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Written in Stone

ood afternoon and welcome back!

As many of you will know, we have continued to produce a full printed programme this season and to everyone who has supported this either through a subscription, by purchasing individual copies or indeed by advertising within it's pages, thank you. Thanks also to everyone who supported our once in a lifetime (fingers crossed) Covid initiative of online E-programmes.

As normal I always grab the opportunity that the last programme of the season provides to thank those who have been instrumental in it's production. It simply would not be possible to produce a programme of this quality and content without the never-ending work and support of Tim Parkes, Martin Read and Martin Lacey. Thanks also to Sudhir Rawal, Steve Ducker, Roger Slater,

Peter Worby, Stuart Maynard and the members of the Supporters Club Committee who have provided (mostly) timely contributions. Next let me take you back to the online E-programme. I will not bore you with the technicalities or the substantial amount of additional work this takes but simply thank the two people who actually made it happen, Neil Rands & Roger Slater.

So on to next season.... You will not need me to tell you what a strange season we have had to deal with on our long-awaited return to the top tier of Non-League Football and I think it is fair to say that most of us cannot wait for this season to end so the club and supporters can have a real crack next term. The club has this week released details for season ticket renewals, along with the new membership initiative (some of which secure you a printed programme every game). Please support these offers and ensure we give the very best account of ourselves on the pitch.

My final thanks go to Rory and our Board of Directors for their time and dedication to ensuring our great club navigated unprecedented times in as smooth a way as was possible.

Enjoy your afternoon.

Mark

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'IN MEMORY OF ROY COUCH'

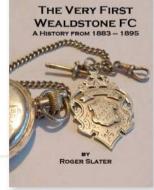
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THE VERY FIRST WEALDSTONE

Reading the Wealdstone FC Jubilee Handbook, it was apparent that 1899-1900 wasn't the formation date of the club but a step on the way. The first match report mentioned that "the club wore the same colours". The question was: same as what? And when? It started a long process reading backwards in time establishing the facts as they were then available. Some pieces of the jigsaw were missing, so the date of formation remained the same. In an effort to build as complete a record of the club as possible, research continued and, as more information has been found over twenty years later, gaps have been filled and we can now tell the story of two Wealdstone Football Clubs.

This is the story of the first of these clubs and the earliest days of the modern club in a 56 page A4 book by Roger Slater and will be available from the Wealdstone Megastore now priced at £7 + £1.99 P&P



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WEALDSTONE

FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2020/2021

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Club Doctor

Programme Editor Mark Hyde MAJOR HONOURS SINCE 1950 LEAGUE TITLES

1951 / 1952 Athenian League

1973 / 1974 Southern League Division One South 1981 / 1982 Southern League Southern Division

1981 / 1982 Southern League Championship 1984 / 1985 National League Premier (Gola League)

1996 / 1997 Isthmian League Division Three 2013 / 2014 Isthmian League Premier Division

2019 / 2020 National League South

NATIONAL CUPS

1965 / 1966 FA Amateur Cup 1984 / 1985 FA Trophy

LEAGUE CUPS

1981 / 1982 Southern League Cup

MIDDLESEX COUNTY CUPS

1958 / 1959 Senior Cup

1962 / 1963 Senior Cup 1964 / 1965 Senior Cup

1967 / 1968 Senior Cup

1984 / 1985 Senior Cup

2003 / 2004 Charity Cup 2010 / 2011 Charity Cup

NON TITLE-WINNING PROMOTIONS

1997 / 1998 Isthmian League Division 2 (3rd) 1998 / 1999 Isthmian League Division 1 (3rd,annulled) 2003 / 2004 Isthmian League Premier Division

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

GROUND REGULATIONS

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

- Entering the ground through any means other than through the turnstiles or entrances
 Entering the field of play before, during or after a game without prior authorisation
- Being drunk, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs Using violence of any nature
- Carrying items which may be considered a danger to others, including cans, bottles, or glasses containing alcoholic beverages
- · Throwing any article onto the field of play · Climbing floodlight pylons, fences, stands or any structure or building
- · Using obscene or bad language likely to cause offence to others · Hitting the side or back panels of the Bulla stand
- 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

WEALDSTONE 2020-21 From the Gaffer



ood afternoon and a warm welcome to Mark Yates and his management team as well as the players and officials from Solihull Moors.

Firstly, and most importantly, I want to say how brilliant it will be to finally have our fans back inside The Vale this afternoon. Clubs like ours are built and thrive off the fans support, so I think I speak for everyone when I say how excited we are to have you back. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that the players feed off your energy on a match day and That has been a huge miss this season and it will be great to have that buzz

Welcome Back We've missed you

back around the ground again.

We come into this afternoon's game having put in some good performances recently and all things being well that will continue into today. The last 2 1/2 games have seen the types of performances we want going forward. Everyone has given everything they have and that helps us start to bridge the gap against the quality of teams in this league. We have moved the ball well at times but equally we have also taken pride in our shape off the ball. All that said we have by no means cracked it and there is still a hell of a lot of work to do, but it's good that the team is now understanding their roles better, take pride and giving everything when they step on the pitch. It is also no coincidence that the performances have improved now that we have got a slightly more settled side. We feel the performance away against Chesterfield last weekend was the best we have had over a complete 90 minutes this season. We defended resolutely as a team. but we also looked a major threat going forward. When their goalkeeper is coming away as the Man Of the Match it tells you everything you need to know.

Lastly as a management team we want to again thank all the volunteers and everyone who contributed to getting the new stand up in time for this game. It was a monumental ask, but again it just shows the spirit and togetherness of a club like ours.

Hopefully you all enjoy the game and the new stand, and contribute to the team's performance as we will massively appreciate having you back at The Vale.

Stuart

BY DOMINIC WHYLEY



NOTES FROM THE BOARDROOM

Dominic rounds of this unprecedented season on behalf of our Board of Directors

s we enter our final game of our first season back in the National League I don't think any of us could have foreseen what this season would entail. As fans, we've been denied the opportunity to properly celebrate last season's title success and recognise the remarkable achievements of the players and management. We've also missed the chance to see how those retained and those recruited would have fared in front on big crowds at The Vale and enjoyed the critical social element of watching football with fellow fans and friends. All of this pales into insignificance when you look at the impact on health and society from the pandemic and hopefully, we can now look forward to the Summer, next season and 2022 with renewed hope and optimism.

On the pitch, our season has been impacted by the loss of funding. Most industries, and clubs at levels below ours, have been able to 'mothball' operations, furlough employees and reduce costs to survive. We have been required to complete a season, continuing to incur a high percentage of our usual cost base including training, pitch maintenance, travel and of course wages. We took the decision to furlough a number of players to reduce the first team squad to around 16 players to make some cost savings. This wasn't an easy decision from a footballing or personnel perspective as there can be an impact on furloughed players and we've tried our best to support any member of the squad in this position.

From a footballing perspective, running with a

'bare bones' squad has left the players fatigued and prone to injuries and from a management perspective, it's impacted competition for places, the ability to rotate and the depth and strength of players available. Results in the last couple of months of the season have been hard to take for players, management, fans and officials however we must try and look forward to next season and recognise the incredible challenges this season has presented.

Thank you to Stuart, Matt, Northy, Tony, Ellie, Rachel, Craig and Nathan as well as ever players who has represented the club in the past year. Thanks also to Dean, Kirk and Gary for their invaluable role in this journey.

Despite the lack of crowds, the work going on at the club and the support from fans and volunteers has been incredible. Everyone who has contributed, financially or physically to improving the ground we took over in 2008 to enable us to achieve a National League ground grading should take a bow. This season has seen a huge amount of work undertaken including the extension to the main terracing which should make the atmosphere at home games even more electric. There have been regular work parties at the ground with some people being on site almost daily for months on end. For those who haven't been at the ground for a while, we hope you'll appreciate the improvements to the stadium and the bar.

Our live streaming service has enabled supporters to watch games during the restrictions and the quality of streaming, commentary and organisation has been incredible. Tim Parks has given up a huge amount of his time to research opposition and provide exceptional commentary on games supported by fellow supporters Paul Franklin, Adam Hills, Don Cross and others. We've also has former players John Morton, George Duck, Fergus Moore, Lee Chappell and others

join Tim in the commentary box. Alongside this, Mike Kane, Graham Tallman from GPF Lewis and FC Video have done a great job ensuring the quality of stream and addressing the inevitable technical issues that arise from a service like this.

Roger Slater and Jez Albert led a recordbreaking supporter fundraising initiative which was critical to supporting the management team in recruitment and retaining key members of our Championship winning side. The way the season panned out since January has made recruitment exceptionally difficult however this funding has helped us secure Craig Fasamade for next season and introduce the likes of Josh Meekings and Ryan Gondoh to the club.

We know next season will be tough however a huge amount of work has already gone into next season's recruitment plans and whilst securing the type of players we want on affordable deals will be difficult we need to do everything we can to move the club forward on and off the pitch.

We need to grow our existing revenues and develop new revenue streams to enable us to be more competitive at this level and we hope we can count on your continued support next season.

We have recently contacted existing season ticket holders about renewals and a new club membership scheme being trialled this season and will shortly be launching a campaign to grow season ticket sales and attract new supporters to the club. It would be great to achieve a record number of season ticket holders for our first 'real' season back at this level and spread the word to continue to grow the profile of the club.

The Vale will be showing all the major football over the Summer including the Champions League Final and the Euros and thanks to a large and very generous supporter contribution we now have state of the art screens and audio to enjoy. Please support the club if you can by making The Vale your venue of choice to watch televised football over the Summer. Rebuilding our The Vale revenues post lockdown will be a critical part of supporting the club's finances.

Whilst there may not have been fans in the ground, our programme team led by Mark Hyde continue to produce an outstanding with high quality content from Martin Read, Sudhir Rawal, Tim Parks, Steve Ducker and others. Thanks to a small band of helpers these programmes have been mailed to subscribers and we've also started producing an online programme. Huge kudos to everyone involved for not only continuing to provide all the pleasure our award winning programme provides but for bringing in some much needed revenue in the process.

John Young and others continue to do a great job on commercial activities and we offer a huge thank you to all our existing sponsors across all areas. If you have any commercial leads that the club can follow up on, please contact John or a member of the Board. Tomorrow we are hosting a sponsors 7 a-side tournament at the ground and the bar will be open, showing the final round of Premier League matches. If you're free come down and enjoy a drink.

Paul Rumens has continued to provide matchday hospitality and generate income for the club and we're looking at how we can develop our facilities to continue to cater for sponsors and guests next season within the current footprint of the ground.

At Board level, Nick Symmons, a former Chairman of the club, is retiring as a Director but will continue to support the club's progress where he can. Nick will be a huge loss to the Board and his contribution over many, many years is beyond what anyone could expect and the club simply wouldn't be where it is today without him. We'll recognise Nick's service and contribution properly in due course but I'm sure everyone who has any association with the club will join us in thanking Nick for his incredible contribution. We hope to be able to share some additions to the Board in the near future.

However many times we say thank you as a Board it never feels adequate given the unique and incredible role that supporters and volunteers play at our club. To everyone who has helped over the past year or so – thank you for everything you do to help the club, it truly makes a real difference.

Enjoy your Summer, keep an eye out for new signings, pre-season fixtures, events at the club and we hope to welcome everyone back in full numbers for the start of next season.

Dom

FOOTBALI WITHOUT **FANS IS**







STONE FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON TICKET RENEWAL FORM

Come and join us for the Stones' second season at National League level... and this time it really matters!

Because of the games being played behind closed doors. supporters have missed out on some memorable victories over clubs like Chesterfield, Wrexham and Barnet - but next season it is anticipated that record crowds will be allowed in to recreate the special atmosphere of The Vale in 2021-22. After the disappointment of not being to properly celebrate the Stones' glorious National League South-winning season,

we hope you'll all renew your season tickets for what will feel like our first proper season back in the National League. Should we be subject to restricted attendances then we guarantee that ST holders will get priority admission - and will also get priority allocation for away match tickets made available to the club. Details of how to renew are below along with the terms and conditions, printed overleaf.

Early bird renewals must be submitted and paid for by 30 June 2021.

YOUR NAME	 ADDRESS
E-MAIL	
TELEPHONE	

SEASON TICKETS REQUIRED

	Adult Terrace	Adult Seated		Concession Seated	Under 18 Terrace	Under 18 Seated	Name on Ticket
	£250.00	£300.00	£175	£200	£40	£65	
Example		×			30.5	15.777	Mr Roger Smith
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2							
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Please enter an x in the box for each season ticket required and enter the name to appear on the ticket

I ENCLOSE THE SUM OF

02-23-26-	- 1017		 CHURCH CO.	10000	Secret	12.01.03
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This form can be completed and sent to the club by post with a cheque to Wealdstone FC, Grosvenor Vale, Ruislip, HA4 6IQ.



Tickets can also be purchased online of course via www.wealdstone fc.com/seasontickets



FOOTBALL CLUB MEMBERSHIP



*∞*We can knock ove next seasor ..but we need

The club is launching a membership scheme for next season aimed at supporters who want to watch their team AND

contribute financially with the purchase of shares, a key component of making Wealdstone really competitive in 2021-22, when hopefully crowds will be back at Grosvenor Vale. There are four levels of membership: Platinum, gold, silver and bronze, all with benefits that reflect YOUR involvement with the club. Join up and be a part of the new Wealdstone FC, taking on all-comers in front of record crowds here in Ruislip!

PLATINUM £ 1.000 concession £925

- Adult season ticket £700 of Wealdstone FC shares
- Free matchday programmes Free admission for home friendlies
- 10% WFC and WFSC event discount 95% WFC Megastore discount
- 2 x priority home & away ticket discount (FA Cup matches, etc)
- Free team photograph

GOLD £500

concession £425



- Adult season ticket £200 of Wealdstone FC shares
- Free matchday programmes 10% WFC and WFSC event discount
- 5% WFC Megastore discount Free team photograph

SILVER £400

concession £350

- Adult season ticket £100 of Wealdstone FC shares
- Free matchday programmes Free team photograph

BRONZE £300

concession £250

Tick

- Adult season ticket £75 of Wealdstone FC shares
- Free team photograph
- Free match programmes can be collected prematch or posted after the match
- Priority ticket allocation will be for a maximum of two tickets per match as applicable
- Please scan or photograph this form and e-mail to memberships@wealdstonefc.com
- Or post to Wealdstone FC, Grosvenor Vale, Ruislip, HA4 6JQ

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Membership payments may be paid in one lump sum or by standing order

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BY SUDHIR RAWAL



The Elmslie Ender



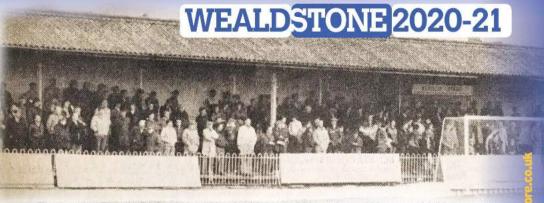
EE guides us through both his, and our long anticipated return to the terraces

was at football last week. My team lost, as VAR once again reared its ugly head. Leicester scored a worldy which was a handball initially and yet VAR didn't intervene; whilst Chelsea had a goal chalked off by a millimetre for a part of the body that you can't even score from. Yet, I had a brilliant day out, result withstanding.

I was in the pub over three hours beforehand at the pre final iconic Green Man in Wembley, which was heaving. It was like a proper football day. Beer, plenty of it, shots too, songs, banter, just as we all remember it. I

was without my sons for the game, but actually met up with people that I don't normally watch football with. It was great as you just slipped back into football chat. How have we missed it? In the stadium, whilst only a quarter full, felt like a little bit of normality was back. Brent Council obviously not as keen on adherence to regulations as Hillingdon are, as there were. for example, barely anyone wearing masks. And there were proper limbs for the disallowed Chelsea goal. If you didn't have the Indian variant before then, you might well have got it after! It was great to be back. That old adage

30 years ago.. The last day and a final shot of the Elmslie End



The famous Elmslie End at Lower Mead, which would have been 100 years old this summer... a new book to commemorate the iconic stadium is now available through the WFC Megastore

'The season has

been a write off

from a spectator

point of view'

that a good day is ruined by ninety minutes of football couldn't have been truer.

Most of you who are reading this have at best been to one game since lockdown occurred, Weymouth at the Vale. The season has been a write off from a spectator point of view. I have been a little luckier having been a sponsor that I have seen a couple of other Stones game as well. It just hasn't been the same. Today, finally, we get to be back at the Vale. The attendance will be severely restricted again, even less than the Weymouth game, with the numbers allowed in likely to be limited to season ticket holders only. We are in a bizarre position where it would have been less

costly for us to pay the game today behind closed doors than with fans in, with the additional costs, far greater number of stewards for a start, and no extra money coming through the gate. That said, the bar should be heaving and just being back at football, even in a limited way, will be great. Seeing your mates, banter and beer,

is what it's all about. Hopefully, hopefully, with everything crossed, that next season we will not only see a full Vale on occasions, but the National league will see that even a tinpot club like ourselves have proper away support.

Talking of tinpot, from what I have read, the condescending, patronising Spireite commentary team were expecting to roll us over by double figures or more. The bookies weren't much better as we were 16/1 to win 1-0 at one stage. By all accounts, not only did we give them a good account, we could well have won the game. Traditional non-league

supporters had warned us about the BELTS/
PELTS and how their supporters would throw
their toys out of a pram as and when us little
tinpot clubs didn't just roll over or take a point off
them or heaven forbid even beat them. Boy, did
the toys get thrown last Saturday. It was pathetic
and embarrassing but expected. There's a reason
why the BELTS are in the same division as us.
They aren't good enough to be any higher.

The last two and half games have shown that with better recruitment, a proper preseason, we can be competitive next season, with crowds back in, the Vale can be a cauldron too. Those that have played have showed that with organisation, putting your bodies on the

line when required, playing some decent football along the way, but ultimately just giving everything for the cause, will produce results. Every Stones fan will wish Stuart and Matt the very best in putting together a decent squad for next season.

Enjoy the game today, back on the journey to a normal football season from August onwards. As ever, I will leave you with a

quote that all EE season enders had. It is more poignant than ever before:

"True supporters care. They care enough to argue vehemently but often perceptively about the team, the players, the issues; they care enough to commit themselves to the cause of the club; they care enough to turn up week after week and support the team; they care enough to criticise among themselves their own players. The opposite of love, after all, is not hate but indifference."

Sud

Mick EUSHMAN

Covid has wrecked the celebrations and the memories of that glorious 2019-20 season. It will be viewed through the prism of this awful, furloughed campaign ... and that's why it's all so terribly sad

Long-term Stones fan Mick Fishman (pictured above) reflects on how the 2020 pandemic has robbed both players and supporters of one of those rare moments in the life of a football follower

s this, our first season back among non-league's elite, draws to a close, try if you can and think back to early March last year.

The Stones were riding high at the top of the National League South. Havant & Waterlooville had been on a brilliant run during which they has closed the gap on us for the top spot. But we were still in good form and the management, players, fas and, not least, Paul Doswell at Havant, were of the firm belief that we would carry off the title. The team, largely made up of young unknowns who had failed to reach their potential elsewhere, had gelled into a

wonderful unit which had delighted us all by playing attacking, cavalier football of a quality we had not seen for decades.

Specialist Refurbishment Contract

Had the season been allowed to reach its natural conclusion, the team would have been able to celebrate receiving the championship trophy with the massed ranks of ecstatic Stones fans. The social club would have been bursting at the seams for weeks as the celebrations continued into the summer. The megastore would have been shifting merchandise in the manner of toilet rolls rolling off supermarket shelves during panic buying, the playing budget coffers would have been far healthier than became the reality, and the early home matches against Stockport, Chesterfield and Wrexham surely would have seen The Vale rocking with 1,500 plus crowds. The "feel-good-factor" would have continued through much of a season that very likely would have ended

on 'a lost celebration'

The closest thing to a shared celebration: The flares and fanfares following the crucial win at Havant last January

with a satisfactory lower half - but free from relegation - finish.

hat didn't happen. Instead the covid pandemic struck, the season was completed via maths rather than football, the fans were by law excluded from any celebrations, the playing budget took a big hit, the new season started belatedly in front of no crowds, and any carry-over ebullience from the previous season lasted for a short time before disappearing entirely as the financial and practical effects of the pandemic put the very existence of the club in peril.

What should have been a year of celebration and fun for Stones fans turned into the stuff of nightmares. The worst of it is that Stones fans would be deprived forever of the great memories the rare successes

in football can bring.

"Strange how potent cheap music is" is a line from *Private Lives*, a play written in 1930 by Noel Coward. What "The Master" is saying in his rather toffish way is that hearing a song from your past can instantly and vividly conjure up in your mind a time, a period, a moment or a person.

Football fans experience something similar in recalling shared experiences, whether they are memorable matches, moments in matches, great players, not so great players, managers and even ex-fans who for different reasons no longer attend matches.

Nothing, however, can for football fans match the shared recall of celebrating a championship or major cup victory. Many current Stones fans can close their eyes and visualise young Charlie Penny slotting in the winner at Margate on 15th April 2014 to secure the Ryman Premier League title and feel once again the elation experienced at the time.

They can recall with clarity the celebrations, both straight after that match in Margate and later on more formally with the players back at The Vale at the season's conclusion. Slightly more mature supporters will, I am certain, easily bring to mind the tension of the penalty shoot-out against Dulwich Hamlet on 3rd May 2004.

Personally, I cannot visualise Richard Jolly's winning penalty. The pressure had proved too much. As Jolls ran in to take the penalty I had my back turned to the action and relied upon

CONTINUED OVERPAGE



FUSHMAN CONTINUED

Danny Butler's dad's reaction to inform me about where the penalty ended up. Crazy!

hose a little longer in the tooth will be able to luxuriate in the 3-1 victory at Northwood in 1997 that staked a claim for the club at last being back in business by securing the Isthmian league Division 3 championship.

And any Stones fan whose memory stretches back 35 years or more might become quite emotional recalling Andy Graham's winning goal at Kettering that secured the Gola League title (and Robin Wainwright's consequent manic celebration!) or the 2-1 win over Boston United at the old Wembley Stadium that in 1985 entered the club indelibly into the history books by becoming the first club ever to win the non-league "double" of Gola (now National) League and FA Challenge Trophy in the same season.

Three years earlier, most of the same team had rampaged through the Southern League to win everything that league had on offer. The penultimate home game against closest challengers, Hastings United, was an incredibly tense affair settled in our favour via a brace from Alan Cordice (pictured below). That win made the title as good as ours and those who were present can no doubt re-suffer in their minds the raw emotion and sheer tension of the game.

Could any Stones fan in attendance at Edgar Street in 1977 not be able to close his or her eyes and picture Pat Ferry's double and Bobby Moss's header that gave us that famous FA Cup victory over Hereford United?

Those of retirement age will be able to

being a part of the 2,538 in attendance at Lower Mead on 3rd May 1974 to celebrate the Southern League Division 1 South Championship. For geriatrics like me, the 3-1 win over Hendon in the FA Amateur Cup Final



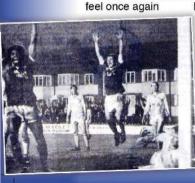
The celebrations of April 2013 will live long

of 1966 brings forward depths of joy and emotion difficult to achieve in most other circumstances.

he Covid pandemic has robbed us all of so much. At its very worst it has taken from us loved ones, both family members and friends. It has ruined livelihoods and destroyed in its wake pubs, restaurants, museums, theatres and long-standing retail institutions.

Perhaps it seems a bit trite to mention what Covid has taken from football, but to genuine fans of clubs like ours, not being able to attend matches and, in our case, not being able to celebrate our title win of last season is something that has been lost to us forever. We cannot in years to come discuss our memories and feelings when the decisive goal was scored or victory claimed that secured the title. We will not be able to relive with fans and ex-players the moment when the final whistle of the crucial match was sounded, or recall the enjoyment of the celebration at the season's conclusion. None of that happened.

Five years ago we ageing Stones fans



WEALDSTONE 2020-21



In the memorles of Stones fans

were able to share 50-year-old memories of the 1966 Amateur Cup triumph with the surviving players. Just a year earlier we and others had the opportunity to similarly share the wonderful memories of the great "double" triumph of 30 years before.

I for one hope the club will hold a celebration next year to mark the 25th anniversary of our Isthmian League Division 3 title and 2 years further on another for the 50th anniversary of our Southern League Division 1 South title, George Duck, et al.

hose current Stones fans still alive in 25, 30 or 50 years from now will not be able to share with the surviving players and new fans the memories of our winning the National League South. Covid would have deprived them of that wonderful experience.

It's so terribly sad. Once the moment has gone, it's gone forever.

It would not be the same to bring together before the start of next season the title winning squad. For those players and supporters the memories are tarnished. The rock-solid central defence of Connor Stevens and Jerome Okimo; the dashing wing back and goal scoring exploits of Michee Efete and Jacob Mendy; the ebullient midfield artistry of Billy Clifford and Danny Green; the clever wing play of Dennon Lewis; and the outstanding, artful centre forward exploits of Ross Lafavette.

All will be viewed through the prism of the current, miserable season of financial cutbacks to ensure survival, the departure of the manager, the furloughing of players and the form-dip and exhaustion of those who have played on through it all.

Connor Stevens has been injured for the entire season. Jerome Okimo has been the mainstay in the division's leakiest defence. Michee Efete cut an increasingly lost and sad figure prior to his being furloughed. Jacob Mendy has slalomed between left back and right midfield, gamely trying to take the game to the opposition.

Billy Clifford left to pursue full time football at Havant & Waterlooville. Danny Green has tried hard within a midfield generally overrun by faster and fitter full time opponents. Dennon Lewis has often been employed as a lone forward, a role he is clearly unsuited to; and Ross Lafayette has been side-lined for over half the season through injury and is now likely to retire.

The trio who had masterminded last season's sparkling displays and success is no more. Dean Brennan has left the club. Stuart Maynard and Matt Saunders remain but are having to navigate the team through impossibly choppy waters, having to field often injured, invariably exhausted part-timers and teenage loanees from academies in a largely full time league.

The results have been disastrous. Most supporters understand and attach little or no blame to Stuart and Matty; others are less forgiving. The "feel-good factor" has long departed over the horizon.

All of his should not diminish what the Board, management, coaches and players accomplished for the club just over a year ago; but it probably will. When they return in years to come to attend matches as so many of our ex-players do, will they be afforded the same love and hero-worship as our other winners. Maybe. I truly hope so.

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El Prez looks at record breaking fundraising in a record breaking year

ust some brief words as Dominic & others have covered off most of what's been said regarding the season and the tireless work put in by so many.

It's just wonderful to have you back, not all alas given the capacity constraints today, but we've been nothing without you guys on the terraces this season. I for one am certain that we'd have bagged more points at home & away if fans had been back but here we are.

The club has got some huge challenges in the close season and beyond both on and off the pitch.

I can assure you our Stuart and Matty have been working tirelessly with the current squad and have been hampered with severe financial constraints given our circumstances.

I am confident that they can make a real impact at this level of football with the right pre-season and player recruitment. It won't be for the want of trying.

We will have one of the lowest budgets in the league so we will need to spend our money wisely for us to increase our foothold in this division.

The fantastic contributions made by the

fans to help with the budget this season has been a lifeline.

Despite the pandemic, we have brought in record sums in revenues from match day hospitality, balls & kit donors plus perimeter advertising together with the programme ads and various kit sponsors, stands and associated stadium sponsors.

We are working behind the scenes on continuing to bring new investment/ investors whilst share purchasing throughout the season has been really good to bolster the coffers.

BUT we need more!

So if you've got a business or business contacts that might like to get a flavour of what we are about or fancy sponsoring a game then please speak to me or a board member to find out more. We will make them feel most welcome.

Have a super summer and we will see you all in only a couple of months for the start of pre-season games & the 21/22 campaign.

Up the Stones!

Paul



TIM PARKS STONES INTERVIEW

Toke Asker

'I've stood behind the goal as a fan.. now I just want to play in front of the fans'

ust imagine this. You've been coming to watch Wealdstone at The Vale since you were nine or ten years old, standing in the Bulla with your cousin and joining in the songs after waving off your grandad to go and sit in the stand

You've thrilled to the Trophy run in 2012 and been to most of the games as Gordon Bartlett's brilliant Class of 2014 won the Ryman Prem... and then seen the club adjust to life in the Conference South.

All this time you've been playing as a goalkeeper in the Chelsea academy, a long journey every day from home in Eastcote to the Cobham training ground. And after your GCSEs at Haydon High School in Northwood Hills you've signed scholarship forms with the Premier League giants, all the time dreaming of a career in the professional game.

That was the life of Jake Askew - who today may fulfil a wish to rival even those dreams of starring at Stamford Bridge.

"I just want to play in front of the Stones fans!" said the 19-year-old when I spoke to him just days before the Vale prepares to thrown open its turnstiles for only second time this season.

And if those fans choose to bellow out "Jake Askew, he's one of our own" in recognition of his Ruislip roots, it would be the only fillip he needs to keep a clean sheet this afternoon.

don't think I've ever interviewed a Wealdstone player with greater affinity to the club. "When I was released by Chelsea last summer I spoke to quite a few EFL clubs and none of them thought I was big enough or good enough to even make the grade at Under-23 level. They looked at me being a shade under 6ft and that was that.

"I spoke to my dad and grandad and they

both said 'All you can do is prove you're good enough' and so I spoke to James Russell (Chelsea goalkeeping coach) and asked if he could put me in touch with Wealdstone. He gave me Dean Brennan's number and so I've been around, always on the bench, since September, just waiting for the opportunity to play for my boyhood team.

"So imagine how excited I was to get the nod for the Barnet game on Easter Monday to make my debut. Harry (Isted) told me on the Saturday that he was going to be recalled by Luton and that I would probably be playing... and it ended as a dream debut!

"With my history at Wealdstone I knew what it meant to the club and the fans, and that save I made at 2-1 ahead was my first big moment in goal for the Stones... I was just proud of the team after the game, we destroyed them! And also so pleased for the supporters even though they weren't allowed to be in the ground."



WEALDSTONE 2020-21



So do you think your height, and a perceived lack of presence, counted against you when it came to Chelsea making that decision last summer? Is there a cut-off point, size-wise, when it comes to making the grade? I asked him.

'I don't think there's a cut-off point as such, but the modern game seems to be all about size in goalkeepers and that's something I can't control.

"Chelsea have been good to me, offering me the chance to coach the young keepers down at Cobham and so now I work with the eight and nine-year-olds and it's something I really enjoy, passing on the knowledge imparted to me over the years. It's a year-by-year contract that is constantly reviewed but there's not a big turnover of staff there and they seem to appreciate my contribution."

t must be a huge difference, I suggested, and a big jump from playing Under-18s football to playing in the tough, demanding atmosphere

Jake and Riley Harbottle leap to clear but a lucky break falls Bromley's way for Joe Kizzi (No.2) to grab the only goal in Stones' last home game

of the National League? Although he's noticeably grown in stature in the last few games, coming off his line into the bodies and asserting himself from free kicks and corners.

"Well I've gone from being written off by the pro clubs to playing for Wealdstone in what is the physically hardest division in English football, in my opinion" said Jake.

"In youth football you don't have players pinning you on the goalline; hurling 40-yard throws into the six yard box; and making comments designed to unsettle you but I'm taking it all in my stride now.

"Every goal I concede, I look at how I might have done better, things I might do differently next time, how I could communicate with others. I've tried to learn from the others keepers we've had this season - Harry being similar to me, good with his feet and reactive, while Mooro (Stuart Moore) was commanding and assured. I want to take those elements and become a solid keeper for Wealdstone."

ake says that when he looks back at his youth career with Chelsea it all seems "a bit unreal".

"It was my life for nine years and I have some amazing memories of the youth tours we went on - playing in the Madrid Cup at under-14 level in front of tens of thousands; beating Atletico 9-8 on penalties in the semi-final with me saviing five of theirs and our lads missing four chances to settle it; playing in the MTU Cup in a sold-out arena in Munich against Bayern and Barcelona; and then other ones in Poland and Qatar in huge arenas.

"The club laid it all on and my parents were invited along to the bigger tournaments as a reward. They had a great time and yes, it's hard to believe, looking back".

So now, I asked him, what are your goals in life?

"Well, to be honest I just take one day at a time. I'm just concentrating on doing my best for this brilliant club, and really looking forward to the new season when the fans are back at Grosvenor Vale - with our fan base and passion I know other clubs will hate it and that will be so important for us.

"We're going in the right direction. I'm determined to be successful and if I was still at Wealdstone in ten years time I wouldn't see it as a failure."





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Name: Rob Harries

Where you live: Hackney: I'm an original one third of the Hackney Chapter of the Wealdstone Supporters Club!

First Stones game attended (and when): I think the first game I saw was Wealdstone vs Gloucester City in the Southern League Cup final second leg in 1982. Wealdstone beat Gloucester, I invaded the pitch along with everyone else, and I was hooked.

How you came to be watching Wealdstone: After being hooked at that first game, I wanted more, and was allowed to go to matches on my own or with friends. My dad had been at the 1966 Amateur Cup final with his Kodak workmates, and he thought that Lower Mead would be a sensible place for a young lad. Little did he know, and I revelled in the atmosphere and banter from the crowd (as well as learning a few new choice anglo-saxon phrases).

Had you watched other clubs before that, or still

Why do you prefer non-League football? I always enjoy swapping ends at half time, though this means I have only a hazy idea of how our defenders perform, and only a very long distance relationship with our goalkeepers over the years...

How do you fit watching Wealdstone into your family/working life? I'm lucyk enough to have an understanding wife! As to my shopping life, in the past I regularly went a mile or two extra to go to Sainsbury's in Whitechapel rather than the two local Tescos in Hackney, for obvious reasons due to the sale of Lower Mead. I'm mostly over it now (I can't hold a grudge for 25 years!) but I still don't have a loyalty card.

Most memorable Stones game/s you've seen? FA Trophy semi-final second leg vs Enfield, 1985, for the crowd surges and being shoved into a policeman at the

WEALDSTONE 2020-21

ob was young and fresh-faced ten years ago when he decorated the pages of the programme for the Banbury United 3rd Qual Rd FA Trophy

replay. The Stones went on to navigate FIVE more rounds after his pregnant missus decreed 'okay, no more league games and you'll be out of the Trophy soon?" Read on overpage......

FAN IN THE STAND CONTINUED....

Elmslie End... Wealdstone 6 Braintree 0 at Edgware in the 90s... Ramsgate away in the dark with the amazing pub and Dominic Sterling being booked three times, etc. Most of my best memories combine watching Wealdstone with visiting excellent nearby pubs. Even Canvey stands out for an excellent boozer at Leigh-On-

Most memorable game EVER seen? It's a toss up between the FA Trophy final, for which I came down just for the day from Yorkshire, or the play off vs Dulwich for sheer drama and excitement/relief.

What really gets your goat watching football? Diving, cheating players, though I made an exception for Brian Jones and Dennis Greene, as they were "our" diving, cheating players...

Have you ever played the game yourself (to any level?) and most memorable moments? I'm a cricket man myself, sorry, and any other game where you can reasonably drink and/or smoke while playing

Favourite all-time Wealdstone line-up (1-11, with reasons)? This is tricky, for the above-mentioned reason that I'm not very good with our defenders, but here goes!

1. Bob Iles - of course

2. Ian Waugh - why not?

3. Stuart Pearce - excellent player and excellent bloke, as shown by the fund raising he has helped with (from Sportsman's Dinners to sponsoring the number 3 shirt)

4. Dennis Byatt - part of our greatest defence with...

5. Paul Bowgett - "Paul's Up!", as he thrust both elbows out at any attackers foolish enough to jump against him. It still probably rings around the Cinema End at Lower Mead (or the meat counter in Tescos or whatever it is now)

I can't believe

Rob dissed me! I

even turned Ginge

6. Paul Lamb 7. Robin Wainwright

8. Simon Garner - "I hate Harrow Borough. I don't know who they are, but I hate them". Legend.

9. Alan Cordice 10. Mark Graves - both legends

11. Brian Jones - the "whinger's whinger"

12. Mario Celaire - a genuinely exciting attacker (with genuinely exciting hairstyles), he competely terrorised lower league Ryman defences, until he pinged his hamstring against Leatherhead. I wonder where he is

13. Jermaine Beckford

14. Need another defender, I'll take Dominic Sterling

Best current Stones line-up, in your opinion? I'll take the fifth on this one...

Favourite all-time Wealdstone strip? Blue and white quarters! Bring it back now!

Favourite current Stones strip? None. Now I'm not blaming anyone, but sharing strips with other Ryman clubs can be very confusing to the middle aged fan -I'm thinking Tonbridge, where it took me a little while to work out exactly why we were standing at the "wrong" end of the ground.

Best away trip this season? Lewes... Or Margate... Best away trip in the past? Cheltenham in the early 90s. I was living in the west country at the time, and had not seen the Stones for a couple of years. I drove up to the match, can't remember the score but remember a certain big-nosed person being pulled out of the crowd by the police, and the crowd pulling him back in again. That rekindled my love of Wealdstone and I started going more regularly again.

What are your expectations for this season? At the start of the season I'd have said Play Offs, but now I expect us to just miss out. Again. Shame.

Who is your favourite Stones celebrity fan? Russell Grant, of course. Though I'm glad he's still

a fan... In the early 90s, he posted to the Wealdstone email list along the lines of "On Saturday, Middx Ladies will play Surrey Ladies in the final of the Middx Ladies Cup". I pointed out that as an astrologer he should be saying "On Saturday, Middx Ladies will beat Surrey Ladies 2-0 in the final of the Middx Ladies Cup", and he promptly unsubscribed from the list. Oops!

How does Grosvenor Vale compare to our other grounds? Well, it's ours at least! A lot of work has gone into the redevelopment, and I'm proud to have my name on the fencing. It sometimes lacks a little atmosphere among the home fans, but then we've always been noisier away than at home, at least since we

in his honour left Lower Mead (and maybe with the exception of the Kennel at Edgware in the rain).

What do you think of our programme? The best in the league, by miles. I don't know why I bother buying the programme at other grounds - they're full of adverts and press releases (at best) and unrelated football news (at worst). Aveley - I'm looking at you!

Are you a regular social club user? What do you think of it? I drink the beer and eat the ham rolls on match day, but it's too far to come for a night out. Sorry.

CLASSIC FIS: ROB HARRIES CONTD

OB says: "It was lovely to re-read my Fan In The Stand from over 10 years ago. Like Viz, I used to be a lot funnier."

And so we fired him a few questions about wht has happened over the past decade...

Are you still able to get to as many games as back in 2011-12? I don't go to anywhere near as many games, sadly - my son Tom arrived in early 2012 and I moved out of

London two years later to leafy Haslemere in Surrey. I'm hopeful Tom will show some interest in coming to Stones games, when he's old enough to know not to repeat what daddy shouts...

I had a season ticket and went every week in 2011-12, as I had done for many years before. But I promised the wife that I wouldn't go to any league games after February (Tom was due in early May) - though FA Trophy games would be OX, as we NEVER got very far in that competition. We all know how that turned out - I went to Dartford, Cambridge and Newport away as we reached the semi-final (and I was in the doghouse, but she DID agree to it after all).

That was great, but the best time to be a Stones fan is going to be next season, when we can finally plan all the away trips we've missed out on this season.

Did you imagine back in those Ryman League days that we'd EVER be back at the top level? Not really, I thought we could get into Conference South, but the quality in the Conference is so

much higher than when we were there last time, so that level seemed like an impossibility.

Would any of the players since then gatecrash your all-time Stones team?

I haven't seen enough of the



Stones to really say, but I suspect that Mendy (below) would have to be shoehorned in there somewhere.

4) With Grosvenor Vale getting bigger and better every season, do you still hold a torch for Lower Mead? It doesn't matter how big it gets if we haven't got a long-term lease, sadly.

6) What do you think of the Stones performances so far this sea-

son? And have there been any stand out matches over the past 10 years to match the other fave games you mentioned? Bad start, brilliant October/November (thank god), then chaos. My standout match would be last season's v Havant, my nearest away game and I've got plenty of friends here in Haslemere who support them, haha... Also, the drinking in Chichester before and after that match was quite spectacular. I got home on auto-pilot (I think). The Woking play-off game in 2019 was also impossibly exciting, until it became obvious that the Stones were practically out on their feet in the second half, and the inevitable happened. Almost any game that I can get to is a source of excitement for me - a chance to see the Stones play and to see old friends. and sometimes see them in double.

Have you seen any games live apart from the Weymouth one? Sadly not. I'm saving my ammunition for Hartlepool away next season.

Where do you think the Stones will be in the football pyramid In five years time?

I hope we can manage mid-table respectability in the Conference. It might be said that we went up too early last season, but you can only beat what's in front of you and we won Conference South. I hope we can find our feet at the (much) higher level next year, and not flirt with relegation. Too much.



WEALDSTONE 2020-21

RIP Brian Allen: One of the 1966 Wembley Boys

AD news his week with the passing of two of our ex-players within a few days: Dixie Hale, the former Watford midfielder who played in the early 70s for the Stones (whose obituary is elsewhere in this programme) and Brian Allen, 80, who wrote his name into club history by scoring the only goal of the 1966 Amateur Cup semi-final at Stamford Bridge.

Mick Fishman recalls: "I was one of the 6,000 fans packed into the Shed End, fully expecting to be turned over by Alvechurch who had dumped us out 4-1 the previous season. They missed a penalty right in front of us in the first half - saved by our keeper

Arthur Paisley - but we stuck in there and were rewarded when our rightwinger Brian swung in a cross intended for Jim Cooley - but it gloriously ended up in the net".

The club managed to track down Brian to Alicante, Spain (where he and his wife had retired) in time for the 50th Anniversary six years ago and he spent the entire afternoon at The Vale admitting that he was surprised as anybody when the ball beat the keeper at the far post! The Stones of course beat Hendon 3-1 in the final with the chirpy Brian Allen playing a key role at No.7.

Roger Slater adds that Brian scored the first goal in a challenge match gainst Hilal Sporting Club from Libya in September 1966, memorable as it was the first-ever radio broadcast to that country.

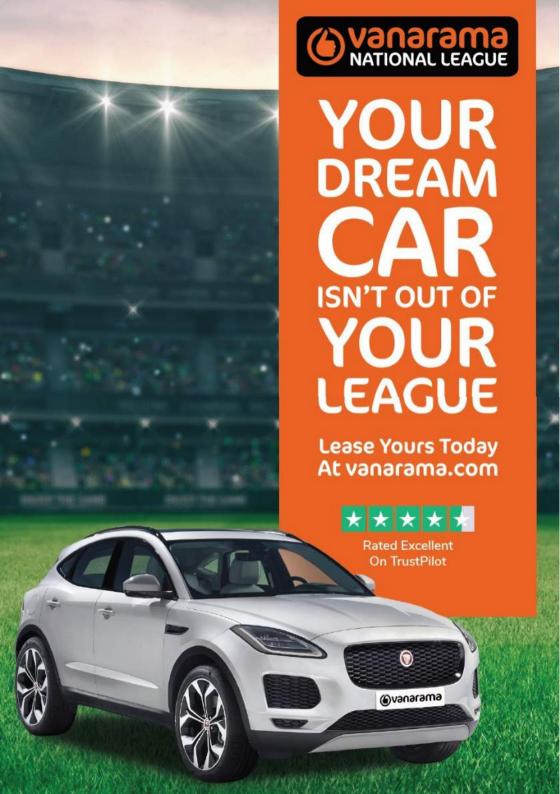






Jim Cooley (far left) and Bobby Childs (centre) look on at Stamford Bridge as a cross from Brian Allen (inset above) beats Alvechurch keeper Smith before dropping into the net for the goal that took Wealdstone to Wembley





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WEALDSTONE 2020-21

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SOLIHULL MOORS FC

Welcome for the very first time at Grosvenor Vale The Moors

olihull Moors FC is a merger between the former Solihull Borough and Moor Green football clubs.

Solihull Borough was formed in 1953 by Joe McGorian and the Club was originally known as Lincoln FC. Borough progressed through the local leagues before joining the Midland Combination in 1969, where they spent 22 seasons, eventually resulting in promotion to the Southern League. In 1989 the club was forced to sell it's Widney Lane ground to property developers but after a proposed relocation fell through, a ground-share was agreed with local neighbours Moor Green - this was to last for ten years until the purchase of Damson Park in August 1999.

Moor Green was formed in 1901. The first

ground was on a part of a farm in Moor Green Lane, Moseley. Their ancestral home, The Moorlands, was acquired in 1930, and was situated in Hall Green, a suburb of south Birmingham. The 2003/4 season was a momentous one for Moors gaining a place in the newly formed Nationwide Conference North; However, the inaugural season was to prove a traumatic one with the devastation caused by two arson attacks at The Moorlands in January 2005, when the main

stand and clubhouse were gutted leaving the club homeless. Moors thus became tenants of Solihull Borough at Damson Park

With both clubs struggling to secure gates big enough to sustain the two teams, the merger of both seemed an obvious way forward and



formed in the summer of 2007, Solihull Moors Football Club became one of the youngest clubs in senior English football. The new club took the place of Moor Green in the Blue Square Conference North.

Bob Faulkner, the Moor Green manager was given the job to take the new club forward, but Borough Boss Mickey Moore

would return in the new club's hour of need.

For their first season Bob Faulkner ran with much the same team as the last Moor Green outfit and the Moors first competitive game was a 1-1 draw at home to Barrow AFC on August 11th, 2007, with a 90th minute equalizer from Darren Middleton, earning him the accolade of scoring the first league goal for Solihull Moors. The first win came two weeks later with a 3-1 home victory

over Gainsborough Trinity, but the remainder of the campaign proved a struggle with the team rarely out of the bottom six in the league table. Survival was confirmed after the 40th league game of the season with a memorable 2-1 victory at Blyth Spartans on

Est. 2007

SOLIHULL MOORS F



the penultimate Tuesday of the season.

DILLIM

Birmingham and Solihull Bees became tenants of the club during the 2010 close season and would play their rugby matches on either Fridays or Sundays.

During the summer break before the 2011/12 season Mickey Moore decided to take up an offer from Mansfield Town and Marcus Bignot, ex Crewe, Bristol Rovers, QPR and Millwall was announced as his replacement a week later.

2015/16 saw 11 new signings with Vanarama National League experience and it was clear as early as the pre season friendlies that this could be the squad to take us up to the National League and did so winning the title three weeks before the end of the campaign.

2016/17 and our first season in The National League saw a different looking squad than the one expected following the winning of the National North and at the end of October Marcus Bignot suddenly guit the club to take over at Grimsby.

The void was filled by Liam McDonald a 31 year old who had successfully cut his managerial teeth at Redditch and Hednesford. There was much to learn and the path was rocky but survival was ensured in the penultimate game of the season which saw Moors finish in sixteenth spot with 54 points. Off the pitch The Automated Technology Group Stadium was brought up to National League standard.

2017/18 saw a miserable start to the season as we propped up the league. Liam McDonald made way for Richard Money, but he guit after just 20 days before Mark Yates took over the reins with Tim Flowers as his assistant.

2018/19. Before a ball had been kicked in anger Mark Yates left to take over at League 2 Macclesfield. Seamlessly Tim Flowers stepped up to the lead role and Gary Whild as his assistant. Several key signings have been made to strengthen the squad and there was an air of expectancy around the club as it embarked on its third year in the top-flight. Indeed, it turned out to be guite the season, as Solihull Moors made club history by gaining their highest ever league finish. The team finished second, just three points behind eventual champions Leyton Orient. The season didn't guite have the fairy tale ending as AFC Fylde defeated Flowers' side in the play-off semi-final. Moors ended on 86 points, narrowly missed out on an FA Cup third round tie against Blackpool and reached the FA Trophy quarterfinals.

In January 2020, Tim Flowers departed with the club sitting just outside the play-off places. Gary Whild and James Quinn took temporary charged of the side while the hunt for a new manager began.

In February 2020, Jimmy Shan was appointed as the new manager of Solihull Moors with Richard Beale coming in as his number two but as we entered 2021. Moors went on a poor run of form and dropped down the table. In March 2021, this signalled the end of Jimmy Shan's reign as he departed the club with assistant Richard Beale. Moors wasted no time in appointing former manager Mark Yates on a short-term contract until the end of the season.

WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v SOLIHULL MOORS

P1W0 D0 L1 F0A3

SOLIHULL MOORS - WHO'S WHO?



1. RYAN BOOT - GOALKEEPER

Ryan turned professional at Port Vale in 2013 having initially been an academy player at Stoke City. In a five-year career there he had various loan spells at Worcester City, Newcastle and Macclesfield. He joined the Moors in the summer of 2018 after being released from Vale.

2. TYRONE WILLIAMS - DEFENCE

Tyrone was signed from Kidderminster Harriers in 2018 where he made more than 70 appearances, with loan spells at Hednesford, Redditch and Stourbridge providing him with valuable experience.

3. JORDAN CRANSTON - DEFENCE

Jordan signed from League Two outfit Morecambe in 2020. Cranston spent his early career with Wolverhampton Wanderers. He played locally with Nuneaton and Hednesford, before moving onto Notts County in 2014/15. Since then, Cranston has played his football at Lincoln City, Gateshead and Cheltenham Town where he became a National League winner in 2015/16.

4. KYLE STORER - MIDFIELD (C)

Kyle began his career with local side Bedworth United before joining Tamworth in July 2004 before joining Nuneaton Town. Kyle joined Kidderminster Harriers in July 2011. After a spell with Wrexham he moved to Cheltenham Town where he was skipper for the last two-and-a-half years, won the National League title in 2015/16.

5. CALLUM HOWE -DEFENDER

Howe signed a three-year deal with the Moors in July 2019 and was one of the stand-out defenders in the division in 2018/19, helping Harrogate on their way to a place in the play-offs. A former National League winner in 2016/17 with Lincoln City, Howe has also featured for Southport, Eastleigh and Port Vale. Callum was recognised with a place in the 19/20 National League Team of the Season.

6. ALEX GUDGER - DEFENCE

Alex signed from Brackley Town prior to the start of the 2018/19 season. Alex progressed through the youth ranks at Nuneaton but is was at Rugby Town that he made his mark. He signed for Worcester City in 2015 and onto Brackley for 2016-17. Gudger was named in the 2019/20 National League Team of the Season.

7. JOE SBARRA - MIDFIELD

The Moors announced the return of midfielder Joe Sbarra in July 2020, after he signed on a two-year deal with the option of a further year in place. Joe played six times for Solihull in the 2018/19 campaign when the club narrowly

missed out on promotion to the EFL, finishing in second place. He began his footballing career through the youth academy of West Brom before becoming an academy graduate at Burton.

8. STEPHEN GLEESON - MIDFIELD

Republic of Ireland midfielder Stephen Gleeson signed in 2020. Stephen has four years of Championship experience with over 100 appearances for Birmingham City and Ipswich Town. His most recent football came with Scottish Premiership side Aberdeen. Capped four times by his country it was at MK Dons where Gleeson really started to excel, clocking up more than 200 appearances.

9. ADAM ROONEY - FORWARD

The 32-year-old Irishman joined the Moors in 2020. Rooney gained promotion to League Two with Salford in 2018/19 who he joined from Aberdeen. Many will also know the forward from his time at Birmingham City however, it was at Stoke City where Rooney's career began. Rooney then went on to enjoyed spells at Inverness Caledonian Thistle, Swindon Town and Oldham Athletic to name a few.

10. JAMEY OSBORNE - MIDFIELD

Solihull-born Osborne came through the youth ranks at Hednesford Town. After a spell at Redditch he joined Moors in 2016. He moved onto Grimsby Town halfway through the campaign before he returned. He was named in the National League Team of the Season for 2018/19.

11. JAMIE WARD - FORWARD

Jamie began his career with Aston Villa before moving onto Torquay United and Chesterfield. He would then spend two seasons at Sheffield United between 2009 and 2011, before moving to Derby County. Ward spent over four years with the Rams before switching to their rivals Nottingham Forest in 2015. Ward has represented Northern Ireland with has a total of 35 Senior caps.

12. CAMERON COXE - DEFENCE Wales

Under-21 international Cameron's career long spell with Cardiff City ended in 2020. Coxe has represented Wales at under-17, under-19, under-20 and currently under-21 level, as well as being named in a preliminary senior Wales squad in May 2018.

13. NIALL CLAYTON - GOALKEEPER

Niall Clayton impressed Moors in pre-season and signed a one-year deal on 16 September 2020. The shot-stopper spent his formative years at Wolves and then Birmingham City

Tie

WEALDSTONE 2020-21

before earning his big break at Oxford United.

14. LEWIS MICCIO - DEFENCE

Born in Sydney he joined NPL NSW side Manly United. Since coming over to England in September last year, Miccio has been knocking on the door of various clubs and is now pleased to have secured his move to the Moors.

15. CALLUM MAYCOCK - MIDFIELD

Born in Birmingham, Maycock was given his first-team opportunity by Coventry City. He played 32 times whilst on loan at League Two side Macclesfield Town in 2018/19, before playing regularly for Leamington in the National League North last season.

16. REISS MCNALLY - DEFENDER

Solihull Moors welcomed back defender Reiss McNally to the club on a two-year deal in July 2020. He featured throughout pre-season in both 2017 and 2018, before moving to Guiseley in the National League North for the 2019/20 campaign.

17. JORDAN PIGGOTT - DEFENDER

West Brom academy graduate Piggott arrived at the Moors in July 2020 on the back of a successful season for Halesowen Town, where he featured regularly throughout. Piggott is an exciting addition to the squad with previous experience at Dundee, East Fife, Bangor City and Alvechurch.

18. JAMES BALL - MIDFIELD

James Ball arrived from National League rivals Ebbsfleet United in 2019. Ball joined the Fleet from Stevenage. He began his career in the Bolton Wanderers academy, before going on to have spells with Hyde United, Northwich Victoria and Stalybridge Celtic. His breakthrough came with Stockport County.

19. JOSHVEER SHERGILL -DEFENDER

Moors demonstrated their ambition when Joshveer Shergill arrived from Leeds United on 07 September 2020. He started life in the Midlands, earning his stripes at West Brom before signing as a two-year scholar for Walsall in June 2018.

20. KYLE HOWKINS - DEFENDER

Jimmy Shan signed on loan from Newport County on 21 January 2021. Howkins, 24, signed his first professional contract with West Bromwich Albion in 2017 and went on to enjoy loan spells at Kidderminster Harriers, Mansfield Town, Cambridge United and Port Vale.

21. BEN USHER-SHIPWAY - MIDFIELD

Moors demonstrated their ambition when

Joshveer Shergill arrived from Leeds United on 07 September 2020. He started life in the Midlands, earning his stripes at West Brom before signing as a two-year scholar for Walsall in June 2018.

22. MELIS BUSHAJ - DEFENCE

Bushaj is a product of the Solihull Moors Football and Education Programme, where he captained the under 19's team and caught the eye on a number of occasions.

23. DARREN CARTER - MIDFIELD

Darren was part of the Forest Green Rovers squad who gained promotion to the Football League in 2017. He is a former England under-19 and under-20 international. He began his career with Birmingham City. He was loaned to Sunderland in 2004 and helped them win promotion to the Premier League. He moved to West Bromwich Albion in 2005 and had spells at Preston North End, Cheltenham Town, and Northampton Town before joining Forest Green Rovers.

24. MITCH HANCOX - DEFENCE The ex-Birmingham City star spent the whole of his youth career with the Blues before going on to make 40 appearances in the first team. He spent time on loan with Crawley Town, scoring twice. He signed for Macclesfield Town in 2016. He most recently spent the season with MK Dons who gained automatic promotion back to League One.

25. CAMERON ARCHER - FORWARD

Moors got their hands on rising Aston Villa hotshot Cameron Archer when he arrived on loan in October.

26. JUSTIN DONAWA - FORWARD

Donawa moved to England last summer after impressing during pre-season with Darlington, which bagged him a contract with the Quakers.

27. KYLE HUDLIN - FORWARD

Hudlin joined Moors after a spell with Midland League Division Two side Solihull United and put pen to paper on a two-year deal at the SportNation.bet Stadium.

28. TOM ALLSOPP - GOALKEEPER

29. NATHAN CAMERON - DEFENCE

Nathan has made over 200 appearances in the Championship, League One and League Two with the likes of Northampton Town, Bury and Macclesfield Town

30. ALEX ADDAI - FORWARD

On loan from Cheltenham Town Alex started as a youngster at Tottenham Hotspur before joining Blackpool as a trainee.

31. JORDON THOMPSON - MIDFIELD



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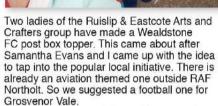
Top of the Box

Thank v



WEALDSTONE 20

Thank you to our Live Streaming Team



Gemma Storey and Emma Harman, who made the base, have worked so hard to make this happen for us. Adorned in today's kit and a retro kit, they've even nicknamed the players Cyril and Gary!

A small information card will soon be added with the opportunity to scan a QR code to make a donation to the Club's charity partner.

Terry Hissey





As our season at home draws towards its close the Club would like to place on record its gratitude to those involved with our live streaming team. A season behind closed doors was never ideal but the team helped keep the connection to the supporters with a service that was previously untested for us before this season. Like many of the behind-the-scenes aspects of the Club these roles need time and commitment to make them work with many of them being completely voluntary.

The team consists of Tim Parks and Paul Franklin, who work hard to prepare content and background on our opponents. Mike Kane that provides the technical expertise make the streaming work whilst running the associated Twitter account. Julian, Lee, Harry and Mitesh from FC Video that film and edit the games. Graham Tallman, who set up and liaises with our streaming partners and Mark Randall who manages the season tickets codes and general queries. Finally a big thank you to our guest commentators that provided their unique perspectives each game.

Mark Randall

The World of Ball

Could false jeopardy scar the game of football permanently? Find out after this break...

2020/2021 has shown us some scary glimpses of what a footballing world stripped of consequence for on-field performance would be like. And, eugh, no thank you.

Danger? Risk? Peril? It's fair to say that all the hazard you'll ever need is but a click of a TV remote control away.

It's there when John Torode whispers off camera to the Masterchef audience that, sure, that moussaka Mary is planning sounds adventurous and bold, but, oh my Lord, if the lamb comes out uncooked HER WORLD WILL END!

Or when a Strictly celebrity, asked what it would mean to them should they progress further in the competition, burst into tears at the merest chance of going home because IT WOULD MEAN EVERYTHING!

Or when a Bake-Off contestant, his voice quivering as he wipes his brow, turns to camera to complain that 'there's just so much to do, yet so very little time; "HOW WILL I POSSIBLY MAKE THE ICING??"

Or when the salvage expert is negotiating a price for some dreadful piece of old tat and the show goes to ad break, because you won't be able to resist finding out OF COURSE THE SELLER MET HIM HALF WAY! AGAIN!

If only any of this jeopardy actually existed. If only the salvage expert ended up in an actual fist fight with the vendor, the baker decided to tell Pru Leith to go stick the ****ing cake up her ***ing *** or the Strictly celeb stormed off never to be seen again.

None of that would ever happen, of course. (Although, hmm, I think it may have once on Strictly.) It's all carefully choreographed and artfully shot from multiple brightly lit angles, and scripted to within a pixel's width - there's no

chance at all that those involved aren't coached to play up their insincere concerns at just the right time to trigger the right audience reaction.

This false jeopardy is the currency of our age. The 21st century entertainment industry seems entirely founded on the stuff. Teasing an audience about the resolution to any kind of uncertainty appears irresistible, no matter however absurd, trivial or utterly manufactured it all actually is.

Producers of even the most mundane reality show imbue every possible frame with conflict, some supposed flashpoint that they promise to resolve if only you'll return for the next exciting segment / episode.

Sure, but what happens when the boy's cried wolf once too often? When the formula has been repeated so often that the falseness of the jeopardy begins to grate? To the extent that, well, everyone simply starts losing interest - leaving just a mush of hyperbolic white noise.

False number nine, ten, eleven...

Imagine, then, if false jeopardy was EVER to be applied to football! Matches in which commentators scream about the horrors of missing out on the final, the spectacle of the big match clash, the fear one team has of losing – but with it all having little to no effect on the clubs involved.

Which is, of course, the European Super League in a nutshell. Fifteen out of twenty competing sides whose matches would have doubtless been marketed as the will-they won't-they clash of the titans, except... that they couldn't be



Action from our battling draw away at Chesterfield last weekend. What a superb tonic and a gloriously hard-fought performance from the Stones.

relegated. That despite the results they would just... stay there. No element of false jeopardy could be applied to such a format that wouldn't make it utterly void of merit. Harry Kane signing for Barcelona? Whatever. VAR turning over Inter's decisive goal? Pfft, sure, if you say so.

A good thing the world rose as one to condemn this jeopardy-free joke of an idea. Because of course, no one in their right mind would surely sanction a league competition in which there was no prospect of relegat... ah yes. That.

False start

OK, in defence of the National League, these have been an entirely unique set of circumstances. But the way things have played out, with many competing clubs forced to cut costs to the bones yet still fulfil fan-free, revenue-free fixtures, has been a nonsense.

What an awful season this has been for anyone keen on the fundamental concept of league football, which is all clubs playing all other clubs on an equal footing. Having fixtures either side of the great grant hullabalooo has scotched that idea. The bottom third of clubs, those of us furloughing where possible to make the very most of a bad lot, have been losing left right and centre to those with often faint hopes of a top seven finish yet considerably more resources to pursue that goal. The surreal nature of score lines in the last few months of this season simply

doesn't reflect the reality of our strength, nor that of Weymouth, Woking, King's Lynn and any others doing what they've had to do to survive.

With no consequence for us, every goal conceded has been, in effect, an act of false jeopardy. The drama of the goal, the initial angry denouncement of the management, defence or attitude - all then followed by a grudging acceptance that, well, what does it matter anyway?

As a club we've managed to stand tall throughout all this, doing exactly the right things to sustain the club into the future. Our draw at Chesterfield was a brilliant result given the resources at our disposal. Rightly defensive of our return to non-league's top level, we can be proud of every accomplishment this season. The new stand over in Dead Fox Corner is just the latest in an extraordinary display of what can be achieved by the right kind of attitude from club and supporters. The DFC stand in particular is an astonishing accomplishment, and next season, fingers crossed, it will form a wall of noise for when Grimsby and Southend come visiting.

The pandemic, the European Super League, the season without competitive consequence — all told, the nonsense of 2020/2021 has had us hankering after all things that got us started watching live football all, and Wealdstone, in the first place. Personally I can't wait for the return of real jeopardy to all of our sporting lives next season. See you then!



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A = STARTING APPEARANCES • S = APPEARANCE AS SUBSTITUTE • G = GOALS SCORED * = HAS NOW LEFT CLUB

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Cawley, Jack	26	4	1				1		1		27	4	2	27	4	2
Charles, Ashley	16	3	-				-		÷		16	3	-	30	11	_
Dalling, Deshane *	10	1									10	1		30	1	
Debayo, Joshua *		1										1			1	
Dyer, Alex	26	5	2	1			3		1		30	5	3	147	16	35
	22	5		1			3		-		26	5		63	1	9
Efete, Michee	10	4	5	1			2		2		13	4	7	22	4	11
Emmanuel, Moses	10		_	_ 1			-				13	_	- Oliver	22	_	
Fasanmade, Craig		4	1									4	1		4	1
Gondoh, Ryan	6	5	2			_			-		6	5	2	6	5	2
Green, Danny	30	6	1				3		1		33	6	2	203	27	40
Harbottle, Riley-Jay	8								- 11		8			8		
Hearn, Elijah		2										2			2	
Hughes, Charlee	4	7					1	2			5	9		5	9	
Isted, Harry *	23						1				24			36		
Kouogun, Maxim *		1									1	1			1	
Lafayette, Ross	10	10	4		1						10	11	4	45	27	22
Langston, George	1						1		- 11	於	2			2		
Lench, Matt	1	3								No.	1	3		7	12	1
Lewis, Dennon	33	4	5	1			3		1	17	37	4	6	74	6	18
Lo-Everton, Sonny Blu	4	3	1				-				4	3	1	4	3	1
Meekings, Josh	2	1					1		-11		3	1	-	3	1	
Mendy, Jacob	38		8	- 1			3		1		42	_	9	69	10	18
Moore, Stuart *	7			-			2				9			9		-
Okimo, Jerome	39		1	1			3				43		1	226	5	8
Olowu, Joseph	10			-			3		-		10			10	9	U
Parish, Danny	13	12	7		1			1			13	14	7	13	14	7
	2	2	- 1						-		2	2	- 1	2	2	- 1
Parrett, Dean *		2	4				-				34			71	4	5
Phillips, Michael	32	4	1				2				-	2	1		4	5
Shelvey, George	2	1.0									2	100		2	-	
Shrowder, Tecane		1			- 12			- Company			2000	1	- 10		1	-
Slew, Jorome	2	6	1		1			2			2	9	1	3	11	3
Smith, Connor	30	2	2	1			3				34	2	2	75	20	7
Stevens, Connor				1						(1)	1			80		8
Smith, Grant *				1							1			1		
Tavares, Nikola	1		15	1-11							1			1		
Wakefield, Charlie *	8	3	1	1				1	1		9	4	2	9	4	2
Wishart, Dan	9	6						1			9	7		9	7	







Match sponsorship

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

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



TOROUAY 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

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!

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*All above subject to current COVID restrictions

MATCH		SPONSO	IRS									
WOKING Tuesday, 23rd March Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East											
NOTTS COUNTY Saturday, 27th March Vanarama National League	Rolfe-E	ast	Harrow Windows									
BARNET Monday, 5th April Vanarama National League	Connect Vending	Union Athletic	Mark, Martin, Sudhir & Megaphone									
HARTLEPOOL UNITED Saturday, 17th April Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows											
DOVER ATHLETIC Tuesday, 27th April Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East											
YEOVIL TOWN Saturday, 1st May Vanarama National League	Oldfie Construct		Si Hayes									
DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE Saturday, 8th May Vanarama National League	People fo	r Print	LGM Construction									
BROMLEY Tuesday, 1th May Vanarama National League	Dominic Trigg											
**** SOLIHULL MOORS	LGM Construction (Solihull)											



HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE? SY TIM PARKS



Solihull Moors is a story of amalgamation and eventual regeneration

WEALDSTONE'S TRIUMPH AT MOOR GREEN

MOOR GREEN 1, WEALDSTONE 6

FORTUNE made amends to Wealdstone on Saturday when they beat Moor Green, the Birminghan Combination club, 6-1 in the re-played Amateur Cup-tiat Moor Green, Birmingham.

A 4-1 result in their favour have flattered Wealdstone for their first hour's supremacy; a 6—1 result in the replay did less than justice to Moor less than justice to Moor Green's potentialities. It was the wind that helped



The first meeting between our clubs came in the FA Amateur Cup. 1952-53. After a draw at Lower Mead. not only did Stones win the replay 6-1 (thanks to a Phil White hat-trick) they also managed to nick Moor Green's outstanding winger Ken Bodfish for the following season

feel rather sorry for supporters of Moor Green FC. Until 2005 the club, founded in 1901, had a proud history in amateur football, dominating the Midland Combination League and then rising up through the Southern League to a place in the Conference North. Then a mysterious arson attack 16 years ago at their Moorlands ground too expensive to repair, with the grandstand (above) and the social club burnt down - forced the club to look for a local groundshare.

Local rivals Solihull Borough, founded in 1953, stepped forward to lend a hand. Not too surprising, as Solihull had been invited to share Moorlands in 1989 when their own Widney End stadium had to be sold to fight off financial problems. Solihull had groundshared with Redditch United, among others, before finally finding a new home ground - the Damson Park Stadium

- with the purchase of the Damson Parkway site. a former golf driving range.

So the two old rivals were now sharing Solihull Borough's new stadium. A bit like Wealdstone's Lower Mead being destroyed by fire and moving in to Earlsmead... and then the two clubs announcing a merger, two years later, with the club to be known as Harrow Stones. Or Solihull Moors in this case.

So was there a lot of anger swirling around the West Midlands in 2007, when the news was announced? Not a lot, according to internet reports with neither club pulling in more than 200 fans on a regular basis. Solihull Borough chairman Trevor Stevens said that the merger was crucial for the survival of both clubs.

There was more debate from local NIMBYs concerned that the prime seven-acre Moorlands site would attract property developers.. which is of course what happened, with a subsidiary of Barrett Homes knocking up fifty-odd homes in record time. Add Solihull's income from the sale of their former Widney End ground (also in prime Birmingham commuter-belt territory) in 1989 and you wonder where the millions went. Anyway, what of our previous meetings with this hybrid club?



Stones start with four goal booster

Wealdstone 4 Moor Green 0

RARELY, if ever, can Wealdstone have started a new season with such a bizarre game.

Many people expected Stones to lose this game. They were playing with an almost totally new side, against a team that should have been Aaron Gransby

brimming with confidence after a late winning run carned them promotion. After all, it often happens that relegated teams start the new season off badly, while adjusting to their new surroundings.

And admittedly, this game

Green instead of 4-0 to Stones. But it would also be true to say that it could have been a 4-4 draw or a 6-0

The final result was probably a bit of an injustice to the Midlands visitors. They missed two penalties, two more virtually open goals and had one effort cleared off the line.

But it was Stones who had started the strongest. In the very first minute, the mercurial Tony Lynch sent over a low cross for skipper Everald La Ronde to scoop a

Stones opened their account for the season in front of an ecstatic Elmslie End. A free kick 20 yards out on the right wing was crossed in by Steve Browne and Lynch got in bravely in front of three defen-ders to force the ball in.

But the excellent crowd of 676, who supported their team well throughout, had little more to sing about for the re-mainder of the first half as Wealdstone's defensive frailties were cruelly exposed.

In fact, Kevin Banton should have scored just before Stones went ahead. Put through in a one-on-one situation with keeper Darren Williams, he screwed his shot wide of the right hand post.

Williams was undeniably the man of the match for Wealdstone and had to show the class manager Tony Jen-nings paid £4,000 for in the second minute of the second half, turning round a fierce Fearon shot.

But within 60 seconds Wealdstone had increased their lead when Dennis Byatt stepped up to drill a low free kick perfectly into the bottom right-hand corner of the net.

And then the game really began to warm up. Right from the kick off, Moor Green pressed forward and earned a penalty immediately when Darren Williams rushed from his goal to bring down Phil Davies. But Chris Downes' shot was badly placed and Williams made amends by stopping the kick and grabbing the ball at the second attempt as the striker tried to follow up.

Then towards the end of the massive hailstorm that almost washed out the second half Moor Green earned another penalty when Mark Harrison brought down Phil Davies just inside the box. This time David Fearon stepped up, struck the post and gleefully knocked home the rebound before he realised that no other player had touched it and his 'goal' had been quite rightly disallowed.

Tony Lynch's silky skills proved too much for a frustrated Moor Green side and carned Paul Aldridge a booking for bringing him down a little too blatantly.

But Lynch had the perfect reply, squeezing Paul Wilkins' low cross under the badly-atfault goalkeeper after Kirk Corbin had worked ceaselessly to provide the opening in the 81st minute.

And with time running out, Stones then threatened to run Half-fit substitute Samson Olaleye found Alan Cor-dice who threaded the ball through to Paul Wilkins, his shot hitting the crossbar.

Olaleye himself went on a run before unleashing a 25yard thunderbolt that just cleared the bar, and then the fa-miliar sight of Alan Cordice being brought down after homing in on goal gave Mark Harrison the opportunity to show Moor Green how to take a penalty as he smashed it confidently home.

Wealdstone: Williams, Corbin, Harrison, Byatt (Olaleye), O'Brien, Morris (C. Browne), La Ronde, S. Browne, Wilkins, Cordice, Lynch,

The Harry O rightly reports on a game that could have finished 6-6. But did we heed the signs? We did not



· HEADS UP: A Moor Green defender gets to grips with Stones striker Paul Wilkins on Saturday. Picture: Gareth Beard.

ho remembers our first game back in the Southern League in August 1988 after that ignominious relegation from the Conference we'd won just three years earlier? After this 4-0 win our fans were foolishly expecting a repeat

of 1981-82 when we bounced back at the fiest attempt. But not this time. It heralded years of mid-table finishes and eventually even the loss of Lower Mead... and worse.

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE? CONTINUED

There weren't many happy memories from our short stay at Vicarage Road but the 5-2 FA Trophy 3rd Qual Rd win over Solihull Borough in November 1992 was one of them. We had beaten Moor Green twice the previous year (both 1-0) when relegated into the Southern League Div One South... but now we took on their neighbours and ground-sharers and spanked them. David Venables didnt score but (right) he tests keeper Houghton



Gayle's swift strike puts Stones on the road to Trophy triumph

Wesidatone 5 Sollhull 2 Westcattorie 5 Scientifi 2
BOOSTED by a goal from Kenny Gayle after only 28 seconds,
Wealdstone secured their place in
the first round of the FA Trophy
on Saturday by bundling out
Premier Division club Solihull.

It was a match that was somewhat tighter than the scoreline suggests but on the day is was Stones' clinical finishing that saw them through. Chances were eagerly snapped up, while the visit-ors were left to rue their own inadequate finishing and the good form of keeper Robert Tenkor-

Wealdstone could hardly have made a better start, going swiftly into a two goal lead, with their opener coming straight from the kick off. The ball was swept out to Kenny Gayle on the right and

when Solihull keeper Darrel Houghton totally misjudged the midfielder's deep cross, the ball dropped over him into the far cor-ner of the net.

With six minutes gone Stones went two up. A great pass from Gayle put Sean Pearson free on the left and when Houghton only palmed away his teasing cross, Colin Tate was on hand to blast home the loose ball.

Solihull quickly recovered from this double blow and Tenkorang had to save well from both Mulders and Attwood and then the keeper kept out Carter's shot with his legs.

Somewhat inevitably Burton reduced the arrears with a low shot

should have levelled within a minute but fired wide after going clear.

Stones had another escape when Coogan broke free and beat Tenkorang only to see his shot rattle the crossbar, but in the dying minutes of the half the visitors had a similar scare when Gayle sent Tate clear and his shot was turned onto the bar and over by Houghton.

Stones made a bright start to the second half and Venables should have increased their lead after 59 minutes. He rounded Houghton but Mulders cleared his shot off the line.

However, within a minute Wealdstone's advantage was extended. A short corner was returned to Drummy and his cross was knocked down by Pearson for Tate to fire in from close

range.
With 71 minutes gone it was 41 after Drummy had robbed Dyson. He put Venables away on the right and his low cross was turned into his own net by Mark

Neil Cordice started the move which led to Wealdstone's fifth goal in the 83rd minute with a eat ball to Tate on the left and his accurate cross saw Pearson score with a finving header.

In injury time Attwood headed home a Coogan cross for Solihull but by then Stones were already celebrating a hard earned, but fully deserved victory.

Wesidetons: Tenkorang, Person, Wesson, Garratt, Colorumny, Gayle, Hedge, Vensbies, Lube: Hippolyte, Chandler.

Tuesday March 30 2021. National League: Sollhull Moors 3 Wealdstone 0

Our very first meeting with the newly merged club came just seven weeks ago at the Damson Park Stadium-

and Stones were kicking themselves when after enjoying the best chances of the first half we committed hara-kiri as keeper Harry Isted raced 40 yards

from goal to cut out a through Dennon Lewis misses a chance

pass - and only succeeded in heading it to Barnett who

slotted into the empty net from close to the halfway line. When McNally made it 2-0 after just a few minutes of the second half fragile Stones done for.. and the lively Sbarra wrapped it up in the closing

stages

Goodbye to Dixie: Our former Watford midfielder and skipper dies aged 85



Hale was on a one-man mission to win Stones their first-ever points in the Southern League back in September 1971 ... he heads the first goal and (below) blasts us level just half a minute after Gloucester had taken the lead. My all-action hero!





Dixle Introduces his Stones team mates to the Mayor of Harrow before the FA Cup clash at Harrow Borough (which we won 1-0) in 1971. Here he correctly identifies Cliff Jones as the winner of the Most Outrageous Sideburns competition

ixie Hale, who passed away in South Wales last week, was a bit of a hero of mine back in the daft days of September 1971. Our hastily scratched together team - completely remodelled from the one that had quit the amateur Isthmian League a few months earlier - contained a few nuggets in former pros like Cliff Jones (ex Spurs double winner and Welsh international), ex Millwall striker Micky Brown... and former Watford and Swansea Republic of Ireland international Dixie

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

His finest hour in blue came on September 25 when his goal-scoring instincts saved the day after we had fallen behind against Gloucester (shown left) Sadly we only had his services for less than two years as his new job took him to South Wales, too far to commute.

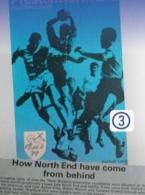
Dixie began his career with Waterford and Shamrock Rovers in the Irish League before signing for Swansea (just across the water) in 1959 where he was popular with the fans... although not so popular five years later when he returned to the Vetch Field and steered his new team Workington to a 6-1 win, bossing the midfield. Apparently Dixie invited the Swans team back to his house a few weeks later when the teams met again - but Workington this time won 7-0!

BY STEVE DUCKER

50-year Adshback







2

Tuesday 4 May, 7.30 pm, Division 3

Preston North End 3 (Alan Spavin 2, Ricky Heppolette) Rotherham United 0

Ref J Taylor, Wolverhampton | Att 28,224

(4)

Summary: Relegated to this level for the first time in 1970, Preston have been consistent all season but are not considered title material until winning at leaders Fulham on 1 May. With promotion secured, beating a Rotherham team with nothing to play for will do the rest. 3

Programme highlight: The statistical contributions of editor Walter Pilkington, who also provided facts and figures for the Football League Review and Football League Yearbook.

Programme lowlight: The quiz about Rotherham, specifically the answer to the question 'What is Rotherham's nickname?'. Answer: 'The Merry Millers, though it is seldom heard these days'. Cheeky so and sos.

Any other business: This result meant that three divisional champions (Arsenal and Notts County were the others) had gone the whole league season unbeaten at home. It was also a rare moment of positivity for Lancashire - Blackpool, Burnley and Blackburn were all relegated, along with Bolton and Bury who were still both part of Lancashire at the time.

What about the Stones?: We lose 0-1 away to Wembley in the 'President's Cup'. Boo.

Final Table - Division 2:

1(P) Leicester 59 pts)) 2 (P) Sheffield Utd 56)) 3 Cardiff 53)) 4 Carlisle 53)) 5 Hull City 51)) 6 Luton Town 49)) 7 Middlesbrough 48)) 8 Millwall 47)) 9 Birmingham 46)) 10 Norwich 44)) 11 QPR 43)) 12 Swindon 42)) 13 Sunderland 42)) 14 Oxford 42)) 15 Sheffield W 36)) 16 Portsmouth 34)) 17 Orient 34)) 18 Watford 33)) 19 Bristol C 31)) 20 Charlton 30)) 21(R) Blackburn 27)) 22 (R) Bolton 24

Monday 3 May, 7.30pm, Division 1

Tottenham Hotspur 0

Arsenal 1 (Ray Kennedy))

Ref K Howley, Teesside | Att 51,992

Summary: It's Arsenal's final game and their game in hand on Leeds, who they trail by one point. Arsenal win they are champions, if they lose Leeds are. A 0-0 draw gives title to Arsenal, any score draw and they finish second. More of this bizarre set up under 'Any Other Business'.

Programme highlight: Remarkable even-handedness from Spurs to invite the ex-Arsenal player-Bernard Joy as guest writer. ②

Programme lowlight: Saying a home win would be good as it would continue Spurs' healthy record in the season's local derbies. Fooling nobody.

Any other business: The reason Arsenal would win the league with a 0-0 draw but miss out with a 1-1 was that positions of teams level on points were decided by goal average (goals for divided by goals against). This had been the rule since 1888 and goal difference did not come in until 1976. So the league had started out using complicated long division at a time when a decent percentage of its customer base was barely numerate, then swapped to simple subtraction just as cheap pocket calculators became available. You couldn't make it up.

Final Table - Division 1:

1 Arsenal 65pts) 2 Leeds 64) 3 Spurs 52) 4 Wolves 52) 5 Liverpool 51) 6 Chelsea 51) 7 Southampton 46) 8 Man Utd 43) 9 Derby 42) 10 Coventry 42) 11 Man City 41) 12 Newcastle 41) 13 Stoke 37) 14 Everton 37) 15 Huddersfield 36) 16 Nottingham Forest 36) 17 West Brom 35) 18 Crystal Palace 35) 19 Ipswich 34) 20 West Ham 34) 21 (R) Burnley 27) 22 (R) Blackpool 23





To mark the 50th anniversary of our step up to professionalism, we've been 'live blogging' our final season as an amateur club by analysing one programme from each Football League club from 1970/71. Here's the 23rd and final installment, featuring clubs 89 to 92 – and the final football league tables from that seaon.

Wednesday 5 May, 7.45pm, Division 1

Manchester City 3 (Freddie Hill, Francis Lee, Ian Mellor)

Manchester Utd 4 (George Best 2, Bobby Charlton, Dennis Law)

Ref C Thomas, Treorchy | Att 43,626

Summary: End of season goalfest between what were, in truth, two under achieving sides .

Programme highlight: The Free Scoreboard Scoop competition on the back, with a £100 top prize if the pre-printed sequence of results on your programme matched the actuals on the half time scoreboard. With 18 games involved most weeks (though only two on this occasion) the tension must have been unbearable.

Programme lowlight: Claiming that visiting United were 'back on the up and up'. Apart from a threemonth purple patch at the start of 1971-72, they were very much on the way down.

Ahead of their time: Whoever scheduled the 7.45pm kick off. Fifty years ago that start time was rarer than hen's teeth for even the biggest supported sides; somehow it has become de rigeur at even the lowest levels of the game.

Any other business: This was City's first trophyless season since 1967, principally due to losing their European Cup Winners' Cup semi final to Chelsea. Amazing to think now that apart from the 1976 League Cup they won nothing of significance for the next 40 years. United themselves had drawn blanks since their 1968 European Cup win and would not get their hands on another league title until 1993.

Final Table - Division 3: 1(P) Preston 61pts >> 2 (P) Fulham 60 >> 3 Halifax 56 >> 4 Aston Villa 53 >> 5 Chesterfield 51 >> 6 Bristol Rovers 51 >> 7 Mansfield 51 >> 8 Rotherham 50 >> 9 Wrexham 49 >> 10 Torquay 49 >> 11 Swansea 46 >> 12 Barnsley 45 >> 13 Shrewsbury 45 >> 14 Brighton 44 >> 15 Plymouth 43 >> 16 Rochdale 43 >> 17 Port Vale 42 >> 18 Tranmere 42 >> 19 Bradford City 40 >> 20 Walsall 39 >> 21(R) Reading 39 >> 22 (R) Bury 37 >> 23 (R) Doncaster 35 >> 24 (R) Gillingham 33





Friday 7 May, 7.30pm, Division 4

Brentford 3 (Gordon Neilson, Jackie Graham, John O'Mara) Workington 0

Ref JLewis, Port Talbot | Att 4,780

Summary: An unexpected run to the fifth round of the FA Cup leaves Brentford needing to go beyond the season's scheduled closing date to complete their fixtures.

Programme highlight: Cover photo of Griffin Park.
Programme lowlight: Eight pages. Go figure.

Any other business: Of the 92 clubs that made up the Football League in 1971, 36 have moved grounds. Griffin Park and its famous pub on each corner is missed more than most, not least because so few neutrals got a proper chance to say goodbye.

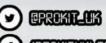
What about the Stones?: We win 5-1 at home to Wembley, President's Cup – 2nd leg. Yay!

Final Table - Division 4:

Steve Ducker will return for Season 2021/22 in "Random Sightings".









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MATCH **SPONSORS**



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Saturday, 24th October FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round

Mike and Val Weston



ALTRINCHAM

Saturday, 7th November Vanarama National League

Wealdstone Rifles



TOROUAY UNITED

Tuesday, 1st December Vanarama National League Alan Couch



WEYMOUTH

Saturday, 12th December

Peter Jones



FASTLEIGH

Vanarama National League

LGM Construction



Saturday, 19th December FA Trophy 3rd Round BOREHAM WOOD

Monday, 28th December Vanarama National League Graham Clark & Mike Pullen



EASTLEIGH

Tuesday, 23rd February Vanarama National League James & Victor Klarfeld



FC HALIFAX TOWN

Saturday, 6th March Vanarama National League David Leach



KING'S LYNN TOWN

Tuesday, 9th March Vanarama National League Andrew Lane



NOTTS COUNTY

Saturday, 13th March Vanarama National League Ray Corner and Peter Carter



WOKING

Tuesday, 23rd March Vanarama National League

In Memory of Markie Barton



BARNET

Monday, 5th April Vanarama National League Graham Clark and Mike Pullen

2 x Match-day programmes

A fabulous autographed team ball If you or your organisation are interested in donating the match ball for a home match then please contact Club President, Paul Rumens on

07710 929692 or at paulrumens59@gmail.com

*All above subject to current COVID restrictions



MATCH

HARTLEPOOL UNITED

Saturday, 17th April Vanarama National League **SPONSORS**

MAINFNHFAN IINITFN

Tuesday, 20th April Vanarama National League **Neale Harvey**

All the President's Men

Mick Fishman



YEOVIL TOWN

Saturday, 1st May Vanarama National League





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

Graham Clark

Mike Pullen



SOLIHULL MOORS

Saturday, 22nd May Vanarama National League In memory of **Roy Couch**

Selsey Properties Lettinas

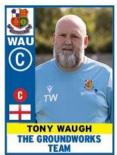


Kitsponsovship 2020-2021





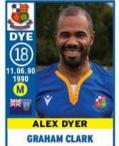




























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WEALDSTONE 2020-21





























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

UPCOMING FIXTURES HERE AT THE VALE:

WEALDSTONE 2020-21

STONES ACROSS ENGLAND:

Woking

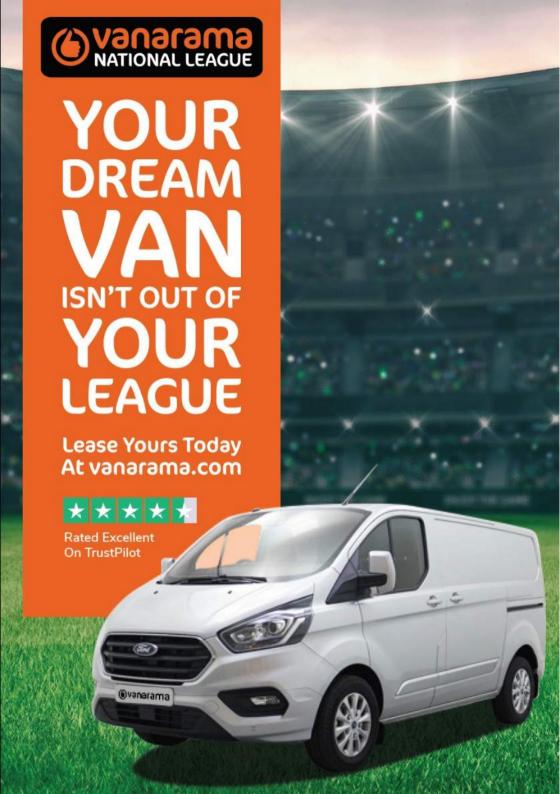
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE Saturday, 29th May, 12:30pm www.wokingfc.co.uk | @WokingFC

Thank you for your support over the course of this extraordinary season. We look forward to welcoming you in person to the Vale for Season 2021/2022.



Vanarama National League 2020/2021 - at Tuesday 19/05/2021

Opposition	All									Ho	me					Awa	<u>y </u>			and the same of	9440000	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	
Оррозили	P	W	D	1	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts	Resu	-	
1 Torquay United	38	23	7	8	64	35	19	11	4	4	32	18	19	12	3	4	32	17	29	76	1-2	1-1	
2 Sutton United	37	21	9	7	61	32	18	11	4	3	35	14	19	10	5	4	26	18	29	72	3-3	1-4	
3 Stockport County	38	20	11	7	64	28	18	8	8	2	27	12	20	12	3	5	37	16	36	71	2-5	0-4	
4 Hartlepool United	38	20	10	8	57	35	19	13	3	3	30	15	19	7	7	5	27	20	22	70	2-7 1-2	1-3	
5 Halifax Town	38	18	8	12	60	47	19	9	4	6	32	27	19	9	4	6	28	20	13	62 58	4-3	1-4	
6 Wrexham	37	16	10	11	52	36	18	8	6	4	24	13	19	8	4	7	28	23	16	10000	0-1	2-2	
7 Bromley	37	16	10	11	56	49	20	7	6	7	29	28	17	9	4	4	27	21	7	58 57	1-2	0-3	
8 Notts County	36	16	9	11	48	37	19	10	2	7	28	18	17	6	7	4	20	19	11	56	3-2	0-0	
9 Chesterfield	37	17	5	15	48		18	8	2	8	26	17	19	9	3	_	22	22	5	56	0-0	0-2	
10 Eastleigh	37	15	11	11	41	36	19	9	6	4	21	12	18	6	5	,	19	23	-2	52	0-5	0-1	
11 Dagenham & Redbridge	37	15	7	15	42	44	19	8	5	6	23	21	18	,	2	9	24	21	7	49	0-6	0-4	
12 Maidenhead United	35	13	10	12		46	18	7	4	7	29	25	17	6	6	5	22	18	6	49	1-0	1-3	
13 Boreham Wood	37	11	16	10	2.7	1977	19	5	9	5	23	21	18	6	'	5	16	30	2	48	1.0	0-3	
14 Solihull Moors	36	14	6	16		35%	17	11	2	4	30	14	19	7	3	10	25	29	-4	48	3-4	0-2	
15 Aldershot Town	37	14	6	17	49	77.73	17	7	3	1	24	24	20 18	- E	4	9	24	34	-5	48	0-2	2-2	
16 Yeovil Town	36		6	16	100	77.70	18	30.00	2	,	28		20	- 73	5	9	20	30		42	1-0	0-2	
17 Altrincham	38	35000	9	18	20.3	-	18	75	4	9	20		17	7150	7	9	19	24	0.000	36	2-1	0-4	
18 Weymouth	36		6	5000	41	56	19	. 3	2	11	10000	41	19	135	4	13	- 7.7	46	-43	33			
19 Wealdstone	37	50000	6	77.5	2 44	100000	18		2	9	31	1000	18	-	2	13		27	-20	32	0-1		
20 Woking	37	-	8	21		-	19		6	8	24	100	18		2	13	10000	47	-41		3-1	3-2	
21 King's Lynn Town	3		8		2 40		19		6	9	23	35	18		4	11	19	43	1	24	5-1	0-0	
22 Barnet	30		6	24	4 30	-27	18	3	2	13	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
23 Dover Athletic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	U	U	U	U	U	10	U	U	U		0	1		9		



THE LINE-UPS



WEALDSTONE SOLIHULL MOORS

Royal Blue/White

G George Shelvey 1

Michee Efete 2

Ashley Charles 3 Connor Stevens 5

Jerome Okimo © 6 Michael Phillips 7

Connor Smith 8 Ross Lafavette 9

Danny Green 10 Dennon Lewis 11 Charlee Hughes 12

Daniel Wishart 13 **Danny Parish 14**

Rilev-Jav Harbottle 15 Sonny Blu Lo-Everton 16 Jacob Mendy Mendy 17

Alex Dyer 18 Moses Emmanuel 19 Nikola Tavares 21

Joseph Olowu 22

Rvan Gondoh 23 Josh Meekings 24

G Jake Askew 25 Tecane Shrowder 29

Elijah Hearn 30

George Langston 31 **Jack Cawley 34**

REFEREE Lloyd Wood ASSISTANTS Karl Sear and David Hutton FOURTH OFFICIAL

1 Rvan Boot G

2 Tyrone Williams

3 Jordan Cranston

4 Kyle Storer 5 Callum Howe

6 Alex Gudger

7 Joe Sbarra

8 Stephen Gleeson

9 Adam Roonev

10 Jamev Osborne 11 Jamie Ward

12 Cameron Coxe

13 Niall Clayton G 14 Lewis Miccio

15 Callum Mavcock

16 Reiss McNally 17 Jordan Piggott

19 James Ball

19 Joshveer Sheraill 20 Kyle Howkins

21 Ben Usher-Shipway

22 Melis Bushai 23 Darren Carter

24 Mitch Hancox

25 Cameron Archer

26 Justin Donawa 27 Kyle Hudlin

28 Tom Allsopp G

29 Nathan Cameron

30 Alex Addai

31 Jordon Thompson

Alan Cresswell OBSERVER Kevin Wright

MATCH SPONSORS Liam McKane of LGM Construction MATCHBALL DONORS 1) In memory of Roy Couch 2) Selsey Property Lettings (Dickie Isted)

Main club sponsor:

gpflewis



Chesterfield last week PICTURE: ADAM WILLIAMS