WEALD STONE

FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2020-21

PROGRAMME

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Wealdstone v Stockport County

Tuesday October 13 2020, kick-off 7.45pm



Main club sponsor:









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Written in Stone

Lets try again

t's been a weird week that started with a biblical downpour delaying our home campaign, quickly followed by a YouTube stream from Yeovil and then our BT Sport debut on Saturday away at Dagenham. Tonight we host our first home National League game in 32 years and we can't even go!

Welcome then to Jim Gannon, the players and officials from Stockport County. We hope you enjoy your brief visit to Grosvenor Vale.

Our first two games have shown that we will need to learn our lessons fast but also that we are more than capable of competing at this new level. Key to survival will be as always, providing Dean and his management team with as much support financially as we can but in the correct and sustainable way we have become accustomed to over the years here at Wealdstone. Incredibly,

the StoneShare Scheme set up a few months ago to enable more supporters to own some of this great club and in doing so provide some extra playing budget, has just passed £50,000. It has become our most successful fund raiser of all time. Thank you to everyone who has contributed and full details of how you can join them is contained later in this programme.

StoneShare is not the silver bullet though and finances continue to be incredibly tight in these difficult times. As always we are looking for supporters or businesses to step forward as sponsors and have a range of Matchday and Ball sponsorship packages available to suit all pockets, as well as our ever popular Kit Sponsorship that allows you to show your support for your favourite player. Full details of all the packages, which can also be customised to suit individual requirements, can be found in the pages of this very issue.

Finally thanks to everyone who has supported the programme by buying a physical copy from the clubhouse or our new online version. We continue to look at ways of making it easier for you to normalize your matchday experience at home and hope to be able to offer physical programmes by post in the very near future.

#LetFansIn

Mark

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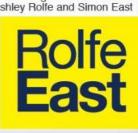
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WEALDSTONE

FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2020/2021

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

GROUND REGULATIONS

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

- · Entering the ground through any means other than through the turnstiles or entrances
- · Entering the field of play before, during or after a game without prior authorisation Being drunk, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs - Using violence of any nature
- Carrying Items which may be considered a danger to others, including cans, bottles, or glasses containing alcoholic beverages
- Throwing any article onto the field of play Climbing floodlight pylons, fences, stands or any structure or building
 Using obscene or bad language likely to cause offence to others Hitting the side or back panels of the Bulla stand
- No spectator ball games.
- 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.

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THE STONES INTERVIEW BY TIM PARKS

Kundai Benyu

He played in front of 58,000 for Celtic but Stones new star says: I just want to be at a club where I am wanted, and appreciated

undai Benyu is potentially right up there with the greatest Wealdstone captures of all time. His signing from Celtic could be a gamechanger and it's a huge testament to the reputation of Stones boss Dean Brennan that the 22-year-old playmaker decided to sign for our club on the eve of the new season.

"I've had some bad experiences in the game" said the Zimbabwean international when I caught up with him the day after the Yeovil match. "So really, now, I just want to be with a club where I'm wanted and appreciated. The gaffer, Dean, has been very genuine from the start and that's rare in football, believe me.

'Now I'm at a club that plays football the right way, through midfield and I'm really pleased... and I think we could do good things this season."

I mentioned the picture of Kundai (above)

looking apoplectic when Yeovil levelled the scores last Tuesday. "Yeah, that was so disappointing to let them back in the game as we were in control at the time and we were the better team. I felt good in the first half but I felt a

Kundai shows his

twinge in my groin in the second half and Dean reckoned I should protect myself.. maybe to make certain I would be okay for the Dagenham game".

So how did this talented 'No 10" end up in the blue of Wealdstone as the next stop after Celtic Park?

This was a young man who made his debut for the hoops three years ago in front of 58,000 crazed fans in a Champions League qualifier against Linfield, so it must have been hard running out at a bleak and empty Vale for the pre-season friendly with Luton six weeks ago.

"Well, my agent told me to get out there, play a few games and get my face seen again. I had a four-year deal at Celtic but I went out on loan at Oldham, and then at Helsingborgs





in Sweden before the whole Covid-19 thing brought it all to a halt.

"It was very difficult. I was back in London, playing and training with my mates and Michee Efete is one of them. So I knew all about Wealdstone and how they do things the right way. To be honest, I didn't want to wait for a League club to come in for me and in the end I had offers from several clubs at National League level - including Aldershot where I had a really good loan spell three years ago.

"But I knew the Stones were the club for me apart from Michee, I know Dennon (Lewis) from

playing against him when I was at Ipswich and he was at Watford, and Michael (Phillips) who played against me for Crystal Palace. Good players and good guys. I knew I could be happy here".

It's no surprise that Kundai, who was brought up in Harlow, is looking for honesty and integrity after spending ten years of his young life at Ipswich Town but never being rewarded with the sniff of a first team place.

"I was at Portman Road from the age of eight - my amazing Dad, who was a goalkeeper back in Zimbabwe before moving to Britain - drove me to every match and I played up every year... as a nine-year-old in the U-12s, as a 13-year-old in the under-16s, as a 16-year-old in the U-21s but Mick McCarthy (the first team manager) never gave even one of that Under-21 team a first team game. Well. actually he did give ONE debut and that was to Andre Dozzell, the son of the Ipswich legend Jason Dozzell.

"I believe in my own ability - I'm not gassing myself up, I'm honest about this - but I know I deserved to make my debut. Instead I was sent out on a month's loan to Aldershot. And I really enjoyed it there, the only problem was McCartly telling me that I would come back to Ipswich at the end of the loan and play in the first team.

"But the loan was extended. And then extended again. And again. And I was never given the chance to play for lpswich, the club I had played for three or

CONTINUED OVER PAGE



STONES INTERVIEW CONTD



FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

four times a week for ten years.

"At the end of that season they offered me another contract but I was so angry I said 'Why on earth would I sign a deal for a club that had messed me around like that?' It wasn't about the money in the end, it was about being badly treated."

undai had impressed so much on his stay at Aldershot that he was voted player of the month in both of his early loan spells - and the Shots fans, even now, would have him back without a moment's hesitation.

"I made friends for life at Aldershot and Gary Waddock was great for me - a very honest man. I'd gone there to prove myself to Ipswich, to play the 'rattling' sort of midfield role that McCarthy wanted but even then I was strung along. My stock was high after those displays for the Shots and Ipswich hadn't realised they had an option to re-sign me until it was too late.

"I was actually watching the Scottish Cup Final - Celtic against Aberdeen - at a friend's house when my agent phoned to say that Brendan Rodgers was keen to sign me. A friend of his had seen me play at Tranmere for Aldershot in the National League play-offs a few weeks earlier and recommended me. That was just wild... it was the start of a crazy few months but, to be honest, if knew then when I now know about Celtic I wouldn't have signed.

"That are such a huge club. I literally had goosebumps before that first game against Linfield. There was some sectarian stuff going on and the atmosphere was electric. But when I

got on the pitch I really enjoyed it and I felt I fitted in at that level."

Kundai started one game in the Scottish Premership, a 5-0 win over Kilmarnock and was praised in the media for a 'graceful performance'. And he then played against Helsingborg in the next round of the Champions League only to fall out of favour with boss Rodgers.

He was sent out on those loan spells to Oldham and Helsing-

borgs (left) before the pandemic brought the football world crashing down.

And so to Wealdstone.

Now he's looking forward to resurrecting his career, and healing the scars inflicted by a couple of managers who should have known better.

There will be few more creative and progressive players in the National League this year, and Kundai believes his best position is

playing the No.10 role just behind the strikers.

"That's my dream position when it's a technical, footballing team like at Wealdstone. The strikers aren't the tallest so it's all about playing through teams with quick, clever passing. If we were a long-ball team like lpswich, I'd want to play in central midfield, a deeper role. But thank goodness we don't play like that!" he laughed.

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Stones

Here's YOUR
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a fighting chance
in the tougher
environment of
National League
football



Champions among management teams! Dean Brennan, Stuart Maynard, Kirk Rayment, Matthew Saunders, Gary King and sports therapist Elise Hill are caught in celebratory mood by photographer ADAM WILLIAMS

elcome to the National League! Last season was amazing for everyone at the club but the fans' support on and off the pitch blew us away at times. The supporters' fundraising scheme last season really helped us get a couple of deals over the line and bring in fresh faces when we felt we needed it. The amount raised amazed us and we're grateful for everyone who put money in over the season.

We all know the impact of coronavirus on non-league football and Rory and the Board have worked really hard to help protect the club as well as improving the ground and allowing us to keep many of last season's players.

But... the National League is a different level and when we heard supporters wanted to work with the management team to raise money to help the budget we were chuffed. We know a lot of people are feeling the pinch right now.

Yet the Stones Share scheme has already pulled in over £50,000 - an amazing sum - so far which has helped bring in players of the quality of Kundai Benyu, Alex Dyer, Charlie Wakefield and Jorome Slew.. and maybe a few more to come!

This season will be tough with fewer weeks, more midweek games and longer journeys so we need to make our squad as competitive as possible and every contribution will help that. We want the fantastic togetherness of last season to continue and we're doing everything we can to make the forthcoming campaign as enjoyable and successful for the fans as we can.

Thank you.

Dean, Stuart, Kirk, Gary and Matty



TAKE OUT A STONESHARE!

HELP US TO INCREASE THE PLAYING BUDGET AS WE TAKE THE STEP UP TO THE NATIONAL LEAGUE

Last season, Dean, his Management Team and the Squad gave everything as we won the National League South, but this season the step up in competition is MASSIVE! We needed to increase the budget to ensure we retained and improved a competitive squad, but with the Covid crisis, we have seen the income from matches and the Social Club through matchdays, Music and events, slashed.

WE NEED OUR FANS AND LOCAL BUSINESS TO HELP US BRIDGE THE GAP!

year. What we ask is for a weekly commitment for the season, to buy a share in Wealdstone FC (2000) Ltd. From as little as £5 a week for a single share, each week for 40 weeks.

(If you wish to buy more, you can in £5 increments).

EACH AND EVERY \$5 WILL GO DIRECTLY INTO THE PLAYING BUDGET TO HELP MANAGE AND BUILD ON THE GREAT FOUNDATION LAID LAST SEASON.

At the end of the season, shares will be issued – 40 shares for each weekly £5 membership and there will also be a number of free prize draws for members throughout the season!

We would prefer to receive the money by BACS Transfer as a lump sum single payment, or by Standing Order either weekly or monthly rather than via Cash if possible and would ask that you set up the following:

Call your bank and ask to set up either a weekly or monthly Standing Order at the required value, payable to:

Wealdstone Football Club (2000) Limited Bank: Santander Sort Code: 09-06-66

(Also use these details for BACS Transfer)

Then, please complete the following:

Amount
Amount
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and return this form to: 'STONESHARE', Wealdstone Football Club, Grosvenor Vale, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 6JQ or by email to stoneShare@btinternet.com

TOM AND CHRISTINE GUY Fans in the Stand

You could say that Wealdstone is in my blood, and in my wife Christine's too. Our first date was a midweek match at Lower Mead... with a bag of chips afterwards. We were hooked!

om and Christine Guy met at
Belmont School when they
were 15 and their first date
was at Lower Mead for an evening game
under the lights! That, and a bag of chips
from the Dominion Fish Bar afterwards, saw
Christine fall hook, line and sinker (well,
she's only human) and the couple will have
been married for 50 years next year.

Were you born in Wealdstone, Tom? Yes, I was born in Wealdstone in 1950 and Christine is from Harrow Weald. We lived there until 1971 when we were married, and subsequently moved to Bletchley (in Buckinghamshire) where we watched the local team Bletchley Town for four years until we moved to Croxley Green where we still live. It really wasn't the same watching another team and we can't say we ever enjoyed it. Wealdstone is in our blood!

Who first brought you to to the Stones? My two elder brothers took me to Stones matches when I was very young, but I was allowed to attend alone when I was 10.

Tom and Christine take their seats at the Vale alongside grandsons James (left) and Joseph. They have four other grandchildren but the stand is only so big!

Lower Mead was just a short stroll from Wealdstone High Street then. We could get in free at half time.

Christine and I are both season ticket holders at The Vale and we attend as many away matches as possible. My grandsons were also paid-up season ticket holders until it was made free for them!

Are you retired? Yes, we are both retired. I worked most of my life in the printing industry until redundancy then joined Royal Mail until something better came along... and I ended up staying 22 years!

Do you follow another team? Newcastle United - I had no choice in that matter, coming from a Geordie family.

You was your first Stones hero? Ken Merry, from the early 1960s. But it was a real thrill for a Geordie lad around this time when I saw the great Wor Jackie



Milburn (pictured below in his pomp) play at Lower Mead. A real Newcastle legend. It was the end of his career and he was playing for Yiewsley (later to become Hillingdon Borough).

The most memorable game you've ever seen? It has to be the 1966 Amateur Cup final against Hendon at Wembley, in front of 45,000 people. We felt so proud that

day. The final was a cliff-hanger because we conceded very early and then the Stones were so much on top I thought we would never score! Thankfully we equalised just before half time and ran out comfortable 3-1 winners in the end... it still seems strange that

such a good team never got close to winning the Isthmian League. That is still what I consider the best Stones team I've seen although the present side comes close.

What's the most memorable Newcastle game for you? It was coming back from 4-0 down after 20 minutes to draw 4-4 with Liverpool back in the 1990s. Fantastic, the only time a premier league team has led 4-0 and not won the game. Sadly Cheik Tiote, who was outstanding that day died while playing three years ago. Still a young man and fondly remembered on Tyneside.

Were you at Wembley in 1985 to see us lift the Trophy? Yes, but that day was definitely the yin and yang of football. I had a seat close to the royal box to see the match but I witnessed fighting on the terraces and when I got back to my car the radio was full of the Bradford fire disaster. Mixed feelings that day for me.

Do you prefer non-League football to the full-time professional game? I love non league! I love the friendliness of fans. At the Bath game in January I was speaking to a ground hopper from Birmingham. What a lovely man. He said it was cheaper to travel to the non league grounds than going to see Aston Villa. He was very impressed with Wealdstone. Well. we did win 7-0!

What is your all-time Wealdstone XI? My best 11 would simply be the 1966 Amateur Cup Final team. They had everything. Three Olympians in that line-up: Charlie Townsend, Hughie Lindsay and Johnny Ashworth. My all-time favourite player though, is Charlie Townsend. Funnily enough his grandchild went to the same primary school as my grandsons. Great to see him back regularly in the boardroom at Wealdstone after so many years.

And finally, Tom, how are you coping with watching football so remotely?
Well, I was signed up for the live streaming of the Chesterfield game and we were so disappointed when it was postponed.. especially as we then had to start with two difficult away games. If I can master the technology we'll be watching those on You Tube and BT Sport. It's all a bit strange but that's just the way it has to be until fans are allowed back in. Hopefully soon!

BY NICK SYMMONS



A whole year of planning and sheer hard graft has gone into **bringing the Vale** up to scratch for **National football**

New signage on the side of the Social Club..and the Champions' flag proudly on display. Pictured right: Two new sections of terracing; the portacabins behind the Bulla Stand: extra turnstiles and loos: the new away end entrance; and the heavy lifters get cracking on another stretch of concrete!

NICK SYMMONS has been a WFC fan for almost 50 years and reluctantly became involved at board level around 20 years ago. Before he knew it, he was Chairman (during the desperate Northwood groundsharing days) and a guiding light as the club somehow stayed solvent with dwindling support. His reward? To keep working hard behind the scenes as a member of the Executive Board, and now taking (as acting onsite project manager) a typically hands-on role as the Vale has undergone a radical transformation to become 'fit for purpose' for the National League.

This is Nick's summation of what has been achieved since the club was mothballed by the Covid-19 crisis...

y September 21st last year the team had played 11 league games and we were sitting eight points clear at the top of the league. Promotion was suddenly a serious proposition.

So I asked myself the question: What do we need to do to the ground to achieve the A grading that a National League team has to possess by the April of the year following promotion?

THIS IS WHAT WAS NEEDED

- A capacity of 4,000, which meant we had to significantly raise the number of people who could access the ground. Within the rules of the league this can be achieved by adding extra turnstiles as well as adding extra viewing space;
- A floodlight Lux value averaging over 250 across the pitch;
- Two extra urinals in each of the players chang-

ing rooms;

- Four toilets for men and two ladies toilets in each area of the ground if it's segregated;
- A food venue for each segregated area;
- The ability to be able to safely segregate crowds within the stadium; and
- Additional Press seating

WHAT HAD TO BE DONE

- Our capacity at that date was 3,432 which had to be increased to over 4,000. Which included adding an extra two turnstiles to allow more people to enter the ground;
- Our floodlight lux values were at an average of 200:
- We had to add extra toilet facilities in various areas of the ground;
- Install segregation gates to facilitate crowd control:
- Expand the home and away dressing rooms to add two urinals each... this could only be achieved by converting the referee's room to create the extra space. In turn, this meant building a new changing room for the referees. If you are constructing a new facility for referees it must include changing areas for male and female officials.

WHAT WAS DONE BEFORE LOCKDOWN?

All floodlight lamps were renewed at considerble cost and one extra lamp unit was fitted to each pylon, raising the Lux value to 250 all over the pitch by February this year;













•Two hundred and ten paving slabs were laid thanks to John Young negotiating a deal with Grant & Stone to supply the slabs, cement and sand. This increased the capacity by 177.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SINCE LOCKDOWN?

The following buildings were demolished:

- The Physio room;
- Kit storage room;
- PA room: and
- The old Tea bar behind the Holywell stand.

The following buildings were improved:

- Home dressing room:
- Kit washing room (also moved); and
- The away dressing room;

Plus the following new installations:

- A giant portacabin has been installed behind the Bulla (Holywell) Stand to house a new Captain's lounge, new physio room and a new team management room. And a new portacabin has been installed to house a steward's room, spectators' first aid room and a small tea bar.
- Two new male and female toilet blocks have been installed at opposite ends of the ground;
- A new disabled toilet is now in place behind the Megastore at the halfway line;
- A new turnstile block with 2 turnstiles installed near the old burger bar for away fans;
- The burger bar has been rebranded;
- The emergency exit and entrance reconfigured at the burger bar end of the ground;

- A new drainage ditch added the full length of the ground on the Wenzel side of the ground;
- All seats in the Wenzel stand have been painted and numbered and the press box expanded,

and all seats in the Elmslie (1966) stand painted.

- Two new terraces have been added which have raised the capacity by 193; and
- Three sets of segregation gates have been installed, making possible three possible segregation points.

So long as Hillingdon council agree on the work, the capacity of the Vale is now up to 3,982.

WHO HAS DONE THE WORK?

A lot of work has been undertaken by GPF Lewis, some of which has been paid for and some of which has been donated - including some GPF Lewis staff donating their time.

Myself, Fingers, Gordon Thomson, John Young and Peter Edwards have been working all through lockdown. Trevor Spencer has picked up some of the electrical work and Lance Kent the plumbing issues.

The heavy duty and skilled team have been shuttering, mixing and laying concrete over a good number of Saturdays to transform the Vale - so a huge thank you to Dave Reader, Gary Strudwick, Rich Bird, Tony Maidment, Neil Tobin (Ginger), Paul Harvey and Stuart Chantrey.

FANTASTIC WORK EVERYONE!

It has cost over £85,000 to get to this point and ensure that the club can compete at National League level again... so please dig deep and help the club!







All the latest news from the Supporters Club and our magnificent Megastore most of us a night in front beckons. The experience opinion but currently that

is best we can do, so make the most of it and hope that the return for fans in stadia above step 3 is sooner rather than later.

wish the travelling

fans from Stockport an enjoyable stay and a safe journey home but for

of the TV/phone/laptop (delete as appropriate)

is rather sterile in my

The 'Let Fans In' campaign has been gathering pace and a petition to the UK Government now stands at 194,693 signatures, twice the number needed to ensure that it is raised in Parliament. Why is this important you ask? Well, without fans the majority of clubs within step 1 and 2 just cannot continue to operate without matchday income. Only 23 hours before the official start of the league season, it was confirmed that it would start after the promise of a funding package between the National League. The FA and the UK Government. Details of the mechanics of this, bar than it being based on matchday lost revenue, are yet to be confirmed with member clubs.

Having won the National League South on points per game (we would have won it anyway). there was a lot of groundwork that needed to be undertaken to get us to an A grading. A lot of this work needed to be completed before the start of the league with the rest by the end of March. There have been a lot of changes over the summer. The floodlights have been given the once over, new turnstiles installed, changing

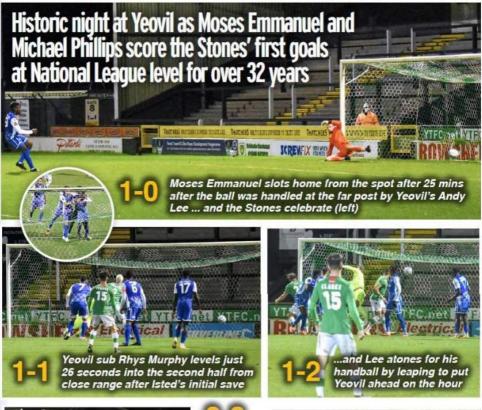
rooms upgraded and a new physio room and academy classroom amongst others. So, you can see that there is an awful lot of investment needed just to be able to have nights like tonight.

Another aspect of the ground that has been upgraded is the toilet facilities. It is not a particularly exciting or marketable aspect of the matchday experience but I'm sure that you will agree that it is something that has been lacking especially as crowds have continued to increase. Until now, our ability to look after those less abled in this area, has been lacking. I am pleased to let you know that a new disabled toilet block has been installed with funds donated through WFCSC. In fact, a donation of £10,000 was made preseason to do this and help fund other improvements.

These donations, especially those that enhance the matchday experience, are what the Supporters Club are about. If we want to continue with these types of donations, we need your support. So if you want to make a difference and help fundraise, then please contact wfcsecretary@gmail.com. You may be able to help a little or a lot, but you will be guaranteed to make a difference.

Mark Randall

BEHIND THE LENS 'PICS BY ADAM 'ATTICMAN' WILLIAMS AND JON 'RONNIE RAFFLE' TAFFEL AT HUISH PARK, YEOVIL





..and two views of Michael Phillips' deserved equaliser in the 74th minute





Tuesday 6th October 2020 - Huish Park National League - Attendance 0

VEOVIL TOWN FO

ACHIEVE BY UNIT

LINE-UP

A.Smith

Leadbitter

Wilkinson

Staunton

Dickinson

Worthington

Lee

Clarke

J.Smith

D'Ath

Duffus

Subs Used:

Rogers

Collins

Murphy

Subs Not Used:

Burke

Palmer

NEW DAWN

Moses Emmanuel and Michael Phillips were in the goals as Wealdstone drew their first game of the season.

Rhys Murphy and Charlie Lee scored second half goals for Yeovil Town as the points were shared at Huish Park in the National League.

Phillips moved into centre-half as last season's starter Connor Stevens was ruled out for the opening fixture, while Kundai Benyu and Charlie Wakefield were handed their debuts.

Wealdstone gained control of the game after an early flurry from Yeovil Town, Dennon Lewis had the best of the chances when he fired over from just inside the box.

Debutant Benyu's good work earned the Stones a penalty after his pass hit the arm of Charlie Lee midway through the first half, Emmanuel sent Adam Smith the wrong way.

The Stones were causing the Glovers problems throughout the half, Efete's and Jacob Mendy's high positions in the wings caused pressure to the hosts. Courtney Duffus got a chance out of nothing when his deflected volley was saved by Harry Isted, while Luke Wilkinson hit a free-kick over the bar on the stroke of half-time.

It was a lightning start to the second half when substitute Murphy made an instant impact, finishing a scrappy move within 20 seconds of the restart.

Jimmy Smith almost completed the turnaround less

than five minutes later, but Isted kept the Stones level before Wakefield got in-behind moments later and forced a save out of Smith.

The Glovers then found their way in-front as Lee powered home a bullet header from close range after Carl Dickinson's corner.

Wealdstone had to find their way back into the game and the chance fell to Phillips who smashed the ball in from close range to bring the game level.

Lewis had the chance to win it for the visitors as Danny Parish's shot was parried by Smith to Lewis at the back-post, but Lewis fired over in-front of an open goal.

This end-to-end game took another twist as Efete sprinted through on-goal from inside his own half on the counter-attack and Dan Leadbitter made an incredible recovery to deny a chance for Efete.

After a thrilling fixture that could have swung either way, a point each was ultimately a fair result and the Stones will go home happy with their National League season off the mark.



2

LINE-UP

Isted Efete Phillips Okimo Mendy C.Smith Green Benyu

Wakefield Lewis Emmanuel Subs Used:

Slew
Parish
Lafayette
Subs Not Used:

Cawley Charles

NORDS - DEC O'REILLY

STOCKPORT COUNTY

'THE HATTERS'

stablished in 1883 as Heaton Norris
Rovers, in 1890 the name was changed
to Stockport County to reflect the town
gaining County Borough status. After winning
the Lancashire League in 1900, the County
gained admittance to the Football League,
drawing their first match 2-2 away to Leicester Fosse (now Leicester City).

After finishing in the bottom three in their first four seasons, County failed to gain re-election in 1904 and so spent a season in the Lancashire Combination; they won the League at the first time of asking and made an immediate return to the professional ranks. County would be proud Football League members for more than a century.

Joining the League meant the club soon outgrew their ground behind the Nursery Inn on Green Lane in Heaton Norris and, in 1902, they moved south of the River Mersey to Edgeley Park, then home of Stockport RLFC. County have played there ever since.

Hatmaking was an established industry in north Cheshire & south-east Lancashire by the 16th century. By the late 19th century Stockport had become a national centre for the trade, and by 1900 County's nickname of 'The Hatters' had become synonymous with the club

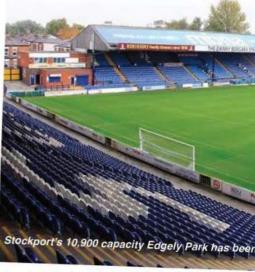
18

Having played in a variety of kit colours in the club's early years, usually a variation on blue & white, County switched to white shirts and black shorts from the '30s until the mid '60s.
Throughout this period they were often referred to as the Lilywhites.

In 1965 flamboyant chairman
Vic Bernard, as part of his GO GO
GO COUNTY revolution, reintroduced the Hatters' famous royal blue
strip; colours they still adopt today.

The club stayed in the 4th Division doldrums until the turn of the 90s, when Uruguayan manager Danny Bergara turned the Hatters into regular top-of-the-table challengers.

Promotion came in 1991, and was followed by four visits to Wembley in two years – twice in playoff finals, twice in the Football League



Trophy. Unfortunately County lost on each occasion.

Following Bergara's departure in 1995, Dave Jones took charge and gave the club its most memorable season. In 1996/97, the Hatters won four games against Premiership opposition, including a 1-0 win at Middlesbrough in the League Cup semi-final – unfortunately, the tie was lost 2-1 on aggregate. Other runs

in the FA Cup and League Trophy meant County played almost 70 games that season, and finished 2nd in the Second Division – the large amount of games almost certainly costing them

After Jones' departure for Southampton, County consolidated in the First Division until relegation in 2002. What followed was a largely downward spiral back to the bottom division, twice finishing a season on just 26

points, and by Boxing Day 2005 County were well adrift at the bottom of the Football League.

In came former player Jim Gannon as manager, who led the team to a remarkable run of form and, with an incredibly tense 0-0 draw on the final day against Carlisle, eventual safety.



This was followed by a promotion push in 2006/07, when County memorably set a new professional record of 9 consecutive wins without conceding. But promotion was just out of touch, with a playoff place being denied by Bristol Rovers in the dying minutes of the season despite County winning 5-0 at Darlington.

That success finally came the next season. After finishing fourth, Gannon's side beat Wycombe in the semi-finals followed by a thrilling 3-2 win over neighbours Rochdale, finally ending the club's hoodoo at Wembley.

Unfortunately, the Hatters couldn't build on that success and went in to administration before the final game of the season at Brighton. In 09/10 administration took its toll, and County finished on a new record low of 25 points and were relegated back to the bottom flight.

In the summer of 2010 the club was taken out of administration by a group of local business people, ensuring the club's survival. However, fortunes took a downturn on the pitch and the Hatters finished bottom of League Two, meaning that they would compete outside the Football League for the first time since 1905.

During 2011, Liverpool-based businessman Tony Evans headed up a consortium of new investors in the club, who appointed former German international Dietmar Hamann as manager.

However, following the consortium's failure to take charge, Hamann's squad struggled in the league and in November he was replaced by former manager Jim Gannon. The size of the task ahead of Gannon was even bigger than the one in 2006, and the team initially continued to struggle but found resurgent form in Spring. Safety was secured with a 1-1 draw at home to Braintree, allowing the Hatters to enjoy a peaceful summer for the first time in four years.

However, that stability didn't last long and in 2012-13 more financial issues off the pitch restricted the squad on it. With his team in the lower half of the table, Gannon was sacked in January 2013 and replaced by Bosnian coach Darije Kalezic. Unfortunately results got worse, and with County staring at relegation he was replaced by former Gateshead manager lan Bogie, but he too could not stop the slide. A 4-0 defeat to Kidderminster Harriers saw Stockport County relegated to the Conference North, meaning the Hatters would be playing regional football for the first time since 1905.

Bogie left the club after a run of poor results and was replaced by County stalwart Alan Lord,

Towards the end of the 2014/15 season Lord moved to become Director of Football, and paved the way for the next man to come in and continue County's progress. In May 2015 County secured the services of Neil Young as manager. Young and his management team, headed by Gary Jones, made their name with successes at Colwyn Bay and Chester City.

Young broke several records with his Chester side in the Conference North including achieving the most wins (33), fewest defeats (3), the most points (107), the most goals scored in a season (103) and the best goal difference (+71). Chester also broke the record for the longest unbeaten streak.

In January 2016, Jim Gannon signed an 18-month contract to return to Edgeley Park following the resignation of Neil Young. Mike Flynn, Dave Conlon and Jordan Felgate were named as his coaching staff.

Jim led the Hatters to promotion during his first spell in charge of the club in 2008, winning the League Two Play-Off Final against Rochdale at Wembley. As a player, James became a club legend during ten years at Edgeley Park, earning two promotions and reaching the semi-finals of the League Cup.

Stockport finished last season in 8th place.

STOCKPORT COUNTY - WHO'S WHO?



1. BEN HINCHLIFFE - GOALKEEPER

Ben has kept 29 clean sheets in his first two season, having joined the Hatters in May 2016 after four very successful years with AFC Fylde, being named in the Divisional Team of the Year every season. He started his career at Preston North End beforejoining Derby County. He enjoyed a spell at Oxford United. Ben has also had spells at Bamber Bridge & Northwich Victoria

2. SAM MINIHAN- DEFENCE

Attacking right-back Sam joined the Hatters in May 2016 from Worcester City. Sam can play full back, wing back or act as a hard-working wide midfielder in a three or four-man midfield. He also has Football League experience, having started his career with hometown club Rochdale.

3. JAMES JENNINGS - DEFENCE

Left-back James, 32, joined County this Summer after leaving Wrexham upon the expiration of his contract, following three years at the Racecourse ground where he made over 100 appearances for the Club. He brings a vast amount of experience to the team, having started his career in the Manchester City youth system before playing for a number of successful National League Clubs, including Cambridge United, Forest Green Rovers and a promotion winning campaign with Mansfield.

4. LIAM HOGAN - DEFENCE

Central defender Liam joined the Club in February 2020, making the move from League Two Salford City, where he was captain, and signing for the club on a two-and-a-half year deal. A serial promotion winner, Liam was a crucial part of Salford's recent rise through the Leagues, first helping them to the National League North title before lifting the National League play-off trophy at Wembley last year. Previous clubs also include Woodley Sports, FC Halifax Town, Fleetwood Town Tranmere Rovers, Macclesfield Town and Gateshead.

5. ASH PALMER - DEFENCE

Centre half Ash joined from Guiseley in the summer. Ash spent two years with the Lions, making more than 70 appearances and captaining the side. He previously spent time with Barnsley FC, Scunthorpe and Buxton, but made his name as a highly-rated defender at North Ferriby United.

6. LOIS MAYNARD - MIDFIELD

Lois Maynard signed a two-and-a-half year deal at Edgeley Park in February 2020. Lois

started his career in non-league for Daisy Hill, Chadderton, Flixton and Winsford United before getting his move to FC Halifax Town in 2013. After two years there he moved to Tranmere Rovers, making it to the Play-Off Final in 2017 before moving to Salford City.

7. ADAM THOMAS - MIDFIELD

Adam signed from Hednesford Town in May 2016. The six-foot-three wide man spent 12 years in Everton's Academy alongside the likes of England star Ross Barkley before joining Stoke City for a three-year spell. After several injury-hit seasons, Adam played a crucial role in the National League North title-winning season of 2018/19, as he established himself as one of the first names on the team-sheet down County's right-hand side, playing at right-back, right wing-back, right-wing and as a centreforward at different stages of the season.

8. JOHN ROONEY- MIDFIELD

Attacking midfielder John Rooney joined became the Club's fourth summer signing ahead of the 2020/21 season, joining on a three-year deal from Barrow for an undisclosed fee. A graduate of Everton's Youth Academy, he joined Macclesfield town in 2002. In 2011 he moved to the US and played for both the New York Red Bulls and Orlando City in the MLS. On returning to the UK, he played for Barnsley, Bury and Chester City. He signed for Wrexham in 2016 and enjoyed a loan spell at Guiseley before being signed by Barrow in 2018.

9. RICHIE BENNETT -FORWARD

Richie signed for County in March 2020. Previously, he had played in non-league with Curzon Ashton, Mossley and Northwich Victoria, He then moved to Barrow, scoring 16 goals in his only season at Holker Street before getting his Football League move to Carlisle United. spending two years there which included a loan spell at Morecambe before moving on to Port Vale.

10. CONNOR JENNINGS -FORWARD

Versatile forward Connor returned to Edgeley Park for a second spell this Summer, joining the Cub after a hugely successful four year spell at Tranmere Rovers. Connor first played for the Hatters in a loan spell from Scunthorpe United during the 2012/13 season, where he impressed with eight goals in 16 appearances, before returning to his parent Club. Spells at Maccelsfield and Wrexham followed before his move to Prenton Park.

11. JORDAN WILLIAMS - MIDFIELD

Jordan plays as a winger and signed in mid-August 2020 for County from AFC Fylde, Jordan has played under Jim Gannon before at Northwich Victoria, where the two enjoyed success together. Jordan has also featured for Barrow, Rochdale and Lincoln City in his playing career which has seen him spend two years at Football League level before dropping back into the National League when he joined Fylde.

14. MARK KITCHING - DEFENCE

Mark s a versatile defender signed from Hartlepool United in the Summer on a free transfer. Born in the North East, he was a graduate of Middlesbrough's highly regarded Academy, gaining experience from loan spells at York City and Rochdale before joining the latter permanently in February 2017. Mark made 78 appearances for Hartlepool over a two-year spell before making the move to Edgeley Park.

15. JAMIE STOTT - DEFENCE

Jamie joined the Hatters permanently in the Summer following three previous loan spells at Edgeley Park from Oldham Athletic, playing a key role during our 2018/19 title winning season in the National League North.

16. JORDAN KEANE - MIDFIELD

Versatile midfielder Jordan, who can also play at the back, joined County from National League North rivals Boston United in the summer. He was ever-present for the Pilgrims in his last season, scoring six goals. His previous clubs include Stoke City, Tamworth, Alfreton, Nuneaton and Worcester City. Jordan also attended the Jamie Vardy Academy in 2017. He was named the Players' Player of the Year at York Street last season.

17. MACAULEY SOUTHAM-HALES - DEFENCE

Right-back Macauley joined the Club over the Summer on a two-year-deal, signing from Fleetwood Town for an undisclosed fee. Having spent 12 years as a junior in Cardiff City's academy, the 24-year old moved to Barry Town before joining Fleetwood in January 2019. Macauley also enjoyed a loan spell Hartlepool United last season

19. ALEX REID - FORWARD

Alex joined County on a free transfer from Stevenage in the Summer, signing a one year deal at Edgeley Park.He began his career at Aston Villa and remained at the club's academy until 2013. He joined the League Football Education's Player Placement Programme in Sweden, joining Ange IF in 2014. He moved back to the UK and signed for Fleetwood Town in 2016, before loan spells at Wrexham, Solihull Moors and Stevenage. After impressing on loan, he signed for Stevenage in 2018. Alex spent the 2019/20 season out on loan at National League Clubs Dagenham & Redbridge and Ebbsfleet United

20. NYAL BELL - FORWARD

Stockport-born Nyal is a powerful 6'2 striker with a real eye for goal. He joined the Hatters from Gateshead in the summer of 2018. The previous season, the former Rochdale front man had enjoyed a loan spell with Chester before ending the season at Alfreton, where he scored four goals in 12 appearances.

21. JOSH BARNES - GOALKEEPER

Josh, 22, joined the Club over the summer after being released from Derby County, having come through the Academy at Pride Park. Josh represented the U18s, U21s and U23s during his time at Derby, whilst also enjoying loan spells at Mickleover Sports, Eastleigh, Bedworth United and Farsley Celtic

MANAGER

JIM GANNON

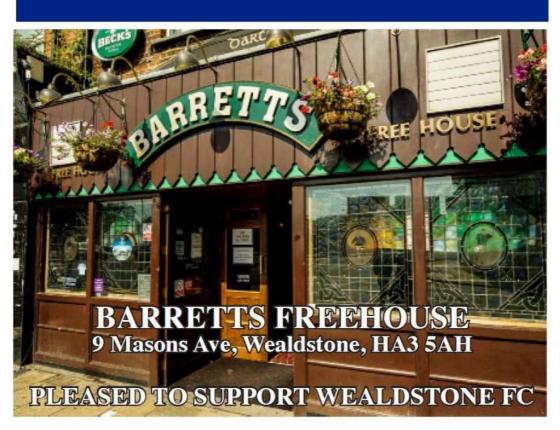
Jim Gannon's relationship with Stockport County is dated back to 1990, when Danny Bergara signed him from Sheffield United for £70,000. Jim's playing career at County ended on 480 appearances for the Hatters, scoring 64 goals in total. Jim's became the Hatters manager 2006/07.

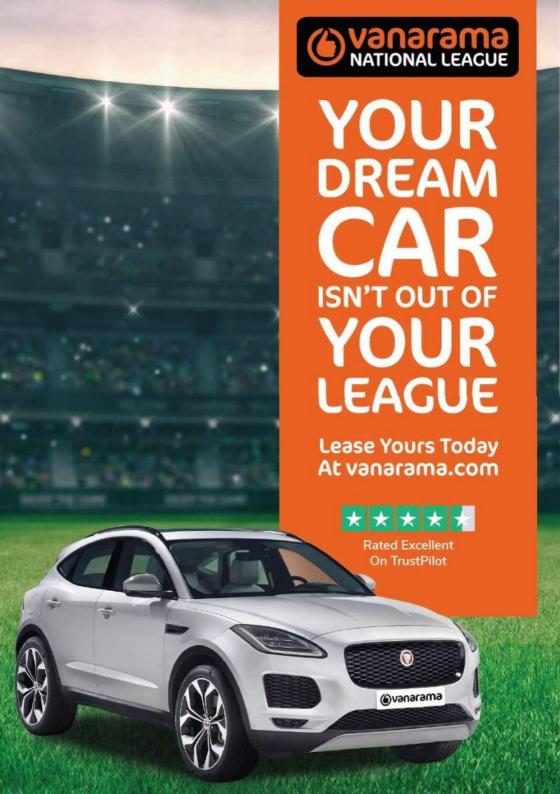
In 2007/08 Jim guided the team to 17 wins out of the final 24 games of the season to see County in the Play-Offs, where Wycombe Wanderers and Rochdale were defeated to see Jim and County in League One. At the end of 2008-08, Gannon left Edgeley Park following administration and had spells managing Motherwell, Peterborough United and Port Vale and had a short spell back at County before moving to Northwich Victoria. As of the end of the 2019/20 season, Jim Gannon has managed 463 games for County, winning 204. Added to his playing career, he has played/managed 943 games for Stockport County.

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Results 2020-21

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PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY RESULTS

22nd August Bedford Town A W 3-1 Parish, Efete, Hughes 25th August Luton Town H L 0-3 27th August Southall A L 2-3 Emmanuel, Trialist K

27th August Southall A L 2-3 Emmanue 29th August Colchester United H L 1-2 Emmanue

1st September Northwood A W 6-0 Lafayette, Parish 3, Charles, Trialist N



PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY RESULTS

5th September Dartford H L 1-2 Efete
8th September Hayes & Yeading A W 5-2 Trialist O, Parish, Hughes, Emmanuel, Lafayette
12th September Hayant & Waterlooville H W 3-1 Emmanuel, Parish, Hughes
15th September St.Albans City A L 0-4

19th September Dulwich Hamlet H D 0-1 Efete 26th September Slough Town H L 0-1



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Welcome to the stockport fans
Football is everything to me

'Football is everything to me, County especially. I don't go a day without thinking about it'

CHRIS CROOK, 22.

Do you live in Stockport? Yes, born and raised in the town.

What was the first County game you remember? As a kid I played football a lot but never really had a team to support. All my friends were either Manchester United or Manchester City fans but I went to Edgeley Park with my brothers in 2007 and I was hooked. The passion, the roar of the crowd when the players came out of the tunnel, the atmosphere, everything about it made me want to go back, I knew instantly that I wanted to be a County fan.

Do you follow another team? I would like to think I am very loyal when it comes to football. I only support Stockport. I've had people

in the past ask me 'But who's your Premier League team?' I don't have one. Stockport County is my one team and always will be.

What is your greatest moment following County? Stockport County have a famous past. There's many moments that are special to many fans but for me, it was the League Two play-off promotion in 2008/09. Beating Wycombe 1-0 at home and then beating Rochdale 3-2 at Wembley. The memories will last a lifetime. To see County lift the trophy at Wembley is something no County fan will ever forget.

Is the fan base big and passionate? After falling out the league, we were often de-

scribed as the 'sleeping giant'. The fan base has always been large and we have always had a great following home and away. You don't have to go far around the town to see somebody wearing a County shirt and with Manchester United and City living just down the road, that says a lot about the Club. As for the passion, County fans are some of the most passionate fans I have ever met. You only have to sit in Edgeley Park for a couple of minutes on a match day to see how passionate they are. The referee often gets the brunt but as the saying goes, 'It's passion not fashion'.

They live and breath Stockport County. Win,



lose or draw you can guarantee they will be back next week.

How many supporters would make the trip to Ruislip in normal conditions? There are many County fans that travel anywhere without fail so I would say around 200-500, given the distance.

How will you following the game this evening? It's a huge shame there aren't any home or away fans but I'll be watching Wealdstone's live streaming service. It won't be the same but what can you do?

What is Stockport's 'natural' level, do you think? Based from our history I would say we're a League Two/League One side. The size of the fan base and ground would also suggest that. It's a shame how far we dropped but I have no doubt that we will be back to where we belong in the next couple of years.

Have you a realistic chance of promotion back to the EFL this season? Without being biased. I would say we have a good chance this year. With the new takeover announced last season and the increased budget, new players and new to be going for the title but as we all know, it won't be easy.

turns and success has to be earned. It will be a long season ahead for County but one that we will hopefully enjoy come the end of the season.

relegated to non-League in the first instance? The relegation to non-league from the football league in all honestly was expected long before it happened. Off the pitch we were massively struggling financially and with tration, it seemed to get worst and worst. On the pitch it showed. The players tried but we just weren't good enough. It was a sad time for the town but we just had to turn our attentions to bouncing back.

What do you know about Wealdstone FC and its history? In all honesty, I don't know a great deal about Wealdstone. When the Club because famous over the Wealdstone Raider I used to look out for your results. When I saw the Club were promoted to the National League I was pleased... It's a tough league but there's no reason why you can't be successful.

Do Stockport have any celebrity or high profile fans? There's a few lads in the Blossoms band who follow County. Potentially Michelle Keegan (pictured below, purely gratuitously) but I believe she's a Manchester City fan so we will say that one quietly.

Who has been the club's best manager in recent years? Jim Gannon for sure. You could ask any County fan and they will say the same. He's been magnificent for us. He was the manager in our promotion in League Two and he came back and got us promoted to the National League from the National League North last year. He lives and breathes Stockport County just like the fans, and it shows. If anyone is going to get us back to where we belong then it will be 'The Ghost', Jim Gannon.

Who are the County players to watch out for this evening? With many new faces coming to County this summer. The likes of John Rooney and Connor Jennings are the ones to watch but in all honestly, every player County has signed has the potential to be star players. The team is looking strong

> And finally How important is football to you? Football is

everything to me. I don't think I go a day without thinking about it. Without football,

I wouldn't know what to do. Especially Stockport County. There's been many ups but even more downs with them but I wouldn't have it any other way.



Vanarama National League

Match sponsovship 2020-2021

A great way to celebrate a special occasion or advertise your organisation's support of Wealdstone, match sponsorship packages start at just £425 (fans) or £500+ 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				
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WREXHAM Saturday, 17th October Vanarama National League	Your Name	Your Name	Your Name			
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CHESTERFIELD Tuesday, 20th October Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows					
DOVER ATHLETIC Saturday, 14th November Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?			
SUTTON UNITED Saturday, Zist November Vanaram a National League	Harrow	Your Name	Your Name			
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TORQUAY UNITED Tuesday, 1st December Vanarama National League	Your Name	Your Name	Your Name			
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WEYMOUTH Saturday, 12th December Vanarama National League	Your Name	Your Name	Your Name			
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BOREHAM WOOD Monday, 28th December Yanarama National League	Your Name	Your Name	Your Name			
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MAIDENHEAD UNITED Saturday, 2nd January Vanarama National League	Your Name	Your Name	Your Name			
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ALDERSHOT TOWN Saturday, 23rd January Vanaram a National League	Your Name	Your Name	Your Name			
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WOKING Saturday, 6th February Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?			
BROMLEY Saturday, 13th February	Your Name	Your Name	Your Name			

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

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

*All above subject to current COVID restrictions.

Saturday, 22nd May

Vanarama National League

MATCH		SPONSORS	
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YEOVIL TOWN Saturday, 1st May Yanarama National League	Your Name	Your Name	Your Name
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DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE Saturday, 8th May Vanarama National League	Your Name	Your Name	Your Name
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Here?



REWIND ** OCTOBER 13, 1970**

Oh calamity...even 50 years later, FA Cup humiliation at Lower Mead

Goal-shy Wealdstone lose to Leighton

Mindelstone is insisting to some goals received by harmhest of the season of Lawren Please of the season of Lawren Please of the season of Lawren read the season of Lawren country when Sparten Language as the season of the sea

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But the service has been at the case of the service and service an

and the component of the Confinence of the Confi

A rather smudged match report of the dreadful replay defeat by Leighton (above) while (right) centreback Gerry Olsen (No.5) is pictured attacking the Bromley goal during a 4-0 win a few weekends later



Tuesday October 13, 1970: FA Cup 2nd quaifying round replay: Wealdstone 0 Leighton Town 1

very football fan will be haunted by memories of afternoons and evenings best forgotten. And it isn't just Manchester United fans left hollow-eyed and speechless by a 6-1 home defeat to Spurs, or Kopites rendered mute by a 7-2 mauling at Aston Villa.

No, even at the less rarefied level of non-League the feelings are no less acute. In fact, when you're 12 years old they are almost unbearable.

So let me tell the story of Wealdstone's FA Cup trip to Leighton Buzzard, in rural Bedfordshire, half a century ago. By a strange quirk of fate, the current Stones manager Dean Brennan currently lives in this quiet rural town and no doubt if he went into certain pubs and mentioned his Wealdstone connection there would be upraised voices and laughter as the older patrons recalled the events of 50 years before.

Best to keep your head down Deano. For it's a sad story.

October 13 is fundamentally FA Cup

territory for our club down the years and there are umpteen tales of joy and disaster linked to the date. Grays Athletic, then in the Isthmian Division Two, knocked the all-conquering, three-divisions-higher Stones out of the competition in 1985 and who can forgot (or want to recall) the 1-0 catastrophe on this very ground when we lost to Ruislip Manor five years later.

The Wealdstone team of 1970 were technically amateurs, playing in the Isthmian League and this 1970-71 season was a challenging one for a club that had established itself, through the 1960s, as one of the top outfits in non-League. The game was awash with boot money, of course, and Wycombe, Slough, Enfield and Hendon were happy to fill size tens with wads of cash, while the Stones could just about stretch to a size six.

We had some great players the previous season but the likes of strikers Keith Searle, Bernie Bremer and John Hutchinson all decamped to Wycombe while keeper Andy Williams, Howard Montague and Mickey Smith took the Enfield shilling.

So perhaps this defeat wasn't as shock-

TIM PARKS

the shame of lingers on



ing as it seemed. For this native 12 year-old though, it was a weekend brimming with excitement and anticipation: It was my first away trip to watch the (once) Mighty Stones!

And this was more by accident and design. My first Stones match had been the season before - I was hooked and seen the majority of Saturday games at Lower Mead, but travelling away wasn't really on the radar. Neither was this game. My dad wasn't a football fan and when I mentioned to him that the Stones were away at Leighton in the Cup he said: "Don't forget we're taking the new caravan on a trip this weekend, so you'll have to miss your football. Leyton, you say? That's in East London anyway".

And so I put all thoughts of the big FA Cup game out of my mind. Until I looked up where

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

WEALDSTONE **FADE BUT** HANG ON

Leighton Town (0) 1, Wealdstone (1) 1

Attendance 615

Despite the incentive of a wonderful goal by skipper Bob Williams after only 20 minutes of this F.A. Cup second qualifying round match on Saturday, Wealdstone were unable to take any further steps along the Wembley trail at the expense of their Spartan League

Indeed, they must be most relieved to have the opportunity of a Tuesday night replay at Lower Mead after their defence had been subjected to a perpetual onslaught by a spirited Leighton side throughout the se-

cond half.

Wealdstone were slow to find their feet in the initial phase of the game as not only was the pitch sparsely grassed and deeply rutted but also extremely

damp and slippery.

After only four minutes
Turney's right wing cross found McCormick unmarked in the Wealdstone goalmouth but the left-half's fierce shot cannoned off the underside of the

bar and back into play. Soon afterwards Francis tested Swain with an awkward bouncing drive and then Turney cut inside Mahon only to see his resulting shot beat both keeper and the far post no colleague in support

Wealdstone's only response was a Townsend free-kick which Ritchie suffering from a cold headed wide

Thus it was left to Bob Williams to illustrate his side's prowess to the local natives who were placidly expecting the Londoners to run up, at least, a

rugby score.
Gathering the ball inside the Wealdstone half, he beat one player with a neat overhead flick and then proceeded and then proceeded to pound a path straight through the midst of enemy territory.

APLOMB

Shrugging off a couple of enges with the aplomb of a surfboard rider, the right half surfocard rider, the right half finally let fly with a twenty-yard shot which zipped past the keeper's outstretched arms benestling in the bottom corner of the rigging.

This was the source of inspira-tion which Wealdstone so desperately needed and with Wil-son and Townsend working in cisively in midfield, they at last began to assume command.

John Wilson was in especially fine form and his jinking runs and close control in treacherous conditions created havoc in the home ranks and was enthusias tically enjoyed by the many Wealdstone supporters scat-tered along the touch line. In the 25th minute another

Townsend free-kick aimed for the head of Ritchie was intercepted by the massive figure of Dennis Wells who in addition to playing for Wembley last season was also a member of that celebrated Cheshai

DETERMINED

Displaying all his skill and determination. Wilson then Wilson then managed to best two defenders on the right-hand touch-line before sending over a low arching centre. Bob Carter nudged it goalwards with a splendid div-ing header but Wells was equal

Not long afterwards Wells revealed another facet of his athleticism when dashing frantiatmention when daining franti-cally from his goal-line to hack clear from the inrushing Booth, the ball eventually coming to rest on the other side of the ad-

joining cricket square. Bob Carter wearing the num-ber seven shirt in place of the retired Len Worley, had a use ful, tenacious match and from yet another Wilson cross the youngster had the misfortune to see his shot deflected into the side netting with the "keeper stranded".

Just before the interval Wil-son and Ritchie combined to provide Booth with a header but once again Wells was firmly in command of the situation.
The second-half, though, saw

a complete transformation as Leighton shedding their earlier inhibitions, surged eagerly for-ward so that Wealdstone were merely content to clear their

EQUIPPED

Fortunately for Wesidstone, both Olsen and Shufflebottom were playing at their peak for they alone were physically

xture

TONIGHT

Wealdstone v Leighton Town. F.A. Cup second qualifying round Lower 7.30.

equipped to deal with the serial assault deployed by the home forwards. Furthermore Chris Swain, deputising for the in-jured Thomas, was consistently sound in both his handling and

positioning.

Thus when an aggressive run and shot by Turney beat both Otsen and Swain, Shufflebottom was on hand to thump the

tom was on hand to thump the ball away to safety. Centre-forward Weeks con-stituted the main threat to Wealdstone's continuing exis-tence in this competition and one first-turne shot on the turn

was only just too high with Swain unsighted. In a despairing attempt to in-troduce some life into the inef-fectual forward line Wealdstone substituted Dave Yerby for Booth in the 64th minute but it was to no avail as Leighton maintained their tempo and

emposure.
Fifteen minutes from time. Fifteen minutes from time, justice was served when the lanjustice was served when the lanty Jeff Weeks headed home
Christian's right wing corner,
and both sides spurned decent
chances to snatch the decisive
third goal in the closing rages.

In the eighty-first minute
from Townsend's free-kick but
the winger's shot clipped the
outside of the near post and
was heatily cleared.

Thus Wealdstone must prove
tought that only the vagaries of

tonight that only the vagaries of an unpredictable pitch denied them their rightful supremacy on Saturday. It may not be

Caty, D. Water, G. Warren, C. Caty, C.

REWIND CONTINUED

Leighton was. "Dad" I said, "Leighton Town play at Leighton Buzzard in Bedfordshire. Where are we taking the caravan on Saturday?"

"Ivinghoe Aston" he replied. "That's only about five miles from Leighton Buzzard, so you can go if you want".

What a silly question! The next few days were filled with thoughts of the Stones pulverising little Leighton, who played in the Spartan League, essentially two divisions below the Stones in the amateur hierarchy. Doubtless we'd march on to enjoy the sort of FA Cup run that fellow Isthmians Sutton United had enjoyed the

previous year, when they went all the way to the Third Round and a home game with Leeds

United.

o come the big day and. with caravan attached, my family trundled up the M1 from Harrow and turned off at Luton for the short trek to Ivinghoe Aston. And thence to Leighton Buzzard, where my dad dropped me off in the town centre and said: "Just follow the crowds".

And he wasn't wrong. It seemed that the whole population of the town was headed in the direction of Bell Close. Leighton Town FC's threesided ground abutting the local cricket pitch. Facilities were as

spartan as the league they played in (and still do, incidentally) but there was a great atmosphere with the home club making the most of their big day with stalls and sideshows - it was more like a village fete than a football match and as I walked up the approach to the ground (right) I still recall the rather smug attitude of the swathes of Stones fans.

In previous years we'd been knocked out by powerful sides like Enfield (0-1, attendance 4,000) and Nuneaton (0-2, attendance 5,200) and even at Millwall (1-3, attendance 11,000) so surely this would just be a matter of rolling over the local opposition?

Hemmed in behind the top end goal at Leighton's sloping pitch, all seemed well

when skipper Bob Williams veered through the home defence and cracked a lovely shot beyond portly keeper Dennis Wells. Wells, who was built like a tag wrestler with enormous hands, had starred for Chesham when they giant-killed the Stones in the Amateur Cup sem-final at Fulham two years earlier, so this was our chance for redemption. The away hordes jeered at the keeper and he growled at them as he picked the ball out of the net, like a giant captive ape desperate to get at his tormentors.

But as the game wore on it became

It's a surreal

Stones get a

mention on

the BBC after

Rob Williams

lost a contact

lens during

the game

moment as

obvious that our players weren't much better than theirs. The talented but wildly erratic John Ritchie was paired up from with Geoff Booth, who was previously known as right back with the Reserves. As soon as the ball was played up to them, it came straight back and into the last 15 minutes we were reduced to hanging on.

There was a bit of a stoppage just before this as the players seemed to be peering into the grass. And I was just peering at my programme at the last line of the editorial "In the event of a draw, the replay will be at Wealdstone's Lower Mead ground on Tuesday night" ... so it transpired.

Out of the corner of my eye, Leighton centre forward Jeff Weeks met a corner with his forehead and our keeper Chris Swain had no chance, 1-1 it finished.

met my Dad at the end of Bell Close at 5pm, as arranged, and we returned to the Ivinghoe Aston caravan site where the strangest moment of the whole afternoon occurred while we were watching the tiny portable TV over dinner.

It was the BBC six-o-clock news and in the sports section, at the end of the programme, the Beeb had introduced a little off-beat element to the show. The announcer was saying "...and meanwhile, in







In November 2006 we were back at Bell Close for an FA Trophy game (left) Wayne Cort helping a secure a 2-2 draw with Gavin Bamford (above) scoring in the 3-0 win in the replay

the FA Cup this afternoon play was stopped at Leighton Buzzard in Bedfordshire while both teams, 20 officials and members of the crowd searched for a contact lens that had been lost by the Wealdstone players Rob Williams. The lens was never discovered but Williams played on regardless".

How surreal was that! Completely underwhelming game but my team gets a mention on national TV!

Surely this was a portent for more television exposure as we surged to FA Cup glory, starting with the removal of irritants Leighton in the replay? Unfortunately, I wasn't allowed to go to football on a school night and so it was a matter of waiting for the Daily Express (then Britain's biggest-selling paper) to plop onto the doormat the next Wednesday morning. We'd be facing the winners of St Albans or Bedford Town (who also drew) in the next round, so how many goals had we won by?

Huh? A smudged scoreline among the small print of the FA Cup replay results APPEARED to read Wealdstone 0

EIGHTON TOWN

Leighton Town
1. What was
that really? A
six? Eight?
Was the "1"
missed off?
Slowly the

reality dawned that we had actually lost.

A result confirmed by the Harrow Observer on Friday morning. 'Goal-shy Wealdstone lose to Leighton' was the stark headline (see previous page) and it was grim reading indeed as the stark truth of being a football fan sunk in for the first time. Five parts disappointment, one part joy.

he years have passed, but the awfulness of that morning has remained, as Fread about how Dennis Wells stood defiant once again to repel the laboured Wealdstone forwards. I read how wave after wave of Stones attacks failed to draw blood - apart from one Dave Bullock header ruled out by a decision tighter than VAR. I read how Leighton's sole attack of the match won a 50th-minute corner that skewed off the head of our defender John Shufflebotham straight to the foot of Billy Christian who netted from close in. And I read how 'the writing has been on the wall all season. Games are not won on possession, by near misses, or by what-might-have-beens. They are won by goals and the truth is that Wealdstone have no-one capable of scoring them".

They were powerful words and, in fact, this was a bit of a turning point as new players arrived, goals were scored and the team finished comfortably in mid-table in what was the Stones' last season as an amateur club.

But the memories never leave.

eighton Town 2006 pictures by Adam Williams



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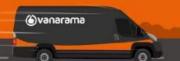




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BY STEVE DUCKER (1)

50-YEAN

Achback

It's fifty years since our final season as an amateur club, so to mark our big step up to professionalism we're 'live blogging' the 1970/71 season via one programme from each of the 92 Football League clubs playing back then. Here are matches 7 to 8.



Southampton 0 Tottenham 0

Ref K Walker, Maidstone | Att 27,149

Summary: Two teams with one win between them so far battle out an inevitable stalemate.

Programme highlight: Saints Crossword (compiled by John Barrett). It wouldn't give Inspector Morse any headaches, but it's a nice half time diversion anyway. And for away fans /neutrals / part timers, the answers are on page 14.

Programme lowlight: The ad for Watneys.Dark times for real ale drinkers, but the organisation that becomes CAMRA is just round the corner.

Programme bingo: Football League Review. A popular insert produced by the League itself, it ran from 1966 to 1974, changing its name to League Football in 1972. This season the centre spread team photo gave the likes of Crewe, Southport and Torquay a moment in the spotlight. Prophetically, Arsenal goalie Bob Wilson fronted this issue early in their double season.

Ahead of their time: Toomers sports shop's ad for Adidas Santiago boots foresees the obsession with Herr Dassler's 'merch' that will sweep high streets across Britain this decade.

Any other business: Saints chairman and 'From the Boardroom' writer George Reader refereed the 1950 Brazil vs Uruguay World Cup final at the Maracana. Just the 199,854 fans showed up.

Fans' cliche of choice: 'It's a clean sheet'





(3)

Wednesday 26 August, 7.30pm, Division 1

Chelsea 2 (John Dempsey, Keith Weller)

Everton 2 (Jimmy Husband, Joe Royle)

Ref W Gow, Swansea | Att 48,195

Summary: Unbeaten FA Cup holders tace winless League champions. Weller's second

half leveller maintains status quo. 4

Programme highlight: Peter Bonnetti winning 'Most Exciting Player in English Soccer' from Shoot magazine. At least the sponsor had a snappier title than the trophy. The 'Cat' is seen receiving it from Shoot columnist Bobby Moore at another Chelsea-Everton game, the FA Charity Shield.

Programme lowlight: The 'Warning to Boys' threatening them with having to pay adult admission prices if they run on the pitch again. Have a heart, people. On the bright side though, Chelsea weren't considering an electric fence. Yet.

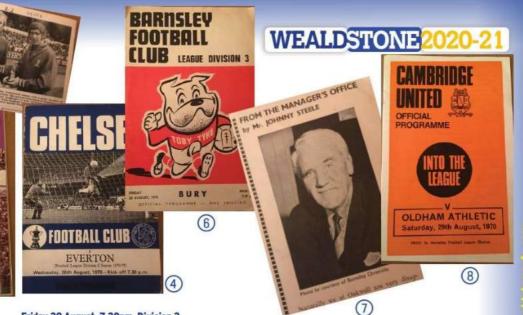
Programme bingo: A hugely detailed away travel page for any Blues fans considering the combined 900 mile round trips to Burnley and Leeds in the next seven days.

Ahead of their time: Editor Albert Sewell calls on the club to make winning trophies a habit, something they are singularly unable to do until the Abramovich era starts more than 30 years later.

Any other business: Chelsea had one of the best programmes in the league, which was hardly surprising as they had claims to have pioneered the match day magazine style production in 1948. In the early 1970s the average sale was over 80% of their attendance.

Cliche: 'I don't know whether to laugh or cry'.

Stones result: Oxford City 2-1 Stones.



Friday 28 August, 7.30pm, Division 3

Barnsley 1 (John Evans)

Bury 1 (George Jones)

Ref R Capev. Madelev Heath | Att 6.909

Summary: After three 0-1 defeats in league and League Cup, Barnsley finally find the back of the net after more than five hours of trying.

Programme highlight: Front cover star Toby Tyke
- a dog with Desperate Dan stubble, a laced-up
football under his 'arm' and a club shirt with his
name on it. What's not to like?

Programme lowlight: Photo of manager Johnny Steele, which appeared courtesy of the Barnsley Chronicle newspaper. I mean even now, when you can measure some managers' job security using a stopwatch, they get a proper mugshot from the club photographer.

Programme bingo: The ad for the Star Green 'Un. Almost everywhere had a Saturday evening sports paper, they just did. The Green 'Un was one of the last survivors of the genre, continuing well into the 21st century. Though it had probably ditched the cheesy 'Win lose or draw there's always something to cheer you...' copy by then.

Ahead of their time: Referee Capey, who becomes the Stuart Attwell of his day when he allows a ghost goal by Chelsea's Alan Hudson against lpswich in September. Just his bad luck the cameras are there to see it.

Any other business: Bury featured England's 1966 World Cup winning squad member John Connelly, but he couldn't prevent relegation.

Cliche: 'We've scored! What do we do now?'

Saturday 29 August, 3.15pm, Division 4

Cambridge Utd 3 (Peter Leggett, George Harris, William Cassidy)
Oldham Athletic 1 (Jim Fryatt)

Ref JFlye (Pontypridd) | Att 5,435

Summary: League's newest member wins first game at third attempt with second half goal blitz.

Programme highlight: The 'Into the League' logo emblazoned on the front cover. You can feel the pride and optimism oozing out of it.

Programme lowlight: Oceans of unsold ad space, suggesting that maybe the local business community wasn't that fussed about going 'into the league' after all.

Programme bingo: The Black and Amber Shop (to be opened soon). Followed by a list of items that you can't buy yet. PVC hats for 3s 11d anyone?

Ahead of their time: Unnamed editorial writer makes a cheeky long range punt for VAR as 'all the lads claim [goalkeeper] Trevor Roberts was fouled' before Northampton's winner a week earlier.

Any other business:

According to some sources, Oldham scorer Fryatt once netted four seconds after kick off for Bradford Park Avenue in 1965.

Cliche: 'What were you worried about?'
What about the Stones?: We lose 0-1 away to
Bromley, who a season earlier were being described as 'the worst team in Britain'.



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WEALDSTONE 2020-21

Saturday 10th October 2020 - The Chigwell Construction Stadium National League - Attendance 0



LINE-UP

A.Smith Leadbitter Wilkinson Staunton Dickinson Worthington Lee

Clarke J.Smith D'Ath Duffus

Subs Used: Rogers

Collins Murphy

Subs Not Used: Burke

Palmer

LEARNING CURVE

Angelo Balanta's goal meant Wealdstone fell to their first defeat of the season at Dagenham & Redbridge in the late National League kick-off on Saturday evening.

The Stones remained unchanged from the start at the Chiqwell Construction Stadium, as Connor Stevens began on the bench following injury as well as Alex Dyer whose international clearance was approved this week.

Both sides set a good tempo from the start, Captain Jerome Okimo missed the target from a corner while Harry Isted made two saves from Angelo Balanta and Mitch Brundle in the first 10 minutes.

The game did slow down as both sides settled in, the first buzz of the BT Sport cameras clearly on show in the opening passages of play.

Dagenham had the better chances throughout the first half but the Stones were holding off their opposition to a goalless first half.

Wealdstone looked more positive at the start of the second period but it was the hosts that broke the deadlock, good work between Paul McCallum and Balanta ended with the latter finding Isted's bottom corner.

Stones Manager Dean Brennan looked to make three impact changes with Jorome Slew, debutant Dyer and Ross Lafavette called upon after the Daggers' opener. Isted was made to work late on as Mitch Brundle's strike on the edge of the box was fired on target, but it

was a comfortable save for the Luton Town loanee. Two of Brennan's substitutes had a late chance to steal



LINE-UP

Isted Efete **Phillips** Okimo Mendy C.Smith Green Benyu Wakefield Lewis Emmanuel Subs Used:

Slew Dyer Lafavette Subs Not Used:

Parish Stevens

a point at the very end, Connor Smith lofted pass found Lafayette at the back post which was saved by Elliot Justham before Slew came steaming in but fired over.

The Stones were competitive in the fixture in East London, but it was the experienced Daggers who dominated and took all three points.





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	DOVER ATHLETIC Saturday, 14th November Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
	SUTTON UNITED Saturday, 21st November Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
@	TORQUAY UNITED Tuesday, 1st December Vanarama National League	Alan Couch	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
	WEYMOUTH Saturday, 12th December Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
	BOREHAM WOOD Monday, 28th December Yanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
	MAIDENHEAD UNITED Saturday, 2nd January Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
	ALDERSHOT TOWN Saturday, 23rd January Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
	WOKING Saturday, 6th February Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
	BROMLEY Saturday, 13th February Vanarama Mational League	Alan Couch	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?

WEALDSTONE 2020-21

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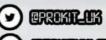
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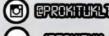
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	FC HALIFAX TOWN Saturday, 6th March Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	
	KING'S LYNN TOWN Tuesday, 9th March Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	
VIIV	NOTTS COUNTY Saturday, 27th March Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	
NOV NOV	BARNET Monday, 5th April Vanarama Mational League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	
	ALTRINCHAM Tuesday, 13th April Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	
<u>\$</u>	HARTLEPOOL UNITED Saturday, 17th April Vanarama Mational League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	
POWE TOWN PO	YEOVIL TOWN Saturday, 1st May Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	
	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE Saturday, 8th May Vanarama National League	'In Memory of fans no longer with us' Ron Moore, Tony & Peter Drew + Peter Edwards			
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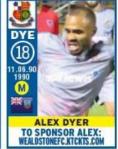
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WEALDSTONE 2020-21

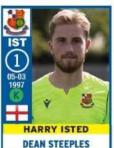
KEY: Number in circle = Squad Number. C = Management & Coaching Staff; D = Defender; M = Midfielder; F = Forward; L = Legend; Note: Flags indicate national team as defined under FIFA eligibility rules. Players may hold more than one non-FIFA nationality.

































UPCOMING FIXTURES

WEALDSTONE 2020-21

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Eastleigh

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

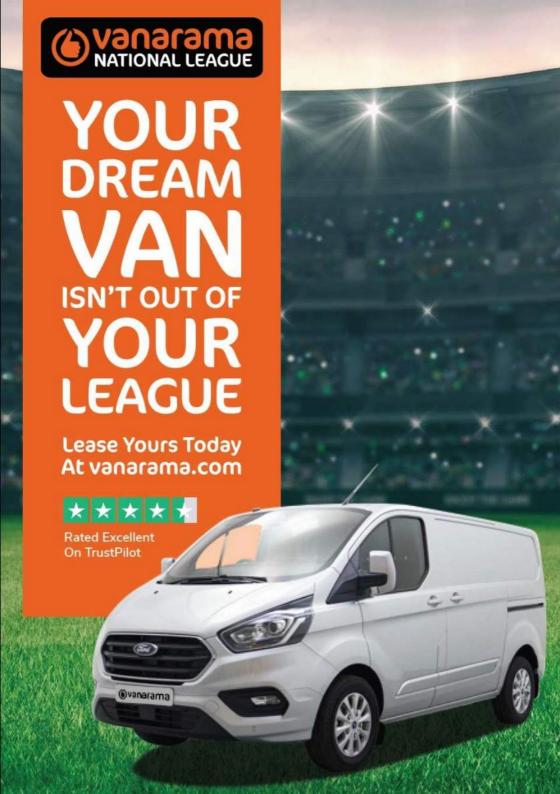
Tuesday, 17th November, 7:45pm www.eastleighfc.com | @EastleighFC

Notts County

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

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

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



THE LINE-UPS

WEALDSTONE

V

STOCKPORT C

Royal Blue/White

G Harry Isted 1 ____ Michee Efete 2

Adel Gafaiti 3
Ashley Charles 4
Connor Stevens 5

Jerome Okimo © 6
Michael Phillips 7

Ross Lafeyette 9
Danny Green 10

Dennon Lewis 11 Charlee Hughes 12

Daniel Wishart 13
Danny Parish 14

Kundai Benyu 15 Mendy Mendy 17

Jacob Mendy Mendy 17

Alex Dyer 18

Moses Emmanuel 19

Jorome Slew 20 G Lewis Everett 21

Charlie Wakefield 24 [Jack Cawley 34 [White and Royal Blue

1 Ben Hinchcliffe G

2 Sam Minihan

3 James Jennings

4 Liam Hogan

5 Ash Palmer 6 Lois Maynard

7 Adam Thomas

8 John Rooney

9 Richie Bennett

10 Connor Jennings

11 Jordan Williams

14 Mark Kitching 15 Jamie Stott

16 Jordan Keane

17 Macauley Southam-Hales

18 Ryan Croasdale

19 Alex Reid

20 Nyal Bell

21 Joshua Barnes G

REFEREE Ryan Atkin ASSISTANT REFEREES

Jonathan Bolland and Eugene Robinson FOURTH

OFFICIAL Neil Fyfield OBSERVER Kelvin Morton

MATCH SPONSOR Rolfe East

NEXT HOME GAMES v WREXHAM (Vanarama National League) Saturday October 17, KO 3pm v CHESTERFIELD (Vanarama National League) Tuesday October 20, KO 7.45 pm

Main club sponsor:

gpflewis



The big interview: Kundai Benyu