

DARTFORD FC

Opposition in focus



Dartford Football Club was formed in early 1888 by members of the Dartford Workingmen's club and for the first few seasons, played only friendly fixtures with the occasional foray into cup football. A run to the final of the Kent Senior cup in 1894 encouraged the club committee to enter Dartford as a Founder-Member of the Kent League for the 1894-95 season. It was in October 1895 that Dartford first played in the FA Cup. Two seasons later Dartford became Founder-Members of the Southern League, Division Two winning the Championship at the first attempt. Over the next few seasons Dartford fluctuated between the Southern and Kent Leagues but a financial crisis in the early 1900s saw the club drift down to the West Kent League. At the same time the club, which had used several pitches in the area, gained the use of Summers Meadow in Lowfield Street on a long lease

After the war Dartford Football was slow to get underway as the Summers Meadow ground was no longer available. However local business men appreciating the value of a good-class football team bearing the town's name completely re-structured the club and, from 1921 onwards, Dartford FC was run as a public limited liability company, unique in

English football until Tottenham Hotspur followed suit some fifty years later. A site was found in Watling Street in the neighbouring parish of Stone, which was to remain the club's home until a major financial crisis forced the sale of the ground in 1992.

For a decade and a half following the 1939-1945 War Dartford had little to show for its efforts except for a sparkling Kent Senior Cup win over Bromley in 1947. At the same time Bromley vied with Bishop Auckland as the premier amateur club in the land and the Lillywhites look a 2-0 lead in the final before Dartford struck back with three goals to lift the trophy. Included in the Dartford line-up that day was Ted Croker, later to become the Secretary of the Football Association. Soon after this win Dartford transferred Riley Cullum and Fred Alexander to Charlton Athletic for £6,000, which wiped out the club's debts entirely.

The 1980s was a period dominated by two managers with contrasting styles: John Still and Peter Taylor. By winning the Southern Division of the Southern League in 1980-81 Dartford had gained a short-lived place in the Alliance Premier League. Relegated after just one season but having tasted life at the top of the semi-professional game Dartford wanted more. John Still who had led Leytonstone/Ilford to a clean sweep of trophies, was the man for the job, in 1983-84 he steered Dartford to a fourth Southern League Championship and a resultant return to the Alliance Premier League (by now known as the Gola League). This time Darts stayed two seasons finishing third in 1984-85. Another periodic crisis was looming, and with Still departing in February 1986, Dartford were relegated once again.

In the wake of the Bradford fire and the Hillsborough disaster Dartford, like so many clubs, needed to either re-locate or upgrade their current facilities with the Board going for the latter option. Large sums of money were spent on planning and design fees, which burdened a manageable financial deficit with

crippling interest charges.

At the same time Maidstone United, who had sold their own ground, needed a suitable home to launch their ill-fated foray into the Football League and the Dartford board agreed to let Maidstone ground-share at Watling Street, the rent income providing a welcome boost for finances.

Within a few years Maidstone had gone into liquidation, most of their cash being taken up to gain the eagerly-sought Football League place. Ground improvements, which Maidstone United has paid for, were sold to Dartford at a cost (around £500,000), which pushed Darts' debts beyond manageable proportions. Watling Street was sold to pay off creditors and Dartford withdrew from the Southern League four games into the 1992-93 season.

The club's Supporters' Association, around 400 strong, came to the rescue. A private limited liability company was incorporated in November 1992 to manage affairs which meant, primarily, keeping the Youth team operating, an action which was rewarded when the Youth team beat Maidstone Invicta (the club rising out of the ashes of the old United Club) in the final of the John Ullman cup by 2-0 at Gravesend & Northfleet before a gate of 562. The continuing existence of the Youth team enabled Dartford to maintain both its Senior status and Full Membership of the Football Association.

In February 1993 former player Tony Burman was appointed Manager and with the club being offered a ground-share arrangement by Cray Wanderers, Dartford were able to make a successful application for membership of the Kent League. Spurred on by an average attendance of well over 300 Dartford finished that first season in sixth position.

With a view to the future Dartford negotiated a ground-share with Erith & Belvedere in time for the 1994-95 season and a second Kent League campaign started with gates at a shade over 400. Early promise faded somewhat and the club finished in mid-table.

In the May 1996 came the welcome news that Dartford had gained promotion to the Dr

DARTS FACTS

GROUND - Princes Park

CAPACITY - 4,100 (642 seated)

MANAGER - Adam Flanagan & Jamie Coyle

2017/18 - National League South 2nd

Martens sponsored Southern League, exactly one hundred years after the club first entered that competition. Unfortunately, Tony Burman was forced to resign as manager in the December due to business commitments but the club quickly promoted reserve team manager Gary Julians to first team manager.

In September 1997 a disastrous fire at Erith & Belvedere put the club's future and standing with the Southern League into serious doubt and with this in mind a new ground sharing arrangement was made with Purfleet in time for the 1998-99 season.

A new ground sharing agreement was arranged with Gravesend & Northfleet in time for the 2001-02 season.

The 2004/5 season saw the restructuring of non-league football. Dartford remained in the Southern League

Princes Park hosted its first game on Saturday 11 November 2006 when the Darts entertained Horsham YMCA in the Ryman League.

Dartford were moved across to the Ryman League Division One North for the 2007/2008 season and won the Championship.

Having won the Ryman League title in 2009/10 - In 2010/11, the club made their debut in the Conference South, finishing a creditable tenth.

In 2001/2012 Dartford achieved promotion to the Nation League after beating Welling in the Play Off final.

Following the club's relegation from the National League in 2014/15 the league campaign ended with the Darts just outside of the playoffs.

Despite finishing in second place to Havant & Waterlooville last season Dartford lost in the playoff Semi Final at home to eventual winners Braintree Town 1-0.

WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v DARTFORD

P 37 W 12 D 13 L 12 F 50 A 63



APPEARANCES

FIRST TEAM, SEASON 2018/19 at 29th December 2018

A = STARTING APPEARANCES • S = APPEARANCE AS SUBSTITUTE • G = GOALS SCORED * = HAS NOW LEFT CLUB

	NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH			FA CUP			FA TROPHY			MIDDX SENIOR CUP			MIDDX CHARITY CUP			TOTALS			WEALDSTONE CAREER		
	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G
Ahmidi, Wadah	11			3											14			14			
Azeez, Femi		1								1	1				1	1	1	1	1	1	
Brown, Stefan	1	2	1	1											2	2	1	2	2	1	
Bubb, Bradley	11	5	6	3		2									14	5	8	26	7	13	
Charles, Elliott *		5	3		1			1		1	1				1	7	4	1	7	4	
Clark, James		1								1					1	1		1	1		
Grant, Freddie	11			3											14			14			
Green, Danny	16	5	1	2			1	1		1					20	6	1	116	14	26	
Hudson-Odoi, Bradley	12	4	3	1			2								15	4	3	53	12	18	
Kowalkowski, Pawel	1	1						1							1	2		1	2		
Lench, Matt	5	7	1	1	1										6	8	1	6	8	1	
Mambo, Yado *	1	1													1	1		1	1		
Massingham, Luke										1					1			1			
McKeown, Eion		1					1								1	1		1	1		
Medford-Smith, Ramarni	2														2			2			
Mensah, Simon	4	3					1	1							5	4		5	4		
Mitchell, Reece		5									1				6			6			
Monakana, Jeffrey	7	7	1		2					1					7	10	1	13	12	2	
North, Jonathan	21			3			2								26			369		1	
Obi, Ogo	1														1			1			
Okimo, Jerome	21			3			2	1							26	1		123	5	2	
Payne, Joe	5									1					6			6			
Poku, Godrey	22			3			2								27			27			
Pratt, David	20		6	1			2	1							23	7		44	1	13	
Regis, Christopher	1									1					2			2			
Roberts, Myles	1														1			1			
Rodgers, Anton										1	2				1	2		1	2		
Samizadeh, Alexander	1							1							1	1		1	1		
Sheppard, Jake	9	3		2	1		1								12	4		24	5	1	
Shomotun, Fumnaya	5	4		3	2		1	1		1					9	5	3	9	5	3	
Slew, Jorome		1	1		1					1	1				1	2	2	1	2	2	
Smith, Christian	3						2	1							5	1		5	1		
Stevens, Connor	20		1	3	1		2								25	2		25		2	
Tyler, Rhys	18			1	1		1								20	1		20	1		
Wheeler, Sonny										1					1			1			
White, Joe *	5	1	1												5	1	1	22	5	9	
Wilson, Glenn	7						2								9			29	1	1	
Yala-Bolasis, Glenn										1					1			1			



Fan in the Stand

My first Wealdstone game was actually in the away end watching Bishops Stortford!

One of the high spots of this season has been the impact on the club's social media of 19-year-old Brunel University journalism student Sam Watts.

And now he's the subject of WFC Fan in the Stand...although sadly he won't be around the club much longer as he has been 'poached' by a new London online publication where he'll chiefly be covering QPR. Declan O'Reilly will be taking over at the Stones alongside photographer Dan Finill.

Where do you live Sam? At Uxbridge campus (while at University).

What was your first game? Actually my first OFFICIAL Wealdstone game was in the away end for my local club Bishop's Stortford! Wealdstone won that day and I never knew I would be involved with the club to this extent. I got in touch with the club's former Press Officer, Nick Dugard, as he was seeking help with the club's media output. He left one week after I joined and suddenly I was thrown into the deep end! But it was too good an opportunity to pass up. My duties are focused on producing match reports, interviewing players and management, putting up press releases/club statements and communicating with everyone at the club in order to ensure a smooth weekly output of club media.

What is a typical working day for you at the Vale? My normal routine for a home match is arrive around 1pm and assess the conditions...posting on social media my thoughts ahead of the game. I set up my laptop in the press box and retrieve the team sheets as early as possible. I conduct a Twitter Live pre-match discussion with fellow colleague Dan Finill (something we do at half time and full time too). I will take notes and



Sam in media mode!

write my match report during the game for the final whistle. After it's finished I will go to the tunnel area to interview WFC manager Bobby Wilkinson, but a lot of the time he delegates the job to Mike Percival or Jamie Leacock. We upload the post match interview to YouTube and social media for fans to watch. Then send the match report off if I haven't already and relax after another match!

Do you follow other clubs? In terms of other clubs I am a huge Arsenal fan. Having been attending the Emirates since I was seven years old with my auntie, I try to go as much as I can, even to away matches if

SAM WATTS

WEALDSTONE v DARTFORD
05.01.2019



I'm lucky enough. Once you're hooked on any team it's difficult to stay away! I'm extremely excited about the new era of the club under Unai Emery (it's the first time I've seen an Arsenal manager other than Arsène Wenger). And of course I follow football 24/7!

Best football matches you've ever seen?

Wow, that's incredibly tough and as much as I think I can't choose. Live? Definitely Arsenal beating Bayern Munich 2-0 at The Emirates. Atmosphere was unbelievable. And in terms of goals probably losing 3-4 to Liverpool, but I haven't seen matches other than Arsenal live! On TV it's impossible to choose. Any champions league final - Real Madrid 4-1 Atletico with Madrid 1-0 down in the 93rd minute.... England vs Colombia at the World Cup last summer winning on penalties.....Man City 3-2 QPR (obviously).....Arsenal 3-2 Hull City in the FA Cup Final....and apologies for the Arsenal-focused answer but Arsenal 2-1 Barcelona was my favourite. There are so many matches... Liverpool vs Roma last season was incredible. I love watching the champions league. Barca vs Real semi final.... Arsenal vs Liverpool quarter final 2008 when Walcott ran the length of the pitch (we still went out!)....I can't choose I'm sorry :)

And the best Wealdstone game? That is slightly easier (as unfortunately I have only been to around 20 matches at the time of answering). Probably the 3-2 win at Concord. I was shocked at how dominant a performance it was from Stones with the match looking so tough heading into it.

Has it always been a big part of your life? I can't remember not following football. It's been such a passion of mine since I was around 5 or 6 I think, always play and watch but love the discussions. What a fantastic sport to be part of.

I actually am also a huge tennis fan. My dad coached me and showed me how wonderful it can be - last year I queued for the entire tournament in my tent at Wimbledon! Fascinating competition and I love discussions in tennis just as much. My hobbies are very sport focused - listening to the radio, reading newspapers and watching sport. I suppose I like travelling too.

How far are you into your degree? I'm a journalism student in my 2nd year at Brunel University. My plan is to get my degree and NCTJ qualifications as well as bundles of experience trying everything I possibly can to be ready for the pressurised nature of sports journalism. But I love it!

My ambitions are firmly set on becoming a sports journalist. Whether that lies in print, online, radio or television I'm not sure as of yet but as long as the passion is there, I'm not too fussed. I need to have a job that I enjoy and my experience at Wealdstone so far has only solidified my ambitions.

Is Wealdstone now in your blood? Of course once you catch the Wealdstone bug, you form that connection. I'm sure that wherever I end up I will still maintain that connection with Wealdstone and be sure to keep up with their progress without a doubt.

Are there more ways to improve our media presence? I believe currently the fan base at Wealdstone is so strong, therefore it needs a good base structure for media output not only to keep the relationship between club and fans very positive, but also to give the information they desire on a regular basis. Right now? Our media presence is good and fairly consistent, but everything can always be improved! Myself and Dan are always thinking of new ways to engage fans and further the coverage we currently produce.

What do you think of the programme? I genuinely believe this: the club's programme is one of the best assets for Wealdstone FC. It should feature information, reports, features, history, interviews and club messages. It does this every match and always provides a reason to grab one upon entering the Vale. It's fantastic actually.

Print is such a joy. To pick up physical copies and read various items, maintaining the traditional journalistic values is wonderful. Does it have a future? It could do. Will it have a future? I don't think so unfortunately. We are in a digital age where information can be accessed quickly whenever desired. Why would there be a need to print information when it can be accessed quicker and easier on a phone or tablet? It's a real shame but I will work hard to keep those values if possible!

Where do you see Wealdstone in five years' time? Very interesting question. We could debate this for the next 5 years! But honestly the Conference National, knocking on the door of the football league. I believe if the right people were all like-minded then potentially this could happen quicker. We will see! Nevertheless, in 5 years Wealdstone will still be a family-orientated club with a strong fan base and a determined management team.

Cheers, Sam



My house is a veritable treasure trove.

Searching for a different angle on today's visitors, I managed to unearth (in the West Wing haha) a whole stack of football club publications including this 45-year-old gem... the Dartford FC Handbook 1974 (pictured below).

People seem to imagine I have rooms devoted to All Things Wealdstone. Only one actually, but it is quite big. Probably only four bookcases and a pair of cupboards devoted to club paraphernalia... and I simply assumed that this book of Darts' derring-do four and a half decades ago had been thrown out after a bit of Spring cleaning. But happily it wasn't. And the memories of the mid-70s came flooding back through the pages of the book, when I was a teenager myself and the Stones' promotion to the top tier of the Southern League was opening up a whole world of new football experiences.

That summer of 1974,

Stones v Darts 1974: Meeting of Southern League champions!



Darts are denied by Chelmsford keeper Willie Carrick at Watling Street during their glory season. I like the 'CCFC' on the City shirts in those days before sponsors

reigning champions Dartford come to town.

As a 16-year-old obsessed with my football team, this was the stuff of nightmares. What if we lost both games? There then followed tricky trips to Tonbridge, Kettering and Yeovil. We could be cast adrift at the bottom of the table before September arrived....

But boy, how the Stones came of age in that first week. We fell behind against Weymouth after just two minutes in front of a 1,500 crowd - confirming my worst fears - but Duck and Henderson grabbed late goals to take the roof off the Cinema End and send the fans home delirious, relishing a 2-1 win.

But could we replicate that performance against Dartford? Their manager, Ernie Morgan had taken over the previous summer, joining from Maidstone United whom he'd steered to the

Div One South title the year before we won it. His side had wrapped up the Premier Division title by a whopping eight points from runners-up Grantham, with Chelmsford third and Kettering fourth... and they'd also reached the FA Trophy Final that season, outplaying Morecambe for most of the game only to lose 2-1. I'd been at Wembley that April afternoon and the Darts were hugely impressive, playing the ball around smoothly with star men Danny Light, Kenny Halliday and Bob Glozier to the fore. They also had Graham Carr - who went on to manage the hard-nosed Nuneaton side - who was one of the most abrasive midfielders of that era, as a foil to the talented Light.

It was totally out of keeping when Carr's son Alan burst upon showbiz as a camp comedian!

Wealdstone, having turned semi-pro just three years earlier, had won the Southern League First Division South and were suddenly pitched into the Big Boys League - and we really didn't know what to expect. Eddie Presland's side had won the division by 11 points from runners-up Bath City yet we were now taking on well-established non-League giants like Yeovil, Wimbledon, Chelmsford, Kettering and Nuneaton... and the reigning Southern League Premier Division Champions Dartford. All

those clubs were pulling in crowds of around 2,500-3,000 - at least three times what we were used to in the First Division - and we wondered if our beloved Stones would wilt in that hothouse atmosphere.

We hoped that the passion and noise generated at Lower Mead would help win enough home games to survive. Would the skills of George Duck, John Henderson and John McCormick be good enough in that exalted company?

Well, we found out within three days of the new season kicking off - the Southern League computer (or piece of foolscap paper more like) throwing up two home games in succession. Weymouth on the opening Saturday at Lower Mead was a test, but a game we could win... but the Tuesday night would see



Above: Darts fans celebrate the Southern League Prem title in April 1974

Anyhow... Dartford at Lower Mead under the lights, Tuesday August 20, 1974. The first-ever meeting. The upstarts against the Champions. Darts had been beaten on the opening day at Kettering, 2-1, so were looking to bounce straight back but Stones (with Ray Fulton both now available after suspension) literally blew them away in the first 30minutes. It was football from a stratospheric level.

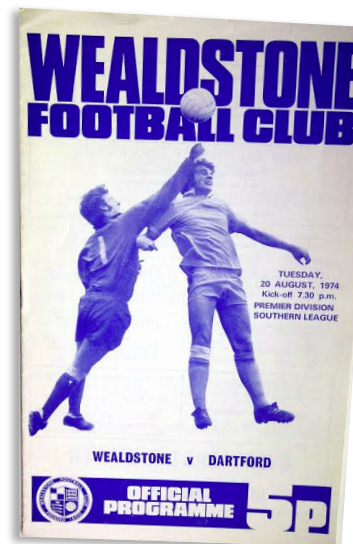
You look back now and wonder how we exerted any control in the middle with our

4-3-3 line up comprising

three attack-minded midfielders in wide men Fulton and Johnny Henderson, plus the silky playmaker Derek Evans (who had signed from Trowbridge along with his

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Left: The programme cover for that first-ever meeting in August 1974



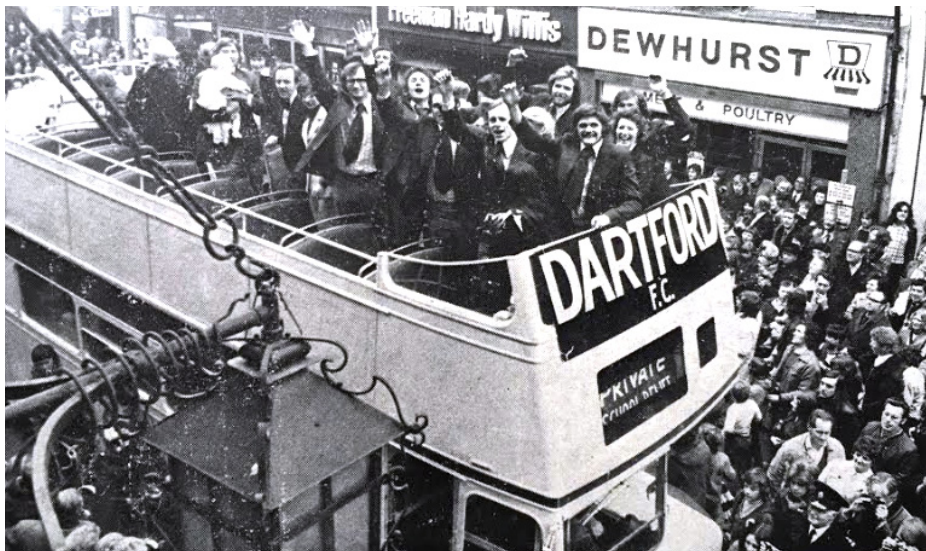
twin brother Terry). Up front was the other Evans, a prolific goal scorer, plus the marvellous Bill Byrne and George Duck who were arguably the best front pairing in non League football in the mid-70s.

So that was seven players looking to get forward. And the defence (attacking right back Chris Kinnear, ex-football league centre backs Eric Burgess and John McCormick and midfielder Jim Godfrey filling in at left back for the still-suspended Willie Watson) were also happy to join in!

McCormick actually got on the scoresheet at the wrong end to gift Dartford their goal, but the game was already won by then with Fulton (an angled rocket from 18 yards) Byrne (a 22 yard screamer) and a diving header from Godfrey putting us 3-0 up at the break.

The Darts keeper from the previous season, John Morton, was now in goal for us - after his teaching job brought him North of the river that summer - and his replacement, the former ex-Exeter stopper Alan Clarke must have wondered what he'd stumbled into as shots rained in from improbable angles. Byrne finally made it four with a splendid header.

By the time we travelled to Dartford's old Watling Street ground for the return in April, the Darts (reigning



Darts enjoy their open-top bus tour of South London the day after the Trophy final

champions, remember) were all but relegated. Our season was all about unexpected highs and a few lows and that week in April was a good illustration... cramming in the last few games was a nightmare and the Stones travelled to new champions-elect Wimbledon on the Thursday night before facing the Darts on Saturday.

The Stones delighted our three coach loads of fans - any many more by road and rail - in the 2,900 crowd at Plough Lane as we shocked the Dons by winning 2-1, George Duck hitting the winner with a sublime volley from Adriaan Eglite's cross. It was the only time that season that Wimbledon (the eventual Champions) were beaten at home and away... and the memory of our titanic 1-0 win at Lower Mead on New Years Day 1975 is instantly recalled by anyone lucky enough to be in the 3,200 crowd.

The Dons were a big draw (as they are today) and just four days later went to Division One high-flyers Burnley in the FA Cup 3rd round and won 1-0. That's how good Wealdstone were!

But... two days after completing that double, another three coachloads of fans set off for Kent and the return meeting with the



Dave Cunningham (far left) scores in the last minute for Darts at Wembley but it was just a consolation goal

"TOWNSMAN" WRITES

I will not say that I predicted it, because that could make me some sort of clairvoyant. But what I will repeat is that, in last year's handbook I certainly foresaw something of the momentous happenings of the 1973-74 season, for what did I write?

"With Mr. Morgan settling in again at Watling Street, it could be the time to get the Southern League Championship back to Kent and into Dartford once more". And, after a break of 42 years, including the war years it happened.

It is history now that, after leading the way for over two-thirds of the season, the magnificent Darts finally managed the Championship on an emotion charged evening of Monday 22nd April when they tore Guildford City apart with some of the best football I have seen at Watling Street for many a long day.

Then, the climax to a great season came five days later at Wembley, when Manager Ernie Morgan led his men out for the final of the F.A. Challenge Trophy. It is also history that the 'double' of League and Trophy eluded the Darts as Morecambe went away 2-1 winners, but what an end it was to the greatest post-war season the fans have ever enjoyed.

Towards the end of the campaign, and with Dartford increase in attendances, climaxing with a near 3,000 gate for the match against Grantham when the Southern League hope is that we shall continue to see that kind of support this coming season.

I don't suppose for a moment that we shall see the like of the past season again, but one never knows. Telford as winners.

So, as last time; What about it Dartford?
DICK BROAD
Sports Editor, Gravesend and Dartford Reporter

Darts who were deep in the danger zone. Maybe the Stones should have heeded the danger warnings from a fortnight earlier when our teams met in the Mid-Surrey Professional Floodlight League (a competition designed to give match practice to unused squad members) at Watling Street and the Darts whipped us 5-0.

The Stones fans may have been expecting a performance similar to the thrilling one at Wimbledon but instead we were overrun by the home side and lost 3-1.

It wasn't enough to keep them up and Darts fans must have reflected on how their club's fortunes had spectacularly changed in the space of a year - from almost Double Winners to relegation.

So that glorious (for us) and inglorious (for the Darts) season was the first time our paths crossed. Dartford regrouped and won promotion back to the Southern Prem just 12 months later, and from that point we faced the Kent side in 10 of the next 15 seasons. Stones climbed into the Gola

I have to admit I'm a bit of a sucker for this sort of sentimental tripe in the Darts Handbook. The wonderfully named Dick Broad wistfully writes 'I don't suppose we shall ever see the like of the past season again' and do you know, he was absolutely right. They nearly won the non-League double in 1974. Eleven years later someone would....

Conference in 1979 and the Darts joined us five years later, only for both clubs to be relegated back to the Beazer Homes Southern League by the end of that

decade. Dartford came third, incidentally, the year the Stones won that unprecedented non-League double in 1985.

Thus we were bracketed together for five years, with honours pretty much shared until the disastrous sale of Lower Mead in 1991 saw us move to Vicarage Road - and demotion within a year to the Southern League Southern Division.

Dartford were happily pottering along on at the same level until losing their own Watling Street ground after their own disastrous ground-share with Maidstone. The club had to resign from the Southern League, retain a youth team and re-form in the Kent League while playing home games at Cray Wanderers and Gravesend among others... a story not unlike our own. But after many



Darts keeper John Morton (who later played for the Stones) fends off the giant Morecambe forwards at Wembley

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Danny Green's penalty is saved by Derren Abraham two years ago

years of planning, in 2006 the club was provided with the fantastic council-owned eco-friendly facility at Princes Park that was (and still is) the envy of many in non-League football. Thus it was that we were re-acquainted with Darts when they climbed back up through the levels to the Ryman League Prem in 2008. And despite Dartford's continued elevation - winning the Ryman and then the Conference South - they had not beaten the Stones in 10 games since their arrival at Princes Park, including the never-to-be-forgotten clash in the FA Trophy last-16 in 2012. In fact a total of 26 years all told.

That is until two years ago!

We took on the Darts at Grosvenor Vale on January 28, 2017 on the back of that famous 2-1 win at Southport (another great FA Trophy memory) only to stumble and fall spectacularly flat on our faces as Luke Wanadio, Ryan Hayes and Elliot Bradbrook gave the visitors a deserved 3-0 lead at the break. And if you think our penalty-taking record this season has been poor... well, we missed **TWO PENALTIES** in the second half of this game as we fought to get back on terms. Danny Green hit the first far too close to keeper Deren Ibrahim after Omar Koroma had been tripped in the box, and then Koroma stepped up for the

Dave Pratt runs to take the acclaim of the Brian Collins Corner crowd after his cross had picked out Dan Fitchett (No.7) for the goal that put us ahead against Darts last season



second and, well, let's just say that in those pre-drone days Northolt aerodrome would have been inconvenienced as Omar's shot kept on climbing.

Dartford also beat the Stones here at the Vale last season in front of a 1,002 crowd. After our on-loan winger Iffy Allen was controversially sent-off three minutes from half time (yet another overturned decision), league leaders Darts fell

behind to a terrific Dan Fitchett header from Dave Pratt's cross and as the game moved into the last ten minutes it seemed the ten men would prevail. But increasing Darts pressure led to the giant Danny Mills - so often our nemesis - heading past Jonathan North, and then two minutes later the prolific Alfie Pavey converted another set-piece for the winner.

Yet we have never lost at Princes Park, the seven visits racking up five draws and two wins. The latest was of course the comprehensive 3-0 victory in August when two first-half poacher's goals from Bradley Bubb had the away fans celebrating wildly... and then sparking even more jubilant scenes when Jeffrey Monakana cut inside to wallop a tremendous clinching 25-yarder after the break.

Which way will it go today with the Darts reasserting themselves after a poor start to the season? It's anyone's guess...

A new feature to test your memories...

Just when you thought we couldn't squeeze any more nostalgia into your Super Soaraway Stones Prog... here's a picture quiz with a difference.

In fact, to be honest it's more about similarities (without giving anything away) as we kick off with a pair of pix from the 1980s.

Can you identify the two players in Picture 1,

who the Stones are playing and the venue? And the competition? If you get all five I'd be very impressed.

Picture 2 is a bit easier (!) and the Elmslie End in the background is a bit of a giveaway. But who are the opposition, the competition and the two dark-shirted defenders?

The answers are printed vertically up the side of Page 42 (the WFC Community Trust page) so no peeking!



PIC 2



PIC 1

Picture quiz results: Pic 2 was of Stones' Paul Bowgett and Lee Holmes defending against Wycombe Wanderers in our home FA Trophy 2nd round tie (won 2-1) in February 1985. Pic 1 is Wealdstone's Tommy English (left) and Wycombe defender Keith Barrett during our 1-0 defeat at Loakes Park in the Gola League clash, February 1988



WEALDSTONE v DARTFORD 05.01.19

Most Stones fans will be aware that, following promotion to the National League South, the club formed its own Community Trust in order to play a more significant role in the local community. Its 3 operatives are Nick Symmons, Frank Funnell and Mick Fishman.

The 3 projects launched and operated by the club involve Walking Football, Tea Dancing and a joint football based activity and numeracy scheme for Year 3 pupils in local schools. Both the Walking Football schemes and that for the Tea Dancing have taken on lives of their own and are running very successfully. The Schools Project is a more complex animal and requires the involvement of a greater number of people in order to make it work. Having trialled it for the first year and run it successfully the following year, The Trust was announced winner of the National League Trust Schools Project of the Year of 2017/18, and with the award came a £5,000 prize for the Trust to use to expand its activities. The award was presented to the Trustees at the last home match against Eastbourne Borough by Brian Lee, the Chairman of the National League Community Trust.

As well as the prize Brian also awarded the Trust the maximum amount of £20,000 which a club can receive each season from the National League Trust for community activities. These cheques will fund the WFC Trust's programme for this season, Donations, however, are always welcome!

During the course of the 3 academic years in which the scheme has operated, the Trust has provided the activity in 9 schools – St Bernadette's, St Joseph's, Camrose, Aylward, Roxeth and Glebe in the London Borough of Harrow, and Sacred Heart, Lady Bankes and Field End in Hillingdon. In doing so the Trust has already reached well over 1,300 pupils.

A massive part in the scheme's success has been due to the involvement and enthusiasm of David O'Farrell, the Head Teacher at St Bernadette's school in Kenton. David, a serious Fulham fan but also a fairly frequent attendee at Wealdstone matches, co-devised with his Deputy Head Kevin Bassett, the numeracy pack used in the scheme. The pack provides the school teachers ten pre-prepared football related maths lessons for year 3 children. The



Community Trust

schools are also provided with prepared question packs for every student in year 7. David's support for the scheme, particularly in selling it to other Head Teachers, has been invaluable.

Crucial to the scheme is the quality of the coaches and a big thank you must go out to Jade Dempster and Paul Hughes, who were the coaches for the first crucial year, as well as to Eddie Oshodi, Omar Koroma, Nathan Mavilla, Matty Whichelow, Taofiq Olomowewe, Ronnie Welch, Liam Goulding and Dylan Kearney, who have all coached at the schools during the subsequent years. A big thanks also to Stones legend, Gordon Bartlett, who took over the role of Head Coach last year and helped raise the standard of what was on offer still further.

Wealdstone are winners of the pitch.. to the tune of £5,000

The Trust hopes to build on this success by continuing to offer the scheme to local schools and at the same time improving its content and delivery. "We are very proud of what we have achieved so far but it is no easy thing to construct a programme and recruit people with the suitable skills to carry it through. Whilst we have done well so far, we are not resting on our laurels and will work closely with our partners further to improve the scheme" said Trust Chairman Nick Symmons. One of the next steps is to convert the organisation into a registered charity so, beware; we will be looking for five new Trustees to make sure the new set up sticks to its charitable aims and objectives. The move to a registered charity should open the doors to more grant funders and hence open the programme up to more people and more diverse activities.

Wealdstone Football Club is proud of its Community Trust and what it has been able to achieve in such a short time in helping both young and old and in raising the club's profile within the local community.



BALL SPONSORS

A traditional package for businesses (from £175 + vat) or fans (from £150) for two people that will give you the satisfaction of knowing you have paid for the ball that Wealdstone FC are banging into the net (or out of the ground!).

As the match ball donor you will enjoy:

- 2x Match tickets (+ car parking space)
- Prime seats in the main stand if required
- Publicity over the PA system and via the official club website and social media
- Boardroom hospitality (half time refreshments, snacks and hot food after the game)
- Bar allowance
- 2x Match-day programmes

If you or your organisation are interested in donating the matchball for a home match then please contact Club President, Paul Rumens at paulrumens59@gmail.com or call 07710 929692

BECOME A 2018/2019 BALL SPONSOR BY GETTING IN TOUCH ON 07710 929692

Bromley

28th JULY - PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY
• Alan Couch



Weston-super-Mare

4th AUGUST - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Alan Hill
• Simon Stephens



Concord Rangers

25th AUGUST - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Barry O'Sullivan



Truro City

1ST SEPTEMBER - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Alan Couch
• Mike & Val Weston



Chelmsford City

15th SEPTEMBER - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Toby Jackson (Lapels Badges)



Great Wakering Rovers

22nd SEPTEMBER - FA CUP 2ND QUALIFYING ROUND
• Roger Slater & Alan Hill



Hampton & Richmond

13th OCTOBER - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Toby Jackson (Lapels Badges)



Sutton United

20th OCTOBER - FA CUP 4TH QUALIFYING ROUND
• Sentinel7



Torquay United

27th OCTOBER - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Your name and details here
• Your name and details here



Gloucester City

29th OCTOBER - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Your name and details here
• Your name and details here



WEALDSTONE v DARTFORD BALL SPONSORS

Our magnificently refurbished hospitality lounge, courtesy of GPF Lewis & Ruislip Social Club, is looking forward to welcoming you and your guests in surroundings befitting such a special occasion be it a birthday, anniversary or any other special event!

Bath City

10th NOVEMBER - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Your name and details here
• Your name and details here



Eastbourne Borough

1st DECEMBER - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Tony & Peter Drew



Slough Town

26th DECEMBER - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Markie Barton
• Your name and details here



Oxford City

29th DECEMBER - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Your name and details here
• Your name and details here



Dartford

5th JANUARY - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Terry Hissey
• Ray Corner



Hungerford Town

19th JANUARY - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Your name and details here
• Your name and details here



Billericay Town

2nd FEBRUARY - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Alan Couch - in Memory of Roy Couch
• Your name and details here



St.Albans City

16th FEBRUARY - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• In memory of Jim Klarfeld
• Anthony Rickman



Welling United

9th MARCH - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Your name and details here
• Your name and details here



Chippenham Town

23rd MARCH - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Alan Couch



East Thurrock United

6th APRIL - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Your name and details here
• Your name and details here



Dulwich Hamlet

20th APRIL - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• 'In memory of Wealdstone Fans no longer with us': Ron Moore, Dave Edwards, Tony & Peter Drew



Hemel Hempstead Town

27th APRIL - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Your name and details here
• Your name and details here






KIT SPONSORS 2018/2019

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT — SPONSOR A STONE!

SUPPORT your favourite player by sponsoring their kit for the whole of the 2018/2019 season. The cost is £130 to see your name on these pages through until our final game in April 2019. Choose your favourite and call Paul Rumens on **07710 929692**. All pictures on these pages reproduced courtesy of Steve Foster / Aqueous Sun Photography (@aqueoussunphoto)




JAMIE LEACOCK
RON MOORE



MIKE PERCIVAL
ALAN COUCH



MARK POVEY
WEALDSTONE LADIES




TONY WAUGH
NEIL & XANDER RANDS



LEO MORRIS
MEGAPHONE MICK



JONATHAN NORTH
AKHIL, NIKHIL AND SUDHIR RAWAL



BRADLEY HUDSON-ODOI
RAY CORNER



MATT LENCH
TO SPONSOR MATT
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FRIENDS OF WEALDSTONE



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DAVID PRATT
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FREDDIE GRANT
MIKE & VAL WESTON



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GINGE



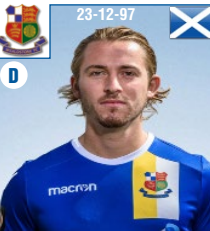
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RHYS TYLER
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JEROME OKIMO
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CALL 07710 929692



JONATHAN NORTH
BRIAN BALL



DANNY GREEN
SENTINEL7



DAVID PRATT
SENTINEL7

KEY: C = Management & Coaching Staff; D = Defender; M = Midfielder; F = Forward; L = Legend
Note: Flags indicate national team as defined under FIFA eligibility rules. Players may hold more than one non-FIFA nationality.



Follow
the Stones
here and on
the road

UPCOMING FIXTURES

HOME

Brentford 'B'

MIDDLESEX SENIOR CUP QUARTER FINAL
Tuesday, 8th January, 7:45pm

Hungerford Town

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Saturday, 19th January, 3:00pm
£9 entry for Premier / EFL season ticket holders

Billericay Town

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Saturday, 2nd February, 3:00pm
£9 entry for Premier / EFL season ticket holders

St Albans City

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Saturday, 16th February, 3:00pm
£9 entry for Premier / EFL season ticket holders

AWAY

Concord Rangers

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Saturday, 12th January, 3:00pm
www.concordrangers.co.uk

Woking

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Saturday, 26th January, 3:00pm
www.wokingfc.co.uk

Weston-super-Mare

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Saturday, 9th February, 3:00pm
www.westonsmareafc.co.uk

Eastbourne Borough

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Saturday, 23rd February, 3:00pm
www.ebfc.co.uk

Vanarama National League South at 1st January 2019

Opposition	All						Home						Away						+/-	Pts	Results
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A			
1 Torquay United	24	15	6	3	47	19	12	8	2	2	26	13	12	7	4	1	21	6	28	51	0-3
2 Woking	22	15	4	3	47	24	10	7	1	2	21	12	12	8	3	1	26	12	23	49	1-0
3 Concord Rangers	24	12	6	6	37	26	12	8	3	1	26	9	12	4	3	5	11	17	11	42	1-1
4 Chelmsford City	24	12	5	7	41	29	12	6	3	3	18	13	12	6	2	4	23	16	12	41	2-3
5 Bath City	23	12	4	7	38	21	12	7	1	4	22	10	11	5	3	3	16	11	17	40	3-3
6 Welling United	23	11	5	7	38	25	12	8	2	2	22	12	11	3	3	5	16	13	13	38	1-1
7 Billericay Town	23	11	5	7	39	33	11	5	3	3	17	17	12	6	2	4	22	16	6	38	0-1
8 Dartford	23	11	5	7	27	29	12	7	3	2	16	13	11	4	2	5	11	16	-2	38	3-0
9 Oxford City	24	11	4	9	41	30	12	7	2	3	22	10	12	4	2	6	19	20	11	37	0-3
10 St Albans City	23	11	4	8	40	35	12	7	2	3	21	15	11	4	2	5	19	20	5	37	0-0
11 Slough Town	22	10	4	8	29	21	11	5	2	4	13	9	11	5	2	4	16	12	8	34	0-3 1-0
12 Chippenham Town	24	10	4	10	36	40	12	7	2	3	23	17	12	3	2	7	13	23	-4	34	1-3
13 Wealdstone	23	9	6	8	28	30	12	5	2	5	18	20	11	4	4	3	10	10	-2	33	-- --
14 Hemel Hempstead Town	24	9	6	9	28	33	12	4	4	4	15	17	12	5	2	5	13	16	-5	33	1-0
15 Eastbourne Borough	24	8	6	10	34	37	12	5	2	5	21	21	12	3	4	5	13	16	-3	30	3-3
16 Hampton & Richmond	24	8	4	12	28	39	12	4	1	7	12	20	12	4	3	5	16	19	-11	28	2-1
17 Dulwich Hamlet	24	7	5	12	26	33	12	4	2	6	11	14	12	3	3	6	15	19	-7	26	1-1
18 Truro City	22	6	5	11	32	46	10	2	2	6	14	22	12	4	3	5	18	24	-14	23	3-0
19 Hungerford Town	24	5	4	15	24	51	12	3	3	6	12	22	12	2	1	9	12	29	-27	19	1-1
20 Gloucester City	24	4	6	14	17	35	12	2	5	5	11	16	12	2	1	9	6	19	-18	18	2-0
21 East Thurrock United	24	4	4	16	20	39	12	4	2	6	13	16	12	0	2	10	7	23	-19	16	1-0
22 Weston-super-Mare	24	3	6	15	28	50	12	0	5	7	11	22	12	3	1	8	17	28	-22	15	4-1