

STONES fans favourite Peter Dean joined Wealdstone at the start of the 2007-08 campaign and made his debut pre-season against Watford in a 0-4 defeat. He'd previously been a YTS player at Watford and had also played for Maidenhead United, Hayes and Northwood and also represented England at College level.

He moved on at the end of the season but returned a couple of years later - and his industrious 'busy' style soon turned him into one of the most popular players ever to wear the blue shirt.

It was somehow fitting that his final appearance was as a substitute in the last home game of the Ryman Premier championship winning season, when he came on to score the clinching goal against Canvey Island and crown a great season at the Vale as we won promotion to Conference South.

In total, Pete made 255 appearances including friendlies (190 starts and 65 as a sub), scoring 79 goals including only four penalties, two hat-tricks and - against Lewes- a famous four in a 6-1 win.

He has a nine month old daughter Isla and lives in South Ruislip occasionally finding his way back for a game or a beer in the RSC (as socializing is a top hobby!).

I just loved playing for the Stones.. camaraderie at The Vale was second to none

PETER DEAN on his time as a WFC folk hero

BY ROGER SLATER



He also enjoys a round of golf and runs his own Dry Lining business, PAD Interiors.

Did you know any of the squad or much about the club when you joined?

Nothing at all, except that I knew the club shared a ground with my previous club Northwood and they had a few fans.

Those 'Stones fans are known for "sharing their opinions" - how did you handle that as a new player?

I was warned by the manager

(Gordon Bartlett). In one of our first conversations he said that if I didn't perform well and put the effort in, the fans would let me know! Thankfully, my game suited and I was lucky enough to always be treated well by the majority of fans and if I failed at anytime, I would always bribe the odd one or two with a beer.

You moved on for a couple of years at the end of that season...what were the whys and where-fores?

No drama. I just had an opportunity to play at a higher level with Bishops Stortford and I was

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BUSY LITTLE B**R!**

Deano in typical action for the Stones, pulling the Harrow Boro defence in several directions

always told play as high as you can for as long as you can.

Coming back into an almost entirely different squad in 2010 - was that an easy decision??

Yes. I always felt I would return and when I was given the opportunity to re-sign I was pleased to accept the chance.

For one day, for one game, you are 'Stones manager; Pick your best team from those you played with at Wealdstone and explain why.....

Jonathon North - he has every attribute to become a pro apart from him being vertically challenged.

Lee Chappell - equally at home with both feet. Great one on one defender who scores some important goals. He's not known for his great timing however as he left the club the season before promotion to Conference South.

Jerome Okimo - quick strong good on the ball, good in the air, good on the dance floor.

Alan Massey - strong and determined always up for the fight, another fans' favourite too.

Fergus Moore (c**k alert) - the most bitter man in football, a true Wealdstone legend, the only 50 year-old still playing non-league football.

Glen Little - more stories than Roald Dahl, scored one of the best goals I have seen in non-league football against Dulwich. It was a great experience to play with a model pro.

Alex Dyer - now a professional in Sweden. I had an instant connection with him, we used to have a bet on who would assist who more! Great technical player.

Lee O'Leary- not a fans favourite! (Short and sweet stay as "Attic" got him the boot). My best mate in football and would complement Alex greatly. He's probably the best header of a ball in non-league.

Richard Jolly - big, strong, brave, direct and struggled to score a goal but couldn't fault his effort. (no, wait....) I played in his last competitive non-league game for Kingstonian and it was always a pleasure to partner him up front.

Peter Dean - modestly would normally prevent me from picking myself but I would love to turn back the clock and play in this team (and if I wasn't who would do Jolls' running?)

Tom Pett - match winner, quick, direct and could turn the game in an instant - he was nearly as good as his missus...

What about the craic? Who were the characters and who stood out in the Dressing Room?

The camaraderie at Wealdstone was second to none and throughout my years there were some very strong characters. To name but a few; Lee Chappell the man most non-league footballers love to hate, (not me). You can always count on him Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday to put a smile on your face, win lose or draw. Another big character was Chrissy Moore who I recently teamed up with at Egham FC. He was always good for a beer in the Aquarium Bar of which there were a few! Some of the other stand-outs in my

Wealdstone career were Scott Fitzgerald, Chris O'leary, Elliot Godfrey and Ryan Ashe..

You're in the bath with.....Rubber ducks, Boats, Submarines, your Partner or....

Gordon Bartlett's autobiography

Your celebration of the winning goal against Canvey Island in 2014 meant a lot but does anything else stand out as a personal memory of your time with The Stones?

Football wise, the FA Trophy run, personally, winning

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AFTERNOON TO REMEMBER Deano celebrates his final goal for the club, against Canvey, just as Ginge (out of picture) is stripping off....

two Junior Stones Player of the Year awards and one as top goalscorer. My favourite goal scored was the overhead kick against Lewes (I scored four that night, you know).

Outside of the game, there have been many a drunken night in the Aquarium Bar on a Friday (I wasn't playing, honest guv!) and Saturday, and being escorted off the stage during one of the clubs social events by Nick Symmons. And of course the team's nights out...

Tell us something we don't know about Gordon Bartlett?

He played for Harrow Borough under an assumed name.

You're still playing and I hope enjoying the game, but what does the future hold? Is there a Coach or Manager tucked away inside Peter Dean?

I will play as long as I can as it stops me going shopping with my partner on a Saturday and yes my current manager Tommy Williams, another ex-Stone, is already tapping me up for a coaching role.

You are hosting a Dinner Party for five guests (anyone, dead, alive, real or fictional) –

who do you invite and why?

David Beckham – as a role model in both football and business. Al Pacino -my favourite actor, David Jason (as Del Boy) - you know it makes sense, Ian Dury as my favourite musician and finally, it would have to be my dad because if I met Ian Dury and he didn't he would get the hump!

I think there's a part of Peter Dean that will always be Wealdstone. What was it that

got into your blood?

The free Fosters Leo used to give me! Actually, mostly the fantastic support I got week in and week out from the fans, not forgetting the man who picked me to play (or to sit on the bench in the latter part of my Wealdstone career), Gordon Bartlett.

Do you keep in touch with any of your former teammates from the 'Stones'?

In life, you have your football mates and your real friends. The two rarely coincide but whenever I see a former Stone the opposite is true. The one man I regularly talk to is Tony the Kit Man, whenever I am in need of some new kit. Cheers Tony.

Anything else you want to tell us?

I would like to thank everyone at Wealdstone for my most memorable years in non-league football.

In some ways it's a shame that I am still playing (trying) as I never get down to watch but I do send my dad down on my behalf.

Wealdstone are always the first result I look for after I have played.
#UTS.

Thanks Deano, might see you in the Bar!

