

# WEALDSTONE

*versus*

# STOCKPORT COUNTY



*INSIDE: Rhys Browne on the goal that sunk Brennan's Bees*

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**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 27 2021, 3PM**

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BY MARK HYDE



WEALDSTONE 2021-22

# Written in Stone

**G**ood afternoon and welcome back to Grosvenor Vale for today's league fixture against Stockport County.

We are fifteen games in to the season now and great credit must be given to our management team and young squad who are getting stronger every game.

Our form over the last four games has been exceptional with the win against Barnet a particular highlight and provided a small return for

so much hard work by so many over the years.

Anyone who watched today's opponents performance against Bolton in the FA Cup last week will appreciate what we will be up against today but as we showed last Saturday away at Wrexham, we are here to compete and are more than capable of mixing it with the best this division can provide.

Lets go again today and back our side....

**Mark**

## MATCH SPONSORS AFC LIGHTNING U18'S

Today's match sponsors are the AFC U18 Lightning team – who return after sponsoring a game and win against Tonbridge Angels in 2019. AFC are based in Great Missenden and the U18 team have moved together through the age groups since the U6s. Indeed 9 of the squad have been together throughout that time under the leadership of Alex Finch, Andy Meichtry and Dave Cherry. The team are currently top of the South Bucks First Division with 6 wins out of 6, having finished second last year – when the only game they lost was the final, winner-takes-all game versus Seer Green. The team is captained by Matt Cherry and includes regular Wealdstone fans Rory Davies, Jake Hare, Roman Finch and James Meichtry. The lads look forward to being able to choose man of the match today as last time the mum's insisted the award went to Dennon Lewis!



## MATCH SPONSORS 'MORTY'S ELMSLIE ENDERS'

Not just one but Four genuine Wealdstone legends will be joining us in the Bordroom this afternoon with an incredible 1,305 Stones appearances between them!

Match Sponsor John Morton who made 118 appearances between the sticks for the Stones between 1974 & 1977 is joined by his three guests of George Duck, Charlie Townsend and Hugh Lindsay.

George made 349 appearances between 1972 & 1979 scoring 223 goals, Charlie made 513 appearances between 1957 & 1971 scoring 63 goals and Hugh made 325 appearances scoring 174 goals. Hugh also represented Great Britain in the Olympic games.

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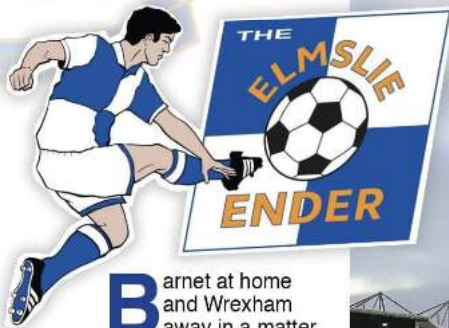
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BY SUDHIR RAWAL



# The Elmslie Ender



**B**arnet at home and Wrexham away in a matter of seven days were events that would have been writ large in many people's diaries. As games, both delivered.

The eagerly-awaited local derby versus Edgware's finest was watched by a record Vale crowd of 2,662, including over 600 with an Enfield postal code - though from social media it would suggest for around half of that Barnet following, it was their first game of the season.

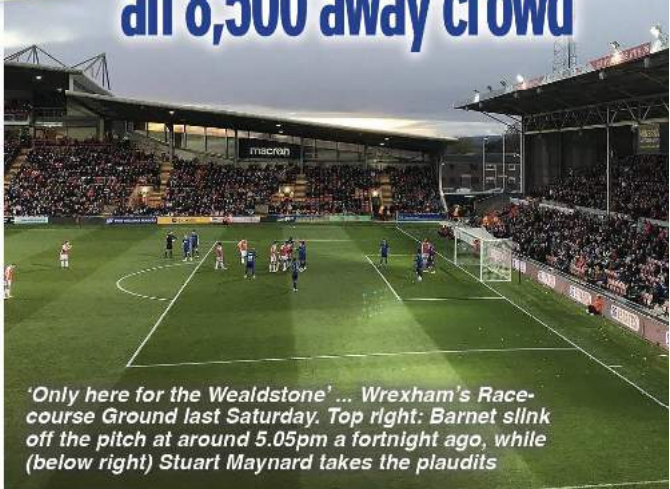
You know, that game which doesn't mean that much to them!

With such a large crowd in the Vale, the atmosphere was probably quite subdued for a game of such a magnitude apart from the final ten minutes or so and the section towards Couch Corner. That bit was feisty.

The game itself wasn't a great spectacle. Harrow Council's favourite team had more possession but both sides lacked a cutting edge in front of goal. I was bemused to hear the manager from PEPF claim that they had the two clearest penalties that you could see. A trip to Specsavers might be necessary as the first was a magnificent tackle from young McAvoy and the second was a theatrical dive of which even the Royal Academy would have been proud.

Stones took the lead from a throw out from Wickens that was moved skilfully up the pitch before a mix-up between undercover Agent Oxborough and Bees defender Beard meant

## Reflects on the drama of the Barnet game, and the surreality of an 8,500 away crowd



*'Only here for the Wealdstone' ... Wrexham's Race-course Ground last Saturday. Top right: Barnet slink off the pitch at around 5.05pm a fortnight ago, while (below right) Stuart Maynard takes the plaudits*

Rhys Browne was able to walk the ball into the net - writing his name into Wealdstone folklore just like his father did. The drama wasn't over though. Right on the final whistle, the away side bundled the ball into the net. Initially, the goal was given, the referee's assistant was on his way back to the halfway line, but suddenly there was an intervention which saw the "goal" chalked off. It was a clear handball, ball scooped into the net. Wild celebrations in the Holywell End.

I know that if I had lost a game against my local rivals, where there is no love lost including the spikiness of a former manager, I'd want to get off the pitch quick. Damn quick. The bizarre scenes at the end of the game where our opponents stayed at the Turret End for over thirty minutes waiting for the crowd to disperse - which they didn't - to avoid getting abuse



WEALDSTONE  
fans in a crowd of over 8,500 (the largest league crowd the club has ever played in front of) but we totally unsung them, a fact that is becoming common place especially at the BELTS which is bringing praise from their supporters too. Best visiting fans of the season is becoming a common refrain.

As for the game, apart from a ten-minute spell in the first half when George

bordered on the farcical. Of course, when they did eventually go off, they were roundly abused!

There had been a lot of noise surrounding the game and Stuart Maynard in particular carried himself with a huge amount of dignity and class. We have a decent man in charge of our team. The image of the game is Stuart in front of the Bulla on his own, drinking in the win, with SMB&WA echoing into the night sky. Wonderful.

Back to the crowd:

with nearly 2,700 in the ground, it was stretched to its limits, though the day went well from an organisational perspective. It was busy and I am not sure where we would fit in another thirteen hundred people. Next on the agenda has to be to improve the User Experience of a match day.

Next up was the trip to the millionaire Hollywood stars of Wrexham, a wholly different experience than we are used to, especially in the town itself where almost everyone seemed to be a football fan. We might have had only 200

Wickens produced a wonder save, we weren't in too much trouble. We defended well, for sure, but it wasn't backs against the wall stuff. It was controlled, our midfield retained possession much better than they did, and there were even moments up front, with a better final ball, or more composure, could have seen us take all three points. I thought Rhys Browne was excellent and was a constant thorn in Wrexham's side.

Of course, as I write on Sunday morning, the last three games, where we have gained seven points from nine, will mean a lot less if we don't collect max points at winless Dover during the week. As the season wears on, we have become incredibly solid at the back, our clean sheet count is of a play-off team, but we need to start ensuring that we gain those three points as well. I, for one, don't ever want to go back to National League south football. We might be a small club in a huge league, punching way above our collective weight, but it's too much fun to go back down again.

Lastly, another shout out for **Stonescast**, the excellent Wealdstone Podcast. I know people really enjoyed Jes Albert's contribution on SC7 - well, it was the JA show- but he's now on his Saga break to the Canaries, so it will be Adam Hills, Paul Franklin, Chris Lane and myself on the panel. SC8 should now be available on Spotify and all the major channels. A bit of Wealdstone not to miss.





# WEALDSTONE

## FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2021/2022

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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 Bulla 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.

# The Vale

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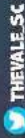


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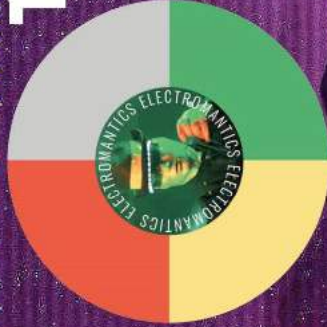


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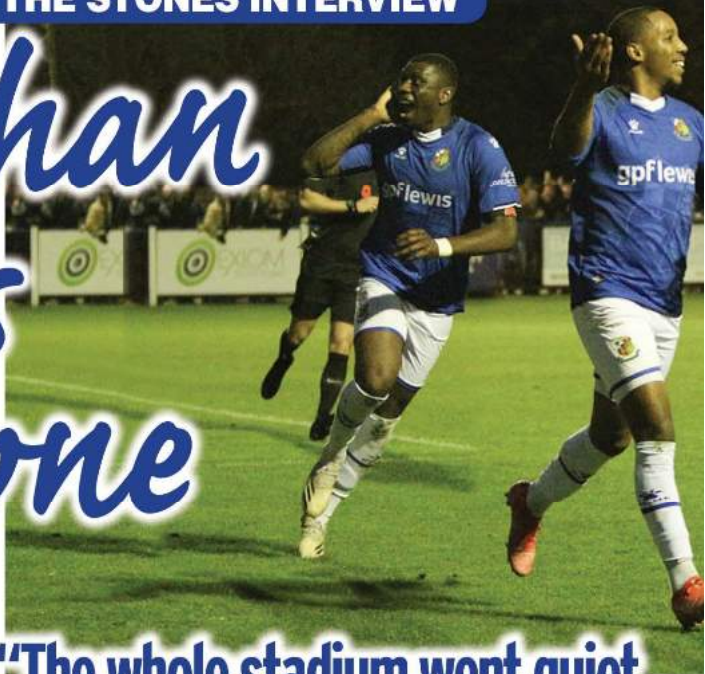
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BY TIM PARKS



THE STONES INTERVIEW

# Stephan Rhys Browne



**“The whole stadium went quiet,  
breath.. and then the eruption of**

**T**here was only one question to kick off this interview with the Stones' match-winner against Barnet in our last home game... how did it feel in that moment when you were left with an open goal from 15 yards, having gone past the keeper?

“Ha - good question!” laughed Rhys when I caught up with the hero of the hour a couple of days after that memorable moment at the Vale. “It was as if the whole stadium went quiet, like it was holding its breath - and then the crowd erupted. I only wish I had scored down at the other end in front of our own fans”.

“So was it a dummy from Josh (Umerah) that set up the goal?” I asked him.

“That’s what he’s saying! I was behind him, anticipating that he’d take the ball on and maybe square it to me for a tap in, but the ball went past him to leave me in a chase with their defender. I think the defender saw the keeper (Aston Oxborough) coming, and the keeper was thinking he might collide with the defender so they hesitated for just a second - and that was enough for me to get a little toe in and nick the ball past them. It

was a sweet moment”.

So many people - including the management team - have told me that it was a ‘time the earth stood still’ moment as Rhys managed to stay on his feet and find himself in front of an open goal. At the other end of the ground, those delicious few seconds ended in uproar as the striker booted the ball into the Bees net.

**O**f course, our current No.10 is the son of the Steve Browne, the talented and often unplayable midfielder/winger (pictured above, left) who lit up the Stones midfield in the late 80s and early 1990s, and I asked Rhys if people see similarities between their style of play. Steve died tragically early, at the age of just 52 after a battle with bowel cancer.

“Well to be honest I never really saw my dad play as his career was finishing as I was growing up. But I’m told he was tricky and quite languid in his playing style while I’m stockier and probably more explosive... he always wondered





# WEALDSTONE 2021-22



*A wonderful picture by Jon Taffel as Rhys celebrates his goal against Barnet with the delighted Josh Umerah... as the Bees defence looks on, crestfallen in the background*

## like it was holding its noise. It was brilliant'

where I got my speed from and said it definitely wasn't from him!"

There are quite a few parallels between father and son's playing career. Steven Logan Browne (to give his full name) started off at Charlton Athletic and went on to play in non-League for Wealdstone, Yeovil Town and Sutton United,

while Stephan Rhys Browne (to give his full name) also turned out for Charlton, Yeovil, Sutton... and now Wealdstone.

"Is that just a coincidence?" I asked him. "More like fate, I think" he said. "Perhaps you get drawn to certain clubs because of the historic links, but there are 30 years between our careers".

His dad joined Charlton from school and scored on his first-team debut against Wrexham in 1982. Six years later, after a broken leg and a spell at Maidstone, he signed for the Middlesex Stones and spent three years at Lower Mead as the side chalked up successive mid-table finishes in the Southern League Premier Division. He made 128 appearances and scored 30 goals.

Rhys was born in 1995, in the middle of Steve's most successful spell as a player when was influential in helping Graham Roberts' Yeovil side back into the Conference.

His dad later became a coach and manager of Slough Town, Boreham Wood and Dover.

"I grew up in Hackney but we moved to Romford when I was seven" says Rhys.

"Dad was always there supporting my progress as a player, and he first coached when I was part of Interwood FC - what a youth team that was! It was the best non-academy youth set-up in the country and in the squad of 15 there were 11 of us who went on to play professionally".

**R**hys' big break came when Norwich City set up a trial day at Billericay FC. "They liked the look of me and I spent three years in the youth team there, winning the FA Youth Cup in 2013 when we beat Chelsea over two legs in the final".

But he never made the breakthrough into the Canaries' first team and was released in 2014. Then it was on to Charlton Athletic and another long stint in the South Londoners' Under-23s.

"The next year I joined Aldershot in the Conference and that was a really enjoyable season for me - I played about 40 games and scored

**CONTINUED OVERPAGE**

*Left: Rhys scores his goal "through a forest of legs" for Macclesfield at Wembley but it ended in heartbreak for Macc*



## THE STONES INTERVIEW CONTINUED

seven goals. It was great to be playing in men's football. The move from there to League Two Grimsby in 2016 wasn't the best thing I ever did... it's a bit out on a limb and there aren't many distractions away from football so gets a bit too intense." But Rhys had a terrific loan spell back in the Conference at Macclesfield Town from January-May that year. The Lancashire club made it all the way to Wembley for the FA Trophy final and 38,000 were there to witness Rhys equalising for Macc in the 13th minute (see picture on previous page).

"What do I remember about the goal? Not much!" he laughed. "The ball was deflected out to me and my shot went through about three pairs of legs before ending in the net. A brilliant moment but we were beaten 3-2 in the end so that was a bit tarnished as a career highlight."

Rhys' dad had died earlier that year and that had an influence on his next move. He signed for Port Vale, managed by the ex-Macclesfield manager John Askey, but ripped up his contract before the end of the season as his mental health was suffering.

"Moving around the country, changing clubs, the lack of any stability made me re-assess my career" says Rhys. "It's okay if you're on 50 grand a week but lower down the scale it just messes with your head. I needed some time out of the game and moved back to London. I then played one game for Wealdstone, at Maidenhead last Boxing Day, before signing for Sutton United for the rest of the season."

Rhys played 15-odd games for the Ambers as they won the National League - including coming off the bench as the Stones were beaten 4-1 at Gander Green Lane - but he says he wasn't surprised when Sutton manager Matty Gray decided not to extend his deal in the summer.

"I'm old enough to know how it works - I don't think I was his type of player. I didn't run around aimlessly enough!" he says.

**F**unnily enough, in between leaving Sutton and signing for the Stones came probably his career highlight - playing for Barbuda & Antigua in a pair of World Cup qualifying matches.

"Probably my best career moment was making my debut for my country when I was only 18. I've now played 12 games for my country and I've scored twice, against Bermuda in a friendly at home (the Viv Richards Stadium) and then only a few months ago when we beat Grenada 1-0 in a



*That's for you, Dad.. Rhys lifts a poignant finger to the heavens after the goal that sunk Barnet in front of a record Grosvenor Vale crowd*

World Cup qualifier at home in front of 10,000!"

That game came in early June... and a few days later Antigua & Barbuda were beaten 3-0 by El Salvador in their next qualifier, watched by a volatile crowd of 50,000 at the Estadio Cuscatlan.

It must have been a bit of a comedown for Rhys, returning to England to face pre-season games at Bedford and Chesham.

"Well, it has been a bit strange for me as this is my first taste of being a semi-pro footballer. We had such a good pre-season, being unbeaten going into the league games and it seemed we were actually a bit nervous because of that. But the National League is such a tough division and it took that first win, against Altrincham, to have us believing that we can win games at his level!"

**R**hys suffered a groin injury in training that has kept him out of the side for 00 games until he came on as substitute for his magic moment against Barnet. Now he says he is "in the mix" to re-start his season for Stuart Maynard's side.

"The gaffer wants me to take risks in possession; to take people on and make things happen. I think that's my main strength and I'm desperate to get playing again".

He's certainly got an interesting year ahead. He says that he has now settled into the life of a semi-professional player, topping up his wages with coaching sessions alongside fellow Stones John Umerah and Ira Jackson in the local schools. And although the members of his Essex car club have changed - with Danny Parish, Charlee Hughes and Jack Cawley dropping by the wayside to be replaced by Zach Dronfield and Jaydn Mundle-Smith - the football conversations make the M25 hours whizz by.

And in March, Rhys and his partner will welcome a baby son! "It's opened my eyes to work in the primary schools, knowing I'll soon have my own little rugrat" he says. "I can't wait!"



10

RHYS BROWNE



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# CLASSIC FAN IN THE STAND

## It's Aaron Lyons!

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# THE FAN <sub>IN</sub> THE STAND



▲ **FEVERED EXCITEMENT!** Aaron is ringed (centre) with his pals at the Gun Turret end before the Rotherham FA Cup tie

## Today's the turn of the youngest fan featured so far.. Aaron Lyons, aka The Orange Hat Guy

**Name:** Aaron Lyons    **Age:** 17

**Where you live:** Northolt

**Where you work/go to school:** Northolt High Sixth Form

**First Stones game attended:** Wealdstone v Hayes & Yeading - a friendly match at Northwood which ended 2-2 and Wealdstone lost in a penalty shootout.

**How you came to be watching Wealdstone:** My mate Jack Charlton and his dad Steve Charlton regularly attended games and told me about Wealdstone. I had heard of the club and fancied seeing a game...and ever since that game I haven't looked back. I will be coming to Wealdstone for a very long time yet.

**What are the advantages of non-League football?**

Standing behind the goal and singing with the rest of the Stones fans. There is great banter and humour among the fans. And I love seeing a goal go in when you are standing behind the net. Being so close to the action makes you want to get your boots on and smack in a goal for the Stones and then go and celebrate with the fans! It's also great clapping the players off - they always show their appreciation back. There is also the factor of making new friends.

**Any disadvantages?** The state of some away grounds. As soon as you turn up you can instantly tell - and when you go inside you are not wrong.

**Have you regularly watched other clubs?** I used to watch Brentford play quite a bit before I came

Would you like to be a 'Fan in the Stand'? Send an email to [tim.f.parks@gmail.com](mailto:tim.f.parks@gmail.com)

**A**ARON'S 'Fan in the Stand' appeared 12 years ago and it's hard to believe he's now a respectable almost-30-year-old! But is

he still as wildly enthusiastic today? Overpage we update his thoughts on all that's happened at WFC in the intervening years....

to watch the Stones.

**Most memorable Stones game you've seen?**

There already has been quite a few. Boro away last season when Greg hit a hat-trick and Hastings United at the end of season when Greg donned my orange (Magic) hat.. but Aylesbury in the FA Cup fourth qualifying round is the one. It was a brilliant day for everyone associated with Wealdstone Football Club, a brilliant atmosphere created by all the Stones fans. Walking out the ground all together was particularly good with all the fans celebrating. Then getting back to the car – and everyone in the cars hooting as they saw a Stones fan – was just pure class.

**Most comical match ever seen?** I can think of a few comical moments. Andre's goalkeeping every-time we play Boro is very comical. Even funnier was Cray Wanderers at home – their keeper randomly running to the halfway line and then running past it to see what the scuffle was about... only for it to end when he reached it! Then there was that amazing own goal. It was very well taken....

**Best live football match ever seen?** It has to be Stones v Rotherham – although we lost the game the whole atmosphere that day was one of happiness and joy. Was a proud moment for me and I'm sure everyone associated with Wealdstone FC. Two great goals by Ryan Ashe as well.

**Any suggestions to improve your Stones -watching experience?** None that I can think off.

**Favourite all-time Wealdstone line-up?** Thomas, Martin, Massey, Gray, Chappell, Forbes, Ashe, Montgomery, Beckford, Morgan, Ngoyi.

**Best current Stones line-up, in your opinion?** Thomas, McCoy, Massey, Locke, Chappell, Forbes, Ashe, O'Leary, E'beyer/Spendlove, Ngoyi, Gray.

**Favourite all-time Wealdstone strip?** Our current blue kit.

**Favourite current Stones strip?** I quite like the yellow kit we have at the moment. However the blue strip is still probably my favourite.

**Favourite away trip this season?** Again has to be Aylesbury away. After going one nil down within the first minute and coming back like The Stones did was brilliant. As soon as we got our first goal everyone knew it could turn out to be a really special day... and it was a dream come true when

the comeback happened.

**Favourite away trip in the past?** Dartford away during the 08-09 season. The Stones fans in full voice for nearly all of the game... so many Stones fans were there that we actually outsang them for the majority off the match.

**What are your expectations for this season?** It would be great to go up this season. There is no reason why we can't: Gordon has built a very good team and they have already provided the fans with memorable moments.

**Who is your favourite Stones celebrity fan?** Vinnie Jones

**How does Grosvenor Vale compare to our other grounds?** Personally I think it is one of the best

grounds in the Ryman League. It is our home and it is very well looked after and superbly run. Graham, Andy and all the other match day staff always make sure things are run smoothly... not forgetting the people who also help to make The Vale what it is today. The clubhouse just makes the whole set-up even better. The work done over the summer was exceptionally good, it just underlined how much the fans love the club.

**What do you think of our programme?** The best in the League – and this is not being biased. None of the away programmes I have bought this season have the same in-depth articles and quality as The

Stones Prog. They are always a good read whether it's Ryman premier or Ryman League cup. Special praise goes to the people who make the programmes as good as they are. (Aw shucks. Ed)

**Have you any ideas for improvements?** Possibly have in the middle of the programme a pull-out poster of a player every game.

**How do you think the club can improve its awareness with the people of Ruislip?** Possibly after each live gig at The Vale mention who The Stones have got this weekend and during the week. Some people may not be interested, but they could tell others which would lead to more fans at The Vale.

**and finally... Where, and at what level of football, do you think we'll be playing in five years' time?** Conference South would be great.. or even better, the Blue Square premier.



▲ **WOT, NO ORANGE HAT?** Aaron turns up for the Rotherham game in winter headware

# CLASSIC FAN IN THE STAND CONTD

**How old are you now Aaron, and still living in Northolt?** I'm 29 and still living in Northolt.

**Where do you work?** I work in a warehouse office in Park Royal

**How does work/family commitments fit in with football?** Fits in all okay! I do have to miss the occasional midweek away game if it's far away as I don't finish work until six.

**How many games have you missed since your first FIS 12 years ago?** I'd say around 10-15 - I haven't missed too many.

**Although you hoped for Blue Square premier football within 5 years, did you ever really expect the Wealdstone 1st 2009 to make it to the non League pinnacle?** I had always hoped we would achieve it within the five years.

Thankfully we now have and it's great to see us back where we belong.

**How would you describe the journey?** Crazy! I've been going since 2007 which was our last season of ground sharing at Northwood. Feels like I've been going a lot longer than that. The first ever league game I saw us play was against AFC Wimbledon in the Ryman League. It's been an incredible journey so far. When I think back to some of the team and grounds, I've been to compared to now it's quite some difference.

**Would any of the players since 2009 displace your favourite all time line up?** There would be a few players I would have to put in. The likes of Scott McGleish, Glen Little, Tom Pett and Luke O'Nein, Sean Cronin and Northy would most definitely be in contention. There are several others who would be worth a shout too.

**Did Greg Ngoyi ever give you your hat back?** Haha yes he did. I still actually have the hat as well! It's good to see our magic hats still being worn occasionally by fans.



Left: You've gotta love this what they do best at the Vale the 1-0 win over Barnet here



...bar the drinking. The Lyons brothers get a rainwater top-up!

**What are your up to date favourite all time Stones games?** If I was to name a top ten it would be these ones.

Cambridge United away in the FA Trophy quarter final (2011-12) (Won 2-1); Margate away (Won 1-0) when we clinched the Ryman League in the 2013-14 season. Some pitch and clubhouse celebrations that evening! Bath City

away on two occasions. Our last minute winner in our National League South 2014-15 campaign (1-0) and the play-off victory there (3-1) a few seasons back. The away wins at Havant & Waterlooville (4-2) and Weymouth (4-3) in the title winning South season were brilliant matches. The 7-0 victory home to Bath in that season was sensational stuff as well.

Aylesbury away when we were two nil down and came back to win 4-2 which saw us reach the first round of the FA Cup. Hard to imagine that was in 2009! The 5-2 win against Billericay in the 2017-18 FA Trophy quarter-final. Lastly Southport away when we won there 2-1 in the second





*picture of Aaron and his brother Ian doing .. and (main image) wildly celebrating after a fortnight ago. They weren't alone!*

# WE AID STONE 2021-22

future.

**What is your typical routine for a Saturday home game? And away games?** Saturday home games are usually spent watching the early kick off in the pub with my brother Ian, Steve and if he isn't working in the morning Jerry who is a new face this season. Talk always comes round to how the season is going or how the last game went and what we think about the game on the day itself.

Away games have been dubbed "Lyons Tours" by Steve as Ian gets the train journey sorted out, the pub to go to before the game and then how we get to the ground. Me, Steve and another mate of mine Christian just know who we are playing! Although I have started to take on the role of finding the pub to go to before matches the last few away games!

**Do you think the club can do better engaging with local people?** I think we are doing what we can to get locals involved. I have seen on numerous occasions our fixtures have been advertised in local shops. As well as on social media.

**... and controversially, if you had the choice of The Hive or the Vale as a home ground, where would you rather be watching the Stones?** Has to be The Vale for me. I still remember viewing the ground before we moved in there. On memory think around 50/100 of us were shown around the ground. Compared to what it was like then to now just shows what a fantastic fanbase we have with the work that's been done at the Vale over the years.

**Finally, where do you see the club in five years time?** I'm hopeful of us still being in the National League. No harm in dreaming of the Football League though!

round of the FA Trophy. Have to mention as well Truro away games. Been there three times and each time I've seen us win!

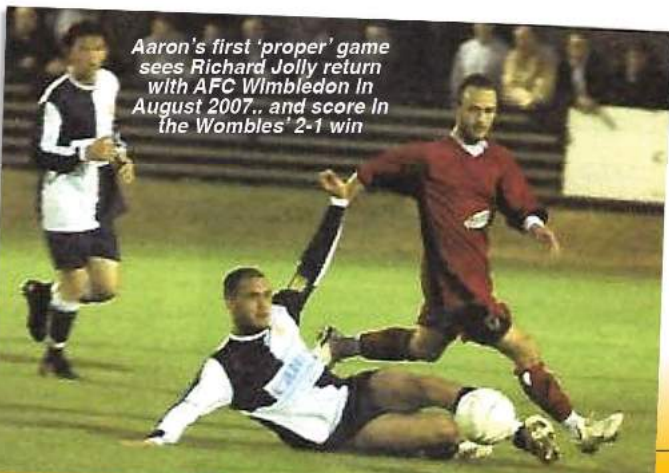
**Have you been to watch games involving other clubs?** I used to watch Brentford for a few seasons prior to getting involved with The Stones.

**Is the programme still as good as 2009?** It sure is. Gets better and better each season. Easily the best in the league. Well done to all who those involved on the Programme scene.

**How did you cope with watching games via the live stream last season?**

Just about coped. Hated not being able to go the games last season.

**Are you surprised at all the new faces watching the Stones since your early days (I think the crowds averaged just under 500 in those days)?** I'm pretty sure they did average around that. I am quite surprised, but I think it's great seeing new faces down The Vale. Myself and my brother have managed to get a new face or two down there ourselves this season. Hopefully we will see more each game and they continue to go to matches in the



*Aaron's first 'proper' game sees Richard Jolly return with AFC Wimbledon in August 2007.. and score in the Wombles' 2-1 win*

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# Opposition in focus

## STOCKPORT COUNTY

### THE HATTERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Stockport's 10,900 capacity Edgely Park has been

Promotion came in 1991, and was followed by four visits to Wembley in two years – twice in playoff finals, twice in the Football League Trophy. Unfortunately County lost on each occasion.

Following Bergara's departure in 1995, Dave Jones took charge and gave the club its most memorable season. In 1996/97, the Hatters won four games against Premiership opposition, including a 1-0 win at Middlesbrough in the League Cup semi-final – unfortunately, the tie was lost 2-1 on aggregate. Other runs in the FA Cup and League Trophy meant County played almost 70 games that season, and finished 2nd

in the Second Division – the large amount of games almost certainly costing them the title.

After Jones' departure for Southampton, County consolidated in the First Division until relegation in 2002. What followed was a largely downward spiral back to the bottom division, twice finishing a season on just 26 points, and by Boxing Day 2005 County were well adrift at the bottom of the Football League.

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

This was followed by a promotion push in 2006/07, when County memorably set a new professional record of 9 consecutive wins



# WEALDSTONE 2021-22



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

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

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

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

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

In January 2016, Jim Gannon signed an 18-month contract to return to Edgeley Park following the resignation of Neil Young. Jim led the Hatters to promotion during his first spell in charge of the club in 2008, winning the League Two Play-Off Final against Rochdale at Wembley.

Following Gannon's departure, Simon Rusk took charge in January 2021 but was replaced earlier this month by Dave Challinor following his departure from Hartlepool United.

Stockport finished last season in 3rd place. Losing in the playoff Semi Final to eventual winners Hartlepool United.

without conceding. But promotion was just out of touch, with a playoff place being denied by Bristol Rovers in the dying minutes of the season despite County winning 5-0 at Darlington.

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

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

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

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

However, following the consortium's failure to take charge, Hamann's squad struggled in

**WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v STOCKPORT COUNTY**

**P 2 W 0 D 0 L 2 F 2 A 9**

# Opposition in focus

## WHO'S WHO?



### 1. BEN HINCHLIFFE - GOALKEEPER

Ben joined the Hatters in May 2016 after four years with AFC Fylde and being named in the Divisional Team of the Year every season. He started his career at Preston North End before joining Derby County. He enjoyed a spell at Oxford United then moved back to Lancashire to play for Bamber Bridge before joining Northwich Victoria.

### 2. SAM MINIHAN - DEFENCE

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

### 3. MARK KITCHING - DEFENCE

Mark is a versatile defender signed from Hartlepool United on a free transfer. Born in the North East, he was a graduate of Middlesbrough's highly regarded Academy, gaining experience from loan spells at York City and Rochdale before joining the latter permanently in February 2017.

### 4. LIAM HOGAN - DEFENCE

Liam joined the Club in February 2020, making the move from League Two Salford City, where he was captain, and signing for the club on a two-and-a-half year deal. Liam actually started his senior career here in Stockport with Woodley Sports before being picked up by FC Halifax Town in 2010. In the summer of 2013 he joined Fleetwood Town where again he won promotion in his first season, before spending time at Tranmere Rovers, Macclesfield Town and Gateshead before joining Salford.

### 5. ASH PALMER - DEFENCE

Ash joined from Guiseley. He previously spent time with Barnsley FC, Scunthorpe and Buxton, but made his name at North Ferriby United. In the 2018/19 season, Ash was a crucial part of County's defence that won the National League North.

### 6. BEN BARCLAY - DEFENCE

Ben joined after signing from Accrington Stanley. Also capable of playing in midfield, Barclay originally began his career coming through the academy ranks at Manchester City before moving to Brighton & Hove Albion in 2013 where he made his first-team debut for the Premier League side in 2018. Ben spent the second half of the 2018-19 on loan at Notts County.

### 7. MACAULEY SOUTHAM-HAYLES - DEFENCE

Right-back Macauley joined the Club on a two-

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

### 8. JOHN ROONEY - MIDFIELD

John joined from Barrow for an undisclosed fee. The former Bluebirds captain enjoyed a stellar 2019/20 campaign, scoring 20 goals from midfield en-route to promotion to League 2 and picking up the National League Player of the Year award in the process. A graduate of Everton's Youth Academy, he joined Macclesfield town in 2002. In 2011 he moved to the US and played for both the New York Red Bulls and Orlando City in the MLS. On returning he played for Barnsley, Bury and Chester City. He signed for Wrexham in 2016 and enjoyed a loan spell at Guiseley before being signed by Barrow in 2018.

### 9. PADDY MADDEN - FORWARD

Paddy joined the Club from Fleetwood Town. Madden has had a prolific scoring record throughout his career in the Football League, with over 100 goals to his name whilst playing in League One. Having started his career in Ireland with Bohemians, Paddy first made the move to English football in January 2011, signing for Carlisle. He then made the loan move Yeovil. Paddy has one cap for the Republic of Ireland, coming on as a sub against Wales in 2013.

### 10. BEN WHITFIELD - MIDFIELD

Ben joined after an impressive two year spell at Plainmoor that saw him pick up the Club's Player of the Year award in 2019/20, before helping the Devon side reach the play-off final last season. Having originally come through the ranks at Bradford City and Guiseley AFC, before moving on to join Championship side Bournemouth at the age of 18. He also had spells at both Yeovil Town and Port Vale, before leaving the latter to join Torquay in 2019.

### 11. CONNOR JENNINGS - FORWARD

Connor returned to Edgeley Park for a second spell after a four-year spell at Tranmere Rovers. Connor first played for the Hatters in a loan spell from Scunthorpe United during the 2012/13 season. Spells at Macclesfield and Wrexham followed before his move to Prenton Park, where he played a crucial role in back-to-back promotions for Rovers. Connor featured

# WEALDSTONE 2021-22

in three play-off finals, scoring in two of them. His first season back at Edgeley Park was cruelly interrupted, however, after Connor was diagnosed with Chondroid Sarcoma, and is currently undergoing treatment.

## **14. WILL COLLAR - MIDFIELD**

Will joined the Club from Scottish Premier League side Hamilton Academical, signing until the end of the current season. Collar has previously represented Brighton's Academy, going on to make his debut for the Premier League club in an EFL Cup tie in 2018.

## **15. ARJAN RAIKHY - MIDFIELD**

Arjan impressed during his time in Aston Villa's academy, playing a key role in their FA Youth Cup triumph against Liverpool. Originally a product of West Brom's academy before making the switch, Arjan made his first-team debut for the Club, starting in an FA Cup Third Round tie with the then Premier League champions Liverpool.

## **16. JORDAN KEANE - MIDFIELD**

Jordan, who can also play at the back and joined County from Boston United. His previous clubs include Stoke City, Tamworth, Alfreton, Nuneaton and Worcester City. Jordan also attended the Jamie Vardy Academy in 2017. During the 2018-19 National League North winning season, Keane was an integral part of the Hatters' midfield which helped lift the trophy.

## **17. RYAN RYDEL - DEFENCE**

Oldham-born Ryan joined the Club from Fleetwood signing a three-year-deal at Edgeley Park. Capable of playing anywhere down the left-hand side, Ryan made his professional debut for Fleetwood at the age of just 17. He spent the second part of the 2019/20 season on loan at Lancaster City, making six appearances and scoring one before their season was cut short.

## **18. RYAN CROASDALE - MIDFIELD**

Former Kidderminster and AFC Fylde midfielder Ryan signed after he began his career at Preston North-End, making one competitive appearance for the Club, whilst also enjoying loan spells at non-league Tamworth and Stalybridge. The England C international then spent two years at Sheffield Wednesday before moving to Kidderminster in 2016 then AFC Fylde in 2018, for a fee of £50,000

## **19. ALEX REID - FORWARD**

Alex joined County on a free transfer from Stevenage. He began his career at Aston Villa at the age of 10 and remained at the club's

academy until 2013. He joined the League Football Education's Player Placement Programme in Sweden, joining Ange IF in 2014. He moved back to the UK and signed for Fleetwood Town in 2016, before loan spells at Wrexham, Solihull Moors and Stevenage. After impressing on loan, he signed for Stevenage in 2018.

## **22. SCOTT QUIGLEY - FORWARD**

Quigley joined from Barrow. Scott began his career in Wales with The New Saints, coming through the academy and playing a part in five league title wins during his time with the Club, and gaining European experience in the Champions League Qualifying Rounds earning him a move to in 2017. Scott has had loan spells at Wrexham, Port Vale and FC Halifax Town, Scott eventually departed Blackpool in 2019, signing for Barrow.

## **23. ANTONI SARCEVIC - MIDFIELD**

Antoni joined from Boldon Wanderers in October 2021. Antoni captained Bolton to promotion from League Two last season. It was his second successive promotion from League Two, having finished in 3rd place with Plymouth Argyle in 2019-20, and the fourth time in his career he has earned promotion from the fourth tier. Antoni began his career at Woodley Sports, before going on to have spells at Crewe, Chester and Fleetwood Town.

## **24. WILL FISH - DEFENCE**

Will joins on a season-long loan from Manchester United. At 18 years of age, centre-half Will is one of the most highly rated prospects coming through the famous Manchester United academy, captaining their U23s side on several occasions and making his Premier League debut for the Club as a substitute against Wolves on the final day of last season. Will is also an England U18 international.

## **25. ZEKI FRYERS - DEFENCE**

Former Manchester United defender Zeki Fryers joined on a deal until the end of the season. The left-back, who left United back in 2012, has joined the Edgeley Park outfit after leaving Swindon Town and will add some useful experience to the National League side's defensive line.

## **26. ETHAN ROSS - GOALKEEPER**

Ethan joined the Club in 2021 from Lincoln City. Ross spent the second half of the 2020/21 out on loan at Weymouth. Ross began his career in the youth ranks of Arsenal and Cambridge United before joining West Brom in 2015. Ethan then joined Colchester United in 2018, before another short period out on loan at Maidstone.

## **27. OLLIE CRANKSHAW - MIDFIELD**

## **28. ETHAN PYE - DEFENCE**

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 <b>SOUTHEND UNITED</b> Monday, 30th August Vanarama National League	Ray Corner and Peter Carter		
 <b>ALTRINCHAM</b> Saturday, 19th September Vanarama National League	Wealdstone FC Supporters Club		
 <b>ALDERSHOT TOWN</b> Saturday, 18th September Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows		
 <b>SOLHULL MOORS</b> Tuesday, 5th October Vanarama National League	Leasehold Management Services Ltd		
 <b>EASTLEIGH</b> Saturday, 9th October Vanarama National League	Roffe-East	In memory of John O'Connor aka OC	Dorset Stones
 <b>DAGENHAM &amp; REDBRIDGE</b> Saturday, 18th October FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round	Ability Security		
 <b>GRIMSBY TOWN</b> Tuesday, 26th October Vanarama National League	Roffe-East	ADWConnect	
 <b>BARNET</b> Saturday, 13th November Vanarama National League	Roffe-East	Ray Corner & Peter Carter	



# WEALDSTONE 2021-22

"A top drawer experience that would put a lot of Premier League clubs to shame. Nothing was too much trouble – highly recommended!"

— Colin Walklate,  
Harrow Windows

"Great Hospitality, great people – a superb way to visit the Vale and watch the Stones."

— Robert Barrett,  
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We will do it again this season!"  
— Keith Davies, AFC Lightning

## MATCH

## SPONSORS

 <b>STOCKPORT COUNTY</b> Saturday, 27th November Vanarama National League	AFC Lightning	Morty's Emslie Enders
 <b>FC HALIFAX TOWN</b> Saturday, 11th December Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows	Your name or business here
 <b>MAIDENHEAD UNITED</b> Sunday, 26th December Vanarama National League	Osmo UK	Your name or business here
 <b>YEovil TOWN FC</b> Saturday, 8th January Vanarama National League	The Old Gits Club	Core Five
 <b>NOTTS COUNTY</b> Tuesday, 25th January Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Ruislip Windows & Doors
 <b>WREXHAM</b> Saturday, 19th February Vanarama National League	Union Athletic	Your name or business here
 <b>TORQUAY UNITED</b> Saturday, 26th February Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 <b>WEYMOUTH</b> Saturday, 12th March Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows	Your name or business here
 <b>DOVER ATHLETIC</b> Tuesday, 22nd March Vanarama National League	Ruislip Windows & Doors	Your name or business here
 <b>BROMLEY</b> Saturday, 26th March Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	The Guild
 <b>CHESTERFIELD</b> Saturday, 9th April Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 <b>BOREHAM WOOD</b> Monday, 18th April Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 <b>DAGENHAM &amp; REDBRIDGE</b> Saturday, 30th April Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 <b>KING'S LYNN TOWN</b> Saturday, 11th May Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here



# RESULTS 2021/2022

In Black = Started match

George WICKENS

Jack COOK

Andrew ELEFTHERIOU

Nikola TAVARES

Jerome OKIMO

Craig FASANMADE

Matt BUSE

Joshua UMERAH

DATE	COMP	SCORE	(Total)	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers	George WICKENS	Jack COOK	Andrew ELEFTHERIOU	Nikola TAVARES	Jerome OKIMO	Craig FASANMADE	Matt BUSE	Joshua UMERAH	
<b>AUGUST</b>															
21	WOKING	VNL	<b>1-2</b>	1,405	380	16	Umerah	1	2	12	17	6	7	8	9
28	Chesterfield	VNL	<b>0-2</b>	5,336	167	18		1	2	12	17	6	7	8(18)	9
30	SOUTHEND UNITED	VNL	<b>0-0</b>	2,151	800	18		1	2	12		6	7(10)	9	
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>															
4	Dagenham & Redbridge	VNL	<b>2-2</b>	1,735	170	18	Umerah, Lewis	1	2	12	17(34)	6	7	9	
11	ALTRINCHAM	VNL	<b>1-0</b>	1,013	N/A	15	Elito (Pen)	1	2	12		6	7(9)	9	
14	Notts County	VNL	<b>2-3</b>	5,213	208	14	Umerah (2)	1	2	12		6	7(9)	9	
18	ALDERSHOT TOWN	VNL	<b>2-2</b>	1,106	N/A	15	Umerah, Jackson	1	2	12		6	7(9)	8(20)	9
25	King's Lynn Town	VNL	<b>1-0</b>	885	180	13	Cooper	1	2	12	17			8(21)	9
<b>OCTOBER</b>															
2	Torquay United	VNL	<b>0-5</b>	2,097	132	16		1	2	12	17			8(20)	9
5	SOLIHULL MOORS	VNL	<b>0-0</b>	1,501	120	16		1	2	12	17			8(18)	9
9	EASTLEIGH	VNL	<b>1-2</b>	1,267	95	16	Umerah	1	2	12	17			9	
16	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	FAC4	<b>1-2</b>	718	N/A	17	Bird	1	2	12	17	6		8(11)	9
23	Weymouth	VNL	<b>1-1</b>	1,024	170	17	McAvoy	1	2		17	6	7(9)	8(18)	9
26	GRIMSBY TOWN	VNL	<b>1-0</b>	1,892	794	16	Buse	1	2		17	6	7(9)	8	9
<b>NOVEMBER</b>															
13	BARNET	VNL	<b>1-0</b>	2,662	672	16	Browne	1	2		17		6(25)	8	9
20	Wrexham	VNL	<b>0-0</b>	1,892	194	17		1	2		17		6(17)	9	
23	Dover Athletic	VNL	<b>3-2</b>	TBC	TBC	15	Sweeney (2), Umerah	1	2				6	8	9
27	STOCKPORT COUNTY	VNL													
30	Bedfont & Feltham	MCC2													
<b>DECEMBER</b>															
4	Bromley	VNL													
11	FC HALIFAX TOWN	VNL													
18	TBD	VNL													
26	MAIDENHEAD UNITED	VNL													
28	Boreham Wood	VNL													
<b>JANUARY</b>															
2	Maidenhead United	VNL													
8	YEovil TOWN	VNL													
22	Woking	VNL													
25	NOTTS COUNTY	VNL													
29	Grimsby Town	VNL													
<b>FEBRUARY</b>															
12	Barnet	VNL													
19	WREXHAM	VNL													
22	Solihull Moors	VNL													
26	TORQUAY UNITED	VNL													
<b>MARCH</b>															
5	Eastleigh	VNL													
12	WEYMOUTH	VNL													
19	Stockport County	VNL													
22	DOVER ATHLETIC	VNL													
26	BROMLEY	VNL													
<b>APRIL</b>															
2	FC Halifax Town	VNL													
9	CHESTERFIELD	VNL													
15	Southend United	VNL													
18	BOREHAM WOOD	VNL													
23	Altrincham	VNL													
30	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	VNL													
<b>MAY</b>															
2	Yeovil Town	VNL													
7	KING'S LYNN TOWN	VNL													
15	Aldershot Town	VNL													



## PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY RESULTS

17th July	Hayes & Yeading Utd 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, Browne, Elito
31st July	Colchester United	A	D 1-1	Umerah (Pen)
7th August	Dorking Wanderers	A	W 2-1	Browne 2
10th August	Watford Under 23s	H	W 3-0	Fasanmade, Dronfield, Wishart
14th August	Hungerford Town	H	W 3-1	Umerah 2, Lewis

tech In Blue = Substitute (with number of player replaced in brackets)

Rhys BROWNE	Dennon LEWIS	Charlie COOPER	Dan WISHART	Ashley CHARLES	Alex DYER	Medy ELITO	Jack CRAWLEY	Ira JACKSON	Dan WISHART	Charlie BARKER	Connor STEVENS	Jay BIRD	Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH	Connor McAvoy	Zach DRONFIELD	Jamie MASCOLL	Jayden SWEENEY
10	11				18(8)	20(7)											
10	11	24		4(24)	18	20(7)											
10	11	24	3(11)	4	18		34										
10(7)	11(3)	24	3	4	18		34										
10	11	24		4	18	20(18)	34	16(10)									
10(11)	11	24		4	18	20	34	16(18)									
	11	24		4		20	34	16									
10(9)	11(20)	24		4		20		16	3	21							
	11	24		4		20			3	21	5(17)	22(3)					
	11	24		4	18	20(4)				21		22					
18)	11	24		4	18	20			3(12)		5	22	23(5)				
	11	24		4	18	20(4)		16(22)				22					
	11	24		4	18			16(22)				22		14			
	11(16)			4				16				22(19)	23	14	19		
10(16)		24		4	18(8)			16					23	14		25	
10		24		4	18							22(10)	23	14			26
10		24			18							22(10)	23	14	19(8)		26



Above: Wrexham saw 194 Stones fans travel to see us come away with a deserved point in a crowd that totalled 8,592. Pictures courtesy **Jon Taffel**.

BY MARTIN READ



# The World of Ball

## Who in their right mind would choose to be a manager in 2021?

From the high profile analysis of every decision in the media through to the sudden switch from all-conquering hero to clueless clown, being a manager these days is no walk in the park. And if you look carefully, you can see a curious sense of fashion at play.

I went to see that new Bond movie the other day. Spoiler alert: he drives Aston Martins and saves the world. Oh yes, and Daniel Craig has quit the part. For some reason I've started to think of the search for a new Bond in the same way as Manchester United's search to replace Ole Gunnar Solksjaer. Something to do with the need for Man U to avoid the obvious - as the Bond people did when casting Craig - rather than bring in some well-known superstar like Zidane.

In any event, it's not been easy watching the situation at Old Trafford in recent weeks. A club legend, clearly out of his depth, holding on for dear pay-off as the world and his / her husband / wife tears him a new one every time Harry Maguire goes MIA and the Red Devils concede again.

The Solksjaer sacking is especially interesting because of the stubbornly unshifting oddness around Old Trafford since Ferguson's retirement in 2013. Fernandes gesturing to their fans after the Watford game to focus on the poor performance of the players was as weird as it was curiously noble, despite ironically serving only to highlight just how divorced from the players their manager was.

### Going up in the world or going down

Then again, who'd be a football manager in the first place? Seriously, what an extraordinarily dysfunctional world in which to work, particularly for those working at the top level.

Because it's not as if you have to be an abject failure to find yourself in the firing line. Consider the recent sacking of lifelong Villa fan Dean Smith, clearly a perfectly capable and technically proficient manager. At least Norwich City, perhaps the club with the best reason for seeking a change, saw fit to offer Smith the immediate lifeline Smith's hitherto upward

trajectory deserved.

And that's the thing - this odd sense of football management fashion by which you're either 'in' or 'out'. Whether a manager is seen as capable is as much about whether he is 'en vogue' as it is actual achievements in the game, and sometimes even more so. In hindsight, was Nuno Espirito Santo the logical fit for Tottenham? Obviously not, but a decent run as Wolves boss options made Nuno apparently the man for Spurs. He was, until then, on an upward trajectory in terms of club size and general success level, and this is something that seems to be so important in football management. Never mind cultural fit, technical style or compliance to whatever a particular club's "project" might be, the determining factor is typically: is the person we're looking at appointing making his next upward or not?

This, for example, is why managers such as Alan Curbishley, or David O'Leary - who once took Leeds to the Champions League semis - have long since left active involvement in the game. They achieved so much, but suddenly their own career trajectories were seen as on the decline. I'd look up the name of that former Spurs interim boss who ended up wearing a gilet when he took over, but the very fact that I need to look up his name because I can't remember it - yet I do remember the sodding gilet - is the point, I think. Also John Gregory, he was God's gift for a bit too.

Increasingly, it seems to me, clubs who appoint utterly unknown managers tend to do the right thing over time. Unencumbered by perceived failure elsewhere, any club appointing a fledgling coach from Bundesliga 2 or similar



*Him... oh, yeah, him... and, that's right, er, him*

won't be criticised for not researching the market. Indeed, they are more likely to be praised by supporters for being all algorithms and science as they seek to tease out the next Guardiola. So their appointment fails? Fine, get 'em out quick and get another. Something's bound to stick at some point. Witness the machine-like approach taken up the road at Watford, where the board pulls the trigger more often than most on any boss looking even vaguely out of step with dressing room sentiment.

Otherwise, clubs end up choosing from a depressingly familiar pool of known names, with whoever ghets the nod tending to deliver ever reducing amounts of success.

When a manager jumps the shark and begins his unavoidable downward spiral, smaller clubs tend to rid to their rescue, seeking the gloss of a 'name' to rub off on them. And for those managers, it's a strong appeal to the ego. We had that Phil Brown down here earlier this season, a well turned-out individual but clearly someone incapable of leading the Shrimpers back out of the National League (at least, not in the direction they were hoping).

Brown's point of going from incline-to-decline is surely linked to his on-field half-time finger wagging when he was in the Premier League at Hull a few moons back. Let's face it, things never really got better from there.

### Going up in the world or going down

So what about at our level? I know it's a different sort of market for managers, but it's still easy to deride a manager for a poor performance when there's a much bigger picture at play. And here's where I need to confess something. After the Dagenham & Redbridge game I took briefly to Twitter - all too frequently a coward enablement platform - to bemoan what I saw in the heat of the moment as a

shocking set of managerial choices resulting in our last minute FA Cup loss to ten men. Still sore about all that missed potential telly money, my mood certainly didn't improve when St Albans made such a great impression in their game on BBC2 vs Forest Green Rovers.

Yeah, but look at us since. Four league games, 10 points, just 2 goals conceded. Against Grimsby! Barnet! Wrexham! (And Dover.) I am mortified at my own internal decision to rail against Stu and Matty when it was already clearly obvious how committed and capable they are to compete at the level we are at. So - sorry guys! I stand very much corrected, and long may you reign.

Ultimately, it really is truly amazing how resilient managers need to be, whatever the level they're working at. Sometimes we'll all wonder what on earth they're doing putting player X in position Y, but take a step back and it looks like a quite mad way of making a living that few of us would be happy to take on ourselves.

### WOB column writer - could this be you?

One final thought for this column. This is the 100th World of Ball article from me. These meandering thoughts have spanned two club-changing promotions, a Trophy semi-final run, the near doubling of our home support and the release of a top 5 Christmas single, amongst many, many other extraordinary events. While I'm quite happy to continue when inspiration strikes, I'm conscious that there may well be others in the Stones support who might want to see their thoughts brought to life in the programme.

Could this be you? I'd be happy to help put the thing together, all we'd need are your words. So if you'd like to take a stab at an article, whatever your topic, get in touch by DM.

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# VIEW FROM THE AWAY END

## Those Friday night games weren't great socially, but covering County for a living wasn't a bad life



Former Stockport Express reporter (and, later, Daily Star sports editor) **Howard Wheatcroft** looks back on over 50 years' of checking up on the Hatters

**When was your first Stockport match?** My first County match, indeed my first-ever match, was almost exactly 53 years ago on December 7, 1968, when I saw Barrow beaten 2-0 in an FA Cup second round tie at Edgeley Park. I was taken by my dad, my uncle and my cousin. I think I was given a blue and white scarf to wear and I have vague memories of us walking down the Pop Side, but I have absolutely no recollection of the match.

**I know that years later you had the lucky job of covering County for the local paper! How did that come about?** Well, I went intermittently after that before I started go with my mates in the early 1970s. That was in a period when County played their home matches on Friday nights, partly I think in order to avoid clashing with the two Manchester sides on their doorstep. I started work at the Stockport Express in 1980 but didn't have any particular desire to be a sports journalist and only started reporting on County when a pre-season game - against Crewe in the Cheshire Senior Cup - needed covering and I stuck my hand up. I

somehow managed to have an argument at half-time with a policeman who threatened to chuck me out, but I stuck around and must have done OK because was asked to do it again when the sports editor was not around.

**Was that the perfect job?** Getting paid for watching football is most people's idea of a pretty good way to make a living. It did cut across my social life on occasions, with those Friday night home matches meaning I didn't get to the pub until around 10.30pm, and the 7am departures on the team bus weren't great if you hadn't got home until about 2.30am that morning! I vividly remember seeing two players out for a drink one Friday when they were meant to be tucked up at a hotel owned by one of the club's directors. My night was quite a late one and I got a knowing smile off them when I dragged myself on the coach the next morning. I also remember the paper launching a 'Your County

**Howard is up in the in Stockport, Andy early goal set up the**



Left: The programmes for (from left) Howard's first-ever game in 1968; his last game with a crowd (Dorking) and the cover from last season's 5-2 County win, only seen on a live stream



**Wembley crowd somewhere as his best mate from school Graham (right) parades with the FA Trophy after his great 2-1 win over Boston. Left is the other scorer, Lee Holmes**

Needs You' appeal that saw me and the sports editor literally taking a bucket round the ground before a game to collect donations to keep the club afloat.

**Did you ever play football yourself?** Okay, I might as well play my Wealdstone card early. My best mate at school was Stones' very own Wembley 1985 hero Andy Graham, who was also born in Stockport (three days before me at the same hospital). We became friends on virtually our first day as 11-year-olds and played football and cricket constantly for the next seven years until we left.

Needless to say he was a far better player than me, although we did both get invited for a trial at Hyde United. I suspect I was only asked along as his mate, and although we declined he actually ended up playing for them. Funnily enough I didn't. I thought he was probably slightly better at cricket as an 18-year-old, but football presented far greater opportunities. I captained the school team to the last eight in the English Schools' and Greater Manchester B at the English Schools Festival, so nearly but not quite. It was Saturday afternoon & Sunday morning after that.

**What were the best aspects of covering football for a living?** Covering County enabled me to see the world - or at least places like Aldershot, Darlington, Swindon and Mansfield.

**Did your career prevent you from watching County?** Working as a sports journalist prevented me

## WEALDSTONE

from watching a lot of sport, because where the job sent me and where I wanted to be didn't often tally. This was particularly true when I became sports editor of the Daily Star because inevitably big football occasions meant I had to be in the office notionally directing what was going on... although I did get a lot of satisfaction from putting County on the back page after an FA Cup draw at Goodison

**When did you watch them most regularly?** Probably the 70s and early 80s before I moved away.

**Have you watched County both home and away?**

I left Stockport in 1985 and lived in various parts of the country before arriving in London in 1989, and to be honest I've watched far more away games in the south-east than I've made trips to Edgeley Park - despite my sister's flat overlooking the ground. That has ranged from Spurs, QPR and Crystal Palace to the likes of Leamington and Dorking Wanderers.

Seeing them play at Oxford City just a few years after Oxford United was a sobering experience, although the performance at the former was a low point and enough to drive anybody to drink.

**Do you have another favourite club? Did you watch them regularly?** I have been known to watch the occasional match featuring a certain Manchester Premier League club, I'm saying no more than that.

**What is your favourite match EVER? And your favourite Stockport County game?** I've been privileged to watch County at Wembley, and believe me that was unimaginable in the dark days, and I've seen George Best turn out for them, but there is one game I will never forget and still makes me smile when the goals crop up on Twitter.

Manchester City did County a lot of favours in the 70s and 80s, including playing fund-raising friendlies at Edgeley when there was another bill to be paid, and possibly even buying players as a favour - although I couldn't swear that happened. So it was scarcely believable that the teams should meet on level terms for a League One match on November 29, 1997, not that they were on level terms for long, with County enjoying a 3-1 win for one of the most memorable days in their history.

Me and my mate were sat near Coronation Streets' celebrity City fans Curly Watts and Les Battersby, although funnily enough I don't think we saw them after their team went in at half-time trailing 3-0. Another game that sticks in my mind for entirely different reasons is a League One game at

**CONTINUED OVER PAGE**

## VIEW FROM THE AWAY END CONTD...

Brighton at the end of the 2008-09 season. County had gone into administration that week, calculating they would stay up even with a 12-point deduction. Brighton, then playing in the public park that was the Withdean, need three points to say up. A late winner ensured they beat the drop and after the game a friend who worked for the home team pointed out Tony Bloom, who had just bought Brighton. The following Monday County boss Jim Gannon was made redundant and the tone was set for the next few years, Brighton meanwhile are an established Premier League club playing at a fantastic new stadium.

**Did you imagine the club ever ending up in the sixth tier of English football?** No, absolutely not, but neither did I ever see them competing at the top end of the Championship. There's a good book to be written about the rise and fall...and fall of Stockport County over the last 25 years or so, maybe entitled 'Where's the money gone'. Despite them hovering near the bottom of the old Fourth Division for long spells in the 1970s the closed-shop element of the Football League meant they never seemed any real prospect of it happening.

**What are their chances of making it back into League Two this season?** Trying to be dispassionate about it I'd say the odds are slightly against them given the start they've had and the fact it might take the new manager a few games to get his ideas in place.

**Have they disappointed the fans? Should Jim Gannon have carried the can?** They've frustrated, incensed, bemused and delighted the fans in almost equal measure, like every other club up and down the country but Jim Gannon should NEVER carry the can for anything. He has performed incredible feats as manager, was a legend as a player, and I guarantee there are County fans here today who would install him for a fourth spell in time for kick off if it were in their power. His card was probably marked the minute the new owner took over, although why he was

replaced by somebody like Simon Rusk is anybody's guess. Apparently he was a nice guy, but I'm pretty sure he wasn't the right man for the job. It's almost like he was somebody's pet project.

**Can Dave Challinor turn it around?** He's certainly got the pedigree and apart from die-hard Gannon fans it was hard to find a dissenting voice when he got the job. He impressed with his early interviews and a fans' Q and A he did in his first week, but it's what he does on the field that obviously matters most. The brilliant FA Cup replay win over Bolton Wanderers helped!

**John Rooney won the NL player of the season in successive seasons - is he culpable too?** Wazza's younger brother is a divisive figure, with some fans critical of his work-rate and defensive capabilities and concerned that he is seemingly undroppable. There have also been unsubstantiated claims he has too big an influence in the dressing room. On the other hand has a habit of scoring stunning goals on a regular basis and some of his football is different class. Challinor's handling of him could be the difference between success and failure this season.

**What do you know about Wealdstone, apart from having a quarter of County's budget?**

**Did you enjoy the game at the Vale last season?** I know they won an historic non-league double and I know I saw my best mate score a stunning goal at Wembley. I was watching that 1985 FA Trophy Final against Boston United with another close friend, Andy's dad and his brother. I obviously followed the Stones results that season and went along to watch a crucial Monday night win at Altrincham. I've kept an eye on their fortunes ever since, although at times it has been difficult given what the club has gone through.

I'm afraid my only visit to Lower Mead was for the celebrations following the Trophy win. We stayed at Andy's that night and I'd arranged to meet a friend in London the following day - obviously I didn't make it! A County game at Wealdstone was one I'd long hoped to see, so felt privileged to be there last season given the restrictions it was played under. I was asked to provide co-commentary and enjoyed the evening immensely - and I'd settle for a similar result today :)

**They played at Wembley, y'know.... Howard (far left, back row) stands next to the programme's Tim Parks when the pair were asked to play in a Sports Editors XI v FA XI in 2007. They're still struggling for breath!**



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## Well, would you believe it? There we were, wondering idly if our ex-player Eglite truly was a star alongside Johan Cruyff... and he was!



**R**egular readers of this programme will recall that the 'Rewind' feature for the Grimsby Town issue (left) featured a match that took place 47 years ago... when Dutch winger Adriaan Eglite stole the show on his debut against Bath City at our old Lower Mead ground.

His performances, both good and bad, over the next two years afforded Eglite cult status among our supporters but he seemed to have disappeared off the radar - and even trawling Google failed to establish whether he had started his career at the home of total football, Ajax Amsterdam, as was mentioned at the time.

Eglite's party piece - the 'Cruyff Turn' as made famous by that Dutch master at the 1974 World Cup - certainly led credence to his background, which led to me idly speculating (left) whether Eglite and Johan Cruyff had possibly even been team mates in Amsterdam. Fast forward a week and Programme Towers received an email from Bill Hern, who was at the Grimsby game promoting his book 'Football's Black Pioneers'.

**CONTINUED OVER PAGE**

### AMATEUR SO

# Do



*Here's the 1979 article from the Hammersmith & Shepherds Bush Gazette... and Eglite for the Stones in 1974 (below)*



distance with every successive season. And what happened to him, you're doubtless thinking?

Well, I'm afraid we just don't know. Even with the wonders of the internet there is no record of the subsequent moves of Adriaan Gerard Eglite.

There were rumours that he came to London after meeting an English girl, and there are records that an Adriaan Eglite was living in Blackpool in 2005-2007 with Linda Eglite. And we know that he left the Stones for Kingsthorpe in the summer of 1976, and in fact played against Wealdstone in the FA Cup 2nd Qualifying round in October that year (missing a couple of chances as Coleman's side won 2-0).

But there seems to be no history of an Eglite appearing for the famous Ajax club in Amsterdam - not for the first team anyway. But perhaps Adriaan was in the youth system and, perhaps, even played alongside the men were of similar ages.

Perhaps it was Eglite who invented The Cruyff Turn! Now that would be something...

young Johan Cruyff in their formative years as the men were of similar ages.

SOCCER EXTRA

# Double Dutch

BY COLIN GRANT

BACK IN the early sixties Adriaan Eglite formed a devastating striking partnership with Johan Cruyff.

Today Cruyff is hailed as one of the greatest footballers of all time and picks up a penny or two for Los Angeles Aztecs in America.

Adriaan Eglite works in a factory and plays soccer for kicks for Old Actonian veterans.

That's the remarkable contrast in fortunes of two players who were both promising youngsters in the Ajax youth side in Amsterdam yet now find themselves at opposite ends of the footballing scale.

For while today three times European Footballer of the Year Cruyff thrills thousands in the Aztecs Stadium, Adriaan plays to a rather smaller audience in the likes of Gunnersbury Park.

Yet it was so different in the early sixties when Cruyff and fellow Dutch World Cup stars Suurbier and Hulshoff were all team-mates of Adriaan's in an Ajax youth side that carried off Holland's national under-18 cup.

Then in 1963 came Adriaan's proudest moment — turning out for Holland in the Little World Cup for youth sides in England.

He recalls: "That was the greatest moment of my career. We lost 5-0 to England but they had a good side, including players like Ron Harris and Johnny Sissons, and they went on to win the trophy."

The blond striker's soccer future looked assured and he took another step forward when he signed on as semi-professional for Ajax.

Then came a handful of games for the first team before suddenly, at the age of 19, he was placed on the transfer list. And that signalled the beginning of the end of a professional career for Adriaan.

He said: "I couldn't believe it at the time. Ajax had a lot of good players but I'd been with them since I was 11 and I was really upset."

There was no way back though, so he moved to second division De Volewijckers. But the switch failed to work.

Then in 1966 he decided to move to this country with his English-born wife. And as far as soccer went the gamble failed.

He found himself caught up in the wrangle of foreign players having to wait two years before they could play in England. And to make matters worse former club De Volewijckers began demanding a fee if he moved.

While Cruyff and Ajax were fast becoming a sight all Europe feared Adriaan found himself frozen out. And hopes of linking up with his former Ajax boss Vic Buckingham at Fulham disappeared.

Eventually he joined Ilford, playing in the Isthmian League while Cruyff was helping



FLASHBACK... Adriaan Eglite, second left front row, and the great Johan Cruyff, fourth left in the front, line up for the Ajax youth side in the early 1960s

Ajax to a hat-trick of European Cup successes at the start of the 1970s.

And then came moves to a handful of non-league clubs in the seventies before he linked up with Old Actonians this season.

Today, Adriaan, now in his mid-thirties, earns his living at the Heinz factory in Wembley while Cruyff is a soccer millionaire.

Looking back over the years, he said: "I was very disappointed when Ajax said they'd let me go."

"Then when I came to England I had the problem over playing. If I hadn't then I'm sure I'd have gone to Fulham and might still have been with them today."

"As for Cruyff, well you knew he was going to be something special from the time he was a ten-year-old."

"He had exceptional ability even then and could do anything with the ball. He just had the sort of natural skills you can't drill into people."

Adriaan now spends most of his spare time working for Euro-Sporting — an organisation which arranges exchange sports trips among clubs in Europe.

And he also keeps a close eye on the progress of 11-year-old son Gary — a youngster already showing the Eglite ability for scoring goals.

But he likes nothing better than a game for the Actonian veterans in the Southern Amateur League on a Saturday afternoon. He said: "It's great to be able to play a relaxing game of football, I can let off a bit of steam and I'm really enjoying myself."

"I've already hit a few goals and it could have been more — but if you score a hat-trick then you have to buy a jug of beer for the team so I've been holding back after I've scored two!"

And while Johan Cruyff brings a great career to an end in America, Adriaan Eglite is clearly enjoying the twilight of his less glamorous playing days in West London.

## REWIND SPECIAL CONTINUED

Bill wrote: "I was at the brilliant Grimsby game with a friend from Love Football Hate Racism and very much enjoyed reading the programme, in particular the excellent article about Adriaan Eglite. I'm sure the author Tim Parks is correct and Adriaan did end up in Blackpool with his partner Linda Eglite. He later played for Kingstonian and Hertford. Having recently written a book based on the tales of 92 footballers I do know some have a propensity for exaggeration!

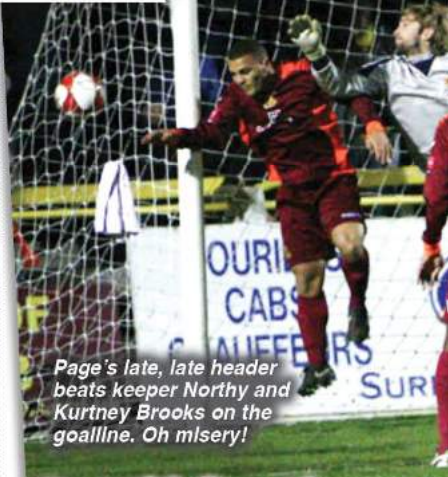
"I shared Tim's reservations about Adriaan's claims to have played alongside Johann Cruyff - however, I have found photographic evidence that he certainly did play with the great man! I attach, as proof, a very poor copy of an article from the Hammersmith and Shepherd's Bush Gazette of 13th December 1979".

Well, what about that! And an interesting divergence in careers as Eglite found himself playing for Old Actonians at Gunnersbury Park (where myself and other members of the SFC Wealdstone Sunday League team of the late 1970s might well have bumped into him) while the celebrated Cruyff was ending his career with a nice little earner at Los Angeles Aztecs in the newly-formed North American Soccer League.

But the best bit for me is the team line-up with Cruyff alongside an Adriaan with hair!

● On the theme of 'follow-ups' by the way, I feel we should point out that Stones' star of the 1960s Eddie Dillsworth WASN'T actually the first player of colour to turn out for the Stones - although of course he was the most celebrated, winning the FA Amateur Cup at Wembley in 1966 and becoming the first black player to collect a trophy there.

Club historian Roger Slater points out that the Stones had an Algerian (or possibly Moroccan) goalkeeper called J. Tur who played nine games in the Athenian League-era of the 1949-50 season before leaving to join Harrow Town. He was mainly an understudy to the experience Wiltshire and Edgehill but had his moments (see below)...



Page's late, late header beats keeper Northy and Kurtney Brooks on the goalline. Oh misery!

## On this day an absolute

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

**S**TONES were praised as the 'best attacking team to visit Gander Green Lane' by home boss Paul Doswell as they were beaten in heartbreaking fashion this November afternoon 11 years ago.

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

Sutton scented blood, now just 3-2 behind, and devastated the visitors by netting twice in the last two minutes to grab all three points.

It's painful remembering it even now! This was an impressive performance from the Stones, though, with Dyer, Keiron Forbes and Danny

### FOOTBALL

## WEALDSTONE HAD THREE GOALKEEPERS

### BARNET 4, WEALDSTONE 1

PLAYING without Tur, brought in to keep goal in place of the injured Wiltshire, for most of the game, Wealdstone were beaten by 4-1 by Barnet at Underhill on Saturday and so failed to gain an Athenian League point for the third consecutive week.

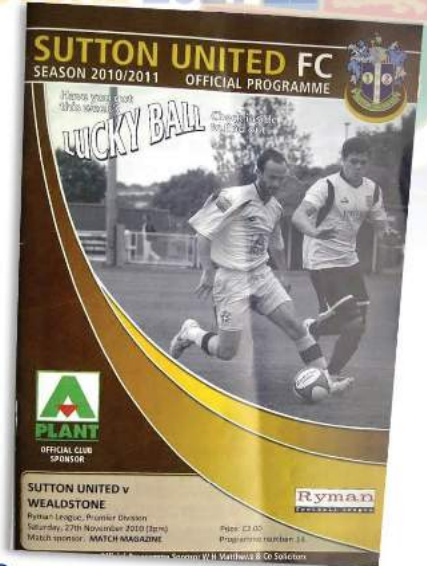
## HARROW TOWN CUP MATCH ABANDONED

Harrow Town 2, Wingate 2

(Abandoned during extra time)  
THE Middlesex Senior League side, Wingate, put up a fine fight in their Middlesex Senior

Tur was hurt quite early in the game when making a daring clearance. He left the field with the score 1-0 in Barnet's favour and Barker held the fort for a time. When Tur returned it was clear he was in great pain and he did not re-appear in the second half. Bristow was his substitute for this period and, making a number of spectacular if unorthodox saves, was beaten





# eleven years ago.. heartbreaker at Sutton Utd

Spendlove - playing behind sole striker Peter Dean - baffling Sutton with their incisive passing and movement. Dyer struck twice in six minutes but Sutton pulled one back just before the break when Orilonishe chipped in a cross from the left and Andy Forbes managed to direct a superb header which found the top corner of the net.

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

Sutton's response was to bring on Richard Jolly and Tom Kavanagh, and push Woods-Garness alongside Dundas and Jolly in a front three. But it was the Stones who looked as likely to extend their lead... until a dreadful misunderstanding between Hammond and North

saw James attempt to turn a hopeful chip from Dundas back to his keeper - only to wrong-foot him and see the ball end up in the back of the net.

There was still half an hour to go but Sutton were going nowhere until Us pushed Downer into the forward line - possibly mindful that against Wealdstone two seasons ago a similar move saw him win a penalty that resulted in a 3-2 win after again trailing 2-1. The immediate effect though was to leave gaps at the back and Spendlove should have ended the contest when he burst through on the left but sent his chip over the stranded Scriven but also wide of the post. With a minute to go, though, Us' increasing pressure won a corner and a Dundas header came back off the post, only for Downer to bundle the ball over the line. The home crowd were

happy then, but absolutely delirious 60 seconds later when a right-wing corner was met by Page with a thumping header.

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

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

**CONTINUED OVER PAGE**

## REWIND SPECIAL CONTINUED

# ...while there was 1999 glory at Crawley

**Saturday November 27 1999, FA Trophy 1st round: Crawley Town 0 Wealdstone 2**

THE STONES team at the end of the old millennium was half decent - denied promotion to the Ryman Prem that summer through dubious ground grading, with a strong nucleus and young midfielder Stuart Maynard soon to sign! And this win over newly-moned Southern League Prem outfit Crawley was a prize scalp, and fully deserved thanks to two cracking goals

and a starring performance as a stand-in linesman by Stones legend Fingers Fruin.

Unfortunately the prospect of a home tie in the next round against FA Trophy holders Kingstonian all went a bit fruit-shaped - we went into the game in the middle of a nine-match winless run and were walloped 5-0 at the White Lion ground. It didn't help when Paul McKay was sent off for handball, giving away a penalty, in the first half.

## Stones' Trophy prize is clash with holders

**Crawley Town 0 Wealdstone 2**

STONES repeated July's 2-0 pre-season friendly win at Broadfield Stadium on Saturday to put Dr Martens Premier League side, Crawley, out of the FA Trophy and earn themselves a tilt at trophy holders Kingstonian at home in the third round.

Last week's hero at Hendon, Noel Imber, brought off a superb save from Green to deny Crawley an early lead and he was in action again when he saved well from Glasgow at the expense of a corner.

Just before the break Rocky Baptiste had a golden opportunity to put the visitors ahead when a Brian Jones header put the Stones top scorer in with just the home keeper to beat, but his poor effort was saved by Curtis.

The second half was delayed for 15 minutes due to assistant referee, Mr Shepherd from Rainham, sustaining a hamstring injury and being unable to continue. Wealdstone's Junior Stones supremo, Paul 'Fingers' Fruin, stepped out of the crowd to fill the breach and did a splendid job.

Wealdstone went ahead just 10 minutes into the second half.

By  
**Graham Smith**

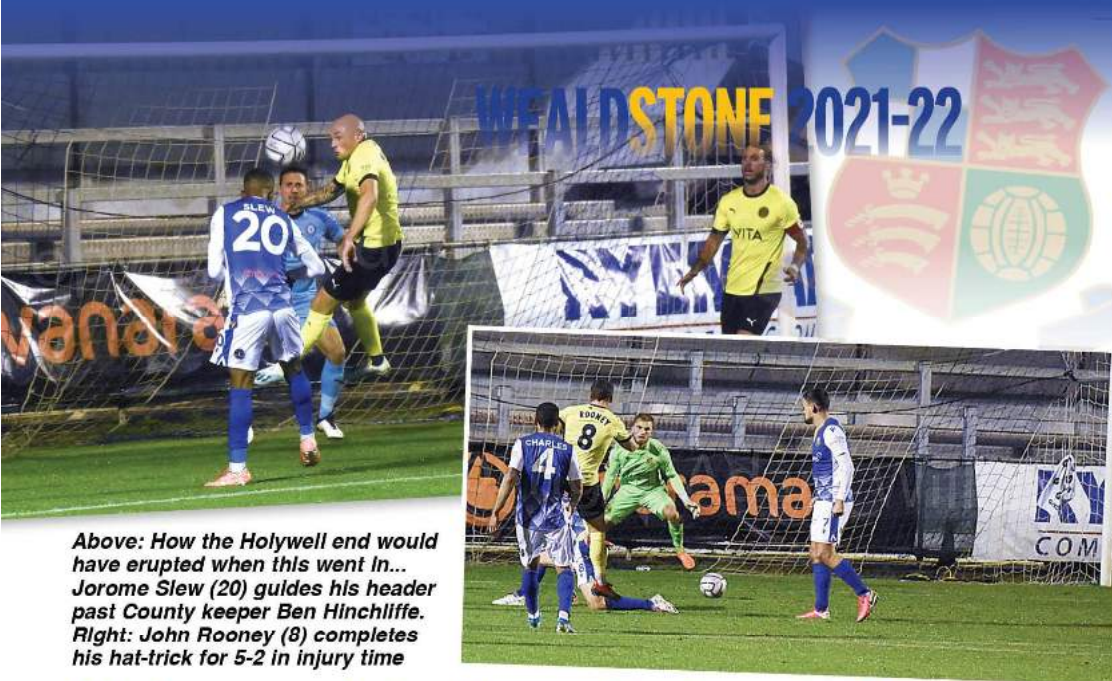
A long pass from Imber was met by Baptiste whose attempted lob was half saved by advancing keeper Curtis, but the loose ball came out to Steve Bircham who hit a glorious 25 yard shot into the net.

Nine minutes later the visitors scored again. A Dominic Sterling pass found Jones, whose pace took him past Taylor and allowed him to run on and coolly slot past Curtis.

A goalline clearance by Eddie Boxford prevented Vines from pulling a goal back for Crawley but at the other end Bircham was unlucky not to score his second goal of the game when his thunderous shot was tipped onto the bar by Curtis.

Any thoughts of a comeback by the home team were ended when Boxford's fine tackle stopped Johnson getting a clear shot on goal to ensure a comfortable win for Stones who were warmly applauded off the pitch at the final whistle by their large contingent of travelling supporters.

**Wealdstone:** Imber, Dicker, McKay, Sterling, Tilbury, Boxford, Walton, Jones, Baptiste (Holmes), Bircham, Lamb. Other subs: Dobson, Sofa-Yarabi, Lyons, Campbell.



**Above: How the Holywell end would have erupted when this went in... Jerome Slew (20) guides his header past County keeper Ben Hinchliffe. Right: John Rooney (8) completes his hat-trick for 5-2 in injury time**

# We've met before: But only twice

**Tuesday October 13 2020, National League: Wealdstone 2 Stockport 5** WITH Stockport County's long Football League history, and the Stones not leaving the amateur ranks until the 1970s it's not really surprising that these two teams had never met until last season. And the bizarre surroundings of the behind-closed-doors National League season meant that what should have been two mouthwatering clashes were relegated to 'live-stream only' events.

Stockport County were our first home opponents due to the postponement of our scheduled opening game against Chesterfield. And tasked with providing match commentary, I was honoured to be behind the microphone as we kicked off our home season - joined by genuine Stockfordian Howard Wheatcroft, an old work colleague who also features as the Away

Fan in this match programme. It was hard keeping my own falsetto under control as, following a long appreciation by Howard of Stockport's strengths, Stones promptly raided down the right and Michee Efete's cross was beautifully headed home by Jerome Slew at the back stick!

The Hatters were rattled, but kept playing their football and were rewarded with a dubious penalty as Connor Jennings' shot struck Connor Smith on the chest. Penalty! said the ref and John Rooney converted.

My commentary went up another octave as Ross Lafayette converted a defensive error to kick off the second half... but to be fair, County just kept cranking up the pressure and Richie Bennett fired them level with 15 minutes to go from Kitching's low cross. In a one-sided last ten minutes Stones finally wilted as Lois Maynard blasted home the third; then Rooney cooly

converted two late chances to complete his hat-trick. Howard just smiled.

**Bank Holiday Monday May 3 2021, National League: Stockport 4 Wealdstone 0** This was all-too predictable, with Hatters chasing as high a play-off place as possible, while Stones (furloughing and using cheap labour wherever possible) were in the midst of a ten game winless run in which we conceded 34 goals!

Stockport made hay on a sunny Bank Holiday afternoon, although it was goalless at the break. Young keeper Jake Askew was finally beaten by Ryan Crosdale and Alex Reid in quick succession. Reid then made it 3-0 with the aid of a wicked deflection of Michael Phillips, and John Rooney hit an injury-time fourth from a 20-yard freekick... but it all cae to nought as Stockport, finishing third, were beaten by the eventually-promoted Hartlepool in the play-offs.

# IT'S A RECORD!

## The vital facts on recent Stones matches...

**v Barnet** at Grosvenor Vale,  
National League Matchday 14

### THE WHERE & THE WHAT

**v Wrexham** at the Racecourse  
Ground, Nat Lge Matchday 15

**Saturday Nov 13 2021, 3pm**  
Cool, overcast afternoon (11deg),  
pitch damp but a great surface

### DATE AND CONDITIONS

**Saturday Nov 20 2021, 3pm**  
Chilly afternoon (9 deg) and a  
perfect playing surface

**2,662** (628 away fans)  
(Record crowd at The Vale)

### ATTENDANCE

**8,592** (194 away fans) (Record  
crowd for a Stones League game)

**WEALDSTONE** Wickens, McAvoy,  
Cook, Mundle-Smith, Tavares, Charles, Buse  
(Dyer 58), Cooper, Mascoll (Okimo 81), Jackson  
(Browne 58), Umerah.

### TEAMS

**WREXHAM** Lainton, Hayden, Tozer,  
Lennon, Hall-Johnson, Jones (Jarvis  
74), Young, Davies, Hosannah (Green 46),  
Ponticelli (Hyde 65), Mullin

**BARNET** Oxborough, Flanagan (Bloomfield 81),  
Brundle, Hall (Fonguck 64), Mason-Clark, Mar-  
riott, Turley, Taylor, Woods, Greenidge, Beard

**WEALDSTONE** Wickens, McAvoy,  
Cook, Mundle-Smith, Tavares (Okimo 54),  
Charles, Dyer, Cooper, Sweeney, Browne (Bird  
80), Umerah

**STONES 1 BARNET 0**  
Browne 78

### RESULT

**WREXHAM 0 STONES 0**

### POSSESSION

Wealdstone 48% Barnet 52%

**SHOTS ON TARGET** Stones 3

Barnet 5 **SHOTS OFF TARGET** Stones 2

Barnet 5 **CORNERS** Stones 3 Barnet 8

### MATCH STATS

### POSSESSION

Wrexham 51% Wealdstone 49%

**SHOTS ON TARGET** Wrexham 6 Stones 2

**SHOTS OFF TARGET** Wrexham 10 Stones 5

**CORNERS** Wrexham 6 Stones 0

On a derby day when only the result mattered, Maynard & Saunders' scored a vital victory over the returning Dean Brennan and his in-form Bees. A dramatic breakaway raid led to an open goal for Rhys Browne (his first competitive goal for the Stones) to settle the game.. and a late disallowed scrambled 'goal' for Barnet confirmed it was our day in front of a record Vale crowd

### STONES VIEW

A masterclass in organisation and defending - and carving out a few of the best chances of the game - saw Stones return with a deserved draw from this trip to the Hollywood-bankrolled heavyweights. Close to 200 away fans sung their hearts out and helped the Stones over the line.. allied to brilliant goalkeeping from George Wickens

Two clubs that are polar opposites. One built on sand and totally dependent on the good will of one man. The other built on the heart of soul of a fan base that is driving it forward every single year. Most of the game passed me by as it was so scrappy, but history won't remember that, it'll remember Rhys Browne's winner and scenes that will be etched into the memory of every Stones fan who has spent years frustrated, angry and resentful **-BornUndertheElmslie, WFC Forum**

### SOCIAL MEDIA

The most frustrating thing was Wealdstone's best player was Sweeney, brought in on loan the day before.

Why are we the only ones in the National League stuck with this stupid can't loan / buy people till Jan? **-Notts Red, WrX forum**

If we could have swapped anyone in our midfield for their no10 we win the game in my opinion **-Money keep the faith, WrX forum**

If Mullin is a championship player their centre half (Cook) must be a Premiership League player **- Foxy, Wrexham Forum**

Fantastic day, result and spectacle. Wickens becoming a bit of a star - he'll make it for sure. And Browne is back! Massive point - club on a roll **- Royal Blue, Stonesnet Forum**

Still scratching my head how we managed to lose...but wasn't it great to be at an away game in numbers, decent atmosphere...I felt like I'd been to a Boxing Day match and time travelled to 1989 **-John Docker's Shorts, BFC Forum**

## THE WHERE & THE WHAT

v Dover at The Crabble, Vanarama National League Matchday 16

## DATE AND CONDITIONS

Tuesday, November 23, 2021, 7.45pm  
Cold, dry evening in Kent (5 degrees), grass pitch very decent

**ATTENDANCE** Approx 500 (Approx 200 away fans)

## TEAMS

**DOVER** Bexon, Wood, Bramble, Goodman, Williamson, Cosgrave, Ransom, Gregory, Tiensa, Woods, Hanson  
**WEALDSTONE** Wickens, McAvoy, Cook, Mundle-Smith, Okimo, Sweeney, Buse, Dyer, Cooper, Bird, Umerah.

## RESULT

**DOVER 2 STONES 3**  
Ransom 11 Sweeney 4, 72  
Woods 64 Umerah 24

## MATCH STATS

### POSSESSION

Dover 55%  
Stones 45%

**SHOTS ON TARGET** Dover 11 Stones 5  
**SHOTS OFF TARGET** Dover 5 Stones 3  
**CORNERS** Dover 5 Stones 5

## STONES VIEW

From the comfort of a clean sheet in front of an 8,500 crowd at Wrexham to a huge scare at winless Dover in front of an eerily quiet home support - that was the Stones experience last Tuesday at The Crabble. Dover frightened the life out of the stuttering Stones, playing with the abandon of a team who had nothing to lose. Fortunately the points came home thanks to two excellent finishes from Jayden Sweeney and a whizz-bang from Josh Umerah that put us ahead at the break. That man Wickens pulled off several breathtaking stops on a night to remember as Stones moved up to an impressive 15th in the table

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Based on our attacking play we deserved to win that game. Based on our defending we deserved what we got. **-Dover Bhoj, Dover Forum**

Created chances, total commitment as usual but zero quality - a superb strike for our second goal but if you keep shipping three-plus goals a game you aren't going to win games of football. The noisy Wealdstone following at least helped crowd size a bit **-Bevsie, Dover Forum**

# WEALDSTONE 2021-22



*Jon Taffel's pictures from the win at Dover: Jayden Sweeney smashes his first goal for the Stones for 1-0 (above)... before Josh Umerah (below) sets himself and fires in for 2-1*



*Josh leaps to celebrate his goal with the equally delighted Jayden*



*Men of the moment: Sweeney and Wickens*

BY STEVE DUCKER



# Random Sightings

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

## Friday 13 September 1985

My first Stockport sighting, with them making the relatively short trip to Preston's Deepdale ground. It was the first league meeting of the clubs since 1926 and it had come about through North End plummeting into the fourth division for

the first time at the end of the previous season.

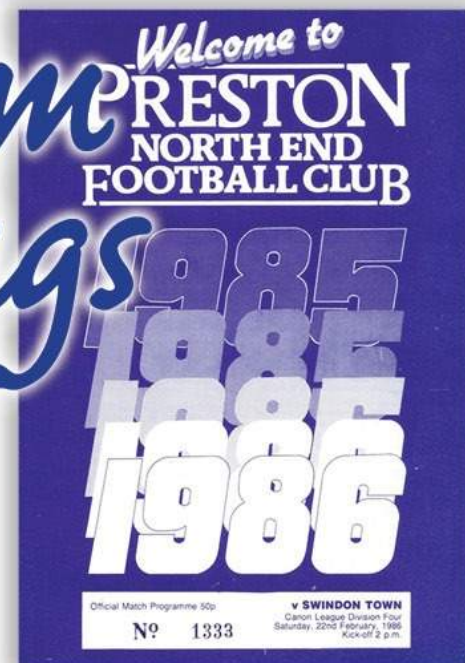
Stockport, by contrast, were all too familiar with the basement. They'd spent all bar four of the 27 seasons since its formation playing in it.

When the fixtures came out, this wasn't Preston's home game at all. But the fire at Bradford City's Valley Parade ground in May 1985 that claimed the lives of 56 people had forced a big

rethink. Wooden stands were closed, and with almost a month of the season gone, Stockport's players still hadn't kicked a ball inside Edgeley Park. This was their fifth consecutive away league game, and they'd had to allow Bolton home advantage in both legs of their League Cup first round tie as well.

With the corresponding lack of income, and an average home attendance in the previous campaign of 1,895, it's amazing the directors kept the club together at all.

The team, remarkably, was unaffected. At the start of this



fixture, they had already won two out of four on the road, as many as they managed in all 23 away games the year before - though, bizarrely, they forced 1984 treble winners Liverpool to extra time at Anfield in the League Cup - when finishing 22nd and having to apply for re-election.

At Deepdale, in a game that despite the change of venue kept County's traditional Friday night kick off time, they made it three out of five. Paul Smith, who nowadays we would call a "loanee", was on fire up front and scored his fourth in five games; his final tally of five that was beaten by only three players despite him returning to Sheffield United at the end of September.

Soon after the restart, Andy Hodgkinson's first of seven league goals that season doubled the lead, and though Preston hit back straight away, Stockport held on for the three points, demonstrating excellent game management before that phrase even became a thing.

They eventually returned home the following Monday, drawing 1-1 with Hereford in front of a healthier than usual 2,255. It took them until November to win at HQ, when they saw off Cambridge United - who the tables for 1986 record as the only team in the 92 worse than Preston North End - 3-1.

It sparked a climb to fourth, which was still an automatic promotion position in those days,

### Line-Up

- 1 Salman
- 2 Rutter
- 3 Sherlock
- 4 Chapman
- 5 Sword
- 6 Thorpe
- 7 Wroe
- 8 Hendrie
- 9 Leonard
- 10 Smith
- 11 Hodgkinson

Attendance: 3,436

## STOCKPORT COUNTY



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 versus  
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before an eight game winless run meant County eventually finished 10th. Despite the anti-climatic finale, it was their highest position since they were relegated from the third division in 1970.

Elsewhere, the troubled old game of football lurched on from crisis to crisis, and would have to face up to another tragedy before the end of the decade.

## Saturday 6 May 1989

If the Preston game was a sign of the times, Stockport's home game against Rotherham on this date was even more of one. The horrors of Hillsborough, where 96 people lost their lives at an FA Cup semi final, had happened only three weeks earlier. Suddenly, clubs swapped complacency for concern and started to show their caring side.

Delayed kick offs became routine, and this fixture, which eventually got underway at 3.30pm, was the longest gap between scheduled and actual start time anywhere in the country in the final

weeks of the season.

With Rotherham needing a win to secure promotion to the third division at the first attempt, at least half the crowd comprised away fans who had crossed the Pennines from South Yorkshire, and with traffic chaos en route adding to the mix, nobody in a position of authority was taking any chances.

The Millers massive got their wish, as a Stockport equaliser from Gary Leonard proved inconsequential against two strikes from Des Hazel and one from Shaun Goodwin. It was a blazing hot day and photos of the uncovered away end show bare chests, inflatables and other trappings of the pre-Italia 90 football experience, and no sign of the wider issues facing the game. Just for those 90 minutes, it was an opportunity to focus on something else.

Stockport did have one small consolation on the day. That morning the team's Supporters Club side had become the first winners of the Dean Emerson Trophy, contested with their Rotherham counterparts. The eponymous Mr Emerson was a midfielder who had been transferred between the two clubs in the summer of 1985, and later went on to a move into the old first division with Coventry City.

A much bigger consolation was to come in 1991, when Stockport finished runners up to Darlington to clinch their first promotion in almost a quarter of a century.

In the decade that followed, the club made it to second tier of the Football League and the last four of the League Cup.

And, dwarfing both of those achievements into total insignificance, the little team from Cheshire spent 1998-99 a whole division above Manchester City, the massive team from just up the road, and then beat them at Maine Road a year later. If the County set weren't dining out on that at the time, they sure as hell will be now.

### Line-Up

- 1 Batch
  - 2 Bullock
  - 3 Logan
  - 4 Matthews
  - 5 Hart
  - 6 Williams
  - 7 Thorpe
  - 8 Leonard
  - 9 Angell
  - 10 Cooke
  - 11 Payne
- Subs  
 Colville for Payne  
 Hancock for Leonard
- Attendance:** 4,313



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A traditional package for businesses (from **£225+ vat**) or fans (**£180**) for two people that will give you the satisfaction of knowing you have paid for the ball that Wealdstone FC are banging into the net (or out of the ground!).

As match ball donor you will enjoy:

- 1 2 x Match tickets
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If you or your organisation are interested in donating the match ball for a home match then please contact Club President, Paul Rumens on **07710 929692** or at **paulrumens59@gmail.com**

MATCH	BALL DONORS
 <b>WOKING</b> Saturday, 21st August Vanarama National League	In memory of Kat Kelly
 <b>SOUTHEND UNITED</b> Monday, 30th August Vanarama National League	Nick Woolford
 <b>ALTRINCHAM</b> Saturday, 11th September Vanarama National League	In memory of Arthur Rogers
 <b>ALDERSHOT TOWN</b> Saturday, 18th September Vanarama National League	Lew Sheppard
 <b>SOLHULL MOORS</b> Tuesday, 5th October Vanarama National League	Rossi McCann
 <b>EASTLEIGH</b> Saturday, 9th October Vanarama National League	Neale Harvey & Arthur Villa
 <b>GRIMSBY TOWN</b> Tuesday, 26th October Vanarama National League	Mike and Val Weston Kevin Smith
 <b>BARNET</b> Saturday, 13th November Vanarama National League	In memory of Derek Munday Paul Gbogidi



# WEALDSTONE 2021-22



## MATCH

## BALL DONORS

 <b>STOCKPORT COUNTY</b> Saturday, 27th November Vanarama National League	<b>Barbara Robson</b>	
 <b>FC HALIFAX TOWN</b> Saturday, 11th December Vanarama National League	<b>Tony and Peter Drew</b>	Your name or business here
 <b>MAIDENHEAD UNITED</b> Sunday, 26th December Vanarama National League	<b>In memory of Roy Couch</b>	<b>Mike Pullin &amp; Graham Clark</b>
 <b>YEovil TOWN FC</b> Saturday, 8th January Vanarama National League	<b>David Leach</b>	Your name or business here
 <b>NOTTS COUNTY</b> Tuesday, 25th January Vanarama National League	<b>Tony Platt</b>	<b>Steve Carter</b>
 <b>WREXHAM</b> Saturday, 19th February Vanarama National League	<b>In memory of Jim Klarfeld</b>	<b>Graham Clark &amp; Mike Pullin</b>
 <b>TORQUAY UNITED</b> Saturday, 26th February Vanarama National League	<b>Alan Couch</b>	Your name or business here
 <b>WEYMOUTH</b> Saturday, 12th March Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 <b>DOVER ATHLETIC</b> Tuesday, 22nd March Vanarama National League	<b>Barbara Robson</b>	Your name or business here
 <b>BROMLEY</b> Saturday, 26th March Vanarama National League	<b>Alan Couch</b>	Your name or business here
 <b>CHESTERFIELD</b> Saturday, 9th April Vanarama National League	<b>Mick Fishman</b>	Your name or business here
 <b>BOREHAM WOOD</b> Monday, 18th April Vanarama National League	<b>'Fans No Longer With Us' Tony Drew &amp; Ron Moore</b>	Your name or business here
 <b>DAGENHAM &amp; REDBRIDGE</b> Saturday, 30th April Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here
 <b>KING'S LYNN TOWN</b> Saturday, 7th May Vanarama National League	<b>Megaphone</b>	Your name or business here

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Are you interested in donating the cost of a kit for your favourite player or member of the club's first team squad?

For **£150** you will be named here in the programme and on the club's website as well as on any social media interviews with your player.

You will also receive a signed framed photo of the player wearing the kit you have donated. If you donate and pay by 30 September, you will be entered into a prize draw to win that player's signed match worn kit at the end of the season.

You can donate by clicking on the link below, speaking to any club official or e-mailing [harveyhicks@wealdstonefc.com](mailto:harveyhicks@wealdstonefc.com) or [paulrumens59@gmail.com](mailto:paulrumens59@gmail.com)

## KEY

CS = Coaching Staff  
 GK = Goalkeeper  
 CB = Centre Back  
 RB = Right Back  
 LB = Left Back  
 DM = Defensive Midfield  
 RM = Right Midfield  
 LW = Left Winger  
 RW = Right Winger  
 CF = Centre Forward



PAUL & LORI RUMENS



RON MOORE



THE GROUNDWORKS TEAM



DAVID EDWARDS



PHIL JEFFRESON



HARVEY HICKS



ALAN COUCH



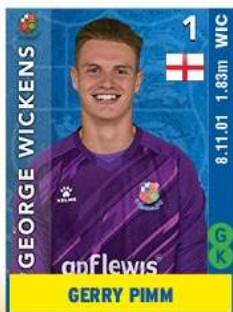
GARY SMITH



IC PROPERTY



TONY AND PETER DREW

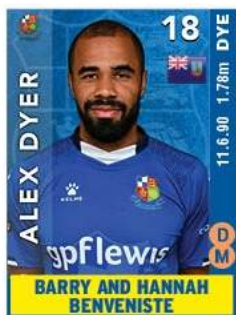


GERRY PIMM

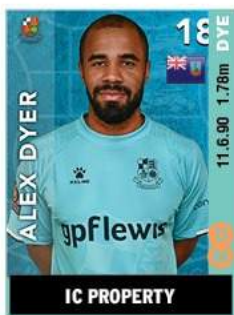


MIKE AND VAL WESTON

# WEALDSTONE 2021-22



ALEX DYER  
18  
11.6.90 1.78m DYE  
gpflewis  
BARRY AND HANNAH  
BENVENISTE



ALEX DYER  
18  
11.6.90 1.78m DYE  
gpflewis  
IC PROPERTY



DAN WISHART  
3  
28.5.92 1.82m WIS  
gpflewis  
TO SPONSOR DAN, CALL  
07710 929692



ALFIE MARIGLIANI  
13  
MAR  
gpflewis  
TO SPONSOR ALFIE, CALL  
07710 929692



JEROME OKIMO  
6  
CAPTAIN  
8.6.88 1.82m OKI  
gpflewis  
LEW SHEPPARD



ANDREW ELEFTHERIOU  
12  
8.11.97 1.72m ELE  
gpflewis  
JON TAFFEL



RHYS BROWNE  
10  
16.11.95 1.75m BRO  
gpflewis  
ROGER SLATER



RHYS BROWNE  
10  
16.11.95 1.75m BRO  
gpflewis  
RAY CORNER



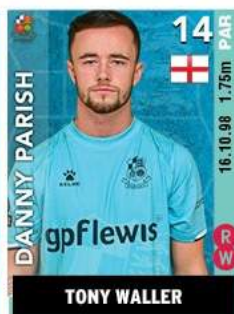
ASHLEY CHARLES  
4  
CHA  
15.9.99  
gpflewis  
JIM SORRELL



DENNON LEWIS  
11  
9.5.97 1.78m LEW  
gpflewis  
TO SPONSOR DENNON,  
CALL 07710 929692



DANNY PARISH  
14  
PAR  
16.10.98  
gpflewis  
TONY WALLER



DANNY PARISH  
14  
PAR  
16.10.98 1.75m PAR  
gpflewis  
TONY WALLER




MATT BUSE  
8  
BUS  
7.10.97  
gpflewis  
TO SPONSOR MATT, CALL  
07710 929692



ZACH DRONFIELD  
19  
1.3.02 1.85m DRO  
gpflewis  
TO SPONSOR ZACH, CALL  
07710 929692



JACK COOK  
2  
JCO  
16.9.99  
gpflewis  
JAMES KLARFELD



JACK COOK  
2  
JCO  
16.9.99 1.85m JCO  
gpflewis  
SUDHIR, AKHIL, NIKHIL  
SARIN AND KAMRAN RAWAL

# WEALDSTONE 2021-22

**Tuesday**  
30th November  
7:45pm

**BEDFONT & FELTHAM (A)**  
www.bedfontandfelthamfc.co.uk Middlesex Charity Cup 2nd Round



**Saturday**  
4th December  
3:00pm

**BROMLEY (A)**  
www.bromleyfc.tv @BromleyFC Vanarama National League



**Saturday**  
11th December  
3:00pm



**FC HALIFAX TOWN (H)**  
Vanarama National League

£10 admission for EFL or Premier League season ticket holders and members of the armed forces

**Saturday**  
18th December  
3:00pm

**FA TROPHY 3rd ROUND**  
(Visit [www.wealdstone-fc.com](http://www.wealdstone-fc.com) to find out who we're playing and where)

**Sunday**  
26th December  
3:00pm



**MAIDENHEAD UTD (H)**  
Vanarama National League

£10 admission for EFL or Premier League season ticket holders and members of the armed forces

**Tuesday**  
28th December  
3:00pm

**BOREHAM WOOD (A)**  
www.borehamwoodfootballclub.co.uk Vanarama National League



**Sunday**  
2nd January  
3:00pm

**MAIDENHEAD UTD (A)**  
[@MUFCYorkRoad](http://pitchero.com/clubs/maidenheadunited) Vanarama National League



## Vanarama National League 2021/2022 – @23rd November 2021

	ALL						HOME						AWAY						+/-	Pts	RESULTS
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A			
1 Chesterfield	17	10	6	1	35	15	8	5	3	0	19	9	9	5	3	1	16	6	20	36	0-2
2 Boreham Wood	17	10	5	2	26	13	9	6	3	0	15	4	8	4	2	2	11	9	13	35	
3 Grimsby Town	17	10	2	5	29	17	8	7	0	1	19	5	9	3	2	4	10	12	12	32	1-0
4 Bromley	16	9	4	3	31	18	9	6	1	2	19	8	7	3	3	1	12	10	13	31	
5 Halifax Town	16	9	3	4	25	14	8	6	0	2	16	7	8	3	3	2	9	7	11	30	
6 Notts County	17	8	5	4	27	20	8	5	2	1	14	11	9	3	3	3	13	9	7	29	2-3
7 Solihull Moors	17	8	5	4	22	20	10	5	3	2	16	11	7	3	2	2	6	9	2	29	0-0
8 Wrexham	16	7	6	3	31	18	6	2	4	0	5	3	10	5	2	3	26	15	13	27	0-0
9 Stockport County	16	8	3	5	24	19	8	3	2	3	11	10	8	5	1	2	13	9	5	27	
10 Dagenham & Redbridge	17	8	2	7	33	22	9	4	2	3	22	14	8	4	0	4	11	8	11	26	2-2
11 Woking	16	8	0	8	29	24	7	3	0	4	10	11	9	5	0	4	19	13	5	24	1-2
12 Yeovil Town	15	7	3	5	16	14	8	3	2	3	7	8	7	4	1	2	9	6	2	24	
13 Altrincham	16	7	3	6	30	24	7	4	1	2	14	9	9	3	2	4	16	15	6	24	1-0
14 Eastleigh	16	7	3	6	21	21	8	5	2	1	16	10	8	2	1	5	5	11	0	24	1-2
15 Wealdstone	16	5	6	5	16	21	8	3	3	2	7	6	8	2	3	3	9	15	-5	21	-- --
16 Barnet	16	5	4	7	19	29	8	3	2	3	8	14	8	2	2	4	11	15	-10	19	1-0
17 Torquay United	16	5	3	8	22	27	7	4	0	3	12	11	9	1	3	5	10	16	-5	18	0-5
18 Weymouth	17	4	3	10	20	35	9	2	3	4	11	15	8	2	0	6	9	20	-15	15	1-1
19 Maidenhead United	15	4	2	9	18	30	8	3	1	4	15	18	7	1	1	5	3	12	-12	14	
20 Aldershot Town	16	4	1	11	17	30	9	2	0	7	7	18	7	2	1	4	10	12	-13	13	2-2
21 Southend United	15	3	2	10	11	24	7	2	1	4	9	13	8	1	1	6	2	11	-13	11	0-0
22 King's Lynn Town	16	2	2	12	15	36	8	0	1	7	4	15	8	2	1	5	11	21	-21	8	1-0
23 Dover Athletic	16	0	3	13	13	39	9	0	2	7	7	17	7	0	1	6	6	22	-26	-9	3-2

A photograph of a construction site featuring a complex wooden scaffolding structure. A crane hook is visible at the top center, suspended from above. The background shows a cloudy sky. The overall scene is industrial and focused on building construction.

Official Sponsors of  
Wealdstone FC

**gpflewis** <sup>plc</sup>

**Building Excellence**

GPF Lewis is an award winning national contractor providing  
Construction, Maintenance & Facilities management services.

**[gpflewis.co.uk](http://gpflewis.co.uk)**

# HOW THEY LINE-UP TODAY

## WEALDSTONE



Royal Blue/White/White

## STOCKPORT COUNTY

Lemon/Black/Lemon

<b>G George Wickens 1</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>1 Ben Hinchliffe G</b>
<b>Jack Cook 2</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>2 Sam Minihan</b>
<b>Dan Wishart 3</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>3 Mark Kitching</b>
<b>Ashley Charles 4</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>4 Liam Hogan</b>
<b>Connor Stevens 5</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>5 Ash Palmer</b>
<b>Jerome Okimo © 6</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>6 Ben Barclay</b>
<b>Craig Fasanmade 7</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>7 Macauley Southam-Hales</b>
<b>Matt Buse 8</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>8 John Rooney</b>
<b>Josh Umerah 9</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>9 Paddy Madden</b>
<b>Stephan Rhys Browne 10</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>10 Ben Whitfield</b>
<b>Dennon Lewis 11</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>11 Connor Jennings</b>
<b>Andrew Eleftheriou 12</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>14 Will Collar</b>
<b>G Alfie Marigliani 13</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>15 Arjan Raikhy</b>
<b>Connor McAvoy 14</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>16 Jordan Keane</b>
<b>Elijah Hearn 15</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>17 Ryan Rydel</b>
<b>Ira Jackson Jr 16</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>18 Ryan Croasdale</b>
<b>Nikola Tavares 17</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>19 Alex Reid</b>
<b>Alex Dyer 18</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>22 Scott Quigley</b>
<b>Zach Dronfield 19</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>23 Antoni Sarcevic</b>
<b>Medy Elito 20</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>24 Will Fish</b>
<b>Jay Bird 22</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>25 Zeki Fryers</b>
<b>Jaydn Mundle-Smith 23</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>26 Ethan Ross G</b>
<b>Charlie Cooper 24</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>27 Ollie Cranskshaw</b>
<b>Jamie Mascoll 25</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>28 Ethan Pye</b>
<b>Jayden Sweeney 26</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## RESULT: WEALDSTONE



## STOCKPORT COUNTY

**REFEREE** Scott Jackson **ASSISTANTS** Christopher Myatt and Joshua Crofts **FOURTH OFFICIAL** Nathan Oakes  
**OBSERVER** David Crick

**MATCH SPONSORS** 1) FC Lightning 2) Morty's Elmslie Enders  
**MATCHBALL DONOR** Barbara Robson

**NEXT AT THE VALE v FC HALIFAX TOWN** Vanarama National League, Saturday December 11, kick-off 3pm

Main club  
sponsor:

gpflewis<sup>plc</sup>



WEALDSTONE

### BROWNE SHOOTS 'EM DOWN

A jubilant Rhys Browne turns away after sticking the only goal in the Barnet net

PICTURE:  
JON TAFFEL

