# WEALDSTONE

FOOTBALL CLUB

**SEASON 2020-21** 

PROGRAMME

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# Wealdstone v Chesterfield

Tuesday October 20 2020, kick-off 3pm















# WEALDSTONE

# FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2020/2021

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# THE STONES INTERVIEW BY TIM PARKS



Ash just can't wait to get going in the National League after a 21st-birthday lockdown to forget

Then it comes to experiences of the Covid-19 lockdown, Ashley Charles will remember his 21st birthday in May the best. Not that there was much to remember!

"We couldn't really celebrate it" said our midfielder ruefully, when I caught up with him for a chat ten days ago.

"We couldn't even go out, so just had a takeaway in my house with the family. If we'd gone out we probably would have been arrested" he laughed.

Ash, who lives with his folks in West Watford, spent most of his time during the pandemic restrictions just solo running close to his home, or with his mates down at the local park once the lockdown was eased.

"It was a weird time, but once the gyms re-opened, that was a Godsend" he said. "And it's been a relief, to be honest, to get back in the playing and training routine. I had a bit of a setback in the St Albans friendly, when I had to come off with a dead leg and I was just in a scoring run then too!" Yes, Ashley actually scored at Northwood the week before in that 6-0 win but hitting the target is quite a rarity for the youngster who came up through the ranks at Watford.

He was recommended to Dean Brennan by his ex-Horns teammate Dennon Lewis who impressed upon the Gaffer Ash's pedi-



# 6

Ashley gets stuck in at

Havant in our

crucial 4-2 win

last season

.. and below.

(far right)

he joins the

celebration as

we complete

a memorable

comeback

# WEALDSTONE 2020-21

gree - for this was a playmaker who was starting pre-season games for Watford's first team two years ago at the age of just 19.

He forced his way into Head Coach Javi Gracia's first team thinking and played against Stevenage, West Ham (behind closed doors) and Brentford before coming on for the last 20 minutes in the Hornets' final pre-season showpiece against Sampdoria at Vicarage Road.

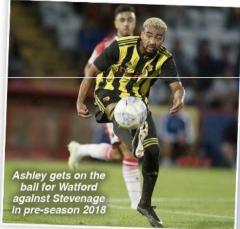
Gracia was impressed enough to comment that Ashley - and fellow under-23s graduate Alex Jakubiak

- "were at the same level as the rest of the established players. It's good for the club and for the Academy that two players like them came here today and competed as well as they have done".

hat summer was brilliant. I wasn't expecting it to be honest. I'd started training with the first team lads the week they got back from the pre-season tour to Austria,

and was training well, working hard, and then the gaffer took me to the team meeting and I was in the squad list.

"I played alongside [Étienne] Capoue in the Brentford game. It's easy to learn when playing alongside guys like him. And then against Sampdoria I came on for Will Hughes



in the no.10 role, just behind Troy Deeney and alongside Perrera and Dacoure. A great experience for me.

"The more I'd played with the first team the more confident I got - I felt like I belonged there, and when you're playing with players of that quality it's a lot easier because you know you can fizz the ball in and trust your ability."

But when the Premier League season started Ashley was back captaining the under-23s in the Prem Development League opener at Birmingham.

"I played for the PDL team until January 2019 when Watford decided it would help my development to go out to Barnet on loan in the National League - and things were going well until I picked up two red cards in a game against Solihull. That was a disaster. By the time my suspen-

sion was over Barnet were on a good run and I couldn't get back into the side

> "I stayed the rest of the season at Barnet and then sat down for a meeting with Watford last summer. They told me they wouldn't be renewing my contract.

"It was a tough time for me - my agent was unable to get me a club and I split with him... I was training on my own all through the summer, and even when the season started. But I've stayed mates with some of the lads from Watford (Connor

CONTINUED OVER PAGE



# THE STONES INTERVIEW

Stevens and Dennon Lewis were in the same team) and Dennon said: 'Why don't you come over to the Stones? You'll like the boys and the gaffer, it's a great changing room and the players are quality'.

"So I spoke to Dean
Brennan and he told me
he'd seen me play for
Watford and that he was
interested. Sure enough,
the training was great and,
to be fair, it's a brilliant
club. The pitch is great
- some of the surfaces
I played on at the lower
league stadiums were
pretty average - and the
fans are amazing.

"Saturday against Dulwich was a good example: they could have got on our backs when we were losing but they just urged us on. It's a big factor and in the end we found a way to win it".

What was is the standout game for you since you've been at Wealdstone?

"Definitely the one at Havant.

We were behind twice and had to dig in. In terms of occasion it was a big game and we had to show our character."

And I imagine your am-

hand Timagine bition is to get back to playing full-time football? "Of course, but I'm taking it one step at a time. The thing is to stay humble, to keep your disciple and a good attitude. That's what will make us a successful team."

'On my first trial with Watford I was caught in a rain storm coming home, and when I got in I was cold and shivering.. but I was buzzing because it had gone well'



THERE is an excellent interview with Ashley on the Watford website at the time of his first team breakthrough two years ago. Ed Perchard is the author...

ineteen-year-old box-to-box midfielder Charles has honed his game throughout Watford's community system and academy. And, now that he's tasted first team football, the former Watford Grammar School student isn't planning on letting up.

Born at Watford General during the 1999 Division One playoffs, getting his first Watford season ticket during the 2005/2006 promotion season and signing his academy scholarship papers as the first team secured its latest return to the Premier League in 2015, you could say that Charles is a lucky charm for Watford. So it bodes well for the club as a whole that the second year pro is this season breaking into the fringes of the first team.

"I've lived in Watford most of my life. I was born at Watford

General," says Charles, explaining his lifelong links to the area. "My family lived in Kenton for a little bit when I was really young, and then moved to Watford when I was one or two and I've lived here, about 15 minutes from the stadium, ever since."

Though a Spurs fan through his dad, Hillary, Charles followed his hometown team closely and got



# Ashley Is centre stage for Watford v Sampdoria 18 months ago... and (below left) in action against Brentford

his first season ticket just in time to see Aidy Boothroyd's men secure a surprise promotion to the Premier League 15 years ago. Ashley even made it to Cardiff to see a much younger Ben Foster keep Leeds at bay in the Championship Playoff final.

s a young boy, Charles spent his weekends playing locally, first for Sun Postal and then Cassiobury Rangers, winning plenty of trophies along the way. But, when secondary school came around, Charles's footballing itch just wasn't being scratched.

"At Watford Grammar they don't play football, it's just rugby, cricket and hockey," he explained. "I used to play rugby there.

To get his fix, he started attending Watford Community Trust's Player Development Centre at Fullerians Rugby Club, where he trained with club coaches every Monday for several years. "They told me about these trials for Watford that anybody could go to, so I went along."

It was then that Charles realised that he was dead set on becoming a professional footballer.

He said: "Everyone wants to be a footballer, but when you're playing Sunday league you just don't see how it's going to come about, how you're going to get to where you want to be.

"When I was on trial with Watford I finally thought 'this is the opportunity', and when you get that opportunity you can see the pathway."

It was a process that Charles remembers vividly.

"One of my first trials, it was pouring down with rain and I came straight from school and I didn't have a jacket," said Charles. "I was training and it was pouring down, pouring down, pouring down, l had to get the bus home because my mum doesn't drive and my dad was working.

"So, I got the bus to Harefield, trained, and on the way home I was just sat there shivering.

"My mum always brings

that up to this day – how cold I was when I walked in, but that's a memory I'll always remember. I knew I'd done well. I had a really good feeling about it."

After a trial period, Charles was offered a place in the Under-14s, and a few years later was awarded with a two-year scholarship. For the ball-playing midfielder, working with the likes of former Under-23 coach Harry Kewell and current boss Hayden Mullins was a dream come true.

"I like being on the ball," said the midfielder. "That's my game – I like to get about, taking the ball off the defence, playing it forward and trying to get in the box on the other end.

"Harry was a great character, he was very vocal and improved me a lot. He and Hayden gave me a lot of help, believed in me and gave me a lot of confidence."

e must have been doing something right, because as his 17th birthday rolled around at the end of his first year as a scholar, Charles was awarded his first professional contract.

"It was such a big confidence boost," he recalls. "To be rewarded for the hard work you've put in.

"I was training hard every day, playing with the Under-23s a lot and you just feel like your knowledge of the game rises every time you step up a level. It's good experiences like that that make you a better player."



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MIKE WESTON
Fan in the Stand

Meet Mike, who's getting on for 70 but has the wit and patter of a man half his age. When we find out whose it is we'll send it back



Careful Michael, these things can become addictive: Our soon-to-be septuagenarian gets to grips with the epic Worby/Fishman tome... and how many other Megastore Items can you count in the Weston front room?

t's rather wonderful that the first 'Fan in the Stand' as we dip our toes back into non-League's top flight for the first time in 32 years is a man synonymous with that era. Mike, currently recovering from a cowardly attack by a gang of youths near his home in the New Forest, was going to feature at the end of last season but a little thing called Covid-19 rather disrupted those plans.

He says: "This season is going to be highly challenging but I have every confidence in Dean, Rory, the board and management team to establish us back where we belong. The ground improvements to increase capacity at The Vale are a solid step in that direction. As regards the tantric climax to last

season, well the delay was utterly agonising but eventually the outcome was worth the wait and wholly deserved. The NLS Championship was a proper reward for everyone involved at the club."

## And now for the usual questions...

Your name? My name is Mike (John Henry) Weston and I was born on 16 January 1951. Was born in SW Harrow where I lived until 1973... then lived in West Ruislip until 1976 before moving to Ickenham until 1991 when - after the demise of Lower Mead - transferred to Nottingham for work purposes. Following retirement I eventually moved to my current address in Ashley Heath, Dorset just over three years ago.

# Right: Mike makes the news in this little-known feature about his teenage self. What a fan he was!

### What was your first Stones game?

That. I believe, was a 4-1 home win against Southall in August 1955 in the Athenian League. First impressions were of an exciting new world with bright green grass in an impressive, imposing stadium. Having been accustomed almost exclusively to a quiet domestic lifestyle I was suddenly (and pleasantly) exposed to a raucous crowd with (relatively) affable banter aimed equally at the four-eved referee, his assistances and opponents. My vocabulary expanded guite rapidly (though not used in family circles) while the vociferous singing and support was a sound to be heard (though not always understood on my part). In those halcvon days I think the average gate would be approaching 2.000 with more for local derbies, cup matches etc.

Who introduced you to the club? was introduced by a couple of friends of my brother, Peter Sedwards and Michael Collins. Despite being four years older than me they were remarkably patient with a younger sprog and accompanied me for at least four years. The first player to make an impression on me (as he did with the opposition)

was perhaps the no-nonsense centre-half Ron King. Not technically endowed but he imposed the agricultural qualities of a threshing machine on visiting forwards. For older readers he looked like a bigger version of Hoss from Bonanza with possibly less cranial content. A forerunner of Mick Smith (from Enfield) or even Dennis Byatt provided he does see this. My first "hero" was probably Charlie Townsend, who was already a commanding and immaculate midfield maestro a rich-man's Glen Hoddle.

A little later Hugh Lindsay emerged as a billionaire's Peter Lorimer and formed a tremendous partnership for the club.

Given my tender years I didn't get to many away games - other than local ones - but would then attend the home reserve games to get the

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TUCKED away in the stands or out in the crowd at nearly every Wealdstone match this season has yet again been a young man who merits the title of Wealdstone F.C.'s statistician.

For 17-year-old Michael Weaton, who has followed the club home and away since he was seven, keeps a complete record of every match played, scorers, incidents and even the number of corners.

This compendium of chances leads to odd throwaway lir This compendium of chances reads to be a Bremer's fifth from behind the press seats like "That's Bremer's fifth corner of the match from there" or "he scored a goal like Conter of the match from incre of ne scored a goal like that against Barking in 1964." Secret of this system of immediate records is that Michael runs back over his files hefore going to a match and that other notable incidents in matches he's seen stick solidly in his remarkable memory.

This is his fifth season of his complete record keeping, but he has a general interest in sorts, switching this week to the adventures of Middless of the control of the second size of

He is (naturally) going to keep their records too, this time right from the start.

Outside sport, the Weston objective is to become articled to a soliction if he finishes successfully at Harrow County School, "If not, I'll try Journalism" he says, "everyone's second choice."

## Clapton woe

His mixed world of work and play has led to some agonaing last minute decisions. He had a difficult exam on the day after the away match at Clapton, tossed up mentally and decided "Wealdstone first."

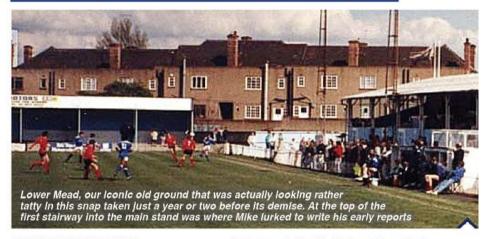
He then agonized all evening throughout the 4-1 defeat as his club gave one of their worst sway performances of the season — it was this night, incidentally, incidentally, fluctures intimated to your typist that he was probably

From the home side's second goal, the press seats were greeted with the moan. "I'd have been halfway through my prep by now" and further comments on goals three and four were as from a soul in torment.

But it hasn't all been torture. It took him all summer to simmer down after the Amaleur Cup win two years ago and even the subsequent season, disapprointing as it was, had its compensations as his "best Wealdstone player I've seen" Bobby Childs was still with the club.

"He provided my happies record," says Michael "when he had a seven minute hat-trick at Lower Mead against Leytonstone, every one of them coming from the halfway line. I can still see those goals being scored to cheer me up when things are gloony."

# **MIKE WESTON CONTINUED**



### FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

first announcement of 1st team results (long before Ceefax, internet etc). Through the 60s and 70s I'd attend most away games until domesticity reined me in. I was at virtually all home games (and significant aways) until 1991 when had to move to Nottingham. Since then attended whenever and wherever possible but health problems have imposed some decline in recent times in attendance but none whatsoever in interest.

Where dld you work before retirement? I was a freelance sports reporter in the 1960s and 70s but my main bread and butter work was as a legal officer for the Civil Service in the Inland Revenue (Death duties, Inheritance Tax etc). If ever asked, I'd always try and focus on the reporting aspects for some inexplicable reason.

Have family commitments and work curtailed you watching matches? They have never been a hindrance to watch the Stones which is why I chose tolerant wife Val, and my job, with great care. My son Matthew was an early registered "Pebble" but unaccountably he never really enjoyed the experience or indeed football - once big enough to register protest.

Your all-time favourite Stones team?
That's tough to call with so many decades to choose from. After much thought over the years I'd have to plump for North;
Mickey Doyle, John Ashworth, Paul Bowgett,
Stuart Pearce; Robin Wainwright, Charlie

Townsend, Hughie Lindsay: Alan Cordice, George Duck and John Henderson. Subs (as a cop-out) Ray Goddard, Eddie Dillsworth, John Watson, Bernie Bremer and Mark Graves. A bit light on midfield defensive cover but a formidable back four.

Do you use the online media coverage to keep In touch? I follow the club online three to four times a day. I'm impressed and grateful with the whole set-up which is very valuable to a distant "country member" such as myself.

What do you think of the programme?
The content and lay-out of the club prog is and has been for some time - quite superb and vastly better than all other contenders. Due to the good offices of the Megastore - with away assistance from the irreplaceable and much-missed Mim - I have received home and away progs for a considerable number of years. The Stones progs are constantly readable, informative and interesting - we are fortunate to have such quality and committed editorial personnel.

Does it have a future in print? As a paper- familiar oldie I hope the print format has a viable future. I consider it as an integral part of the match-day experience as well as a memento to be savoured in later years.

What do you think of the bars/catering at The Vale?



I've no great experience of them but from all reasoned accounts they seem to work very well. Certainly seem to be far more efficient and affable than in earlier days (say 7 or 8 years ago).

How does The Vale compare to Lower Mead? Sadly, speaking as one who spent his formative (35) years at Lower Mead I could never envisage any other ground replacing it in my affections - even if the Nou Camp was transferred to the Vale. I feel fortunate to have enjoyed the Stadium experience in many of its best days which will be difficult to replicate with the inevitable reduced atmosphere of smaller modern crowds. In my initial supporting days I used to watch from the halfway-line facing the Main Stand. On reflection this may have been a worthy attempt by my

companions to protect me from the greater "enthusiasm" generated behind the opposing goal. In the 60s and early 70s Down in a Dorset when back garden, Mike goes fully-Stone with this winning

combination

"working" on match days I was ensconced in the Press Box, i.e front row of the Main Stand. Thereafter I migrated to my natural habitat behind the goal we were attacking.

Where will the club be in five years? In the absence of a major windfall and/ or change of ground I think the club will struggle to reach beyond our new level (the National Conference) in the foreseeable future. I am not sure we have the facilities or finance to compete strongly with the "bigger" clubs with better stadiums, budgets and community support. The Stones should continue to thrive so long as its heart remains as vigorous as present both on and off the pitch thanks in no small part to its wonderful supporters and - more particularly - its volunteer army who provide so much behind the scenes. One small worry on my part is whether these volunteers will be replaced as time moves on.

What about the Megastore? As a distant supporter I should like to say what a wonderful job Adam and his cohorts - plus predecessors - have consistently provided over the past 30 years. As a result I possess just about every memento, binder, shirt, clock, amuse-bouche, magnet produced by the store. In particular Adam has selflessly provided excellent, prompt and patient service to keep me (and countless others) fully informed and kitted out. Just one of the many things that are great about our proud old club!



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# **REWIND \*\*\*\* OCTOBER 3, 1979**

# A fitting look back at football when and the Stones found their feet by

Wednesday October 3, 1979: Alliance Premier League Cup 2nd round replay: Wealdstone 3 Boston United 2

ur eyes were opened big time four decades ago when the Stones made the cut (just!) to become one of the founding members of the Alliance Premier League.

The APL was the forerunner of the Conference, now the National League, and comprised the top clubs from the two most powerful combinations outside the Football League: the Southern League and the Northern Premier League.

We'd only been playing in the Southern League Prem for five years. Five years before that we had been an amateur club competing in the London-based Isthmian League.. it was a huge step up, even as supporters, never mind as players, to suddenly be making trips to places like moneyed giants like Yeovil, Weymouth, Kettering and Worcester City. Now the big hitters from the



Nigel Johnson (foreground) challenges in the first game at Boston. Robin Wainwright and Willie Watson look on in the 1-1 draw

Northern Prem were in the mix too and the Stones (who had squeaked in with an aggregate 12th placing in the previous two seasons) were officially the least-fancied club to survive in this rarefied company. For we now had trips to places like Scarborough, Barrow, Altrincham, Bangor City, Stafford Rangers and ves. Boston United to

Many sides heads would have dropped after con-ceeding a goal at this stage but 'Stones, under

nager Ken Payne, were in no nood to go down without a

Wealdstone's match-winner Johnson in fact gave

charismatic caretaker ma

when Brown scored his second goal of the game to give Boston the lead in the 78th minute.

'Stones, unfortunate time at Boston the previous

not to have settled it first

aturday, Northerners

bothered and bewildered

mance as they came

deservedly

Once more the ball was sent into a packed Stones defence, and Brown was on hand with a lethal finishing

# Wealdstone 3 Boston United 2 (aet)

done at Lower Mead on minutes into extra time gave the battling Blues ed in this Alliance Premier League Cup victory over Boston Unit second round replay.

looked to have broken down in the area when a complete omething to luck it was cer ainly no more than ther equaliser, with minutes left.

free kick, after Cordice had his side a dream start the game barely minutes old from





# TIM PARKS WEALDSTONE 2020-21

# the 'Conference National' was born. defeating powerhouse Boston United

contend with

This was what football administrators were hoping would turn into the Football League Division Five. Eventual automatic promotion to the full-time ranks. Nirvana to the 'big' clubs like Yeovil, Scarborough, Altrincham and Boston who had been campaigning for that elevation for years... but frankly scary for clubs like Wealdstone which still possessed echoes of that amateur past. There were upheavals and resignations in the Lower Mead boardroom as the members debated whether or not to join the APL and plenty of them voted for stagnation in the Southern League... until finally the fans, and a groundswell of local opinion in the Harrow Observer, saw the club change its mind.

The season started predictably badly. Remember that this was a team that had crept into a promotion place, not the sides of 73-74 (which won the SL South title by 11 points) or the Stones of last season (winners of the NLS on a surge of beautiful football), and manager Alan Fogarty's over-cautious approach saw us tiptoe to defeats

at Worcester, Kettering and Maidstone in those early weeks. When we then capitulated at home to a poor Leamington side, the Worzel Gummidge-lookalike manager offered his resignation (not quite as bravely as we thought, as he had just been offered a three

CONTINUED OVERPAGE



he opening minutes. Shortly after a fine long vall from Boyle found Moss

in Bobby Moss putting the finishing touch to a ball that crawled over the line with Stewart looking on in game and so it proved.

After Stones had been let off the hook when Boston's Kabia amazingly blazed defence and 'keeper resulted Kabia amazingly blazed over the bar when faced with an open goal from four yards, the ever present Nigel Johnson became the toast of

In spite of a disappointingly small crowd, the tension could be cut with a
knife as the match ended 2-2
at 90 minutes and 30
minutes extra time came into With both teams feeling the strain, it always seemed likely that the side that scored first would win the operation.

despair.

Rocked by a goal so early in the match, the Boston defence then found themselves on the receiving end of 15 minutes of solid 'Stones But after Stones key defender Fred Berwick had been forced to leave the field with a broken nose after a clash with Boston's Denis Leigh, who himself limped off minutes later, the Blues were themselves forced on the defensive as Boston gradually found their feet. Shortly after Cranstone had denied Kabia by bravely diving at his feet to disposess him on the half hour, Boston willed hand had heart and hand had hour, Boston had denied Kabia by bravely diving at his feet to disposess

from well inside the

Wealdstone: Cranstone; Barwick

Lower Mead when his ex-cellent finishing gave 'Stones

he winner Sub By

pulled level with a well worked move following a free kick.

Mallinder pumped the ball into the area where it was flicked on neatly to **Brown**. With Willie Watson and histitute Paul Brannigan into the area where it flicked on neatly to B who finished well.

looking confident at the back, Boston were unable to apptialise on the equaliser flough and the sides went in evel at half time with all to ally for. The second half started ery much the same as the irst with 'Stones providing he more inventive football, and a dangerous across from Ordice was nervously turched clear by Stewart in the control of the substitute

whose deep cross missed Viegl Johnson, steaming into he box, by inches. Cordice also went close vith a low drive that the 3oston keeper kept out with reflex save that probably wed more to luck than But Boston, Northern remier League kingpins for

# REWIND <<<< OCTOBER 3 CONTD

year contract at Tamworth, close to his West Midlands home) and Wealdstone turned to reserve team manager Ken Payne for salvation.

The affable Ken, with just 'Manager, Whitwell FC (Herts County League)' on his previous footballing CV, was surprisingly effective as the players responded his his gung-ho approach and the League cup replay was only his second game in charge. The first came in the 1-1 draw at Boston's impressive York Street ground (our first real glimpse of the facilities on offer North of the Watford Gap) when the Stones suddenly showed what they could do once the Fogarty straitiacket was removed.

We had some very decent players - the young Stuart Pearce and non-League international Willie Watson at the back, midfield generals Robin Wainwright and Fred Barwick, the explosive Neil Cordice and wily old fox Bobby Moss. George Duck had left the club after seven sensational years but we had high hopes in Cordice and Luton youngster Nigel Johnson to fill his goalscoring shoes.

Well, as you can see from the report on the previous page we beat the muchtrumpeted Boston side with a Johnson goal in extra time (in front of a pitiful 429 crowd, when there had been over 1,700 at the first game) and went to the Nuneaton fortress three days later and dragged ourselves off the

bottom of the APL table with a 1-0 win.

Suddenly, the impossible seemed possible. We could never buy a goal at Bath City, yet went there and drew 4-4. And then smashed the redoubtable Yeovil Town 5-0 at Lower Mead! We even had an FA Cuprun that ended in the First Round Proper with an unlucky 1-0 defeat to Southend United

Results evened out and it was three successive home wins in early 1980 that kept us up. But, to be honest, Ken Payne was a one-season wonder and when results began to nosedive the following autumn, Allen Batsford and Brian Hall rode in to the rescue... okay, they failed to save the Stones from relegation, but what followed was the fabulous mid-80s. And you all know that story.



Saturday October 3, 2015 (Ryman League Prem): Wealdstone 2 Dartford 1

emember 2015-16? Our second season in the National League South saw another abysmal start (one draw and five defeats in our opening six games) before we set off on a ridiculous run that spanned 13 unbeaten matches in all competitions, only terminated by that 6-2 defeat by Colchester United, here at The Vale, in the FA Cup First Round.

This defeat of The Darts was the eighth game of that wonderful run and it enabled us to climb out of the bottom three. Veteran striker Jefferson Louis, who would stay the whole season which was (in his career) an unprecedented amount of time, turned provider by setting up the opening goal for Tom Hamblin - and claimed a second assist when Shaun Lucien made it 2-0 after the break.

Stones had early shouts for a penalty waved away when Cambridge United loanee Matthew Lowe (who came back to haunt us twice with Brackley) stumbled in the box.

The drab affair was ambling towards halftime goalless when Louis controlled a corner from the left and held off the challengers before squaring for Hamblin (pictured above

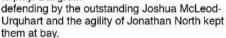


celebrating) to drill his shot calmly through a crowd of bodies

Dartford finished the season just outside the play-offs, but their lack of confidence was palpable and Stones lead doubled on 54 minutes. The strength of Louis (pictured below) showed again as he ran across the box before teeing

up Lucien, who sidefooted a calm finish to the far corner of the net in front of a rapturous Bulla Stand.

Dartford rallied with Bradbrook firing one chance inches too high before sending a thumping header in off the bar to halve the arrears with just over 15 minutes to play. But great



Stones' season rumbled on with a memorable FA Cup trip to Brockenhurst seven days later... and then a 2-1 defeat of Bognor in the final qualifying round when Hamblin again was on the scoresheet. Colchester proved too strong but what an afternoon that was at the Vale!

Wealdstone: North, Duffy (Corcoran 82), Binns, McLeod-Urquhart, Hamblin, Godfrey, Wright, Lowe, Louis (McGleish 90), Ball (Davies 76), Lucien. Subs not used: Hudson-Odoi, Calcutt. Attendance: 665

# 2004: Deano & Grays flattened by a super Stones Cup showing

Sat Oct 3, 2004 (FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round): Wealdstone 3 Grays Athletic 1 By JON TAFFEL

ention it quietly, but even the presence of Dean Brennan was unable to prevent Conference South side Grays Athletic - who were full-time in these, the Essex club's glory years - spinning to FA Cup defeat against the lowly Ryman Premier League Stones at the White Lion Ground.

Much like the previous two 'Rewinds', we had made a dismal start with two wins and eight defeats in our first ten league games. But Gordon Bartlett's side DID possess

match-winners like Richard Jolly, Marvin Morgan and Gary McKeown (and even the fledgling Jermaine Beckford) and there was a glimmer of optimism among the pathetic 282 crowd - low because of the Sunday afternoon kick-off at landlords Edgware's ground - when we dominated possession in the first 20 minutes.

Of course the expectation was that the visitors would score with their first meaningful attack. Which is what happened, Vill Powell given far too much time and space. But then Marv broke through, rounding the keeper before taking an eternity to slot home for 1-1. Dave Ryan was immense at the back with Helder Valdez (Barnet loanee) while Martin Carter alongside McKeown and Jason put the Grays midfield of Brennan & Co in the shade... and amazingly we even scored the goals we deserved with 20 mins to go!

Jolly rounded the keeper for 2-1 and just moments later he beat keeper Carl Emberson to the ball and was brought down for a penalty which McKeown converted. We went on to beat Boreham Wood 5-1 in the Cup before losing controversially to Histon... while Grays went on to win the National League South AND the FA Trophy! Not quite a non-League 'double', Deano, but pretty close...

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01 111-1	louse caterer Lyrin Evans	· Match-day program	nines for all in your	party • Name and					
MATCH			SPONSORS						
	STOCKPORT COUNTY Tuesday, 13th October Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East							
	<b>WREXHAM</b> Saturday, 17th October Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?							
	CHESTERFIELD Tuesday, 20th October Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows							
	<b>DOVER ATHLETIC</b> Saturday, 14th November Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?					
	<b>SUTTON UNITED</b> Saturday, 21st November Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?					
	TORQUAY UNITED Tuesday, 1st December Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?					
	<b>WEYMOUTH</b> Saturday, 12th December Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?					
	BOREHAM WOOD Monday, 28th December Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?					
	MAIDENHEAD UNITED Saturday, 2nd January Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?					
	ALDERSHOT TOWN Saturday, 23rd January Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?					
	<b>WOKING</b> Saturday, 6th February Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?					
	BROMLEY Saturday, 13th February	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?					

Vanarama National League

present the 'Man of the Match' award • A stunning dedicated glass award \*Please note that we can accommodate multiple match sponsors and can tailor the experience to whatever are your requirements. For example, we can cater for as many as 25 people in your group in our magnificent hospitality lounge. Our match sponsors and their guests are all entertained in surroundings befitting such a special occasion be it a birthday, anniversary or any other special event!

We will work with you to ensure you and your guests get to enjoy a truly memorable experience. If you or your organisation are interested in sponsoring a match here at The Vale, please contact Club President, Paul Rumens (paulrumens59@gmail.com or call 07710 929692) to discuss.

\*All above subject to current COVID restrictions.

Saturday, 22nd May

Vanarama National League

MATCH		SPONSORS	
EASTLEIGH Tuesday, 23rd February Vanarama National League	Your Name	Your Name	Your Name
	Here?	Here?	Here?
FC HALIFAX TOWN Saturday, 6th March Vanarama National League	Norman	Your Name	Your Name
	Goldsmith	Here?	Here?
KING'S LYNN TOWN Tuesday, 9th March Vanarama National League	Your Name	Your Name	Your Name
	Here?	Here?	Here?
NOTTS COUNTY Saturday, 27th March Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
BARNET  Monday, 5th April  Vanarama National League	Connect	Your Name	Your Name
	Vending	Here?	Here?
ALTRINCHAM Tuesday, 13th April Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
HARTLEPOOL UNITED Saturday, 17th April Vanarama National League	Your Name	Your Name	Your Name
	Here?	Here?	Here?
YEOVIL TOWN Saturday, 1st May Vanarama National League	Your Name	Your Name	Your Name
	Here?	Here?	Here?
DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE Saturday, 8th May Yanarama National League	Your Name	Your Name	Your Name
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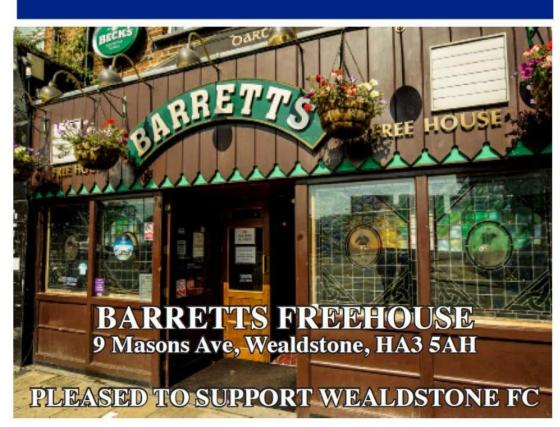
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# Results 2020

OCTOBER	Comp.	Result	Crowd	Lge Pos	Wind Dir/Sp	Sky / I Temp	Elev. (Mtrs)	- 1	2		3
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KING'S LYNN TOWN	VNL							The last	SECTION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON NAMED IN	The second	III CHARTON
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VNL

VNL VNL

22nd August Bedford Town 3-1 25th August Luton Town L 0-3 27th August Southall L 2-3

29th August Colchester United H

15 Chesterfield 22 SOLIHULL MOORS

29 Woking

L 1-2 1st September Northwood 6-0

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Pictures from our first win in the National League Premier since 1988 when we heat Wrexham last Saturday. Courtesy of Jon Taffel / **Adam Williams** 

# PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY RESULTS

5th September Dartford L 1-2 Efete 8th September Haves & Yeading 5-2 12th September Havant & Waterlooville H 3-1 15th September St.Albans City 0-4 19th September Dulwich Hamlet 0-1 0-1 26th September Slough Town

Trialist O, Parish, Hughes, Emmanuel, Lafayette Emmanuel, Parish, Hughes

Efete



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# BY STEVE DUCKER



It's fifty years since our final season as an amateur club, so to mark our big step up to professionalism we're 'live blogging' the 1970/71 season via one programme from each of the 92 Football League clubs playing back then. Here are the first four.



**Burnley 1** (Dave Thomas)

Liverpool 2 (Emlyn Hughes, Alun Evans)

Ref P Partridge, Middlesbrough | Att 26,702

Summary: First of the season's 2.028 league fixtures puts home side widely touted as "Team of the Seventies" up against opponents who actually were. Burnley launch "match day magazine" to celebrate.

Programme highlight: Photo of striker Ralph Coates already showing evidence of a combover waiting to happen.

Programme lowlight: Rebrand of match day publication as Vol 1 No 1, ignoring 80 plus years of history at a stroke. Not unique to the Premier League after all.

Programme bingo: Local journalist spends full page moaning how tough Burnley's opening fixtures

Ahead of their time: Midfielder Martin Dobson, 22, who lists smoking among his dislikes in the Q&A feature. In 1970 he was probably in a minority of

Any other business: Burnley didn't win a match until the end October, and ended the decade by getting relegated to the Third Division for the first

Fans' cliche of choice: "Nothing is decided in August".

Stones result: 0-2 at Tooting & Mitcham Utd. Not the most auspicious of starts.







 $\overline{1}$ 

Monday 17 August, 7.30pm, Division 1 **West Ham United 0** 

Arsenal O

Ref J Finney, Hereford | Att 39,993

Summary: London derby played at one of over 30 grounds in use during 1970-71 that no longer exist. Small sized "Hammer" programme perfect for Upton Park's Chicken Run terrace. 69

Programme highlight: Colour photos of players, a novelty back then. The one of Pat Holland has about 50 fans in the background, only one of whom is wearing club colours.

Programme lowlight: The original owner deciding it would benefit from having the score written on it. And the attendance.

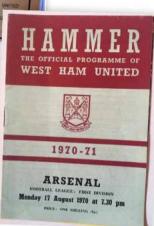
Programme bingo: "Fan of the Day" article mention for long distance supporter on military service in the Caribbean.

Ahead of their time: The reader who wrote in asking: 'When is "Hammer" going to have its own quiz. It could have a title of "Hammers Quiz." The Viz letters page, right there...

Any other business: Despite having barely 48 hours recovery time after their opener away to Everton, nine Arsenal players started both games and the two changes were enforced through injuries.

Fans' cliche of choice: "It's a point gained, really." Stones result: Ouch. The day after this one we went down 1-6 at home to Wycombe Wanderers.





(6)



4

(5)

# Wednesday 19 August, 7.30pm, Division 1

Wolves 2 (Derek Dougan, Hugh Curran)

WOLVES V DERBY COUNTY

Derby County 4 (John McGovern 2, Alan Durban, John O'Hare)

Ref N Burtenshaw, Great Yarmouth | Att 29,910

**Summary:** Latest instalment of a fixture as old as the Football League itself sees Brian Clough's Rams get their first points of the season

Programme highlight: The welcome to new signing Bobby Gould, who arrives determined to show Wolves were "right to risk £50,000 on a man not rated good enough for the First Division." Ouch!

Programme lowlight: The Wolves badge redesign, which just happened to be by the 22-year-old son of a former player. Why couldn't they run a competition for local school kids like everyone else?

Programme bingo: The half time scoreboard. Still there despite only four other games and a Wolves reserve match taking place. <sup>1</sup>

**Ahead of their time:** Wolves manager Bill McGarry using his column to opine that pre-season started too early.

Any other business: Earlier that year, Wolves' talented forward Peter Knowles gave up the game to become a Jehovah's Witness. After two defeats, it was the players led behind who appeared not to have a prayer..

Cliche: "What does the defence do in training exactly?"

Saturday 22 August, 3pm, Division 2

(3)

Hull City 1 (Chris Simpkin)

# Middlesbrough 0

Ref R Barker, Crewe | Att 20,929

Summary: Second division fare at the now defunct Boothferry Park is settled by an 84th minute winner.

Programme highlight: The referee profile, which confirms he really was called Ronnie Barker. Whether he told anyone he sent off that it was "goodnight from me" is not recorded.

Programme lowlight: Back cover still listing team line ups in the 2-3-5 formation favoured by pub table football games, like Mexico 70 had never happened.

**Programme bingo:** New Hull player manager Terry Neill "welcomes" Middlesbrough but says "hospitality ceases" from 3pm....

Ahead of their time: Linesman (amber flag) Mr A Ferguson of Manchester. He must have been super fit as a gentleman of that name could be found assisting referees from the touch line more than 40 years later.

**Any other business:** Earlier that month, a match in the pre-season Watney Cup tournament between Hull and Manchester United ended in the first penalty shootout on English soil.

Cliche: "Told you we shouldn't have left early."

Stones result: This is more like it: We register a
2-1 home win against Dulwich Hamlet.

Next time: Southampton, Chelsea, Barnsley and Cambridge...

# CHESTERFIELD

# Our first fixture back at the pinnacle of Non League football sees us encounter the Spireites for the first time.

otentially five or more teams have been called Chesterfield Football Club at different times. A Derbyshire Times newspaper report from 2 January 1864 noted a scheduled game between "Chesterfield and Norton football clubs", suggesting that a Chesterfield FC, whether loosely or formally organised, was active from at least 1863.

A second Chesterfield FC was formally created as an offshoot of Chesterfield Cricket Club in October 1867. The cricket and football clubs moved to the Recreation Ground at Saltergate in 1871.

the same year that they became separate entities. However, a souring of the relationship between the two led to the closure of the football club in 1881, when it found itself homeless. Many players joined other local sides, notably Chesterfield Livingstone, a club that took up using the Saltergate site, and Chesterfield Spital, a team which competed in the early years of the FA Cup.

Three years later, in 1884, a third entity called Chesterfield Football Club was formed, again making its home at Saltergate. It drew in players from the preceding club and both Chesterfield Livingstone and Chesterfield Spital, though re-

cords show Spital continued as a separate club. After changing its name to Chesterfield Town, the club turned professional in 1891 and won several local trophies in the following two seasons,



entering the FA Cup for the first time in 1892. For the 1892–93 season, the club wore an extraordinary playing strip of all dark blue with the Union Jack emblazoned across the front

of the shirt. Chesterfield joined the Midland League in 1896, and successfully applied for a place in the Second Division of the Football League at the start of the 1899–1900 season, finishing seventh. After finishing bottom of the League three years in a row, the club failed to gain re-election to the League in 1909, returning to the Midland League.

In 1915 Chesterfield
Town was put into voluntary liquidation and a
new club with the same
name was formed by a
local restaurateur to play
wartime football using locally based 'guests' from Football

League clubs. It lasted only two years before its management and players were suspended by the FA for illegal payments and the club shut





down.

The current Chesterfield FC was formed on 24 April 1919 by Chesterfield Borough Council, seeing it as a way to spearhead improvements in local recreational provision. Initially called Chesterfield Municipal, the club made great strides on the pitch in its first season, lifting the Midland League title — and did so despite three changes of management. However, The Football Association and the Football League had already made clear their vehement opposition to a council-run club and ultimately forced it to cut its ties and become independent, reflected in a name change to Chesterfield FC in December 1920.

In 1921–22, Chesterfield became a founder member of the new Football League Third Division North and won the league title in the 1930–31 season and were promoted to the Second Division. Relegation followed in 1933, but the Third Division North title was again won in 1936.

After the war the club achieved their best League position, finishing fourth in the Second Division in 1946–47 but were relegated at the end of the 1950–51 season. They were placed in the Third Division on its formation at the start of the 1958–59 season; future England international goalkeeper Gordon Banks made

his professional debut in a Third Division game in November 1958, but was sold to Leicester City for a then-club record £7,000 fee at the end of the season. In 1961 Chesterfield were relegated to the Fourth Division for the first time.

Chesterfield spent eight seasons in the Fourth Division, earning promotion as champions in 1969-70. The Anglo-Scottish Cup was won in 1981. The club was relegated in 1983-84. and won the Fourth Division title the following season. Financial difficulties forced Chesterfield Borough Council to bail out the club in 1985 and the club's training ground to be sold. Relegation followed in 1988–89: Chesterfield reached the play-off competition a year later, but were beaten by Cambridge United in the play-off final. Play-off victories over local rivals Mansfield Town and Bury in 1994-95 to earn promotion to the redesignated Second Division. The 1996-97 season saw Chesterfield beat six clubs including Premier League side Nottingham Forest to reach the semi-final of the FA Cup for the first time. The semi-final match against Middlesbrough was contentiously drawn 3-3 after extra time; Chesterfield lost the replay 3-0.

The club were relegated to the Third Division in 2000. The following year, Chesterfield were deducted nine points for financial irregularities. Amid mounting evidence of fraud ownership passed to a hastily organised fans' group, the Chesterfield Football Supporters Society. Massive debts forced the club into administration, but the team still secured the division's final automatic promotion place. Chesterfield were relegated to League Two at the end of the 2006–07 season.

The club departed its historic home at Saltergate at the end of the 2009–10 season, and moved to newly built B2net Stadium. Chesterfield were promoted to League One after winning the League Two title in 2010–11 season. They went on to win the EFL Trophy for the first time in March 2012, defeating Swindon Town 2–0 in the final. However they were relegated out of League One the following month, before again returning to the third tier as League Two champions at the end of the 2013–14 season.

Chesterfield secured sixth-place in League One at the end of the 2014–15 campaign.

Following relegation to League Two in 2017/1 the club was again relegated out of the English Football League at the end of the 2017–18 season.

Last season Chesterfield finished in 15th place in the National League

# CHESTERFIELD - WHO'S WHO?



### 1. KYLE LETHEREN - GOALKEEPER

Experienced keeper Kyle Letheren signed for the Spireites in August 2020. The 32-year-old was a free agent after leaving Salford City at the end of the 2019/20 season, where he made 19 appearances. Letheren started his career at Swansea City before moving to Barnsley. His career has taken him to various clubs including Plymouth Argyle, Blackpool and York City. He has also had stints north of the border with Kilmarnock and Dundee in the Scottish Premiership.

## 3. DAVID BUCHANAN - DEFENCE

Signed from Northampton Town in the summer of 2019. He has played for a number of clubs, including Tranmere Rovers and Preston North End and made over 500 appearances in his career. Buchanan was called up to the Northern Ireland Under 19s squad in 2004. In 2006 he was also called up to the Northern Ireland Under 21 squad and went on to make made 15 appearances at that level.

### 4. JOSEF YARNEY - DEFENCE

The Liverpool-born defender, signed permanently for the Spireites in 2019. He spent time at the club on loan from Newcastle and after being released from his parent club, he signed permanently for the Spireites. Yarney also spent time on loan at Football League club Morecambe in 2018, where he made over 20 appearances for the Shrimps.

### 5. WILL EVANS - DEFENCE

Evans is an experienced central defender who began his career at Swindon Town. After a loan move to Hereford United in 2011, he signed permanently for the club in 2012 and then joined Eastleigh a year later. Evans then moved to Aldershot in 2016, making over 70 appearances, before joining the Spireites in the summer of 2018. Evans won both the Player of the Year and Players' Player of the Year awards at the end of the 2018/19 season.

### **6.LAURENCE MAGUIRE - DEFENCE**

A central defender, who has also played in a defensive mid eld role, Maguire is a proud product of Chester eld's academy. He is the brother of Manchester United and England star Harry Maguire. Laurence is also an England international, after he was called up to the England 'C' squad in October 2018.

### 7. JOE ROWLEY - MIDFIELD

Rowley is one of Chester eld's current longest-

serving players. Born in Shefield, he played for Shefield United as a youth but made the switch to the Spireites academy later on. He progressed through the club's academy and made his rst-team debut iat the age of just 17. In March 2019, he was called up to the England 'C' squad to make his international debut. Rowley plays in central mid eld or on the right wing for the Spireites.

### 8. CURTIS WESTON - MIDFIELD

Weston is an experienced mid elder who has played for a number of clubs including Millwall and Leeds United. He became the youngest player to ever play in an FA Cup nal, when he appeared for Millwall against English giants Manchester United at the age of just 17 years and 119 days in 2004. He signed for Gillingham in 2008, where he spent four years and made nearly 150 appearances, scoring 15 goals, before leaving to join Barnet in 2012. Weston was a Barnet player over a period of 6 years, making 213 appearances and scoring 23 goals for the Bees. Weston then made the switch back up north, signing for the Spireites in 2018. Weston won the League Two play-offs in 2009 with Gillingham and also won the Conference Premier in 2015 with Barnet.

### 10. LIAM MANDEVILLE - MIDFIELD

Mandeville began his career at Doncaster Rovers, coming through the club's academy before breaking into the rst team and making his debut in 2015. He spent a small amount of time on loan at Whitby Town and Colchester, before spending the 2018/19 season on loan at Morecambe. He was released from Doncaster in 2019 and signed for the Spireites ahead of the 2019/20 campaign. Mandeville is a ballplaying mid elder, who plays in an attacking role, but can also play as a striker.

### 12. LUKE CODDINGTON -GOALKEEPER

The keeper joined Chester eld in the summer of 2019 after his contract expired at Northampton Town. He has represented England at three different youth levels. Coddington, who began his footballing career at Middlesbrough as a youth, has represented England at three different youth levels. After signing for Hudders eld Town in 2016, he made ve appearances for Wrexham on loan, before signing for Northampton in 2017. Coddington was again loaned out in 2018, this time to Guiseley, making 16 appearances for the National League North side. After his contract expired with Northampton, he signed for the Spireites.

### 13. MILAN BUTTERFIELD -MIDFIELD

Butterfeld is a 6ft 4' central defensive mid elder. He was bought from National league North club Kidderminster Harriers in the summer for a nominal fee. Butterfeld is a Bermuda international who has come up against the likes of Mexico and Costa Rica. He came through the ranks at Bermudan club Robin Hood before signing for Walsall in 2016. After loan moves to Leamington and Rushall, Butter eld signed a permanent contract with Kidderminster in 2018 and went on to make nearly 50 appearances for the club, scoring three goals, over a two-year period, before signing for the Spireites in the summer.

### 18. NATHAN TYSON - FORWARD

Tyson signed on loan for the Spireites from Notts County in January 2020 before making his move permanent in August 2020. Born in Reading, the highly experienced forward has played for a host of different clubs, including Nottingham Forest, Derby County and Wycombe Wanderers. He came through the Reading academy, making his rst-team debut for the Royals in April 2000. Tyson has made over 500 Football League appearances and has also played for Scottish club Kilmarnock. He was promoted to the Championship in 2007 as part of a Nottingham Forest side who nished runners-up.

### 19. SCOTT BODEN - FORWARD

Boden has had two spells with the Spireites, rst playing for the club between 2008 and 2013, making 103 appearances for the club and scoring 15 goals. In his rst spell with the club, he was part of the League Two title- winning squad in 2010/11 and also won the EFL Trophy with Chester eld in 2012. He returned to the club in January 2019 from Gateshead for an undisclosed fee. Boden's other clubs include Halifax, Newport and Wrexham.

### 20. JAMIE SHARMAN - DEFENCE

Sharman is a young central defender who made the progression from the club's academy to the 1st team squad, after signing his 1st professional contract in the 2018/19 season. He won the Academy Player of the Year award at the end of the 2018/19 season, helping with his progression to 1st-team football.

### 21.JACK MCKAY - FORWARD

Born in Glasgow, McKay began his youth career at Doncaster Rovers, progressing

through the academy and being named

Academy Player of the Year in 2013. He made his rst-team debut against Shef eld United the following year. The striker went on to sign for Leeds United in 2016 before joining Cardiff City in 2018. McKay initially joined the Spireites on loan, before signing permanently in the summer of 2019

### 23. JONATHAN SMITH - MIDFIELD

Smith originally joined the Spireites in 2018 on loan from Stevenage and the move quickly became a permanent one after his contract with Stevenage was cancelled by mutual consent. Before his move to Chester eld, Smith had made nearly 400 appearances for a variety of clubs across the English football pyramid, such as Forest Green Rovers, York City and Luton Town. Born in Preston, he was at Morecambe as a youth player. Smith won the League Two title in 2012 with Swindon and helped Luton Town claim the Conference Premier title in 2014

### 24. TOM DENTON - FORWARD

Denton was signed from Alfreton Town in 2018. Born in West Yorkshire, he spent his youth career at Wake eld before signing for Hudders eld Town in 2008. From 2008 to 2014, he player for several clubs before joining North Ferriby Town in July 2014. He went on to win the FA Trophy with the club. Denton then spent two years at Halifax Town where he scored 27 goals in 74 appearances, before making the switch to Alfreton in 2018.

### 25. LUKE RAWSON - DEFENCE

A product of the club's academy, Rawson made his rst-team debut on the nal day of the 2017/18 season. Rawson is a boyhood Spireites supporter.

### 26. HAYDN HOLLIS - DEFENCE

Haydn came through the ranks at local club Notts County as a youth. Hollis had some time out on loan at teams such as Barrow and Darlington before making the rst team at Meadow Lane. After making over 100 appearances for the Magpies, he then signed for Forest Green in 2018. At the start of In 2019 he was loaned out to the Spireites before make his move permanent.. 30. REGAN HUTCHINSON - DEFENCE Hutchinson joined Chester eld in the summer of 2019 after impressing on trial.. Hutchinson plays as a right-back, but he can also play in mid eld. 32. JORDAN CROPPER - DEFENCE

The young right-back was signed on loan from



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**ONLY HERE FOR THE DAY** 

# Welcome to the Chesterfield fan

We talk to two Spireites supporters desperate to see their club avoid the 'stigma' of remaining non-League

CIARAN LINDLEY, 29

**Do you live in the town?** Yes, I live in Chesterfield, just a 2-minute walk from the ground. Lived in Wales for three years for Uni, but still made sure I made a fair few Chesterfield games via a long train ride.

Who first took you to games? My Dad has always taken me. He started taking me when I was ten - not sure what my first game was and if I'm honest, I had a couple of seasons where I wasn't that bothered about watching the football, spending a decent chunk of a game kicking a coke bottle around. But then in the 2003/04 season a 2-1 defeat to Colchester on a Tuesday night caught my attention for some reason.. I think it was a dramatic game, and the floodlights were on. Fair play to my Dad for being so persistent, I hope I'm that patient when I have kids!

Do you follow any other clubs? I don't, no. I remember not minding Liverpool when I was younger, just because I liked Michael Owen. But as I got older, I realised that Town took enough out of me, never mind finding anymore time, money or attention.

Your best moment watching Town? That was the last time we won League Two. We secured it away at Burton, 2 goals from Jay O'Shea. We had more fans in their end than I think we were legally allowed, so it was buzzing. There was no drama, just a performance and the relief of 'not messing it up'. O'Shea scoring the second is plastered on my phone cover.

What's the fan base like? Our fan base is like most of our size. We probably have a core 3,000 that will always turn up, but have

the ability to push that towards 7/8,000 if we're on a roll. Our away support is

definitely up there, plenty of nutters like myself that will chuck themselves at ridiculous Tuesday night games at the other end of the country.

How many are you expecting to bring to Ruislip for today's opener? I think in normal conditions we'd take a couple of hundred. New ground, first day, but a bit of a trek. I'll be sat at home listening to it, with stress coming out of my eyeballs.

What's the club's natural level? Probably top end of League Two, bottom end of League One if I'm being honest. But we're down here because we deserve it, thanks to our lovely former board. Unfortunately it's been two relegation battles so far, so it'd be nice just to be mid-table with an outside shot at playoffs to be honest.

How awful was it losing your EFL status? With all respect to the teams down here, it was a punch in the gut. When we lost in a relegation six-pointer to Grimsby in the last minute, which all but sent us down, I must have sat and stared in to space for about half an hour.

Is there a stigma to being non-League? There is a stigma, but it was worse because we'd never been there, and were such an old club with a proud history. It's hard to say whether things have matched my stereotype, because we've been so bad

### WEALDSTONE 2020-21



ourselves!

What do you know about Wealdstone? My knowledge of the club is purely Football Manager (Playstation) based unfortunately, as I love grabbing a team at the lower level and taking them up. So next time you have a vacancy, then give me a call.

Who's been Chesterfield's best-ever manager in your opinion? Paul Cook by a million miles - he nearly took us to the championship, and we didn't even have a striker. The football we played had Championship sides afraid of being shown up. Might not see the likes of it again.

Who are the Town players to watch out for? Our key players look like being Cropper, Butterfield and Denton. Cropper is a full back from Burnley who we had last season, and is far too good for this level. Butterfield is a new signing who is supposed to sort our midfield out. And Denton is a huge striker who is just a pain in the backside to play against.

How much does football mean to you? It means a lot. It's not until lockdown that I've realised just how much of my social life is based around following Town. If we can do something positive, after being taken over by true fans, then it might eclipse my favourite memory. Good luck with the season and stay safe.

'We took 1,000 to Ebbsfleet on the opening day two years ago, so I'd hope we'd have a similar number at your ground in normal conditions'

JOE MATTISON, 16

I do live in Chesterfield. I have done my entire life and I couldn't imagine being anywhere different.

My first game was a 4-3 home win against Shrewsbury in the 2010/11 season when we won league 2. We were 4-0 up so a fairly eventful first game. I went with my dad for my sixth birthday (pictured below). I don't think I had any idea what was going on but I was there and that's all that matters.

The only other team I follow is Nottingham
Forest. My dad grew up in Nottingham so we've always looked out for their results and hope they do well. Obviously a shame they bottled the play offs last season but that's just Forest:)

My greatest moment following Chesterfield was when we won League Two in 2014. I went on the pitch, not realising how big a deal it was at the time, which is a shame. I was also invited to join the players' party in the town hall because my friend's grandad was club director at the time so that was a ridiculous experience.

Our fan base, compared to other teams in this league, is very big and passionate. We took 1,500 fans to Nottingham last season when we were in the relegation zone and have had crowds of nearly 10,000 when we were in league 1 and 2.

If the conditions were normal, we'd take around 600, minimum, to your ground. We took nearly 1000 to Ebbsfleet on the opening day two years ago so I like to think we'd have brought a similar amount to your ground.

Chesterfield's 'natural' level is promotion league 2/lower league 1. We've spent most CONTINUED OVERPAGE

#### ONLY HERE FOR THE DAY CONTD...

time between the third and fourth tier. We've also won the most League Two titles if I'm not mistaken.

Unfortunately we haven't come close to getting promotion back to the EFL in recent years. We've been in relegation battles both seasons we've been in this league and have been very lucky not to go down to be honest. Hopefully this season will be more positive.

It was dreadful to be relegated to the National League, especially having been relegated from league One the season before. It was the first time in our history we'd been in non league so it was a bit of a culture shock. I'd say there is a bit of a stigma attached to it, especially with rivals as they're in the league above you.

What do I know about Wealdstone? Like most of our fans, not much if I'm being honest. Apart from the Wealdstone Raider. But obviously that'll change after this season.

As for *high-profile fans*, John Cena (the American wrestler and rapper) recently did a video wishing us best of luck for the new season and has also had photos taken with a Chesterfield flag. I don't know if you can call him a fan, but I'll name him anyway.

Our best manager in recent years, without

a doubt, is Paul Cook. He was with us in 2013/14 and 2014/15. 2013/14, he won league 2 with us then got into the league 1 play offs the next season. Unfortunately we lost to Preston in the play off semis then he left due to our owner refusing to back him and selling our best players for a ridiculously small amount of money.

Our players to watch out for are Tom Denton. Target man, 6'7. Goes without saying. Arguably one of the most threatening players in the league. Also Milan Butterfield. Recently signed for Kidderminster. He's a tall defensive midfielder who's bagged himself a goal and looked very impressive so far in pre season. I'd also say you should watch out for Liam Mandeville. He's an attacking midfielder, didn't have the best season last year but I genuinely think he has the potential to be one of the best players in this league.

What does football mean to me? A lot. I've been watching Chesterfield since I was 6 and I've become obsessed in the last couple of years and it's a very big part of my life. Whether we win, lose or draw, watching football is an escape from real life, and that feeling is irreplaceable.



Much has been made about today's game being our FIRST back in the top echelon of non-League football. But the picture below was another FIRST for the club. Who were we playing, and where? Answer below



The match was the Stones first-ever appearance at our new groundshare - Watford's Vicarage Road, back in July 1991. What a disastrous idea that was! The opponents were Conference top dogs Barnet, and they beat the Southern League Stones 4-0



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(F)	CHESTERFIELD Tuesday, 20th October Yanarama National League	Thordor Training	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
	<b>DOVER ATHLETIC</b> Saturday, 14th November Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
	<b>SUTTON UNITED</b> Saturday, 21st November Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
	TORQUAY UNITED Tuesday, 1st December Vanarama National League	Alan Couch	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
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	<b>WOKING</b> Saturday, 6th February Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
	BROMLEY Saturday, 13th February Vanarama National League	Alan Couch	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?

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### WEALDSTONE 2020-21

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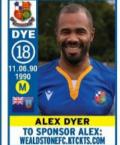






















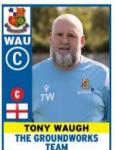


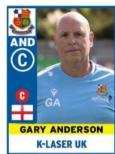




### WEALDSTONE 2020-21

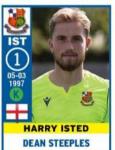
KEY: Number in circle = Squad Number. C = Management & Coaching Staff; D = Defender; M = Midfielder; F = Forward; L = Legend; Note: Flags indicate national team as defined under FIFA eligibility rules. Players may hold more than one non-FIFA nationality.

































# UPCOMING FIXTURES

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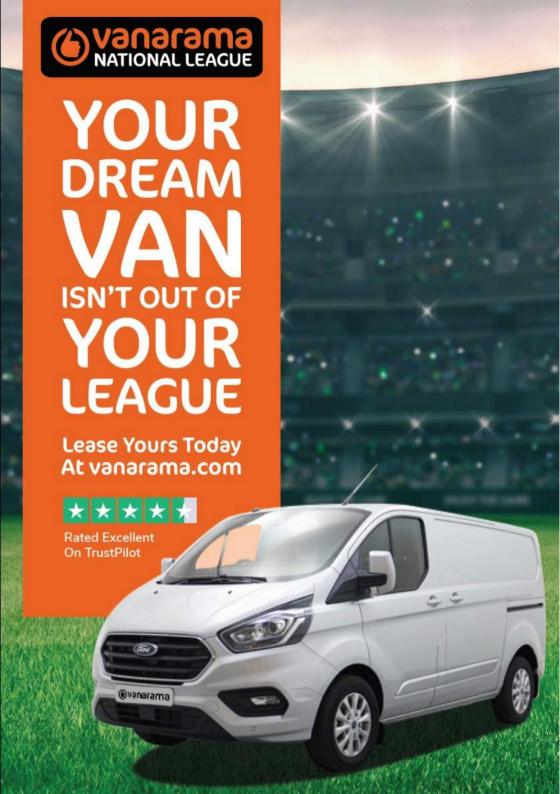
Tuesday, 17th November, 7:45pm www.eastleighfc.com | @EastleighFC

#### **Notts County**

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

Friday, 27th November, 7:45pm www.nottscountyfc.co.uk | @Official\_NCFC

#### Vanarama National League 2020/2021 - as at Sunday 18/10/2020 Away Home Opposition +/- Pts Results F D D D 1 Stockport County n **Torquay United** 3 Hartlepool United Solihull Moors Sutton United 7 Notts County 8 Eastleigh 9 Halifax Town 4-3 -1 10 Wrexham -4 11 Barnet -6 12 Maidenhead United 13 Aldershot Town 14 Bromley 15 Boreham Wood 2-2 -1 16 Yeovil Town -2 17 Weymouth -3 18 Wealdstone 0-1 -4 19 Dagenham & Redbridge 5 -8 20 King's Lynn Town 21 Chesterfield -12 **22 Dover Athletic** 23 Altrincham



### THE LINE-UPS

#### WEALDSTONE Royal Blue/White

CHESTERFIELD White and green

G Harry Isted 1 Michee Efete 2

1 Kyle Letheren G 3 David Buchanan

Adel Gafaiti 3 4 Josef Yarnev Ashlev Charles 4

5 Will Evans

Connor Stevens 5 6 Laurence Maguire Jerome Okimo © 6

7 Joe Rowley

Michael Phillips 7 8 Curtis Weston **Connor Smith 8** 

10 Liam Mandeville

Ross Lafevette 9 12 Luke Coddington G 13 Milan Butterfield **Danny Green 10** 

18 Nathan Tyson

**Dennon Lewis 11** Charlee Hughes 12 Daniel Wishart 13

19 Scott Boden 20 Jamie Sharman

**Danny Parish 14** Kundai Benvu 15 21 Jack McKay 23 Jonathan Smith

**Jacob Mendy Mendy 17** Alex Dver 18 24 Tom Denton

Moses Emmanuel 19

25 Luke Rawson 26 Havdn Hollis

Jorome Slew 20 G Lewis Everett 21 30 Regan Hutchinson

Charlie Wakefield 24 **Jack Cawley 34** 

32 Jordan Cropper

REFEREE Llovd Wood ASSISTANT REFEREES Jack Bloxham and Farai Hallam FOURTH OFFICIAL **Hugh Gilroy OBSERVER To be announced** 

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Opposition fans'view

The 50-year flashback

The amazing World of Ball

Stones Fan in the Stand

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