

wealdstone football club

2009-2010 season

www.wealdstone-fc.com

first winners of the non-league double



► **14 YEARS AND COUNTING!**
Gordon Bartlett applauds the fans last season.. today is the chance for those fans to salute our long-serving manager

WEALDSTONE v WATFORD



SATURDAY JULY 18, 2009, KICK-OFF 3PM
GORDON BARTLETT TESTIMONIAL

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WEALDSTONE V WATFORD

Stones

blue and white

Luke **WOODS**

Marvin **McCOY**

Gary **JONES**

(C) James **GRAY**

Alan **MASSEY**

Ryan **ASHE**

Kieron **FORBES**

Chris **O'LEARY**

Derek **QUAYE**

Greg **NGOYI**

Danny **SPENDLOVE**

Jamie **OSBORNE**

Ross **LAFETTE**

Darren **LOCKE**

Terrell **LEWIS**

Daniel **LAKE**

Hornets

yellow and black

Scott **LOACH**

Lloyd **DOYLEY**

Mathew **SADLER**

Jobi **McANUFF**

Jay **DeMERIT**

Adrian **MARIAPPA**

Ross **JENKINS**

John-Joe **O'TOOLE**

Tamas **PRISKIN**

Tommy **SMITH**

Will **HOSKINS**

Lewis **YOUNG**

Mike **WILLIAMSON**

Liam **HENDERSON**

Jon **HARLEY**

Richard **LEE**

Referee: Wes Linden

Assistants: Steven Rea & Ben Ferneaux

4th Official: Steve Reuter

BALL DONOR: C.S. BEDFORD



The Club

Ground: Grosvenor Vale
Ruislip Middx. HA46JQ
01895 637 487

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Paul Fruin
Quentin Fox
Paul Rumens

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Paul Rumens

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**JUNIOR LIAISON
MANAGER**
Mark Lloyd

KIT MANAGER
Tony Waugh



14 years and counting... Gordon celebrates his testimonial

Good afternoon everyone and welcome back to The Vale. The summer has gone very fast and we are now onto the first of our pre season friendlies of the 2009/2010 season.

A special welcome to our visitors, Watford F.C. I hope that all the players, officials and supporters enjoy their short stay with us and have a safe journey home afterwards. A number of the Watford fans would have been here this time last season, and if so, will surely notice the continued improvement to the club's facilities. The clubhouse continues to evolve into a venue to be proud of, and the painting and new section of terracing around the pitch will, I'm sure you'd agree, make watching the game here an even better prospect. All this work has been undertaken by hard core Wealdstone supporters giving up many hours each to enhance the enjoyment for all. Well done to all of you, the club is very lucky to have such followers.

Today marks the fifteenth season with Gordon and Leo running the first team. Gordon Bartlett is having this season for his testimonial of which this game is a major contributor. We've come along way since 1995, and Ryman Division III. There has been so many highs, as we climbed back to our current position only just short of the Conference South, all achieved with a consistently modest budget and whilst spending the entire time ground sharing bar the season just gone.

Gordon and his team now need to knuckle down and get into the play-offs that we came close to making last year, but today he deserves to take his bow and bask in the

warmth that the club and its supporters feel for him as a thorough gentleman, not to mention his considerable footballing achievements over the years. Have a great day Gordon and thanks for everything.

I would like to say a big thanks to C.S. Bedford the jewellers for donating the match ball for today's game. Your generosity is much appreciated, and I trust you will enjoy your experience.

The squad for today's visitors was not certain at the time of going to press, but I did see that Marvin Sordell and Liam Henderson are included in their first team squad alongside Jon Joe O'Toole. All of those players had stints here on loan, and had a very decent attitude whilst here too. This alone will hold them in good stead as they wait their chance for a run in the first team and a possible lucrative career. Good luck to Watford this season in what is a particularly financially challenging one for all clubs, and for the Hornets, under the stewardship of Malky Mackay, a new chapter in their history.

As for the Stones, we have released Davis Haule and David Hicks. Both players played very well for the club at times, and we thank them for their time with us and wish them well in the future. The vast bulk of our young squad has been retained however, which will surely give us a head start once the league programme gets under way next month.

Enjoy the game.

Adam Gloor

All hail, Gordon Bartlett

I am delighted to have the opportunity to write a few words, about the legend that is our manager Gordon Bartlett, as we (finally—and not before time) celebrate everything he has contributed to Wealdstone FC over the last 14 years.

When I became Chairman one of things people said I needed to do was to develop my relationship with the manager. Although I knew Gordon reasonably well—most of us do—this meant raising that relationship up a few notches. We had a dinner fairly early on, at a pub near Iver Heath as I recall, and as I drove there I remember feeling just a bit of trepidation. After all, as I mentioned to him that evening, whilst typically it is the chairman who hires and fires managers, Gordon was now on his third Wealdstone chairman!

Gordon is a true Wealdstone hero. But he is also a guy who has achieved so much in the game not only during his time with Wealdstone but also in the years before, as a player as well as a manager. As a (relatively) young supporter of Wealdstone back in 1995, I had welcomed Gordon, like any other new manager with that mixture of respect, hope and awe that is accorded to people with Gordon's track record who come to your club. What a coup by Paul Rumens to obtain the services of someone who had been so conspicuously successful at Southall, Hounslow and then Yeading including winning the FA Vase just five years earlier. He looked the right man for the time, as we moved to Edgware and into the Ryman League to start hauling Wealdstone back up the pyramid.

The first season started explosively enough, with a brand new team hitting the ground running but we had to wait a year before the third division championship, followed by two more successive 'promotions' got the Club moving until the problems with getting The White Lion to Premier League level meant we were stopped in our tracks by the authorities.

The following few years have seen a different part of Gordon's genius, in short keeping us up! The budgets we have been used to by rights were simply not competitive for Premier League status, and though survival battles meant frequent bouts of questioning whether the Club was heading the right way, in the final analysis we've always known that one of the main reasons we avoided relegation year after year was because of Gordon's managerial skills.

The number of ex-Gordon Bartlett players now plying their trade at higher levels tells you how good his eye is for a young player with potential, especially a striker and the quality of player he has brought to Wealdstone emphasises what a good salesman he is for the Club.

Going back to building my relationship with the manager, the truth is that we speak nearly every day. We don't always agree on things but we do agree on what it is that we are all aiming to achieve. I see first-hand his commitment, love and knowledge of the game (as well as the Club) and complete professionalism day after day, week after week. Gordon has now given so much of his managerial career to Wealdstone that he is nearly part of the furniture here and I know how desperate he is for Wealdstone FC to be successful, on and off the pitch.

Having got to know the guy pretty well over the past two years I am delighted that Watford, just one of many clubs with whom Gordon has built a strong relationship, are able to join us for this occasion. I hope we get a bumper crowd, the sun smiles and everyone joins together to make this a testimonial to remember. Gordon, thanks for all you have done for Wealdstone FC and let's hope we continue onwards and upwards, with you as our manager for many years to come.

Howard Kraiss
Chairman

GB IN NUMBERS

Onwards and upwards: Gordon's track record

Gordon is now a school teacher, having been with Portsmouth, Denver Dynamos (USA), Brentford, Slough Town and Hayes as a player. He is an "A" Licence Holder, FA Tutor assessor and Middlesex County coach. As a manager he took Hounslow Town to promotion and League Cup success, led both Southall and Yeading to FA Vase finals at Wembley Stadium, and achieved two promotions as well as four County Cup finals with Yeading. Joined Wealdstone in June 1995 and up to the end of last season had been in charge of the first team for 955 matches. During that time he has guided us to three promotions and the winning of the

Middlesex Charity Cup final in 2004.

Gordon's first game in charge of the Stones was on Tuesday 25th July 1995. It was a pre-season friendly played at the ASL Sports Ground in Honeypot Lane, Stanmore against North Greenford United, Wealdstone winning by four goals to nil. The first league match played after he joined us took place on Saturday 19th August 1995. It was an Isthmian League (Division Three) fixture away to Cove and resulted in a 9-1 victory for the Stones.

A summary of Wealdstone's results since Gordon joined us is as follows:-

Goals	P	W	D	L	F	A
Isthmian League Matches	542	236	107	199	929	776
Isthmian League Cup	34	21	1	12	87	63
Isthmian Lge (Div 1 Nth) Playoff	1	0	1	0	2	2
Southern League Matches	42	13	9	20	69	82
Southern League Cup	1	0	0	1	0	2
F.A. Cup	44	22	9	13	79	54
F.A. Trophy	31	14	6	11	50	51
F.A. Vase	13	8	2	3	34	15
Middlesex Senior Cup	28	13	1	14	48	50
Middlesex Charity Cup	24	11	4	9	47	37
London Senior Cup	6	3	1	2	14	13
Associate Members Trophy	10	7	1	2	23	8
Full Members Cup	8	4	1	3	16	13
Vandanel Trophy	4	3	0	1	6	4
Harrow Senior Cup	2	1	0	1	4	4
George Russell Shield	1	0	0	1	2	4
Friendlies	164	85	38	41	343	259
Total:	955	441	181	333	1753	1437

BEHIND ANY GREAT MANAGER...

Club before country? Or maybe a baby

Congratulations Gordon on earning your testimonial season after 14 years in charge at Wealdstone. I don't know if that is a record number of seasons for one manager at this club, but you thoroughly deserve this recognition of your hard work and loyalty.

The fact that we are about to start our 24th season together as a management team is demonstration enough of what I think of Gordon, it just would not be possible for me to work that long with someone who I did not have the utmost respect for, both in all football matters and as a person. Don't get me wrong, I don't always agree with all his decisions but Gordon will always listen to different options and ideas and will change his mind if he thinks that's the right thing to do, and give reasoned argument if he believes his original plan is the way to go. On the rare occasion that he gets it wrong, he is man enough to hold his hand up and say so.

Whatever Gordon does, he believes it is in the best interest of the club. I think it is fairly well known that perhaps I'm not as tolerant as Gordon but without his calming and reasoned manner, I could well have cost Wealdstone a couple of players! Certainly in our early days at the club we may well have fielded a team a couple of times without a recognised goalkeeper if I'd had my way!!

I first started working with Gordon at the start of season 1986/87 at Hounslow, we were playing in the Hellenic league where the club had been relegated to from the Southern League a couple of seasons earlier. In fact I fully expected to be offered the managers job. I had taken over in a 'caretakers' role towards the end of the previous season when Alan Humphries left the club after a league defeat. We actually finished in a promotion place but were

denied that promotion over some ground issues. Sound familiar! So it was a bit of a surprise when I got a call in the summer telling me that Gordon Bartlett was being appointed. I did know Gordon, not well, but he had burst on to the management scene by taking unfashionable Southall to the Vase Final at Wembley, I think he was the youngest ever manager to lead a team out at Wembley.

When we met, Gordon offered me the opportunity to work with him and see how things work out. I reckon things must have worked out OK!!!

Typical of Gordon though, he did everything and at times I felt like the proverbial spare appendage at a wedding and I had to tell him that he could unload some of his work load to me. That first season Hounslow finished second in the league, winning promotion back to the Southern League, and winning the Hellenic League Cup.

So passionate was Gordon about football he even came on tour to Jersey in the summer when his wife Jackie was due to have their first baby any day!! In fact I had to arrange a flight home a few days early for him just in time to be at the birth of Amanda!!

I'm not going to do a season by season history of our career, but after a couple more seasons at Hounslow Gordon was offered the Yeading job and he asked if I would go with him. No decision, it was very clear to me that I was working with a man with a burning ambition to be successful and win things on the football field. How shrewd of me!! During the six seasons we were at Yeading Gordon led the club to Champions of Isthmian League Division 3 South, Runners up in Division One, FA Vase Winners, four Middlesex Senior Cup Finals and the first round proper of the FA Cup

twice. And every season we finished in the highest position in the clubs history. Not a bad record eh!

Gordon was responsible for probably the proudest day of my life in football. Our FA Vase Final at Wembley in 1990 had finished in a goal less draw with Bridlington so a reply was needed and would take place at Elland Road midweek, the following week. The normal pre match preparations in the changing room were just completed and as the teams were about to go out, Gordon called me over and told me he had a job for me to do, 'What is it?' I asked. 'Lead the team out!' Fantastic experience, and I'll never forget that night when we won 1-0. Although I led the team out it was Gordon who ended up in the shower fully suited and booted with the cup!!!

When Gordon was offered the job at Wealdstone in 1995, we had a meeting in our office at Yeading's ground to discuss, yes we had an office!! Gordon again asked me if I would join him but before he made a decision I said we should write down the pros and cons of going and staying. There were only two things going for Wealdstone, the promise of a new ground within two years and the opportunity of managing a team with 'real' support. That was it, there was no sensible reason to leave a Premier Division club, a successful one at that, and join a Third Division team, with no ground, sharing at a less than glamorous place, with an ageing squad quite clearly only playing for the massive wages they were on. Wages, we were told, that were going to be severely cut if we went there! Obvious wasn't it? Gordon had to take the job!

Gordon and I have discussed this move many times and I believe Gordon saw this as a massive challenge and saw a real opportunity to take the club back to the higher level of the non-league game.

You all know the Gordon Bartlett and Wealdstone history and I'm not going to do a blow by blow account of his time here.

What I will say is that I do not believe any other manager in non league could have achieved what Gordon has for Wealdstone FC. When you look at the infrastructure of the club now compared to 14 season's ago,

the transformation is incredible. We now have a youth set up to be proud of, from the College, through the Allied Counties and the successful reserve team up to the first team which is probably more professionally run than most others at our level.

How Gordon has managed to keep going when so often things go against us is amazing and a tribute to the man's grit and determination, self believe and motivation and probably his downfall, loyalty.

I will be honest now and say I don't think Gordon has achieved what he was capable of in football. In my opinion he was good enough to manage a bigger club at a higher level and even he must consider sometimes if it was the right decision to stay after we were denied promotion in 1999. That is not meant to demean Wealdstone in any way, Gordon and I have had a fantastic time here, with more to come I hope, but I do wonder what he might have gone on to do higher up the ladder.

You may know that Gordon is writing a book which will contain all the stories from his playing and managing career, so I haven't tried to replicate that here. Apart from that I'm running out of time, in typical Gordon fashion he gave me the tightest of deadlines to get something written!!

I cannot speak highly enough of the man I have proudly worked alongside for so many years now. Gordon has never been 'the big I am' and has never claimed to know it all. I don't think I've ever heard a bad word said about him, other than maybe an ill timed outburst from a released player.

Although we do not mix socially too often I think of him as a true friend. I have been privileged to get to know his family, his Mum and Dad, wife Jackie and children Amanda and Craig, all lovely people whose company I enjoy. I hope that they can be here today.

I would love to achieve working with Gordon for 25 seasons—who knows in football—but if it ended now I could look back on our time together with real pride knowing that I had worked with one of the best. Have a great season mate.

Leo



Respect! For a struggle against the odds

Anyone who can be in charge of a struggling non-league club for over a thousand first team games deserves respect ! (As does his long suffering wife and family Jackie, Amanda and Craig)

I came to know Gordon a couple of years before I joined the board, as well as Wealdstone games I used to go and see a whole variety of non league games and I remember running into him one Saturday over a bank holiday at Horsham. He was with Craig checking on the opposition and seeing a key game that affected our chances of being promoted that season. From there it when on I met him around a number of grounds. I was even co-opted into some spying and player spotting missions. That is indeed rare allowing a Chairman to fulfil such football related activities.

What it did let me see was Gordon's unending enthusiasm and knowledge of the game. There is literally no non-league ground that Gordon goes to that someone doesn't come up and say hello to him and have a chat (I can reveal in latter years that half the time he's forgotten who is talking to!). However what that also reveals is his immense number of connections, be it players, managers, coaches and scouts.

It is this network that he taps into to get hold of our players. The number of players he has followed through youth football and

picked them up as they grow up Jolls and Jermaine to name but two.

In the period that I was Chairman it was a time of attrition for the club. All was focused on trying to get a new ground and limit the clubs losses. Playing at Edgware where the infrastructure was increasingly failing as the trail of Jokers that ran Edgware FC destroyed it. Then we moved to a friendlier but soulless time at Northwood. During this time we were never able to give Gordon a competitive budget. Results speak for themselves when we have given GB a competitive budget we are always in the hunt for promotion. So I here I commend Gordon's tenacity and loyalty to keep going turning out young sides that found it difficult to compete at the level we were playing at.

Gordon and I had a clear working relationship I looked after the running and funding of the club and he dealt with the football. I knew I could trust him to do his best for the club. I may have opinions about the team and what we should do, but in my view a Chairman should keep his nose out of team affairs and leave it to the experts.

Whilst I always encouraged him and was forever trying to get him to play more youngsters we never clashed over football. He and I had the same ethos in how the club should be run. We wanted to treat people and players in the way that we would

want to be treated ourselves. I think it unusual in the modern game of football that we see loyalty in the game but the club and Gordon have shown it to one another in heaps over the years.

I guess I should pick out some high and lows from my time as Chairman just to tweak your memories.

Seeing Jermaine score six goals for the youth team away against Uxbridge.

Seeing him a couple of years later scoring four in a reserve cup final against Marlow then following it up with a first team hat trick from the subs bench against Enfield. (One of my few Chairman's interventions was not letting GB, Leo and Andy sell Jermaine to Uxbridge which proved shrewd in the long run).

Signing Jolls on a dark winters night in my car outside the RAF training ground in Uxbridge for a £1000 then selling him on 125 goals later for £5000.

A good piece of business from Mr Bartlett.

Seeing Mr Jolly score in a penalty shoot out winning penalty to see us promoted into the Ryman premier League then celebrating on the pitch with GB and the team

In my first season as Chairmen the club won seven trophies a youth and reserve team treble and even the first team chipped in with the Middlesex charity cup. (a few more cup runs would be appreciated GB!).

Shaking hands with an emotionally drained GB in the car park at Salisbury having avoided relegation after Tuck's saving goal ten minutes from time. I am

assured by Fred Cummins that Tucks still rings him every couple of weeks and never fails to mention it.

Spending a fascinating day with Gordon looking around the Youth team facilities at Liverpool FC prior to meeting them in the evening at Annfield in the FA Youth cup.

Hearing the chant of there's only one team in Harrow as we beat the Borough 4-1 one Christmas at Northwood.

Playing a game of golf with Gordon his son Craig and Dominic Whyley and being witness to a remarkable putt from our quiet and reliable treasurer on the 8th hole at Ruislip. After not putting a short putt into hole in uncharacteristic anger Dom smote the offending ball a full seventy yards off the green and into the woods much to the chagrin of his playing partners.

Seeing Lee Holland scuffing the winner in at Earlsmead for us to avoid relegation.

The teams fantastic performance at Yate to see us avoid relegation from the Southern Premier League.

So I have to say that I have seen Gordon show great Enthusiasm, Knowledge, Loyalty, Tenacity and Trust so Respect!

I cannot thank Gordon and Leo enough for all their hard work and effort over almost too many years to mention. So lets see some more of those sixty-seventh minute substitutions long may it continue!

Nick Symmons

WEALDSTONE'S RECORD

v WATFORD

P 19 W 7 D 2 L 10 F 30 A 44

Bucks Border League

1967/68 Home W3-2 Away W1-0

M1 League

1968/69 Home L0-2 Away D1-1

Testimonial Matches

1973/74 (John Pearce) Home L2-5

1976/77 (George Duck) Home L1-2

Friendlies

1938/39 Home D1-1 1976/77 Home W2-0

1940/41 Home W4-2 1977/78 Home W1-0

1950/51 Home L2-4 1987/88 Home L1-4

1961/62 Home L2-3 1999/00 Home L0-1

1964/65 Home L1-2 2006/07 Home L0-4*

1966/67 Home L1-2 2008/09 Home W3-1

1971/72 Home W4-2

Played at Harefield United FC

Stats: Roy Couch

Busy, busy, busy....

We would like to welcome all Watford supporters attending today's match. We invite you and all of our supporters to check out our Supporters Club shop located at the turnstile of the ground end and behind the goal. The shop is open before and after the game and also during the half-time interval. The club shop, run by Adam Edwards and Mark Randall, ably supported by Mark Barton, opened for business last December and since then has gone from strength to strength raising valuable income for the Supporters Club. In the space of four months over £ 3,000 was raised and at the last home game of last season, over £1,000 worth of stock was sold. A monumental effort.

In May, the club held their Presentation Evening for the 2008-09 season at The Vale and it was a very successful evening with over 150 people attending. The Supporters Club Player of the Season winning the prestigious Jock Law Trophy was ALAN MASSEY. This season, 77 supporters voted and Alan Massey received 43 votes, over 50% of the votes cast. The other players that received votes were Lee Chappell (19), Chris O'Leary (6), Ryan Ashe (3), Carl Martin (3), Greg Ngoyi (2) and James Gary (1). The Supporters Club Supporter of the Season was Match-Day announcer and long-time supporter PETER JOHN-BAPTISTE. The Wealdstone FC Chairmen's award decided by Howard Kraus (Chairman of Wealdstone FC) and me went to JEREMY ALBERT. Jez, a long time supporter and a Supporters Club committee member has made a big contribution to the club over the past couple of years, particularly with raising funds for manager, Gordon Bartlett in order to secure players and he is heavily involved in the 100/400 fundraising scheme that was

announced last month. Congratulations to all the award winners.

We were delighted to hear that during the close season, Soccer Club Swap Shop, an internet based programme site, (www.thecatalogue.tripod.com), awarded the Wealdstone programme, 42nd best in non-league football and 1st in the Ryman Premier League for the 2008-09 season. Many congratulations to Adam Gloor, the programme editor, his wife Minnie and everyone else who is involved in its production.

Stones supporter, Toby Jackson and owner of the specialist badge company, Lapels has produced a special badge for the forthcoming pre-season friendly against Leeds United which takes place here on Tuesday evening. Toby has ordered 100 badges and Leeds have already pre-booked 30 of them. The badge shown on the attachment will sell for £3 each and will be available on the night of the match but also can be ordered directly from Toby by e-mail on LapelsToby@aol.com.

Golden Goal Tickets will be on sale for the first time this season and will be available from Miriam who will be standing inside the ground as you pass through the turnstiles and cost £1 each. Supporters have the opportunity to win £50 if their ticket matches the time of the first goal scored and £10 if their ticket matches the time of the last goal scored. The times of the first and last goals of each match are announced on the public address system by Bappo but if supporters do not hear these announcements, the times are published on the Supporters Club website (www.wfcsc.co.uk). Therefore if supporters do not check their ticket during the match, they have the opportunity to check the website and see if they have the winning ticket. Miriam stands by the turnstile at full time to check tickets and distribute prize-money to Golden Goal ticket winners.

For more information on the Supporters Club, please check out our website (www.wfcsc.co.uk) which is regularly updated. UP THE STONES!

David Albert, Chairman

PREDICT-A-SCORE 2009-2010



Time to peer into your crystal ball

For the 17th year in a row the competition is up and running. As last year I plan to have a few additional prizes throughout the season and also present a £50 prize and a £25 to the leader/runner up of the competition after the Boxing Day game.

There will be one or two chances to win free away travel on the team coach plus a couple of opportunities to be entertained by the Board during match day and a few other prizes during the year that will be announced throughout the season some of which are non football based.

These additional prizes could come from any position in the table. Obviously we would like to improve on the number of people entering the competition and would ask you all to do your best in encouraging other people to take part and maybe for you to take out extra entries. We really want to make this a FUN competition and if you have any ideas then get in touch and we'll discuss them. All profits go to Wealdstone F.C.

The rules remain the same. All you have to do is to predict the scores of ALL of Wealdstone's 42 Home & Away matches in the Ryman League together with the initial matches in the F.A. Cup and the F.A. Trophy. Only the score after 90 minutes will count in cup matches. In order to get entry forms out earlier there are no dates for the league games only for the cup matches.

- For a correct SCORE & RESULT you will receive 3 points.
- For a correct RESULT ONLY you will receive 1 point.

Last year we had 103 entries and the joint winners were, Gordon McKay/Phil Hawkes,

third was Quentin Fox, and fourth, Oscar the Dog (alias—Ray Corner—who actually finished third last year). Well done to them. We trust you will be entering again this season.

Assuming we have the same level of entries on top of the Boxing Day £75, End of Season Prize Money will be: First Prize £350, Second Prize £175, Third Prize £100, Fourth Prize £50

WHAT TO DO NEXT ???

Entries can be sent in any manner (there is an entry form today at the turnstiles), but for those wanting to use email you can send your entries to the following address: short@wilstone43.fsnet.co.uk and type "WFC Predict-a-Score" in the subject line. You will receive an Excel file by return, which will then need to be completed and sent back to me as soon as possible. I will be issuing two styles of form one with dates and one without, this is to allow me to get the competition started earlier this year. The forms are also available on line.

As with last year, entry fee is £15 per entry—make cheques payable to Wealdstone FC and send to me with entry forms, Tony Short, 39 Grange Road, Wilstone, Tring, Herts. HP23 4PG

All entries must be received by 3pm on Saturday 15th August, at the latest. Failure to do this will result in you losing points for matches played prior to receipt of your form.

Good Luck to you all. Let's try to have some fun with this. Enjoy the season and good luck.

Tony

BARTLETT INTERVIEW



The man who has shaped
so much of our history

Tim Parks interviews our man-of-the-moment Gordon Bartlett as he approaches 25 years in management.

STONES fans seem to have been belting out "Gordon Bartlett's Blue & White Army" forever, and it's a proud achievement for our long-serving boss to have racked up 14 years service with the club. In fact it will be a quarter of a century in management next season for the Harrow schoolteacher, who was previously in charge at Southall, Hounslow and Yeading.

But a quick trawl through the internet reveals our man to be a mere whipper-snapper when it comes to pulling on the sheepskin coat (okay, to my knowledge GB's never owned an item of Mottylear, but you get my drift). We're all aware of Alex Ferguson's endless and all-powerful reign at Old Trafford (since 1986, unbelievably) and have possibly heard about Graham Turner finally standing down at Hereford

this summer after a Bartlett-paralleling 14 years at Edgar Street. And Dario Gradi, former Sutton United amateur star, had a well-chronicled 24-year transformative reign at Crewe Alexandra. Lower down the pyramid, you may even know of Roly Howard, who was boss of Northern Premier League club Marine FC for 33 years, or Jack Pearce who oversaw life at Bognor Regis Town for just two years fewer, resigning in 2007.

But even that parade of veteran bosses pales alongside the longevity of manager of Liverpool County League side Waterloo Dock – one Jimmy Davies, 66 years old, who has been in charge of the amateur outfit for a mind-boggling FORTY-FIVE YEARS!. "Well, it sounds like I'm a real beginner compared to some," said Gordon last week. "I believe I'm

now the longest-serving manager in the Ryman League, but when we played Tiverton in the Trophy last season I remember their manager Martyn Rogers had been around longer than me—since 1992."

Does that make your job harder when you've been around a few years, I asked Gordon. Does it mean you've used up all your strategies on motivating players, and get a bit tired of the whole business?

"Absolutely not" he countered. "What I've always found is that different people, different players, respond to different things. You have to change with the different personalities involved... get to know them and learn what makes them tick. But the main thing is to respect people. Respect everyone, and I believe you get it back."

Is the key to a successful team the right blend of personalities, almost as much as ability, I asked him. Who have been your best Wealdstone signings in that regard?

"Probably Fergus Moore was the best. He gave absolutely everything for the team, for his mates, for the club. Chrissy Walton and Roy Marshall were top men too for the same reasons. They could play a bit too. And as for the current set of players, James Gray is an inspiration, Chris O'Leary too. Brilliant attitude. And to be fair the whole squad, considering how young it is, hasn't got any difficult personalities. I'm not just saying that because they are the players I'm now working with—they really are a great set of lads, very dedicated and very together."

"In my time as manager here, Jermaine was one of the trickiest players to deal with but patience could turn out to be a real virtue for this club".

Is that one of the hardest facets of management, I asked him, getting the balance right? "Oh yes. I hold my hands up to a big mistake early in the season when I left Lee Chappell out for a few games, trying a different system. It didn't work. Chapps is so important to us, in the changing room and on the pitch, that we really missed him and he had a great season last year. His desire to succeed is infectious. I love him to pieces, even though he can be a complete pain in the a***!"

So what has given you the greatest satis-

faction in those 14 years, I asked him. "To be honest, just keeping the club on an upward path, with all our problems, has been my greatest achievement—in tandem with a lot of other people dedicated to Wealdstone. It's a been a rollercoaster ride but if you don't experience the highs and lows you're not in a job worth having. But I'm absolutely delighted to be where we are at the moment: with a ground of our own, with an improving squad and looking to press on for a play-off place this coming season. We've lost a couple of players in Davis Haule and Hicksy, and I think Ben Clarke may be on his way too, but things are always a bit up in the air in July as you try to piece your jigsaw together for the new season."

"As you know, Carl Martin and Keiron Forbes are out on trial with League clubs, and Ryan Ashe has just returned from honeymoon, while Steve Hughes and Callum Martin are out injured, so I'm about six down on last season. But there will be movement—because there always is at this time of year".

And what if a bigger club came in to poach YOU away from Grosvenor Vale? "Well, I stayed at Yeading for seven years and only left because I didn't feel I could take them any further. Wealdstone are a big club, with a big history and reputation and it was a challenge I readily accepted, and I suppose I might walk away if I felt I couldn't take this club any further."

"But the attitude has changed over the past couple of years... firstly on the pitch, then with the ground and facilities and finally we have given ourselves a chance of success. Only a chance though. The lack of money is still the stumbling block but at least we can bring young players through to ply their trade at this level."

"Wealdstone used to be known as good payers, a club with a lot of money and of course that worked when you were winning things. In the end it probably led to the club losing its ground. We've got to build it all back up again."

What have been the real highs and lows? "Well, I've said this before but the real low point for me was when we lost at Barking in the London Senior Cup one Tuesday night a

couple of years ago. We were very close to the bottom of the Southern League Prem Division, had only won one league game in three months and the players' attitude was terrible.

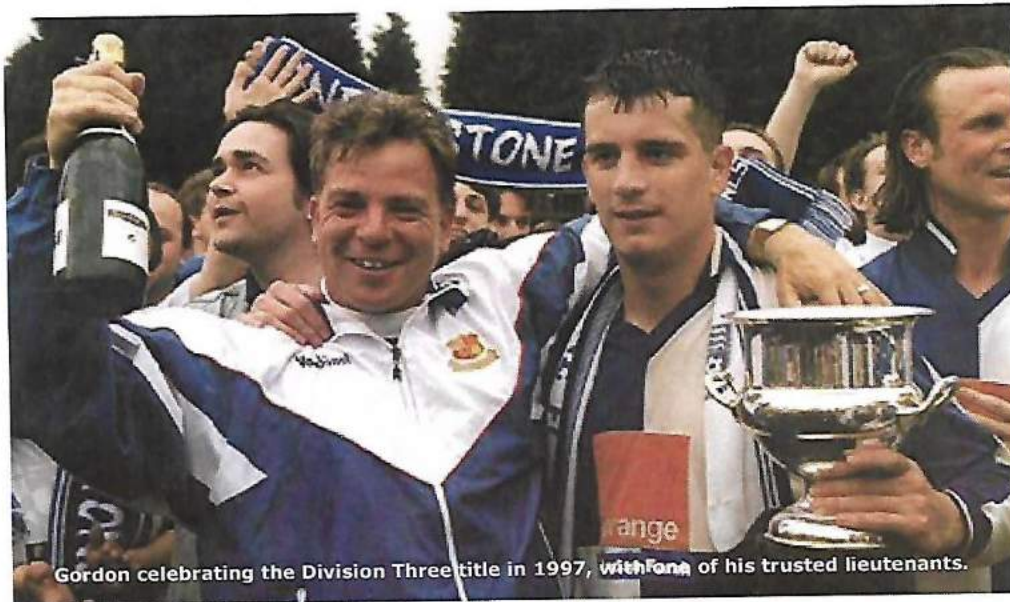
"I sat down with Leo and Gilly for hours afterwards, till two in the morning, just talking it through, working out where we were going wrong. We were very low. But we freshened things up for the next game, at Cirencester, won that 3-0, then beat Hitchin 4-0 and then Rugby 2-1. And we stayed up.

"So there have been lots of little highs, but the biggest one has to be winning that play-off at Dulwich. To end the season that way was amazing, so emotional—winning on penalties after having missed so many through the course of the season. For the shoot-out, I was trying to find a bit of peace on my own so I stood by the corner flag—but I was in Jolls' arms in three seconds after he hit the winner!

"You can't give anybody that feeling, the feeling of being a winner.. especially when it comes after tasting hurt and disappointment, and yes it was very sweet. Very

sweet! I have to say though, we were three inches away from being beaten that night, when they missed that last penalty kick. That's how close the margins are in football."

Finally, Gordon, what about your 'marriage' to Leo? After 20-odd years together in management, how do you keep the spice in that relationship? "Well, we certainly go back a long way! I was on my own for the first season at Southall, when we made the FA Vase final, and I first linked up with Leo when I became manager at Hounslow -Leo had been assistant to their previous boss, Alan Humphries. "After that first year together he complained to me: 'What am I here for?' as he didn't think I was giving him much to do—well I've certainly made up for it since! "We're a team on the pitch here at Wealdstone, and a team off it. Leo and Gilly give me invaluable help - we all have ideas, and we pool them for the benefit of the team. The final decision is mine, but we all respect each others' opinions. "Were going to keep moving this club forward and see where it takes us".



Gordon celebrating the Division Three title in 1997, with some of his trusted lieutenants.

Kids Soccer Fun Weeks

Wealdstone FC still have places available for two Soccer Funweeks taking place at Grosvenor Vale during August for boys and girls aged 6 to 12 years. These popular events will take place as follows:

Week 1 : August 10th - 14th; 9.30am to 3.30pm

Week 2 : August 17th - 21st; 9.30am to 3.30pm

The cost is £50 per week per child, and each child will receive a football, drinks bottle and a bag.

Soccer Funweeks are a well organised coaching programme supervised by experienced, qualified coaches. They offer children the opportunity to learn new skills and improve football technique regardless of their ability and are a great way to make new friends.

Competitions and mini soccer games for all standards and ages are included. Personal insurance cover is included.

For further information call James Klarfeld on 0797979 5414 after 5pm weekdays, weekends 10am - 7pm.

Carl and Kieron head for trials

Two of Wealdstone's star young players are off for trials with Coca Cola Football League Two clubs this week (w/c 31 June 09).

Defender Carl Martin resumes his trials with Aldershot Town and will leave for a two week training camp this week. Pacey midfielder

Kieron Forbes, signed from Watford FC last summer, is heading up to the South Midlands to trial with Northampton Town also for a two week period.

Wealdstone FC Cup Draws - 2009/10

The Football Association made the draw for the early rounds of the FA Cup and FA Trophy competitions on Wednesday 1 July.

In the **FA Cup** Wealdstone will be away to either Arlesey Town or Hatfield Town or Southend Manor in the 1st qualifying round. Ties to be played on Saturday 12 September 2009.

In the **FA Trophy**, 1st qualifying round, the Stones are drawn at home to Margate and the tie will be played on Saturday 17 October.

In the **FA Youth Cup**, Wealdstone will play away to either Kingsbury London Tigers or Ashford Town (Mx), ties to be played during w/c 21 September.

MR BARTLETT

Honest, hardworking, and not bad at his job !! Well done

Dennis and Penny Byatt

Sorry, Gordon—when Layne and I decided to put you forward at a Board Meeting as our favoured candidate for the vacant managerial role, we didn't realise we'd be handing you the equivalent of a life sentence! We were both convinced you were the right man for the job then, and I for one have never thought otherwise since. Congratulations on your longevity and thanks for your total commitment to Wealdstone. All the best.

Graham Sharpe

'Congratulations Gordon (and Leo) for a fantastic 14 years. My 15 year old daughter was a mere babe in arms mate when you were mugged into becoming the Stones Boss. Here's to the next 14 and a decent budget for you!!'

Nick DuGard

Gordon, it is rare that a club gets the benefit of a manager who brings such integrity, loyalty and excellence to the role as you have done over the years. It is an unquestionable honour to have worked with you at the club and to be able to consider you and your family as friends. We've had hard times and dark days along the way but your conduct, humour and sheer dedication throughout set you aside from others. Good luck for today and the rest of the season.

Dominic Whytey

Well done Gordon. Hope you have a great day. You are a living Stones legend. Enjoy your retirement. What's that ? Oh.

Mark Lloyd

Congratulations on your much deserved testimonial! Here's to many more years and the reward of success. Enjoy your day.

Neil and Xander Rands

"Congratulations on your Testimonial. There is no one more honest, loyal and genuine than you. Have a great day. You certainly deserve it".

Wealdstone F.C. Supporters Club

Gordon, we have been through so many trials and tribulations at this club, but we wouldn't have it any other way. So that we can really appreciate the the good times when they come. All our love,

Paul, Lori, Sam, Oli and Jacob X

JUST A FEW WORDS FROM HIS MATES

Many congrats on your Testimonial GB, it was about as overdue as the new ground! Really appreciate all the work you and Leo have put in over the last 14 years for this great club, keep up the good work (blimey, this sounds like a school report!),

Megaphone

Thanks for many great years, long may it continue.

Andrew Lane

My first dealings with Gordon were when I took my prelim badge and he was running the course for Middlesex FA, that was before he joined Wealdstone and what a great acquisition he has been bringing stability and respect to the club plus the odd good player!. Hope he is around for another few years well done.

Don Cross

Hope you have a great day thanks for the last 14 years, here's to another 14.

Gordon McKay

You've worked miracles with our club, lets hope you get the success you deserve.

Mark and George Barton

Best wishes from all at West One, long may it continue.

Ron Barnes

Gordon has to be the most loyal manager in the Club's history..He was promised a new ground the season after he joined us and he has kept with us throughout all our troubles off the field..Also a big 'thank you' to him to allow James to become 'physio' Thanks GB

Graham Smith

Well done for all your hard work, much appreciated

Alan Hill

Congratulations Gordon, you get out of life what you put into it, you have put so much effort into this club, you are a legend. Enjoy your day, and here's to a prosperous season ahead.

Stevie Whittle

Good luck, cheers, thanks for the memories.

Leo Morris

Hornets swarm back into The Vale

Mat Sadler

The left back signed a three-and-a-half year deal in January 2008 after a long pursuit of the ex-Birmingham defender by boss Aidy Boothroyd. Sadler signed for an initial fee of £750,000 and made his debut in the FA cup game with Wolverhampton Wanderers at Vicarage Road. The defender has represented England youth at several age groups.

Jay DeMerit

Few players will have ever experienced such a turnaround in fortunes as American defender Jay DeMerit. Singled out by former Watford boss Ray Lewington when playing a trial game for Watford's local non-League neighbours Northwood against the Hornets in July 2004, the centre-half from Green Bay, Wisconsin took to professional football like a duck to water. Not long after earning a one-year deal while trialling with the Hornets, the club wasted no time in signing the 25-year-old on a longer contract. He surely couldn't have harboured realistic ambitions of playing more than 30 first-team games, but that's just what the University of Illinois graduate did in his first season, becoming the second Northwood player—after Scott Fitzgerald—to make a successful move five steps up the football pyramid. And his dramatic rise to prominence continued in the 2005/06 season when he helped Watford to promotion via the play-offs, scoring the 'winning' goal on the way to victory over

Leeds United at the Millennium Stadium. He was called up to the national side in March 2006, and has featured prominently for his nation ever since. In December 2007 DeMerit was handed the armband taking on the mantle of club captain following the departure of the long serving Gavin Mahon to QPR

John Eustace

The Hornets completed the deadline day signing of John Eustace in the January 2008 transfer window. Stoke accepted a bid of £250,000 for their captain and the midfielder signed a two-and-a-half year deal at Vicarage Road. Eustace started his career as a trainee at Coventry City before moving north of the border to represent Dundee United in a brief loan spell, which was also followed by a month at Middlesbrough towards the end of his Sky Blues' career. The influential midfielder joined Stoke in 2003 and progressed to become captain, before suffering injury which ruled him out of the majority of 2006. After a brief spell of rehabilitation at Hereford United the player returned to the Potteries where he re-established himself as regular pick for Tony Pulis. His dogged determination and no fear attitude saw him handed the captaincy towards the end of the 2007/08 season.

Jobi McAnuff

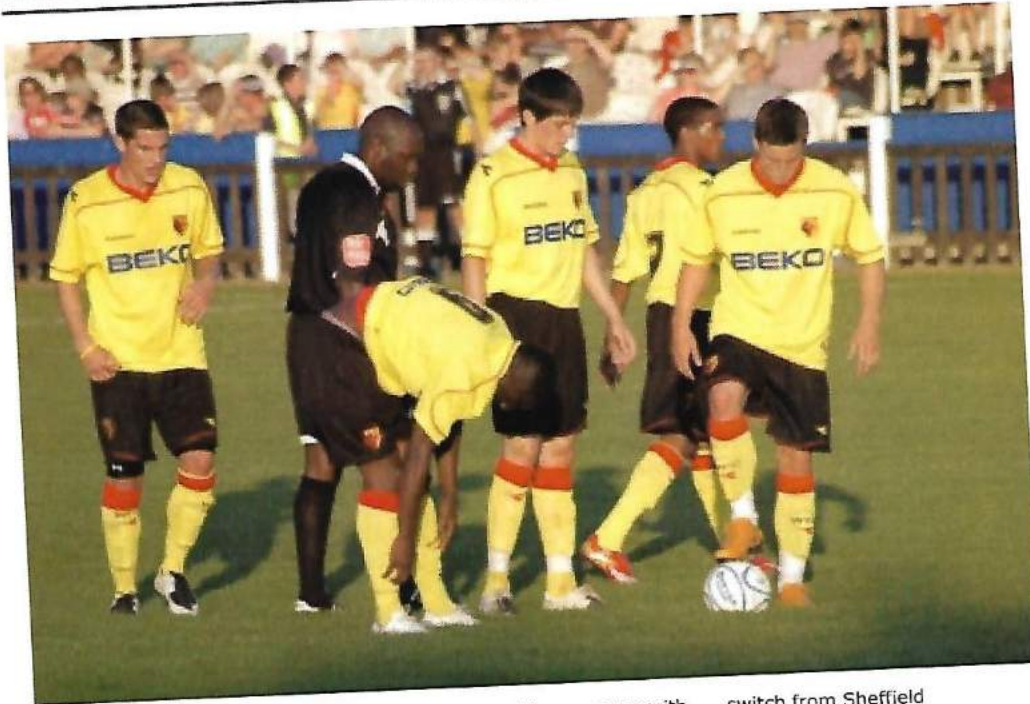
Signed in 2007 for £2m, the former Crystal Palace winger signed a three year deal with

the Hornets and will be hoping to make his mark on the club. McAnuff began his career with Wimbledon before he moved across London to West Ham United. His career at Upton Park lasted only a short time though and in 2004 he moved to Cardiff City. It was here that he began to earn rave reviews at Championship level although they sold the Edmonton-born midfielder to Crystal Palace. McAnuff came up against Watford in the play-off semi-finals in May 2006 where the Hornets overcame the Eagles. After much speculation he finally made the move to Hertfordshire in June 2007 and became Boothroyd's first choice down the right of midfield towards the end of the season. His strike against Cardiff City at Vicarage Road won the Goal of the Season award.

Lloyd Doyley

Lloyd continues to make his name as a reliable and determined defender. Brought up as a centre-half and still deployed there on occasion, it's at right-back that the Hornets' Academy product has made most of his Watford appearances. Another player to have debuted under Luca Viali when still a teenager in the youth set-up, the pacy long-throw merchant who specialises in man-marking jobs targeted a regular first-team place under new manager Adrian Boothroyd and didn't let him down. Boothroyd had no hesitation in utilising the White-

OPPOSITION



chapel-born full-back during Watford's ultimately successful battle against relegation in 2004/05 and Doyley continued to impress in 2005/06 when he made the right-hand side of defence his own. Watford's longest serving outfield player, Doyley has become a cult hero amongst the Yellow Army, not least as he strives to score what would be his first ever goal for the Hornets.

Tamas Priskin

The highly-rated Hungarian international arrived at Vicarage Road from Gyori ETO FC who play in the Hungarian league. He made his debut in the opening Premiership fixture at Goodison Park and grabbed his first goal in the Carling Cup tie against Hull City from the Championship.

Priskin's first Premiership goal was cruelly chalked off the scoring charts after he netted in

the abandoned home game with Wigan Athletic. He finally scored his first league goal in the 4-2 victory over Portsmouth at Vicarage Road.

The 20-year-old is highly thought of at Vicarage Road and is continuing to develop at an impressive rate. A full Hungarian international he also has an enviable scoring record at world level.

Leigh Bromby

The Golden Boys signed Leigh Bromby just a matter of days after the defender appeared for Sheffield United against Watford at Bramall Lane.

Bromby left the Blades in a deal worth £600,000, which could rise to £850,000 depending on appearances and promotion clauses. He signed a three-and-a-half year deal at Vicarage Road.

Bromby's won over their fans after he made the unusual

switch from Sheffield Wednesday. He made over 100 appearances for the Hillsborough club and had loan spells at Mansfield Town and Norwich City before bridging the Steel City divide.

A versatile defender and a long throw expert, he has also moved into treble figures in terms of appearances for United, despite injuries causing him problems in 2006.

Leigh had a brilliant first half season at Vicarage Road, breaking straight into the first teams defence and causing lots of trouble in the opponent's penalty area with his deadly long throws. He scored a crucial goal at the Hawthorns to secure a point that proved vital.

Al Bangura

Central midfielder Alhassan Bangura, known to all as 'Al', made the step up from the Academy Under-18 team to the

WATFORD F.C.

Hornets' first-team without the time to put more than a handful of reserve team appearances under his belt.

Clearly highly thought, the west African native was hurriedly thrust into his senior debut after Gavin Mahon's injury half an hour into the crucial victory at Stoke City in April 2005.

He then built on an assured showing in Staffordshire with a 'Sponsor's Man of the Match' display at home to West Ham United a week later. Since then the Sierra Leone-born midfielder has been a regular in Boothroyd's promotion-winning squad, making 40 appearances in 2005/06. Bangura's development continued into the Hornets' Premiership campaign and it is only a matter of time before he is called upon in the 2006/07 Championship season.

In late 2007 the young midfielder's name made national headlines as he and the club fought to keep him in the United Kingdom, following a ruling by The Home Office that would have seen him deported back to Sierra Leone as an illegal immigrant.

Tommy Smith

Tommy Smith returned to Hertfordshire in September 2006 after Aidy Boothroyd moved to bring the former Hornet back to Vicarage Road.

The Hemel Hempstead born winger is a graduate of the successful Academy at the club but left to join Sunderland in September 2006.

After a season in the north west he joined Derby County where he played under George Burley. It was here he developed as a player and turned into more of a wide-man rather than a striker. Burley used a front three system with Smith on one wing and he has since developed into a tricky wide player.

Smith suffered the heartache of the lottery of the play-offs as Derby went out to Preston in the semi-finals in 2005.

The chance to return home to the Vic proved too much for the talented wide man and he made his second debut against Bolton Wanderers at the Reebok Stadium in 2006. Now a crucial player, along with fellow winger Jobi McAnuff, Tommy was hailed as the Player of The Year for all of his hard work and effort in the 2007-08 season.

Will Hoskins

The Nottingham-born striker arrived at Vicarage Road in January 2007 after Aidy Boothroyd signed the youngster along with Lee Williamson from Rotherham United.

Hoskins burst onto the scene at a young age with the Millers and has also represented England at a number of levels. Alan Knill, Hoskins' youth coach at the club then gave him his big opportunity with the first team and he grabbed it with both hands. He scored in only his substitute appearance for the club when he bagged two goals in a 2-1 victory over Wigan Athletic.

An intelligent striker around the box, Hoskins is highly regarded by the Vicarage Road backroom staff and will be looking to establish himself in the Championship during 2008, since returning from a loan spell at Millwall in the closing months of 2007.

Adrian Mariappa

Previously a captain of Watford's Academy Under-18 team, defender Adrian Mariappa is a commanding and surprisingly uncompromising stopper for one so young.

Came to prominence when he took his place on the substitutes' bench for the final game of 2004/05 against West Ham United, but has since made

several first-team appearances for Aidy Boothroyd's side. As a mark of his composure the Harrow-born centre-back helped his side to a clean sheet on what was his full league debut at Vicarage Road, against Hull City in April 2006.

Employed more recently as a right-back Mariappa was originally a centre-half for the Hornets. He will fight it out with Lloyd Doyley for the right-back spot during the 2008/09 Championship campaign.

Gareth Williams

Gareth Williams was one of eight January 2007 transfer window signings by manager Aidy Boothroyd. The playmaker was signed from Leicester City, who he had joined in July 2004 from rivals Nottingham Forest.

The Scottish midfielder has made five appearances for his country and made his Premier League debut against Bolton Wanderers at Vicarage Road in February 2007. Just three games into his Hornets' career Williams suffered heartbreak when he damaged his anterior cruciate ligaments.

This cut short his experience in the top-flight and he will now be looking ahead to a return to Aidy Boothroyd's Championship chasing side in late 2007. Williams signed a two-and-a-half year deal with the club in January 2007.

Cedric Avinel

The French defender was signed close to deadline hour during the January transfer window in 2007. Avinel caught the eye of Aidy Boothroyd during a trial at the club and after developing in the Hornets' second string team he made his full debut in the away victory over Reading during May 2007.

He put in a number of impressive performances for the reserve team and scored in their final game of the 2006/07 season during the victory over

Arsenal.

The powerful central half signed an 18 month deal with the Hornets after signing from Creteil in the French league.

Jordan Parkes

Jordan Parkes signed his first professional contract for the club in February 2007. The Hemel-born defender being another graduate from the prolific production line at Watford's Academy. A naturally right footed player who is at home at left back he has captained both the Academy and the reserve team during 2006/07.

Parkes also received his first call-up for England during that season and made his debut for the under 18s in the 4-1 victory over Holland at Yeovil.

The youngster made his debut for the first team against Accrington Stanley in the Carling Cup penalty shoot-out and was called upon to take a deciding spot-kick in front of the Vicarage Road crowd. Parkes is comfortable on the ball and is happy to get forward and support the midfield with surging runs from the full back position.

John-Joe O'Toole

Local lad O'Toole is yet another player to have come through the ranks at Vicarage Road under the watchful eye of David Dodds and the Academy. A tough tackling central midfielder, O'Toole spent a time on loan with fellow youngster Theo Robinson at non league Wealdstone during the final stages of the 2006/07 season.

O'Toole has become a regular for the reserves and made his debut for the first team after coming off the bench in the Carling Cup game against Southend. He then made his league debut just a matter of days later, this time coming off

the bench in the home win over Ipswich Town.

Made his debut for the Republic of Ireland's Under 21 side in late 2007, scoring on his home debut for Eire.

John-Joe is another bright young prospect at Watford and had a regular starting place for the Horns at the end of the season. O'Toole capped the 2007/08 season by scooping the Young Player of the Year award.

Liam Henderson

A young striker who has already stepped up to the reserve side, Henderson was an unused substitute in the defeat at Southend United in the Carling Cup. Born in Gateshead, Henderson is a second year scholar and is a hard-working player who leads the line well.

Lewis Young

The Stevenage born 19 year old is another young player in the first team squad. Young penned a pro deal in March 2008 after impressing the management with his intelligent runs and link up play.

Injury forced him to miss a great deal of 2007/8 but his return to the under 18s was an added benefit and he turned out regularly for the reserves at the end of the season too.

The younger brother of former Watford star and England international Ashley, Lewis made his debut for the Hornets as a substitute in the Carling cup win against Bristol Rovers in August 2008.

During his first professional season, Lewis appeared three more times for the first team and was a regular in the reserves.

2009/10 will provide Lewis with the platform to showcase his maturing talents and the striker will be looking to play a bigger part in the first team squad

Don Cowie

The Hornets completed the signing of Don Cowie from Inverness Caledonian Thistle for a nominal fee on deadline day during the January 09 transfer window.

The 5'11" midfielder agreed terms on a two and a half year deal. Cowie previously appeared for Ross County before moving to the Highlands side in 2007, where he scored twelve league goals in 56 starts.

The Scotsman has played in all midfield positions for Inverness and the Golden Boys had to fight off some Scottish clubs for his signature.

Danny Graham

Watford completed the signing of Danny Graham earlier this month, shortly after his contract had expired with League One Carlisle United.

After struggling to cement a first team spot at The Riverside he joined a number of teams on loan, including Leeds United, Derby County and Blackpool.

However it was at Carlisle that he really hit form. In his initial loan spell he netted an impressive seven goals in eleven games. He then joined permanently in June 2007

In total during his stay at Brunton Park he hit the back of the net 40 times.

MR BARTLETT

Get a load of that hair...



I first met Gordon on a preliminary FA coaching course in 1982 run by another former Wealdstone coach Alan Ackrell. Gordon came across as a quite, polite young man who despite his previous playing background was typically respectful of the rest of the group. We got on well together both sharing a love and passion for the game. Gordon demonstrated a real enthusiasm in his coaching and was keen to improve his knowledge of the game further. Whilst he never said too much about what he wanted to achieve you sensed he was very determined to be successful within the game.

Following on from the course Gordon went onto manage Southall before he moved onto Yeading, whilst I was learning management at Kingsbury Town FC. Success was achieved at both his clubs which came as no surprise. I used to speak to Gordon regularly on the phone to discuss coaching or occasionally bump into him. Following on from one of his successes he produced from the back of his car the Vase trophy which Yeading had won at Leeds a couple of days previously. Despite this success Gordon remained the same level headed person, always pleased to see you and always time for a chat. However at the end of every conversation, you sensed he still maintained a burning desire to be more successful and, was always thinking ahead of how he could improve his teams further.

Wealdstone called Gordon and Leo in the summer of 1995 and managed to secure their services. I was lucky and honoured to be asked by Gordon to be his first team coach. What followed next for me was a roller coaster ride of success at the best club anyone could wish to work for. Fantastic supporters and great support from

everyone within the club. At the helm Gordon Bartlett working tirelessly to achieve the success the club and the fans all wanted.

That burning desire and determination very much in evidence at every training session, at every game in everything he did for Wealdstone.

Fourteen years on despite the trials and tribulations that the club has gone through that burning desire to improve and be successful is still very evident with Gordon. His wealth of experience and knowledge and the way he conducts himself, which still remains the same, cannot be matched by many within the non league circuit. The club remains the best non league club in the country with the best non league manager in the country.

I wish you and your family every success for today and in the future Gordon. Good luck.

I wish Wealdstone and their fantastic supporters best wishes for the forthcoming season. Up the Stones!

Frank O'Brien

Good afternoon and welcome to everybody associated with today's testimonial fixture for Gordon Bartlett. I have known Gordon for longer than I care to mention. When I joined Brentford and Gordon was making his way in the football world at Southall, he has always tried to keep his age a secret, but I would estimate he is around 60, making him a real elder statesman of the game. All through Wealdstone's battle to stay alive, Gordon has kept his side at a good level, which is no mean feat in itself. I would like to wish him a fantastic day and lots more success with Wealdstone.

*Gary Roberts,
Cambridge City FC*

I think it's fair to say that the first time Gordon and I crossed swords, most of the players at our clubs today were still learning to walk!! From that day to this we have sat in opposing dugouts many, many times. He's now like myself at lot older and greyer but the one thing that never changes with Gordon is his passion for football. There's no such thing as a quick phone call to Gordon when it's about the game.

Of course people will remember his Vase win with Yeading but 20 odd years in football is a feat in itself. Today, after 14 years at Wealdstone he reaches yet another milestone with his testimonial and what an achievement that is in today's hire and fire football environment. His loyalty to Wealdstone through years of ground sharing speaks volumes of the sort of person he is.

Gordon I hope you have a great day and many professional footballers who owe their big break to yourself and staff return the favour today. Because of my own football commitments I'm sorry I can't be there, so until our swords cross again I wish you all the best for today and the rest of the season.

*Dave Anderson,
Manager Northwood*

My first recollection of Gordon was as a very talented footballer who as a young man was plying his trade at Fratton Park. Later in his playing career I had the pleasure of playing with him at both Slough and Hayes FC. Looking back it was evident even in those early days that his 100% commitment, work rate and love of game showed in the professional manner he approached every game.

The success Gordon has had as a manager should go as no surprise to anyone that knows him. To take both Southall and Yeading to Wembley shows not only tactical knowledge, but the ability to work with very small resources and develop young talent. The coaching and development is an area where Gordon can take particular credit for several players who have developed their careers into household names.

Most successful managers have their own traits and Gordon comes into his own for his honesty, integrity and most of all, his loyalty. There are numerous Chairman of clubs in higher leagues have tried to tempt Gordon away from Wealdstone. He has suffered alongside the loyal Wealdstone fans during difficult times. The opportunity Wealdstone have with a new home is even brighter with Gordon at the helm.

Best wishes to you, Jackie and the family. I hope you enjoy your testimonial. You deserve it.

*Terry Brown,
Manager AFC Wimbledon*

Gordon has done an excellent job at his club and thoroughly deserves his testimonial game. It's great that Gordon's dedication and professionalism is being rewarded in this fashion. For someone to be so loyal to a club for such a long period is pretty rare in the modern game and I'm pleased that this is being recognised. I know, from personal experience, how special these events can be so I hope you enjoy the day.

*Gary Waddock, Manager
Aldershot Town Football Club*

ONE OR TWO WORDS

I was delighted to be invited to contribute to Gordon's Testimonial Match programme today.

Fifteen years as Wealdstone Football Club's Manager is a tremendous feat and such loyalty is rare indeed in the hurly burly world of the semi-professional game. Particularly so when you consider the challenges that have befallen the club over those years with uncertainty of where the club will be playing from one season to the next and the unsettling effect on players as budget cuts were needed as they struggled to overcome the loss of income when having to play lodger at so many groundshares.

It would have been easy—and also most understandable—if Gordon had accepted one of the many offers that had come his way during those disconcerting times but it is a measure of the man that he wanted to 'see the job through'.

Performances on the pitch have been surprisingly good considering the pressures that Gordon was under and it is to his credit that he has shown that money does not necessarily buy success and, whilst I am sure he would have preferred a bigger budget to work from, he has attracted players whose motivation was probably more that they wanted to play for Gordon rather than the financial arrangements!

Gordon has played a significant role in the development of football over the years within Middlesex. Employed by the Middlesex County FA as our County Coach, he was a forerunner in organising children's Funweeks which proved to be highly successful and were always over subscribed. No doubt, there are many in the crowd today who can recall enjoyable coaching weeks during school holidays which Gordon ran.

Another large group has benefited from Gordon's skills as he was, and still is, a respected Coach Educator tutoring on courses which skilled up those who wanted to follow in his footsteps as coaches and managers. There is no doubt that the foundations of our considerable team of volunteers running teams around the county owe a lot to Gordon's enthusiasm to enable them to maximise their potential.

A true footballing gentleman—a rare breed nowadays! - and on behalf of the County FA and also as a friend—I wish Gordon a great day for his testimonial which is a very well deserved tribute and acknowledgment of his contribution to Wealdstone FC.

Peter Clayton

Middlesex County FA Secretary

The world of football is made up of so many characters; on the pitch, in the changing room, in the boardroom and on the terraces. The game is emotional and often those emotions spill over and effect ones judgement and overall decision making. Honesty and decency is frequently compromised resulting in deception and disappointment. My association with Gordon goes back many years and throughout that period I have always known where I stood. The qualities that he possesses are, in my opinion, rare. Gordon is a thorough gentleman and even in his most testing times in management he has refused to compromise his decency and honesty. He has been instrumental in the careers of so many young men and will continue to be so whilst his passion for the game still burns. Couple with his outstanding ability as a coach Wealdstone Football Club have the perfect ambassador.

Paul Fabelough

Barnet FC Manager

MR BARTLETT

I would like to add my congratulations to those many others who are helping to honour Gordon this afternoon, by way of this well deserved testimonial match. I have known Gordon for more than twenty years, way back to when I began my playing career as a youngster with Hayes and Gordon, took me under his wing there. I then went on to play under Gordon at both Southall and then Yeading, both of which were very successful and enjoyable spells—certainly my best as a player. At Southall first, we won League and Cup honours, before doing the same again with Yeading, but also adding the FA Vase success. We won the Vase in a replay at Elland Road, Leeds following a drawn game at Wembley Stadium and, of course, those memories for me are precious and similarly so for Gordon, I know.

Ironically, I stepped into Gordon's shoes as Manager at Yeading and in my early days on that path, of course I made the most of Gordon's experience and know-how and called on him regularly. As a manager, for me Gordon's major strength is his motivation and an ability to always get his teams up for every game. Of course, in recent seasons, we've been on the wrong end of that as my Staines Town side have come up against a Wealdstone side who've shown all the hallmarks of Gordon's management technique.

All the very best from me for your well-deserved testimonial then Gordon.

Steve Cordery
Manager, Staines Town FC

I have known Gordon Bartlett for about 20 years and for my sins he gave me my first chance at becoming a semi professional footballer for Hounslow Borough FC. There must have been something about him I liked because I resigned for him again

at Yeading F.C, where he went onto great success as a manager and taught me a lot.

He 's the one that I now blame for all the grey hairs and sleepless nights that I have due to now following his footsteps into management.

I now regret all the grief that I gave Gordon in my early years knowing what it is like now that the shoe is on the other foot, even to this day with all the clubs that I has had the pleasure to play for and there has been many , I still think that Gordon was one of the best managers and coach that I have worked under.

I would like to wish Gordon and his long suffering wife all the best in the future and hope that we draw his team in the F.A. Cup so we can lock horns together this year.

God Bless

Johnson Hippolyte (Drax)
Maidenhead United

I got to know Gordon when he came and worked at one of my stores around the time he packed up playing due to his injuries. Always responsible and conscientious, I could easily detect leadership qualities and am not surprised at his subsequently excellent managerial career.

It was a pleasure witnessing his progress at Southall and Yeading, and I was initially disappointed at losing him to Wealdstone, but he had more than earned his shot at a "bigger" club. The fourteen years have absolutely flown by, although just recently I was in Ilfracombe and came across the programme for Yeading's FA Vase Final, and a lot of very fond memories came back.

I believe this Testimonial is richly deserved and wish him and his family all the very best.

Steve Perryman MBE
Exeter City Director of Football

FROM HIS PEERS

When Gordon told me he had been at Wealdstone for 14 years it made me think about my own association with Wealdstone FC, which goes back to the early 1980's as a player for both Harrow Borough FC and Enfield FC.

At the time Wealdstone were incredibly strong and amongst the very top teams in non-league football.

I played against and with many of their star players including Stuart Pearce, Vinnie Jones, George Duck and Neil and Alan Cordice.

Playing for Enfield as a centre back we were beaten over two legs in the semi final of the FA Trophy.

I was naturally very disappointed but still went to Wembley Stadium to see Wealdstone captain Paul Bowgett lift the FA Trophy and as a result managing to achieve a historical league and cup double.

However what followed almost completely destroyed a very proud club...

The financial and ground share problems have been well documented but somehow the club managed to survive.

Many people have obviously been very important to the clubs revival but for me the

work done by Gordon Bartlett in the last 14 years has kept the clubs dignity...

Some fans from Harrow and Wealdstone alike might find this difficult to understand but despite the rivalry between our two clubs I have always seen Gordon as a friend.

As a Manager with similar financial restrictions I can relate to the difficulties and struggles of a non-league football club doing there best to be successful.

Gordon is a very respected football coach and always manages to produce competitive and difficult teams to play against on very limited resources.

I do look forward to our continuing battles.

At the moment he clearly has the bragging rights but for now I would like to acknowledge an old friends incredible achievement in an industry with very little patience...

Congratulations and have a great night...

*David Howell (Howsy)
First Team Manager
Harrow Borough FC.*

I have know Gordon for 18 years now and from the very first time we met, when I was a 19 year old goalkeeper and he was the manager of Yeading FC, I knew he was a top bloke, his enthusiasm back then is no different to it is now, on more than one occasion I nearly signed for his teams but ended up elsewhere for one reason or another.

I think for a manager to still be at a club for the 14years, is nearly unheard of at non league level, the amount of time GB has served is a true testament to the man, he is loyal, committed and a very focused man, and to be at a club for such a sustained period at one of the most passionate and demanding set of supporters and still have their full backing again tells its own story. I have on one or two occasions received approaches for my players and GB has even dealt with these in the most dignified manor, again it shows what a true gent, (not that anymore are in any way welcome!).

I hope that GB has a great evening and has plenty of supporters paying their respect because he is a top manager, and most of all a top bloke. All the best in your management years to come GB have a great day !

Gary Mac. Hendon FC

A WEALDSTONE LEGEND

A life in football... not yet over

It is just over 14 years since Paul Rumans approached me about joining Wealdstone with the promise of a new stadium within two years. Attracted by the size of the club, its history, and the new ground, Leo and I accepted the challenge. To say it's been a roller coaster ride since then would be an understatement.

We've been through administration, had three different homes plus numerous training facilities, we've transferred leagues, constant financial difficulties, denied our third successive promotion and worst of all, despite numerous false dawns, the promise of the new stadium has failed to come to fruition. Despite that, we have still managed to steadily climb our way back up the pyramid with some memorable highlights along the way. Winning Division Three in dramatic style at Northwood followed by the presentation evening at Wasps, onto a nightclub, staying at Leo's and finally arriving home about two o'clock the following afternoon! Coming from the depths of relegation worries to gaining promotion from Division 2 with an unbelievable run of about 20 games and of course the amazing night we won the play-off at Dulwich.

I've also managed under three different Chairmen during those 14 years, which must be some kind of record. I have been told they all intend to make their own comments in today's programme about our working relationships during those periods. That will be interesting!

The one man I feel sorry for in all this is Leo Morris, because he has been the person who has really looked after me for the past 23 years in football. Everything from regularly losing my keys, mislaying paperwork or generally being the disorganised person I am, Leo has always been there to pick up the pieces. I owe him an awful lot and I would just like to thank him for all the support he has given me and I'm delighted the club have also rewarded him with a testimonial next season.

On the subject of help, I cannot miss the opportunity of praising the excellent coaches who we have worked alongside over the years, without whom much of our success could not have been achieved. Gilly has been brilliant for the last few seasons but Jon Turner, Chris Walton, Fred Cummings and of course, who can ever forget Frank O'Brien, have all been a major influence during their time at Wealdstone.

Over the years, I have often been accused of being too nice to be a manager. Personally, I take that as a compliment and I will continue to do it my way, trying to treat players, managers and anyone involved in this fantastic game with the respect everyone deserves. It has served me well so far, so I am certainly not going to change now. I suppose that was installed by my parents many moons ago and something I have tried to ensure my children carry with them through their

own lives. In fact, my Dad's involvement as a Manager, Secretary, Chairman and finally President at Viking Sports had an enormous influence in my early football years which also set a fine example of loyalty and integrity.

On the subject of family, I'd like to apologise to Jackie, Amanda and Craig for the sacrifices they have had to make due to my football commitments—which include many ruined holidays. Scouting missions, phone calls, meetings, paperwork, let alone training and matches have undoubtedly taken away much of the quality time I should have been spending with them.

Obviously there are too many people to mention in person, but special thanks must go to all the people involved here at Wealdstone and especially the supporters. I remember the very first 'meet the manager' night held at Edgware where more people turned up than we normally got to watch our home games at Yeading. It amazed us then and to be honest nothing much has changed. Financial assistance, work down here at the Vale and the brilliant support we get even when we are going through difficult times. I know frustration creeps in occasionally and there have been a few negative comments but generally I believe everyone around the place realises we have something special at this club.

When my kids at school found out it was my Testimonial, many of them asked if it meant it was going to be my last game? Well, the stress and strain of management certainly takes its toll but as long as I feel we can continue to build and take the club forward, I'm still up for the challenge.

This will actually be my 25th year as a manager and I have decided to put pen to paper and write about all those years in the non league game. It has proved a very time consuming exercise, but with

the help of Roger Slater we are slowly building on the numerous stories, incidents and characters involving my four different clubs. I hope to have it published by the end of this season, so if anyone has any ideas for a title or any humorous stories, I'd be delighted to hear from you. My memory is not the best which makes this project all the more difficult.

I would also like to thank Watford FC and Malky Mackay for being kind enough to bring the 1st team here this afternoon to help me celebrate my Testimonial game. We have developed a good relationship between the two clubs over recent seasons and I look forward to developing those links even further now that Malky and Sean Dyché are in charge. I would like to extend my congratulations on their appointments and wish them and the club every success for the future.

In addition to today's game, I hope to hold a couple more Testimonial events later in the season with a Sportsman's Dinner and a Golf day, so please keep your eyes and ears open for further details.

I would like to say how much I appreciate Chairman Howard Kraiss and the Board for granting me this testimonial and also say a big thank you to everyone who has given me so much help and support since I arrived here at the 'Stones'. Football has given me the opportunity to make so many friends and I hope lots of you will be here today to share this occasion with me and have a drink in the bar afterwards.

We now set about the real business of a pre season friendly and our preparation for an assault on the Ryman Premier Division.

Enjoy the game.

Gordon

CHAIRMAN No 1

It's all my fault ... well... nearly

It was the end of May 1995 and Fred Callaghan decided he wanted to stand down as first team manager as he wanted a new role as general manager and he had already sounded out captain Tommy Mason, who was coming to the end of his playing career, as his possible replacement.

You can imagine when I first found out about this as the then chairman, I was somewhat bemused because we as a board were already in the throws of making changes to the management and this now expedited matters. Within a few days a board meeting was convened and Tommy was invited to put his case to us as potential manager. Tommy put his case for gainful employment across very well and the easiest thing to do for the board was to offer him the job as this would have created continuity at the club, which was particularly poignant as we were moving into Edgware's ground and swapping leagues from Beazer Homes to Diadora and relegating ourselves two divisions in the process. Don't forget we signed 83 year old Val Shearer on Beazer forms as a protest to the league over our ridiculous travelling costs and lack of local football only a few months before.



Paul with the young managers back in June 1995, Courtesy of Harrow Observer

However, we never do the easy thing at Wealdstone and having left Yeading's ground share, at the subsequent hastily reconvened board meeting, literally only a couple of days later, a few names were thrown into the ring, one of which being Gordon Bartlett. Initially, I wasn't overly keen to entice Gordon away from Yeading as I had built up a very good relationship with their chairman Phil Spurden. However it was rumoured that Gordon was becoming increasingly concerned about the playing budget and future prospects at Yeading as I believe he felt he had taken them as far as he could (he obviously couldn't have envisaged playing Newcastle in the FA cup or Conference south football!)

It was agreed that out of due respect that I spoke to Phil Spurden to alert him to our wishes and give him the opportunity to persuade Gordon to stay which I was confident he could not. Layne Patterson was then asked to phone Gordon as he knew him better than the rest of us to actually see if

he was interested to which he told Layne that he was. Gordon clearly could not resist my powers of persuasion (or a much better pay packet!) and the rest they say is history. I did promise him a new ground in two years which turned out to be nearly seven and then it (Prince Edward) was never completed as Stadia management went bust! (I REALLY DID TRY MATE,HONEST!).

There have been many trials and tribulations with Gordon and Leo at the helm, none of which gave me greater satisfaction than winning the Division Three title at Northwood the second season into their management regime followed by promotion from Division Two. And of course the heart ache in 1999 when we lost I game in the last 19 to secure promotion for a third successive season only to be denied on ground grading issues.

Tears were shed by all of us that day, and of course Aylesbury came calling along with

one or two other clubs to give Gordon a new challenge and few could blame him, however fan power came to the rescue and our Special One (AKA Golden Balls) stayed much to my grateful disbelief.... I was chairman just shy of 10 years with seven of them with Gordon as manager and I can truly say, despite everything thrown at us during those times we still managed to have a laugh and a beer come win,lose or draw.By the way 1999 was terrible and the ultimate stitch up,but Spalding at home in the replay and Great Wakering away both in the vase were the worst days for me as we both felt we could have gone all the way to Wembley but hey ho!

Gordon,you are a true mate and clearly a true Blue so here's to the next 14 years.....

Paul Rumens

Wealdstone FC Cup Draws - 2009/10

The Football Association made the draw for the early rounds of the FA Cup and FA Trophy competitions on Wednesday 1 July.

In the **FA Cup** Wealdstone will be away to either Artesey Town or Hatfield Town or Southend Manor in the 1st qualifying round. Ties to be played on Saturday 12 September 2009.

In the **FA Trophy**, 1st qualifying round, the Stones are drawn at home to Margate and the tie will be played on Saturday 17 October.

In the **FA Youth Cup**, Wealdstone will play away to either Kingsbury London Tigers or Ashford Town (Mx), ties to be played during w/c 21 September.

Also, on a date to be announced, Wealdstone will host North Greenford United in the 2nd Round of the Middlesex Senior Cup, with the promise of a quarter final at home to Uxbridge or Ashford Town should we get through.

COMMERCIAL NEWS

Vinnie comes home to play a round or two...

Welcome back everyone, last season we finished on a high on and off the pitch and hopefully this will continue for the forthcoming season. Once again lots of work has been going on around our ground and I would like to personally thank everyone for their time as this is a vital part of our money saving towards the build up to the new season.

At the end of the last season we had a very successful presentation evening, many thanks to Leo Morris and others for their part in organising this event, and this was closely followed by the golf day in which Vinnie Jones spent the day meeting and greeting our guests after which an evening back at our social club where Vinnie took to the stage finished off a very successful day for the club. Many thanks go out to Vinnie and his family as he donated his precious time to the club free of charge.

Although as we know it is still a difficult time for everyone in the current financial

climate myself and Leo have managed to secure ten more Companies with boards around our ground and several new programme ads, many thanks to those people and our existing sponsors. All of these sponsors have confirmed discounts to Wealdstone Supporters so please use these Companies if you can. If anyone knows of any Company or individual who may be interested in joining us please do not hesitate to contact me as your help is vital.

Once our fixtures are printed we will obviously be looking amongst you all for ball, match day sponsors and kit donors, please do not forget team draw and ground naming are still ongoing. once again many thanks for everyone's help lets keep our club moving in the right direction.

Up The Stones

Dennis Byatt

Wealdstone FC Team Draw Results - June 2009

1 P Draw- £100

2 R. Couch	£50	3 C Andrews	£30	4 T Davies	£20
5 R Slater	£10	6 L Stanton	£10	7 H Melsom	£10
8 S Payne	£10	9 G Ranger	£10		

On behalf of the club I would like to sincerely thanks all of our loyal members for their continued participation and support of this hardy club members only fund raiser.

We had a relaunch session at the club AGM and I am pleased to report that a number of supporters have already sent their forms back to join Team Draw - thank you. Dennis Byatt has the standing order forms so please see him at a home game or see Nick DuGard for more information. If you have any queries relating to Team draw, please email Nick on: nickdugard@fsmail.net Please note that we still have a small number of unclaimed prizes - again please contact Nick DuGard. Winners are listed on the official club website under commercial/teamdraw.