

WEALDSTONE

FOOTBALL CLUB

SEASON 2020-21

PROGRAMME £3

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*Yer havin'
a Laff!*

Ross Lafayette
celebrates the goal
that put Stones ahead
against Stockport
on Tuesday night
PIC: Adam Williams

Wealdstone v Wrexham

Saturday October 20
2020, kick-off 3pm

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Written in Stone

Welcome to Dean Keates, the players and officials from Wrexham FC. We hope you enjoy your first brief visit to Grosvenor Vale.

Your continued support for the team and this programme from a distance are greatly appreciated. The club will continue to evolve and improve its match day offering via its streaming service and we continue to find ways to get

your favourite pre match read into your hands. The megastore can now offer you physical programmes by post as singles or a season ticket bundle as well as in a digital format and copies (inc. back issues) are always available from the Bar at Ruislip Social Club.

We are desperately short of matchday sponsorships that provide valuable finances in these difficult times and as always we are looking for supporters or businesses to step forward. We have a variety of Matchday and Ball sponsorship packages available to suit all pockets, as well as our ever popular Kit Sponsorship that allows you to show your support for your favourite player. Full details of all the packages, which can also be customised to suit individual requirements, can be found in the pages of this very issue.

#LetFansIn

Mark

Marathon Man

Some of you will know me (Neil Rands) as part of the @Wealdstone_FC Twitter team or other Stones IT stuff. Until recently, I wouldn't have been known as a runner, let alone a long distance one.

However, a year ago I was included in the Alzheimer's Research UK team for the 2020 London Marathon. As I trained through the winter, balancing challenging slogs through various storms with the joy of watching a successful Stones team, little did we all know what 2020 was to bring.

Whilst the team's success was rewarded with a Championship, the Marathon was postponed. This meant extending my training through the summer and my old joints paying the price!

But on 4th October, thousands of us got to run our own virtual version of the 40th Run.

In rather fitting wet and windy conditions, I trundled from Wembley to Charing Cross, via Hampstead, Camden, Shoreditch and the South Bank.

A band of fellow Stones provided support, carrying drinks and energy gels at a number of pubs across our Capital. It must have been tough for them but someone had to do it.

The whole thing, of course, was in aid of a wonderful charity, which, like most at this current time, is desperately short of the cash that would have been raised at the Marathon.

Whilst we managed a "bucket collection" near the end of last season, others (along with the Race Night) had to be postponed because of Covid.

For those that have sponsored, thank you. Should you still wish to help such a wonderful cause as Alzheimer's Research UK, again thank you.

<http://marathon.rands.co.uk>



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WEALDSTONE

FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2020/2021

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Andrew Lane

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MAJOR HONOURS SINCE 1950

LEAGUE TITLES

1951 / 1952 Athenian League
1973 / 1974 Southern League Division One South
1981 / 1982 Southern League Southern Division
1981 / 1982 Southern League Championship
1984 / 1985 National League Premier (Gola League)
1996 / 1997 Isthmian League Division Three
2013 / 2014 Isthmian League Premier Division
2019 / 2020 National League South

NATIONAL CUPS

1965 / 1966 FA Amateur Cup
1984 / 1985 FA Trophy

LEAGUE CUPS

1981 / 1982 Southern League Cup

MIDDLESEX COUNTY CUPS

1958 / 1959 Senior Cup
1962 / 1963 Senior Cup
1964 / 1965 Senior Cup
1967 / 1968 Senior Cup
1984 / 1985 Senior Cup
2003 / 2004 Charity Cup
2010 / 2011 Charity Cup

NON TITLE-WINNING PROMOTIONS

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

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

GROUND REGULATIONS

People are only allowed entry to The Vale on match days subject to the following rules and regulations:

- 1) The club reserves the right to eject from the ground any person who is considered to have committed any of the following acts:
 - Entering the ground through any means other than through the turnstiles or entrances
 - Entering the field of play before, during or after a game without prior authorisation
 - Being drunk, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs • Using violence of any nature
 - Carrying items which may be considered a danger to others, including cans, bottles, or glasses containing alcoholic beverages
 - Throwing any article onto the field of play • Climbing floodlight pylons, fences, stands or any structure or building
 - Using obscene or bad language likely to cause offence to others • Hitting the side or back panels of the Bulls stand
- 2) No spectator ball games.
- 3) The consumption of alcoholic drinks is permitted INSIDE the social club bar, garden and boardroom areas.
- 4) Vehicles parked on the Grosvenor Vale site are at the owners' risk.
- 5) Wealdstone Football Club supports the FA's campaign on pyrotechnics (e.g. flares and smoke bombs). Any misuse of such items in and around the Ground will result in those responsible being asked to leave the ground and, in line with football authority guidance, may result in a report to the Police, potential prosecution and a ban from the Club of up to three years.

Wealdstone FC Board of Directors

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THE STONES INTERVIEW BY TIM PARKS

Danny Parish



Danny shows off his Champions shirt after signing in the summer, while (left) still basking in the glow of netting Maldon's opening goal in the sensational FA Cup giant-killing of League Two Orient

'I'd scored 30 goals before Christmas last year and I'm sure it would have earned me a move to a League club in normal times ..but Covid-19 happened at the wrong moment'

When it comes to car shares, forget Peter Kay. Put Danny Parish, Charlee Hughes, Jerome Slew, Kundai Benyu and Jack Cawley in the same motor and the banter of the Essex/Kent Wealdstone crew is off the the scale!

"Yeah, it's a long way to travel, about an hour and a half round the M25 for training and matches but you'd be amazed how quickly the time passes when we get together" says our 21-year-old summer capture from Maldon & Tiptree, Danny Parish.

He drives up from his home in New Ash Green (a small village between Dartford and Maidstone) to meet the others at the Holiday Inn, Brentwood.

"Charlee lives out near Maldon, and Jack's that way too, while Jerome and Kundai are in East

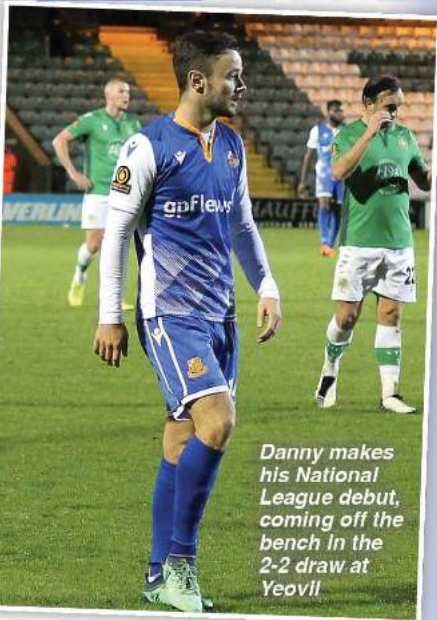
London so its a good place to meet. You get used to the travelling; we train twice a week in the evenings, but there's also a Monday meet-up now on the stadium pitch where we go through pattern of play and analysis of ourselves



Danny lets fly at Yeovil ... but his shot is straight at the keeper



WEALDSTONE 2020-21



Danny makes his National League debut, coming off the bench in the 2-2 draw at Yeovil

and the opposition. It's a professional environment and I'm really enjoying it."

Danny was part of the juggernaut Maldon & Tiptree team who took the Ryman Div One North by storm last season, finding themselves 14 points clear at the top of the table when the season was null-and-voided in March.

"We were only a couple of wins away from being mathematical champions" says Danny, with the hurt still evident in his voice. "I had scored 30 goals before Christmas and I'm certain that would have earned a move to an EFL club in normal conditions. I was playing for Maldon but training at Colchester all last season, and my agent was taking to lots of clubs. But Covid-19 changed everything and suddenly clubs were reluctant to take chances".

It was Maldon's historic 2-1 FA Cup First Round win at League Two Orient last November that made football sit up and take notice. "It was an amazing team performance and I loved playing up front in a three with Charlee and Jerome. We switch positions all the time, coming inside, going outside, coming deep, and it's so hard to defend against. They didn't know who to pick up."

Alongside Danny's 30 goals in the truncated season, Charlee hit 29 and Jerome 29 - and how many times have three strikers shared 90 goals, let alone in a shortened campaign?

It was obvious the level eight Essex club wouldn't be able to hang onto their celebrated trio... so how marvellous that they have all ended up here at Grosvenor Vale?

"As I'd said, my agent was talking to several clubs but Wealdstone reached out and, in all that uncertainty, it's a great move for me. I was talking to Charlee, he was keen to sign too and we ended joining together. And when Jerome committed himself too, well it's like the Three Musketeers all over again!" laughed Danny.

"But we're not daft, we knew we weren't just going to walk in and start playing. We've had to be patient - there are so many good players here, particularly front players.

"It is frustrating though. I believe in my ability and I know I can score goals at this level."

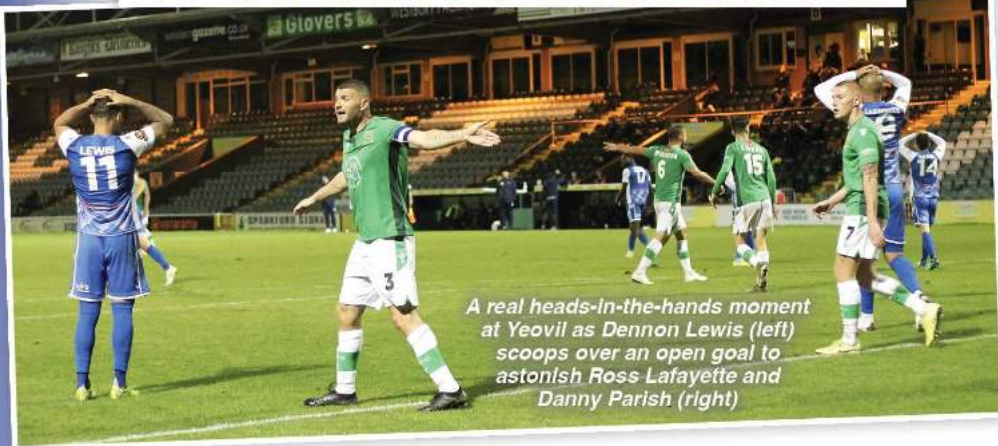
Danny caught the eye of Brentford as a 13-year-old playing in the Dartford district team, and he sent the next three years making the 120-mile round trip from the family home in Kent to West London. "It was disappointing to be released at 18, but I went and played for my local Southern League side Ashford United and scored 24 goals in 26 league games. Then it was on to Maldon & Tiptree".

So what is the biggest difference for you in the

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

Would you like to be a 'Fan in the Stand'? Send an email to tim.parks@gmail.com or come and see me (Tim Parks) in the ground. The more the merrier!

STONES INTERVIEW CONTD



A real heads-in-the-hands moment at Yeovil as Dennon Lewis (left) scoops over an open goal to astonish Ross Lafayette and Danny Parish (right)

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

the three-division step-up to the National League? "I think it's the intensity" he said. "You have to be so sharp, strong and concentrated otherwise you don't survive. It's physically tougher too. But I've worked hard to get to where I am and I'm determined to be successful".

What's your favourite position, Danny? "Up front as a No.9, but not a target man because I'm not the biggest! I loved playing as one of that front three for Maldon & Tiptree, because me, Charlee and Jorome kept switching positions which is very hard to defend against. We'd come inside, or move out side, or go through the middle. We scored over 90 goals between us last season and there were still a dozen games to play!

"But I think I'm also effective playing in a two with a bigger target man".

Was your goal in the FA Cup win at Orient last November the best you've ever scored? "Maybe not the best, but in terms of what it meant to the club and the fans, and the fact that they were four levels higher than us in the football pyramid. It was a great day for everyone and I'll never forget it".

Who has had the biggest influence on your career? "Definitely my dad Wayne" said Danny. "From the moment I was scouted playing for the District team in Dartford at the age of 13, right through the five years I spent at Brentford, it was Dad who drove me to every session in West London - a 120-mile trip every time up from Kent. He is amazing".

So is your dad sporty too? "Well he was a decent local footballer and cricketer, while my grandad was a boxer in east London back in the day - the Docklands champion no less".

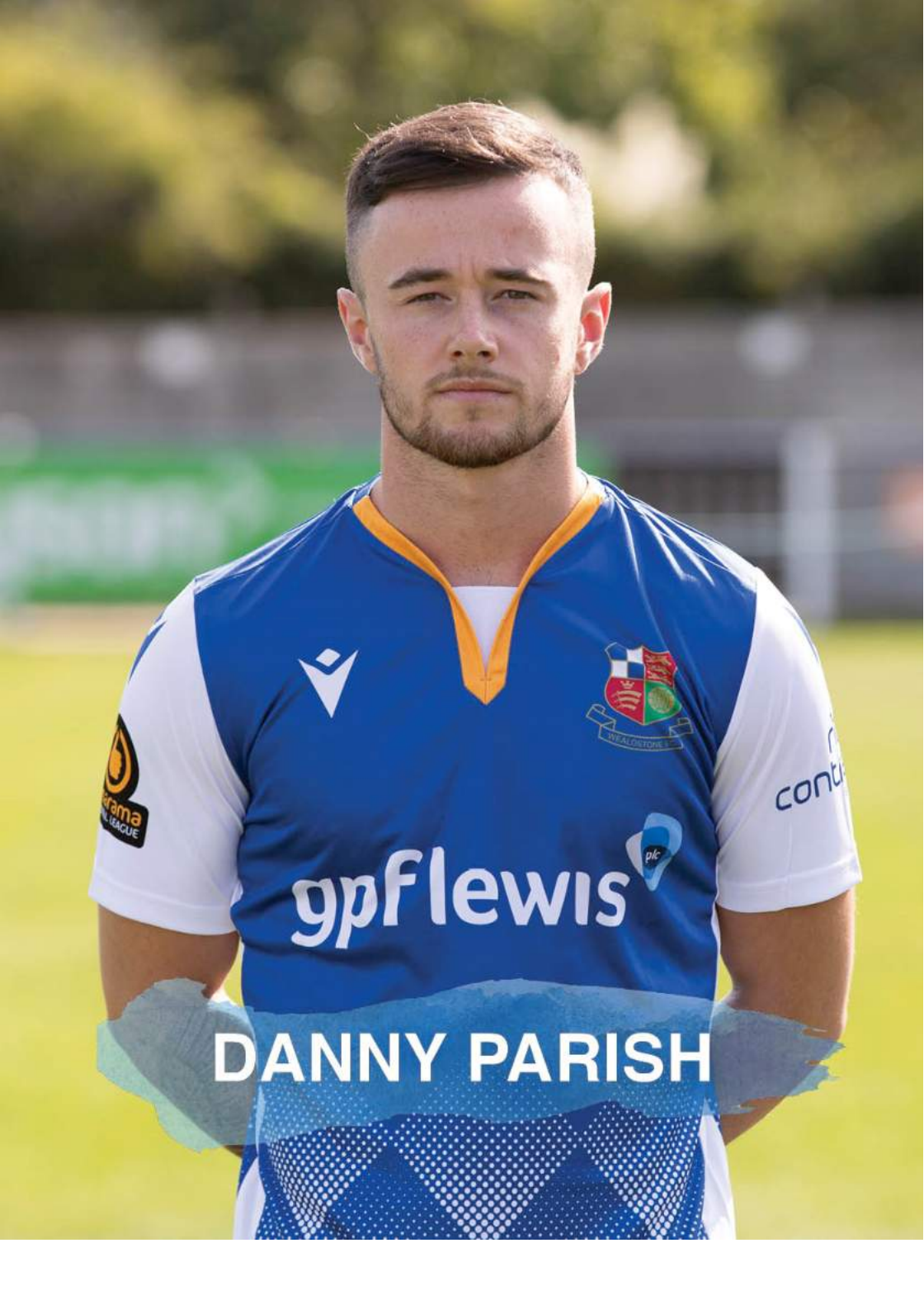
A bareknuckle fighter? "I don't know but I wouldn't be surprised. They were hard back then!"

FIND A WHOLE WORLD OF MEMORABILIA AT THE WEALDSTONE MEGASTORE: www.wfcmegastore.co.uk



Heads-In-the-hands Moment 2: Lafayette (left) sees his header saved by the Dagenham keeper but the ball runs to Jorome Slaw... who puts the ball over the bar from close range. So nearly a point saved!





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PETER GOLDSMITH

Fan in the Stand

I was a mascot at Lower Mead for the Trophy quarter-final in 1985.. and my Robin Wainwright incident definitely WASN'T the highlight of the day!



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Peter is pictured with the Cricket World Cup at the Lords Taverners Christmas dinner last year



Would you like to be a 'Fan in the Stand'? Send an email to tim.parks@gmail.com

Your name and age? Peter Goldsmith, 47

Whereabouts do you live? Live in Beaconsfield now

Have you always lived in that area? No, I was born in Watford and then lived in Pinner from aged three until my mid-20s. Moved around a bit since then including Kent.....

Where do you work? I jointly run a small sports marketing agency called M2 Sports, primarily focussed on sports sponsorship sales, acquisition and activation.

When was your first Stones game (against whom and any memories)? I think my Dad, Norman, took me when I was four. in the late 70s but I can't remember who it was against. I'm sure we'd have been standing under the clock on the side at Lower Mead as that's where my Dad always stood! He's 80 next year and hopefully we'll be allowed back in the ground to celebrate it

with a match sponsorship.

What were your first Impressions of the club? Too long ago to remember but they were obviously good as I still come!! My highlight was being Mascot for the day against Frickley in the FA Trophy when I was 12... I can't remember the date but it was around my birthday so it was a birthday treat.

What are your memories of the occasion? They range from good to "interesting". Getting the kit on, scoring at the Emslie End and getting some money from the ref was good - although I missed the first goal because we scored so quickly. Being exposed to Robin Wainwright having a c**p with the door open wasn't so good!!

Did you see the semi-final and final that year? Yes, went to all three games. I remember enjoying the away leg of the semi

WEALDSTONE 2020-21

Mascot Peter is 12 Today

WE are delighted to welcome as our mascot today a young ardent supporter, like his dad, who always stands under the clock! A big hand to Peter Goldsmith, who is Head Boy of Longfield Middle School, and who, most appropriately, is actually celebrating his 12th birthday today! (Well, we hope he will be celebrating – a lot will depend on today's result!)

Peter has supported Wealdstone for 8 years and plays for Rayners Lane FC's under 13's side. He's also a cricket fan and receives coaching with Middlesex Colts. He's also keen on tennis, swimming, athletics and squash, so is a real all-rounder. Peter's father Norman, will not tempt fate by altering his usual place to watch the game so will be found under the clock as usual!

Through a mix-up with the printer, we were very upset at our last game that our mascot for the match – none other than our own Steve (Polly) Perkin's son – did not receive the usual mention in the programme. Sorry about that Stephen, and we are going to make amends to you!

final a lot more than the home one! I wrote a report on the game for a school project which was part of a big display I did, including my replica shirt which I still have – well my daughter has! The only two other games I really remember that year was the win against Scarborough on the Sunday and going up to Kettering for the game when we won the league which was brilliant.

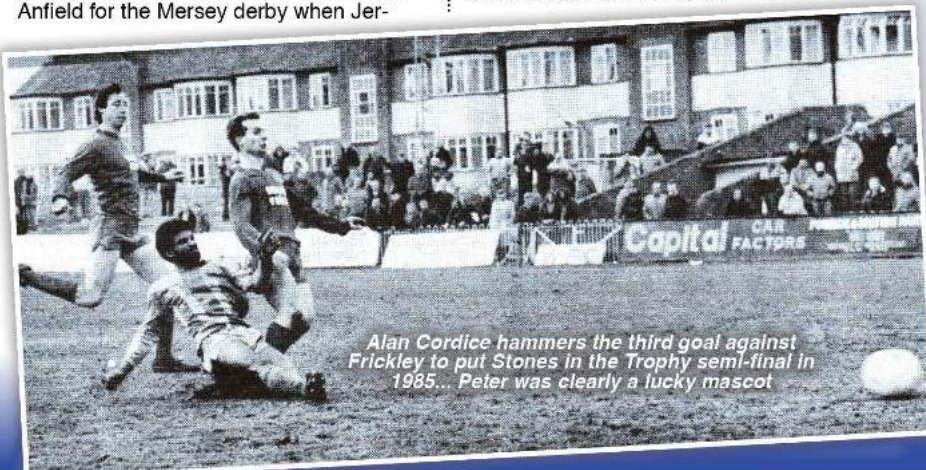
Do you follow any other team? I also follow Liverpool so it's been a pretty decent season all round this year! I tend to get to a couple of games a year and really enjoy it - the pace and skill levels of the Premier League are amazing to see live. That said, the feigning injury and what seems like yellow card for every foul isn't so good.

What's the most memorable game you've EVER seen? That's a hard one! Aside of Stones games, England beating Spain in Euro 96 and the penalties with a certain Stuart Pearce scoring one, and the first Liverpool Newcastle 4-3 were outstanding but you can't beat actually being there. So in terms of live games, England Croatia in Euro 2004 and the Liverpool 4-4 draw with Arsenal when Arshavin scored all four were pretty special. I was also at Anfield for the Mersey derby when Jer-

mainie Beckford scored in a 2-2 draw – I must have been the only Liverpool supporter in the ground who was pleased about that goal! Have to say my favourite Stones games are far better though as you feel much more of a connection and you can't beat celebrating with your mates.

So: the best Wealdstone game/s? That is an even harder one! I can't remember so much from when I'm younger so I'm going for more recent ones I was at... Dartford at home in the trophy a few years back, Southport away, the play-off against Dulwich, Margate away when we won the league and Dover away when we won 4-2 and Jermaine was just brilliant, Robin Tucker scored a ridiculous goal and we had a good night out in Dover!

Thurrock under the lights at the White Lion ground on the Friday night, in the FA
CONTINUED OVER PAGE



Alan Cordice hammers the third goal against Frickley to put Stones in the Trophy semi-final in 1985... Peter was clearly a lucky mascot

Would you like to be a 'Fan in the Stand'? Send an email to tim.parks@gmail.com

PETER GOLDSMITH CONTD

Trophy I think, was good as well! But my absolute favourite was Cambridge away - that's up there in my top sporting moments! Nothing tin pot about that day out...

Who introduced you to the Stones? My Dad. It's all his fault!!

What level of football do you prefer? I like all football but I think both our level and Premier League would be my favourites for different reasons. The honesty of non-league is so refreshing but the skill and pace of the PL is amazing.

How big a part of your life is the game?

How do you fit watching football in with your family/working life? I'm lucky enough to work within sport so I manage to get to a few different events including football matches. In terms of our games Saturdays aren't too bad but midweek is a bit more of a struggle.

Who are the best Wealdstone players you've ever seen? Could you name a best-ever Stones side? Alan Cordice and Jermaine Beckford would be my first two picks. It would be easy just to pick the double winning side so I'm going for favourite players that didn't play in that team. It would be: North, Chappell, Okimo, Parker, Pearce (I know I've got two left backs!), Pett, Little, Green, Jones, Jolly, Beckford

What do you think of the club's online presence? I really enjoy the comms on Twitter when I can't get to the game, more so the fans one. I'm far too old for Snapchat or TikTok - don't even know if we

have anything on there!

What do you think of the programme, and does it have a future in print or online? Programme is an interesting one.

They are always a good read and bring back good memories - I have all the programmes home and away from the 83/84 and 84/85 seasons (they are obviously in the loft!) - but I can see why clubs and sporting events are considering moving to digital programmes from both a commercial and sustainable point of view. It's a shame but I get it.

Have you been able to stay in touch with the club over the past six months? It's really been following the news on social media. The league win was sadly celebrated in my own with some San Miguel!! It was a real shame for everyone involved with the club, especially those that have put so much in to it over the years, on the pitch, on the terraces and behind the seasons that it couldn't be celebrated properly, but hopefully that time will come.

I watched the Yeovil game on You Tube a couple of weeks ago and thought we were excellent - maybe should have won but a great away point for the first game if the season. I was looking forward to our BT Sport debut against Dagenham but that didn't turn out so well.. but what a thrill to see our club on National TV. The big time!

Regarding watching football generally since lockdown, I've been lucky enough to see a few Premier League games live due to some work I've been doing. For me personally, lockdown has been tough from a work perspective but great in terms of spending time with the family and playing plenty of golf. I got bullied into getting a dog as well, but to be fair he's won me over!

Finally, where do you think Wealdstone FC will be in the year 2025? No idea! Hopefully playing at a good level with bigger crowds but with the same identity.

Left: the new normal. Watching Wealdstone on National TV with a beer and a pizza. Not quite the same as being in the ground, but pretty amazing!

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WREXHAM AFC

Wrexham Football Club is the oldest club in Wales and third oldest professional football team in the world.

Formed in 1864, the 2014/15 season marked the 150th birthday of the club. Wrexham's home stadium – Y Cae Ras (The Racecourse) – is the world's oldest international stadium that still hosts international games, only long gone venues in both London and Glasgow pre-date it.

Wrexham Football Club was formed by the members of the Wrexham Cricket Club at the end of season dinner in October 1864. The cricketers had wanted a sporting activity for the winter months, and with football becoming more and more popular the Cricket Club secretary Edward Manners purchased a football, and the newly formed team played its first ever match that same month against the Prince of Wales Volunteer Fire Brigade making Wrexham AFC, one of the oldest teams in the world!

In 1877/78 the FAW inaugurated the Welsh Cup competition, to run on similar lines to the English FA Cup. The first Welsh Cup Final was played between Wrexham and Druids FC on a neutral venue at Acton Park in Wrexham, where Wrexham won 1-0. Thanks to the lack of money at the fledgling FAW, Wrexham did not receive their trophy until the following year.

Wrexham first played league football in 1890 in the Combination League, a competition they played in, apart from two seasons in the Welsh League, until 1905 when they joined the Birmingham & District League.



Wrexham's 10,771 capacity Racecourse Ground

In 1921, Wrexham were elected to the newly formed Third Division North of the Football League, with their first game being against Hartlepool United at the Racecourse in front of 8,000 spectators.

The club first appeared in their now-familiar red and white shirts for the short-lived 1939/40 season.

Wrexham reached the Fourth Round of the FA Cup in 1956/57 where they played Manchester United's Busby Babes in front of a record attendance of 34,445 people despite a 5-0 defeat. Later that season Wrexham won the Welsh Cup for the first time in 26 years.

Under player/manager Ken Barnes Wrexham won promotion for the first time in their history in 1961/62, the same season that they recorded their record score in a league

match, beating Hartlepool United 10-1 on the Racecourse.

John Neal's arrival as manager saw a considerable improvement in the club's fortunes.

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Pic. Wrexham.com

In 1969/70 he led them to promotion and two years later into European football for the first time following another Welsh Cup victory. The Robins' first European match was against FC Zurich and resulted in a 3-2 aggregate win for the Welsh club.

In the 1973/74 season, Wrexham made their first appearance in the FA Cup quarter-finals before losing 1-0 to First Division Burnley at Turf Moor. Two years later they also appeared in the quarter finals of the European Cup-Winners' Cup before losing to the eventual winners, Anderlecht, by just one goal over the two legs.

The 1977/78 season was to be arguably the greatest in the club's history, when they reached the quarter-finals of both the FA Cup and the Football League Cup. They also won Welsh Cup and the Third Division Championship to gain promotion to the old Second Division for the first and only time in the club's history.

The 1984-85 season saw Wrexham, under manager Bobby Roberts, beat Portuguese giants FC Porto in the European Cup-Winners' Cup on the away goals before losing out to the crack Italian side AS Roma.

Brian Flynn took over the club in 1989, and would remain as manager until 2001. In January 1992, Wrexham produced arguably their greatest ever piece of giant-killing, when they knocked the previous year's Football League

Champions Arsenal out of the FA Cup with goals from Steve Watkin and Mickey Thomas.

Under Flynn's leadership the 1992/93 season saw Wrexham promoted to League Two, and in 1995 won the Welsh Cup for the very last time in 1995, and in 1997 Wrexham reached the quarter-finals of the FA Cup for only the third time in the club's history.

Following the turn of the Millennium, Wrexham changed their nickname to the Red Dragons as it was felt the club needed to bring out more of its Welshness.

However, the club were to face troubled times when in November 2004 they became the first ever club to be docked ten points by the Football League when they plunged into administration following a takeover by two property developers. One bright spot followed when the club won the Football League Trophy by beating Southend United at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

The club came of administration in 2006, but both on the field and off the field events did not improve, and the club were relegated from the Football League in 2008 after 87 years as a member club.

In November 2011 the club was taken over by its fans, when the Wrexham Supporters' Trust became the first ever Trust to take over a professional football club as a going concern.

On the field, the club reached the Conference Play-off's on three occasions, the last in 2013 saw the club lose to Newport County at Wembley Stadium, just six weeks after they played at the same venue for the first time, when they beat Grimsby Town in the FA Trophy Final, becoming the first Welsh club to win the trophy.

Wrexham Football Club celebrate its 150th Anniversary in the 2014/15 season with a second FA Trophy final appearance, but this time they lost out on penalties.

Wrexham's Key Honours:

Winning the Welsh Cup a record 23 times (and runners-up 22 on a further occasions)

1975/76 – European Cup Winners' Cup Quarter-Finalists (only losing 2-1 on aggregate to eventual winner Anderlecht)

1977/78 – Third Division Champions (now League 1)

2005 – Football League Trophy Winners (being Southend United at the Millennium Stadium)

2013 – FA Trophy Winners (and runners up in 2015)

WREXHAM AFC - WHO'S WHO?



21. CHRISTIAN DIBBLE - GOALKEEPER

Christian began life with Bury as a youth team player and signed professional terms with the Shakers in 2012. In the summer of 2013, Dibble switched to Barnsley. Whilst with the Tykes Dibble joined Nuneaton Town on loan before switching to Chelmsford City. In the summer of 2016, Dibble signed Boston United before joining Nuneaton Town after just two months with the Pilgrims. Christian joined Wrexham in 2017.

1. ROB LAINTON - GOALKEEPER

Born in Ashton-under-Lyne he began his career with Bolton Wanderers and progressed through the youth ranks to sign professional terms in 2010. After three years of further progression, he moved on to Bury. Over his four seasons, he went on to make 38 appearances whilst also spending time on loan with Burton Albion and Cheltenham Town. After his Gigg Lane departure, Lainton joined Port Vale in 2017. Rob joined Wrexham in 2017.

2. REECE HALL-JOHNSON - DEFENCE

A youth product of Norwich City during one of their most fruitful squads, Hall-Johnson came through the ranks of the Premier League outfit picking up an FA Youth Cup winners' medal. After two years as a pro with the Canaries, Hall-Johnson signed for Maidstone United before a brief spell with Bishop's Stortford. In 2016 he signed for Braintree Town before earning an EFL move to Grimsby Town the following year. Shortly after signing for the Mariners, he was loaned to Chester FC. Hall-Johnson departed Grimsby in the summer of 2019 and signed for Northampton Town. Reece joined Wrexham in the Summer.

3. JAMIE REKORD - DEFENCE

Reckord began his career with hometown club Wolverhampton Wanderers signing youth forms from the age of nine. Reckord had a spree of loan spells initially joining Northampton Town. Upon his return the left-back made his Wolves debut in the League Cup. Having signed a 12-month extension in the summer of 2011, Reckord went out on loan to Scunthorpe United and Coventry City. Following the expiration of his Wolves deal in the summer of 2014, Reckord signed for Ross County. After making 42 league appearances Reckord signed for Oldham Athletic before departing the following summer. After some time out of the game, Reckord signed for Solihull Moors in 2017. Jamie signed for Wrexham in the summer.

4. THEO VASSELL - DEFENCE

Vassell began his career with Stoke City having

been spotted as a youngster playing for Hanley Town, and spent almost a decade with the Potters. In 2015 he signed for Oldham Athletic before continuing his development with a loan spell at Chorley. Upon his departure from Boundary Park in 2016 he was snapped up by Walsall and shortly after was sent out on loan to Chester FC. He eventually spent two different spells with Chester. The following season he joined Gateshead on a permanent deal before a move to the EFL with Port Vale in 2018. Vassell then followed manager Sol Campbell to Southend United later that season. Theo signed for Wrexham in the summer.

5. SHAUN PEARSON - DEFENCE

Beginning life with Spalding United in 2006, the York-born centre-back rose up the non-league ranks with Stamford and Boston United, where he joined in 2009. In 2011 he joined Grimsby Town where he would become a club icon, remaining with the club for six years and playing at Wembley in two play-off finals and an FA Trophy loss to Wrexham in 2013. Shaun signed for Wrexham in 2017.

15. JAMES HORSFIELD - DEFENCE

The Stockport-born defender began his career with Manchester City coming through the youth ranks before signing professional terms at the Etihad in 2015. James signed for Wrexham in 2019.

22. FIACRE KELLEHER - DEFENCE

32. MAX CLEWORTH - DEFENCE

Defender Cleworth began his footballing career playing youth football for the likes of Frodsham and Connah's Quay before being recommended to Wrexham at the age of 12.

6. JAY HARRIS - MIDFIELD

7. ELLIOTT DURRELL - MIDFIELD

Elliott Durrell began his career in non-league with the youth set-up at Hednesford Town before heading to AFC Telford United.

He joined the senior set-up with AFC Telford United in 2007 before a loan spell with Rushall Olympic in 2008. Later that year he returned to his former club Hednesford. Durrell spent six years with the Pitmen, with a brief loan spell at Evesham United. In January 2014, Wrexham manager Andy Morrell targeted the Shrewsbury-born midfielder and snapped him up. In the summer of 2015 he departed the Racecourse and signed for Tamworth before returning to non-league's top tier in 2016 signing for Chester FC. After impressive performances for Chester,

Durrell signed for Macclesfield Town Durrell was part of a hugely successful season that saw the Silkmen promoted to the EFL as champions of the division. After his contract expired in 2019 and with the club in serious financial difficulty, Durrell left Moss Rose and eventually penned a short-deal with York City. After a few months he moved on to Altrincham in February 2020. In August 2020 Durrell signed for Wrexham

8 LUKE YOUNG - MIDFIELD

Young began his career when he joined Plymouth Argyle as a nine-year-old. He worked his way through the age groups and played reserve team football whilst still a schoolboy. After three years in the first-team Young left Home Park and would go on to join Torquay in the summer of 2014. He spent four years with United before departing to join Wrexham on a 2-year deal.

10. DEVONTE REDMOND - MIDFIELD

The Manchester-born middle man began his career in the youth set-up at Manchester United where he progressed through to reserve level coming through the same crop as the likes of Marcus Rashford, Andreas Pereira and Scott McTominay. Signed for Wrexham in 2019

11. ANTHONY JEFFREY - MIDFIELD

12. DAN JARVIS - MIDFIELD

The Litchfield born middle-man who can also play out wide began his career with Stoke City making his way up the youth team ranks, before signing professional terms in 2017. Jarvis landed in North Wales on a deal that would take him to 2021 and would make his debut 24 hours after the signing was complete against Woking in the National League.

13. MARK CARRINGTON - MIDFIELD

The versatile midfielder began his career with Crewe Alexandra before earning his first senior deal in 2006 having been with the club since the age of seven. In 2009 Carrington joined MK Dons plying his trade with them for two seasons. His next move came in 2011 as he headed north of Hadrian's wall to join Hamilton Academical. He made a handful of appearances before heading back south and signed on at Bury. He joined the Dragons on non-contract terms in September 2013

14. PAUL RUTHERFORD - MIDFIELD

Rutherford began his career with Liverpool before signing youth forms with the old Chester City in 2003. In 2009 he joined Barrow.

Following four years at Holker Street Rutherford signed for Southport. With the Sandgrounders he made over a century of appearances in the National League before opting to depart in 2016 and join Wrexham.

29. JORDAN DAVIES - MIDFIELD

Coedpoeth native Jordan Davies came through the youth ranks at Wrexham. At the beginning of the 2016/17 campaign, Davies was loaned out to Bangor City in The youngster appeared on the bench for the Dragons before midway through January was snapped up by Premier League outfit Brighton & Hove Albion, making his reserve team debut against Middlesbrough at the AMEX. In the summer of 2020 Davies departed the South Coast. Amidst interest from a plethora of clubs and trials in the EFL, he opted to sign for his hometown club on a 2-year deal.

9. JORDAN PONTICELLI - FORWARD

Attack minded Ponticelli began his career with hometown club Coventry City. Having won promotion via the play-offs with Coventry, Ponticelli went out on loan the next season joining Macclesfield on a short-term deal. After a handful of appearances in League One, Ponticelli joined Tranmere Rovers on loan in 2019 making nine appearances. After a frustrating spell at Prenton Park he arrived at the Racecourse in January 2020. He returned to Coventry but in August 2020 Wrexham successfully signed Ponticelli for an undisclosed fee on a two-year deal.

19. ADI YUSSUF - FORWARD

Tanzanian international Adi Yussuf began his career with Leicester City in the Foxes development side signing professional terms at the King Power Stadium in 2011. In the summer of 2011 he was snapped up by Burton Albion for two seasons and moved on to Lincoln City in 2013. With the Imps he made just two appearances before fruitful loan spells with Gainsborough Trinity, Harrogate Town and Histon. After a season with Lincoln he moved on to Oxford City before earning a move back to the EFL with Mansfield Town. He was loaned out to Crawley Town in 2016 before leaving Mansfield permanently in January 2017 for Grimsby Town. Following half a season with the Mariners, he came to the National League with Barrow for a season and later Solihull Moors. Yussuf later moved to Bloomfield Road and in the summer of 2020 he joined Wrexham on a season-long loan.

27. JAKE BICKERSTAFF - FORWARD

32. KWAME THOMAS - FORWARD

ONLY HERE FOR THE DAY

Welcome to the *Red Dragons'* fans ...especially Wrexham born & bred **TIM EDWARDS, who knows The Vale rather better than most...**

Today's visiting fan is no stranger to The Vale. 41-year-old Tim Edwards covered the Stones for four years between 2006-10 as Sports Editor of the Harrow Observer, but he'd already been a dyed-in-the-wool Wrexham fan for a dozen years.

Where do you live Tim? I live in Summerhill which is just a few miles away from Wrexham town centre, and a 20 minute walk to the football ground.

Have you been there long? Just over seven years but I've lived in the area most of my life.

What was the first Wrexham game you remember? Wrexham vs Maidstone United in the early 90s. All I can recall is the ref, Gurnam Singh, being absolutely atrocious as I stood on that cavernous kop end.

What inspired you to go along? Once I caught wind of the fact I had a local team that was professional and I had reached an age where curiosity got the better of me...that was it. Plus those massive floodlights lure you in!

Do you follow another team? At club level, no. It's sacrilege. But I follow Wales home and away.



What is your greatest moment following Wrexham? Many will point to that FA Cup win over Arsenal but winning the LDV Van's Trophy in the Millennium Stadium (new Wembley was still being built) in 2005 was special.

Is the fan base big and passionate? Yes on both counts. We've an unbelievable history and our attendances were regularly

WEALDSTONE 2020-21

five figures in the club's heyday. And despite being in the fifth division for an eternity we still command an average of 4k plus and will draw double that for bigger games.

How many supporters would make the trip to Ruislip in normal conditions? It's a new ground to visit for us and I would expect us to take a minimum of 500 in normal circs.

What do you think you'd do if there are no away fans allowed in? Listen to the live commentary and hope for the points. I'd rather stay safe than stay dead.

What is your club's 'natural' level, do you think? I've often pondered this. I'd see us as a just below mid-table Championship side if there was a natural order. But as I write this we are subject of takeover talks from Hollywood stars Ryan Reynolds (below, watching the live feed of the opening game at a movie studio)) and Rob McElhenney. It's all a bit surreal but if the takeover happens then anything is possible for Wrexham.

Much will depend on what the initial £2m will be spent on - a proven goalscorer would be logical. Then it will depend on their long and short term plan. If it happens Wrexham will be the biggest cash-rich club outside of the Premier League. That is a staggering fact in waiting.

Cautious? Yes. Excited? Yes. Going up? Ask me when we play the return leg against you!

Have you come close to promotion back to the EFL in recent years?

Yep. Several times. But a combination of playoff bottling and sheer misfortune means we're still here. We once finished 2nd on 98 points....Fleetwood and Jamie Vardy beat us to the title. W*****s.

How terrible was it to be relegated to non-League? Heartbreaking. But it shows no club of any stature is immune to such things.

Is there a stigma attached? To non-league? I don't think so nowadays, especially with so many former league clubs battling it out within it. It's harder to get out of this division than it is to stay in League Two.

What do you know about Wealdstone FC and its history? Lots. I covered the club for a while when I was the Harrow Observer sports editor. Great club, passionate fans and it came

as no surprise that you finally got back to the top level of non league football. Nick Dugard, Paul Rumens, Howard Kraiss and of course Gordon Bartlett were a joy to work with.

Any famous names you associate with the club? Well, I interviewed Vinnie Jones at the Vale when he did an after dinner speaking event there. He was a bit of a t**t to be honest. I asked him if he still had his Welsh tattoo on his chest and he said "yeah, I can't f*****g rub it off unfortunately". As a proud Welshman that rubbed me up the wrong way but the last thing I wanted was a ruck with a token jetlagged hard nut. He was hopeless for Wales anyway.

Stuart Pearce, Britt Assombalonga and Jermaine Beckford are other names that spring to mind when I think of the Stones.

Do Wrexham have any celebrity or high profile fans? Until the recent Hollywood connection, Robbie Savage, actor Ted Robbins, presenter Tim Vincent, Mark Hughes and a guy you might know called Bootlegger. Him and the Wealdstone Raider are going to be quite the match up.

Who has been the club's best manager in recent years? Andy Morrell led us so close to the title. We amassed 98 points and somehow didn't go up. And he wasn't a massive snake like Sam Ricketts was (he left us to manage Shrewsbury).

Who are the Red Dragons players to watch out for this afternoon? We've enlisted 10 new players and counting at the time of writing this, and as we've been unable to see them in the flesh it is hard to say! On paper this is the best squad since the 98-points season. Jay Harris is a bastard in midfield and we've managed to get local lad Jordan Davies back with us permanently after his spell with Brighton & Hove Albion. Anthony Jeffrey looks like he has afterburners on the wing too. Crikey, we've got some talent in abundance this season.

And finally... How important is football to you? It's a rite of passage, a past time and a lifelong love. It's very important but it isn't life or death. Bill Shankly was talking out of his a**e when he said otherwise. Football should enrich your life, not consume it.



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Results 2020-21

COMPETITION	Comp.	Result	Crowd	Lge Pos	Wind Dir/Spd	Sky	Elev. (Mtrs)	1	2	3	4	5	6
OCTOBER													
6 Yeovil Town	VNL	2-2	0,000	15	⊙ 11	☁ 11c	87.0	IST	EFE	MEN	OKI	PHI	BEN
10 Dagenham & Redbridge	VNL	0-1	0,000	19	⊙ 8	☁ 20c	10.0	IST	EFE	MEN	WAK	PHI	OKI
13 STOCKPORT COUNTY	VNL	2-5	0,000	23	⊙ 11	☁ 10c	41.0	IST	EFE	MEN	SMI	PHI	OKI
17 WREXHAM	VNL												
20 CHESTERFIELD	VNL												
24 TO BE DECIDED	FAC4Q												
27 King's Lynn Town	VNL												
31 FC Halifax Town	VNL												
NOVEMBER													
14 DOVER ATHLETIC	VNL												
17 Eastleigh	VNL												
21 SUTTON UNITED	VNL												
27 Notts County	VNL												
DECEMBER													
1 TORQUAY UNITED	VNL												
5 Barnet	VNL												
12 WEYMOUTH	VNL												
26 Maidenhead United	VNL												
28 BOREHAM WOOD	VNL												
JANUARY													
2 MAIDENHEAD UNITED	VNL												
9 Hartlepool United	VNL												
23 ALDERSHOT TOWN	VNL												
26 Altrincham	VNL												
30 Solihull Moors	VNL												
FEBRUARY													
6 WOKING	VNL												
9 Torquay United	VNL												
13 BROMLEY	VNL												
20 Sutton United	VNL												
23 EASTLEIGH	VNL												
27 Wrexham	VNL												
MARCH													
6 FC HALIFAX TOWN	VNL												
9 KING'S LYNN TOWN	VNL												
13 Dover Athletic	VNL												
20 Weymouth	VNL												
27 NOTTS COUNTY	VNL												
APRIL													
2 Bromley	VNL												
5 BARNET	VNL												
10 Boreham Wood	VNL												
13 ALTRINCHAM	VNL												
17 HARTLEPOOL UNITED	VNL												
24 Aldershot Town	VNL												
MAY													
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	WAK SMI ⁵¹ BEN ⁶⁶	EMM ²³ ²⁵ EMM ⁶⁰ LAF ⁶⁰ ⁴⁷	GRE GRE DYE ⁸¹	LEW LEW ¹⁰ SLE ⁵⁷ ¹⁶	CAW DYE ⁶⁹ EMM	LAF ⁷³ STE CAW ⁶⁰	PAR ⁷⁰ SLE ⁶⁵ PAR ⁸¹	SLE ⁶⁷ PAR CHA ⁶⁸	CHA LAF ⁷⁰ GRE



KEY TO SYMBOLS

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

22 = Substitution (time in symbol corresponds with name of outgoing and incoming player)

22 = Substitution (as above, used to distinguish second substitution if simultaneous with the first)

23 = Caution

67 = Sending off

67 = Straight Red

35 = Goal

68 = 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. Clearly, 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
22	WIL	Jay Williams
23	WAK	Charlie Wakefield
34	CAW	Jack Cawley

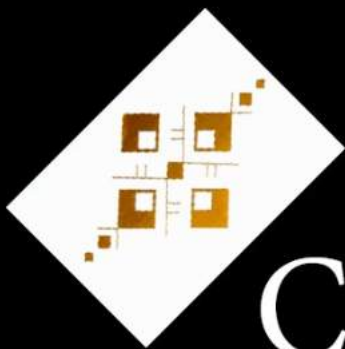
PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY RESULTS

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		
 STOCKPORT COUNTY Tuesday, 13th October Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East		
 WREXHAM Saturday, 17th October Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?		
 CHESTERFIELD Tuesday, 20th October Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows		
 DOVER ATHLETIC Saturday, 14th November Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 SUTTON UNITED Saturday, 21st November Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 TORQUAY UNITED Tuesday, 1st December Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 WEYMOUTH Saturday, 12th December Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 BOREHAM WOOD Monday, 28th December Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 MAIDENHEAD UNITED Saturday, 2nd January Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 ALDERSHOT TOWN Saturday, 23rd January Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 WOKING Saturday, 6th February Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 BROMLEY Saturday, 13th February Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?

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**All above subject to current COVID restrictions.*

MATCH	SPONSORS		
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 EASTLEIGH Tuesday, 23rd February Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 FC HALIFAX TOWN Saturday, 6th March Vanarama National League	Norman Goldsmith	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 KING'S LYNN TOWN Tuesday, 9th March Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 NOTTS COUNTY Saturday, 27th March Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 BARNET Monday, 5th April Vanarama National League	Connect Vending	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 ALTRINCHAM Tuesday, 13th April Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 HARTLEPOOL UNITED Saturday, 17th April Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 YEOVIL TOWN Saturday, 1st May Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE Saturday, 8th May Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
 SOLIHULL MOORS Saturday, 22nd May Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?		

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REWIND <<<< OCTOBER 17, 1987

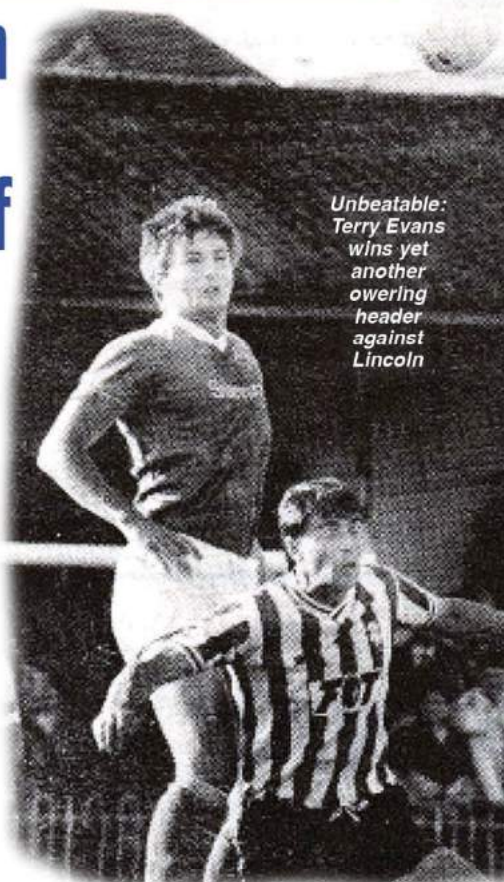
BY

Our final season at the top table ..and the visit of Lincoln showed just what we were going to miss out on

Saturday October 17, 1987, GM Vauxhall Conference: Wealdstone 0 Lincoln City 0

The year 1988 wasn't a very clever time to be relegated from the GM Vauxhall Conference.

The previous campaign, 1986-87, was the landmark first season that the Conference had managed to negotiate automatic promotion and relegation into the Football League and poor Lincoln made history by being the first through the trapdoor, replaced by Conference champions Scarborough. Lincoln had been 7th in the Fourth Division table at the turn of the year, looking to maybe



Unbeatable: Terry Evans wins yet another overwing header against Lincoln

win promotion through the play-offs but a disastrous run in the New Year saw them relegated.

But they remained full-time under manager Colin Murphy, and this visit to Lower Mead was our first real taste of welcoming one of the 'big' ex-Football League sides to our non-League world.

Of course, 1987-88 was a disaster for the Stones as we were deservedly relegated from the top tier and thus missed out on the procession of well-established pro clubs that were to plummet into the murky waters of the Conference/National League in the

SEASON 1987/88 OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF
WEALDSTONE F.C. Saraceni Official Club Merchants



SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 1987
G.M. VAUXHALL CONFERENCE
v LINCOLN CITY
KICK OFF 3 PM

50p



forthcoming years. As supporters, we had been thrilled to face Football League sides like Swansea, Southend, Hereford and Reading in the previous decade - all in front of crowds between 3-5,000 - and the influx of well-supported teams into non-League would have stimulated the dwindling interest in the Stones from the good folk of Harrow. Or would it?

It's a moot point that the demographics of Harrow were changing and perhaps our eventual move to the more footballing environs of Ruislip is the best thing that's happened to our club. But for Covid-19, Grosvenor Vale would be hosting 2,000+ crowds this season now that we are facing the raft of ex-League sides including, of course, this afternoon's visitors Wrexham.

Anyway, back to 1987 and a decent crowd of 1,107 came through the gates to witness a surprisingly competitive display from the Stones under new manager Terry Burton. The former Arsenal coach had replaced the hapless Colin Meldrum a month earlier but he seemed as incapable of bringing in new players.. although if the loan signing of Brentford's towering centre back Terry Evans had been extended, who knows what might have happened? Evans' debut was a goalless draw at Bath a week earlier, and his second and final league appearance was another clean sheet against Lincoln. Evans went on to have a fine career with the Bees, captaining them to

Defensive duo save Stones

Wealdstone 0 Lincoln City 0

THE partnership of Terry Evans and Paul Bowgett earned struggling Wealdstone a vital GM Vauxhall Conference point on Saturday against the aristocrats of Lincoln City, writes **Aaron Gransby**.

Evans, the on-loan Brentford centre back, dominated the back four, while Bowgett, always the man for the big occasion, was back to his best, winning every ball he contested.

And their fine form must put a question mark against the Lower Mead future of either Steve Hatter of Dennis Byatt. While Evans is almost certain to return to League football at Griffin Park, there will be room for only one of the others to partner the currently outstanding Bowgett.

Mick Perry took his chance to shine up front. Now recovered from his knee injury, he looked the only Stones player likely to hit the back of the net, in front of Lower Mead's biggest crowd of the season, 1,107.

Byron Walton squandered Wealdstone's best chance of the game. Hirst found him running through with

an accurate pass, but as Walton bore down on goal Batch narrowed the angle and Walton blazed wildly over the angle of post and cross bar from ten yards.

Terry Evans kept the scoresheet blank at half-time with an incredible tackle on Paul Smith as the forward cut in from the right with seemingly, only Welsh to beat. The big defender appeared from nowhere to rob Smith cleanly and then clear the ball out of the danger area.

And Lincoln were convinced they had finally scored as their pressure began to tell in the 63rd minute. Bob Cumming burst through the middle on a splendid run that took him from the centre circle to the six yard line. But as he seemed certain to score he poked the ball forward for McGinley to shoot home, and then turned in disbelief as the referee blew for off-side against McGinley. Cumming was booked for protesting.

Wealdstone: Welsh, Rivero, Bowgett, Pittaway, Evans, Wainwright, McCarthy, Hirst, Isaacs, Perry, Walton. **Subs:** Byatt, Meadows.

promotion to the Championship four years later before moving to Wycombe where he had similar success.

As for Terry Burton, well he lasted just another three weeks before resigning and being replaced by ex-Enfield legend Tony Jennings. Three managers in a season! We were turning into Watford!

So what happened next, you're probably

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

REWIND CONTINUED

wondering. The return of Terry Evans to Brentford shone a spotlight on the frailty of our central defence just a week later when Dennis Byatt - returning from injury - partnered Bowgett in the calamitous 2-0 defeat at Midland League side Tamworth in the FA Cup. Not long after, we were deservedly beaten in a Middlesex Cup replay Yeading who were also (supposedly) three divisions worse than us. And when we shipped five goals at Enfield, five at Stafford Rangers and five at Barnet, Burton was on his way.

Jennings, a defender in his own stellar non-League career - and who had the contacts at this level that the previous two incumbents hadn't - largely managed to stop the haemorrhaging of goals by signing quality left back Mark Harrison and the defensive shield of Everal'd la Ronde. But we finished second bottom and we've never been back.. until now!

Team v Lincoln: Alex Welsh, Francisco Rivero, Paul Bowgett, Ike Pittaway, Terry Evans, Robin Wainwright, Paddy McCarthy, Martin Hirst, Tony Isaacs, Mick Perry, Byron Walton. Sub: Gerry Solomon



Memorable moments: Current fan Paul Torpey (above) was mascot for the Lincoln match on his ninth birthday, and below the excellent Neale Harvey column had an amusing tale of mishaps for another long-term fan, Khanna

SIDELINES BY NEALE HARVEY

Regular readers of this column (both of them that is!) will be now be aware of the recent traumas endured by Wealdstone supporter Sateesh Khanna who firstly arrived in Telford 20 minutes after the game had finished and followed that up with a catalogue of misfortune on the way to Runcorn. Well my friends, he's done it again. On his way to Maidstone on that foul evening the other week the hapless Khanna managed to lose control of his car after hitting a large patch of surface water and ended up on the kerb. Undaunted by this minor flirtation with catastrophe Sateesh soldiered on and arrived at Maidstone's ground at just on eight o'clock, yes you've guessed it, a mere two minutes after the game had been abandoned due to the pitch being flooded! How does he do it? Still, you'll be pleased to know that he played safe last Saturday and went on the supporters coach getting to the ground on time and receiving a big cheer for his trouble.

...while 39 years ago, a tale of Cup agony, G. Duck 'betrayal' and some accurate egg-throwing!



The much-egged Les Currell denies Alan Cordice

Saturday October 17 1981, FA Cup 3rd Qual Rd: Wealdstone 1 Harrow Borough 4

Oh how we were looking forward to this one! And how agonising was it to lose to our local rivals, with our very own hero George Duck scoring twice! The report (right) tells it all, with the only comfort coming a couple of weeks later when we faced Boro again in the FA Trophy and stuffed them 4-0 in a replay. It was a great season marred by this one result!

Underdogs prove bookies wrong

Wealdstone 1
Harrow Borough 4

ONE HARROW bookmaker offered 5-2 against 'underdogs' Borough beating 'Stones on Saturday; as it transpired Borough ended up as much an underdog as Red Rum in the Grand National.

For Borough there can only be delight at a job well done. For 'Stones there must be despair bordering disbelief after a match that was extraordinary by any standards.

Even before the kicking the egg-throwing that eventually led to both teams being led off the field for eight minutes by referee Terry Maber had reared its juvenile head.

But, although such disorder was to lead to more serious consequences later, it was the least of 'Stones' problems in a first half that could not have gone better for Borough if chairman Peter Rogers had scripted it himself.

Sow

For following a couple of early abortive Wealdstone attacks, the man who had possibly more to play for than anybody else, George Duck, popped up to sow the first seeds of what was to lead to Wealdstone's destruction.

Following Boro's second corner in a minute, David Pearce — like Duck an ex-Stones player — got his head to the ball at the far post and Duck rose unchallenged to pick his spot

with a perfect header that gave Boro a sixth minute lead.

For Duck — who hit 250 goals in a Wealdstone shirt during the 1970's — there can have been few more sweeter moments on a Lower Mead pitch he knows so well.

That early goal set the scene for what was to become the pattern of the match — a seemingly never-ending stream of Wealdstone attacks that, partly through misfortune and partly through some superb Boro cover, was never to provide the end results they so often deserved.

Even though towering Boro centre half Dave Howell did a great job throughout, Stones' fleet-footed striker Alan Cordice still caused enough panic in the visiting defence to send any 'keeper into a psychiatric ward.

But through it all the Borough defence held unswervingly to their task. Whether it was the Cordice brothers weaving their spells down the flanks and around the 18-yard box, or full back Stuart Pearce popping up for the odd flurry at goal, the back four did their job with a winning mixture of single-minded determination and utter desperation.

Nigel Johnson headed wide following Alan Cordice's cross to the far post; Pearce's jinxing run into the box brought the best out-of-keeper Les Currell at the near post, before the same player's free kick also needed a vital stop.

At the other end Harrow's most talented ball player, Steve Jones, was taking more stick than a hockey ball. It always looked only a question of time before someone was booked for one of the many fouls on the talented Jones, and Robin Wainwright earned that dubious distinction after 26 minutes. Wainwright was

Report: RON SMITHSON
Pictures: DOUG AVENT

himself fouled in the second half, Boro skipper Manor joining him in the book.

Two minutes later the hill that Wealdstone had to climb turned into a mountain as, following Ray Metz's cross, the towering Howell sent a searing header from 16 yards past startled 'Stones' keeper Goddard that put Boro two up.

Denied

Still 'Stones came forward, and still they were denied; Paul Waites' ball into the box looked for all the world likely to be turned into a goal by the ever-present Alan Cordice before Cliff Rapley cleared the ball off the line.

Then minutes later it seemed inconceivable that Nigel Johnson's almost lackadaisical shot when unmarked could fail to end up in the corner — but keeper Currell stuck out a left foot to send the ball round the post.

Stones finally broke through when it seemed that they were going to run out of time as well as patience.

Neil's cross found brother Alan, and after his shot had the sting taken out of it, the ball stuck temptingly in the mud and Currell had no chance with Nigel Johnson's shot.

The score — with a good three minutes overtime on most people's watches — was as richly deserved as it was late.

When Tony Doherty felled Alan Cordice thirteen minutes into the second half 'Stones appealed long and loud for a penalty. Referee Maber became the most unpopular man at Lower Mead

by awarding a direct free kick on the 18 yard line and Pearce's shot wasn't far wide of the upright.

Perhaps it was only fitting that the man who started the demise of 'Stones should finish the job. As Boro embarked on a breakaway, Steve Jones beat Colin Hardman on the left flank and Duck, faced with a desperately on-rushing Goddard, beat the 'keeper and sent an agonising ball just hard enough to meet the empty net.

A few minutes after that third 72 minute goal, goalkeeper Les Currell was again the target of the egg-carrier and after being hit twice, gave a nod to the linesman to indicate that he had had enough.

Cleared

After the referee had led the players off, some brave words from 'Stones chairman David Morrill, along with club official Peter Moran succeeded in clearing a space behind the Elmslie end. Thus complying with the referee's condition for restarting the game, the players came back.

The action continued with ever-increasing desperation, before another lightning Boro breakaway ended with David Pearce scoring Boro's fourth in the last few minutes.

WEALDSTONE: Goddard; Hardman, Pearce, Byatt, Bowgett, Barwick, Waites (sub Forde); Wainwright, Cordice (A), Cordice (N), Johnson.

HARROW BOROUGH: Currell; Metz, Rapley, Doherty, Howell, Manoe, Emmanuel, Duck, Pearce, Jones, Harris.



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BY STEVE DUCKER



①

50 year flashback

Marking our step up to professionalism in 2021 we're continuing to 'live blog' our final season as an amateur club, charting the 1970/71 season using one programme from each of the 92 professional Football League clubs playing 50 years ago. Here are matches 9 to 12.

Tuesday 1 September, 7.30pm, Division 2

Swindon Town 1 (Arthur Horsfield)

Watford 1 (Ron Wigg)

Ref W Gow, Swansea | Att 16,176

Summary: Teams better known for Cup exploits share points in second season after promotion.

Programme highlight: Colour action photo on front cover, a rarity back then. ①

Programme lowlight: The ad space reserved for British Rail Inter-City. This was Town's third home game and the artwork still hadn't turned up. Maybe it was delayed just outside Reading.

Programme bingo: The Personality Spot page. Big player photo, autograph, bit of Q&A, space filled. Swindon legend John Trollope in this case. ②

Ahead of their time: Back page advertiser Martyn Lynshaw Ltd, supplier of 'spectator seating in high density polyethylene' at a time when few clubs made more than a token offering for the non-vertical spectator and all-seater stadiums were practically science fiction.

Any other business: Swindon, League Cup winners in 1969 as a third division side, were not allowed to enter the Fairs Cup because of their status. They played a consolation prize game against the Italian League Cup winners the following season, won it, then did the same in a larger Anglo-Italian competition in the summer of 1970, and became the first English team to hold two European trophies simultaneously.

Cliche: 'We should be beating teams like them'

Stones: We lose 0-1 at home to Leytonstone.

Swindon Town
Football Club
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Swindon Town v. Watford

②

④



Crystal Palace
FC

Personality Spot
John Trollope



John Trollope. A local player who joined the Swindon Ground Staff in 1960. He was selected for the first team at the beginning of the 1960 season when he was just 16 years old, and was ever present during the season. Together with his partner that year...

Wednesday 2 September, 7.30pm, Division 1

Crystal Palace 1 (Queen)
Blackpool 0

Ref W Castle, Sedgely | Att 26,296

Summary: An early relegation four pointer ends in a home win as tempers flare on the pitch.

Programme highlight: The Stats page, with 1 to 11 line ups, subs, goals scored denoted in superscript and even a column for own goals. It's commonplace now, then it was revolutionary. ③

Programme lowlight: The size, which with the cover design looks more like a takeaway menu than the reading matter for a first division match. ④

Programme bingo: Veteran Palace club captain John Sewell talking about the sweet shop he's lined up for his retirement, but adding that he wouldn't rule out club management if the right offer came along (hint).

Ahead of their time: The Women's Page. Ladies' football had been banned after the First World War and even 50 years later the authorities barely gave it house room.

Any other business: The game included a mass punch up, involving among others the home side's combative Scottish striker Gerry Queen. When it made the match report, an unnamed but legendary Guardian sub editor saw his chance, and readers woke up to the headline 'Queen in brawl at Palace'.

Cliche: 'Another 28 points and we've stayed up'

BY ROGER SLATER



The only football ground in the world with its own WW2 gun turret.. the fascinating story of the Vale's most distinguishing feature



The Vale pictured in the 1970s with the gun turret prominent, above

Long-time fan (and ex-director) Roger Slater went all Dan Brown last year with his search for the definitive founding date of Wealdstone FC. Now his Holy Grail is to discover the truth behind the distinctly unusual turret at The Vale...

There it is, currently painted blue and white nestling in the top corner of the ground (pictured right) but what do we know about it? It has variously been rumoured to be a Searchlight Tower or an Anti-Aircraft Gun Tower – in fact, it had housed both. The building some 30m to the rear (pictured below right) which you won't have seen unless you really look has also been variously described as a type 24 Pill Box according to the London Borough of Hillingdon, while English Heritage listing states it as a Magazine and/or Crew Quarters. The gun would have had a crew of 10 or 12 which makes this much more likely.

What else do we know? The turret was obviously built to protect the approached to RAF Northolt in WWII..... No! That may well have been a secondary purpose, but it was actually

built as part of the defences for the underground Munitions Store, part of which remains under the Ruislip London Underground Depot. Now those are some tunnels I'd like to explore!

Ok, that's enough with what we thought we knew but didn't. What is the actual story? It starts with the very first days of the Sports Ground. Originally part of Sherleys Farm, land was sold off for development in the early 1930s as the Ruislip estate was being developed, and part of this plan maintained the field at the end of what became Grosvenor Vale. This was subsequently sold to the Air Ministry and became the RAF Sports Ground and home to the RAF Apprentices teams.

There was no stadium however, (as shown in the photograph far right, taken just before WWII started), but a centrally located football pitch surrounded by an athletics track. Much of the local housing was yet to appear. The Ruislip Manor football club at this time incidentally played on the next far down the road, New Pond Farm, in the area where Ruislip Gardens shops now stand – it wasn't until around 1947 that they took over the



WEALDSTONE 2020-21

Grosvenor Vale ground, on lease from the Air Ministry.

In 1936 as part of a Government move to prepare for war, three major underground depots for Ammunition Storage (10-35,000 tons each) were developed to hold incendiary and standard bombs as a reserve. These were each supported by Ammunition Parks (local storage across the UK to directly support bomber groups and Satellite sites, of which Ruislip was one of eight).

By the time WWII started, the RAF Apprentices seem to have moved away from the as yet undeveloped site and the field lay dormant until 1940, when following a directive from the Air Ministry and the anticipation of Luftwaffe bombing raids the Light Anti-Aircraft Gun Tower and ancillary building were constructed as defences for the Munitions Store.

It seems that only 81 towers of this type were built and less than ten are believed to exist today, which was part of the reason that 'our' tower gained a Grade II listing in May 2013, meaning it cannot be demolished nor changed in any way. In fact, it needs permission if it is to be repainted.

The tower was designed to raise a 40mm Bofors gun above trees and buildings in order to achieve an all-round field of fire. By late 1940, this design had been superseded by a simpler, steel-framed type. Of equal importance at least is the remote Magazine building. Built to differing specifications, often in adapted Anderson shelters, few have survived in any condition.

The gun turret comprises two elevated platforms, approximately 5m high, located immediately adjacent to each other, leaving a narrow gap between them at platform level. The Bofors gun would have been mounted on the larger platform and its range predictor (to calculate enemy aircraft speed and height and thus ensure the accuracy of the gun) on the smaller one. Internally, the range predictor platform has two floors and the gun platform just one. An

external concrete staircase along the south-east elevation provides access from the ground floor to the first floor ammunition store in the range predictor tower (the entrance door in the south-west elevation is bricked up) and then up to the roof. At ground level, the range predictor tower has a pillbox-type room with a low ceiling.

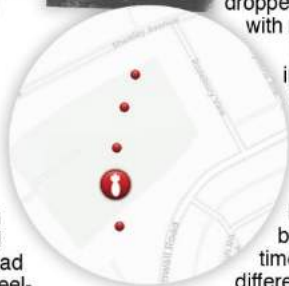


The gun platform has a single high-ceilinged room on the ground floor. This room and that in the extension to the rear of the range predictor platform would have housed the operations room and generator. Between the two platforms is a full-height 'entrance lobby' with an entrance in the south-west elevation.

We cannot say 100% that it ever saw action, but a look at the Bomb Map of the area in WWII (pictured below left) would indicate that it almost certainly was fired in anger and indeed may actually have been the target for a particular bombing raid between October 7th 1940 and 6th June 1942, when a string of High Explosive bombs were dropped directly across the playing fields with no others in close proximity!

Post war, Ruislip Manor FC moved into the site and over a number of years established the football ground in the corner of the site where it remains today, slowly developing a post and rail pitch, then a main stand, dressing rooms and later the clubhouse - the original building being extended a number of times. The stadium certainly looks a lot different today!

Now, about that Railway Air Services DC3 Dakota that crash landed onto a house in Angus Drive in December 1948.....



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	YEOVIL TOWN Saturday, 1st May Vanarama National League	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE Saturday, 8th May Vanarama National League	'In Memory of fans no longer with us' Ron Moore, Tony & Peter Drew + Peter Edwards		
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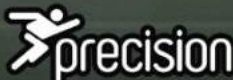
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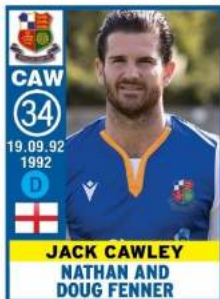
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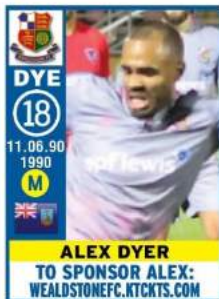
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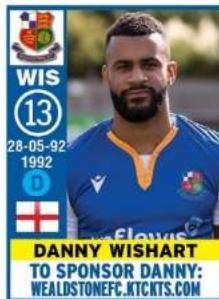
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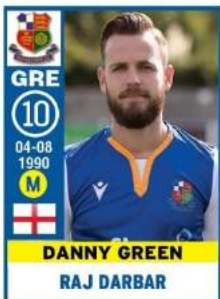
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KEY: Number in circle = Squad Number. C = Management & Coaching Staff; D = Defender; M = Midfielder; F = Forward; L = Legend;
 Note: Flags indicate national team as defined under FIFA eligibility rules. Players may hold more than one non-FIFA nationality.




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 THE GROUNDWORKS TEAM




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VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

Saturday, 21st November, 5:20pm

Watch the game live on BT Sport

The draw for the FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round took place on Thursday. To see who we've drawn and where we'll be playing, visit www.wealdstone-fc.com

WEALDSTONE 2020-21

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King's Lynn Town

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

Tuesday, 27th October, 7:45pm

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VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

Tuesday, 17th November, 7:45pm

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Notts County

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

Friday, 27th November, 7:45pm

www.nottscountyfc.co.uk | @Official_NCFC

FIXTURES LATEST: www.wealdstone-fc.com

Vanarama National League 2020/2021 – as at Tuesday 13/10/2020

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 Hartlepool United	4	3	1	0	8 2	2	1	1	0	2 1	2	2	0	0	6 1	6	10	
2 Stockport County	4	3	0	1	10 4	2	2	0	0	5 1	2	1	0	1	5 3	6	9	2-5
3 Notts County	4	3	0	1	8 4	2	2	0	0	7 3	2	1	0	1	1 1	4	9	
4 Sutton United	4	3	0	1	6 2	2	1	0	1	3 1	2	2	0	0	3 1	4	9	
5 Torquay United	4	3	0	1	6 4	2	2	0	0	3 1	2	1	0	1	3 3	2	9	
6 Woking	4	3	0	1	5 5	2	2	0	0	4 1	2	1	0	1	1 4	0	9	
7 Eastleigh	3	2	1	0	8 3	2	1	1	0	3 2	1	1	0	0	5 1	5	7	
8 Solihull Moors	3	2	0	1	7 2	2	2	0	0	6 0	1	0	0	1	1 2	5	6	
9 Wrexham	4	2	0	2	3 3	2	1	0	1	2 2	2	1	0	1	1 1	0	6	
10 Barnet	4	2	0	2	6 10	2	1	0	1	2 5	2	1	0	1	4 5	-4	6	
11 Halifax Town	4	1	2	1	4 3	2	1	1	0	3 1	2	0	1	1	1 2	1	5	
12 Bromley	3	1	1	1	5 3	2	1	0	1	5 3	1	0	1	0	0 2	2	4	
13 Boreham Wood	3	1	1	1	4 2	1	0	1	0	0 0	2	1	0	1	4 2	2	4	
14 King's Lynn Town	4	1	1	2	5 12	2	0	1	1	2 5	2	1	0	1	3 7	-7	4	
15 Aldershot Town	3	1	0	2	7 4	1	0	0	1	1 2	2	1	0	1	6 2	3	3	
16 Chesterfield	3	1	0	2	6 4	2	1	0	1	5 2	1	0	0	1	1 2	2	3	
17 Yeovil Town	4	0	3	1	5 6	2	0	1	1	2 3	2	0	2	0	3 3	-1	3	2-2
18 Dagenham & Redbridge	4	1	0	3	2 6	2	1	0	1	2 2	2	0	0	2	0 4	-4	3	0-1
19 Maidenhead United	4	1	0	3	3 10	2	0	0	2	2 7	2	1	0	1	1 3	-7	3	
20 Dover Athletic	4	1	0	3	2 12	2	1	0	1	1 5	2	0	0	2	1 7	-10	3	
21 Altrincham	3	0	2	1	2 4	1	0	1	0	0 0	2	0	1	1	2 4	-2	2	
22 Weymouth	4	0	1	3	0 3	2	0	0	2	0 2	2	0	1	1	0 1	-3	1	
23 Wealdstone	3	0	1	2	4 8	1	0	0	1	2 5	2	0	1	1	2 3	-4	1	-- --



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THE LINE-UPS

WEALDSTONE

Royal Blue/White

v

WREXHAM

All Red

G Harry Isted 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Rob Lainton G
Michee Efete 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 Reece Hall-Johnson
Adel Gafaiti 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3 Jamie Reckord
Ashley Charles 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 Theo Vassell
Connor Stevens 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5 Shaun Pearson
Jerome Okimo © 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6 Jay Harris
Michael Phillips 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7 Elliott Durrell
Connor Smith 8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8 Luke Young
Ross Lafayette 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9 Jordan Ponticelli
Danny Green 10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10 Devonte Redmond
Dennon Lewis 11	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11 Anthony Jeffrey
Charlee Hughes 12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12 Dan Jarvis
Daniel Wishart 13	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13 Mark Carrington
Danny Parish 14	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14 Paul Rutherford
Kundai Benyu 15	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15 James Horsfield
Jacob Mendy Mendy 17	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	19 Adi Yussuf
Alex Dyer 18	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	21 Christian Dibble G
Moses Emmanuel 19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	22 Fiacre Kelleher
Jorome Slew 20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	27 Jake Bickerstaff
G Lewis Everett 21	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	29 Jordan Davies
Charlie Wakefield 24	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	32 Max Cleworth
Jack Cawley 34	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

REFEREE Matthew Russell **ASSISTANT REFEREES**
 Stephen Parkinson and Jack Oxenham **FOURTH**
OFFICIAL Conor Griffin **OBSERVER** Keith Hill

MATCH SPONSOR To be announced

NEXT HOME GAMES v CHESTERFIELD (Vanarama National League) Tuesday October 20, KO 7.45 pm
PLUS a possible home FA Cup 4th Qual Rd tie next Saturday, Oct 24 (draw was made after we'd gone to Press)

Main club sponsor:

gpflewis 



INSIDE
 The big
 interview:
Danny Parish