

Rewind: On this day in Stones history

By Tim Parks

Archive cuttings by Martin Allen



November 26, 1977: Stones history is made in Hereford

Saturday November 26 1977, FA Cup 1st round Proper: Wealdstone 0 Hereford United 0 REPLAY: Hereford Utd 2 Wealdstone 3

THE STONES' FA Cup history was far from chequered before the 1970s.... in fact, before this decade the club had only reached the First Round Proper in all its 70-year history: a 1-0 defeat at Port Vale in the 50s, and a 3-1 surrender at Millwall in 1965.

But when the Swinging Seventies started it was a different matter. Eddie Presland's team were narrowly pipped 4-3 in a thriller at Third Division (League One) Aldershot in '75, and the following year it took a tragic mistake to see the Stones exit 1-0 at Reading.

So it seemed we were getting close to an upset. When Alan Fogarty's Wealdstone were paired at home to Hereford United in November 1977 it was an intriguing draw... for the Bulls were riding happily along in the third tier, and had a fine Cup pedigree of their own, having famously knocked out Newcastle with the legendary Ronnie Radford goal five years before.

Yet the 90 minutes at Lower Mead were a bit of an anticlimax. To put it bluntly, nothing really happened.. Even the crowd - just over 2,000 - were pretty apathetic as Stones failed

to get going against a dominant Hereford side who had 80% of the play but were toothless in front of goal.

What were our chances of glory in the replay? Non-existent on this showing, but still 300 fans made the trip to Welsh border country for the Wednesday night replay more in hope that expectation.

But what a night it was!

Here we recapture all the drama from that fabulous, totally unexpected 3-2 win: the club's first-ever victory over a Football League club.

For once we were accorded space in the National Press, though it was a bit of an embarrassment for Pat 'Ferry Ferry Good' who bunked off an afternoon teaching assignment for his East London school along with goalkeeper and teaching colleague Chris Lightfoot.

They thought they would get away scot free.. until their headmaster was regaled with their Cup heroics over his morning breakfast!

Royal Blue Review 10p
SEASON 1977-78
The Official Programme of Wealdstone Football Club Ltd.
Lower Mead Stadium
Station Road, Harrow, Middx. 01-427 2840
Winners: FA Amateur Cup 1965-6, Athenian Lge 1951-2, Southern Lge Div 1 (South) 1973-4

Saturday, 26th November, 1977
Kick-off 3 p.m.
F.A. Cup
First Round Proper

WEALDSTONE v. **HEREFORD UNITED**

WEALDSTONE	HEREFORD UTD.
(Head Coach) Brian Wilson	(White and Black) Peter Mellor
Chris Lightfoot 1	Alan Furdson 2
Paul Thomas 3	Steve Emery 4
John Watson 4	Steve Ritchie 5
Dave Parnett 5	John Layton 6
Fred Barwick 6	Julian Marshall 7
Pat Ferry 7	Ken Stephens 8
Steve Brinkman 8	Steve Dray 9
Kelvin Murphy 9	Billy Holmes 10
George Duck 10	Roy Carter 11
Bobby Moss 11	Andy Froesevire 12
Steve Hockham 12	Micky Griffiths

Referee: Mr D. W. Cull (Birmingham)
Mr W. G. Cress (High Wycombe) (Goal) Lineman Mr G. S. Chelidge (Cognate) (Yellow Flag)

HEREFORD UNITED FC REVIEW

FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CUP FIRST ROUND REPLAY

VERSUS WEALDSTONE

ON NOVEMBER 30th, 1977

OFFICIAL MATCH MAGAZINE

continued over page>>

ALDSTONE EARN A SECOND CHANCE

SOUTHERN LEAGUE Wealdstone defended superbly to hold Third Division Hereford United scoreless in this one-sided F.A. Cup first round tie at Lower Mead on Saturday.

And manager Alan Fogarty gave his 11 battling warriors a vote of confidence by immediately announcing the same team for tomorrow's (Wednesday) replay at Edgar Street.

However, had goal-aby Hereford, who were looking for their first away win of the season, taken one of their many chances a replay would not be necessary. The Third Division outfit have now failed to score in over 11 hours of away football. And it wasn't hard to see why on Saturday.

Hereford's finishing was abysmal. They looked the part of a professional Third Division side in their build up but once they got within shouting distance of the penalty area they reacted more like a Sunday morning team.

There was only one side in it on Saturday and it certainly wasn't Wealdstone. Hereford enjoyed almost total superiority in most departments, especially in midfield.

By Pat Mooney

Wealdstone 0, Hereford 0

The Football League side played four in the middle which 'Stones were forced to match. As a result midfield resembled Piccadilly Circus in the rush hour with standing room only. Hereford ruled O.K. and Wealdstone's front three of Duck, Ferry and Moss were starved of quality possession.

But let's not forget how well Wealdstone defended. Chris Lightfoot was brilliant in goal. He was equal to the handful of efforts Hereford eventually managed to put on target and he commanded his area with inspiring confidence.



The much-lauded defence of Paul Thomas, Dave Farratt and Alan Fursdon seemed hurried as if their lives depended on it. In fact, Fursdon, not by any means the youngest of Fogarty's fighters, opposed Wealdstone's battling spirit with a muscle-saving tackle ten minutes into the second half.

Billy Holmes, the former Wimbledon striker, sent centre-forward Steve Davey clear through with a punch of a pass. As Davey, the Plymouth Argyle player, bore down on the advancing Lightfoot, Fursdon galloped all of 25 yards to time his tackle to perfection and disposed the Hereford player before he could shoot.

Steve Brinkman, John Watson, Fred Barwick and Keith Purphy all tried hard in midfield but they were always under pressure. Seldom have these 'Stones players been subjected to such close pressure. They came against but how can one criticise against full-time professionals!

Following on from Hereford's midfield dominance, we saw very little of Messrs. Duck, Moss and Ferry in their familiar scoring role.

And what of Hereford? Well, they obviously need someone who can put the ball in the net. An aggressive striker. A replacement for McNeil. In Holmes they have a tidy, fairly skilled player but he didn't look hungry enough to apply the finishing touch.

Kevin Stephenson was the Herefordshire side's outstanding player while Davey showed real moments of

'Stones, undefeated in 13 games, were under pressure almost from the start as Hereford made their attacking intentions painfully obvious. They forced three successive corners in the opening six minutes and the west of the Cinema end had started.

Hereford had the ball in the net after ten minutes when Davey headed home a Holmes cross. However, Birmingham referee Mr. D. W. Civi disallowed the goal for off-side.

Then after 22 minutes Hereford should have scored the first of many. Spiking looked in a high cross and Carter, who Wealdstone's stump at the offside to find himself with only Lightfoot between him and goal. However, Carter opted for his right foot when his left was the obvious one and completely missed the target.

Wealdstone's first constructive attack didn't arrive until the 35th minute when Duck headed over from Brinkman's free-kick. Even then the linesman had his flag up for off-side. 'Stones won their first corner five minutes from the break but Hereford replied with more pressure and Lightfoot was forced to fly-kick from the in-rushing Davey.

In the second half Wealdstone looked a little better and Purphy managed a decent shot at goal. Hereford's reply was sharp and swift. Stephenson crossed deep from the right and Holmes stole in to beat Lightfoot with a seemingly goal-bound header. But Fred Barwick suddenly appeared to clear off the line.

Brinkman was booked for a foul on 17-year-old Kevin Shedy, Hereford's Eire Youth International. Then came Fursdon's match-saving tackle and almost unbelievably 'Stones were still in with a shout. Lightfoot saved superbly from Emery as Hereford pushed forward.

Wealdstone then produced a pocket of pressure that saw McKillop fumble a Furphy free-kick and save at the feet of Duck. Spring saw Yellow for a foul on Thomas. Lightfoot again carried the applause of the 2,603 spectators when he turned over a thunderbolt from Shedy. And so a ended.

Wealdstone: Lightfoot; Fursdon, Thomas, Farratt; Watson, Brinkman, Barwick, Purphy; Duck, Ferry. * * * * * Club: Heckham.

▲ The Harry O report on the draw at Lower Mead... apologies (again) for reproductive quality

Players mirror mixed feelings

Predictably, the players' reactions to the match were ones of satisfaction tinged with disappointment, writes Jon Marsh.

George Duck, Stones' record-breaking striker, said after the game: "I am delighted at the result. They played well and if they had taken their chances they would have won. We played well in defence but I would have liked to have seen a bit more up front."

"At least it is one stage further but we had our great chance here, so I am a little bit disappointed."

Skipper John Watson was

of much the same opinion: "I'm pleased that we got a result but we did not show our flair or footballing ability as a team, we relied too much on individuals."

Terrific

He seemed fairly confident about Wednesday's replay. "What we have got to do is throw caution to the wind and go down there and enjoy ourselves. If we can contain them at the start we know that we can do it. They know what it is like to be giant-killers."

Although "Willie" was a

bit disappointed with his own performance he was full of praise for his defence: "They were terrific, especially Alan Fursdon. He's a player that does not get too much of the limelight." But he did admit that "the occasion was a bit too much for some of our young players."

Teenager Steve Brinkman is obviously relishing the replay. "It will be more open. We have as good a chance over there as we had up here. They closed it up today but I think it will be a more open game on Wednesday."

The team will have learnt at least one thing from Saturday's encounter — that Hereford are by no means unbeatable and that with a supreme effort and a bit of luck on Wednesday night they can carve out a piece of history for themselves and Wealdstone F.C.

● If, and it's a big if, Wealdstone win at Hereford on Wednesday, they will face Reading, in the Second Round at Lower Mead. Monday's draw saw 'Stones or Hereford paired with Reading.

▲ Above: Report from 0-0 draw at Lower Mead reflects the low key approach to the replay at Hereford

▶ A rare attack from the Stones in front of a 2,200 crowd at Lower Mead. Thing would improve in the replay!

▼ Replay match-winner Keith Furphy tangles with a Hereford defender in the draw at Lower Mead, and (right) Hereford programme shows the line-ups for the replay



Stopped! Wealdstone's George Duck (dark shirt) attempts an over-head kick but Hereford's Phil Burrows gets in first during Saturday's F.A. Cup match at Lower Mead. The prolific George was forced to have one of his quieter games against the ponents.



Puppets on a string? Not really. Wealdstone's Keith Furphy (dark shirt)

HEREFORD UTD. WEALDSTONE

WHITE SHIRTS
BLACK SHORTS

- Peter MELLOR 1
- Steve EMERY 2
- Phil BURROWS 3
- John LAYTON 4
- Julian MARSHALL 5
- Kevin SHEEDY 6
- Ken STEPHENS 7
- Ray CARTER 8
- Steve DAVEY 9
- Billy HOLMES 10
- Peter SPIRING 11

ROYAL BLUE SHIRTS
BLACK SHORTS

- Chris LIGHTFOOT
- Alan FURSDON
- Paul THOMAS
- John WATSON
- Dave FARRATT
- Fred BARWICK
- Pat FERRY
- Steve BRINKMAN
- Keith FURPHY
- George DUCK
- Bobby MOSS

Subs

LUCKY PROGRAMME

No. 2128

REFEREE: D. W. CIVIL (Birmingham)

LINESMEN: D. E. WISE (Malvern) Red Flag

D. WOODWARD (Welland) Orange Flag

Match ball donated by Hereford Produce Ltd., Widemanh Street, Hereford.

MAN IN THE NEARLE. Derek Cole, of Birmingham, has now completed 21 years without being awarded the coveted silver ball trophy, in the Worcester's Combination he was being presented to the ball for 21 years before in 1967. Since then he has refereed the F.A. County League Cup. He was also a licensee when Scotland met Scotland in 1970. A married man with two sons, he works in the printing industry, and he helps with coaching and training in a public room near the home. He lives with West Bromwich Albion. He keys in for his job as a top referee and favours "all the ball" decisions between referees and players to set out problems that arise in the game.

BRILLIANT WEALDSTONE MAKE HISTORY AT HEREFORD



BRILLIANT Wealdstone wiped out the shock of conceding a goal after just 86 seconds to pull off a magnificent giant-killing act when they defeated Third Division Hereford United on their own ground in the F.A. Cup First Round replay on Wednesday evening.

The Southern League club looked set for a hiding when Kevin Sheedy netted for Hereford with their first serious attack. But they came back in tremendous style to book a second round home tie with Fourth Division Reading.

It was the first time that Hereford had lost an F.A. Cup tie to a non-league club at Edgar Street since 1947, and it is the first time that Wealdstone have made the second round in their history.

A jubilant Wealdstone manager Alan Fogarty said afterwards "I am absolutely over the moon. The boys played their hearts out and thoroughly deserved to win.

► GLORY, GLORY!

The Harrow Observer report reflects all the excitement of this historic night for the Stones

.. and doesn't Keith Furphy look young! Our 19-year-old winger was the son of Ken Furphy, Watford manager in the 1970s, and young Keith had his own taste of Cup heroics when he was a ball-boy as they reached the semi-finals



"We won on merit. The goals were superb and I will be buying everyone a well-earned drink on the way home."

John Sillett, the Hereford manager said "It was a nightmare. I have never been so deflated in my life."

Hereford only have themselves to blame after missing a host of chances and plucky Wealdstone stuck to their guns with a brilliant team performance to stretch their undefeated run to 15 games.

Hereford had a dream start when they went ahead

Hereford Utd. 2, Wealdstone 3

after 86 seconds. Kenny Stephens collected a throw-in and squared the ball to Sheedy who planted a 20-yard drive into the back of the net.

The 17-year-old Eire Youth international came close with a couple of similar efforts in Saturday's goalless draw at Lower Mead and the Wealdstone side should have known better than to have given him shooting space.

Pat Ferry and George Duck were left to plough a long furrow in the United half in the first 30 minutes. But Wealdstone gradually grew in confidence and got men forward to support them.

Furphy drove a low free kick into the Hereford penalty area and Pat Ferry beat the defenders to the ball and turned it into the net.

Five minutes after the break the home fans were stunned into silence when Wealdstone snatched their second goal.



Furphy was again involved. He centred deep the Hereford goalmouth and Bobby Moss outjumped everyone to head powerfully home.

The Hereford players looked on in disbelief when Ferry scored again for Wealdstone in the 38th minute. Furphy, who had an outstanding game, and had a hand in all three goals, floated a free-kick to the near post and Ferry glanced in a great header that had Mellor beaten all the way.

Hereford threw everything into attack in the last half-hour and reduced arrears when Steve Davey turned the ball home from close range in the 66th minute.

But Wealdstone held out well under strong pressure and survived eight corners in the last 15 minutes.

Goalkeeper Chris Lightfoot produced some fine saves to foil Davey, Holmes and Carter and the crossbar came to the rescue when Holmes eventually beat him.

The Hereford fans, who expected an avalanche after their side's early goal, went home in silence.

In the end it was the few loyal Wealdstone supporters, who had made the long trip North, that went home cheering.

Wealdstone: Lightfoot; Fursden, Thomas, Parratt, Barwick; Watson, Brickman, Furphy, Griffiths (89 min.); Duck, Ferry, Moss.



The only times of worry for Hereford in the opening half-hour came when Duck headed into the side netting from close range and then goalkeeper Peter Mellor moved smartly to take an inwinding corner from Furphy that threatened to sneak in at the near post.

But Wealdstone rocked their Football League opponents with an equaliser completely out of the blue in the 37th minute.

Keith tastes his own glory

KEITH Furphy, Watford's ball boy when they reached the semi-final of the FA Cup in 1970, tasted cup glory of his own last night when he helped Southern League Wealdstone topple Third Division Hereford.

Wealdstone created club history by winning the first round replay 3-2 and Keith, 19-year-old son of former Watford manager Ken Furphy, had a hand in all three goals.

Ken saw his son play in Saturday's goalless draw at Wealdstone, but was unable to make the replay.



■ KEITH FURPHY

FERRY FERRY GOOD

Teacher nets Cup double for Wealdstone glory

By STEVE ALLAN
Hereford 2, Wealdstone 3

TEACHER Pat Ferry got ten out of ten for accuracy from Wealdstone last night.

Sir scored two goals in a dramatic 2-1 Cup first-round replay which was a history lesson for both clubs.

It was the first time the Southern League part-timers had reached the second round.

It was the first time in 31 years that Hereford had been beaten by a non-League club in the Cup. Wealdstone looked like being mastered when 17-year-old Kevin Sheedy shot Hereford in front after 86 seconds.

Pressure

The Third Division side piled on the pressure but Wealdstone passed this examination of their defence to strike back and equalise through Ferry in the 37th minute.

He pushed in a free-kick by Keith Purphy, who also had a hand in the second and third goals in the 50th and 58th minutes.

Purphy crossed for Billy Moss to head home and then lofted a free-kick which Ferry nodded in.

Hereford, whose Cup past includes beating Newcastle and taking West Ham to a replay, pulled one back through Steve Davey in the 66th minute.

▲ **THE SUN WOT WON IT** .. No in fact it was Pat Ferry, but our striker revelled in the headlines from the tabloid papers after his heroics at Hereford. Right, long-time Stones fan Cardew (The Cad) Robinson takes time out from shooting an Ealing comedy to eulogise over the win

'Stones, I'm proud of you says Cardew

TWO things a man never forgets. His first sweetheart and his first football team. Even if I had moved too far from Lower Mead to ever actually see The Stones again, I would at the drop of a whistle be able to recall those first seasons.

I am none too keen to actually pinpoint the first year I started watching Wealdstone, but doubtless some other supporters of long standing will get some idea when I remind them that the colours then were black and white hoops, and that the captain was a half-back named Joe Archer.

The Stones played in the Spartan League in those days and can't have enjoyed uninterrupted success because I have a vivid memory of a critical voice calling out plaintively on more than one occasion. "What about some changes Joe?" ("He can't be as old as that!" "Oh yes, he can!")

Of course I was very young. Honestly, I caught the football bug very early indeed; long before I went to Harrow County School, where they played Rugby. But the oval ball had little chance with me. I played it, and even got into the first XV as a wing threequarter, but my heart remained round shaped.

In this I was not alone, and we even had an unofficial school Soccer team, which played several matches including one against our traditional rivals, John Lyon. I played left-back and the right-back was Don Oakley one of the well known Gaytonian cricketing brothers.

But the biggest thrill around this time was when the Harrow Scouts organised a Football Cup. We had a School Troop, the 4th Harrow, organised on a House basis and our house, captained from centre-forward by yours truly actually reached the final. Alas we went down 5-2 and although I got on the score sheet it was a sad end to my one and only Cup Final.

RARITY

During this period the Wealdstone names I remember from my Saturday visits were Champion, a clever little wing half, Hannam an amusing looking inside-left with long shorts and a good football brain, Hoskins, a tiny terror of a centre-forward, and a marvellous outside-right — and he really was an outside-right called Maskell. I not only remember with gratitude his electric dashes up the wing, but also his abbreviated shorts, a real rarity in those days. Later came Loveday, and the wonderful Charlie Bunce.

During the war I played a few games for my unit No. 11 Group, before joining the RAF Gung. Show with Ralph Reader. In one game against the Service Police — if you'll pardon the expression — I scored what is I believe the only goal assisted

by a Land Mine. This had fallen on our camp on a parachute the night before and had been taken away by the bomb disposal boys and detonated in a field near the football ground.

It went off with a sickening crash just as I took a corner. The entire field, teams and spectators, were flung to stone by the awful sudden shock of it. This included the police goalkeeper as my inswinging corner sailed straight over his head into the net.

After the war it was the two Polish forwards I remember best, Mikrut and Wessyk, two really brilliant

semi-final how disappointing it was to be filming in Venice instead of cheering at Wembley.

But we did it didn't we, and how appropriate it was that we should at last win the Cup at the expense of the old enemy, Hendon. Sadly, I recall the subsequent unsuccessful semi-final against Chesham. We had all thought it was going to be a cinch.

What a contrast to the recent unbelievable events. I was one of a not very inspired, or inspiring crowd at the first Hereford match and quite honestly I thought not only that our chance had gone, but that we were more than a little fortunate to get another one; luck and great defence.

I wasn't able to get down to Hereford and when I heard the result on the car radio I whooped out loud and nearly drove into a wall. I have been feeling thrilled out of my mind ever since.

BIGGER CROWD

All those previous frustrating odd-goal dismissals from the Big One, always away, can now be forgotten. Port Vale 1-0, Aldershot 4-3 and — Reading 1-0. What an unbelievable opportunity for a quick revenge. Let's hope that if it is a single margin that this time the odd goal goes the way of Wealdstone.

Let's hope, too, that our crowd will be a lot bigger than the 2,500 of the first game v Hereford. And that we'll make a lot more noise. Because we're proud of the Stones aren't we?

If we do get through who would I like in Round 3? I hope it isn't Arsenal because they are "my other lot" and two uncomfortable. Not as I am. I wouldn't like to think of The Gunners falling at their first hurdle. Let's face it, after Hereford, anything's possible isn't it!



Cardew ("The Cad") Robinson, was brought up in Harrow, went to Harrow County School for Boys, and has had a life-long interest in Wealdstone F.C. When his activities as comedy actor/script writer/radio comic permit, he can still be seen at Lower Mead, and was there for the drawn cup-tie against Hereford.

players. I remember their faces, better than their spelling! Over the years the club had gone from the Spartan to the Athenian League and thence to the Isthmian. Among the giants of more recent times I still treasure the images of our two internationals Charlie Townsend and Hugh Lindsay. And the games against our rivals Hendon, especially the holiday fixtures were the real blood tinglers.

As far as the Cup — Amateur I think — there was an incredible 7-7 score against Dulwich Hamlet before losing the replay 3-1. Of course to Stones supporters the Amateur had taken on some of the elusiveness of the Holy Grail. Year after year we fall at various stages. At last after helping to cheer the lads to victory in the