



# Corsham Print Wiltshire Senior League Veterans' Divisions

Picture courtesy of David Giles





## • Introduction

**This is a brief introduction to the Veterans Divisions run by the Wiltshire Senior League as we're keen to expand the League, especially in the south of the county.**

- **We set up a Veterans Division in 2019 after the Wiltshire FA had run a successful Flexi League for several seasons.**
- **After meeting with clubs who had played in the Flexi League, we set up a Division of 8 teams.**
- **Fixtures got underway in October only for the season to be brought to a premature end by Covid-19.**
- **The start of season 2020/21 saw membership more than double to 17 teams, arranged into two Divisions ... one for North Wiltshire and one for Mid/South Wiltshire.**

## • Introduction continued....

- Again, Covid-19 played its part with two lockdowns but, with great co-operation from the clubs, fixtures were completed in July.
- Corsham Town won the Mid Wilts Division, pipping Melksham Town to the title by 3 points. In the North Wiltshire Division, KMLC emerged champions, 4 points clear of Redhouse.

**Corsham Print Wiltshire Senior League  
Vets Mid Wiltshire Division Season 2020-21**

	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
1 Corsham Town FC	18	16	1	1	63	10	49
2 Melksham Town FC	18	15	1	2	55	13	46
3 VFC Devizes	18	13	2	3	52	15	41
4 Bradford Town FC	18	9	1	8	43	22	28
5 Marlborough Town FC	18	8	2	8	33	26	26
6 FC Calne	18	7	3	8	33	41	24
7 St Andrews FC	18	5	5	8	18	34	20
8 Amesbury Junior FC	18	3	3	12	19	59	12
9 Trowbridge Tigers FC	18	3	2	13	20	55	11
10 Chippenham Town FC Yard D	18	1	0	17	9	70	3

**Corsham Print Wiltshire Senior League  
Vets North Wiltshire Division Season 2020-21**

	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
1 KMLC FC	10	8	1	1	37	7	25
2 Redhouse FC	10	7	0	3	37	16	21
3 Stratton Juniors FC	10	5	3	2	26	13	18
4 Swindon Rovers FC	10	4	1	5	25	27	13
5 Royal W. Bassett Town FC	10	3	1	6	19	19	10
6 AFC Swindon	10	0	0	10	2	64	0



## • Introduction continued....

- For 2021/22, membership has increased again and we now have 20 teams playing in two regionalised Divisions.
- Fixtures are played mid-week, mostly on 3G pitches. The League hires the 3G venues and the home club reimburses the League.
- We currently have the use of four pitches at three venues ... New College in Swindon on a Tuesday night (8:30 to 9:30pm), Green Lane, Devizes on a Monday night (9:00 to 10:00pm), Green Lane, Devizes on a Tuesday night (9:00 to 10:00) and Royal Wootton Bassett Town on a Wednesday night (8:30 to 9:30pm).
- However, if a club has their own pitch (either 3G or grass with floodlights), they are also welcome.



## • **Introduction continued....**

- **We currently have four teams (Bradford, Corsham, Devizes and Melksham) who play their fixtures under lights on grass pitches. Teams who have their own pitches normally kick off about 7:30pm.**
- **We also have a few resourceful teams who have found their own 3G pitches and we have teams playing at Bulford Camp, Lyneham and Selwood Academy in Frome.**
- **Those of you in the south of the county will perhaps have read that a new 3G facility is about to be constructed at Sarum. This is due for completion around the end of this year. We've already registered our interest in taking a slot or two and are therefore keen to recruit teams from the area with a view to setting up a South Division, which could commence early in 2022.**



## • Introduction continued....

- For those of you in the north of the county, a new 3G facility is being planned at Moredon in Swindon, which we believe should be available from mid 2022.
- We've found that the success of the Veterans Divisions is mainly due to the clubs and players.
- Games are 25 minutes each way, so not so taxing as a 90 minute game.
- Fixtures are not necessarily every week, so not a massive commitment.
- Many teams and players have also found that, as well as helping with fitness, it's become quite a social event with several meeting up with players they haven't seen for a few years and enjoying a chat over a drink afterwards.

- **Feedback From Clubs – Darren Perrin (Melksham Town)**
  - **I would recommend strongly and very positively to any Veteran teams looking to participate and joining the Wiltshire Veterans' League.**
  - **It is a very well ran league, encourages all abilities and does give the Veterans the opportunity of playing some football, keep fit and also enjoy a bit of social time together with teammates and opposition.**

**Darren Perrin**

**Manager of Melksham Town Veterans**





## • **Feedback From Clubs – Chris Jones (Corsham Town)**

- **The League is a great opportunity to reacquaint with old friends who you may not have seen for years..**
- **Likewise it is a perfect platform to mak enew friends and also discuss local football.**
- **It is also worth highlighting that there are already examples of where Vets players have discussed with likeminded people to assist local football or other clubs.**
- **Many Vets players are often in senior positions in local football, club committee member or even Chairman and the Vets games are a great opportunity to share ideas, look at best practice and help one another out.**



## • Feedback From Clubs – Chris Jones (Corsham Town) continued....

- Finally, it has given me the football itch back because there is nothing like playing the game and feeling the buzz of winning and the disappointment of losing; something I had long thought would never happen again.
- In regaining this itch it has spurred me into doing far more than I would have done to help the running of Corsham Town Football Club.

Chris Jones

Manager, Corsham Town Vets





## • **How It Works & What It Costs**

- **The League arranges fixtures and appoints Referees.**
- **We try to arrange a fixture for each team at least once a fortnight.**
- **As mentioned, matches are 25 minutes each way and are for players over 35 (on 1st September of the current season).**
- **Our long term aim is to also have a Division for the Over 45's.**
- **Players who play at Step 7 (our Premier Division) or higher, are not eligible to play in the Vets Divisions.**
- **Every team is allowed 5 substitutes, which are "rolling" (on and off) as required.**



## • **How It Works & What It Costs**

- **Players are registered on The FA Whole Game System whilst Fixtures, Referee Appointments, results and tables are published on the FA Full-Time website. Training and access will be given to Clubs not familiar with these systems.**
  - **Annual League fees are £30**
  - **Players' Registration fees are £2 each Referees' fees are £30 which are paid by the home club.**
  - **Pitch hire costs vary depending on the venue. The League hires the venues and invoices the home club after the match.**
  - **All teams have to be affiliated to the County FA.**
- **The Wiltshire FA also run a County Cup Competition for Veterans' teams.**
- **Last season, Melksham Town and Corsham Town contested the County Cup Final with Melksham emerging victorious.**

### **Acknowledgement**

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