# WEALDSTONE

FOOTBALL CLUB SF SON 2020-21

opflev

PROGRAMME 23

Sponsored by the Winkworth family: Mark, Jack and Sam

Hopeyou all had a very Christmas .hedid!

Jacob Mendy Mendy completes an astonishing comeback with the winning goal in our last home gamé the 4-3 FA Trophy win over Eastleigh in the last round PICTURE: Jon Taffe



Wealdstone v Gloucester City The Buildbase FA Trophy 4th rd Proper

Saturday, January 16 2021, KO 3pm



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# Written in Stone

#### The Last 32

elcome to Paul Groves, his staff and the players and officials from Gloucester City. We hope you enjoy your brief stay with us and have a safe journey home after the game.

Just when you thought the last 10 months had given us everything, the Government announced another lockdown to further test our resolve and prolong our safe return to the terraces. The announcement for us here at Wealdstone came as we were recovering from our own Covid related issues that saw the cancellation of the two home games against Maidenhead and Boreham Wood. Both games have now been rescheduled, so make sure you are aware of the dates by checking our fixtures in the middle pages.

Times are tough for our supporters and the nation at large but please don't suffer in silence. The Stones family are as always here for each



other and offers of help or just a chat are plentiful across our social media presence, so please engage and ensure that everyone's mental and physical needs are supported.

Today sees us take a break from the league and return to the FA Trophy, a competition that has played a very major part in our recent history. Our result in the previous round came with a second half performance that delivered all Wealdstone fans Christmas presents early. I won't dwell on the match as you will find a full report in a few pages time but nice as the result was, the prize money was

arguably even more important as we continue to survive against the odds in true Stones style. The lack of fit players in our small (sustainable) squad is on record and so now is the generosity of you our supporters who for the second time this season have provided funds that will see us through a very difficult patch.

Please continue to support the live match streams in the coming weeks, spend you Christmas money in the Megastore, keep buying a programme and sponsor a game, match ball or player if you or your business can.... Every penny counts.

#Believe

Mark



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# WEALDSTONE

#### FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2020/2021

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The legal name of Wealdstone Football Club is Wealdstone Football Club (2000) Ltd (Registered Number 03953962). Shares in excess of 10% are held by Peter Marsden Property Finance Ltd & Wealdstone FC Supporters Club

#### **GROUND REGULATIONS**

People are only allowed entry to The Vale on match days subject to the following rules and regulations: 1) The club reserves the right to eject from the ground any person who is considered to have committed any of the following

- · Entering the ground through any means other than through the turnstiles or entrances
- Entering the field of play before, during or after a game without prior authorisation

  Being drunk, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs Using violence of any nature
- Carrying items which may be considered a danger to others, including cans, bottles, or glasses containing alcoholic beverages
- Throwing any article onto the field of play Climbing floodlight pylons, fences, stands or any structure or building
- · Using obscene or bad language likely to cause offence to others · Hitting the side or back panels of the Bulla stand
- 2) No spectator ball games.
- The consumption of alcoholic drinks is permitted INSIDE the social club bar, garden and boardroom areas.
- Vehicles parked on the Grosvenor Vale site are at the owners' risk.
- 5) Wealdstone Football Club supports the FA's campaign on pyrotechnics (e.g. flares and smoke bombs). Any misuse of such items in and around the Ground will result in those responsible being asked to leave the ground and, in line with football authority guidance, may result in a report to the Police, potential prosecution and a ban from the Club of up to three years.

Wealdstone FC Board of Directors

# From the Gaffer



eans words below were produced for our Christmas programme but with both festive fixtures postponed we are re producing the relevant sections of them.

Looking back to our 2-1 victory against Weymouth when we had you our passionate supporters back at the Vale the atmosphere you created was special. From the roar when we scored our goals to the ovation you gave us at the end of the game, I can only be honest & say we are all proud of each and every one of you

for your passionate support & we are going to miss you all over the festive period. We do however know that you will all be getting right behind us from your sofas and we can't wait to see back with us again (hopefully) very soon.

With regard to Injury issues, when we played Weymouth on the 12th of December we only had 14 fit outfield players and I am hoping we can get some of our key players back sooner rather than later.

I have not got timescales on Ross Lafayette, Danny Parish & Connor Steven's yet unfortunately but they are all making progress and we will keep you informed.

On the recruitment front we are always looking to upgrade our squad, but we will only sign players that will improve us as a team. We have plenty of players on our radar but they have to be the right players for us.

I am aware that towards the end of the year some of our amazing supporters have contributed to our budget to enable us some wriggle room on this front and at this time of the year we appreciate this wholeheartedly. It's incredible the support that you guys give to our team, thank you.

Up the Stones

Dean

#### TEAM DRAW - DECEMBER



- 1. £125 Gary Smith 2. £75 Brian Stimpson
- 3. £50 Stuart Chantrey 4. £25 David Lloyd
- 5. £25 John Fairman 6. £10 Nick Symmons 7. £10 Bob Booth 8. £10 Steve Wicks
- 9. £10 Nick Symmons 10. £10 M Collins

Voucher Winner Michael Bennet Quarterly Bonus Prize for holders of 3 or more entries - £50 Paul Saffer

Can M. Collins please contact me at andrewlane40@icloud.com

BY SUDHIR RAWAL

# The Elmslie Ender



## Delayed from our Xmas Issue - EE welcomes in 2021

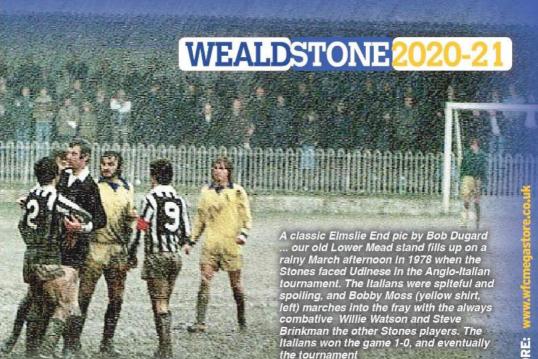
here is only one place to start this week and that is the approach made by local rivals Barnet for the services of Dean Brennan as their new manager. Whilst not necessarily on the radar of most Barnet fans, they still seem to harbour this notion that they are a Football league side rather than one that had a flirtation with the big league and are really a good old fashioned non-league club, DB was an obvious choice for the Bees to enquire about, DB's stock has certainly risen dramatically since his days at Billericay and Kingstonian. as he took Wealdstone to the National league title in his inaugural season, on a limited budget, and then had a strong start to the National League campaign. We stand

sixth at the time of writing, a lot higher than the team from PEPF.

Barnet's start, despite probably having a budget double ours and being full time, has been the opposite. Their best result in recent weeks was a goalless draw at home to an injury ravaged Wealdstone and they have been shipping goals aplenty, bottom of the form guide. That Peter Beadle's services were dispensed with was certainly not a surprise to anyone. The Barnet forum had pages on their supporters' desire that he left and quickly too. The attraction of Barnet is clear. Fantastic facilities. excellent training ground, even if the stadium was built for another club, big budget and being full time. The disadvantage of going there is that you don't last very long. They have had fourteen

managers in the last seven years and twenty-one in the last eleven.

News came through around 5pm on that fated Monday that Barnet had approached DB and he was going to be appointed. It was a done deal. There's no denying an approach was made. As messages were flying around various WhatsApp groups, Stones fans being taunted on social media by Barnet ones that not only had they taken our ground, a player but our manager too. Yet, by around nine o'clock, the deal had collapsed, and DB was staying a Stone. A massively relived Wealdstone fanbase. I just scrolled back through my WhatsApp's from that late afternoon/evening and blimey was there an emotional rollercoaster for those four hours. Quite enlightening and



in hindsight very entertaining. The psyche of a football fan. akin to a teenager when his girlfriend is dumping him for his class enemy, encapsulated in those messages. I have no doubt that DB will get more offers from much bigger clubs, especially if Wealdstone stay up in the National League, and he will leave with most fans blessing should that be the case. Just not our local rivals in what was supposed to be our stadium. I can see DB doing what the Cowley's did. A rise through the ranks. Our success has come by playing good football not route one. Brennanball has been a real success at the Vale. He will go far, of that there is no doubt.

If you talk to any board member their biggest frustration is our lack of money and the ability to get things done when we want to

due to the lack of cash. We can't always get the players that we want, we can't always keep those that we have, and we certainly can't upgrade our facilities in the way that we would like. It is also clear from DB's interviews that he finds it. whilst understanding how the club operates, hugely frustrating too, especially with the injury crisis that we find ourselves in. Every manager wants to be able to bring in the players he needs, as ultimately it is a results business. Only the week before we lost Dean Parrett to Barnet as they offered a better deal than we could. The higher up the food chain you go, it all becomes about how much money you can spend and naturally how you spend it too.

Within a few days, an email popped into many inboxes looking for supporters to

contribute towards a loan signing or two. It is a tried and tested method at Wealdstone. We, the supporters, always come up trumps. The club were looking for 3k, Roger Slater, who was co-ordinating efforts, was hoping for 7k-9k, yet within three days we were up to 15k. And still rising. Incredible, with something like eighty people contributing. Don't forget, just earlier in the season. StonesShare raised just shy of 60k, with one hundred and eighty people contributing. These are incredible numbers, just before Christmas and the uncertainty that Covid has brought to individual's finances. Humbling too. What a fan base. What a special club. That's why people stay here, speak fondly of it even when they do leave, because Wealdstone is unique.

### TIM PARKS STONES INTERVIEW



he Stones' new keeper Stuart Moore sums up the life of a transient footballer. He splits his time between living in the Premier Inn at Milton Keynes, his brother Simon's flat in Blackpool and his family home in the Isle of Wight... racking up the motorway miles as he searches for a permanent post between the sticks.

Although many will be hoping that his rolling, game-by-game-contract for the Stones turns into a permanent deal after a string of excellent performances in the No.1 shirt.

"It was a funny introduction to the club" recalls 26-year-old Stuart. "While I'm between teams I've been living at Simon's flat in Blackpool, where he lives with his partner, and I was stripping wallpaper in the bathroom when I had a call from

my agent saying that Dean Brennan, the Wealdstone manager, was on the line - and did I want to play against Torquay the following evening?

"That was a very welcome phone call.. of course I jumped in the car and headed south and the boys have

made me feel very welcome".

Stuart's big brother is, of course, the Sheffield United keeper (pictured below) whose £500,000 move in 2016 from Cardiff was the springboard to The Blades winning back to back promotions to the Premier League.

Pics: ADAM WILLIAMS & JON TAFFEL

"I spent most of those seasons driving my brother from Blackpool to Sheffield" laughs Stuart, who seems to have forgotten that while he was on a four-vear deal at Championship side Reading he was loaned out to Peterborough and also played in the League Two-play-offs for Luton.

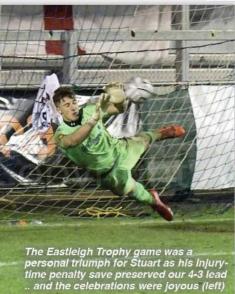
But it's in the blood. He is part of a goalkeeping dynasty as his dad Phil was also a keeper, for the now-defunct Southern

League club RS Southampton as well as for Newport on his native Isle

> of Wight. Says Stuart: "I've always been a goallie, like my brother and my dad - I was just chucked in there, growing up in Sandown, playing in the garden, in the sand and on the

> > He might be remembered by many Stones fans as the Basingstoke







goalkeeper in our first season in the National League South (2014-15), his first loan spell from Reading. 'Stoke won 1-0 at The Vale and went on make the play-offs that season, losing in the semis to Whitehawk.

"I remember both games that season and especially the one at Ruislip... we were very good defensively that day and I was clattered by one of the strikers in a 50-50 on the edge of the six vard box".

Looking back at Steve Foster's pictures from that game, the big keeper collided with Scott McGleish as he pulled off a string of saves that afternoon ... and Stuart has less fond memories of the Stones winning the reverse fixture 4-2 at the Camrose Ground in March that season.

"We had a few dodgy displays towards the end, but that was a decent Basingstoke side and I can't believe they were relegated the very next season".

So how come a big, strong, accomplished keeper like Stuart was available for the Stones at a moment's notice? A keeper so highly rated in his youth career at Portsmouth that he was loaned out to play for Leicester and Arsenal's Under-19s in the NextGen Champions Youth League?

"These are tough times, in the middle of Covid" he shrugs. "After I left Reading I played for Barrow, and then got a two-year deal at Swindon - and then was No.1 at MK Dons as we won promotion from League Two a year ago. But I broke a finger in January, really bad timing with the interruption in the season as it meant I couldn't do any real sessions until September."

Stuart was left kicking his heels, chauffeuring his brother while training with Huddersfield Town and, most recently, Salford City.

And then came the call from Dean Brennan!

"Yeah, it was great to know I was wanted but my debut against Torquay was so, so disappointing... for so long I thought we were going to get something out of the game - maybe even win it - before that late winner. That is the difference with full-time teams, they keep on strong right to the very end".

But Stuart kept a clean sheet in his next game at Barnet, and played his part in the win over Weymouth.. plus of course, his dramatic late penalty save in the win over Eastleigh.

"We'll just have to see what happens down the line" says the keeper. "The manager knows what he wants from the team and it's a terrific group of talented players".

There is still the prospect of Harry Isted returning on loan in the New Year, but Mr Moore has raised a few eyebrows with his assured displays, that's for sure.

# Fan in the Stand

'Best Wealdstone game? Newport away with Alan Massey leading the singing. That wouldn't happen in the Prem!'

Your name and age? lan Stapleton, 44 Whereabouts do you live? Ruislip Have you always lived in that area? Used to Live in Hayes but moved to Ruislip 15

years ago

When was your first Stones game? Friends of mine have been Stones fans for years and when the club moved to the Vale I was at a loose end one Saturday afternoon - so came along. It was the first season at the Vale and was against Hendon in 2008 (Ah. a cracking 2-1 win on a sopping wet afternoon -Ed).

What were your first impressions of the club? First impressions were good - I was surprised by the passion of the supporters. It's very much like when I go to music gigs, I much prefer the small intimate gigs than stadium ones as you feel more part of it in the smaller venues.

What was the first football match vou ever saw IIve? First live game would have been my dad taking me to see Viking Sports where he used to play. Remember him introducing me to this guy called Roy Bartlett who spent a long time talking to me and listening to what I had to say as a first time visitor to Vikings. Apparently his son is quiet big in local football:) Do you follow any other team? Growing up in the 80s I was a Liverpool fan but lost interest in the professional game when it became the Premiership and became a business rather than a sport.

What's the most memorable game you've EVER seen? Would have to be the Champions League "miracle in Istanbul" in 2005. Showed what a cruel and great game football is for the two sides. You saw the agony and ecstasy in one game.

And the best Wealdstone game? Easy, Newport away in 2012 with Massey leading the singing from the away fans end. That was an amazing run and showed the spirit of the club with the suspended and injured players in with the fans joining the singing, got a feeling you wouldn't get that at the Emirates or Old Trafford! Closely followed by a night game v Staines in 2009 that took



part in all four seasons of weather. Started dry, went to rain and then wind and snow. Remember checking the BBC sports pages and seeing the games getting called getting closer and closer. But out gae was on and we went 3-0 up at half time with wind assistance, scored within a few minutes of the start of the second half and then the snow came down and Staines got it back to 4-3.

Who introduced you to the Stones? Brian and Mike who have attended games since the Lower Mead Days (I would love to have seen a game there).

How did you get involved with the supporters club? I was approached by Nick Dugard at a game and agreed to pop along

to see if I could help in any way. I have since had to step down but will continue to help where I can (Adam has some ideas for the Megastore we will look at in the future).

What level of football do you prefer? What ever lever Wealdstone are playing at. I remember as a child going to Harefield and Vikings with my dad and then Brentford in the days of Holdsworth and Blisset. At the lower levels you feel more part of the club and get more value for money, you are a name not a number as the tshirt said before the Rotherham game.

How big a part of your life is the game? I enjoy going, we stand in the same place (just outside the Megastore) so im able to offer "words of wisdom" to away managers. Living so close its nice to wander over, watch the football and enjoy the banter.

How do you fit watching football in with your family/working life? As mentioned, I

live five minutes walk from the Vale so if im not working or busy, its easy for me to get there. I remember a few years back having to go to Belgium for work, so got the first Eurostar out of Kings Cross, did the meeting and got back in time to see

a Monday night game at the Vale. I do tend to work things out around home games to allow me to come to as many home games as possible.

Who are the best Wealdstone players you've ever seen? Could you name a best-ever Stones slde? Being a newbie the likes of Glenn Little springs to mind and for pure passion Peter Dean. Best ever side is a tough one for me but here goes.... North.... Effete...Okimo....Massey...Mendy....Eisa..... Little....O'Nien......Pett....Lafayette.....Jolly

What do you think of the bars and catering at the Vale? The social club is a great asset to the club. Catering inside the ground is good and gives a lot of choice.

Do you visit the Megastore? We stand outside it so always stick my head in to see what new delights they have on offer. I think the last few months the Megastore has stepped up massively with the range of products they offer. The range of T-shirts is amazing for any club, let alone one at our level.

Do you think Stones can aspire to playing in the EFL? I can't see why not, the nucleus of the club is there to go a long way. The management team are working miracles and Rory and the board have steadied the ship. The fact we are playing teams like Notts County and Wrexham goes to show how far we have come. Get the lease situation sorted at the Vale and that will give us even firmer footing for the future of the cub and allow us to develop the ground to accommodate everyone's dreams and asperations

Finally, where do you think Wealdstone FC will be in the year 2025? Hopefully fans will be allowed back in by then! I can see us cemented as one of the big boys in the conference and pushing for promotion.





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#### **VIEW FROM THE TELLY**





# Stones 4, Eastleigh 3.. was it the greatest game we've never seen?

Hands up who missed that seven-goal Trophy thriller at The Vale? TIM PARKS tells the story of how his Saturday afternoon unfolded...

ike hundreds of you, I bought the WFC live stream and was seriously thinking about putting out the bins and not watching the second half. It really was that excruciating as the Stones crumbled to a 3-0 deficit at the break.

Maybe it was actually worse for me as I am normally up in the camera gantry, commentating on our matches but was forced to isolate last week after my wife contracted Covid. How I felt for Paul Franklin and John Morton, taking over the mic, as Eastleigh scored almost at will in the first half and their stunned response echoed exactly what we were thinking, stuck at home.

And so I made a cup of tea and, to be honest, didn't rush back upstairs to see the Stones' inevitable defeat. My missus, bless her, said "Weren't Wealdstone losing the last time you watched a home game on telly, rather that being there? And didn't they win

or something?"
Well of course she
was right. The
Sutton United home
game, back in
November and
covered by BT
Sport, put us all
through the wringer
as we came back
from 2-0 down to

almost steal all three points in that thrilling 3-3 draw.

The brief thought flitted through my mind that 3-3 today, as far-fetched as it then seemed, would lead to penalties. And doubtless more heartbreak as our record from the spot (apart from Dulwich, famously in 2004) was pretty abject.

But, tea in hand, I returned to the screen and - well blow me - the screen was showing Wealdstone 1-3 Eastleigh and Frankers & Morty were eulogising over a sensational goal from Charlie Wakefield. Charlie Wakefield? Was he even playing?

Twitter was suddenly ablaze with news of Wakefield coming on at half time and scoring with a whizz-bang from 25 yards. Well, maybe not ablaze but somebody was fiddling around with some kindling and a cigarette lighter.

Were we back in it? Stones were showing more adventure with their passing and finally getting at the Spitfires' back four.

Alex Dyer, a real smooth operator, fastened onto a rebound in the box and was flattened by big defender Boyce. 'That's a penalty' I shouted at nobody in particular (as you do, watching the Stones online) and the ref agreed. But was I the only one who thought Dennon Lewis would miss this big chance to get us back at 2-3?

Miss he did... or rather, Ross Flitney guessed right and pawed away the waist-high kick. Head down, looking for the cat to kick, it barely registered that Dyer was quickly trotting over to take



Left: Tim at half time, looking forward to taking the bins out. Right: One hour later!



the resultant corner. Which the snarling Cawley headed into the net.

"Yes! Come on!" My shouts bounced off the walls and upstairs to the bedroom where my youngest daughter was supposed to be doing her homework. Headphones in, clearly on TikTok, she didn't complain. I didn't care.

Now, I've been present at some great turnarounds in the past. I wasn't at Lower Mead in 1965 when we came from 5-3 down in the last ten minutes to famously beat Stevenage 6-5. But I saw the comeback from 3-0 down to draw with Minehead in 1973. And, prophetically, I was at Yeovil in 1984 when we led 3-0 at half time but ended up being beaten 4-3.

If you ever come across a Yeovil fan and confess that you are a Wealdstone dihard, the first thing they'll mention is Huish Park 1984. It's happened to me three or four times and it always left me grumpy for the rest of the day. It was the utter inevitability that Yeovil, totally in charge, would win that coloured that defeat.

wasn't like that. This game was more like Russian Roulette and it was impossible to guess who was going to get lucky with the bullets. It was compelling. The Spitfires missed two presentable chances. Then Dennon Lewis scampered away down the left and fired in a low cross that remarkably, bizarrely, span off a defender past Flitney and into the net. Paul Franklin was screaming 'It's gone in! It's gone in!" and I was screaming too. 3-3!

Penalties? A winner? What on earth was going to nappen next? The revitalised Wakefield

galloped down the right and his cross squirted through a possee of players to Jacob Mendy Mendy, lurking to the left of the box. The introduction of Dan Wishart at left back had allowed Mends to get further forward and



we watched in transfixed delight as he dummied left, switched the ball onto his right foot and slapped the ball past the helpless Flitney.

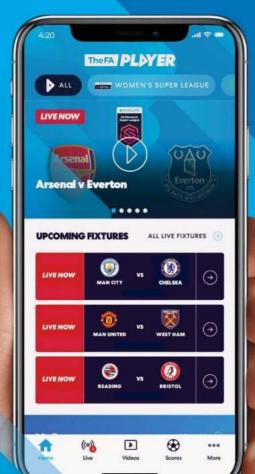
I thought I was having palpitations. 4-3 up! In the first minute of injury time! Now manage the game, manage the game I was exhorting the players. But we gave the ball away to the dangerous Hill and he made a beeline for Jack Cawley. And got past him. "No, no Jack, don't touch him, don't touch him' I was pleading but somehow he didn't hear me. Hill tumbled and the referee Scott Tallis pointed dramaticaly to the spot. After 96 and a half minutes. This was like Sutton all over again, when we'd turned the game around only to have our hopes dashed in the final moments... but this time, we had another hero between our posts. Dan Smith's penalty was beaten away by Stuart Moore and I was leaping around like a banshee.

Blimey, I hope the next game is as exciting when (fingers crossed) I'm back behind the mic.

The live stream is nothing like the real thing but hey, sometimes it's not a bad second.









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# Welcome to our visitors 'The Tigers'

he club was established in 1883 as Gloucester, they became Gloucester City in 1902, but were briefly known as Gloucester YMCA from 1910 to 1925, before returning to their previous name. The club plays in the National League North. Prior to that, it spent a record 70 years within the Southern Football League from 1939 until 2009. The club secured promotion after a playoff final win against Farnborough, gaining promotion to the National League Norh.

In July 2007, the club was considerably affected by the 2007 United Kingdom floods, which significantly affected Gloucestershire and left the Meadow Park stadium under 8 feet (2.4 m) of water. The flooding meant that the club was in exile away from Gloucester for 13 years.

During the club's exile period away from the City it played at Forest Green Rovers' the New Lawn in Nailsworth for one season in the Southern League. The club then moved to Cirencester Town and spent two seasons there, culminating in promotion to the Conference North.

Cirencester's stadium was deemed not up to Conference standards, so the club had to move

# **GLOUCESTER CITY**



again and this time over to fierce rivals Cheltenham Town's Whaddon Road stadium. After seven seasons at Whaddon Road and increasing rent costs and pitch concerns, the Club moved outside of the County to Worcestershire, sharing at Evesham United. City would remain out of the county for three seasons, two of those in the National South, before finally moving back home to a rebuilt Meadow Park in Gloucester. The only game there so far with fans permitted was a 4-2 win over Needham Market in the FA Trophy. The restricted capacity was sold out well in advance of the fixture taking place. The club are currently top of the National League North.



WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v GLOUCESTER CITY

P 18 W 10 D 3 L 5 F 32 A 22

#### **GLOUCESTER CITY - WHO'S WHO?**



#### JAKE COLE - GOALKEEPER

Jake started his career in the Championship with Queens Park Rangers, playing six times for the R's in between spells on loan at Hayes, AFC Wimbledon, Oxford United and Barnet. In 2009 he joined Barnet permanently and appeared for the Bees 87 times in League Two. Cole transferred to Plymouth Argyle in 2011. After three seasons and 91 games for Argyle in League Two, he then went into the National League with Woking and then later Aldershot. Cole spent last season at Maidstone.

#### LOUIE MOULDEN - GOALKEEPER

Louie is an England Under-18 International & joins the club on loan from Manchester City until the end of January. He was a mainstay of Man City's Under-18's Premier League cup triumph as well as the club's progress through to the FA youth cup final. He has been capped at every England youth level since the age of 15.

#### RHYS LOVETT - GOALKEEPER

Rhys joined from local rivals Cheltenham Town. Has had loan spells at Tiverton Town (twice), Shepton Mallett and Shortwood United

#### **NIALL MAHER - GOALKEEPER**

Maher arrived last season from Weston-super-Mare and instantly made an impression with some impressive keeper performances leading to being named man of the match on several occasions. Dual registered with Alvechurch

#### JOSH THOMAS- DEFENCE

Young right back/midfielder who signed for the club in 2018 from Cheltenham Town. Some strong performances during the latter half of the National South season saw him become a regular addition to the first team squad before a long-term injury saw him spend the latter half of the National League north campaign on the sidelines.

#### JACK JAMES - DEFENCE

The Republic of Ireland U19 International defender joined City from Braintree Town. James was previously on the books of Luton Town & spent two terms out on loan at Hitchin Town then with Havant & Waterlooville.

#### **GAVIN GUNNING - DEFENCE**

Gavin was most recently in the National League

with Solihull Moors and can operate as a centreback or a midfielder. Gunning arrived in England via Crumlin United and signed professional forms for Blackburn Rovers. During his time at Ewood Park he made loan appearances at Tranmere, Rotherham and Motherwell before switching to the Scottish Premier League permanently after signing for Dundee United in 2011. He then joined Birmingham City followed by Dundee United and Greenock Morton he returned to England with Grimsby Town before signing for side Port Vale. His last two clubs before Solihull were Forest Green Rovers & Billericay Town.

#### **BEN MORGAN - DEFENCE**

The 22 year old defender signed for the Tigers after impressing on trial. After starting his career with Swansea City, Ben later signed professional forms for Bristol Rovers. He spent time on loan with fellow National League North club Brackley Town in the 2018/19 season.

#### JAMIE BREMNER - DEFENCE

Young defender on the fringe of the first team who originally signed for City two seasons ago from Bristol Rovers but spent the majority of the campaign in the Hellenic League with Briscombe & Thrupp

#### FABIEN ROBERT - MIDFIELD

A former French U20 International, Robert had spent the majority of his younger years playing in Lique 1 for Lorient before moving to England. Originally moving to Doncaster Rovers on loan in the Championship, Fabien then spent time at Swindon Town before moving to Forest Green Rovers. He was loaned out to Aldershot on two occasions, before doing the same at Gloucester.

#### ALEX HAINAULT - MIDFIELD

Canadian Hainault signed two seasons ago from Westfields. Dual registered with Slimbridge, Hainault is a committed, versatile player who is capable of covering several positions within the team.

#### **KEVIN DAWSON - MIDFIELD**

Dawson started his career in Ireland, first with Sporting Fingal before being signed by Shelbourne. He moved to Yeovil then

-

#### WEALDSTONE 2020-21

Cheltenham then Forest Green Rovers.

#### **DAN KING - MIDFIELD**

King re-joined City after a season away playing locally with Slimbridge. Dan came through the City youth set-up and remains duel registered with Slimbridge.

#### **BERNARD MENSAH - MIDFIELD**

Bernard began his career at Watford. His full Watford debut came against Bolton Wanderers. In January 2014 he joined Conference side Braintree Town on loan. After further loans with Barnet and again with Braintree he signed for Aldershot Town. His impressive performances saw him snapped up by Bristol Rovers in 2017 before moving to Lincoln City then back to Aldershot on loan deals.

#### TOMMY O'SULLIVAN - MIDFIELD

O'Sullivan started his career at Cardiff City. He spent the latter stage of the 2014-15 season on loan at Port Vale before he signed for Newport County. In 2017 he signed for Colchester United before moving out on loan to Torquay United. before leaving the U's and signing for Hereford. He has been capped for Wales at under 17, 19 and 21 levels.

#### **LEWIS BRUNT - MIDFIELD**

On loan Aston Villa midfielder, Lewis had a spell on loan last season with City just before it was curtailed and made an instant impact, scoring twice both from free kicks and winning the man of the match award at Bradford (Park Avenue).

#### JORDAN YOUNG - MIDFIELD

On loan Coventry City midfielder who joined City in December, Jordan started his career with Swindon Town appearing seven times and scoring one goal. After an eye catching loan spell at Highworth Townhe left the Robins and made the switch to Coventry where he has made one first team appearance in the EFL Cup this season. The 21-year-old has been capped by Scotland at youth level.

#### **KEANU MARSH-BROWN - MIDFIELD**

Started his career at Arsenal before switching to Fulham then moving to MK Dons on loan. After leaving Fulham he had a spell at Oldham

and a season at Yeovil Town, before joining Barnet. After leaving London he joined Forest Green Rovers before a brief stint with Dover. Newport County were the next destination, however Marsh-Brown later opted to leave Wales and travel overseas, where he had most recently been playing at Memphis 901 in the United States prior to joining Gloucester City.

#### MATT McCLURE - FORWARD

Matt has been capped at Northern Ireland U-21 level started his career at Wycombe Wanderers. Where he made 110 Football League appearances. Matt had a loan spell at WEALDSTONE in 2010. In 2015 Matt signed for Dagenham & Redbridge before moving to Aldershot Town. After leaving the Shots, he opted to move to Maidstone United.

#### TAHVON CAMPBELL - FORWARD

Campbell joined on loan from Cheltenham Town until January and the highly rated forward/winger scored on his Tigers debut. The 23 year old, who can also operate as a winger, has appeared for the Robins first team 14 times in all competitions. Prior to moving to Whaddon Road, Tahvon spent two seasons at Forest Green Rovers, making 32 appearances and scoring 5 goals before moving up into League One with a loan spell at Gillingham.

#### JACK BURROUGHS - FORWARD

19-year-old Burroughs arrived on loan from Coventry along with Jordan Young, and can operate either up front or in midfield. Jack is a Scottish under 19 International and has first team appearances for the Sky Blues in the EFL Cup. He had a loan stint last season in the Southern Premier League at Nuneaton Borough.

#### PAUL GROVES - MANAGER

Groves arrives at Gloucester City after leaving his Assistant Manager role at Israeli Premier League side Maccabi Haifa. After a distinguished playing career spanning almost 20 years with over 700 professional appearances for clubs including Leicester, Blackpool, Grimsby and West Bromich Albion, Groves first step into management was as Player/Coach at Grimsby under Lennie Lawrence. He eventually took over as Player/Manager after Lawrence left the club, overseeing more than 100 matches and steering the Mariners away from what is now the Championship relegation zone.



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# Appearances 2020/2021 FIRST TEAM, up to & inc. @ 1/12/2020

A = STARTING APPEARANCES .	S = APPEARANCE AS SHRSTITHE	<ul> <li>G = GOALS SCORED * = HAS NOW LEFT CLUB</li> </ul>

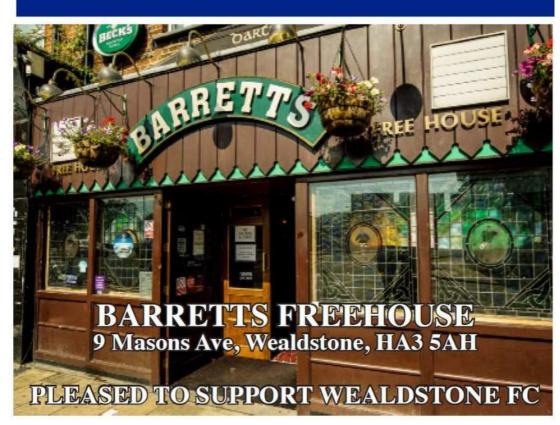
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Dyer, Alex	6	2	1	- 1						7	2	1	124	13	33
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Emmanuel, Moses	6	3	4	1						7	3	4	16	3	8
Green, Danny	8	3								8	3		178	24	38
Hughes, Charlee		1									1			1	
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Lafayette, Ross	6	5	3		1					6	6	3	41	22	21
Lewis, Dennon	10	1		1						11	1		48	3	12
Mendy, Jacob	12		3	- 1						13		3	40	10	12
Moore, Stuart	1									1			1		
Okimo, Jerome	12			- 1						13			196	5	7
Parish, Danny	6	3	5		1					6	4	5	6	4	5
Parrett, Dean	- 1	2								1	2		1	2	
Phillips, Michael	11		1							11		1	48	2	5
Slew, Jorome	2	4	1		1					2	5	- 1	3	7	3
Smith, Connor	10	1		1						11	1		52	19	5
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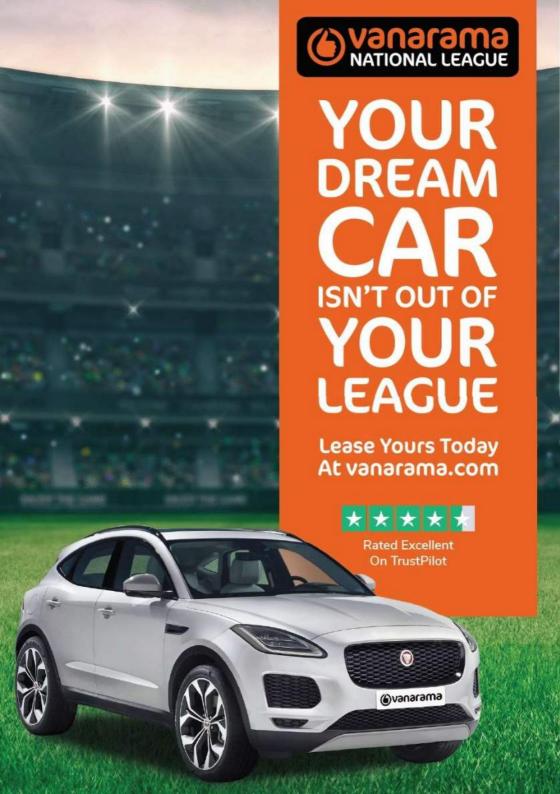


# **GUY MUMMERY**

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b.mummery@sky.com





# Results 2020-21

OCTOBER	Comp. I	Result	Crowd	Lge Pos D	wind ir/Spd	Sky / Temp	Elev. (Mtrs)			_ 7	2	je.	}	4		5	6
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#### PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY RESULTS

 22nd August
 Bedford Town
 A
 W
 3-1

 25th August
 Luton Town
 H
 L
 0-3

 27th August
 Southall
 A
 L
 2-3

 29th August
 Colchester United
 H
 L
 1-2

 1st September
 Northwood
 A
 W
 6-0

TO BE ARRANGED

A W 3-1 Parish, Efete, Hughes

Emmanuel, Tahir Emmanuel

Lafayette, Parish 3, Charles, Maloney

Above: Action from our astonishing 4-3 comeback win ov

Pictures courtesy of Adam Williamse







#### **KEY TO SYMBOLS**

Where available, the time of each event is contained within the symbol.

= First substitution

= Second substitution

= Third substitution

= Caution

= Sending off

67 = Straight Red

Goal

88 = Penalty

Match date in red = Midweek kick-off)

The team order from 01 to 11 and substitutes follows the team sheet supplied by the club to the competition authorities. Note that players use their squad numbers in those positions, EG; Jerome Okimo, Squad No.6 playing position 4, etc.

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KEY				EH	103

	KEY	TO	PLAYER ID	S
	Player		Player	Squad
	ID.		Name	Number
	ASK	_	Jake Askew	25
	BEN		Kundai Benyu	15
	BRO	_	Rhys Browne	27
	CAW	_	Jack Cawley	25
Ì	CHA	_	Ashley Charles	4
	DEB	-	Joshua Debayo	3
ı	DYE	_	Alex Dyer	18
	EFE	_	Michee Efete	2
Į	EMM	_	Moses Emmanuel	19
Į	EVE	—	Lewis Everett	21
	GAF	_	Adel Gafaiti	3
ı	GRE	_	Danny Green	10
	GSM	_	Grant Smith	22
	HUG	-	Charlee Hughes	12
	IST	_	Harry Isted	1
	LAF	-	Ross Lafayette	9
	LEN	_	Matt Lench	28
4	MEN	_	Dennon Lewis	11
	MOO		Jacob Mendy Mend Stuart Moore	y 2 1
	OKI	-	Jerome Okimo	6
ı	PAR	_		14
	PHI	_	Danny Parish Michael Phillips	7
	PRT	-	Dean Parrett	24
1	SLE		Jerome Slew	20
i	SMI		Connor Smith	8
١	STE		Connor Stevens	5
	WAK		Charlie Wakefield	23
			onumo transmisia	20

er Eastleigh in the FA Trophy..

#### DRF-SFASON FRIENDLY RESULTS

INL JE	ADOM I WILM	<i>9</i> km			L.
5th September	Dartford	H	L	1-2	
8th September	Hayes & Yeading	A	W	5-2	
12th September	Havant & Waterlooville	H	W	3-1	
15th September	St. Albans City	A	L	0-4	
19th September	Dulwich Hamlet	H	D	1-1	
26th September	Slough Town	Н	L	0-1	

Williams, Parish, Hughes, Emmanuel, Lafayette Emmanuel, Parish, Hughes

Efete



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BY MARTIN READ

# The World of Ball The case for Subbuteo becoming an Olympic se

becoming an Olympic sport
In this, the second of two Subbuteo themed columns, I seek to demonstrate the game's appeal beyond mere hobby and propose its status as a competitive sport. Because, just like you, I'm stuck here in lockdown tier 4 and can afford to let my mind wander...

In the Eastleigh FA Trophy programme, the first of these two Subbuteo-themed WOB columns focused on the abiding appeal of the game and its diminutive plastic players. Now it's time to up the ante. Subbuteo should be an Olympic sport. Oh yes. And here's my case.

It begins with pointing out that, these days, there are few boundaries to separate genres, sporting or otherwise. From game shows to music, theatre to television, entertainment in all of its aspects tends to leak from one thing to another. Sports stars become pundits become game show constants become actors. Cyclists become jockeys, rowers become tobogganists, the boundaries are porous.

Case in point: I've just watched comedian Bill Bailey perform a tango to Metallica's 'Enter Sandman' on Strictly Come Dancing. I invite you to consider Bailey, Metallica or the show's producers attempting any such insane combination, say, ten years ago. All three elements would have seemed entirely separate, fire and oil on water. Yet today such surreal forms of performative alchemy are par for the course. No brand is safe, no 'mash-up' beyond the pale. (Marmite hummus, anyone? Malteasers in a bar??)

It is with this in mind that I humbly submit the following proposition: Subbuteo must be made an Olympic sport immediately.

#### A flick of the tail

For a start, I think we can agree that if breakdancing IS an Olympic sport - and I assure you that it most certainly is, just Google it and you'll see – then anything is fair game.

So let's delve a little further. My case is simple: Subbuteo and an 'actual' competitive

sport, Snooker, are practically one and the same thing. Think about it: Both involve two people, both involve the pocketing of balls by means of finger tip control of a separate implement (a cue in snooker, the playing figures in Subbuteo) and both are about pacing, positioning and the judgement of angles. Come to think of it, both are played on green baize and, in competition play, require referees. Just as you can spin, stun and curve a snooker ball, so Subbuteo allows you to spin, stun or curve a playing figure.

#### Three flicks and you're out

With me so far? Subbuteo not only accurately replicates the world's favourite sport, it comes close to being another. And yet, while snooker has gone from working man's hobby to global sporting business in barely forty years, Subbuteo remains something of a cult hobby, albeit one with a genuinely competitive element (there's a World Cup, European championships and national leagues. In Malta, Subbuteo was once so popular it became the de facto national sport.)

Sport, though? Really? Well I can certainly attest to the competitive nature of Subbuteo gameplay. Back when my friends and I ran a Subbuteo league, there was no doubting the combative









Above: actual competitive Subbuteo game play in a recent Subbuteo World Cup.

Above and to the right: a mug demonstrating the iconic playing figures' enduring appeal

Far right: another incredibly detailed Subbuteo figure

Below left: Subbuteo is all about the angles, just like Snooker and Pool. Therefore = sport.

nature of each match. Wealdstone had to take on Nottingham Forest, Manchester United and Chelsea. And while few details remain after all these years, I still have league tables that show a Stones side comprising George Duck, Robin Wainwright, Neil Cordice and Stuart Pearce beating the then England national side, Kevin Keegan and all.

Admittedly, when I say Duck, Wainwright, Cordice and Pearce, I am of course referring to the inch-tall plastic approximations of said players. But listen, this is Christmas, and I should remind you that you're reading an article in the Wealdstone FC matchday programme about the case for Subbuteo as an Olympic sport.

We kept our league going for a few months, which is not bad considering the myriad alternative attractions in 1980, 1981 (punk, skateboards, computer game terminals in the basements of barbers' shops, CB bloody radio). But what really kept it afloat was the gameplay. It was rules-driven, everybody knew what they had to do and between us we could 'group referee' whichever two of us were playing at the time. It had the same rules-based structure as the sport it was based on.

#### Epic 00 scale

At this point I should say that I was at the time, and still am now, disappointed that Wealdstone as a choice of Subbuteo team was not available in the Harrow area. I mean, if Subbuteo's distributors did try to target their stock geographically, we saw precious little evidence in Harrow at the start of the eighties. You'd as likely pick up the Austrian national team or Heart of Midlothian Away as you would QPR or Watford. (And for some inexplicable reason, Grasshoppers Zurich was more readily available than Wealdstone.)

This is not my first attempt to get a youthful obsession accepted in the adult world, and it won't be my last. (I will similarly defend the right of anyone to use a skateboard on the basis that skiing and snowboarding are effectively the same thing.) There is surely something about the fact that Subbuteo has survived, handed down through so many generations, when so few other children's toys can say the same. Perhaps Scalextric, but in a straight fight with its computer gaming equivalent I would argue it loses easily. And anyway, where's the fun in endlessly trudging up and down your living room to put the car back on a track which in any event favours one car over the other because of some electric transformer glitch?

Similarly, there is no serious comparison between Subbuteo and FIFA 2021, even with the latter's as-live televisual graphics and the ability of players to manager their club up the leagues.

Subbuteo has become iconic as a late twentieth century plaything, ts figures identifiable in silhouette in a way few other objects are. Clothing manufacturers produce Subbuteo-themed promotional merchandise too, and if anything the famous man-on-semi-spherical-base is more recognisable in the culture now than it ever has been before. Given that it has survived more for more than seventy years, it is perhaps surprising that Subbuteo has NOT been proposed for the Olympics before.

So there you have it. Give me a break about breakdancing, let's get behind a campaign to flick to kick in Paris. Or if not, at the very least get a Subbuteo tournament up and running in the club house when this pandemic finally comes under control. Or - and I'm perfectly OK with this too – let's just forget all this festive holiday nonsense and get back to some actual football...

Random snippets irregularly posted @Wealdipedia

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SUTTON UNITED Saturday, 21st November Vanarama National League		Harrow Windows				
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ALDERSHOT TOWN Saturday, 23rd January Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?			
MAIDENHEAD UNITED Tuesday, 2nd February Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?			
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Rolfe-East

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Saturday, 6th February

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#### **WE'VE MET BEFORE** BY TIM PARKS





loucester City are riding high in the National League North and will fancy their chances of upsetting the Stones today - but if any of their middle-aged fans have chanced upon this article, cold shivers will have run down their spines at the very mention of 1982. We've faced the Tigers again in the National League South four times in the last few years with mixed results but I can reel

Final 1st leg (A) Won 1-0 Weds April 14 1982, SL Cup Final 2nd leg (H) Won 1-0 Tues Oct 12 1982, SL Challenge (H) Won 3-1 (aet)

> off the top of my head a string of memorable games against our friends from the West Country. What about the 2-0 win at Gloucester in Easter 2007 to save us from relegation from the Southern League Prem, soon after their Meadow stadium was flooded and unusable for 13 years? Or the 2-1 win at Lower Mead in September 1971,

our only win in eight games as we kicked off our first season in semi-pro football... as important as the 3-1 win at Horton Road 14 games later, our first league 'double' of that new era? Those games were in the Southern League's First Division North. and of course the Stones switched across to play in the Southern section the very next season - which limited our clashes in the next decade or so.

ut yes. I know what you're thinking... didn't we play Gloucester in the Southern League Cup Final one year? And didn't our full-back Stuart

Pearce score a vital goal?

Indeed he did, dear reader. It was the 1981-2 season, that remarkable campaign when Wealdstone won every single competition we entered (apart from the FA Trophy and Middlesex Senior Cup, obvs). Let's just list them: the Southern League South title, the Southern League Shield (winners of the South v North match), the Southern League Cup and the Southern League Challenge Cup (title winners v cup winners).

Gloucester City were our gallant

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1981 - 82 SEASON

F.A. TROPHY FIRST ROUND TIE

GLOUCESTER CITY

TUESDAY, 19th JANUARY 1982 Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 100

Left: The programme for the Trophy tie almost exactly 39 years ago, which was played a day later than shown on the cover because of snow

# 'Stones breeze home

Wealdstone 3 Gloucester City 1

WEALDSTONE
marched into the second
round of the FA Trophy
with a 3-1 win over
Gloucester City at Lower
Mead on Wednesday
night.

The result books 'Stones a home tie with Dagenham on Saturday February 6. 'Stones were a goal up in less than a minute.

Neil Cordice picked up the ball on the right and hit a fierce drive into the box that eluded brother Alan and City keeper Con Cornwall to nestle in the far corner of the net.

Paul Waites was desperately unlucky not to add a second in the 6th minute with a screaming shot from the edge of the box that was only inches wide.

#### Headed

'Stones second goal came in the 26th minute. Alan Cordice won a corner on the right after a good run from the half way line. Stuart Pearce took the kick which

Paul Bowgett met at the near post to send a thundering header into the back of the net.

In the 67th minute 'Stones made it three. The ball was headed out to Alan Cordice just inside the box and he drove it through a crowd of players into the far corner, a physical Gloucester side, who received four bookings, scored a consolation goal in the 89th minute through Martin Wheeler.

Wealdstone: Goddard; Hardman, Pearce, Byatt, Bowgett, Barwick, Waites, Wainwright, A. Cordice, N. Cordice, Knowles.

opponents in the Southern League Cup Final and were having a decent season in the Southern League's midland division, finally finishing sixth. The local Press was full of anticipation as the last time the Tigers had reached the final - in 1955-56 they served up perhaps the biggest shock in the history of the competition... for having lost the first leg 4-1 to mighty Yeovil Town at their Huish ground (and been written off by everybody) Gloucester stormed back to win the second leg 5-1 and lift the trophy 6-5 on aggregate!

But Allen Batford's brilliant Wealdstone side quickly dampened any Tigers hopes with 1-0

victories in both legs.

Those defeats came hot on the heels of an FA Trophy 2nd Round Proper exit at the hands of the Stones three months earlier, Neil Cordice, Alan Cordice and skipper Paul Bowgett scoring the goals in an emphatic 3-1 win at Lower Mead (see the Harry O report above)

And how depressing it must have been for Gloucester to then face the Stones the following season in the Southern League Challenge Cup-competed for by the winners of the Southern League Cup and Southern League Shield. Stones

had won both, so Gloucester (as losing finalists in the Southern League Cup) were chosen to face us again... and we beat them again, 3-1 at Lower Mead after extra time.

Just reading that must make the Stones one of the Tigers' most-hated opponents of all time, for which we apologise. A bit.

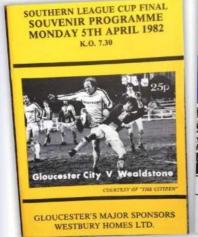
ity certainly put in a hell of a shift in the Southern League Cup Final, watched by a crowd of 2,300 at Horton Road for the first leg hoping to cheer the Tigers on to their first piece of silverware in 26 years - since last winning the Southern League Cup as mentioned earlier.

At that time, City had been continuous

CONTINUED OVERPAGE



#### **REWIND >>>> CONTINUED**







Winners and losers.. leads his team up to

#### The programmes for both legs of the 1981-82 Southern League Cup... what nights they were, 36 years ago!

members of the Southern League for 41 years (and took that to a record 50 years before they were promoted to the Conference in 2009) while Wealdstone's record in the League Cup in our ten years' membership had been laughable. We'd made it to the quarterfinals once (and a bleak defeat at Dover) in 1976 but our efforts were so ridiculed that fellow fan Nick Symmons (later to become club chairman) decided to re-name it The Nick Symmons Trophy as it was as tin-pot as he was (in his own words).

magine our delight when this 1981-82 season began to develop a life of its own... with a squad of just 17, the club went on an astonishing winning run with often four games played every week as it reached its success-soaked conclusion.

We played 72 games that season, including

six in the Southern League Cup on our way to that improbable two-legged final.

Some 250 Stones fans made their way down the M4 that Monday night, April 5, and my own ancient Renault Five was carrying three of them as we dropped down off the A40 towards the City... and then spotted a group of blokes standing by a broken-down car, waving their arms hysterically.

It was Nick and his pals, the acclaimed Four Skinless Bangers of Sausage of the Season fame! What a time to break down, within touching distance of the climax of his own season, the final of the N.Symmons Trophy...How tempting it was to just keep on driving!

No. Behave yourself. How could I deprive Nick of the pinnacle of Southern League joy? We pulled up, breathed in (Messrs Fishman, Paull, and Symmons are no ligh-



# WEALDSTONE 2020-21





Stones skipper Paul Bowgett with the trophy while (above) Gloucester skipper Dave Bruton (No.4) collect their runners-up medals. Is that a young Toby Jackson in front of the stand?

weights, believe me) and made space for our fellow fans and the Renault audibly complained as it groaned, squeaked and rode low on its axles all the way to the ground.

Where, of course, goalkeeper Ray Goddard had his finest hour in a Wealdstone shirt. Ray had played in Divisions Two, Three and Four with Wimbledon and Orient (even reaching the FA Cup semi-final against Arsenal at Stamford Bridge in 1978), but he can never have looked as utterly unbeatable as he did on this tempestuous night in Gloucester, in front of a 2,300 crowd

The Tigers were a very decent side, finishing sixth that season, and they were facing a legweary Wealdstone who would go on to play **THIRTEEN** games in April. No surprise then that City were all over us in the first half with top scorer Dave Lewis drawing save after save from Goddard as they peppered our goal.

Goddard, though, barely seemed to move his feet as he plucked shots out of the air from all angles.

And Gloucester hearts were broken in the dying minutes when Stuart Pearce - who had been unusually restricted to defensive duties - managed to get on the end of a loose ball on the angle of the City box to blast it past the surprised keeper and into the net.

ound 1,200 were at the second leg at Lower Mead to see skipper Paul Bowgett fittingly lift the trophy after it was his penalty that had again separated the

sides for a 2-0 win on aggregate.

# First blood to 'Stones in final

Gloucester City 8
washing 1
FULL back Stuart
Pearce volleyed
Wealdstone to a
first leg lead in the
Southern League
Cup Final against
Midland division rivals Gloucester City
on Monday night.

The mineten-ver-old defender smacked a bobbling ball from the edge of the box past startled City keeper Cornwell after 51 minutes after Stones had weathered the storm in the first half. Now Stones look to be stimp pretty in the secondleg, set for Lower Mead on

D.

Winner - Stuart Pearce.

Eartier on 'Stones had played a waiting game as Gloucester staged some fiery first half attacks.

Ray Goddard made some fine stops as a 2,300 Horton Road crowd saw the 'Stones defence see off some relenticas front running from City strikers Burford, Wheeler

and Doyle.

But as Wealdstone became more adventurous Dennis Byatt saw his free kick turned round the post by Cornwell before, following a corner, Pearce hit a rising ball that gave the Keeper kittle chance as it found the top right-hand corner.

Stones came close to increasing the lead when a bad clearance from Cornwall was pounced upon by Ray Knowles whose shot floated perilously close across goal. Knowles threatened again late in the game as Cornwell did well to stop his powerful bouncing shot

Weslastone: Goddard, Perkins, Peace, Byatt, Brwgett, Barwick, Watter, Wattweight, Cordice (A), Knowles, Davins, Hardman sch.

## REWIND >>>> CONTINUED

The famous picture taken at Lower Mead in the summer of 1982. With manager Allen Batsford (top), director Michael Macario (left) and chairman David Morritt (right), the

club shows off its hat-trick of Southern League trophies... the SL DIV One South (bottom left), the SL Cup (right) and the mighty Southern League Shield for South v North

winners



# Stones' League Cup

Wealdstone I Glowcester City 0 WEALDSTONE lifted the Southern League Cup for the first time in the competition's 50 year history when beating Midland Division Gloucester City 1-0 at Low-Wednesday er Mead in night's second leg. The win gives 'Stones a

2-0 final triumph on ag-

gregate. The signal for the champagne corks to start popping came with Paul Bowgett's 41st minute penalty, but the writing was on the wall long before that (writes Ron Smithson).

Bouncing back from their 2-0 Middlesex Senior Cup final defeat at the hands of Hayes just two days carlier, Stones never really allowed Gloucester a look in and were always firmly in the driving seat. And the star of the show was livewire top scorer Alan Cordice. Birth day boy Alan - 27 on Thursday - was the cross has she assessmented Claude



Above: The ex-Eire international Dixie Hale goal (at Lower Mead's Cinema End) from a



Hale was on a one-man mission to win Stone: League... and here he blasts us level just half lead. In the background is the Elmslie End

# WEALDSTONE 2020-21

# 49 years ago..a Hale and hearty start to life in the semi-pro game

Saturday September 27 1971, Southern League Div One North: Wealdstone 2 Gloucester City 1

tones fans eyes light up at the very mention of Gloucester City - well, fans of a certain vintage anyway. But who recalls our very first home League game as semi-professionals? Well, I do for one. And pretty memorable it was too, back in September 1971. Our hastily scratched together team - completely remodelled from the one that had quit the amateur Isthmian League a few months earlier - contained a few nuggets in former pros like Cliff Jones (ex Spurs double winner and Welsh international), ex Millwall striker

Micky Brown and former Watford and Swansea Republic of Ireland international Dixie Hale.

We were lucky to catch midfield general Hale just as Watford decided he wasn't up to Second Division (EFL Championship) football at the age of 36. Just two years earlier I'd seen him play against European Champions Man Utd in the FA Cup and actually overshadow Bobby Charlton. Yes, actually outplay him, although the Horns were beaten 2-0 in a Vicarage Road replay.

Despite his ageing legs, the amiable Irishman unsurprisingly looked head and shoulders above most teams we faced in this debut Southern League (Div One North) season. The campaign began with defeats at Kings Lynn (2-1) and Stourbridge (4-1) and it was September 25 by the time the very decent Gloucester side pitched up before a 1,000-plus crowd at our famous old ground. And it needed the goal scoring instincts of Mr Hale to save the day after we had fallen behind. Sadly we

only had his services for less than two years as his new job took him to South Wales, too far to commute.

My efforts at tracking him down in 2018 came to nought, but the 85-year old (as he will be now) pops up on google mainly in connection with his Swansea past. Hale began his career with Waterford and Shamrock Rovers in the Irish League before signing for Swansea (just across the water) in 1959 where he was popular with the fans... although not so popular five years later when he returned to the Vetch Field and steered his new team Workington to a 6-1 win in Division Four, bossing the midfield. Apparently Dixie invited the Swans team back to his house a few weeks later when the teams met again as a peace offering - but Workington this time won 7-0!



s their first-ever points in the Southern a minute after Gloucester had taken the



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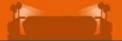














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BY STEVE DUCKER



# 50-year Aashbac

OFFICIAL PROGRAMM PROGRAMM



Marking the 50th anniversary of our step up to professionalism in 2021, we're 'live blogging' our final season as an amateur club using a programme from each of the 92 Football League clubs in 1970/71. Here are matches 41 to 44.



Saturday 21 November, 3pm, Division 1 Ipswich Town 0 (Dixie McNeil 2)

Arsenal 1 (George Armstrong)

Ref E Wallace, Swindon | Att 22,856

**Summary:** Ipswich concede last minute goal after dominating game.

Programme highlight: The photo of an Ipswich goal in the 2-1 win over West Ham two weeks earlier, with Hammers defender Tommy Taylor wearing an expression of pure torture.

Programme lowlight: I'm not sure the request to Town player Frank Brogan to pose cheerfully with discarded plaster cast after an ankle operation would get quite the same response now.

**Programme bingo:** The inside back cover ad for Tolly Cobbold beer ("Serious beer men know Tolly is different") tells you everything about the core demographic of football crowds back then.

Ahead of their time: Ipswich boss Bobby Robson pinpointed the game's transition from entertainment industry to results-dominated business. Asked whether his team's performance was a moral victory despite the score, he replied: "Another three moral victories like that and I'll get the sack."

**Any other business:** George Armstrong scored in the 90th minute. Arsenal won the title by a point. Go figure.

**Wealdstone:** A stonking 4-0 home win over Bromley in the Isthmian League

Wednesday 25 November, 7.30pm, Division 3

Brighton & Hove Albion 2 (Allan Gilliver, Kit Napier pen)

Swansea City 2 (Geoff Thomas pen, David Gwyther)

Ref M Sinclair, Guildford | Att 6,578

**Summary:** One home win in eight v no away wins in ten, inevitable conclusion.

**Programme highlight:** The Viewpoint column stepping out of the average English fan's insularity to talk about football - particularly stadiums - in mainland Europe.

Programme lowlight: Same article descending into a pop at the Germans for their cheapest ticket price of 17 shillings (85p, or around three times its English equivalent). Fifty years on, we've well and truly overhauled them there. Well done, England.

**Programme bingo:** The ad for greyhound racing on the back cover. Even Wembley Stadium had dogs, and with meetings at the Brighton & Hove greyhound stadium every Saturday at 7.30pm, football fans were seen as a natural crossover.

Ahead of their time: Years before Premier League sides like Charlton and Bournemouth attracted criticism for getting to 40 points and effectively retiring to the beach, Brighton appeared to make their intentions plain by not even including 1971 on the cover of the programme.

Any other business: Swansea's team included Len Allchurch, in his second spell at the club and heading towards 600 career league games. His brother Ivor scored twice for Wales at the 1958 World Cup.





Saturday 28 November, 3pm, Division 4

Lincoln City 2 (Derek Trevis, Bobby Svarc)

Darlington 1 (Billy Horner) Ref F Bassett, Swindon | Att 4,339

Summary: Lincoln dent Darlington's surprisingly good start to the season, but it's a false dawn.

Programme highlight: The line drawing of Lincoln Cathedral on the cover. It's visible from Sincil Bank, so there's a legitimate connection. But let's face it, when you've got the football history that

Lincoln had at the time, any civic claim to fame will do.

Programme lowlight: The Supporters Club notes writer describing recent FA Cup visitors Barrow as "very moderate" was a bit rich, given that Lincoln went on to win four of their final 26 games and ended up applying for re-election alongside their Cumbrian opponents.

Programme bingo: Lower division north of England team with gritty sounding manager. Check. Step forward Bert Loxley. Apart from sounding straight out of the Victor comic ("Loxley's Lions" anyone?) he was the trainer as well. Imagine those dressing room conversations. "Boss, the training sessions are too hard." "No they aren't." "OK then."

Ahead of their time: The Lincoln directors, who in 1972 executed a managerial promotion from within that the Liverpool boot room would have been proud of they took an unsung long-serving full back called Graham Taylor and put him in charge. In 1976 they won the fourth division title with 74 points (106 in today's money).

Any other business: These were two of the first three teams relegated from the Football League, in 1987 and 1989 respectively. Both came back up at the first attempt.

**Wealdstone:** We travel to Champion Hill where we beat Dulwich 1-0 in an Isthmian League match.

Saturday 5 December, 3pm, Division 3

Reading 1 (Les Chappell)

**Bury 5** (George Jones 4, Billy Rudd)

Ref R Johnson, Lowestoft | Att 6,055

**Summary:** Bury, next to bottom at the start of play, destroy their mid-table opponents. **6** 

Programme highlight: Reading manager Jack Mansell, who had worked in Holland and the USA, was regarded as one of the more innovative coaches of the time.

Programme lowlight: Can history influence a performance? It did here. Reading had won only three of 14 previous games against Bury, and the programme called their record "particularly unimpressive". It was almost like they were beaten in the dressing room.

Programme bingo: A big Cup win, like Reading enjoyed against non-league Bishops Stortford, was always going to get the photo treatment, and the first of Les Chappell's hat-trick in a 6-1 is duly recorded. But seriously, how old are some of those "kids" on the perimeter wall?

Ahead of their time: Bury, who repeated this score at Gigg Lane in February. Just under 20% of their league goals that season were scored in those two games.

Any other business: When Reading won promotion to the third division in 1979, their first programme of the new season announced them as looking forward to 44 games, because the other two were against Bury...

**Wealdstone:** We play and beat Cheshunt 3-2 in the first round of the London Senior Cup.

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Saturday, 22nd May Vanarama National League

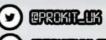


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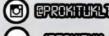
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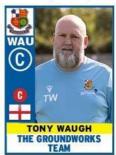
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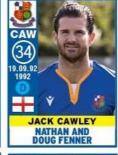


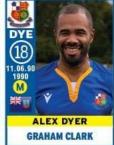










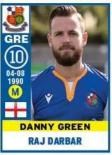














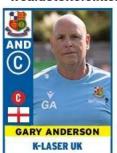




To sponsor your favourite, iust head on over to

#### wealdstonefc.ktckts.com

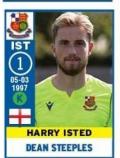
# WEALDSTONE 2020-21













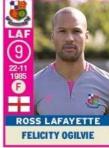




















Flags indicate national team as defined under FIFA eligibility rules. Players may hold more than one non-FIFA nationality.

# UPCOMING FIXTURES

## WEALDSTONE 2020-21

#### HERE AT THE VALE:

### **DOVER ATHLETIC**

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

Tuesday, 19th January, 7:45pm Support the Stones, watch the stream - £9.99

#### **ALDERSHOT TOWN**

**VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE** 

Saturday, 23rd January, 3:00pm Support the Stones, watch the stream - £9.99

### **MAIDENHEAD UNITED**

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

Saturday, 2nd February, 3:00pm Support the Stones, watch the stream - £9.99

#### WOKING

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

Saturday, 6th February, 3:00pm Support the Stones, watch the stream - £9.99

#### STONES ACROSS ENGLAND:

### **Altrincham**

**VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE** 

Tuesday, 26th January, 7:45pm www.altrinchamfc.com | @AltrinchamFC

#### **Solihull Moors**

**VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE** 

Saturday, 30th January, 3:00pm www.solihullmoorsfc.co.uk | @SolihullMoors

### **Torquay United**

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

Tuesday, 9th February, 7:45pm www.torquayunited.com | @@TUFC1899

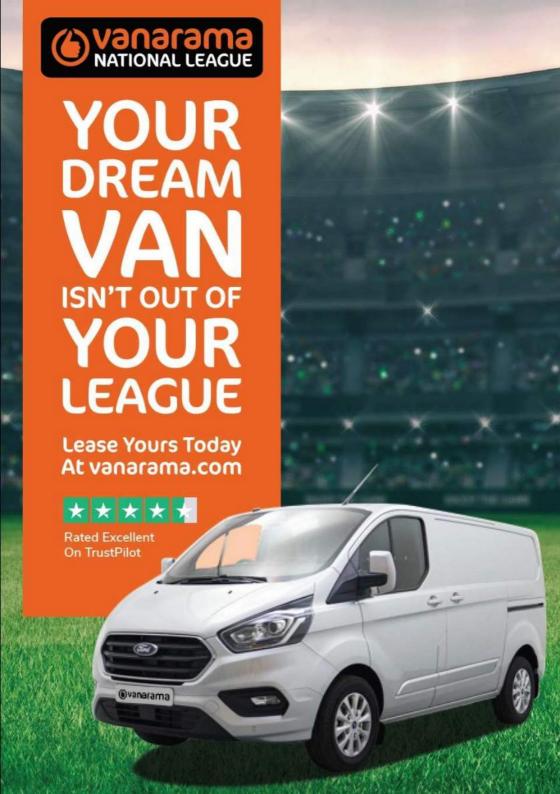
#### **Sutton United**

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

Saturday, 20th February, 3:00pm www.suttonunited.net|@SuttonUnited

# Vanarama National League 2020/2021 - at Tuesday 12/01/2021

Opposition	All							Home								AWG	Y_		PAGE HEALT		- Mary To-1999 MA	
Оррозилон	P	w	D	L	F	A	Р	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts	Resu	-
1 Torquay United	17	12	2	3	38	17	8	6	1	1	17	6	9	6	1	2	21	11	21	38	1-2	0
2 Hartlepool United	17	9	3	5	26	19	10	5	2	3	16	12	7	4	1	2	10	7	7	30		1-3
3 Sutton United	14	8	3	3	25	16	8	4	2	2	16	7	6	4	1	1	9	9	9	27	3-3	
4 Stockport County	14	7	3	4	22	16	6	3	2	1	10	5	8	4	1	3	12	11	6	24	2-5	
5 Altrincham	18	6	6	6	20	21	7	2	2	3	7	8	11	4	4	3	13	13	-1	24	1-0	
6 Halifax Town	17	6	5	6	28	21	8	4	2	2	16	10	9	2	3	4	12	11	7	23		1-0
7 Notts County	14	7	2	5	19	13	8	5	0	3	14	8	6	2	2	2	5	5	6	23		0-3
8 Maidenhead United	14	7	2	5	21	21	6	3	1	2	13	11	8	4	1	3	8	10	0	23	2	0-4
9 Bromley	14	6	4	4	23	17	8	2	2	4	12	13	6	4	2	0	11	4	6	22		
10 Boreham Wood	14	6	4	4	17	11	5	2	1	2	4	4	9	4	3	2	13	7	6	22		
11 Solihull Moors	13	7	1	5	18	13	7	6	0	1	13	3	6	1	1	4	5	10	5	22		
12 Woking	16	6	3	7	20	18	9	4	3	2	12	5	7	2	0	5	8	13	2	21		
13 Aldershot Town	16	6	3	7	22	22	7	3	1	3	9	10	9	3	2	4	13	12	0	21		
14 Wealdstone	16	6	3	7	23	33	7	4	1	2	16	16	9	2	2	5	7	17	-10	21		
15 Eastleigh	13	5	5	3	21	15	6	2	3	1	7	5	7	3	2	2	14	10	6	20	1707001	0-2
16 Wrexham	14	6	2	6	17	16	6	3	1	2	7	3	8	3	1	4	10	13	1	20	4-3	
17 Chesterfield	15	6	1	8	26	20	8	3	1	4	16	9	7	3	0	4	10	11	6	19	3-2	
18 Dagenham & Redbridge	14	5	3	6	11	14	5	1	2	2	2	3	9	4	1	4	9	11	-3	18		0-1
19 Yeovil Town	15	1000	5	6	20	24	8	2	1	5	10	13	7	2	4	1	10	11	-4	17		2-2
20 King's Lynn Town	14	4	3	7	18	31	8	2	3	3	11	15	6	2	0	4	7	16	-13	15		3-2
21 Weymouth	16	-	3	11	17	31	10	1	1	8	12	24	6	1	2	3	5	7	-14	9	2-1	
22 Barnet	14	A Company	3	9	11	35	8	1	2	5	4	15	6	1	1	4	7	20	-24	9		0-0
23 Dover Athletic	11	100	1	8	7	26	7	2	1	4	6	15	4	0	0	4	1	11	-19	7		



# THE LINE-UPS

#### **GLOUCESTER C** WEALDSTONE Royal Blue/White Red & Amber G Stuart Moore 1 1 Rhvs Lovett G Michee Efete 2 2 Jamie Bremner Josh Debayo 3 3 Jordan Young Ashlev Charles 4 4 Tom Harrison Connor Stevens 5 5 Liam Daly © Jerome Okimo © 6 6 Fabien Robert Michael Phillips 7 7 Kevin Dawson Connor Smith 8 8 Josh Thomas 9 Tahvon Campbell Ross Lafeyette 9 **Danny Green 10** 10 Matt McClure **Dennon Lewis 11** 11 Bernard Mensah Charlee Hughes 12 12 Alex Hainault **Daniel Wishart 13** 13 Khaellem Bailey-Nicholls **Danny Parish 14** 14 Tommy O'Sullivan 15 Bradley Webb Kundai Benyu 15 16 Lewis Brunt **Jacob Mendy 17** 17 Jack James Alex Dver 18 Moses Emmanuel 19 18 Jack Burroughs Jorome Slew 20 19 Niall Maher G **G Lewis Everitt 21** 20 Keanu Marsh-Brown

REFEREE Jacob Miles ASST REFEREES

23 Ben Morgan

Robert Evans and Luke Scott FOURTH OFFICIAL Michael Smith OBSERVER TBA

plc

#### **TODAY'S MATCH SPONSOR Union Athletic**

Maxim Kouogun 23

Mohammad Diallo 26

G Jake Askew 25

Matthew Lench 28

Rob Swaine 29

Elijah Hearn 30

**Jack Cawley 34** 

NEXT HOME GAMES: v DOVER (Vanarama National League) Tuesday January 19, kick-off 7.45pm (LIVE STREAM BEGINS AT 7.30PM) v ALDERSHOT TOWN (Vanarama National League) Saturday January 23, 3pm (LIVE STREAM FROM 2.45PM)

Main club sponsor:

gpflewis

