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FOOTBALL CLUB

SEASON 2020-21

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Jacob Mendy Mendy fires in Stones' third goal in the 3-1 win over Kings Lynn Town on Tuesday night to seal the club's first 'double' at this level since 1987. Left: He celebrates PICTURES: JON TAFFEL

Wealdstone v Notts County

Saturday March 13
2021, kick-off 3pm

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BY MARK HYDE



Written in Stone



Good afternoon and welcome to Neal Ardley and his staff and players from Notts County. We hope you enjoy your brief stay with us and have a safe journey home after the game.

WEALDSTONE 2020-21

Since our last period in the top flight of non league football, the landscape has changed considerably and the thought of locking horns with illustrious ex football league clubs, and possibly cause an upset or two was the talk of the club. Sadly the slow return of normality has tempered this excitement and we can only imagine what today would have been like at any other time.

On a brighter note, progress on the pitch in the last few weeks will hopefully ensure us our big gate days next season.

Mark

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FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2020/2021

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- 2) No spectator ball games.
- 3) The consumption of alcoholic drinks is permitted INSIDE the social club bar, garden and boardroom areas.
- 4) 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

We are happy with what we are seeing



Good afternoon and a warm welcome to Neil Arday's Notts County.

From a management perspective It was certainly nice to get our first 3pts on the board last week against Boreham Wood. It's had been a while since the club had won in the league so it was a relief for everyone involved.

A lot of tactical work went in to preparing for that performance so we were just delighted to see everyone at the club reap the rewards. The players deserved their bits of luck they as we have been on the end of a few bad decisions recently. Something we've been working on is filling the goal with bodies when teams get into our box, so without that work its safe to say we don't make those blocks late in the

game.

The progression recently has been clear to see. The clearest sign that we're heading in the right direction, is that in our 6 league games since we took charge we have been ahead at half time in 4, which is significant improvement from where we had been. Previously we would have been out of sight instead of only actually been behind after 45mins in one game.

As a management team we said from day one that we could tactically give the lads the best chance to get something from games, and we will continue to do that. Progression in football is never linear, but there are foundations in place now that mean we're looking like a real National League team for the first time. Injuries have obviously decimated the squad, but to remain as competitive as we have been, has been a huge credit to the players work ethic and desire to get things right on the training ground. The demands we're now putting on them to get back in their defensive shape is taking its toll late in games, but gradually they'll start to adapt and become fitter. Things like that should be put in place during pre season, but we're having to try and increase their fitness levels mid season, which is never easy with the amount of games we currently have.

We are very happy with what we're seeing, and the path forwards is looking promising. The players commitment has been brilliant and they've been a credit to themselves. Like I said earlier, the process is never simple mid season, but as long as we continue on our gradual upwards curve, that's all we can ask.

Hopefully we can give another good account of ourselves today, against an incredibly strong Notts County side.

Stuart

BY SUDHIR RAWAL



The Elmslie Ender



EE shares his view on last weeks two home performances.

Regardless of how hard you work, whether in training or on the pitch, sometimes you need a bit of luck in football.

Against BorehamWood, we had large dollops of luck. Having defended valiantly throughout the game, been the better side in the first half, we were indebted to 'Woods wayward finishing and a remarkable double clearance off the line late on in the game. On the balance of play we deserved our win against the Hertfordshire side to end a run of games stretching back three months to our last league win. Whilst relegation is likely to be off the table now, even with the proposed promotion league being discussed at the moment by the National League for the teams that threw their toys out of the pram, winning or losing becomes a habit.

Moving onto the FC Halifax match, on the balance of play, it would have been harsh on the Yorkshire side not to have won the game. I thought they were fitter, stronger and better than us across the park and had the best player on the pitch in Kieran Green who resembled a player more likely to be found playing for Leeds Rhinos, whose



coach Halifax travelled down in, than a footballer. Dennon Lewis gave us the lead with a goal reminiscent of Paul Gascoigne for England verses Scotland. It was a reminder of what he can do. Halifax's equaliser was poor from us, starting with giving away a cheap free kick, allowing the winger to get away down our right and then not dealing with the cross when it came in. Whilst Halifax enjoyed the majority of the play, Isted wasn't really that troubled during the second period bar a shot hitting the bar. It looked like we would see the game out and take a point until the Shayman scored their winner. It was a fine goal, much like Mason Mount's for Chelsea verses Liverpool, but much like that goal, we should have closed down the opportunity sooner and halted his run across the box. Luck I said at the start plays a part, but ours ran out or more specifically, the referee missed a blatant penalty. It was bleeding obvious to everyone watching that Hughes had a simple tap in to equalise and was hauled back. How on earth he nor the referee's assistant missed it, I don't know.

There's no doubt that since the change in management we look more organised but are being thwarted by injuries as much as anything else. The constant playing of games, being part time, and the inability to rest must have an

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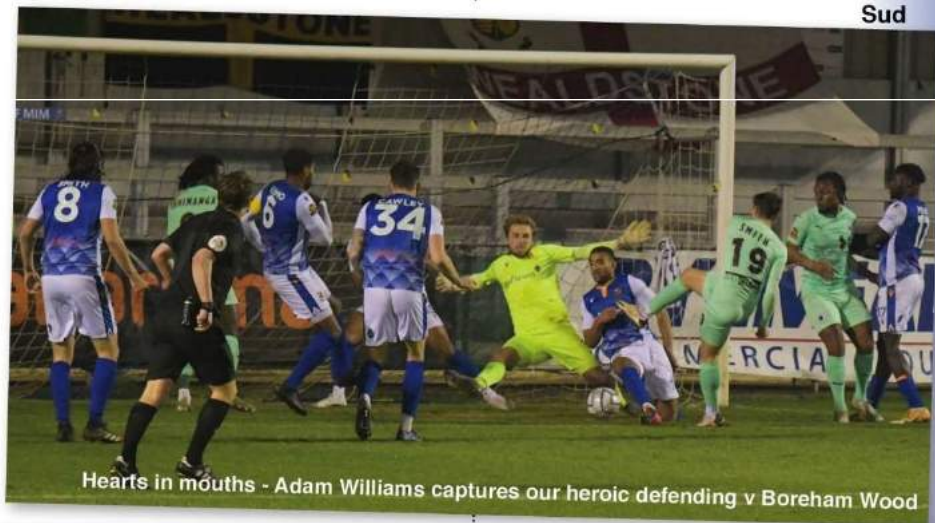


A classic Elmslie End pic by Bob Dugard ... our old Lower Mead stand fills up on a rainy March afternoon in 1978 when the Stones faced Udinese in the Anglo-Italian tournament. The Italians were spiteful and spoiling, and Bobby Moss (yellow shirt, left) marches into the fray with the always combative Willie Watson and Steve Brinkman the other Stones players. The Italians won the game 1-0, and eventually the tournament

impact and there is no doubt that we are being adversely affected by the relentless run of games. One key stat that emphasises this is that of the twenty-six points gained to date, before the Kings Lynn match, twenty-one have been won when either Ross Lafayette

has started (13 points) or come on from the bench (8 points). Of the other five, four were from Barnet and Weymouth when we were still on a good run of form before Christmas. RLF provides a very different focal point at the top end of the pitch. We have missed him badly.

Sud



Hearts in mouths - Adam Williams captures our heroic defending v Boreham Wood

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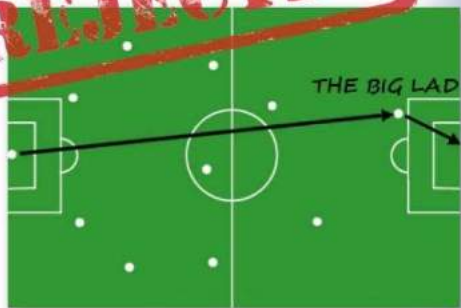
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BY CLIVE LEAPER



WEALDSTONE 2020-21

Clives A-Z of Football for the lockdown generation



There was a time before he became a Twitter sensation as a social commentator when Clive ... @chelskireject was a humble contributor to these very pages. Thanks to exhaustive behind the scenes negotiations we are now in a position to serialise his latest musings.

Is For...

INFLATABLES. Hard to believe but this was a thing back in the day. Most teams had their own version. What were we thinking? Went to a game with a sheep called lady Baa Baa a few years back but we were being ironic... I think.

INDIGNATION. Often to be found at the final whistle and directed towards the referee. Questioning his parentage and ability to see without specs. The villain of the peace. Who'd wanna be a ref? Probably bullied at school.

INVADING THE PITCH. Historically this was generally a female stalker adding much to the day. More recently we've seen copycats spurred on by alcohol & bravado take to the pitch at the drop of a hat. Only saving grace, they more or less kept their clothes on... Ginge/ Jez.

ING-ER-LAND. This is football plus. Like a good away day except over several days. A chance to meet people from other countries and cultures and get to know them better. And drink their beer.



If Deano scores we're on the pitch....

K Is For...

KNOW IT ALL. The person who can read the game better than anyone else whether they be the manager, the players whoever. Will generally have a loud voice to ensure everyone can benefit from hearing their pearls of wisdom. Incredible they don't manage the national team.

KEEP THE FAITH. Often repeated when all hope is lost. The belief of the person saying this is to be much commended as most are busy lighting the torches to lynch mob attack what they think is the cause of their woes.

KNEES UP. Probably as well we're talking 30 years ago here what with my knees. If you could bottle that feeling you'd be a millionaire. Adrenaline rush.

L Is For...

LOSING. Just the worst feeling ever. Seven stages of grief start at the end of the match and can last days, weeks, months, years, forever sometimes. Alcohol can numb the pain but only for so long.

LONG BALL. I hate it. When my son played for Wealdstone* at 8 yrs old this was the managers favoured tactic. Boot it up field to the biggest tallest kid. Shouldn't be seen as a style of football in a proper game. I'm a purist of Dutch total football

To be continued you next Issue...

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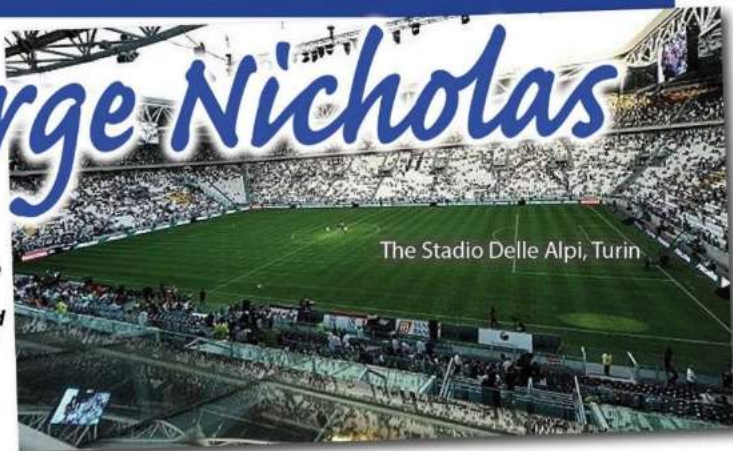
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THEY PLAYED FOR BOTH TEAMS

George Nicholas

Eight years ago, Stones new midfielder George Nicholas had a tale to tell when TIM PARKS interviewed him for the Stones programme...



The Stadio Delle Alpi, Turin

A year on from playing at Juventus.. he was playing for Stones at the Vale

If Stones' new midfielder George Nicholas does nothing else in his career he can summon the memory of a fantastic night on the biggest of stages only last September.

For 19-year-old George, then in his second season as a young professional at League One Notts County, found himself playing against Juventus at the grand opening of the Italian giants' amazing new Delle Alpi stadium.

"It was unreal, absolutely unreal" says George, looking back in wonderment. As the Guardian football writer Richard Williams wrote the next day, Juventus' decision to invite the club standing 12th in English football's third tier to open the



George in action at The Stadio Del boy, Ruislip

beautiful 41,000-seater stadium was 'probably the most elegant gesture in football history'. But why Notts County? And why give an 18-year-old playing time on the same pitch as Alessandro Del Piero, Gigi Buffon and Andrea Pirlo, while legends such as Dino Zoff,

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Giampiero Boniperti, Luis Del Sol, Fabio Capello, Marcello Lippi, Claudio Gentile, Roberto Bettega, Ciro Ferrara, Angelo Di Livio, Edgar Davids, Paolo Montero and Fabrizio Ravanelli watched from the stands?

It all goes back to 1903, when Juventus member John Savage, an Englishman, asked then-top flight Notts County for a set of black and white striped shirts to replace the pink jerseys they'd worn since their founding by a group of students six years earlier.

Fast forward 108 years, and County tentatively contacted Juventus with an invitation to visit Nottingham for a match to celebrate their 150th anniversary. The response was more than they could have imagined! Juve immediately called to suggest that they might become the first visitors to the new ground, which was built on the site of the unloved Stadio delle Alpi in Turin's northern suburbs.. "The whole thing was fantastic to have been a part



Golden moment: Notts County equalise in the final minutes at the Stadio Delle Alpi after George (foreground) prods the ball across goal after keeper Alex Manninger's spill, and Lee Hughes scores

of," recalls George. "They looked after us so well, accommodation and a state of the art training ground, and we brought over our whole squad of 22 players. It meant everyone had some playing time and I got to play the last 30 minutes – and I got on the ball quite a bit because Juventus weren't in your faces... not until you reached the final

third anyway!"

The Guardian reported that: "The Notts squad made their way on to the pitch two and a half hours before kick off, and an hour before the start of a fabulous light show to inaugurate the new stadium. They had been flown to Turin on a plane chartered by their hosts and been put up at a five-star hotel, receiving a police escort to and

from Juventus's training ground. They looked around in awe, taking photographs of the stadium, which is steep-sided, with no running track.

"The brilliantly-staged gala featured a brass band, speeches, fireworks, dancers and a quietly devastating parade of 39 white-clad children representing the Heysel dead. And, eventually, a decent game of football.

'Could Del Piero, in his 678th game, score his 285th goal and Juve's first in their new

CONTD OVERPAGE

Juve players applaud the crowd at the final whistle and George (third right) tries to take in the enormity of the occasion

THEY PLAYED FOR BOTH.. CONTD

home? The nearest he came in his 45 minutes on the pitch was with a shot over the bar from the edge of the area.

"Robert Burch, the Notts goalkeeper, saved a penalty from Fabio Quagliarella eight minutes in the second half but Luca Toni slid the rebound home.

"One-nil would have been a great result for County... but, amazingly, they equalised in the 87th minute when a free-kick squirmed out of the hands of Alex Manninger, Juve's substitute goalkeeper, George Nicholas prodded the loose ball across the six-yard box and Lee Hughes slammed it home."

What a night for George - an assist on one of the great occasions in Italian football history!

Sadly, after having made his League One debut against Brighton at the tail end of the 2010-11 season, he was destined not to play again for County and ended up being released at the end of last season.

Despite being brought up in Garston, Watford, and now living back at his folks' house in Stanmore, George didn't know much about the Stones - I suppose the club had effectively moved out of Harrow before he was born.

"I've always been aware of Wealdstone FC, but after playing local youth football I was playing at Spurs in their youth set-up for three years - and then the two years at County. But it's nice to be back more local.. now I've just got to stake a place in the team. That's always the toughest thing".

SO WHAT HAPPENED TO GEORGE NICHOLAS?

George was unable to stake a claim to a regular place in Gordon Bartlett's play-off chasing side that 2012-2013 season, making just three starts and four subs' appearances - but then he had competition from established midfield stars like Alex Dyer, Kurtney Brooks and Tom Pett. But he did make a bit of a name for himself soon after joining Northwood at the end of 2012 - when he was talent spotted by a modelling agency (pictured above) and spent some time on catwalks in New York and around the world.

He returned to non-League football in 2017 with Potters Bar Town, his local club and was last season earlier this season in the colours of Hanwell Town.



Harold

80 years before Nicholas, Harold Smith moves the other way: Notts County sign the young midfielder for just £10 and a set of shirts!

BY ROGER SLATER

Harold Smith, born in 1908 first appeared for Wealdstone Reserves as a 16-year-old but it was not until the start of the 1925-26 season that he took his place in the First XI. Initially playing as an inside forward, he soon reverted to the half back line where he became noted as a tough tackling centre-half with good passing ability.

Later in the season, his prominence was noted by other clubs and he was to become the first player to transfer from Wealdstone into the professional game at Notts County. As he was an amateur, there was no formal transfer fee involved. He expressed his wish to leave and the club granted his wish - in fact he left just a matter of days later - however Notts County did offer compensation to their amateur counterparts and the first transfer fee received by Wealdstone from another club is duly recorded as

Smith

£10 0s 0d, a full set of shirts for the first team and confirmation that Notts County would bring down a full first team for a friendly match later in the season!

The Harrow Observer kept Wealdstone fans in touch with his career reporting in March 1931 (Smith joined Notts County in November 1930) that "Smith is making excellent progress and has created a highly favourable impression in Third Division football. His play has frequently been praised by the critics and in a recent game, for example, Losely, the Gillingham centre forward, had a poor match against the much-improved centre half who outshone Dewsey and Kemp in the Notts County half back line".

On April 29th 1931, the promised match with Notts County was staged and the Harrow paper reported: A crowd of 2,300 saw Notts County, the Southern Section Third Division Champions, engage with Wealdstone, the local Athenian Leaguers. Smith, who up until November was Wealdstone's centre half and captain, soon made good on turning professional. After three games with the 'County Reserves, he secured his place in



Smith, the latest Notts. County recruit, who played finely this afternoon at Meadow Lane

the first team and retained it for the remainder of the season by his consistent good form. Mr H Henshall, the Notts County manager told an Observer representative that Smith had done remarkably well and Notts County would wish to have a few more like him from Wealdstone!

The County paid Wealdstone the respect of fielding their strongest possible side and the home team turned out in new colours, Black and White halves replacing the usual Royal Blue (these were the shirts provided as part of the transfer by Notts County, becoming the club colours for three seasons).

The cheer, which greeted the County players as they took the

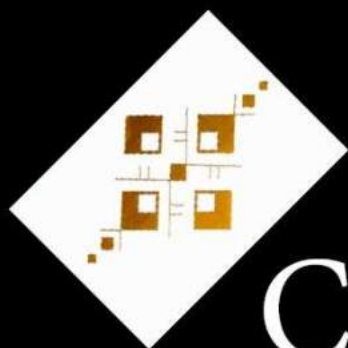
field, was obviously largely a personal one for Smith, who captained them for the occasion, and the cheering was resumed when he shook hands with C Davies, the home captain, and won the toss.

As was to be expected the County side proved the superior side and ended up 8-3 winners. Poulson, the home goalkeeper was continually in action throughout the first half, and earned the appreciation of the spectators by many clever saves.

The County's 5-1 lead at the interval was largely due to the opportunity of their clever young inside-left, Hall, whose accurate first time shooting earned him four goals.

Between 1930 and 1935, Harold Smith played 117 times for County, scoring five goals and was in the 'County team that won the Division Three South Championship in 1931.

He transferred to Cardiff City in 1935 making 55 appearances before transferring again in 1937 season to Peterborough United, then in the Midland League, making a further 40 appearances in his first season but was injured after helping Posh through five FA Cup ties to reach a first round tie against Bristol Rovers. War broke out and he only turned out one more time for Peterborough in the 1939-40 season. The famous Mr Smith died in 1979.



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NOTTS COUNTY FC

The Magpies

Notts County Football Club was formed in 1862. Official formation followed two years later as the 'Notts. Foot Ball Club'.

Pre-dating The Football Association, the club initially played matches of its own devising at Park Hollow, inside the grounds of the old Nottingham Castle. In 1864, the decision was made to take on outside opposition from both England and Scotland, which led to a move away from the club's initial home to allow for larger crowds.

The following years saw the club appear at numerous locations, including Castle Cricket Ground (1894), and Nottingham Forest's Town Ground (1895 and 1896) and City Ground (1899 to 1909). However, the club's main home, from 1883 onwards, was Trent Bridge, until the permanent switch across the river to Meadow Lane was completed in 1910.

In 1888, Notts became one of 12 founder members of The Football League and ended the first season in 11th place, above Stoke City. A highest ever league finish of third was achieved in 1890-91 – a feat that was replicated in 1900.

In 1890-91, Notts reached the FA Cup Final for the first time, only to be defeated 3-1 by Blackburn Rovers at The Oval, despite thumping the trophy winners 7-1 only a week prior. The club made amends on 31 March 1894, with Jimmy Logan netting a hat-trick in a 4-1 triumph over Bolton Wanderers at Goodison Park.

The fixture is also memorable for another reason, as Notts became first team outside the top flight to win the tournament, having been relegated to the Second Division in 1893. Promotion back to the top tier was confirmed in 1896-97, after a series of 'test matches' – meetings between the bottom sides in the First Division and the top teams in the Second Division.

In 1912-13 Notts were again relegated but returned the following season as champions of the Second Division. 1919-20 saw another demotion, though another Second Division championship was



NOTTS COUNTY'S 19,841 CAPACITY MEADOW

added to the trophy cabinet in 1922-23.

Despite a ninth-position finish in 1924-25, Notts dropped back down to the Second Division the following campaign. Then, in 1929-30, the club fell to the Third Division South, only to bounce back at the first time of asking – as champions.

After 16th, 15th and 18th placed finishes respectively, Notts ended the 1934-35 season at the foot of the Second Division. Prior to the Second World War, Notts narrowly missed out on promotion, as they finished 1936-37 second in the Third Division (South) – two points adrift of the champions, Luton Town.

In November 1947, Notts stunned the footballing world with the recruitment of England international Tommy Lawton. The England number nine had left top-flight Chelsea to join the Third Division South Magpies. Lawton's signing was for a British record fee but his arrival added around 10,000 to the gates at Meadow Lane. The average home crowds for the next eight seasons remain the highest in the club's history.

It was tough times but, when the most successful manager in the club's history walked through

the Meadow Lane gates, fortunes took a turn for the better. Jimmy Sirrel took over with the aim of lifting the doom and gloom – and he did just that by guiding the Magpies to the Fourth Division championship in his first full season in charge.



WEALDSTONE 2020-21



Pic. nottinghampost.com

The next promotion arrived in 1972-73, as Notts finished Third Division runners-up, which preceded an eight-year stay in the Second Division. So many promotions had usually been followed by relegation but not on this occasion, as Sirrel – helped by innovative coach Howard Wilkinson - led Notts to the First Division via a historic victory over Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

Against the odds, Notts spent three consecutive seasons in the top-flight, which were kicked off with a historic 1-0 triumph over champions Aston Villa on the opening day of the 1981-82 season. This proved to be just one of many unforgettable days for the fans of this era, as the Magpies recorded emphatic wins over Arsenal, Nottingham Forest and Leeds United.

Sirrel handed over managerial reigns to his number two Wilkinson in 1982 and 15th place was achieved for the second campaign on the spin. However, Wilkinson departed for Sheffield Wednesday and back-to-back relegations followed, though Sirrel did return to put a halt to the free-fall and the Magpies settled in the third tier.

Off the pitch, Notts faced a battle to stay afloat and a crisis meeting on 15 September 1986 drew 1,500 supporters to the Astoria Night Club, with many more locked outside. Debts of £2million had forced directors to consider liquidating the club but

it was agreed that business would resume thanks to the financial support of the fans.

Notts' true revival came from an unlikely source in 1989, when, following a run of poor results, boss John Barnwell was dismissed and replaced by the youthful figure of Neil Warnock, who had guided Scarborough into the Football League as champions of the Conference. In Warnock's first full season, 1989-90, the club achieved a third-placed finish and a spot in the Play-Offs.

Unlike two years prior, Notts flourished in the end-of-season knock-out and overcame Bolton Wanderers across two legs – a 1-1 draw on away soil and a 2-0 win back at Meadow Lane. This kicked off the 'Wembley Years' and, on an unforgettable day under the Twin Towers, the Magpies overcame Tranmere Rovers in front of 29,252 spectators.

Notts did not have to wait long for another trip to Wembley, as, despite expecting a season of consolidation in the Second Division, a fourth-placed finish was recorded – largely thanks to a run of seven straight wins towards the end of the campaign. The momentum carried into the play-offs and the Magpies booked another trip to London where 59,940 witnessed Notts make history with a 3-1 victory over Brighton & Hove Albion.

Warnock kept the faith in a large part of the squad that gained promotion, but Notts' stay in the top tier was short-lived and lasted only one campaign, as the club finished the season ranked 21st & Warnock's tenure at Meadow Lane came to an end in January 1993.

In 1995/96 Notts dropped into the basement division in 1996-97. Even the arrival of Sam Allardyce could not prevent the club from ending the campaign bottom of Division Two.

1997-98 was a remarkable and unique season in the club's history, as the Magpies smashed a number of national and club records to clinch the Division Three championship. In October 1999 Allardyce resigned to take up a post at Bolton Wanderers.

In 2014/15 the club suffered a final relegation back to the basement division of the Football League.

In 2018/19 Notts suffered a 3-1 defeat away at Swindon and were relegated from League Two, losing their proud status as the world's oldest Football League club as they dropped out of the EFL for the first time since its formation in 1888.

WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v NOTTS COUNTY FC

P 2 W 0 D 0 L 2 F 3 A 11

NOTTS COUNTY FC - WHO'S WHO?

1. SAM SLOCOMBE - GOALKEEPER

Experienced goalkeeper Sam Slocombe is now in his second season at Meadow Lane. Previously, Slocombe won promotions in consecutive seasons with Oxford United and Blackpool after leaving his hometown club Scunthorpe United in 2015.

2. RICHARD BRINDLEY - DEFENCE

The former Rotherham and Colchester player had made 34 appearances for National League side Bromley before joining us. Brindley came through Norwich City's academy but was released in 2012 and began to rebuild his career with Chelmsford in the Vanarama National League South.

3. MARK ELLIS - DEFENCE

Ellis has represented Torquay United, Crewe Alexandra, Shrewsbury Town and Carlisle United in the EFL, while he also tasted life in the National League with spells at Leyton Orient and Forest Green Rovers. Mark joined on loan until the end of the season this week.

4. JAKE REEVES - MIDFIELD

Reeves was one of the boss' outstanding performers at AFC Wimbledon, helping them win promotion from League Two before catching Bradford's eye with his continued form at a higher level. The Brentford academy graduate racked up several League One appearances for the Griffin Park outfit before enjoying a brief spell with Swindon Town ahead of his move to Wimbledon.

5. BEN TURNER - DEFENCE

Ben has Premier League pedigree having played in England's top flight with Cardiff City after winning the Championship with the Bluebirds in 2012-13. He scored a dramatic equaliser in the 2012 League Cup final. Turner started his career at Coventry and has spent time with the likes of Burton Albion and Mansfield since his professional debut in 2006.

6. JIM O'BRIEN - MIDFIELD

O'Brien came through the ranks at Celtic and had spells with Dunfermline Athletic, Dundee United and Motherwell before moving south of the border with Barnsley. He spent four seasons at Oakwell ahead of a switch to Coventry, where he made 70 appearances. O'Brien had spells with Shrewsbury Town and Ross County before joining Bradford for the first half of 2018-19.

7. JORDAN BARNETT - DEFENCE

joined us following the expiration of his contract with Oldham Athletic, for whom he made 17 League Two appearances – plus another seven in cup competitions - after joining the Latics on a

short-term deal in September.

8. MICHAEL DOYLE - MIDFIELD

The vastly experienced, all-action Irishman has amassed more than 800 appearances over the course of his 20-year career, representing Coventry (twice), Leeds, Sheffield United and Portsmouth before making the move to Meadow Lane in January 2019.

9. KYLE WOOTTON - FORWARD

The big striker turned his loan from Scunthorpe United into a permanent move in January 2020 and has established himself as our leading centre-forward. He finished last season as our top scorer with 18 goals and has started the 2020-21 season in fine form, notching in three consecutive victories.

10. CAL ROBERTS - FORWARD

The Newcastle United academy graduate bagged 17 goals in 25 games for Blyth before scoring in five consecutive games for us as we reached the National League promotion final. Roberts had been with hometown club Newcastle since the age of eight and was given his full debut by Rafael Benitez in an FA Cup win at Blackburn in January 2019, marking the occasion with a goal.

11. ENZIO BOLDEWIJN - FORWARD

Clubs higher up the pyramid had been interested in the former FC Utrecht winger, who emerged as one of League Two's hottest talents during his time with Crawley, where he netted 10 goals and laid on a further 10 for his teammates during 2017-18.

12. INIH EFFIONG - FORWARD

Effiong joined us on loan from Stevenage in January until the end of the season. Stevenage signed him this summer after seeing him bag 16 goals in 36 National League appearances for Dover in 2019-20. Effiong has also represented Woking and Barrow.

13. CONNELL RAWLINSON - DEFENCE

Rawlinson, who began his career at Chester, has European experience under his belt having played in Champions League qualifying matches for The New Saints (TNS) during his eight years in Welsh football.

14. DAMIEN MCCRORY - DEFENCE

The Irishman came through the ranks at Plymouth and had loan spells with Port Vale (twice) and Grimsby, before joining Dagenham and Redbrige in February 2010. McCrory made 86 appearances for the Daggers before heading

to Burton, with a loan at Portsmouth for the first half of 2017-18

15. TYLOR GOLDEN - DEFENCE

Salford City right back Tylor Golden joined us in February on a loan deal until 23 March. The 21-year-old, who progressed through Wigan Athletic's academy and made two senior appearances for the Latics before joining Salford this summer.

16. DION KELLY-EVANS - DEFENCE

The tough-tackling, energetic defender, who can cover either full-back position, has been a valuable member of our squad since his successful trial during our 2019-20 pre-season campaign. Kelly-Evans came through Coventry's youth system, making his professional debut for the Sky Blues in May 2016 and spending a further two seasons in their senior squad before joining Kettering Town and winning the Evostik Premier Division Central.

17. MATTY WOLFE - MIDFIELD

The highly-rated Barnsley midfielder joined us on loan in October. Having made his senior debut in the Tykes' Sky Bet Championship clash with Nottingham Forest last season, Wolfe, cited his determination to gain further experience in men's football upon his arrival at Meadow Lane. In January Wolfe had his stay extended until the end of the campaign.

18. JIMMY KNOWLES - FORWARD

Signed on loan from Mansfield Town ahead of the 2020-21 campaign. The promising 18-year-old will spend the season at Meadow Lane.

19. ELISHA SAM - FORWARD

The Belgian arrived at Meadow Lane in August 2020 after spending a season with Arda Kardzhali. Born in Antwerp and a graduate of Standard Liege's academy, Sam rose to prominence at Dutch second-tier side FC Eindhoven after kick-starting his professional career in Israel.

20. RÚBEN DA ROCHA RODRIGUES - FORWARD

Ruben swapped the Dutch Eerste Divisie for the National League. Capable of playing in a number of attacking positions, the 24-year-old scored 12 goals and contributed 10 assists for Den Bosch last term.

22. TIERNAN BROOKS - GOALKEEPER

The young keeper, who has represented Republic of Ireland at junior levels and has spent time on loan with Lincoln United, cut his

teeth with hometown club Sheffield Wednesday before joining us as a first-year scholar.

23. ADAM CHICKSEN - DEFENDER

The 28-year-old has played the vast majority of his career in League One but had been without a club since January 2020 following his surprise release from League One side Bolton Wanderers.

24. ALEX LACEY - DEFENCE

The defender had been in line to join League One side Bury before their expulsion from the EFL. Lacey has experienced promotion from the fifth tier before as part of the Luton side that won the title in 2014.

25. LUKE PILLING - GOALKEEPER

Pilling left boyhood club Tranmere Rovers this summer after 17 years of service, having joined the Merseyside outfit aged six. He has represented Wales at various youth levels and was voted Best Goalkeeper at the prestigious Toulon Tournament in 2017

26. KENTON RICHARDSON - DEFENCE

Richardson joined the Black Cats' Under 23s set-up last summer after racking up more than 40 League Two and National League appearances for Hartlepool United. Kenton joined on loan this week.

29. CALVIN MILLER - FORWARD

Miller joined us on loan from Harrogate Town in January. In 2016 he made his debut for boyhood club Celtic in a Scottish Premier League victory over Partick Thistle. Miller went on to make four further senior appearances for the Bhoys before expanding his experience with loan spells at Dundee and Ayr United.

30. JAKE KEAN - GOALKEEPER

Kean arrived as our new goalkeeper coach at the beginning of the 2019-20 season. An experienced stopper, he also registered as a player. Kean has turned out over 120 times during his playing career, including Premier League appearances for Blackburn.

MANAGER. NEAL ARDLEY

Neal joined us in November 2018 shortly after ending a six-year spell in the AFC Wimbledon dugout. Ardley was also a loyal servant to the London outfit during his playing days, spending more than a decade at their then-Selhurst Park home before rounding off his career with spells at Watford, Cardiff and Millwall.

BY MARTIN READ



The World of **Ball**

How **Lower Mead** helped to make us the club we are today

Thirty years after we departed our much loved stadium, a new book details the life and times of a ground that became one of London's most iconic non-league venues

Even if they'd actually visited the ground - perhaps clinging to their parents' arms while absorbing the loud and vibrant spectacle in front of them - anyone aged under 35 will have next to no memory of Lower Mead stadium.

That's a pretty sobering stat for those of us who fondly remember our joyous old ground; the one we moved into nearly 100 years ago, and the one we left - the departing of it tearing at our collective souls - in 1991.

A significant chunk of Wealdstone's 21st century support will not have any recall of a stadium that, through the 70 years we inhabited it, informed the very nature of the club we all know and love today. Which is why Roger Slater has chosen the 30th anniversary of our leaving the ground - the only one we have ever actually owned - to produce a detailed history of the stadium and how it developed over the years.

What makes it so compelling is that it's essentially a social history masquerading as the life and times of a field, albeit a field that went on to become one of London's most venerated non-league stadiums.

Should you buy the book - and yep, you really should - you will find yourself able to trace the shifting cultural zeitgeist through each of a myriad money-making schemes that were launched, decade after decade, to give the club a leg-up on the playing field and build on Lower Mead's capacity and facility.

What I learnt from reading it is the extent to which Wealdstone FC has essentially always been on an emergency financial footing, taking on the problem of crowds being marginally not big enough to sustain us by instigating a litany of imaginative non-footballing projects involving the ground and its environs.

For example, somehow it was deemed entirely OK to play motorcycle football - yep, you read that right - on the famous Lower Mead pitch back in the 1930s. Just try to imagine that on the Vale pitch today!

Baseball, Rugby League, Cricket, Squash...

So much was attempted; directors, committees and supporters trying everything from markets and fetes to entirely different sports (Rugby League! Baseball! Cricket!) as well as events featuring some less than obvious competitions ("Prettiest Ankle", anyone?). Some of these initiatives gelled and lasted for years, others just didn't take off, and some - a day-long rock concert, for example - were particularly creative ideas for their time that spoke of a club imbued



Left: the first ever picture of Lower Mead (1920s) and how it looked 60 years later



Left: Lower Mead as it looked in the 1960s. Below: Scenes following the final competitive match at the ground, with a certain programme editor in attendance...

with a spirit of risk and adventure. Sadly, no single idea ever coalesced into something routine or profitable enough to solve our problems.

It was when we reached the sixties and beyond that the financial pressures to pay for, maintain and develop our glorious old home reached the point where the need to consider external investment became the slightly iffy focus of attention. Some of the ground development schemes proposed could best be described as ambitious, innovative or downright bat-poop crazy. And oh, the squash courts - so many squash courts! The one constant and apparently essential new facility was a squash court or two. There they sat, crowbarred in to several fanciful stadium plans; concrete cubes apparently critical to the generation of future revenue. I can only put it down to the popularity of the sport at the time; certainly I can't believe that, back then or today, said courts would have been the money-makers the club thought they'd be. (Does anyone know anybody who plays squash today?)

Standing on the shoulders of giants

Lower Mead will always be sorely missed. Nevertheless, when they say "it's only bricks and mortar", that famous aphorism is clearly true.

Lower Mead's bricks and mortar represented the agglomeration of efforts over seventy years to improve our lot; by enthusiastic club chairmen, by dogged officials and by energetic supporters - generations after generation digging trenches, laying concrete, adding stands, floodlights, you name it. What Roge's book shows is just how similar today's Grosvenor Vale era officials and fans are to those who came together around the perimeters of the Lower Mead pitch in years long gone, themselves simply building on the efforts of the generations that had gone before.

When the club vacated Harrow HA1 2TU in that fateful spring of 1991, we left in good part because of the hubristic nature of the club's recent leadership at that point. But what went with it, the essence of the club, was retained in the particularly dynamic supporter base we were lucky to enjoy at that time - a group of people



who, amongst their number, included those capable of seeing us back to where we are today.

You don't need to look too far at The Vale to see examples of the club-and-supporter approach to ground development that has served us so well here. But I don't think I'd fully appreciated how much today's work is a continuation of what's been done now for more than a hundred years by similarly committed individuals, without whom we may never have made it through the two world wars, let alone past our departure from Station Road, Harrow.

Anyway, I am now at risk of giving too much of Roge's story away. So please, buy a copy of the book. You'll laugh, you may well cry - but you'll certainly be entertained (and perhaps even astonished by the amazing photographs, many linked to events mentioned in this piece).

Just 100 copies are being made, at a cost of £7 + P&P each. Get your order in by emailing roge.s@btinternet.com



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Results 2020-21

OCTOBER		Comp.	Result	Crowd	Lge Pos	Wind Dir/Spd	Sky/Temp	Elev. (Mtrs)	1	2	3	4	5	6	
6	Yeovil Town	VNL	2-2	0,000	15	⊙ 11	☁ 11c	87m	IST	EFE	MEN	OKI	PHI	BEN	
10	Dagenham & Redbridge	VNL	0-1	0,000	19	⊙ 8	☁ 20c	10m	IST	EFE	MEN	PHI	PHI	OKI	
13	STOCKPORT COUNTY	VNL	2-5	0,000	23	⊙ 11	☁ 10c	41m	IST	EFE	MEN	SMI	PHI	OKI	
17	WREXHAM	VNL	4-3	0,000	18	⊙ 4	☁ 12c	41m	IST	EFE	MEN	PHI	OKI	BEN	
20	CHESTERFIELD	VNL	3-2	0,000	9	⊙ 7	☁ 15c	41m	IST	EFE	MEN	SMI	OKI	WAK	
24	HAYES & YEADING UTD	FAC4Q	0-2	0,000	9	⊙ 17	☁ 15c	41m	GSM	EFE	MEN	SMI	OKI	STE	
27	King's Lynn Town	VNL	3-2	0,000	6	⊙ 10	☁ 8c	12m	IST	EFE	MEN	PHI	OKI	CAW	
NOVEMBER															
7	ALTRINCHAM	VNL	1-0	0,000	3	⊙ 4	☁ 20c	41m	IST	EFE	MEN	CAW	OKI	PHI	
10	FC Halifax Town	VNL	1-0	0,000	2	⊙ 7	☁ 11c	190m	IST	EFE	MEN	PHI	CAW	OKI	
17	Eastleigh	VNL	0-2	0,000	3	- 0	13c	12m	IST	EFE	MEN	CAW	PHI	OKI	
21	SUTTON UNITED	VNL	3-3	0,000	4	⊙ 11	☁ 11c	41m	IST	EFE	MEN	CAW	OKI	SMI	
27	Notts County	VNL	0-3	0,000	9	⊙ 4	☁ 3c	29m	IST	EFE	MEN	CAW	PHI	OKI	
DECEMBER															
1	TORQUAY UNITED	VNL	1-2	0,000	9	⊙ 4	☁ 3c	41m	MOO	EFE	MEN	PHI	CAW	OKI	
5	Barnet	VNL	0-0	717	7	⊙ 11	☁ 9c	57m	MOO	EFE	CAW	PHI	OKI	DYE	
12	WEYMOUTH	VNL	2-1	772	4	⊙ 10	☁ 8c	41m	MOO	EFE	MEN	PHI	DYE	OKI	
19	EASTLEIGH	FAT3	4-3	0,000	6	⊙ 14	☁ 9c	41m	MOO	EFE	MEN	CAW	DYE	OKI	
26	Maidenhead United	VNL	0-4	0,000	11	⊙ 14	☁ 5c	27m	MOO	EFE	MEN	CAW	DYE	OKI	
JANUARY															
9	Hartlepool United	VNL	1-3	0,000	14	⊙ 13	☁ 12c	10m	MOO	EFE	MEN	WIS	PHI	OKI	
18	GLOUCESTER CITY	FAT4	3-1	0,000	15	⊙ 12	☁ 8c	41m	MOO	EFE	MEN	MEE	PHI	OKI	
23	ALDRSHOT TOWN	VNL	3-4	0,000	17	⊙ 8	☁ 3c	41m	MOO	EFE	MEN	PHI	MEE	OKI	
26	Altrincham	VNL	0-2	0,000	18	⊙ 4	☁ 5c	38m	MOO	EFE	MEN	CAW	PHI	OKI	
FEBRUARY															
6	Darlington	FAT5	1-4	0,000	18	⊙ 24	☁ 3c	40m	IST	EFE	MEN	OKI	LAN	PHI	
9	Torquay United	VNL	1-1	0,000	18	⊙ 18	0c	80m	IST	OLO	MEN	CAW	LAN	OKI	
20	Sutton United	VNL	1-4	0,000	18	⊙ 20	☁ 13c	42m	IST	OLO	MEN	CAW	CHA	OKI	
23	EASTLEIGH	VNL	0-0	0,000	18	⊙ 15	12c	41m	IST	OLO	OKI	CAW	MEE	MEN	
27	Wrexham	VNL	1-4	0,000	19	⊙ 4	☁ 12c	89m	IST	EFE	MEN	CAW	PAR	OKI	
MARCH															
2	BOREHAM WOOD	VNL	1-0	0,000	19	⊙ 6	☁ 4c	41m	IST	EFE	OKI	CAW	CHA	MEN	
6	FC HALIFAX TOWN	VNL	1-2	0,000	19	⊙ 6	☁ 4c	41m	IST	WIS	OKI	CAW	CHA	MEN	
9	KING'S LYNN TOWN	VNL	3-1	0,000	19	⊙ 13	7c	41m	IST	EFE	OKI	CAW	CHA	MEN	
13	NOTTS COUNTY	VNL													
20	Weymouth	VNL													
23	WOKING	VNL													
30	Solihull Moors	VNL													
APRIL															
2	Bromley	VNL													
5	BARNET	VNL													
10	Boreham Wood	VNL													
17	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	VNL													
20	MAIDENHEAD UNITED	VNL													
24	Aldershot Town	VNL													
27	DOVER ATHLETIC	VNL													
MAY															
1	YEovil TOWN	VNL													
3	Stockport County	VNL													
8	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	VNL													
11	BROMLEY	VNL													
15	Chesterfield	VNL													
22	SOLIHULL MOORS	VNL													
29	Woking	VNL													
TO BE ARRANGED															
XX	Dover Athletic	VNL													

KEY TO SYMBOLS

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

- 22 = First substitution
 - 27 = Second substitution
 - 22 = Third substitution
 - 21 = Caution
 - 54 = Caution that = suspension
 - 67 = Sending off
 - 67 = Straight Red
 - 35 = Goal
 - 38 = Penalty
- The team order and substitutes sheet supplied to competition authorities use their own positions in those positions Okimo, Squad Position 4, etc.

Match date in red = Midweek kick-off)

PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY RESULTS

22nd August	Bedford Town	A	W	3-1	Parish, Efete, Hughes
25th August	Luton Town	H	L	0-3	
27th August	Southall	A	L	2-3	Emmanuel, Tahir
29th August	Colchester United	H	L	1-2	Emmanuel
1st September	Northwood	A	W	6-0	Lafayette, Parish 3, Charles, Maloney

PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY RESULTS

5th September	Dartford	H	L	1-2	
8th September	Hayes & Yeading	A	W	5-2	
	Hughes, Emmanuel, Lafayette				
12th September	Havant & Waterlooville	H	W	3-1	
	Hughes				
15th September	St Albans City	A	L	0-4	
19th September	Dulwich Hamlet	H	D	1-1	

WEALDSTONE 2020-21

	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17/GK
SMI 70 BEN 65 WAK SMI BEN BEN 55 PAR 52 53 36 73	WAK SMI 61 BEN 49 WAK 15 CAW WAK 52 DYE 89	EMM 73 26 EMM 70 LAF 70 47 DYE 10 41 DYE 47 EMM 70 15 15 LAF 73 4	GRE DYE 81 LAF 70 EMM 76 15 15 EMM 70 GRE	LEW LEW 11 SLE 11 11 LEW LEW 85 LEW	CAW DYE 63 EMM CAW CAW GAF GAF SMI	LAF 73 STE CAW 50 CHA 43 GRE 50 GRE LAF 76 LAF 10 EMM 74	PAR 11 SLE 35 PAR 21 EMM 70 LAF 76 LAF 10 EMM 74	SLE 67 PAR CHA 61 GRE 61 PAR PAR 70 SLE	CHA LAF 70 EMM GRE SLE PAR SLE 47 SLE 55 WIS 64	
PAR SMI SMI PAR 61 PAR	DYE 15 10 DYE 10 PAR 31 LAF 41 46 SMI	EMM 89 15 SLE 70 EMM 72 EMM 11 LAF 47	GRE 88 LAF GRE 65 GRE 97 GRE 85	LEW LEW LEW 83 LEW WAK	GSM SMI ASK ASK ASK ASK	SMI 65 WIS BEN 83 BEN 11 11 BEN 69	LAF 59 PAR 70 15 CHA CAW LEW 47	STE EMM 61 LAF 72 PRT 89 PRT 7	WIS 88 GRE 35 24 SLE 63 24 WAK 63 SLE	
SMI PRT 65 SMI 11 SMI 11 SMI	PAR 15 27 SMI 82 BEN 46 WAK 40	PRT 73 WAK 88 HUG 64 HUG 84 EMM 24	GRE 12 GRE 12 GRE 73 11 GRE	LEW LEW LEW 45 LEW 7 LEW	ASK ASK ASK ASK ASK	BEN BEN 75 CAW 20 47 DEB BEN 64	DYE 13 CHA SLE 64 SLE 63 BRO 34	HUG 65 HUG 88 11 WAK 82 WAK 45 47 LEN 46	WAK 73 SLE 92 WIS WIS 76 DEB	
SMI DYE 66 22 DYE 27 DYE 41 11	LEN 61 11 SMI SMI SMI	EMM EMM 65 31 EMM 63 EMM	GRE 12 GRE 41 GRE 77 GRE 11	LEW LEW 84 LEW 16 LEW	ASK ASK ASK ASK	BEN 61 BEN 15 CAW 46 HUG 10	DIA CAW HUG CAW	KOU 65 HUG 84 LEN 77 LEN	SLE SLE 85 WIS WIS 47	
SMI 44 CHA WIS 71 DYE 11 PHI	DYE WIS 71 DYE 11 PHI SMI	EMM DYE 42 PAR 59 34 SMI DYE 69	GRE SMI 54 GRE 11 GRE	LEW LEW 71 LEW 21 LEW 17	PAR 73 DAL ASK ASK ASK	HUG 60 EMM 61 DAL DAL CHA 62	CAW LEN 71 LAF 21 LAF 77 DAL 62	STE PAR MEE 71 PAR LAF 77	WIS PHI PHI 26 WIS WIS	
WIS DYE 40 DYE 12 35	PHI PHI 10 PHI	SMI 41 12 25 PAR 78 LAF 92 36	GRE GRE GRE 90 8	LAF 73 LEW 71 7 LEW	ASK ASK ASK	DYE 41 BOW 42 65 PAR 62	HEA HEA HEA	PAR 97 HUG 78 HUG 60	LEW 73 LAF 11 WIS 67	

the symbol.

from 01 to 11
follows the team
by the club to the
authorities. Note that
r squad numbers
ns. EG: Jerome
No.6 playing posi-

KEY TO PLAYER IDS

ID	Player	Number
ASK	Jake Askew	25
BEN	Kundai Benyu	15
BOW	Daniel Bowry	16
BRO	Rhys Browne	27
CAW	Jack Cawley	25
CHA	Ashley Charles	4
DAL	Deshane Dalling	27
DEB	Joshua Debayo	3
DIA	Mohammad Diallo	26
DYE	Alex Dyer	18
EFE	Michee Efete	2
EMM	Moses Emmanuel	19
EVE	Lewis Everett	21
GAF	Adel Gafaiti	3
GRE	Danny Green	10
GSM	Grant Smith	22
HEA	Elijah Hearn	30
HUG	Charlee Hughes	12
IST	Harry Isted	1

ID	Player	Number
KOU	Maxim Kouogun	23
LAF	Ross Lafayette	9
LAN	George Langston	31
LEN	Matt Lench	28
LEW	Dennon Lewis	11
MEE	Josh Meekings	24
MEN	Jacob Mendeny	2
MOO	Stuart Moore	1
OKI	Jerome Okimo	6
OLO	Joseph Olowu	22
PAR	Danny Parish	14
PHI	Michael Phillips	7
PRT	Dean Parrett	24
SLE	Jerome Slew	20
SMI	Connor Smith	8
STE	Connor Stevens	5
WAK	Charlie Wakefield	23
WIS	Dan Wishart	13

ETS

Efete

Williams, Parish,

Emmanuel, Parish,

Efete

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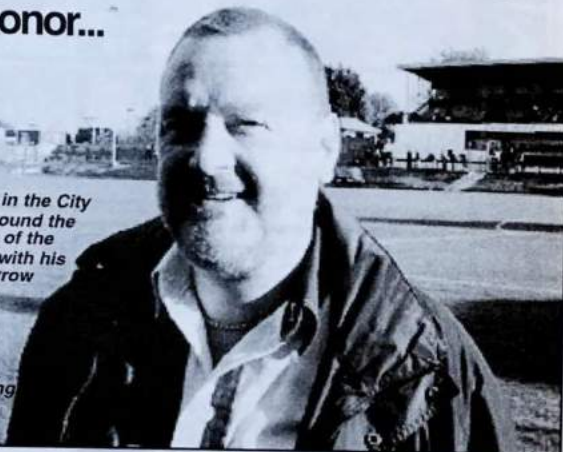
2003-4
PAGE 40

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nick woolford 'my wealdstone'

today's ball donor...

Nick Woolford, a shipbroker in the City of London who moves oil around the world, has become a legend of the Stones' Sportsman Dinners with his extravagant bidding. His Harrow home now boasts some magnificent Wealdstone memorabilia, with visitors having to pay homage to a signed photograph in his hallway of Paul Bowgett lifting the Conference Trophy! This is Nick's tale....



my football beginnings

I WAS not interested in football at school, I guess because I was never any good at playing the game and consequently I was told that I would be playing hockey. There were only 11 of us playing the game and consequently we were all automatically in the school team, regardless of ability!

It wasn't until I was attending evening classes for my shipping exams that I became involved in football. My colleague (who is a Tottenham fan) suggested that instead of attending lectures one evening, we go to Highbury to watch Arsenal in a Fairs Cup European game. From that moment I was hooked and I became a regular on the North Bank at Highbury in the mid 60's.

I started to also watch Wealdstone in 1967, the season after the Amateur Cup win, and would attend matches at Lower Mead when Arsenal played away. The onset of hooliganism in the early 70's - coupled with the fact that I had got married - resulted in me abandoning Highbury in favour of Lower Mead. From that moment I have never faltered in my allegiance!

I have seen some ups (the magnificent double-winning season; the "egging" of the Harrow Borough 'keeper) - and some downs (Relegation;

the Clifton era/Administration/Watford/Yeading) but throughout have been astonished at the resilience and good humour of our supporters.

One of the highlights for me was the triumph over Boston United at Wembley in the F.A. Trophy Final! I can still see Andy Graham's superbly taken goal in my mind's eye. I also still have my yellow flat cap and scarf to match! I hated that yellow & blue strip!

my favourite players

WELL, George Duck was my true hero. I recall with great enjoyment his hat-trick of penalties against Hastings and the opposing team being called off the pitch by their manager! Priceless!

George is closely followed by Alan Cordice whose pace ensured he was feared by many a defender in our Southern League days. I was always impressed with Stuart Pearce as he was frequently head and shoulders better than any other player on the park and it came as no surprise when I learnt of his transfer to Coventry City and his subsequent rise to international team captain. A credit to the club.

My niece used to attend matches at Lower Mead with me and was football mad (still is sports mad - now managing an amateur rugby side in Sydney,

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As you might imagine, it's been tricky finding new 'victims' for this series as there have been no fans in the ground. You may have

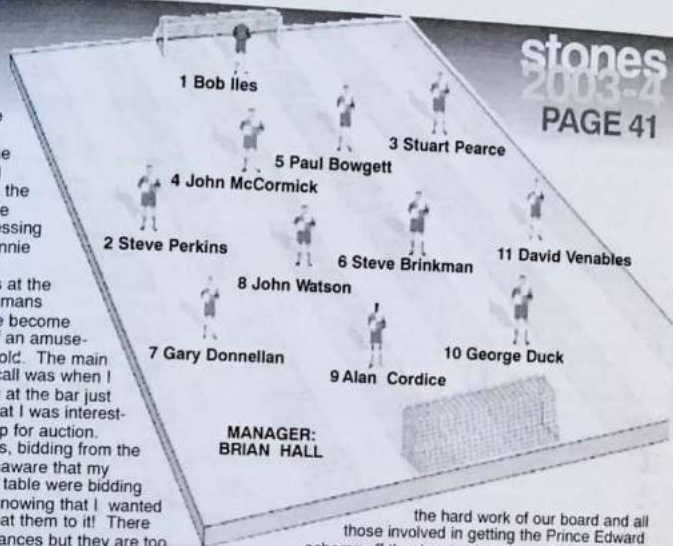
noticed! So instead we are revisiting the first incarnation of 'Fan in the Stand' back in the 2003-4 season. And over page, long-time fan Nick updates us on his enduring love for the club.....

Australia). She was the first female mascot of the club and still dines out on the story that she shared a dressing room with Vinnie Jones.

My exploits at the club's Sportsmans Dinners have become something of an amusement, I am told. The main one that I recall was when I was standing at the bar just as an item that I was interested in came up for auction.

There I was, bidding from the bar, totally unaware that my friends at the table were bidding against me, knowing that I wanted to win it! I beat them to it! There are other instances but they are too embarrassing to specify here!

I am looking forward with great anticipation to the club having a home of its own once again. I salute



the hard work of our board and all those involved in getting the Prince Edward scheme off the drawing board and into reality. I fully expect to be a regular in the "Rumens Stand" at The New Lower Mead! (sounds good, doesn't it?)

my best all-time stones line-up

BOB ILES would be my goal-keeper. My niece and I sponsored his kit the very first season that kit sponsorship took off at Lower Mead, and he was an excellent all-round keeper. Very reliable.

STEVE PERKINS would wear No.2 for his 100% attitude. Never gave up, again very reliable.

No.3, who else? **STUART**

PEARCE. No.4 **JOHN**

MCCORMICK, a brilliant capture

in 1973, don't know how we

signed him but glad we did! A

great leader of men, great

organiser.

PAUL BOWGETT would wear

No.5. He lifted both trophies for

us in '85, and about ten in his

years at Wealdstone. A great

skipper. **WILLIE WATSON** would

be in there too, for his competi-

tiveness and will-to-win. He would also guarantee at least three sendings-off a season!

STEVE BRINKMAN would play right midfield. He was terrific for us in the late 70s, very talented and spent his whole time skipping through tackles. He died tragically very young, but it's not just on sentimentality that he finds a place in my team. A great player.

ALAN CORDICE has to be in the team for his pace and raw danger to opposition defences.

Plus, of course, **GEORGE DUCK** my all-time golden boy. Incomparable.

GARY DONNELLAN would also get a slot in midfield for sheer tenacity, workrate and entertainment value. He made me laugh quite often in games... don't remember why, but that's

why we go to football isn't it? To be entertained.

Finally, helping out the strikers would be **DAVID VENABLES** who was our one shining light through the desperate days at Vicarage Road, Watford. It was totally soulless playing there - at least at Yeading you could create a bit of atmosphere in the small stands - but Venables was our real star turn. Pace, commitment, ability.... he had it all at our level, and it didn't surprise me when he went on to play for the England non-League team while at his next club, Stevenage.

My manager would be **BRIAN HALL**. He steered us to our famous Double, and that's enough for me. We'll always remember you, Brian.

• If you (or a group of friends) would like to be a ball donor, £50 will see you receive two complimentary tickets to the game, a free programme and hospitality in the boardroom.. PLUS you now get your chance to tell Stones Magazine all about your devotion to the club..

See Roy Couch, Tim Parks or any Board member.

Would you like to be a 'Fan in the Stand'? Send an email to tim.parks@gmail.com. The Series began 18 years ago, for one season, and was resurrected in 2010... and has continued ever since with around 300 supporters being featured in that time. Coe and join in!

CLASSIC FAN IN THE STAND.. CONTD

Nick was King of the WFC Sponsors back in the 2003-4 season when his ball sponsorship earned him mention in the first year of the 'Fan in the Stand' feature. So we thought we'd ask him what had happened in the intervening 17 years....

"Since 2004 I have changed jobs once, and eventually retired. In 2006, after nearly 30 years with the shipbroking firm, I was approached by an independent Canadian Oil Company that had interests in the North Sea and wanted a "shipping expert" to handle the movements of its oil when the fields started production.

It was a heaven-sent opportunity as the office was based in Uxbridge and so my daily commute would be in reverse... going out of town instead of into the city! Furthermore, the new office was just 30 minutes from home, instead of the one and a half hours to London Bridge!

There was also a substantial financial attraction in the offer. I stayed with the Oil Company for just short of 10 years, during which I had the opportunity to visit the head office in Calgary, and the export terminal in Vancouver. Vancouver is the most wonderful city I have been to - I would move there tomorrow if I could as, apart from Wealdstone FC being a long way away, it has just about everything I could wish for.

After seven years the company was bought out by a huge Chinese concern which gave me the opportunity to visit Beijing to discuss aspects of the take-over. My hosts made me very comfortable and the trip included a visit to the Great Wall. Something that will remain with me for ever. I eventually retired, aged 65 in 2016 and although I have set myself up as a shipping consultant, I am quite happy with my retirement as my wife and I are kept busy with the grandchildren, our allotment and garden."



So Nick, did you ever anticipate back in 2004 that we would be back in the National League (Conference) one day?

Well, I did hope that we would reach the heights of the non-league pyramid again, but I wasn't confident that it would happen. The winning streak last season was something to behold, and I was disappointed (as I guess most of the fans were) that we were not able to actually finish the season in the style that we showed in earlier games. Still, I was delighted at getting promotion to the National League.

Have any of the recent players threatened your all-time Stones line-up? I

would always have Stuart Pearce, Paul Bowgett, Alan Cordice and George Duck in my all-time Stones team. My manager would have to be Gordon Bartlett who did the most amazing job and was a great servant to the club. I have the utmost respect for him, both as a football manager

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Happy birthday Grandad! Nick with his granddaughters at his (recent) 70th birthday



and as a person. We did have some big characters when we played at Edgware, and I remember one evening game when I was giving Jonah (Brian Jones) some verbals and the very next morning he was outside my house emptying the bins! Luckily he didn't recognise me!

Do you think the standard has improved in the 33 years since we were last in the top division? I think the standard of football in the NL is by far and away much higher than back in the glory days. I think that the players are more skillful and the pace of the game is much faster. Fitness tells. Having a quick fag in the dugout before coming on as a substitute is no longer toler-

ated! I recall a certain (nameless) player who had the penchant for a quick fag during our time at the White Lion Ground in Edgware!

How have you been coping with having to watch the games on a TV screen? The streaming of matches is never a substitute for actually attending a game. That said, I must say that there is a considerable gap between clubs that stream games. Our commentators are always entertaining and fair, but one or two of the away games that I have watched have been pretty dire. Some clubs have experienced a bit of a problem with technical issues resulting in picture loss, which always seems to happen at strategic times.

Darlington and Wrexham were excellent, helped by having more cameras which would make the home-game experience even better. Barnet also was good (although it pains me to say that). Sutton, on the other hand was dreadful!

Have the Stones fared about as well as you were expecting? The early season performances were enjoyable to watch, but it seemed that clubs then spotted our strengths and weaknesses and managed to almost completely nullify our forward line. Recent performances by the Stones have been improving though and hopefully the awful "R" word won't come into discussions as seemed the case a few weeks ago!

I know you loved Lower Mead, but is Grosvenor Vale growing on you? Well, initially I hated the idea of it. I thought the pitch was more dandelions than grass, and the clubhouse was run-down. I couldn't see the benefit at first but the work that has been done at the ground has certainly turned it around, and it does have the feel of "home" although it can never replace Lower Mead in my heart!

I have to applaud the team that has got the ground and the clubhouse to its current state. The pitch is now second to none, in my opinion. Even Dead Fox Corner doesn't seem to get as badly waterlogged as it once did! If we can get a decent extension to the lease then that would be a benefit.

And finally, ... where do you see the club in another five years time? The Stones will be established in the top tier of the non-league pyramid. I have no wish for the club to join the EFL as I believe that would prove to be a money burning exercise, and as this club is basically owned by its fan base, I don't want us to ever be in that position.

Would you like to be a 'Fan in the Stand'? Send an email to tim.fparkis@gmail.com. The Series began 18 years ago, for one season, and was resurrected in 2010... and has continued ever since with around 300 supporters being featured in that time. Coe and join in!



Growing on him... Grosvenor Vale is now a stadium rather than a ramshackle assortment of old buildings

Match sponsorship 2020-2021

A great way to celebrate a special occasion or advertise your organisation's support of Wealdstone, match sponsorship packages start at just **£450** (fans) or **£550+** VAT (corporate). As match day sponsor you will enjoy: • Match tickets for four people (inc. prime main stand seats if required) • A fantastic advertising package, including publicity over the PA system, website and social media • Boardroom hospitality includes pre match and half-time refreshments as well as a superb array of culinary delights post match, courtesy of in-house caterer Lynn Evans • Match-day programmes for all in your party • Name and

TO SPONSOR ONE OF OUR MATCHES THIS SEASON CONTACT PAUL RUMENS: 07710 929692

MATCH	SPONSORS	
 STOCKPORT COUNTY Tuesday, 13th October Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	
 WREXHAM Saturday, 17th October Vanarama National League	Union Athletic	
 HAYES & YEADING UTD Saturday, 24th October FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round	Harrow Windows	
 SUTTON UNITED Saturday, 21st November Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows	
 TORQUAY UNITED Tuesday, 1st December Vanarama National League	Adam Hills & Friends	
 WEYMOUTH Saturday, 12th December Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	
 EASTLEIGH Saturday, 19th December FA Trophy 3rd Round	Ray Corner and Pete Carter	
 ALDERSHOT TOWN Saturday, 23rd January Vanarama National League	Union Athletic	
 MAIDENHEAD UNITED Tuesday, 2nd February Vanarama National League	LGM Construction	
 EASTLEIGH Tuesday, 23rd February Vanarama National League	LGM Construction	
 FC HALIFAX TOWN Saturday, 6th March Vanarama National League	Megafone, Roge, Sudhir, Mark Mc & Jez	Norman Goldsmith's 80th
 KING'S LYNN TOWN Tuesday, 9th March Vanarama National League	Union Athletic Benjamin Albert	










WEALDSTONE 2020-21

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.*

TO SPONSOR ONE OF OUR MATCHES THIS SEASON CONTACT PAUL RUMENS: paulrumens59@gmail.com

MATCH	SPONSORS		
 WOKING Tuesday, 23rd March Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 NOTTS COUNTY Saturday, 27th March Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Harrow Windows	Your Name Here?
 BARNET Monday, 5th April Vanarama National League	Connect Vending	Union Athletic	Your Name Here?
 HARTLEPOOL UNITED Saturday, 17th April Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 DOVER ATHLETIC Tuesday, 27th April Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East		
 YEOVIL TOWN Saturday, 1st May Vanarama National League	Oldfield Construction Ltd	Si Hayes	
 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE Saturday, 8th May Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 BROMLEY Tuesday, 11th May Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 SOLIHULL MOORS Saturday, 22nd May Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?



ON THIS DAY
IN HISTORY



BY TIM
PARKS

39 years ago.. Non-League's top team are humbled by the fired-up Stones

Saturday March 13 1982, Middlesex Senior Cup semi-final: Wealdstone 2 Enfield 0

Oh how I loved my time at the Enfield Gazette! I moved across as Sports Editor from the Harrow Observer in September 1981, just as the Stones were relegated from the Alliance Premier League and Enfield had taken the plunge and accepted an invitation to join the APL. It was going to be a fascinating season.

After years of dominating the Isthmian League, Es' chairman Tommy Unwin was finally persuaded that his club could be a big fish in a considerably larger pool - and after watching the Stones struggle for two years in non-League's top flight it was remarkable how quickly Enfield adapted.

Every week I'd be warning in my match previews of how well-funded, well-organised and capable the new opposition would be in this national league... yet the Es simply went out and (nearly) blew all of them all away, playing football out from the back, through the midfield and on to razor-sharp strikers Noel Ashford, Steve King and Dave Flint.

Barrow were obliterated 7-2, Leamington 6-0, Bath City 5-1, Boston United 4-1, Gravesend 4-0, Dagenham 4-2, Scarborough 4-1... nobody could live with Eddie McCluskey's side and they ended up second in the table only to the obdurate Runcorn outfit.

They had a run to the FA Cup 3rd Round,

CONTINUED OVERPAGE...

Shock exit

'Disgust buried

Wealdstone 2, Enfield 0
by Tim Parks

WEALDSTONE'S Lower Mead Stadium, for so long a happy hunting ground, became something of a graveyard for Enfield on Saturday afternoon.

The Es failed to compete with the uncompromising Southern Leaguers in this tough Middlesex Senior Cup semi-final... and the result was a "disgusting performance" according to manager Eddie McCluskey.

"From our point of view it was the biggest non-event of the season," he stormed. "Both teams were a discredit to football."

Enfield, with fond memories of 3-0, 4-0 and 5-0 wins on their last three visits, were clearly unprepared to meet such a forceful side as Allen Batsford's new Wealdstone.

They were found wanting in almost every department, and in the end it could have been positively embarrassing for the County Cup holders.

Apart from their second-half goals, Wealdstone struck John Jacobs' crossbar twice and also missed a penalty in injury time.

"It was far and away our worst display of the season," said McCluskey. "They all seemed to switch off together. I told them not to take it easy but that attitude of mind seemed to prevail right through the team."

While there was little football for the sizeable crowd to enjoy, it soon became apparent why Wealdstone are having such a successful season in the Southern League after relegation from the Alliance last term.

Manager Batsford has moulded a tight, effective outfit that looked strong and safe at the back and dangerous up front, with the speedy Alan Cordice a constant threat.

Enfield, for their part, looked about as organised and efficient as Inspector Clouseau on a bad day.

Still without the injured Tony Jennings and John Tone, McCluskey kept Nicky Ironton at left back, Steve Turner in a left-midfield slot

and Steve Oliver in the middle of a back four.

But what may have worked at Runcorn in midweek failed miserably here. Facing the sort of gale force wind more often found in the North Sea — or in Enfield Town on a wet Friday afternoon — the skills of men like Ironton counted for nothing.

Instead it was the simpler, more direct tactics of the Southern League team that bore fruit. They earned three successive corners in the tenth minute, and from the third centre-half Paul Bowgett nodded the ball back for Ray Knowles to send it thudding against the crossbar.

Enfield countered with a few ineffectual bursts from the game Dave Flint and the disappearing Noel Ashford, and as the first half drew to a scoreless close Keith Barrett was booked for a scything tackle on Roy Davies.

"I don't reckon we'll get a look in in the second half, though, playing against the wind," ventured Wealdstone chairman Fred Deans at half time. How wrong he was.

Enfield managed the first two goal attempts of the half, Ashford shooting wide and Flint then seeing a flashing 15-yarder pulled down by goalkeeper Ray Goddard, but Wealdstone began to exert an iron grip in midfield where Paul Taylor was missing the usual support of Oliver and Ironton.

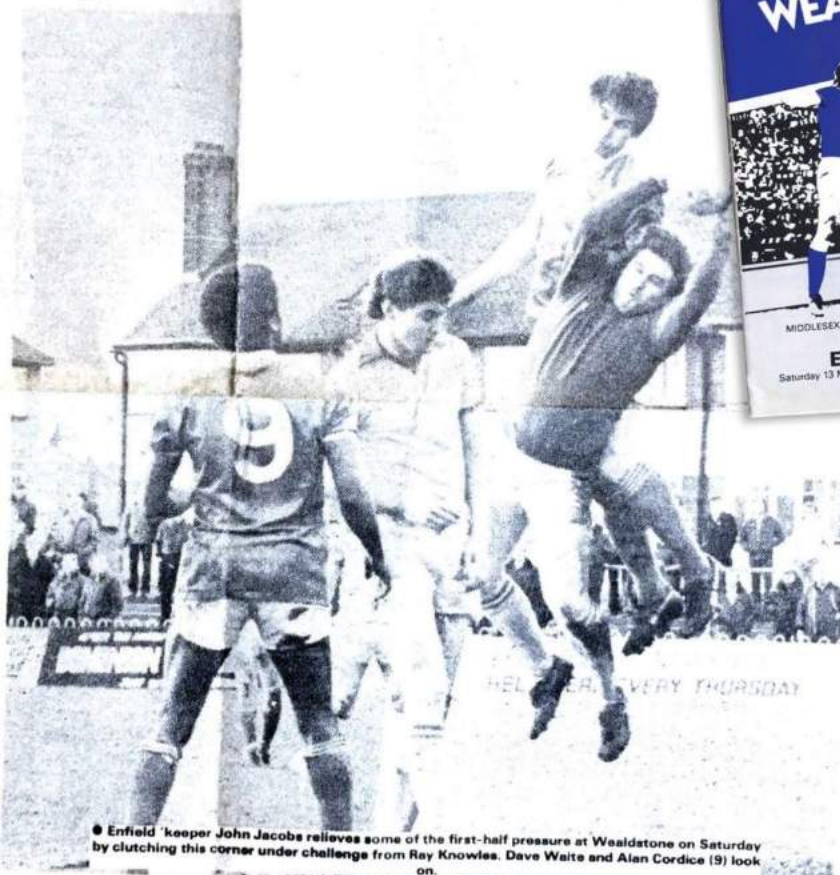
Lee Holmes was left limping after an early clash with Knowles, Steve King was drifting aimlessly and Turner was playing so deep that at times Enfield had five men strung across the back.

But even that sort of cover couldn't prevent Wealdstone Cor taking a 62nd-minute lead. Iron Stuart Pearce galloped onto an a

WEALDSTONE 2020-21

for the County Cup holders

'Sting' Enfield by 'Stones



● Enfield 'keeper John Jacobs relieves some of the first-half pressure at Wealdstone on Saturday by clutching this corner under challenge from Ray Knowles, Dave Waite and Alan Cordice (9) look on.

overlap and his superb
was headed down by
dice for little Paul Waite
op in at the near post.
Without the presence of
e and Jennings, Enfield
ed ragged indeed at the
k and five minutes after the
it might have been 2-0 as
dice accelerated away
Dave Waite and cracked
ngled drive against the bar.

Oliver produced the Es
best effort five minutes from
time with a booming shot from
25 yards that the experienced
Goddard clutched at the foot
of the post, but with the clock
showing 88 minutes it was all
over for Enfield as the rampant
Cordice hit the second.
Despite looking yards
outside, he raced onto Knowles
lick-header and smashed his

25th goal of the season past the
stranded Jacobs.
Two minutes into injury time
it should have been 3-0 as
Cordice was tripped by Waite
in the area — but Bowgett's
blast from the penalty spot was
brilliantly blocked by Jacobs,
who then stuck out a leg to
divert the centre-half's follow-
up shot.
Wealdstone: Goddard

Perkins, Pearce, Byatt, Bowgett,
Barwick, Waite, Wainwright, A.
Cordice, Knowles, Davies, Subs:
(unused): Hardman, N. Cordice.
Enfield: Jacobs, Barrett,
Turner, Flint, Waite, Ingham,
Ashford, Taylor, Holmes, Oliver,
King, Subs: Hagan (for Holmes,
69 mins), Tombs (for Taylor, 70
mins).
Attendance: 875

Above: The programme cover and (left) the Enfield Gazette report. One of the most enjoyable I've ever written as Stones gained some revenge for a whole series of defeats to the Es through the 60s and 1970s

ON THIS DAY CONTINUED

unlucky to lose 3-2 at home to then-Championship side Crystal Palace, and won the FA Trophy at Wembley against Altrincham thanks to an outlandish 35-yard strike from tigerish midfielder Paul Taylor.

Enfield were a joy to watch... yet at that same moment Allen Batsford's Wealdstone was emerging as a butterfly from its Southern League cocoon.

I was balancing my time reporting on the awesome Enfield side, while watching as many Stones games as possible as the '81-82 season gathered pace. The Southern League was split into two divisions, a midland and a southern section, both comprising 24 clubs and with only one team promoted back to the Alliance at the end of the gruelling campaign. And gruelling it was!

With barely any football played in six snow-bound weeks at the turn of the year, the Stones found themselves squeezing 23 games into the last seven weeks of the season.

The results page from the Stones programme (below) shows that we faced 23 games in 51 days... virtually one game every two days! And chasing success on three fronts: the Southern League South title, the Southern League Cup and the Middlesex Senior Cup.

You might have imagined that with a small squad, Stones boss Batsford might have rested as many as he could for the County Cup yet we simply didn't have the numbers to rest anyone. It was literally a 14-man squad and, almost unbelievably the club used just 18 players all season in 73 games.

So back to the date in question.

Enfield were also hunting the APL title, hot on the heels of Runcorn, and also the FA Trophy. And there is no doubt that their players took their collective feet off the gas in this County Cup semi-final played on the rather rutted surface of a post-freeze Lower Mead.

I remember my desperation for the Stones to finally put one over our old rivals from the other side of Middlesex and as I mentioned in the match report on the previous page, the blues had been ritually humiliated in our previous three meetings, all at Lower Mead: 5-0, 4-0 and 3-0. At the end of the last game, one Enfield wag had chortled at the final whistle: "Well, Wealdstone are getting better. Only 3-0 this time".

That stung. The fact that the Stones ended up winning everything on offer in the Southern League that season - and then went on to rival Enfield as an APL power in the next four seasons - showed what a tight, combative and devastating unit they could be, and it was proved on this afternoon as they took full advantage of Enfield's lackadaisical display. Little Paul Waites and Alan Cordice scored the goals and - at last! - some revenge was had.

Feb. 24*	Dorchester Town	SLC	W 2-0	Knowles 2
Feb. 27	Dunstable	SL	W 2-1	Cordice (A), Wainwright
Mar. 2*	Welling United	SL	D 1-1	Knowles, Bowgett (pen)
Mar. 6	Gosport Borough	SL	L 0-1	Bowgett
Mar. 13	Enfield	MSC	W 2-0	Waites, Cordice (A)
Mar. 16*	Tonbridge	SL	L 1-2	Cordice (A)
Mar. 18*	Gosport Borough	SL	W 3-1	Knowles, Bowgett, Cordice (A)
Mar. 20	Canterbury City	SL	W 2-0	Wainwright, Cordice (N)
Mar. 23*	Andover	SL	W 4-0	Bowgett 3 (3 pens), Wainwright
Mar. 25*	Hounslow	SL	W 3-0	Pearce, Cordice (A), Byatt
Mar. 27	Folkestone	SL	W 6-0	Cordice (A) 4, Bowgett (pen), Waites
Mar. 30*	Dorchester Town	SL	D 2-2	Cordice (A), Pearce
Apr. 1*	Basingstoke Town	SL	W 1-0	Davies
Apr. 3	Welling United	SL	D 0-0	
Apr. 5*	Gloucester City	SLC	W 1-0	Pearce
Apr. 7*	Fareham Town	SL	W 1-0	Morris
Apr. 10	Hillingdon Borough	SL	D 1-1	Knowles
Apr. 12*	Hayes	MSC	L 0-2	
Apr. 14*	Gloucester City	SLC	W 1-0	Bowgett (pen)
Apr. 17	Waterlooville	SL	W 2-1	Cordice (A) 2
Apr. 20*	Thanet United	SL	W 2-0	Bowgett, Cordice (A)
Apr. 22*	Hillingdon Borough	SL	W 1-0	Bowgett (pen)
Apr. 24	Andover	SL	W 1-0	Churchouse
Apr. 27*	Chelmsford City	SL	W 1-0	Knowles
Apr. 29*	Hastings United	SL	W 2-0	Cordice (A) 2
May 1	Ashford Town	SL	W 3-0	Knowles, Bowgett (pen), Davies
May 3*	Addlestone & Weybridge	SL	L 0-1	



One of the Enfield afternoons Southern Lge Stones stumble the Isthmian League. It was the and 1,250 see Enfield cruise to Ste Briscoe (11) are powerless

WEALDSTONE 2020-21

Paul Waites recalls the win over Enfield alongside the masterful Stuart Pearce



Paul Waites, the former Chelsea apprentice who joined Stones at the start of the record-breaking 1981-82 season, has the most impressive win ratio I've ever seen.

In the season of the Enfield game featured, he made 57 appearances but was on the losing side just four times. And after the Stones were promoted back to the APL - and people said he was 'too lightweight to survive', the slightly-built, ball-playing midfielder made another 16 appearances and was NEVER on the losing side! We asked Waites for his memories of those days...

Chelsea spotted me playing for Watford Schools' U15's in a game at Vicarage Rd - we beat Enfield 4-0 and I scored a goal playing up front. I was the last apprentice taken on that year as the guy in charge



we'd rather forget: It's November 1978 and upon an Es side crushing all before them in FA Cup First round proper at Lower Mead a 5-0 win. Seamus Horgan (centre) and to keep them at bay

loved my style of play... although I was very lightweight he believed I had the ability and he was willing to have some patience and hope I grew a bit! But within about three months of signing Geoff Hurst took over as manager and sacked the youth guy, leaving me to spend the rest of my contract being more or less abused and ignored. I left Chelsea in March 1981 at 18 and trained down at Millwall for about a month, playing against Wealdstone in a friendly which our reserves lost 7-1!

During the next pre season my Dad (who had been manager at Willesden FC) was having a drink with one of his old Sunday morning football teammates Derek Jarmin, the ex Wealdstone player .. and Derek asked who I was playing for now. Dad explained that both me and Dennis Powell the ex-England schoolboy had both been released from Chelsea and didn't have a club ... so Derek straight away rang Wealdstone. We were invited down to pre-season training and Dad and Derek came and watched us train - and towards the end we had the normal 7/8 a side game and unbeknownst to me, when Batty (Allen Batsford, the Wealdstone manager) said "Right, one team in skins" my Dad whispered to Derek .. please don't let Paul have to take his shirt off .. they'll never sign him :)

Inevitably I WAS on the skins side but obviously Batty saw I had something to offer for I trained for a week or so and then played our first friendly game away at Woking. When we came out for the game there were Wealdstone fans there and I was like ... wow .. supporters .. bearing in mind we'd just come out of South Eastern Counties football with Chelsea on a Saturday morning with mainly parents watching.

After the game Batty came up to me and Dennis and said: "Come to the ground next week I want you both to sign a contract!" Dennis then explains to Batty that he's been offered a trial at Arsenal, to which Batty explained "I appreciate it's the Arsenal but I need to finalise my squad etc .. so Dennis went to play in Arsenal reserves for the next few months alongside the likes of Pat Jennings while I signed for the Stones.

As for the Enfield game well I knew the

CONTINUED OVERPAGE...

ON THIS DAY CONTINUED

they were near the top of the Conference so a BIG game I only really remember my goal that opened the scoring ... Pearcey (Stuart Pearce) as usual charging down the left and I remember I drifted inside as Alan Cordice drifted out .. Pearcey slung the cross over beyond me to the back of the six yard box ... Alan and their centre half David Waite went up for it and it seemed to cushion up off their heads .. it dropped just a little in front of me and I got to it just after it bounced and instinctively hooked it towards the goal and in.

As much as it was a great result beating the mighty Enfield my recollection was that we were in such a run of positive results we were expected to beat whoever we played. I'm sure at the end of that season a few of us players .. Me .. Pearcey .. Bumble and some others went to Wembley to see Enfield beat Altrincham in the trophy final and Tony Jennings (who I'd never seen play before) was masterful in what was the last game he ever played before retiring and also Nicky Ironton was class.

After Batty had his heart trouble and Hally took over, my days were numbered ... my Dad had always said to me in the previous two seasons

"Hally doesn't fancy you". He just sensed it, and when you know the manager isn't a fan it's very difficult for a player to play with any confidence - and without confidence you are fighting a losing battle. I

remember Hally calling me and Andy Waddock into his office and saying: "Hendon want you, Wadds and Waitesy .. Hillingdon want you .. so off to Hillingdon I went without even a goodbye if I remember rightly. I do try to get down to watch at least one Stones game a season at the Vale.

As a footnote I remember we played a pre season friendly at Ruislip Manor (in my 2nd season I believe) and they had one of my earliest heroes from Watford playing for them, the winger Stewart Scullion .. I actually managed to sell him a dummy in that game which made my night!"



Waitesy scores against Dover

Are Notts County the biggest club we've ever faced in a League match?

There's been a lot of anticipation this season surrounding the number of ex-Football League clubs we'd be facing in the National League.. not least because the last time Wealdstone played at this level (1988) the Alliance Premier League was in only its first year of automatic promotion and relegation from Division Four (as it was known in those days).

Lincoln City were the first League club to fall through the trapdoor and there was an immediate injection of glamour at the thought of hosting the Imps at Lower Mead (which attracted the rarity of a 1,107 crowd) and then the visit to Sincil Bank later in the season. In fact 4,159 saw the return game, a crowd boosted by the fact that City were chasing an immediate return to Div 4 (which they achieved) and the lack of any major football on that international weekend. Even Brian Glanville and Stuart Hall were in the Press Box!

The Stones were relegated that very season and it's not until now, 33 years later, that we have the chance to rub shoulders with some more of the 'fallen giants' - if that's not too disrespectful to clubs like Notts County.

The very thought of competing at the same level with the Magpies, or indeed the Stockports, Chesterfields, Wrexham or Halifaxes of this world when we were in the Ryman League Div Three 25 years ago is almost laughable. Yet here we are. And the question has to be answered.

The fact that we are playing a league match today against a club who were once in the top flight of English Football (and only 19 years ago, just before the Premier League was invented) puts County firmly in that bracket. They played in Division One for three seasons between 1981-1984 and were regular fixtures on our TV screens. Surely we've never played a bigger club?

Of course, in the FA Cup we've faced top flight opponents in QPR (1978, lost 0-4) and Reading who also went on to play there (three times, in 1976, lost 0-1, in 1977, won 2-1, and in 1985, lost 0-1) and played in the FA Cup against Millwall (1965, lost 1-3) who had a short two-year stay in Div One in 1988-90.

But yes, as league opponents Notts County are out on their own. Now we've just got to look as though we belong on the same pitch!

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BY STEVE DUCKER



50-year flashback

Tuesday 23 February, 7.30pm, Division 1

Everton 1 (Tommy Wright)
Manchester United 0

Ref K Styles, Barnsley | Att 52,544

Summary: Home grown full back Wright, in his 250th appearance, scores his second in three games after netting the same number in the previous 247. ❶

Programme highlight: Two page photo of David Johnson's winning FA Cup goal against Derby ten days earlier. All the ingredients are there - local boy with only a handful of first team games behind him scoring; the 'is it going in or isn't it' looks of team mates Alan Ball and Joe Royle; and Goodison Park's famous 'church in the corner' in the background. ❷

Programme lowlight: The photo feature on trainer Wilf Dixon. Nothing against Wilf as a subject, but printing four very similar images of him talking to Alan Ball and a full page of him looking in a filing cabinet wasn't the best use of a tree. ❸

Programme bingo: Illustrating a feature on the visitors with a photo of George Best. Even though Denis Law and Bobby Charlton were still at Old Trafford, this United vintage looked more of a one-man team with every passing week.

Ahead of their time: Derby manager Brian Clough, interviewed before the FA Cup game and quoted in the programme's gossip column. Specifically 'I'm not as sold on Europe as some people. There are only about six clubs equipped to cope with Europe on top of the league.' A nice line in expectation management from someone who later won the European Cup twice.

Any other business: This game was set for late April, but unbelievably the league arranged first division games in the same midweek as the European semi finals. Chelsea, Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester City all had to play Saturday-Monday-Wednesday. Only Everton had the foresight to reschedule, then went out in the quarter finals anyway.

What about the Stones?: We host Maidenhead United in the Premier Midweek Floodlight League, losing 0-1.



OFF-THE-CUFF by Harry Hornet

❸

❹

❺

Friday, 26th February, 1993
MIDDLESBROUGH
Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

Friday 26 February, 7.30pm, Division 2

Watford 1 (RonWig)
Middlesbrough 0

Ref A Jones, Ormskirk | Att 14,112

Summary: Home win helps keep Watford avoid relegation and derails Boro's post-Christmas promotion push at the same time

Programme highlight: Just for its name, Harry Hornet's column took care of value for money on its own. ❹

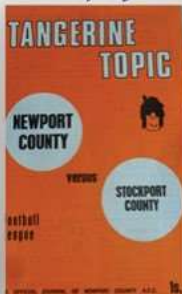
Programme lowlight: That is one angry looking insect on the front cover. ❺

Programme bingo: The mention of Watford old boy Pat Jennings, whose Tottenham team were at Wembley the next day for the League Cup final. Ah, vicarious success, saving also rans since the year dot.

Ahead of their time: The Rookery Enders who met the local police to discuss Vicarage Road's ground regulations has the community feel notable in the Elton John era a few years later.

Any other business: Outside Easter, this League Cup final weekend was the most popular of the season for Friday football, with 11 league fixtures brought forward, including several in London and - with Aston Villa in town - seemingly any team on the main rail line between New Street and Euston.

2021 marks the 50th anniversary of our step up to professionalism. To mark the occasion we are 'live blogging' our final season as an amateur club by examining a programme from each of the 92 Football League clubs in 1970/71. Here are the programmes from clubs 61 to 64 - including today's visitors, Notts County



9

TOPICS OF THE MOMENT

The Football League management committee recently turned down a request by the Coventry City chairman that his club could be allowed to play a match on a Sunday. We wonder if he and other advocates of such a move have considered those people who are affected by football even though they may not have an interest in it themselves—transport employees, caterers, police, householders who live near football grounds and are disturbed by the crowds, etc., etc.

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8

7

Saturday 27 February, 3pm, Division 3

Notts County 3 (Don Masson, Les Bradd, Charlie Crickmore)

Scunthorpe United 0

Ref M Sinclair, Guildford | Att 10,750

Summary: A Notts team that dropped only four points at home all season - all in draws - records another regulation win as it canters to the fourth division title **6**

Programme highlight: The raffle to win former keeper Albert's Iremonger's second division championship medal from 1923. Merch like that didn't come up often in those days. **7**

Programme lowlight: Normal league prices for a Nottinghamshire County Cup game v Mansfield? Really?

Programme bingo: The Golden Goal competition was a league staple, but not many prizes would have been won by a strike in 26 seconds, as at Notts v Chester in previous last home game.

Ahead of their time: County's ex-Liverpool and Chelsea striker Tony Hateley, whose 22 goals in 29 games that season probably convinced nine-year-old son Mark that he wanted to be a footballer too.

Any other business: Ten years later, Notts - still under the astute management of Jimmy Sirrel - reached the old first division that they had last graced in 1926.

What about the Stones?: A useful 3-2 victory over Maidstone United in the Isthmian League. Gerry Olson, Alan Pentecost and the evergreen Charlie Townsend with the goals.

Tuesday 2 March, 7.30pm, Division 4

Newport County 3 (Rodney Jones 2, Jeff Thomas)

Stockport County 1 (James Smith)

Ref K Ridden, Colchester | Att 1,479

Summary: Two points for Newport in the latest chapter of one of the season's most remarkable stories. **8**

Programme highlight: The disarming honesty of describing the 2,600 average crowd as 'truly amazing considering the terrible record of the team'.

Programme lowlight: More weird cover artwork featuring some kind of club mascot.

Programme bingo: The article on Newport's 'Roaring Twenties'. We were already at part nine and the narrative has only reached January 1921...

Ahead of their time: Not the Football League management committee. The 'News & Views' page reports that they had turned down a request from Coventry City to play a match on a Sunday. **9**

Any other business: This was Newport's third win of the season, after it took 26 games to record their first. They won 10 out of their last 21 and avoided bottom spot by two places and six points, followed by a successful application for re-election. They were less fortunate in 1988, becoming the second team to be relegated from the Football League, and this version of the club went out of business the following season.

What about the Stones?: We entertain and defeat Chesham United in the Premier Midweek Floodlight League by 2-1. Goals from Neil Bunker and John Chapman.

Next time: Sheffield United, Portsmouth, Darlington and Fulham



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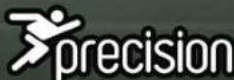
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 WEYMOUTH Saturday, 12th December Vanarama National League	Peter Jones			
 EASTLEIGH Saturday, 19th December FA Trophy 3rd Round	LGM Construction			
 BOREHAM WOOD Monday, 28th December Vanarama National League	Graham Clark & Mike Pullen			
 ALDERSHOT TOWN Saturday, 23rd January Vanarama National League	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Your Name Here?</td> <td>Your Name Here?</td> <td>Your Name Here?</td> </tr> </table>	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
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 MAIDENHEAD UNITED Tuesday, 2nd February Vanarama National League	All the President's Men			
 WOKING Saturday, 6th February Vanarama National League	In Memory of Markie Barton			
 EASTLEIGH Tuesday, 23rd February Vanarama National League	James & Victor Klarfeld			
 FC HALIFAX TOWN Saturday, 6th March Vanarama National League	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Your Name Here?</td> <td>Your Name Here?</td> <td>Your Name Here?</td> </tr> </table>	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
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 KING'S LYNN TOWN Tuesday, 9th March Vanarama National League	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Your Name Here?</td> <td>Your Name Here?</td> <td>Your Name Here?</td> </tr> </table>	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
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Monday, 5th April
Vanarama National League

Graham Clark and Mike Pullen



HARTLEPOOL UNITED

Saturday, 17th April
Vanarama National League

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YEovil TOWN

Saturday, 1st May
Vanarama National League

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DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE

Saturday, 8th May
Vanarama National League

'In memory of fans no longer with us' Ron Moore,
Tony, Steve & Peter Drew and David Edwards



BROMLEY

Tuesday, 11th May
Vanarama National League

Alan Couch

Your Name
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Your Name
Here?



SOLIHULL MOORS

Saturday, 22nd May
Vanarama National League

In memory of
Roy Couch

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MIKE AND VAL WESTON

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CONNOR SMITH
FRANKIE FITZGERALD

KEY: Number = Squad Number, C = Management, coaching Staff, D = Defender, M = Midfielder, F = Forward, L = Legend

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SUDHIR, AKHIL AND NIKHIL RAWAL

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DENNON LEWIS
JAMES AND DANIEL SMITH

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Bromley

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

Friday, 2nd April, 3:00pm

www.bromleyfc.tv | @BromleyFC

Boreham Wood

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

Saturday, 10th April, 3:00pm

www.borehamwoodfootballclub.co.uk

FIXTURES LATEST: www.wealdstone-fc.com

Vanarama National League 2020/2021 – at Tuesday 09/03/2021

Opposition	All					Home					Away					+/-	Pts	Results			
	P	W	D	L	F A	P	W	D	L	F A	P	W	D	L	F A						
1 Sutton United	24	15	5	4	43	22	14	9	3	2	30	11	10	6	2	2	13	11	21	50	3-3 1-4
2 Hartlepool United	27	14	6	7	36	25	14	9	2	3	22	13	13	5	4	4	14	12	11	48	1-3
3 Torquay United	25	14	5	6	46	25	13	6	3	4	21	13	12	8	2	2	25	12	21	47	1-2 1-1
4 Stockport County	26	12	7	7	37	22	12	5	5	2	14	8	14	7	2	5	23	14	15	43	2-5
5 Wrexham	27	12	7	8	36	27	12	6	4	2	18	7	15	6	3	6	18	20	9	43	4-3 1-4
6 Notts County	23	11	5	7	29	19	14	7	2	5	22	14	9	4	3	2	7	5	10	38	0-3
7 Eastleigh	25	10	8	7	33	26	14	6	5	3	17	11	11	4	3	4	16	15	7	38	0-0 0-2
8 Bromley	25	10	7	8	41	32	14	5	4	5	24	20	11	5	3	3	17	12	9	37	
9 Halifax Town	25	10	7	8	41	32	10	4	3	3	19	14	15	6	4	5	22	18	9	37	1-2 1-0
10 Boreham Wood	27	9	10	8	31	27	11	3	4	4	11	12	16	6	6	4	20	15	4	37	1-0
11 Altrincham	28	10	7	11	32	35	12	4	3	5	14	14	16	6	4	6	18	21	-3	37	1-0 0-2
12 Chesterfield	23	11	3	9	36	25	12	7	1	4	23	10	11	4	2	5	13	15	11	36	3-2
13 Yeovil Town	27	10	5	12	40	42	12	6	1	5	19	15	15	4	4	7	21	27	-2	35	2-2
14 Aldershot Town	24	10	4	10	28	35	11	5	1	5	15	16	13	5	3	5	21	19	1	34	3-4 0
15 Maidenhead United	23	9	6	8	34	35	10	4	2	4	19	18	13	5	4	4	15	17	-1	33	0-4
16 Dagenham & Redbridge	26	9	6	11	26	34	12	4	4	4	13	14	14	5	2	7	13	20	-8	33	0-1
17 Solihull Moors	24	9	5	10	28	30	11	6	1	4	15	12	13	3	4	6	13	18	-2	32	
18 Woking	24	8	6	10	28	27	13	5	5	3	16	9	11	3	1	7	12	18	1	30	
19 Wealdstone	25	8	5	12	34	51	12	6	2	4	24	23	13	2	3	8	10	28	-17	29	-- --
20 Weymouth	25	6	5	14	26	39	15	4	2	9	16	26	10	2	3	5	10	13	-13	23	2-1
21 King's Lynn Town	24	6	5	13	31	50	12	3	4	5	18	21	12	3	1	8	13	29	-19	23	3-1 3-2
22 Barnet	24	3	3	18	18	59	14	2	2	10	8	28	10	1	1	8	10	31	-41	12	0-0
23 Dover Athletic	15	3	1	11	12	35	9	3	1	5	9	18	6	0	0	6	3	17	-23	10	
Dover Athletic	15	3	1	11	12	35	9	3	1	5	9	18	6	0	0	6	3	17	-23	10	

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Ashley Charles 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	3 Mark Ellis
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Connor Smith 8	<input type="checkbox"/>	7 Jordan Barnett
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Danny Green 10	<input type="checkbox"/>	9 Kyle Wootton
Dennon Lewis 11	<input type="checkbox"/>	10 Callum Roberts
Charlee Hughes 12	<input type="checkbox"/>	11 Enzo Boldewijn
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G Lewis Everitt 21	<input type="checkbox"/>	19 Elisha Sam
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G Jake Askew 25	<input type="checkbox"/>	23 Adam Chicksen
Matthew Lench 28	<input type="checkbox"/>	24 Alex Lacey
Elijah Hearn 30	<input type="checkbox"/>	25 Luke Pilling
George Langston 31	<input type="checkbox"/>	26 Kenton Richardson
Jack Cawley 34	<input type="checkbox"/>	27 Lewis Knight
	<input type="checkbox"/>	29 Calvin Miller
	<input type="checkbox"/>	30 Jake Kean

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INSIDE "They played for both clubs.. 80 years apart." The Stones and Magpies link between George Nicholas and Harold Smith