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WEALDSTONE 2021-22 Written in Stone

MARVIN MORGAN - 1983-2021

Everybody at Wealdstone FC are saddened to hear the news that former player Marvin Morgan has passed away.

Marvin broke into the 1st team from the Wealdstone Academy at just 16 when he made his debut on the 29th April 2000 in our home game against Worthing. In his four years with the Stones Marvin became the club's youngest ever goalscorer during our Ryman League Division 1 home fixture against Leatherhead.

During his first spell with the Stones he formed a lethal strike partnership with both Richard Jolly and Jermaine Beckford scoring 56 goals in 187 appearances.

Marvin was signed by Yeading in 2004 and from there went on to have a successful career in the professional game with Woking, Aldershot Town, Dagenham & Redbridge, Shrewsbury Town, Plymouth Argyle and Hartlepool United.

From there he returned to non-league and returned to the Stones for a loan spell in early 2016 in the National League South, where he played eight times, scoring once.

Outside of football Marvin founded his successful Fresh Ego Kid clothing brand, which he well established within the UK's sports and music culture.

Marvin was an incredibly popular character during his time with the club. He leaves us at just 38 years old, with a young family who our thoughts and prayers are all with at this desperately sad time.



MATCH SPONSOR HARROW WINDOWS

Sponsoring today's game is a tribute to my father, Paddy Walklate, a Stones fan for over 40 years. I have many fond memories of Lower Mead as a child, standing with my dad and watching the likes of Townsend, Dyson and Duck.

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Colin Walklate, Managing Director of Harrow Windows Ltd.

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WEALDSTONE

FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2021/2022

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1951 / 1952 Athenian League

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NATIONAL CUPS

1965 / 1966 FA Amateur Cup 1984 / 1985 FA Trophy

LEAGUE CUPS

1981 / 1982 Southern League Cup

MIDDLESEX COUNTY CUPS

1958 / 1959 Senior Cup 1962 / 1963 Senior Cup 1964 / 1965 Senior Cup

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

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

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1) The club reserves the right to eject from the ground any person who is considered to have committed any of the following

- · 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
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- 4) Vehicles parked on the Grosvenor Vale site are at the owners' risk.
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BY STUART MAYNARD

WEALDSTONE 2021-22

From the Gaffe

Welcome back to the Vale for the start of a very busy period in the season



Good afternoon and a warm welcome to Pete Wild and his team from FC Halifax Town.

We are back at the Vale today and as always in this league it will be another tough game. We were very unfortunate last Saturday and deserved at least a point. The level of performance from the team was very good though and that has generally been the case all season.

Halifax have been in good form so far this season although they come here off the back of a loss to Kidderminster in the FA Cup. They play an attacking brand of football and look to combine well in the final third. We will need to focus on our own performance and concentrate on hitting the targets we want to hit within the game this afternoon.

We are coming into a busy period now and have been and still are nursing a few injuries.

Hopefully we will get those players back soon as our squad looks an exciting team going in to the 2nd half of the season.

Let's hope the lads continue to play the way they've been playing and we will keep picking up points along the way.

On a final note, the news regarding the passing of Marvin Morgan hit the club quite hard early this week and personally I was shocked and saddened to hear the news.

Marvin was a young lad coming through the ranks when I played for Wealdstone and was both a talented and much loved player on and off the pitch who went on to touch so many peoples lives.

My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends at this heartbreaking time. Rest in peace Marvin.

Stuart



MARVIN MORGAN, RIP Everybody loved Marvin, who died on Monday at the desperately young age of 38. He began in the Stones youth team, and then a chequered career...



T'S a sign of the galloping vears when a player like Marvin Morgan returns to the club someone vou remember as a raw. gangly teenager - and you realise that a decade and a half have passed and he's now in his early thirties!

'Yeah, it's amazing - so much has happened and yet here I am again, back at Wealdstone and beginning to realise that I have 'come home' - I'm really enjoying playing football again' said Marvin last week.

He had just scored the opening goal at Weston Super-Mare in our 2-1 win - a week after joining on loan from Havant & Waterlooville and his first goal in a Stones shirt since October 2004 when he netted in a terrific 5-1 FA Cup win over Boreham Wood. It's been 12 long years since the club decided to accept Yeading's £3,000 offer and launch the then-20-year-old on an upwards trajectory towards the Football League.

Why did I leave? I suppose I wanted a challenge, to play higher-level football and Drax Hippolyte (the Yeading boss) convinced me he could push me on to greater things. Wealdstone also had Jermaine Beckford waiting in the wings so the club let me go... I was talking to Jermaine

Get in! Steve Foster captures the marvellous moment at Weston when Marvin bagged his first goal in a Stones shirt for a dozen years

just a few weeks ago and he said how strange it was that life sets you off in these directions, for my leaving was his chance to shine. He's not done too badly for himself has he!?' laughed Marvin.

But I'm so pleased to be back at the club. Players perform so much better when they want to play for the manager and everyone wants to play for Gordon Bartlett - I've know him for 15 or 16 years and he's not changed at all.

'It's great that he's had some success in the last half dozen years because there were certainly some low times early on. There must have been otherwise I wouldn't have got in the team at 161

You could write a book about Marvin's experiences since he left the White Lion Ground that autumn of 2004. But let's go back to when he first signed as a 6ft 4in. 11-stone-dripping-wet voungster.

It was at the end of the old millennium. Marvin Morgan was playing for West Herts College in Watford as a precocious 16-year-old, scoring goals for fun when a college coach (ex-Stones centreback Richard Horner) recognised his potential. Marvin played a few games for our PACE team, along with fellow West Herts goalkeeper Charlie Leary, in early 2000 and soon they were being spotted again.

macron

'It was funny' said Marvin. 'I remember sitting in the changing room before a PACE match, and

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Here we re-print an interview with Marvin from the 2015-16 season, when he briefly re-joined the Stones on loan and scored on his debut

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MEET THE NEWISH STONES: MARVIN MORGAN

Royal Blue Review

everyone was talking about the first team, the Wealdstone first team, and how amazing it would be to get a chance to play men's football. And then suddenly, after I'd played a few PACE games and scored a few goals, I was playing for the first team. A dream!'

Marvin's debut was off the bench as a substitute at Chertsey for a Ryman League Div One game on April 1st, 2000. He says: "I got smashed by this defender, my very first touch of the ball, and he glared at me 'Get up you little kid'!

But Marv quickly proved he was no April fool. He started the next game, wearing the No.8 shirt up front with Mickey Swaysland and Brian Jones in a 2-1 home win over Worthing.. and netted his first goal for the club two weeks later in a 1-1 draw at Leatherhead. The kid was raw, but talented!

He became a fixture in the team for the next three and a half years as a foil for people like Swaysland, Brian Jones, Brian Hammatt, and then Richard Jolly and Ben Alexander.

His Wealdstone stats of 64 goals (including one penalty) in 154 starts (192 in total) is not a bad return and there were mixed feelings when highflying Yeading came in with their offer - especially when he scored the winner in our defeat at The Warren in the league game later that 2003-4 season.

BUT there was a bit of heartache for Marvin too, as he was cup-tied (having played in our own FA Cup run to the 4th Qual Rd) as Yeading continued their own FA Cup adventure that went all the way to the Third Round Proper, and a home tie with Newcastle. The game was staged at QPR and Yeading lost 2-0 - but were rewarded









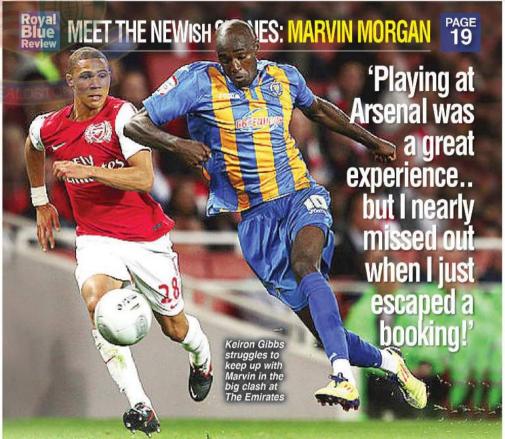
when Toon invited them to play in a pre-season friendly at St James Park the next summer. Yeading were beaten 3-1 but Marvin scored.

"I had a good partnership up front with DJ Campbell and the offers were coming in for both of us, but I was probably a bit overpriced. DJ was sold and went on to have a good league career, while I went on a free to Woking in the Conference National, at the age of 24. I had a good season there and Aldershot - who had just won promotion into League Two - paid Woking £60,000 for me, their record transfer fee, 'said Marvin.

He found himself making his Football League debut at Accrington Stanley, 'a terrible place!' But Marvin scored 15 goals that first season with Scott Donnelly, who had played a season with the Stones ten years

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MARVIN MORGAN, RIP CONTINUED



ago, providing assists for about ten of them.

'The fact that Scott was at Havant & Waterlooville had a lot to do with me signing for them last season' said Marvin.

But let's return to early days. Mary had three years at Aldershot, and a short loan spell at Dagenham, before League Two Shrewsbury snapped him up in 2011. It heralded the best period of his career.

'That first season at the Meadow, I was on fire' said Marvin. 'I scored seven goals in the first ten games, and we even went to Arsenal in the Carling Cup and went 1-0 up - I helped set up the goal for James Collins. We lost 3-1 in the end but it was a

great experience in front of a 46,000 crowd'.

The Shrews had beaten Derby and Port Vale on the way to the Emirates Stadium, but Marvin so nearly missed out as he was just one booking away from missing the Arsenal clash. "Man, it was scary. I went into a tackle and the referee was reaching for a card but I was saved by our skipper lan Sharps, a big Scouser, a lovely guy, who convinced him not to yellow card me!"

The Gunners had made their worst-ever start to a season under Arsene Wenger - and defeat that night might have tipped the balance with the Arsenal board finally listening to unrest among disgruntled fans.

So Mary helped save his job!

Under Graham Turner, Shrewsbury finished the season as runners-up behind Paolo Di Canio's Swindon Town, playing some sparkling football with Marvin playing up top with either Terry Cornell or John Collins.

'That was the best team I've ever played in. If we played with just one up front we had Lionel Ainsworth and Mark Wright as the wide players' said Marvin. 'People ask me if I prefer to play as a lone striker, but it depends on so many things. So long as everyone plays the system well, it doesn't matter'.

But as often happens - and certainly happened to Turner after he'd won promotion with outsiders CONTINUED OVERPAGE

You can't imagine a friendlier guy than Marvin, who got the same thrill at making his Stones debut as he did playing for Shrewsbury at Arsenal

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MEET THE NEWISH STONES: MARVIN MORGAN

Royal Blue Review

Hereford a few years earlier, the Shrewsbury team that started life in league one was weaker than the one that won promotion. Missing the loan players that had sparked their season in 2011-12, the Shrews plummeted back down and Marvin's form reflected their failing fortunes.

He moved to Plymouth Argyle in 2013, playing 37 games in two seasons but scoring just two goals in an injury-plagued spell. A brief loan spell at Hartlepool United followed last season - including the winner on his debut v Northampton Town - before Marvin was off again, cross-crossing the country to end up at Havant & Waterlooville. He had talks with Gordon Bartlett in the summer but a permanent move was out of the question as soon as wages were compared!

Right then, let's get down to asking Marvin some of the usual questions.

Where do you live? Well, I'm based both in Watford but I've also got a place in Newcastle, where my partner Jerri is from.

Are you married, any kids etc etc? No, not married but we have an 18-month old son Miles, who is into absolutely everything!

Do you have a job outside football? Yep, my own fashion company Fresh Ego Kid (freshegokid.com) which I started because I was getting bored in the pro game, after training. I've always been into fashion and wanted to give it a go - and it's going well. Problem was that when my football wasn't going so well people latched onto it as an excuse, saying that I wasn't committed. Yet I had a manager to look after the business so that wasn't the case at all... social media has a lot to answer for.

What are your attributes as a striker? Well, strength and pace - maybe not as pacy as I was five years ago, but the pro game has

helped my link-up play... when I started out I was selfish on the ball - you probably remember that from my early days at Wealdstone - but professional coaching has taught me that you are more successful playing as a team.

Last goal you scored? Ha! Easy one this, last week at Weston Super-Mare.... great delivery, through ball from Scotty Daves (it was probably a mishit shot) and I tucked it away.

Last car you bought? A BMW 3-series.

Last Trophy won? Runners-up in League Two with Shrewsbury, four years ago

Last time you were sent-off? Oh that was crazy! Playing for Shrewsbury at Portsmouth in front of a big crowd, I scored after 55 minutes, was booked after 55 and sent off after 56! Pompey kicked

off after the goal and I tackled their guy in the centre circle and was booked, though it wasn't a foul. We all got very angry and we surrounded the referee, but because I was at the front of it he showed me a second yellow for 'intimidation'. So I had 15,000 people singing 'Cheerio cheerlo, cheerio....."

Last hollday you had? 'Didn't have one last year because Miles was just born so it would be Mexico in 2014.

Best player you've ever played agauinst? Djouru at Arsenal in that League Cup tie. He beat me up all game! I had to go out wide looking for the ball, cos I just couldn't operate inside. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain made his debut in that game and you could see he was pretty special too.

Best goal you've ever scored? Ah, there's one on You Tube with me scoring for Woking against Rushden & Diamonds, dribbling half the length of the field before slotting in.... and one for Shrewsbury against Port Vale, nutmegging someone after a long run and whipping the ball far corner... and one for Aldershot against Oxford in a 1-0 win outside the box...

What about for Wealdstone against Aylesbury in 2001? A run across their box and a 20-yard blast with the left foot? No, I don't remember that to be honest!

Worst moment in football? When I was sent off at Bury for Aldershott - I'd just missed a penalty when I put in a striker's tackle and caught their player late. I wasn't very popular.

Favourite restaurant? Nandos. Favourite meal? Nandos

Biggest infuence on your career? None of my family played,

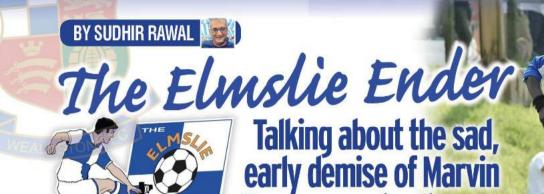
so if would probably be my mum. She ferried me around and believed in me.

Best mate In football? Ben Alexander. He was at Wealdstone of course about 10 years ago, but he's got a great job in the City in IT, and he just plays powerleague now, and

sometimes for Oxhey Jets. He should have been a star in foot-ball, but had bad luck and injuries at the wrong time - he definitely had more talent than me or Jermaine

That reminds me of a great Wealdstone memory - the game against Thurrock in the FA Trophy one Friday night way back when. The gaffer picked Ben up front with Jolls, and stuck me on the wing. I couldn't believe it - no way was it going to work. But it worked a treat and I got the winner I think. Great days! Interview: Tim Parks





Morgan.. and a strange to scupper us at Bromley

here is only place to start and that's the very sad and tragic news of the passing of former Stones forward, Marvin Morgan. Marvellous Marvin started his career whilst Wealdstone were at the White Lion Ground, making his debut at the tender age of sixteen for the first team, graduating from the successful PASE scheme.

He was a very raw talent at a time when Wealdstone had a plethora of forward options.

Two games stick in my mind, which not only showed Marvin's emerging talent but also path of development which was to take place away from Wealdstone. We played Boreham Wood in the FA Cup. Wood had been followed by a rent-a crowd, spewing their racist abuse towards a number of our team. They were a division or two above us, but Stones thumped them five-one, with Morgan bagging two.

After his second, he charged Abebayor style towards the other end of the ground where the 'Wood fans were now housed with a flanking of the local constabulary, cupping his ear!

There was also the subsequent cup tie against Histon in the fourth qualifying round, where Marvin did everything but score, as Stones fell to a sucker punch and lost late on. I also recall him freely giving his time at the Wealdstone FC youth awards, when players didn't really do that sort of stuff, having his photograph taken, giving

out awards and staying until the end

Marvin left us for Yeading, and his career blossomed with a healthy spell in the professional game. He became a cloth-

ing entrepreneur and his label

became a favourite of celebrities and footballers alike, and he had just opened his first shop in South Hampstead. He was a campaigner too for mental health and racism, but above all a father and a husband. Rest easy, Marvin.

Magnificent

rampage at

ground 20

years ago

Marvin on the

the White Lion

f course, in the aftermath of such terrible news, football pales into insignificance and the angst felt from Saturday's game against Bromley seems rather futile. There was a real feeling of being hard done by when I wrote my initial version of this article, of a very harsh sending off and a winning goal which was clearly offside, but with time and viewing of the match video, maybe it wasn't so unfair at all.

Officials have a difficult job, especially in the footballing world where players are masters of conning them or at the very least making the most of an opportunity that avails itself. But the dye was set from early in the game when a blatant dive by a Bromley forward was wholly ianored.

We saw in the Harrow Council match a team of officials working in tandem to get the correct decision with their handball "goal". There were two crucial calls to make in the Bromley game: the George Wickens sending off and Bromley's winner in the second minute of injury time. In real time the red card just seemed a bizarre incident. Wickens was berating the referee for





having missed a forward sticking out a leg and deflecting his kick downfield one second - and the next the Raven's forward, Alexander, was rolling around the floor like he'd taken a whack from our custodian.

Looking back at the video, it appears that Wickens stuck his chest out at Alexander who then went down faster than following a punch from Tyson Fury. Was it naïve from George? Certainly. Was it violent conduct? Definitely not, but it gave the referee an opportunity to make the decision.

t put us massively on the back foot, but we came back strongly, equalised and then were manfully holding on for a deserved draw when the dynamic duo in black intervened. The lino on the away section side hadn't had a great game but did flag correctly to chalk off one Bromley effort late in the game. I was initially watching the flight of the ball and didn't think that the scorer was offside, but almost everyone in our section said that the player had come back from an offside position.

"He was miles offside" was the common refrain. What's more, even Bromley fans were saying the exact same thing. Yet, looking at the match footage, it does appear that the forward was marginally onside, and the goal correctly given, as galling as it was two minutes into injury time, with our ten men holding firm.

The match had started in poignant fashion with a rapturous minute's applause for Dave Roberts. the Bayens fan who wrote the seminal book on supporting a non-league team which has been made into a film and play. Stones started well. scored a beautiful goal with a back heel from Josh Umerah, but then allowed Bromley to dictate the play and by half time they were ahead. After the sending off, Jack Cook brought us back level and we looked like holding firm on until the flag never came. That said. I thought we should have done much better with both their last two goals. Their second, whilst a fine shot, was needlessly given away in the build-up and for their tainted third, we had two simple opportunities to deal with the ball in the build-up.

he away section at Brom-

ley is about the worst that we have encountered this season. Twenty pounds to stand in an uncovered side terrace with restrictive viewing of the far end, with a small portacabin for a toilet. We have been lucky so far that the stadiums that we have visited have been first class and Bromley have made substantial improvements to their Hayes Lane ground, and are the club on an upward trajectory - but you can't charge twenty notes for an open terrace. The

250 plus Stones were lucky it wasn't raining.

Before the visit to the Ravens, we had Stockport County at the Vale. It is hard to see how they have started the season as badly as they had. We may well have seen the league winners on show that day. They were excellent and it once again shows that Stones have to be on their game one hundred percent in almost every match to get a result especially against the big boys - as with Stockport, Bromley and today's visitors all in and around the play off zone. The two matches against Maidenhead over Christmas do look huge even at this mid-point of the season.

ust a little word on **Stonescast 8.5** – a proper Youth Special – is just a lovely listen and a great way to spend forty-five minutes of your time. Sammy Ellis, William-Joseph Farrar and Lucas Werin will bowl you over with their youthful exuberance, innocence and sheer love for the club. Remember these lads are just 12, 13 and 15.



(He's great when he's not flattening forwards!)

eorge Wickens is living the dream at the moment - a full time pro keeper for his boyhood club Fulham, now starring on loan in the National League for the Stones and having his name sung by the fans!

Can life get any better than this? "I can't tell you how much I'm enjoying this season" said the 20-year old when I caught up with him on a rare morning off from his Fulham-Wealdstone training regime. Unfortunately the Curse of the Stones Interview (injuries to Rhys Brown, Nik Tavares, Medy Elito and Charlie Cooper as soon as they were featured in these pages) caught up with George last Saturday when he was red-carded at Bromley but even that didn't dampen his enthusiasm

"That was infuriating as I just bumped into the forward and he went over like he'd been shot" said George. "It's something I'll have to learn from - it's a massive step up from playing in the under-23s for Fulham. Connor (McAvoy) asked me about it when he was just about to come across on loan and I said there is no way you'd have 8,000 crowds and the pressure and expectation if you stay in the under-23s.

"There are so many ex-league players and managers who have operated at top levels, and you won't get big units like the Barnet no.15 pinning you in the six yard box from corners!"

So how did the season-long loan of Fulham's outstanding young keeper come about? "Well, for the past two or three years I've been desperate to get out on loan as that's a pathway that has worked many times for Fulham keepers in the

past.

"I had a call from Vic

Bettanelli (the veteran FFC goalkeeping coach and father of Marcus Bettanelli, the ex Fulham keeper) and he had been in contact with Wealdstone and he thought the time was right".

Matty Saunders' connection was pivotal and George says that the was "delighted" to get the move sorted early in the summer.

"The pecking order at Fulham means I'm top of the under-23s list with the Ashby-Hammond brothers Luca (currently injured) and Taye, who is at Boreham Wood on loan. There is also Damian Las, who had a loan spell at Harrow Borough but who is now back in the North American League. Marek Rodak is our no.1 keeper with Paolo Gazzaniga No.2, while the No.3 Fabricio Agosto is in the last year of his contract. So a lot of keepers!

"My aim is probably to have another two or three years of loans, and then hopefully have the experience to be playing in the Championship or wherever for Fulham".

he Cottagers look well placed for a quick return to the Premier League. "Compared to other clubs at that level the investment has been massive" says George. "The funds being ploughed into the football club are huge, and if we can get back into the Prem we can cement our place. I think".

He played one game for Fulham's under-23s this season when they had a bit of an injury crisis - at Wolves in September - but Wealdstone now

er se



The Fulham connection: George Is quickly off his line in the Barnet game, watched by Connor McAvoy (No.14)

take priority, until the end of the season at least.

"I feel my game has improved even since we kicked off in August" he says. "I'm feeling more confident, more selective with my kicking (mixing it up, passing and going longer) and stronger with my decision making. Coming for crosses is tougher in the National League as the players bunch up and put you under pressure there is a lot of punching off players' heads so you have to be brave and dominant. Whether to punch or catch is often a tough call but if you have a six yard box full of bodies you don't want to drop the ball so punching is a good option and I think it's gone well in recent games".

I asked George for his highlights and lowlights. "Highlights were the Wrexham game with the big crowd and our own fans singing all the way through, and making a reaction save from a header. And I enjoyed Dover because I made a couple of late saves and we won all three points - it's always sweeter when you get something out of the game".

"What about your crucial save in the Grimsby game?" I reminded him. "Ha! I can't claim to know much about that as the ball just hit me in the face and went over the bar!"

The lowlights? Well I was disappointed with the early goal I let in at Chesterfield... he hit it early just inside the post and I wasn't quick

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enough to get across. But I feel sharper now, I see things earlier".

And almost a lowlight when Barnet scrambled that late 'goal' over the line? "What a game that was! Really edgy. To be honest I didn't know what had happened to the ball in that scrimmage on the goalline... I felt it bounce off my head at one point but I was relieved the linesman spotted the handball. Nik (Tavares) was on his feet appealing as he saw the whole thing and said it was pretty blatant. There was a lot of pressure on that linesman but thankfully he had a good view!"

eorge grew up in Petersfield, Hampshire, just off the A3 and started playing for his local youth team. "Although not in goal to start with, that happened as I began to grow taller". His dad Matthew has a pal who is a big Fulham fan, and at the age of four George was taken along to see his first game at the Cottage.

"I loved it, and I find it hard to believe that

I'm now a

8

Fulham player" he says. "Me and my dad had season tickets quite a few years. A guy called Geoff Warne was a coach at my Petersfield club and he had his own goalies' school... he put my name forward to Fulham and so I got a trial and ended up signing for the under-11s.

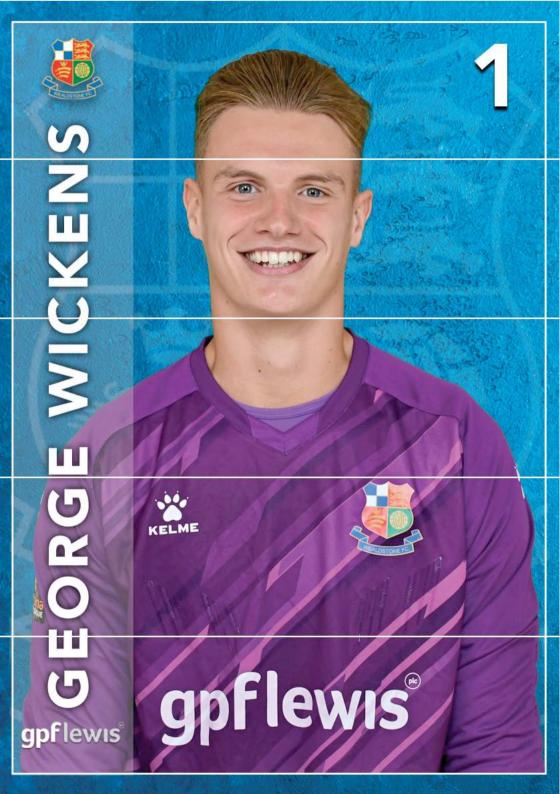
And I've now been there over ten years!"

The Fulham keeper in George's formative years was Mark Schwartzer, the Australian international, but in the last couple of years he credits the French international keeper Alphonse Areola with playing a large part on his development.

"Alphonse was on loan at Fulham from PSG, and is now at West Ham, but he worked a lot with us young keepers and was great to learn from -decision-making, positioning, all that stuff".

Now he's at the Stones his performances - and those of another FFC starlet Connor McAvoy - are often monitored by Hugh Jennings, head of the Fulham Academy. And with training at Wealdstone two nights a week the pair's work at Fulham's Motspur Park training ground is sensibly managed. "My typical week is Monday morning with Fulham, with gym work in the afternoon, and then on Tuesdays a double session with Fulham in the morning and then Wealdstone in the evening - or a Stones match.

"Wednesdays can be tough as I'll be recovering from the Tuesday, so just a light session. Thursday will be spent resting and then up to Wealdstone in the evening- then Friday will be morning only at Fulham.... and then looking forward to the game on Saturday. Not a bad life!"





FAN IN THE STAND SPECIAL



Barbara Robson

Doyen of the Supporters Club, Barbara still follows Stones' fortunes at the age of 94!

iss Barbara Robson is comfortably the oldest-ever fan to be profiled in this feature ... she saw her first Wealdstone game 94 years ago!

And for those of us who have been following the Stones for five decades she will always be remembered as the leading light of the WFC Supporters Club in its heyday of the 1960s and 70s, writes **Tim Parks**.

Extraordinarily, Barbara had four brothers but none of them were interested in football. Neither

was her father but her mum, Florence was keen as mustard!

"She brought me along to Lower Mead in a pram for my first game. I was four weeks old!" recalls Barbara who, despite her 94 years is as sharp as the George Duck- Billy Byrne striking partnership of the 1970s.

"Hughie Lindsay and Charlie Townsend (Stones' amateur international midfielders of the 1960s) were fantastic players but George and Billy were my favourites" she said with a sparkle in her eve.

"And John Morton, our goalkeeper in the mid-70s, was a lovely man. I used to stand at the Elmslie End of the ground, by the club shop, whichever way we were kicking, and if it was quiet I'd feed John toffees during the game.

"Hughie and Charlie were marvellous, espe-

cially when Wealdstone won the Cup at Wembley. Very good players indeed."

think Barbara was best known for organising the supporters clubs coaches for 16 years during that golden era. The little green tickets were all part of the away match experience as we teenagers clambered aboard the yellow Venture coaches bedecked in blue and white.

"It was hard work" she confesses. "We used to sell the tickets in advance from the club shop on

match days and my father - despite not watching the games - would come along to take the money safely home at half time. I didn't like selling the tickets on the day we were playing away as there would be a lot of cash to carry around".

Barbara's dad was a bit of an unsung hero. A bricklayer by profession, he also put his back into helping build the supporters club offices, club shop and tea bar at the Elmslie End of the old ground. Quite a labour of love when you didn't like football!

There would always be at least two or three coaches in the 1970s

when I was a regular traveller, but around a dozen when the Stones played a cup tie at Aldershot in November 1975.

"There was a lot of hooliganism in those days" recalls Barbara. "I made sure we had police escorting our coaches into Aldershot (then a Third Division Football League club) as they had a bad reputation and had smashed up a few Wimbledon coaches the





BARBARA'S BOYS: Stars of the 70s George Duck and John Morton (left) join stars of the 1960s Hughie Lindsay and Charlie Townsend (far right) to present skipper Jerome Okimo with his Man of the Match award after the recent Stockport County game

previous season.

"And for the Amateur Cup semi final at Stamford Bridge in 1966 we had ten coaches. For a game played in London, and easy to get to on the tube!

"It was hard getting enough supporters club committee members to run that many coaches as you had to have somebody in charge of each one".

arbara never married, and devoted herself to looking after her Wealdstone-fanatic mother after she was widowed in her 60s. "My father had diabetes and dropped dead at the age of 69 - he never really looked after himself. I have the

same problem but take medication" says Barbara.

She worked for years for London Transport at its Action offices, organising technical equipment for the engineers.

"I retired at the age of 50 to look after my mother and going to football had to take a back seat really - although David Martle (the former Wealdstone chairman) gave me a job at the club office, making up the players wages and suchlike. I also worked in a local garage filling out MOT forms".

Barbara lived for decades in the house in which she was born, in Stanley Road in South Harrow, but now has a council flat close to the former Kodak Works at Harrow View ."The Stanley Road cottage was originally my grandfather's house" she says, "but my mother and I moved here 40 years ago as the cottage still had an outside toilet and was a bit primitive. This is a lot more comfortable."

The only time she's lived away from Harrow was during the war when her father was

stationed in Derbyshire.

"We came back to live in Hanwell towards the end of the fighting and he was in the Territorial Army - he was given six men and six broomsticks and told to defend Slough!" she chuckled.

They were only in Hanwell a short time before moving back to Stanley Road. "And it's just as

CONTINUED OVER PAGE



The Supporters Club shop and tea hut at Lower Mead (far left at the Elmslie End) was bullt by Barbara's dad. and who remembers the 'yellow peril' Venture coaches that transported us teenage fans to away games in the 1970s and 80s?

well, because a few weeks later a bomb fell on that house and demolished it!"

Nowadays, with the ailments of a lady in her 90s, Barbara says she gets out of breath just going to the front door. But in her younger days she hitchiked across Europe to Monza in Italy with her friend Joyce ("I just loved motor racing") and has been right across the USA to Florida, California, Massachusetts and Nevada. "I've paddled in every ocean" she says proudly, "and even bumped into Alan Whicker in Cannes, which was quite apt as he was a travel correspondent. I said to him 'You're Alan Whicker' and he said 'You're right!""

And so although she rarely leaves her flat these days, she does have a weekly treat when the same David Martle (now a sprightly 84 years old) comes over to Harrow every Monday to collect Barbara and bring her to his home in Sarratt. And there, Barbara spends several hours craft-making with David's wife Marilyn.

"He's a great old friend" she says. "And it's funny really because we had a big argument when he took over as chairman and tried to lay down the law - he said that

members of the supporters club committee should have to pay to get in the ground.

"So I told him that, in that case they were just spectators - in which case they wouldn't be selling raffle tickets, or making teas or staffing the club shop or selling programmes. He backed down and we've been friends ever since - that was only about 50 years ago!"

arbara has always been very forthright in her views. I also remember several frank exchanges of views between the supporters club committee and the WFC directors, who were happy taking cash from the supporters club but not explaining what they were doing with it. It even made the back page of the Harrow Observer during my time as a a sports reporter there.

And she was equally firm with supporters club members who misbehaved. "I remember being really cross with some of our younger fans who went on the coach to Redditch, in the midlands, and were spray-painting slogans with aerosol cans. I banned them from the coach and they were left behind - I think they begged a lift from the players coach and got back that way. I couldn't stand that sort of behaviour".

Barbara is equally scathing of a lot of modern football. "I watched that England game on telly the other night and they were just messing about with the ball - just pass, pass, pass. They didn't seem to be putting much into it. Amateur and non League football was much more honest. I loved it. And though I only really follow the club through reading the programme, I still love Wealdstone. And I always will"







SCAN HERE



LT'SARECORD!

v Stockport County at the Vale, Vanarama Nat Lge Matchday 17

Saturday November 27 2021, 3pm Cold, wet, chilly (4 deg) after a lot of rain but a terrific surface

1.382 (320 away fans)

WEALDSTONE Wickens, McAvoy, Cook, Okimo, Sweeney, Buse (Dronfield 74), Dyer, Cooper, Mundell-Smith (Mascoll 68), Bird (Jackson 68), Umera STOCKPORT Hinchliffe, Kitching, Palmer, Keane, Rydell, Sarcevic, Croasdale, Collar, Southam-Hales, Quigley (Madden 71), Crankshaw (Jennings 84)

STONES 1 Jackson 87

POSSESSION

STOCKPORT 4
Quigley 26.

Quigley 26, Crankshaw 58, 67, 80 ner,

RESULT

MATCH STATS

Wealdstone 43% Stockport 57%
SHOTS ON TARGET Stones 3 County 7
SHOTS OFF TARGET Stones 3 County 3
CORNERS Stones 5 County 2

The Stockport juggernaut is going to be mighty hard to stop... with 24 goals in the last 7 games under new boss Dave Challinor (including five against Bolton Wanderers in the Cup replay) it was a huge financial mismatch at the Vale but Stones were still in the game until Ollie Crankshaw struck with a 2nd half hat trick. County's pressing forced us into mistakes and the chances were gobbled up... although sub Ira Jackson struck the goal of the game with 10 minutes to go.

We had chances but did not take them. It wasn't men against boys but County were the best side we have faced so far - the first two goals were caused by basic errors but as Sudhir Rawal pointed out on Twitter, the County bench earn more than our entire squad do to help put things in perspective -Deadly Doug, Stonesnet

Excellent performance - Wealdstone always had a threat so it was important we kept pushing for more and more goals. I'm not surprised they scored but was it a goalkeeper error? Great turnout from the County too. And nice to have a roof to help us make some olse - Stranded Hatter. County forum

THE WHERE & THE WHAT

DATE AND

CONDITIONS

ATTENDANCE

TEAMS

v Bromley at Hayes Lane, Vanarama Nat Lge Matchday 18

Saturday Dec 4 2021, 3pm Very cold and blowy afternoon (2 deg) on a wettened 3G suface

1,747 (approx 220 away fans)

BROMLEY Cousins, Sowunmi, Webster, Bush, Coulson, Bingham, Arthurs, Sablier Alabi 66), Forster (Whiteley 73), Cheek, Alexander

(Partington 82)

WEALDSTONE Wickens, McAvoy, Cook, Okimo, Sweeney, Charles, Dyer, Cooper, Mascoll, Jackson (Marigliani 58), Umerah

BROMLEY 3 STONES 2 Alexander 25 Umerah 8, Cook 72 Sablier 29, Webster 90

POSSESSION
Bromley 52% Wealdstone 48%
SHOTS ON TARGET Bromley 11

Stones 3 SHOTS OFF TARGET Bromley 2 Stones 1 CORNERS Bromley 3 Stones 3

Another big ask for the Stones against 4th-placed Bromley - missing Browne, Elito, Mundle-Smith, Tavares and Sesay, Stones nevertheless took the lead from a clever move and sassy backheel from Josh Umerah. Bromley are big and dangerous in the air but it was two sweet strikes from Alexander and Sablier that put them ahead.. George Wickens was then red-carded for rashly bumping into a Bromley forward who went

fight from the 10 men (and a lovely Jack Cook leveller) the home side's pressure paid off in injury time as Webster planted his header past Alfie Marigliani to cue wild scenes of celebration

down pole-axed. Despite a brave

Fantastic game today, thoroughly deserved win but credit to Wealdstone who must be gutted and played some decent counter-attacking football. Their goalkeeper was having a great game but that moment of madness cost his team dearly. I still felt positive even after the Wealdstone equaliser, and the pressure eventually told. The applause and atmosphere from both sets of supporters were a fitting tribute to Dave Roberts - RobertofLondon, Bromley Forum

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Contact Phil

07864825757 | 01332986138
Phil@centralwillsandtrusts.co.uk
www.centralwillsandtrusts.co.uk



Opposition focus Figure 1 and 1 and

collowing the demise of Halifax Town AFC at the end of the 2007-2008 season, a new Club was born and re-formed just in time for the 2008-2009 season. The new Football Club was placed in Level Four of the Non-League pyramid, taking a place in the Northern Premier League, in Unibond North One and called FC Halifax Town.

Time was short and the new Club was faced with appointing a new Manager and bringing a team together from scratch in only five weeks. Jim Vince, a coach in the Crewe Alexandra Football Academy working closely with Crewe Manager Dario Grady and a former Manager of Witton Albion in the Unibond Premier Division, achieving two consecutive second places in the previous two seasons, was appointed. Pre—season friendlies were hastily arranged and the first ever game by the Club was played at Tamworth, when 22 trialists made appearances for the Club. The first ever official game for FC Halifax Town was a home game against Bamber Bridge at the Shay Stadium. For the Halifax fans, it was an emotionally charged game; as they were so relieved to see their beloved 'Shaymen' play a

real game of football again, after all the heartache of previous. Over 1,500 fans attended the game, watching a team that barely knew one another. Disappointingly, the team had a mediocre first season and for whatever reason, Jim Vince struggled to get things going with any real conviction on the pitch, culminating in a far from satisfactory 8th place & reluctantly the Board had to make a change. with Jim Vince leaving the position prior to the end of the season and player, Nigel Jemson taking the club though to the end of the season.

An early appointment was made for the 2009-2010 season, with Neil Aspin joining from Conference North side, Harrogate Town & managed the team to its first promotion as Champions, with 100 points and over 100 goals.

A step up to the newly sponsored EvoStik Premier division. With some more astute signings and the average age of the team being reduced, Halifax tried to emulate the previous season. Again, the Club achieved promotion and the Championship, with five games to spare, missing the 100 points by just two and again scoring over 100 goals. The only blot on a wonderful season was the emotional loss of Neil's assistant Trevor Storton, who sadly died after a long battle with cancer. He was with the team nearly all the way, passing away just before our promotion was secured. Promotion was a fitting tribute to a

wonderful man.

FC HALIFAX TOWNS'S 14.061 CAPACITY SHAY

So, 2011-2012 saw the arrival in the Football Conference and the Blue Square Bet North division. Another tough challenge saw the Shaymen battled their way to a play-off position, to meet Gainsborough Trinity, narrowly losing. The season was also highlighted by finally achieving the FA Cup First Round Proper and what a draw. League One leaders Charlton Athletic.

Neil Aspin brought in one or two fresh faces for the 2012-2013 campaign. This

season in particular was the hardest for the Club since reformation but eventually faces Brackley in the play off final. In a tight game perhaps dominated by the Shaymen, Lee Gregory scored the only goal of the game to send the fans in to raptures and earn a place in the Conference



Premier division.

The following season FC Halifax Town finished 5th in the Skrill Premier and the play-offs beckoned again, this time with the chance of a Wembley final and promotion to the Football League. However despite a 1-0 home win over Cambridge United at the Shay, a 2-0 defeat at the Abbey Stadium saw Cambridge head to Wembley.

Understanding the league a little more, Neil Aspin brought in one or two fresh faces for the 2012-2013 campaign and said 'goodbye' to some good players, who had helped the Club progress so much. This season in particular was the hardest for the Club since reformation, only due to the number of match cancellations, both home and away for a variety of reasons, but mainly the incredible amount of rain. The fixture backlog and numerous re-arrangements took their toll and Halifax would have to do well, playing so many games a week to secure a play-off spot. This they did in fifth place and faced a local derby against Guiseley in the semis, who were in the play-offs for the third consecutive season. Chester FC had walked away with the Championship. After a 1 all draw at the Shay Stadium, Halifax managed a two nil deserved win away at Nethermoor, with Gregory and Johnson getting the goals. So to the

Final and a long trip to Brackley, who in their first season has done tremendously well and it

was going to be a difficult tie. In a tight game perhaps dominated by the Shaymen, Lee Gregory scored the only goal of the game to send the fans in to raptures and earn a place in the Conference Premier division, for the first time in their history. A great achievement in five years with three promotions, but everyone involved with the Club knows this will be a tough campaign and despite that, everyone is up for the challenge and look forward to welcoming everyone to Halifax and the Shay Stadium.

FAIDSTONF 2021-22

The following season FC Halifax Town finished 5th in the Skrill Premier and the play-offs beckoned again, this time with the chance of a Wembley final and promotion to the Football League. However despite a 1-0 home win over Cambridge United at the Shay, a 2-0 defeat at the Abbey Stadium saw Cambridge head to Wembley.

Gareth McClelland, Darren Kelly and Jim Harvey all had spells in charge during the 2015/16 season. The season was to be one of mixed emotions as Town were relegated from the National League. A terrible start to the season was then met by a revival under Harvey but the damage was already done.

The 2016/17 season saw another manager in charge as Billy Heath took over the coaching duties and was able to guide Town straight back to the National League. Town had finished 3rd in the National League North and were promoted after winning the playoff final against Chorley.

Despite the relegation, The Shaymen made it to Wembley for the first time in their history. FC Halifax Town beat Nantwich Town 6-4 on aggregate to reach the final of the FA Trophy. Grimsby Town were the opponents that day and the Shaymen lifted the FA Trophy with a 1-0 victory.

The 2016/17 season saw another manager in charge as Billy Heath took over the coaching duties and was able to guide Town straight back to the National League. Town had finished 3rd in the National League North and were promoted after winning the playoff final against Chorley.

Heath's second season in charge did not get off to a good start as Town languished near the bottom of the league. Eventually Neil Young was given the role of caretaker manager until Jamie Fullarton, was instated on a permanent basis.

In the 2018/19 season, Town finished in mid table. However Jamie Fullarton decided to leave the Club and former Oldham boss Pete Wild took charge.

Halifax finished the 2020/21 behind closed doors season in 10th possition

WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v FC HALIFAX TOWN

P2 W1 D0 L1 F2 A2

Opposition in focus WHOS 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. LUKE SUMMERFIELD - MIDFIELD

Signed in the summer after two years with Wrexham. Began his career with Plymouth where the central midfielder played more than 75 league games over six years at the club – had loan spells with AFC Bournemouth and Leyton Orient in that time, as well as a trial with Chelsea FC alongside two of his teammates at the time – Scott Sinclair and Dan Gosling. Summerfield has also turned out for the likes of Cheltenham Town, Shrewsbury Town, Grimbsy Town, Macclesfield, and he is one of four current Town players to have played for York.

5. JESSE DEBRAH - DEFENCE

The 20-year-old centre half joined Halifax in the summer on a short-term deal after impressing Wild in pre-season as a Trialist. Debrah played for Dulwich Hamlet on-loan and then permanently – racking up two seasons with the club. He is also a former Millwall captain at youth age.

6. TOM BRADBURY - DEFENCE

Signed for Halifax in the summer, having spent last season with fellow National League side Yeovil Town. Although he is just 22-years-old, Bradbury has seven clubs on his C.V. Starting his career in the MK Dons youth setup, before signing for Bishop's Stortford – a short spell as he later joined Banbury where Bradbury spent just over 6 months. His next move took him to Dundee in the SPL, later having

loan spells with York City and then ending up at Yeovil on a permanent basis.

7. JAMIE ALLEN - FORWARD

Allen is a fast and versatile forward who began his career at Fleetwood Town in 2012 taking in loan spells at Barrow & AFC Fylde. He joined Stalybridge Celtic in 2015 before moving on to Southport and Dover Athletic in 2017. He signed for Town in July 2019 after cancelling his contract by mutual consent.

8. KIERAN GREEN - MIDFIELD

A hard tackling and ball winning central midfielder who score a goal too, Green signed for Halifax in the summer of 2020. The 24-year-old was nearly an ever-present in his first season with the club. Before joining Halifax, he spent a season with York City, and has been on somewhat of a North-East trip – playing for Hartlepool United, Spennymoor Town, Blyth Spartans and Gateshead

10. MATT WARBURTON - MIDFIELD

The 29-year-old attacking midfielder played part-time football for Maine Road, Curzon Ashton, Salford City & Stockport County. Warburton was snapped up by League One Northampton Town in 2019. He spent two seasons with Northampton – spending a loan spell away at Yeovil and being released in the summer after scoring 2 goals for the club.

11. BILLY WATERS - FORWARD

Waters joined Halifax in July after being released by Torquay United where he scored six goals in 26 league games. The Londoner began his career in 2013 with Crewe Alexandra, then in 2015 a move to Cheltenham. The striker scored 23 league goals in 83 league matches for Cheltenham, before a move to League One Northampton Town – spending three seasons with 'The Cobblers'. Waters has also had loan spells with Cambridge United, a second stint with Cheltenham, and Newport County.

12. TOM SCOTT - GOALKEEPER

After joining in September, Scott is expected to be Sam Johnson's understudy. The goalkeeper is also a former Port Vale player and joined the Shaymen after being released from the League Two side. Tom has also been on the books of Manchester City – where he came through as a youngster.

14. MATTY STENSON - FORWARD

WEALDSTONE 2021-22

Signed after leaving Solihull Moors in the summer of 2020. A former Coventry City youth player who has previously been with Leamington, Telford United and Barwell. Once suffered a hip injury which kept him out for two-and-a-half-years and went through an operation which had a 50/50 chance of success. Stenson was limited two just one league appearance last season, as his campaign was disrupted with an injury

15. GERRY MCDONAGH - FORWARD

A well-travelled towering centre forward, McDonagh signed for Halifax in pre-season after featuring in a handful of Pre-Season games. McDonagh began his career at Nottingham Forest, and the Irishman had loan spells with Wrexham, Tranmere Rovers & Cambridge United. He left Forest in 2018 and has since played for Barnsley, Aldershot & Tamworth

16. DOM TEAR - MIDFIELD

21-year-old winger who signed at the start of the 2020/21 season from Huddersfield Town. Has previously had a loan spell with Gateshead in 2019/20 and was Huddersfield Town's Academy Player of The Year in 2018. Tear was mostly used as a substitute in his first season with Halifax.

17. KIAN SPENCE - MIDFIELD

Kian signed in the summer of 2020 from Scarborough Athletic, before being loaned back to the Northern Premier League side for half of the 2020-21 season. Spence came through the Middlesbrough academy and featured in a handful of EFL games for Boro.

18. JAVID SWABY-NEAVIN - DEFENCE

JWN was born in Stevenage but made his break up north at Oldham Athletic, and it was current Town boss Wild who gave JWN his first-team debut at Boundary Park. Swaby-Neavin left Oldham in 2020 and has since played for Radcliffe. He signed for 'The Shaymen' this summer on a short-term deal after a trial.

19. JAMIE COOKE - MIDFIELD

Signed in the summer and currently out on loan for the season at FC United of Manchester, Cooke was a real impressive sight for Halifax in Pre-Season. The Scouse attacking midfielder was picked up after a compensation fee was paid to Colne, and it was at Fleetwood Town where Cooke first came onto the scene through their youth ranks.

20. HARVEY GILMOUR - MIDFIELD

A central midfielder who has been at the Shay since the summer, Gilmour has played for Sheffield United, Tranmere Rovers & Stockport County before his move to Halifax Town. Gilmour is still to reach 50 professional league appearances – but is expected to surpass that figure this season at FCHT.

21. TYRELL WARREN- MIDFIELD

A highly-rated full back who is on a short-term contract, Warren is an ex-Manchester United academy player who was in the same youth sides as Dean Henderson, Angel Gomes & Mason Greenwood. Before joining Town, the one-time Premier League U-21s winner played for Radcliffe, Salford City & Boston United.

22. JACK VALE- FORWARD

23. REON DONKOR- MIDFIELD

24 ELLIOT NEWBY - MIDFIELD

Newby signed for Halifax in October on a shortterm loan deal from Stockport County. The midfielder was one of the star players last season in Chorley's famous Emirates FA Cup run that saw them defeat the likes of Derby County, Peterborough United and Wigan Athletic.

25 JORDAN SLEW - FORWARD

A 28-year-old striker who joined Halifax in the summer, Slew was a one-million-pound signing when Blackburn Rovers acquired his signature from Sheffield United in 2011. The striker spent four years with Rovers – having loan spells out to Stevenage, Oldham Athletic, Rotherham United, Ross County & Port Vale. The 28-year-old signed for Cambridge United in 2015, where he spent two seasons. Slew has since turned out for Chesterfield, Plymouth Argyle, Rochdale, Boston & Morecambe – it was at 'The Shrimpers' last season where he was in the side that won promotion to League One

26. MARTIN WOODS - MIDFIELD 31. NIALL MAHER - DEFENCE

This 26-year-old can play across the back line and in central midfield. Maher has been with the Shaymen since 2018 and has played close to 100 league games for Town. The defender is another player in the ranks who is comfortable on the ball, not afraid to get stuck-in and also pop up with a goal at the other end of the pitch. Maher has played for Bolton Wanderers – turning out in the Premier League 2 and the Championship. He also has spells at Blackpool, Bury, Galway United & Telford on his CV.

MANAGER - PETE WILD

Wild has been Halifax manager since the start of the 2019/20 season, and guided 'The Shaymen' to the National League Play-Offs in his first season – Town fell at the first hurdle in the Eliminator Round. He led 'The Shaymen' to a 10th placed finish in the 2020/21 season.

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NOVEMBER 13 BARNET

26 BROMLEY

FC Halifax Town

CHESTERFIELD

15 Southend United 18 BOREHAM WOOD

Yeovil Town

15 Aldershot Town

TO BE ARRANGED

YEOVIL TOWN

KING'S LYNN TOWN

23 Altrincham 30 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE

APRIL

MAY

RESULTS 2021/2022

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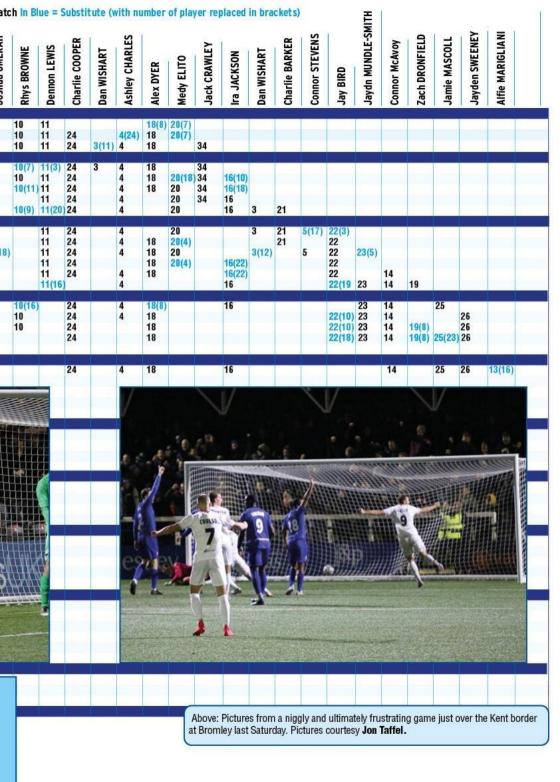
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PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY RESULTS

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BUTHEN HATEL	SOUTHEND UNITED Monday, 30th August Vanarama National League	Ray Corner and Peter Carter			
	ALTRINCHAM Solurday, 11th September Vanarama National League	Wealdstone FC Supporters Club			
	ALDERSHOT TOWN Salunday, 18th September Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows			
	SOLHULL MOORS Tuesday, 5th October Vanarama National League	Leasehold Management Services Ltd			
	EASTLEIGH Saturday, 9th October Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East In memo O'Conn	ory of John or aka OC Dorset Stones		
	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE Saturday, 16th October FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round	Ability Security			
	GRIMSBY TOWN Tuesday, 26th October Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	ADWConnect		
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WEALDSTONE 2021-22

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	WREXHAM Salurday, 19th February Vanarama National League	Union Athletic	Your name or business here			
M	TORQUAY UNITED Salurday, 24th February Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here			
	WEYMOUTH Schirdov, 12th March Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows	Your name or business here			
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	BROWLEY Saturday, 26th March Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	The Guild			
	CHESTERFIELD Saturday, 9th April Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows	Your name or business here			
	BOREHAM WOOD Monday, 19th April Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here			
	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE Salarday, 30th April Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here			

Your name or

business here

VIEW FROM THE AWAY END 'We may not be equipped financially to take on the League's big hitters, but on the pitch we definitely are'

Halifax fan ROB BROWN is looking forward to a 'grand day out down South'

Your name and age? Rob Brown, aged 52 When was your first Hallfax Town game. against whom and when? What do you recall of the occasion?

Around 1980. I can't remember who it was against, but I went to the FA Cup win against Man City soon after (Paul Hendrie's winning goal pictured below). I can remember everything about that Cup game from the atmosphere, the smell and where I was stood. A great occasion.

Who brought you along or accompanied you to your first game?

My Dad. He followed Arsenal as a youngster living in London, and knew how exciting football could be. It's his fault I've spent much of my spare time and money watching football ever since.

What are the top three most memorable Halifax games you've seen?

Halifax 1 Man City 0 (FA Cup 3rd round) Halifax 1 Tottenham Hotspur 5

(League Cup) Halifax 1 Grimsby 0 (FA Trophy Final 2016)

Do you follow another team?

I had a spell of watching Leeds United from 1980s to mid 1990s but I lost interest in Leeds when Sky TV and all-seater stadia came along. I try to get to any other games I can now when Halifax aren't playing. I'm a '92 club' member and now making my way around every non-league club down to step 6. It's rare I miss a Halifax game home or away.

Do you live in the town?

Yes, been here since the age of 4. Grew up living

200 yards from the Shay. Could always hear the opposition fans cheering from our garden too.

Do you yearn for the Shaymen to get back in the EFL? Or is non-League football enjoyable?

I think the club would do well in the EFL but football in the National League is enjoyable, especially when the teams with loads of money end up mid table!

Do you see this year's National League as being more high-profile than League Two?

I don't know much about League Two, the National League gets more media coverage. I'm sure it will be exciting when we get there though.







ALDSTONE 2021-22

terrible at the time but on reflection, it gave us a great season the year after with another promotion via the playoffs. The final against Chorley was terrific. It's all a great memory now.

Halifax impressed in their 2-1 win at Grosvenor Vale last season, with their power and organisation. How do you assess your chances this season?

The team are playing their best football for years. I'm sure they'll finish above last season's 10th position. The playoffs will be a real achievement if we make it, but we're going places though - it's a great time to support the Shaymen.

Is the club equipped financially to take on the National League heavyweights?

No, but the players on the pitch are. That's what really matters. We'll finish above some high budget teams for sure.

What do you know about Wealdstone FC? Did you watch the live streaming of the games last season?

Today is my first visit to Wealdstone, I'm really looking forward to it. I'm aware of that bloke who has been on social media over the years who 'supports' Wealdstone but that's it. And no, I didn't watch any live streaming last season. It's not the same.

Will you be travelling down this afternoon?

Oh yes, along with the usual car full. It's always a grand day out down South.

How will you make the Journey? Are Halifax well supported away from home, and how many do you reckon will be here today?

Setting off around 8:30am, a full breakfast stop on the way. Get to the ground early and have a look round. I'm sure there will be around 150 travelling Shaymen - we'll make plenty of noise and I'm sure a few friends too.

Who have been your favourite Halifax players over the years, and how effective were Jamle Vardy and Lee Gregory for the club?

Bobby Davison was one of my first favourite players back in the early 1980's. In recent seasons, Scott McManus was a real star, especially after scoring the winner in that Trophy Final at Wembley (right).

Both Vardy and Gregory have done well since leaving the club. Gregory had the biggest impact on the pitch at Halifax having played longer for the club than Vardy. Gregory scoring the winner to get the club promoted to the National League for the first time in 2013 was really special.

Were you at Wembley for the FA Trophy final win over Grimsby five years ago? Did it make up for relegation that season?

Yes, Wembley was a great day out. Relegation was



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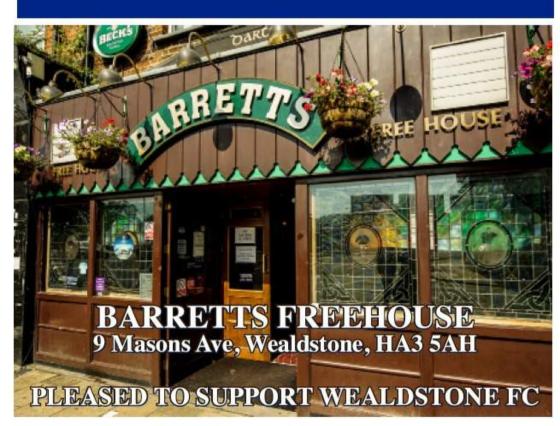


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TRIBUTE TO THE BROMLEY BOY

RIP Dave Roberts, the man who revealed the passion, truth and humour of THE non-league footba

he death of Dave Roberts last week struck me as hard as the passing of a much-loved family member or close friend.

His book about Bromley FC 'The Bromley Boys', published a dozen vears ago, was as close an accurate portrayal of my own teenage years following the Stones - all the angst. fervour and incomprehensible devotion - as it was possible to get.

It was as if he was inside my own head.

The whole gist of his book was the hard-to-believe support of 'the worst team in amateur football' during the Isthmian League season of 1969-70 when Bromley achieved the rare distinction of finishing below the hapless Corinthian Casuals. In other words, hopelessly adrift.

There were other amateur leagues (the Athenian, Delphian, Hellenic) of a lower standard but all doggedly stuck to their abiding rule of 'no promotion and no relegation'. It would be another three or four years, and the abolition of the 'amateur' tag - which be pretty much all clubs were abusing - before the leagues amalgamated and a more structured format decided upon.

But at the end of the 60s the stigma of finishing last was only too real. And the young Dave Roberts, looking wistfully at sepia-tinted photos of Bromley ruling the amateur football world (and winning the Amateur Cup in front of 92,000 at Wembley only 20 years previously) couldn't believe the team he had adopted could be that bad.

His book didn't so much strike a chord as reverberate a gong inside my skull. I read with delight the mentions of Bromley games against Wealdstone

Dave Roberts @thebro... · 10h Dave's wife Liz here. We lost this wonderful man last night. He passed peacefully and knowing how much he is loved. We're all heartbroken.



CHAPTER TWO

I pulled on my 'ELLIS MUST GO' t-shirt, and then, despite it being a sweltering hot summer day, also wore my thickly padded anorak. I wanted to dramatically unveil the protest message when I got to the ground.

As the stand was virtually empty when I arrived, I got the perfect spot to watch from - my seat was right on the halfway line at the front.

There was a small crowd - significantly reduced since the previous Tuesday – and as the teams ran out, the applause was distinctly half-hearted. It was time to take my anorak off and commence my one-boy protest.

Which I would have done, if a familiar figure hadn't chosen that moment to sit down beside me. It was Dave Ellis, who had come to watch the game from a different vantage point. He even asked me if anyone was sitting there and I admitted that there wasn't.

Now I had a dilemma.

The heat was making me extremely uncomfortable. I could feel the sweat making the nylon lining of the anorak cling to me and I was starting to feel light-headed. On the other hand, there was a man under extreme pressure sat right next to me and if I removed my coat, he would see that I wanted him to lose his job.

Because of extreme discomfort, I can remember very little about the game. Bromley lost, obviously.

The good news was that Roy Pettet scored a great goal from outside the penalty area, to make him Bromley's joint



BY TIM PARKS

WE AT DETINE 2021-22

at which I was present and all the strange quirks of those times. I can't say that the Stones of the late 60s were quite the same basketcase as Bromley but our last season as Isthmian amateurs (1970-71) were dark days as we suffered heavy defeats (Wycombe, home, lost 6-1 and St Albans away, lost 5-0 among others) to mirror the Bromley maulings, and I suffered the same bleak experiences at places like Tooting, Dulwich and, yes, even Ruislip Manor.

Dave's book is peppered with laugh-out-loud observations about the disappointment of the match day experience. How the crowd at Hayes Lane was always given as 400 ('I just think they couldn't be bothered counting. At one game it was so ludicrous that I walked around the ground counting the

The Bromley Boys

leading scorer with one. The bad news was that Wealdstone got six, each of which was greeted with an anguished murmur by Dave Ellis.

Bromley reveal weaknesses in all departments

BROMLEY I, WEALDSTONE 6

BROMLEY'S sad start to the season has been brought about by weaknesses in all departments. This is obvious following three Isthmian League defeats, the heaviest coming at Hayes-lane last Saturday against a well-drilled, non-stop Wealdstone (writes Tony Flood).

The fact that they have con-reded 19 goals and word only class of football.

The fact that they have con-tinues what a hard task man-lager Dave Ellis faces if he is to lift them from the bottom of the table.

Two players just holiday — Willie | Alastair Rhodes — league debuts againtone in place of

There followed a superminute goal by right Bremer. Pat Brown facut out a pass by Montag Bremer raced through the ball hard and low i corner of the net.

As it turned out, I needn't have worried about him seeing my t-shirt. When I got home and finally removed my anorak. the sweat had made the paint run, reducing my defiant slogan to a grey smudge.

heads and there were 96 people there') and how, travelling on a half empty supporters coach to the opening game at Wycombe, they passed Bromley South station which was packed with fans travelling around the corner to see Manchester United play at Crystal Palace while Dave was about to embark on a two hour journey to see his team crushed in an Isthmian League mismatch.

Those are the anomalies of losing your heart to a 'little club'. He tries to answer the question of why he affixed his devotion to Bromley but can only offer the insightful "it was the only place that felt like home' as he eschewed his schoolfriend's offer of regular trips to Highbury.

> was never expelled from school for sneaking out to see a Stones match - as Dave was from his private boarding school for being unable to resist the pull of Ilford at home, midweek, in the middle of February but we all know a man who was.

> Well, maybe not expelled, but Stones' President Paul Rumens received a strict warning after bunking off from Mill Hill School to jump on the supporters coaches to Aldershot for our FA Cup first round clash in 1975. 'Simply unmissable' says Paul with a smile

The Bromley Boys is a beautiful book, only lessened in my eyes by the indifferent indie film of the same name that premiered at Wembley Stadium itself to great acclaim - remarkably only a few days after Dave achieved his boyhood dream of seeing Bromley play at Wembley.

That day might have been a delicious re-match of those amateur clashes of the 60s as it was so nearly the Stones facing Bromley in that 2018 FA Trophy final.... but instead it was Brackley Town - our conquerors in the semi final - who broke South London hearts with a late equaliser before winning the game in extra time.

It was devastating for Dave (with whom I'd been regularly exchanging twitter messages as our paths seemed certain to cross at the home of football) but he

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

Left: One of the wonderful chapters In the book when the 14-year-old Dave Roberts decides to stage a one-man protest against Bromley manager Dave Ellis - whom Dave blames for all the club's ills. Coincidentally they were facing Wealdstone... and thumped 6-1

TRIBUTE TO THE BROMLEY BOY CONTD

was outwardly chuffed, and compensated, by seeing his teenage self played out on the big screen.

So why was I left disappointed by the film? Was all the positive media reaction unjustified? In my eyes, yes.

or those of us who had stood on cold terraces enduring unpalatable football and undrinkable tea, the on-loca-

tion scenes were dumbed

down to a ridiculous degree. Hayes Lane, Bromley's home was never the most glamorous setting but to use the rundown, shambolic Crockenhill FC for filming was laughable.

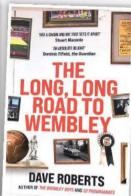
Where was the big empty grandstand and the steps of deserted terracing? Or even a convincing tea hut? The ground looked like a roped-off cow field. And while Dave paints the Bromley defending (and the often no-show players) as incompetent, the action shots are embarrassingly lame.

I get that the modern day Hayes Lane would have been too grand but even a small budget could have been better spent. The realism of 11 players not quite up to the job, facing the top amateurs of the day (who earned more through boot money than their professional counterparts) deserved better than this comic pastiche.

The 14 year old Dave is also credited with a love interest, presumably to make it more accessible to a non-football audience - very far from the truth as the man himself admitted. It's a shame the director and script writers strayed from the warmth and humour of the book as that's the truth and heart of the Dave Roberts story.







Dave's other three books, all worth a place on your Christmas wish list

He has, of course, written several other books to follow-up the Bromley Boys with 'Home and Away' (a travelogue chronicling Bromley's first season in the National League) throwing up endless parallels with this, the Stones' own first season back at that level. His account of the club's 2018 odyssey to the FA Trophy Final (The Long Long Road to Wembley) is another not to miss.... while his book '32 Programmes' is a personal favourite as he looks back nostalgically at his collection and recounts the circumstances surrounding each match. Lovely stuff.

He left the UK in the late 70s and spent 35 years working and raising a family in the United States and New Zealand, before dying from cancer at the tragically young age of 66 at the end of November. Dave book-ended his life with Bromley FC and for us non-League fanatics, that's not a bad way to go out.

Dave Roberts @the... · Oct 27 · · · This is Eamonn Kenny of Glenmuir United, proudly showing off the the towel rail he won for being Man of the Match.





Above left: A still from the Bromley Boys film as Dave is hoisted aloft by the Bromley players... very far from the truth. And above, who wouldn't love a man who tweeted league ladders and a towel rail Man of the Match award?



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This time last year we might have been top of the National League.. that's how crazy it all was

Tuesday November 10 2020, National League: FC Halifax Town 0 Wealdstone 1

n the depths of that bizarre Covid winter last year, when I found myself jumping in muddy puddles in the local park with the kids for want of anything better to do, Wealdstone managed to pull off a 1-0 win at FC Halifax Town.

Could 2020 get any more surreal? The three points we nicked at the empty, echoey Shay that cold Tuesday evening shunted Dean Brennan's team up to second place in the National League... yes SECOND PLACE in our first season back at that level (see table below). It was our fifth successive win in the league following a 4-3 over Wrexham, a 3-2 over Chesterfield, a 3-2 at Kings Lynn and a 1-0 over Altrincham.

Maybe it was the Peppa Pig antics that were the catalyst for our success. It certainly took the pundits by surprise with one National League 'expert' proclaiming that second place was 'Wealdstone's highest-ever league placing in the club's history".

Well, we did actually win the league back in



1985, numb nuts!

Personally, as I looked on at the live streaming that night in Yorkshire, I was just marvelling at how far our club had come since the relegation all the way down five levels to the Ryman Division Three. It was only back in 2004 that we were praying for victory over Maidenhead in an FA Trophy replay because the winners had the trip to Halifax in the last 16 to look forward to... Halifax Town, the club who had not long ago been in the Football League and had actually knocked Man City out of the FA Cup.

That was the stuff of dreams just 17 years ago. Now Halifax is just another league game

(he said blithely, while shaking his head with a huge, inane grin).

s telly-watchers were enjoying the live stream experience just then. It was a novelty and we were winning! Even the referees seemed determined to indulge our place at the top table - certainly this bleak night in West Yorkshire supported that assertion as just three minutes had elapsed when Jacob Mendy Mendy was poleaxed by a heavy challenge from Shayman Jeff King - and immediately saw red!

We could hardly believe it, back in couchland, Jorome

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6 Eastleigh	6	3	2	1	14	9	3	1	2	0	5	4	13	2	0		6			1	11	- 15	
7 Hartlepool United	6	3	2	1	9	8	4	1	2	1	3	,	1 2	0	i	,	2		5	4	10		
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23 Yeovil Town		7	0	9	3 (700				3								-		-	-	

BY TIM PARKS

WEALDSTONE 2021-22



Slew (living in Sheffield, so pretty much a home game for our striker) headed over Connor Smith's free kick almost immediately but as the game wore on both sides were becoming over-cautious. The drama bubbled over to the touchline with both managers sent to the stands just before half time.

We only seemed to want to protect the one point, despite the man advantage but the referee then presented another red card on 78 minutes to Halifax's Danny Williams. He fouled Michee Efete on the edge of the box.

Smith finally troubled keeper Sam Johnson with a 25-yarder, tipped over the bar, and we were starting to wonder how few players Halifax would have to have on the pitch to tempt us into believing we could win the

game. Eight? Seven? Six?

ut thankfully the Stones finally made the most of our numerical advantage with just a few minutes left. Moses Emmanuel's cross was headed out by Luke Summerfield but only to sub Danny Parish on the edge of the area who watched the ball drop and smashed in a a tremendous left-foot volley that found the corner from 20 vards out

We should've added more late on through Parish and Dennon Lewis but they were both thwarted by Johnson. So the Stones moved into second place in the National League table, just two points behind leaders Torquay. What if the next game against strugglers Dover had gone ahead four days later at The Vale instead of falling victim to the Kent club's ongoing (and highly suspicious) Covid outbreak? Might we had been proud leaders of the National League? Instead, we lost a week later at Eastleigh, and then drew the BT Sport game with Sutton United and the NL title receded into the distance. By some way as it later turned out!

By Some was tracer turned out:
FC HALIFAX TOWN: Johnson, King, Williams,
Byrne, Clarke (c), Bradbury, Woods, Summerfield, Green, Hyde (Benn 90), Stenson
(Tear 16). Subs not used: Davlson-Hale,
Crane. Schofield.

WEALDSTONE: Isted, Efete, Okimo (c), Cawley (Green 35), Mendy, Phillips, C. Smith, Dyer (Emmanuel 60), Slew (Parish 71), Lewis, Lafayette. Subs not used: G. Smith, Wishart.

Dennon's great goal not quite enough...

Saturday March 6 2021, National League: Wealdstone 1 FC Halifax Town 2

he Shaymen had their revenge a few months later behind closed doors at The Vale... though Stones pushed the by-now-playoff-chasing Halifax all the way, and in fact led 1-0 until deep into the second half.

Up in the commentary box, myself and that day's pundit Don Cross were euologising over the terrific strike in front of the deserted Bulla Stand by Dennon Lewis (pictured below) that had given Stones the advantage. Four days earlier, a solitary Connor Smith goal had given us a surprise 1-0 win over Boreham Wood and it seemed quite likely that Stones could repeat the scoreline. Then the blues imploded.

Halifax had forced a succession of freekicks and from one, the pink-shirted Shaymen worked the ball out to Jeff King and his precise cross found Jake Hyde in acres of space to head an equaliser. That was on 57 minutes, and as Halifax buzzed around our box the winner eventually came with eight minutes left on the clock, Jack Earring working the ball onto his right foot on the edge of the box and we weren't quick enough to close down... his flashing drive beat Harry Isted to the far corner. Within a few minutes, Earring was clattered by Stones' on-loan debutant Daniel Bowry who was shown a straight red card.

This was the second of four successive home games in two weeks and we followed it up with a 3-1 win over Kings Lynn and then a narrow 0-1 defeat to Notts County. If we think this season is unrelenting, think back to earlier this year when a lot of teams seemed to be going through the motions in front of zero crowds!

WEALDSTONE: Isted, Phillips, Okimo (c), Cawley, Wishart (Bowry 43), Charles, Dyer, Green, Mendy, Lewls (Lafayette 71), Parlsh (Hughes 80). Subs not used: Askew. Hearn.

FC Halifax

FC HALIFAX TOWN: Johnson, King (Allen 74), Bradbury, Byrne, Maher (c), Senior, Green, Woods, Earing, Campbell (Chadwick 57), Hyde (Tear 90). Subs not used: Renshaw, Benn. CONTINUED OVERPAGE

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY CCC BY TIM PARKS

1993: Was this the worst day in the Stones' history

Saturday Dec 11 1993, Beazer Homes League Southern Division: Bury Town 4 Wealdstone 0

f the Wealdstone fans among the pitiful 146 crowd dribbling away from this unforgivable defeat to the worst team in the Beazer Homes (Southern) League had an inkling that this could be an appalling season, their fears were confirmed a few months later.

Other than a goalless draw against Ashford, Fred Callaghan's side went on to lose 15

consecutive league games!

It was definitely the worst season in my 52 years watching the Stones. We finished second from bottom with only Bury Town (naturally) below us, and it needed Dunstable going bust to prevent relegation to the Spartan League.

Yet that is what the Stones deserved after a wretched campaign, groundsharing at Yeading's bleak and charmless Warren, just two years on from the feted move to Vicarage Road that was to move the club back to its rightful place in the Conference, Instead we went the other way and the average 600 crowds dwindled to barely three figures.

Callaghan, the ex Fulham manager, used 63 players in those 54 league and cup games. Dennis Byatt, legendary 1985 double-winning centre back, was in charge when the season kicked off with an abject 5-1 defeat at Poole Town. Supporters looked on in bewilderment as dozens of players came and went - the leavers included Dave Venables and Sean Pearson to Stevenage Borough, and they were sorely

Of course we managed to draw Harrow Borough in both the FA Cup and Trophy, and

were knocked out of both.

Byatt was sacked and Callaghan, hampered by a budget a third of the size that Brian Hall had enjoyed at vicarage Road, ended up signing Herts County League stars Richard Mellor and Jon Hall, the entertaining but uncoordinated Eugene Saunders from Tring Town and Floyd Dennis from chiltonian League side Vansittart Wanderers.

Yes, it had come to that.

Depleted Stones sent crashing by fellow strugglers

Graham Smith

Bury Town 4 Wealdstone 0

DEPLETED by injuries and illness, Stones gave a poor performance and slumped to defeat against fellow strugglers Bury on Saturday.

Despite being without Richard Mellor, Jon Hall and Eugene Saunders, who were all injured, and Neil Cordice who was ill, Stones started off brightly. Gavin MacPherson shot just wide early on, then a great run from Liam Barham ended with his cross being headed just over by MacPherson.

After 23 minutes Bury's Henry missed an open goal from two yards but five minutes later Dermot Drummy failed to clear and Cornish hit a shot past Andy Hopping to put the home side

in front.

Within two minutes Bury struck again when Brooks headed home Henry's cross. The Stones heads dropped although Mick Garratt came within inches of scoring with a header.

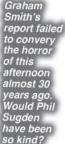
However, with 39 minutes gone Bury scored a controversial third goal. Two forwards seemed to be offside as McGill broke free and slotted past the helpess Hopping.

Wealdstone improved in the second half with Andy Hedge twice going close in the first 10 minutes. Paul Holohan's free kick was just

wide then Roy Johnson put Hedge clear but he shot over.

Hopping, in his league debut for Stones, made an excellent save from Boyland, but with six minutes remaining he was beaten when Langden's header from Hubbard's free kick looped over the unfortunate keeper into the net.

Wealdstone: Hopping, Shana-han, Keane, Dennis, Garratt, Hedge, McGrath, MacPherson, Barham, Drummy (Johnson), Holohan. Other sub: Pettifer.









2010: The polar opposite in glory show at Newport

Saturday December 11 2010, FA Trophy 1st round proper: Newport County 0 Wealdstone 0

hat a difference in the ensuing 17 years! The Stones, after many years in the cosy surroundings of the White Lion ground, Edgware, had climbed into the Ryman Prem and moved to the even cosier surroundings of Grosvenor Vale.

Gordon Bartlett, in his 15th season after replacing the basket case Fred Callaghan, was slowly shaping a squad capable of worrying the play-off contenders and the reward for the steadily-increasing fan base was this trip to Conference title chasers Newport County.

There were maybe 30 Stones fans at Bury Town. For this trip to South Wales there were over 200!

And Stones did them proud with Welsh keeper Jonathan North relishing his return to 'God's Country' with a faultless display - despite suffering from the same migraine attack that had led to him missing the stupendous 1-0 win at Brackley in the previous round.

Fellow 'Taff' Sean Cronin took up the gloves at the last minute in that game and the centre back was heroic in keeping a clean sheet... with Peter Dean scoring a last minute winner!

The 1,070 crowd at Newport's athletics stadium saw the Stones almost grab an identikit late winner as Alex Dyer dragged his shot across the face of the goal... although the homer side should have been out of sight if not for the magniicent Northy.

And there was heartbreak just 48 hours later (Stones playing their midweek games on Monday nights in those days) in the replay when County grabbed a 1-0 win with a goal right at the end of extra time.

WEALDSTONE: North, Hammond (Brooks 52), Chappell (c), Cronin, Massey, Dyer, Dean (Lavers 90), O'Leary, Gill (Ngoyi 65), Forbes, Spendlove. Subs not used: Fitzgerald, Carter.

Match Stats: Stones Corners: 4 Newport Corners: 8

Stones shots on/off target:1/5 Newport shots on/off target: 6/8

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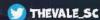


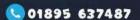




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Past encounters with today's visitors as recounted by someone who was there

For anyone who reads this column regularly, I'm going to level with you. While the content is based on personal memories of games gone by, sometimes I find it necessary to check those memories are correct. How could it be any other way, when I'm dealing with fixtures that took place anything up to 50 years ago? Well I'm delighted to say that for the first Halifax fixture to make it into this feature, no background checks are necessary. All the major details are remembered intact, for the single, simple reason that the match in question was a classic. And it all happened on:

Tuesday 16 September 1986

Halifax were away to Preston North End. in a

Line up

- 1 Roche
- 2 Brown
- 3 Robinson
- 4 Shaw
- 5 Knill
- 6 Galloway
- 7 Sanderson
- 8 Thornber 9 Diamond
- 10 Longhurst
- 11 Black
- Sub: Nicholson for Robinson

Attendance: 5,259

fourth division fixture. It is fair to say that the football gods were not smiling on either of the teams around this time. The previous season. Preston's floodlights had been condemned. and on 5 November 1985 they played a midweek afternoon fixture against Scunthorpe in front of a lowest ever crowd of 2,007. Just three months later, Halifax saw that level of spectator apathy and raised it big style, with a mere 150 deigning to show up for a Football League Trophy match v Lincoln City.

But when the two came together for this game, wow! The bare facts are that Halifax raced into a two-goal lead inside a quarter of an hour, an advantage that they still held with just a quarter of the game to go. Then, the home side hit back decisively with three unanswered goals to take the full three points.

You would think, all these years later, that Preston's Lazarusesque recovery would be what I remember most. Particularly as their goals were all scored, in a 18-minute period, by the same man - centre-forward John Thomas, who despite his Welsh-sounding name, was actually born in the West Midlands.

You'd be wrong. it's the Halifax scorers whose hammers hit the recall bell first, for very different reasons. First up, Alan Knill. Though considerably less Welsh sounding than John Thomas, and having been born in Slough, he was Welsh enough to be win an international cap, while playing for Swansea in 1989. But where his place in the folklore of the game is secure is in him becoming one of the few football managers to feature in the repertoire of a stand-up comedian. Specifically, Michael McIntyre, who had been watching Sky Sports News, noted that Knill was in charge of Bury, and observed that surely any male offspring of said individual had to be given the first name "Juan". Nice one.

The second goal, the one that doubled Halifax's lead before the majority of the crowd had even fin-

FC HALIFAX TOWN





ished their Bovril, was scored by David Longhurst. Halifax wasn't his first club, but it was the first one to give him a start, and he took his chance. But in September 1990, by which time he had moved to York City, he collapsed and died on the pitch in a game against Lincoln.

Anyone who saw the Denmark-Finland Euro 2020 game will know of the traumas of seeing a player motionless on a football field. For Christian Eriksen - thankfully - the trauma, though considerable, was temporary, as it was for Bolton's Fabrica Muamba before him. But for David Longhurst, all the advances in on-pitch medical assistance came too late. From all of us who genuinely care about the game and the people within it, RIP.

Saturday 11 December 1999

Though I grew up in Yorkshire, I never really had much interest in visiting The Shay, though I remember briefly flirting with the idea of watching their opening game of the 1983-84 season, against Torquay.

By the end of the 1980s, Halifax was the only one of Yorkshire's league clubs that I hadn't seen at home. I'd even visited Scarborough, who had only reached the fourth division in 1987, before I'd got anywhere near The Shay.

When the last full season of the nineties closed its doors, the situation remained unchanged. And Halifax may well have remained unvisited for the rest of time, but for my home town team Rotherham losing a play off semi final against Leyton Orient on penalties.

Such was the manner of the defeat that, gutted but defiant, I immediately vowed to see all 46 games of the following campaign - including a trip to Halifax. It took place 22 years ago today, and ended in a mindnumbing 0-0draw. If the Preston game in 86 had contained all the twists and turns of a Shakespeare tragedy, this was a comedy of errors.

Today, the noteworthy fact about this fixture is that despite its pre-Christmas scheduling, it clashed with a rearranged FA Cup third round. Manchester United, in its day of the control of the control

invited to a rival tourney in January featuring the South American champions, some Mexicans capable of a surprise and various no-hopers, threatened to pull out unless they got a bye to the final or something similar.

This was the FA's compromise, And Manchester United pulled out anyway. The solution was to give a team defeated in the second round another

go. Darlington came out of the bag, and lost away to Aston Villa, who went on to reach the final. Go figure.

Years later, I'm still grateful it wasn't Rotherham. No disrespect, Shaymen, but I really didn't fancy London to Halifax on a Tuesday...

Top scorers, Season 1999-2000:

Painter 8 Paterson 7 Cullen 5 Stoneman 4 Tate 4

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	WOKING Saturday, 21st August Vanarama National League	In memory o	f Kat Kelly
Routheas (WITTE)	SOUTHEND UNITED Monday, 30th August Vanarama National League	Nick Wo	oolford
	ALTRINCHAM Saturday, 11th September Vanarama National League	In memory of A	Arthur Rogers
	ALDERSHOT TOWN Saturday, 18th September Vanarama National League	Lew She	eppard
	SOLHULL MOORS Tuesday, 5th October Vanarama National League	Rossi M	cCann
	EASTLEIGH Saturday, 9th October Vanarama National League	Neale Harvey 8	k Arthur Villa
	GRIMSBY TOWN Tuesday, 26th October Vanarama National League	Mike and Val Weston	Kevin Smith
VON	BARNET Saturday, 13th November Vanarama National League	In memory of Derek Munday	Paul Gbogidi

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

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	VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE			FA CUP			FA TROPHY			TOTALS			WFC CAREER			
	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G		A	S	G	A	S	G
Barker, Charlie *	3										3			3		
Bird, Jay	4	4		1		1					5	4	1	5	4	1
Browne, Rhys	6	4	1								6	4	1	6	5	1
Buse, Matt	5	6	1		1						5	7	1	5	7	1
Cawley, Jack *	5										5			32	5	2
Charles, Ashley	13	1		1							14	1		47	12	
Cook, Jack	17			1							18			18		
Cooper, Charlie	16		1	1							17		1	17		1
Pronfield, Zac	1	2									1	2		1	2	
yer, Alex	11	2		1							12	2		162	18	3
lefteriou, Andrew	11			1							12			12		
lito, Medy	5	4	1		1						5	5	1	5	5	1
asanmade, Craig	3	6									3	6		3	10	1
lackson, Ira	4	4	2		1						4	5	2	4	5	2
.ewis, Dennon *	10	3	1	1							11	3	1	88	9	19
Mascoll, Jamie	1	1									1	1		1	1	
AcAvoy, Connor	6		1								6		1	6		1
Mundle-Smith, Jaydn	5	1									5	1		5	1	
Okimo, Jerome	11	2		1							12	2		241	7	8
Stevens, Connor	1	1									1	1		81	2	8
Sweeney, Jayden	3		2								3		2	3		2
avares, Nikola	10	1		1							11	1		12	1	
Jmerah, Josh	16	1	7	1							17	1	7	17	1	7
Vickens, George	17			1							18			18		
Vishart, Dan	3	2									3	2		12	9	



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Are you interested in donating the cost of a the 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 players 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 or paulrumens59@gmail.

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CS = Coaching Staff

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CB = Centre Back

RB = Right Back

LB = Left Back

DM = Defensive Midfield

RM = Right Midfield

LW = Left Winger

RW = Right Winger

CG = Centre Forward



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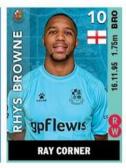




























Saturday 18th December 3:00pm

NEEDHAM MARKET (A)

www.needhammarketfc.co.uk@needhammktfc FA Trophy 3rd Round



Sunday 26th December 3:00pm



£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)



Saturday 22nd January 3:00pm

pitchero.com/clubs/maidenheadunited @MUFCYorkRoad Vanarama National League

WOKING (A)
www.wokingfc.co.uk @WokingFC Vanarama National League



Tuesday 25th January 7:45pm



E10 admission for EFL or Premier League season ticket holders and members of the armed forces

Saturday 29th January 3:00pm

GRIMSBY TOWN (A)

www.grimsby-townfc.co.uk@OfficialGTFC Vanarama National League

Vanarama National League 2021/2022 - @6th December 2021 RESULTS Chesterfield 0-2 **Boreham Wood Bromley** 2-3 Wrexham 0-0 **Halifax Town Grimsby Town** 1-0 **Notts County** 2-3 Solihull Moors 0-0 OStockport County 1-4 2-2 Dagenham & Redbridge 19 **Yeovil Town** Altrincham 1-0 1-0 Barnet -6 14 Woking 1-2 Eastleigh 1-2 16 Torquay United -5 0-5 17 Wealdstone -9 Aldershot Town -12 2-2 19 Weymouth -16 1-1 -15 20 Maidenhead United 10 18 Southend United -12 0-0 -22 1-0 King's Lynn Town 23 Dover Athletic 23 -27 -8



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HOW THEY LINE-UP TODAY

WEALDSTONE FC HALIFAX TOWN Royal Blue/White/White Pink/Black/Black

G George Wickens 1

Jack Cook 2
Dan Wishart 3

Ashlev Charles 4

Connor Stevens 5

Jerome Okimo © 6 Craig Fasanmade 7

Matt Buse 8

Josh Umerah 9 Stephan Rhys Browne 10

David Sesay 11

Andrew Eleftheriou 12

G Alfie Marigliani 13

Connor McAvoy 14 Eliiah Hearn 15

Ira Jackson Jr 16

Nikola Tavares 17 Alex Dyer 18

Zach Dronfield 19 Medy Elito 20

Jay Bird 22

Jaydn Mundle-Smith 23 Charlie Cooper 24

Jamie Mascoll 25

Jayden Sweeney 26

Carry Diacky Diack

1 Sam Johnson

2 Jay Benn

3 Jack Senior

4 Luke Summerfield

5 Jesse Debrah

6 Tom Bradbury

7 Jamie Allen

8 Kieran Green

10 Matty Warburton

11 Billy Waters

12 Tom Scott

14 Matty Stenson 15 Gerry McDonagh

16 Dom Tear

16 Dom Tear

17 Kian Spence 18 Javid Swaby-Nevin

19 Jamie Cooke

20 Harvey Gilmour

21 Tyrell Warren 22 Jack Vale

22 Jack vale 23 Reon Donkor

24 Elliot Newby

25 Jordan Slew

26 Martin Woods

31 Niall Maher

RESULT: WEALDSTONE

FC HALIFAX TOWN

REFEREE Elliott Swallow ASSISTANTS Jack Fagg and Craig Green FOURTH OFFICIAL Kirsty Dowie OBSERVER Graham Horwood

MATCH SPONSOR Harrow Windows
MATCHBALL DONOR Tony and Peter Drew

NEXT AT THE VALE v MAIDENHEAD UNITED Vanarama National League, Boxing Day, Sunday December 26, KO 3pm

Main club sponsor:

gpflewis

