

#### WEALDSTONE LEGENDS **v** QPR LEGENDS **ROYAL BLUE & WHITE GREEN & BLACK**

**G** Jonathan North **Jerome Okimo** Wes Parker Sean Cronin Lee Chappell **Elliot Godfrey Johnny Wright Peter Dean** Scott McGleish Scott McCubbin **Tom Pett** Luke Pigden **Carl McCluskey James Hammond Chris Moore Carl Martin Jey Siva Tom Hamblin** Luke O'Nein

**G** Nick Culkin **Terrell Forbes Danny Shittu Clarke Carlisle Bradlev Simmonds Marc Bircham Martin Rowlands** Marcus Bean **Gareth Ainsworth Steve Gallen Kevin Gallen Tony Thorpe** Jamie Cureton Dennis Oli **Tommy Smith** 

No strangers

to trophies: Messrs Bartlett and Morris Picture: Adam

Williams

#### **REFEREE** Mikea Heavey **ASSISTANTS** Steve Williams & Steven Cudner FOURTH OFFICIAL Liam Walshe

NEXT AT THE VALE Wealdstone v Colchester United Tuesday July 16, kick off 7.30pm Wealdstone v Watford Under-23s, Saturday July 20, 3pm Wealdstone v Wycombe Wands, Tuesday July 23, 7.30pm Wealdstone v Brentford 'B', Saturday July 27, 3pm

gpflewis

## THE GORDON BARTLETT and LEO MORRIS CHARITY SHIELD WEALDSTONE **2014 RYMAN TITLE-WINNERS v** QPR LEGENDS

Sunday July 14 at Grosvenor Vale, 2pm in aid of the WFC Trust & OPR Foundation Trust Match programme **£2** 

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2019-20

WEALDSTONE v OPR



Written in Stone

ood afternoon and welcome to Grosvenor Vale.

Firstly, a very special welcome to our quests of honour. Gordon Bartlett and Leo Morris. As a management partnership, Gordon and Leo account for around 20% of Wealdstone FC's history and by default have shaped the very DNA of the modern club. Today is a fantastic occasion to say thank you to both for their loyalty, hard work, perseverance and dedication through many situations that would have seen lesser men walk away.

A measure of the high esteem that Gordon and Leo are held is evident in the fact that around 120 players they managed over the course of their Wealdstone tenure will be in attendance this afternoon.

One of my great personal memories comes from the Championship winning evening in Margate. The euphoria of the pitch invasion transferred itself into the boisterous clubhouse and I decided to remove myself to the now dark, empty

terracing for a quiet moment of reflection. I was not alone however, as Gordon had a similar idea. Clearly emotional. Gordon reflected on the fact that he had almost retired at the end of the previous season, a decision that would have seen him miss out on a championship that was so popular, his mobile phone was overloaded with incoming congratulatory texts. Gordon's humility and pride shone through in a brief moment of . calm

Leo is obviously still an important figure at Wealdstone having swapped player management for Social Club management. Pre first team retirement Leo would question the sanity of us supporters. 'Haven't you lot anything better to do?' as we followed the team around the country. Leo is now a regular member of the support on away days and he now gets it ..... Train/Beer/ Football - what's not to like?

Finaly, thanks also to Marc Bircham, the QPR legends and any QPR supporters who are joining us this afternoon.

Mark

## MEET THE MANAGEMENT



#### MARK GILL MANAGER





JASON SCANNELL **GK COACH** 

wfcprogramme@googlemail.com

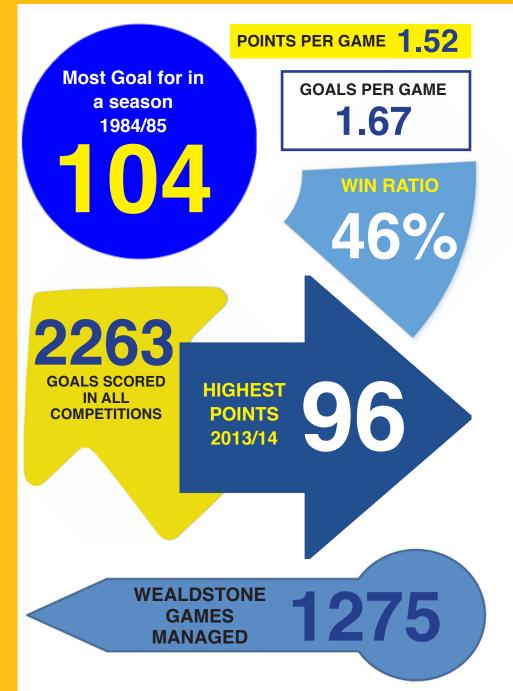
TWITTER - @WealdstoneProg

GARY STUDWICK PHYSIO



JAMES SMITH PHYSIO

## **GORDON & LEO STATS....**



## **WEALDSTONE FC**

1996-97	Isthmian League Division Three Champions Associate Members Trophy Finalists
1997-98	Isthmian League Division Two Third - Promoted to Division One
1998-99	Isthmian League Division One Third – Denied promotion to the Premier Division on ground grading
2001-02	Middlesex Senior Charity Cup Finalists
2003-04	Isthmian League Division One - Won play- off for a place in the new Premier Division Middlesex Senior Charity Cup Winners
2009-10	Isthmian League Cup – Finalists
2010-11	Middlesex Senior Charity Cup Winners
2011-12	Middlesex Senior Cup Runners-Up Middlesex County George Ruffell Shield Winners
2013-14	Isthmian League Premier Division Champions Middlesex Senior Charity Cup Runners-Up

		Р	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts
Southall		60	32	12	16	119	82	60
Hounslow		163	83	19	61	273	248	163
Yeading		355	171	81	103	630	429	355
Wealdstone		1275	581	278	416	2263	1786	1275
	TOTAL	1853	867	390	596	3285	2545	1853

#### BY GORDON BARTLETT & ROGER SLATER

## **OFF THE BENCH**

In 2010 Roger Slater sat down with Gordon Bartlett to document Gordons (then) amazing 25 years in non league football. The following extract describes in Gordons own words the detail around his and Leo's decision to join Wealdstone FC.

I can't remember at what stage Paul Rumens, then Wealdstone Chairman first mentioned the possibility of my becoming the new Stones Manager but what I do know is that Phil Spurden, Yeading Chairman, was not best pleased to put it mildly. Paul and I had spoken a number of times over the two seasons thatWealdstone ground shared at Yeading, following a costly spell at Watford's Vicarage Road. He and his partner, Lori were always around when we returned from away games and the like. During the summer, I was made redundant from my job at Atholl School where I had been teaching, and I had already put wheels in motion to go back to the Middlesex FA coaching position on a full time basis. Almost simultaneously, Layne Patterson contacted me and asked if there was a chance I'd be interested in joining and I agreed to speak to Paul who subsequently made me an offer to take over.

On consideration, I had probably taken Yeading as far as I could. We had gone from Division 2 to 9thin the Premier Division over 6 years, yetwe were still playing in front of very small crowds while Wealdstone were at their lowest ebb supporter wise but they comfortably outnumbered Yeading week in and week out. I was sold on the history and potential of the club plus the promise of a new stadium in a couple of years. It would be financially better for me and with my 'day job' uncertain, I seriously had to consider the opportunity but the major negative was moving from the Premier Division down to Division 3 where Wealdstone, having transferredfrom the Southern League, were to

compete in the forthcoming season. It would be a great opportunity to establish myself, with hopefully some success and then we could really push on once the newstadium came along. I was keen to accept the challenge of turning around thefortunes of a once big club and help them get back to former glories. With a mortgage and a young family and being about to lose my Teaching salary, a move to Wealdstone would provide some good compensation which helped finally clinch my decision.

I sat down with Leo and although I really wanted him to join me, it had to be his own decision as I reckoned Yeading would offer him the manager's role. We sat down over a couple of drinks and wrote a list of all the pro's and con's of moving. The pro's were the fan base, the history, the finance and the potential for the development. The con's? It was going to be a huge wrench to leave Yeading after such a long time. We had a good young side with a number of players on contract, an excellent pitch, great facilities, various options for training and then of course there was the FA Cup exception till the 4 th Qualifying round next season. Despite the obvious advantages of Yeading we mutually felt that we had taken the club as far as we could. Leo did make his own decision to come with me and consequently I was able to tell Paul that we would both accept the challenge of taking Wealdstone back up the pyramid. That, in hindsight, was the easy bit. Then, I had to inform Yeading we would be leaving. That did not go down at all well. Understandably and bearing in mind we had no intentions of moving at the end of the previous season, we had been totally sincere in our concluding programme notes. Having been at Yeading for seven years, everyone including my self thought that we had become part of the furniture. Everything had been moving in the right direction with year on year improvements. You can only conclude that to progress every year, you must be doing the job well enough. We'd had a couple of promotions, won a number of Cups including the prestigious FA Vase and got further in FA Competitions than ever before. I look back with satisfaction on our achievements there and we left Yeading

with our heads held high and with the club in a

better position than when we joined. It was time for pastures new.

Outside of football, due to the loss of my teaching position, I had also taken on the FA County Coach role at Middlesex County on a full time basis, which would work hand in hand with my new position at Wealdstone. A great opportunity, a new stadium being built and a real chance to put the club back on the football map. I felt optimistic that I could get my feet under the table andget the club progressing forward again unless of course, I cocked it up but there is always that risk.

Soon afterwards, I answered a phone call from the Headmaster of Alpha Prep School. who had lost his PE Teacher. Sadly he had died of a heart attack and they had a vacancy and I was a PE teacher looking for a job. The call had come totally out of the blue and I got the position on a trial basis. Starting in the September with the position reviewed at Christmas, I learnt subsequently that my predecessor was another Wealdstone connection. Alex Tsitsis was a supporter who played regularly for SFC Wealdstone. the supporters football team and he had also progressed to play for the main club as well as playing both Rugby and Cricket for sides in Bedford where he lived. He was around 40 when he died one Sunday afternoon on the cricket field and it meant that fate had transpired to present me with three jobs!

All of this activity took place to wards the end of May and into early June. Wealdstone had finished the previous season with a massive budget yet carrying so called 'name' players who under performed to say the least. finishing near the bottom of the Southern League. Paul called the whole squad together for a meeting with Leo and me. Some of the wage figuresbeing thrown around were mind blowing. Far more than we had ever seen or had control of at Yeading or anywhere else. Although the budget was being reduced drastically, it was still more than we were used to. Whether the players would be prepared to take a drop in wages was something we needed resolved immediately. The meeting took place at Viking Sports and about 15 or 16 of the squad turned up.Paul introduced me with a spiel that was s

o good İ wondered who on earth he was talking about. It was a bit 'over the top' to

say the least. I may have had a good couple of years and a decent track record but listening to Paul the analogy with 'sliced bread' came to mind.....



'Start the way we meant to carry on' was my first thought. Thanking Paul, I then addressed the players emphasising that everything he said was history. All that mattered now was the future of Wealdstone FC and that was where I would be judged. Looking around at the players. I commented that some had had professional careers or had played at the highest non league level in the Conference. but comparing results and the cost incurred, Wealdstone had certainly not had value for money, but I would judge them all on how they performed for us. I guaranteed every player in that room, that despite the lower club budget they would all get the same money for the new season. The bad news was that they would have to earn it. Whatever they were on, a guarter of it would be 'Basic Money', a guar ter paid on attendance at training, a further guarter 'Appearance Money' and the balance would be a 'Win Bonus'. This guaranteed them an opportunity to earn exactly the same

## **OFF THE BENCH CONTINUED..**

as the previous year but to do so they would have to show they were committed to giving 100% effort in every respect and to give a fair return for the club.Leo and I then told them pre season training would start on the first Tuesday in July at the American Colleges Playing Fields in Honeypot Lane and said that the details would be confirmed in writing. Leo and I shook hands with them all . said we looked forward to seeing them in due course and starting the new season together. What happened? I wasn't at all surprised that only two of them actually turned up. It just about summed up the level of commitment and illustrated why their performances were so negative the previous year. Not unexpectedly this caused some concern around the club but actually, it proved helpful as we needed fresh faces. We had to turn the club round and get a whole new squad assembled in a short space of time, whilst ensuring that any signings were of the right calibre and attitude. This meant umpteen phone calls to players and clubs alike. Not easy but hardly much different from most summers when clubs rebuild at this level. Ultimately, by the opening day of the season, Roddy Brathwaite was the only player in the starting line up from the previous year with John Shanahan on the bench

It had been a good pre season with about 20 players signed up for the start of the campaign including Steve Croad who would be the cornerstone of the newsquad. It was coming together nicely and we felt it was more than capable ofgetting a good start to the season in a new home, the club having moved from Yeading to groundshare at Edgware Town closer to the Harrow roots. The move had finally taken place around the time I was considering the job. At Yeading, there was the main pitch, a training ground next door, a floodlight Astroturf pitch, Bars and a Banqueting hall everything you could want as a manager . Now, I was at Edgware. I remembered it as a bit run down and dilapidated, so I went over and had a look. I arrived to find my memory had been playing tricks on me. What do they say about rose tinted spectacles? It was far worse than I remembered it! I drove into the pot holed car park, surrounded by a broken fence, squeezing into the ground via the buckled gate

I gazed at the pitch. My immediate thought was 'What the hell have I done?' Screwing on my positive head I reminded myself that it was just a temporary base for a couple of years, then there would be a brand spanking new stadium and I could put all of this behind me. A couple of years of hardship would be paid back many fold in the new facilities with it's all weather surfaces, training pitches, club and bar, gym and to cap it all a new stadium with a capacity of 4,000. In reality, I'd dropped down three divisions on the playing side but it seemed like five with the standard of the 'temporary' facilities, but it would all be worth it, wouldn't it?



OFF THE BENCH - A quarter of a century of non-league management is available in print ISBN 978-0-9566621-4-9 and on Amazon Kindle.

Gordon Bartlett

## **OFF THE BENCH**

A Quarter of a Century of Non-League Management

<sup>by</sup> Gordon Bartlett & Roger Slater AVAILABLE ON AMAZON KINDLE

## LEGENDS IN FOCUS

#### MICK FISHMAN





We asked Mick Fishman to cast a light hearted eye over some of the Legends representing Wealdstone this afternoon.

#### JONATHAN NORTH

An actual Wealdstone legend and, along with Max Boyce, a Welsh legend.

#### **JEROME OKIMO**

Stones current skipper who is both quiet and dignified. Very right-sided but nevertheless a very fine defender.

#### WES PARKER

Steely-eyed northern hard man more than happy to take a card for the team. Almost unintelligible.

#### **SEAN CRONIN**

Centre half though most famous at Wealdstone for a fine goalkeeping performance at Brackley. Alongside Northy and Max Boyce, a Welsh legend

#### LEE CHAPPELL

The "Del-boy" of Wealdstone sides over several seasons. Also very right-sided.

#### JONNY WRIGHT

Described as the complete centre forward. Wrighty was utilized by GB as a right winger. Having spent many years up north, only he could understand Wes, and vice-versa.

#### PETER DEAN

The ever popular Deano brought a tear to many an eye when scoring the very last goal of the triumphant 2013/14 season.

#### SCOTT MCGLEISH

65 year old Scotty is still pulling on his boots to teach the youngsters a thing or two.

#### TOM PETT

A once very promising career at Wealdstone has slid into relative obscurity at Lincoln City. CARL MCCLUSKEY

#### Enjoyed a personal triumph with his 2 wonderful goals at East Thurrock to help clinch the Ryman League championship. Err... that's it really.

#### **CARL MARTIN**

Or possibly twin brother Callum, they looked so alike. Product of youth team. Prodigiously talented and often injured.

#### **JEY SILVA**

Hard, some might say brutal, full back, Legs like Stuart Pearce.

#### TOM HAMBLIN

The club's very own sick note. Great defender when fit.

#### LUKE O'NEIN

Following a successful season long loan in 2013/14, like Tom Pett, Luke has faded into obscurity since then as a part of the Sunderland team

#### **GLENN LITTLE**

Glen's lack of a decent first touch was more than made up for by his tireless running and ferocious tackling. Scored a couple of tap-ins at Dulwich!

#### **CHARLIE PENNY**

Who put the ball in the Margate net to clinch promotion from the Ryman League? That'll be Charlie.

#### FERGUS MOORE

Another Wealdstone legend, at least he is in the Moore household. Very right-sided. He's got a book out evidently ...

#### LEE WALKER

Lightweight forward with exquisite touch who served the club over several seasons.

#### **JASON SHAW**

Remembered by Stones fans for the outrageous and ferocious assault on an opponent at Leyton in 2006 that resulted in a penalty and the only goal of the game.

#### LUKE PIGDEN

Scored Stones first goal back in the Conference south five years ago. His strange header at Dulwich in 2014 more than overshadowed the two goals scored by Glenn Little in the same match.

#### STEVE NEWING

Loved by Stones supporters for his unconcealed loathing for the club.

#### **ALAN GALLOWAY**

Played a part in the championship winning team of 1996/97. Well, a very small part.

#### **DAVE RYAN**

A big man with a fine touch who became bigger once driving his black cab.

#### **CHRIS WALTON**

The professorial figure at the heart of the 1997 championship winning side.

#### STEVE BIRCHAM

Talented part of the late 1990s sides whose ability to "dig in" matched his fine ball skills...

#### **DAVE TILBURY**

Uncompromising defender, not related to the more famous Danny.

#### TOMMY WILLIAMS

Rumoured to have appeared in Eastenders but that transpired to be his then partner. Michelle Ryan

#### **RICHARD MCDONNAGH**

Joined the club from Hemel Hempstead so had to work hard to win over the fans.

#### JAMES DUNCAN

Product of Stones vouth system. Manager in waiting.

#### **ELLIOT GODFREY**

Fine club servant who could lav a carpet faster than he could run from box to box. DEAN PAPALI

Briefly formed a fine striking partnership with Watford loanee, Theo Robinson. Whatever happened to him?

#### JIMMY GRAY

Another tough old northerner. Fine defender but probably not quite so cynical as Wes.

#### **DARREN LOCKE**

Introduced to the club by ex-Stones favourite Paul Waites. A calm defender, or a little pedestrian for those of a crueller bent.

#### JAMES HAMMOND

GB spent much of the later part of his time at Wealdstone trying to replace Jimmy and invariably failing to do so.

#### CHRIS MOORE

Carrying a bit of extra "timber" didn't affect Chris's game. Always interesting hair colour.

#### **GARY MCKEOWN**

Fondly remembered by Stones fans for delivering a perfect "Glasgow kiss" to an opponent at Windsor & Eton.

#### **ROB COURTNAGE**

A cultured left back who for no apparent reason could turn suddenly into a snarling beast. Highly entertaining. Looks good in a Harry Hill collar.

#### PAUL BENNING

The talented Benno was at the end of a long career when with Wealdstone and still managed some cracking performances despite by then having no properly functioning kneecaps

#### **MARTIN CARTER**

Son of the famous Svd Carter who plaved 7 games and scored 3 goals in 2 spells with the club between 1968 and 1970.

#### **GRAEME MONTGOMERY**

Joined as a 17 year old left back who couldn't tackle. Converted to a highly effective left winder elsewhere.

#### DARREN BONFIELD

Bomber was a giant of a keeper. Completely unbeatable until he dropped the occasional ricket.

#### ALFIE BONFIELD

Son of Bomber and half the size. Still looking to make his way in football.

#### **BEN ALEXANDER**

Powerful and skilful forward who could be very quick off the mark. Quicker still to the burger bar.

#### **CALLUM MARTIN**

Twin brother of Carl. His talent was only matched by his injuries, sadly.

#### MARVIN MCCOY

Athletic right back who moved on to play full time for Wycombe, York, Ebbsfleet and, last season, at Aldershot. Also capped eight times by Antiqua and Barbuda.

#### DANNY SPENDLOVE

Some Rotherham fans might still have nightmares about Spendy's jinking run through the entire Rovers defence before scuffing the ball just wide of the post.

#### SCOTT MCCUBBIN

Midfielder who was converted into an excellent left back until that moment in the 3-1 FA Trophy semi-final defeat to Newport County.

## LEGENDS IN FOCUS



#### PHIL DICKER

Could always talk a very good game and, on the odd occasion, play one.

#### **DANNY TILBURY**

Skillful midfield player. Not related to the less famous Dave.

#### MICKIE SWAYSLAND

A fine goalscorer, if an unlikely one.

#### MARK EBAYER

eBay captured the zeitgeist of the millennium but his groovy name was more memorable than his midfield displays. Returning to the Vale to re-live his FA Cup First round appearance against Rotherham United.

#### PAUL LONDON

One of a small contingent of Northampton based players brought to the club by exchairman Paul Rumens. Played 3 games for the club that included a memorable crunching tackle on a Lewes player that snapped the opponents leg.

#### ANDY PEAKES

Another of the Northampton lads, a fine central defender now managing successfully with Paul Lamb at Rushden & Diamonds CHRIS O'LEARY

His beautiful first touch made up for his lack of running and inability to tackle. Fondly remembered for a delicate glancing header in an FA Trophy match at Dartford.

#### **GAVIN HART**

Played for SFC Wealdstone and for the first team but spent many more seasons torturing our defence whilst playing for Northwood and Harrow Borough.

#### ALAN MASSEY

"The Mass". Brilliant. Nuff said!

#### ANDRE DELLISIER

Midfielder/defender whom GB signed in mid-2000s hoping he was a hairdresser. Cult hero; few can forget his one competitive goal for the Stones.

#### LUKE WOODS

Had 2 spells with the club. Decent keeper who seemed to be about to establish himself and the sort of lose interest and drift away. **ANDY CARTER** 

Vertically challenged keeper who was a brilliant shot stopper, except on the rare

#### FABIO VALENTTI

Tricky winger whose dad memorably ran the burger bar for a time at Edgware. Slippery and greasy, couldn't keep down for long.

#### JAMES SHIPPERLEY

Signed from Hayes and destined to be the team's commanding centre half for the next decade. Badly injured in his first outing for the club which effectively ended his playing career.

#### SCOTT FITZGERALD

Striker with a big reputation. Claims to this day that he saved GB from the sack with his audacious equalising goal straight from the kick off against Potter Bar in the FA Cup. Pah!

#### **STEVE HUGHES**

Diminutive forward; quick, nippy but poor in the air. Career prematurely ended by injury.

#### BILLY AMARTEIFIO

With a name that sounded like a curried chicken dish, Billy was a tasty defender who never really kicked on in the 2003-4 era.

#### **BRIAN JONES**

Outrageously talented lunatic who was a great favourite with the Stone fans.

#### **WAYNE CARTER**

Rotund midfield maestro who can now cover the entire midfield on his own.

#### **TERRY HIBBERT**

Very talented young player of the late 1990s who should have gone on to play at a higher level but for his understandable dislike of training.

#### **TOMMY BREWER**

Sometimes defender, sometimes midfielder who played for the Stones and just about every other non-league club within a 10 mile radius. Still going strong.

#### LEE WALKER

Lightweight forward with exquisite touch who served the club over several seasons.

#### **CHARLIE MPI**

Very quick, strong young forward who never quite established himself before leaving for Aylesbury and.....

#### LEE O'LEARY

Very talented midfield playmaker who had 2

spells with the club but his heart was always with Hendon.

#### **DENNIS GREENE**

The brilliant and cocky winger was loathed by the Stones faithful while he played for Harlow Town where he was serenaded by our fans with an alternative version of The Monkees Daydream Believer, and then loved after he joined us.

#### SCOTT DAVIES

A very fine player who was irritating and entertaining in equal measure. Scored a truly wonderful goal from inside his own half in an FA Cup match at Brockenhurst.

#### DANNY JULIENNE

A local footballing legend who at last returns for his second spell with the club.

#### **BILLY GIBSON**

Remembered for his two goals that beat the Borough on Boxing Day. Not a bad way to stick in the memory.

#### **RYAN WATTS**

Talented left back who was almost forgiven by Stone fans for having previously played for Harrow Borough – almost.

#### **RYAN SELLARS**

Effective overlapping full back who joined from Wingate & Finchley, was released and went on to play for Halifax Town and is now back with the Stones. Sadly a redhead, but that is not his fault.

#### JOEL CANNING

Supporter who helped run the Junior Stones, also a very decent standby goalkeeper.

#### DEAN CLARK

A classy player whose finest moment was arguably away at Stamford where he scored in a 2-2 draw, one goal from the half way line, and then tome wasted outrageously to Manage the game".

#### KURTNEY BROOKS

Pugnacious midfield play signed from Watford, but not quite as pugnacious as his Nan.

#### **BEN MARTIN**

Giant centre half who has infamously scored too any goals against the Stones while playing for rivals St Albans City. Shame on him!

#### AARON MCGOVERN

GB rated Aaron as the toughest young tackler he had ever seen.

#### LAWRENCE YAKU

A GB discovery who chose to enjoy a wonderful non-league goalscoring career at, amongst others, Northwood, Hampton and Maidenhead. Unforgivable.

#### **RICHARD JOLLY**

Always first to training and last to leave. Scored a few goals for the club.

#### GARY BURRELL

Talented left winger /midfielder of the 2003-2005 era who went off with Jolls to play for Heybridge Swifts. Not really a step up, more a descent into rural Essex obscurity. Returning today to complete his long awaited 100th appearance.

#### **ROBIN TUCKER**

Another player who claims to have saved GB from the sack. His last minute glancing header at Salisbury that resulted in a 3-1 defeat to Salisbury but secured the club from relegation – just.

#### **CHRIS CAHILL**

Stylish central defender in the Franz Beckenbaur mould but at a quarter pace and not German.

#### **GREG NGOYI**

Recommended to the club by Fergus Moore. Once fit he proved a handful for oppo defences. Forever endeared himself to the fans via his hat-trick against Harrow Borough in 2009. Wears a magic hat evidently.

#### PAUL LAMB

Much admired for his Wes Parker style cynicism on the pitch. Also very popular.

#### DOM STERLING

Social worker off the pitch, psychopath on it. **PAUL MCKAY** 

The Paul Madeley of the Stones side of the day. Could perform moderately anywhere on the pitch.

#### **RICHARD MORTON**

Combative midfield player. Son of ex-Stones great, partially sighted goalkeeper, John Morton.



**PICS: STEVE FOSTER** 

## **QPR LEGENDS**

# Opposition in focus



NICK CULKIN - Goalkeeper

Nick made 22 appearances for QPR between 2002 and 2005. Nick made one appearance for Manchester United following his £100,000 pound transfer from York City's youth accadamy in 1995. Nick made 22 appearances for QPR between 2002 and 2005.

#### **TERRELL FORBES** - Defender

Terrell was a member of the West Ham United 1999 FA Youth Cup winning team and gained promotion from Division Two with Queens Park Rangers in 2004. He has also played for Grimsby Town, Oldham Athletic, Yeovil Town, Leyton Orient, Chesterfield, Aldershot Town and Dover Athletic.

#### DANNY SHITTU - Defender

Danny made 346 appearances in the Premier League and Football League, including 190 for Queens Park Rangers. In his 16-year-long playing career, Shittu has played for Norwich City, Charlton Athletic, Blackpool, Watford and Bolton Wanderers. He played 32 games for the Nigeria national football team between 2000 and 2013. CLARKE CARLISLE - Defender Clarke made 96 appearances for QPR between 2000 and 2004 scoring 6 goals. Also played for Leeds United, Watford, Blackpool and Burnley amongst others. Clarke was also a former Chairman of the Profesional Footballers Association.



MARCUS BEAN - Midfielder Marcus made 67 appearances for QPR scoring 2 goals. Also played for Brentford, Wycombe, Swansea, Blackpool and Portsmouth.

#### STEVE GALLEN - Midfielder

Steve was caretaker manager at QPR in 2009 and represented QPR and Republic of Ireland at Youth Level.

#### KEVIN GALLEN - Striker

Former England U21 striker Kevin played 172 games for QPR scoring 36 goals. Also played for Huddersfiled, Barnsley, B@rn\*t and Luton.

#### TONY THORPE - Striker

Tony scored 10 goals in 41 QPR appearances between 2003 and 2005. Tony has played for almost every team inc... Luton, Fulham, Reading, Swindon, Grimsby and Woking.

#### JAMIE CURETON - Striker Jamie played 43 times for QPR scoring 6 goals between 2004-2005. The only player to have played for more clubs than Tony Thorpe.

**DENNIS OLI** - Striker 23 appearances for QPR between 2000 and 2004. Also played for Swansea and Wycombe.

TOMMY SMITH - Striker Tommy made 50 appearances for QPR scoring 8 goals. Also played for Brentford, Watford and most importantly (*Indulge me.. Ed.*) 35 times for Sunderland scoring 4 goals.

GARETH AINSWORTH - Midfielder Apart from being regularly spotted at the Vale watching Wealdstone and managing Wycombe Gareth played 141 games for QPR and scored them 36 goals. Also represented Wycombe, Cardiff, Wimbledon and Port Vale amongst many others.



**BRADLEY SIMMONDS** - Midfield A product of QPR's U23's Bradley also plyed for Woking, Staines Town and IBV in Iceland.

#### MARC BIRCHAM - Defender

Marc started his professional career at Millwall and after 6 seasons joined Queens Park Rangers where he became a crowd favorite. 152 QPR appearances with 7 goals and 17 caps for Canada with 1 goal.

MARTIN ROWLANDS - Midfielder Martin joined QPR after making 152 appearances for their arch rivals Brentford. Martin made 198 QPR appearances scoring 33 goals.



QPR ended our greatest FA Cup run (3rd Round) at Loftus Road in 1977

#### **BY ROGER SLATER**

## FIVE MINUTES OF YOUR TIME

LEO MORRIS

Back in the 2012/13 season Leo took five minutes out of his busy Wealdstone schedule to talk to Roger Slater. In honour of the great man the following is the interview in full.

## Leo Morris, footballer. What was on the CV?

Nothing too spectacular really, I spent all my playing career at Hounslow FC playing in the Athenian, Hellenic and Southern leagues before moving into management at the same club.

I can still remember my debut as a 17 year old, scoring one and making the other in a 2 - 1 win over Herne Bay. I wasn't the most skilful player but I was fit, worked really hard in every game and wasn't afraid to get stuck in, the game was far more physical then and I'm pretty sure not too many of today's non league players would have coped with the way the game was played then. That's not to say there weren't clever footballers around in those days, but they also had to be able to handle the physical side as well.

I get frustrated somewhat when I see how good some players are today but just don't seem to have the passion and desire to go further in the game, I just wish I had had the ability of some of the players around today.

I played alongside some very good players in my time there, one of whom will be well known, if not that popular, with Wealdstone fans, Dave Howell. He was a fantastic player and competitor as his career in the game testifies.

I played against Wealdstone in the Southern League and still chuckle when I recall my manager's instructions before one game at Lower Mead, 'Leo, I want you to sit on Robin Wainwright and stop him playing'. Yeah, right, he was probably one of the best players I've ever played against and I doubt if he even noticed me all game!

At the same time as I was playing for Hounslow I played for British Airways, who I worked for, in their midweek team on a Wednesday afternoon and their Sunday team. So I was actually playing on a Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday if Hounslow had a midweek game and Wednesday afternoon, then training on a Thursday, and players reckon they are tired today if they play twice a week! The BA midweek team was very strong actually and had two or three ex pros playing.

The great advantage of working and playing for BA was that I have played all over the world and a game that stands out most was playing in Miami against Fort Lauderdale strikers when George Best played for them. We were both skippers of our respective teams and when we shook hands at the toss up, that was the nearest I got to him again until we shook hands at the end!!

When did your path first cross with Gordon Bartlett and when did you firstwork with him as Assistant / Coach? I knew of Gordon rather than know him personally, when he was manager of Southall, I remember going to watch their home leg of the FA Vase semi final the year they got to the final.

We first got together as a working partnership at the start of season 1986/87 at Hounslow. The previous season I had taken over as caretaker manager when Alan Humphries resigned after a league defeat towards the end of the season. We actually finished the season well and ended up in a promotion position which would have taken us back into the Southern League.

I say would have because that promotion was denied due to some ground grading issue (sound familiar!!). Anyway, I expected to be given the job on a permanent basis but during the summer the Chairman rang me and said that the club had appointed Gordon Bartlett. I didn't really have a problem with the appointment as Gordon was starting to get recognised as a good young manager, but I guess I expected to be told face to face rather than over the telephone, after all I had been at the club for 16 years.

In fairness to the club, on their appointment of Gordon they did ask him to consider having me work alongside him in recognition of my services to the club so we met up, discussed how we might work together and decided to give it a go for a season and see how it progressed from there. I reckon it must have worked out ok as we are now in our 27th season together, that's more years than most of our current squad have been alive!!!

That first season saw us finish runners up and League Cup winners, the first success Hounslow had had for many years. Had Coaching and Management always been in your future?

I hadn't really thought about what I would do when I finished plaving and I moved in to management by default rather than design. I was still plaving when Dai Jones and Colin Barnes took over the management reins and half way through the season they asked me to take over managing the reserve team, I can't remember why the vacancy arose or who was in that position at the time I'm afraid, far too many years ago! I was happy doing the job and thought my playing days at a senior level were over until Dai and Colin left and Alan Humphries took over. He spoke to me and said that he thought I still had something to offer as a player and wanted me back in the first team squad so my management career was put on hold, he even made me skipper of the team. Not a great comeback though, I was sent off in the first game of the season. I still remember what it was for as well, foul and abusive language directed at the referee!!!! Yeah I know, completely out of character!!

When Alan resigned in the changing room after the defeat I mentioned earlier, the Chairman came into the changing room and spoke to all the players and offered me the Managers job there and then. You're an established team with Gordon, but did you ever want to take up the



## reins yourself and be solely responsible for a side?

As I said I hadn't really given management much thought and I 'fell' into it rather than planned to get into that side of football so I can't say I had a burning desire to be in charge as such. I guess what made it easier was the fact that Gordon and I got on so well together right from day one and the immediate success we had. Gordon was always willing to listen to my views and take on board any changes or ideas I had so I never felt the need to go on my own. I'm also a massive believer in loyalty and working together with people for the benefit of the greater entity and as the years together progressed I was more than happy to support Gordon and 'watch his back' so to speak, over the years I've probably dealt

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## LEO MORRIS

#### **BY ROGER SLATER**

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with a few issues he didn't even know about, leaving him to get on with the job. I think it is important that the man in charge can trust and rely on the team backing him up and not have to worry that they might be undermining him in any way.

In any case I got my fix of being the main man by managing a Sunday team then managing at youth level for nine years also on a Sunday morning!

## Were there opportunities? If so, why did you turn them down?

After we had been at Hounslow together for three seasons Gordon was offered the job at Yeading and he immediately asked me to go with him and this was the only time I have ever had to think hard about what I was to do because as soon as Hounslow knew Gordon was going they offered me the job. The move to Yeading was a great opportunity to take a young club forward and I really had built up a great relationship with Gordon but it was still difficult to leave something that had been a big part of my life for nearly 20 years but in the end I knew that it was time to move on.

It happened again when we left Yeading to come to Wealdstone. Although they offered me the job they knew that Gordon and I had become a real partnership, we'd been together nine seasons by then and they knew really that I wouldn't take up the offer.

The other thing to point out is that Gordon had discussed the move to Wealdstone with me completely before he made his final decision. If it helped make his decision easier I committed myself to sticking with him whatever he did.

Talking about the move from Yeading to Wealdstone a minute, as I said Gordon and I sat down and discussed it fully. I remember sitting in the managers office at Yeading and listing all the pros and cons of leaving/staying at Yeading and joining Wealdstone. At the end of that discussion there was no real logical reason to leave Yeading who were in the Premier Division of the Isthmian League playing on a great surface with big, warm changing rooms with built in treatment rooms and having both indoor and outdoor (grass and astro) training facilities. We'd been to Wembley, won a couple of Championships and won a few cups as well during our six seasons there. Why would we leave all that to move to a club, albeit a club with massive history and support, who were struggling financially, ground sharing at a run down Edgware, had a team of over paid and under achieving big named players and to top it all drop down to Division Three of the Isthmian League!! No contest we had to leave Yeading!! Paul Rumens still has a lot to answer for!!

#### How would you describe the relationship with Gordon outside of Training and Matchdays?

Gordon and I are different types of individual, we don't really mix socially although we did a bit more when our children were very young but we rarely see each other outside of the football environment nowadays. To be honest I think I can switch off from all things Wealdstone far easier than Gordon, I am more likely to be down the pub on a Sunday sinking a few ales (alright, a lot) having a gamble on whatever sport is on TV and Gordon will be on the phone checking on a player or our next opponents. Probably another reason I'm not a number one somewhere!!

I am much less tolerant of, well most things really, than Gordon. There is no doubt I would have lost us a few good players in the past!

That doesn't mean to say we don't get on outside of football, we are very comfortable in each others company but we just enjoy different things away from the game. Although I do remember the end of season tour with Hounslow in Jersey one year, we certainly had one thing in common that week, yes it was the booze!!! Incidentally Gordon's wife Jackie was expecting their first child, Amanda, any time soon and I had to arrange an early flight home for Gordon to be present for the birth!!! Is that why you've been able to work together for so long?

Yes I think it helps that we're not in each others pockets 24/7 and that we are different types of people. If we were both exactly the same and always agreed about everything, the working relationship wouldn't work.

Having said that it is uncanny how often over the years we have thought and said

exactly the same thing at the same time. There's also been numerous a occasions when we have had conversations with the same person at different times and both said exactly the same thing, not unusual if the conversation is factual but a little less so when it is views on a subject or player etc.

Although we are different characters we do have very similar views on the game and as I've said previously Gordon will always listen to my point of view, he won't always agree, and nor should he, but if he thinks I've got a good point he's not afraid of changing his original view.

## And if you could change one thing about the relationship?

I honestly wouldn't change anything, 27 years together must be testament to that. What causes the biggest differences between you (and / or the Management Team) - Have you and Gordon ever thought your time was up as a pairing?

The biggest differences would normally be in team selection or shape of the side, but that makes it sound as if there are big differences but generally there are not. The way we all work is that after training on a Thursday we'll check the fitness/injury situation, review the previous performance, both individual and team, from the previous game and maybe put a tentative team together for the Saturday match. Then Gilly, Micky and I will forward our individual team selections to Gordon by Saturday morning ready to discuss when we get to the ground. We will all put our case across for why we've picked who and what we have and by the end of it we'll agree on the side. It certainly isn't a discussion based on Brian Clough's philosophy, in other words we don't all discuss the team then agree that Gordon was right in the first place!!

Generally these discussions, and it's been the same over all the years I've been with Gordon, are centred around one or two players, most times he and I will agree on 10 or most times, 11 of the starting line up.

The only time I thought maybe a breakup of us was possible, was during the Andy Leese era. Don't get me wrong I didn't and don't have any problems or issues with Andy it was just that I

saw my role slowly diminish and I starting doubting my value to the set up so I wondered if it was time to go. As it turns out I didn't and I'm still here with him!!

## Looking back over the twenty five or so years 'together' would you do it again?

#### Absolutely!!!

We have been fortunate to have experienced the most fantastic times in football. Many, many managers go through their whole career without winning anything, or even experiencing the highs that we have. I'll never forget walking out at Wembley for the FA Vase Final with Yeading, leading the team out at Elland Road for the replay, the first round proper of the FA Cup, twice with Yeading, once with Wealdstone, the unbelievable night at Dulwich when we won the play offs, the Third Division Championship, it just goes on and on. I like to think the partnership had something to do with

Finally, pick the best XI from your time in

#### Management - in any formation and perhaps half a dozen that you got wrong?

Stuart McKenzie, Marvin McCoy, Dominic Sterling, Jon Denton, Steve Croad, Keiron Forbes, Gary McKeown, Steve Cordery, Paul Sweales, Jermaine Beckford, Richard Jolly. And Roy Marshall on the bench!

We have made mistakes on a number of players, some weren't as good as we thought when we got them in, some under performed, and some that couldn't handle the pressure of playing for a club like Wealdstone with such high expectations and big noisy support but mostly they could not be blamed and just needed to find their right level, so I will not disrespect them and name names.

I will mention one incident regarding a trialist though, I think it was the first or second preseason that we were here and we had a friendly at Bedfont, with about 20 minutes to go we put on a trialist (I can't remember his name). After 5 minutes Gordon turned to me and told me to get some kit on, I was taking his place, that's how good he was! He was dragged off and I made my one and only appearance for the Stones!!

#### **BY ROGER SLATER**

## FIVE MINUTES OF YOUR TIME

## GORDON BARTLETT

Back in the 2012/13 season Gordon took five minutes to talk to Roger Slater. The following is the interview in full.

Ealing Schools, Middlesex County and West Ham Youth and Portsmouth. How good were you as a player before the injuries that curtailed your career? Not very!

I was a hardworking front player and seemed to have a knack of scoring goals from early schoolboy days right through.

A couple of clubs tried to turn me into a midfield player or a full back but I wasn't good enough. I just ran around up front and goals seemed to keep coming. As he was growing up, my son Craig once asked me if I was quick when I was a player? My answer was no not really. He then proceeded to ask, did I have a good touch? Was I strong? Good in the air? With pretty much the same answer to all of them, he paused and said, well how the hell were you a professional footballer then? -Good question!!!

Can you remember much about your League debut for Portsmouth and scoring your only League goal? Did you think at the time that was the start of...... I remember it well.

George Graham was injured and I had been scoring a few goals in the reserves and Ian St. John pulled me in his office on the Friday and told me I was in the squad against Bolton then in Div 2 (Championship today).

We were leading 1-0 when I came on as sub with about 20 to go and nicked a goal after about 5 minutes reacting quickly to a save from a Norman Piper shot.

I lacked confidence in my own ability and my thoughts were only about how lucky I had been. I was offered apprentice forms after scoring 4 on my debut for Pompey in the FA Youth Cup. I then got my pro contract on the back of another 4 goals in the following year's FA Youth Cup, a hat trick in my opening reserve game and then I nicked a goal on my first team debut!

I now realise that luck balances out and the knee injury soon followed. I'm so pleased I didn't get carried away with such a good start because it all went horribly wrong very quickly. You're an established team with Gordon, but did you ever want to take up the reins yourself and be solely responsible for a side?

As I said I hadn't really given management much thought and I 'fell' into it rather than planned to get into that side of football so I can't say I had a burning desire to be in charge as such. I quess what made it easier was the fact that Gordon and I got on so well together right from day one and the immediate success we had. Gordon was always willing to listen to my views and take on board any changes or ideas I had so I never felt the need to go on my own. I'm also a massive believer in loyalty and working together with people for the benefit of the greater entity and as the years together progressed I was more than happy to support Gordon and 'watch his back' so to speak, over the years I've probably dealt with a few issues he didn't even know about, leaving him to get on with the job. I think it is important that the man in charge can trust and rely on the team backing him up and not have to worry that they might be undermining him in any way.

In any case I got my fix of being the main man by managing a Sunday team then managing at youth level for nine years also on a Sunday morning!

In 'Off The Bench' you told the story of how you made the move into Coaching and then Management. Do you think the mind-set is different? How did you learn and adapt from being a Player who Coaches into a full blown Coach and Manager?

I just learnt as I went along really and have continued to adapt as I gained more experience.

One thing I recognised very early in my Management career was the importance of having good people around me, especially ones who complement my personality and make up for my deficiencies.

As I mentioned in the book, Leo was the main person who made me realise the importance of delegation. After our first season of working together at Hounslow, he pulled me to one side and said he felt he was wasting his time because I didn't let him do anything. I took the training, negotiated the money, picked the team, did the scouting and I wasn't giving anything to him - fair point. I had learned to trust him and I bet now he wishes he'd never said anything as he does all of that and a lot more.

## What is the one element that stands out from all others in the Gordon Bartlett Book of Management?

Treat other people the way you like to be treated and try to give everyone respect. Your early career in Management was quite successful with a number of Promotions, Cup Wins and two FA Vase finals with three clubs (Southall, Hounslow and Yeading). Was there a common factor in those sides that made the difference? A winning mentality!

There was also a very strong spirit within the group of players, especially at Yeading. In fact, two members of that team watched our recent game against Met Police and likened the grit and determination in our team to that Yeading team. The lads should take that as a massive compliment but I must confess that Leo and I did not share their opinion!

## What was the hardest decision you made in those days as a Coach / Manager?

No doubt about that one. Selecting teams for the Wembley finals and then having to tell the players I was leaving out that I was taking away their dream of playing on the hallowed turf. Now that was tough!

Then the move to Wealdstone. You knew the club in our time at Yeading and it was no doubt a tough decision to join The Stones. Is it easier or harder than you expected?

It's totally different - more people came to the first 'Meet the Manager' night than Leo and I



saw at most home games while we were at Yeading. The passion and expectation was something we and the players had to come to terms with but it was great to enjoy success with a fantastic vocal support behind you. On the other hand, we had to cope with the criticism when results went the wrong way.

In summing up, easier and more enjoyable when we win and harder and far more strenuous when we lose.

This job has certainly been good for character building and learning about those around you.

Social media has actually made the job a little more difficult over the years because we could shield the players to a certain extent from the comments or opinions voiced in the bar after a game but nowadays it is out there for all to see within seconds of the event.

The player's social lives have also become more assessable with the aid of Facebook and Twitter and they also need to be careful of the picture they are painting of themselves. It's funny how easy it is to associate a poor performance when you know someone has been out the night before!

### **FIVE MINUTES OF YOUR TIME cont..**

You've been with the club for eighteen years all but. What has been the lowest point and what made you grit your teeth and carry on?

Easy! Football wise it was Barking away. That was the closest I have ever been to guitting. A string of poor results and a lack of fight from the players was unacceptable and that night was the final straw. Leo, Fred and myself spoke outside the Master Brewer until the early hours of the morning and decided to sleep on it.

Strangely enough, I woke up very positive the next morning, went to a board meeting in bullish mood and had a fighting finish to the season.

Not getting Prince Edward Playing Field completed was my other low point. I couldn't do anything about that but I still believed in a

positive and successful future for our Club despite vet another major setback. What one thing in those eighteen years grates with you what is the one thing vou'd do differently given your time over again?



The way I dealt with Fergus Moore when I sent him out on loan. He said it would be out of sight out of mind and I promised him it wouldn't. We were struggling and my focus was getting us out of relegation and I didn't communicate with Fergie. He was right and I regret the way I treated him to this day. I was wrong and apologised which Fergie accepted (eventually)

I stand be my decision but certainly not by the way I dealt with it! He deserved better especially for what he gave me and Wealdstone every time he put a shirt on. And if you could change one thing about the relationship?

I honestly wouldn't change anything, 27 years together must be testament to that.

Man Management has to be one of your biggest skills - to mix and manage the personalities in the side with the expectations of the fans and the wishes of the board but can you change a players psyche - can you give them a winning mentality and make them part of a team? I don't think you can change a players character, but I do feel you can influence their mentality. The group mentality can have a massive influenced on an individual. especially in one off games.

The mix in the changing room is very important, but to be successful, you must have enough strong characters with a winning mentality to help influence the others. Those payers that have moved on into the pro game - from Les Ferdinand and Andy Impey to Jermaine Beckford, Carl Martin and Marvin

> McCoy - you must feel proud to have been part of their progression but do they keep in touch? It's a good feeling to see any players that were once associated with vour club moving up the footballing

ladder but we should not expect any thanks or gratitude because they are the ones who have the talent and have worked hard to get there. We have given them the opportunity and they have taken the chance.

As for keeping in touch, I am the world's worst person for doing that so I would never criticise any of the lads for not keeping in touch after they leave us. They have their own lives to lead and Wealdstone is a distant memory. You have also built up a great number of contacts in the game and the vast majority respect you as a Manager - even to the extent that some consider you a 'Mentor' are there any that ring and you think 'Christ, not him again .... ' Not really.

Whoever calls, I always try to offer my

## GORDON BARTLETT

#### **BY ROGER SLATER**

## **Bartlett is new** favourite for Boro' job

HOUNSLOW boss Gordon Bartlett is the new favourite for the vacant Harrow Borough manager's job, but no appointment will be made until the beginning of next week.

Bartlett, one of the brightest young managers around, has already been intergood impression with Borough's inter- the Hellenic League. iewing panel of general manager Keith Chamberlin and football director Peter Ro-

Gordon Bartlett - top tip to take over at Earlsmead.

honest advice on a situation, player or team and then it's down to that person to deal with it in the best way he thinks possible.

gers.

#### You are also now coming up against some of your former players that are Coaches and Managers of our opponents. How does that feel - do you see or look for yourself in them?

Two things come to mind; Firstly, it makes me feel bloody old! Secondly, they have probably only gone into management because they've looked at me and said, if he can do it, anyone can!

I don't look for myself in anyone. My only advice would to be yourself.

#### What drives you?

I'm not really a great one for listening to music but do associate Wealdstone with Lady Gaga's Edge of Glory. We have been so close over the last couple of seasons that this song typifies our situation. I want to turn that nearly into success.

Finally, what's next for Gordon Bartlett? Do you ever see yourself not directly involved in football? I'm not sure. I've never been one for setting personal goals or time limits. I am enjoying my involvement, I still feel the club is going in the right direction and more importantly, I believe we can be successful.

Football is like a drug, I don't think I could be without it totally so I will just have to see what happens when my managerial career finishes.

#### **Aaron Gransby**

His successes include taking Southall to the FA Vase final at Wembley in 1986 and leading his current club Hounslow viewed and is understood to have made a back to the Beazer Homes League from

> Now he has taken Hounslow to second place in the league's southern division, despite operating on a shoestring budget. Among his players at the Denbigh Road club is former Wealdstone keeper Alex Welsh. He is also the first full-time employee of the Middlesex County FA, for whom he is county coach

> Bartlett confirmed to the Observer: "I have been approached and have already had an interview. If I was offered the job I would seriously consider it. But there are many other considerations, including the fact that Hounslow are lying second in the eague and going so well."

> Two other candidates who have already been interviewed for the vacant post are Colin Barnes, the Burnham boss, and Farnborough coach Alan Taylor.

But as Borough do not have any league games in the coming week, the board has decied to take its time in making an appointment. Meanwhile, Keith Chamberlin has been runing the team for the last week.

"We don't want to reach a decision too hasti-" said Chamberlin. "The club has received a umber of applications for the manager's job and interviews are being conducted this week. There will be a full board meeting early next week at which a decision will be announced Six more candidates are to be interviewed on op of the three already seen. They are believed include former Kingsbury boss Terry Dyson and ex-Hayes manager George Goode. Once all the interviews have taken place, a shortlist of two or three will be drawn up for the board to consider and make their final decision.