

**TIM PARKS** was delighted to discover that two of the mainstays of the 1966 Amateur Cup-winning team - centre-back and skipper John Ashworth and full-back Mickey Doyle - live only half a mile apart, and just round the corner from himself in Harpenden. The three met up for a couple of pints and a bag of crisps at the White Horse pub in the leafy Hertfordshire town....

## 'Cool and inspiring ...this man made it all possible in 1966'

**Y**ou know, if that man had not been around we wouldn't have got anywhere near the Amateur Cup Final in 1966, let alone winning it.

Mickey Doyle, Wealdstone's right back that glorious day at Wembley, leaned in conspiratorially. His fellow defender, team captain Johnny Ashworth, had gone up to the bar to get the next round in.

I don't mind admitting it, John was a bit of a hero to me at the time. The way he carried himself, the

way he got the whole team behind him, the way he played, absolutely dominating games from his centre-back position. And especially on the day of the Final itself.

"We all met up at Lower Mead that morning and you just had to look around - everyone was a bit nervous. Not surprising really - the club had never played at Wembley in an Amateur Cup Final before, never got near the place.

"But then John came in. He was as cool as he was before any old game. "Come on lads, let's get at this lot today", he said, something

along those lines. "This is our day, we're going to do it!" There was a lot of effing and blinding as well of course!

"But that set the tone for the whole day."

Johnny Ashworth then returned from the bar, still the tall and commanding figure he'd been half a century ago.

"So did you really feel that confident, John?" I asked him. "Or was it all a show to get the others up and pumping?"

He laughed. "Oh yes. Yes, there was a bit of bravado but if you looked around that group.. well, we had some magnificent players. It all revolved around Hughie and Charlie really (Lindsay and Townsend) - they were our 'go-to' men. We mixed it up a bit, sometimes playing the ball long to clever lads like Bernie Bremer and Bobby Childs, or the hold-up players like Jim Cooley, but often we'd just play in in to the feet of Charlie and Hughie.

They could make space where it didn't exist. And Hughie of course had that amazing shot".

"Crikey, yes" said Mickey. "There was one game, against Stevenage I think, in the FA Cup that same season, when we were trailing by a few goals and got it back to 5-5 in the last moments..."

I didn't want to interrupt.

Here were two of the greatest, humblest players in Wealdstone history, recounting possibly the



**Stones skipper in 1966, John Ashworth (left) and right-back Mickey Doyle meet up at the White Horse in Harpenden. They've hardly changed!**

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The iconic trophy picture - John Ashworth lifts the Amateur Cup with Mickey Doyle (ringed)

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greatest moment in Wealdstone history: The 6-5 comeback win against Stevenage. The game EVERYONE has heard about.

Mickey went on: 'Well, we won a freekick just inside the centre-circle, in their half of the field, and it was possibly the last kick of the game and the crowd were celebrating an unlikely draw. Then Hughie, who was on fire that day, put the ball down and I looked over at John and he gave me that funny little look that meant he knew exactly what Hubert was going to do.

"I was beside Hughie and just said; 'Go on Hughie, have a go, why not?' He was capable of shooting with astonishing force, even with the big puddings of footballs we had in those days, striking across the ball... but this was over 40 yards out.

"We just watched as he smashed the ball goalwards. Next thing was, the ball was in the net and it was pandemonium!"

If I'd had an extra hour with those gentlemen I'd have asked them all about the FA Cup run that year, which ended in a 3-1 defeat at Millwall. But we were here to talk about the Amateur Cup, and how Mickey and Johnny came to be at the club.

Both were 'Northerners' - Mickey from Barrow in Furness and John from Nottingham, so how did they end up in Wealdstone blue? And how did their career progress afterwards?

John went first. "Well, my story is a long one but basically, I grew up in Nottingham in the Tommy Lawton era - he was playing for Notts County - but I was a junior at Forest until I went into the Royal Navy. It was the days of National Service, just after the Second World War and I played a lot for football for the RN. Portsmouth spotted me and I signed on as a professional, in the days of

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# CANTWELL SALUTES WINNERS

By LESLIE NICHOL

HEADS nodded in the Hendon dressing-room after the Amateur Cup Final at Wembley when captain Bobby Cantwell summed up Wealdstone's great 3-1 victory.

"Losing when you get this far can be one of the toughest experiences," he said. "But it's not quite so bad when you know you have gone down to a fine side."

Wealdstone, the "no-hopers" of this delightful match and a goal down in five minutes, went on to win not only a Cup but also the acclaim of the 45,000 crowd.

For this Final proved that footballers do not have to earn £5,000 a year to raise a Wembley cheer.

At the end, John Ashworth, the big Wealdstone captain and centre half, stepped through the police barrier and handed the trophy to a bunch of his supporters. And in that moment you sensed what it meant to Wealdstone after waiting 66 years to win the trophy.

Proud John told me: "We played as a team, 11 of the best. But if you had to single out anyone, you must give credit to Hughie and Charlie.

"They were the vital link men, and our 4-2-4 tactics rested upon them. If they failed, then the whole scheme may have flopped."

## LETHAL

Schoolmaster Hughie Lindsay, 27, 5ft. 7in., proved that he is indeed the finest inside forward in amateur football.

Carpenter Charlie Townsend, also 27 and 5ft. 7in., provided a lethal non-stop service of attacking-defending play.

These midfield twins, sharing 50 England caps, reshaped the game after centre-half Geoff Riddy had given Hendon a too-easy fourth-minute lead.

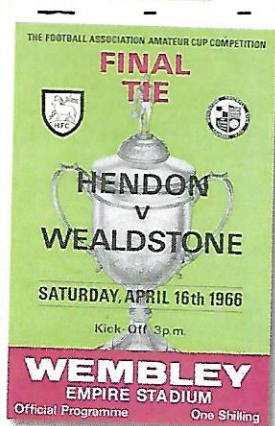
The equaliser, a long shot from Bobby Childs, 35 minutes later, was inevitable, following Wealdstone's relentless retaliation.

Yet, just after that, a shot from Hendon inside-left Roy Slean bounced off goalkeeper Brian Goymer and tricked towards the Wealdstone goal-line. It could have been a match-turner.

But Goymer, with his injured left thumb strapped up, turned and clawed desperately, full-length, for the ball. If he had cut his fingernails that morning, he may not have reached it.

With right-half David Shacklock, one of Hendon's outstanding defenders, hobbling on the right wing, Bernie Bremer scored Wealdstone's second in the 85th minute. Back came hobbling Childs for that knock-out third goal in injury time.

I have seen every Amateur Cup Final played at Wembley; some may have been as good, but none better than this.



More complimentary reporting with Leslie Nichol reckoning it was right up with the best finals ever played at the old stadium. Below: Wealdstone's amateur internationals Townsend, Ashworth and Lindsay



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the maximum wage... I only played once for Pompey, at Fratton Park against Sunderland in the old Division Two ... we won 2-1 but the professional life wasn't for me.

"I'd met Ann, my wife (they recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary) and we wanted to settle down. There was a lad I'd played with in the Navy, Jimmy Coates, who was skipper of Kingstonian in the Isthmian League so I signed for them in 1959ish, and had three good years there."

"Did you play in the 1960 Amateur Cup Final for the Ks then, John?" I asked him.

"Yes, I did. And so did Hughie Lindsay, who joined Wealdstone a year before me, in '62. But that day wasn't a happy memory. Hendon beat us 2-1 in the final that year and that was definitely a motivating factor for me, when we found ourselves in the Final again in '66. I didn't want to experience losing a final again."

**M**ICKEY Doyle chimed in. "You know, we were all a bit nervous before the the big game, as I've already said, and it seems funny but the moment I just knew we were going to win the game was when we went 1-0 down after just two minutes!

"There I was, picking the ball out of our net after Geoff Riddy had put Hendon into the lead and I knew in my guts that we were the sort of team that thrived on a knock-back, especially so early in the game.

"We were all up for it. The skipper went around our team, motivating everyone and we played so well that day. It took a long time to get the goals we deserved but 3-1 was a fair result in the end."

Mickey looked fondly across at his captain. "You know, Hughie and Charlie were absolutely brilliant but this man was the glue in that



**Little known fact: Wembley was covered in thick snow just two days before the final, when the Stones players turned up to get the feel of the stadium. Luckily the pitch thawed out in time. Orange ball weather!**

team. Held us all together in good times and bad."

"You weren't bad yourself!" laughed Johnny. And indeed our energetic, attacking full-back Doyle won rave reviews right through his initial three year spell before 1964 and 67, and again when he returned to the club in 1969 for another 30-odd games.

"We were unique. The club was unique. The social side was fantastic" said Mickey, who was working all hours in a variety of jobs but spending every Saturday night (and quite a few after training) in the Lower Mead social club with his team-mates.

He had come travelled south from Barrow to join Fulham as an apprentice. A certain Jimmy Hill was the big cheese at the Cottage (the Cottage cheese even) and Mickey remembers Hill telling the young lads that if and when when they turned pro, they'd have to join the PFA. The days of the £20-a-week maximum wage were drawing to an end (smashed by Hill and his revolutionaries) and Fulham's Johnny Hayes was the first beneficiary as the club hiked his wages ten-fold. But there was

no such munificence for teenagers like Mickey, who saw no future in competing with First Division Fulham's internationals - and was asked along to Wealdstone for a trial.

"I loved Wealdstone the first time I walked in. It wasn't easy establishing myself as they had some terrific players but this man (he said, gesturing across to big John) let me in that team. He really did. He saw something in me and that led to the best years of my football life".

**N**EITHER men really hit the heights again after '66. I asked them: "What happened? Surely that should have been the springboard for a tilt at the Isthmian League title?"

"I don't really know", said Mickey. "Maybe the club lost focus a bit. I ended up going to St Albans and Hendon for a couple of seasons, but in the 1970s my working life sort of took over."

He had been an apprentice electrician at AEI in Willesden, and then moved into the oil business for Exxon, BP and Mobil, graduating to

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nior level after working offshore many years. "The buzz of finding oil, getting the first discovery a platform after months of preparation, was the closest thing to the buzz of playing football" enthused Mickey, who bought a house in the light-after West Common area of Hendon (just round the corner from Jack Wilshere) with his wife Teresa in the seventies, and retired aged 69 four years ago. "It's ridiculous we've not kept in touch better!" said John. "We sort of bump into each other in Sainsbury's sometimes, with our wives, but I don't think we've met up properly for about 20 years.

"This 50th anniversary get-together is a good excuse to get back in touch with all our friends and teammates from that time".

Skipper John is now 79 and retired in 1999 at the age of 62, after a career in the pharmaceuticals business.

Both men have undoubtedly done all right for themselves and their families. But they'll never forget 1966.

"What a year it was, with Wealdstone winning the Amateur Cup and England winning the World Cup. We know where Bobby Moore & Co they got their inspiration from!" laughed Mickey.

MICKEY DOYLE is definitely the junior partner among Wealdstone's parade of Amateur England internationals but he holds the honour of being the last Stone to be capped - coming on as substitute for Sutton's Ted Powell against Iceland at Slough Town's Dolphin Stadium in 1970. Johnny Ashworth, Charlie Townsend and Hughie Lindsay of course total around 70 England and Great Britain caps between them.

Right-winger Brian Allen,  
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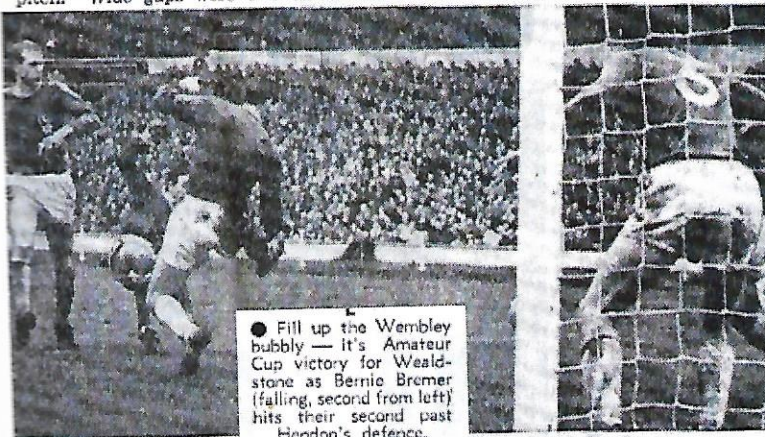
*The People Sunday April 17, 1966*

# Hendon retreat lets lets in Lindsay

Hendon 1, Wealdstone 3 By JOE HULME

BRILLIANT Hugh Lindsay stamped his authority on the Amateur Cup Final. He made sure the trophy would go to Wealdstone for the first time. The tactics of using Lindsay, with his immaculate ball control and made-to-measure passes and Charlie Townsend to open up the Hendon defence paid off handsomely on the slippery Wembley turf.

These two had Bobby Cantwell and his fellow defenders slipping all over the pitch. Wide gaps were created for the fast-running Bobby Childs and wingers



● Fill up the Wembley bubbly — it's Amateur Cup victory for Wealdstone as Bernie Bremer (falling, second from left) hits their second past Hendon's defence.

The Sunday People report underlines the role Hughie Lindsay played in the Stones' renaissance in the final, alongside his England pal Charlie Townsend

Bernie Bremer and Brian Allen.

A jubilant Lindsay said afterwards: "The space left by Hendon's defensive tactics was fine. I always play it by ear, though sometimes I'm a bit off-balance."

It was sweet revenge for Lindsay, too. He was in the Kingstonian side beaten by Hendon in the final six years ago.

Hendon scored in the fifth minute through Geoff Ruddy. Despite this shock Wealdstone calmly played their way through the shakedown period and exploited Hendon's mistaken tactics of pulling Roy Sleep back in defence.

Explained Bill Fisher, the Hendon coach: "We planned for an early goal and then to stay on the attack. But we were not allowed to. Wealdstone pushed us back and kept coming at us." Townsend and Lindsay revealed in the midfield freedom and set up moves after move to threaten Swannell. He was surprised by the speed of Bobby Childs' 25-yard angled shot off the turf and dived too late to prevent the goal.

Swannell also knocked down a fierce drive in injury time but the ball only ran to Childs who cracked it into the empty net.

A few minutes earlier Bremer had put Wealdstone in front. The injury London struck again in this fast-moving game. David Shacklock went off for five minutes late in the game with a washed shin and Welsh cap John Evans had treatment for a leg injury after colliding with Lindsay.

HENDON: Swannell 5; Hogwood 6; Ruddy 7; Cantwell 8; Cooper 9; Shacklock 10; Evans 11; Dean 12; Churcill 13; Swain 14; Hyde 15.

WEALDSTONE: Gwynne 6; Doyle 8; Ashworth 7; Dilworth 10; Halsey 11; Townsend 12; Lindsay 13; Allen 14; Childs 15; Cooley 16; Bremer 17. Referee: N. Bartramshaw (North) 18.

previously featured in this programme after the long-winded search to track him down for today's celebratory lunch, has flown in from Spain (where he now lives) but the second-longest trip award goes to centre forward JIM COOLEY. Jim has lived in Guernsey, in the Channel Islands for 42 years. Amazingly he met his wife Margaret on a WFC club trip following the Amateur Cup triumph and they were married in October that year... which means the happy couple are celebrating their 50th anniversary this autumn.

'Quite an eventful time for me!' said Jim, who said that the team were more relaxed on final day than the semi-final. 'We had already played Hendon three times that season and knew an awful lot of their players socially and also from playing against them in Sunday League games (although that was frowned upon).

'It was a great day playing at Wembley - the pitch was heavy but a lovely to play on.'

Jim started his career at Hounslow, before moving on to Finchley and then the Stones, finishing his career at Staines Town in 1974 when he moved to Guernsey with his wife.

He goes to watch the island side (who play in the Ryman Div One South) a few times a season with his daughter but Guernsey, who joined the English football pyramid three years ago, are struggling with the travelling at the moment and will finish the season midway after two successive promotions.

Not much chance of meeting the Stones in the National League South for a few seasons, unfortunately!

# ..while, two years earlier, Stones beat Maidenhead to lift another trophy...

## MITHRAS CUP SUCCESS FOR WEALDSTONE

FIFTY TWO years ago this week, on April 23 1964, many of the stars who went on to savour success at Wembley had a foretaste of glory by lifting the Mithras Cup at the expense of today's visitors Maidenhead. For young winger Bernie Bremer it was a foretaste of the many years of reading his name spelled wrongly - as 'Bremner' - in nearly every programme and match report over the coming decade. Blame Leeds and Scotland star Billy Bremner for the confusion!

Also that week, to prove that things never really changed throughout our time at Lower Mead, was this report about the club considering cashing in its prime asset..

Wealdstone 3, Maidenhead United 2

WEALDSTONE became holders of the Mithras Cup by beating Maidenhead 3-2 at Lower Mead on Thursday to make the aggregate 4-3 for the two games. It was the third time they had beaten Maidenhead, previously their "bogey" side, in four meetings this season.

For their goals Wealdstone had to thank their two latest recruits to their side, Terry Haydon (2) and Bernard Bremner, the latter snatching a late winner after Maidenhead, against the run of play, had wiped off a 2-0 deficit.

On a near-waterlogged pitch Wealdstone, unrecognizable as the side so humiliated by Finchley two days earlier, were in control from the start, and should have had the game won by the interval.

### Haydon's two

They took the lead after 17 minutes when a delightful through pass by Townsend found Farrell who teed the ball up for Haydon, moving in fast, to lash it into the net with a powerful drive.

Seven minutes later Farrell, returning after a long spell of absence through injury, again stopped a pass, this time from Bremner, just right for Haydon to slide it into the net.

Haydon almost managed to complete his hat-trick soon afterwards but this time Brown managed to palm the ball on to a post.

Maidstone seemed to have lost hope as Wealdstone launched attack after attack but three minutes after the interval a sudden breakaway found the Wealdstone defence hesitant and Way raced through to beat Durdle to the ball and slip it into the net.

### Penalty

Although Wealdstone continued to dominate the game in the second half their finishing lacked power and Maidenhead got the equalizer (and Richards had his name taken) from a penalty which Potts converted.

Battle was now joined with more mutual enthusiasm than at any previous stage of the game and justice was done when Lindsay crossed the ball to his protégé Bremner who, now on the right wing, scored from quite a narrow angle.

Only eight clubs entered the competition this year and in the semi-final Wealdstone beat Bishops Cleeve by a 9-0 aggregate while Maidenhead eliminated Finchley.

Wealdstone: R. Durdle, M. Doyle, R. Good, Townsend, J. Ashworth, D. Richards, B. Bremner, T. Haydon, M. Farrell, H. Lindsay, V. Evans.

Maidenhead: Gifford, K. Brown, R. Lucas, G. Lawrence, B. Potts, R. Johnson, D. Thomas, K. Driver, C. Forbin, R. Hart, J. Messer, D. Way.

The Star, Thursday, April 23, 1964

## £368,000 BID FOR WEALDSTONE

By HARRY DONE

WEALDSTONE, A the main League amateurs, and strong candidates for the Isthmian competition next season, are considering a £368,000 offer for their Lower Mead ground, Harrow. The bid has, I understand, been made by a property finance company. Wealdstone are now seeking another suitable site so that they can accept the offer and become one of the richest clubs in the country.

'We would be foolish to ignore

### SUPER STADIUM

this offer but the big difficulty is finding another site within easy reach of our spectators,' said Wealdstone secretary Ken Wiltshire to-day.

'At the moment we are in-

They Will Sell Their Ground If...

terested in the site of a disused sewage farm about 500 yards from our present ground. This property company are so anxious to make a deal with us that they would be prepared to let us retain the use of our modern club house while we are building an alternative ground. With this money we could erect a super stadium and still have a big balance to ensure the future of top class

amateur soccer in this district.'

### IMPROVEMENTS

Wealdstone's ground is one of the best equipped in senior amateur soccer. They have spent £30,000 on improvements in the past 10 years, have recently modernised their floodlights, and are now planning to lay out another £15,000 on extending their stand and other developments. They are strongly tipped to succeed Wimbledon in the Isthmian League if the Surrey club turn professional next season.

● Chelmsford's £13 million plan. See Family Soccer in Sports Diary (P21).