

# WEALDSTONE

*versus*

# YEOVIL TOWN



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BY MARK HYDE



WEALDSTONE 2021-22

# Written in Stone

**G**ood evening and welcome back to The Vale for tonight's National League clash with Yeovil Town.

Some of you may have noticed that the results in our mid week floodlit games have been very good so lets hope that carries into this evening and beyond with the Maidenhead game next Tuesday.

There is of course the small matter of our trip to Barnet this coming Saturday. As of now (Late Sunday evening) we have sold around 590 tickets. There is still time to join the party if you haven't already done so, and if you have drag a family member, friend or random stranger along with you as this is not a game to be missed.

Lastly, our Supporters Club are raising funds with a fantastic Easter Raffle with tickets available from the Ticket Hut.



Mark

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# WEALDSTONE

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2013 / 2014 Isthmian League Premier Division  
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1984 / 1985 FA Trophy

#### LEAGUE CUPS

1981 / 1982 Southern League Cup

#### MIDDLESEX COUNTY CUPS

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1984 / 1985 Senior Cup  
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1998 / 1999 Isthmian League Division 1 (3rd, annulled)  
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- 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
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- 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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3) The consumption of alcoholic drinks is permitted INSIDE the social club bar, garden and boardroom areas.

4) Vehicles parked on the Grosvenor Vale site are at the owners' risk.

5) Wealdstone Football Club supports the FA's campaign on pyrotechnics (e.g. flares and smoke bombs). Any misuse of such items in and around the Ground will result in those responsible being asked to leave the ground and, in line with football authority guidance, may result in a report to the Police, potential prosecution and a ban from the Club of up to three years.

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BY SUDHIR RAWAL



# The Elmslie Ender



**T**here has been some musing on social media about our largest-ever following for a league match.

We are blessed with good away backing, and that has always been the case, but we haven't had the ability (mainly because we are in a London suburb and our home support hasn't really been that big) to take very large numbers on the road.

Tonight's visitors Yeovil Town, for example, could easily take four figures to Weymouth, or Aldershot to Woking, let alone Grimsby taking 2,500 to Notts County last weekend.

When I rack my brain, in the league, I am struggling to think when we would have had five hundred on our travels, let alone four figures. Northwood when we won the Isthmian League Division Three in '97 probably, and at Barnet when we were presented with the GL title in 1985. Kettering when we won the title the week before, again maybe but definitely not even for games at Harrow or Hendon.

For cup matches, we have had four figures at QPR, Aldershot, Swindon and maybe Reading and Colchester, though the latter two maybe not. Trophy final of course. Boro in the FA Cup would have been big. In the Trophy big numbers went to Enfield, Newport, Brackley, Billericay, Boro but generally we have topped out at around three hundred, with Havant in the National League South winning season when over four hundred went to the south coast for a league game, being an exception.

Of course, there were also the 602 who travelled to Woking for the play off semi-final a couple of years ago. Yet, on Saturday, at the Cuckoo's Nest, we should get pretty close to

## We all love a crowd stat, to have a record league

seven hundred Stones fans with walk ups. As of Sunday morning, 553 have been sold so far.

**A** small number of our fans have refused to go, observing that it was too painful to visit a ground that was supposed to be ours. I have never set foot in Tesco's in Harrow and, as yet, never ventured to PEPF either, despite having an opportunity to play international walking football that meant that I'd have to train there. That said, there's no way I would miss the game on Saturday, assuming Covid doesn't rear its head. It will be cathartic and the chance to finally move on.

The truth is, Stones there would not be the club that we are now, playing in an area uninterested in anything but Liverpool and Manchester United. It should be a cracking atmosphere and let's hope for another Rhys Browne winner and we'll happily stay out on the pitch for over thirty minutes after the final whistle!

Talking about away support, another cracking day at Grimsby ten days ago and another BELT effusively glowing about our away support. It

# WEALDSTONE 2021/22



*A section of the 500-odd Stones fans who travelled to Newport County ten years ago for the Trophy semi-final first leg. We're set to have many more at next Saturday's Barnet league game*

## Sudhir more than most and it will be great following in Cloud Cuckoo Land on Saturday

has become a habit this season.

I have had sneak preview of the legendary Neil Cordice's interview in this programme. He talks about his time at Yeovil and the racism he encountered as a player not just there but also in general too.

Yeovil, for me, was always the worst away trip. Racism wasn't just a problem there, of course, particularly in the eighties and early ninties, or a West Country issue but national one, but it felt worse there than other places. We played them quite a bit in midweek, so chose to give it a miss.

There are two games in particular that I still recall where the racist environment is still clear to this day. The Trophy tie at Yeovil, where we lead three nil, lost four-three and had a chance to equalise late on, though I think those in the caged away section – a rarity in those days – were pretty glad that we didn't.

Bananas thrown on the pitch, monkey chants, pretty awful stuff. As Neil says, you just had to deal with it as a player. The other game that I still recall was, strangely, at Barnet, towards the

end of our Conference days, when the home fans were singing "Wealdstone's full of p\*\*\*s". As I said, a national problem.

We now live in more enlightened times, though as we know, abuse now has moved to social media rather than overtly at football grounds. We have a **Stonescast** Special planned, where long-time Stones fans David Jones, Peter John-Baptiste, Jeremy Albert, possibly Sateesh Khanna and newbie Raj Darbar, will join me to discuss their experiences of being a fan of colour.... or in Jeremy's case being Jewish at non-league, Premier league/First Division and international football.

David Jones was watching Manchester United in the very late sixties and has some quite horrific stories. Talking of **Stonesnet**, the latest episode with Paul Franklin, Adam Hills, Mark Hyde and Simon Bains should drop by the end of the week.

They will be chatting about Notts County, Grimsby, players ins and outs and of course, the Cuckoos game. Let's hope they have cause to be upbeat!

BY TIM PARKS



THE BIG STONES INTERVIEW

# Matt Buse

## All we are saying, is give Buse a chance

**I**t's hard not to feel a bit sorry for Matt Buse - although pity's the last thing he wants or needs.

The 24 year old has hardly put a foot wrong when he's started, or come off the bench this season and yet - until he was finally drafted in for the Notts County and Grimsby games - is regularly overlooked for one of the midfield slots.

Now, with the signings of Nathan Ferguson and young loanee Aaron Henry from Charlton you have to wonder if his face will continue to fit.

Living 125 miles away in Yeovil, Somerset means Matt has plenty of time for reflection during his five-hour round trip up and down the A303. And my suggestion that he should hop on the Yeovil team bus for the trip up to today's game wasn't entirely ridiculous either as the Glovers' stadium is only five minutes from his house!

"It would certainly save me a bit of petrol money" he laughed.

"This season has been frustrating but all I can do is get my head down and put the work in in training. I don't feel I've

*Matt in the thick of things against Notts County a fortnight ago*



done too badly when I've been given the chance".

Matt has spent the last two years at Torquay United, in and out of the side, but the 2020-21 campaign finished on a sour note as he had his penalty saved when the play-off final went to a shoot-out for promotion to the Football League.

It was galling for the Gulls as they had led the table for most of last season. Sutton came up on the rails to finish four points clear of runners-up Torquay... but the Devon side were on a 13-match unbeaten run when they faced 4th-placed Hartlepool in the final at Bristol City's Ashton Gate.

Matt was on the bench and unbelievably celebrating along with his team mates when Torquay keeper Lucan Covolan, up for a corner, headed a

sensational last-gasp equaliser to make it 1-1. With both sides tiring, Matt came on for the last 15 minutes of extra time to replace the injured Jake Andrews - and his day ended in disaster.

Both teams missed their first two penalties. Then both teams scored their next four. Matt stepped up and Pools keeper Brad James guessed right to save... and Donaldson stuck away the 14th penalty to win it for the



*Matt Buse's strike shocks Grimsby!*



# WEALDSTONE 2021-22



...and playing for Torquay (right)

North-Easterners.

"That's the highs and lows of football" said Matt with a sigh.

**H**is high point of this season, undoubtedly, was the terrific 25-yard strike that sunk Grimsby Town in the league game at the Vale in October. "It was the catalyst for us to put together a good run, and we went on to beat Barnet and Dover, and draw at Wrexham".

I remember recording a short interview in the beer garden after the Grimsby game, with the fans buzzing and back-slapping the young midfielder, and how level-headed he was. "You can't get too high after a win, or get too low when you lose" he had said, sagely, and I couldn't believe he hadn't been leaping around in the changing room at the end of the game and joining in choruses of 'Sweet Caroline' after the table-toppers were put to the sword.

But instead he jumped in his car and drove for two and a half hours back to Yeovil, ready to play his part in those victories - even though he was dropped after the bubble burst in a 4-1 defeat to Stockport County at the end of the month.

It had all looked so encouraging in the summer after Stones had snapped up both Matt and Josh Umerah when they were released by Torquay on the heels of that play-off disappointment, and both

men were integral to our excellent pre-season. "I had several options, much closer to home but Wealdstone were the obvious choice as a National League side. I wanted to stay at that level, and feel that I fit in at that level. As for the commuting, well you just have to get on with it.

"The away games are often more taxing... for Grimsby last week the direct route was up the M5 rather than driving to Ruislip and getting the coach.... it's five hours in the car anyway and I stayed over the night before the game at my own expense. I don't think you can prepare properly for a game on the back of a long coach trip".

**T**hat's real dedication for a young man who must have been hoping for a career with his home town club after starting out at Huish Park. He joined the Glovers' youth set-up from Pen Mill FC but his hopes of representing Yeovil at senior level fizzled out after the club's academy folded when he was 15.

"That was a real blow as I'd dreamed of playing for Yeovil. My dad Andy played a few games in goal for them 25-odd years ago and we went to matches together - I was there when the club got promoted into the Football League in 2003, though I was only five or six."

Matt then went on to play for Gosport Borough as a teenager, and then Taunton Town in the Southern League - and he came to Torquay's attention after scoring 15 goals from midfield three years ago.

"I like to think I've got that side to my game. At Wealdstone we need to score more goals from midfield to help out the strikers".

He's certainly the most attack-minded of his footballing family, with younger brother Will one of the goalkeepers at championship side Bristol City. "He's following in my dad's footsteps and is probably No.3 in the pecking order at City - although he's currently out on loan at Taunton and doing really well" said Matt.

It must help to have the support of his family as Matt - like Charlie Cooper who commutes from Solihull in the Midlands - has the lonely task of gym work and keeping fit far away from his team mates.

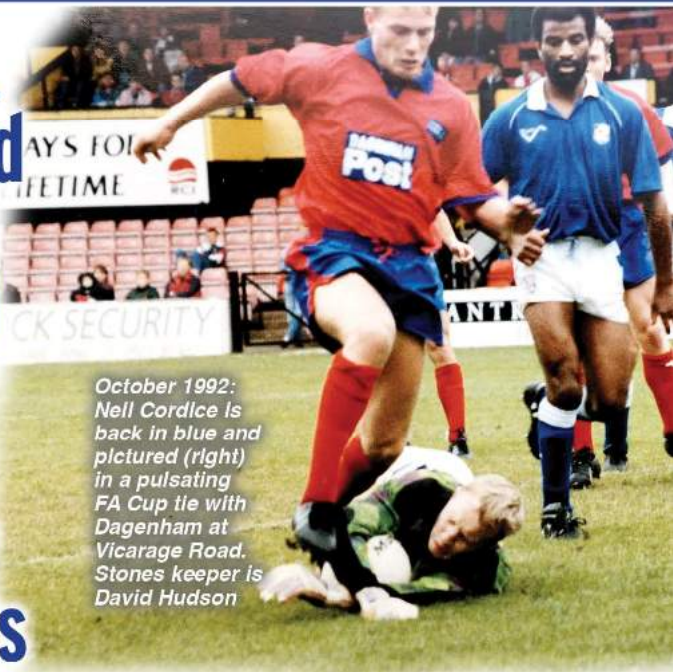
"I don't have another job at the moment so I try to keep the mentality of a full-time pro, and make the most of any chance to turn out for the Stones."

Well here's hoping for a match-winning strike tonight... even if it means he won't be able to show his face in Yeovil Town centre next week!



# YEOVIL REWIND: A LOT IN COMMON >>>

## Neil Cordice.. Stones legend also fondly remembered by Glovers fans of the rollercoaster 1980s and 90s



October 1992:  
Neil Cordice is  
back in blue and  
pictured (right)  
in a pulsating  
FA Cup tie with  
Dagenham at  
Vicarage Road.  
Stones keeper is  
David Hudson

**O**n the face of it you'd not expect there to have been much interaction, player-wise, between Wealdstone and Yeovil.

125 miles apart. One in the London suburbs, the other in cider-swilling Somerset.

Yeovil famous giant-killers of the 1950s and 60s, Wealdstone a powerhouse of the mid-80s while the Glovers were on the slide, and only re-acquainting themselves last year after Stones had spent 30 years in the doldrums - a period when Yeovil had finally broken into the Football League and even reached the Championship!

Football's Swingometer had never seen such a gap between our clubs. In 2003, when Gary Johnson's Glovers won promotion into the League, Gordon Bartlett's Stones were just avoiding relegation to the Ryman Div Two... four levels below.

And ten years later, as Yeovil made it to level two, Stones were in the Ryman Prem, SIX levels below.

So who has worn Wealdstone blue and Yeovil green in the past? An awful lot of players in fact. That's mainly due to one Brian Hall, the manager who steered the Stones to that incredible first non-League (Conference and FA Trophy) double in 1985 and was then persuaded to travel West and revive the fortunes of Yeovil who were mired in the Southern League.

The Glovers, with some 50 years of history in the SL, surprised the football world by announcing that they had applied to move across to the Isthmian League (the other feeder league to the Conference) despite the absurdity of a Somerset club competing in that M25-based competition.

The thinking was that the Isthmian League was a weaker proposition, and that Hall would be casting his net wide for London-based players to boost his squad. And so of course he first raided the

ALLIANCE		PREMIER	
BANGOR C	3	LEAMINGTON	2
Murphy, Owen		Gardner 2	
Hughes			
BARROW	2	YEOVIL	0
Cowperthwaite 2		-2,027	
BOSTON U	3	BATH	2
Simonte		Jenkins, Brown	
Adams 2		-1,756	
MAIDSTONE	2	SCARBOROUGH	0
Caulley, Silvester		-65	
NORTHWICH	1	REDDITCH	0
Mayman		-1,556	
NUNEATON	2	BARNET	1
Grey 2		French-1,351	
STAFFORD	0	KETERING	0
		-2,104	
TELFORD	1	GRAVESEND	2
Wilkey-1,096		Galvin, Streeter	
WYMOUTH	0	ALTRINCHAM	0
		-1,527	
WORCESTER	2	WEALDSTONE	1
Pemberton, Stevens		Cordice-2,156	
<b>SOUTHERN LEAGUE CUP</b>			

Goal on his debut: Aug 1979



BY TIM PARKS

# WEALDSTONE 2021-22



Stones for members of his history-making squad. The Glovers' line-up below shows a lot of the ex-Stones from that era but absent are key performers Steve Rutter, Barry Blackman and Steve Browne.

**N**eil Cordice, the first Stone on Hall's shopping list, is one of the genuine Wealdstone legends, having spent 11 years with the club over two spells, playing a total of 459 games (second only to Charlie Townsend in the II-time stats) and scoring 102 goals.

He's devilishly difficult to catch up with, but I finally managed to speak with 'Mr Busy' last week and quiz him on his time at both clubs. He spent half a dozen years at Yeovil - again over two spells - and was the first one Brian Hall approached with this vision of the New Yeovil.

"It was a time when Wealdstone were in a bad place, on the way to relegation from the

Conference under Colin Meldrum but I had a reputation for loyalty. When Yeovil came in for me they were being well-backed and had potential to get into the League, never mind just the Conference... and Meldrum obviously wasn't bothered if I stayed or went. So I went."

The travelling must have been difficult though, I asked him. Living in Amersham and commuting to Yeovil?

"It worked out okay. they gave me a car and I could stay down there with one of the directors. My last game for the Stones, in that spell was early in the 87-88 season and the club were relegated into the Southern League while Yeovil came back up in the other direction, winning the Isthmian League, the league cup and the challenge shield.

"Brian saw me as a utility

player and to be honest I never really minded where I played - I started off as a striker with Northampton but played a lot of games in midfield, full back and centre-half. In many ways centre-back was my favourite position because I like to think was strong in the air and pretty quick".

Neil's little-known claim to fame is having scored on every one of his debuts!

"It's true.... I didn't play for lots of clubs but I scored at Worcester on my Wealdstone debut (see Sunday Express cutting on opposite page) in the first-ever Alliance Premier League match in August 1979, and also for Yeovil on my debut against Northwich Victoria. On my debut for Northampton in '79 (against Bradford City) I was being marked by the ex-Leeds and England player Paul Reaney but still scored! And I also scored in my first games for Flackwell Heath, Walton & Hersham and Chesham United."

That's not a bad record for someone who played only half of his games as a striker. He's best remembered at both Yeovil and the Stones for his gunslinger of a shot, with the rare ability to hit the ball so cleanly that keepers were often left helpless from 30 yards.

His goal for the Stones - against Yeovil, funnily enough, in a 5-0 Lower Mead pasting 42 years ago - was voted 'Best Stones goal ever' in a poll in this programme ten years ago. A screamer, on the volley, from close to 35 yards

What did Neil remember of it? "The ball was

**CONTINUED OVERPAGE**



A Yeovil Town line up from 1988, strangely missing Neil Cordice but featuring ex-Stones Bob Iles (goalkeeper, back row), Steve Tapley (far left middle row), Andy Wallace (middle of middle row) and Gary Donnellan and Tiv Lowe flanking the ex-Wealdstone manager Brian Hall

# YEOVIL REWIND CONTD >>>

## FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

crossed, and then headed out into my path - it was one of those strikes when you know you've hit the ball cleanly and that it's on its way into the net. I was never one to over-celebrate when I scored but I remember being really excited by that one!"

**A**part from scoring on every debut, it's another little-known fact that Neil scored the last competitive goal at our old Lower Mead ground in a Capital League 1-1 draw with Sutton United in April 1991. And he also scored a memorable 35-yarder in the last-ever game at Yeovil's old Huish ground in April 2000.

That goal (pictured below) was captured on video and Neil is fondly remembered by the crowd for his part in Yeovil's climb back to prominence. But racism was very prevalent the 1980s and 90s - and is still, sadly, creating headlines today.

'Rambling Stone', a contributor to the YFC Blog wrote candidly about it and admits that his club were one of the worst offenders.

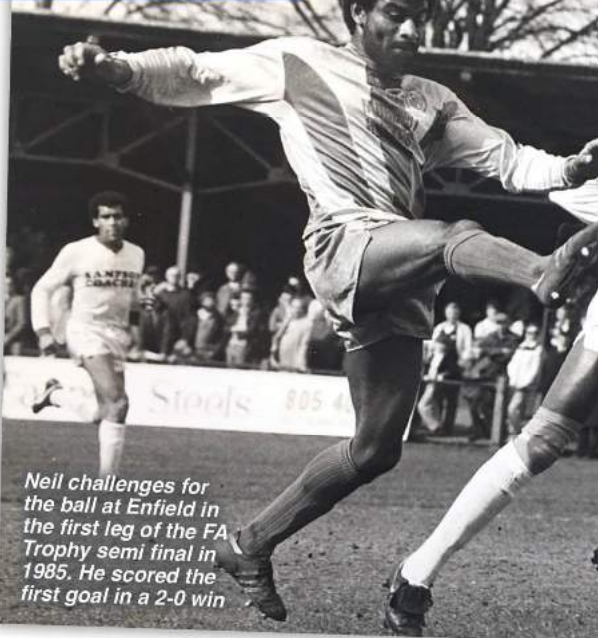
**"I recall one home game, against a team from London in the Vauxhall Opel (Isthmian) League days. As a player came to take a throw-in, someone a few rows behind me shouted out "You black bastard."**

**Neil Cordice, the Yeovil midfielder walked straight over. The guy behind then said (as if it made it better): "I didn't mean you Neil."**

**The response was one I never forgot: "We're all the same. You abuse him, you abuse me. Think about it."**

**No swearing. No aggression. Zen-like calm. The best lesson you could ever have. Delivered within touching distance."**

**A**nd so the question of racism had to be raised, as both Neil and his brother Alan were the subject of vile taunts at almost every away match. The West Country



*Neil challenges for the ball at Enfield in the first leg of the FA Trophy semi final in 1985. He scored the first goal in a 2-0 win*

clubs were among the worst offenders, and so I questioned whether Neil had misgivings about signing for the Glovers all those years ago.

"To be honest, we just ignored it. It wasn't unusual and I remember getting a lot of weird comments in that first Wealdstone game at Worcester, in the caged area leading out to the pitch. If I had let it get to me, my game would have deteriorated, so you just couldn't take it personally. It is just ignorance".

I remember hearing abuse ringing out in one game at Aylesbury, with with the home fans telling Neil 'to go back where he came from'. Neil simply said 'Where I come from? That's Amersham'.



**Wow! A capacity crowd on the last day at Yeovil's old ground and Telford keeper Kevin Charlton is beaten by.... guess who? Yes, the gunslinger Neil Cordice**



# WEALDSTONE 2021-22



Neil had two major disappointments in his career, firstly missing out on a cap for the England non-League team in April 1982 when he was at his majestic midfield team chasing the Conference title in our first year back in the top flight.

On Easter Saturday, Wealdstone were winning at title rivals Maidstone and home full-back Brian Thompson committed a dreadful challenge ended his career.

on Neil that almost

"He just came right across me and took out my knee - I've never been in so much pain in my life and I'm not sure he was even booked.

"I had just been measured for my England suit and it was so disappointing. It stalled my career and I never got close to an England cap again... and Thompson was in that same squad. It lives with me to this day"

Wealdstone won that game 3-0 but, missing one of the mercurial Cordices, won just two more games out of 11 to finish the season in third place behind Enfield and Maidstone.

"I would have loved to have played for England but I'm so proud that my older brother Alan was capped so many times. He was a real mainstay of the England team in the 80s and should have had a full-time career... I've never seen a player so quick, before or after and he would just leave players for dead. Maybe Kylian Mbappe in the modern game is the only one with a similar athleticism."

His other main disappointment was not making the starting XI for the Trophy final at Wembley, against Boston United in 1985.

"You couldn't really argue against it because we won. I was sub (only one in those days) and came on for the last few minutes but don't remember touching the ball".

It was a tough call for manager Hall who later said 'Neil was his own worst enemy by being such a great utility player. And I wish I could have given him more time off the bench but the ball just wouldn't go out of play!'.

He had played right through the journey to Wembley, including both legs of the epic semi final against Enfield, but was replaced for the final by the fit-again Lee Holmes. But Holmes scored a fine header in the final and there was also disappointment for regulars Mark Graves, Nigel Johnson and Vinny Jones.

Neil then asked me how I thought the Stones' double-winners of 1985 would fare in the current full-time National League. Would they be good enough?

That's a fascinating question as that Wealdstone side boasted players with League experience in every position. Bob Iles and Steve Perkins ex-Chelsea; Paul Bowgett ex-Spurs; Dennis Byatt ex-Northampton; Roy Davies and Gary Donnellan ex Reading; Lee Holmes ex-Brentford; Robin Wainwright ex-Luton and Northampton; Brian Greenaway ex-Fulham; and the Cordices ex Norwich and Northampton. Plus Mark Graves ex Plymouth... and the explosive, match-winning Andy Graham was the only one without Football League pedigree.

So to be fair, those are the type of experienced players we are now trying to land to improve the squad. Neil reckons that team would have held its own.

Alan is now living in Devon, near Exeter and loves the country life with his horse-loving daughters and family. Neil still lives on the outskirts of Amersham with his wife Lynne and they have three daughters, two of whom are married.

He's now 60 but retirement is not, yet, on the horizon. "I'm self employed, in the building trade - plumbing and electrics, that sort of thing - but we also own a business in textiles and manufacturing. Knickers, panty hose, socks."

"So you're in women's underwear Neil?"

"You might say that!" he laughed. "In fact you should say that!"

# Match Sponsors



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## MATCH

## SPONSORS



### WOKING

Saturday, 21st August  
Vanarama National League

Harrow Windows



### SOUTHEND UNITED

Monday, 30th August  
Vanarama National League

Ray Corner and Peter Carter



### ALTRINCHAM

Saturday, 11th September  
Vanarama National League

Wealdstone FC Supporters Club



### ALDERSHOT TOWN

Saturday, 18th September  
Vanarama National League

Harrow Windows



### SOLIHULL MOORS

Tuesday, 5th October  
Vanarama National League

Leasehold Management Services Ltd



### EASTLEIGH

Saturday, 9th October  
Vanarama National League

Rolfe-East

In memory of John  
O'Connor aka OC

Dorset Stones



### DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE

Saturday, 18th October  
FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round

Ability Security



### GRIMSBY TOWN

Tuesday, 25th October  
Vanarama National League

ADWConnect



### BARNET

Saturday, 13th November  
Vanarama National League

Rolfe-East

Ray Corner & Peter Carter



# WEALDSTONE 2021-22

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

— Colin Walklate,  
Harrow Windows

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

— Robert Barrett,  
Rolfe-East

"The parents and boys of AFC Lightning had a great day sponsoring the mighty Stones: great food, hospitality, football, a proper crowd and meeting the Raider! We will do it again this season!"

— Keith Davies, AFC Lightning

## MATCH

## SPONSORS



### STOCKPORT COUNTY

Saturday, 27th November  
Vanarama National League

AFC Lightning

Morty's Emslie Enders



### FC HALIFAX TOWN

Saturday, 11th December  
Vanarama National League

Harrow Windows



### DOVER ATHLETIC

Saturday, 15th January  
Vanarama National League

Ruislip Windows & Doors



### NOTTS COUNTY

Tuesday, 25th January  
Vanarama National League

Rolfe-East

Ruislip Windows & Doors



### YEOVIL TOWN

Tuesday, 8th February  
Vanarama National League

Fenton Civil Engineering



### MAIDENHEAD UNITED

Tuesday, 15th February  
Vanarama National League

Osmo UK

Rolfe East



### WREXHAM

Saturday, 19th February  
Vanarama National League

Union Athletic

Your name or  
business here



### TORQUAY UNITED

Saturday, 26th February  
Vanarama National League

Oldfield Construction Ltd

The Lower Mead 4



### WEYMOUTH

Saturday, 12th March  
Vanarama National League

Harrow Windows

Gerard Cook



### BROMLEY

Saturday, 26th March  
Vanarama National League

Rolfe-East

The Guild

In Memory of  
Brian Kat Kelly



### CHESTERFIELD

Saturday, 9th April  
Vanarama National League

Harrow Windows

Turf Doctor



### BOREHAM WOOD

Monday, 18th April  
Vanarama National League

Ruislip Windows & Doors

Your name or  
business here



### DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE

Saturday, 30th April  
Vanarama National League

The Old Gits Club

Your name or  
business here



### KING'S LYNN TOWN

Saturday, 7th May  
Vanarama National League

Ashley Holding

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business here

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# Opposition in focus

## YEOVIL TOWN

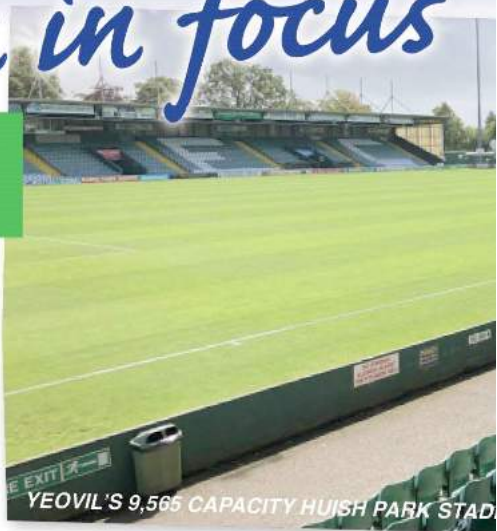
### THE GLOVERS

**F**ounded in 1895, the club initially joined the Somerset Senior League and competed in a multitude of leagues up until the outbreak of World War II. During this time they won titles in the Southern League, Western League, Bristol Charity League, Dorset District League and Somerset Senior League.

The Glovers (named due to the long history of glove making in the town) played in the Southern League after the war ended, winning the championship in 1954–55, 1963–64 and 1970–71, before becoming members of the Alliance Premier League from 1979 to 1985. They spent the next three years in the Isthmian League, and were elevated into the Conference after finishing as champions in 1987–88. Relegated in 1995, they were promoted again two years later after winning another Isthmian League title. Yeovil won the 2002 FA Trophy Final and secured a place in the Football League after winning the Conference in 2002–03 under the stewardship of Gary Johnson. They then won the League Two title in 2004–05, before reaching the Championship with victory in the 2013 League One play-off final in Johnson's second spell as manager. However they suffered consecutive relegations, and were relegated once more following the 2018–19 season, ending their 16-season spell in the Football League.

Yeovil are one of the most successful non-league teams in the FA Cup, having defeated major Football League teams, most famously Sunderland in the fourth round in 1949, before going on to play in front of more than 81,000 spectators away at Manchester United in the next round. For some years, as the only Football League side in Somerset, they had few local rivals since Dorset-based side Weymouth declined as Yeovil climbed the divisions in the 1990s and 2000s.

It was in 1990 the club moved into their current home 'Huish Park', with a capacity of 9,565. Much of the club's success has been in this stadium and is also home to the clubs Ladies team.



YEOVIL'S 9,565 CAPACITY HUISH PARK STADIUM

#### HONOURS

**Sky Bet League One** -  
Play-off winners: 2012/13

**Sky Bet League Two** -  
Winners: 2004/05

**Vanarama National League** -  
Winners: 2002/03

**FA Trophy** - Winners: 2002

**Isthmian League** - Winners: 1987/88,  
1996/97

**Southern League** - Winners: 1954/55,  
1963/64, 1970/71

**Southern League Western Division** -  
Winners: 1923/24, 1931/32, 1934/35

**Western League** - Winners: 1921/22,  
1924/25, 1929/30, 1934/35

#### LAST SEASON

**Saturday 1st May 2021**  
HOME - Lost 0-2 (BCD)

**Tuesday 6th October 2020**  
AWAY - Drew 2-2 (BCD)

# WEALDSTONE 2021-22



Pic. Yeovil Town

## YEOVIL TOWN F.C.



### YEOVIL STATS

**Record EFL attendance at Huish Park -**  
9,527 v Leeds United, April 25th 2008  
(League One)

**All-time record attendance -**  
17,123 v Sunderland, January 29th 1949 (FA  
Cup Fourth Round)

**Longest Serving Player -**  
Len Harris, 14 years (1958-72)

**Longest Serving Manager -**  
Billy Kingdon, eight years (1938-46)

**Highest League Finish -**  
24th Championship (2013/2014)

**Highest Transfer fee received -**  
£1.2m (Arron Davies and Chris Cohen to  
Nottingham Forest, July 2007)

**Highest transfer fee paid -**  
Undisclosed (five figure sum) (Pablo  
Bastianini from Quilmes Atletico Club, 2005)

**Highest margin of victory in the EFL - 6-1 v**  
Oxford United, 16 September 2004, 5-0 v  
Crawley Town December 3rd 2016



Pic. Adam Williams

### WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v YEOVIL TOWN

**P 24 W 8 D 7 L 9 F 38 A 40**

# Opposition in focus

## WHO'S WHO?



### 1. GRANT SMITH - GOALKEEPER

Grant Smith signed for Town in the summer of 2021 as the club's new number one goalkeeper. Formerly of Chesterfield, the shotstopper kept 10 clean sheets in 18 apps in Derbyshire before heading to Somerset.

### 2. MARK LITTLE - DEFENCE

A Wolverhampton Wanderers academy graduate, Little made 32 appearances for the Midlands outfit before venturing to Peterborough United after a successful loan spell in Cambridgeshire. It was with the Posh where the defender made his mark as an established Football League defender, winning promotion to the Championship via the League One play-offs in his first full season with the club. A spell at Bristol City followed where he also won promotion to the Championship, this time as champions alongside a Johnstone's Paint Trophy win. Little enjoyed spells with Bolton Wanderers and Bristol Rovers in the years following.

### 3. JORDAN BARNETT - DEFENCE

A Barnsley academy graduate, Barnett moved on for his first taste of first team football, joining Oldham Athletic in 2020 where he made 18 appearances in EFL League Two. After departing the Lancashire outfit, the full back joined Notts County for the latter part of last season.

### 5. MAX HUNT - DEFENCE

Standing at six foot, six inches tall, the towering Carlisle United loanee signed on loan in December 2020. A Derby County academy graduate, Hunt has experience at National League levels, enjoying a stint on loan at Aldershot Town in 2019, making 21 league appearances. Following his first taste of mens football, the Chesterfield born defender moved northbound to Carlisle in the summer and after already making six appearances in League Two this season.

### 6. LUKE WILKINSON - DEFENCE

The 28-year-old arrived on a free transfer and signed a two-year deal after making 118 appearances for Stevenage during a three-year spell in League Two. Having spent the majority of his career playing for clubs close to the capital, Wilkinson returns closer to his Wells roots where he was picked up by Bristol City as part of their academy. Moving on from Ashton Gate, he had spells at the likes of Portsmouth, Northampton, Dagenham & Redbridge and Luton before joining Boro in the fourth tier.

### 7. MATTHEW WORTHINGTON-MIDFIELD

Arriving for a second spell with the club in January 2019, Matt Worthington signed a two-and-a-half year deal from AFC Bournemouth. A loanee during the 2017/18 campaign at Huish Park, the Cherries academy graduate then spent the first half of the current campaign at Forest Green Rovers before returning to the Vitality Stadium.

### 8. DALE GORMAN - MIDFIELD

The midfielder reunited with Darren Sarll who brought him over to England in his teens whilst at Stevenage. Now 25, Gorman has a National League winners medal with Leyton Orient, alongside EFL spells with the aforementioned Stevenage & a loan spell with Newport County. Most recently, the midfielder spent time in the Northern Ireland Premier Division with Glentoran, where he inspired the Glens to a third placed finish, reaching the Europa League qualifying rounds in the process.

### 9. REUBEN REID - FORWARD

Signing for his second stint in Green & White in January 2021, Reid was part of the 12/13 League One play-off winning squad, netting six times in all competitions that season before a loan spell to Plymouth. Spending the majority of his career in the South West, the 32-year old forward has enjoyed stints at Plymouth, Forest Green Rovers, Torquay United, Exeter and most recently Cheltenham Town.

### 11. TOM KNOWLES - MIDFIELD

Knowles began his career at Cambridge, and after graduating from his hometown club's academy in 2017, has played a handful of games for the League Two side, scoring a late free-kick against Morecambe in April 2019 and netting this season against Fulham U23's. Already enjoying seven loan spells inside the National League pyramid, Knowles knows the non-league game well, including a 14 goal season across two loan spells at Cambridge City & St. Ives Town. Last season, Knowles received much praise during a successful spell on loan at Chelmsford City in the National League South, where he scored five times in 24 appearances, including the winner against eventual league champions Wealdstone F.C.

### 12. MAX EVANS - GOALKEEPER

The young goalkeeper made his debut for the club in friendly action in 2021, coming off the bench against Stratford Town. Max has

# WEALDSTONE 2021-22

started competitively for the Glovers in the Somerset Premier Cup and FA Trophy. Evans also possess first team experience, with a loan spell at Frome Town under his belt during the 2020/21 season.

## **13. MORGAN WILLIAMS - MIDFIELD**

A familiar face to most Glovers fans, Williams enjoyed two short term loan spells with the club from Coventry City. Making an instant impact in his first spell, Williams kept a clean sheet on his debut against FC Halifax Town after just one training session with the club. Prior to joining the Glovers on loan first time round, Williams had already made his first team bow for Coventry, lining up in the Checkatrade Trophy against Arsenal and later started in League One against Fleetwood Town.

## **14. ALEX BRADLEY - MIDFIELD**

Despite being born in Worcester, Bradley has youth international experience with Finland, playing in the 2018 UEFA U19 Championships for his Mother's birth nation. The right sided defender already has National League promotion pedigree under his belt, having made 23 appearances for Harrogate Town last season as the Sulphurites won the delayed National League play-offs.

## **15. SONNY BLU LO EVERTON - FORWARD**

Sonny Blu Lo-Everton signed for Town on loan from Watford in August 2021. A familiar face to Darren Sarll, the boss first met the teenager when he was fifteen years old, whilst the youngster was on work experience at the club. With National League experience under his belt with Wealdstone, Lo-Everton ventures to Somerset in the hope of more minutes in the mens game.

## **19. CHARLIE WAKEFIELD - MIDFIELD**

The 23-year-old midfielder joins after a season competing at National League level, spending the first half of the season at Wealdstone F.C, later joining play-off bound Bromley. A Chelsea academy graduate, the quick midfielder spent eight years within the Blues academy, before moving onto pastures new with Coventry City, spending one and a half with the Sky Blues, before venturing to Wealdstone last summer.

## **20. TOBY STEPHENS - MIDFIELD**

An academy graduate, Toby signed his first professional deal at the start of the 20/21 season and made his debut on the bench against Wrexham. The teenager is now a regular amongst the travelling squad.

## **21. JACK ROBINSON - DEFENDER**

A versatile defender, Robinson can play both

left back, and left-sided centre half, providing much needed competition to the defensive ranks.

## **22. BEN BARCLAY - DEFENCE**

Signing on a short-term loan deal from Stockport, Barclay arrived to boost Town's numbers at the back.

## **23. ADI YUSSUF - FORWARD**

An experienced forward, Yussuf has enjoyed spells in the Football League and possesses a prolific record at National League level, especially with Solihull Moors where he netted 26 goals across two seasons with the club. Last season, whilst contracted to Blackpool, the 29-year-old spent the season on loan in the National League with both Wrexham & Chesterfield, finding the back of the net on eight occasions.

## **24. LAWSON D'ATH - MIDFIELD**

Lawson, who originally joined the club in 2019, made 44 apps across two seasons, before an injury suffered on the final day of the season forced him to need surgery. The midfielder remained in Somerset to recover from the injury and during that time became a regular co-commentator on BBC Somerset, building a reputation for his passion on the microphone. Throughout his injury recovery, manager Darren Sarll made no secret of his desire to secure Lawson's signature. Commenting after his signature was confirmed, Sarll said, "Of all the players we could have signed this year Lawson was the one I wanted the most." "He has been with the club since my appointment, and he has seen the very best and worst during his time. He has remained loyal when he could have drifted away, and nothing pleases me more than to have back involved with the squad. "There is no one I trust more. A wonderful player but an even better person. He will lift us from now until the end of the season.

## **32. JOSH STAUNTON - MIDFIELD**

Josh Staunton became Darren Sarll's first summer signing of the 2020/21 transfer window. The versatile man has been known to play in both in the defence and in holding midfield roles. After a successful season for Halifax where he played every minute in their play-off push, Staunton signed for Yeovil with the aim of going one better this time round.

## **35. OLLIE HASTE - MIDFIELD**

The left-sided player has been involved in a number of first team squads and has had his hard work rewarded within the England COLLEGES set-up. Along with his involvement in the match day squad, Haste has spent a lot of time with the Yeovil Town first team in recent months and starting in the Glovers' Somerset Premier Cup fixtures.

## VIEW FROM THE AWAY END

# I live up in Lancashire so being a Yeovil fan takes a hell of a lot of commitment!

**GLOVERS PODCASTER DAVID COATES HAS A WEAK EXCUSE FOR WHY HE WON'T BE AT THE VALE FOR TONIGHT'S NATIONAL LEAGUE GAME**

**Your name & age?** David Coates, 41 & two-thirds.

**Do you live in Yeovil?** No, having spent the first 21 years of my life in Somerset, I relocated to Lancashire where I have lived ever since. It doesn't stop me following the team... the travel time is a lot more though!

**When was your first Glovers game? What do you remember of it and who did you go with?**

Until recently I would have told you it was a 3-0 win over Farnborough in the Bob Lord Trophy on a wet October night in 1991. My memory was thinking Robbie Carroll, who scored twice for us that night was the best player in the world, I have changed my opinion since. I went along with my uncle who recently sent me a programme for a reserve team game against our local rivals Weymouth from 1986 at Huish that is apparently my first game - a match I have no memory of!

**Is YRFC a large part of your life?** From the early/mid-1990s I have solidly followed Yeovil, home and away, up until around 2001 when I moved away, but still get to around 20 (mostly away) games a season.

In the past year I have become involved with a Yeovil podcast, the Gloverscast, with two fellow supporters, so a twice-a-week recording schedule makes it an even bigger part of my life these days.

**Do you follow any other team?**

Having grown up surrounded by Manchester United supporters at school, I supported Blackburn Rovers for a period - mostly to wind up my class-mates. Now I live 10 minutes drive from there, I have no interest.

**Do you follow Yeovil home and away?** For the past 21 years I have been more of an away supporter, due to poor travel links between

Lancashire and Somerset, but get to around 20 matches a season as a rule.

**Have you been to a Stones v Glovers game before?**

Sadly, Grosvenor Vale is a place I have never visited with COVID-19 robbing me of the chance last season and this year the rescheduling to a midweek has denied me again. I continue to await my Glovers-v-Stones debut.

**Who have been your Yeovil heroes of the past?**

As a teenager, I was a solid home and away supporter for two seasons in the Isthmian League (1995/96, 1996/97) and my hero of the second season was Howard Forinton, one of the best goal-scorers I ever had the pleasure to watch. The late Steve Browne (pictured below), a player with a foot in both camps tonight, was another great star of that era.

In more recent years, the likes of dazzling midfielders Gavin Williams and Michael McIndoe, prolific strikers such as Phil Jevons and Paddy Madden, and our club hero, Terry Skiverton, have run Howie close - but he's still my favourite.

**How does the new Huish compare with the old one?** Given my inability to remember visiting the old Huish, I would say favourably! An out of town location with superior facilities, but there's

always something to be said for walking into grounds with true history. We look forward to welcoming Stones' fans to Huish Park in May.

**Are you desperate for the Glovers to win back their EFL place? Will that happen in the short term? What are the obstacles?** I would love to see us make it back in to the League, our 15 years



# WEALDSTONE 2021-??



*David (left) pictured in a state of disbelief at Wembley in May 2013... "Getting in the second tier of the English game is not something I ever expected to see"*

**What have you made of Charlie Wakefield and Sonny Blu Lo Everton, who both wore our shirt last season?** Wakefield has been a sensation and probably the first name on our team-sheet, he's been playing almost as a centre forward recently and his pace and trickery have been a key feature of our attacking threat.

Sonny has been more of a slow burner. He's got undeniable talent and there have been games where he's run the show, but others where he's been out-muscled or not quite there.

He's re-signed until the end of the season now, so hoping to see some of the positives from him between now and the end of the season.

**Will Yeovil be giving a lift to the game to Matthew Buse who lives in the town?!**

I'm pretty sure we didn't give him a lift when he was a Torquay United player and, given it's been a while since we've visited Grosvenor Vale, maybe he should be directing us!

**Did you follow games via live stream last season, and what did you make of that experience? (Watching the game at Huish last October was WFC fans' first taste of that)** Unfortunately, the midweek fixture has scuppered my chances of attending this one, work and life commitments won't allow a eight-hour round journey on a midweek.

I did tune into your live stream last season and thought the feed was good - better because it ended in a 2-0 Yeovil win - and I suspect I had a more positive experience of your feed than you did of Yeovil's.

The Stones' trip to Huish Park was our first attempt at streaming and it took a while for us to get it right.

**Do you buy a programme at all games?** I do buy programmes to try and give a little back to clubs in the non-League. I got out of the habit when we were a League side, so it's taken a bit of getting used too.

**And finally, what is your prediction for tonight's game?** I've got to say a Yeovil win. I'll go 2-1 to the Glovers with Wakefield at the double!

there were a fantastic experience and, in my opinion, one that did not have to end. In the short term, it is difficult to see how anyone can compete against the financial muscle of the likes of Stockport County, Wrexham and Chesterfield, but Barrow and Sutton give us all hope it is possible.

The obstacles are investment (which has been minimal since our parachute payments from the League stopped) in a squad deep enough to compete for a season. We have a first XI capable of making the play-offs, but our squad is not deep enough to cope with the inevitable injuries and suspensions.

**Who are the danger men to look out for this evening?** One very familiar one to you will be Charlie Wakefield, who started last season at Wealdstone. He's looked superb this season and flourished under a manager who has clearly encouraged him. Wakefield and Tom Knowles are our threats going forward but, as with many teams at this level, our strength is built around solidity which is offered in spades by Luke Wilkinson. Our club captain has had his problems with injuries but (if he's not suffering one against the Stones) he'll be a huge influence.



*Yeovil's star man Charlie Wakefield celebrates a Stones goal last season with Mich Efe*

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# RESULTS 2021/2022

In Black = Started match In Blue = Sub

George WICKENS  
Jack COOK  
Andrew ELEFTHERIOU  
Nikola TAVARES  
Jerome OKIMO  
Craig FASANMADE  
Matt BUSE  
Joshua UMERAH  
Rhys BROWNE  
Dennon LEWIS  
Charlie COOPER

AUGUST		Comp	Score	(Total)	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers												
21	WOKING	VNL	1-2	1,405	380	16	Umerah	1	2	12	17	6	7	8	9	10	11		
28	Chesterfield	VNL	0-2	5,336	167	18		1	2	12	17	6	7	8(18)	9	10	11	24	
30	SOUTHEND UNITED	VNL	0-0	2,151	800	18		1	2	12		6	7(10)	9	10	11		24	
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>																			
4	Dagenham & Redbridge	VNL	2-2	1,735	170	18	Umerah, Lewis	1	2	12	17(34)	6	7		9	10(7)	11(3)	24	
11	ALTRINCHAM	VNL	1-0	1,013	N/A	15	Elito (Pen)	1	2	12		6	7(9)		9	10	11	24	
14	Notts County	VNL	2-3	5,213	208	14	Umerah (2)	1	2	12		6	7(9)		9	10(11)	11	24	
18	ALDERSHOT TOWN	VNL	2-2	1,106	280	15	Umerah, Jackson	1	2	12		6	7(9)	8(20)	9	10	11	24	
25	King's Lynn Town	VNL	1-0	885	180	13	Cooper	1	2	12	17			8(21)	9	10(9)	11(20)	24	
<b>OCTOBER</b>																			
2	Torquay United	VNL	0-5	2,097	132	16		1	2	12	17			8(20)	9			11	24
5	SOLIHULL MOORS	VNL	0-0	1,501	120	16		1	2	12	17			8(18)	9			11	24
9	EASTLEIGH	VNL	1-2	1,267	95	16	Umerah	1	2	12	17							9(18)	24
16	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	FAC4	1-2	718	185	17	Bird	1	2	12	17	6		8(11)	9			11	24
23	Weymouth	VNL	1-1	1,024	170	17	McAvoy	1	2	12	17	6	7(9)	8(18)	9			11	24
26	GRIMSBY TOWN	VNL	1-0	1,892	794	16	Buse	1	2	12	17	6	7(9)	8	9			11(16)	24
<b>NOVEMBER</b>																			
13	BARNET	VNL	1-0	2,662	672	16	Browne	1	2	12	17	6(25)		8	9	10(16)		24	
20	Wrexham	VNL	0-0	8,592	194	17		1	2	12	17	6(17)			9	10		24	
23	Dover Athletic	VNL	3-2	510	200	15	Sweeney (2), Umerah	1	2	12		6		8	9	10		24	
27	STOCKPORT COUNTY	VNL	1-4	1,382	310	16	Jackson	1	2	12		6		8	9			24	
30	Bedfont & Feltham	MCC2	1-2	TBC	TBC	16	Jackson												
<b>DECEMBER</b>																			
4	Bromley	VNL	2-3	1,747	220	17	Umerah, Cook	1	2	12		6			9			24	
11	FC HALIFAX TOWN	VNL	0-1	958	90	18						6	7					24	
18	Needham Market	FAT3	1-2	432	200	18	Buse				2		6	7	8(5)	9		24	
<b>JANUARY</b>																			
11	Boreham Wood	VNL	0-1	1,298	171	19						17	6	7	8	9			
15	DOVER ATHLETIC	VNL	2-1	940	45	19	Charles, Stevens	1	2	12	17	6	7					24	
22	Woking	VNL	0-2	2,667	232	20		1	2	12	17	6	7		9			24	
25	NOTTS COUNTY	VNL	0-0	1,547	450	20		1	2	12		6(2)		8	9			24	
29	Grimsbury Town	VNL	1-2	4,747	166	20	Mascoll	1				6		8	9(22)			24	
<b>FEBRUARY</b>																			
8	YEOVIL TOWN	VNL																	
12	Barnet	VNL																	
15	MAIDENHEAD UNITED	VNL																	
19	WREXHAM	VNL																	
22	Solihull Moors	VNL																	
26	TORQUAY UNITED	VNL																	
<b>MARCH</b>																			
5	Eastleigh	VNL																	
8	Maidenhead United	VNL																	
12	WEYMOUTH	VNL																	
19	Stockport County	VNL																	
26	BROMLEY	VNL																	
<b>APRIL</b>																			
2	FC Halifax Town	VNL																	
9	CHESTERFIELD	VNL																	
15	Southend United	VNL																	
18	BOREHAM WOOD	VNL																	
23	Altrincham	VNL																	
30	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	VNL																	
<b>MAY</b>																			
2	Yeovil Town	VNL																	
7	KING'S LYNN TOWN	VNL																	
15	Aldershot Town	VNL																	



## PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY RESULTS

17th July	Hayes & Yeading Utd A	W	2-1	Charles, Fasanmade
20th July	St Albans City	A	D 1-1	Okimo
24th July	Bedford Town	A	D 2-2	Cook, Fasanmade
27th July	Chesham United	A	W 4-1	Fasanmade, Buse, Browne, Elito
31st July	Colchester United	A	D 1-1	Umerah (Pen)
7th August	Dorking Wanderers	A	W 2-1	Browne 2
10th August	Watford Under 23s	H	W 3-0	Fasanmade, Dronfield, Wishart
14th August	Hungerford Town	H	W 3-1	Umerah 2, Lewis

TO BE ARRANGED

substitute (with number of player replaced in brackets)

Dan WISHART	Ashley CHARLES	Alex DYER	Medy ELITO	Jack CRAWLEY	Ira JACKSON	Charlie BARKER	Connor STEVENS	Jay BIRD	Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH	Connor MCAVOY	Zach DRONFIELD	Jamie MASCOLL	Jayden SWEENEY	Alfie MARIGLIANI	William DENNIS	Sam SARGENT	Douglas TAYLOR	David SESAY	Aaron HENRY	Nathan FEERGUSON
3(11)	4(24)	18(8) 18	20(7) 20(7)	34																
3	4	18		34																
	4	18	20(18)	34	16(10)															
	4	18	20	34	16(18)															
	4		20	34	16															
	4		20		16															
3	4		20		21		5(17)	22(3)												
	4	18	20(4)		21			22												
3(12)	4	18	20				5	22	23(5)											
	4	18	20(4)					22												
	4	18		16(22)				22		14										
	4	18		16(22)				22		14	19									
	4	18		16				22(19)	23											
	4	18(8)			16			23	14	25										
	4	18						22(10)	23	14										
	4	18						22(10)	23	14	19(8)									
	4	18						22(18)	23	14	19(8)	25(23)								
	4	18			16			14	25	26										
	4	18			16(7)		5(25)	14	25	26	13(16)									
	4	18			16(25)		5	22(7)	14	25	26									
	4	18							14	25	26									
	4	18	20(7)		16(25)			23	25	26										
	4	18	20(23)		16(22)			23	23	22										
	4	18	20(7)					23(6)	25	21										
	4	18	20					23	25	22										
	4	18(24)	20					23	14	22										
	4							23	14	11(23)										



Above: Pictures from our battling defeat on the Lincolnshire coast vs Grimsby Town. Pictures courtesy of **Jon Taffel**.

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BY MARTIN READ



# The World of Ball

## Question: how much questioning can any sane football manager take?

We at Wealdstone have a superb social media team who give us more insight into the club than we've ever had - and a management team happy to answer questions. But as Aldershot's Mark Molesley showed us recently, it seems that managers can have their limits...

**W**ell Mark, an FA Trophy tie at home against Bromley this weekend - what are your thoughts?"

Now, on the surface that will have seemed like a perfectly reasonable question to put to the Aldershot Town boss Mark Molesley.

But... well, hang on, was it really? Because when you think about it, what might such a broad request for Molesley's 'thoughts' actually uncover? Typically these days, he'd be most likely to cobble together some fresh variant of the same old jigsaw of banalities. This sort of thing, I'd wager:

1. "It will be a tough match"
2. "They'll come here looking for a result"
3. "We need to be disciplined/stick to our game plan"
4. "It will not be an easy place to visit"
5. "We will have to be at the top of our game"
6. "X has got a knock, Y is in contention, Z will be important to us"

In other words, pretty much zero informational calories. And anyway, why wouldn't he be cautious? Any manager under interview conditions will try to avoid offering certain predictions for fear of being embarrassed by something else actually occurring on the pitch. This is why you'll rarely hear a boss say "yes, absolutely, Jonesy will be back on Saturday" when the alternative "Jonesy's in contention but we'll see what the physio says" offers effectively the same 'news' but without further commitment.

Top flight football has had this kind of interviewing for years, with managers now so steeped in media-training that they can do a full three minutes on *Match of the Day* without advancing our knowledge of their thoughts one iota. (I feel especially for that

guy who translates the thoughts of Leeds boss Bielsa - he's doing double duty, turning Italian blandness into its English equivalent.)

Increasingly over the past decade we've seen non-league managers brought into the reaction interview circuit as the reduced cost of tech and the blossoming of social media brings them ever further down the pyramid. Nevertheless, it's important to note that the kind of answers you will not get, whatever the playing level, are:

1. "We'll stick the opposition away, no sweat"
2. "They'll probably not be that arsed playing us"
3. "Pfft, we'll just turn up and see what happens"
4. "Winning on their patch is as easy as pie"
5. "Us just turning up will be enough to win it. Have you seen how crap they are?"
6. "X is definitely playing, Y can get to feck and Z is utterly useless"

Of course they won't say anything so suicidal. Of course they'll keep their tactical powder dry. So what we get instead is well-worn, beige and bland; a sort of droning hum of words that's so easy to tune out that any random nugget of genuine detail that does accidentally slip out is easily missed.

### Talking dog tired

In Mark Molesley's case, though, he chose a rarer but to my mind more preferable 'third option'. Not the bald truth, nor the media-trained porridge - but something far more interesting. Something that happens when a manager, slowly driven insane by constant questions to which he can give no meaningful answers,



**Shots boss Mark Molesley in full “Japanese fighting dog” flow**

finally drops his guard and fights back. Here, then, is what Molesley actually said in response to that Bromley FA Trophy question:

*“If a tree falls, and no one is there to hear it fall, does it make a noise? Does a penguin get cold? What way does your bath water go, clockwise or anti clockwise, when you take the plug out?”*

*“These are questions which are going to be asked of us; these are questions we have got to have the answers to. We’re always looking for solutions and we’ve got to solve the equation sometimes.*

*“But you know, Sam’s had a lovely haircut, it’s starting to grow out now; Coops is here, working silently away; Robbie’s over there, it’s the first time he’s been quiet today; Terry’s brought a briefcase in, he’s got four Japanese talking dogs in there. You know, this is what we work with, and we’ll continue to work hard.”*

What I especially love is how Molesley peppers his answers with the usual inanities, his penguins and Japanese talking dogs perfectly at home amid a fog of non-answer answers. Better still, at no stage does he corpse during his response. It’s an absolute master class.

Furthermore, I actually think he’s done all of us a bit of a service here. Interviewers may well now think twice before asking a question so achingly open that it invites this kind of “I can’t take this anymore” response.

Also, surely there’s a case that any manager who decides he has to go off script from time to time is a man more likely to know his own

mind; to better question what’s going on in front of him, take on emerging team problems before they become insuperable, challenge failing patterns and seek out fresh solutions to on-field problems rather than letting them build up. You might argue that a Molesley-esque response is evidence that you have the right man in charge at your club.

#### **Sean of all the filler**

Molesley’s rare but enjoyable interview has several precedents in the Premier League. Perhaps most recent is Burnley boss Sean Dyche who spent half an hour in a press conference riffing on what it’s like being ginger and how he and his lads go out spotting lookie-likies in pubs. Dyche openly admitted to enjoying this chat far more than the bog-standard ‘what can you tell us about your formation?’ / ‘what’s your opinion of our opponents?’ enquiries, to which, of course, he can logically say nothing of substance. (Check it out on Youtube. His body language, the twinkle in his eyes - you can tell just how much he enjoyed letting himself off the leash. “We might as well not bore everyone to death,” he adds tellingly at one point.)

I am of course aware that routine interviews of managers conjuring up Japanese talking dogs, Aztec bars, the becalming effects of bubble wrap or how their central defender is the spitting image of Nadine Dorries would soon get boring as well. And every club knows how valuable their media teams are at providing fresh behind-the-scenes insight. Perhaps what our interviewers should be doing, as they try to obtain the most original response, is giving managers live on-the-spot word association tests. Now that really would be interesting...

**Random snippets irregularly posted @Wealdipedia**

BY TIM PARKS



# Wealdstone, promotion to the Football League and the dawning reality that it's actually right here, right now



When I was asked last year by Machel St Patrick of the 'London Football Scene' blog what it was like to see Wealdstone back at the same level of the non-League game we'd left 32 years ago, I surprised him by saying that actually, we returned to that level 8 years ago when we won promotion to the Conference South.

"Pretty much all the clubs in the Connie South are part-time, as they were in the Conference National in 1988... no, promotion to the National League this season is, in 1980s terms, more like promotion into the Football League itself" I told him, "bearing in mind the full-time stature of the vast majority of clubs. This is the promotion were were denied in 1985 when we won the Conference (or Gola League as it was then) two years before automatic promotion".

But that wasn't strictly true.

The difference between the Football League and Non League after the second World War was vast, with the 'old pals act' maintaining the status quo with the FL club chairmen routinely voting to keep lame ducks like Workington, Gateshead, Darlington and Barrow in Division

Four despite progressive clubs like today's visitors Yeovil, Cambridge United and Peterborough hammering at the door.

It wasn't until I was looking through the Southern League seasons on Wikipedia (as you do) that I realised just how many non-League clubs applied to join the full-time ranks every year. Was this with genuine hopes of being elected, or the vanity of over-ambitious chairmen hoping to keep their club's profile relatively high? There was no real pecking order in the 50s and 60s, with the Southern League, Northern League and Midland League all vying for attention.

In 1961, for example, 26 clubs applied for Football League status and 15 clubs of them failed to poll even one vote. Just for the record, they were Wigan Ath (Cheshire League) 5 votes, Chelmsford City (Southern League) 4, Gateshead (N Counties League) 4, Cambridge City (SL) 2, Worcester City (SL) 2, Bath City (SL) 1, Hereford Utd (SL) 1, Kings Lynn (SL) 1, Morecambe (Lancashire Combination) 1,



## Records prove- New faces, bigger gates

Falling attendances are perhaps the biggest problem facing Football League clubs these days, yet Yeovil Town have figures to prove that election to the competition would lead to a boom, not only in their own gates but wherever they play.

The supporters of the club have made it clear that they want to see League soccer. In the space of 20 days in May last year more than 22,000 fans turned out to see League sides in four testimonial games at Huish. More than 7,000 in fact watched a 3-2 win over First Division Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Cup ties against League sides have always been a big attraction for the Yeovil fans. Figures in recent years have included 14,500 (v. Arsenal), 10,577 (v. Plymouth Argyle) and 9,447 (v. Brentford). Of course, the week-in, week-out attendances are the club's bread and butter and here again Yeovil can score over many Fourth Division and some Third Division sides. Consider the figures for the past three seasons. At home Yeovil attracted an average of 3,417 for all their games. Compare that with some League attendances for the same period—Crewe (2,399), Darlington (3,372), Hartlepool (3,296), Stockport County (3,158) and Workington (2,053).

The weekly attraction of League competition would give Yeovil's gates a tremendous further lift. An average of 5,500 is a conservative estimate, and a new face would prove a popular drawing card around the Fourth Division, as Hereford proved in 1972-73. Don't forget that since 1967-68 the average attendance for a Fourth Division match has topped from 6,077 to 3,771.

## WE WON'T TREAD ON ANY TOES!

No Football League club need worry about its gates when Yeovil Town are elected to the competition. Unlike many areas clubs, Somerset, like neighbouring Dorset, has no League club at all.

Census figures show that more than 170,000 live within a 20 mile radius of Yeovil Town's ground. Yet the nearest Football League clubs are 42 miles away at Bristol.

Yeovil can therefore draw from a huge catchment area without taking supporters away from any club.

Yet Yeovil is far from being isolated. The M.5 comes within 26 miles of the town and the completion of the motorway will make it even more accessible. There is a regular and direct rail link with London and the North and the Midlands are also easily reached by train.



# 170,000 people not catered for

wasn't a bad size (15,000 apparently, in the days when health & safety was a phrase nobody was acquainted with) but nobody in their right mind associated the Stones with the Football League.

That is, until the mid-70s when grandiose ideas of turning the pitch around and utilising the rest of the freehold site for offices, shops and car parking actually appeared to have some traction. From the reports (over page) dating from 1973 the future

appeared not just bright but dazzling... but in the end the scheme fizzled out due to local opposition and difficulties in relocating the shops alongside the Dominion Cinema.

But back to the thorny issue to breaking into the impenetrable Football League. Scrolling back through the 1960s, Weymouth won the Southern League twice but after polling just one vote in 1965 the champions didn't even bother applying in 1966 when Fourth Division stragglers Rochdale and Wrexham each won 40 votes.

The FL chairman were steadfast in their refusal to allow even a glimmer of hope to the regular aspirants (Kettering, Scarborough, Bedford, Cambridge City, Guildford and Romford all applied every year but won barely half a dozen votes between them) but in 1969 there was a chink of light when Cambridge United won the Southern League and polled SIXTEEN votes. Newport County (27 votes) and Bradford Park Avenue (38) were reprimed by their pals but the gap was narrowing.

And the following year Cambridge smashed down the gates by winning the SL again and were rewarded with 31 votes and a coveted place in the Big League! Bradford PA were the

## 1973 promotional brochures weren't enough to help today's visitors Yeovil who finally went up through automatic promotion

New Brighton (Lancs Comb) 1, Bedford Town (SL) 0, Bexleyheath & Welling (SL) 0, Corby Town (SL) 0, Folkestone (SL) 0, Gravesend & Northfleet (SL) 0, Guildford City (SL) 0, Kettering Town (SL) 0, North Shields (N Counties Lge) 0, Poole Town (SL) 0, Romford (SL) 0, Scarborough (NCL) 0, Sittingbourne (SL) 0, South Shields (Midlands Lge) 0, Wellington Town (SL) 0, and Yeovil Town (SL) 0.

Southern League champions Oxford United did poll 19 votes but it wasn't enough to oust Hartlepool United or Barrow who received 35 and 32 votes respectively... however, the following season Oxford won the Southern League again and, lo and behold, they were elected to the League. Although only because Accrington Stanley resigned!

**W**ealdstone joined the ranks of the aspiring Southern League clubs when we turned semi-professional in 1971.

As fans, we dreamed of rubbing shoulders with the serial FL applicants like Kettering Town and Yeovil, with their big grounds and glossy brochures which they circulated amongst the Football League delegates at the annual meeting every year. Our quaint Lower Mead ground

**CONTINUED OVERPAGE**

There's a whole world of memorabilia in the Stones Megastore, by the halfway line, clubhouse side

**Continued from previous page**  
club left looking betrayed at their mates, garnering just 17 votes.. and they were cast out into the wilderness.

Maybe the tide was turning. Were the FL chairmen becoming a little seduced by the charms of the easily-accessible University cities? Who would rather visit Oxford or Cambridge compared to the less cerebral delights of Workington, Barrow, or Bradford?

Two years later, Hereford United (finishing second in the SL table behind Chelmsford, and only fourth the previous year) embarked on their famous FA Cup run that took in the legendary beating of top flight Newcastle at Edgar Street and the narrow defeat at West Ham in the 4th Round - and were handed a place in the League at the end of that 1971-72 season at the expense of Barrow. It went to a re-count as both clubs tied on 20 votes, but in the end the remote Cumbrian shipbuilding town lost out to the glitz and glamour of The Bulls.

This was the era of Yeovil and Kettering - and Wigan in the North - piling on the charm offensive but never quite managing the prize a place from the quavering Workington who routinely finished bottom of the Football League pile.

**U**ntil the emergence of Allen Batsford's Wimbledon, that is. The Dons won three successive Southern League titles in 1975, 1976 and 1977 but even that wouldn't have been enough had the FL Management Committee not insisted that summer that the two premier non-League competitions (the Southern League and Northern Premier League) put their heads together and presented just one applicant from each league to try and win a place. Dur! How many decades had the charade of multiple clubs applying been played out? Surely this was obvious?

The upshot was that Wimbledon (triple SL Champions) and the powerful Altrincham outfit (NPL champions) applied.. and Wimbledon polled 27 votes, Altrincham 12 and Workington 21. Goodbye to another remote Cumbrian club and hello to the London-based Dons! Triple gins all round!

The free-for-all vanity project of chairmen

# STADIUM PLANNING CAR PARK

PLANS for the development of Wealdstone Football Club's ground at Lower Mead Stadium were disclosed this week. The club said that office block complex and public multi-storey car park, would guarantee it an income of about £20,000 a year in two years' time.

multi-storey car park on part of the stadium.

"It would mean that Wealdstone's pitch would be turned 90 degrees and space-age facilities, including lush dressing rooms and offices, a new social club with a huge separate ballroom, squash courts, and sauna baths provided.

"The remodelled ground will still have the same capacity of some 6,000, but a new 2,000 seat stand is incorporated, plus as much terracing as already exists.

"The goals would face High Mead and there is sufficient space to allow a near-maximum size pitch.

### Rents

"But the over-riding factor is that rents from the office block would mean a revenue in excess of £20,000 a year to Wealdstone F.C.

The club has already reached agreement with Harrow Borough F.C. to use their pitch for the two years that Lower Mead Stadium will be out of action. (Harrow Borough are using Wealdstone's pitch at present, until their own re-seeded pitch is ready in the New Year.)

"The whole scheme, of course, is dependent upon EMI obtaining the necessary planning permission; but Wealdstone's advisers feel that they would not already have expended such money and effort unless they felt the project had more than a reasonable chance of being accepted in its entirety.

"One of the major planks, of course, is the provision of a public car park, which is sorely needed in central Harrow.

"Also now imminent is the preparation of the articles of association for turning Wealdstone into a public limited com-

pany, and an extraordinary meeting of members is expected to be called by the end of this month to approve them. The company will then be formed almost immediately, and £1 shares will be available to the general public."

### Bought for £1,670

If the negotiations with E.M.I. are successful history will be repeating itself. For the club originally owned the land stands on which the A.B.C. cinema its mortgage and so achieved complete freedom premises, administered by trustees.

The original full-size ground, on which there were once two pitches, was bought for £1,670 and was first occupied in 1922. The northern part was sold as a 'thirties, the cinema opening as the Dominion in 1936.

Mr. Michael Hardy, the Harrow Borough Planner, told the Observer on Wednesday that there had been informal consultations with him, but nothing was submitted and he was surprised that the club had referred to the proposals in its programme.

### Dog bit boy

A nine year old boy from Locker Road, Wealdstone was bitten by a dog near his home on Monday.

The incident occurred when Richard Cosgrove walked between two girls, both with dogs, on Monday evening. He was taken to Wembley hospital where a laceration on his elbow was treated. He was not detained.

pushing the clubs forward for promotion on the flimsiest of grounds was over. And talking of flimsy grounds, the reality of clubs being unprepared when offered promotion - which is why the Alliance Premier League was formed in 1979, to concentrate the top non-League outfits in one league and offer just ONE applicant at the end of the season - came to the fore in the 1980s.

Wealdstone were founder members of the APL but that league (as I told Machel St Patrick for his blog) was nothing like the National League today, which is peppered with ex-League clubs. There are currently 16 ex-Football League clubs

# AN FOR OFFICES,



*The Harrow Observer reports on Stones' grandiose scheme of the mid-70s. If it had come off we might now be a BELT ourselves!*

in the National League system: Aldershot, Barnet, Boston Utd, Chesterfield, Dagenham & Redbridge, Grimsby, Hartlepool, Kidderminster, Notts County, Southend, Southport, Stockport County, Torquay Utd, Wrexham, Yeovil and York City.

When the APL kicked off in 1979 there was just one: Barrow. And seven years later, when the Stones were relegated, there was still just one: Lincoln City. Barrow had been relegated into the Northern Premier League and Lincoln City were the first FL side to suffer automatic relegation, with Scarborough the first to travel the other way.

**S**o why do I say that Wealdstone weren't really denied promotion to the Football League in 1985, when we won the Conference (then known as the Gola League) and were automatically pushed forward?

Well, because it was still two years before the Football League and the Conference agreed automatic promotion and relegation, and the votes system still counted. And even worse, the aspirant club's stadium had to meet Football League requirements. Altrincham

were the first APL winners, in 1980 and 1981 and their Moss Lane ground was given the rubber-stamp... but they were outvoted by first Rochdale (26 votes to 25) and then Halifax Town (41-15). The 1982 winners, Runcorn, could not apply as their Canal Street ground wasn't up to scratch... runners-up Enfield didn't meet the strict requirements either so third-placed Telford were pushed forward, only to be outvoted by Hartlepool (48-13).

Ditto in 1983 with Enfield again turned down, second-placed Maidstone polling 26 votes to Hartlepool's 36, and in 1984

champions Maidstone pulled in 22 points only for Hartlepool to again win favour with 32.

**I**n 1985 (this is the one you've been waiting for) Wealdstone won the league but Lower Mead (surprise surprise) didn't meet the league requirements - and I doubt we'd have won more than a derisory number of votes anyway. Runners-up Nuneaton didn't come up to scratch either... ditto 4th-placed Darford and thus Bath City were offered up for promotion, only lose to Halifax by 48 votes to 8.

1985-86 winners Enfield were, of course, famously the last club not to go up automatically and they had spent a small fortune on their Southbury Road ground to qualify to take place in the vote - but their 7.5 votes were pipped by Torquay's 61.

Thus to the present day, with the change to two up, two down between the EFL and the National League now providing free movement and a much richer (in every sense) pool of clubs in Step Five. It's now a dogfight for the BELTS (Big Ex League Teams, or Bitter Ex League teams if you'd prefer) to outspend each other in a bid to return to the EFL.

Next season there will be a whole-club salary cap of £900,000. That will be interesting.

# IT'S A RECORD!

Oh we love a printed match report! This is the

v Notts County at the Vale,  
Vanarama Nat Lge Matchday 23

Tuesday January 25, 7.45pm Cold  
and dry evening (3 deg) on the  
Vale's lush carpet

1,547 (approx 450 away fans)

**WEALDSTONE** Wickens, Cook,  
Charles, Stevens, Okimo, McAvoy,  
Buse, Mundle-Smith, Elito, Cooper,  
Mascoll, Umerah

**NOTTS CO** Slocombe, Brindley, Cam-  
eron, Lacey, Richardson, Chicksen,  
Palmer, Vincent, Robert, Wooten,  
Rodrigues

**WEALDSTONE 0 NOTTS CO 0**

## POSSESSION

Wealdstone 48% Notts 52 %

## SHOTS ON TARGET

Stones 6 Notts 5

## OFF TARGET

Stones 2 Notts 1

## CORNERS

Stones 2 Notts 5

## STONES VIEW

Oh what a night! Stones rediscovered that Tuesday evening feeling in front of a big, bouncy crowd and with Matt Buse and Medy Elito shining on their return it was the Blues who came closest to winning this fascinating contest. Notts were classy and assured, but apart from Robert's early effort and one from Wooten kicked off the line right at the death, it was Jamie Mascoll who led the charge as he forced two great saves from keeper Sam Slocombe.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

I thought first half we looked sluggish and lacking sharpness and shape all over the pitch...that said the Stones were both disciplined and compact. I thought we were well drilled to frustrate us with some good breaks. - *Notts Forum*  
Medy Elito was without a club for an entire year until the Stones took a chance on him... tonight Notts have made him look like a £1m player. - *Notts Forum*  
Before I retire for the night I have to say the crowd were pretty decent vocally behind the goal. Some good original tunes gleaned from some 70s/80s classics. Frankie Valli, Belinda Carlisle and Spandau Ballet. - *Worrus, Stonesnet*

44 NOTTINGHAM POST WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022

## Sport

### PLAYER RATINGS

#### SAM SLOCOMBE:

Made some important saves in the first half and was Notts' best player in the opening 45 minutes. Dealt with crosses comfortably. **7/10.**

#### JAYDEN RICHARDSON:

There was plenty of endeavour from the on-loan Nottingham Forest full-back but he struggled to get into the game from an attacking sense in the first half. Much better in the second. **6/10.**

#### RICHARD BRINDLEY:

Was largely solid at the back and just goes about his business with the minimum of fuss. Not a bad performance by any means. **6/10.**

#### ALEX LACEY:

Josh Umerah gave the defender some physical problems to deal with but never ever appears flustered. A solid display in the back line. **6/10.**

#### KYLE CAMERON:

By his standards some of his passing let him down and had to take a yellow card for the team to stop a counter-attack. **6/10.**

#### ADAM CHICKSEN:

Had a decent game as left wing-back and is enjoying a fine run of form at the moment. Has become so dependable. **7/10.**

#### MATT PALMER:

Passing wasn't up to the usual level of quality we have come to expect and he left his shooting boots on the bus after a long-range effort sailed out of the stadium. **6/10.**

#### FRANK VINCENT:

There was a willingness to try to make things happen, but just seemed to be off the pace in terms of his contribution which isn't like him. **5/10.**

#### CALLUM ROBERTS:

There were a couple of flashes where the winger showed his nimble feet. Should have put his foot through the ball with a chance in the first half. **6/10.**

#### RUBEN RODRIGUES:

Didn't have the impact up front and he was a bit careless in possession, which made life even more tricky for him. **5/10.**

#### KYLE WOOTEN:

Ran the hard yards in terms of his pressing and had a snapshot saved early on. But aside from that, proper clear-cut chances were few and far between. **5/10.**

### SUBSTITUTES

Parsons (for Chicksen, 56)  
Bunt (for Vincent, 46)  
Sam (for Rodrigues, 71)

### SUBS NOT USED:

Mitchell, Francis.

# Stones are too tough to break as Magpies only take pot in stalemate

By LEIGH CURTIS

leigh.curtis@reading.ac.uk  
@leighcurtis\_NP

NOTTS County stretched their unbeaten run to eight games as they were held by a stubborn Wealdstone side in the National League last night.

The Magpies forced George Wickens into an early save when he denied Kyle Wooten before collecting Callum Roberts' effort on the rebound.

But the Stones had their moments, with Sam Slocombe making two fine saves to deny Jamie Mascoll and then Josh Umerah.

Notts showed greater attacking potency after the break following the introduction of Zac Bruitt as they dominated possession for large spells.

But Slocombe was again required to keep out a Mascoll free-kick before Richard Brindley scored a terrific save from Wickens from all of 30 yards.

Notts pushed hard for a winner in the dying stages and Jayden Richardson was denied when his shot was cleared off the line.

The Magpies had arrived down south with their big hitters back in the starting 11 having been tested for the victory over Eastleigh in the FA Trophy.

Among those back in the line-up were top scorer Wooten and his strike partner Ruben Rodrigues.

Matty Palmer, Alex Lacey, Brindley and Richardson were also included in what was the strongest team available to head coach Ian Burrows.

Notts immediately set about the task of finding chinks in Wealdstone's back four and within the opening 10 minutes they tested the reflexes of Wickens.

Wooten's fierce strike was parried by the Stones goalkeeper, but he could only push the ball into the path of Roberts.

The winger attempted to lift his

**WEALDSTONE** ..... 0  
**NOTTS COUNTY** ..... 0

Attendance: 1,547.

Referee: Adrian Quelh (Berkshire).

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stockport County	24	11	4	9	24	46	46
Grays Athletic	25	10	7	8	20	29	41
Ilkeston	24	10	5	9	23	29	40
Barnet	24	10	5	9	40	26	40
Boston Town	25	11	7	7	21	14	40
Widnes	24	10	7	7	28	14	40
Ugith Hill	25	11	5	9	4	12	40
WALTON COUNTY	24	12	6	6	18	20	42
Greeny	20	11	8	1	22	24	39
Brayley	22	10	7	5	18	14	38
Woking	22	10	7	5	28	12	38
North	24	10	7	7	18	14	38
Leigh	25	9	7	9	25	11	37
Alford	21	7	6	12	29	19	35
Spurs	25	7	9	9	20	23	35
Albion	24	12	6	6	18	23	35
Southend	23	7	7	13	17	26	35
Waltham	21	11	11	3	18	18	35
Widnes	21	7	4	14	25	13	35
Widnes	23	4	15	6	18	13	35
King's Lynn	22	3	11	10	20	17	35
Weymouth	25	7	7	11	20	18	35

shot over the goalkeeper but only succeeded in tarning Wickens' midriff.

Wealdstone immediately summoned a response with a free-kick that was delivered into the area for Josh Umerah.

The forward met the cross with a volley but it cleared the bar with the ball ending up in the away end with the Magpies' supporters.

The Stones' defence had another crack at goal immediately when he picked up possession midway in the Notts half.

With Notts' defence buckling off, Umerah had a go from distance but he failed to catch it cleanly with his shot bobbling wide of the post.

The Magpies were being asked questions by a lively front line of Umerah and Medy Elito and it soon forced Slocombe into a save.

Elito showed terrific control to bring a long pass into his feet, before touching it back to Jamie Mascoll on the edge of the box.

The midfielder curled it towards the bottom right-hand corner with

# Nottingham Post's verdict after the goalless draw at The Vale a fortnight ago

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## BURCHNALL'S MEN FIRE BLANKS IN AWAY CLASH

er and accuracy but Stoccombe down well to make a super save. ons were struggling to pick their through a well-organised home and their frustrations were summed up when Rodrigues sent a yard pass out for a throw-in. Stoccombe was then forced to save rather long-range strike from Matey Base as the Stones continued rush for a breakthrough. Notts began to up the tempo in ns of their pressing as the game reached half-time which ight them joy in winning possession further up the pitch.

Richardson charged forward to have a strike at goal which was blocked, with Palmer seizing the rebound.

It was inviting him to strike at goal which he did but was leaning back as he let fly with the ball ending up sailing out of the stadium. Burchnall had decided that a change was needed at the break as Zac Brunt came on to replace Vincent in the hope it would add some venom to Notts' attack.

Just two minutes into the restart, Richardson had a slight of goal but skewed his shot high and wide from

a good position.

But Notts came forward again moments later as the defender fired a low cross into the box which was turned behind for a corner that was cleared.

Burchnall's side were showing much more attacking intent but luck appeared to desert them when a shot from Rodrigues took a deflection in the area.

The ball span inches behind Wootton who would have had a tap-in as a sea of Notts fans put their hands to their heads.

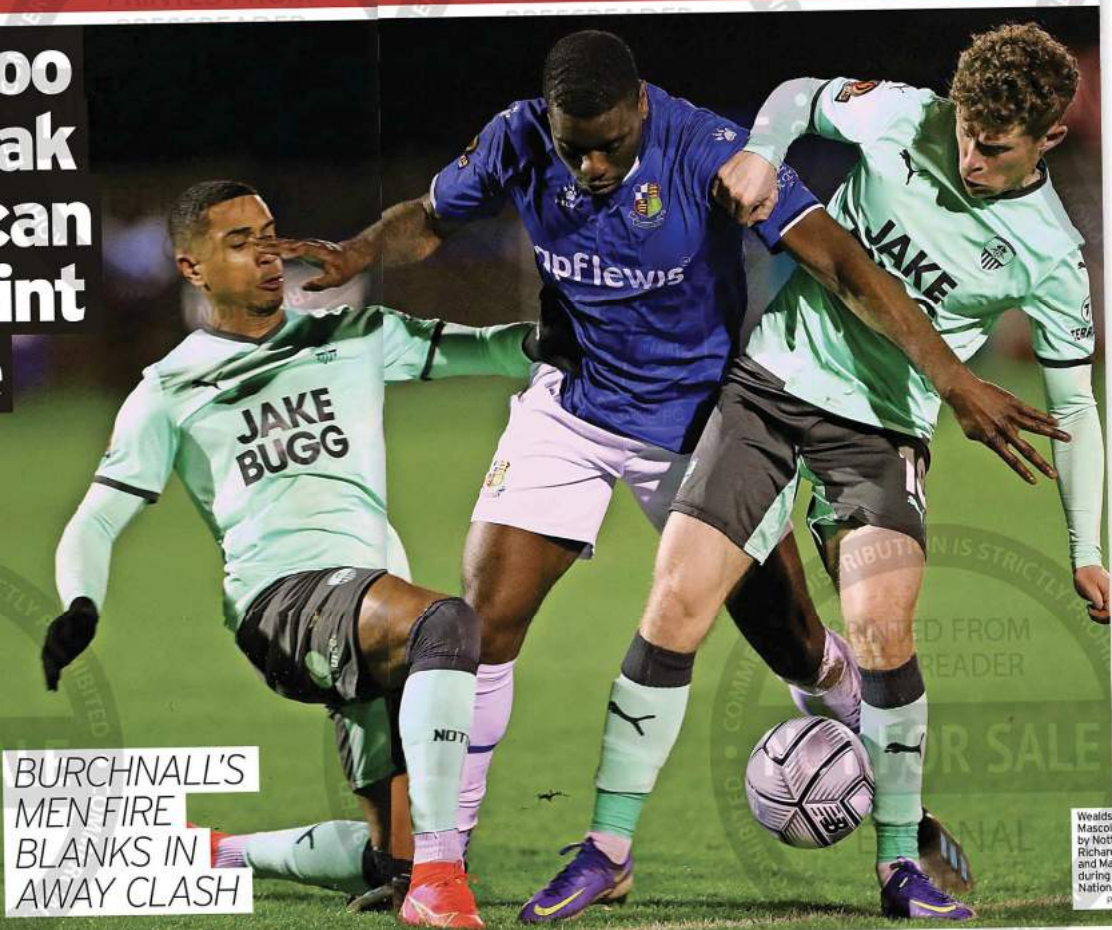
Richardson then forced Wickens

into a save at his near post and you sensed it would only be a matter of time before the visitors moved in front.

But it was Wainstone who came close to taking the lead when a fine free-kick from Mascoll was beaten away by Stoccombe.

With six minutes remaining, Notts almost found the winner but Richardson's shot from close range was hacked off the line as both sides settled for a point.

The Maggies travel to face Bromley next in the National League on Saturday.



Waelde Mascoli by Matt Richard and Ma during National League



# IT'S A RECORD!

v Grimsby Town at Blundell Park, Vanarama NL Matchday 24

Saturday January 29, 3pm Cold and very windy afternoon (5 deg) on a good, well sprinkled grass surface

4,747 (161 away fans)

**GRIMSBY** Slocombe, Efete, Pearson, Waterfall, Amos, Sousa, Raikhy (Fox 81), Coke, Cliffron, McAtee, Taylor (Abrahams 62)

**WEALDSTONE** Wickens, McAvoy, Okimo, Stevens, Mascoll, Buse, Cooper (Dyer 67), Charles, Mundle-Smith (Sesay 60), Elito, Taylor (Umerah 67)

**GRIMSBY 2 WEALDSTONE 1**  
Efete 34, 50 Mascoll 55

## POSSESSION

Grimsby 55 % Wealdstone 45%  
**SHOTS ON TARGET** Grimsby 7  
Wealdstone 2 **SHOTS OFF TARGET**  
Grimsby 10 Wealdstone 0

The high spots of this visit to Humberside and glamorous Cleethorpes were the effort and backs-to-the-wall application of the players and the rousing efforts of the visiting fans - who outsang the strangely muted Mariners supporters throughout. In truth it was one-way traffic for all but 15 minutes of the second half when Jamie Mascoll's audacious chip into goal from out on the touchline - the keeper stranded - saw a few waves of Stones pressure. Our ex-star Michee Efete was given the space to attack two dead balls and head the decisive goals

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Despite Grimsby being in terrible

form, they were considerably better than us. Second half the wind abated a little but we didn't really threatened them too much and ultimately undone by two set piece moves from the Villa lad, Raikhy, we tried to get on loan and two headers from ex Stone Efete. McAvoy was magnificent and I am not sure had Cook and Tavares played, we would have conceded the two goals from headers that we did.

-Elmslie Ender, Stonesnet forum

...and this is its sister paper the Grimsby Evening

FINAL WHISTLE: Mariners vs Wealdstone

# Town stay strong amid nervy finale to take vital win

WATERFALL AND EFETE ON THE MARK FOR MARINERS

By ELLIOTT JACKSON  
e.j.j@grimsbyevening.com  
@elliott\_jackson



THE relief around Blundell Park was etched across the face of every Grimsby Town player as they secured all three points in a match they should have won comfortably.

The Mariners were in cruise control, 2-0 ahead after headers from Luke Waterfall and Michie Efe, before Deputy Arrog gifted Jamie Mascoll the chance to half the arrears.

It set up a nervy finish in a game that should have been finished long before. The Mariners dominated possession and their slick late-play increased as the goals began to follow.

But after two wins in 14 matches, a run full of fits and starts, even the most die-hard supporter would have been guilty of questioning if it would be another 'nearly afternoon'.

The victory doesn't lift the pressure on manager Paul Hurst, but it does help subside the voice of discontent from certain sections of the Grimsby Town fan base.

Trying to spark a response from Tuesday night's away defeat at Wrexham AFC, Hurst made four changes to his team, with Efe the most notable starter after a hamstring injury.

New signing Arjan Raikhy made his full debut in the centre of midfield, looking to inject some creativity from deep. Since the exit of Alex Taylor, the Mariners have missed a ball-playing midfielder capable of unlocking tight defences in the final third.

With little need to relieve the reverse fixture in October, which kickstarted Town's run of two wins in 14 matches, a bright start was necessary against an expansive albeit 19th-placed Wealdstone.

The swirling wind added to the necessity of possession football at Blundell Park, with through balls and long kicks proving futile against the conditions.

It was little surprise that the nearest exchange of passing featured their first opportunity, with Eric Sousa and John McAtee combining well for the latter to cross for Ryan Taylor, whose outstretched effort was well saved by George Wickens.

The Stones goalkeeper had to be on alert shortly after as he tipped over Luke Waterfall's volley, which slipped off the turf and would have slipped under the bar.

As the goal swung on, the calls for a greater urgency grew. Raikhy and Coke were often on the ball but with little to find in front of them.

'Faster, come on' was the common plea

The Neil Cordice Rewind feature in this programme covers the successes and failures of our ex-manager Brian Hall at Yeovil... and this week the Glovers' podcaster David Coates compared Yeovil's recent exit from the FA Trophy at the hands of Needham Market (that name sounds familiar) to a similar day 28 years ago. He said: "People are asking 'has it ever been this bad' and I'd offer



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**PLEASED TO SUPPORT WEALDSTONE FC**

BY STEVE DUCKER



# Random Sightings

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

## Tuesday 19 January 1988

Despite knowing next to nothing about non-league football when I moved to London the previous year, even I was surprised to see Yeovil languishing in the Isthmian Premier. They were one of the most famous names outside the 92 in the game's history - a constant thorn in the flesh of lower division sides in the FA Cup, leading to glamorous ties hosting the likes of Arsenal and Norwich City before the Match of the Day cameras.

Most of all, they'd performed one of the greatest giant killings of all time. In 1949, they sent top

flight Sunderland packing from the infamously sloping Huish ground and landed a fourth round away day at Manchester United. Match of the Day was still 15 years into the future, but millions of cinema goers nationwide saw newsreels of the Sunderland shock, complete with a long range opening goal by player boss Alec Stock. In his later career Stock was said to have been the inspiration for Paul Whitehouse's 'Fast Show' character Ron Manager.

So it was with a tinge of regret that I reached Kingstonian's Richmond Road ground for this midweek fixture. The idea of Yeovil not even having a place in the non-league game's top



division seemed frankly ridiculous.

As it was, they started the game like they still had further to fall. They were 1-0 down after a minute and the hosts struck again before the first half reached midway. Eventually, Yeovil pulled themselves together and won 3-2, eventually finishing the season five points clear of nearest challengers Bromley and winning promotion to the Conference.

One of their home games, against St Albans City, pulled in a crowd of more than 6,000. To put that in perspective, the divisional high for any other team was 1,219 at the local derby between Windsor & Eton and Slough.

Two months later, I got a second random sighting of Yeovil in the same season, also against Kingstonian. The teams were drawn together in the Isthmian League's cup semi final. It was a two-legged tie with Yeovil at home first, and they effectively wrapped it up by half-time. Though the final score of 2-0 seemed to offer just enough hope for

### Line up v QPR, FA Cup 3rd round

- 1 Iles
- 2 Sherwood
- 3 Ferns
- 4 Ricketts
- 5 Rutter
- 6 Cordice
- 7 Donnellan
- 8 Wallace
- 9 McGinlay
- 10 Pearson
- 11 Randall

**Subs:** Chandler for Donnellan, Noble for Pearson

**Attendance:** 9,717



### Line up v Blackpool, Promotion play off final, 2007

1 Mildenhall  
2 Lindegaard  
3 Forbes  
4 Guyett  
5 Jones  
6 Gray  
7 Barry  
8 Cohen  
9 Davies  
10 Stewart  
11 Morris

**Subs:** Lynch for Lindegaard

Kalala for Cohen  
Knights for Morris

**Attendance:** 59,313

Kingstonian that it could be pulled round in their 'home' leg (actually they no longer had a home ground, as they had sold it for housing at the end of January and entered a ground share with Hampton. As tenants, K's even had to move the game to a Monday night), Yeovil saw out the second leg with minimal fuss, scored in injury time, and went on to beat Hayes 3-1 in the final.

To complete a memorable season, Yeovil chalked up another FA Cup third round appearance. It ended in a 3-0 home defeat by Queens Park Rangers, but at least they had the satisfac-

tion of another league club scalp after dumping out fourth division Cambridge en route.

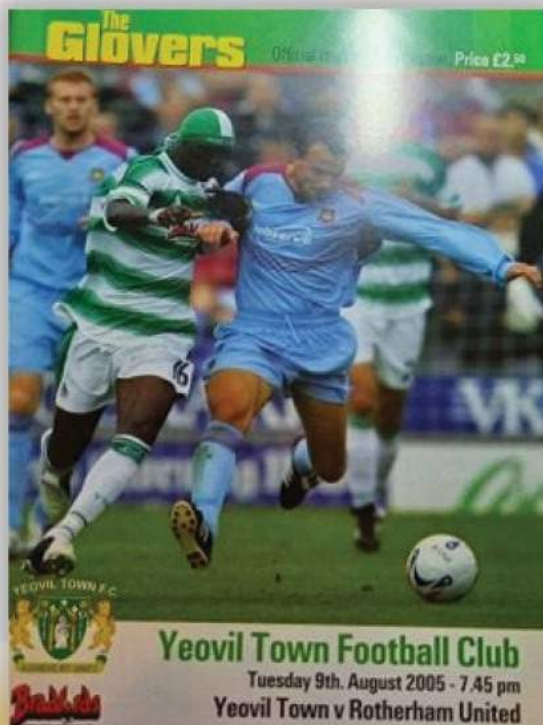
## Tuesday 9 August 2005

I'd booked a two-week holiday in Somerset before the fixtures came out, but I knew that with it covering the opening Saturday of the new season and the following midweek, I would get a chance to tick off Yeovil's new and non-sloping Huish Park. Despite odds of 22-1 against, I was hoping I'd get to see Rotherham there as well. In the event, the planets aligned spectacularly. As well as the Glovers-Millers dust up, Yorkshire were down to start a four-day County Championship cricket match at Taunton the next day. I Saturday 6 August watching no football at all. Instead I caught the West Somerset Steam Railway - complete with its buffet bar selling Cornish pasties and local scrumpy - into Minehead, then passed the afternoon in a seafront pub watching Freddie Flintoff take centre stage in cricket's greatest ever Test Match, which concluded the next morning with England beating Australia by two runs.

Back with the football, the pairing that I was about to watch that Tuesday night felt remarkable. As recently as 2003, the teams had been three divisions apart and Yeovil weren't even in the Football League. But two titles in three years for the green and whites, coupled with a second tier relegation battle too far for Rotherham, meant they started on equal footing. If anything Yeovil, who had handed out a 3-0 beating at Millmoor in the previous season's FA Cup, started as favourites.

The game started brightly, but fizzled out and ended 0-0. With both teams having lost their first match, it was probably a state of affairs they were happy with. The following season, Yeovil reached the promotion play off final only to lose 2-0 to Blackpool, before making it into the second tier for a season in 2013. On reflection, I'd enjoyed so much good fortune with the timing of Yeovil v Rotherham that it was too much to ask for a classic game as well.

Viewing it another way, maybe someone was looking out for me. Because after having my nerves shredded by the Edgbaston test, and with three more in the series still to come, suddenly it was football's job to dilute the stress rather than adding to it.





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

# WEALDSTONE 2021-22



## MATCH

## BALL DONORS



### STOCKPORT COUNTY

Saturday, 27th November  
Vanarama National League

Barbara Robson



### FC HALIFAX TOWN

Saturday, 11th December  
Vanarama National League

Tony and Peter Drew



### DOVER ATHLETIC

Saturday, 15th January  
Vanarama National League

Barbara Robson



### NOTTS COUNTY

Tuesday, 25th January  
Vanarama National League

Tony Platt

Steve Carter

Sienna Tilbury &  
Rhys Williams-Evans



### YEOVIL TOWN

Tuesday, 8th February  
Vanarama National League

David Leach

Harrow Sales & Marketing



### MAIDENHEAD UNITED

Tuesday, 15th February  
Vanarama National League

In memory of Roy Couch

Mike Pullin &  
Graham Clark



### WREXHAM

Saturday, 19th February  
Vanarama National League

In memory of Jim Klarfeld

Graham Clark &  
Mike Pullin



### TORQUAY UNITED

Saturday, 26th February  
Vanarama National League

Alan Couch

Your name or  
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### WEYMOUTH

Saturday, 12th March  
Vanarama National League

Mike & Val  
Weston

Toby Jackson  
Lapels Badges

Jayden  
Garthwaite



### BROMLEY

Saturday, 26th March  
Vanarama National League

Alan Couch

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### CHESTERFIELD

Saturday, 9th April  
Vanarama National League

Mick Fishman

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### BOREHAM WOOD

Monday, 18th April  
Vanarama National League

'Fans No Longer With Us'  
Tony Drew & Ron Moore

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### DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE

Saturday, 30th April  
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The Football Stadium Improvement Fund

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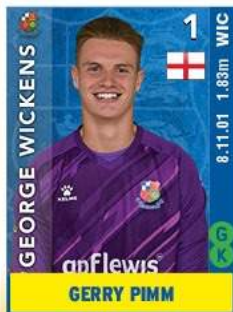
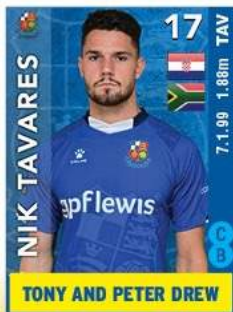
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You can donate by clicking on the link below, speaking to any club official or e-mailing [harveyhicks@wealdstonefc.com](mailto:harveyhicks@wealdstonefc.com) or [paulrumens59@gmail.com](mailto:paulrumens59@gmail.com)

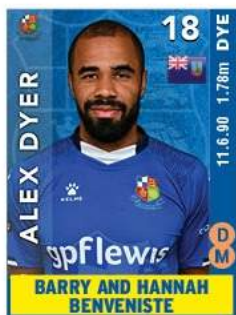
## KEY

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

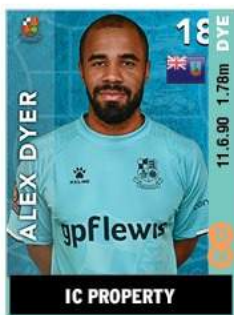




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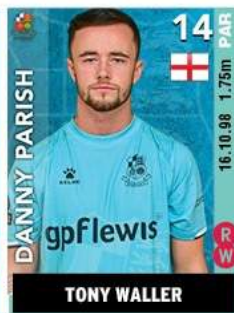
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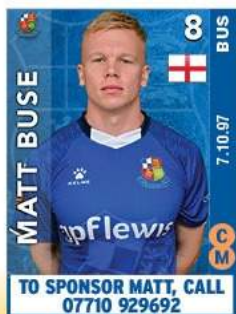
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JAMES KLARFELD



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

# WEALDSTONE 2021-22

**Saturday  
12th February  
3:00pm**

**BARNET (A)**

www.barnetfc.com @BarnetFC Vanarama National League



**Tuesday  
15th February  
7:45pm**



**MAIDENHEAD UTD (H)**

Vanarama National League

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

**Saturday  
19th February  
3:00pm**



**WREXHAM (H)**

Vanarama National League

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

**Saturday  
22nd February  
3:00pm**

**SOLIHULL MOORS (A)**

www.solihullmoorsfc.co.uk @SolihullMoors Vanarama National League



**Tuesday  
25th February  
7:45pm**



**TORQUAY UNITED (H)**

Vanarama National League

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

**Saturday  
5th February  
3:00pm**

**EASTLEIGH (A)**

www.eastleighfc.com @EastleighFC Vanarama National League



**Tuesday  
8th March  
7:45pm**

**MAIDENHEAD UTD (A)**

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



## Vanarama National League 2021/2022 – @6th February 2022

	ALL						HOME						AWAY						+/- Pts	RESULTS	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A			
1 Stockport County	26	17	3	6	53	24	12	7	2	3	23	11	14	10	1	3	30	13	29	54	1-4
2 Chesterfield	25	15	8	2	47	21	12	7	5	0	23	11	13	8	3	2	24	10	26	53	0-2
3 Halifax Town	26	15	5	6	41	21	12	9	0	3	23	8	14	6	5	3	18	13	20	50	0-1
4 Bromley	25	15	5	5	42	26	14	10	2	2	27	12	11	5	3	3	15	14	16	50	2-3
5 Boreham Wood	23	14	7	2	34	15	13	8	5	0	20	6	10	6	2	2	14	9	19	49	0-1
6 Solihull Moors	26	13	7	6	41	23	14	8	3	3	28	12	12	5	4	3	13	11	18	46	0-0
7 Wrexham	26	13	7	6	42	26	11	5	5	1	10	6	15	8	2	5	32	20	16	46	0-0
8 Notts County	24	12	6	6	41	28	12	8	2	2	24	16	12	4	4	4	17	12	13	42	0-0
9 Dagenham & Redbridge	27	13	3	11	49	37	14	7	2	5	30	22	13	6	1	6	19	15	12	42	2-2
10 Grimsby Town	26	13	3	10	39	28	13	9	1	3	25	10	13	4	2	7	14	18	11	42	1-0
11 Torquay United	26	11	4	11	39	40	13	7	1	5	22	19	13	4	3	6	17	21	-1	37	0-5
12 Yeovil Town	25	10	6	9	25	25	14	4	5	5	12	14	11	6	1	4	13	11	0	36	
13 Woking	26	10	2	14	40	40	13	5	0	8	18	21	13	5	2	6	22	19	0	32	1-2
14 Eastleigh	25	9	5	11	28	38	13	7	3	3	21	17	12	2	2	8	7	21	-10	32	1-2
15 Southend United	25	9	5	11	25	35	11	5	2	4	16	17	14	4	3	7	9	18	-10	32	0-0
16 Aldershot Town	27	8	6	13	31	41	14	2	4	8	13	26	13	6	2	5	18	15	-10	30	2-2
17 Barnet	25	8	6	11	30	44	12	4	3	5	13	24	13	4	3	6	17	20	-14	30	1-0
18 Altrincham	27	7	6	14	39	52	13	4	2	7	19	22	14	3	4	7	20	30	-13	27	1-0
19 Maidenhead United	25	7	6	12	28	47	13	6	2	5	22	26	12	1	4	7	6	21	-19	27	
20 Wealdstone	24	6	7	11	22	35	12	4	4	4	10	12	12	2	3	7	12	23	-13	25	-- --
21 Weymouth	26	4	5	17	26	50	13	2	3	8	13	21	13	2	2	9	13	29	-24	17	1-1
22 King's Lynn Town	24	4	2	18	24	50	12	2	1	9	11	21	12	2	1	9	13	29	-26	14	1-0
23 Dover Athletic	27	1	4	22	20	60	13	1	2	10	8	21	14	0	2	12	12	39	-40	-5	2-1



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Wealdstone FC

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

**Building Excellence**

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

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

# HOW THEY LINE-UP TODAY

## WEALDSTONE

Royal Blue/White/White



## YEOVIL TOWN

White/Green/Green

<b>G George WICKENS 1</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>1 Grant SMITH G</b>
<b>Jack COOK 2</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>2 Mark LITTLE</b>
<b>Dan WISHART 3</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>3 Jordan BARNETT</b>
<b>Ashley CHARLES 4</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>5 Max HUNT</b>
<b>Jerome OKIMO © 6</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>6 Luke WILKINSON</b>
<b>Nathan FERGUSON 7</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>7 Matt WORTHINGTON</b>
<b>Matt BUSE 8</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>8 Dale GORMAN</b>
<b>Josh UMERAH 9</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>9 Reuben REID</b>
<b>Stephan Rhys BROWNE 10</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>11 Tom KNOWLES</b>
<b>David SESAY 11</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>12 Max EVANS G</b>
<b>Andrew ELEFThERIOU 12</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>13 Morgan WILLIAMS</b>
<b>G Alfie MARIGLIANI 13</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>14 Alex BRADLEY</b>
<b>Connor McAVOY 14</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>15 Sonny Blu LO-EVERTON</b>
<b>Elijah HEARN 15</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>19 Charlie WAKEFIELD</b>
<b>Ira JACKSON Jr 16</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>20 Toby STEPHENS</b>
<b>Nikola TAVARES 17</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>21 Jack ROBINSON</b>
<b>Alex DYER 18</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>22 Ben BARCLAY</b>
<b>Zach DRONFIELD 19</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>23 Adi YUSSUF</b>
<b>Medy ELITO 20</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>24 Lawson D'ATH</b>
<b>Aaron HENRY 22</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>32 Josh STAUNTON</b>
<b>Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH 23</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>35 Ollie HASTE</b>
<b>Charlie COOPER 24</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Jamie MASCOLL 25</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**RESULT: WEALDSTONE**   **YEOVIL TOWN**

**REFEREE** Aju Ajibola **ASSISTANTS** Thomas Holden and Jonathan Bolland **FOURTH OFFICIAL** Matthew Norton  
**OBSERVER** To be announced

**NEXT AT THE VALE** Maidenhead United, Vanarama National League, Tuesday February 15, kick-off 7.45pm  
**AND THEN...** Wrexham, Vanarama National League, Saturday February 19, kick-off 3pm

Main club sponsor:

**gp flewis** <sup>plc</sup>



**SESAY DOES IT**  
Stones new capture, Sierra Leone international David Sesay, gets on the ball to trouble the Grimsby defence 10 days ago

**PICTURE:**  
JON TAFFEL

**INSIDE**  
**MATTHEW**  
**BUSE**  
**INTERVIEW**