



# Seven goals, three penalties and a team walking off.. was this the most extraordinary Stones game EVER?

February 2, 1974, FA Trophy 2nd Round Proper: Wealdstone 5 Hastings United 2

One of the great pub discussions among Wealdstone fans - and indeed, fans of any club - revolves around the 'greatest games' question.

We've certainly peered into the near and distant past in this publication, dissecting the merits of the FA Cup wins over Stevenage (1965, 6-5) and Reading (1977, 2-1) versus the Trophy wins over Cambridge United (2012, 2-1) and Billericay Town (2018, 5-2)... not to mention the double-wham at Wembley and Kettering Town in 1985.

But today we recall possibly the most **EXTRAORDINARY** football match I've ever seen. In my near-50 years of following our great club we've only (to my knowledge) had a mention on the BBC News twice: once in 1970

after our FA Cup qualifying round tie at Leighton Town was stopped to allow the referee and players to search for a lost contact lens (it belonged to our defender Rob Williams, and was quite a rarity in those days) and then after this FA Trophy 2nd round win over Hastings in 1974.

You may rightly think it was a quiet news day - but how often does one football team walk off the pitch in protest? That was what happened on this crazy afternoon, when three penalties were awarded in succession by Weybridge referee D.W. Waterman and Hastings skipper John Ripley led his team off



45 YEARS AGO



the Lower Mead pitch. Shades of the famous England v Argentina World Cup game eight years previously, when the Argentine skipper Antonio Rattin was sent off and his team mates followed him in unprecedented scenes.

The two games were even compared on the BBC Sport news at 5pm after this Hastings game.

Both incidents were futile protests- and both were the result of unusual but totally correct decisions by the individual referees.

And if you think that players today have

Left: Just to add to the drama, Stones winger John Henderson (No.11) backheel-volleyed a crazy goal to make it 4-1!



It all kicks off at Lower Mead when referee Waterman (with his linesman, above) awards the third penalty... players hound him to the touchline and then (top picture) argue with their manager after skipper John Ripley (right) led his team off the pitch

little respect for the officials, well it was worse in the 1960s and 70s when match officials were lenient to the point of subservience.

Certainly Rattin would have been dismissed long before German referee Rudolf Kreitlein finally ran out of patience... the skipper had fouled, been booked and then contested every decision - even spitting on the turf in contempt - before the ref sent him off.

The game was interrupted for eight minutes until Argentina were persuaded by England's FIFA representative (and referee) Ken Aston to return. Incidentally, England's Jack Charlton was also booked during the game but didn't

know about it until he read the newspapers the following day! As a consequence, Aston and Herr Kreitlein got their heads together to recommend the yellow and red card system that FIFA eventually brought into use around the world.

But back to Hastings at Lower Mead. If the refereeing procedures at Wembley were spot on (if controversial) in 1966, Mr Waterman stuck to the letter of the law in what was always going to be a feisty FA Trophy tie. Hastings had a reputation for

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being a dogged, belligerent and uncompromising top-six side who were difficult to break down - and in fact had been visitors to Lower Mead for a Southern League Div One South game just a month earlier. Stones had scraped that one 2-1 as they moved closer onto the heels of Waterlooville and Poole at the top of the league.

But in the four weeks before the second clash with Hastings, Sid Prosser's team had scored just one goal (a 1-0 FA Trophy win at Wimbledon) and fired blanks in a 0-1 defeat at home to Ramsgate (featured in the last 'Rewind'), a 0-0 home draw with Bognor and another goalless draw at Waterlooville. The Daily Telegraph even carried a story on the Saturday morning (pictured here) about Stones coming in at 11am that day for a special training session - with the emphasis on the strikers.

Well, it clearly worked a treat. We kicked off in front of a 1,120 crowd, downhill towards the Cinema End and it was immediately obvious that the previously-misfiring Duck, Byrne and Henderson were back in the groove.

Hastings reverted to type, frantically fouling and disrupting the flow of the game. I was in the crowd behind the goal with a perfect view of George Duck's 6th minute header, headed for the top corner until full-back Harry Cunningham blatantly fisted it off the goalline. These days: A straight red card and penalty. Those days: a penalty, and no punishment for the guilty man .... although fellow defender Barry's loud complaining (why??) earned him a booking. A more blatant penalty would be hard to imagine, and Duck cracked the ball low inside keeper Arnold's right hand post.

The game resumed with Stones back on the attack and 10 minutes later we were baying for another penalty when the

## Duck four in Challenge Trophy win

# Hastings walk off as third penalty results in second half fracas

By Phil Sugden

Wealdstone 5, Hastings United 2

**ONE OF THE most sensational games seen at Lower Mead for many a season saw Hastings United captain John Ripley lead the Sussex side off the field, four minutes after the interval after the club's number seven John Jefferson, had been sent off by referee D. R. Waterman, of Weybridge.**

The incident occurred after Hastings full-back Harry Cunningham had handled for Wealdstone — all three awards producing goals from that deadly spot-kick taker George Duck.

All three penalties were obvious, to say the least, but the third offence was the most blatant for Cunningham pulled down a Henderson shot with two hands when a goal seemed certain.

Mr. Waterman immediately pointed to the spot and the garrulous Jefferson protested overmuch. He was at once booked — the third Hastings name to go into the book — and then sent off.

For a minute or so the player refused to depart and Mr. Waterman was more than lenient with at least two other Sussex players who pushed and jostled him near the goal-line.

Eventually Jefferson walked to the line and Ripley at once took his men off.

A touchline conference heated argument is perhaps a truer version of the happening — lasted two or three minutes with Wealdstone manager Sid Prosser and substitute Terry Dyson joining those endeavouring to restore sanity. Eventually, still protesting vigorously, Ripley took his men back on and four minutes after it all started Duck was able to blast the penalty home to establish, at that time, a 3-0 lead. Hastings, with one of the best away defensive records in the league, had conceded only 12 goals from the same number of games prior to this match. They made few friends when

beaten 2-1 at Lower Mead in a league game on December 29, and I cannot imagine they added many names to their fan club after this otherwise entertaining second round Challenge Trophy tie. Allowing for the fact that Hastings played their best football after they lost Jefferson and took advantage of lapses of concentration by 'Stones' backmen to notch a couple of goals, they rarely looked like stopping the Lower Mead club's majestic advance to the last 16.

marauding Duck was dragged down by the hapless Barry - the referee obliged and this time midfielder Griffiths was booked for arguing the toss. Same outcome as Duck rammed his shot in the same corner, Arnold diving the wrong way.

Hastings' only hope lay in a quick-fire start to the second half but their misplaced fury burned even more fiercely when John Henderson wriggled clear within minutes of the restart. His shot beat Arnold but Cunningham once again turned goalkeeper with a marvellous two-handed save on the line.

Hastings were incandescent when the bemused referee awarded the third penalty of the afternoon - as if he had a choice - and midfielder John Jefferson (described as 'garrulous' in the match report) was booked for complaining. He then stalked referee

### UNCOMPROMISING

Hastings relied on hard, uncompromising tactics from the start. If a situation called for handball, then hands it was. If a Wealdstone player moved past a defender he was uncompromisingly hauled down. Indeed, I tallied 27 free-kicks against Hastings in the first half when five were given against Wealdstone.

Hastings will argue that Mr. Waterman gave them nothing, which is probably true, but their spoiling tactics were so obvious from the first whistle that he obviously made up his mind he would endure no nonsense.

Before Jefferson's departure Griffiths had been booked for dissent and Barry for protesting long and loud when Wealdstone's first penalty was awarded.

All credit to Wealdstone for keeping their heads. Henderson, Duck, Byrne and Fulton all took a lot of stick and Byrne ended up with a nasty gash in his ankle. None of them, fortunately, retaliated.

Really it was all very confusing with Hastings' defenders wearing attackers' numbers, which was probably appropriate as seven or eight of them were usually buzzing about in their own penalty area in the first half.

### SENSATIONAL

Home manager Sid Prosser had the players out on the pitch for a training session at 11 a.m. and this obviously paid off. He had admitted he was a little unhappy about the form of his strikers and after their pre-match warm up they looked sharper than for some time. George Duck netted four times, three from the spot and once with a sensational header. His spot-kicks were never easy for an argument which meant a hold-up for each kick.

The fifth was scored by the effervescent Henderson and was richly deserved. Speedy John took the entire defence by surprise with a superb back-heel come flick of the inside of the boot from Fulton's cross which left the defence open mouthed.

So Wealdstone chalked up the highest score made by the 32 teams playing in the second round, and their football deserved such a result.

Young Keith Bristowe, normally a striker, was tried in midfield and after a slow start did more than enough to earn another chance.

The defence, apart from a couple of lapses, was solid with big John McCormick dominating. Presland and Watson tackling surely and Eric Burgess sweeping up safely.

Fulton and Kinnear were quick to tackle in midfield and Byrne ran his heart out up front where Duck supplied many of those deft touches of early season and looked altogether the old George.

Ray MacKenzie had a quiet afternoon although he made one superb diving save from Griffiths and kicked superbly.

### BOOMING SHOT

'Stones had a corner in 30 seconds and almost a goal as a result when Presland hit a booming shot which goalkeeper Arnold, always a busy man, did well to turn aside.

After six minutes Cunningham scooped a goalbound header from Duck from under the bar and Duck hit the penalty low inside the left post. Barry's long protest ended with his name in the book.

Ten minutes later Barry pulled Duck down when he looked a certain scorer. Duck scored the second with an identical penalty and Griffiths's name went in the book for dissent.

Arnold dived bravely to Henderson's feet when the flying winger was right through and then MacKenzie made a smart save from a Jones free-kick.

With Wealdstone announcer Joe Bray predicting a hat-trick of penalties events proved him a true prophet when Cunningham made his two handed save and after all the fantastic scenes Duck changed his tactics with the spot kick and blasted his shot past Arnold.

### GLORIOUS GOAL

Hastings proved they could play football in the 60th minute when a shrewd pass from Ripley gave Cunningham a simple chance, but Henderson struck back five minutes later with his glorious goal to make it 4-1.

Another good move by Hastings saw Jones shoot away and lay on a pass for Jones to make it 4-2 but the final word still went to Stones.

Fulton, who is taking glorious corners, placed one beautifully and Duck soared like a gull to beat Arnold all the way. Even Hastings could not protest about that one.

Wealdstone: MacKenzie; Presland, Watson, Burgess, McCormick; Kinnear, Fulton, Bristowe; Byrne, Duck, Henderson. Sub: Dyson.

Waterman, continuing to protest, and was promptly sent off.

This sparked howls of outrage from the Sussex side and - after scenes of toys-out-of-pram-throwing, and Jefferson refusing to leave the pitch - Ripley led his team to the touchline. Four minutes of heated debate ensued until Hastings saw reason... and when they returned, the admirably cool Duck (who had waited, ball in hand, on the penalty spot) waited until the hullabaloo had died down before smashing his hat-trick

## BILLERICAY REWIND 02.02.2019



Left: The Harry O match report and (above) Stones sub Terry Dyson (left) and manager Sid Prosser (right) look bemused as the sent-off John Jefferson waits to see if his team mates will join him on the touchline. Below: The Daily Telegraph previews the game

## Southern League

# PRE-MATCH TRAINING FOR WEALDSTONE

By DEREK WILD

WEALDSTONE, worried about their lack of goals in recent games, will end special pre-match training only 2½ hours before the kick-off of their second round FA Challenge Trophy tie against Hastings at Lower Mead Stadium tomorrow.

Despite riding high only two points behind Poole, the Third Division (South) leaders, with four games in hand, Wealdstone have scored only once in their last four matches.

That goal came from a defender, Eddie Presland, the lanky former West Ham and Crystal Palace player, at Wimbledon in the previous round of the competition three weeks ago.

So the 14-strong Wealdstone squad will have an hour's training starting at 11 a.m. tomorrow, with particular emphasis put on their front runners, George Duck, the Southern League's

highest scorer, Bill Byrne and John Henderson.

Duck has scored 24 League goals, seven more than the section's next best marksman, Terry Evans, of Trowbridge, but he has suffered a drastic loss of form over the last month. Wealdstone are determined to help him get back among the goals as soon as possible.

Wealdstone beat Hastings, who have the best defensive record in the division, 2-1 in a League match at home three weeks ago, and they are confident they can now reach the last 16 of the Challenge Trophy at the Sussex side's expense.

The squad are all fit and the side who gained a point at Waterlooville last Saturday are expected to be retained.

shot down the middle for 3-0.

Hastings appeared chastened. They actually settled down and played some decent football with that man Cunningham using his feet (for once) to pull a goal back. But there was still an extraordinary fourth Stones goal to

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savour as Henderson backheeled a marvelous improvised 15-yard shot past the astonished Arnold - and then, after the visitors made it 4-2, Duck soared to head a majestic fifth.

### WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

ON ONE of the most disappointing afternoons of my Stones-watching days, we faced Northern Premier League side South Shields at Lower Mead in the last 16 but wasted a chance of Trophy glory in front of a 2,000 crowd. George Duck was ill with flu and a

tepid performance petered out into a 1-1 draw... and a calamitous penalty (conceded by the otherwise impeccable John McCormick) in the replay on Tyneside saw us beaten 2-1 after extra time.

But the season still ended magnificently, losing just one game in the last dozen as we secured the Southern League Div One South title by 11 points from Bath City and promotion to the Southern League Premier Division. But the memory of George's penalty hat-trick lives on...

## Was Duck's penalty hat-trick a record?

George Duck's hat-trick of penalties against Hastings United in the F.A. Challenge Cup on Saturday has been a talking point for Wealdstone supporters — and many other football followers — since last weekend.

Was it a record? Other players may have scored from three penalty kicks in one game, but has any player scored a true hat-trick? Three successive goals from the spot.

A few people have told Observer Sports Editor Phil Suggden that the feat has been achieved in the past, so the Observer and Wealdstone F.C. now give them a chance to prove their point.

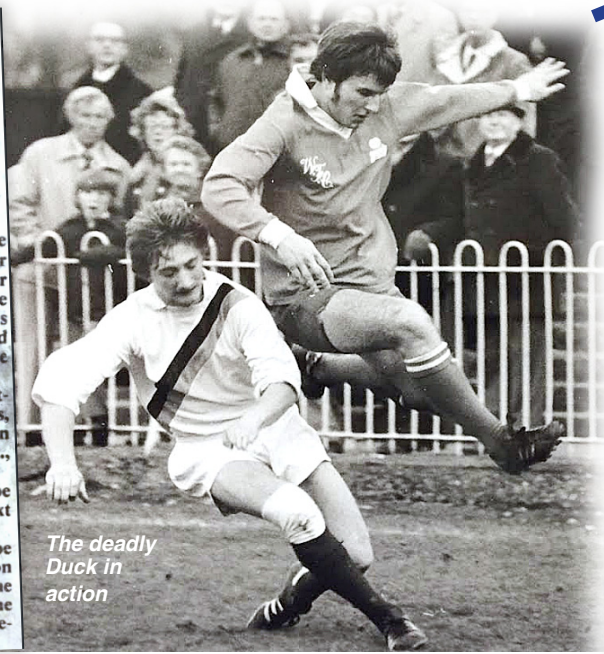
Any reader who believes he knows of such a case is invited

to join a competition to prove the point and the first reader who submits the correct answer which will, of course, be checked, will receive two tickets for Wealdstone's third round F.A. Challenge Trophy game on February 23.

Letters, or preferably postcards, giving details of claims, should be addressed to Colin Pope, P.R.O., Wealdstone F.C., 265, Kenton Road, Kenton.

Entries must reach Mr. Pope by not later than first post next Tuesday, February 12.

Name of the winner will be announced in the Observer on Friday, February 15, and the tickets, donated by Wealdstone F.C., will be forwarded immediately.



The deadly Duck in action

38 YEARS AGO

Paul Bowgett nets three spot kicks against Andover

## 'Stones march on

Wealdstone 4, Andover 0

'STONES skipper Paul Bowgett scored three times from the penalty spot as struggling Andover were outclassed at Lower Mead on Tuesday.

Centre half Bowgett took his tally to 22 for the season — and is now second top scorer to Alan Cordice who has 27 to his credit.

Manager Allen Batsford rested Fred Barwick, Morris reappearing for a rare first team outing, while fit-again Alan Cordice also returned. 'Stones dominated from the start and as well as hitting four had three goal-bound efforts cleared off the line while Bowgett, apart from those penalties, hit the bar with a header.

'Stones were two up in 30 minutes, both goals coming from the penalty spot after Alan Cordice had been brought down when clear. Bowgett's third came after a penalty for handball, while Robin Wainwright, revelling in the drier conditions scored a fine goal when turning on a sixpence to screw the ball just inside the post from a very difficult angle.

Wealdstone: Goddard, Perkins, Penrice, Byatt, Bowgett, Morris, Watts, Wainwright, Cordice (A.), Knowles, Davies.

## Rockin' Robin

### Wainwright's four goal blast fires 'Stones

Wealdstone 7, Boston 2

AFTER three successive defeats, Wealdstone bounced back with a seven goal romp in Tuesday night's Gola League visit of Boston.

Jubilant Robin Wainwright grabbed four of the goals — three coming from the penalty spot — as Wealdstone flattened Boston with a six goal blast in the opening half hour of the second half, writes Paul Jacques.

And manager Brian Hall admitted afterwards: "That was just what we needed. For 35 minutes in the second half we took them to the cleaners."

Hall confessed that he had started to doubt himself after recent results, but Tuesday's win was the perfect pick-me-up. Although Wainwright took the glory — and the match ball — Hall singled out striker Mark Graves. "He had his best game for two years. He did everything right," enthused Hall.

Wealdstone had taken a ninth minute lead when Brian Greenaway curled a free kick into the top corner with Boston keeper Kevin Blackwell woefully slow to react.

There was little indication of the goal spree that was to follow when Boston levelled matters six minutes from half-time — Derrick Nuttall forcing home a cross from Paul Hooks.

But eight minutes into the second half the nightmare began for a Boston side that had not won in eight games.

The ball was knocked into the box and Graves, with his back to goal, scored with a spectacular overhead kick. "A goal in a million," purred Hall.

Two minutes later Ian Ladd brought in Alan Cordice for a penalty. Blackwell was booked for recklessly shoving the referee in protest before Wainwright scored from the spot.

In the 63rd minute, Wainwright met Gary Donnellan's cross with a glorious volley to make it 4-1. Within two minutes, Wainwright had completed his hat-trick from the spot after Paul Casey had handled. Five minutes later, Graves raced onto a



DELIGHTED Robin Wainwright holds the match ball after his four goals against Boston and admits: "I couldn't believe it, I'm going to bring it back to the club and get it signed by the players."

"The goal that pleased me most was the one that didn't come from the penalty spot. It was a new set piece we had been working on and I had missed three sitters the night before in training."

"We had been struggling in the last three games and it wasn't only nice to win, but to win like that."

clearance from Neil Cordice and stroked his shot past Blackwell. Disbelieving Boston player manager Arthur Mann brought himself into the action in place of Andy Harrison, but in the 73rd minute Wainwright struck with his fourth, again from the spot following handball by Ray O'Brien.

A minute from time, sloppy defence allowed Chris Cook to score, but it was meagre consolation for Boston, who also had the names of Casey and Cook added to that of Blackwell in the referee's book.

Wealdstone: Iles, N. Cordice, McCargo, Tapley, Bowgett, Wainwright, Greenaway, Holmes, A. Cordice, Graves, Donnellan (Jones 75).

Curiously enough, Chelmsford's Scott Fenwick scored TWO penalty hat-tricks in successive Vanarama South games last season! The first against Whitehawk on April 9, and then against East Thurrock... both in 4-2 wins

32 YEARS AGO

Throbbin Robin nets three spot kicks against Boston

## So who else has netted a hat-trick of pens?



The Harrow Observer article after the match posed the question 'was the trio of penalties the first-ever TRUE hat-trick from the spot?' In other words, three successive penalties?

I'm not sure we ever got a definite answer, but strangely there have since been two incidents of a Wealdstone player netting three penalties in one game: Paul Bowgett (left) against Andover in a 4-0 win in the

Southern League South in 1980, and Robin Wainwright against Boston United in the Conference in 1985, in a remarkable 7-2 win.

I remember all three games clearly but it is not certain (even from the reproduced match reports here) if they were also 'true' hat-tricks. Can anyone remember the order of those goals from over 30 years ago? Let me know at [tim.fparks@gmail.com](mailto:tim.fparks@gmail.com)