

WEALDSTONE

versus

SOUTHEND UTD



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NATIONAL LEAGUE

MONDAY AUGUST 30 2021, KO 3PM

SEASON 2021-22 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME £3

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BY MARK HYDE



WEALDSTONE 2021-22

Written in Stone

StoneShare! 2021/22

Last year, 'stoneShare! contributed significantly to the club maintaining its National League status, enabling signings to strengthen the squad prior to relegation being nullified and subsequently allowing the club to furlough some higher cost players while bringing in lower cost loan players, some of whom were identified as targets for this season.

Prudent management of the money raised also allowed some to be ring-fenced, to be available as pre-season started this year, allowing Stuart and Matt to identify and sign a couple of key players early without impacting the club's very stretched finances.

Now, as the season approaches it is time for 'stoneShare! to launch for 2021-22 so that the club can make funds available to the Management Team should we need to strengthen in the early stages of the season (as other clubs release players) and in the lead up to the mid-season transfer window when additional loan players will become available. There may also be an opportunity to sign one or two more players that are trialing with the club before the current transfer window closes at the end of the month. (At National League level we are prevented from signing players from the divisions above outside of these windows).

Exactly as before, your donations to 'stoneShare!, in multiples of £5, paid weekly, monthly or as a lump sum, will directly help the playing budget and one share in Wealdstone FC (2000) Limited while being issued for each £5 donated. It is your chance to be directly involved in the team's performances and to own a part of Wealdstone FC.

Help us maintain our status in the National League and build a team we can be proud of in what will be a very tough season. Be a key part of the club and our future.

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NOTTS COUNTY AWAY TRAVEL



The club will be running a coach to the Away fixture at Meadow Lane against Notts County on **Tuesday 14th September.**

The Coach will leave from Grosvenor Vale at 3.15pm and return straight after the game.

Tickets are selling fast and can be booked directly with Dave Reader on **07747 808482** or **davidreader@gmail.com**

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WEALDSTONE

FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2021/2022

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LEAGUE TITLES

1951 / 1952 Athenian League
1973 / 1974 Southern League Division One South
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1981 / 1982 Southern League Championship
1984 / 1985 National League Premier (Gola League)
1995 / 1997 Isthmian League Division Three
2013 / 2014 Isthmian League Premier Division
2019 / 2020 National League South

NATIONAL CUPS

1985 / 1986 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.

BY STUART MAYNARD

WEALDSTONE 2021-22

From the Gaffer

Good afternoon to you all and a warm welcome to Southend United

Today will be a great game with a fantastic atmosphere with the Vale packed out.

These are exactly the types of games that we all look forward to and want to be involved in. Last weekend at home we were unfortunate not to come away with more. Woking capitalised on a slow start by us but then we grew massively into the game and looked more like the team we have looked in pre season.

I think we just looked a little nervous in the opening period of the game which is understandable because we are a young team, so in a weird kind of way I am glad the we have got that out the way. We can now play with no fear, and hopefully we can give our fans something more to cheer about.

The positive from the Woking game from a management point of view was that we looked a hell of a lot fitter than we did at any point last season. I Also thought it was the first time we've really looked like a proper National League team.



Even though the result wasn't what we wanted, we have come away from the game very happy with what we have got in the squad now and confident we can have a successful season with a few tweaks.

The game today will of course be tough, but there will not be any easy ones in this league. We have to play the way we play and trust the process in place. If we do that we will win more games than we lose this season.

Up the Stones

Stuart



Pic Jon Taffel

BY SUDHIR RAWAL



The Elmslie Ender



Reasons to be cheerful as we are back in front of fans

An undeserved loss at home against Woking, I think most will agree. The difference between the two sides was not ability, as we were the better footballing side, but being clinical in either boxes. When you look back and analyse the game, apart from the goals, neither goalkeeper had to really make a decent save. Woking took their gifted chances well, whilst we defended poorly for both of their goals. In the other box, Woking just defended better and when we were presented with decent opportunities, bar the goal, we didn't hit the target. To be successful you have to make the most of your chances naturally.

I know we all see matches differently, but whilst many say that Woking dominated the first half, I think that is skewed by their two goals. The Cards started better and were quicker, stronger and first to every challenge to start with, but we grew into the game and were matching them until we switched off for both of their goals. Their first saw a totally unmarked player in our six-yard box and their second, which I thought was an own goal but was credited to one of two Woking players below six feet tall, which if the case, saw a tiny midfielder getting a free header in



Coming up 30 years ago... Tony Kelly celebrates the final goal at Lower Mead in front of the Elmslie End fans

our box. Both criminal bits of defending.

The second half though was almost all Wealdstone but for all of our possession, decent football, as I said earlier, Craig Ross just wasn't troubled enough. Defensively Woking held out where they might have crumbled under the onslaught. Our favourite Geordie, Alan Dowson made mention of how difficult it is to defend down the slope especially when the crowd are making a lot of noise, as they were in the second half. Lesson to be learned is that you have to get something from the game when you have dominate a half, as we did, but plenty of positives to be taken from our performance in the second period and some strong individual performances too.

I did wonder in my article from the Woking game how the big the crowd would be. At 1,405 that's our biggest league home crowd since March 1988, but with 400 away fans in, that's about par, maybe even a little lower,



Who wouldn't want an autograph from this illustrious bunch of 'Pub Team' luminaries?

than we were getting before the shutdown. Whilst other clubs have had an uptick in gates, ours seems not to have moved on. August is always a poor barometer of crowds with it being holiday season, even in Covid times, though. Today this game is the biggest in London and we could quite well break our professional era league crowd record of 3,400, depending on how many Southend supporters get tickets for the game, which officially is limited to 800. More likely it could be the second highest since 1971, when we joined the professional ranks, when we had 2,548 verses Bexley in the Southern League South season. Of course, reading the Southend forum, tinpot, dump, tip gets mentioned more than a few times about ours and Kings Lynn's ground.

'Wealdstone played Southend in a five-a-side tournament in the late 80s'

Welcome to non-league football and whilst they and other Belts are maybe able to sell lots more tickets, ultimately, any football club has to balance cash generation with the safety of those that are in the ground. Wrong enders, if they make themselves

known, need to be booted out and not just moved to another part of the stadium.

Stones have played Southend competitively before back in 1979, when the Shrimpers won 1-0 in the FA Cup, but Wealdstone also played Southend in a five-a-side tournament in the late 80s at St Albans City. Most of the clubs, a mix of pro and non-league teams, had their first team squads involved, but Wealdstone went with a supporters' team. There was a crowd of over two thousand, with kids roaming around looking for autographs and their autograph books in some people's lofts will contain such luminary names as Trevor Davies, et al scribbled in them. I think from memory we lost to 1-0 to Southend, with Jim Stannard who was in goal for them going mad when he realised, we were just a "pub team" and they weren't winning.

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Well, we wanted a big, bruising goalscoring centre-forward.. so step forward new boy Joshua!

Josh Umerah is relishing the chance to be the Stones' main man when it comes to goal-scoring this season.

"I just love getting goals; I need to score goals; it's what I'm all about" said the 6ft 1in striker who signed from Torquay United earlier this summer to address the need for more physicality in the front line.

"I'm absolutely buzzing for the new season - Torquay had a big squad with the potential for goals from anywhere, but I think there is the quality here to do great things if we can click when the season starts" said the ex-Charlton youngster before the game against Woking - in which he headed a beautiful goal to put us back in the game at 2-1.

"I think we are good in every position. Dennon Lewis, Rhys Browne and Alex Dyer were the first ones to impress me, and we work hard on patterns of play to unlock teams - but it's a really tough division and it's not easy to create space. I'm looking forward to playing with Craig (Fasanmade) though as I can go short and let him use his speed to run in behind. I think we'll make a good combination.

"National League football is backwards and forwards, fast and furious and I think that's why the fans like it - top level football can be slow and less exciting".

The 24-year-old was spotted at the age of 11 playing for the Borough of Lewisham, but in a trial match against Charlton Athletic he didn't show up too well. "But it's strange how one moment can change your life" he says. "There

It's Josh Umerah



Left: Josh celebrates a goal for Wycombe against Barnet four years ago in League Two with strike partner Adebayo Akintenwa just behind him

was a second game fixed up two months later and I scored a real screamer - and played well enough for Charlton to take me on".

He was at The Valley for eleven years, right through their youth system and then a debut at Hull City in the Championship, followed by a season on the bench in League Two.

Josh then went out on loan to Kilmarnock in the Scottish Premier League.

"That was interesting!" he said. The South Londoner had an eight hour drive across the border - or an hour by plane - but his time in Scotland was plagued by an ankle injury that needed surgery to clear out debris and scar tissue, the legacy of a decade playing up front.

"We faced some big teams and I got to play against Aberdeen, but missed two games in a week against Rangers and Celtic through injury - that was a real disappointment".

The summer of 2017 saw Josh loaned out a bit closer to home - League Two Wycombe Wanderers, where he struck up a partnership with

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*Cheers Dennon!
Josh thanks our
left winger for his
assist against
Hungerford*

Adebayo Akinfenwa that he reckons was ideal.

"Ade is so big that he won literally everything in the air. So I'd just run in behind on his flick-ons and managed to grab a couple of goals".

Josh scored in successive 3-1 wins over Barnet and Cambridge United - two goals in four starts - but then he was off again on loan for half seasons at National Leaguers Boreham Wood (seven goals in 16 starts) and Ebbsfleet (five in 22).

Last season was spent at Torquay, largely as an impact sub as the Devon side made it all the way to the Play-off final only to lose on penalties to Hartlepool.

"It was hard to establish myself there as they had goals in every position: Danny Wright, Lemonhaigh-Evans, Whitfield, even Asa Hall got a dozen goals from midfield! And Billy Waters would

come off the bench, often with me, and he was sharp and scored a lot too."

I reminded Josh of the game at The Vale last December, when table-toppers Torquay trailed to a Danny Parish goal until the Umerah-Waters partnership clicked into gear.

"Yeah, that was one of my favourite games last season - we were tasked with impacting the game as we were losing 1-0, and we did that."

I remember Josh really making his presence felt and creating the space for Waters to break our hearts with two late goals. And in fact it was supersub Waters who got Torquay's late equaliser in the 1-1 return game at Plainmoor in January to deny Stones a morale-boosting win.

So how did Josh's move to Grosvenor Vale come about? "It was my agent" he says. "The gaffer Stuart wanted a striker like me and it's a great move for me, same level, closer to home and a chance to prove myself."

"I've got three goals in pre season which is a big confidence boost - two last week against Hungerford. I scored a two in a pre-season game for Torquay last pre season, but my last competitive double was for Boreham Wood against Halifax three years ago when Wood won 2-1."

Were the goals against Hungerford proof that pattern-of-play pays off?

"Absolutely ... Dennon always says:

If I get away down the left I'll always go near post, so that was where I headed and held off the defender. The second goal from Andy's cross was a bit luckier but I'll take them all day. I nearly got a third but the keeper made a decent save later in the game".

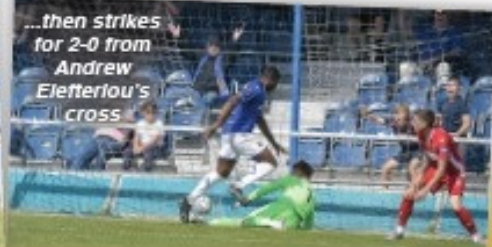
So then I had two big questions to ask him. Firstly, how is your surname pronounced? "I know, that's a hard one, but it's Ooo-mare-ah!"

And the second question: Your equalising goal at Colchester, your first for the Stones, came from the penalty spot. Are you on pennos then Josh?

"Yes I'm on them! I had Wrighty and Asa Hall ahead of me at Torquay but the Gaffer put me on penalties a few weeks ago and I'm well happy with that".



*Josh steers in the
first goal against
Hungerford...*



*...then strikes
for 2-0 from
Andrew
Elefterlou's
cross*

Opposition in focus

SOUTHEND UTD.

THE SHRIMPERS

Organised football in the Borough of Southend-on-Sea really started taking hold in the late 1890's. Clubs such as Southend Victoria, Southend Amateurs, Southend Corinthians, Southend Ramblers and even Southend Wesleyans were on the local scene at this time.

A team called Southend United were recorded as early as 1898 but it is not known where they played. One thing is for sure is that they are in no way related to our club. At the same time over at Marine Park, which incorporated a football pitch among its attractions, Southend-on-Sea Football Club were establishing a reputation as a top amateur side. The clubs' colours were white shirts and blue 'knickers'. By 1900 this side has changed its name to Southend Athletic, and although Marine Park was later to become The Kursaal, Athletics' ground was radically different to the one occupied by Southend United in their early Football League days. It consisted of a raised off pitch surrounded by a 'trotting' track and a large pavilion with absolutely no spectator accommodation. Also during 1900 a new pitch was laid out adjacent to the large property in Victoria Avenue called Roots Hall. Ironically one of the first teams to stage games there was Southend Athletic. However the face of football in the Borough was to change forever following a meeting held in the Blue Boar Public House on May 19th 1906. It is well documented that Southend United were formed at this meeting convened by landlord Oliver Trigg and a band of fellow enthusiasts. In 1920 the Southern League clubs, including Southend United, were elected en bloc to form the new Third Division of the Football League. A year later this became the Third Division South as a northern section had also been introduced.

The 1955/56 campaign was to prove one of the most pivotal in the club's history. After 21 years at the largely unpopular Southend Stadium the Blues moved into their new home. The new Roots Hall had been built entirely by internal labour with Sid



Broomfield leading a small band of men to build the stadium we know and love today. The entire cost of the stadium, save for a small grant from the Football Association, was met by the Supporters Club and their extensive fund-raising programme.

Southend United joined the new national Third Division in 1958, where they remained until 1966 when they suffered their first ever relegation, into the Fourth Division. The club had to wait six seasons until 1972 to experience the club's first ever promotion as runners-up behind Grimsby Town. In 1976 Southend suffered relegation again before taking another runners-up spot behind Watford in 1978. Another relegation in 1980 was directly followed by one of the most successful seasons in the club's history as they won the Fourth Division Championship in 1981, breaking a series of club records in the process. Despite success on the pitch and low admission prices, the club's gates were low and condemned as "a bad reflection on the town"]

In 1984, the club was relegated to the Fourth Division (Bobby Moore was manager), and the following season finished 20th, narrowly avoiding having to seek re-election to the Football League. However, Southend gained promotion in 1987. Although relegated again in 1989, successive promotions in 1990 and 1991 saw Southend United reach the second tier of the Football League; in 1992, under manager David Webb, the club finished 12th in the old Second Division, having briefly topped

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final against Lincoln City brought success giving the club its first promotion via the play-off system and their first major silverware since 1981.

In May 2006 Southend became League One champions after beating Bristol City 1-0 at Roots Hall - the club's first title in 25 years. Tilson was named as the League Manager Association's Manager-of-the-Season for League One.

In 2006/07 the Shrimpers were relegated back to League One & the 2009-2010 season was tougher: a run of just one win in 2010 left Southend deep in trouble, and relegation to League Two was confirmed.

A transfer embargo at the start of the 2012-13 season saw the club start its campaign with a depleted squad. However, a successful loan signing - Britt Assombalonga from Watford - helped Southend to a run of 14 games unbeaten which saw them reach 4th in the table. League form dipped in early 2013. Phil Brown was brought in as manager but picked up just one win in his eight games in charge as Southend finished the season in 11th position. In 2015 Brown led the team, via a play-off final against Wycombe Wanderers (decided 7:6 on penalties), into League One.

On 22 October 2019, Sol Campbell was appointed manager of Southend. Financial difficulties, including a winding-up petition heard on 22 January 2020, resulted in non-payment of players' and other employees' wages. The winding-up petition was dismissed after debts were cleared.

On 9 June 2020, Football League clubs in Leagues One and Two agreed to end the 2019-20 season; Southend were relegated to League Two. On 30 June 2020, manager Campbell and three assistants left the club by mutual consent.

On 13 August 2020, Southend United appointed Mark Molesley, formerly manager of Weymouth, as their new manager on a three-year contract. On 9 April 2021, Molesley was sacked by Southend United having only won 8 games out of 45. The club were 23rd, five points from safety with six games remaining. Phil Brown returned as manager but could not rescue the situation; Southend suffered a second successive relegation.

the division on New Year's Day, 1992. In 1995, former Liverpool player Ronnie Whelan became player-manager & Southend finished 14th in Division One, but were relegated a year later and Whelan left the club. He was replaced by Alvin Martin but Martin was unable to avoid a second consecutive relegation. Martin left in April 1999, with Southend fifth from bottom in the Football League. Alan Little was manager for a brief spell before the club turned again to David Webb, then Rob Newman, Steve Wignall and, in late 2003, former Southend United midfielder Steve Tilson.

Under Tilson, Southend reached their first national cup final, meeting Blackpool in the final of the Football League Trophy but the team did not rise to the occasion and Blackpool won 2-0. Tilson then led Southend to promotion to League 1 in 2005, while making a second successive appearance in the Football League Trophy final, which the Shrimpers lost 2-0 to Wrexham, but the third appearance at the Millennium Stadium in the League Two play-off



WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v SOUTHEND UNITED

P 1 W 0 D 0 L 1 F 0 A 1

Opposition in focus

WHO'S WHO?



1. STEVE ARNOLD - GOALKEEPER

Steve signed in July 2021 from Northampton Town where he played in the 2020 EFL Lg2 Play off Final.

13. HARRY SEADEN - GOALKEEPER

A former England U16s and U17s international, Harry who is the son of former Blues player John, joined the club at the age of 13 from local side Rayleigh Boys.

3. NATHAN RALPH - DEFENCE

Arriving from Scottish side Dundee in 2019, Nathan Ralph's first season at Southend was disrupted after dislocating his shoulder in December against Burton Albion. Formerly of Peterborough, Yeovil Town, Newport and Woking, with loans at Kettering Town and Aldershot Town

5. SHAUN HOBSON - DEFENCE

The centre back signed from AFC Bournemouth in the summer of 2020. The Manchester-born defender started his career at Burnley before signing for the Cherries in 2016. He joined Weymouth on loan at the start of the 2019/20 season and was an integral part of the 'Terras' side that clinched promotion under former Blues boss Mark Molesley via the play-offs in August 2020. Prior to that Hobson spent time on loan at Eastbourne Borough, Chester and Eastleigh.

12. TOM CLIFFORD - DEFENCE

Dead-ball specialist Tom Clifford was handed his first professional contract with Southend in the summer of 2018 and spent some time on loan at Concord Rangers during the 19/20 campaign.

24. JASON DEMETRIOU - DEFENCE

After five years in Cyprus, which included a stint with Anorthosis Famagusta, Demetriou returned to English football with Walsall in 2015 before his move to Southend the following year.

30. MILES MITCHELL-NELSON - DEFENCE

Mitchell-Nelson's meteoric rise towards first team football saw him travel to Oldham Athletic in April 2018 as cover for the first team squad just 12

months after the defender signed a two-year scholarship for the club from non-league.

40. JOHN WHITE - DEFENCE (C)

John White signed a contract extension at the club in the summer of 2021 to take the defender into his ninth season and make him the club's longest serving player.

6. JOSH COULSON - DEFENCE

The former Cambridge United and Leyton Orient defender signed a one-year deal with the option of a further year in July 2021

30. MATTHEW DENNIS

- DEFENCE Joined on a season long loan from Norwich City

19. EREN KINALI - MIDFIELD

Eren Kinali made his breakthrough into the first team at Blues during the 2019/20 season, making his debut off the bench away to Burton Albion.

20. ASHLEY NATHAN-GEORGE - MIDFIELD

The highly rated winger signed in October 2020

from League Two side Crawley Town,

31. O'SHANE STEWART - MIDFIELD

A product of Southend's Youth teams.

17. LEWIS WALSH - MIDFIELD

Louis Walsh made the move to Southend United in December 2020, signing an 18-month contract. The winger has previously played for Guiseley before earning moves to Championship clubs Barnsley and Nottingham Forest.

14. NATHAN FERGUSON - MIDFIELD

Signed from Crawley Town in January. Ferguson started his career in Norwich City's Academy as a forward before joining Dagenham & Redbridge. Spells in non-league on loan at Chelmsford City, St Albans City, Hastings United and then permanently with Billericay Town followed, and then Grays in



Manager - Phil BROWN

WEALDSTONE 2021-22

2015

11. TERRELL EGBRI - MIDFIELD

Diminutive winger Terrell Egbri was rewarded with a first team contract following some impressive performances for the club's U23s team, and out on loan at Harlow Town in 2019.

15. LEWIS GARD - MIDFIELD

Cultured midfielder Lewis Gard followed his brother Freddie through the ranks at the Club's Academy before making his League One debut in a 3-0 win at Oldham Athletic in April 2018.

16. HARRY PHILLIPS - MIDFIELD

Attacking midfielder Harry Phillips made his first-team debut away to Doncaster Rovers in January 2020 and managed to get on the scoresheet with a long range strike. Phillips, who signed a two-year contract extension in 2020, has progressed through the ranks at the club following a decade in the Academy.

8. JAMES DUNNE - MIDFIELD

James Dunne was the first signing of the summer in 2021 following the expiry of his contract at Barnet where he had spent the past two seasons.

4. ABUMERE OGOGO - MIDFIELD

Abu Ogogo has Blues on a one-year deal with the option of a second year in June 2021. The midfielder arrives in Essex after two and a half years at Bristol Rovers. Like his fellow midfielder James Dunne, Ogogo is a former Wimbledon and Arsenal trainee.

7. JACK BRIDGE - MIDFIELD

Jack Bridge returned to Roots Hall on a one-year deal with the option of another year in the summer of 2021 from Bromley. The midfielder started his career at Blues, before he departed in 2018 to join Northampton Town. Moves to Carlisle, Concord and Bromley preceded his return.

18. MATT RUSH - FORWARD

The front-man signed for the club as an U14 player during the 2014/15 season and is capable of scoring goals from inside and outside the penalty area. Rush made his first-

team debut away to Sunderland as a sub during the 2019/20 campaign, ending the season with eight appearances in total with his first start coming away to Peterborough United.

9. SIMEON AKINOLA - FORWARD Simeon Akinola signed a deal at Southend in September 2020. The striker, who scored 17 goals for Barnet last season in the National League, joined Blues on a two-year deal which includes the club option of a third year. Before his move to the then League Two side, Akinola starred for Braintree Town in their run to the National League play-offs in 2016.

9. RHYS MURPHY - FORWARD

Signed from Yeovil, Rhys started his career at Arsenal. Murphy joined Dutch club Telstar in 2012, after loans with Brentford and Preston

North End, before returning to England with Dagenham & Redbridge.

In 2015, the former Republic of Ireland U21 international moved north to Oldham Athletic, shortly after going out on loan to Crawley Town. Another successful loan stint in the 15/16 season followed at AFC Wimbledon where Murphy won promotion from Sky Bet League Two. Since then, the striker has joined Forest Green Rovers, Gillingham and Chelmsford City moving to the Glovers from the Clarets in 2019.

10. SAM DALBY - FORWARD

The 21-year-old began his career at Leyton Orient, making his first team debut at the age of just 16 in the 2016 EFL Trophy. In 2018 he signed for Leeds United and featured for

Bielsa's first team in pre-season and was on the scoresheet for the first time against York. He joined Morecambe on loan in January 2019 before signing for Watford later that year before coming off the bench for his Watford debut in January 2020 against Tranmere Rovers in the FA Cup.

22. HAMZAD KARGBO - FORWARD

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

2. ROB HOWARD - DEFENCE

21. CHARLIE SAYERS - DEFENCE

MANGER PHIL BROWN



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CLASSIC FAN IN THE STAND

It's Steve Gould!

FAN IN THE STAND



STEVE GOULD

Chelsea refugee (and golf coach to the stars)
Steve is today's supporter in the spotlight..

Name: Steve Gould
Where you live: Rudlip Manor, moved to The Manor to get away from The Boro, whose ground was a five minute walk from my old house.

Where you work (and occupation): Co owner of The Knightsbridge Golf School where we teach, amongst others, Hugh Grant, Ant & Dec, Franco Zola and an endless list of celebrities and movers and shakers. Steve is also the author of two best-selling books: 'The Swing Factory' and 'The Golf Delusion', which appeared on The Sunday Times best sellers list half a dozen years ago!

First Stones game attended (and

when): Wealdstone v Chelsea. A midweek friendly in early 1966. It was raining. Osgood played for Chelsea along with a number of first team players. My Grandad and I sat in the stand, and I can still smell the smoke from his pipe! From that day I came as often as I could. I clearly remember the Easter 1966 song... to the tune of the Easter parade. 'Now wear your Easter bonnet with Wealdstone written on it, you'll be the proudest supporter in the Lower Mead parade.' We all loved Lower Mead, and you will probably censor this but those responsible for siding that lovely, lovely ground should be lined up against a wall, and

shot

How you came to be watching Wealdstone: My Grandad used to go to Chelsea when they were at home, but when they were away he used to come to Wealdstone and started taking me.

Had you watched other clubs before that, or still do? Chelsea, big time.

Why do you prefer non-league football? Love non-league 'cos the fans are real football people. Not like the glory hunters we see down the Bridge.

Any disadvantages? You can't watch the goals being played back on the big screen! (There's a project for you Attila!)

How do you fit watching Wealdstone

This 'Fan in the Stand' appeared ten years ago and the picture of a very young Steve with his rattle, bobble hat and scarf on the eve of the 1966

Amateur Cup Final still makes me smile. Fifty five years later he's as committed a fan as ever! Overpage we update his thoughts on WFC, 2021 style....

FAN IN THE STAND CONTINUED

into your family/working life?

Difficult, but I thoroughly enjoy coming down here.

How big a part of your life is the club? If I won the lottery I'd buy it!

Most memorable Stones game/s you've seen? Has to be the two cup finals at Wembley. I was there when we won the FA Amateur Cup in 1966 and in 1985 for our Trophy win with Stones regulars Chvo, Neil Rands and the rest of the gang.

What is your favourite season, Wealdstone-wise, and why? 1981/82

When we won everything in the Southern League and the atmosphere was just brilliant. I remember going to the last game of that season as if it were yesterday. The Faldlands War was in full swing and on the morning of the game The Sun printed their own version of Don't cry for me Argentina... "You've gone too far now, we've left the bar now, and with our sea kings, ships will be sinking".

Most memorable game EVER seen? The thrashing of the borough a couple of Christmases ago.

What really gets your goat watching football? Plastic fans. I'm a Chelsea regular and we are getting so many tourist fans etc that the atmosphere has totally gone. Loads of my clients are now season ticket holders yet when I try to speak to them about Alan Hudson they think I'm talking about the butler from upstairs downstairs.

Have you ever played the game yourself (to any level?) and most memorable moments? Played regularly for years but I was total rubbish!

Any suggestions to improve your Stones watching experience?

Nothing, it's great as it is. **How to write all-time Wealdstone line-up (1-11, with seasons)?** That's too difficult to answer but obviously

would have to include Vinny Jones, Stuart Pearce, George Duck, Dennis Byatt and my mate's dad, Stones scoring legend Matt Farrell. Matt came down here for the Rotherham game. He loved the set up down here and had a great day.

Best current Stones line-up, in your opinion? Don't really like picking out individuals, they might be reading this!

Favourite all-time Wealdstone strip? FA Amateur cup winning strip of 1966.

blue shorts, white shorts, blue socks, Clabie.

Favourite current Stones strip? Home blue strip. So pleased we've got white shorts back.

Best away trip this season? It's gonna be Rotherham in the 3rd round of the FA Cup at White Hart Lane!

Best away trip in the past? Harrow borough every time. Last year we actually saw three borough fans of the game!

Best non-League ground you've

visited? Lower Mead

Best stadium you've EVER visited?

The Maracana, falling down but fantastic to be there. Saw the Brazilian Cup Final in 2001. It was my second visit. In 1999 we got drenched, I've never seen so much rain. At the end of the game our hands looked like we looked like we'd been sitting in a bath for 17 hours!

What are your expectations for this season? Play-offs would be great.

Who is your favourite Stones celebrity fan? Me!

How does Grosvenor Vale compare to our other grounds? It's not Lower Mead but I love the place.

Have you played a part in its rebuilding? Ha Ha, I can't even change a fuse, if I were involved it would be falling down by now!

What do you think of our programme? Think it's excellent

Have you any ideas for improvements? Just keep doing what you're doing. Much much better than many league programmes.

Are you a regular social club user? What do you think of it? I'm a regular on Friday nights. The tribute bands that perform here are fantastic. I think all Stones fans should think about paying a visit. Blonde, Roy, Rolling Stones and Queen all on before Christmas. Prices are reasonable and all bar profits go to the football club.
How do you think the club can improve its awareness with the people of Ruilip? Well, it sounds old fashioned but maybe a good old leaflet drop emphasizing that this was the club that gave England Stuart Pearce and Hollywood Vinny Jones. From my own business experience I know that celeb sells. Sorry, but don't think Stones emphasise this enough.

Steve Gould was talking to Tim Parks



ON HIS WAY TO WEMBLEY, 1966

▲ Romantic picture of young Master Gould gripped by Amateur Cup Final fever in his back garden, just hours before the famous 3-1 win over Hendon. How apt tonight!

If you'd like to be the subject of Fan in the Stand, or if you'd like to nominate someone, please contact Tim Parks in person at the ground, or call him on 07946 520320, or e-mail on tparks@mirror.co.uk

STEVE GOULD FIF CONTINUED...

Ten years on from my last Fan in the stand appearance I am still living in my one bedroom starter home in Ruialip Manor - the year I moved to the Manor from an ever decaying South Harrow. I'd like to say that I moved to the Manor solely to be closer to the Stones but there were many reasons... though the Stones thought was always there in the background!

Thankfully the golf school is still doing well and we were fortunate enough to survive the pandemic having been closed for eight months out of twelve. We have had two further books published: *Golf's Golden Rule* in 2012 and *Finishing School* in 2016 and I must mention our sadly departed friend Markie Barton (pictured with me, right) for all his help in photographing and compiling the images for both books.

Colin Firth has been along to prepare for his role as an ex-golf pro in the film *Arthur Numan* and has been joined for lessons by people like Rob Brydon, Lee Mack, Liam Payne and Piers Morgan. It all sounds very glamorous but really it's just a normal job akin to being a hairdresser or a taxi driver etc...

you provide a service, get paid for your time, deduct your expenses and you're left with a nice living, nothing more - but hey it's hot exactly hard work and I count myself extremely lucky.

Football-wise, ten years on there is no way I could've imagined that the Stones would be back at this level with two promotions, and in such a relatively short time. Full marks to all those who have worked tirelessly over the years to take us so far.

A stand-out player in that time, who'd find his way into my all-time team, is Jonathan North, a great goalkeeper and master of the spectacular save. To come back from his two serious injuries has to be greatly admired. I remember following the Canvey game on Twitter the night he suffered that horrendous leg break, sounded truly horrific.

I would also possibly include Wes Parker, a calm and cultured player who really 'got' what

the Stones were all about. Hopefully he'll be back at the Vale in October to witness the clash with his home town team Grimsby Town.

Does Grosvenor Vale now match up to Lower Mead in my affections? I have always loved the Vale from day one but improvements made over the last few seasons are really something to be proud of - no thanks to myself, who can't even change a fuse, but to all the lads who give so much of their time and put in so much hard work to constantly improve the ground and its facilities. They really do deserve a rack of medals.

The stadium will be really tested at this level and I really hope we retain our Conference status - anywhere above the relegation places would suit me.

We have the smallest budget by a long way of all the teams in the league and to have a chance to constantly compete against big names such as Southend, Wrexham, Grimsby Town etc would be great, and in time help us to grow from strength to strength.

Over this past decade the best game by far was the Cambridge away game in the trophy when our 'tinpot' little club beat United 2-1. We had massive support that day and filled our end. The atmosphere was fantastic, one of my favourite-ever awaydays and I wasn't even drinking that particular day which is a sin as I'm a total p***head!

The following round, Newport away, was another great awayday where our end was awesome and we had a thoroughly good day out. The following home leg was a total anticlimax, dire to be precise. A huge disappointment and a sense of loss of what could have been.

We've only been allowed to see two games in the last 18 months thanks to Covid, although me and Clive Leaper did manage to go to the Woking home game as ball sponsors. That was in memory of our great friend Markie Barton, commemorating one year since his sad passing. And how great was it to have fans in last week for the opening game, and today? A great atmosphere and a great future for our much-loved Stones!

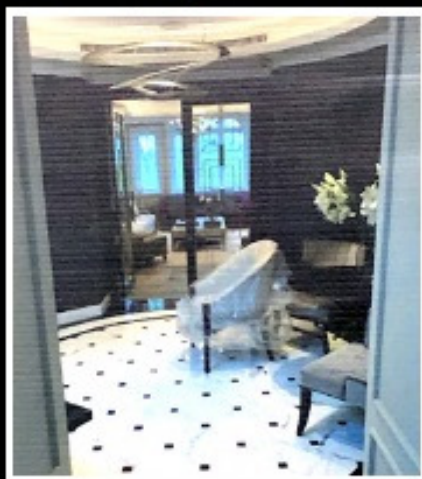




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We will work with you to ensure you and your guests get to enjoy a truly memorable experience. If you or your organisation are interested in sponsoring a match here at The Vale, please contact Club President, Paul Rumens (paulrumens59@gmail.com or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

Please note that we can accommodate multiple match sponsors and can tailor the experience to whatever your requirements are. (eg. we can cater for as many as 10, 20 or 30 people in your group.)

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 SOUTHEND UNITED Monday 30th August Year on a National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 ALTRINCHAM Saturday 10th September Year on a National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 ALDERSHOT TOWN Saturday 19th September Year on a National League	Harrow Windows	Your name or business here
 SOLIHULL MOORS Tuesday 5th October Year on a National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 EASTLEIGH Monday 19th October Year on a National League	Rolle-East	In memory of John O'Connor aka OC Dorset Stones
 GRIMSBY TOWN Tuesday 26th October Year on a National League	Rolle-East	ADWConnect
 BARNET Saturday 10th November Year on a National League	Rolle-East	Your name or business here



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MATCH

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Sunday, 26th December
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YEOVIL TOWN

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Tuesday, 25th January
Vanarama National League

Rolfe-East

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Saturday, 19th February
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WEYMOUTH

Saturday, 12th March
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Harrow Windows

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Tuesday, 22nd March
Vanarama National League

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BROMLEY

Saturday, 26th March
Vanarama National League

Rolfe-East

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CHESTERFIELD

Saturday, 10th April
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Monday, 19th April
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BY MARTIN READ



The World of Ball

So you don't think abusing the opposition is a topic open for debate? Well &%\$£ ^%\$£!<@!

On the opening weekend of the Premier League, Sky News ran a story about Leeds fans chanting about Marcus Rashford and Jordan Sancho that they had "let the country down" during the Euros. This item was followed, in all seriousness, by a bright yellow 'urgent item' box informing me that "this breaking news article is currently being updated. More details will be published shortly. Refresh this page for the latest information."

Yes, please, rush me the very latest! I mean, what is going on here? Of course, August is a traditionally news-light month, and yes there's always an utter desperation for clicks these days. But seriously, breaking news about a chant? What's more, possibly the most predictable chant any group of Leeds fans could have devised for that particular day?

The story got worse: "Many Leeds fans seemed to be in a boisterous mood heading into today's clash, with fights constantly breaking out in pubs in and around Old Trafford."

'Boisterous', you say? And may I ask what you were expecting to see out of your window as these two came together on an August Saturday afternoon? Herds of Leeds fans sweeping majestically past the police to passively take up their seats?

Doubtless Sky sensed another chapter in the post-Euros Rashford story, but this chasing of outrage is a symbol of our times - and a jarring one at that.

The truth is that football fans exchanging insults has been part of football since its inception. It's often rooted in long established local rivalries that pre-date the game itself. Perhaps the 1970s was especially bad for actual fan-on-fan violence, but if you think disparaging your rivals didn't exist in the black-and-white, cap-and-rattle era and even back to Victorian times, you'd be very much mistaken.

What's more, enmities between clubs can have

non-sporting origins that change over time, giving birth to new forms of insult. (Rotherham fans call Mansfield supporters 'scabs' because of the 1984 miners' strike, for example. See also: 'hairdressers'...)

Actually, the often highly creative forms of derisive language that fans dream up can be just as - or in some cases more - entertaining than the game itself. No, that Leeds example clearly wasn't; it was offensive, yes, but only for being so drab and obvious. In fact, there's plenty of wit on the terraces, and at non-league level the banter between players and fans can be a powerful part of the experience.

The best of it can come through the very short-term relationship between fans behind the goal and the oppo's goalkeeper, or on the touchline with the subs. You can have a conversation with opposition midfielders about how their decorating business isn't doing so well these days, perhaps, or with a defender about how he's surely been sent out in a shirt two sizes too small for him.

Note that the laughter on the terraces is only rarely at the expense of one of our own. And of course, abuse of players is often 'friendly fire' when fans realise that Player X, sold to us as the next Messi, is in fact something of a 'rub'.

And then, drum roll please, there are the officials. I remember a midweek game away at Hayes with us Stones fans clustered on one side of their old (and much missed) Church Road ground. Every time the rather portly linesman took a step, the Stones' faithful chanted "boing, boing, boing". (Player 'size' was back then, and remains today, catnip for insults. Back in the 80s the then highly popular Muppet Show



An intimidating and hostile bunch...?

ran a Star Wars / Flash Gordon skit introduced with gusto as "Pigs in Space!" This was duly adapted on the terraces to "Pigs in Goal!" whenever the oppo's custodian dared to show up sporting anything larger than a 32 inch waist.)

So then, denigrating the opposition is nothing new. But at the top level, much of it is being amplified out of all context by relentless, click-hungry media. And when we see them chasing down non-existent stories, as with the Leeds fans and their Rashford / Sancho chant, it's easy to ask the question 'where on earth are we headed?' as our options for 'constructively criticising' seem to grow ever narrower.

But to be fair, that would be to ignore the truth that what constitutes acceptable banter evolves over time. And in our 'everyone talking, all of the time' 21st century, this is surely where the problem lies. Because while the very best abuse borders on art form, the worst of it can be truly dismal; empty threats, pointless swearing and, in some cases, very poorly judged targets.

Last season a Scottish footballer says he considered suicide after a particularly offensive barb, (albeit in this case from one of the opposition players). And let's be fair, some of what was sung on the terraces in the eighties was pretty bleak stuff.

The good news is that, over the years, we've seen a reduction in sexist, homophobic and other purely offensive forms of chanting. All of which is positive, right? Of course, albeit there's more to be done. But is the threshold of what's now deemed acceptable 'banter' running so low now that it could influence the very nature of the game we all know and love?

This is where it gets a bit tricky to predict. Fans are often referred to as the twelfth man, and at non-league level that status can be imbued with an almost tactical dimension. On non-League terraces, targeted debate with an opposition player can bring you as close as you possibly could to being an actual part of the team.

Because what, after all, is meant when broadcasters talk of an "intimidating" atmosphere? What is meant when managers speak of their home crowd making things "hostile" for the opposition? Would just screaming blank noise at them be anything like as effective?

Of course we want the Vale to be a 'fortress'. We want it to be loud and, yes, intimidating. But surely that intimidation evaporates if all we're allowed to do is positively reinforce our own side instead of affecting the opposition's performance by means of a vocally strident critique.

Put it another way: Imagine the extreme end of the 'no abuse'

trend. All you can do is celebrate your side, not castigate the other. A world without laughter at a fluffed clearance, or a jeer when a striker misses the target. What would that be like? Yes, we cheer when we score or when the final whistle blows - ultimately, the game's all about us winning. But so often that pleasure is amplified because, come on, it's also about them losing. What's the point of local or any other form of rivalry without being able to vocalise the schadenfraude?

I should end by noting that at The Vale you can be ejected if you're found to be "using obscene or bad language likely to cause offence to others". ('Others' is a broad church, and the word 'likely' is doing a lot of heavy lifting too.) So, come on you Stonee! And hello you Shrimpers! Love you guys...

What, after all, is meant by a "hostile" or "intimidating" atmosphere?

RESULTS 2021/2022

George WICKENS
Jack COOK
Andrew ELEFTHEROU
Nikola TAVARES
Jerome OKIMO
Craig FASANMADE
Matt BUSE
Joshua UMERAH
Rhys BROWNIE
Dennison LEWIS

AUGUST Comp | Score | (Total) (Ave) | Lge | Goal scorers

21 Woking VNL 1-2 1,405 400 16 Umerah

28 Chesterfield VNL

30 SOUTHEND UNITED VNL

SEPTEMBER

4 Dagenham & Redbridge VNL

11 ALTRINCHAM VNL

14 Notts County VNL

18 ALDERSHOT TOWN VNL

25 King's Lynn Town VNL

OCTOBER

2 Torquay United VNL

5 SOLIHULL MOORS VNL

9 EASTLEIGH VNL

16 TBD FAC4

23 Weymouth VNL

26 GRIMSBY TOWN VNL

NOVEMBER

13 BARNET VNL

20 Wrexham VNL

23 Dover Athletic VNL

27 STOCKPORT COUNTY VNL

DECEMBER

4 Bromley VNL

11 FC HALIFAX TOWN VNL

18 TBD VNL

26 MAIDENHEAD UNITED VNL

28 Benjamin Wood VNL

JANUARY

2 Maidenhead United VNL

8 YEOVIL TOWN VNL

22 Woking VNL

25 NOTTS COUNTY VNL

29 Grimsby Town VNL

FEBRUARY

12 Barnet VNL

19 WREXHAM VNL

22 Solihull Moors VNL

26 TORQUAY UNITED VNL

MARCH

5 Eastleigh VNL

12 WEYMOUTH VNL

19 Stockport County VNL

22 DOVER ATHLETIC VNL

26 BROMLEY VNL

APRIL

2 FC Halifax Town VNL

9 CHESTERFIELD VNL

15 Southend United VNL

18 BOREHAM WOOD VNL

23 Altrincham VNL

30 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE VNL

MAY

2 Yeovil Town VNL

7 KING'S LYNN TOWN VNL

15 Aldershot Town VNL



PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY RESULTS

17th July	Hungerford Town	A	W	2-1	Charles, Fasanmade
20th July	St Albans City	A	D	1-1	Okimo
24th July	Bedford Town	A	D	2-2	Cook, Fasanmade
27th July	Chesham United	A	W	4-1	Fasanmade, Buse, Brownie, Elto
31st July	Colchester United	A	D	1-1	Umerah
10th August	Watford Under 23s	H	W	3-0	Fasanmade, Dronfield, Wishart
14th August	Hungerford Town	H	W	3-1	Umerah (2), Lewis



Photos from our opening weekend match courtesy Jon Taittel. Above: Ninesha Stones striking legend Lee Walker points to exactly where he'd like Andrew Betherick to deliver the ball as Stones fight back in the second half last week. Left: It's good to be back. Right: The Stones observe a minute's applause for Eddie Presland and Kat Kelly.

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VIEW FROM THE AWAY END

My dad only took me to one Southend game, but it opened a spellbinding portal to another world

Writes former Southend Echo journalist **BERNIE FRIEND**, a lifelong Shrimpers fan

Name and age? Bernie Friend, 49

When was your first Southend game and who brought you along? My dad took me to a 2-0 Third Division defeat at Roots Hall against Swansea in 1978. I can remember that night so vividly as black silhouettes of terraced roof tops flashed past the car window as my old man navigated the outskirts of Southend. He repeatedly told me to keep my eyes peeled for the floodlights, but I did not have a clue what he was going on about. But then a yellow glow began illuminating the slanted tiles and wonky chimney stacks ahead. Then a massive alien structure stretched its metal head into the night sky. Then there were two of them, no three, then four. I gawped... My father pushed some coins through a small crudely-cut opening to an old stubbly-chinned man sitting behind an iron grill. And they both laughed as my dad pushed the heavy arms of the turnstile forward until it clicked, following my futile attempts to struggle through it alone.

A dizzying cocktail of chatter and musty cigarette smoke filled the air as my father grabbed my hand tightly and herded me through the crowd ascending steep wooden steps. Then an opening bathed in light – a spellbinding portal to another world. I was at the end of the wardrobe and entering football Narnia for the very first time.

I saw row upon row of people... hundreds, no thousands, of them – I did not even realise this many people existed!

The illuminated pitch was fluorescent green with dazzling white lines... and it was huge compared to the one at my primary school. But all of the excitement was too much for me as I blacked out midway through the first half, falling fast asleep in my father's arms. He stayed until the final whistle, allowing me to dribble on his coat more consistently than either of Southend's wingers. And it is a memory I cherish as my dad passed away 20 years ago, and it was the only match he ever took me to. My own poor son is suffering for it as a consequence, as I cruelly passed on the curse as

soon as possible. He endured a baptism of fire not long after his third birthday, a 4-0 mauling at the hands of Millwall on his Roots Hall debut... preparing him perfectly for a lifetime of Saturday afternoon suffering. And a handful of games later, he is still waiting to share in the glory of a win for our beloved Shrimpers! Some things never change.

Do you live in Southend? Just a few miles down the coast in Leigh on Sea.

How did you come to be reporting on the Shrimpers? Was that a dream job? As a fan it was always my dream to make the transition from terrace to press box... it was the next best thing to pulling on a first-team shirt and scoring in the North Bank. I'd previously hated plenty of very temporary occupations: insurance sales, barman, builder, postman, DJ and market trader. But I had always wanted to write and got my big break in the early 90s after a random snakebite and black chat in indie nightclub, The Pink Toothbrush, with one of the editors of the Yellow Advertiser free newspaper, which covered Essex and East London. Within a week I was handed the role of propaganda minister for business advertorials, getting paid to write customer-attracting lies about local restaurants and shops I had never even visited. And I was also allowed to report on Southend United's matches, providing evening reading for hamsters, gerbils and rabbits who snuggled down on their newspaper beds at night. I soon progressed to becoming a fully-fledged news reporter, covering council meetings, police calls and running community campaigns, one of which prevented the current Southend chairman building houses on a conservation area.



WEALDSTONE 2021-22



Child abuse! Bernie is pictured with his then-three-year-old son Evan at Roots Hall as they miserably watched a 4-0 defeat by Millwall

And it was not long before I made the step up to Southend United reporter on the evening paper, the Southend Echo, which was the job I had always craved. Mission accomplished! And since then I have worked for numerous national media, including Sky Sports, the People, and for the past 11 years I have been a football journalist on the Daily Mirror.

Which aspect did you most enjoy? It's a tough job

because when you cover the club you support, you have to stop being a fan, switch off from the terraces and be more impartial. Of course you want to see the team be successful, it makes your job easier. But when you are behind the scenes, outside the changing room, talking to the directors, the stardust soon evaporates.

You are more aware of the bigger picture at the club, how amateurish things are being run off the pitch, which players care and will run through brick walls for their team-mates, and which ones are happy to sit in the treatment room, milking injury with a big grin on their faces picking up their wages. And then there is waiting for a player to call you three hours after you had initially arranged for a fascinating insight into his groin strain... as you are desperate for 350 words to fill the back page the next day. You also have the added bonus of getting it in the ear from the missus if being a slave to your deadline leads to a night at the cinema or going out for a meal being cancelled! Oh, the glamour and glitz of being a football reporter.

But the part of the job I relished most was breaking the hard news, the whispered stories stolen from the corridors of power. Most people can write a match report, or give players marks out of 10. But cultivating contacts and getting strangers in key positions to trust you are not a stitch-up merchant got my pulse racing.

I was covering the club for the Southend Echo when the current owners took over. And I had many a bust-up with the chairman over stories I ran in the paper about the way he was running the club, the finances and doomed stadium moves. Football club chairmen hate negativity, and believe the local journalist should be loyal to them, as it is in the best interests of their club. They treat you like you are an employee of the club.

But as a journalist, your only allegiance is to the supporters and the newspaper, which has to be the guardian and protector of the football club on your patch. And that really is the best way to show love for your club!

What was the most memorable Southend game you've ever seen? I will give you two, one as a fan, and one reporting on the club. As a fan, beating Spurs 3-2 as a Fourth Division side in the League Cup in October 1989. I kipped in a sleeping bag on the freezing cold Roots Hall car park concrete to ensure I got a ticket. It was a game that had everything. Gary Lineker and Gazza just a few months short of their Italia 90 heroics, a deafening Roots Hall roar inspiring a huge cup shock and red cards for Tottenham's Paul Stewart and my hero Roy McDonough, who clocked up an English record 22 early baths in his career. As a reporter, it has to be another giant-killing of seismic proportions at

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VIEW FROM THE AWAY END CONTD

Roots Hall in 2006... when Fergie got a seaside scouring on his 20th anniversary as Manchester United manager. Freddy Eastwood's 30-yard rocket of a free-kick won us another League Cup tie, despite the best efforts of Wayne Rooney and Cristiano Ronaldo, who went on to have a half-decent career. It was the stuff of legend that I hope to bore my grandchildren with... as my son is already sick of hearing about how Southend have a 100 per cent record against Man United without conceding a goal, and that his old man was there to see it!

Have you ever followed another club? A few flirtations, but nothing serious. I've always held an affinity for Stenhousemuir in Scotland. And when I was a teenager and couldn't afford to make a Southend away game, I watched a few Fisher Athletic matches, which was my first taste of this level of football.

Do you go home and away watching the team? I did when I was just a fan, and I've done the odd ones since, and obviously big days out at Wembley and the Millennium Stadium. But working on a football desk for a national newspaper clashes with live football more often than not and reduces your chances of getting to a match.

Do you think relegation might be a good thing in the long term for the club, a chance to re-group and rekindle the enthusiasm of the fans? I hope so, but it still hurts to see 100 years of League football tossed away so cheaply. Poor managerial appointments and player signings, plus mismanagement off the field, led to a second successive relegation last term.

Many fans saw our drop into the National League lurking menacingly on a dark horizon when we were kicking off in League One a few years ago. I really hope it can act as a reboot for the club... but being an eternal pessimist, I have major doubts.

What has gone wrong financially at the club? How long have you got?! Years of living above our means and shelling out ridiculous wages on players well past their sell-by dates. Upstairs at the club, we have suffered from an absence of real football people, who know the game inside out. We have been severely hampered by having no CEO in recent years and losing a very knowledgeable and long-serving club secretary, who knew the off-the-field mechanics of the club and Football League in every tiny detail. But the biggest drain on the club is chasing the chairman's property dream of moving Southend to a new stadium as part of a housing development, with Roots Hall also transformed into a housing estate. This has been going on since 1998 under the current stewardship, who own all the club's assets. In that 23 years, the club



Bernie and Evan more recently at the match as dad models another from his extensive range of tartan jackets

has allegedly built up debts in the region of £20m, and the chairman has no interest in selling. So we are stuck in limbo land, praying that things do not get any worse, before they hopefully get better again.

Do you think the move away from Roots Hall will ever happen? Is the moon made from cheese? Who knows... this has been going on since the mid-80s when Bobby Moore was our manager and presented a plastic model of our proposed new stadium as part of his sales pitch to potential new signings in his office.

I'm very sceptical about the whole thing. Yes, Roots Hall has seen much better days. And it would take a major investment from someone with a deep love of football, and even deeper pockets, to give our spiritual home a much-needed facelift. But I don't see the financial benefit of becoming



rent-paying tenants at a new stadium miles out of town, with the only promised additional revenue coming in from the ground's function-suite facilities. Just how much hard cash can wedding receptions, Pink Floyd tribute nights, Round Table bingo evenings and stamp fairs pour into our broken, empty coffers? **How many fans do you think the Shrimpers will bring this afternoon?** We could easily bring a couple of thousand to today's game... if we are allowed! That's a comfortable away support for us to send into orbit around the M25. There are a lot of new grounds to tick off this season and the novelty value will bring the trainspotters out in their droves. And if by some miracle we are sitting high and mighty in the table, there are quite a few grounds where we could outnumber the home supporters.

What is the club's natural level in your opinion?

Southend has a massive catchment area, more than 200,000 people, so I believe we should be at our best a Championship club, and at our worst a very good League One club. If we have a good season, I would expect us to

be the best supported side in the National League, averaging 7-8,500 fans at Roots Hall.

Are you confident the club will reach at least the play-offs this season? Errrrrr... no! I'd love to think that is achievable, and that we are only on loan to the National League for one season from the EFL. On the pitch, there will be nowhere to hide, as for the first time in our history we are going to be the big scalp, the team all the other sides want to beat. It is going to be a long, difficult slog, and definitely not for the faint-hearted.

I just hope the painful lessons of the past few seasons have been learned at boardroom level, and the chairman is committed to putting things right. We don't want to become another Chester, Darlington or York - or even worse, a club like poor Bury.

'We're a yo-yo club but with a string that is getting longer..'

Writes Paul Warburton, 'Chris Powell's mate' from the Southend Utd fans forum

Your name and age? Paul Warburton, 69

Do you live in Southend? No; a thousand years ago I lived in Basildon, but now retired and living in St Ives, Cornwall with my wife Veronique (see picture below).

When was your first Shrimpers game and what do you remember of it? That was way back in 1961 and a 2-2 home draw with Portsmouth - and not a lot stuck in my mind. But I really started supporting Blues in season 1963-64 when I was allowed to go to Roots Hall on my own.

Do you go to games home and away? As per where-I-live, not as many as I would like to.

What are your feelings about relegation last season? Did it always seem on the cards? To be relegated out of the Football

League for the first time was devastating. The worst thing was seeing vestiges of hope slipping though fingers at various stages of the season. The

relegation from League One by EFL committee in 2019-20 looked recoverable, so, yeah, it was a surprise.

Are Southend financially equipped to mount a promotion challenge? Who knows? Actually, Ron Martin: chairman/owner/funder does, but he's not always clear about matters financial. He's tended to play Brinkmanship with tax payments over a few seasons, and one of the reasons for relegation to the NL was an early season transfer embargo.

Is the new stadium still on the cards and will it be a wrench to leave Roots Hall? There are teenage fans who weren't born when the move to Fossetts Farm was announced. It's a drama



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AWAY END CONTINUED

that's been running almost as long as The Mousetrap, and seems no nearer a firm date.

Roots Hall looked old when it was built in 1955 by the groundsman and six mates. But things added to it over the years have made it quirky and homely, although I miss the huge South Terrace at one end of the ground.

Are you looking forward to the season and which matches especially? No; and there are a few who fear we might struggle to stop the spiral, but I have friends in Woking and Stockport, while a pleasant trip to Torquay and Yeovil is doable.

What do you know about Wealdstone? And why? My father was an Athenian League referee, so I first came across Stones through his match programmes when he officiated there in the 1950s. I was also in the same local newspaper group that covered Stones from 2005 until 2017, so always kept up with their news - and even proofed and subbed it!

Was the FA Cup clash in 1979 before your time? Sadly, no. The lone scorer in the 1-0 win for us on November 24, 1979, was John Walker in the

second half I think, and a scrambled effort at the other end to me! My one contribution was to hold out my hands to stop an onrushing Colin Morris from charging into the barrier and over it behind one goal!

How many fans do you think Southend will bring to Grosvenor Vale? Talk on the popular Shrimperzone forum is bullishly predicting 1,300, but that might depend on results from Kings Lynn and Stockport in the first two games.

What is your most memorable Southend game of all time? This won't be many fans' choice, but in October 1968, 12,609 packed into Roots Hall to see the side beat Port Vale, 4-1 in Division Four (League Two). It was 4-0 after 35 minutes: I can still see all four goals hitting the back of the net in front of me. The legendary Stanley Matthews was Vale manager at the time and his head was in his hands long before the break. I was with a throng of mates bouncing around in the 'Pak' in the North Bank thinking this was the life!

And finally, where do you see Southend Utd in five years time? We're a yo-yo club. The only problem with this particular yo-yo it now has a longer string! So, anywhere from Championship to National South.

November 1979... and the Evening Standard was bigging up the big game...

FA CUP COUNTDOWN

League hopefuls warn

Southend

By DAVID LUDDY

WEALDSTONE, mid table in the Alliance Premier League, have their eye firmly set on Football League status.

If they can score their greatest triumph, beating struggling Third Division Southend in the FA Cup first round at Lower Mead on Saturday, it will be one more step towards realising that ambition.

Manager Ken Payne, who has worked wonders at Wealdstone since taking over at the end of September,

admitted today: "It's a terrific draw for us — the fifth successive year we've been in the first round.

"It puts us in the shop window again. It's a great chance of completing a giant-killing act.

"I saw Southend lose 2-0 at Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday and noted a couple of weak points that we hope to exploit."

Success

Payne added an ominous warning to Southend: "The last three League clubs we have faced in the Cup — all in 1977/78 — were relegated the season before or within two years of us playing them.

"They were Reading, Hereford and Queen's Park Rangers. We beat Reading and Hereford before losing to Rangers in the third round."

Payne, 33, a former Tring goalkeeper and successful boss of Hertfordshire Premier Division side Whitwell, took charge of first-team duties at Wealdstone, following a short spell as reserve team coach.

When he took over the team was bottom, but in 13 matches since then have lost only twice, winning six games, including a 1-0 victory over Isthmians Woking in the FA Cup fourth qual-

Payne said: "There have been no staff changes — just a different attitude. I believe attack is the best form of defence.

Goalkeeper Ian Cranstone, 22, a former Spurs apprentice and ex-Colchester player, and midfielder Colin Johnson, 19, who once scored more than 100 goals in one season in local football, live in Southend.

Centre-half Seamus Horgan, 19, who takes the penalties, was a Southend apprentice before joining Wealdstone last season.

Oh the arrogance and stupidity of a rookie manager! Ken Payne had come out of nowhere (well, boss of Wealdstone Reserves and Herts County League side Whitwell) to land the plum job of Stones manager.. and then did the pre-match team talk for his Southend counterpart by bejilting the Third Division side. And as for 'League hopefuls' well I'm afraid that will always be a pipe dream

TOGETHER FOR FOOTBALL



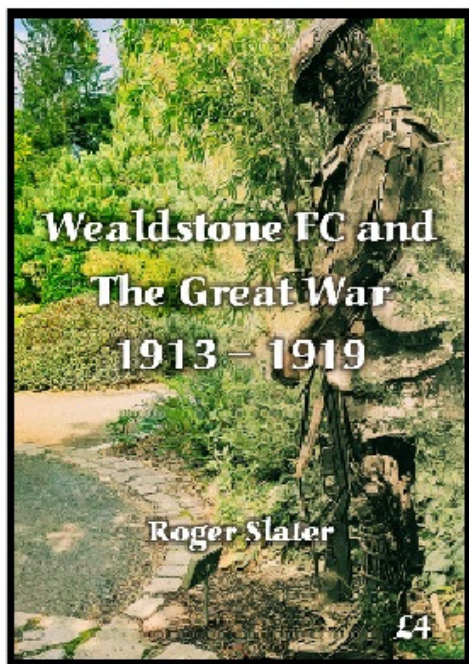
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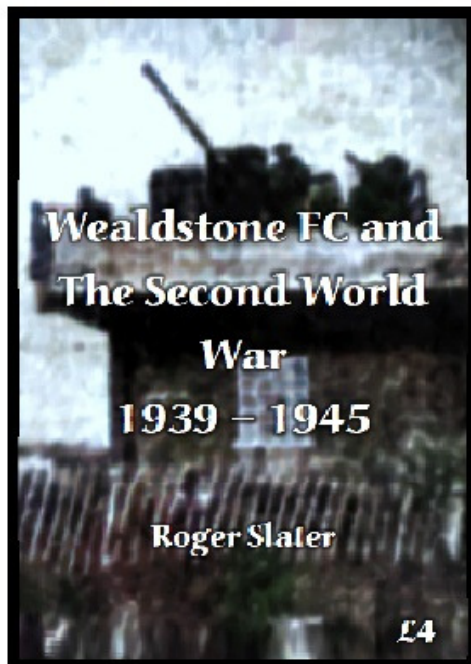
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45 years ago, a trip to the seaside and a cautionary football tale...

**BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY,
AUGUST 30 1976, SOUTHERN
LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION:
MINEHEAD 2 WEALDSTONE 1**

A friend of mine wandered into Minehead's AFC's quaint Irnham Road ground while on summer holiday two years ago to join the sparsely-populated crowd for a bit of Somerset League Division One action.

He remarked to the lady behind the tea bar that the main stand was unexpectedly large. And that you could probably fit the entire season's crowd inside.

She shook her head, put down the milk jug and appraised him, in no uncertain terms in her West Country brogue, that her club had been the best outside the Football League four decades ago with crowds of thousands filling the ground - and had beaten Swansea City in the FA Cup, to boot.

This need Googling! And my pal was amazed to see that, indeed, Minehead had finished second in the Southern League Premier Division to Wimbledon in 1977. And Wimbledon were elected to the Football League that summer.

Of course, he had only needed to ask me about the Minehead story. For I was one of the 1,000 crowd present at Irnham Road on this day 45 years ago when the Somerset side played its first home game in the top division outside the fulltime ranks.... "The most important fixture ever to be played on the Recreation ground" according to the historicists in the match programme (right), written by club captain and centre-back Bob Boyd. Minehead, promoted



Soccer Notes by BOB BOYD

Good evening, everyone! (Player/manager) A special "GOOD EVENING" to all of our SUPPORTERS and a "welcome" to the MANAGER, PLAYERS, DIRECTORS and SUPPORTERS of WEALDSTONE AFC.

To-night's match as you all well know is the MOST important fixture ever to be played on the RECREATION GROUND - the FIRST HOME FIXTURE in the HIGHEST sphere of non-league football in this country. A target and occasion we have been aiming at for many years and now it is HERE! I am sure from my past memories of our opponents tonight that we could have opened with no better or entertaining opposition. I still remember well their last visit when we were beaten 3-4 with their winner coming on time after we had fought back to almost salvage a point. Before that their other visit produced a narrow win for us when ROGER KITCHENS scored from the spot a few minutes from the end.

I really was pleased with our two SOUTHERN LEAGUE CUP matches with GUILDFORD TOWN in both games we were very attractive to watch with our non-stop attacking displays. It is pleasing to get into the draw for ROUND 2 for the first time since joining the league. Like you all we are hoping for an attractive HOME fixture in the next round and a long run in this mid-week competition.

To take a point at YEOVIL is a most creditable feat at anytime - but our 2-2 draw there last weekend in our debut as a PREMIER DIVISION club was particularly pleasing - although I believe we were worth both points. (Continued on "Club News" page)

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Today's Line-Up

POSITION	NAME	NUMBER	POSITION	NAME	NUMBER
GOAL	JOHN DAVY	1	RIGHT	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	ALAN DUFFY	2	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	3	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	4	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	5	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	6	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	7	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	8	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	9	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	10	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	11	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	12	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	13	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	14	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	15	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	16	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	17	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	18	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	19	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	20	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	21	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	22	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	23	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	24	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	25	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	26	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	27	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	28	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	29	DEFEND	JOHN W	11
DEFENCE	BOB DAVY	30	DEFEND	JOHN W	11

The Old Priory

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Duck's lone efforts fail to save 'Stones

Minehead 2, Wealdstone 1

ALTHOUGH Minehead were slightly the better all-round side by virtue of having a far more lethal attack than Wealdstone possessed, the visitors were a little unlucky not to take a point after one of the finest matches seen on the local Recreation Ground for several seasons.

This was Minehead's first home appearance in the Premier Division and they have retained nine of the team which raced away with the Division One South championship last season.

They are unbeaten at home for 18 months and on this evidence will have a fine season in the higher grade, whereas Wealdstone will have to do something about their front line, where Duck received absolutely no support, his front running colleagues — especially Halliday — being completely out of touch.

To a casual observer it appeared criminal that a player of Duck's skills should not be complemented by a similar striker prepared to take on the defence.

INCREDIBLE PACE

But Minehead's tall twin strikers, Jenkins and Leitch, dominated the game, showing incredible pace, skill and shooting ability.

In Jenkins at number 10 Minehead have a player seemingly out of his class, and time and again he left Wealdstone's defence wrong-footed.

Even the tall Lawrence was beaten a lot in the air, although Bryne had a wonderful match, ably supported by Kinnear and Fulton.

That Wealdstone's defence contained such a hostile attack to two goals is a measure of how they played.

Marshalled by the superb Light, whose ability to spray superb passes in a variety of directions on a dreadful pitch was one of the features of a game which had the 1,000 crowd applauding both teams off the field.

Wealdstone could have taken a third minute lead when Woolgar broke quickly on the left and a ferocious shot skimmed the bar, with Macey groping at the air.

They continued to show delightful skills in the build up — even if laboured at times with too many square balls — but devoid of all penetrations; every move virtually burned itself out before the penalty box was reached.

It was if anything against the run of play that Minehead took the lead with a magnificent goal from Durban who thumped a header well wide of Morton from Jenkin's pin-point cross.

Just before the interval Byrne had a chance but scooped the ball over the bar with only Macey to beat.

SHOW OF FLAIR

But within four minutes of the restart Wealdstone equalised when Halliday eventually had a brief show of flair to lob a good ball out on the right into the path of Duck, whose shot was turned in to his own goal by Clausen.

With only Light really functioning well in the visitors' mid-field, where neither Arnold nor

Moss were particularly outstanding, Minehead began to get the upper hand and Leitch crashed a pile-driver against the bar, Morton seemingly losing the ball in the lights, and the writing was on the wall.

Finally Leitch showed fantastic speed off the mark to escape Lawrence and beat the on-rushing Morton to score another fine goal.

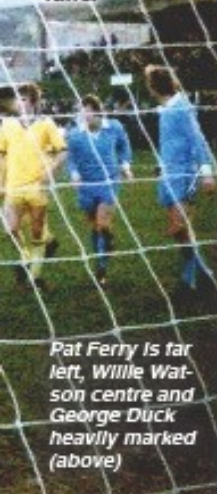
Yet Wealdstone had two fine chances to actually win in the last five minutes, first Arnold tripping over the ball when in a good position and then Macey saving from point blank range from Duck, who albeit was in an offside position, but allowed to go on.

Earlier both Duck and Arnold had been unfairly penalised by a linesman who too often anticipated Minehead's off-side play in the closing stages.

Watson substituted surprisingly for Moss 20 minutes from the end but could make little impression, and significantly Wealdstone looked more threatening in attack in the final 10 minutes when Byrne pushed up front with Duck.

Wealdstone: Morton, Kinnear, Woolgar, Byrne, Lawrence, Light, Arnold, Moss, Fulton, Duck, Halliday. Sub: Watson.

Stones (in yellow) on the attack at Irnham Road in January 1978, captured by a young Jon Taffel



Rat Ferry is far left, Willie Watson centre and George Duck heavily marked (above)

up KISS-OFF 7-30 75
 MARKS + PUNISH
 LDSTONE
 (see above)
 GROUP
 CLUBS
 LIGHT
 LAWRENCE
 STONE
 WOOD
 MOSS
 MOSS
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MINEHEAD A.F.C. 1976-77



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5p. Official Programme

PRINTED BY MEMBERS ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB

as runaway winners of the Southern League Div One South, had a fantastic debut season in the SL Prem with their 'Holy Trinity' of giant strikers Andy Leitch, Derek Bryant and Jimmy Jenkins scoring 96 goals between them in all games.

Leitch, who had left Swansea that summer after becoming disillusioned with League football, returned to The Vetch to score the only goal in an FA Cup First Round tie that winter, and Minehead then were drawn away to Division Three Portsmouth (managed by Ian St John) and were narrowly beaten 2-1.

But back to this August Bank Holiday Monday fixture. It came in the middle of the famous 1978 heatwave, when no rain fell between April and October leaving every patch of grass parched and yellow. Standpipes were erected in the streets and hosepipes were banned, leading to a fine if you were caught trying to save your garden (or football pitch). Sure enough, Irnham Road was hard, rutted and a shade of yellow and our travelling fans weren't best pleased. Especially as we had set off from Harrow on the supporters coaches (yes, at least two every game!) expecting a 3pm kick-off, when in fact it had always been scheduled for 7.30pm.

There was surprisingly little to do in this seaside resort at the height of summer, apart from the obvious, so our inebriated teenage group berated the players as we slumped to defeat. At it turned out, losing 2-1 to Minehead wasn't such a bad result after all. ● Strangely, almost as quickly as Minehead FC flared into life, they suddenly hit the doldrums, finished fourth from bottom the following season and were relegated. And relegated again. In fact, they had dropped four levels within the next ten years, into the second strata of the regional Western League and even fell through that trapdoor into the Somerset County League by 2010. Which was the "park football" level my pal found himself watching two summers ago, and wondering if any club could ever climb back FIVE divisions to resurrect former glories?

Only Wealdstone!

Royal Blue Review



Saturday, 24th November, 1979
F.A. Challenge Cup 1st Rd. Proper
Kick-off 8pm.

WEALDSTONE
0 v. 0:1
SOUTHEND UNITED

WEALDSTONE	SOUTHEND
Goalkeeper: 1. Alan Parsons	1. Murray Evanson
Defence: 2. Alan Parsons, 3. Alan Parsons, 4. Alan Parsons, 5. Alan Parsons	2. Paul Collins, 3. Alan Parsons, 4. Alan Parsons, 5. Alan Parsons
Midfield: 6. Alan Parsons, 7. Alan Parsons, 8. Alan Parsons, 9. Alan Parsons, 10. Alan Parsons	6. Alan Parsons, 7. Alan Parsons, 8. Alan Parsons, 9. Alan Parsons, 10. Alan Parsons
Forwards: 11. Alan Parsons, 12. Alan Parsons, 13. Alan Parsons, 14. Alan Parsons, 15. Alan Parsons	11. Alan Parsons, 12. Alan Parsons, 13. Alan Parsons, 14. Alan Parsons, 15. Alan Parsons

Goal: 11. Alan Parsons
Referee: Alan Parsons
Stadium: Irnham Road, Harrow, Middx.
Attendance: 100

The Official Programme of

Wealdstone
Football Club
Lower Mead
Stadium
Green Road
Harrow Middx
01-427 2940

Winners:
FA Amateur Cup
1965-6
Arthurian League
1951-2
Southern League
Division 1
1973-4

Southend were KO'd at Liverpool in '79.. and their next FA Cup date was away to Wealdstone!

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 24 1979, FA CUP FIRST ROUND PROPER: WEALDSTONE 0 SOUTHEND UNITED 1

It's over 40 years ago but I still remember the thrill of hearing that we'd been drawn at home to Southend - in those days there was nothing like the immediacy of the live draw on Talksport (although the later FA Cup rounds were always broadcast live on Radio Two).

You could either wait until the Evening Standard or Evening News was published later that day, or phone a mate at the paper (which I did,

in my first journalistic job for the Watford Observer at the time).

The Shrimpers were fresh in everyone's memory after holding the Double European champions and football League winners Liverpool to a goalless draw in a snowstorm at Roots Hall the previous January. Despite a gluepot pitch that would never have passed inspection today - let alone the throwback orange ball that refused



Dalglish in action at the snowbound Roots Hall



BY TIM PARKS

WEALDSTONE 2021-22



Payne and glory make Stones roll

BOB HOLMES TALKS TO AN "UNKNOWN" BOSS

THEY say that history repeats itself — and it's certainly doing that at Wealdstone this season.

Four seasons ago struggling Wealdstone appointed assistant manager Alan Fogarty as boss after Geoff Coleman resigned. The unknown Fogarty proceeded to take the North London outfit on an unbeaten run of 16 matches to stave off relegation.

Next season they reached the third round of the FA Cup, losing to Queen's Park Rangers after giant-killing wins over Hereford and Reading.

The wheel of fortune then turned full circle, with Fogarty resigning earlier this season and another unknown—reserve team manager Ken Payne—taking over.

That appointment has paid off, with Wealdstone once again threatened with relegation, losing only two of their last 14 matches. And Payne

has the chance to make history repeat itself a little further by guiding the Alliance Premier League club to victory over Third Division Southend in Saturday's first round FA Cup tie at Lower Mead Stadium.

Grateful

Payne, a 23-year-old works manager for a Luton design firm, is grateful for the chance Wealdstone have given him, especially as his previous managerial experience had only been with Marsh Farm '75 in the Chiltern Youth League and Whitwell in the Herts County League.

"There's a manager's circle in football," says Payne. "When one manager goes the others move around just like musical chairs. Wealdstone have gone outside that circle

to give me a job and I'm grateful. I hope to reward their faith by getting the club into the Football League."

But Payne can make Wealdstone's appointment seem less of a gamble with a win over Southend.

With no goals conceded in the last four games—equaling the club's five-year-old record—Payne is confident his team can beat Southend, particularly after watching the Seaside lose 2-0 at Sheffield Wednesday last Saturday.

"I was impressed with a couple of their players, particularly Derrick Parker and Mickey Stead," he says, "but I think I spotted a couple of weaknesses that we can exploit."

Certainly there'll be no lack of commitment from the

Wealdstone players, who have rediscovered their enthusiasm for the game after a dismal start to the season.

"They'd become stale under Alan," says Payne. "They'd been practising the same free-kicks for four years. They might just as well have listened to a tape recorder because it was always the same old stuff."

"I've just given them a few new routines and I think my love of the game has got through to them. We've also decided to be more positive in the way we play and I think that's led to the players enjoying their football more as well."

Payne's own playing days were spent as a goalkeeper with Tring Town and Leighton Town in the Spartan League, but he has always felt he was good enough to play League football.

"I never got the breaks," he says. "I was supposed to have a trial with Liverpool when I was a kid, but injury put paid to that. Then, when I was 15, Spurs took a look at me, but Bill Nicholson said I was too old."

to run as it accumulated a three-inch coating of snow - the midweek televised game on 'Sportnight' had millions spellbound.

Commentator John Motson barely mentioned the appalling conditions but just referred to the battling qualities of the Third Division side as they went toe to toe with Kenny Dalglish, Graeme Souness, Alan Hansen & Co. There were 30,000 at Roots Hall that night to watch Southend fully deserve the prize of a Third Round Anfield replay

the following Tuesday in which two late goals confirming Joe Fagan's

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

Supporters Club Notes

Welcome back to Lower Mead for today's Alliance Premier League tussle with Yorkshire's Scarborough F.C., who are making their first ever visit to Wealdstone. We hope for a good, open game with plenty of goals—something lacking in recent matches at Lower Mead!

What a disappointment last Saturday was. Over 3,000 people in the ground; a fine, bright, afternoon and the perfect setting for a Cup upset. But somehow the 'Stones never quite got steam up against a well-organised but very ordinary Southend side, falling behind to a 'Mickey Mouse' goal and never looking likely to equalise despite some late pressure. That goal somehow typified the unreality of the whole afternoon: the ball trickled slowly over the Wealdstone goalline to the amazement of both attackers and defenders.

So the Seventies F.A. Cup trail, which began with a 2-0 win over Metropolitan League side Hatfield Town in the Preliminary Round nine years ago, ended with solitary-goal defeat to Third Division Southend in 1979. Some measure of the club's progress over the past decade... progress we can all be proud of.

Thanks, by the way, for the magnificent support you gave the team last Saturday. The "Emalie Roar", incidentally, was officially recorded at 78 decibels—while the Southend fans, at the Cinema End, could manage only 40! We've got statistics on everything, you know.

TIM PARKS

Top: the big game is previewed in the London Evening Standard. Above: The following week's Supporters Club notes look back on the match in a tongue-in-cheek style

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

side as 3-0 winners.

The Reds were the best team in Europe - and now Southend's next FA Cup match would see them travel across London to face Alliance Premier League Stones!

Our FA Cup pedigree - five successive appearances in the First Round, and a run to the Third Round two years earlier - meant we weren't taken lightly and in the end the Shrimpers had a touch too much quality, as the Harry O match report admits... though I like the bracketing of Southend's star winger, the £150,000-rated Colin Morris, with our own teenage Stuart Pearce while suggesting that both would go far. They did... Morris went to Blackpool and Sheffield United while Stuart went to World Cup and Euros semi finals!

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Well, Wealdstone's first season in the APL (fore-runner of the National League but still entirely part-time) saw Payne steer his side to lower mid table safety. Southend were drawn against another non league side - the unknown force of Isthmian League Harlow Town - and were shocked to be held 1-1 and then eliminated 1-0 at the unlively Harlow Sports Centre in the replay. From Anfield to Harlow must have been a tough comparison!

Although the 'Hawks' were no flash in the pan as they drew 1-1 at Leicester in Round Three before dumping the Second Division leaders (Gary Lineker et al) out in another home replay.

● You may have spotted Ken Payne's mention of the 'Wealdstone FA Cup curse' in one of the articles, the fact that Aldershot (1976), Reading (1977), Hereford United (1978) and QPR (also 1978) were all relegated after facing the Stones... well, the same fate befell The Shrimpers in 1980 as they fell into Division Four. At least it's a league game today!

WE'VE PLAYED YOU BEFORE

Players agree: We left it too late

AS Stones have to wait another year for the chance of a lucrative FA Cup run, several of their players are left to reflect on what might have been writes **Ron Smithson**.

Perhaps the most disappointing aspect of Saturday's game is the fact that all the players know they never really know the team whose total performance matter was not that of third division standard.

Much of the Southend mid-field play was pretty enough to watch, but the

forwards looked very uninteresting around the penalty area. For their part Wealdstone just seemed overawed by the occasion as corners and free kicks were wasted in a way that is rarely seen now when Payne took over.

Flurry

Stones know they have blown a golden chance - but they lacked nothing in terms of commitment on Saturday and when at last it did begin to come together in the 87th minute Wealdstone looked at least as good as the League side.

Stones' final flurry prompted captain John Watson to say afterwards: "We didn't realise we could win until too late. Everyone gave one hundred per cent and if we'd played as well as we could we would have got a result."

He went on: "I thought Southend were the worst league team we've played and towards the end we were explaining their weak nerves."

Stones goalkeeper Ian Cranstone, who lives in Southend, didn't blame himself for the goal. "The

ball was well over the line before Walker looked at over me," he said.

Watstone's elegant mid-field player Robin Wainwright, who had an outstanding match, said he thought a draw would have been a fair result. "I thought we just about deserved the win but we reasonably played well in our own display, especially in the first half. But really the general mood of players was one of disappointment."

Wealdstone striker Rob Moss was a disappointed

and slightly bitter than the game. Said Robby: "All the players are sorry about winning on the night."

Moss went on to tell us he had been asked to let his game for Saturday's clash. He said: "I would play in a different way to push out wide and attack the full back. I was a bit open. There might have been a few players who free because of the big occasion, I don't know. We played well enough to get a draw, but I'm very disappointed to be

Fair

Walker looked at over me," he said.



Walker wrecks the

Stones cup dream

Wieldstone 0, Southend 1
A rather fortunate goal by defender John Walker after 52 minutes wrecked Alliance Premier League Wieldstone's FA Cup dream against Southend at Lower Mead on Saturday.

The all important score came after a string of corners by the Third Division club.

Colin Mooney's fourth hit back to the net gave us a momentary lead but a second was cancelled out by a superb strike from Wieldstone's second striker, Scotty Stewart.

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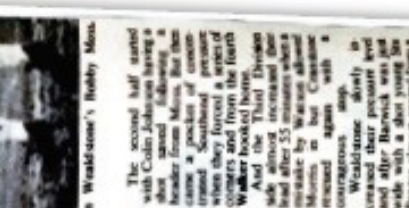
Colin Mooney's fourth hit back to the net gave us a momentary lead but a second was cancelled out by a superb strike from Wieldstone's second striker, Scotty Stewart.

Wieldstone disappointed in that they didn't play as well as they can - studies of QPR, Coln Morris, the winger, scored all 1155,000. Wieldstone's manager, Steve Hazard's, negotiations with League referee Ron Charlis were appearing to be in a pretty convincing double for Ipswich's Ferris didn't exactly inspire confidence. But the biggest surprise moment was the performance of Southend. The 'Stompers' showed just why they are struggling in the Division. Despite being the better all round team, Southend all round areas, Southend all round areas, Southend all round areas, Southend all round areas.

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Kawling 'Stone' Robin Waterwright keeps out a block tackle by Southend defender Mike Stroud at Lower Mead. Photos by DOUG AVEN.



Southern goalkeeper Mickey Morrison punches clear from Wieldstone's Bobby Moss. Photos by LARRY MCINTOSH.

WEALDSTONE 2021-22

'Southend sharper' — Payne

WEALDSTONE manager Ken Payne managed to side his understandable disappointment at losing the cup to the fact that "I declare afterwards, we have done Wieldstone some proud. We played football and didn't lose." "I've done it but I think the young Stee Pritchard's offer job on Colin Morris." Southend boss Dave Strud was more satisfied with the result. He said: "We didn't play as well as we should have but we're disappointed. The fact that we didn't lose is a great achievement. We're disappointed but we're proud of what we've achieved."



Ken Payne, Wieldstone manager

Wieldstone manager Ken Payne managed to side his understandable disappointment at losing the cup to the fact that "I declare afterwards, we have done Wieldstone some proud. We played football and didn't lose." "I've done it but I think the young Stee Pritchard's offer job on Colin Morris." Southend boss Dave Strud was more satisfied with the result. He said: "We didn't play as well as we should have but we're disappointed. The fact that we didn't lose is a great achievement. We're disappointed but we're proud of what we've achieved."

The second half ended with Colin Johnson having a shot which followed a header from Moss. But then came a pocket of corner from Southend pressure when they forced a series of crosses into the net. The fourth was headed back into play. And the Third Division side almost recovered after a goal almost a minute after 55 minutes when Wieldstone almost broke through but Colin Johnson's header was blocked by Walker. Wieldstone then almost scored from a free kick.

Wieldstone's manager Ken Payne said after the match: "We were disappointed but we're proud of what we've achieved. We didn't play as well as we should have but we're disappointed. The fact that we didn't lose is a great achievement. We're disappointed but we're proud of what we've achieved."

Wieldstone manager Ken Payne managed to side his understandable disappointment at losing the cup to the fact that "I declare afterwards, we have done Wieldstone some proud. We played football and didn't lose." "I've done it but I think the young Stee Pritchard's offer job on Colin Morris." Southend boss Dave Strud was more satisfied with the result. He said: "We didn't play as well as we should have but we're disappointed. The fact that we didn't lose is a great achievement. We're disappointed but we're proud of what we've achieved."

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BY STEVE DUCKER



Random Sightings

Past encounters with today's visitors as recounted by someone who was there

After one National League season, even a socially distanced one, it's obvious things have moved on from the Alliance Premier League that Wealdstone joined in 1979 and the Conference they left in 1988. The biggest change is the opponents. Almost all have full time squads and many can boast decades of history at Football League level. When the Stones were promoted in 2020, it occurred to me how many games I'd seen featuring the clubs they would be coming up against, and how many of those weren't against Wealdstone.

So 'Random Sightings' was born. But I wanted away fans to be able to read it as well, and waited a year to write it. We start, fittingly, with the National League's newest member.

Saturday 12 January 1980

The first time I saw Southend was the season the league they now play in was formed. While the fixture list tells me Wealdstone were home to Redditch United, I was a couple of hundred miles further north watching another RUFC, specifically Rotherham United in a third division game at their old Millmoor ground.

Promoted in 1978, Southend had consolidated in the higher grade and enjoyed the financial bonus of taking League champions-elect Liverpool to an FA Cup third round replay. Cue second-season syndrome - Southend finished 1979-80 third from

- 1 Mervyn Cawston
- 2 Mickey Stead
- 3 Phil Dudley
- 4 Tony Hadley
- 5 David Cusack
- 6 Garry Nelson
- 7 Anton Otulakowski
- 8 Ron Pountney
- 9 Derrick Parker
- 10 Derek Spence
- 11 Terry Gray

Sub: Mickey Tuohy for Spence

Attendance: 4,092

Rotherham United

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bottom and went back to the basement. One of their younger players was forward Garry Nelson. Years later, as one of the better footballers turned writers, his autobiography described the defeat at Hull that confirmed the drop in a way that was harrowing even to people with no connection with Roots Hall.

This game ended 2-1 to the home side, and all the goals were penalties. Striker Derrick Parker netted for Southend, sandwiched between two efforts by Rotherham full back Gerry Forrest.

Saturday 22 January 1983

Southend wasted no time getting back to the third tier, taking the title with 67 points and becoming the last fourth division champions in the time of two points for a win.

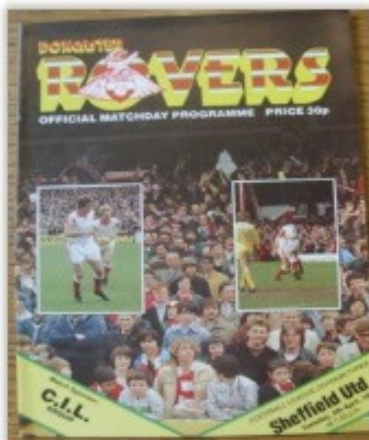
One of the teams celebrating with them was Doncaster Rovers, who finished third. After both teams successfully negotiated 1981-82, it was at Doncaster's Belle Vue that Southend and I next came face to face. I'm sure I wasn't the only neutral tempted along that season. Between

10 September and 16 October, Rovers had faced Exeter, Reading, Wigan and Brentford, and recorded results of 6-1, 7-5, 3-6 and 4-4. Thirty-six goals in four games at a rate of one every 10 minutes - it looked more like an uncompleted tennis match than a series of football scores.

- 1 Mervyn Cawston
- 2 Glenn Pennyfather
- 3 Steve Yates
- 4 Paul Clark
- 5 Tony Hadley
- 6 David Cusack
- 7 Ron Pountney
- 8 Steve Phillips
- 9 Keith Mercer
- 10 Anton Otulakowski
- 11 Garry Nelson

Att: 3,242

SOUTHEND UNITED



(Pictures of programmes are from the actual game where possible, but from another game in the same season where the exact one couldn't be found. Like this one of Donny vs Sheffield and not Southend United)

my favourite band, the folk-rock combo Fairport Convention. It had taken place on the last day of July in the scorching hot summer of 1976, though it has to be said The Who's performance at Charlton's Valley is the first 1976 stadium gig that most people bring to mind.

I'm not sure how exclusive the grounds hosting Fairport club is, but there is at least one more member, and it is Southend's opponents this afternoon. Four years and 16 days before the Roots Hall concert, Fairport played in the afternoon of a festival at Lower Mead before going off to Dagenham Roundhouse as support for an up and coming young singer songwriter called David Bowie.

Back on the football pitch, it was very firmly Southend's day. We were treated to a masterclass by midfielder Mick Gooding, who was now 38 and had been a firm favourite in two spells at Rotherham during the previous decade. Sometimes, when it's one of your own pulling the strings, it helps soften the blow of the defeat that follows. Defender Rob Newman opened the scoring, sub Trevor Fitzpatrick added two more late on, the Southend faithful went home happy with a 3-0 win and we went to the pub to watch England's Euro 2000 qualifier against Sweden.

In hindsight, I could easily have got to a couple of those games. In reality, I waited three months and got a 0-0 draw. But hey ho, that's the trouble with watching fixtures at random. You can't just get it out of your system at the next home game.

The occasion was memorable for me in one sense. It was the first Football League game I saw where Rotherham weren't involved. But the rest of the crowd - even the ones living within walking distance of the ground - had probably forgotten the match by the time they got home.

Saturday 5 September 1998

The nineties were a curious time for Southend. Back to back promotions concluding in 1991, five solid seasons in the First Division, as the second tier had become in the post-Premier League but pre-Championship years, then consecutive relegations put them back exactly where they started.

I hadn't been to Roots Hall yet, and the start of this season I was determined to put it right. And not just for football reasons either - Southend was in that exclusive list of football clubs that have also hosted a gig by

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 - 4 David Morley
 - 5 Rob Newman
 - 6 Keith Dublin
 - 7 Kevin Maher
 - 8 Mick Gooding
 - 9 Barry Conlon
 - 10 David Whyte
 - 11 Alex Burns
- Subs Nathan Jones
for Gooding; Trevor
Fitzpatrick for Conlon
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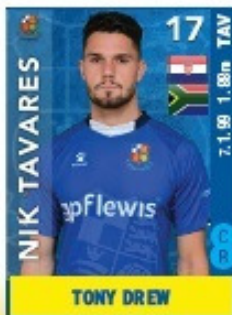
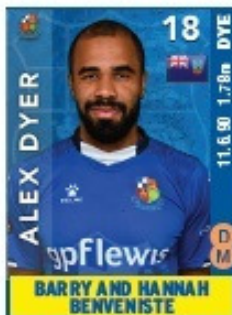
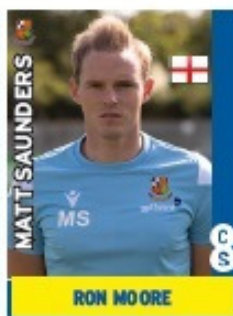
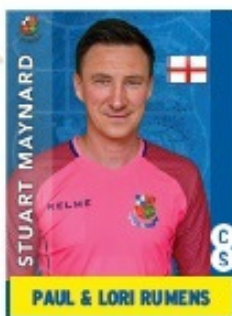
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 RB = Right Back
 LB = Left Back
 DM = Defensive Midfield
 RM = Right Midfield
 LW = Left Winger
 RW = Right Winger
 CF = Centre Forward



WEALDSTONE 2021-22



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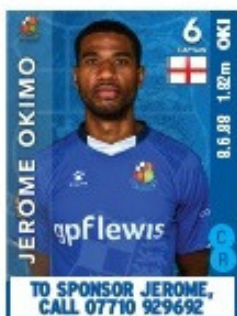
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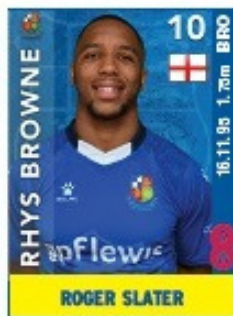
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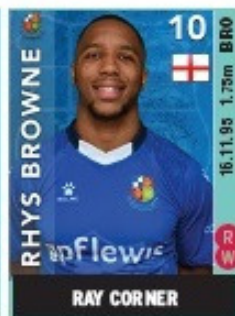
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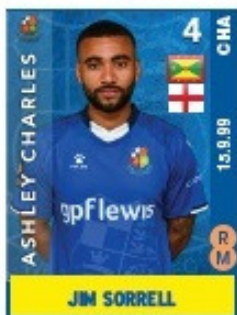
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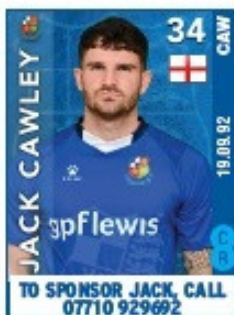
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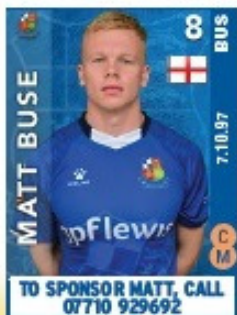
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HOW THEY LINE-UP TODAY

WEALDSTONE

Royal Blue/White/White



SOUTHEND UNITED

White/Blue/Blue

G George Wickens 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Steve Arnold G
Jack Cook 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 Rob Howard
Dan Wishart 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	3 Nathan Ralph
Ashley Charles 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 Abu Ogogo
Connor Stevens 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	5 Shaun Hobson
Jerome Okimo © 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	6 Josh Coulson
Craig Fasanmade 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	7 Jack Bridge
Matt Buse 8	<input type="checkbox"/>	8 James Dunne
Josh Umerah 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	9 Rhys Murphy
Stephan Browne 10	<input type="checkbox"/>	10 Sam Dalby
Dennon Lewis 11	<input type="checkbox"/>	11 Terrell Egberi
Andrew Elefteriou 12	<input type="checkbox"/>	12 Tom Clifford
G Alfie Marigliani 13	<input type="checkbox"/>	13 Harry Seaden G
Danny Parish 14	<input type="checkbox"/>	14 Nathan Ferguson
Elijah Hearn 15	<input type="checkbox"/>	15 Lewis Gard
Nikola Tavares 17	<input type="checkbox"/>	16 Harry Phillips
Alex Dyer 18	<input type="checkbox"/>	17 Louis Walsh
Zach Dronfield 19	<input type="checkbox"/>	18 Matt Rush
Medy Elito 20	<input type="checkbox"/>	21 Charlie Sayers
Charlie Cooper 24	<input type="checkbox"/>	22 Hamzad Kargbo
Tecane Shrowder 29	<input type="checkbox"/>	24 Jason Demetriou
Jack Cawley 34	<input type="checkbox"/>	30 Matthew Dennis
	<input type="checkbox"/>	40 John White ©
	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	

REFEREE Matthew Russell

ASSISTANTS Grzegorz Kornasiewicz and Hugh Gilroy

FOURTH OFFICIAL Luis Nunes **OBSERVER**

Michael Thorpe **COACH** Edward Wolstenholme

MATCH SPONSORS Ray Corner and Peter Carter

MATCHBALL DONOR Nick Woolford

NEXT AT THE VALE ALTRINCHAM

Vanarama National League, Saturday September 11, 3pm

Main club
sponsor:

gpflewis ^{plc}



WEALDSTONE

GOSH, JOSH! Josh Umerah's header soars into the Woking net to give Stones belief we could rescue the opening game last Saturday

PICTURE:
JON TAFFELL



**INSIDE
JOSH
UMERAH
THE BIG
INTERVIEW**