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SATURDAY, 9th MARCH, 1974.

Kick-off 3 p.m.

Southern League

WEALDSTONE v. BIDEFORD

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 5p.

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JUNIORS — 5p

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General Secretary: K. E. WILTSHIRE,
8 Imperial Way, Kenton, Middx. 01-204 5252

Assist. Gen. Sec.: W. A. EMERSON,
25 High St., Wealdstone, Middx. 01-427 4168

Public Relations Officer: E. C. POPE,
205 Kenton Road, Kenton, Middx.
01-907 6071 (Home: 422 8848).

Financial Secretary: H. J. BENJAMIN,
40 Kenton Gardens, Kenton, Middx.
01-891 0935 (Home: 01-907 6026).

Fixture Secretary: J. C. WARD
46 Drury Road, Harrow, Middx.
01-427 1405 (Home: 01-864 2667).

Accountant: W. HARDING

Property Adviser: B. McNALLY

Hon. Medical Officer: Dr. L. E. YAP

Physiotherapist: JIM SPARKS

Trainer: FRED KING

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

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R. KELLY (Stadium Manager)

C. ADAMS

J. BRIGDEN

B. HENDERSON

J. REES

F. RYDER (Social Club Treasurer)

G. YOUNG

Secretary, Lower Mead Social Club:

J. HOWLAND, 90 Locket Road, Wealdstone.
01-863 4081.

Team Manager: S. PROSSER,

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Now Let's Win Promotion

After our two gruelling cup battles in the last fortnight, it is perhaps with relief that we now turn to the most important task in hand, namely winning promotion to the Premier Division of the Southern League. Cup successes are always wonderful, and undoubtedly engender a lot of enthusiasm, but the fact remains that we must get out of Division 1 (South) before we can take the next step forward. And make no mistake about it, there is a lot to do yet, and games in hand are not necessarily a good thing. We are fortunate in that our squad's morale is so high, and we do not anticipate any reaction to Saturday's defeat at South Shields, for we all looked on the Challenge Trophy as a bonus, and certainly not our prime aim.

It has now been officially announced that the season will end on May 4th, and the anticipated additional extension we would have liked has not materialised. And so we have 17 league games to cram into some eight weeks! Without the benefit of evening matches until the nights get much lighter, it is a daunting prospect, and underlines the fact that Saturday's defeat could have been a real blessing. It now becomes fairly obvious that next month, at any rate, we shall be playing on Saturday and Sunday, and our squad of 14 are going to have a hectic time.

Since our last programme you will all know that manager Syd Prosser has resigned, and will join Chelmsford City as manager-coach on April 1st, the day after his contract with us ends. Syd has done a magnificent job at Lower Mead Stadium, and we wish him well in his new appointment. We have already nationally advertised for a manager, and all being well will be making an appointment within the near future. Let me put the minds of our Supporters at rest immediately by saying the news has been taken with aplomb by our squad who, being the professionals they are, know and expect managerial changes frequently occur. Anyone in doubt should have seen the magnificent spirit they showed at South Shields where, believe me, they did us all really proud.

We accord a sincere welcome to the Directors, Players and Supporters of Bideford today, and we never have an easy game against them. We drew 0-0 at Bideford earlier in the season, but must make sure of both points today. A point worth remembering is that two clubs from each division will be promoted, and we are only two points behind Waterloo, currently second, with five games in hand. A margin of two points is virtually nothing and so we have every right to be optimistic. Don't forget, by the way, that next week's match at Poole Town (this will be the one to win!) is on SUNDAY, March 17th, kick-off at 3 p.m.

We are extremely sorry to record the passing of Mrs. Grace Wiltshire, mother of our general secretary, Ken Wiltshire, at the age of 86. Mrs. Wiltshire was a member of the Club, and was responsible for the players' after-match meals when she was well into her seventies, and also ran the old bar on the ground. She was a magnificent worker for the Club, and our sympathy goes out to Ken and his relatives in their sad loss. The cremation service was at Ruislip on Thursday.

COLIN POPE

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Supporters' Club Notes

Good afternoon everyone, and a warm welcome to Bideford Supporters. Our games with our friends from North Devon are always close, and we look forward to another great game today.

Last Saturday many fans made the long 550 mile round trip to South Shields for the F.A. Trophy relay. Our lads put up a great fight before going down, and we were proud of their efforts. One thing though, Supporters of football at Lower Mead are treated a lot better than at Shields, where our Supporters found that after a 275-mile journey there were no posters, programmes or team sheet, no Tannoy, no Tea Hut, and for the girls in our party, no Toilets. Surely the latter stages of the F.A. Challenge Trophy warrant better than this!

Since our last home game has come the news of the resignation of our Manager, Sid Prosser, to take over Premier Division Chelmsford City. On behalf of the Supporters Club Committee, and you, the fans on the terraces, I would like to thank him for the hard work he has put in for the club, and wish him every success in his new job. We look forward to meeting him again in the not too distant future!

Supporters please note that our next game away to POOLE TOWN will be played on SUNDAY, 17th March. The usual coach service will operate, leaving Lower Mead at 9.30 a.m. (Remember this is a SUNDAY, and allow extra time to get to the ground by public transport.)

Now that we are out of all the cups, the lads can concentrate on promotion, starting today. So come on you fans, let's hear you loud and clear — UP THE STONES.

Phillip J. Tricker (Publicity Officer).

Editor's Footnote: Phil's comments are true. But in fairness to South Shields, I should point out that they are leaving their present ground at the end of the season, and are therefore running down all their amenities. But I agree that was of little consolation to our Supporters.

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Pen Pictures

DAVID LEE. Regular first team goalkeeper, now in his first season with the Club. Aged just 18, he has had trials with Bristol City and Aston Villa.

TREVOR ANTHONY. A utility player and one without which no team can be complete. Mainly at home in the wing-half spot, he is a very mobile defender.

MIKE HILLSON. A home-bread player and a regular first-teamer for several seasons at full-back. Former Bristol City and Arsenal trialist.

DEREK MAY. He has been a regular first team player for many seasons and one of only two players (in addition to the present Manager) in the side to hold three Western League Championship awards whilst with the Club, spanning ten years. A strong defensive half-back, he has made nearly 600 appearances for the Club in the first team.

RUSSELL PETERSEN. This tall, versatile player is most at home in the No. 9 shirt. Formerly with Torquay United and Poole Town.

JOHN GAUNTLETT. Attacking wing-half and seasoned campaigner. Has the same awards distinction as Derek May and has known no other professional Club but "The Robins". He has made nearly 600 appearances for the first team. He is Team Captain.

COLIN ROWE. This young player joined "The Robins" from junior amateur football in the Exeter area three seasons ago, and has shown much promise since then.

JOHN MOCK. A strong and tenacious midfield player, he gained a regular first team place this season upon his return to the Club from Western Leaguers Barnstaple Town.

STEVE SNELL. Formerly an amateur with Torquay United, he is a young, powerfully built striker and takes a lot of "stick", since he likes to be among the goals as well as make them for others.

STEVE MORRIS. Midfield player, formerly with Cheltenham Town in Division 1 (N). He has had Football League experience with both Bristol City and Exeter City.

GRAHAM MOXHAM. Formerly with Salisbury this player has immaculate ball control and is a fast and effective left winger. He was formerly with A.F.C. Bournemouth.

JEFF SNELL. Younger brother of Steve, he plays in the back four.

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up to Saturday, 9th March, 1974

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poole Town	27	15	4	8	52	33	34
Waterlooville	26	11	9	6	35	26	31
Minehead	25	10	10	5	44	34	30
Wealdstone	21	12	5	4	34	23	29
Basingstoke Town	25	10	9	6	42	30	29
Hastings United	28	11	7	10	25	22	29
Bath City	25	11	5	9	29	27	27
Gravesend & Northfleet	25	9	9	7	38	35	27
Bognor Regis Town	25	9	9	7	34	33	27
Ramsgate	24	10	6	8	35	28	26
Bideford	20	8	8	4	34	28	24
Bexley United	24	11	2	11	32	30	24
Ashford Town	25	8	6	11	29	34	22
Metropolitan Police	27	8	5	14	29	46	21
Trowbridge Town	23	7	6	10	31	37	20
Canterbury City	23	5	9	9	23	27	19
Andover	23	8	3	12	30	37	19
Dorchester Town	25	5	9	11	25	36	19
Salisbury	27	6	7	14	30	44	19
Crawley Town	27	5	8	14	28	52	18

Editor's Note: The League table will be resumed in its extended form (home and away details, etc.) in our next programme.

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