

THE DPL WEEKLY

EVERY GOAL – EVERY GAME – EVERY SUNDAY

Issue 08 – Season 26 / 27



Edited by Giles Kilshawe - Fall



Cobham Sports FC v **Sherborne Town Res** – 17/10/26

Photo courtesy of Steve Harris – steve@bdfaimages.co.uk



Welcome — To Issue Number 8

Another full round of League fixtures has pushed the season into sharper focus, with several sides using the weekend to strengthen their early standing. Patterns are beginning to settle, momentum is starting to matter, and the division is showing clearer separation between those building consistency and those still searching for it. What felt like early-season turbulence is now forming into a more defined picture.

Weekend Highlights

There was no change at the top of the Dorset Premier Football League as the leading contenders all recorded victories in another crucial weekend of action. Dorchester Sports FC remained leaders with a 3-1 win over Bournemouth Electric FC, while Swanage Town & Herston FC produced an impressive second-half comeback to defeat Portland United Reserves 3-1. Balti Sports FC returned to winning ways with a convincing 4-1 success at Gillingham Town FC. Cobham Sports FC delivered the standout result, thrashing Sherborne Town FC Reserves 5-0, while Wimborne Town Reserves, Holt United FC and Hamworthy United Reserves also claimed valuable victories.

League Notices

A reminder to all clubs to ensure they remain fully familiar with League Rules and Regulations. For any clarification, please contact the appropriate League Officer.

The League continues to seek a Main Sponsor for the 2026/27 season, alongside several additional sponsorship opportunities. Organisations interested in supporting Dorset's leading grassroots competition should contact the League Secretary at:

dpl.generalsecretary@gmail.com

Enjoy Issue 7.

Giles Kilshawe-Fall

Editor, The DPL Weekly

DPL Round-Up – 10th October

Dorchester Sports FC maintain their position at the summit of the table, though they were forced to share the spoils in a 1-1 draw at Verwood Town FC. Dennis Howes gave the hosts a first-half advantage, but the league leaders found an answer in the second period through Alex Godfrey to preserve their standing. Capitalizing on the leaders dropped points, Swanage Town & Herston FC ascended to second place following a clinical 3-1 victory over Sherborne Town FC Reserves in the Purbeck. The Swans' clinical edge was provided by Jack Hughes, Jack Clark, and Will Pryor with Danny Dacombe scoring for the Zebras. At Broadway, Bournemouth Electric FC sparked back to winning ways with a routine 3-0 home win against Wimborne Town FC Reserves. Goals from Edrin Ashante, Jamie Morgan, and Nasim Meddah secured the points for the hosts. Similarly, in Somerset, Westland Sports FC produced a dominant second-half display at Alvington, dispatching Wareham Rangers FC 3-0 with strikes from Ronnie Rowsell, Harrison Foster, and Jamie Green. The performance of the day arguably belongs to Hamworthy Recreation FC Reserves, who secured their first points of the campaign. A brace from Connor Ford, one in each half, delivered a 2-0 victory over Portland United FC Reserves. Parity was the theme across two high-scoring 2-2 draws: At Petersham Lane, Holt United FC and Balti Sports FC traded blows in a seesaw encounter. George Ashby twice put the Bulls ahead, but Taylor Brown and a late Jack Summers header ensured the points were split. In Wiltshire, Mere Town FC and Hamworthy United FC Reserves also finished level. Jacob Rowley's brace for the hosts was cancelled out by Theo Day and a crucial Josh Ellaway equalizer for the Hammers.

One fixture failed to be played today, Cobham Sports FC versus Gillingham Town FC was postponed as the visitors were unable to field a side.

DPL Midweek Round-Up – 13th & 14th October

Verwood Town FC fell behind inside two minutes against Bournemouth Sports FC with Lewis Evans scoring at Potterne Park under the lights and, despite long spells of pressure, the hosts just couldn't convert. Kerr had a volley cleared off the line, Pope struck the post, Joshua Wallis in the home goal saved a penalty, but Sports' counter attacks proved decisive with further goals on 35 and 48 minutes through George Harper & substitute Shane Sheridan sealing a 0-3 defeat.

Hamworthy Rec FC Reserves impressed before a crowd of 119 at Magna Road, with Jake Marvin superb in a goalless first half. Holt United FC struck 1st on the hour through Matthew Stephenson, but Alex Butnariu levelled for the hosts with a fine 20-yard effort. Rec pushed for a point, however, Alastair Williams' late finish earned Holt a narrow 2-1 win. Sherborne Town FC Reserves continued their improvement with a deserved home 4-2 win over Balti Sports FC. Josh Haskett opened the scoring, before Thomas Gaylard, Alfie Calway & Declan Cornish extended the lead. Balti's Ryan McKechnie scored twice in reply, but Sherborne's decisive ten-minute surge in the 2nd half secured victory, with keeper Sammy Hlland outstanding throughout.



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DORCHESTER SPORTS	3
BOURNEMOUTH ELECTRIC	1

Dorchester Sports responded emphatically to last week's setback at Verwood, producing a controlled & clinical performance to beat Electric and maintain their position at the top of the table. From midfield dominance to sharp finishing, Sports re-established momentum and tightened their grip on 1st place.

Dorchester Sports delivered exactly the reaction their manager would have demanded, bouncing back from a disappointing display at Verwood with a convincing win over Electric that keeps them top of the Dorset Premier League. With two attack-minded sides on show, the game promised tempo and chances, and the opening stages delivered both. Electric's pace and width caused early movement in the Sports back line, but it was the hosts who struck first. Toby Diaz's persistence earned a throw deep in the final third, and after neat midfield interplay, **Brin Doyle** received the ball inside the box and calmly slotted home. With Elliott Brown and Jamie Samways taking full control of midfield, Sports quickly nullified Electric's early threat. Their dominance was rewarded again when Kriss Radivojsa hooked a free-kick back across goal, leaving **Doyle** a yard out to tap in his second of the afternoon and his tenth of the season. The two-goal cushion allowed Sports to dictate the rhythm. Shaun Bessant and Radivojsa marshalled the defensive line superbly, while Electric's brightest moments through Abraham Adesoji and Daniel Knox never quite materialised into clear chances. The pattern continued after the break, with Sports' structure and control proving decisive. Skipper Alex Godfrey's excellent hold-up play created space for **Dylan Ellis**, who shielded the ball from two defenders before finishing neatly to make it 3-0. Going three down finally sparked Electric into life. With changes across both teams, their pace began to stretch the Sports defence. A clipped effort struck the bar, and keeper Sam Duncalf produced two sharp saves to maintain the cushion. Electric's pressure eventually told when substitute **Mateusz Grzybowski** lofted a composed finish into the far corner for 3-1.

Despite the late threat, Sports were worthy winners, controlling large spells of the match and showing the authority expected of league leaders. It was a strong, timely response that keeps them ahead of the chasing pack.

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PORTLAND UTD RESERVES	1
SWANAGE T&H	3



Portland United Reserves pushed second-placed Swanage hard at the Camp & Satherley Stadium, leading at half-time before a transformed Swans second-half display turned the contest around. Portland's early control contrasted sharply with Swanage's late dominance in an entertaining, hard-fought Dorset Premier Football League encounter.

Portland United Reserves welcomed high-flying Swanage FC looking to test themselves against one of the league's strongest sides, and they began superbly. Portland's early tempo forced Swanage onto the back foot, with **Connor Bent** racing through on 20 minutes to calmly slot home after a well-weighted pass split the visiting defence. Two minutes later Bent almost doubled the lead, meeting Jo Waring's excellent cross with a header that flashed narrowly wide. Portland continued to threaten, and Mike Powell grazed the post shortly before the break as the hosts deservedly led 1–0. Swanage, by contrast, endured a sluggish first half. Keeper Hibbs was called upon to deny Portland on multiple occasions, while chances for Cresswell and Clarke went begging, Cresswell striking the post before later being forced off with an ankle injury. Despite moments from Torniainen and Pryor, Swanage trailed at the interval and needed a response. Whatever was said at half-time worked. Swanage emerged a different side, levelling within three minutes of the restart when **Jack Torniainen** finished well after a superb pass from Will Prior. The visitors' confidence surged, with Prior and Curtis Young linking effectively and Young hitting the side netting as Swanage began to dictate play. Their pressure told on 80 minutes when skipper **Will Prior** calmly finished past Karl Wall to give Swanage the lead. Five minutes later, the league's leading scorer struck again, converting from close range after Mark Ford's free-kick was flicked on by Josh Reavenall-Nuete, completing a decisive second-half turnaround.

Electric attacking play from Swanage late on contrasted with Portland's earlier dominance, and although the hosts competed well throughout, the visitors' improved intensity and clinical edge secured a 3–1 victory that keeps them firmly in second place. Portland can take encouragement from a strong first-half display and their ability to trouble one of the division's top sides, but sustaining that level across the full 90 minutes remains the next challenge.





HOLT UNITED	2
WAREHAM RANGERS	1



Holt United edged past a determined Wareham Rangers in a tight, hard-fought contest, settling the match with a second-half penalty after both sides shared an even opening period. Wareham battled throughout and pushed Holt deep late on, but the hosts missed chances didn't prevent a deserved 2-1 victory.

Holt began brightly and took a deserved lead after ten minutes, working the ball well down the right before Matty Stephenson slipped a neat pass into **George Ashby**, who finished confidently for 1-0. However, the advantage sparked a lapse in concentration, and Wareham capitalised. A long-range effort was spilled by the Holt keeper, allowing **Johnny Powell** to react quickest and level the match after twenty minutes. The equaliser lifted the visitors, who enjoyed a strong spell, pressing Holt and disrupting their rhythm. The remainder of the half was evenly contested, closing at 1-1. The second half initially mirrored the end of the first, with neither side finding fluency. Holt created the first major opening when Alex broke through one-on-one, only for Wareham's defence to recover superbly. Holt then began to assert control, producing a series of chances. Brandon Williams fired wide when well placed, Ashby saw another effort blocked, and the Wareham keeper denied him again with an excellent save. Holt's pressure finally told midway through the half. Ashby weaved into the box and was brought down, leaving the referee with a straightforward decision. **Alistair Williams** stepped up and converted confidently to restore Holt's lead at 2-1. The hosts continued to dominate, missing a clear header from a corner and seeing further chances fall to Ashby, who shot wide late on. Despite their control, Holt were unable to find the cushion their play deserved. Wareham, from their perspective, felt the first half reflected their effort and organisation. Powell's equaliser rewarded their regrouping, and although they battled hard after the break, they struggled to regain momentum. The decisive penalty left them chasing the game, but they continued to compete, with goalkeeper Aiden Viney standing out for his assured performance and a superb second-half save.

In the end, Holt's sustained pressure and chance creation earned a deserved 2-1 win, while Wareham left with credit for their resilience in a tight, competitive fixture.



COBHAM SPORTS	5
SHERBORNE TOWN RES	0

Back to winning ways for Cobham Sports in the DPL on a chilly Saturday afternoon as they went nap over Sherborne Town Reserves at Merley Park, they overcame a cautious start to the game to run in four unanswered goals by the interval, Logan Nicholson, Brad Hill and a Jean Pierre Pascal brace putting them in total control, Hill scored his second of the game mid second half to see Cobham win by 5-0.

Cobham were on the front foot from the start and Asa Phillips was the first to test Sam Hulland in the Sherborne goal, he pushed the Phillips close range effort out for a corner and five minutes later Nicholson forced another save from Hulland after being played in by Phillips. Cobham lost frontman Phillips with a nasty looking ankle injury in the 12th minute and they had to shuffle the pack but they soon got back into their stride again and Harry Wright had a goal bound shot blocked for a corner in the 21st minute and from the resulting kick, **Logan Nicholson** scored direct from the corner, launching the ball at the far post, Cobham 1 Sherborne 0. Cobham's reshuffle saw them playing with more pace as they took the game to Sherborne, Sam Lench had a shot blocked in the 25th minute and just six minutes later Cobham made it 2-0, **Brad Hill** receiving the ball from the right 35 yards out, he turned and saw Hulland well off his line and scored with a delightful chip giving the retreating keeper no chance. This goal saw Cobham increase their intensity and they made it three in the 33rd minute, Matt Steer played an incisive ball down the right where **Pascal** controlled perfectly and shot early across Hulland into the far side netting. Sherborne had little answer to quell Cobham's forward thrust and they made it 4-0 in the 40th minute, Callum Perry found Sam Lench with a ball over the left back, Lench went to the byline and crossed for **Pascal** to bundle the ball over the line from close range for his second of the afternoon, 4-0 at the interval. Sherborne started the second half brightly but still didn't manage to test keeper Harry Martin but at the other end Pascal was a denied a hat trick in the 52nd minute by a good block by Corey Calway. It was a far more even first 20 minutes to the second half with Sherborne looking good at times moving forward but their play regularly fell down in the final third, Cobham went to the bench and refreshed legs saw them pick up the pace of the game and they claimed their fifth goal of the afternoon in the 72nd minute, a deflected cross finding the impressive **Brad Hill** at the far post who controlled the high ball superbly and then shot home past Hulland for his second of the afternoon. Max Dilworth was

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League



close with an effort in the 74th minute, Hlland tipping the ball over the bar and then Pascal was just wide with an effort just two minutes later. It was all Cobham at the death, Lee Wilkins was found at the far post by a Hill corner in the 81st minute but he headed just wide and Hlland made fine saves from first, Harry Wright, then immediately from Dan Brown to deny Cobham from stretching their lead, Dan Brown went close in the 90th minute as the game finished 5-0 to Cobham.

An excellent performance from the home side, five goals, a clean sheet from Harry Martin on debut, a solid defensive effort which didn't see Cobham concede a corner throughout, Logan Nicholson had a fine afternoon but Brad Hill stole the show with another fine performance, this time in a more advanced role, to take out the MoM honours.



GILLINGHAM TOWN	1
BALTI SPORTS	4

Gillingham were able to field a side this week after last weekend's no-show at Cobham, but a reshaped squad struggled against a sharp Balti Sports outfit. Despite effort and a late consolation, Balti's control and finishing secured a deserved victory that lifted them into fifth place.

Gillingham Town welcomed Balti Sports to Woodwater with a much-changed side, several departures and new arrivals forcing a reshuffle. After failing to field a team at Cobham the previous weekend, simply getting eleven on the pitch was progress, but Balti Sports quickly showed they were in no mood to offer charity. The visitors settled faster, moved the ball well, and took a deserved lead through **Jack Summers**, who finished confidently after finding space inside the box. Gillingham struggled to build rhythm, and Balti's pressure continued to tell, **Summers** striking again to make it 0–2 at the break. The second half followed a similar pattern, with Balti sharper in possession and more decisive in the final third. **Summers** completed his hat-trick with another composed finish, stretching the lead further and underlining Balti's superiority. Gillingham battled and tried to stay compact, but Balti's movement repeatedly pulled them into uncomfortable areas. **Ryan McKechnie** added a fourth, capping a strong individual display and putting the game firmly out of reach of their hosts. To their credit, Gillingham kept pushing and were rewarded for their endeavours with a consolation goal. **Harry Barnes** stepped up over a free-kick and struck it cleanly, bending the ball past the keeper to make it 1–4. It was a moment of quality in a difficult afternoon and gave the home side something to take from the game.

Balti's win moves them into fifth place, their attacking play and clinical finishing proving the difference. Summers' hat-trick and McKechnie's contribution highlighted a side growing in confidence and consistency. For Gillingham, now sitting 12th, the challenge is clear: stabilise the squad, build cohesion, and turn competitive spells into sustained performances. Fielding a team was step one; finding momentum must now follow.





BOURNEMOUTH SPORTS	2
WESTLAND SPORTS	2

Bournemouth Sports and Westland Sports produced a dramatic finish at Chapel gate, with both sides trading spectacular long-range strikes late on. Sports twice led through moments of real quality, but Westland's stunning free-kick ensured an entertaining contest ended level after a fiercely contested afternoon.

Bournemouth Sports began brightly on a crisp, sunny afternoon at Chapel gate, settling quickly and dictating the early tempo. Their positive start was rewarded after twenty minutes when a sharp passing move opened Westland up, allowing **Matt Charalambous** to finish confidently and give Sports a deserved 1–0 lead. The hosts looked comfortable, but Westland gradually grew into the game, enjoying a spell of possession that culminated in an equaliser. **Phil Ormrod** reacted well inside the box to level the score before half-time, ensuring the visitors went into the break with renewed belief. The second half opened in scrappy fashion, with both sides competing hard but struggling to find rhythm or quality in the final third. Tackles were firm, transitions were quick, yet neither team created anything clear-cut as the game drifted into a tense midfield battle. That changed dramatically in the 75th minute. **Lewis Evans**, spotting space and encouraged by the crowd, unleashed a thunderous strike from fully 35 yards. The ball rocketed into the top corner, leaving the Westland keeper helpless and restoring Sports' advantage in spectacular fashion. With the hosts now looking likely to see out the game, Westlands pushed forward with greater urgency. Their persistence paid off with a moment of brilliance of their own. **Lucas Cawley** stepped up over a free-kick from 25 yards and produced an outrageous effort that swerved, dipped and flew into the very top corner. It was a strike of such quality that no goalkeeper could have stopped it, a genuine moment of class that stunned Chapel gate and levelled the match at 2–2.

Bournemouth Sports had controlled large spells of the game and twice led through outstanding goals, but Westland's late response ensured the points were shared. A fiercely contested match, illuminated by two exceptional long-range finishes, one for each sides, ended with honours even.



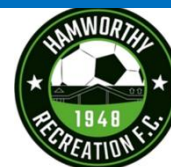
VERWOOD TOWN 0
WIMBORNE TOWN RES 3



Wimborne Town Reserves left Potterne Park with a comfortable victory after capitalising on Verwood's generosity in a performance the hosts will want to forget. Despite brief spells of resistance, defensive gaps and hesitant midfield play proved costly as Wimborne took full advantage to secure a deserved 3-0 win.

Christmas arrived early for Wimborne Town Reserves, who were gifted three points by a Verwood Town side whose generosity and passivity repeatedly opened the door for the visitors. The tone was set inside the opening minute when a Wimborne free-kick from 30 yards was palmed out by Wallis, before Danvers' cross at the other end was comfortably claimed by the Wimborne keeper. Both teams initially looked willing to attack, but Verwood's looseness soon crept in. Wimborne grew in possession and began to stretch the home defence. Kerr, filling in at right-back, stood up well alongside Penn, Pope and Best, but Verwood's midfield lost its structure and the pressure mounted. The inevitable breakthrough arrived on 19 minutes when **Jake Collett-Carr** whipped a low effort past Wallis for 0-1. Verwood struggled to respond, standing off and allowing Wimborne long spells of uncontested passing. Half-time arrived with the hosts still trailing, and Wes Hayward was introduced for Rahman. The change briefly sparked life: within a minute Verwood broke down the left and delivered a good cross, but the visiting keeper claimed confidently. Wimborne immediately countered, forcing a corner that Mayo initially defended well, only for an unmarked forward to lift the rebound over the bar. Hayward continued to influence play, threading a neat ball through for Kwaminda to force a corner, but the resulting scramble ended with the keeper gathering at his post. That proved the last meaningful threat from Verwood as they again retreated, giving Wimborne space to dictate. On 57 minutes **Jacob Wilson** was allowed a clear run through the middle before firing left-footed past Wallis for 0-2. A brief spell of resistance followed, but Wimborne's energy and movement remained superior. On 81 minutes a huge gap in the Verwood back line allowed **Nathan Davis** to break through and finish for 0-3, sealing the result. Scott replaced Howe late on, but the match drifted to a close with Wimborne comfortable winners on the day.





HAMWORTHY UTD RES	2
HAMWORTHY REC RES	1

Hamworthy United Reserves returned to winning ways with a hard-earned victory over Hamworthy Recreation Reserves, building a decisive first-half lead through Isaac Majisiri and Mason Trevor. Rec battled well after the break and pulled one back through Owen Lampshire, but United held firm for a deserved 2–1 win.

Hamworthy United Reserves responded impressively to recent league frustrations, producing a committed and controlled performance to defeat neighbours Ham Rec Reserves 2–1 at Magna Road. The hosts began with real purpose, pressing aggressively and moving the ball with far more fluency than in previous outings. Their early intent was rewarded when **Isaac Majisiri** broke the deadlock, finishing confidently after a well-constructed move that carved open the Rec back line. United continued to dictate the tempo, with their midfield pairing showing good discipline and ensuring Rec struggled to build any sustained possession. The pressure told again before the interval. **Mason Trevor**, who has been a consistent threat in recent weeks, doubled the advantage with a composed finish to give Hamworthy a fully deserved 2–0 half-time lead. Their attacking play carried both sharpness and conviction, and the hosts looked well in control as the players headed in at the break. Ham Rec emerged for the second half with renewed determination, tightening their shape and pushing higher up the pitch. Their improvement was rewarded when **Owen Lampshire** found space and finished well to reduce the deficit, giving the visitors belief and shifting the momentum of the contest. The goal energised Rec, who enjoyed their best spell of the match as they forced Hamworthy deeper and tested the defensive resolve of the home side. United, however, showed maturity and organisation in the closing stages. Their back line dealt with Rec's direct play effectively, clearing danger when required and slowing the game at key moments. Although Rec continued to probe, Hamworthy's structure held firm, and they managed the final minutes with composure to secure the points.

The 2–1 victory marks an important step forward for Hamworthy United Reserves, who combined early attacking quality with late defensive resilience. For Rec, Lampshire's goal and their improved second-half display offered positives, but United's first-half superiority ultimately proved decisive.

Photo Corner



Cobham Sports v Sherborne Town Res [17 10 26]

Photos courtesy of Steve Harris

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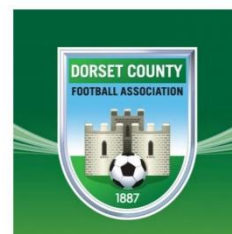
Portland United Res v Swanage Town & Herston [17 10 26]

Photos courtesy of Gerald Dimarco

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COUNTY CORNER



FOR 16/17-YEAR-OLDS

Who play open aged Football (Adult) – “KNOW YOUR RIGHTS”

YOUR RIGHTS:

- You have the right to feel safe on and offline;
- You have the right to healthy relationships and appropriate boundaries;
- You have the right not to be bullied, harassed or intimidated;
- You have the right not to feel uncomfortable or unsafe;
- You have the right not to be discriminated against because of your age, gender, gender reassignment, ethnicity, sexual orientation, marital status or civil partnership, faith, ability or disability, pregnancy and maternity.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Tell an adult you trust at home, school or college or at football;
- E-mail safeguarding@TheFA.com, or speak to a Designated Safeguarding Officer;
- Contact the NSPCC for free **0800 800 5000** or Childline **0800 1111** or visit their website for more information;
- If someone is in immediate danger dial 999 to speak to the Police;
- Set up privacy settings for your online profiles;
- Report inappropriate online behaviour to CEOP.

HELPFUL ORGS:

NSPCC: nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/report-abuse

Childline: childline.org.uk Helpline: **0800 1111**

CEOP: ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting

ThinkUknow: thinkuknow.co.uk/14_plus

ChildNet: childnet.com/young-people/secondary

Samaritans: samaritans.org/how-we-can-help-you

Helpline is open 24 hrs a day: **116 123**

Stonewall: stonewall.org.uk/help-advice

Stonewall Youth: youngstonewall.org.uk

YoungMinds: youngminds.org.uk

DisrespectNoBody: disrespectnobody.co.uk

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IN FOOTBALL

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SEASON 2026 – 2027

- All clubs with open age teams will be required to have a named Club Welfare Officer at the point of affiliation for a New Season.
- All open age teams with 16/17-year-old players must ensure that the team coaches must have an in-date FA DBS in place.
- It is the responsibility of clubs to ensure that they are aware of any 16/17-year-olds playing, and to adhere to the FA DBS requirements.

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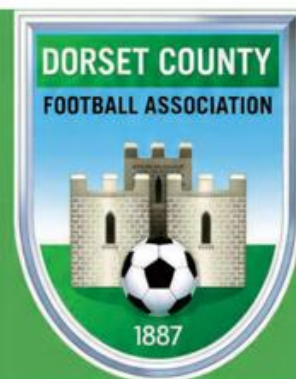
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Dorset Premier
League



DCFA U18 REFEREES ZERO TOLERANCE



Our young referees are better than you think.
Support them.
And they will be back next week.
We operate Zero Tolerance towards questioning and
abuse of our referees.

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Anti-social behaviour has no place in football ✖

We're working together to keep the game safe, positive and enjoyable for everyone.

Think before you act!

OUR GAME. OUR COMMUNITY.

**YOUR ACTIONS HURT
DON'T DESTROY OUR GAME**

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

We're working together to tackle **anti-social behaviour** that has been highlighted as a problem at **Step 3** and **Step 4** football!

Continue to disrupt the game then **expect to face sanctions.**

Ground bans, removal from football activity as a player, coach or referee.

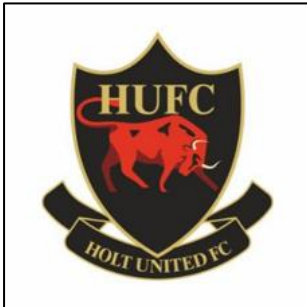
Our clubs deserve more **RESPECT and SUPPORT**, stop adding additional stress and challenges to our volunteers!

- RESPECT THE GAME**
- RESPECT THE PEOPLE**
- PROTECT OUR GAME**

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Feature



How Holt Utd FC became the heart of a rural Dorset community

Torq Hopper

NEWS

7TH OCT 2026

For six decades, Holt Football Club has stood as the heartbeat of its rural community.

Today, as committee members, young players, and supporters look ahead, securing their long-term future on local land remains crucial to preserving their legacy. The club's future rests on land owned by Sir Richard Glyn near Gaunt's House. While past redevelopment uncertainty brought anxiety, club leaders are striving for a positive, lasting arrangement. Committee member Scott Bradford said: "He's been great for us, giving us this club... for over the years, and we are so grateful for that... please do let the community stay here. "This club has a legacy to maintain, and that legacy can be maintained through Sir Richard and the football club working together." What began in the mid-1960s as a pitch carved out of a Dorset cow field has grown into a cherished community institution. The story of Holt FC dates back to the 1960s, when village fathers met in the local hall to bring football to the area. Original committee member Jim Powell, one of the last surviving founders, recalled his unlikely start: "I haven't got any son, but I went just to be nosy and ended up on the committee". The early days required volunteer determination. After starting on a pitch where players had to clear livestock before matches, the founders moved to a former cricket pitch associated with the Gaunt's House estate. Key figures like current chairman Terry Bradford helped to construct the facilities from scratch. Players initially changed in a donated caravan before volunteers dismantled an army barrack shed from Blandford Camp. "Everything had to be for free," Powell said, describing how local contractors donated stone so lorries could cross the clay ground. That pitch-side determination delivered sporting glory: Holt FC went on to win the Dorset Premier League three times, achieve a historic league-and-cup double, and develop young players who have advanced to AFC Bournemouth and Southampton FC professional academies. Beyond trophies, Holt FC provides an

indispensable community anchor for Holt, Furzehill, Witchampton, and surrounding hamlets. Hosting 250 to 300 children across nearly 30 youth teams, the club offers a vital pathway for pupils from St James First School. Committee member Bradford emphasised the severe stakes of losing their grounds: "For a local community to have that so close... to lose that would destroy lives". Beyond football, the facility acts as a social hub for snooker, Friday night meat draws, and sports days. Fellow committee member James Stelfox said: "Particularly for younger kids where they spend all their time on their phones, this is quite a wholesome place to come to because it's outside. It's sport. It's real relationships". The crusade has also gained national attention. MP Vicky Slade has rallied behind Holt FC, working to protect the grounds as an Asset of Community Value and speaking on their behalf in Parliament. With strong parliamentary backing and community devotion, Holt FC remains determined to safeguard its home for generations to come.

Report Courtesy of the: **DAILY ECHO**

STATS



League Table

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Dorchester Sports FC	12	9	2	1	18	29
2	Swanage Town & Herston FC	12	9	1	2	17	28
3	Holt United FC	13	9	1	3	17	28
4	Cobham Sports FC	11	8	2	1	25	26
5	Balti Sports FC	11	7	1	3	17	22
6	Bournemouth Electric FC	12	6	4	2	16	22
7	Westland Sports FC	9	4	4	1	10	16
8	Bournemouth Sports FC	11	4	3	4	4	15
9	Wimborne Town FC Reserves	11	5	0	6	1	15
10	Hamworthy United FC Reserves	12	4	2	6	-10	14
11	Sherborne Town FC Reserves	12	4	2	6	-17	14
12	Gillingham Town FC	12	4	1	7	-11	13
13	Portland United FC Reserves	12	3	2	7	-9	11
14	Wareham Rangers FC	12	3	1	8	-12	10
15	Mere Town FC	11	2	3	6	-15	9
16	Verwood Town FC	13	2	3	8	-18	8*
17	Hamworthy Recreation FC Reserves	14	1	0	13	-33	3

* adjustment made

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Upcoming Fixtures

Lg	10/10/26	Bournemouth Electric FC		VS		Wimborne Town FC Reserves
Lg	10/10/26	Cobham Sports FC		VS		Gillingham Town FC
Lg	10/10/26	Hamworthy Recreation FC Reserves		VS		Portland United FC Reserves
Lg	10/10/26	Holt United FC		VS		Balti Sports FC
Lg	10/10/26	Mere Town FC		VS		Hamworthy United FC Reserves
Lg	10/10/26	Swanage Town & Herston FC		VS		Sherborne Town FC Reserves
Lg	10/10/26	Verwood Town FC		VS		Dorchester Sports FC
Lg	10/10/26	Westland Sports FC		VS		Wareham Rangers FC



Postponement Count = 1

10 10 26 Cobham Sports v **GILLINGHAM TOWN** – Away team unable to fulfil fixture

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The Following details are based on clubs being up to date with records on Full Time at time of publication.

This may or may not include League goals & Clean Sheets from this weekend.

Golden Boot – League Games Only

Pos	Player Name	Team	Appearances	Goals
	▼	▼	▼ ▲	▼ ▲
1 	William Prior	 Swanage Town & Herston FC	11	12
2	Kester Thomas Wilson	 Wimborne Town FC Reserves	4	11
3	Taylor Brown	 Balti Sports FC	6	9
4	George Edgar Ashby	 Holt United FC	12	8
5	Asa Luke Phillips	 Cobham Sports FC	10	8
6	John Powell	 Wareham Rangers FC	11	8
7	Curtis John Young	 Swanage Town & Herston FC	9	8

LEAGUE CUP 2026 - 2027

Preliminary Round									
01/09/2026	A		Verwood Town FC	1	v	5	Dorchester Sports FC		
05/09/2026	B		Westland Sports FC	2	v	1	Wareham Rangers FC		
1st Round									
19/09/2026	1		Cobham Sports FC	10	v	1	Bournemouth Electric FC		
19/09/2026	2		Holt United FC	2	v	1	Bournemouth Sports FC		
19/09/2026	3		Mere Town FC	3	v	3	Westland Sports FC		
							WSFC won 9-8 on Pens		
19/09/2026	4		Wimborne Town FC Res	4	v	1	Balti Sports		
22/09/2026	6		Gillingham Town FC	4	v	0	Hamworthy United FC Res		
22/09/2026	7		Swanage T&H FC	4	v	1	Hamworthy Rec FC Res		
TBC	5		Dorchester Sports FC		v		Portland United FC Res		
n/a	8		Due to Bridport FC Res withdrawing from League after Draw was made	A	v	W	Sherborne Town FC Res		
Quarter Final									
TBC	9		Westland Sports FC		v		Wimborne Town FC Res		
TBC	10		Cobham Sports FC		v		Holt United FC		
TBC	11		5		v		Sherborne Town FC Res		
TBC	12		Gillingham Town FC		v		Swanage T&H FC		
Semi Final									
	13				v				
	14				v				
Final									
	15				v				



Dorset Premier
League



LAWS OF THE GAME

KEY CHANGES FOR 2026/27

The main updates Players
Team Management & Match Officials
need to know.



1



SUBSTITUTIONS

Players have 10 seconds to leave when subbed, unless injured.

2



PLAYER EQUIPMENT

Accessories are allowed if they're safe and securely covered.

3



THE REFEREE

Players treated on the pitch must stay off for 1 minute after play restarts.

4



RESTARTS OF PLAY

Dropped-ball wording is clarified when a team would have gained possession.

5



FOULS & MISCONDUCT

No caution for DOGSO if advantage is played and a goal is scored.

6



PENALTY KICKS

Accidental double-touch: goal = retake, no goal = missed.

7



THROW-INS

A 5-second visual countdown can be used. If time is exceeded, the throw goes to the opposition.

8



GOAL KICKS

A 5-second visual countdown can be used. If time is exceeded, a corner is awarded; delaying can still be cautioned.



For the full law changes, check the IFAB Laws of the Game.

FA Grassroots Disciplinary Guide 26/27

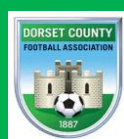
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COUNTY CUPS 2026 – 2027



D.C.F.A - SENIOR TROPHY - Round 1

Sponsored by Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance



Round 1

3 rd October 26	1	VERWOOD TOWN	3	V	1	Maiden Newton & Cattistock
	2	HAMWORTHY UNITED RES	6	V	3	BALTİ SPORTS

Round 2

31 st October 26		HAMWORTHY UNITED RES		V		Stars Academy
		COBHAM SPORTS		V		HOLT UNITED
		DORCHESTER SPORTS		V		SHERBORNE TOWN RES
		Westland Sports Res		V		Parley Sports
		Shaftesbury Res		V		HAMWORTHY REC RES
		WAREHAM RANGERS		V		Canford United
		WIMBORNE TOWN RES		V		Poole Borough
		PORTLAND UTD RES		V		VERWOOD TOWN

Quarter Finals

				V		
				V		
				V		
				V		

Semi - Finals

				V		
				V		

Final

				V		
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@ The County Ground – Hamworthy United FC

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H.F.A SATURDAY TROPHY

1st Round

3 rd October 26		Afc Shirley	0	v	0	BOURNEMOUTH SPORTS
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AFC Shirley **WON** 4-2 on Penalties

2nd Round

				v		
				v		

3rd Round

				v		
				v		

4th Round

				v		
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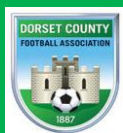
S.F.A SATURDAY TROPHY

1st Round

3 rd October 26		WESTLAND SPORTS	2	v	1	Ashcott
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D.C.F.A - SENIOR CUP

Round 1

TBC		GILLINGHAM TOWN		V		Dorchester Town
TBC		Hamworthy United		V		Portland United
TBC		SWANAGE TOWN & HERSTON		V		Blandford United
TBC		Shaftesbury		V		Wimborne Town
TBC		Weymouth		V		Poole Town
TBC		Sherborne Town		V		Bridport

Hamworthy Recreation	BYE
Sturminster Newton	BYE

Quarter Finals

				V		
				V		
				V		
				V		

Semi - Finals

				V		
				V		

Final

				V		
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@ The County Ground – Hamworthy United FC

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DPL – Respect Table 26/27

Dorset Premier Football League Respect Programme

The Dorset Premier Football League continues to operate its **Respect Programme** throughout the season, recognising and rewarding positive behaviour from clubs on matchdays.

After each fixture, the Match Referee awards marks in three key areas:

- **Manager Behaviour** (0-10 points)
- **Player Behaviour** (0-10 points)
- **Captain Behaviour** (0-10 points)

This gives each club a maximum possible score of **30 Respect Points per match**.

Automatic Deductions

In addition to the referee's marks, the following automatic deductions are applied:

- **SIN BIN** Minus **2 points** for each offence.
- **S6 Red Card** Minus **3 points** for each offence.

Respect Award Competition

The League's Respect Award is presented after every block of **five League matches**. Only **League fixtures** count towards the competition.

League Cup and County Cup matches are excluded and do not contribute to the Respect standings.

At the end of each five-match block, the club with the highest Respect score will be declared the winner and will receive a **£250 cash award from the League**.

Why It Matters

The Respect Programme is designed to promote the highest standards of behaviour across the League. Clubs are encouraged to support referees, demonstrate positive conduct from the touchline, and ensure players and captains lead by example.

The League believes that respect for match officials, opponents and teammates is fundamental to the game. Consistently high Respect scores reflect the values of the Dorset Premier Football League and help create a positive environment for everyone involved.

RESPECT • DISCIPLINE • STANDARDS



Games 1 – 5

CONGRATULATIONS go to **MERE TOWN FC** who have received £250 for finishing Top of the Respect Table for games 1-5 with a huge score of 142 / 150

Please see Table below as to where your Club finished

		GAME 1					GAME 2					GAME 3					GAME 4					GAME 5				
		BoM	BoP	Cap	Sin Bin -2	SB -3	BoM	BoP	Cap	Sin Bin -2	SB -3	BoM	BoP	Cap	Sin Bin -2	SB -3	BoM	BoP	Cap	Sin Bin -2	SB -3	BoM	BoP	Cap	Sin Bin -2	SB -3
Mere Town	142	10	10	10		30	10	10	10	-2	28	10	9	10		29	8	8	9		25	10	10	10		30
Dorchester Sports	135	9	9	9		27	9	8	9		26	9	9	9		27	9	9	9		27	10	10	8		28
Wareham Rangers	133	8	8	8		24	9	7	8		24	10	10	10		30	10	10	10		30	9	7	9		25
Sherborne Town Res	132	10	10	9	-2	27	10	10	8		28	8	8	8		24	10	9	10		29	8	8	8		24
Swanage T&H	131	10	8	8		26	9	9	10		28	8	8	8		24	10	9	9		28	8	7	10		25
Bournemouth Sports	131	10	10	10	-2	28	10	10	10		30	6	8	10		24	7	8	7		22	9	9	9		27
Verwood Town	128	8	8	8		24	9	9	9		27	9	9	7		25	9	8	9		26	10	8	8		26
Holt United	127	10	9	8		27	9	9	9		27	8	7	7		22	9	8	6	-2	21	10	10	10		30
Balti Sports	126	10	8	2		20	9	9	9		27	10	10	10		30	8	8	9		25	8	8	8		24
Hamworthy Rec Res	126	10	10	8		28	10	10	10		30	9	7	6		22	9	7	8		24	7	8	7		22
Westland Sports	125	8	8	8		24	10	10	10		30	9	8	8	-2	23	8	8	5		21	10	10	9	-2	27
Bournemouth Electric	124	9	9	10		28	7	7	8		22	7	8	7		22	8	8	7		23	10	10	9		29
Wimborne Town Res	124	8	7	7		22	10	10	10		30	7	7	7		21	10	10	10		30	7	7	7		21
Cobham Sports	123	10	10	10		30	5	5	8		18	7	7	8		22	10	10	9		29	8	8	8		24
Portland Utd Res	122	6	7	8		21	8	8	9		25	9	9	8		26	9	8	8		25	8	9	8		25
Hamworthy Utd Res	116	7	7	7		21	10	10	8		28	8	8	7		23	10	7	4		21	9	6	8		23
Gillingham Town	114	7	7	7		21	10	10	10		30	9	7	5		21	8	8	7		23	1	9	9		19

RESPECT • DISCIPLINE • STANDARDS

SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2026

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DORSET PREMIER FOOTBALL LEAGUE - DISCIPLINE TRENDS

2017/2018 season through to 2025/2026 season

- ↓ = **Improved** (Average per game decreased)
 ± = **No Change** (Average per game unchanged)
 ↑ = **Worsened** (Average per game increased)

Year	Games Played	Sin Bin	Sin Bin/Game		Yellow	Yellow/Game		Red	Red/Game	
2017/2018	272	120	0.43		707	2.60		63	0.23	
2018/2019	272	93	0.34	↓	505	1.86	↓	32	0.12	↓
2019/2020	172	46	0.27	↓	316	1.84	↓	18	0.10	↓
2020/2021 - COVID	111	25	0.23	↓	196	1.77	↓	24	0.22	↑
2021/2022	323	66	0.20	↓	532	1.65	↓	50	0.15	↓
2022/2023	299	70	0.23	↑	670	2.24	↑	51	0.17	↑
2023/2024	267	55	0.21	↓	626	2.34	↑	47	0.18	↑
2024/2025	242	46	0.19	↓	639	2.64	↑	57	0.24	↑
2025/2026	306	37	0.12	↓	624	2.04	↓	56	0.18	↓

2025/26 DISCIPLINE SCORECARD

- ☐ Sin Bins: 37 ● Lowest Sin Bin Rate on Record 0.12 p/g
- ☐ Yellow Cards: 624 ● Yellow Card Rate Reduced 2.64 → 2.04 p/g
- ☐ Red Cards: 56 ● Red Card Rate Reduced 0.24 → 0.18 p/g

2025/26 saw a significant improvement in League discipline, with Sin Bins at a record low and both Yellow and Red Card averages reduced compared to last season.

Thank you to all Clubs, Players, Managers, Captains and Match Officials for helping improve standards across the Dorset Premier Football League.

RESPECT • DISCIPLINE • STANDARDS

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Step 6 Leagues for Possible Relegations

Latest Table – Wessex League - Division 1

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	New Milton Town	12	9	2	1	29	12	17	29
2	Ringwood Town	14	8	4	2	31	21	10	28
3	Amesbury Town	15	8	2	5	28	33	-5	26
4	Cove	11	8	1	2	29	12	17	25
5	Fawley AFC	12	7	3	2	23	15	8	24
6	Sandhurst Town	13	7	2	4	29	16	13	23
7	Frimley Green	14	7	1	6	38	23	15	22
8	Newport (IOW)	11	5	4	2	26	15	11	19
9	Folland Sports	14	6	1	7	30	35	-5	19
10	Hedge End Rangers	11	5	2	4	21	20	1	17
11	Blandford United	12	5	2	5	24	24	0	17
12	Romsey Town	12	5	1	6	26	23	3	16
13	Ash United	11	4	4	3	21	19	2	16
14	Whitchurch United	13	4	4	5	25	33	-8	16
15	Lymington Town	16	4	5	7	21	37	-16	16*
16	Alresford Town	16	4	3	9	23	36	-13	15
17	Colden Common	12	4	2	6	28	28	0	14
18	AFC Aldermaston	13	3	4	6	20	22	-2	13
19	Kintbury Rangers	13	2	4	7	17	31	-14	10
20	Hamworthy United	12	2	2	8	20	27	-7	8
21	Totton & Eling	13	1	1	11	15	42	-27	4

* adjustment made

Latest Table – Jewson Western League - Division 1

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	AEK Boco	14	10	2	2	25	32
2	Bristol Telephones	15	9	3	3	14	30
3	Avonmouth	15	8	5	2	10	29
4	Odd Down (BATH)	15	9	2	4	2	29
5	Longwell Green Sports	14	8	2	4	26	26
6	Nailsea United	14	8	1	5	17	25
7	Shirehampton	13	7	1	5	4	22
8	Almondsbury	13	7	1	5	-4	22
9	Warminster Town	14	6	3	5	8	21
10	Bitton	15	6	2	7	0	20
11	Radstock Town	11	4	4	3	3	16
12	Oldland Abbotonians	11	4	4	3	1	16
13	Cadbury Heath	15	4	3	8	-12	15
14	Wincanton Town	12	4	1	7	-8	13
15	Calne Town	14	3	4	7	-13	13
16	Keynsham Town	14	4	0	10	-11	12
17	Mendip Broadwalk	11	1	3	7	-15	6
18	Welton Rovers	16	0	1	15	-47	1

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Feeder League Into the DPL



DORSET SENIOR LEAGUE

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Cobham Sports FC Reserves	7	4	1	2	11	13
2	Parley Football Club	5	4	1	0	8	13
3	Stars Football Academy Stars FC	6	4	0	2	12	12
4	Bournemouth Sports Reserves	6	4	0	2	2	12
5	Shaftesbury Reserves	6	3	2	1	5	11
6	Tisbury United First	5	3	1	1	8	10
7	Malden Newton & Cattistock First	5	2	3	0	5	9
8	Canford United First	7	3	0	4	3	9
9	Bournemouth Poppies Reserves	6	0	1	5	-14	1
10	Westland Sports Reserves	6	0	1	5	-17	1
11	Poole Borough First	5	0	0	5	-23	-1*

* adjustment made

LATEST RESULTS

L	17/10/26	Parley Football Club	 2-2 	Malden Newton & Cattistock First
L	17/10/26	Shaftesbury Reserves	 3-2 (HT 1-2) 	Bournemouth Sports Reserves
L	17/10/26	Stars Football Academy Stars FC	 6-0 (HT 4-0) 	Bournemouth Poppies Reserves
L	17/10/26	Tisbury United First	 2-4 	Cobham Sports FC Reserves
L	17/10/26	Westland Sports Reserves	 1-4 (HT 1-2) 	Canford United First

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UPCOMING FIXTURES

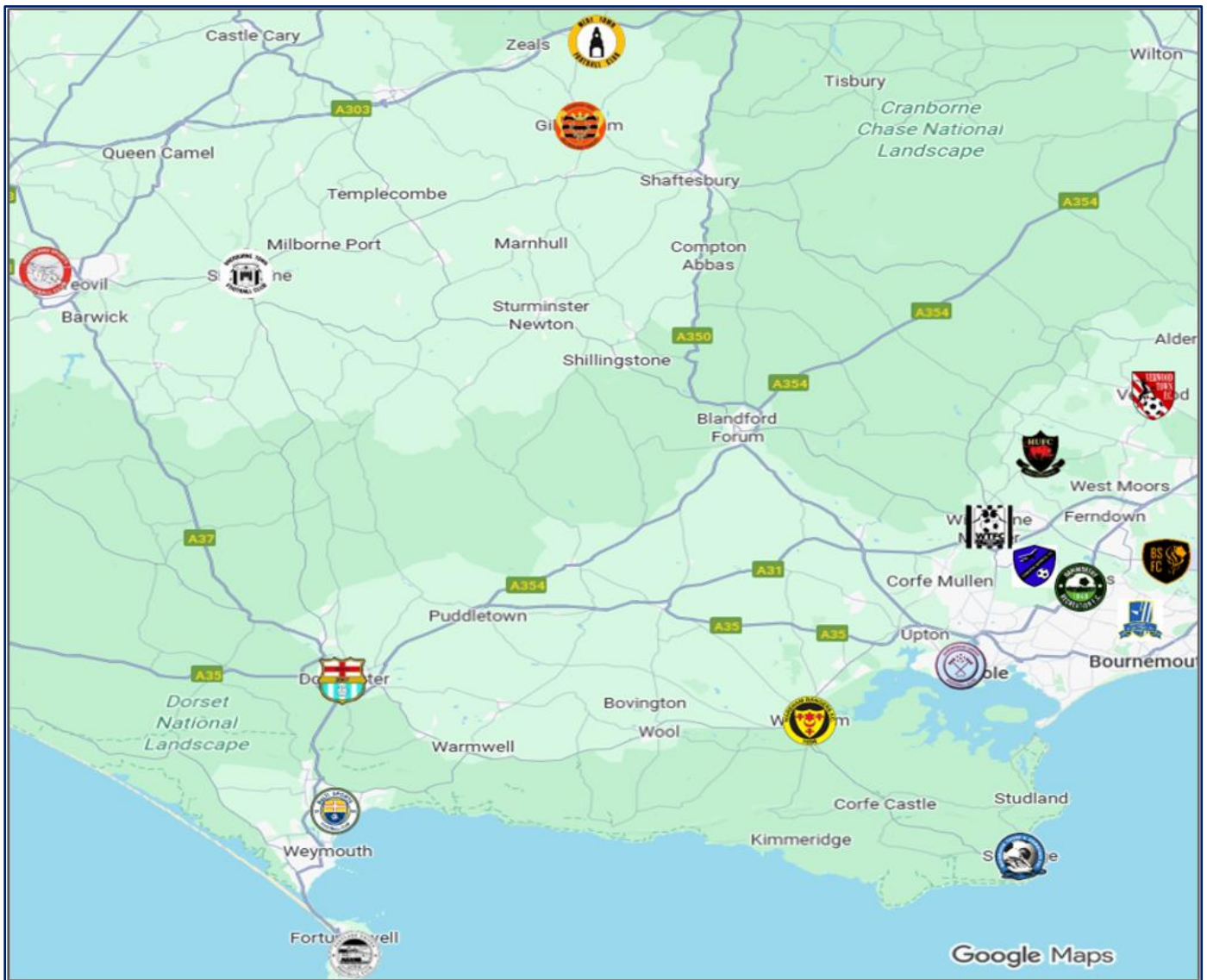
L	24/10/26	Bournemouth Popples Reserves		VS		Cobham Sports FC Reserves
L	24/10/26	Malden Newton & Cattistock First		VS		Stars Football Academy Stars FC
L	24/10/26	Parley Football Club		VS		Tisbury United First
L	24/10/26	Poole Borough First		VS		Bournemouth Sports Reserves
L	24/10/26	Westland Sports Reserves		VS		Shaftesbury Reserves



DPL 2026 / 27



5x Reserve Teams



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Dorset Premier League

