

CHIMES

The digital magazine of the Pompey History Society - Summer 2025 - N° 1



DAVID MUNKS

Then & Now - Back Page



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CHIMES is the digital magazine of the Pompey History Society and is published three times a year. Submissions for publication should be sent to: chimes@pompeyhistorysociety.org. The deadline for next issue will be: September 30, 2025

The Pompey History Society is a Registered Charity (No. 1201687) incorporated in January 2023. The society was initially set up in 2015 by a group of supporters committed to preserving, conserving and sharing the rich archive of Portsmouth Football Club.

For more information on our activities and trustees and volunteers held by the Charity Commission click [here](#)

The society is endorsed by Portsmouth FC and works closely with the club on a range of heritage activities. Since it was formed some of the projects the society has undertaken include:

- Commissioning a replica Football League Division One trophy
- Commissioning a replica Football League Division Three trophy
- Managing a Heritage Fund oral history project (2019-2021) entitled Pompey: Champions of England
- Supplying material from the archive for the club's commercial activities
- Supplying volunteer official Portsmouth FC Stadium Tour guides

The society is funded by donations and bequests, fundraising activities and grant funding. For more information about the society's activities email: history@pompeyfc.co.uk or visit www.pompeyhistory.org



Fund boosted by Gift Aid effort

The society's new membership database is now up and running which enables us to deal with sign ups and renewals on line and send out newsletters at the push of a button.

We also recently registered with HMRC so that we are able to use Gift Aid when people donate money to us and when members pay their subscriptions, provided they have ticked the Gift Aid box and are eligible taxpayers.

One of our trustees, Mark Parnell, has been sorting this out for us in conjunction with Treasurer Paul

Boynnton and we have just received our first payment from HMRC of £371, which has gone straight into the Gerry Spraggs towards the Peter Harris Medal Appeal.

Society Chair Mick Comben said: "This could become a quite significant source of additional revenue for us.

"We will be auditing our membership records to see who has registered for Gift Aid and we will be contacting all members to review the information we hold on them in the near future to check our records are correct. In the meantime, we are grateful to Mark for doing this for us."

Sign up a member and get a free badge

Pompey History Society members badges are now available for £5, either at one of our events or by emailing us on the address below and we will put one aside for you to be collected on a matchday.

However, as a special offer until the start of the new season on August 9, if a member refers a friend who subsequently signs up to join

PHS then they can get a free member badge.

To qualify, you need to email history@pompeyfc.co.uk and propose a new member who we will then follow up. Provided they sign up before the start of next season there will be a free badge available for you to be collected from us at a home game.



Dickinson shirt set for museum show

Jimmy Dickinson's England shirt, which was purchased by the society in March, will be going on display at the Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery from August.

It will be paired with the Willie Woodburn shirt Dickinson swapped his shirt for and which has been loaned to the society by Jimmy's son Andrew.

In the medium term we hope to have a permanent display space for the shirt at Fratton Park, but we're grateful to the

museum for enabling us to get it on public display quickly.

The society works closely with the museum on its football collection and the Barry Harris sailor suit, which was on display there, will now be put into the display cabinet in the Legends Lounge at Fratton Park.

The museum, in Museum Road, is open Tuesday-Sunday (10am-4.30pm) and entrance is free. For the full story on this shirt and how we came by it see page 12.



Monthly Pompey memories on new radio show

PAST Chimes is the Pompey History Society's monthly radio show on award-winning Portsmouth community radio station Express FM.

Hosted by former BBC broadcaster and Pompey fan of almost 60 years Richard Atkins-Grieg it is broadcast on the last Sunday of every month and is also available as a downloadable podcast.

Richard said of the show: "It began as an idea floated in a Southsea café and it is a privilege and joy to meet, greet, and be in conversation with some remarkable people.

"Over the past five months I've met and recorded conversations with the legend that is Alan Knight; our brilliant tricky winger Vince Hilaire; Neil Allen, the chief sports reporter at The News, who recently reported on his one thousandth Pompey game and Mick Comben, whose wonderful new book covers the early years of Portsmouth Football Club.

"Coming up later this month you'll be able to hear from our hard working left back, Colin Sullivan, one of the heroes of the 1983 promotion winning side and in the next few months we look forward to being in conversation with, among others, Michael Doyle, Alan Biley, Lee



• Richard Atkins-Grieg in the studio with Colin Sullivan. Inset: Sully in 1983/84

Bradbury, Kit Symons, Andy Awford and the great Ray Crawford."

And Richard would like member input to suggest guests.

"If you have contact with any former players, have a word with them and see if they'd also like to be my guest. Just let me know on pastchimes@pompeyhistorysociety.org and I'll contact them.

"I want to make this series as diverse as possible, so I'm also looking for men

and women who have served the football club over the years, as players, supporters, working behind the scenes - you get the idea."

Mick Comben, chair of the society, added: "The feedback has been excellent and the radio station are delighted with Richard's work for us and a massive thanks from us to Richard for doing it - he really does have a wonderful radio voice, it's just perfect for the job."

Events planned to mark Leitch's South Stand centenary

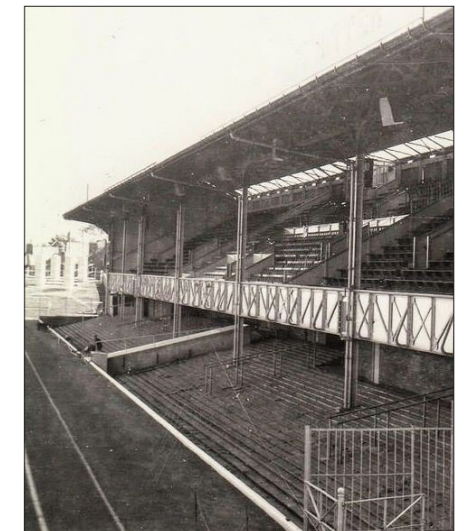
THE South Stand opened on August 29, 1925 and the club and history society are planning a series of events to celebrate the last remaining Archibald Leitch 'lattice-work' stands still in full use in England after Everton moved from Goodison Park at the end of the season.

Working with the club and Michael Saunders, the local architect, who knows more about Fratton Park's design than we've forgotten, preparations are underway for a permanent exhibition on the stand's

history which will be sited in one of the ground floor concourses.

This will incorporate fan memories of the stand, which we have been collecting and our thanks to committee members Phil Magrath and Richard Barnes who have helped collect them.

In addition, we have invited Simon Inglis, one of the foremost historians of football stadia, to give a public talk in early October. Once the fixture list is published in late June we will finalise the date and venue, so watch that space.



• The South Stand circa 1979

SHARE ISSUES



A copy of the club's share issue prospectus from 1960 was among a recent collection acquired from fan Johnny Haines and it provides some significant insight into the state of the club's finances. **MICK COMBEN** investigates.

The roots of the financial decline of the club in the 1960s are laid bare in this recently acquired share prospectus issued in August 1960. It would prove a futile attempt to raise capital well before John Deacon, the first of several sole owners, came along in the early 1970s to pump in his fortune to try to get the club into the promised land of the top tier.

In April 1959 the club had been relegated to the second division for the first time since the 1920s, so income was reduced and that had hit the business hard. Also in the offing was something else seismic for the game more generally, namely the abolition of the maximum wage for players.

That sets the difficult context, both locally and nationally for the Directors as they sought to expand the capital base of the club to try to return to the top flight. The prospectus also helps plug a few of gaps in the society's knowledge base of the club's finances in the 1950s. Not all the accounts are presently in the archive, but the figures set out fill in some detail and the document brilliantly sets out the issues facing the club in 1960. Whether it makes a compelling case to put your money into the business however, is a moot point.

For example, it doesn't mention the gathering storm clouds for club owners from the impending lifting of the maximum wage, but the directors would probably have had that in their minds when they issued it in response to the club's worsening financial situation and a growing bank debt.

In 1951/52 cash at the bank totalled £15,026 but by the end of the decade,

this healthy credit balance had turned into an overdraft of just short of £60,000 with Directors putting in a further £8,250 to keep the club going.

One potential way out of the growing financial crisis was to issue more shares. Limited companies have two share figures in their balance sheets, an "authorised" or maximum number, in Pompey's case, 100,000 x £1 shares, and an actually "issued" number. In 1961 this was only 8,510, so there was legally room to do this.

The prospectus proposed investors buy a further 41,490 x £1 shares, taking the issued capital to £50,000 and leaving room for further share issues over the following years. The intention was clear in that the funds would be used to reduce the club's borrowings and provide a bit on top to purchase players.

While the prospectus is fascinating because it sets out the reasons for the decline in the club's finances it, conveniently perhaps, ignores the fact that dividends were still being paid to shareholders throughout the 1950s which might, with hindsight, have been the wrong policy to adopt. The reasons listed were:

1. Relegation to Division 2 in 1959, where "gates became seriously and adversely affected".
2. Increase in costs, both in the last few years and expected to be seen in the following years
3. The club felt it had been obliged to spend big on three items since the end of the war namely:
 - a. "It became necessary" to purchase a number of houses to provide living accommodation for players and other members of staff, 17 houses, all listed in the



prospectus, including the club hostel run by Duggie Reid for 14 of the younger players

b. The club decided to install floodlighting equipment and built a gymnasium at Fratton Park – incidentally we hosted the first Football League floodlit game in 1956 - and it also purchased a first-ever training ground and playing facilities for reserve and junior teams at Tamworth Road in Copnor, 7.15 acres on a 42-year lease, shared at first with the rugby club.

c. The club had improved the facilities at Fratton Park by erecting a new, two-tier, concrete, Fratton End at a cost of some £42,000 in 1956.

As an aside, the prospectus devotes a whole paragraph to the pitch, stating that it was now 347 feet by 217 feet and was still surrounded by a running track.

The prospectus goes on to say that even if the team hadn't been relegated, gate receipts simply were not enough to pay back the costs of these activities, so questions about the prudence of those investments in infrastructure above must be called in question.

In the 1959/60 financial year the club

had lost around £30,000, made up of a loss on operations of £17,500 and transfers of £12,500. The overdraft stood at £58,255 and the bank was demanding it was reduced.

By 1960, the club also needed better floodlights but they didn't mention this in the prospectus either. The floodlight towers to replace the 1953 lights on top of the stands, were subsequently erected in October 1962 after a fundraising campaign by the Portsmouth Supporters' Club, which had raised £6,000 by the time of the 1962 AGM through its 'Floodlight Fund' to help pay for them. Indeed, supporters' club donations would often keep the financial wolf from the door throughout the 1960s including a donation of an amazing £33,000 in 1963.

In order to encourage the share sale, buyers of 20 or more shares would continue to receive a 'privilege season ticket, issued at a 5% discount for as long as the shares were held. This could be passed on to a relative, along with the shares, on the death of the original holder. This was a good offer and the maximum FA rules allowed at the time. Admittedly, it was not quite as good as the original offer back in 1898 when if you bought £25 in shares you got a free season ticket for as long as

you held them. You can find out how the FA finally got Pompey to comply with the regulations fifty-years on in *The Making of A Modern Pompey*, published by PHS.

In those days, most clubs didn't have wealthy owners from outside of their community. They were usually limited companies owned by many 'small' local investors buying a few shares or simply had a smaller number of larger investors who were well known in the local community, investing to either get the profile and benefit for their other business activities or because they were simply fans.

By the end of 1960, the club chairman, Dr Ian McLachlan was one of the larger investors in the club with nearly one thousand shares. His fellow directors were similarly among the great and good of the Portsmouth business community, all investing in a similar way. His vice-chairman, Estate Agent Dennis Collett, held the most shares by the end of the year at more than 3,000.

A previous chairman, Richard Vernon Stokes (another large investor at just less than 3,000 shares) ran a solicitors' firm, both William Wain a meat processing company owner and John Sparshatt who ran a network of car dealerships had over 2,000, while dental surgeon Guy Sprigings, solicitor Alfred Blake and laundry owner Arthur Oliver all had less than 1,000.

However, up to 1960, the vast majority of the shareholders had just 20 shares each, this getting them the discount on their season ticket but the Directors held more and a few others had over a hundred. Some simply had a single £1 share, often bought as a present for them to make them feel part of their local club.

The results of the share offer were quite interesting. Previously, almost all of the investors had been local small investors as outlined above, but the share offer increased the numbers of investors who came from beyond the Solent area to around 12% of the total and the numbers of shares most often purchased in the share offer, up to the end of 1960, was 50 rather than 20 with a good number of investors buying 100 or 200 shares. What this suggests is that the share offer attracted 'investors' rather than 'fans'. They could be both of course, many always are, although the share register doesn't tell us whether an investor was a fan or not, simply their name, address, and in some cases an occupation.

And there were some big amounts purchased by both locals and those from further away. A local farmer from Fareham purchased 500, a gentleman residing in Berkeley Square, London took 500, the publican of the Rising Sun pub, not in Clanfield as you might expect, but in Harrow in Middlesex, took 300 and the Savoy Restaurant, where most of the club end of season events were held, had 250. Brickwoods Ltd continued their association with the club by buying 1,000 and a local builders merchant owner bought 520.

Football club finances were quite simple in those days; have a good playing year, debts could be paid off and investment made in players. In case of a bad season the club would have to go cap-in-hand to the local bank manager to increase the overdraft, mortgage or loans. Dividend payments were erratic to say the least and sometimes paid when clubs couldn't afford them as directors couldn't earn a salary in those days, so it was the only way they could get a return on their capital employed in the football club. Pompey was no different, the company paying a dividend right up until 1960.

In general though, the shares were slow to sell, not helped by the team's dismal performance on the pitch as they battled in vain to avoid a second relegation in two seasons. Sacking first team manager Freddie Cox in February 1961 failed to stop the rot.

By the 1961 AGM, the total number of shares in issue was 41,161 and the bank overdraft had been reduced to just over £41,000. As mentioned above, the supporters' club kept donating money to keep the club going. At that same AGM, shortly after introducing new manager George Smith to the shareholders, the board admitted that they would probably need a wealthy investor or new owner to survive in the long term.

Billy Butlin – a friend and business colleague of club director Vernon Stokes - was arguably the first to be wooed. He actually took 200 shares following the 1960 offer but hopes of him buying the club never came to anything.

So Pompey had to solider on. At

Up to 1960, the vast majority of the shareholders had just 20 shares each, this getting them the discount on their season ticket...

least under Smith they would bounce back immediately, winning the third division in 1962, but the financial straitjacket continued to tighten as the maximum wage was duly abolished. Led

by the Players Union which would become the Professional Footballers Association, its chairman Jimmy Hill campaigned to have the Football League's £20 per week maximum wage scrapped and was finally successful in January 1961.

Interestingly, Pompey's FA Cup winning captain Jimmy Guthrie, had been the previous leader of the players union through the 1950s, but he never gets enough credit for leading the charge throughout that period, but that's another story.

At this point clubs realised that their world was going to change for ever and by 1965, Pompey's response was



to embark on a major cost cutting exercise called 'Operation Streamline', scrapping the reserve team, selling the Tamworth Road training ground. That exercise was, arguably, as successful as the share issue...

The search for a wealthy investor also now began in earnest, although it took until 1972 before one arrived in the shape of Deacon. His arrival prompted, what became a lengthy project, to get to the top flight. Whilst he finally managed it, the endeavour nearly bankrupted him and he would sell the club to Jim Gregory in 1988.

This 1960 prospectus document may only be four pages long, but it paints a fascinating picture of how Portsmouth FC was struggling to come to terms with both relegation to the second division and a changing football landscape nationally, the ripples of which are still felt today across the game.

If you have any old documents like this one, please contact the Pompey History Society: history@pompeyfc.co.uk so we can record them or take them into the archive. Mick Comben is presently writing a book about the history of Pompey's finances so is always happy to hear any financial insight into the club's operations.

Top left: The Pompey team from August 1960, which would end up relegated to the third division.

Top right: Chairman Dr Ian McLachlan

A copy of this Prospectus, to which there are attached the documents specified hereunder, has been delivered to the Registrar of Companies for Registration.
The Subscription List will open at 10 a.m. on Monday, 22nd August, 1960, and will close on the same day.

THE PORTSMOUTH FOOTBALL COMPANY LIMITED
(Incorporated under the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908)

SHARE CAPITAL

issued
8,510

Authorised 100,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each
... .. with its bankers which at 2nd August, 1960 amounted to £58,255 10s. 11d. and which is secured

EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY...

Date: Saturday September 27, 1997

Event: Portsmouth v West Bromwich Albion, Nationwide Division One at Fratton Park. Portsmouth lost 1-0.

The story: A new Fratton End is still taking shape a month before it officially opened. Pompey's shirt sponsor is KJC mobile phones, who would also hold the naming rights for the stand.

Photographer: Steve Reid / The News



Mick Comben's

fiendishly difficult Pompey quiz...

How does your Pompey knowledge stand up against Mick's tricky twenty? Judge for yourself:

- 16-20 You know your stuff!
11-15 You know some stuff.
6-10 You know what you know...
0-5 You support you know who?

1. Which team was the opponent and what was the score in Pompey's first ever Southern League game in September 1899?

2. In Jimmy Dickinson's last ever game in 1965, which Pompey player claimed he scored Alex Wilson's goal in the 1-1 draw but never got awarded it?

3. Which of Pompey's managers had a brother named Charlie (pictured left) who made one appearance for the club as an amateur on Christmas Day 1953 at Tottenham in a 1-1 draw?

4. How many England games did Jimmy Dickinson play and why did he actually receive far fewer caps than that?

5. What links the home league games against Millwall in November 2024 and Luton Town in January 1974?

6. After Jimmy Dickinson played his last league game for Pompey at Northampton, what did the home club's Directors present him with? Was it:

- a) An electric razor
b) A pair of slippers
c) An engraved cigarette case

7. In 1968 George Ley (below) was voted by readers of the Football League Review the most handsome footballer in the country ahead of George Best. By how many votes did he claim the title? Was it:

- a) Three
b) Nine
c) 1,898

8. In 2007 a Pompey player was named Iceland's Player of the Year - who was he and what did he win that was too big to bring back to England with him?

9. New goalkeeper Yoshi Kawaguchi conceded a goal in his debut in November 2002 after how long and against which team?

10. Since 1920, which are the three clubs that Pompey have only ever faced in the league in the top flight?

11. Which Pompey Director is considered to be the first-ever woman appointed to the Board of a professional football club?

12. How many first team managers/first team coaches have Pompey had since January 1, 2000? Is it:

- a) 21
b) 18
c) 25

13. In which season did Fratton Park host a second division game while the club was in the third division and why did they do so?

14. Why did back-to-back Championship winning



goalkeeper Ernie Butler (left) choose to come to Pompey from Bath City in 1946 when he had three offers in total? Was it:

- a) He loved the sea air
b) History was his favourite subject and he admired Nelson
c) Higher wages on offer

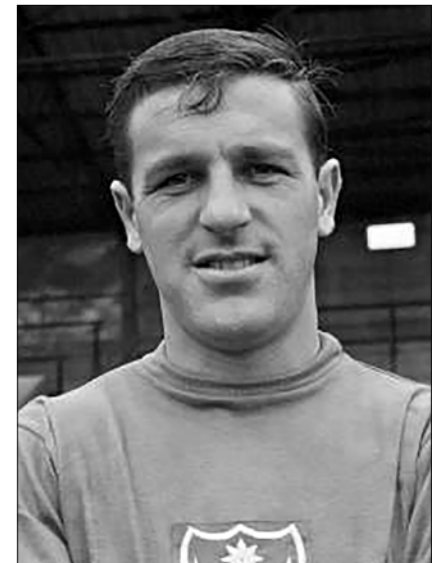
15. Who became Pompey's youngest Chief Scout in December 2000 after two broken legs which ended his playing career?

16. Who was the only Pompey player to score a hat trick in the five seasons years after World War Two and how many trebles did he score in that time?

17. Which first team player, who was recruited



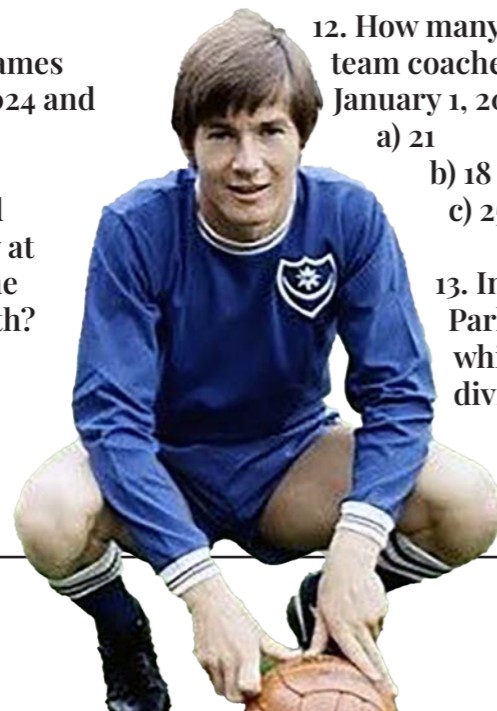
from Preston North End in 1899, ended up Chairman of the club in 1924 after being first-team manager, landlord at the Pompey Hotel and the Talbot Inn, Director and Vice Chairman?



18. Name the Pompey winger from the 1960s pictured (above right).

19. Which match was the first time Pompey wore numbered shirts (pictured left)?

20. Which Pompey manager only lasted for three months between January and March 2014?



Answers

1. Chatham away, Pompey won 1-0. 2. Cliff Portwood. 3. John Mortimore. 4. 48 and because he only got one cap for each Home Championship every year. 5. The power supply to the lights failed. 6. b) A pair of slippers. 7. a) Three. 8. Herman Hreidarsson and Mrs Joan Deacon, wife of Chairman John, joined the board on 17 December 1982. 9. 26 seconds against Sheffield Wednesday. 10. Arsenal, Everton and Tottenham. 11. an encyclopedia of Icelandic grammar. 12. a) 21. 13. 1977/78. 14. Millwall, banned from The Den, played Bristol Rovers at Fratton Park on April 14. 15. Andy Awford at the age of 28. 16. Duggie Reid hit seven trebles between 1946 and 1951. 17. Bob Blyth. 18. Micky Lill. 19. In the 1939 FA Cup Semi-Final, beating Huddersfield Town 2-1 at Highbury. 20. Richie Barker

ARCHIVE ADDITIONS

The Pompey History Society is always looking to add items to the club's archive. On these pages we share the latest objects we've acquired at auction or had donated to us.

1961/62 third division title medal of Allan Brown
at auction, April 2025

Leather football signed by Portsmouth FC team in autumn 1965
donated, October 2024

1982/83 Bell's Whiskey third division Manager of the Year tray, presented to Bobby Campbell
at eBay auction, May 2025

Scorecard from a Pompey v Southampton cricket match in May 1968.
donated, March 2025

If you have any Pompey-related items you would like to donate to the society please contact us on the following email address: history@pompeyfc.co.uk.



DICKINSON'S 1950 ENGLAND SHIRT SECURED

IT IS very rare that period England shirts come up for sale, so when the society was alerted to the fact Jimmy Dickinson's one, worn in an international at Hampden Park in April 1950, was coming up for sale at auction earlier this year it was an opportunity to good to pass up – especially as April 2025 would make 100 years since his birth.

This is the story of the shirt and its unusual pair, which will shortly be going on public display. There is even a twist in the tale at the end.

Mick Comben, the society's chair, takes it up. "In December 2024, Mick Hall, the society's collections' officer, called me. He is responsible for scouring the pages of eBay and various auction sites and making sure that the society doesn't miss out on any memorabilia for the archive.

"Although our fundraising efforts are focused on raising the £25,000 for the Peter Harris medals this year, we do have a contingency for eventualities such as this one, but first we needed to check its authenticity before we bid for it.

"The auction site explained that the shirt was in the collection of a Scottish player called Willie Woodburn, a member of the

Rangers defence in the 1940s they called "The Iron Curtain".

"Willie made 24 appearances for Scotland, exactly half that of Jimmy's 48 for England and Willie was no shrinking violet! He had had a number of disciplinary issues over the years. In 1947 he received a 14 day ban for a "violent exchange" and was eventually banned sine die, that is to say indefinitely, for head-butting.

"He was the last player in Britain to receive a life ban from the game for indiscipline so the contrast between him and 'Gentleman Jim'

is striking. To be fair, the ban was later rescinded and Willie has since been inducted into the Scotland and Rangers Hall of Fame.

"According to the auction house he had swapped his shirt with Jimmy's after the game on April 15 in Glasgow. England won 1-0 in front of 133,300 fans in a World Cup qualifying match.

"The auctioneers estimate for the shirt was between £3,000 and £5,000, plus buyer's premium at 36%, so we needed to make sure that it was a real shirt and that the story fully checked out before agreeing to commit our money to the purchase.

"The shirt matched all the



• Roy Bentley scores England's winning goal at Hampden, with Willie Woodburn on his knee behind him.

records that we could find, pictures, materials and the number, and at that time it wasn't unheard of for players to swap shirts, but the practice was still frowned upon by the FA according to Dave Moor from the Historical Kits website.

To further check the veracity of the story, Mick contacted Jimmy's son Andrew, who keeps an extensive collection of his father's memorabilia.

"I needed to ask if he had a Scottish shirt in the collection. As an aside, it turns out that he only has one of his father's shirts as with the ones that they did get, Andrew's mother used to unpick the England badges and the numbers from the back of the shirt and Jimmy wore them for cricket in Alton, throwing them away when they got too tatty to wear.

"He also gave Alton Town FC a

number of shirts at one stage, so the family have a pile of badges and numbers but only one shirt.

"However, we digress. Andrew went off to check in their archive and lo and behold, a Scotland shirt was there, matching a photo of a 1949-50 shirt that the Scottish FA had kindly sent me. Like Jimmy's England shirt in remarkable condition for a 75-year-old garment.

"The story checked out and the agreement to try to get the shirt was given to Mick Hall, who eventually got the shirt for us at the lower end of the estimate range so did a great job. The shirt, paired with Willie's, would make a great way to mark the 100th anniversary of Jimmy's birth and the plan was to put them on display at the Hall of Fame dinner in April."

But there would be a twist in the story. Mick continued: "Dave

Taylor, a PHS committee member, then dropped the bombshell that the Scotland shirt didn't have a number on the back and Pathé News footage of the game shows all the Scots players with numbers on their shirts.

"I contacted the Scottish FA once again, who couldn't give a definitive answer, but the consensus it was probably a spare shirt, worn when a player ripped his or in training, that Willie grabbed to use in the exchange.

"Nevertheless, these two shirts are a terrific pairing with an even better story to tell," added Mick.

The two shirts are going on loan to the Portsmouth City Museum & Art Gallery from August, in its football collection on the second floor and society is working to put them on permanent display at Fratton Park in the near future.

Love finds a way to bring ball back to Portsmouth

A fan from Canada, Alex Fullick, travelled to the UK last season and presented PHS with a ball from 1965, signed by the team of the day and the story behind the football is as interesting as the item itself.

"This football came into being from love. Gail Wilson was dating Alfred Fullick back in 1965. Alfred, being a strong Portsmouth FC supporter, took Gail to a few games that fall. It was during one of these games Gail mentioned that "...it would be nice to have a ball signed by the team," explained Alex.

Alfred didn't forget and on Gail's next birthday (late November '65) he presented her with the football signed by the entire team and coaching staff.

Alex, pictured left with society chair Mick Comben, continued: "To add another special aspect, the ball was

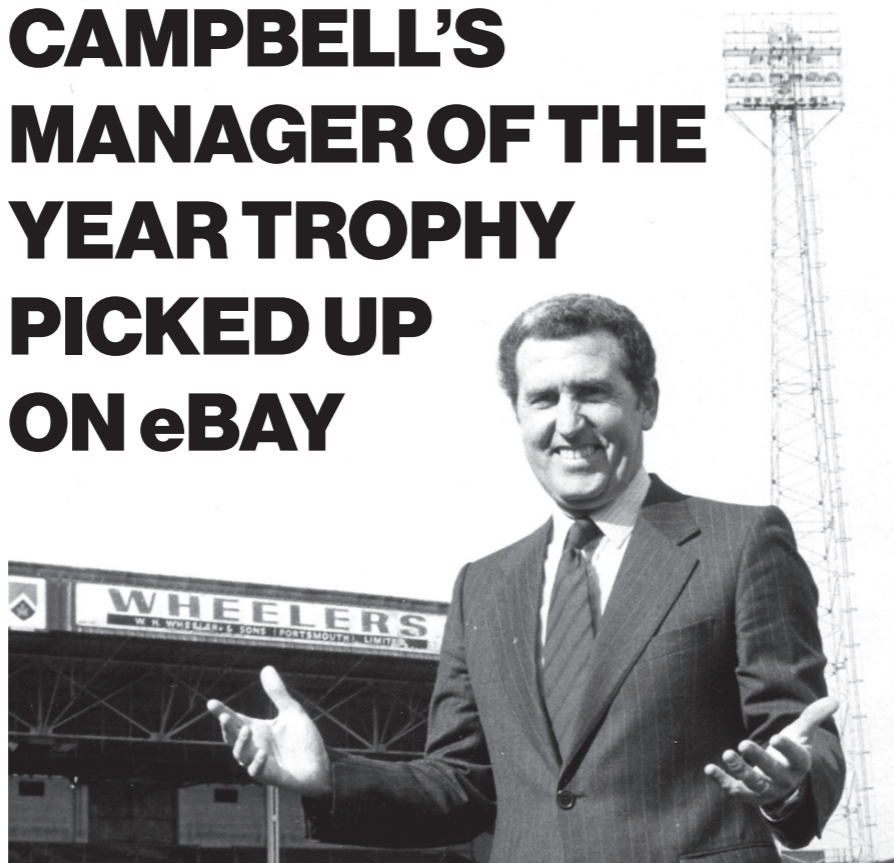
used by the team during a practice game, which was an ask of Alfred. For the last 20 years or so the ball has been under the protection of their oldest son, Alex who had questions about how the ball came to be.

"Unfortunately, Gail couldn't answer many of them and sadly those answers are lost to time, as Alfred passed away in February 2017. Since it was a gift of love, selling it for a quick buck or giving it to someone for their personal memorabilia collection was simply not an option.

"What was a great option though – and one that would honour Alfred's memory – was to return the ball to its original home. This way all Portsmouth supporters could share in the love for which it was created."

We are certainly delighted to have been able to add such a terrific item to the archive and it will be put on display soon.

CAMPBELL'S MANAGER OF THE YEAR TROPHY PICKED UP ON eBay



• Bobby Campbell pictured at Fratton Park in 1982. PHS Archive / The News

THE society regularly keeps an eye on eBay and other online auction sites.

And the policy came up trumps recently when Chris Gibbs spotted Bobby Campbell's 1983 Manager of the Year for Division Three award was under offer.

Sponsored by Bell's Scotch Whisky, the silver-plated tray was being sold by a hospice in London, which had received it as part of a donation to one of its charity shops.

Given to Campbell at a lunch in London on June 2, 1983, it was to mark the fact he had guided Pompey to the third division championship a few weeks beforehand.

Campbell was in good company that year. The First Division award went to Bob Paisley at Liverpool, with Terry Venables of QPR the second division and Dave Bassett of Wimbledon the fourth.

Alex Ferguson also got a special award for winning the Scottish FA Cup and the European Cup Winners

with Aberdeen.

He played for us in the sixties and became our caretaker manager in March 1982, taking over from Frank Burrows formally in May 1982. He was manager for two years before being sacked in April 1984.

Our collections officer Mick Hall managed to negotiate a competitive price and treasurer Paul Boynton went to collect it from the hospice.

Apparently, Bobby did live locally to them for a while, and one of his sons is a pro at a local golf club, but Bobby was never in their hospice as far as they know.

Paul has also given it a good polish and will be going on display at Fratton Park in the near future.

Mick Comben, chair of the society added: "We don't always buy everything that's out there of course but we go for anything that is rare or would be suitable for a museum display and this certainly fitted the bill."



Society strikes gold with Brown's title medal

A GOLD medal awarded to inside forward Allan Brown, who starred in Pompey's 1962 third division championship winning team, is the latest addition to the Pompey History Society's archive.

The Football League medal was placed in the club's trophy cabinet at Fratton Park recently by the society's collections officer Mick Hall, after he was successful at securing it at auction on behalf of the charity last month.



Brown was signed from Blackpool in March 1961 as new manager George Smith started to rebuild a team which had crashed from first to third in two years.

An experienced player, he played 44 games in the title-winning season, scoring three goals, before leaving the club in the summer of 1963 to manage Wigan.

The medal was placed alongside the replica third division trophy the PHS bought in 2019, to represent the title the club also won in 1983. Alan Knight's medal from that season is also in the cabinet.

Executive Chair of the society Mick Comben said: "When this item came up at auction, it was too good an opportunity to miss. Medals like this don't come up often as, relatively speaking, they are pretty rare, as back then only 15 or so were awarded each time a team won a league."

The society has a fund named in memory of former member, and co-author of the club's 125 history, Gerry Spraggs.



• Mick Hall with Brown's medal in front of the trophy cabinet.

"Although our focus this year is on raising by December the £25,000 we need to secure Peter Harris's gold medals from the 1949 and 1950 championship-winning team, we do still have a contingency within the fund to ensure we can still consider buying items which come up," explained Mick.

Scorecard tells of Pompey's Portwood's cricketing prowess

Footballers playing cricket is becoming an increasingly rare occurrence, but up until the 1980s it was quite common not only to see footballers playing first-class cricket, but also football teams donning the whites to play matches.

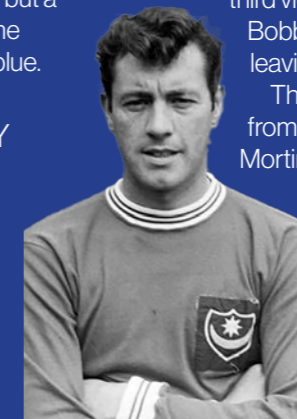
The society recently acquired a scorecard from one such match at the County Ground in Northlands Road Southampton, played on August 4, 1968.

The match, watched by more than 1,000 people, was between a Pompey XI and a Saints XI and played in aid of Portsmouth-born Hampshire cricketer Mike Barnard's Testimonial Fund. Barnard had also played professional football for Pompey in the 1950s, making more than 100 league appearances, scoring 24 goals.

The game hadn't lived long in the memory, but a visit to the Central Library soon uncovered the story of a triumph for the white-clad boys in blue.

PORTWOOD HELPS POMPEY HIT THE SAINTS FOR SIX

That was the headline in the Evening News the following day as it told the story of how Cliff Portwood (right) not only top scored but also took four wickets.



Pompey batted first in the 40-over match and despite losing Ray Pointer early on, Nicky Jennings, Harry Harris, Portwood and Jimmy Dickinson took the score to 114 before the third wicket fell. A late order collapse meant they reached just 142 all out, Portwood making 44 of those runs.

In reply, Saints got off to a good start with neither Harry Harris or former Surrey bowler Ron Tindall able to gain any life from the pitch as Saints reached 47 without loss.

Then skipper Harris pulled the master stroke by tossing the ball to the left arm seam of Portwood. It paid immediate dividends with his third ball bowling Roger Fry and three balls later Ken Jones was trapped LBW.

Three runs later Dave Thompson became Portwood's third victim and then Ray Hiron joined in the fun, bowling Bobby McCarthy before Judd was bowled by Portwood leaving Saints 53 for 5.

The rest was almost a formality, despite an excellent 49 from Saints assistant (and future Pompey) manager John Mortimore while Terry Paine also put up some resistance.

Tommy Youlden finishing the innings with three quick wickets. Portwood's final figures were nine overs, four wickets for eleven runs with Youlden taking three for nine as Pompey won by 14 runs.

*Then
& Now*

Place of Birth: Sheffield

Age: I'd have just been 22 when I signed. I'm 78 now...

Height: 5' 10" and I'm still the same.

Weight: Playing weight was 11st 7lbs, but I'm 11st now.

Married: Not then, but I married Val in 1975.

Children: None when I signed, but step-sons Michael and Mark and daughter Samantha now. Family is important to me.

A Place Called Home: Digs in Devonshire Avenue when I first signed, but Farlington ever since I got married.

Car: A Ford Consul L in 1969 and a Vauxhall Corsa now.



DAVE MUNKS

SIGNED: MAY 1969

The Day I Signed: Manager George Smith (pictured with me on that day below) took me up to Portsmouth Hill to see the sights. I signed straight away. I just wanted to play as the new manager at Bramall Lane didn't want me. Smith was a Sergeant-Major type and told me to get my hair cut. I had an inch off to show willing...

Nickname: Eoin [Hand] called me Joe straight away and he still does. He's the only one...

Team Supported: I watched Wednesday as a lad, but I'd have to say United. Now it's Pompey.

Football Hero: George Best had everything and Tony Currie (above right) was the best I played with. These days I'd pay to watch Mo Salah and I rate Conor Ogilvie. He's Mr Consistency.

Superstitions: None really. We always had a pre-match meal in the Jolly Sailor pub.

Favourite Other Sport: I loved the camaraderie of golf and still do, but I can't play anymore unfortunately. If we won, sometimes the manager would take the team up to

Crookhorn for a round.

Hobbies: I loved foreign travel back then. Me and Broms [Brian Bromley] would travel to Spain in the summers. Now I like gardening and DIY.

Favourite Music: It would have to be Joe Cocker (above) in 1969. He was a Sheffield lad and I got to know him quite well at the Penny Farthing night club there. These days I'm more mellow. Frank Sinatra or Jack Jones. I like Ed Sheeran too.

Favourite TV Show: I liked Monty Python and Match of the Day of course. These days its factual documentaries and football.

Favourite Actor: When I was at Sheffield we used to do the pictures every Sunday, but nothing stands out.

The Day I Left: I loved my time at Pompey so I'd never criticise them, though I wanted to stayed longer. Let's just say the time [December 1973] was right to leave, after Went and Manley signed, but I didn't enjoy Swindon. I then got loaned to Exeter City, a club which I really liked.

