players were involved in a scuffle. When matters simmered the coolest head at the game referee Paul Scoble sent both players from the field.

Saints keeper Sperring made a smart first half save to deny a Rawlins header. After the dismissals, Eastleigh had a potential way back when Agboola was adjudged to have handled in the box. Smith took the penalty which rebounded off the post. The ball came back to the taker and he instinctively dribbled it and fired home. It was of course disallowed due to the taker playing the ball twice.

Additional Information

Chris Hodge did great service at Farnborough Town (and, it is thought, Basingstoke Town as well). He later became a referee and the writer chatted with him about this incident having seen him in the middle in later years. Of the other Saints players named, both keeper Alistair Sperring and Reuben Agboola went on to play in the first team (whilst Madden did so elsewhere). The complete Saints team wasn't known but David Poole, Ian Juryeff and Russell Burtenshaw were in their line-up too.

Match: 8 (League 7; Cup 1)

Sunday 14th September 1980

Home @ Ten Acres (Visit #65)

SW Counties Sutton Vase-Rd.1

Ref: Mr P Barrett (Portsmouth)

EASTLEIGH …… (1) 1

Hilton 16

OLDLAND …….. (1) 2

1st and 64th mins (Branch and Grimshaw, order ??)

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Derek Jolly

2 Danny Miller

3 John Paine

4 Roy King

5 Ken Brady

6 David Thackray

7 David Harris

8 Chris Wheeler

9 Terry Rawlins

10 Boyd Hilton

11 Peter Kelly

(Sub: Ray Light 58)

Match Notes

Ah … an Eastleigh game played on a Sunday!! The second of a weekend Ten Acres extravaganza brought a match in the Sutton Transformers Vase, which was previously called the Pratten Cup. Eastleigh (as Swaythling) reached the Quarter-Final stage last season. However, when these games are arranged for a Sunday there were often selection issues. The Eastleigh players were not on contracts and many played for Sunday clubs and were committed to that team accordingly. This wasn't the weakest team put out by the club in this competition but it wasn't a 'standard' first eleven either.

Oldland, from Bristol and members of the Gloucestershire County League, took a lead on just 50 seconds through poor marking from a corner. Eastleigh levelled when Brady rose high a head a free kick across and **Hilton** headed his first goal for the senior team. Eastleigh did have the better of it for the rest of the first half but the score remained level.

The team lost its way a bit in the second half. Debutant Kelly was replaced by Light. Oldland edged back in front and Eastleigh struggled to get back into the game thereafter. This proved to be a rather disappointing exit from this competition but possibly prevented the need for further Sunday games and the problems this produced.

Additional Information

With no FA Cup entry in this season, this competition was quite likely looked at as a potential successful one for the club. An early exit occurred though and this proved to be the club's final entry into the competition which gave clubs an opportunity to meet others from different counties. The quarter-final stage proved to be the club's best showing. Oldland finished the season 14th in the Gloucs County League.

Match: 9 (League 8; Cup 1)

Tuesday 16th September 1980

Away @ Privett Park, Gosport

Hampshire League - Division 1

Referee: *Not recorded*

GOSPORT BOROUGH RES 0

EASTLEIGH …… (2) 2

Hilton 16; Smith 18

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Malcolm Harris

2 Danny Miller

3 Clive Kimber

4 Chris Scott

5 Ken Brady

6 David Thackray

7 David Harris

8 Boyd Hilton

(Sub: Chris Wheeler 79)

9 Brian Smith

10 Roy King

11 Terry Rawlins

Match Notes

There's nothing better than to put two weekend defeats behind you than to have another game a couple of days later and get back to winning ways. Eastleigh visited Gosport, whose reserve team were bottom of the table but had already collected a point from their trip to Ten Acres this season.

Kimber returned to the defence having shaken off a knock and Dave Harris, predominately a reserve team wide/ midfield player, kept his place following his performance on Sunday. Smith returned up top but by popular demand, back in goal was Malcolm Harris. Chris Glover was still injured so Hilton continued in attack. The formation shuffled a bit as King, a former Gosport player, went to right back to enable canny Scotsman Miller to move into a midfield role.

Eastleigh netted two quickfire first half goals. Rawlins' lofted pass put **Hilton** in to score the first goal. Within a couple of minutes it was 2-0 as **Smith** took a free kick on the edge of the penalty area, striking it hard and it deflected off the defensive wall and then was finished by a home defender. It looked suspiciously like an own goal but Eastleigh's former Gosport striker was confirmed to be the scorer. The intermittent rain became heavy and persistent in the second half and it was the defence who did a fine job to keep the lead intact. Hilton came off with a knock late in the game and the team completed a satisfactory win, their second successive away success.

Additional Information

This rather low-key start to the season showed some distinct improvement with this victory. Gosport had a first team game on the same evening, an FA Cup replay at Hastings. However, players recognised to be playing for the 'ressies' on the night included goalkeeper Bob Stow, defender Martin Winning and midfielders Mark Foster and Trevor Williams, all of whom had Southern League experience.

Match: 10 (League 9; Cup 1)

Saturday 20th September 1980

Away @ Testwood Park, Totton

Hampshire League - Division 1

Ref: Mr V T A Wilson (Portsmouth)

AFC TOTTON ……. (1) 2

Keenan 19; Barnes 72

EASTLEIGH ……. 0

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Malcolm Harris

2 Roy King

3 Clive Kimber

4 Danny Miller

5 Ken Brady

6 David Thackray

7 Chris Scott

(Sub: Terry Rawlins 63)

8 Boyd Hilton

9 Brian Smith

10 Chris Glover

11 David Harris

Match Notes

Very little was written about this game, in fact just one word 'disappointing'.

It was a rather gloomy grey afternoon at Testwood Park. Eastleigh's team showed one change and that was Glover's return with Rawlins taking the substitute's berth. The shirt numbers worn were more conventional than the Gosport game - King continuing at right-back with Miller in midfield and Dave Harris operating on the left flank.

The team failed to build on an impressive midweek result as Totton, back in Division 1 following a six-year absence and a restructure, had made a decent return to the top flight.

Totton won the game fairly comfortably with a goal in each half by **John Keenan** and **Derek Barnes**. There was no description given of the opponent's goals, as mentioned, it was just that single word.

On the day the team struggled to create any chances and did a reasonable containing job on a home team that very much looked as they they were going to stay at this level.

Following this game the Eastleigh league record read as follows: Played: 9; Won 3; Drawn 2; Lost 4; Goals for 7; Goals against 9. Points 8 (out of a possible 18 and 44 per cent of the points available).

Additional Information

The club took the difficult decision to part company with manager Sam Stevens following this match. Sam had taken over as manager of the Swaythling Athletic club in May 1968 and provided the stability needed to make it a consistent top flight team.

This was utility player Terry Rawlins' last game for Eastleigh for a while as he decided to move on to Brockenhurst but he would return to Ten Acres in future.

Match: 11 (League 9; Cup 2)

Saturday 27th September 1980

Away@Church Road, Chichester

FA Vase - Preliminary Round

Referee: Mr N Leslie (Worthing)

PORTFIELD …….. (1) 2

Unknown scorers - goal times were 29 and 70.

EASTLEIGH …….. (3) 5

Smith 19, 27; Glover 21; Hilton 63; Hadfield 89.

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Malcolm Harris

2 Roy King

3 Clive Kimber

4 Ken Brady

5 David Hadfield

6 David Thackray

7 Danny Miller

8 Boyd Hilton

9 Brian Smith

10 Chris Glover

11 David Harris

12 Chris Wheeler

Match Notes

Don Broomfield took over the role as caretaker / manager and the former Pirelli General boss was assisted by Peter Rule. The new manager didn't opt for wholesale changes following the dismal showing last time out, the only one being Chris Scott who'd reportedly declined to be substitute for this trip to West Sussex and had effectively left the club. Hadfield was back in the starting line-up.

This was a fine performance by Eastleigh, what a difference a week made! The Sussex League side failed to hold the visitors front three of Hilton, Smith and Glover and when the latter battled his way through it was **Smith** who finished. Within a couple of further minutes **Glover** latched onto Miller's through pass and lobbed the home keeper. Hilton then did some fine work to create a further opportunity for **Smith** to fire home high into goal from the edge of the area. Eastleigh were now 3-0 ahead with just 27 minutes played. But Portfield reminded the visitors that the lead might not be as comfortable as it appeared as they had a tap in to reduce the arrears a couple of minutes later.

There was a spell with no goals either side of half-time but Eastleigh seldom looked in trouble. **Hilton** made it 4-1, receiving Dave Harris' cross he turned and struck a shot into the corner in a split second. Portfield netted with a header from a corner and Hilton was unlucky with an effort that hit the bar. **Hadfield** completed the scoring, shooting home with a minute remaining and Eastleigh through.

Additional Information

This was an excellent start for the caretaker boss as Eastleigh romped to victory. This was the second time Eastleigh had played Portfield, they had previously met in the same competition in October 1975 when Swaythling (as known) won 4-0. There were to be three further meetings between the clubs before Portfield merged with Chichester City to form Chichester City United FC (now the present day Chichester City club).

Match: 12 (League 10; Cup 2)

Saturday 4th October 1980

Away @ Cams Alders, Fareham

Hampshire League - Division 1

Referee: *Not recorded*

FAREHAM TOWN RES 0

EASTLEIGH …….. (0) 1

Smith 51

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Malcolm Harris

2 Chris Wheeler

3 Clive Kimber

4 Ken Brady

5 David Hadfield

(Sub: Pat Goatley 76)

6 David Thackray

7 Danny Miller

8 David Harris

9 Brian Smith

10 Chris Glover

11 Roy King

Match Notes

The writer's notes were becoming extremely brief at this point, perhaps there were other things to do? Perhaps the season was becoming rather bland for Eastleigh who were still in a transition stage in awaiting to appoint a new manager? Or perhaps there was a bit of both. It's hard to recall all these years on.

The notes that were made gave a description of **Smith**'s goal, also brief, a shot under Bailey and a also "a good result + deserved". And that was that.

The team showed just a single change from the FA Vase win, Boyd Hilton was missing and Wheeler was brought in. The few notes written didn't state anything of the team's formation but it was likely that Wheeler would have played in midfield and possibly King was at right-back.

The goal was Smith's seventh of the season and his fifth in the league (the team had only notched eight Hampshire League goals at that point, so it was a decent and most welcome return).

A brief note of the substitute Goatley who had only made one full appearance for the reserves at this point in time, that being on the opening day of the season. It seemed that the two best teams were selected for a Saturday match and the single substitute chosen from the players left. This often meant the sub for the first team would not be a regular choice in either side as was the case here.

Additional Information

It was played 2, won 2 for caretaker manager Don Broomfield. Fareham Town's first team were in the Southern League at that time (which back then was the accepted league to progress into from the Hampshire League). Steve Bailey was the keeper mentioned for Town, who'd played for a fair number of local teams. Pat Goatley did well in the time played from the bench and he made a further first team substitute appearance later - which also turned out to be a 1-0 Eastleigh away victory.

Match: 13 (League 11; Cup 2)

Wednesday 8th October 1980

Away @ Five Heads Park

Hampshire League - Division 1

Referee: *Not recorded*

HORNDEAN …… (1) 2

Evans 36; *unknown scorer* 75

EASTLEIGH …… (1) 2

Hilton 45, 77

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Malcolm Harris

2 Chris Wheeler

3 Clive Kimber

4 David Harris

5 Ken Brady

6 David Thackray

7 Danny Miller

8 Boyd Hilton

9 Brian Smith

10 Martin White

11 Roy King

12 David Bunker

Match Notes

This was Horndean's first ever competitive game under their new floodlights. Clearly by making such an investment last season's Hampshire League Division 2 champions had every intention of remaining at the county's top level. The Eastleigh team showed two changes as Hilton returned and White was selected from the reserves, replacing the injured Dave Hadfield and Chris Glover.

This was the writer's very first visit to Five Heads Park and the pitch had a wicked slope and no covered accommodation at that time. In addition to the slope the pitch was also quite bumpy.

Horndean took the lead with a well-taken shot from the edge of the box but **Hilton** levelled the scores with a low shot off the inside of the post on the stroke of half-time.

The home side retook the lead when a cross was missed by an Eastliegh defender in the middle leaving a simple finish. But the visitors swiftly stored back, **Hilton** again on the mark, a delightful shot on the turn from wide in the box into the opposite corner.

Eastleigh, still in the search for a new manager, had now won two and drawn one of their matches played under Don Broomfield's temporary management. Don was ably assisted by Peter Rule at that time.

Additional Information

For a non-driver back in the day, the writer wondered how the journey to Horndean was made for a midweek fixture (and presumably got home by the same way!). This was Martin White's only first team game of the season. A club stalwart which continued after finishing playing. Martin was a regular in the reserve team, usually in a defensive role. Sub Dave Bunker briefly appeared in 'Swaythling's' final game last season and got some further first team outings later in this campaign.

Match: 14 (League 12; Cup 2)

Saturday 11th October 1980

Away @ Victoria Park

Hampshire League - Division 1

Referee: *Not recorded*

BOURNEMOUTH .....(1) 2

Unknown scorers (goal times 2 and 86)

EASTLEIGH ..... (1) 1

Hilton 5

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Malcolm Harris

2 Chris Wheeler

3 Clive Kimber

4 Ken Brady

5 David Hadfield

6 David Thackray

7 Danny Miller

(Sub: Ray Light 80)

8 Boyd Hilton

9 Brian Smith

10 David Harris

11 Roy King

Match Notes

Neither side deserved any points from this game, let alone Bournemouth taking them both.

There was a sensational start as a glancing header put the Poppies ahead, from a left-wing cross. The Eastleigh reply was instant as **Hilton** chested the ball down and fired home on the turn to make it 1-1 after only five minutes. Bournemouth almost went back in front on 29 minutes when a shot bounced down off the bar and was cleared.

The game remained level and Ray Light was introduced from the bench for the final ten minutes as Eastleigh looked to increase their forward power. Harris made a brilliant diving save from a free kick, he kept hold of it in doing so too. The Poppies got another free kick in a dangerous area and with only one defender between the taker and goal, they netted what proved to be the winning goal.

It was a very frustrating afternoon for the visitors perhaps summed up by Smith kicking the ball out of the ground following the final whistle which brought a ticking off from the referee.

Despite a couple of recent wins the team was still struggling to realise its full potential. A single point from the last two games has put the club a fair bit behind it they are to be championship contenders.

Additional Information

The club committee were in the midst of sorting out the applications for the post of club first team manager with the final tally being twelve. There may need to be a shortlist following the initial interview process.

Boyd Hilton's goal was his fifth of the season and he has made an excellent transition into county football following his move from Southampton League club West End.

Match: 15 (League 13; Cup 2)

Wednesday 15th October 1980

Home @ Ten Acres (visit #66)

Hampshire League - Division 1

Ref: Mr P E New(Bournemouth)

EASTLEIGH 0

WATERLOOVILLE RES (1) 3

Unknown scorers (goal times 21, 51 and 57)

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Malcolm Harris

2 Chris Wheeler

3 Clive Kimber

4 Ken Brady

5 David Hadfield

(Sub: David Harris 69)

6 David Thackray

7 Danny Miller

8 Boyd Hilton

9 Brian Smith

10 Chris Glover

11 Roy King

Match Notes

This was the first home game since 14th September. It was a disappointing evening for Eastleigh, the game being played in pouring rain throughout.

Eastleigh started well with a strong performance in the first twenty minutes but they failed to find the target. The closest in the first half was Thackray shooting wide from within the six-yard box.

All the Waterlooville goals were close range efforts (two of them from set pieces) with their second and third being netted by the same player. They are a good side and were extremely threatening as an attacking force.

Hilton had Eastleigh's best chance in the second half but his shot was well pushed away by the 'Ville goalkeeper Damerell, who performed well for his side.

Just the one point from three games now, but it must be taken into account that the club was still without a permanent manager. Whilst it was good to get back to playing at home again the team had still not picked up a victory at Ten Acres since the opening day of the season.

Additional Information

This was Dave Hadfield's final game for the first team, although he was named on the bench for the next game but didn't appear. The writer had a chance to chat with him in later years and he confirmed he'd moved on to play for A.C. Delco, a team that played further up Stoneham Lane. He was at Ten Acres for a number of years (his brother Peter briefly played for Eastleigh later) and did good service at Colden Common (having already been part of their successful Sunday team at the time).

Match: 16 (League 14; Cup 2)

Saturday 18th October 1980

Away @ Netley Recreation Ground

Hampshire League - Division 1

Referee: *Not recorded*

NETLEY CENTRAL SPORTS (0) 1

Janes 77

EASTLEIGH ……. (0) 1

Smith 67

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Malcolm Harris

2 Roy King

3 Clive Kimber

4 Chris Wheeler

5 Ken Brady

6 John Paine

7 David Harris

8 Chris Glover

9 Brian Smith

10 Boyd Hilton

11 David Thackray

12 David Hadfield

Match Notes

The return game from the opening day of the season brought a trip to Netley Recreation Ground. John Paine was recalled to the starting XI, his first outing for the first team since featuring in the double match weekend in mid-September, replacing the injured Danny Miller.

The shirt numbers were not in'traditional mode' but Wheeler would have continued at right-back and Dave Thackray was in his usual position at centre-back. Dave Harris, Paine and Chris Glover were in the middle of the park, the latter linking with Brian Smith and Boyd Hilton up top.

It was 0-0 at half-time but the highlight of the half was Clive Kimber's brilliant diving header from the goal line to prevent Netley taking the lead.

Eastleigh took the lead midway through the second half, **Smith** scoring with a shot from 12-yards. Netley levelled after Harvey, the best player on the pitch, headed the ball against the bar and **Phil Janes** applied the finish.

Additional Information

There was plenty of effort put in by the players and management at this time and no one would doubt the commitment shown by any of them. However, even though it was only mid-October (and still fairly early in the season) Eastleigh FC's first ever campaign with this moniker was already drifting into nothing more than a mid-table side. Meanwhile, the committee continued their search for the new manager.

Match: 17 (League 15; Cup 2)

Wednesday 22nd October 1980

Home @ Ten Acres (visit #67)

Hampshire League - Division 1

Ref: Mr A Lee (Southampton)

EASTLEIGH ……. (0) 3

Smith 61, 72 (pen); Glover 74

PIRELLI GENERAL ……. 0

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Malcolm Harris

2 Chris Wheeler

3 Clive Kimber

4 John Paine

5 Ken Brady

6 David Thackray

7 Chris Glover

8 Peter Kelly

9 Brian Smith

10 Boyd Hilton

11 Roy King

12 David Harris

Match Notes

The Eastleigh team showed one change from last time out with Pete Kelly being handed his league debut as Dave Harris dropped to the bench. It was still fairly early in the season but this was an opportunity for Eastleigh to avenge an August defeat against their local rivals at Chestnut Avenue.

The first half finished 0-0 but Glover, formerly with the Cablemen, came close with a downward header which bounced up and was nodded away by a visiting defender. Pirelli had a couple of chances of their own in an entertaining half.

The game progressed into the last half-hour when Glover's pass was chased by **Smith** and the top scorer showed fine pace to take the ball on, beat a defender in typical Smith style before hammering a shot into the net. Pirelli's keeper Pete Broom then brought down Glover as he took the ball past him and a certain goal and a penalty was awarded. **Smith** took it and duly scored. It was the Eastleigh striker's tenth goal of the campaign. A couple of minutes later it was 3-0 as Thackray (another ex-Pirelli man) crossed and **Glover** controlled it and, from an acute angle, fired low into the net.

So, it was back to winning ways for Eastleigh following four games without doing so. It would have also been satisfactory for caretaker/ manager Don Broomfield who was a former Pirelli goalkeeper and manager.

Additional Information

It was a fine show by Eastleigh on the night. Visiting teams were not recorded back then (no team sheets needed to be completed) and unfortunately Pirelli didn't send a team list for the programme. It would have been interesting to see how many Pirelli players had later (or previously) appeared for Eastleigh. The one Pirelli player mentioned in the notes was their keeper Peter Broom who later joined Eastleigh. It's worth pointing out that his foul wasn't deemed to be a sending off offence back then.

HAMPSHIRE LEAGUE TABLE

Division One

Up to and including 25th October 1980

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Agst	Points
1	Newport **(1)**	15	13	1	1	48	7	27
2	AFC Totton **(2)**	17	8	5	4	28	16	21
3	Waterlooville Res **(13)**	17	8	4	5	23	20	20
4	Southampton 'A' **(4)**	14	7	5	2	27	18	19
5	Romsey Town **(8)**	16	6	6	4	24	19	18
6	Pirelli General **(14)**	16	8	2	6	24	20	18
7	Sholing Sports **(3)**	14	7	3	4	19	10	17
8	Brockenhurst **(7)**	16	7	3	6	23	19	17
9	B.A.T. **(19)**	16	4	7	5	19	21	15
10	Downton **(12)**	15	5	5	5	21	30	15
11	East Cowes Victoria Athletic **(16)**	14	6	2	6	25	22	14
12	**Eastleigh (5)**	**15**	**5**	**4**	**6**	**15**	**17**	**14**
13	Moneyfield Sports **(15)**	17	5	4	8	22	30	14
14	Horndean **(6)**	14	4	5	5	20	28	14
15	Bournemouth **(20)**	17	4	5	8	20	32	13
16	Fareham Town Res **(10)**	16	4	4	8	21	22	12
17	Gosport Borough Res **(11)**	18	3	6	9	16	29	12
18	Netley Central Sports **(18)**	15	3	5	7	14	23	11
19	Brading Town **(17)**	13	3	4	6	11	23	10
20	Havant Town **(9)**	15	3	4	8	16	30	10

Comments

The above was a 'point in time' Hampshire League Division 1 table as it appeared in Romsey Town's programme for the game against Eastleigh on 1st November 1980.

There is one addition and that's the finishing positions of the teams at the end of the season are shown in brackets next to each team (which obviously wasn't known at that time). Apologies to the reader if this is some sort of 'spoiler'!

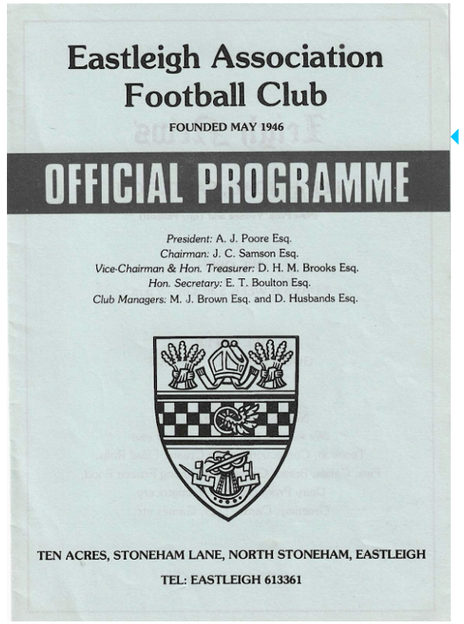
The biggest change was Havant Town who were rock bottom but raised up to a comfortable mid-table place. Eastleigh were just going to appoint a new management team so it is perhaps an apt time to measure progress made as the team, sitting just in the lower half, progressed to fifth by the end of the campaign.

Overall though it's hard to make a full assessment of the table due to a different number of matches played by the teams, varying between 13 and 18.

What is interesting is goal scoring. Newport were already looking to be the stand out side and were registering 3.2 goals per game, but no other team in the division managed two per match at that time. Eastleigh had scored just one goal per game (15) which was lower than bottom-placed Havant Town. On the flip side, the goals conceded by Eastleigh (17) was bettered by only Newport, AFC Totton and Sholing Sports who happened to finish the season in the top three places.

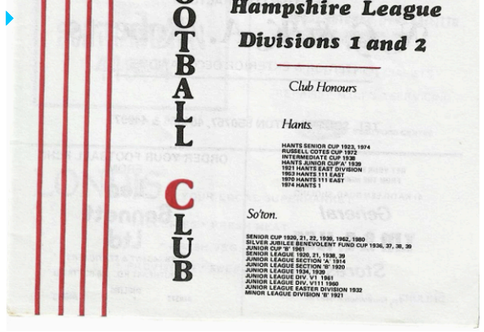
Three teams going reasonably well were due to have dramatic falls - namely Waterlooville Reserves, Pirelli General and B.A.T., whilst promoted Horndean, like Eastleigh, were going to progress pretty well from here until the end of the season.

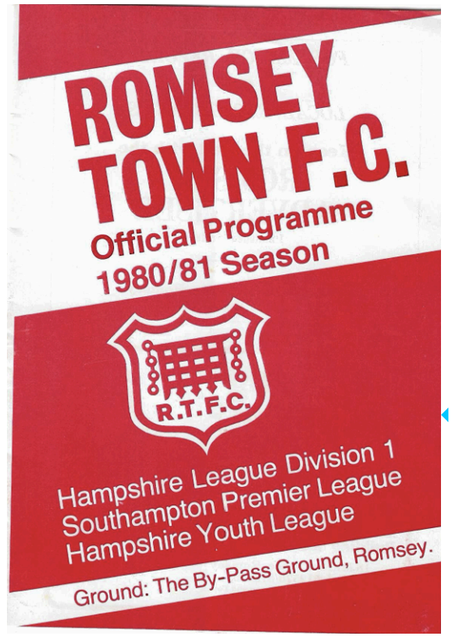
PROGRAMME PANOPLY - EASTLEIGH MATCHES



First , our own offering, which was a folded four page shell with advertising. There was a loose centre page with an editorial on the left and team line ups and forthcoming fixtures on the right. The other sides of these pages were blank, partly due to the copying at the time. It was copied on a circular platen with a chemical placed in a well beneath. A handle was turned to print the page. The print came out in a purple colour and would have made the other side of the page difficult to read had anything been attempted. Well, the club had made progress after not issuing very often over the previous years. The editorial was written by the writer of this article (the first few were dictated by Derik Brooks but the writer was soon permitted to write it autonomously thereafter, with the occasional club announcement inserted, such as the appointment of new managers - topical at that time!).

The Sholing Sports' effort was reviewed in the previous season and it remained a standard issue over a number of years, including that note at the end which was only understood from within (brilliant stuff).





Romsey Town's issue had a striking front cover and had a four page shell with advertising. There were two pages inserted for the game the middle two had the team line ups, a little about the visitors and 'managers notes'. It also included information about the club's Christmas Draw and an announcement that a Hampshire County match was to be hosted at the By-Pass Ground shortly. The two pages also had forthcoming fixtures. The second inserted folded A4 page only had the league table and the other three were blank (making five blanks in all). It was better than Eastleigh's at that time due to the cover and print quality. However, programme issuing back then was not compulsory and credit to any club that produced one.

Match: 18 (League 15; Cup 3)

Saturday 25th October 1980

Home @ Ten Acres (visit #68)

FA Vase - First Round

Ref: Mr D A Daughtery (Shoreham)

EASTLEIGH …….. 0

FIRST TOWER UNITED (2) 4

Dewhurst 9; Pitman 28, 90; Hughes 86

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Malcolm Harris

2 Chris Wheeler

3 Clive Kimber

4 John Paine

5 Ken Brady

6 David Thackray

7 Chris Glover

8 Roy King

9 Brian Smith

10 Boyd Hilton

11 Peter Kelly

(Sub: David Harris 60)

Match Notes

This FA Vase match had an earlier start of 2.30pm, presumably to facilitate the Jersey opponents travel plans. The Eastleigh team was unchanged following the midweek win over Pirelli. This was Eastleigh's first ever meeting with First Tower but they were no strangers to playing other Hampshire League teams, including reaching the quarter-final stage of the Hampshire Senior Cup in the previous season.

This was a low-key Eastleigh performance but there was a key decision made. Eastleigh were two goals down with twelve minutes left. Clive Kimber overlapped down the left and played it to Boyd Hilton who flicked it up and it was clearly handled by a United defender but neither the referee nor linesman confirmed it. To everyone's surprise play went on and Brian Smith said too much and was sent off.

Rewind and a bad back pass enabled **Dewhurst** to clip the ball past Malcolm Harris early on. The second goal came from the unmarked **Pitman** following a corner. Eastleigh's best in the first half was a brilliant 60-yard run by Smith which was well saved by Breuilly. First Tower went down to ten men too in the second half (injuries) and scored twice late on through **Hughes** (a fine break away effort) and **Pitman** (nodding a Crick cross home).

Additional Information

First Tower fully deserved to win the game but the overall score was a shade flattering. They were an exceptional side who caused Eastleigh so many problems in attack and were lethal finishers. Smith's dismissal proved to be the only the second for Eastleigh in the entire season. That stated, perhaps there is a bit more 'keenness' to dismiss players in later years than there was back in those days. The FA Vase run ceases for this season, perhaps not so much a 'run' only a mere 'jog'!

Match: 19 (League 16; Cup 3)

Saturday 1st November 1980

Away @ By-Pass Ground

Hampshire League - Division 1

Referee: Mr B Godden

ROMSEY TOWN …….. 0

EASTLEIGH …….. (0) 1

Broomfield 36

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Chris Renny

2 Danny Miller

3 Clive Kimber

4 Roy King

5 Ken Brady

6 David Thackray

7 Chris Glover

8 Bill Ragan

9 Steve Broomfield

10 Ray Light

(Sub: Pat Goatley 62)

11 Peter Kelly

Match Notes

The team showed five changes to the FA Vase defeat last time out. Renny came into goal for his second game of the season in place of Malcolm Harris. Dave Harris, Chris Wheeler and John Paine were back in the reserve team. Danny Miller had missed the last three games and returned. Bill Ragan (midfield) made his first appearance for the first XI of the season. The two front men changed too as Brian Smith (unavailable) and Boyd Hilton (injured) were out and replaced by Steve Broomfield (also his first game of the season) and Ray Light.

Eastleigh performed well in the first half but despite dominating the match a goal didn't materialise until the 36th minute. It was a beauty too, netted by **Broomfield**. With his back to goal and about 25-yards out, he turned and cracked the ball with his left foot high past the keeper and it dipped in. Despite being well on top, that fine goal proved to be the only one going into the break.

Play was more even in the second half but the team played well to retain the clean sheet and complete the victory. The win lifted the team into a safer mid-table position.

The match was watched by Jenner Brown, a former club player currently with Southern League side Andover, which heightened speculation that an announcement regarding the managerial position was due very soon.

Additional Information

This was Bill Ragan's last appearance for the first team. He continued in the reserves, which included one of his final appearances in a cup final at The Dell. His club career numbered 438 appearances, which was only 21 short of the record as it stood at that time (held by D (Johnny) Williams). It was also Goatley's last first team game (2 sub games). Renny had yet to concede a goal in his two games in goal. Jenner Brown and Dave Husbands appointed as joint-managers in next midweek.

Match: 20 (League 16; Cup 4)

Wednesday 5th November 1980

Home @ Ten Acres (visit #69)

Russell-Cotes Cup- First Round

Ref: Mr Ron Dix (Portsmouth)

EASTLEIGH ..... (0) 2

Hilton 48; Smith 81

ROMSEY TOWN ..... (0) 1

Unknown scorer 53

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Chris Renny

2 Danny Miller

3 Clive Kimber

4 Roy King

5 Ken Brady

6 David Thackray

7 Chris Glover

8 Steve Broomfield

(Sub: Keith Cooper 83)

9 Boyd Hilton

10 Brian Smith

11 Peter Kelly

Match Notes

The first choice front players Brian Smith and Boyd Hilton returned to the team and both responded with a goal as Eastleigh made cup progress. Bill Ragan and Ray Light made way and Steve Broomfield retained his place in a more deeper role. The team won at Romsey on Saturday and they kept what appeared to be the same line up.

This was a first game for new joint managers Jenner Brown and Dave Husbands, neither of whom would be a senior partner, although Brown would be the management link to the committee.

After a scoreless first half the game soon had a goal in the second half. **Hilton** scored it with a low 20-yard shot but Town soon got back on terms with a header with Renny remaining on his line.

It wasn't quite as easy as on Saturday as Romsey put up a much better performance and as extra time was looking a possibility, it was Eastleigh that went in front. It was a cracker too as **Smith** ran from half-way and struck from 20-yards to net a fine individual goal and in typical Smith style.

Just after that goal, which turned out to be the winner, Broomfield was replaced by the writer's 'old favourite' defender Keith Cooper who helped to ensure there was no Romsey response to an Eastleigh goal this time. A good start for the watching bosses.

Additional Information

The writer recalls this to be an exciting time for the club. Not only has it got two new managers it has also gained two quality players which, with no disrespect to those that had played during this period, the team had lacked. Both manager's could play in midfield, Husbands also in defence with Brown up top. Special permission was sought to allow both to be transferred from Andover. Credit to caretaker manager Don Broomfield (and Peter Rule) for holding the fort … Don would do it again later!

Match: 21 (League 17; Cup 4)

Saturday 8th November 1980

Home @ Ten Acres (visit #70)

Hampshire League - Division 1

Ref: Mr E T Fogden (Basingstoke)

EASTLEIGH ..... (0) 2

Broomfield 53; Hilton 78

DOWNTON ..... (1) 1

Plank 10

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Chris Renny

2 Danny Miller

3 Clive Kimber

4 Roy King

5 Ken Brady

6 David Thackray

7 Chris Glover

8 Steve Broomfield

9 Boyd Hilton

10 Brian Smith

11 Peter Kelly

12 Bill Ragan

Match Notes

New managers Jenner Brown and Dave Husbands kept the same team that won in their first game and ended up with the same outcome - a 2-1 win, this time over Downton who had taken an early lead.

In fact Downton, buoyed by that early **Terry Plank** goal more than matched Eastleigh in the first half and took this advantage into the break.

The second half recovery commenced early on with a 20-yard effort by **Steve Broomfield** which caught a deflection past the keeper. Eastleigh were battling well against a determined team. The winner came from **Boyd Hilton** in the 78th minute, ironically another deflected effort as his shot went past the advancing keeper and was helped in by a defender in trying to clear.

It was a tough one, but another win.

Additional Information

As mentioned in this section previously the two new managers were awaiting permission for their playing transfers to be agreed as it was unusual for a team to approach two players to transfer but their previous club Andover had no objections; it just took time. There was no game on the 15th as Eastleigh were hosting a county game against Cornwall. That match was played on the second pitch, which was of course full size back then and before the motorway slip road cut it down in size

Match: 22 (League 18; Cup 4)

Saturday 22nd November 1980

Away @ Beatrice Avenue

Hampshire League - Division 1

Ref: *Not recorded*

EAST COWES VICS …. 0

EASTLEIGH …..…….. (1) 1

Smith 63

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Malcolm Harris

2 Danny Miller

3 Clive Kimber

4 Roy King

5 Ken Brady

6 David Thackray

7 Chris Glover

8 Jenner Brown

9 Boyd Hilton

10 Brian Smith

11 David Husbands

12 Keith Cooper

Match Notes

There were team changes for this game as the two managers came into the starting line up as Steve Broomfield and Pete Kelly stepped down. Malcolm Harris was back in the net. It was Dave Husbands' Eastleigh debut, his co-manager Jenner Brown had appeared in (Swaythling) club colours in the past.

It was Eastleigh's first trip to the Isle of Wght of the season and the weather was very wet at East Cowes.

Smith had missed a decent chance a little earlier but he more than made up for it in the 63rd minute. Harris drop-kicked the length of the field, Hilton just kept it in play and crossed to **Smith** to shoot home.

Both goalkeepers played well and that proved to be the only goal as Eastleigh notched their fourth win in a row. The two points obtained from this trip to the Isle of Wight amounts to a better show than all the trips there in the previous season - all were defeats!

The defence of Miller, Kimber, Brady and Thackray all kept things pretty tight.

For the writer it was the first league win on the Isle of Wight, but nothing would eclipse that wonderful Floodlight Cup win at Newport on the first trip over the Solent to watch a football match in May 1979. Other such trips had been disappointing up to this day. A losing journey feels like a very long one.

Additional Information

The new managers had moved quickly to sign goalkeeper Paul Brown and midfielder Ray Sheehan. This proved to be Malcolm Harris' last game for the first team and he went out with a great performance and a clean sheet. When top club keepers are discussed then Malcolm Harris has got to be amongst the best - Gordon Moody, Steve Chalk, Ian Leigh, Colin Matthews for example - Malc's in that company.

Match: 23 (League 19; Cup 4)

Saturday 29th November 1980

Home @ Ten Acres (visit #73)

Hampshire League - Division 1

Ref: Mr S J Miller (Bournemouth)

EASTLEIGH ……. (1) 1

Hilton 40

HAVANT TOWN …….. (1) 1

Pope 36

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 Danny Miller

3 Clive Kimber

4 Roy King

5 Ken Brady

6 David Thackray

7 Chris Glover

8 Jenner Brown

9 Boyd Hilton

10 Brian Smith

11 David Husbands

12 John Paine

Match Notes

The outfield players remained unchanged following the win on the Island a week ago. There was a new goalkeeper, one of the managers' first signings. Paul Brown, a tall keeper, had previously played for Sholing Sports and Basingstoke Town. The other new signing was midfield player Ray Sheehan who would be eligible for selection in the next fixture.

Havant had the benefit of the league extending its numbers last summer, having finished fourth in Division 2. A month ago they were at the very bottom of the table but had climbed the ladder a bit and showed in this game that they had the work ethic to secure a deserved point.

Town took the lead when a short free kick went to **Simon Pope** whose shot saw P Brown get a hand to but couldn't prevent it continuing into goal. Eastleigh soon levelled when Smith's shot came off the bar with J Brown reacting the quickest to head the ball into the direction of **Hilton** to fire home (apparently against one of his former clubs).

King's 30-yard drive came back off the crossbar but this time there would be no follow up.

Havant were very sharp on the break but Miller gave a good display at right-back giving Dawson Smith, Havant's dangerous winger, limited opportunities to create for his side.

Additional Information

The club announced that Chris Glover (24) has been named club captain. Chris (nicknamed 'Grumps') had one of the most remarkable stories in local football. About a year ago he decided to retire from the game having broken his leg for the FIFTH time. But he made a full recovery and returned to the game. He had been at the club for about five years having signed from neighbours Pirelli General.

Match: 24 (League 19, Cup 5)

Saturday 6th December 1980

Home @ Ten Acres (visit #74)

Hampshire Senior Cup - 1st Round

Ref: Mr R S M Wilcox (Bournemouth)

EASTLEIGH ..... (2) 3

Hilton 30; Glover 45; Broomfield 88.

HORNDEAN 0

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 Danny Miller

3 Clive Kimber

4 Roy King

5 Ken Brady

6 David Thackray

7 Chris Glover

8 Jenner Brown

9 Boyd Hilton

10 David Harris

11 Steve Broomfield

12 Mel Davolls

Match Notes

Two Hampshire League Division 1 clubs met in the Hampshire Senior Cup, a competition which Swaythling (the former club name) had progressed to the semi-final in the past but never beyond. There was a pre-match issue as Brian Smith was ruled illegible and left the ground. Dave Harris was brought in for Dave Husbands who was ill and Steve Broomfield was also in the starting XI.

Two Roy King crosses set up early opportunities for Eastleigh but Broomfield and Boyd Hilton didn't capitalise. A bit later, King showed some excellent close control to create a chance of his own but the Deans keeper saved his effort. This was the start of what was a surprisingly straight forward victory for the Eastleigh team but they had to wait until the 30th minute to get the opening goal that commenced their path into the next round.

Hilton had a 'goal' chalked off but within a minute he put the side in front, taking a neat pass from Glover and fired home. The second goal, right on the interval, was a well worked one with Clive Kimber's cross finding Broomfield who hooked the ball back into the goalmouth where **Glover** fired firmly into the back of the net.

The second half was a slow burner with Horndean showing more effort but without troubling the defence. **Broomfield** netted when he received Hilton's cross with the keeper out and his shot went in via the hands of both defenders on the line.

Additional Information

Top scorer Smith (12 goals in 19 games) had played his last game for Eastleigh. Sub Mel Davolls was a former player who was on the club committee and had signed on and was on the bench. The reserves met Rising Sun, a Winchester pub side in the Hampshire Intermediate Cup and lost 2-1 after extra time. However, insufficient extra time was played and there was a midweek replay due at Ten Acres. Rain put that off but Eastleigh fielded an ineligible player in the original game and were removed!!

Match: 25 (League 20; Cup 5)

Saturday 13th December 1980

Away @ Church Litten

Hampshire League - Division 1

Ref: Mr T Lindon (Southampton)

NEWPORT (IW) ..... (0) 2

D Young 75; Phillips 89

EASTLEIGH 0

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 Danny Miller

3 Clive Kimber

4 Roy King

5 Ken Brady

6 David Thackray

7 Chris Glover

8 Jenner Brown

9 David Husbands

10 Ray Sheehan

11 Steve Broomfield

12 David Bunker

Match Notes

The Eastleigh team showed two changes to last time out. Dave Husbands returned to the team and new signing midfielder Ray Sheehan made his club debut. Both Dave Harris and Boyd Hilton didn't make the trip to the Island. Runaway league leaders Newport suffered a 4-2 midweek defeat at AFC Totton and would be looking to bounce back.

Eastleigh were under the cosh during the first half and they had to thank goalkeeper Paul Brown for keeping Newport out with some first class saves. One save was top drawer, finger tipping the ball round the post as the home crowd were starting to celebrate a goal.

The visitors fought back in the second half with Jenner Brown pushing himself up front to change the formation to 4-2-4 and Eastleigh did very well, forcing the reigning Hampshire League champions to defend steadfastly.

The deadlock was broken in the 75th minute and it was Newport that scored, a good move that ended with **Dale Young** applying the finish. A mix-up between P Brown and Thackray in the final minute resulted in **Lennie Phillips** to score one of his numerous goals for Newport and a tense match finished 2-0 in the Islanders favour.

The team was disappointed heading home which in some ways showed some good progress in the short time under the new managers.

Additional Information

This was a very successful time for Newport FC, winning practically every county honour over recent years. However, Eastleigh / Swaythling had always given them a competitive match during that period (with the possible exception of the early season game at Ten Acres against them which was a backs to the wall type of showing). The four new signings recently added (which includes the managers) had made a positive improvement on the team as a whole and fresh optimism going forward.

Match: 26 (League 21; Cup 5)

Saturday 27th December 1980

Home @ Ten Acres (visit #76)

Hampshire League - Division 1

Ref: Mr GHJ Fowler (Isle of Wight)

EASTLEIGH …… 0

MONEYFIELD SPORTS (1) 1

Arnold 33

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 Danny Miller

3 Clive Kimber

4 Roy King

5 Ken Brady

6 David Thackray

7 Jenner Brown

8 Chris Glover

9 Boyd Hilton

10 Ray Sheehan

11 David Husbands

12 Tom Kerins

Match Notes

Eastleigh had risen to ninth in the table and would have been expected to record two points against Portsmouth-based team Moneyfield Sports, who were 16th, at Ten Acres. The team showed just one change from the Newport defeat, Hilton coming back into the line-up in place of Steve Broomfield.

The first half was a disappointing one for the sky blues as there was little invention and it was the visitors that nosed in front with a well taken diving header by **Terry Arnold** from Steve Moore's cross, a lead they took into the break.

It got better for the home side after the break but Moneyfields were holding onto their slim advantage and defended well and in considerable numbers to frustrate Eastleigh.

Overall, it was a poor show by the team who failed to replicate going toe-to-toe with the table toppers in the previous week and instead suffered a rather inglorious defeat. In many regards this summed up Eastleigh in this period, not being able to win games against teams they needed to if they were to mount a promotion challenge. Admittedly that challenge had already gone prior to the managers' arrival for this season.

At the final whistle the Moneyfield bench celebrated wildly and someone in earshot said: "Have you won the cup or something?" to which the reply was "Go away" - or unprintable words to that effect!

Additional Information

The match at home to Bournemouth on the previous Saturday (20th) was postponed and this helped the reserve team to gain a 3-1 extra time win at Sholing Sports Res in the Southampton Senior Cup. The reserves had a match on Boxing Day morning and won only their second Hants Div.2 game of the campaign by 2-1. The team was boosted by P Brown, Husbands, Glover and Sheehan. Also back was summer signing Keith Vine in midfield, who'd been injured, but King was now out with injury.

Match: 27 (League 21; Cup 6)

Saturday 3rd January 1981

Away @ Taskers Playing Field

Hampshire Senior Cup - 2nd Round

Referee: *Not recorded*

NEW STREET ……. (3) 3

Dunney 14, 35; Own Goal 19

EASTLEIGH ……. (1) 1

Miller 44 (pen)

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 Danny Miller

3 Clive Kimber

4 David Husbands

5 Ken Brady

6 David Thackray

7 Jenner Brown

8 Chris Glover

9 Boyd Hilton

10 Ray Sheehan

11 Kevin Kelly

12 David Bunker

Match Notes

The first game of 1981 took Eastleigh to Andover to meet second division club New Street in the Hampshire Senior Cup. There was just one change as new signing Kevin Kelly (and Pete's older brother), who was a left-winger, came into the starting line-up replacing the injured Roy King. This was Kevin's second spell with the club and had joined from Brockenhurst.

Everything went wrong for Eastleigh in the first half. Street were swift on the break and took the lead with a fine shot by **Rob Dunney** from the right that went high into the net. That was soon followed by an uncharacteristic mix-up in the visitors defence when Clive Kimber, in trying to clear, kicked the ball at keeper Paul Brown and it went back into the net for an **own goal**. Worse was to come as another slick New Street move resulted in **Dunney** scoring again and there were still ten minutes of the first half to play. A handling offence in the penalty area gave Eastleigh a chance to get a goal back and **Miller** duly sent Street's tall keeper Bob Sturt the wrong way from the spot.

The Eastleigh lads put in a battling show in the second half but there was no more change to the score. Boyd Hilton had a very good chance to reduce the deficit but he stubbed his shot and it was cleared. Twenty minutes would have remained at that point; could it have made a difference? It will will never be known but what is known is Eastleigh were shown the exit door.

Additional Information

Other references in the notes taken included played on a 'ploughed field' but not so sure how much was down to sour grapes on the day. Taskers hadn't been visited before this game and a further trip was made to watch Eastleigh's reserves there in the next season. This ground was a rare one of seeing the 'res' win at but not the first team! New Street's victory took them to the quarter-final where they met another Hants 1 team Havant Town here. It took extra time but Town eventually won by 4-1.

Match: 28 (League 22; Cup 6)

Saturday 10th January 1981

Away @ Grigg Lane

Hampshire League - Division 1

Referee: *Not recorded*

BROCKENHURST ……. 0

EASTLEIGH ……. 0

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 Danny Miller

3 David Thackray

4 Jenner Brown

5 Ken Brady

6 David Husbands

7 Keith Vine

8 Chris Glover

9 Boyd Hilton

10 Ray Sheehan

11 Kevin Kelly

12 Clive Kimber

Match Notes

There was one change to the Eastleigh team as Keith Vine was selected to play his first game for the first team since returning from early season knee operations. Dave Husbands went to centre-back as Dave Thackray moved to left-back whilst Clive Kimber, who'd been a regular choice, moved to substitute. Roy King continued to be out with injury, as Vine, who had played for the club previously in 1978/79 (when known as Swaythling), took his place on the right side of midfield.

Had this game taken place earlier in the season then Kevin Kelly would have been wearing Brockenhurst colours and Terry Rawlins would have been playing for Eastleigh! They each represented the other team instead on this freezing winter's afternoon in the New Forest.

The game was a success defensively for Eastleigh as they snubbed out any threat posed by Brock, which included Rawlins playing in a forward role. Brock's Malcolm Renyard tried a long range effort but Paul Brown made an excellent save.

Eastleigh's best chance fell to Chris Glover who raced onto a bouncing ball but fired over the bar. Brock played well defensively too, in particular their centre-half John Harris, who put in a typical gritty display.

As the score says on the tin, the result basically summed this game up.

Additional Information

The reserve team was beaten again and there were concerns regarding the side staying in Hampshire League Division 2 but they did remain in the Southampton Senior Cup. Both Thackray and Vine moved to the reserve team to add experience but there was already an absence of younger blood in the team. The managers had put in approaches for left-winger Robbie Parsons (Old Simmarians) and midfielder Clive Richmond (North End Old Boys) and both joined to bolster the playing strength.

Match: 29 (League 23; Cup 6)

Saturday 17th January 1981

Away @ Jubilee Park

Hampshire League - Division 1

Referee: *Not recorded*

WATERLOOVILLE RES 0

EASTLEIGH …….. (1) 2

Sheehan 40; Glover 47

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 Danny Miller

3 David Bunker

4 Jenner Brown

5 Ken Brady

6 David Husbands

7 Mark Lewis

8 Chris Glover

9 Toby Manns

(Sub: John Paine 80)

10 Ray Sheehan

11 Kevin Kelly

Match Notes

There was an unusual look to the line up for the trip to Waterlooville. In came five reserve players, four of whom being Dave Bunker (whose last first team game was at the end of the club's very last game as Swaythling), Toby Manns (played one previous game in August 1979), debutant Mark Lewis and John Paine who was on the bench. Clive Kimber, Dave Thackray, Boyd Hilton, Kevin Kelly and Keith Vine were selected for the reserve team whose fixture was a Southampton Senior Cup (SSC) quarter-final game. The other change to the team was in the number 11 shirt which was taken by Pete Kelly, it having been worn by his brother Kevin last time out.

The pitch was heavy with rain and a strong wind not assisting the players on either side.

Eastleigh went ahead when the 'Ville centre-back Kevin Dinan (who'd played for Swaythling at the end of last season) went forward for a corner. He fell awkwardly, it broke down and they were hit on the counter-attack. Glover crossed from the right and Lewis allowed it to run on for **Sheehan** unmarked to take his time and net a low shot.

That goal was five minutes before the break and Eastleigh scored again two minutes into the second half when Sheehan crossed from the left-wing, it evaded players in the middle and **Glover** applied the final touch. P Brown made three good saves with Dinan pushed forward as 'Ville threatened.

Additional Information

Considering how well 'Ville's reserves had played at Ten Acres earlier in the season the writer could be forgiven to expect a tough afternoon but this rather 'experimental' team put in a good shift. So, how did the reserve team make out then? Well, the twelve selected had all made first team appearances in the season (admittedly, some more than others) and beat Blackfield & Langley 5-2. The scorers were Hilton 2, Vine 2 (both penalties) and Wheeler and moved into the semi-final of the SSC.

Match: 30 (League 24; Cup 6)

Saturday 24th January 1981

Away @ BTC Ground

Hampshire League - Division 1

Referee: *Not recorded*

SOUTHAMPTON 'A' …. (1) 1

Stagg 17

EASTLEIGH ……. 0

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 Danny Miller

3 David Bunker

4 Jenner Brown

5 Ken Brady

6 David Husbands

7 Boyd Hilton

8 Chris Glover

9 Mark Lewis

10 Ray Sheehan

11 Peter Kelly

12 Ray Light

Match Notes

A short hop was made down Stoneham Lane to meet the young Saints team. Their line ups do create interest and it was a young Saints side that Eastleigh faced, but with one exception. In goal was Ivan Katalinić, a former Yugoslavian international who had become the first Serbian player to appear in the English First Division (equivalent then to the Premier League).

Eastleigh wore their now accustomed sky blue and navy kit but the socks worn were three shades of blue, including 'Swaythling blue', which was not a particularly impressive look for a county league club. *["Swaythling blue" denotes royal blue!!]*

Eastleigh had a tough time in the first half and struggled to make headway. It was the keeper at the other end, Paul Brown who'd ensured the team was still in touch at the break. The young Saints did score one goal though, a bit of a scrappy one too, when **Jeremy Stagg** shot off the underside of the bar and it deflected into goal.

The Eastleigh performance improved somewhat after the interval (it had to) to the degree that a point would have been deserved. The only sticking point was the absence of chances created. The 'Kat' didn't have a lot to do but to the writer's view there was one shot that was going well wide late on but he flung himself to push the ball away and thus obtained the appreciation of rest of the BTC crowd!

Additional Information

Eastleigh didn't create much, reflected that keeper Brown was the only player mentioned in the notes. The 'Kat' made over 50 appearances for the Saints' first team, including a clean sheet when they obtained a rare win at Liverpool just over a year later. Back up the lane, Eastleigh Reserves faced a Division 2 relegation clash with Overton United and had penalty trouble as both Keith Vine and Kevin Kelly didn't score (but the res won 2-1). It was going to happen again soon (see match #33)!

Match: 31 (League 25; Cup 6)

Saturday 31st January 1981

Home @ Ten Acres (visit 77)

Hampshire League - Division 1

Ref: Mr S W H Pengelly (Aldershot)

EASTLEIGH ……. (2) 2

Own Goal 18; Glover 44

AFC TOTTON …….. 0

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 Danny Miller

3 Clive Kimber

4 Jenner Brown

5 Ken Brady

6 David Husbands

7 Keith Vine

8 Chris Glover

(Sub: Chris Page 89)

9 Boyd Hilton

10 Ray Sheehan

11 Kevin Kelly

Match Notes

This was an excellent win over high-riding AFC Totton, making it a miserable return to Ten Acres for Ray Deane (who started the season as the Eastleigh skipper) and Graham Meyer, both of whom wore Totton colours. The Eastleigh side made three changes from the previous match with Kimber replacing Dave Bunker at full-back and Vine starting in place of Mark Lewis. The third change was the 'Kelly number 11' shirt, Kevin being picked this time rather than his brother Pete.

The game from the start was an absorbing contest between two well matched teams. It was Eastleigh that broke the deadlock after winning a corner. The ball went across the face of the goal via a Hilton touch and Totton defender Bobby Coleman, in trying to clear, headed the ball in for an **Own Goal**. There was almost an instant second as Kelly found Sheehan whose shot beat Totton keeper Dave Hookway but Meyer (as he had done so many times in a Swaythling shirt) covered well and cleared from the line. John Smith, set up by Deane, fired over for Totton but it was Eastleigh who forged further in front. Kelly played the ball to Vine who crossed accurately for **Glover** to apply the headed finish.

Into the second half and Paul Brown saved well from Derek Barnes. Sheehan, via Hookway's fingertips, hit the bar and a thunderous J Brown drive also struck the crossbar. Hookway made some good saves as the score remained 2-0.

Additional Information

Dear reader, take a look at that score again and again - yes Eastleigh beat AFC Totton! Why make such a song and a dance about it? Well, in the period covered by this webpage (1978-1988) it wasn't going to happen again. Even Eastleigh registering a goal against them didn't happen that often (e.g., just one more goal scored against Totton at Ten Acres!). So, reader, do sing and do dance, because it's pretty painful hereon! The reserves won again - 2-1 at Basingstoke-based Pegasus.

C H R I S G L O V E R I N A C T I O N

Photos of club captain Chris taken by the Eastleigh Weekly News



Two images of Chris Glover in action. Above vs AFC Totton (match #25), is a bit 'grainy' with the white shirted visiting players looking more clearer but Chris can be seen leaping to the left of number 5 to head Eastleigh's second goal. Below vs Horndean (match #33) sees a challenge with Boyd Hilton (far left of photo) and Robbie Parsons (far right) looking on.



Match: 32 (League 26; Cup 6)

Saturday 7th February 1981

Away @ Moneyfields Sports Gd.

Hampshire League - Division 1

Referee: *Not recorded*

MONEYFIELD SPORTS (1) 1

Beed 45

EASTLEIGH ..... (1) 1

J Brown 19

Eastleigh Line-Up

1	Paul Brown
2	Danny Miller
3	Clive Kimber
4	Jenner Brown
5	Ken Brady
6	David Husbands
7	Keith Vine
8	Chris Page
9	Boyd Hilton
10	Ray Sheehan
11	Kevin Kelly
12	Mel Davolls

Match Notes

The Eastleigh team playing down at Copnor showed just the one change from the impressive display over Totton. Chris Glover withdrew with an injury and Chris Page (18), who'd made one previous sub appearance, was handed a start. Position-wise, Jenner Brown moved up front to accompany Boyd Hilton with Page deeper.

It was **Jenner Brown** who put Eastleigh ahead with a great 19th minute goal, receiving Kelly's pull back from the dead ball line he volleyed home from 8-yards high into the back of the net. Moneys levelled right on the break when **Ray Beed** took a corner and, in trying to gather the ball, it flipped from Paul Brown's grasp and evaded Kimber's unsuccessful attempt to clear on the line. It was a rare mistake for the consistent Eastleigh number one.

In the second half manager Brown headed over and perhaps should have buried it whilst the home side hit the post from distance.

Generally it was not a particularly good game and both sides could have won, but neither did quite enough and a draw was about the right result. Young Page looked a most promising prospect.

A clear case of football being a cruel sport as a goalkeeper's mistake is highlighted but missed chances just seem to be an accepted part of the game. Both are reasons for this not being won.

Additional Information

The managers, both fairly new to the job and involved in the action as players, had brought some stability to the club having joined with it at a fairly low ebb. That was, of course, good news but they were in charge of both games against Moneyfields who took three of the four points available. Moneys finished 15th at the end of the season but yes, it was still early days for the bosses and the team was still being built. The Moneys scorer later played for Eastleigh but outside of the years covered.

Match: 33 (League 26; Cup 7)

Saturday 14th February 1981

Home @ Ten Acres (visit #78)

Russell-Cotes Cup - 2nd Round

Ref: Mr N Sydenham (Portsmouth)

EASTLEIGH ..... (0) 1

Vine 78

HORNDEAN 0

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 Danny Miller

3 Clive Kimber

4 Jenner Brown

5 Ken Brady

6 David Husbands

7 Keith Vine

8 Chris Glover

9 Boyd Hilton

10 Ray Sheehan

11 Robbie Parsons

12 Chris Page

Match Notes

This was a tremendous struggle against Horndean, who'd Eastleigh had knocked out of the Hampshire Senior Cup here earlier in the season. The Eastleigh team welcomed back Chris Glover from injury and Robbie Parsons, a left-winger, made his first team bow.

The main story of this one is Eastleigh were unsuccessful from **TWO** penalty kicks, both having been saved by Horndean's keeper Jennings. The first was awarded in the 19th minute when Glover was bundled over by Deacon. Up stepped Danny Miller and Jennings guessed correctly, diving to his left to keep the ball out. The second penalty was given early in the second half when Parsons was hacked down. This time Keith Vine took the kick and, to his disbelief, the keeper dived to his right to keep out his penalty and the game remained 0-0.

Eastleigh missed first half chances, Boyd Hiton and Glover being wide and Glover managed to get past Jennings but he reacted slowly and enabled a Horndean defender to scramble the ball clear.

In the second half Jenner Brown's shot hit the top of the bar. Horndean's Deacon was sent off having got involved in a scuffle with Ray Sheehan on 65 minutes. The winner came from **Vine** a classy curling effort. Two 'goals' were later ruled out.

The win was deserved and takes Eastleigh to Sholing for the semi-final.stage.

Additional Information

This was Horndean's second visit to Ten Acres and they still had to come for a league game. This was a personal milestone for Tony Jennings, who was overworked on the day and he would remember saving two penalties; neither were particularly well taken 'pens' from an Eastleigh point of view but credit to him for saving them both (Jennings being a worthy name for a keeper in those times!). Could a rather transitional season for Eastleigh overall be completed by collecting some silverware?

Match: 34 (League 27; Cup 7)

Saturday 21st February 1981

Away @ Vicarage Lane

Hampshire League - Division 1

Referee: *Not recorded*

BRADING TOWN ..... (1) 1

Unknown scorer 33

EASTLEIGH ..... (0) 3

J Brown 53; Lewis 59, 83

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 Kim Blank

3 David Bunker

4 Jenner Brown

5 Ken Brady

6 David Husbands

7 Mark Lewis

8 Chris Glover

9 Keith Vine

10 Ray Sheehan

11 Clive Richmond

12 Chris Page

Match Notes

Another changed line-up as the reserve team were playing in the Southampton Senior Cup semi-final against Southampton Premier side Hedge End at Totton. Kim Blank, a Canadian-born defender made his first team debut, whilst midfielder Clive Richmond appeared for the first time for the club. Mark Lewis, who'd stated on the boat going over to the Isle of Wight: "They'll start going in when I get the first", returned to the first team up front.

Eastleigh struggled in the first half against the bottom side and went behind with a shot that deflected off Keith Vine and past the semi-committed Paul Brown. Brading took this lead into the break, which included a few flakes of snow.

Eastleigh levelled early in the second half when **Jenner Brown**'s shot beat Brading keeper Phil Moore and two home players made a hash of it on the line, one kicking it against the other and in. Brown then headed on and **Lewis** shot low and it deflected in via the keeper. Eastleigh were in total control from there, although a distant Brading shot thumped off the bar. Lewis could have made it three but shot off the post when well placed. **Lewis** did get the third, when he ran through and his shot again went in via a touch by the keeper.

For the writer it was the first time attended as a club representative as the committee opted to cheer on the ressies in that semi-final game. A win on the Island too; it was a most pleasurable day.

Additional Information

Mark Lewis appeared in only one more first team game and left after a couple of further outings in the reserves. Jenner's goal looked suspiciously like an own goal? For the writer, well a payphone call was made to Totton prior to boarding the boat home and the reserve team's 2-0 win over Hedge End was given to the lads afterwards. Payphones were really the only way to communicate back then as there were no social media/ mobile phones. Payphones are still just about in existence!

Match: 35 (League 28; Cup 7)

Saturday 7th March 1981

Away @ B.A.T. Sports Ground

Hampshire League - Division 1

Referee: *Not recorded*

B.A.T. ..... (1) 1

Clarke 19

EASTLEIGH 0

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 Keith Cooper

3 Clive Kimber

4 Jenner Brown

5 Ken Brady

6 David Husbands

7 Mark Lewis

(Sub: Boyd Hilton 67)

8 Chris Glover

9 Keith Vine

10 Ray Sheehan

11 Kevin Kelly

Match Notes

Heavy rain on the previous day and on the morning of the game would have put many of the day's fixtures off but not at this well appointed sports ground in Totton. The surface was actually in an excellent condition.

Changes were made following the Brading match as both full-backs were different, Cooper coming into the right-back berth (Danny Miller was suspended). Up top, Lewis following his two-goal salvo from the last game retained his place whilst the number 11 shirt was again occupied by a Kelly - Kevin this time!

Struggling B.A.T., who'd conceded five goals last time out, set out to defend. They took the lead with an excellent strike by their midfielder **Robbie Clarke** which was an 18-yard angled volley which gave Paul Brown no chance.

Keeper Brown was pretty much a spectator thereafter as incessant Eastleigh pressure was applied, in particular during the second half. But in spite of their total domination of the game Eastleigh failed to find the net. Brady had a shot cleared off the line whilst Kelly's corner appeared to go straight in but the referee ruled it was headed out from beneath the bar and play went on. Hilton was introduced for Lewis but on the day chances did not reflect superiority. This was due to B.A.T. defending effectively in numbers and they managed to complete a much-needed victory.

Additional Information

This was my 100th Eastleigh game watched and it was very much typical of a good few of those that came before it. Eastleigh's lack of a goalscorer was evident and it was an aspect the fledgling managers needed to sort out if they were to turn the club into one of the title contenders. The B.A.T. scorer would later sign for Eastleigh. It was noted that B.A.T. had let in five in their previous game - they would concede seven in their next one. Eastleigh's next was vs. another relegation-threatened side.

Match: 36 (League 29; Cup 7)

Saturday 14th March 1981

Home @ Ten Acres (visit #80)

Hampshire League - Division 1

Ref: Mr R I Clark (Fareham)

EASTLEIGH ..... (0) 3

Hilton 75; Glover 86; J Brown 90

BOURNEMOUTH ..... (2) 3

Rutter 13; Turner 38; Paperella 61

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 Keith Cooper

3 Clive Kimber

4 Jenner Brown

5 Ken Brady

6 David Husbands

7 Keith Vine

8 Chris Glover

9 Boyd Hilton

10 Ray Sheehan

11 Kevin Kelly

12 Steve Broomfield

Match Notes

Eastleigh's line-up showed just one change, Hilton starting up front. This was a dramatic affair as Eastleigh fought back from an impossible looking sitution of 0-3 adrift to rescue a late point against relegation-threatened Bournemouth Poppies.

On a damp surface, the Poppies seemed to enjoy better possession, although good play from both Hilton and Husbands produced a shooting chance for Glover which was beat away by the keeper. A defensive slip allowed **Rutter** to run from half-way, round Paul Brown and slot home. Bournemouth hung on a bit from there but increased their lead through **Turner**'s shot deflected past Brown.

The Poppies sub **Angelo Paperella** had a simple tap-in to make it three-nil and they must have thought the points were secured. However, there was still plenty of time remaining.

Constructive football remained difficult on the wet top but **Hilton** pulled one back with a fine individual effort, beating two players and got past the keeper. He then seemed to lose his footing but managed to fire firmly home with his left-foot on 75 minutes.

Onto minute 86 and it was still 3-1, but **Glover** rose to head home a Sheehan cross to give the home fans hope. Into stoppage time and **Jenner Brown** burst through and rifled a firm shot past the keeper and into the net to complete a remarkable comeback and snatch what an unlikely point.

Additional Information

Late recoveries in your team's favour like that usually feel like a win, until of course reality kicks in as it was a match was against one of the teams looking likely to be relegated to Division 2. Bournemouth had taken three of the four points available against Eastleigh in the season (and were close to claiming them all). That was three of only 23 they had accumulated in the entire campaign, a total that brought them the bottom position in the table.

Match: 37 (League 29; Cup 8)

Wednesday 18th March 1981

Away @ Birch Lawn

Russell-Cotes Cup - Semi-Final

Referee: *Not recorded*

SHOLING SPORTS …. 0

EASTLEIGH ……. (0) 2

Glover 64; Hilton 74

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 Keith Cooper

3 Clive Kimber

4 Jenner Brown

5 Ken Brady

6 David Husbands

7 Keith Vine

8 Chris Glover

9 Boyd Hilton

10 Ray Sheehan

11 Robbie Parsons

12 Steve Broomfield

Match Notes

To win this one was a tough ask as Sholing Sports were, once again, amongst the top sides in the county league whilst Eastleigh were sitting in the group beneath them. However, Eastleigh were known for competing with the best and falling a bit short against those they should win against. This result, which took the club to a cup final, rather typified the club's results during this period.

Sholing played the more adventurous football in the first half but Eastleigh's defence of Cooper, Husbands, Kimber and the exemplary Brady were playing very well to keep them at bay. Having hardly allowed Sholing an opening, the team relied on breakaways of which there were seldom opportunities.

The pattern of the second half was similar to the first. But two goals in a ten minute spell put Eastleigh well and truly in the driving seat. A superb Sheehan cross found **Glover** whose diving header appeared to go under Sholing keeper Malc Copeland. Then **Hilton** surprised everyone, with his back to goal, he struck a stupendous overhead kick which came off the inside of the post and into the net. From there, the team comfortably held onto a very hard-working victory.

With the reserve team in the Southampton Senior Cup final and now the firsts in the Russell-Cotes final too, could a season, that was drifting around three months ago, turn into one of success?

Additional Information

There had been one or two bumps in the road but the new managers' had revitalised Eastleigh. Hants Div.2 side Ringwood Town surprised AFC Totton by winning 1-0 at Testwood Park and would be the cup final opponents. The writer conversed with Robbie Parsons many years later who recalled this game to be one of the best in his brief time with Eastleigh. With Roy King (injury) and Danny Miller (suspension) returning to the squad there was potentially an exciting run in to the season.

Match: 38 (League 30; Cup 8)

Saturday 21st March 1981

Away @ Front Lawn

Hampshire League - Division 1

Referee: *Not recorded*

HAVANT TOWN ……. 0

EASTLEIGH …….. (1) 1

J Brown 30

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 Kim Blank

3 Clive Kimber

4 Jenner Brown

5 Ken Brady

6 Keith Cooper

7 Keith Vine

8 Chris Glover

9 Boyd Hilton

10 Chris Page

11 Kevin Kelly

12 Mel Davolls

Match Notes

This was a changed Eastleigh side with Dave Husbands missing with illness, meaning Cooper moved across to partner Brady in central defence. Blank came into full-back for his second appearance of the season. Ray Sheehan was another change with Chris Page being selected for his second appearance of the season.

Both sides had something in common last time out - both having knocked the mighty Sholing Sports out of cup semi-finals - Havant reaching the Hampshire Senior Cup final whilst Eastleigh had a fine midweek win there in the Russell-Cotes Cup.

Havant made a good start as the team struggled on the bumpy Front Lawn surface but the team soon got into their stride as the home challenge receded. The goal that proved to win it came from **Jenner Brown** whose speculative 25-yard shot caught in the wind and the usually reliable Town keeper Tony Stairs allowed the ball to slip through his fingers.

As the Havant challenge became practically non-existent in the second half, the more consistent side of Stairs came into being. He prevented a heavier defeat by touching round a Kelly drive and then thwarting both Glover and Hilton's efforts. Generally though the Eastleigh passing in offensive areas was going too far in the strong breeze.

It was a poor game overall with Brady (who was booked), Kimber and Cooper all playing well.

Additional Information

The Brady/ Cooper central defensive partnership was one the writer recalls well, it was mean and strong with Brady usually taking the 'first knock' and Cooper sweeping. Meanwhile, the reserve team manager Roger Sherwood described his team's performance as 'rubbish' having lost at home to Netley Central Sports Res. Brian Smith, an Eastleigh player at the start of the season, scored Netley's opener. The reserves' next match was the Southampton Senior Cup final at The Dell.

Match: 39 (League 31; Cup 8)

Thursday 2nd April 1981

Home @ Ten Acres (visit #83)

Hampshire League - Division 1

Referee: Mr P Barrett (Titchfield)

EASTLEIGH …….. (0) 2

Broomfield 63; Miller 76

EAST COWES VICS. … (2) 3

Unknown scorers - goal times 12 (pen), 38 and 46

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 Danny Miller

3 Clive Kimber

4 Jenner Brown

5 Ken Brady

6 David Husbands

7 Keith Vine

(Sub: Roy King 53)

8 Chris Glover

9 Boyd Hilton

10 Steve Broomfield

11 Robbie Parsons

Match Notes

This was a rather disappointing game and, like the last home match, the team had to come back from three goals down and made a fine effort but this time the visitors held on to take the points.

Vics netted early when Paul Brown came out to challenge a forward and pulled him down and the penalty was converted. Play was scrappy for the rest of the first half but Vics increased their lead with a low shot and took a useful 2-0 lead into the break.

A fine shot into the roof of the net increased the Islanders lead a minute into the second half. Soon after Vine was taken off with a knock and was replaced by King (once feared to be out with injury for the rest of the season) to come on and make his first appearance since New Year's Day.

A right-wing corner picked out **Broomfield** at the far post whose firm downward header bounced up into the roof of the net (his fourth goal in six first team appearances). This moved Eastleigh into top gear. Vics keeper Jack Ince carried the ball out of his area and the free kick was played short to **Miller** whose shot bobbled its way into the corner of the net. Despite fourteen further minutes of pressure the Vics survived to complete the win.

The Vics right-back was apparently 14 years of age and looks a good player *(this was quite likely to be Shaun North, a coach at Eastleigh many years on)*.

Additional Information

The reserves met AFC Totton in the Southampton Senior Cup final at The Dell on Tuesday and drew 1-1 (former Eastleigh captain Ray Deane put Totton in front, Ray Light headed the equaliser). The writer never watched Eastleigh beat East Cowes at home in the period. Like following Southampton before this, they failed to beat Bolton Wanderers at The Dell (and even had another try in 2004 at St Mary's). On each occasion, in the first season after stopping, the opponents were both defeated!

Match: 40 (League 32; Cup 8)

Saturday 4th April 1981

Home @ Ten Acres (visit #084)

Hampshire League - Division 1

Ref: Mr D K Harris (Christchurch)

EASTLEIGH …….. (1) 1

Husbands 35

HORNDEAN …….. (0) 3

Hewitt 79, Ely 80; Bunton 86

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Chris Renny

2 Keith Cooper

3 Clive Kimber

4 Jenner Brown

5 Ken Brady

6 David Husbands

7 Keith Vine

8 David Thackray

9 Boyd Hilton

10 Roy King

11 Kevin Kelly

12 Chris Page

Match Notes

Eastleigh fielded a much changed side, mainly due to unavailability and were defeated by Horndean who were making their third visit to Ten Acres this season.

It was the third time in successive matches that the Sky Blues had conceded three goals in a home game but this time, unlike the other two, they didn't give the opposition a three-goal start.

In fact, Eastleigh went into the half-time break ahead when after fine work by both Vine and King, the ball was played to **Husbands**, whose initial shot was blocked and came back to him from which he made no mistake with a low shot.

The second half was a poor one, looking very much like an end-of-season affair. The nearest chances as the game drifted into its latter stages were for Eastleigh, fine work by Kelly resulting in Husbands going close and for Horndean, Renny doing well to save at Ely's feet.

Suddenly, and out of practically nothing, Horndean found their goalscoring touch. **Hewitt** levelled the scores and, within a further minute, **Ely** raced through to round Renny and score. It was 'late fight back time' once again for Eastleigh and this time it didn't happen as Dean's substitute **Bunton** sealed the points for his side.

Additional Information

Looking back at this and the chosen team, it was hard to see who was actually accompanying Hilton up front, possibly Jenner Brown? There was no such phrase as 'squad rotation' back in the day; it would be easy to claim that it was in more modern times considering the team had last played two days before, but that was not the case. The last three home games: Bournemouth, East Cowes and Horndean and nine goals conceded, a situation that was practically unheard of in the past.

Match: 41 (League 33; Cup 8)

Saturday 11th April 1981

Home @ Ten Acres (visit #085)

Hampshire League - Division 1

Ref: Mr P M Scoble (Portsmouth)

EASTLEIGH …… (1) 1

Glover 2

BROCKENHURST ……. 0

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 Danny Miller

3 Clive Kimber

4 Jenner Brown

5 Ken Brady

6 David Husbands

7 Keith Vine

8 Chris Glover

9 Boyd Hilton

10 Roy King

11 Kevin Kelly

12 Mel Davolls

Match Notes

The team had a more familiar look. An early goal settled this one which was the first time the writer had seen the club get the better of Brockenhurst.

That goal came in the second minute when King's shot struck the bar, a defender got a partial clearance as it came down and **Glover** was there to strike it home. It was the start of an entertaining first half with Brock creating chances, forcing Paul Brown to rush out to thwart Malcolm Renyard and then Miller did well to clear from Taylor. Some hesitation in the home defence almost brought a leveller but Richardson's open chance was cleared by a combination of Miller and Kimber.

Old favourite Terry Rawlins, now in the visitors colours, was making a mark at both ends, heading a free kick wide of the Eastleigh goal and then defensively heading a dangerous King cross clear with Hilton lurking ominously. Hilton shot at the keeper whilst Jenner Brown's firm volley struck the bar.

The second half didn't quite live up to the first with both Hilton and Vine driving shots off target. In the dying seconds Hilton and Glover combined well to set up a chance for former Brockenhurst player Kelly but his shot was blocked by a defender.

So, after threes conceded against Bournemouth, East Cowes and Horndean here, it was welcome to see Eastleigh keep a home clean sheet once more.

Additional Information

The proposal for a club to only have one team in the County League was defeated which means the reserve team could continue playing in Hampshire League Division 2 next season (the formation of the Wessex League in the mid-eighties brought in a specific Hants League division for 'reserve' teams, so it wasn't defeated for too long). The Eastleigh committee met earlier in the week and 'unanimously' elected Jenner Brown and Dave Husbands to continue as the club managers for the next season.

Match: 42 (League 34; Cup 8)

Wednesday 15th April 1981

Home @ Ten Acres (visit #086)

Hampshire League - Division 1

Ref: Mr A P Murphy (Basingstoke)

EASTLEIGH ……. 0

SHOLING SPORTS … (1) 1

Nash 5

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 Danny Miller

3 Clive Kimber

4 David Husbands

5 Ken Brady

6 David Thackray

7 Keith Vine

8 Chris Glover

9 Steve Broomfield

10 Roy King

(Sub: Kevin Patience 65)

11 Robbie Parsons

Match Notes

Opponents line-up: 1 Malcolm Copeland; 2 L Smith, 3 Malcolm Jones; 4 Terry Morton, 5 Kevin Roberts, 6 Bobby Judd; 7 Alan Weatherley, 8 David Poole, 9 Mark Barber, 10 Danny Nash, 11 Ian Bampton. Sub: Kevin Randall. [The missing first name, number 2, might have been Leon?].

The Eastleigh team once again showed changes as Jenner Brown was not included and Thackray returned. Boyd Hilton was also out with Broomfield taking the number nine shirt.

Like the last game at Ten Acres, it was an early goal that proved to be the decider but not one one from Eastleigh this time as **Nash** capitalised on a slip in midfield and fired a firm shot past former Sholing keeper Paul Brown.

It just didn't run for Eastleigh on the night and credit had to be given to Sholing who put in an impressive showing and avenged a recent Russell-Cotes Cup semi-final defeat on their own patch.

There was a debut for Patience, a young wide player who was introduced from the bench with 25 minutes to go but Eastleigh failed to create any worthwhile opportunities on the evening. Although being only one goal adrift there would always be a chance, but they seldom looked like levelling on the night.

Additional Information

Roger Sherwood's reserve team played in the replayed Southampton Senior Cup final on the previous evening, which was again played at The Dell. Like the first meeting it wasn't a classic game of football but AFC Totton won it by 2-0. Ray Deane, who started the season as Eastleigh's captain, was pulled back in the box and Sexton gave Totton an 84th minute lead from the spot. Deane completed the 2-0 victory as Eastleigh were caught on the break pushing for an equalising goal.

Match: 43 (League 35; Cup 8)

Monday 20th April 1981

Home @ Ten Acres (visit #088)

Hampshire League - Division 1

Ref: Mr J W Lawrence (Totton)

EASTLEIGH ……. (2) 2

Parsons 18; Vine 38

FAREHAM TOWN RES (0) 1

Tuck 90

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 Danny Miller

3 Clive Kimber

4 Jenner Brown

5 Ken Brady

6 Roy King

7 Keith Vine

8 Chris Glover

9 Boyd Hilton

(Sub: Ray Sheehan 81)

10 Steve Broomfield

11 Robbie Parsons

Match Notes

An Easter Monday afternoon match with the Fareham Town second team. The Eastleigh line-up showed a couple of changes with King being Brady's third different central defensive partner in successive matches.

Eastleigh played some good football in the first half and were deserving of their two-goal lead at the break. **Parsons** netted the first goal, showing great enthusiasm and perseverance which forced Town's keeper to fail to hold by his challenge enabling the winger to net. The second goal too was a fine individual effort as **Vine** tackled a hesitant defender, with fine dexterity swept past another Town player, then rounded the keeper and slotted home past another defender on the line.

The second half failed to live up to the first from an Eastleigh viewpoint as the game took on a rather end of the season type of look. Siriki was Fareham's best player but he wasn't able to bring his side back into it as the two-goal lead looked petty secure. Hilton withdrew late in the game with injury with Sheehan returning to the team.

Fareham netted a 90th minute consolation when **Mark Tuck** squeezed a 25-yard shot just inside the post.

In the end, it wasn't a classic but two more Eastleigh points secured.

Additional Information

This was the second of a three match Easter Monday extravaganza! The morning game was B.A.T. versus Netley Central Sports at Ringwood Road, Totton. Two Brian Smith goals put Netley into a 2-0 lead but the Tobaccomen hit back with goals by Robbie Clarke and Neil Newton. In the final reckoning, Netley were spared relegation by one point, B.A.T being in that relegated second-bottom position. The evening was Fareham first team's home Southern League game v Dorchester (0-1).

Match: 44 (League 35; Cup 9)

Thursday 23rd April 1981

Neutral: By-Pass Ground, Romsey

Russell-Cotes Cup - Final

Ref: Mr M Hunns (Isle of Wight)

EASTLEIGH ……. (1) 1

Hilton 3

RINGWOOD TOWN … (1) 1

Carden 40

AFTER EXTRA TIME

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 David Harris

3 Clive Kimber

4 Jenner Brown

(Sub:Ray Sheehan 105)

5 Ken Brady

6 Roy King

7 Keith Vine

8 Chris Glover

9 Boyd Hilton

10 Steve Broomfield

11 Robbie Parsons

Match Notes

There were pre-match problems as Danny Miller was away and Keith Cooper was unwell, so the right-back berth went to Dave Harris who had played in that position for the reserve team for the very first time three-days earlier. Dave Husbands remained an absentee with illness, whilst utility player Roy King continued in a centre-back role.

Eastleigh were favourites but Town, finishing just outside of the promotion spots in Hampshire League Divison 2, had put out Eastleigh's Division 1 rivals Netley, Waterlooville and AFC Totton on their way to their first senior county final.

What a start for Eastleigh! Vine played the ball to **Hilton** who fired into the corner of the net with Town appealing in vain for offside. Eastleigh continued to be on top in the opening 15 minutes. Town gradually became a threat and levelled when **Carden** took the ball past the keeper and shot home.

The second half was highly-competitive with Vine striking a stunning 30-yard volley which brought the best out of Town's keeper Corbin, who was generally performing well.

Ringwood looked more dangerous in extra time and the more likely team to win it but the scores remained level and a replay was necessary.

Harris and King played very well on the evening.

Additional Information

Peter Kelly was named as an additional substitute but only one could appear back then. Boyd Hilton scored on his 50th Eastleigh appearance. The team hadn't played well enough to take the trophy for the first time but they had another chance to do so in the replay. The Romsey pitch at the time was quite bumpy to add to its significant slope but was the same for both sides, of course. The chosen replay venue would also cause some consternation, but for a different reason, but that's getting ahead!

Match: 45 (League 36; Cup 9)

Wednesday 29th April 1981

Home @ Ten Acres (visit #90)

Hampshire League - Division 1

Ref: Mr S J Miller (Bournemouth)

EASTLEIGH …….. (2) 3

Vine 21; Broomfield 31; Hilton 84

B.A.T. …….. (1) 2

Heather 30; Payne 71

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 Keith Cooper

3 Clive Kimber

4 Jenner Brown

5 Ken Brady

6 Roy King

7 Keith Vine

8 Chris Glover

9 Boyd Hilton

10 Steve Broomfield

11 Kevin Kelly

(Sub: Danny Miller 69)

Match Notes

The season was beginning to feel like a long one and it was Hampshire League match 36 of 38. The divisions had previously consisted of only 16 clubs and therefore only 30 matches were needed to complete the season.

With the matches now in the latter stages it was relegation threatened B.A.T. who visited Ten Acres. The Tobaccomen had beaten Eastleigh at their Totton-based ground earlier in the season and Eastleigh knew they would be scrapping to obtain vital survival points.

Vine put Eastleigh in front with a fine 25-yard shot but it wasn't too long later that **Dave Heather** fired home to level the scores. Eastleigh were soon back ahead though when Glover crossed from the dead-ball line and **Broomfield** headed home.

The score remained 2-1 in Eastleigh's favour until well into the second half when B.A.T. levelled with **Brian Payne** scoring from close range. It was late in the game with the scores locked at 2-2 and a potential point for the visitors. However, a fine opportunist goal by **Hilton** put the Sky Blues back ahead, a lovely turn and shot in one movement.

Eastleigh held onto their narrow lead until the final whistle.

Additional Information

B.A.T were relegated as both Brading (next here) and Netley did just enough in their final games to lift themselves above them to safety. Rather like playing against Bournemouth Poppies, who were also relegated with them, Eastleigh found a fair amount of difficulty playing against these clubs.

Match: 46 (League 37; Cup 9)

Saturday 2nd May 1981

Home @ Ten Acres (visit #91)

Hampshire League - Division 1

Ref: Mr P W Mence (Botley)

EASTLEIGH …… (2) 3

Hilton 27; Broomfield 35, 65

BRADING TOWN …… (1) 3

Brown 17; Ohren 78 (pen), 90

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 Keith Cooper

3 Danny Miller

4 Clive Richmond

5 David Husbands

6 Roy King

7 Keith Vine

8 Chris Glover

9 Boyd Hilton

10 Steve Broomfield

11 Kevin Kelly

12 Jenner Brown

Match Notes

Brading still needed points to avoid relegation, visited. Clive Richmond was selected in midfield, his only other first team game being at Brading. With Ken Brady missing, Husbands and King were now the centre-back combination. It was looking comfortable too, Eastleigh being 3-1 ahead midway through the second half.

Brading had lost just one league match since being defeated by Eastleigh at the end of February and they took the lead through **Brown** who fired firmly home after the home defence had failed to clear. But Eastleigh had turned it around by the break. With a typically spectacular effort **Hilton** levelled with an overhead kick from a tight angle which eluded Phil Moore in the Brading goal and went in. Eastleigh's second was a fine build-up with Richmond and Husbands figuring and Kelly crossed from for **Broomfield** to head home.

It was **Broomfield** who made it 3-1 when Glover's shot was punched into his path by Moore and he fired home through defenders. The expected avalanche didn't happen. Brading, perhaps buoyed by hearing the news that Island rivals Newport had defeated B.A.T. in an earlier kick-off (and were therefore safe from relegation), relaxed their game and ended up bagging a point. A penalty decision allowed **Ohren** to pull one back with 12 minutes left and Eastleigh's disappointing end to the home season continued when **Ohren** netted his second goal late on.

Additional Information

There was just one more league match to play and that was away to Downton. However, that game was in doubt as Downton's home ground back then was unavailable and it wasn't going to be reversed to Ten Acres as work was to commence on the pitch after the reserve's final home match against Sway two days following this match. It was played (see next match) and, of course, there was still a chance of silverware as the Russell-Cotes Cup final replay was still to be held.

Match: 47 (League 38; Cup 9)

Friday 8th May 1981

"Away" @ Grigg Lane, Brockenhurst

Hampshire League - Division 1

Referee: *Not recorded*

DOWNTON ……. 0

EASTLEIGH …… (2) 3

Glover 11, 62; Parsons 40

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 Danny Miller

3 Clive Kimber

4 Jenner Brown

5 Roy King

6 David Husbands

7 Keith Vine

8 Chris Glover

9 Steve Broomfield

(Sub: Kevin Patience 82)

10 Clive Richmond

11 Robbie Parsons

Match Notes

This match was played at Brockenhurst as Downton's home ground at Longclose Park was unavailable. Floodlights were not used as it was the time of the season for early kick-offs and it was a pleasant sunny evening in the New Forest.

This was a straight-forward win for Eastleigh which never looked in any doubt.

The first goal came early on when **Glover** was left completely unmarked to head a cross wide of Mick Gulliver in the Downton net. Eastleigh created a fair bit, the best to Broomfield who shot at Gulliver when well placed, it actually rebounded off the keeper and back to Broomfield but somehow the ball stayed out of the net. Despite Eastleigh's dominance, Downton should have levelled when Geoff Burden headed wide when well placed. Eastleigh's second goal came when Glover's shot was knocked out and **Parsons** shot home with two Downton defenders desperately trying to keep it out on the line, but the ball was clearly over the line.

The second half became a formality although only one further goal was added when a calamitous back-pass saw **Glover** say 'thanks' by tucking the ball home. Broomfield wasn't having much luck with the chances created and he gave way to Patience's second appearance of the season late in the game with the points very much in the bag.

Additional Information

So, the league season completed, there was still one more game to play and, as it happened, it was a further trip to Brockenhurst for the replayed Russell-Cotes Cup final with Ringwood Town which was to take place twelve days hence. There was perhaps a significance to the floodlights not being used for this game as they were certainly not in operation for that final as the reader will note … read on!!

Match: 48 (League 38; Cup 10)

Wednesday 20th May 1981

Neutral: Grigg Lane, Brockenhurst

Russell-Cotes Cup Final Replay

Ref: Mr M Hunns (Isle of Wight)

EASTLEIGH …… (0) 1

Own Goal 90

RINGWOOD TOWN .. (1) 1

Scott 30

AFTER EXTRA TIME

PENALTIES 3-4

Eastleigh Line-Up

1 Paul Brown

2 Keith Cooper

3 Clive Kimber

4 Jenner Brown

5 Ken Brady

6 David Husbands

7 Keith Vine

8 Chris Glover

9 Boyd Hilton

10 Steve Broomfield

11 Robbie Parsons

(Sub: Roy King 73)

Match Notes

The 1977 Russell-Cotes final was played here and Eastleigh (as Swaythling) lost to Fareham Town. The Brockenhurst ground was a good choice, the only issue being their lights were not operational and someone at the county FA had the bright idea of arranging the kick-off for a rather late 7pm.

Eastleigh were very disappointing in this game as Ringwood were the better team. A close range finish by **Scott** put Town in front on the half-hour mark. With stoppage time being played Hilton stretched to keep the ball in from the dead-ball line and a Town player lunged at it and scored an **own goal**. This unexpectedly took the game to extra time and the light was fading badly and, by the end of the extra period the opposite end could barely be seen from the other. Penalties were necessary in the gloom and the crowd gathering at the car park end, Eastleigh's came first and they went like this:

1-0 Vine - low effort. 1-1 Loveridge - high kick to left. Still 1-1 as Kimber shot low and wide. 1-2 Ringwood's Miller shot high - advantage Town. Still 1-2 as King fired over the bar. Hope for Eastleigh as Carden also shot over, so still 1-2 in Ringwood's favour. Broomfield made it 2-2, notes on the kick unreadable! 2-3 as Cripps stepped up for Town and scored low. Hilton needed to score and did low to right (3-3) but Town still had one in hand and Priscott netted high and Town won it. It was farcical (but the same for both teams) but overall Ringwood deserved to win the trophy.

Additional Information

The significance of the note about the 1977 final being at Brockenhurst was the club also lost on penalties there, in a way history repeating itself. This was the writer's first ever penalty shoot-out and many have been seen since, including a world record from penalties on this very ground (which occurred many years later). Some things in football can't be forgotten and Roy King at the club's eighty year reunion, painfully recalled missing his kick in the final but he had many happier times to recall too!

Club annual dinner and presentation night

As soon as the season was completed the club reflected on the season as a whole. There had been a time when morale had been at its lowest ebb ever but the club bounced back to complete its first season as Eastleigh FC to finish in fifth place in Hampshire League Division 1, as well as getting to two cup finals.

It was remarked that under player-managers Jenner Brown and Dave Husbands, who were appointed in November the club can fulfil its ambition of making progress.

Vice-chairman Derik Brooks said: “I am quietly confident that we are going in the right direction, and that we are going to achieve results to go with the fine facilities we have at Ten Acres”.

The first team also reached the final of the Russell-Cotes Cup whilst the reserves started the season struggling to find a league win but also escaped relegation with some fine performances in the second half of the season. The reserves also reached the final of the coveted Southampton Senior Cup and faced a tough test in meeting AFC Totton, who had been one of the standout teams in the Hampshire League. Totton needed a replay before lifting the trophy as the reserves put up a fine show.

Mr Brooks, in stating morale was now “pretty high” added: “All we need is a 100 per cent will to win, which, possibly, is the one thing lacking at the moment, together with pride in playing for this club and wearing the Eastleigh shirt. If we can get that combination, I don’t think it will be long before we are winning championships and cups.”

Mr Jack Barter, President of the Hampshire F.A. said twenty clubs in the division was far too many and it was hoped to reduce the teams in the league to form three divisions of eighteen clubs, perhaps in the season after next. Mr Barter handed over the main club trophies to the men voted players of the year. The awards went to:

First team committee player of the year (The Parker Trophy): Ken Brady

First team players’ player of the year: Ken Brady

Second team player of the year: Chris Renny

Mr Barter also handed awards to Peter Rule, first team trainer and Trevor Jerrim, second team trainer.

Two special awards were given to long serving clubmen who were leaving the club. A player and committee man for 16 years, Mel Davolls was moving to Slough on a work transfer. Reserve team manager Roger Sherwood was also leaving after 14 years to take up a new role with the AFC Totton reserve team.

Acknowledgement (including photos): Eastleigh Weekly News



"Player of the Year" and "Best First Team Player" Ken Brady receives his trophies from the President of the Hampshire F.A., Mr. Jack Barter, at the annual dinner of Eastleigh Football Club at Ten Acres on Saturday



Joint club manager Jenner Brown, pictured following his appointment in November 1980.