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SEASON 2020-21  
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BY MARK HYDE



WEALDSTONE 2020-21

# Written in Stone

**W**elcome this afternoon to Matt Gray, his staff and the players and officials from our old friends Sutton United. We hope you enjoy your brief stay with us and have a safe journey home after the game.

Today remarkably sees us sitting in third position in the National League and if you tell me you predicted that when the fixtures were released, then sorry I simply don't believe you. Reflecting on our remarkable run of five straight wins that came to an end on Tuesday evening, I am sure despite being briefly disappointed, we are all incredibly proud of what Dean, his team and our players have achieved.

There are many unfamiliar fixtures this season

but today's opponents Sutton are not among them. We have faced our South London friends 99 times over the last 92 years. The latest being in the FA Cup back in 2018 and the first being an Athenian League match at Lower Mead in 1928. Since winning the National League South in 2015/16, The U's have established themselves as a top half National League side finishing 3rd in 2016/17 before a narrow defeat in the Play Off Semi Final.

With Sutton having snatched away our hard earned second place in the week, this afternoon's fixture will be a very tough second v third live on BT Sport!

This wouldn't be Wealdstone if I didn't end by appealing for your continued help. We have a variety of Matchday and Ball Sponsorship packages still 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 later in this issue

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Mark

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# WEALDSTONE

## FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2020/2021

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- 1) The club reserves the right to eject from the ground any person who is considered to have committed any of the following acts:
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  - Using obscene or bad language likely to cause offence to others • Hitting the side or back panels of the Bulls stand
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- 3) The consumption of alcoholic drinks is permitted INSIDE the social club bar, garden and boardroom areas.
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BY ROGER SLATER



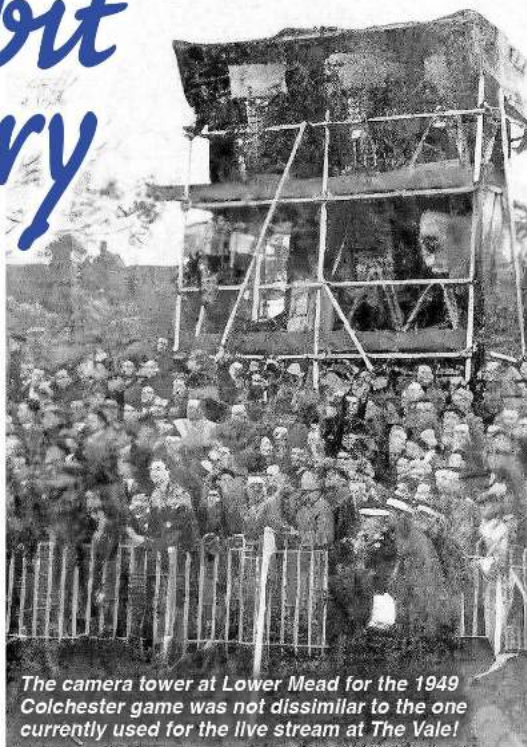
# A little bit of history

We welcome the BT Sport cameras here today.. but Stones were in on the very start of live football coverage on BBC1, 74 years ago

Wealdstone's return to the top of the non-league pyramid brings with it not just new opponents and new grounds but the chance to feature in millions of homes thanks to BT Sport. Not just the localised match coverage we've been enjoying, offered by the club in conjunction with FC Video but a full-blown, multi-camera national coverage on this major sporting network... thought it's not for the first time!

The Stones have featured on TV and in cinematic newsreels over the years: there are highlights of the FA Amateur Cup Final victory from 1966, covered by the BBC and Pathe News, and highlights too of the FA Trophy Final victory of 1985 (and the full video c/w Radio Lincolnshire commentary). Both of these are available from the WFC Megastore on DVD, but neither were covered live. Nor was the FA Cup tie at QPR in 1977 where again only seconds of highlights remain. Rotherham and Colchester in the FA Cup have clips on You Tube among others and a search of online archives even shows an Amateur Cup crowd queuing before Leytonstone v Wealdstone in 1949, though sadly no footage of the match is to be found.

But what many people won't realise is that



*The camera tower at Lower Mead for the 1949 Colchester game was not dissimilar to the one currently used for the live stream at The Vale!*

in fact, Wealdstone were selected to be part of the pioneering live match coverage on the BBC 74 years ago - although before you ask, none of these were committed to tape as they were transmitted live, once only.

The Beeb started a television service back in 1936, and the first football match to be transmitted was a specially-arranged friendly match between Arsenal and Arsenal Reserves at Highbury on 16th September 1937. This was followed the England v Scotland International on the 9th April 1938 and that by the month by the FA Cup Final between Huddersfield and Preston North End. Each transmission was very much a trial, as the technology was so new that matches were only played in London within range of the transmitting (and receiving) stations.

Games continued to be recorded by the BBC and both Pathe and Movietone News

# WEALDSTONE 2020-21

also recorded highlights before and throughout World War II before a live experiment was undertaken in 1946.

**O**n October 19th, the first live televised amateur football match was broadcast by the BBC from Underhill. The opening twenty minutes of the first half of the **Barnet v Wealdstone** match was transmitted, then at 3:20pm, a thirty-minute programme about an Australian Escapologist escaping from an inverted straight-jacket was shown. Once presumably, he'd escaped, the transmission returned to Underhill at 3:50pm for the live second half. In fact, only thirty-five minutes was shown as it became too dark for coverage to continue!

Barnet won the match 3-2 in front of a crowd reported as 5,000, Jimmy Moore scoring both Wealdstone goals. What chance the National League can arrange a 75th Anniversary return match, covered by BT Sport, on Tuesday 19th October 2021?

**C**overage continued but was sporadic as only FA Cup Finals and some England v Scotland games were transmitted until 1947 when the FA Cup 5th round tie between Charlton Athletic and Blackburn Rovers was shown live. Two years later on 29th October 1949, the live experiment was continued when the **Edgware Town v Wealdstone** FA Cup 3rd Qualifying Round tie from The White Lion Ground was selected initially for second half coverage, but it seems the whole match was shown with comedian Jimmy Jewell, better known for his comedy series on BBC Radio,

"Up The Pole" as co-commentator.

Wealdstone went on to win the match by 1-0, Edmund "Eddie" Smith scoring the only goal. (Smith went on to sign for Chelsea at the end of the season but didn't appear as a professional footballer until two years later, having moved on to Bournemouth).

As a result of the win, Wealdstone took their place in the draw for the next round. In the meantime, the BBC published their schedules for the week of 12th November when the round was to be played listing that some coverage was planned, but the actual match was still to be selected as the draw hadn't been made.

Subsequently, **Wealdstone v Colchester** was the draw for the next round and it was announced at the end of the BBC transmission on Thursday 10th November that this was the game selected for live coverage. Forty-eight hours later, the sides took the field under the watchful eye of the BBC Cameras (the camera tower constructed at Lower Mead is pictured on opposite page) and

once again, a live audience. Bill Saunders scored the only goal as Wealdstone were once again victorious.

The First Round Proper draw saw Wealdstone away to Port Vale. With the limitations of location meaning that the match could not be covered by the BBC no other game was selected - instead they chose to cover Harlequins v Blackheath live from Twickenham. Paramount News however are believed to

have recorded some of the match at Port Vale for a highlights newsreel, but despite a long search of their archive, nothing has been found. It would have been Port Vale's first appearance on television as they beat the Stones 1-0.....

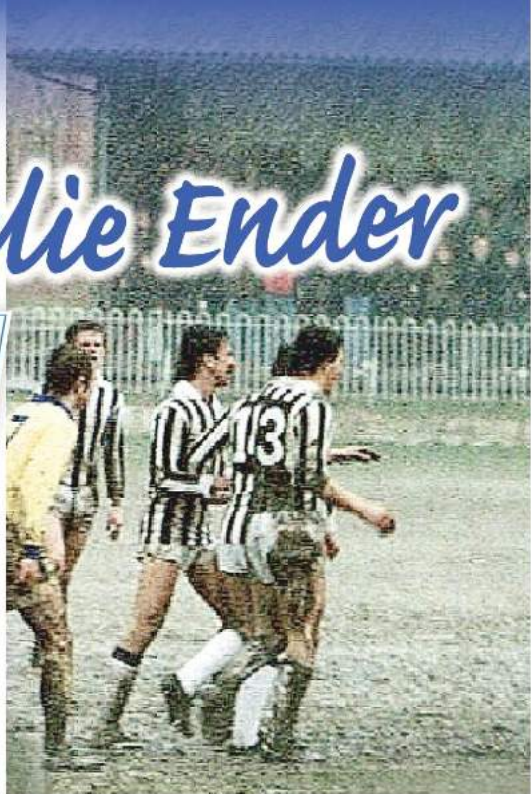


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BY SUDHIR RAWAL



# The Elmslie Ender



## Funds, Feeds, Morals and business models

**O**llie Bayliss on Twitter has been probably the most reliable source of information throughout the Covid months on non-league football, particularly when there was no idea whether last season would be null and void; be confirmed under PPG; or carry on when restrictions were lifted. He also was the man with the finger on the pulse about the new season starting and when it was likely to be. Last week by the time you read this, he tweeted a letter from eight clubs calling for the chairman of the National League to resign due to the allocation of the National Lottery grant. I have written about the grant previously and how the task for the National league was almost impossible to satisfy all concerned and the majority of the clubs seem to be content as they can be with the allocation. I think they have been as fair as they can be.

What struck me was that the letter was signed by seven clubs who were from the regional leagues, a couple of whom could be described as projects which are seen by some as nouveau riche clubs heavily reliant on their owners for funding as they rise through the leagues. One has risen and then slightly fallen back too. The

others were mainly clubs that have been in the Football League previously and/or are reformed clubs that have had financial problems in the past. I have also stated previously that I am not going to comment on how clubs finance themselves, as there are various different models and each club has to decide what works for them. Yet, almost all of the clubs that signed off that letter are full time clubs, playing in regional leagues, which seems plainly mad to me. Ok, I have commented on that part. I'd go even further that the National League and League Two should be amalgamated and be regionalised. I suspect that this would be extremely unpopular but cannot really see how full-time football is sustainable at the lower reaches of the "elite" game. Football at our level should be part time in my view, but again suspect that I am in the minority.

Streaming has become for many clubs a vital source of income. In some cases, their only source of income. I am not fully aware of our viewing figures for all games, but we had around 2,000 watching the feed for Chesterfield, with numbers around a 1,000 for other matches since then. I am not sure whether this includes or excludes season ticket holders who have free



# WEALDSTONE 2020-21



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

access to the feed, but on the face of it reasonable numbers but had the games had fans in, we'd probably be averaging 1,700 or so at the moment, plus the bars full to capacity, so our income is still massively down on where it would be, so the grant from the Lottery is helpful but not a windfall.

Our feed has certainly got much better after the problems of the first game and now any problems that people have tend to be user error rather than systematic issues. Most clubs have had issues, it hasn't been a smooth process at all, as people are literally learning on the job as they go along. Again, different clubs have various plans on how this is paid for. Some charge over a tenner, down to some clubs that share their feed for free on YouTube. As mentioned above, for many clubs the money raised from streaming is almost their sole income, so again it seems rather strange if clubs are giving their feed away for free. Yet, one of those clubs who have signed off on the letter above is one such club. Seems like wanting your cake and eating it too. You can't give away a big source of income for free and then expect HMG to cover the cost. It might not work with the

ethos of the club, but then other clubs shouldn't have to cover off the morals of others.

I know that the Wealdstone hierarchy in the past have looked towards Sutton United as a model of a well-run club that is something we should aspire to in how they operate off the field but also how they have made a very successful transition from regional football to the national division despite being a traditional non-league side. Our first season in the NLS saw Stones finish above Sutton with a higher average attendance. Since then they have gone from strength to strength, laying a plastic pitch, which may not be to everyone's taste, crowds have trebled, and not only surviving at national league level but thriving. Today's clash at the Vale, could be, depending on midweek results, between two teams in the top three and will be a real test of our credentials to date. Sutton United, and Bromley too, have shown us the way on how to be a real force at the top table. In our case, the lease is the thing that holds us back more than anything else. Solve that problem and who knows what we can achieve.

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## NICK ATKINSON

# Fan in the Stand

**'I've got into this ridiculous sequence of watching 122 consecutive away league matches at different grounds.. which allows me watch Stones and St Albans with impunity. I've loved it!'**

**T**oday's Fan in the Stand is a bit left-field as our subject, Nick, is a bit of a ground-hopper rather than a Stones fan through and through. But he's been seduced by the homespun charms of Grosvenor Vale so welcome, Mr Atkinson..

**Your name and age?** Nick Atkinson, 64

**Whereabouts do you live, Nick?** Welwyn Garden City

**Have you always lived in that area?**

No. I was born in Harrogate, brought up on Teesside and have lived in Oxford, London and Leeds before rocking up in Hertfordshire

**When was your first Stones game?** About five years ago a group of former colleagues (including big Stones fan Bob Dugard, brother of Nick) started going to the Stones v St Albans City fixture, home and away. I started going to the fixture a year or so after the Jefferson Louis masterclass at Clarence Park five years ago... it's the atmosphere more than the actual matches that stick in the mind. Most of the games have been skilful but courteous; score-draws or



*We thought Nick was peering at his route map to take in the next game of his 'different ground' odyssey. But it turns out it's a map of Marrakesh. Does Morocco have its own National League system?*

close wins for 'Stones. I suppose I'm too used to League matches for it not still to be a pleasant surprise to watch a game in a group of fans supporting both sides and to change ends at half time (like Darlington used to do at Feethams of fond memory).

**What were your first impressions of the club?** I loved the atmosphere at the club straight away.

**What was the first football match you ever saw live?** Middlesbrough v Sheffield

# WEALDSTONE 2020-21

Wednesday in 1971. We missed the only goal because my Dad had underestimated the crowd (26,000) and the parking. I got down behind the goal at the Clive Road end at Ayresome Park and so saw myself on TV on The Big Match on the Sunday. Peter Rodrigues was playing for Wednesday.

**Do you follow any other team?**  
Portsmouth

**How devotedly? Home and away?**  
Devotedly but since 1987 I have got myself into this ridiculous sequence of seeing a League, Cup or non-international friendly match at 122 consecutive different League grounds so almost all of my Pompey games are away. I am keen to keep this record going but it only applies to League grounds; hence being able to go to the Vale and Clarence Park etc. many times over.

**What's the most memorable game you've EVER seen?** Toss-up between Portsmouth's Wembley finals but I think last year's EFL Trophy win over Sunderland shades even the FA Cup victory in 2008

**And the best Wealdstone game?** I couldn't single one out but the quality of play in the National League that I've seen is as good as any

**What level of football do you prefer?**  
Every time I see a Premier League game, which is not all that often, I realise that the standard is a bit better

but I'm soon looking forward to my next trip to Colchester, Kings Lynn, Salford or wherever

**How big a part of your life is the game?**  
Absolutely tiny, as you can obviously tell (!) The thrill I got when my name was read out over the Tannoy at Rodney Parade, Newport, before the Tuesday night EFL Trophy group stage match that was at my 100th consecutive League ground, was really insignificant :) After all, all I had to do was get back to my cheap hotel, get up at

5am and go straight to work in London... My travels also mean that I have been to 16 of the current National League grounds and seen football at 15. The exception was Eastleigh. Portsmouth had a pre-season friendly there a couple of years ago. I went down on the train, mooched around a bit, found a decent pub within walking distance of the ground, read the paper and started to wonder why there was no-one around. It turned out the match had been cancelled because of an unfit pitch even tho' it was a warm and sunny day in July... I hope they've had the roller out before 'Stones' next visit. (Or the rainwater brooms, as proved more relevant this week - Ed)

**How do you fit watching football in with your family/working life?** It's not a total week-in, week-out thing. After all, it's taken me 33 years to get round 122 grounds. That said I don't have children and I do work freelance so that helps.

**Who are the best Wealdstone players you've ever seen?** It wouldn't be fair to do so but I can't miss the opportunity to credit Glen Little, the ex Stones star formerly of Pompey. It must have been some of that Greatest City magic...

**How are you watching football these days?** I'm consuming via iFollow (Portsmouth FC live stream) which is OK. I've had to send a few rude emails to them but so far they have actually refunded me for a couple of cock-ups at their end.

**When do you think we'll be back watching 'live'?** I have had to keep putting back my intended first Live match. Until the latest lockdown I had set high hopes on Stones' visit to Hartlepool on 9 January. Now it might have to be Portsmouth's first visit to the new Plough Lane in early May.

**Finally....do you think Stones can aspire to playing in the EFL?** Absolutely. Why not? Look at what has happened to the club that is five doors down from my first primary school, Harrogate Town....



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# Mark Graves

## He changed his whole style of play to fit into Allen Batsford's game plan.. & how it paid off!



*Mark was back at the Stones as co-commentator for the Altrincham game*

**M**ark Graves' contribution to The Wealdstone Story has gone a little bit under the radar, in my opinion.

Ten years before his time, George Duck took the plaudits as the Stones' **Greatest Goalscorer Of All Time** and even while Mark was still playing, Alan Cordice won the acclaim for the team's most valuable player.

And of course, when Gravesey was sidelined with an ankle ligament injury in the Spring of 1985 (in the FA Trophy 2nd round win over Wycombe Wanderers), Andy Graham took the No.10 shirt and wrote his name into

Wealdstone folklore with a spate of spectacular goals as Brian Hall's side won that unprecedented non-League double.

Between his debut in August 1982 and that desperately unfortunate injury two and a half years later, Mark scored 87 goals in 145 games to become the most feared striker in the Conference. In fact he was top scorer in every one of his six seasons with the Stones, finally totting up 138 goals in 234 appearances before leaving for Isthmian League Hayes in the summer of 1987, where he hit another 46 in 89 games.

Shortly after finishing playing at the age of 28, Mark needed a replacement hip. And in a week or two he'll have the other one replaced too!

"All down to football" he says with a shrug.

**S**o is there a touch of bitterness that he was denied a chance to be a key part of the double celebrations?

"Bitter? No, not at all"

**CONTINUED  
OVER PAGE**



1981-82

# 'Stones into battle

THE moment of truth has arrived for rejuvenated Wealdstone.

Soccer

by  
Ron Smithson

On Saturday the Southern League glory-boys, who swept all before them last season to win Southern League, Shield and Cup, face up to the side who've come closest to winning acceptance into the Football League in recent times, Altrincham.

The match at Moss Lane will be 'Stones first league test of the new season and should prove a useful barometer on how Allen Batsford's side is going to shape up on their return to the Alliance Premier League.

It's a tough test by any standards, but Stones know they have a chance with Altrincham clearly in a process of rebuilding.

Mid table at the end of last season half a dozen regulars have gone from the club including striker John Rogers and keeper John Naughton.

In addition Altrincham skipper John King is not certain to line up against newly promoted 'Stones.

But 'Stones boss Allen Batsford certainly isn't under any illusion as to his side's task.

He knows what a confidence-booster a good display at Altrincham would provide — especially with an arguably even tougher crunch league encounter at mighty Dagenham just 48 hours later.

Says Allen: "Saturday is very very important. I don't think there's another side in the league with as tough a start as us with five away games early on.

"But the way we look at it is that it's a new season and we've got to go with a positive attitude."

'Stones have prepared for the new season with a string of games against league clubs.

Batsford would like to

have had the games spread out a little more — 'Stones played four games in seven days last week — but he comments: "All the players have been pleased with the way the games have gone. I would like to have been able to train in between but there wasn't anything we could do about that."

Saturday's game should provide a first taste of Alliance action for Mark Graves, Batsford's signing from Plymouth.

But the 'Stones boss doesn't look likely to add further at the moment. John Peachey, ex-Barnsley, apparently did not do enough to encourage Batsford to add him to the squad especially with the return to fitness of Nigel Johnson, scorer of over 20 goals in the first half of last season before back trouble ruled him out for the rest of the campaign.

## In contention

With Johnson now back in contention, and Graves clearly a major part of Batsford's plans, the Wealdstone manager certainly doesn't look likely to experience the player shortage that sometimes affected the side last season.

In fact some of the stars of last year's success could be out in the cold with no reserve team this season.

Batsford himself says "Everybody is working very very hard at the moment with competition for places very keen."

Batsford added that he will not settle on the squad to travel to Altrincham until after Thursday's friendly against Crystal Palace at Lower Mead.



MARK Graves — expected to make his Alliance debut at Altrincham.

*Above: the Harry O previews the Stones' first game back in the Conference in August 1982 at twice-champions Altrincham. It was one to remember for Graves! Far left: Wealdstone line up in pre-season that year with all their five Southern League trophies and one new signing: M.Graves (seated far right in the front row)*

# MARK GRAVES CONTINUED...

said the now-59 year old ex-striker when we chatted after his stint as co-commentator at the Altrincham game last week.

"It was an extraordinary time for me, playing for Wealdstone, and I feel honoured to have been at the club at that time. It was pretty much unique to keep the same side together for four or five years and that was the key to our success - you always knew what the team was as we had such a small squad. Just the regular dozen plus people like Nigel Johnson and Paul Waites who would step in and do a job."

Stones came 3rd in the league in his first season (1982-83), fourth the next and then won the Gola League title in 1985. So what happened in the end? I asked him. Why did the team disintegrate in the mid-80s?

"That team just got old together" he said simply. "There's no magic formula... Allen Batsford was great at putting a team together, building a squad and to be honest Brian Hall wasn't so good at getting new players in. He was handed the crown jewels when he took over from Allen, and when he left a few years later he left the cupboard bare. He even took quite a few players with him to Yeovil".

Mark was clearly fond of Batsford and visited him in hospital every day during his long convalescence.

"When Allen had his heart problems and was shifted aside for Brian, it was a bit like Tony Barton getting the credit for

winning the European Cup for Aston Villa when he'd only been in the job three months. Ron Saunders had built that team".

**M**ark was born in Isleworth, West London but moved to Devon with his family when he was five. The head of PE at his school in Totnes, Tony Brimacombe, was an ex-Plymouth Argyle player and he recommended that they had a look at the teenage striker - and thus Mark made his Football League debut at the age of 16.

"At the time I was the youngest player to have made their debut for Plymouth. Mike Kelly was the manager, and he was followed briefly by Malcolm Allison before he went to coach in Portugal - but then Bobby Moncur, the ex Newcastle and Scotland player, took over. What he was doing in Devon, who knows? But he was hopeless - he knew nothing about the game at that level. He certainly had no faith in me, so I was released after having played 30 games, and another dozen or so as sub.

"The trouble with being in such a remote part of the country" said Mark, "is that there is not the scouting network like in London, for example. And Argyle had pulled their reserve side out of the Football Combination because of travel costs, and stuck us in the Western League!"

But it was a stroke of luck that brought the young Gravesey to Lower Mead.

"Allen Batsford had heard that I was available, looked me up in the non-League

## Mark nets the top awards

**SHARP**-shooting striker Mark Graves is tops with Wealdstone players and supporters alike.

At the club's end-of-season presentation dance he won both the supporters club player of the year award (the Jack Law Trophy) and the players 'player of the year'.

Graves was easily Wealdstone's most successful forward this season, scoring 23 league goals, and 31 in all.

The former Plymouth and Ipswich player netted a hat-trick in "Stones penultimate game of the season against Kettering.

"It's very flattering to receive awards and from both the supporters and the players you work with throughout the season," said a delighted Graves.



Sharp-shooting striker Mark Graves (right) receives his two Player of the Year awards from Wealdstone chairman David Morrilt at the club's end of season presentation dance.



# Survivors!

Wealdstone 3, Hendon 2 (act)  
**'STONES** are the sole local survivors in the FA Cup after Tuesday's nail-biting replay against Isthmian League Hendon.

But they had a lucky escape after twice coming from behind to thwart plucky Hendon, who were anything but overawed by their more illustrious Alliance neighbours.

And Wealdstone needed extra time to finally deny a Hendon side who left their indifferent Isthmian League form behind **(writes Ron Smithson)**.

After Saturday's 1-1 draw at Claremont Road, Wealdstone manager Allen Batsford left out striker Ray Knowles and gave close season signing Mark Graves the role of target man up front.

It was Hendon, though, who drew first blood after 19 minutes, Rogers' inswinging corner being muffed by 'keeper Ray Goddard at the unguarded far post and going straight in for a gift goal.

Then 'Stones had their collective hearts in their mouths as, straight from the restart, Green was surprisingly not called offside and threatened to go all the way before being robbed by the ever reliable Stuart Pearce — a tireless warrior on Tuesday.

But Batsford's ploy of Graves as an out and out target man — at the expense of the strangely quiet Alan Cordice — payed off after 26 minutes. Pearce's corner into a hot-bed of action received a touch on and Graves was there for the finishing header to bring 'Stones level.

Yet after that, 'Stones failed to put their stamp on the game, regular territorial advan-

## 'Stones win cup thriller

tage never really having the penetration to dominate the visitors. Hendon continued to give as good as they got, and when Dennis Byatt felled Winston with about as much grace as a lumberjack, a penalty was the inevitable result, Rogers making no mistake with the 37th minute spot kick.

So the stage was set for a grandstand finish. 'Stones made it but only just, after only occasionally producing their best football — a superb combination of one-touch football which ended with Graves' fierce drive being fingertipped over the only real time they gelled like true Alliance material.

With 15 minutes left, and desperation ever approaching, Batsford took off midfielder Wainwright for out and out attack in the shape of Neil Cordice.

And with eight minutes of normal time left, the gambit payed off, Bowgett's well flighted cross being turned home via Neil's clinical header for the vital equaliser. Extra time saw two tired sides searching for the breakthrough and indeed 'Stones looked to have settled for another replay when, with five minutes left, Graves was in the right place at the right time to nod home Stuart Pearce's corner at the far post.

'Stones face further Isthmian opposition in the third qualifying round on Saturday week when they travel to currently unbeaten Dulwich Hamlet.

**The game that changed everything for Mark Graves: He was recalled for the FA Cup replay win over Hendon at Lower Mead, and never looked back in a blue shirt**



A victory salute to Wealdstone's Mark Graves after he had scored the late winner against Hendon in the FA Cup on Tuesday night.

directory and saw that I'd been born in West London. He assumed that I was a Londoner desperate to come back home... whereas I'd been living in Devon for 15 years!

"But I came up and he signed me almost immediately... I was the only addition to the team that had won every trophy in the Southern League the previous season, so no pressure then..."

**S**tones had been well served up front by the mercurial Alan Cordice and Ray Knowles, who'd played in the lower divisions for Wimbledon. But Batsford was hatching a plan for a more mobile strike force.

"The season started brilliantly. I made my Conference debut at Altrincham, Wealdstone's first game back at that level, and scored the goal as we won 1-0" said Mark.

"But the style of play was alien to me. My strengths were my first touch, my hold-up play

and my finishing, while the Wealdstone way was to play simple long diagonal balls behind the back four for Alan (Cordice) to run onto. I was like a fish out of water. We were winning but there were some games when I hardly got a touch... it all changed for me after I was left out for Ray (Knowles) for two successive games at Telford and then Hendon in the FA Cup. We drew both, and then as I was driving down for the Hendon replay with the Cordice brothers - who lived near me in Buckinghamshire - I said to Neil 'I think we'll both be starting tonight'.

"Neil said no chance - he'd on the bench and I'd be in the stand. But then we got in the dressing

**CONTINUED OVER PAGE**

# MARK GRAVES CONTINUED...

room, the team was announced and Neil said to me 'You spoke to the gaffer! He told you the team!'

"I hadn't of course, but Allen put faith in me and Neil and I ended up scoring twice and Neil the other as we won 3-2 after extra time... and Hendon were a decent side then, with people like Iain Dowie and Dermot Drummy. But that night I also decided to change my whole game. There was no point me coming short for the ball, so instead I peeled off to the wing, taking a centre back with me and leaving space for Alan to run into. Then I'd make a U-turn and take up position for Alan to pull the ball back. We scored so many goals like that, it was so simple but effective".

As Mark says, he was never dropped after that lightbulb moment. Allen Batsford stuck with the A. Cordice/ Graves combination up front, with Robin Wainwright, Neil Cordice, John Margerrison or Nigel Johnson controlling the midfield and the mean machine (Bowgett & Byatt) and full backs Steve Perkins and Stuart Pearce providing the foundation at the back. With a few tweaks, it was a formula that held good for three years.

"Stuart was unbelievably good, both defending and coming forward. His crosses were something else and we all knew he'd have a future in the Football League. But we didn't think he'd become England captain!"

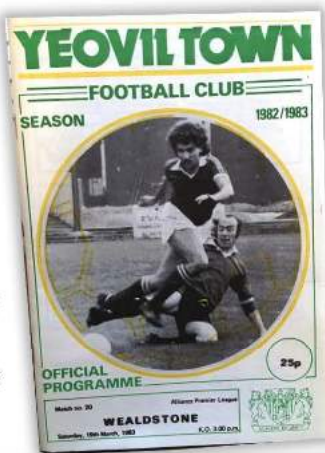
I'd told Mark, before the Altrincham game last week, that I'd be interested to see him compare modern-day Conference football to the football of his day.

"I'd say the biggest difference these days is the mobility of the defenders. In the 1980s it was largely a case of old ex-pros moving down into non-League, and often their legs had gone. That's why Alan Cordice was such a game-changer for us. We thought we'd be sussed after that first season but they literally couldn't handle him. His pace was frightening!

He was probably the one player in that team who was irreplaceable because he was so intrinsic to our style of football, our success.

"When I look at this Wealdstone side it's so impressive. So good technically. You can play through teams whereas we would hit teams on the break. The current Stones team is built on potential while most of our side of the 1980s had already had a career elsewhere - they weren't looking to move on which is why we kept the nucleus of that side for four or five successful years."

Gravesey believes that confi-



## Graves buries Yeovil

Yeovil 1, Wealdstone 5

MARK Graves tore the heart out of Yeovil with a hat-trick on Saturday.

Yeovil paraded new signing from Torquay Brian O'Donnell, but were powerless as 'Stones cruised to victory in a hopelessly one-sided game.

After 10 minutes Graves was given far too much room by centre half Payne and crashed home his first goal with a good volley.

Six minutes later Pearce made a fine run and Alan Cordice buried the resulting cross.

Two ahead at half-time, 'Stones took Yeovil apart in the second period. A flurry of goals around the hour broke the spirit of a poor Yeovil outfit. Graves grabbed his second when chipping the ball over the keeper and into the far corner.

Graves then completed his hat-trick before Andy Bell pulled one back for the outclassed home side.

Neil Cordice scored 'Stones fifth in the 62nd minute.

Wealdstone: Goddard, Perkins, Byatt, Bowgett, Pearce, Margerrison, Barwick, Cordice (A), Cordice (N), Graves, Davies (sub Johnson).

# MAN OF STONE

## Bold Batsford is back

By IAN GIBB

IT TOOK Allan Batsford 15 glory-strewn years to reach his goal of becoming a Football League manager . . . and a few months of heartbreak to dump him on the scrap-heap.

But the man who once left Brian Clough and Peter Taylor flat on their backs and embarrassed Don Revie's mighty Leeds in the FA Cup has returned.

And today, Swindon will feel the chill of Batsford's plotting when they tackle his Wealdstone outfit.

He has suddenly turned the Royal Stones into one of the most powerful non-League sides looking for FA Cup fame but it's a wonder he is still in the game.

### Struggle

After piloting Isthmian League Walton to a Wembley Amateur Cup triumph and later thrashing Clough and Taylor-managed Brighton 4-0 at The Goldstone, he turned his attentions to Wimbledon. His Dons beat First Division Burnley before taking Leeds to a replay. He led the club to every conceivable non-League success before they clinched a League place.

But then came controversial chairman Ron Noad's and after a struggle to assert the club in the Fourth Division, Batsford was sacked.

"I was very depressed," he says. "People thought I was finished and still there six years ago."

"We spilled a lot of blood to get Wimbledon into the League—it was very emotional to leave. And I did think of opting out of the game."

But after a spell at Southern League Hillingdon, the Batsford magic was there when he joined Wealdstone.

### Moulded

It was too late to save them dropping out of the Alliance Premier and back to the Southern League but last season they won everything and returned to the Alliance.

Batsford says: "I would be lying if I said this team was as good as the Wimbledon one I moulded—yet we are not a bad side."



*Above: Stones boss Allen Batsford is interviewed in the News of the World before the FA Cup 1st Round game at Swindon Town in November 1982, which the Fourth Division team won 2-0. Opposite page: Report of the fabulously satisfying 5-1 win at Yeovil in March 1983 when Mark Graves scored a hat-trick and the Cordice brothers silenced a baying home crowd. Incidentally, Gravesey's five goals in a 6-0 friendly win over Wimbledon in September '83 is a club record*



THINKING . . . of those FA Cup glory days—that's Allan Batsford

dence and self-belief is the key. "We always believed that we could grind out a result in every game, even if it wasn't pretty. Wealdstone now just keep on playing their football, even when they fall behind, and that's a great tribute to the manager and the players - they don't change that ethic. You'll see in the Premier League that the successful clubs will throw on attacking players if they are drawing a game, whereas the less successful ones will try to hang onto their point. That's all down to confidence".

And so, the final question. Any regrets, Mark, in your football career? "Not really" he said. "I suppose I'd have liked to have got back into the pro game, and there were a few offers when I was topping the Conference goal charts - but they were all lower league clubs and the money was never enough to

tempt me from my career in insurance.

"Although my job DID stop me from getting a cap or two for the England non-League side for the summer tournament in Italy around 1983 or '84. Alan Cordice was selected so it would have been interesting to see if we could reproduce our club form for the national side - but I couldn't get the time off work.

"Actually, there was one other missed opportunity around that time

when Spurs were looking for a non-League striker, and Bill Nicholson (the ex manager who became the club's chief scout) came down to Lower Mead for a few games. In the end they signed David Leworthy from Fareham and he went on to play half a dozen games in Division One. That could have been my big moment!"

# SUTTON UNITED

## Incredibly today will mark our 100th fixture against the U's

**S**utton United FC was formed on 5 March 1898 when a meeting of two leading local clubs, Sutton Association and Sutton Guild Rovers, decided that they should join forces. The amber and chocolate colours of Sutton Association were retained, along with both clubs' grounds, and the United club's first game was against Norwood & Selhurst FC. With two grounds available Sutton fielded three teams in the Herald and Surrey Junior Leagues, but the loss of Western Road after a year led to the disbanding of the third team. The senior side's first honour came in the form of the Herald Junior Cup in 1902, the first of three successive triumphs in that competition.

In 1910 Sutton assumed senior status and joined the Southern Suburban League, and it was during the next decade that the club gained use of their present home in Gander Green Lane. After finishing as Southern Suburban League runners-up in 1920 they were elected to the Athenian League at the end of the following season, and celebrated by twice winning the Surrey Senior Shield. League form was more uncertain, and in 1926 U's had to seek re-election, but were successful and recovered to win the championship just two years later. Over the next decade Sutton established themselves as a force in the amateur game, twice reaching the FA Amateur Cup semi-finals, although on the first occasion they were expelled from the competition after fielding two players who had played Sunday football and were therefore ineligible.

Sutton remained to the fore after World War Two, winning the Athenian League for a second time in 1946, and coming second to Barnet on goal average the following season. In 1953 the club



became a Limited Company, and five years later won the league for a third time as well as achieving a first success in the London Senior Cup. In 1963 U's made their first appearance at Wembley in the Amateur Cup final, losing 4-2 to South London rivals Wimbledon, and were one of four clubs elected to the Isthmian League.

Champions in 1967 and runners-up a year later, Sutton again reached the Amateur Cup final in 1969, losing to North Shields, and the following season achieved national fame as they made it through to the 4th round of the FA Cup and were drawn at home to Leeds United, then the top side in the country, who won 6-0 in front of a record 14,000 crowd. In 1979 the U's made history as the first and only winners of the Anglo Italian semi-professional tournament. FA

Trophy runners-up in 1981, losing to Bishop's Stortford at Wembley, they were second in the league a year later as well as reaching the second round of the FA Cup, and won a cup treble of Isthmian League Cup, London Senior Cup and Surrey Senior Cup in 1983. Two years later U's



# WEALDSTONE 2020-21



and after twice finishing third they realised Sutton's ambition of returning to the Conference in 1999. Unfortunately U's found the gap to the Conference too wide to bridge finishing bottom.

In the 2003-04 season, a storming second half to the season saw them finish as runners-up to Canvey Island and gain inclusion in the newly formed Conference South. John Rains stood down as manager and he was replaced by Ian Hazel, but the 2007-08 season saw U's, who had previously finished consistently in mid-table, struggle from the start and by the end of March their relegation had been confirmed, with two changes of manager during the season.

Paul Doswell was appointed manager in May 2008 & after missing out on promotion in the play-offs in his first two seasons he guided U's to the Isthmian championship in 2011, and the following season saw them finish fourth in Conference South, losing to Welling in the play-offs. U's were again in the play-offs in 2014, losing to Dover after finishing second in the table before going one better the following season, clinching the Vanarama National League South championship and gain promotion to the National League

In their first season back at National League level Sutton finished 12th, the highest placed of the promoted clubs, but it was the FA Cup for which the season will be remembered as they made history by reaching the 5th round drawn at home to Premier League giants Arsenal and put up a creditable performance in a 2-0 defeat. The following season the focus turned back to the National League as Sutton achieved their highest ever finishing placing of 3rd. After a 10th placed finish a year later, Paul Doswell announced the end of his eleven year tenure,

Off the pitch U's have also made great strides in recent years, with their work in the local community seeing them win the Business of the Year award in 2013, and after a programme of ground improvements which has seen all four sides of the ground upgraded in the last 30 years, in summer 2015 a 3G pitch was installed at Gander Green Lane and is used by Combined Counties League Sutton Common Rovers, as well as providing an all weather sports facility for the local community.

captured the Isthmian title, and having declined promotion, they repeated the success in 1986 and this time took their place in what was then the GM Vauxhall Conference.

During their first spell in the Conference U's hit the headlines with their FA Cup exploits. In the 1987-88 season they recorded their first win over Football League opposition, beating Aldershot 3-0 and then winning at Peterborough before going out after extra time in a third round replay at Middlesbrough. A year later they again reached the third round and won 2-1 against Coventry. Sutton seemed established as a Conference side but in 1991 they were relegated for the first time in their history.

Although often around the top of the Isthmian League U's could not realise their hopes of an immediate return, and it was in cup football that they enjoyed more success. In 1993 they reached the FA Trophy semi-finals, and another FA Cup run in 1993-94 produced victories over Colchester and Torquay before a narrow defeat at Notts County. The appointment in 1996 of the management team of John and Tony Rains saw a renewed assault on the championship,

WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v SUTTON UNITED

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# SUTTON UNITED - WHO'S WHO?



## 7. DAVID AJIBOYE - FORWARD

Matt Gray's first signing as Sutton manager when he joined at the end of May 2019 having finished the previous season as leading scorer for Worthing, scoring sixteen goals in the Bostik League. An exciting striker or winger whose pace is a threat to any team, he played at Under 23 level for Brighton and Millwall before joining Worthing at the start of the 2018-19 season.

## 2. JON BARDEN - MIDFIELD

Joined the club in February 2019 as a midfielder player, although he capably filled the right back position during the second half of last season. He began his career with the Watford academy but has spent the majority of his career abroad, playing in Iceland, Canada and the USA, most recently with St Louis.

## 10. HARRY BEAUTYMAN - MIDFIELD

Rejoined Sutton in January 2018 from Stevenage, he originally joined U's in summer 2011 after being released by Leyton Orient and won the Supporters' Club Player of the Year award in his first season and earning recognition at England C level. He joined Welling in 2013 and subsequently earned a move into the Football League with Peterborough the following year. He spent the 2016-17 campaign with Northampton before joining Stevenage at the start of the following season. He made a clean sweep of the club player of the year awards last season and inclusion in the National League team of the season

## 1. DEAN BOUZANIS - GOALKEEPER

Goalkeeper signed in the summer having played for Melbourne City in his native Australia for the last four years. After playing junior football in Australia he joined Liverpool and played for their Under 18 and reserve sides, and also had a loan spell with Accrington Stanley before joining Oldham, where he spent two seasons. After a brief spell with Greek club Aris he returned to Australia and his home city club of Western Sydney Wanderers before joining Melbourne City in 2016. He has represented Australia at Under 17, Under 20 and Under 23 level, and also Greece, who he is eligible to play for through his parents, at Under 19 level.

## 19. WAYNE BROWN - MIDFIELD

Midfielder in his third season with the club after returning from a two year stay in Australia where he played for Newcastle Jets. A graduate of the Fulham academy who he represented in the Premier League he has also played for Bristol

Rovers and for Finnish clubs TPS Turku and SJK.

## 9. OMAR BUGIEL - FORWARD

Signed in June 2019 having spent the previous season and a half with Bromley, scoring for them in the FA Trophy final in 2018. Born in Germany he played for 1860 Munich at youth level before joining, Selsey, Burgess Hill and Bognor then Worthing in 2014. His form over the next three seasons earned him a move to Forest Green in 2017. He helped Forest Green to promotion in the National League play-offs and played in the Football League before joining Bromley during the 2018-19 season. His spectacular volley at Woking on Boxing Day was voted the National League Goal of the Season last season. Eligible through his father to play for Lebanon, he has seven caps to his name and one goal.

## 8. KENNY DAVIS - MIDFIELD

In his fourth season with the club, he passed the 100 appearance mark last season. A midfielder who was signed after a season with Boreham Wood, but was previously with Braintree for six seasons, winning the Conference South championship in 2011 and then captaining the Essex side at National League level. Making nearly 200 appearances at Cressing Road, he was also a regular in the England 'C' side

## 14. CRAIG DUNDAS - MIDFIELD

At home in midfield or attack he returned to the playing squad at the start of last season after a spell at Hampton & Richmond. First signed from Carshalton in 2007, having previously played for Dulwich and Croydon. After a season with Hampton he rejoined in 2010 and has since one of only five players in the club's history to have completed the double of 500 appearances and 100 goals. He has won the Club Player of the Year on three occasions as well as the Players' Player of the Year three times and the supporters' award once.

## 15. CRAIG EASTMOND (C) - MIDFIELD

Midfielder who began his career with Arsenal and was part of the side that won the double of the FA Youth Cup and Premier Academy League in 2009. He made four senior appearances before loan spells at Millwall, Wycombe and Colchester, who he then joined on a permanent basis, making over 50 appearances before a brief spell at Yeovil. Signed in September 2015, he won the Player

# WEALDSTONE 2020-21

of the Year and Players' Player of the Year awards in his first season and was in the National League South team of the season. He earned inclusion in the National League team of the 2017-18 season.

## 5. BEN GOODLIFFE - DEFENCE

Centre back signed at the start of last season after being released by Wolverhampton Wanderers, having spent a season on loan at Dagenham & Redbridge. He graduated through the academy at Boreham Wood where his performances earned him a move to Molineux in 2017, and he has captained the English Colleges team. Finished his first season at Sutton being voted Young Player of the Year.

## 13. BRAD HOUSE - GOALKEEPER

Goalkeeper signed in summer 2020 after being released by West Bromwich Albion, where he had spent six years having previously been on Arsenal's books. He is on dual registration with Horsham.

## 6. LOUIS JOHN - DEFENCE

Defender who was a member of the Sutton reserve and youth teams five seasons ago before joining Crawley, from where he returned on loan in January 2014 before signing on a permanent basis at the start of the following season. He went on to make over 100 appearances, winning two England C caps, and then joined Cambridge United in summer 2018. He returned to Sutton in November

## 21. CALLUM KEALY - FORWARD

Australia born striker who joined from Worthing at the end of January. Formerly with Brighton at Under 21 level, he has also played for Metropolitan Police and Lewes

## 18. ADAM LOVATT - MIDFIELD

Signed in early November having been with Hastings United for the previous three seasons. He has also played for Eastbourne Borough.

## 23. JUDE MASON - DEFENCE

Left back who has impressed in the academy side over the last two seasons and signed first team forms in December 2018. Was with Walton Casuals on loan last season and is currently on loan at Merstham.

## 24. ROB MILSOM - DEFENCE

At home in midfield or at left back, he began his career with Fulham and, after loan spells with Brentford, Southend and Finnish club TPS, he moved to Aberdeen where he made over 50 appearances in the Scottish Premier League. He has subsequently played for Rotherham,

Crawley and Notts County, where he made nearly 100 appearances in two spells before joining Sutton last season.

## 25. ISAAC OLAOFE - FORWARD

Striker signed for a second loan spell from Millwall in October. First joined on loan in February, playing five games before the season was ended, and began this season on loan at St Johnstone before returning south.

## 11. WILL RANDALL - MIDFIELD

Winger signed at the start of last season who began his career with Swindon before moving to Wolverhampton Wanderers in January 2016. He subsequently had loan spells with Walsall, Forest Green and Spanish club FC Jumilla before being released midway through the 2018-19 season and spending the last two months of the season with Newport County.

## 12. COBY ROWE - DEFENCE

Tall centre back signed in January from Haringey Borough, who he had helped establish themselves in the Isthmian League since their promotion four seasons ago.

## 17. TOBI SHO-SILVA - STRIKER

Striker signed in August after leaving FC Halifax Town, for whom he scored eight goals in thirty games last season, including their goal in the play-off defeat at Boreham Wood. A Londoner, he began his career as a youth player with Charlton and had loan spells with Welling and Inverness Caledonian Thistle before joining Bromley in 2016, scoring eleven goals for them in the 2016-17 season. He then joined Dover, where he spent two seasons before joining Halifax at the start of last season. He has represented England at Under 18 levels spent much of last season on loan at Ebbsfleet United.

## 26. AARON SIMPSON - DEFENCE

Right back signed at the start of the season having spent last season with Dover. Originally with Maidstone, he joined Wolverhampton Wanderers in 2017 and subsequently had spells with Portsmouth, Telford and Kilmarnock as well as playing in Spain and the Republic of Ireland. He has represented England at Under 18 level.

## 3. BEN WYATT - DEFENCE

Signed early last season having spent the previous campaign at St Albans City, where he was Player of the Year and won the Player of the Month award four times. Originally a youth player with Norwich, featuring in their victorious 2013 FA Youth Cup team, he went on to play for Ipswich, Maldon & Tiptree, Colchester, Concord Rangers and Braintree before joining St Albans.

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# Results 2020-21

OCTOBER				Comp.	Result	Crowd	Lge Pos	Wind Dir/Spd	Sky / Temp	Elev. (Mtrs)	1	2	3	4	5	6
6	Yeovil Town	VNL	2-2	0,000	15	⊙ 11	☁ 11c	87m	IST	EFE	MEN	OKI	PHI	WAK	BEN	
10	Dagenham & Redbridge	VNL	0-1	0,000	19	⊙ 8	☁ 20c	10m	IST	EFE	MEN	WAK	PHI	PHI	OKI	
13	STOCKPORT COUNTY	VNL	2-5	0,000	23	⊙ 11	☁ 10c	41m	IST	EFE	MEN	SMI	PHI	PHI	OKI	
17	WREXHAM	VNL	4-3	0,000	18	⊙ 4	☁ 12c	41m	IST	EFE	MEN	PHI	OKI	OKI	BEN	
20	CHESTERFIELD	VNL	3-2	0,000	9	⊙ 7	☁ 15c	41m	IST	EFE	MEN	SMI	OKI	OKI	WAK	
24	HAYES & YEADING UTD	FAC40	0-2	0,000	9	⊙ 17	☁ 15c	41m	GSM	EFE	MEN	SMI	OKI	OKI	WAK	
27	King's Lynn Town	VNL	3-2	0,000	6	⊙ 10	☁ 8c	12m	IST	EFE	MEN	SMI	OKI	OKI	WAK	
<b>NOVEMBER</b>																
7	ALTRINCHAM	VNL	1-0	0,000	3	⊙ 4	☁ 20c	41m	IST	EFE	MEN	CAW	OKI	PHI	PHI	OKI
10	FC Halifax Town	VNL	1-0	0,000	2	⊙ 7	☁ 11c	190m	IST	EFE	MEN	PHI	CAW	CAW	OKI	
17	Eastleigh	VNL	0-2	0,000	3	- 0	13c	12m	IST	EFE	MEN	CAW	PHI	PHI	OKI	
21	SUTTON UNITED	VNL														
27	Notts County	VNL														
<b>DECEMBER</b>																
1	TORQUAY UNITED	VNL														
5	Barnet	VNL														
12	WEYMOUTH	VNL														
15	DOVER ATHLETIC	VNL														
19	To Be Announced	FAT3R														
26	Maidenhead United	VNL														
28	BOREHAM WOOD	VNL														
<b>JANUARY</b>																
2	MAIDENHEAD UNITED	VNL														
9	Hartlepool United	VNL														
23	ALDERSHOT TOWN	VNL														
26	Altrincham	VNL														
30	Solihull Moors	VNL														
<b>FEBRUARY</b>																
6	WOKING	VNL														
9	Torquay United	VNL														
13	BROMLEY	VNL														
20	Sutton United	VNL														
23	EASTLEIGH	VNL														
27	Wrexham	VNL														
<b>MARCH</b>																
6	FC HALIFAX TOWN	VNL														
9	KING'S LYNN TOWN	VNL														
13	Dover Athletic	VNL														
20	Weymouth	VNL														
27	NOTTS COUNTY	VNL														
<b>APRIL</b>																
2	Bromley	VNL														
5	BARNET	VNL														
10	Boreham Wood	VNL														
17	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	VNL														
24	Aldershot Town	VNL														
<b>MAY</b>																
1	YEOVIL TOWN	VNL														
3	Stockport County	VNL														
8	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	VNL														
15	Chesterfield	VNL														
22	SOLIHULL MOORS	VNL														
29	Woking	VNL														



## 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
29th August	Colchester United	H	L	1-2	Emmanuel
1st September	Northwood	A	W	6-0	Lafayette, Parish 3, Charles, Trialist N

# WEALDSTONE 2020-21

	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17/GK
	SMI 70 BEN 66 WAK SMI BEN BEN 55 PAR 64 5 56 73	WAK SMI 51 BEN 69 WAK 14 CAW CAW DYE 90 Y 9	EMM 73 25 EMM 70 LAF 60 47 DYE 50 57 DYE 47 DYE LAF 73 Y	GRE GRE DYE 81 LAF 70 EMM 70 13 15 EMM 70 GRE	LEW LEW 84 SLE 71 89 LEW 45 LEW 66 LEW Y	CAW DYE 83 EMM CAW GAF GAF SMI	LAF 73 STE CAW 90 CHA 46 GRE 90 GRE BEN 93	PAR 70 SLE 85 PAR 81 EMM 70 LAF 76 LAF 60 EMM 79	SLE 57 PAR CHA 69 GRE 66 PAR PAR 70 SLE	CHA LAF 70 GRE SLE SLE 57 SLE 55 WIS 84
	PAR SMI SMI	DYE 65 23 DYE 91 PAR 84	EMM 86 67 SLE 70 EMM 72	GRE 88 LAF GRE 83	LEW LEW LEW 83	GSM SMI ASK	SMI 65 WIS BEN 83	LAF 59 PAR 70 85 CHA	STE EMM 60 LAF 72	WIS 89 GRE 85 44 SLE 83 44



## KEY TO SYMBOLS

Where possible, the time of each event is contained within the symbol. (Yes, they are a bit small. It's a work in progress.)

- 22 = First substitution
- 22 = Second substitution
- 22 = Third substitution
- 23 = Caution
- 67 = Sending off
- 67 = Straight Red
- 35 = Goal
- 88 = Penalty

Match date in red = Midweek kick-off)

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

## KEY TO PLAYER IDS

Squad No.	Player ID	Player Name
01	IST	Harry Isted
02	EFE	Michee Efete
03	GAF	Adel Gafaifi
04	CHA	Ashley Charles
05	STE	Connor Stevens
06	OKI	Jerome Okimo
07	PHI	Michael Phillips
08	SMI	Connor Smith
09	LAF	Ross Lafayette
10	GRE	Danny Green
11	LEW	Dennon Lewis
12	HUG	Charlee Hughes
13	WIS	Dan Wishart
14	PAR	Danny Parish
15	BEN	Kundai Benyu
17	MEN	Jacob Mendy Mendy
18	DYE	Alex Dyer
19	EMM	Moses Emmanuel
20	SLE	Jerome Slew
21	EVE	Lewis Everett
23	WAK	Charlie Wakefield
34	CAW	Jack Cawley
22	GSM	Grant Smith
25	ASK	Jake Askev

Above: Action from our 0-2 midweek defeat at Eastleigh. Pictures courtesy of Adam Williams

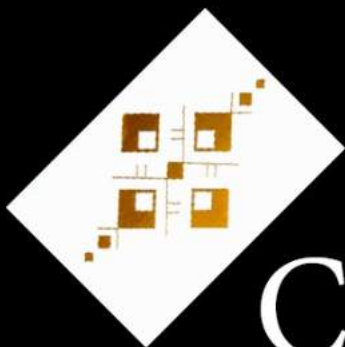
## PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY RESULTS

5th September	Dartford	H	L	1-2	Efete
8th September	Hayes & Yeading	A	W	5-2	Trialist 0, Parish, Hughes, Emmanuel, Lafayette
12th September	Havant & 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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MATCH	SPONSORS		
 <b>STOCKPORT COUNTY</b> Tuesday, 13th October Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East		
 <b>WREXHAM</b> Saturday, 17th October Vanarama National League	Union Athletic		
 <b>CHESTERFIELD</b> Tuesday, 20th October Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows		
 <b>HAYES &amp; YEADING UTD</b> Saturday, 24th October FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 <b>ALTRINCHAM</b> Saturday, 7th November Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 <b>DOVER ATHLETIC</b> Saturday, 14th November Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East		
 <b>SUTTON UNITED</b> Saturday, 21st November Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Harrow Windows	Your Name Here?
 <b>TORQUAY UNITED</b> Tuesday, 1st December Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 <b>WEYMOUTH</b> Saturday, 12th December Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 <b>BOREHAM WOOD</b> Monday, 28th December Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 <b>MAIDENHEAD UNITED</b> Saturday, 2nd January Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 <b>ALDERSHOT TOWN</b> Saturday, 23rd January Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?

# WEALDSTONE 2020-21

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

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*\*All above subject to current COVID restrictions.*

MATCH	SPONSORS		
 <b>WOKING</b> Saturday, 6th February Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 <b>BROMLEY</b> Saturday, 13th February Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 <b>EASTLEIGH</b> Tuesday, 23rd February Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 <b>FC HALIFAX TOWN</b> Saturday, 6th March Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	(Reserved)
 <b>KING'S LYNN TOWN</b> Tuesday, 9th March Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 <b>NOTTS COUNTY</b> Saturday, 27th March Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Harrow Windows	Rolfe-East
 <b>BARNET</b> Monday, 5th April Vanarama National League	Connect Vending	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 <b>HARTLEPOOL UNITED</b> Saturday, 17th April Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 <b>YEOVIL TOWN</b> Saturday, 1st May Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 <b>DAGENHAM &amp; REDBRIDGE</b> Saturday, 8th May Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?		
 <b>SOLIHULL MOORS</b> Saturday, 22nd May Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?		

TO SPONSOR ONE OF OUR MATCHES THIS SEASON CONTACT PAUL RUMENS: [paulrumens59@gmail.com](mailto:paulrumens59@gmail.com)



# Appearances

**2020/2021 FIRST TEAM, up to & inc. @ 10/11/2020**

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

	NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH			FA CUP			FA TROPHY			MIDDX SENIOR CUP			MIDDX CHARITY CUP			TOTALS			WFC CAREER		
	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G
Benyu, Kundai	5	1		1											6	1		6	1		
Cawley, Jack	4	2													4	2		4	2		
Charles, Ashley		1													1			14	9		
Dyer, Alex	6	1	1	1											7	1	1	124	12	33	
Efete, Michee	8		1	1											9		1	46	1	9	
Emmanuel, Moses	4	3	4	1											5	3	4	14	3	8	
Green, Danny	4	3													4	3		174	24	38	
Isted, Harry	8														8			20			
Lafayette, Ross	4	4	1		1										4	5	1	39	21	19	
Lewis, Dennon	7			1											8			45	2	12	
Mendy, Jacob	8		2	1											9		2	36	10	11	
Okimo, Jerome	8			1											9			192	5	7	
Parish, Danny	2	3	4		1										2	4	4	2	4	4	
Phillips, Michael	7		1												7		1	44	2	5	
Slew, Jerome	2	3	1		1										2	4	1	3	6	3	
Smith, Connor	6	1		1											7	1		48	19	5	
Stevens, Connor				1											1			80		8	
Smith, Grant				1											1			1			
Wakefield, Charlie	5		1	1											6		1	6		1	
Wishart, Dan		2													2					2	





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## Here it is! The match report of my very first Stones game.. which coincidentally was v Sutton United in '69

It's the cutting I've been looking for! Childhood recall of my first trip to Lower Mead, the baying and belligerence of the crowd, the awful finishing of John Connell and the play-acting of a star-studded Sutton side that didn't have to do it... were they all distorted memories? Well, as it turns out, they weren't. Leslie Jones' idiosyncratic match report (right) is hopelessly skewed in favour of the home side and I remember reading this very account of the game and feeling cheated. To be honest, the apparent bias of the referee passed me by, but the profligacy of our new striker Connell - and the moment he rounded Sutton keeper Bill Roffey, looked up at the empty net and then waited for the gloveman to disposses him - had this 12-year-old angry and puzzled.

But I still couldn't wait for the next game to come round!

**CONTINUED OVERPAGE**

Page 22

## OBSERVERSPORT

# TUPPENCE FOR THE REF.



**JOHN CONNELL**

Back at Wealdstone

**WEALDSTONE 0, SUTTON UTD. (1) 1**

Attendance: 1,563

**TWO MINUTES** from the end of a match he had wrecked, referee Coghlan, appropriately from Kent, complained to Wealdstone officials that he had been hit by a missile.

He produced it, a penny, and another was later found on the pitch, thrown, apparently, by fans behind the Elmslie Stand and Wealdstone broadcast an appeal to their supporters to cease. Yet the dissident fans had reason on their side. Mr. Coghlan was the prime cause in denying two good sides the chance to play football, whistling at will, waving, wobbling on decisions and generally giving England team manager Charles Hughes and what looked like the entire Middlesex F.A. hierarchy a wasted afternoon.

In the process he booked international Mick Mellows for a charge on home 'keeper Andy Williams after 38 minutes, then, on the hour, added Denny Monague's name for a barge in front of the stands on Tim Waughman that was almost

polite and then wound up by putting Keith Searle in the black book for a foul on Rick Brooks.

### DISASTER

Right from the start, aft John Connell had blasted was twice in 90 seconds, the team realised that it was going to be fussy. The home side showed the better spirit as Montagu Connell and then Bernie Brer were all wide.

Dave Swain nodded over after Gordon Sedgley had cleared away on 20 minutes but it next time he touched the ball was a home disaster.

He missed a tackle on Waughman on the edge of the Sutton area and fell, handling the ball instinctively as he dropped.

Mr. Coghlan gave a free-kick to Sutton and England skipper Ted Powell, back again from the broken leg that denied him place in the Amateur Cup final, tapped the ball sideways.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wychome W	5	4	1	0	13	4	9
Woking	5	4	0	1	11	3	8
Sutton United	5	4	0	1	17	8	7
Hendon	5	3	1	1	16	4	8
Oxford City	5	3	1	1	5	4	7
Leytonstone	5	3	1	1	14	7	7
Wealdstone	5	2	2	1	12	5	6
Tooting	5	2	2	1	10	8	6
Enfield	5	2	2	1	4	3	6
Barking	5	2	2	1	13	6	5
St. Albans	5	2	2	1	2	8	6
Hatchon Town	5	2	2	1	1	12	8
Clapton	5	2	2	1	8	12	5
Wiston Avenue	5	1	2	2	5	11	4
Ilford	5	1	2	2	4	8	4
Kingstonian	5	1	1	3	9	10	1
Mashmore United	5	1	1	3	4	8	3
Dulwich Hamlet	5	0	2	3	3	9	2
Bromley	5	0	0	5	2	9	0
Cor. Casuals	5	0	0	5	2	18	0





## Dave Swain heads goalwards in the first half against Sutton at Lower Mead on Saturday

Trevor Bladon hammered it low towards goal with Williams watching but the shot hit poor Montague and skidded away into the far corner of the net with the 'keeper helpless.

One would have hoped that a meticulous referee would have noted John Faulkner pushing Searle off the ball in the Sutton area just three minutes later but he didn't, noting instead a nasty clash between Mellows and Williams on 26 minutes.

He paid little attention to Swain being elbowed off the ball on the byeline and the nearest Wealdstone got to a goal was a neat Bremer header from a Dave Bullock pass.

Williams saved from Peter Drabwell but had to dive at Mellows' feet after Dave Bullock had brought down Bladon.

Mellows, booked shortly afterwards, charged into Sedgley's back without penalty and an effort from John Draper on the right was neatly covered and cleared by Powell.

Howard Moxon had so far

played little part but Draper did his best to compensate with another effort that again Powell got away, this time off his knee.

Searle was sent off by Mr. Coghlan five minutes into the second session to have his studs looked at. In the three minutes he was off the pitch, Micky Doyle got into desperate trouble on his own line and Williams had to pull off a great save from Sutton's Dave Leonard on the goal-line.

On 54 minutes Connell made a terrible mess of a simple chance. He beat Dave Roffey on the right of his goal and just stayed there while the 'keeper 'dived' down to recover the ball. He held his head in worthy woe.

Montague's second booking of the season followed for a back charge on Waughman that was harmless and Searle followed into the book ten minutes later with Bremer. Wealdstone's only effective forward, allowed to be injured in midfield for two minutes while Mr. Coghlan sorted things out.

Bremer, his muscle pulled again, was helped off and John Hutchinson arrived to get

things going.

What he got going was another Connell move that ended in a replica of the first, Roffey again being allowed to grab the ball after missing first time.

Mellows, though, came back with a fine drive that Williams pushed over and then so did Wealdstone with a sweet move, Doyle-Montague and then Connell moving the ball right through midfield for Draper to hit wide of the far post.

Waughman survived a Montague tackle, swerved and hit hard for a shot that Williams saved on his line.

Wealdstone, hopes fading or faded, wasted the final minutes lobbing high balls into the middle for the minute Connell but Sutton, with Garfield now on for Mellows, had one worrying moment, a Swain centre pushed over by Roffey.

As it stands, this side doesn't blend so back to the coaching board, I feel.

**Wealdstone:** A. Williams, Sedgley, Doyle, Moxon, Bullock, Draper, Bremer, Connell, Searle, Montague.  
**Sutton:** Lidd, Roffey, Brooks, Clark, Powell, Faulkner, L. Grad, Bladon, Waughman, Leonard, Drabwell, Mellows, Sub. Garfield.



John Draper rises above Sutton's Dennis Clarke to head this one away with Swain watching

## WE'VE MET BEFORE: SUTTON UTD

# 37 years ago: The Cordices are rampant as Stones sink the Ambers

**F**or long-term Stones fans, remembering all those Isthmian League clashes from the 1960s, we've faced Sutton United so many times over the years it's almost impossible to know where to start. But I'm going to choose this FA Cup Final Qualifying round clash as my favourite. I know our newer, or younger fans won't remember it - it was so long ago that Stuart Pearce was playing! (sorry Stuart)..

**Saturday October 30 1983, FA Cup 4th Qual Rd: Wealdstone 3 Sutton Utd 1**

At the time, the Stones appearing in the FA Cup First Round was no big thing. This was the sixth time we'd made it in the previous eight years and this game before a 1,200 crowd at Lower Mead was almost a routine victory.

Wealdstone had made a flying start to the season, back in the Alliance Premier (National League) after winning the Southern League the previous year, and were in fact unbeaten with seven wins and four draws from the opening 11 games.

Yet Sutton's 1981-82 season was perhaps even better - they had finished runners-up in the Isthmian Premier Division on the back of reaching the FA Trophy final in 1981, losing to fellow Isthmians Bishops Stortford. That Wembley trip had earned the Ambers exemption to the First Round proper where coincidentally they were

# 'Stones kept alive

### FA Cup special

Wealdstone 3,  
Sutton United 1

DREAMS of causing a sensation in the FA Cup are just one step nearer to reality for 'Stones after Saturday's win against Sutton.

Following the clinical dismissal of the U's, Wealdstone were paired against fourth division Swindon Town in Monday's first round draw, the game to be played at the County Ground on November 20.

'Stones progressed thanks largely to a sharp first half performance. Then, without ever showing the sparkle they are capable of, 'Stones did not allow the clearly talented Isthmian side a scoring chance.

And for their part Wealdstone conjured up two goals which, differing as they were proved typical of this season's Alliance campaign, coming as they did via the well worked set pieces and Alan Cordice's individual magic.

The first, came after just five minutes. From Davies corner on the right, the ball got a help on for Graves to dive in and head firmly home from close range.

Sutton had a let off after 'Stones had scored when Lee Batt's slip let in an unmarked Neil Cordice, but he miskicked from 12 yards. And, as 'Stones came forward thick and fast, a tremendous run by Alan Cordice ended with a well hit low cross that was well gathered by Collyer.

But there was not stopping Cordice on the half hour.

Davies won the ball in midfield, releasing Cordice one more time, and despite being under pressure from two defenders, and the on-rushing keeper to narrow the angle, he found the gap and fired superbly into the far corner.

The first half finished with brother Neil firing one in from 30 yards that Collyer was well positioned to take, but if half time thoughts were of 'Stones stamping even greater authority on proceedings, they couldn't have been more wrong.

For Sutton came out looking a lot more positive and as the midfield at last began to reap some reward, Joyce and Sparks both fired over when in with chances.

And five minutes into the second half Sutton pulled one back as Tony Rains

crossed for captain John Rains to fire past Goddard from 12 yards.

However there was no panicking from 'Stones, and although Sutton never stopped trying they could never match the all round strength of the Alliance side.

Only the superb reflex of Collyer prevented Graves from scoring with another header from a Davies corner, and, as Cordice showed little signs of stopping, Mark Golly was booked for his tackle on the quicksilver striker - so joining teammate Batt who had his name taken for dissent earlier.

But it wasn't until the 84th minute that 'Stones made absolutely sure of a place in the first round.

Fred Barwick worked himself some space on the far side and his destructive through ball found Neil Cordice who all alone, gave Collyer no chance from close range.

Wealdstone: Goddard, Perkins, Pearce, Byatt, Bowgett, Barwick, Davies, Waites, Cordice A, Graves, Cordice N. Sub not used, Knowles.

drawn against Stortford again! Sutton won that tie after a replay but were beaten 3-2 at Fourth Division Swindon Town in the Second Round.

That cup run also won them exemption to

FA CUP  
1983

There's a whole world of memorabilia in the **Stones Megastore**, by the halfway line, clubhouse side

## Keep the dream

Report: Ron Smithson  
Picture: Steve Burton

5/11/82



The ref's right there as Mark Graves (10) dives to head home 'Stones first goal against Sutton

### 'Tough' says Allen

WEALDSTONE manager Allen Batsford, fresh from hearing the news of his "Mackenzie's manager of the month" award in the Alliance, faced up realistically to the news of 'Stones first round draw in the FA Cup. "It's a tough one. Obviously we are disappointed because we are looking to get through to the next round," said Batsford on 'Stone's away draw against in-form fourth division side Swindon Town. He added: "It's an interesting draw and one which will be hard. It's a bit of a blow but that's the way it goes in the FA Cup." But Batsford says: "I think we are capable of getting something there." League cup winners in the 1968-69 season with a famous win over Arsenal, Swindon had conceded just one goal at home this season before Tuesday night's 4-2 win against Tranmere

this final qualifying round at Lower Mead, while the Stones had played through three qualifiers against Hertford (won 5-0), Hendon (3-2 after a replay) and Dulwich (2-1 after a replay).

So Sutton were clearly talented. On the day, however, they were sunk by Allen Batsford's side's sheer buoyant confidence and enthusiasm.

All of us who were regulars in the 1980s will remember the momentum that followed on from the all-conquering Southern League season. With the Cordice brothers unstoppable and the defence seemingly impregnable, it was actually a surprise when we came unstuck at Swindon (coincidence again) in the First Round just a few weeks later.

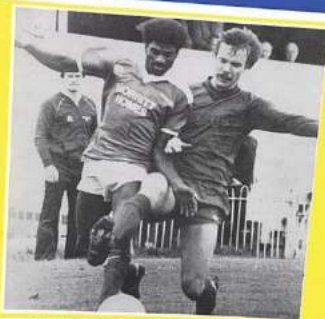
The Robins had just been relegated from Div Three (today's

CONTINUED OVERPAGE...

SEASON 82-83  
OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB




## WEALDSTONE F. C.



**v SUTTON UNITED 30p**  
F.A. CUP 4th QUALIFYING ROUND  
SATURDAY 30 OCTOBER

## WE'VE MET BEFORE: SUTTON UTD

League One) but were aiming for an instant return with Paul Rideout (who went on to star for Everton) their danger man. He scored the decisive second goal in our 2-0 defeat and couldn't resist rubbing it in against the part-timers.

Stuart Pearce enjoys relating s story about how Rideout goaded him after the game saying: 'You can go back to your painting and decorating now son'.... but that Pearce got his own back a few years

later when he was an established England international at Nottingham Forest and Rideout scrabbling around for a new contract.

"I'm sure you'll get a game in non-League, son" Stuart told him as he dumped the Everton player on his backside on the way to a handsome Forest victory. "I didn't know whether he recognised me, and I didn't care. That was a very sweet moment".

## 2010: A seven-goal heartbreaker

**Saturday November 27, 2010, Ryman League Premier Division: Sutton Utd 4, Wealdstone 3**

**S**TONES were praised as the 'best attacking team to visit Gander Green Lane' by home boss Paul Doswell as they were beaten in heart-breaking fashion this November afternoon ten years ago.

Leading 2-0 after half an hour (both scored by the then-young Alex Dyer) and then 3-1 just after the break it seemed we would inflict defeat on the runaway leaders... then Richard Jolly came on as sub for Sutton and his very presence caused the game to turn on a calamitous own goal by James Hammond.

Sutton scented blood, now just 3-2 behind, and devastated the

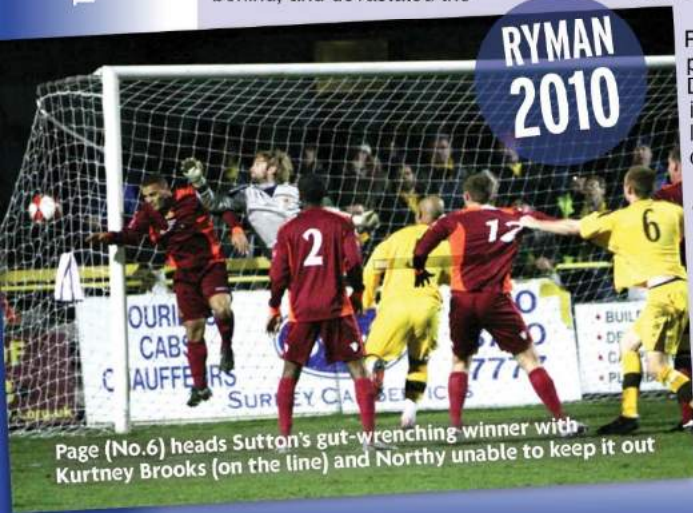
visitors by netting twice in the last two minutes to grab all three points.

It's painful remembering it even now! This was an impressive performance from the Stones, though, with Dyer, Keiron Forbes and Danny Spendlove - playing behind sole striker Peter Dean - baffling Sutton with their incive passing and movement. Dyer struck twice in six minutes but Sutton pulled one back just before the break when Orilonishe chipped in a cross from the left and Andy Forbes managed to direct a superb header which found the top corner of the net.

We feared for a Sutton onslaught at the start of the second half but Spendlove ran superbly from halfway and unleashed a shot which crashed in to the net, with just three minutes gone.

Sutton's response was to bring on Richard Jolly and Tom Kavanagh, and push Woods-Garness alongside Dundas and Jolly in a front three. But it was the Stones who looked as likely to extend their lead... until a dreadful misunderstanding between Hammond and North saw James attempt to turn a hopeful chip from Dundas back to his keeper - only to wrongfoot him and see the ball end up in the back of the net.

There was still half an hour to go but Sutton were going nowhere until Us pushed Downer into the forward line - possibly mindful that against Wealdstone two seasons ago a similar move saw him win a penalty



Page (No.6) heads Sutton's gut-wrenching winner with Kurtney Brooks (on the line) and Northy unable to keep it out

**SUTTON UNITED FC**  
SEASON 2010/2011 OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

**WEALDSTONE 2020-21**

# The day it ended Dave Bromley 2, Dave Bromley 2!

**M**y pal Mick Fishman has a much happier memory of a Wealdstone-Sutton game, though... the Isthmian League one at Lower Mead in which Stones defender Dave Bromley scored all four goals in a 2-2 draw!

ISTHMIAN  
(ALSO)  
1969

Mick writes: The match in question took place on Tuesday 4th March 1969 (only yesterday really). The previous Saturday we had been cruelly knocked out of the Amateur Cup by North Shields in an incident-filled match.

So the Sutton game was eagerly anticipated... and memorable! From memory all four goals were scored in the second half. Sutton took the lead when a speculative shot was being covered by Andy Williams until **Dave Bromley** (right) lunged in and deflected the ball into the top corner of the net leaving Williams helpless.

We equalised when centre-back **Bromley** bundled in a corner at the Cinema End. But then **Mr Bromley** presented Sutton with the lead with an identikit goal to his first. Our equaliser came when a corner was swung over and a crazed **Bromley** bundled the ball, goalkeeper, referee and a stray pigeon into the net. That's my recollection of it and you know I'm a never given to exaggeration. One of my very favourite matches.

The teams in the prog that day were: **Wealdstone:** Andy Williams, Charlie Townsend, Dave Leonard, Dave Bromley, Tony McGuiness, Dennis Montague, John Lavin, Hugh Lindsay, Dave Swain, Keith Searle, John Hutchinson, sub Colin Franks. **Sutton:** Derek Roffey, Glyn Garfield, Ken Grosse, Rod Brookes, Dennis Clarke, Dario gradi, Trevor Bladen, Alan Gane, Peter Drabwell, Larry Pritchard, Terry Howard.



## The Sutton programme with a prophetic picture of Richard Jolly on the cover

that effected a 3-2 win after again trailing 2-1. The immediate effect though was to leave gaps at the back and Spendlove should have ended the contest when he burst through on the left but sent his chip over the stranded Scriven but also wide of the post. With a minute to go, though, Us' increasing pressure won a corner and a Dundas header came back off the post, only for Downer to bundle the ball over the line. The home crowd were happy then, but absolutely delirious 60 seconds later when a right-wing corner was met by Page with a thumping header.

**Wealdstone: North, Hammond, Chappell, Parker, Massey, Dyer, Dean, Cronin (sub B Gill 69), Brooks, Forbes, Spendlove. Subs n/u S Leggett, L Lavers, R York, M Carter. Booked: Dean, 82 mins.**

●Footnote: The game had a happy ending for the Stones as Sutton were happy to loan Jolls to us for a month at the end of that season... and his ten goals in just five games saw us finish just short of the play-offs. Then, of course, we snapped up the prolific goalscorer when Sutton bizarrely released him at the end of the season, and his predatory instincts arguably turned us into the club we are today.





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BY STEVE DUCKER



# 50-year flashback

Marking the 50th anniversary of our step up to professionalism in 2021, we're 'live blogging' our final season as an amateur club using one programme from each of the 92 professional Football League clubs playing in 1970/71. Here are the programmes for matches 25 to 28.

Saturday 3 October, 3.15pm, Division 1

**Coventry City 3** (Ernie Hunt 2, Neil Martin)

**Everton 1** (John Hurst)

Ref T Dawes, Norwich | Att 28,563

**Summary:** One of the most iconic goals of the decade lights up the game as Everton's faltering title defence takes another backward step.

**Programme highlight:** Four pages of seriously good action photography from the previous game at Newcastle, ① plus attendance figures for Central League (reserve) games for the Stattons. ②

**Programme lowlight:** Charging twice as much for it as any other team in the league has to be right up there.

**Programme bingo:** Not applicable. Coventry's "match day magazine" was so different from standard early 1970s issues that practically every page was unique. ③ ④

**Ahead of their time:** Coventry midfielder Willie Carr. His "donkey kick" free kick move that produced one of the Sky Blues' goals (he stood with the ball between both feet then flicked it up behind himself for Ernie Hunt to volley in) was so far removed from the British professional game of that time that it was subsequently banned.

**Any other business:** The previous season, Coventry finished sixth in the first division, the highest placing in their history. They then failed to finish in the top six of any division until winning promotion from the fourth tier via the play offs in 2018.

**Stones** A 2-2 draw away at Leytonstone.



Saturday 10 October, 3pm, Division 4

**Exeter City 1** (John Mitten, pen)

**Hartlepool United 1** (Tony Bircumshaw)

Ref R Sheppard, Dunstable | Att 4,590

**Summary:** Hartlepool's long journey north east to south west provides valuable tactical planing time as they grind out a rare point on the road.

**Programme highlight:** The front cover photo of City striker Joe Gadston executing a perfect diving header against Notts County. ⑤

**Programme lowlight:** Waiting until the inside back cover to tell us that Gadston's header hadn't actually gone in and Exeter had lost the match 1-0.

**Programme bingo:** Exeter observing the tradition of lower division sides continuing to print the dates of the League Cup and FA Cup rounds for the whole season, even though they had already gone out of one and didn't have a snowball's chance in hell of reaching the final of the other.

**Ahead of their time:** By allowing St Luke's College to stage their home games at St James' Park, Exeter provided a rare example of groundsharing when it had still to become commonplace.

**Any other business:** This was one of only four out of 23 away games where Hartlepool avoided defeat (two wins, two draws). Bircumshaw's goal was also one of only six scored on the road all season. Despite the travel sickness, they avoided bottom place by six points.

**Stones** A 1-1 draw at Leighton Town in the FA Cup 2nd qualifying round in front of 615.



⑤



⑥



⑦

Friday 16 October, 7.30pm, Division 3

## Tranmere Rovers 1 (Malcolm Moore) Plymouth Argyle 0

Ref D Corbett, Wolverhampton | Att 4,190

**Summary:** League's draw specialists avoid a stalemate under the Prenton Park lights. ⑥

**Programme highlight:** The Editorial Comment page bemoaning the recent away defeat at local rivals Wrexham displays all the rawness of an open wound.

**Programme lowlight:** Not a single football related photograph anywhere from one end to the other.

**Programme bingo:** The advert for the Liverpool Echo recalls a time when clubs at all levels of the game worked closely with their local newspapers.

**Ahead of their time:** Both teams. By drawing 41 games out of 92 between them that season (a new record 22 by Tranmere and 19 for Argyle), they gave the Football League a huge helping hand in its decision to introduce three points for a win a decade later.

**Any other business:** With floodlights having become commonplace by the 1960s, many teams had experimented with Friday night games. Tranmere, who had Liverpool and Everton on their doorstep, embraced the new concept more fervently than most - of their 17 weekend home games this season, 16 were moved to Friday evenings. The exception was the game against Preston on 26 December. With a Saturday Boxing Day that year, bringing it forward wouldn't really have worked...

Saturday 17 October, 3.15pm, Division 4

## Chester 1 (Alan Tarbuck) Brentford 2 (Alex Dawson, Roger Cross)

Ref B Hutchinson, Leeds | Att 5,834

**Summary:** Struggling Brentford score a coupon busting win away to table topping Chester to avenge a home defeat two months earlier.

**Programme highlight:** Lovely positive tone to Ken Roberts' manager's notes as the home side bask in the limelight at the top of Division Four.

**Programme lowlight:** The winning programme numbers competition. First prize - two tickets to watch Chester, second prize two tickets to see "Do you want to remain a virgin forever?" at the Odeon Theatre. Hmm, tough choice...

**Programme bingo:** The seasons gone by feature - in this case Chester in the third division (north) in 1947-48 - was popular with a number of clubs around this time.

**Ahead of their time:** The programme cover designer, who anticipated the trend for word puzzles by some years, but unfortunately forgot to add the rest of the letters, making the word 'CHESTER' far too easy to spot. ⑦

**Any other business:** Brentford scorer Dawson, on loan from Brighton, had been one of the Manchester United reserves pitched into the club's first fixture after the Munich air disaster.

**Stones** Continuing our poor form, we lose 0-2 in the Isthmian League at - er - Sutton United.

Next time: Barrow, Luton, Chesterfield and Derby

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 <b>CHESTERFIELD</b> Tuesday, 20th October Vanarama National League	Thordor Training		
 <b>HAYES &amp; YEADING UTD</b> Saturday, 24th October FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round	Mike and Val Weston		
 <b>ALTRINCHAM</b> Saturday, 7th November Vanarama National League	Wealdstone Rifles		
 <b>DOVER ATHLETIC</b> Saturday, 14th November Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?		
 <b>SUTTON UNITED</b> Saturday, 21st November Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 <b>TORQUAY UNITED</b> Tuesday, 1st December Vanarama National League	Alan Couch	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 <b>WEYMOUTH</b> Saturday, 12th December Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 <b>BOREHAM WOOD</b> Monday, 28th December Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 <b>MAIDENHEAD UNITED</b> Saturday, 2nd January Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 <b>ALDERSHOT TOWN</b> Saturday, 23rd January Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 <b>WOKING</b> Saturday, 6th February Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?

# WEALDSTONE 2020-21

- 1 2 x Match-day programmes
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MATCH		SPONSORS		
	<b>EASTLEIGH</b> Tuesday, 23rd February Vanarama National League	<b>James &amp; Victor Klarfeld</b>	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
	<b>FC HALIFAX TOWN</b> Saturday, 6th March Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
	<b>KING'S LYNN TOWN</b> Tuesday, 9th March Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
	<b>NOTTS COUNTY</b> Saturday, 27th March Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
	<b>BARNET</b> Monday, 5th April Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
	<b>BROMLEY</b> Saturday, 13th February Vanarama National League	<b>Alan Couch</b>	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
	<b>HARTLEPOOL UNITED</b> Saturday, 17th April Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
	<b>YEOVIL TOWN</b> Saturday, 1st May Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
	<b>DAGENHAM &amp; REDBRIDGE</b> Saturday, 8th May Vanarama National League	<b>'In memory of fans no longer with us' Ron Moore, Tony, Steve &amp; Peter Drew and David Edwards</b>		
	<b>SOLIHULL MOORS</b> Saturday, 22nd May Vanarama National League	<b>In memory of Roy Couch</b>	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?



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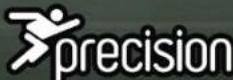
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**HUG**  
12  
17.05.1996  
C  
England  
**CHARLEE HUGHES**  
ROB WELLS

**MEN**  
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27-12.1996  
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England  
**JACOB MENDY MENDY**  
PAUL COOMBS

**CAW**  
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19.09.92.1992  
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England  
**JACK CAWLEY**  
NATHAN AND DOUG FENNER

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11.06.90.1990  
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England  
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**SLE**  
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**JEROME SLEW**  
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**JEROME OKIMO**  
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**MICHAEL PHILLIPS**  
MIKE AND VAL WESTON

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**CONNOR SMITH**  
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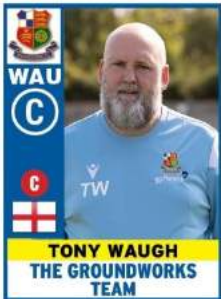


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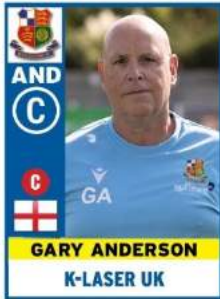
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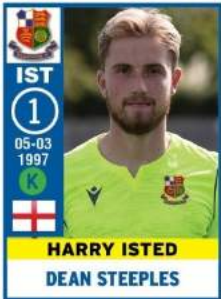
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DEAN STEEPLES



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**EFE**  
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**MICHEE EFETE**  
WEALDSTONE FC ACADEMY



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**MICHEE EFETE**  
GRAHAM JONES



**GAF**  
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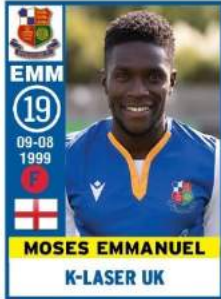
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**DANNY PARISH**  
JAMES KLARFELD



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**ROSS LAFAYETTE**  
STEVE ROBINSON



**LAF**  
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**ROSS LAFAYETTE**  
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**MOSES EMMANUEL**  
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**LEW**  
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FIXTURES LATEST: www.wealdstone-fc.com

## Vanarama National League 2020/2021 – as at Tuesday 18/11/2020

Opposition	All					Home					Away					+/-	Pts	Results
	P	W	D	L	F A	P	W	D	L	F A	P	W	D	L	F A			
1 Torquay United	8	6	1	1	18 6	4	3	1	0	6 2	4	3	0	1	12 4	12	19	
2 Sutton United	7	5	1	1	14 5	4	2	1	1	9 3	3	3	0	0	5 2	9	16	
3 Wealdstone	9	5	1	3	16 17	4	3	0	1	10 10	5	2	1	2	6 7	-1	16	-- --
4 Maidenhead United	9	5	1	3	13 15	4	2	0	2	7 9	5	3	1	1	6 6	-2	16	
5 Eastleigh	7	4	2	1	16 9	4	2	2	0	7 4	3	2	0	1	9 5	7	14	0-2
6 Woking	9	4	2	3	13 11	4	2	2	0	5 2	5	2	0	3	8 9	2	14	
7 Stockport County	7	4	1	2	13 7	4	2	1	1	6 3	3	2	0	1	7 4	6	13	2-5
8 Solihull Moors	7	4	1	2	11 5	3	3	0	0	7 0	4	1	1	2	4 5	6	13	
9 Bromley	7	3	2	2	13 9	5	2	1	2	10 8	2	1	1	0	3 1	4	11	
10 Aldershot Town	8	3	2	3	13 11	4	1	1	2	3 6	4	2	1	1	10 5	2	11	
11 Hartlepool United	7	3	2	2	9 9	5	1	2	2	3 8	2	2	0	0	6 1	0	11	
12 Notts County	7	3	1	3	11 9	3	2	0	1	9 6	4	1	1	2	2 3	2	10	
13 Wrexham	7	3	1	3	7 7	3	1	1	1	2 2	4	2	0	2	5 5	0	10	4-3
14 King's Lynn Town	9	3	1	5	14 24	4	1	1	2	7 10	5	2	0	3	7 14	-10	10	3-2
15 Boreham Wood	8	2	3	3	7 6	3	1	1	1	1 1	5	1	2	2	6 5	1	9	
16 Altrincham	9	2	3	4	8 12	4	1	1	2	4 6	5	1	2	2	4 6	-4	9	1-0
17 Dagenham & Redbridge	8	2	2	4	5 9	3	1	1	1	2 2	5	1	1	3	3 7	-4	8	0-1
18 Halifax Town	7	1	4	2	5 5	4	1	2	1	4 3	3	0	2	1	1 2	0	7	1-0
19 Weymouth	7	2	1	4	6 8	3	1	0	2	2 3	4	1	1	2	4 5	-2	7	
20 Barnet	7	2	1	4	7 15	4	1	0	3	3 10	3	1	1	1	4 5	-8	7	
21 Chesterfield	8	2	0	6	13 14	4	1	0	3	7 6	4	1	0	3	6 8	-1	6	3-2
22 Dover Athletic	8	2	0	6	6 22	5	2	0	3	5 13	3	0	0	3	1 9	-16	6	
23 Yeovil Town	8	0	5	3	7 10	4	0	1	3	3 6	4	0	4	0	4 4	-3	5	2-2



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Royal Blue/White

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- Michee Efete **2**
- Ashley Charles **4**
- Connor Stevens **5**
- Jerome Okimo © **6**
- Michael Phillips **7**
- Connor Smith **8**
- Ross Lafayette **9**
- Danny Green **10**
- Dennon Lewis **11**
- Charlee Hughes **12**
- Daniel Wishart **13**
- Danny Parish **14**
- Kundai Benyu **15**
- Jacob Mendy Mendy **17**
- Alex Dyer **18**
- Moses Emmanuel **19**
- Jorome Slew **20**
- Charlie Wakefield **24**
- G** Jake Askew **25**
- Jack Cawley **34**

## v SUTTON UTD

Amber & Chocolate

- 1** Dean Bouzanis **G**
- 2** Jon Barden
- 3** Ben Wyatt
- 5** Ben Goodliffe
- 6** Louis John
- 7** David Ajiboye
- 8** Kenny Davis
- 9** Omar Bugiel
- 10** Harry Beautyman
- 11** Will Randall
- 12** Coby Rowe
- 13** Brad House **G**
- 14** Craig Dundas
- 15** Craig Eastmond
- 16** Bradley Pearce
- 17** Tobi Sho-Silva
- 18** Adam Lovatt
- 19** Wayne Brown
- 21** Callum Kealy
- 23** Jude Mason
- 24** Rob Milsom
- 25** Isaac Olaofe
- 26** Aron Simpson

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Jonathon Block and Robert Evans **FOURTH OFFICIAL**  
Neil Fyfield **OBSERVER** Kelvin Morton

**MATCH SPONSOR** Harrow Windows

**NEXT HOME GAMES** v **TORQUAY UNITED** (Vanarama National League) Tuesday Dec 1, 7.45pm (LIVE STREAM)  
v **WEYMOUTH** (Vanarama National League) Saturday December 12, KO 3pm (LIVE STREAM FROM 2.45PM)

Main club sponsor:

**gp flewis**



*Not this time,  
Danny*

Danny Parish was our match-winner at Halifax but a week later he was denied by a linesman's flag at Eastleigh. Here he tangles with a Spittfires defender as we went down 2-0

PIC: ADAM WILLIAMS

**INSIDE**

The big interview:

**MARK GRAVES**

Our master marksman of the '80s