

WEALDSTONE F.C.

Matchday Programme

Season 1997/8



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ICIS Football League (Division Three) Champions, 1996/97

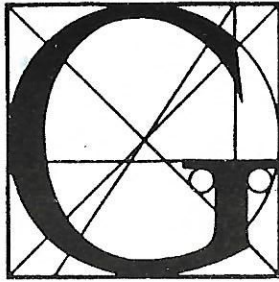
THE ICIS FOOTBALL LEAGUE (Division Two)



THE ICIS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

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ICIS FOOTBALL LEAGUE
(DIVISION TWO)
v. LEIGHTON TOWN
TUE. 19TH AUGUST 1997
PROGRAMME
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Champions

1981/82
Southern League
Cup
Winners

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(Division Three)
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Front Cover: Wealdstone FC players
celebrate after their 3-1 win at
Northwood on Saturday 3rd May 1997.
This win meant that the Stones were
the 1996/97 Isthmian League (Division
Three) Champions.

(Photo: Graham Smith)

ICIS FOOTBALL LEAGUE
(DIVISION TWO)
v. LEIGHTON TOWN
TUE. 19TH AUGUST 1997
PROGRAMME
£1.00

GOOD AFTERNOON everyone, welcome to the White Lion Ground for our first home ICIS League (Division Two) fixture of the 1997/98 season. To the players, officials and supporters of Leighton Town we extend a warm welcome and hope they have a pleasant few hours in our company. Welcome too, to tonight's referee Mr Ives and his two 'linesmen' Messrs Osborne and Siggers.

By now you must all be heartily sick of hearing about Dodi and Di on the radio and TV, and reading about them in the papers, so rest assured there is nothing about them in this programme! Instead I will concentrate on more important matters such as our chances of going up again this season. Saturday's defeat at Wivenhoe wasn't the start we were hoping for but if you remember we lost our first away game last season, at Flackwell Heath, and yet went on to have a very successful season. Let's hope we can get a win under our belts this evening against Leighton Town who won their opening fixture at home to Hungerford Town by two goals to one.

Ten new players have joined us for this season's campaign and here is a little bit about them. STAN BOWDER and STEVE ATKINS have joined us from Yeading, Stan having previously played for Chelsea as a trainee. ALAN GALLOWAY was with Epsom & Ewell last season and played against us here and was a substitute when we visited Epsom and won 3-2. His other clubs have included Larkspur Rovers, Northolt CAV, Woking, Hayes, Uxbridge, Harefield United, Brook House (50 app, 6 goals), and Southall (120 app, 12 goals). ANDY EDMUNDS joins us from Harlow Town where he appeared in more matches for the Essex club last season than any other player. He also played in both league matches against us last season. He lists Enfield, Dagenham and Bishop's Stortford as previous clubs having started his career as a junior at Tottenham Hotspur. KEITH BOREHAM played for us at the start of the 1995/96 season in four friendlies and a couple of Harrow Senior Cup ties, scoring a goal in our 5-0 friendly win over Chipstead on this ground. He saw out the rest of that season at Windsor & Eton where he scored plenty of goals, including four against us here when Windsor beat us comprehensively 5-1. Last season he was with Wembley where again his name appeared regularly on the scoresheet. RODNEY RICHARDS was with us previously from 1990-1993 during which time he made 32 league & cup appearances and scored one goal. In recent times he has been at Hendon where I believe he was reserve team coach during a long spell out of action through injury. PAUL LAMB has made the switch from Southern League football having been with Buckingham Town last season. MARIO CELAIRE joins us from junior football not having played at this level before. NOEL IMBER has joined us from Chelsea and previous to that was with Arsenal. Some of you would have seen him in action when Chelsea won 5-1 at Northwood in a pre-season friendly at the start of this season. Last, but not least, there is DENNIS GREENE who, although he has signed for us, will not be available until September. Currently playing for Hakka FC in Finland he has played for us before. Towards the end of the 1987/88 season he appeared twice for us in Capital League matches scoring a hat-trick against Welling United in one of them. After appearing in our opening pre-season friendly at Leyton-Wingate the following season, he then decided to join Bishops Stortford. Also played for Wycombe Wanderers, Chelmsford City before moving from Dagenham & Redbridge to Harlow Town from where he joins us. Has always been a thorn in the side of Wealdstone, scoring goals against us with monotonous regularity.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Ian Waugh's stepfather last week. He had been ill for some time, nevertheless his passing will have been a great shock to Ian and his family. We offer our sincere condolences to all of them.

Our next two matches are both here at Edgware. This coming Saturday we entertain Bracknell Town in the ICIS League (Division Two), kick off 3.00pm, and a week tonight we are home to Edgware Town in the Preliminary Round of the Guardian Insurance Cup. Please note that this match kicks off at 7.30pm. Having beaten Horsham 5-2 in their opening league fixture on Saturday, Edgware will be confident that they can repeat the Middlesex Charity Cup win they had over us last season. It promises to be an interesting match so please try and get along that game as well as our league match with Bracknell on Saturday.

ROY COUCH (Editor)

THE



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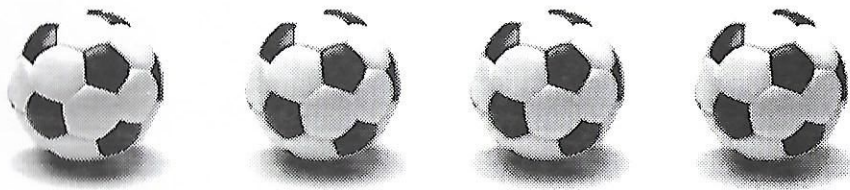
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MANAGER'S REPORT

I am delighted to welcome everyone back for our first home league game of this new season and I hope it brings as much enjoyment and pleasure as the last one which culminated in that great day at Northwood where we clinched the Championship in front of 553 supporters.

I am sure that many of those supporters have spent the summer reflecting on last season's success and discussing the various players who they think we need to make a similar challenge in Division Two. Speculation was rife prior to the end of last season regarding Dennis Greene joining us from Harlow Town. I am pleased to confirm that rumour although he will not join us until the end of September because he is currently playing for Hakka in Finland. I'd love to know who starts these rumours because they always seem to be in the know. With that in mind I have tried not to talk too much about other players I am interested in because very often things don't work out and all that speculation is worthless. In fact it has happened with about half a dozen players I have spoken to this summer and most of the reasons why they decline to join us is still the 'lower division' or money. Things have not changed a great deal from Division Three to Division Two in that respect. I'm sure an introduction to the new players will appear elsewhere in the programme but I would like to welcome the following players and wish them a long and successful stay with the club, Stan Bowder, Alan Galloway, Andy Edmunds, Keith Boreham, Mario Cellaire, Paul Lamb, Steve Atkins and Rodney Richards. Our only departure from last season's regulars is Bryan Hammatt who has joined Hayes, so as you can imagine the competition for places is very hot at the moment which is exactly what I've been trying to achieve. I know we cannot possibly keep everyone happy and we are bound to part company with a few players by the end of August because we currently have 30 players associated with the squad.

I must mention the injury situation at the moment with Stuart Miller, Lee Walker and Steve Kelly all coming along well after problems during the summer. Stuart hurt his ankle in the Hanwell 5-a-sides and Steve did likewise at Hitchin in the friendly, but both are responding well and Alan hopes to have both of them fit by the end of the month. Lee Walker had his knee operation during the summer and now has the all clear to start playing. We intend to try and get him a few games on loan at the start of the season. Thirty players and players coming back from injury - oh for a Reserve team. This figure is too many by far but Leo, Frank and myself must try to get the blend right not only on the park but for team spirit as well. I suppose the cancellation of two friendlies in the last ten days of preparation has certainly not helped the cause for making final decisions on players by not giving them every opportunity to impress.

Basically I have been pleased with the way the friendlies have gone, especially when you consider the number of changes we have made during those games. Games against Amersham, London Colney and Milton Keynes were very useful. A poor performance against Kingsbury was the low point but very encouraging performances against Chesham, Hendon and Hitchin saw us unbeaten against Premier Division sides. The best display came over at Chertsey where we won 4-2 with an excellent second half of passing football which was a pleasure to watch. Although encouraged by these pre-season performances I hope no-one gets carried away with the idea that things will be easy in Division Two. Pre-season is always very false and nothing should be read into results. Opponents are rarely too physical and therefore let you pass on good, grassy pitches on a nice summer afternoon. Not quite the normal during the season when tackles are flying in on a muddy pitch on a freezing cold afternoon in the middle of winter! These friendlies are for match fitness and trying to get the shape and balance of the side right. My criticism of things up to now is that we are too pretty (passing too much), 10 passes when 2 might do. We must learn to make the right decisions and play balls into front areas when the opportunity arises as early as possible. Pass the ball in the opposition's half more than our own but be prepared and be confident enough to keep possession when you need to. My other disappointment is that we conceded at least one goal in every friendly - that is something we will work hard to stop over the next few weeks.

I promise you we will be doing our utmost to repeat the success of last season but I am sure it will be a lot harder in Division Two with some very strong sides about. In

(Continued on next page)

fact I think a team can be promoted but still lose 10 games this season, such is the ability of the teams involved which I am sure will add to a more interesting and competitive season than last year when only four teams were really in with a chance!

Ah well the summer break is over and it's back to the sleepless nights and grey hairs that come along as part and parcel of a new season. I hope you all enjoy the forthcoming campaign... because I won't unless, or until, the last game of the season, hopefully, sees us having emulated last season's exploits.

GORDON

THEY PLAYED IN OUR PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES
WEALDSTONE APPEARANCES IN FRIENDLIES - 1997/98 SEASON

	AME	HIT	CHY	LON	CHM	KIN	HEN	MIL
Darren BONFIELD	F	F	F		F			
Alan GALLOWAY	F	s	F	F	s	F		F
Jonathan REECE	F							
Paul OSAHON	F							
Ian WAUGH	F				s	F	s	
Emen UDAW	F	s						
Tony SMITH	F			F	s			s
Tony KNIGHT	F			F		F		
Steve BIRCHAM	F		F		F	F	F	
Peter GREEN	F		s		s	F	s	
Simon GARNER	F		F		F		F	
Dave WALLACE	s			s				
Ben SHRIMPTON	s							
Stuart EPHGRAVE	s			s				
Stuart FREEMAN	s							
Mario CELAIRE	s	s	F			F	s	F
Kieron WHITE	s							
Stan BOWDER		F	F		F		F	
Dominic STERLING		F			F	F		F
Fergus MOORE		F	F		F		F	
Rodney RICHARDS		F		F		s		
Steve KELLY		F						
Chris WALTON		F	s	F	F		F	
Roy MARSHALL		F	s		F		F	
Keith BOREHAM		F		F	s	s	F	
Paul McKAY		F	F		s		F	
Lawrence YAKU		F		F		s		F
Paul LAMB		s	F		F	F	s	F
James KEEN			F	F				
Grant COOPER			F	F				
Terry HIBBERT			s	F	F	F	s	F
James BUSH				F		F	F	
Neal STEVENS					F			
Paul WATKINS						F		
John MASSEY						s		F
Marco LEITE						s		F
Andy EDMUNDS							F	F
Steve ATKINS							F	F
Barry PARKER								F
Kevin BISSAH								s
Stuart MILLER								s

Code: F = Played from start of match; s = Came on as substitute during match.

AME = Amersham Town; HIT = Hitchin Town; CHY = Chertsey Town;
 LON = London Colney; CHM = Chesham United; KIN = Kingsbury Town;
 HEN = Hendon; MIL = Milton Keynes:

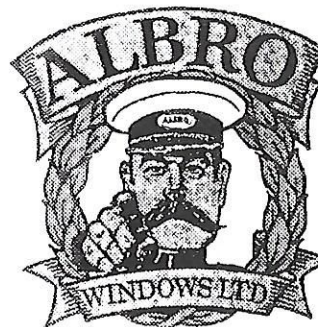
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NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

FROM THE VICE CHAIRMAN

A very warm welcome back to the White Lion Ground for our first competitive home match of the 1997/98 season. I trust that everyone connected with the Club had a good and restful summer break, even if it seems this 'rest' period gets shorter each season. Personally I can't wait for the season to get going as I write these notes some three weeks prior to our game at Wivenhoe - our first taste of Division Two football. Sounds good that!!

Indeed, with three weeks to go at the time of preparing this article, I think Gordon would have been quite pleased at the relatively 'low key' build-up to the new season - unless (as is always likely) all hell breaks loose on some press story or other!! Good luck to the Management and Players for another successful season and a good solid start in the higher division. A big welcome back to last season's squad and to the new players who have joined us. I'm sure they will enjoy the Wealdstone 'experience'.

I wrote at the tail-end of last season that this summer could prove a watershed in respect of our bid to establish a new, permanent, home for ourselves. I don't think I'm going to be wrong, and, 'as I write' (things do have a horrible habit of changing almost overnight so I have to give that caveat!) We are hopeful that by the date of the EGM, scheduled for September 11th, we will be able to present some positive progress. Certainly some very important decisions and developments should occur during the month of August. I hope our members and shareholders will understand our decision to delay the date of the EGM so as to give Kip and the Board every opportunity to have some concrete news to report, rather than having to arrange a further EGM possibly only a few weeks after the first meeting had been called.

This season will again strain our finances as we continue with the balancing act of providing a sensible playing budget to create the opportunity for further progress and entertainment, whilst preserving funds for our new ground development plans. I know that everyone will continue to support Layne on commercial ventures - this is so vital to our financial health. Details of a NEW fundraising competition are included in this programme so I hope you will enter. On this subject it would be nice to see more supporters sign up as Football Club Members this season as this gives you a say in the running of the Club and helps our finances through payment of your membership fee (this season £15.00). If you don't fancy that - please consider joining up as a member of the Supporters Club in their new shop.

Anyway, enough of my waffle - here's to 3 points!

Best Wishes, NICK DUGARD

PS: Don't forget to visit our new shop and office in Lowlands Road during the week. Layne has done a fantastic job in fitting this out as a professional retail outlet in our quest to raise more funds from outside the Club.

TODAY'S OPPONENTS

LEIGHTON TOWN, who were known at one time as Leighton United, were mainly involved in local leagues in their early days, being winners of the Leighton & District League on several occasions. Leighton were one of the original members of the South Midlands League in 1922, at that time it was known as the Bedfordshire County League. They were also members of the Spartan League and remained in that league from 1922/23 until 1951/52, their only successes being the Spartan League (Division Two) title in 1923/24 and 1927/28. They were Bedfordshire Senior Cup winners in 1926/27. The main honours and trophies eluded the club for nearly forty years and it took until the swinging sixties before Leighton became a major force.

In 1965/66 Leighton finished bottom of the South Midlands League (Premier Division) but were re-elected. At the end of the following season the Premier Championship sat in the Leighton boardroom. The club then rejoined the Spartan League in 1967/68. Leighton proceeded to consolidate their league success by winning the Bedfordshire Senior Cup for three successive seasons in 1968, 1969 and 1970. Unfortunately some of the successful players moved on to other clubs and Leighton's fortunes again declined. A move to the

(Continued on next page)

United Counties League proved disastrous and, after two seasons, the club rejoined the South Midlands League.

During the 70's and 80's Leighton were unable to recapture the success of the 60's, their solitary wins being South Midlands Reserve Division 2 Champions in 1976/77 and Reserve Division 1 Champions in 1987/88. The mould of infrequent success was once again broken when the Reserve side won for the first time the Bedfordshire Intermediate Cup in April 1991. Less than one month later the First Team won the South Midlands League Challenge Trophy and then the O'Brien Premier Division One Cup, both for the first time in the club's history.

The 1991/92 season was one of the club's best ever, the South Midlands Premier Division title, which had eluded the club for so long, was won and with it a place in the Isthmian League. The Reserve side won the South Midlands Reserve Division 1 title and the Youth team won the Under-18 County Cup. In 1992/93 the club's success continued when they won the Bedfordshire Senior Cup for the first time since 1970. The club missed out on promotion by a single point. The Youth Team retained the Under-18 County Cup.

The 1993/94 season was disappointing as far as the First Team was concerned, but the Reserve Team won the Minerva Football Challenge Trophy and the Under-18's won the Chiltern Youth League Cup. The 1994/95 season was good for the First Team, finishing in a respectable seventh position and winning the Bucks Charity Cup by beating Buckingham Town 2-1. The Reserves won the South Midlands Reserve Division 1, retained the Challenge Trophy and completed the treble with the Floodlit Cup. The Youth Team won the Chiltern Youth League Division 1 title and the E.A.S.Y. Cup for the first time, and also won the Beds Youth Cup.

The following season, although narrowly missing out on the Division Three title to Horsham, they won promotion to Division Two of the ICIS League, the highest level in which the club has played. This was a great success, and with it they retained the Buckingham Charity Cup. The Reserves settled in well in their first season in the Suburban League and the Youth side have moved up to the Southern Counties Floodlit Youth League.

Last season the First Team consolidated their position in Division Two and won, for the first time, the Isthmian League Associate Members Trophy by beating Wealdstone 1-0 at Hitchin. They were beaten only after extra time by Luton Town in the final of the Bedfordshire Premier Cup. The Reserves had an excellent season, finishing third in the Suburban League (North Division) and they were runners-up in the Beds Intermediate Cup. Success came late in the season for the Youth team after a disappointing league programme. They won the Brian Hitchings Challenge Cup by beating Stevenage Borough in the final. They also won the Colwyn Minor Cup.

The Club's youth policy is certainly paying dividends as can be seen by last season's Reserve and Youth side successes and Manager Peter Lawrence is certainly looking to these youngsters to challenge for places this season. We are all looking forward to an exciting, challenging season in 1997/98.

WEALDSTONE'S RECORD AGAINST LEIGHTON TOWN

Played 6 Won 2 Drawn 2 Lost 2 Goals For 7 Goals Against 5

ICIS Football League

Season	Home		Away		Summary of League Encounters							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
1995/96 (Division Three)	D1-1	W2-0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1
Wealdstone's score shown first)			1	1	0	0	2	0				
Total:-		2	1	1	0	3	1					

F.A. Cup

1970/71: Leighton Town 1 Wealdstone 1		Friendly	
(Replay) Wealdstone 0	Leighton Town 1	1967/68: Wealdstone 3	Leighton Town 1

(Home team shown first)

Isthmian League Associate Members Trophy (Final)

1996/97: Leighton Town 1	Wealdstone 0
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(At Hitchin Town FC)

commercial chat

with Layne Patterson

Good Evening and welcome back to the White Lion Ground for another season, and who knows, perhaps our last full one without a ground of our own! Certainly things at the time of writing seem to be moving in the right direction at long last, however we are ever mindful of the many false dawns that we have faced in the past, probably as good as anything is to keep everything crossed and hope that (as we've always suspected) God is a Wealdstone fan after all. Tonight gives us a very early chance to gain revenge for the Associate Members Trophy Final defeat at the end of last season. It all seems a long time ago but my recollections of that match were of missed chances, and I'm sure even the most diehard Leighton fan will agree that if we had taken them it would have been Wealdstone's name on the Trophy. However, Gordon will tell you that to win a game you must take the opportunities created so we can't moan too much.

Last season will however be better remembered for winning that beautiful ICIS League (Division Three) Championship. Belated congratulations to Gordon, Fergie & Co., but also to all of you who have stuck by this great Football Club over the past few traumatic years. However, 1996/97 is now history and whilst we will all agree that a club like ours needs to be seen to be winning things, it means absolutely nothing as far as this season is concerned! Mind you after the events of two seasons ago I do not think that complacency will be one of our problems. Anybody who has not bought the video of our game at Northwood that clinched the Championship (not too many!) has missed an absolute treat. There are still a very few available so if you want to see Fergus & Co saying those immortal words "Eat it" one more time order your copy today.

ENJOY THE MATCH AND HERE'S TO 3 POINTS!

Blue Ribbon Lottery News Update

The Blue Ribbon, although like all small Lotteries being affected by the growth and popularity of the National Lottery, is still a valid provider of funds for this football club. Over the past few months we have been exploring various avenues to cut down the administration costs, and this has been achieved by virtually rewriting our own specific computerised programme. If you are a member of the scheme you will probably have received a new membership card with your new membership numbers. I'm sure that you will all agree it is a much better and easier system than before, also you now have more chance of winning cash as all of your five numbers go into each daily draw, ie 25 chances of scooping some money! THANK YOU to all of our current Blue Ribbon members, and if you are not a member please see me to rectify this, your £1 per week can make a difference.

Club Shop News

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Championship Polo Shirts	£19.00	Championship Badges	£3.50

expected soon: New Replica Shirts with championship embroidery

"FLEET" LOOK FORWARD TO THE CHANGE

Gravesend & Northfleet come to the ICIS League this season from the Premier Division of the Dr. Martens League by way of accommodating Bath City and Bromsgrove Rovers drop from the Conference to the Dr. Martens League. They are delighted with the move and have announced to their fans that there will be no increase in prices for the coming season or in the selling price of the matchday programme. Their latest recruit to the Board of Directors is the owner of Club Sponsor "Mister Ham Man", Michael Hills. "Mick Ham Man" as he is affectionately known was recently voted onto the Board and he is expected to be a great asset to the Club.

HITCHIN SIGN NEW 'KEEPER

Goalkeeper Andrew Palfreyman has been signed from Colchester United by Hitchin Town Manager Andy Melvin. Other new faces at Fishponds Road are strikers Gary Williams from Hayes and Tony Clark, formerly of Wycombe Wanderers. Ex-Stevenage defender Shaun Debnam and Sandor Gyalog (ex-Arlesey Town) have also been recruited. Tony Martin is a new member of the coaching squad.

KINGSTONIAN NAMED AS PREMIER DIVISION FAVOURITES

Bookmakers William Hill have issued a full list of prices for this season's Premier Division Championship. 5/4 favourites for the title are Kingstonian who start the season with new Manager Geoff Chapple in charge, together with Colin Lippiatt as his assistant. Their achievements at Woking during the last fifteen seasons suggest that Kingstonian will be a force to be reckoned with this season. New signings include David Leworthy from Rushden & Diamonds, Matt Crossley and Terry Evans from Wycombe Wanderers, Geoff Pitcher from League side Colchester United and Danny Smith from Welling United. The new faces are completed by Lenny Dennis who was also at Welling last season and whose transfer fee will be decided by a tribunal. Second favourites to win the league are Enfield 7/2, followed by Dagenham & Redbridge and Sutton United 7/1, Hendon 9/1, Chesham United 10/1, St Albans City and Carshalton Athletic 14/1, and Hitchin Town 20/1.

MANAGERS ON THE MOVE

With Gary Calder having left Purfleet to link up with relegated Grays Athletic, former Concord Rangers (Essex Senior League) Manager Colin McBride is the new man at the helm of the Premier Division side. Purfleet also have a new Chairman - Grant Beglan - who held a similar position at the new manager's former club. An interesting clash is in prospect on 13th September when Concord Rangers, based on Canvey Island, entertain Purfleet in the 1st Qualifying Round of the FA Cup. Another new managerial appointment is at Tooting & Mitcham United where the new man in charge is Jimmy Bolton - one of the most prolific scorers in the ICIS League in recent times. He will assume a player/manager role at Sandy Lane where two of his early signings are Gary Bowyer from former club Carshalton Athletic and Rory Gleeson who was with Molesey last season. Former Northwood and Hertford Town Manager John Walsh has moved to Wembley in a similar position. He has recruited Bradley Anderson from Leighton Town and much travelled Tommy Williams who assisted Tring Town and Clapton last season.

UNITED'S LONG QUEST COMES TO FRUITION

Probably one of the longest quests for membership of the Isthmian League came to an end when Ford United were voted in to the competition at the AGM back in June. The ambition of the club to be in membership of this League stretched back to the 1950's when, prior to the amalgamation of Briggs Sports and Ford Sports, Briggs set their sights on membership after reaching the semi-final of the Amateur Cup in 1954. In those far off days "works clubs" were not permitted entrance and only in recent years has a more

(Continued on next page)

liberal attitude prevailed. Even now the Ford United ground has had to be considerably upgraded to reach ICIS standards and over £80,000 has been spent during the summer at Rush Green Road, the money invested by the Ford Sports & Social Club in providing an arena suitable for the early years of the next millennium. Not that the Club has sat still on the improvements made to fulfil the ground grading requirements of this League. In a recent "dawn swoop" they purchased some 274 further seats from Lords Cricket Ground after being tipped off about their availability. These will be installed in the impressive Main Stand at Rush Green Road, where other work completed includes a 6' high concrete perimeter fence, covered accommodation on the far side of the pitch, turnstiles, on ground toilets and several other items. The whole of the Ford complex in the South of England now has a fine ground to stage its showpiece events - due in no small way to the efforts of its football club's success. It is also the culmination of the work undertaken by Team Manager Dennis Elliott who was previously in charge of the Reserves at Dagenham & Redbridge and the first team at Barking. When he joined the club in October 1995, he promised that he would win the Essex Senior League for the club last season - it was quite a tight finish at the top of the Essex Senior League but he was good to his word. He now believes that his side will go on to emulate other clubs who have recently joined the league by gaining early promotion to Division Two. Several new signings are expected at Rush Green Road this term.

SECRETARY'S NOTES**"SONIC SAYS"**

A warm welcome to all Stones supporters, players and officials to our first home Division Two match of the season. We also extend a big 'hello' to everyone connected with today's opponents - Leighton Town FC. It was only a few months ago that the Bedfordshire team defeated us in the Associate Members Trophy Final at Hitchin - if only 'Chemo' had put away those two chances!

Whilst on the subject of Hitchin, a number of our supporters were very annoyed at the unrealistic admission charge for our friendly with them a few weeks ago. Having checked with the FA, it transpires that clubs do not have restrictions placed on them for friendlies and therefore can charge accordingly - but even so, £5 is a bit steep!

It's been nice to reminisce during the long hot summer (well it has been for me) after our best season for many a year - but that's all history. Now that the players have tasted success, it follows that they will want more, but this will only materialize with hard work as Gordon and his team know only too well - a good dose of the 'WEALDSTONE ROAR' will make their job easier.

Not long after the season's end a number of top Stones players, Leo and myself spent a celebratory weekend in Blackpool-up-North. As a result 'Fergie' and 'Walks' produced a very funny 'Alas Smith & Jones' type interview for the Soccerline - you're wasted as footballers lads!

As the new season greets us so does the inevitable changes to the laws of the game. If it wasn't already hard enough for Mr Ives and his two Assistants, they are now faced with FIFA kindly complicating the game even more. So from now on Simon Garner can score direct from the kick off and 'Bomber' can score direct from a goal kick - both highly unlikely, but they are now possibilities. Further amendments include:-

- a) The backpass ruling now extends to an indirect free kick being awarded if the 'keeper handles the ball after receiving it from a throw-in by his own team. (As James Bush found out against Hendon - Ed).
- b) If the goalkeeper holds the ball for longer than five to six seconds it's time wasting, and will be penalised by the award of an indirect free kick.
- c) At the taking of a penalty kick the 'keeper must remain on his goal line, but can now move his feet.

Quite simple - providing that you're not the 'keeper or the match officials!

Enjoy the game. Come on you Stones!!!

STEVE HIBBERD

NEW FUND-RAISING COMPETITION

In the centre of this programme you will find details of a new competition we are introducing which we hope you will enter. All you have to do is predict where each of the teams in our division of the ICIS League will finish the 1997/98 season. The cost of entry is a one off payment of £5.00 and there will be three cash prizes at the end of the season. Full details appear on the application form which should be completed and returned no later than 7.30pm on Tuesday 2nd September. Your support of this fund-raiser for the Club would be appreciated.

KIT SPONSORSHIP

Once again we are offering Stones fans the chance to sponsor all or part of the kit of their favourite player/management team member for the coming season. Prices range from £3 (for children) to between £5 and £25 for adults. A grid appears elsewhere in this programme and it will be included throughout the season showing the names of all kit sponsors. If you are interested in helping the club in this way please speak to Layne Patterson today or contact him during the week at the Club Office/Shop in Lowlands Road, Harrow (Tel: 0181 864 3744). Just let him know how much you would like to donate and the name of the player you wish to have your name placed against. Your choice of player will be added to the list if it does not appear already.

MATCH BALL SPONSORSHIP

We are currently looking for match-ball sponsorship for the 1997/98 season. If you, a group of friends or your company are able to help the club in this way please contact Layne Patterson on 0181 864 3744 and he will be happy to give you full details.

Today's ball has been kindly donated by Quentin Fox, one of our Directors. We thank Quentin for his support.

WEALDSTONE FC 'FACTS & FIGURES'

This 27 page booklet is on sale today price £1.00. Among the many items included are all the club records, our major honours, a summary of results in all competitions since 1971, our record against every club we have met since then, and the names of every player who has taken part in league and/or cup matches during that time. If you are interested in statistics you must purchase a copy.

CASTING STONES AT THE FA

by Graham Sharpe

It looks like we'll have to bar any player or official of the Club from entering this season's Predict-a-Score competition - after all, we wouldn't want FA Gambling Investigator, Sir John Smith, accusing us of encouraging such people to indulge in the dreadful sin of 'forecasting', would we? Who knows, we could find ourselves with a situation where, in the final game of the season, one of our players or officials is leading the competition but has put us down to lose 1-0. Well, the lure of collecting a few quid on Predict-a-Score would obviously overwhelm them and cause them immediately to endeavour to throw the match if it was a player; or rush into the changing room to offer the players an incentive to lose if it were an official in the driving seat.

What a load of nonsense the FA's stance is - how can they possibly ban what is basically speculation. Are they going to drag a non-League manager in for a grilling at an FA enquiry at which he faces a life ban for tipping his side to lose away at Old Trafford in their 3rd Round FA Cup tie?

Besides, one of the longest standing adages in horse racing is a very accurate one: 'jockeys make lousy tipsters'. Mark my word, you only have to watch The Morning Line on Channel 4 on a Saturday morning to see how true that is as they try to tip winners for charity bets, or explain how come they managed to pick the wrong one when offered the chance of two different contenders for the big race.

(Continued on next page)

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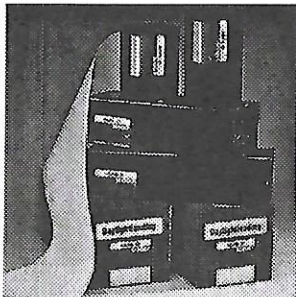
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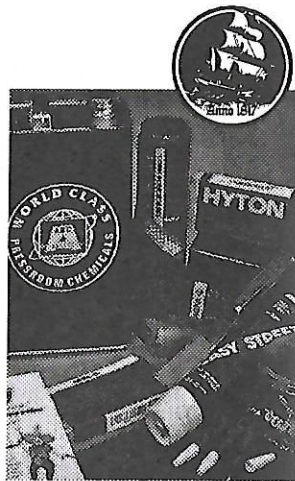
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CASTING STONES AT THE FA... (continued)

I figure the FA enquiry into gambling and forecasting is little more than a cosmetic, face-saving exercise to avoid having to answer awkward questions in the short term while the media interest in the subject is red hot - after all, they already have a Rule in place forbidding players and officials from betting on matches - it is just that they have never bothered to enforce it to any degree. They can also 'do' anyone they want for any offence they wish just by including it under the catch-all umbrella of 'bringing the game into disrepute'.

I have a vested interest from a number of angles in all this. I'm writing a book about the history of betting on football; as a bookmaker I am not officially permitted to play football, or be a Director of a club, according to the letter of FA Rules. An FA overreaction could also jeopardise the ability of punters to place certain types of bets, which could, in turn, affect my livelihood.

The Grobbelaar case saw everyone charged exonerated. There has been no proven case of match fixing in this country for thirty-plus years, yet to witness the media hysteria and FA panic, you'd think that they'd all been found guilty, and that it had been proved that every other result was being rigged each week. There is far more of a threat to the integrity of football being posed by unscrupulous wealthy chairman endeavouring to use their influence to determine the outcome of games than there is ever likely to be through a highly unpredictable attempt to rig matches - isn't there Monsieur Tapie!.

Stone me, I almost forgot to mention the new season. Gordon has been as thorough as ever in checking out scores of potential new players before determining his basic squad. The Board has reiterated its commitment to the management team by making available additional funds to ensure that we can look to progress rather than merely consolidate this season. Let's hope the momentum of last season is continued as we launch another promotion campaign this time round.

(Graham, a Director of Wealdstone Football Club, is also Media Relations Manager of Bookmakers William Hill who are sponsors of the ICIS League Manager of the Season and Manager of the Month Awards.)

TODAY'S ICIS FOOTBALL LEAGUE (DIVISION TWO) FIXTURES

Barking v Braintree Town	Hungerford Town v Banstead Athletic
Bedford Town v Marlow	Metropolitan Police v Tilbury
Canvey Island v Tooting & Mitcham Utd	Northwood v Bracknell Town
Egham Town v Wivenhoe Town	WEALDSTONE v LEIGHTON TOWN
Horsham v Cheshunt	Witham Town v Chalfont St Peter

TOMORROW

Windsor & Eton v Edgware Town

CURRENT LEAGUE FORM (Up to & including Saturday 16th August 1997)

Last 6 Home	Last 6 Away	Last 6 Home	Last 6 Away
dwlwl Banstead Athletic	wlwww	dwwdd Hungerford Town	lwwwl
wdwldw Barking	ddddlW	wwdlw LEIGHTON TOWN	dwldl
wdllw Bedford Town	ddldw	lddlw Marlow	l1111
wdwdD Bracknell Town	lwllw	wldwl Met. Police	w111D
wwdww Braintree Town	lwddw	dwwwl Northwood	wdwwl
lldldw Canvey Island	lwdld	lldld Tilbury	llwwwl
dwlldD Chalfont St Peter	lwlll	l111W Tooting & Mitcham	llwll
lwlwl Cheshunt	llwwd	wwwlw WEALDSTONE	ddwlw
wwdww Edgware Town	dwwdw	wddlw Windsor & Eton	llwdD
ldlww Egham Town	wllld	lddl1 Witham Town	wlddL
wddlW Horsham	wwwld	llwdW Wivenhoe Town	lwdld

This Season in CAPITAL LETTERS

WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB FIXTURES AND RESULTS 1997/98

ICIS FOOTBALL LEAGUE (DIV TWO)

Date	Opponents	Venue	Res.	H/time	Att.	Goalscorers
Sat Aug 16	Wivenhoe Town	Away	L1-2 (1-1)	404	McKay	
Tue Aug 19	LEIGHTON TOWN	HOME				
Sat Aug 23	BRACKNELL TOWN	HOME				
Tue Sep 2	Chalfont St Peter	Away				
Sat Sep 13	BANSTEAD ATHLETIC	HOME				
Tue Sep 16	Braintree Town	Away				
Sat Sep 20	CHESHUNT	HOME				
Tue Sep 23	Metropolitan Police	Away				
Sat Sep 27	WINDSOR & ETON	HOME				
Tue Sep 30	Tilbury	Away				
Tue Oct 7	Hungerford Town	Away				
Sat Oct 11	CANVEY ISLAND	HOME				
Sat Oct 18	BARKING	HOME				
Sat Oct 25	Bedford Town	Away				
Sat Nov 1	WITHAM TOWN	HOME				
Sat Nov 8	Egham Town	Away				
Sat Nov 15	TOOTING & MITCHAM UTD	HOME				
Sat Nov 22	Horsham	Away				
Sat Nov 29	MARLOW	HOME				
Sat Dec 6	Leighton Town	Away				
Sat Dec 13	Witham Town	Away				
Sat Dec 20	EDGWARE TOWN	HOME				
Sat Dec 27	Northwood	Away				
Sat Jan 3	TILBURY	HOME				
Sat Jan 10	Banstead Athletic	Away				
Sat Jan 17	WIVENHOE TOWN	HOME				
Sat Jan 24	Bracknell Town	Away				
Sat Jan 31	CHALFONT ST PETER	HOME				
Sat Feb 7	Cheshunt	Away				
Sat Feb 14	BRAINTREE TOWN	HOME				
Sat Feb 21	Canvey Island	Away				
Sat Feb 28	HUNGERFORD TOWN	HOME				
Sat Mar 7	Windsor & Eton	Away				
Sat Mar 14	METROPOLITAN POLICE	HOME				
Sat Mar 21	BEDFORD TOWN	HOME				
Sat Mar 28	Barking	Away				
Sat Apr 4	EGHAM TOWN	HOME				
Sat Apr 11	Edgware Town	Away				
Mon Apr 13	NORTHWOOD	HOME				
Sat Apr 18	Tooting & Mitcham Utd	Away				
Sat Apr 25	HORSHAM	HOME				
Sat May 2	Marlow	Away				

GUARDIAN INSURANCE LEAGUE CUP

Date	Opponents	Venue	Res.	H/time	Att.	Goalscorers
Tue Aug 26	EDGWARE TOWN (Prelim)	HOME				

F.A. CHALLENGE CUP

Date	Opponents	Venue	Res.	H/time	Att.	Goalscorers
Sat Aug 30	Leatherhead (Prelim)	Away				

F.A. CARLSBERG VASE

Date	Opponents	Venue	Res.	H/time	Att.	Goalscorers
Sat Sep 6	Hornchurch (1st Qfy)	Away				

MIDDLESEX SENIOR CUP

Date	Opponents	Venue	Res.	H/time	Att.	Goalscorers
Tue Nov 4	ASHFORD TOWN (Middx)	(Rd 1) HOME				

FRIENDLY MATCHES

Date	Opponents	Venue	Res.	H/time	Att.	Goalscorers
Tue Jul 22	Amersham Town	Away	D1-1 (0-0)	92	Ephgrave	
Thu Jul 24	Hitchin Town	Away	D1-1 (0-0)	165	Boreham	
Sat Jul 26	Chertsey Town	Away	W4-2 (1-2)	151	Garner 2, Green, Bowder(pen)	
Tue Jul 29	London Colney	Away	W3-2 (1-1)	70	Yaku, Boreham, Smith	
Sat Aug 2	Chesham United	Away	D1-1 (0-1)	293	Green	
Tue Aug 5	Kingsbury Town	Away	L0-1 (0-1)	172		
Sat Aug 9	HENDON	HOME	D2-2 (0-0)	285	Boreham 2(1 pen)	
Wed Aug 13	Milton Keynes	Away	W2-1 (1-1)	87	Yaku, Massey	

SOCCROSSWORD 2/97 by AL

- ACROSS**
- 1.14 A top club in Germany (6.6)
 - 4 See 10 across
 - 6 Award for expert "7" (5)
 - 7 He tries to get penalties (5)
 - 9 Put cash into new players - or stock market (6)
 - 10 Clean non-league club? (4,4)
 - 12 Appeal to ref (4)
 - 14 See 1 across
 - 16 See 15 down
 - 18 Late one can bring success (5)
 - 19 Chart when team has big lead (4)
- DOWN**
- 20 Shine cup like east-Europeans? (6)
 - 2 Ran sale around London club (7)
 - 3 Skip challenge or don't pay tax (5)
 - 4 Low club will do it with good run(5)
 - 5 Encounter in the cup (3)
 - 8 It gets you sent off - in the post? (5)
 - 11 Tries to rob (7)
 - 13 Niggling fouls will (5)
 - 15,16 across Eire and former Man City star (5.5)
 - 17 World Cup venue (1.1.1)

1	2	3	4	5
6			7	
9			10	11
12		13	14	15
16	17		18	
19			20	

ICIS LEAGUE (DIVISION TWO) GETS UNDERWAY

On Saturday the 22 clubs in the ICIS League (Division Two) completed their opening league fixture of the 1997/98 season. The 11 matches resulted in 6 home wins, 2 away wins and three draws. The day's top scorers were Edgware Town who hit five at home against Horsham, the Sussex club replying with two. The three sides relegated from Division One at the end of last season came through their opening game in Division Two unbeaten, Canvey Island drawing 1-1 at Bracknell Town, and Marlow and Tooting & Mitcham winning their home games against Witham Town and Egham Town respectively. Of the three clubs promoted from Division Three only Braintree Town recorded a win. They won 4-0 at home against fellow promoted club Northwood. Last season's Division Three champions Wealdstone were beaten 2-1 at Wivenhoe Town after scoring first. The Essex side's goals both came from the penalty spot, one in each half. Braintree Town and Tooting & Mitcham, who both won 4-0, recorded the day's biggest winning margins.

With only one match played by each side so far it is too early to publish a league table for this season. Instead we print below the final Division Three table for last season.

ICIS FOOTBALL LEAGUE (DIVISION TWO)
(Final Positions 1996/97 Season)

	Home				Away				Goals		PTS
	P	W	D	L	W	D	L	F	A		
Coll.Rov & Romford	42	16	3	2	12	9	0	93	33	96	
Leatherhead	42	15	3	3	15	2	4	116	45	95	
Wembley	42	12	5	4	11	6	4	92	45	80	
Barking	42	13	5	3	9	8	4	69	40	79	
Horsham	42	14	2	5	8	9	4	78	48	77	
Edgware Town	42	9	8	4	11	6	4	74	50	74	
Bedford Town	42	10	3	8	11	5	5	77	43	71	
Banstead Athletic	42	9	3	9	12	2	7	75	52	68	
Windsor & Eton	42	8	9	4	9	4	8	65	62	64	
Leighton Town	42	12	6	3	5	6	10	64	52	63	
Bracknell Town	42	9	8	4	8	1	12	78	71	60	
Wivenhoe Town	42	7	6	8	10	3	8	69	62	60	
Chalfont St Peter	42	9	7	5	5	6	10	53	61	55	
Hungerford Town	42	8	9	4	6	4	11	68	77	55	
Metropolitan Police	42	9	2	10	5	5	11	72	75	49	
Filbury	42	4	6	11	10	1	10	68	77	49	
Witham Town	42	4	6	11	7	4	10	39	67	43	
Egham Town	42	7	3	11	3	6	12	47	86	39	
Cheshunt	42	4	2	15	5	1	15	37	101	30	
Ware	42	5	3	13	2	5	14	44	80	29	
Dorking	42	5	1	15	2	5	14	40	100	27	
Hemel Hempstead	42	1	2	18	4	4	13	34	125	21	

WEALDSTONE SUPPORTERS CLUB HARROW SHOW RAFFLE
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WEALDSTONE APPEARANCES 1997/98 SEASON (All Matches excluding Friendlies) (Substitutes who actually played are shown in brackets)

Maximum Possible	IL	GIC	AMT	FAC	FAV	MSC	MCC	TOTAL WEALDSTONE	CAREER
Steve Atkins	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Steve Bircham	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	53
Keith Boreham	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Stan Bowder	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Andy Edmunds	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Simon Garner	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	18
Noel Imber	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Paul McKay	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	24
Roy Marshall	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	69
Fergus Moore	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	106
Chris Walton	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	93
Mario Celaire	-(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Terry Hibbert	-(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	69
Dominic Sterling	-(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	21

WEALDSTONE GOALSCORERS 1997/98 SEASON (All Matches including Friendlies) (Penalties scored are shown in brackets)

	IL	GIC	AMT	FAC	FAV	MSC	MCC	FR	TOTAL	WLDSTNE CAREER
Keith Boreham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4 (1)	4 (1)	5 (1)
Simon Garner	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	6
Peter Green	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	10
Lawrence Yaku	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	8
Stan Bowder	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)
*Stuart Ephgrave	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Paul McKay	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
John Massey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Tony Smith	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	15
TOTALS:-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	14 (2)	15 (2)	

WEALDSTONE GOALKEEPERS STATISTICS 1997/98 SEASON (Excluding Friendlies)

	Played	Goals Conceded	Average Per Game	Clean Sheets	Penalties Faced	Penalties Saved
Noel Imber	1	2	2.00	0	2	0

Appearances, Goalscorers and Goalkeepers Statistics include matches played up to and including Saturday, 16th August 1997.
 * Player no longer with the Club.

PROGRAMME DEADLINES

Due to other commitments I am going to need more time to prepare programmes this season, therefore all deadlines must be met if you want your contribution to be included in the next programme. The deadlines for the Bracknell and Edgware games have now passed. Our next programme after those two games will be for our home game against Banstead Athletic on Saturday 13th September (unless either of us are involved in the FA Cup that day.) In the event of our match with Banstead going ahead on 13th September items for inclusion in that programme will be required NO LATER THAN SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER.

ON THE TERRACES WITH MEGAPHONE MICK

Well can you believe it, the new season has already begun. What with the end of season Football League Play Offs, through to Le Tournoi, and then pre-season friendlies it seems that there is no break at all in watching football, which is fine by me. I trust you all had a good summer, safe in the knowledge that Wealdstone ended the season as Division Three Champions, although they kept us sweating 'til the last ten minutes of that memorable finale at Northwood, but as they say, the wait was well and truly worth while! There must have been in the region of 400 Wealdstone fans biting their finger nails into oblivion until the last ten minutes of that game, when two late goals wrenched the title out of Braintree's clutches, to spark scenes of absolute pandemonium amongst the supporters, and who can blame them? The end of season dinner could have turned out to be a bit of a damp squib, even though promotion was secured a long time before, but after the days proceedings it was certainly 'Alright on the night', and it's fair to say that a fantastic time was had by all. The singing went on late into the night with players and officials (club officials not referees!) joining in the merriment with the fans to turn the occasion into one gigantic party.

After Wealdstone's season had ended I just had the small matter of an FA Cup Final to attend, and with my Chelsea allegiance, I was convinced that they would blow it, but luckily they were only playing Middlesbrough! Enigma isn't the word for the way that Bryan Robson's men ended the season, for after a thrilling 3-3 draw at Old Trafford against the league champions, you would have thought that they would have been up for their two remaining league games at Blackburn and Leeds, but somehow in both those matches they seemed to be just going through the motions, and they ended up paying the ultimate price. Also in the Cup Final it was odd that with ten minutes remaining and still only one goal down, that they were persisting in playing just Mickel Beck up front, when surely at that stage their centre halves should have been up there throwing their weight around, especially with Chelsea's suspect defence. Still Chelsea finally won something that wasn't the 'Zenith Data Systems Cup', and I joined another party in the Fulham Road. As regards to my trip to the Twin Towers there is someone who I want to give a big thankyou to, and that person knows who he is, so 'Thank you, you are a top man'.

With the football season officially ended, a few of us decided to take in some cricket at Lords, as Middlesex entertained Northants in a Sunday League game. Apart from me there was Darren, little Steve, West Ham Steve and Pat, and once in the ground we saw a familiar 'slap head' (yes Neale, I know it takes one to know one!) and he and 'Beaney' soon joined us. Those of you who have been to watch a first class game of cricket will know that it is just one glorified booze up, and as Middlesex were being humiliated, we all decided to instigate a huge sing song. The only difference between us and the 'Barmy Army' was that all we were interested in was singing Wealdstone songs, much to the consternation of the majority of Lords, apart from a couple of Kiwis who attempted to join in. After stumps had been drawn, we all headed to a nearby pub where the songs continued, and it wasn't long before we were being 'politely' asked to leave. Mind you this wasn't surprising, as the pub that Neale had chosen was full of 'Hooray Henrys', and I almost expected Del Boy to walk in with filofax in hand and fall through the bar like in that familiar TV episode! After this we went into 'The Lords Tavern' to end the evening, who welcomed us and allowed us to do as we pleased, as long as we kept out of the restaurant! Suffice to say that I had a little bit of a headache at work the next day.

Also in July I met up with Simon Garner for a chat and a beer in Abbots Langley, the results of which you should hopefully read in the Elmslie Ender, and I have to say that he has looked good in pre-season friendlies, along with Terry Hibbert and Steve Bircham. Out of these matches the most impressive performance was probably at Chertsey, where we came back from being 2-1 down at half-time to win 4-2, with a bullet header from Peter Green being the pick of the goals. We have certainly played some tough opponents, and the game at Chesham was particularly physical, perhaps the home side were expecting an easy ride, but once again Wealdstone showed that they are capable of matching teams from a higher level, which augers well for the future. This was also proved against Hendon, even though they dominated the early stages, but Wealdstone came

(Continued on next page)

ON THE TERRACES WITH MEGAPHONE MICK (continued)

back well and can count themselves unlucky that they didn't win the game, especially as the referee overruled his linesman's signal of another penalty (which would have been the third in the game) which would have given Keith Boreham the chance of a hat-trick, but it wasn't to be.

Tonight we entertain Leighton Town, and it is an early opportunity for our players to gain revenge for the defeat in the Associate Members Trophy Final at the end of last season. We have played them three times over the last two seasons, with one win apiece and a draw, so tonight should be a hard fought encounter. I am hoping that we got a favourable result at Wivenhoe three days ago, and the question on everybody's lips is can we challenge for honours again this season?, we will soon find out. One thing is for certain, and that is that Gordon Bartlett won't rest on his laurels. So let's shout ourselves hoarse and encourage the lads to a winning start to the home campaign.

See ya in the bar.

MICHAEL VINCENT

THE WALK TO WINGATE & FINCHLEY

Last season's walk by supporters to our match at Wingate & Finchley raised the magnificent sum of £6,710 by way of sponsorship. Of this £1,500 was donated to St Lukes Hospice with the balance helping the Football Club.

There are still two people who have not yet paid their sponsorship money in and I shall be chasing them up this evening and on Saturday against Bracknell Town. Between them they should hand in around £120.

PAUL 'FINGERS' FRUIN



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SIDELINES

BY NEALE HARVEY

So "Sidelines" returns after a year out of the game! If you are wondering why this correspondent felt the need for a time out the reasoning is indisputable. The "Sidelines" column first saw the light of day at the beginning of the 1986/87 season, just after our most glorious year of 1985, and continued faithfully until the end of 1995/96. One may think of this as a coincidence but that 10 year span saw Wealdstone go from being top dogs in the non-league world to something akin to a music-hall joke. Relegation, the loss of ground, more relegation, lost all our money, going into administration, nearly wound up and, finally, two "voluntary" relegation's. Yes folks, it is now official that all the failure and despair of that 10 year period was down to "Sidelines" and I am frankly amazed that they still allow me into the ground anymore! Another thing, in 1986 I was fit and healthy with a full head of hair. 10 years on, in common with many other Wealdstone fans, I was a greying, balding, wreckage of a man with the nervous disposition of an England batsman facing the Australian bowling attack. We couldn't even get out of ICIS League Division 3, for heavens sake something had to be done so I had no alternative but to pull the column for a season in the desperate hope that this would finally produce some success. Sure enough, bingo! You may think that last season's title was all down to superb organisation, planning and management. Absolute rubbish. The real reason for our success last season was the withdrawal of "Sidelines", nothing more and nothing less. Now that the monkey is off my back however, I feel safe in the knowledge that the ghosts have been laid to rest and it is safe to make a return to these honourable pages. So bad luck folks, "Sidelines" is back.

Without further ado, let me just reflect a little on last season's achievement. At the end of 1995/96 we were all naturally gutted at having missed out on getting promoted out of Division Three at the first time of asking. Unless you had been living on planet Zog however, it was obvious that in Gordon Bartlett, Leo Morris and Frank O'Brien we had a management team that was not only good at its job, but was prepared to communicate what it was doing about things. At the end of season dinner I remember shaking Gordon's hand and thanking him for his "refreshing honesty" in dealing with the supporters of Wealdstone. For too long we had been fed a diet of misinformation, false promises and bull. At last, in Gordon, Leo and Frank, we had a team of totally committed individuals who knew the game at our level inside out. They also knew that managing Wealdstone was a bit different and they soon found out how different. I do not think I would be too wide of the mark if I suggested that given all the unique circumstances surrounding the club, it was one of the most difficult jobs in non-league. Between them though, they have met the challenge head on and never flinched from the task ahead. Their reward, of course, came at Northwood in the final league match of the season and you have to cast your mind back to Kettering in order to recall similar scenes of joy on a football pitch. From my own point of view, the release from so many years of pent up frustration was unforgettable and I have certainly taken some stick about being in all the pictures and then virtually making love to the championship trophy in the evening. I make no apologies for that. What I wish to do however is thank our management team and their players for finally bringing some professionalism and respectability back to Wealdstone Football Club. We can only hope that now we have bottomed out and become upwardly mobile once more, we can build on last season. Thanks again gentlemen.

(Continued on next page)

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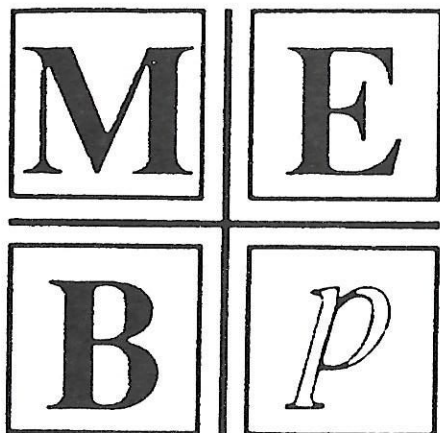
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Once again this summer, whilst most people have taken a rest from the grand old game for a few months, I was on "International duty" in Bolivia for this year's Copa America. In spite of the fact that the competition fell slap bang in the middle of the South American World Cup qualifying programme, which meant half of the 12 teams sent second string squads, the tournament did not disappoint. As usual there were some memorable moments and Bolivia, in general, is a stunning country to visit. I managed to notch up 19 out of the 26 matches, did 12 internal flights and even managed to catch England's 13-33 Rugby Union defeat in Argentina on the way there as well as Argentina's 2-0 World Cup win over Peru in the River Plate Stadium. Yes, they still use the old ticker tape when the teams come out! As ever, unfortunately, the good old British insularity came to the fore and I understand that there was no TV coverage of the Copa over here and very few results made the papers. A great shame that, but unfortunately symptomatic of our lingering belief that our football is the best in the world. Still, "my gain and your loss", as they say and I will be looking towards my friendly travel agent for flights to Paraguay in two years time. All being well I will be penning a few details of the Bolivia trip for the next edition of the Elmslie Ender.

On the subject of foreign football it would appear that the English press have finally woken up to the fact that vast amounts of money are being flushed out of our game into the pockets of ageing mercenaries and their leeching agents. Too late I am afraid. I don't like to say I told you so but I did in this very column about four years ago. Now the problem is even more acute and you cannot believe how many players have harboured the secret, "Always been my ambition to play in the Premiership", or their insistence that "The Premiership is the only place to be". Absolute crap. The only reason all this "Talent" is over here is because we are the only suckers prepared to pay £20,000 plus per week to fairly average midfielders. As a fan of foreign football it may sound strange for me to be decrying the influx, but, as Joe Kinnear so rightly said last week, "I have no problems with the top players coming in because they are respected and the good habits rub off. It is the other less able players who come in on cheap transfers, but double the wages of our own players who are the problem. It causes jealousy and unrest within clubs". Quite so, Joe. It also means that the Sky TV millions that are sustaining the gold rush are simply leaving the country at an ever increasing rate of knots. The short term dash for success is sacrificing the future development of our younger players on the altar of expediency.

YOUNGEST SPECTATOR

Supporter Patrick O'Neill set the ball rolling in April when he wondered whether his son Joseph had established a new record by being the youngest 'spectator' at a Wealdstone match. He had been just 59 days old when his father brought him along to our ICIS League match versus Lewes in March 1997.

Supporters Club Chairman, Howard Kraiss, then informed us that his daughter Daisy was only 44 days old when she was present at our FA Vase tie with Kempston Rovers in September 1996. Not to be outdone, Lori Gale the partner of Club Chairman Paul Rumens, told us that their son Samuel was even younger, just 22 days old, when he was brought to our league match versus Kingsbury Town in April 1996. Could anyone beat that we asked in our final home programme last season!

Well, young Emily Gloor, the daughter of another Stones supporter, Adam Gloor, is now claiming the record. Whereas all the others saw their first match here at the White Lion Ground, she travelled to an away match. Born on the 20th April 1995, Emily was just 16 days old when she travelled to Salisbury to see our final match in the Southern League on Saturday 6th May 1995. Now can anyone beat that?

HIGH PLACING FOR OUR PROGRAMME

by Roy Couch

=====

The Wirral Programme Club survey of last season's non-League programmes resulted in ours being placed 30th nationally out of entries from 1026 clubs. We received 146 points. Our friends and near neighbours Northwood were adjudged to have produced the best programme nationally for the second season running and were awarded 189 points. In second place were Langney Sports (Sussex County League), again for the second year running, with 183 points and in third place were Denaby United (Northern Counties East League) with 180 points.

In the ICIS League (Division Three) we were runners-up to Northwood with Epsom & Ewell (133 points) third. In the ICIS League as a whole we were placed sixth. The ICIS clubs to finish ahead of us were Northwood (189), Uxbridge (158), Yeovil Town (155), Sutton United (154) and Aldershot Town (153).

It should be noted that the programmes were surveyed, not as many assume voted upon. Marks were awarded to each programme as follows (the maximum are given for each section):- Cover 15 (design 10, match details 5), Page Size 10, Team Layout and position within the programme 10, Results 10, League Tables 10, Price 15, Printing and paper quality 20, Frequency of Issue 20, Value for money 20 (this takes into account the ratio of adverts to content, the clubs league etc.), Contents 105 (other than those listed) taking into account their relevance to the club, its league, environs etc., the size of print used, the spacing between lines, the size of the margins, and if the contents are original or reproduced (from League bulletins, newspapers etc.). To gain full marks in the Frequency of Issue section programmes from 10 different matches were required for each team entered (allowances were made if ten home games had not been played by the closing date and the Wirral Programme Club had been informed of this). We duly submitted ten, as did the other ICIS clubs mentioned above with the exception of Yeovil Town. They only submitted one!

ICIS FOOTBALL LEAGUE (DIVISION THREE) ATTENDANCES - 1996/97 SEASON

Some interesting statistics came out of last season's ICIS League (Division Three) attendance figures. We averaged 338 at each of our 16 home league fixtures with the highest attendance being 630 when Epsom & Ewell visited us in April. This, incidentally, was the largest number of people to attend any Division Three match during the season. Our lowest league attendance here at the White Lion Ground was 224 versus Hertford Town in September. On our travels we averaged 251 in the league with the highest at Northwood in our final match where 553 were present. Epsom & Ewell, who had provided the opposition for our best home gate of the season, experienced the other side of the coin when we visited them. The attendance of 129 was the lowest for any of our 16 away league fixtures, although it was their best home gate of the season.

Our average home attendance of 338 (up 16% on the previous season) was the best in the division. Braintree Town were the next best supported side at home with an average of 231, followed by Harlow Town (197), Northwood (160) and Wingate & Finchley (159). None of the other Division Three clubs averaged over 100. Southall, who had to play their home games far away from their former West London base, had the worst average home attendance, just 36, with the division's lowest gate of the season, 13 v Lewes. In fact only once during their 16 home league matches did they have a gate above the 61 who attended their match with Braintree Town, and that was when we visited them at Tring and a crowd of 177 was recorded.

It is interesting to note that our visits provided all the Division Three clubs, with the exception of Harlow Town, with their highest home league attendance of the season. Our visit to Harlow, watched by 207, was their fifth highest of the season and was only bettered by the visits of Hertford (561), Southall (462), Braintree (327) and Kingsbury (219). Not only did we contribute to the highest league attendance of the season at 15 of the 16 clubs we visited but, in eight of these, it was the only home fixture at which these clubs recorded a crowd in excess of 100.

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STONES PREDICT-A-SCORE

(UP TO & INCLUDING WIVENHOE TOWN, SATURDAY 16TH AUGUST 1997)

	Predicted Result/Score Today	Correct Result/Score (3 pts.)	Correct Result Only (1 pt.)	Total Points
1. DANIEL DUGARD ...	...(1-1)...	1	0	3
ALAN MOORE ...	...(2-0)...	1	0	3
JACK WILKINSON ...	...(2-1)...	1	0	3
4. MICK FERGUSON (1)	...(1-0)...	0	1	1
JAMES JENNER ...	...(0-0)...	0	1	1
PAT MURPHY ...	...(2-0)...	0	1	1
BARBARA ROBSON ...	...(2-0)...	0	1	1
ROGER SLATER (2)	...(2-2)...	0	1	1
NICK WOOLFORD (2)	...(2-0)...	0	1	1
10. JEREMY ALBERT (2-1), 'ALLY McCOIST' (3-1), MATT ANDREWS (3-1), D.BALDERSTONE (1-0), BOB BANGS (1-1), COLIN BARKER (1-0), MICHAEL BENNETT (2-1), HARRY BENVENISTE (2-0), STEPHEN BIRD (1-1), KEVIN BRIGHT(1) (1-1), KEVIN BRIGHT(2) (1-0), COLIN BUNNER (2-0), JOHN BURROWS (1-1), MARTIN BURROWS (2-1), TIM CHAMBERLAIN (1-0), GRAHAM CLARK (1-1), MEGAN CLARK (1-1), JOHN COMFORT (2-0), JOHN CONWAY (1-1), MOLLY CONWAY (2-1), NICK CONWAY (2-0), PAUL COOKE (1-1), RAY CORNER (2-0), STEPHEN CORNER (1-0), WAYNE CORNER (1-0), ALAN COUCH (1-1), ROY COUCH(1) (1-0), ROY COUCH(2) (2-1), JOHN CURTIN (2-1), 'DENNIS GREENE FAN CLUB' (2-0), PETER DREW (1-0), TONY DREW (2-0), NICK DUGARD (1-1), 'the EDWARDS' (1-1), MICK FERGUSON(2) (2-1), MICK FISHMAN (3-1), CHRISTINE FLETCHER (2-0), ERIC FLETCHER (2-0), STEVE FOSTER (1-1), QUENTIN FOX (1-0), DAVID FREE (1-1), PAUL FRUIN (1-0), LORI GALE-RUMENS (4-0), 'GOODERS' (0-0), JOHN HARVEY (2-1), DAN HELEN (2-1), MIKE HEYES (2-1), STEVE HIBBERD (1-0), ANDY HIBBS (1-1), EDWARD HIBBS (2-2), DOUGLAS HORGAN (1-1), RAY HORNE (2-1), TOBY JACKSON (2-1), GERALD JACOBS (2-1), J.JEFFRESON (2-0), ALAN JENKINS (3-0), KIRSTY JENKINS (2-1), C.KEMP (2-1), J.KEMP (3-2), SATEESH KHANNA (1-1), JOHN KNIGHT (2-1), HOWARD KRAIS (1-1), ANDREW LANE (2-0), SHAUN LAWSON (1-1), JOHN LLOYD (1-0), MARK LLOYD (3-1), MARK McMANUS (1-0), JOHN MAYR (1-1), JIM MINEHANE (0-0), RON MOORE (3-1), ROB OKE (1-0), PATRICK O'NEILL (1-2), DAVE PARISH (3-0), LAYNE PATTERSON (2-2), STEVE PAULL (2-1), TONY PLATT (2-0), MICHAEL PULLIN (2-1), KEITH RANGER (3-1), PATRICIA RONEY (1-0), 'RONNIE RAFFLE' (1-1), PAUL RUMENS(1) (2-1), PAUL RUMENS(2) (2-0), PAUL & STEEVEN SHARPE (2-0), 'SHAVED TENDON' (1-1), VAL SHEARER (3-1), TONY SHORT (2-0), 'SIMON GURNER' (2-1), ROGER SLATER(1) (1-1), JAMES SMITH (1-1), BRIAN STIMPSON (2-1), KEIF STONESTREET (1-0), TRACEY SYER (1-1), NICK SYMMONS (1-0), HELEN THOMAS (0-0), ANDY THOMPSON (1-1), MATTED TONNA (1-0), DUNCAN TOWELL (3-1), ALAN TREMEER (0-0), CALLUM TYMON (0-0), PETE TYMON (2-1), MICHAEL VINCENT (1-1), TONY WALLER (2-0), ROGER WATSON (2-0), MATT WHEATLEY (2-1), KEN WIGGINS (1-1), LIZ WIGGINS (1-0), JIM WISEMAN (1-0), NICK WOOLFORD(1) (1-1). - (0 Pts)				

Wealdstone score given first. All predictions were made prior to the start of the season. Prize money will be announced as soon as final entrant is received. We are expecting to receive several more entrants this evening and again on Saturday. They will of course forego any points for matches already played.

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4. Climb; 5. Tie; 8. Stamp; 11. Tackles; 13. Annoy; 15. Niall; 17. U.S.A.

THE TEAMS...

	HT	
	FT	

WEALDSTONE (Blue & White)

NOEL IMBER
STAN BOWDER
ANDY EDMUNDS
FERGUS MOORE
STEVE ATKINS
ROY MARSHALL
CHRIS WALTON
PAUL MCKAY
KEITH BOREHAM
SIMON GARNER
STEVE BIRCHAM
TERRY HIBBERT
DOMINIC STERLING
MARIO CELAIRE
ALAN GALLOWAY
TONY SMITH
PETER GREEN
RODNEY RICHARDS
LAWRENCE YAKU
PAUL LAMB
JOHN MASSEY
DARREN BONFIELD
JAMES BUSH

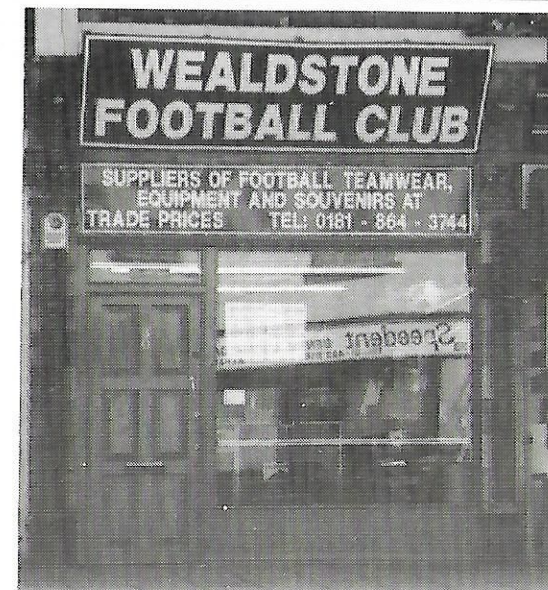
LEIGHTON TOWN (Red & White)

STEVEN ROOT
JAMES LASBREY
LEE CAMPBELL
KEN HOLLIS
LEE HENRY
JULIAN OLD
MARTIN BROWN
JOSH SOZZO
STEVE NORMAN
JASON YOUNG
CRAIG JOHNSTONE
JEZ WARNER
JAMES SIDONS
JASON HAGGERWOOD

PLAYER'S SHIRT NUMBERS
WILL BE ANNOUNCED
PRIOR TO KICK OFF
AND AGAIN AT HALF-TIME

OFFICIALS

MR G.L. IVES (Hornchurch, Essex) (Referee)
MR A.K. OSBORNE (Bushey, Herts) (Yellow Trim Flag)
MR P. SAGGERS (Bushey, Herts) (Green Trim Flag)



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