

WEALDSTONE



versus
MAIDENHEAD

versus
WREXHAM

**TUES FEB 15 2022,
7.45PM**

**SAT FEB 19 2022,
KO 3PM**



UNBELIEVABLE Astonishing crowd scenes at Barnet on Saturday PICTURE: JON TAFFEL

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BY MARK HYDE



WEALDSTONE 2021-22

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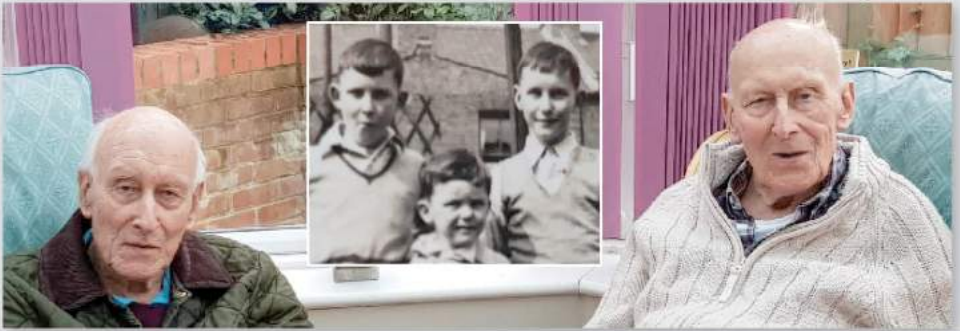
Gentle men, loyal supporters and life-long lovers of The Beautiful Game.

Born in Essex and raised in Wembley, they followed the fortunes – and misfortunes – of both The Stones & The Hammers and of course England, who they cheered on to World Cup glory at Wembley in 1966.

In their retirement years the Collins twins became familiar faces at Wealdstone, alongside their younger brother Brian. After enduring many years of mockery for supporting 'The Wealdstone Wanderers' they were delighted when the team put down roots in Ruislip and proudly followed them as they settled in at The Vale. They were both season ticket holders & enthusiastic supporters, long after they were able to cheer the team on from the stands.

Eddie, Mike & Brian (Butch, Titch & Junior) are very much loved & dearly missed by all their family and friends.

Joan, Jill & Ann Collins, & Casey Axten



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WEALDSTONE

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MAJOR HONOURS SINCE 1950

LEAGUE TITLES

1951 / 1952 Athenian League
1973 / 1974 Southern League Division One South
1981 / 1982 Southern League Southern Division
1981 / 1982 Southern League Championship
1984 / 1985 National League Premier (Gola League)
1996 / 1997 Isthmian League Division Three
2013 / 2014 Isthmian League Premier Division
2019 / 2020 National League South

NATIONAL CUPS

1965 / 1966 FA Amateur Cup
1984 / 1985 FA Trophy

LEAGUE CUPS

1981 / 1982 Southern League Cup

MIDDLESEX COUNTY CUPS

1958 / 1959 Senior Cup
1962 / 1963 Senior Cup
1964 / 1965 Senior Cup
1967 / 1968 Senior Cup
1984 / 1985 Senior Cup
2003 / 2004 Charity Cup
2010 / 2011 Charity Cup

NON TITLE-WINNING PROMOTIONS

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

**The legal name of Wealdstone
Football Club is Wealdstone
Football Club (2000) Ltd
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Shares in excess of 10% are
held by Peter Marsden Property
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Supporters Club**

GROUND REGULATIONS

People are only allowed entry to The Vale on match days subject to the following rules and regulations:

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

- Entering the ground through any means other than through the turnstiles or entrances
- Entering the field of play before, during or after a game without prior authorisation
- Being drunk, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs • Using violence of any nature
- Carrying items which may be considered a danger to others, including cans, bottles, or glasses containing alcoholic beverages
- Throwing any article onto the field of play • Climbing floodlight pylons, fences, stands or any structure or building
- Using obscene or bad language likely to cause offence to others • Hitting the side or back panels of the Bulla stand

2) No spectator ball games.

3) The consumption of alcoholic drinks is permitted INSIDE the social club bar, garden and boardroom areas.

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

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

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BY SUDHIR RAWAL



The Elmslie Ender

Sweet & sour: Taste of honey for the Stones at The Hive while poor old Bees get a battering

Did something happen last Saturday? Not sure? Maybe a battering, with plenty of salt tears thrown in.

Of course, there is only one place to begin and that's our win at PEPF against the Cuckoos. As the song goes it was a deep-frying. Stones first half performance was as good as it has been all season, with drive, strength, intensity and no little skill. The addition of Aaron Henry and Nathan Ferguson, our midfield which appeared a little too samey has acquired skill and strength.

Henry looks a star in the making, with his range of passing and whilst on his debut he was maybe a little guilty of being shrugged off the ball, he learnt quickly and rarely gave the ball away, showing great tenacity in keeping retention before unleashing a trademark longer ball. Ferguson came from Southend with comments that there is a decent player there if he wants to be, and on Saturday he gave us strength in the middle but also a desire to get forward which resulted in our opener.

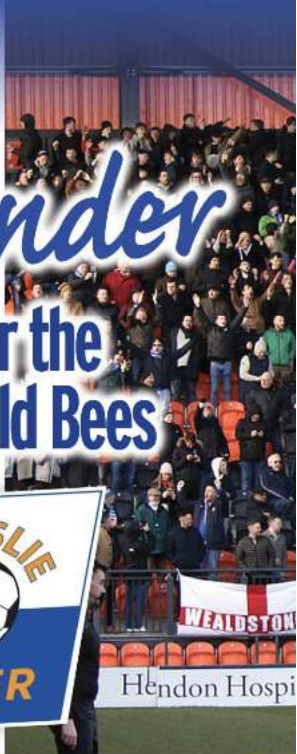
It would be unfair to single out a player or two. As I said our first half performance was as



good as it has been this season. Across the team there were some superb performances, whether a crucial block at 1-0 by Jerome Okimo or the constant running from Josh Umerah at the top, but in reality, there were too many to mention. We played some great football, which was illustrated by the second a goal, a flowing move after Henry unleashed a glorious pass down the right which was ultimately turned in by Josh Umerah who looks a totally different player when he has additional support higher up the pitch.

In the second half the cuckoos had more of the ball but didn't really threaten until a long ball in the box held up in the wind, Wickens came and didn't collect and eventually Harrow Council FC put the ball into net, though it barely registered in the sparsely populated home stand. We might have gone into squeaky bum mode but hit back immediately with a Mundle-Smith screamer which sparked off huge celebrations. From then on in, it was relatively comfortable. A job well done.

Off the pitch it was no contest either. Officially 848 Stones in a crowd of 2,248, but you were left scratching your head where the 1,400 home fans were. The contrast between the home and away stands couldn't be more extreme. One a sea of vibrant fans, of all ages, roaring their team on and the other;



the elmslie ender

NUMBER ONE
MARCH/APRIL 1987

40p

WEALDSTONE 2021-22



Just a section of the incredible 848 Stones following at Barnet last Saturday. Pic: Jon Taffel

mute, ageing, discontent raging, and devoid of any passion. One club on the up, the other on a downward spiral. Barnet supporters may consider us irrelevant, not worthy of a rivalry, looking towards Stevenage and Orient, but for the vast majority of their years they have been a non-league club with us and Enfield as their local rivals. Enfield Town (the re-formed club) are now a couple of steps below us and whether Barnet like it or not, their local rivalries are us and Boreham Wood for the foreseeable future. Wood may even by-pass them to the big league at the rate they

are going. For a team they claim to mean nothing to them, they were pretty salty before and after the game on social media.

For most of our support now, PEPF is just another ground of an opposition club. For some, it was where our home should have been. Saturday was cathartic, an opportunity to move on. As I have said on numerous occasions, Wealdstone would have had no future at PEPF. The local population are not interested in non-league football, in total contrast to Ruislip. The empty home stands were testament to the lack of local interest. Given free tickets and they still didn't come. It goes against the 'build it and they will come' mantra - for they have built a soulless ground, great facilities outside of the main ground if you want to host a wedding, but devoid of footballing heart within the stadium itself. We are fine where we are. Hundreds of young supporters in the away stand is testament to that fact. Our future is HA4 not HA8. Don't mourn for what could have been in Canons Park.

Some complain that the **Stonescast** crew are too pro the management team. We have a group of 15 or so contributors, ranging across the age groups, so is reasonably representative of our support base. Saturday was the reason why. **Stonescast 12** aired on last Friday and we have another one hot off the press this Friday - a bit of a Cuckoo Special I suspect.



BY TIM PARKS



THE BIG STONES INTERVIEW

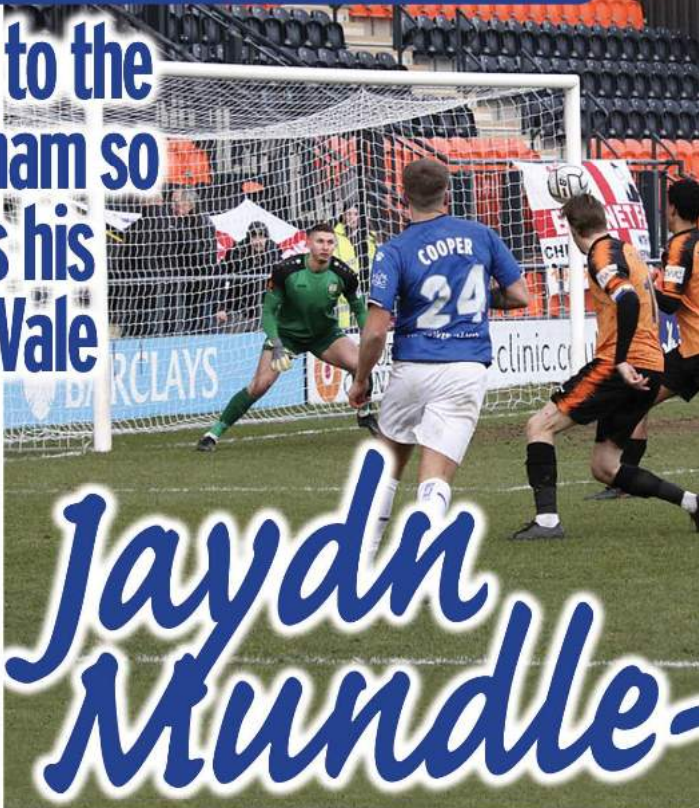
'No pathway to the 1st XI' at Fulham so Jaydn makes his mark at The Vale

JAYDN MUNDLE-SMITH is suddenly the biggest name in town after his stunning goal wrapped up the wondrous 3-1 win at Barnet on Saturday. But his football journey is a familiar one. Nine years in the academy system with Fulham, building hopes and dreams and then having them shattered with that dreaded 'you are released' letter in the summer.

And so Jaydn joined the Stones in October a little under the radar. His signing coincided with our loan capture of Connor McAvoy - also at Fulham - which confused many fans into thinking that Jaydn was also here on a temporary basis.

And after his brilliant full debut in the 1-0 win over Grimsby - complete with spectacular nutmeg on the left touchline which has seen been glimpsed thousands of times online - we were pleasantly surprised to hear that the 22 year-old is a pukka permanent signing.

"The timing of my last couple of years at Fulham couldn't have been worse, with the impact of Covid" admitted the central/left-sided defender. "There isn't really a pathway to the first team at



Jaydn Mundle

Fulham - there were so many good defenders, and especially left-sided ones like Ryan Sessegnon - and I was sent out on loan to first Maidenhead and then Maidstone last season.

"But Maidstone are a National League South club and their season was abandoned due to the virus. I wasn't able to show what I can do. It was pretty rubbish for me".

Jaydn made a stellar start to his career at Craven Cottage. He was 15 years-old and playing above his age group when Fulham won the under-16s Premier League tournament staged at Warwick University. "I played my first game at the quarter-final stage and kept my place as we beat Chelsea 3-2 in the final." It was to get even better the following year as the Cottagers retained the trophy - this time held at Liverpool's Carrington training ground - by beating Reading 3-0 in the final.

"Those tournaments were the high spots for me. I went on one pre-



Jaydn celebrates with the fans after his wonder strike



Pictures by
JON TAFFEL

Smith

season tour to Portugal with the first team squad and was captain of the Under-23 side but wasn't involved in any matchday squads - I was several places down the pecking order and it was so hard to break through".

Now his aim is to shine in the National League and emulate the sort of impact former Stone Jacob Mendy Mendy is having at Boreham Wood.

"I watched the FA Cup win at Bournemouth on TV and he is technically very good. But we have a very solid squad here defensively with players who can tackle and also step out defensively. We're encouraged to do that and we enjoy seeing a lot of the ball".

So what is your favourite position Jaydn?
"Probably at centre-back because you can see the game ahead of you. We have a good understanding and it's great to have Jamie Mascoll out wide on the left as we seem to work well together".

The only player Jaydn knew when he came to The Vale was the recently-departed Craig Fasanmade - through Fas's Reading Youth connection



Left: Jaydn unleashes his terrific cross shot for the third goal at Barnet. Circle: In his Fulham days. Above: Is there a fire drill?

- but he was pleased to find Josh Umerah on his side this time around!

"I came up against Josh in 2019 when he was playing for Ebbsfleet and I was on loan at Maidenhead and he was bullying our centre-backs for fun. He's such a good outlet and he stops the ball coming straight back at you with his hold-up play. I don't score many goals (until Saturday) but I got one that day from close range and Josh scored twice. I was just glad I wasn't marking him!"

Jaydn was brought up in Lewisham and went to Sedgemoor School before being spotted by Fulham in Year 7. It's quite a footballing family as his younger brother Errol, 15, is now being watched by pro clubs and his uncle Jahmal Howlett-Mundle was at Crystal Palace, Hearts and Dover. He now plays for Sheppey United.

Jaydn now makes the long commute from South-East London to Ruislip but has really enjoyed his first few months with the Stones.

"The facilities, training and the stadium are surprisingly good and the fans are something else! It gives us a real lift to have that great following, making noise throughout the games and the clapping-off at the end. I don't think you know what a massive difference that makes.

"We've got a lot of games coming up now in a short space of time, Saturday-Tuesday-Saturday so I'm hoping to get picked and then establish myself in the team. The hardest thing, I've found, since leaving Fulham is keeping that 'pro footballer' mentality as a part-timer. I've started a small job in transport management with the local authority because after Wealdstone training and matches there are still four days to fill. "You can only stay in bed in the mornings for so long!"

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FAN IN THE STAND **SIMON BAIN**

New Podcaster Simon explains why he'd happily turn down Leeds to watch the Mighty Mighty Stones

Would you like to be a 'Fan in the Stand'? Send an email to tim.fparts@gmail.com

Your name and age? Simon Bain.. I was 43 on January 6.

Whereabouts do you live? I currently live in Harefield (last 6 years) but lived in Ruislip for around 15 years before that.

Have you always lived in that area? Pinner born and bred, so always remained local to this area. Pinner to Ruislip to Harefield.

When was your first Stones game? My first-ever game was at Lower Mead to watch Wealdstone when I was 12 with a school friend and his dad – only went the once at that time (some 30 years ago now).

In recent times, I came to the game against Chippenham Town in August 2019 in the NLS championship season with my daughter. I remember we won 1-0 and I loved the whole experience, winning and the style of football that was played, and just wanted to return. I have only missed two home games since then. She came with me to all home games that first season.

What were your first Impressions of the club? Really accessible around the ground, ability to watch good competitive football at a reasonable price, friendly faces around, access to players after the game. Positive impressions ensured I came back ever since and have bought into the Sharescheme to help support the club.

What was the first football match you remember ever seeing live? Or on TV? Oh wow, that is a question – I think I would go back to the Lower Mead game when I was 12 in terms of going to a game in person, I would've seen FA Cup games and the BBC1/ITV games before then but none sticks out in the memory if I am honest.

Do you follow any other team? Yes, for my sins, I am a life-long Leeds United supporter – my grandparents' influence as my grandma was born in Wetherby, I also lived and worked in Leeds during my gap year. Have been to Elland Road on many many occasions.

How devotedly? Home and away? I used to go up there when I was younger (and not a parent)

to home games, saw a fair few European nights, AC Milan and Valencia stick out in memory for me. Went to Leeds' away at Vicarage Road with friends who supported Watford, and totally forgot I was in the home end when Leeds scored – needless to say I sat down very quickly.....!

What's the most memorable game you've EVER seen? I will go for two games, one for Leeds and one for Wealdstone. Leeds v Millwall in the League one play-offs at Elland Road for pure animosity and atmosphere, despite Leeds losing 1-2 in that game. For Wealdstone it would have to be the 7-0 drubbing we gave to Bath City two years ago. They were second in the NLS at the time – we were on fire that day and really showed how to be clinical and attacking.

And the best Wealdstone game? Best Wealdstone game would be one from this season, home against Grimsby when we won 1-0. Was a really great atmosphere in the ground, the team all played really well and showed how competitive we can be when we play football (and don't make individual errors). I also brought my girlfriend with me that evening for her first taste of what Wealdstone is all about, and she enjoyed herself.

What level of football do you prefer? Now this is a very interesting question, and one my daughter asked me a while ago actually. She wondered if I had the choice to go to watch Leeds or Wealdstone which game would I go to? I chose Wealdstone and the reason is because I prefer the atmosphere in terms of seeing the same faces in the crowd, the closeness and view of the game you get, the football that is played at this level, feeling like you know the players and manager and feeling part of the togetherness. There is something special about non-league football that you cannot replicate at higher levels.

How do you fit watching football in with your family/working life? I am somewhat lucky in that





We love a selfie In a Stones shirt! Simon shows off his purchase from the Megastore

I live alone and I also work from home, so can be flexible when watching the Stones. My daughter has just turned into a teenager and so has decided that football is not for her every other Saturday, although she has come to a few games with me this season. The football fits in perfectly for home games, it's away games that are harder for me currently, but I am aiming to start going to a few when I can.

Who are the best Wealdstone players you've ever seen? Ok so this is only my 3rd season as a supporter, so I have limited players to choose from compared to a lot of fans reading this, so I apologise in advance for whom I pick. Personally my favourite player in that time is Ross Lafayette – leader in the team, we seemed to play better when he was in the team, held up the ball to bring others into play and scored vital goals. I think Billy Clifford and Dennon Lewis were equally pivotal in

WEALDSTONE 2021-22

our title-winning season. I also believe that if we had Efete & Mendy as wingbacks in our current 3-5-2 formation we'd have more points on the board this season. This season I think George Wickens and Nikola Tavares have been excellent, and others have shown their quality in games, such as Rhys Browne, Charlie Cooper and Jack Cook.

Do you visit the Megastore? I haven't visited the megastore in person, but I have had gifts purchased for me online – I have the current home shirt, two scarves, bobble hat and a coaster of the Leeds v Wealdstone game (part of the Beckford transfer deal).

Have you been enjoying the season so far? Yes, I have absolutely immersed myself into this season and came to three of the pre-season fixtures as well as Northy's testimonial. We have been competitive in all games (Torquay away and Stockport at home aside) and I loved the home wins against Grimsby and Barnet, as I am sure all fans did!

Did you enjoy being part of the 'Stonescast' podcast last week? Yes, I really enjoyed it...I was a little nervous beforehand so it was nice to have Nicola making her debut with me, but once it started, I felt like it flowed as a natural conversation. I'd like to be involved again this season if possible.

Finally, where do you hope Wealdstone FC will be in the year 2025? What are the obstacles to that? First and foremost I hope we are still in the National League as a minimum. Some financial investment is key to becoming more of a mid-table team not having to fear relegation. The obstacles are the ground ownership - ideally we would own our own ground, as this would make it easier to attract investment and a higher calibre of player. Moving from part-time to a full-time set-up would be a step we'd like to be aiming for... but we could lose those who enjoy the fact that they are part time.

STOP PRESS: As you read this it will be 72 hours since our epic win over the Cuckoos (affectionate term for Barnet) and I for one am still absolutely buzzing. It was my very first away game as a fan of Wealdstone FC and it was everything I hoped it would be... and more. I'd seen and heard our away support this season, but to be part of it was something special. Of course, there was an added edge to the game on Saturday, but it truly showed how great our fans are, singing for the 90 minutes, and beyond, whilst the players gave everything for the shirt on the pitch.

Absolute scenes at the end of the match. I still have "Barnet get battered" going through my head on loop, and what made it more special was the players and MT/coaches all dancing and singing along with us fans at the end – think that will be etched in my memory for a very long time. I will be at another away game very soon! **UTS**

Opposition in focus

MAIDENHEAD UNITED

THE MAGPIES

The origins of senior football in Maidenhead can be traced back to October 1870 with the formation of Maidenhead Football Club, who subsequently played their first ever fixture on December 17th, 1870 against Windsor Home Park at Bond's Meadow near Maidenhead bridge.

On Thursday, February 16th 1871 the club played their first game on the York Road site against Marlow. This ground, which was then shared with the cricket club, is now officially acknowledged as the oldest continually used football ground in the world by the same club, eclipsing Northwich Victoria's old claim by five years. Maidenhead were one of the original 15 entrants for the first ever FA Cup competition in 1871-72 and the following season reached the last four before losing to Oxford University. Maidenhead reached the quarter-finals in the next two seasons, but in 1876 did not enter, although this was the only season they failed to participate. They also entered the first ever Berks & Bucks Cup competition in 1878 - winning the competition for the first time in 1895 - and the first FA Amateur Cup in 1893. The adopted club colours were Red & Black, initially worn as halved shirts, but changed to stripes in 1904.

Maidenhead FC merged with three sides before the Great War. Maidenhead Excelsior were founded in 1877 and joined forces with the Red & Blacks in 1885. Maidenhead Temperance - originally known as Maidenhead Band of Hope - amalgamated with the club in 1891 and Boyne Hill FC did likewise later that year. After many seasons of playing friendlies and Cup matches, Maidenhead FC were founder members of the Southern League in 1894 but competing in Division 2 with the likes of Watford, Brentford, Fulham and Brighton proved too



demanding and the club consistently struggled. Eventually in 1902, after eight years of membership, they resigned and joined both the West Berkshire League and the Berks & Bucks League. In 1904 Maidenhead became members of the Great Western Suburban League where they remained until the outbreak of the Great War.

Spartans and Corinthians

After

the Great War the two remaining town clubs - Maidenhead and Maidenhead Norfolkiens (founded 1884) - decided to join forces. The conflict had meant that it was unrealistic to run two senior clubs, so after a meeting in April 1919, the Norfolkiens were incorporated into the Maidenhead club, and soon afterwards a kit of black and white was adopted as club colours. There was immediate success in the first season

of structured league football as

Maidenhead FC won the Great Western Suburban League. In August 1920 the suffix "United" was added but, more importantly, the freehold of York Road was purchased for £1,450 from William Grenfell, later to become Lord



WEALDSTONE 2021-22



Desborough. Two years later the club joined the Spartan League and the 500 seater grandstand – at the time considered one of the best of its kind - was opened by Club President, Ernest Dunkels.

Maidenhead United won the Spartan League title three times during their nineteen year stay. In 1929-30 season the club's goal-scoring record for a season was set when Jack Palethorpe notched 65 goals in 39 games, including an individual post 1919 record of seven in one game against Wood Green Town. Jack went on to play for Sheffield Wednesday and scored in the Owls FA Cup win in 1935. In 1936, Maidenhead reached the semi-final of the FA Amateur Cup losing 4-1 to Ilford at West Ham in front of 18,000 spectators. It was during that season that the record attendance for a Maidenhead home match of 7,989 was set when Southall visited York Road in the quarter-final. During the Second World War, the club competed in the Great Western Combination.

In 1945 the club were founder members of the Corinthian League. After many seasons of relative mediocrity, fortunes changed under the guidance of ex-Brentford forward, Len

Townsend, and then former Slough Town manager Jimmy Price, and the Magpies enjoyed the first real "purple-patch" in their history. In seven seasons between 1956 and 1963 the club won the league three times, were runners-up twice and also reached the third round of the FA Amateur Cup in 1960, losing to West Auckland at York Road in front of a post-war record attendance for a Maidenhead game of 5,597. As well as County Cup, County Benevolent Cup and League Memorial Shield successes during this period, the 1st round proper of the FA Cup was reached in 1960 (losing 5-0 away to Colchester United), 1962 (losing 3-0 at home to Wycombe Wanderers) and 1963 (losing 2-0 to Bath City at York Road).

Athenians and Isthmians

In 1963, United joined the Athenian League finishing a best placed 3rd in 1965-66. In 1973, the Magpies were elected into the newly created second division of the Isthmian League. They made a concerted effort to achieve promotion to the Premier Division in 1979 and 1980 when managed by Geoff Anthony (finishing 3rd on both occasions), and then again in 1985 under Brian Caterer and Colin Lippiatt, when they finished 4th. They remained in this division until 1987 when the Club suffered relegation for the first time in its history, and the dark days were made worse with the destruction of the main grandstand by an arson attack in December 1986. It took four seasons to get out of Division Two South, and this was achieved under the guidance of Martyn Spong in 1991. An Isthmian League record of 13 straight wins at the start of 1990-91 season was the springboard to success, but the club lost out on the title to Abingdon Town on the last day of the season. During this season, however, the team established a club record of 19 league games without defeat. Following the unexpected departure of Spong to Enfield in the summer of 1991, Gary Goodwin, John Clements and then John Watt took on the manager's job with generally moderate results and the club regularly finished in or around mid-table.

In 2016-17 Maidenhead won the renamed National League South, earning promotion to the National League with 98 points and remain at National League level to this day.

Maidenhead finished the 2019/20 season in 13th place.

WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v MAIDENHEAD UNITED

P 52 W 14 D 9 L 29 F 64 A 111

Opposition in focus

WHO'S WHO?



1. RHYS LOVETT - GOALKEEPER

Rhys Lovett is a young exciting goalkeeper with a bright future ahead after spending the back end of last season on loan with us. Maidenhead United were excited to get Rhys on a full-time basis and be part of his growth over the coming seasons.

3. GEORGE WELLS - DEFENCE

Born: 09/01/96 Left back signed in the summer, making the short trip over the county line from Slough. George was a member of the Rebels team that made it to the National League South play offs last season, having been supporters' player of the year in 2018. Also has experience with Kingstonian and Hampton.

4. WILL DE HAVILLAND - DEFENCE

New Signing Will De Havilland is a 26-year-old centre back who has joined us from Dover Athletic. Will has had a career packed with experience playing for the likes of Millwall and Wycombe.

5. MANNY PARRY - MIDFIELD

Born: 20/1/94 Commanding centre back signed in the summer from Woking, Manny returns to York Road having spent a loan spell with the Magpies in 2013 whilst with Stoke City. He joined the Potters from Millwall and also spent time on loan at Weston-super-mare and Nuneaton. Has gone onto become a highly regarded defender at the top echelons of the Non-league pyramid playing for Worcester City, Grays Athletic, Maidstone United, Margate, Braintree, Dover and Boreham Wood. Selected for the 2018 Non-League Paper team of the season.

6. REMY CLERIMA - DEFENCE

Born: 20/09/90 Cultured French defender signed in November 2016. Used principally as a right back but is equally at home in the centre of defence or midfield. Last season Remy often played further up the pitch, scoring five times. Combines his football with a successful career as a male model. Has National League experience with Braintree and has also played for Histon, Brackley and Lorient. 2017/18 Manager's Player of the Year.

7. DYLAN ASONGANYI - FORWARD

Dylan Asonganyi first joined on loan back in the 2019/20 season from MK Dons. A few years have passed, and Dylan is on his way back to York Road on a free transfer from Oxford United. The young striker is ready to get down to business this season.

8. SHAUN DONNELLAN - MIDFIELD

Born: 16/01/96 Combative holding midfielder signed

in the summer from Woking. Shaun started his career at West Brom and after loan spells at Worcester, Stevenage, Dagenham and Walsall, he signed for Yeovil. He went on to play for Maidstone United. Capped by Republic of Ireland at Under 19 and Under 21 level.

9. NATHAN BLISSETT- FORWARD

Born: 29/1/90. Powerful centre forward signed in the summer from Solihull. Nathan started his career in the midlands at Staffordshire University going on to play for Kidsgrove Athletic and Romulus before signing for Kidderminster. Loan spells followed with Cambridge United and Hednesford Town before joining promotion-bound Bristol Rovers in 2015. Whilst at the Memorial Stadium, Blissett was borrowed by Tranmere Rovers and Lincoln City. A move to Devon came in January 2016 and following a year with Torquay United Blissett moved to the Gulls neighbours Plymouth Argyle. The experienced 30 year old has since appeared for Macclesfield Town and Solihull Moors in the National League.

10. KANE FERDINAND - MIDFIELD

Kane Ferdinand is a 28-year-old centre midfielder with experience in the championship, League 1 and 2. He is a player who can bring composure under pressure and even the odd goal to the team.

11. DAN SPARKES - MIDFIELD

Born: 20/09/91 Left winger signed in the summer from Barnet to reunite with manager Alan Devonshire for whom he played at Braintree. Dan started his career at Histon and has also played for Torquay United and Dagenham.

12. BRAD KEETCH - GOALKEEPER

Born: 19/09/00 (Midfield) Exciting teenage prospect who signed a senior contract in October 2018 and went onto score on his full debut at Holmer Green in the County Cup. A leading light of the youth team that made a record-breaking run to the FA Cup 3rd round in 2019. Part of the club's fledgling academy programme, and the first to graduate to the first team. Spent time on loan at Farnborough last season.

14. ANDRE BURLEY - DEFENDER

15. SAM BECKWITH - MIDFIELD

WEALDSTONE 2021-22



16. RYHEEM

SHECKLEFORD - MIDFIELD

Born: 20/05/97 Right back signed in August 2018, Ryheem started his career at Fulham. He worked his way up through the ranks at Craven Cottage, appearing in the 2014 FA Youth Cup final and captaining the Under 18s the following season. Gained senior experience with a loan spell at **Wealdstone**. Spent time on loan at Walton Casuals during the 2018/19 season and went onto secure a regular berth in the Magpies starting eleven last season on the right side of the pitch

17. REECE SMITH - MIDFIELD

Youth team graduate who impressed with his attacking play in the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup last season, and was named on the bench in the National League.

18. EMILE ACQUAH - FORWARD

Emile Acquah is a familiar face at York Road after a loan spell at the club. The 21-year-old striker has made the loan deal permeant and is keen to start his new journey with Maidenhead in the 2021/22 season.

19. RYAN UPWARD - MIDFIELD

Born: 19/05/92 All action local central midfielder who joined the Magpies from Burnham in the summer of 2014. Also has experience with Flackwell Heath and Beaconsfield SYCOB. Now the longest serving player at the club he enjoyed his best season for the Magpies in 2017/18 passing the hundred full appearance mark and capping the campaign by scoring the winner at Leyton Orient. Always makes his presence felt on the pitch, chipping in with the occasional goal. Made his 150th full appearance for the Magpies last season.

21. JAY MINGI - MIDFIELD

22. JOSH KELLY- FORWARD

Born: 19/12/98 Promising young striker who signed a contract on his 18th birthday having already made his first team debut, scoring the winner in a County Cup tie at Marlow. Farmed out on a season long loan at Walton Casuals last term achieving great success in their promotion season. Josh scored forty goals for the Casuals as well as a penalty in the shootout which won them the play offs. Moved up to the first team in style garnering attention early on in the 2018/19 with some eye catching goals against the likes of Eastleigh and Halifax, making his full Northern Ireland Under 21 debut

in March 2019.

24. ALAN MASSEY @- DEFENCE

Born: 11/01/89 Inspirational captain who joined manager Alan Devonshire in moving from Braintree Town to York Road in May 2015. Alan is a commanding centre back who was at Cressing Road for almost three seasons, making over 100 appearances. He has also played for **Wealdstone** and Wycombe Wanderers. Club captain, Alan gained national fame when he gave the Magpies the lead live on BT Sport in the FA Cup 1st Round replay against Port Vale at York Road. Ever present in the title winning season, leading the parsimonious defence by example, he reached the hundred appearance mark for United early on last season. 2017/18 Supporters' Player of the Year Runner-Up. Passed the 200 appearances mark last season.

25. SAM BARRATT - FORWARD

Born: 25/08/95 Prodigious talent who returned to York Road in the summer after two years at Southend United. Sam originally signed for the Magpies from Bracknell Town in the summer of 2014. He is a left sided striker who was initially used as an impact sub. Has an eye for goal, particularly at set pieces. An England C Cap, his time at Roots Hall was marred by a serious injury in training at the start of his first season with the Shrimpers, having made his Football League debut on the opening day. After a long recovery, Sam successfully returned to the first team in January 2020.

26. JAMES HOLDEN - GOALKEEPER

27. CHARLEE ADAMS - MIDFIELD

28. JOSH SMILE - MIDFIELD

Born: 24/10/96 Signed from Chippingham Town in the summer of 2019 quickly impressing with his dynamism in the middle of the park. Josh started his career at Oxford United before moving to the Fulham Academy where he appeared in the FA Youth Cup Final for the Cottagers alongside Ryheem Sheckleford. He went onto captain the West London club's under 19 and under 23 teams. He signed for the Bluebirds in 2017 and came to the attention of United manager Alan Devonshire in the clubs tightly contested FA Cup tie last season.

MANAGER - ALAN DEVONSHIRE

ASSISTANT MANAGER- RYAN PETERS

IT'S A RECORD!

v Yeovil Town at The Vale,
Van Nat Lge Matchday 25

**THE WHERE &
THE WHAT**

v Barnet at the Hive, Vanarama
National Lge Matchday 26

Tuesday February 8, 7.45pm Mild
and thankfully dry evening (12 deg)
on the Vale's perfect surface

**DATE AND
CONDITIONS**

Saturday February 12, 3pm
Chilly but dry afternoon (7 deg) on
the Hive's bobbly pitch

1,175 (approx 140 away fans)

ATTENDANCE

2,248 (848 away fans)

WEALDSTONE Wickens, Cook,
Okimo, McEvoy, Tavares, Henry, Elito
(Brown 81), Ferguson, Mascoll (Mundle-Smith
72), Umerah, Jackson (Cooper 66)

TEAMS

YEOVIL TOWN Smith, Williams (Bradley 78),
Wilkinson, Barclay, Robinson, Worthington
(Lo-Everton 57), Staunton, Gorman, Wakefield,
Reid (Yussuf 57), Knowles

BARNET Oxborough, Taylor, Richards-
Everton, Greenidge, Thomas, Howe
(Tasdemir 58), Hall (De Havilland 78),
Woods (Flanagan 41), Fonguck, Powell, Marriott

WEALDSTONE Wickens, Cook, Okimo, McA-
voy, Mundle-Smith (Dyer 84), Tavares (Sesay
75), Ferguson, Henry, Cooper, Elito (Elito 72),
Umerah

WEALDSTONE 2 YEOVIL 1
Umerah 38, Tavares 43 Gorman (pen 62)

RESULT

BARNET 1 WEALDSTONE 3
Richards-Everton 48 Ferguson 13,
Umerah 30, Mundle-Smith 53

POSSESSION

Wealdstone 52% Yeovil 48%
SHOTS ON TARGET Stones 6 Yeovil 3
SHOTS OFF TARGET Stones 2 Yeovil 0
CORNERS Stones 3 Yeovil 3

MATCH STATS

POSSESSION

Barnet 51% Wealdstone 49%
SHOTS ON TARGET Barnet 2
Stones 9 **SHOTS OFF TARGET** Barnet 5
Stones 5 **CORNERS** Barnet 9 Stones 4

Stuart Maynard and Matty Saunders changed all but five of the team that failed to really trouble Grimsby in Stones' previous outing - and new midfield signings Nathan Ferguson (from Southend) and Charlton loanee Aaron Henry brought positivity and craft. The biggest revelation was Ira Jackson whose blistering drive brought a fine tip-over save from Yeovil keeper Grant Smith in the opening minutes. Ira's low drive fell invitingly for Josh Umerah to joyfully make it 1-0 - and Nik Tavres converted a half-cleared corner to give us the rare luxury of a 2-0 lead at the break. Yeovil's rare attacks were comfortably repelled and it was a soft penalty that gave them a lifeline on 62 minutes, Dale Gorman converting. And in the end it was Stones sub Rhys Browne - clearly delighted to be back - who was inches away with two late shots on goal

STONES VIEW

Joyous first appearance at The Hive for the fans - all 848 travelling supporters, the biggest away following in a generation - and a blistering first half was more than we could have dreamed of. Nathan Ferguson thumped the first past a nervous-looking Aston Oxborough and a slick move then saw Josh Umerah convert Nik Tavares' drilled cross. A glitch from the otherwise impeccable George Wickens helped the Bees pull one back, to mute response - and compare that to the roar that greeted Jaydn Mundle-Smith's cross shot for 3-1.

One of the great away days and a result that pushed Stones up above Barnet to 16th place.

WE'VE only scored more than one goal in a game on six occasions this season - our defence therefore has to be good and it was nervous and wobbly against an equally (normally) impotent Wealdstone - **BBC Somerset**

MASSIVE three points tonight. Played well for the majority of the game. Jackson was brilliant today and great to see a cameo from Browne who also looked very sharp when he came on. Apart from the penalty Yeovil didn't create too much. UTS! - **WFC northolt, Stonesnet forum**

SOCIAL MEDIA

It was thoroughly depressing, just such a club in apathy. dwindling fan base, zero atmosphere and being laughed at by Boreham Wood and Wealdstone. So many old faces not there anymore and season after season of predictable rubbish and false hope. The terrace was closed and the stand sparsely populated, whilst Wealdstone taking the p*** out of us all afternoon. Where do we go from here?

-Broadfield Bee, Barnet Forum

Fantastic result. Emotional feeling climbing up to Row O and hearing 850+ other Stones fans at "just" a league match. For me, this match is when I felt Wealdstone were back. **-Sutton Stone**

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Are Wealdstone our rivals? I'd like to say 'fellow travellers' because of our fan friendships

We've got a bumper 'View from the Away End' in this issue! First up is Maidenhead's former programme editor **STEVE JINMAN** to explain his Magpies devotion...



Do you live in Maidenhead Steve? No, I live in Hammersmith. I was born in Maidenhead and grew up there. I continued to live there, more or less, until 2001.

When was your first Magpies game? 16th April 1979, Berger Isthmian League Division One: Maidenhead United 3 Harwich & Parkestone 1

Who brought you along to that game or introduced you to the club? I went with my father Dudley.

What can you remember of it? We entered through the Bell Street turnstiles. The programme had sold out. It was a sunny Spring day. We stood on the Bell Street End. There was a small group of raucous Harwich fans to our left. One of them had a Phil Parkes-style Zapata moustache and was wearing a 70s style leather coat. Odd how that last detail stayed with me. I can't remember anything about the match itself apart from the score.

Have you ever supported another team? Yes. I inherited my Dad's love for Arsenal and now I live in London I like to go to midweek matches. I went to watch Reading regularly with a group of school friends in the late 80s/early 90s. When I was studying in Preston I would go to Deepdale to watch North End.

What is the best season you remember, and why? The best season by a long stretch is 2016/17. We won the Conference South, leading all the way for most of the season but due to having Ebbsfleet in hot pursuit, only secured the title on the final day of the season. It was pretty much the perfect campaign and a dream to watch every week. The greatness of this season will only be amplified by the passing of time.

And what are your top three Maidenhead games of all time, and why? Maidenhead United 5 Dartford 0, December 2016. The match that made Dave Tarpey a global scoring sensation. The

essence of the title win was distilled into 90 minutes: Opposition in great form; a few rocky results beforehand for United; an early injury to a key player; an irresistible triumph over adversity often repeated that season.

Kings Lynn 0 Maidenhead United 1: May 2007; a Southern League play off semi final win in a hostile atmosphere. Wonderfully tense. Superb late goal from Mark Nisbet. Speaking to local radio on the phone on a deserted train heading back to London. Promotion in the final a few days later.

Maidenhead United 1 Croydon 0: May 2000. The win that secured promotion to the Isthmian League Premier Division. A fixture pile up meant this was to be the third of four matches played in the final six days of the season. This match was played on a Thursday, 24 hours after a win over Romford. Croydon had already won the title but gave no quarter as Maidenhead took an early lead but then had to fight every inch of the way for the three points. The final whistle was the cue for wonderful scenes between players and supporters on the pitch.

Does following the Magpies impinge on your working/family life? I am a teacher so my free time is strictly structured

(and plentiful!). My wife is Polish so conversations about away games tend to follow this pattern: Her: "where is the match this week?" Me: "Altrincham" [or similar] Short pause. Her: "Where is that actually..."

Before we were married she also made the sardonic observation "Why is it, when a match is postponed, you come back later, and more drunk?!"





Above Steve in the sort of heavy disguise he'll doubtless be sporting this afternoon to avoid conversation with Beanie and Grim

result would be Hartlepool in December 2017, and Stafford in November 2006. The former saw us overturn a one goal deficit in the second half leading to a great journey home on the train. The latter was our first appearance in the FA Cup 1st round in my lifetime. A big Maidenhead support saw us earn a replay despite two red cards, thanks in the main to a penalty save by Chico Ramos.

Strangest ones were at Barton Rovers. A very odd place!

How many fans are you likely to bring this afternoon? I would say between 100-150. Maidenhead's away support hasn't grown in line with our boom in home attendances, and recent results may well deter people from travelling. We usually take about 50 to most games but given the short distance and date I would hope this at least doubles today. United fans are quite discerning in their trips, many, justifiably in my opinion, boycotting Barnet and Boreham Wood due to the unfriendly environment and poor value. I'm pleased to say the opposite is true of Wealdstone.

How did you take to watching matches on live stream last season? Given I'm not used to watching Maidenhead onscreen I didn't watch that many matches. However I was often asked to provide (ahem) expert analysis on the commentary for our live stream (see pic below left). I enjoyed doing this with club secretary Neil Maskell. Our aim was to recreate the atmosphere of Test Match Special on the gantry so if the match was devoid of incident, and I'd run out of anecdotes about the opposition, I often resorted to talking about the trains running past the ground. We had some very mixed reviews from viewers!

Do you see the Stones as local or historic rivals? I would say the Stones are fellow travellers rather than rivals. Our paths have crossed many times and I'm very happy they have joined us at this level. I think there is a lot of competition for players between us, given our similar financial status, therefore the familiarity on the pitch does tend towards a derby clash. I must know more fans at Wealdstone than any other team which is testament to the friendship between the two clubs.

It all started in the White Hart after a match at Edgware, when we got into conversation with from memory; Sudhir, Grim, Beanier and Dudley. I guess I would have been there with Murdo, Craig, Keith, Callum and Logic.

Have you been to the Vale before? I first came to the Vale in the 90s when Ruislip Manor were in the same division as Maidenhead. I remember a high-light was being served tea in a china mug from the tea hut. I think I've been to every Maidenhead game here against Wealdstone. I really like the set up off the pitch and think you have made the best

Do you travel to away games with friends?

Depends where the game is (see below).

What is your usual away game routine? I head to the relevant London terminus station. Depending on the destination I may meet up with friends if it's en route from Maidenhead, otherwise I will travel alone. I enjoy the opportunity to unwind whilst watching the world go by, listening to a podcast, preferably the latest broadcast from When Saturday Comes. On arrival, time permitting, I will seek out friends in a local pub which has been previously researched as offering local real ale. Hopefully some conversation with home supporters before heading for the match. Back to the pub afterwards then with some liquid refreshment for the journey acquired on the walk back to the station, a post mortem on the train home.

What have been the best away trips you can remember following Maidenhead? Best would be Blyth Spartans in the FA Trophy in February 2001. We lost the game but it was an unforgettable weekend for many reasons. The way the home fans stood up and applauded us when we left the clubhouse after a post match drink will stay with me forever. Then we had a night out in Whitley Bay where Logic (one of our friends) secured his place in Maidenhead Folklore in a pub hosting Miss G String 2000 (sic). You may hear a song about this later, if Murdo has it on his setlist.

My favourite away trip in recent years have been the ones to Halifax Town. The Three Pigeons, handily placed half way along the ten minute walk from the station to The Shay, is my ideal pub. Welcoming staff and locals. Ossett Ales, Home-made Pork Pies and an awesome internal design. The ground itself is in a beautiful setting and matches there tend to be exciting with a fair share ending in our favour.

Best days out which also featured a memorable

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

of developing the ground which was once so awful that Ruislip Manor were forcibly demoted.

Are Maidenhead equipped to move up the table to safety? I firmly believe we will avoid relegation this season. We just need to get everyone in the squad fit to play. If consistency of selection is possible then we will earn enough points to stay up.

As an ex-Prog Editor, does the matchday programme constitute a large part of your football-going experience? It used to. I have a treasured collection of programmes. The issues from the 70s-90s are particularly valued for their quality and memories they preserve. However the spread of the internet saw them lose their cachet. No longer were they an indispensable source of statistics and news. Unfortunately the inevitable decline in popularity that ensued, was accompanied by a decline in quality with many issues seemingly tailored towards children with a distinct absence of insightful writing. This of course led to fewer sales and a further decline. Therefore I stopped buying them about five years ago and actually got rid of loads from more recent years.

Are you disappointed to see that some clubs have discontinued printed programmes? No. For the reasons above. Although design and graphics have improved across the board, for a programme to have any value it needs to feature articulate, in-depth articles on football matters and sadly this does not seem to be the case anymore.

The Wealdstone programme is of course the exception! I think the future is supporter-generated content whether that be blogs, vlogs or podcasts. There is also plenty of excellent football writing available elsewhere. My favourite publications are When Saturday Comes and The Blizzard.

And finally... Where do you see the Magpies in the next five years? Our move to Braywick is continuing to move forward slowly and realistically we may be there within the next five years. Hopefully this will be as a National League club but assuming that promotion remains limited to two clubs, the division is only going to get more competitive. Next season, a full division of 24 clubs, with new blood from the divisions below, could be very tough indeed.

THE VIEW FROM THE

...and now the thoughts

Your name and age? Murdo Macleod, over 50.

Do you live in Maidenhead? Yes. In the words of our former fanzine, born and bred.

When was your first Magpies game? What can you remember of it? Maidenhead United 3-0 Wembley, 27th March 1984. Club legend Dave Harrison's debut. It was a midweek game and the thrill of games under lights wasn't immediate.

Who brought you along to that game or introduced you to the club? I went with some school friends. Just one of many generations who have been since, as part of a 'rite of passage'. Cheap tickets are a great idea to get future fans in.

Have you ever supported another team? Leeds United. My best friend at the time supported them and my family weren't into football. My early memories were of the likes of Carl Harris, Ray Hankin and Peter Barnes, not the great team that preceded them. Someone once remarked that the 'worse Leeds get, the more games you go to'. League One was great as the supporter demographic is different to the Premier League, and Jermaine Beckford remains a hero there. Now they're back in the top flight I can't get a ticket and it's a TV show. It's also weird seeing Maidenhead win at places like Leyton Orient and Yeovil where Leeds failed!

What is the best season you remember, and why? Easy. NLS title winning season. Everything came together and we had a fantastic side. Recently described as 'lightning in a bottle'. Tarpey was amazing but we could also dig in and grind out results. 98 points was incredible and winning it ahead of Ebbsfleet even sweeter. I was working in Abu Dhabi during the run-in and was commuting back for games

And what are your top three Maidenhead games of all time, and why? Phew. There have been quite a few. Billerica 3 - 5 Maidenhead. Isthmian Division One, about 1995. Team stuck in traffic, arrive do shortly before 3pm, 3-0 down after 12 minutes. Scored 5 in the last 22 and even hit

the bar on the final whistle. An amazing turnaround at a place we usually did well at, and one of the few Essex trips I used to enjoy. I don't miss doing laps of the M25 every other Saturday!

Hartlepool 1 - 2 Maidenhead. 23rd December 2017. Great train awayday and points against former EFL side.



Hat-trick hero
Sean Marks



Beer,
football
and comfy
shoes..
Murdo
models
the perfect
Saturday
combination

AWAY END 2

WEALD STONE 2021-22

of the venerable Murdo



ideally having picked up some points.

How many fans are you likely to bring to the Vale on Boxing Day? I doubt it will be loads. There is no public transport, some regulars are doing family stuff and we're really struggling at the moment.

Has the level of away support disappointed you this season? We're all about quality, not quantity. Southend had about 5,000 recently and all you could hear was our fans. (Obviously the answer is yes. Those who don't travel are missing out, despite the results).

How did you take to watching matches on live stream last season? It was no substitute for the real thing, and our stream was regularly infuriating and frustrating. We were also really unfortunate that, when restrictions were occasionally lifted, we always seemed to be away. 6/7 in fact. We lost the one home game to a goal from a former player. Typical.

Do you see the Stones as local or historic rivals? Absolutely not. You're our bestest football mates, having met a few in the White Hart in the 90's after we won 3-0 at Edgware. A load of you came to ours for the game at York Road in the Turkey seats debacle season. The rest is history! We've

met at gigs, had supporters matches, supported you at Stones Aid, play off finals and will be meeting a load for drinks prior to the return at ours.

Have you been to the Vale before? Yes, plenty of times. Firstly when Ruislip Manor played there. Whatever happened to them? :) Have been there to see our Stones mates when we've not had a game. Have also played in a band at Stones Aid, shortly after you moved there. Oh, and Beckford's return with Leeds in 2009.

Are Maidenhead equipped to move up the table to safety? Hmm... the jury is out. We've been largely dreadful recently and Covid, injuries and inadequate replacements for those we lost in the summer mean we're in a dogfight. Dev has never been relegated though and will do everything in his power to keep that record. He may well need to wield the axe though.

And finally... Where do you see the magpies in the next five years? Good question. The club are sadly seeking to leave York Road. Getting the move right is vital for allowing the club to move forward. There is much to laud, particularly community work and engagement, which is excellent. Improved facilities would hopefully attract further interest but it cannot be at the expense of the things that make the club what it currently is for existing fans.

Friendly locals, decent pubs and a party on the journey home, along with a few players. We even dug the port out.

Ebbsfleet 2 - 3 Maidenhead 2016. They were unbeaten at home yet we won at the death with a Sean Marks hat-trick, much to the chagrin of the disgruntled locals. Marvellous!

Does following the Magpies impinge on your working/family life? Absolutely. Particularly as the longer awaydays mean a dawn start and midnight return. It costs loads, in money, time and effort but I wouldn't have it any other way.

Do you travel to away games with friends? Yes. There's a small group of us who have travelled everywhere for years. In the M25 league I regularly drove but it's train usually now. Far more fun.

What is your usual away game routine? In the pub as soon after opening time, with a pre-planned pub crawl, shout myself hoarse at the game, super-market sweep for the (party) train home, usually a few laughs with some randoms then wake up to Facebook photos of me having fallen asleep on the last leg of the journey.

What have been the best away trips you can remember following Maidenhead? Any involving going with your mates, having a few beers and a laugh, hopefully watching the team put a shift in, feeling that they've appreciated your efforts and

BY MARTIN READ



The World of **Ball**

It could and should have been our home - but it's Barnet's problem now

A ground tied to the club's past; a welcome win in the club's present; and goals celebrated by the fans representing its future. Yep, Saturday was a great day out for us at 'The Hive' to be sure - but for obvious reasons, a surreal one too.

Things were different back in 2002. Text messages cost 20p each, 'social media' meant sharing a copy of *The Sun* around the office and you'd have been laughed out of town if you'd pegged Boreham Wood to make the last sixteen of the Isthmian League Full Members' Cup, let alone FA Cup. Yet here we all are. Time has moved on for both Wealdstone and Barnet, with the actual tenants of a place we all knew back then as the Prince Edward Playing Fields having secured full tenancy of the site despite, well, everything. So what was our first visit to the ground that should have been home actually like?

Does PEPF as a football ground make sense?

It's perfectly functional, let's just say that. Perhaps Lower Mead felt more of an integrated part of Harrow's townscape, but to be fair The Hive does blend well into its surroundings and appears sufficiently dramatic when approached by tube. It looks a like a decent if unexciting ground from the outside and it's sufficiently well distanced from the local residents. You can see why it would have made so much sense

as our prospective new home back then.

The Hive is clearly a decent Football League quality ground. But on Saturday it was only our fans providing the Football League quality support. Barnet's fans were more like a random gaggle of day trippers who'd accidentally ambled into a particularly dull retail park and decided to take a sit down, vaguely curious of all the noise happening up at the other end.

Is the stadium architecturally balanced?

Absolutely not. The overall complex seems fine, but there seems to have been two development phases to the stadium itself; the half we'd effectively built by 2003 and the half they subsequently added. 'Our' bits - the 'hive' stand and 'bees' terrace - are far more non-league in their capacity and nature, as you'd expect. But in 2022 they are also typically empty for most Bees matches, particularly that end terrace.

The other two stands, the comically named 'legends' on the side and the 'Stand 66' away

It's ten minutes to kick-off on Saturday afternoon. Where is everyone?



end, feel too big for the club's status. As a result, it all seems a bit lopsided. That's not necessarily a problem - look at the Vale! - but at PEPF the result is weird, with pretty much all fans from both sides occupying these two larger stands and next to no one in the others. Worse, the TV gantry is in that legends stand, meaning that broadcast coverage typically presents an apparently empty ground to the world.

Did it make me conjure up an alternative past?

We're told not to dwell on what might have been, but it's bloody difficult when you're standing in the place that would have hosted all that alternative reality. So, the answer is obviously yes - a very different history indeed, in which 2022 would have seen us planning celebrations to mark next year's 20th anniversary of Prince Edward Park as our home ground.

Perhaps the sense that many of us have today - of Harrow no longer being a footballing borough - wouldn't have taken root had we notched nearly two decades at PEPF. Maybe. But one thing's for sure, the whole fiasco is just a part of our past now. Ruislip simply feels right for who we are now, so much so that should some sudden event force Barnet's departure, us relocating would not be an obvious response.

Does it have a soul?

As mentioned, those architectural imbalances mean that Barnet's entire support congregates in one oversized stand. With the Bees terrace empty, the Barnet fan stares out at an absence of anything other than the two teams playing. If they look straight across at the other side they're essentially staring at a flat grey wall with precious few fans seated at its base.

It's like being forced to stare at an industrial warehouse, or maybe the neutral greys suggest a run-of-the-mill distribution centre. Of course, that grey is joined by a few shards of Barnet amber - except, no it isn't! Because as Tim Parks has previously mentioned, it's more of a garish orangey colour instead. (A bit like the colour of that substance fish and chip shops cover their fish in. I'm sure you know what I mean...)

Or perhaps the slate grey and orange gives it the feel of an out-of-town Halfords store, one to which they've tacked on a few outside seats so that staff can pop out for a quick fag break.

What it certainly doesn't feel like is a ground fizzing with life, supporters taking in the action from every direction you look, as it surely should. Somehow the crowd of 2,200 (*editor - please place 'wide eyed' emoji here*) looked lost in a 6,500 capacity ground. Quite a trick, that.

I can't help feeling that we'd have grown the ground in a more organic way; a prominent megastore here, a supporters club hut there; Toby's badge business with its own little hut. Less stand height and more club life. The Hive, with its brick security rooms and shiny under-stand bars feels cold, clinical and, yes, soulless. It needn't have been that way; it wouldn't have been that way.

Any other observations?

Genuinely uncertain about where I should be heading, I enquired as to the away end. Then I asked "could you also tell me where Wealdstone town centre is?", receiving a wry smile in response. Because, yeah, it is just a mile or two over that way, isn't it?

At half time, Bryan Adams came over the PA, 'Summer of 69' I think. Adams, of course, famously bought a pub next to his Chelsea flat because he deemed its patrons too loud. What's this? A man, miles from his original home, stealing an important venue from the locals? Now there's a thing.

Then there were some of our fans, barely in to their teens, loudly proclaiming how they were "walking down the Station Road to see the Wealdstone aces" when in some cases even their fathers would have been too young to have had that privilege. (It also occurred to me that we rarely heard thirty-years old chants about the Athenian and Amateur Cup era when we were teens at Lower Mead in the eighties, barring perhaps the old 'long ball down the middle'. Odd thing, that.)

The big takeaway, though, is that The Hive doesn't seem to be working for Barnet supporters. One particular Barnet blogger speaks of a club whose jarring relocation is slowly eroding what it means to support Barnet as their fans gradually slope off to the likes of Hadley, Potters Bar and others. There's no outreach to the Canons Park locals, apparently, and no attempt to nurture future fans back in their Hertfordshire home town.

However much we'll revel in Saturday's cathartic trip back to Harrow, we should all thank the stars that we don't have fans saying, as that Barnet blogger does, that *"the club we knew and loved is barely recognisable from that we remember"*.

I'd much rather the story of our band-of-brothers, all in it together road trip back to non-league's summit instead of theirs in which a single entrepreneur has taken a suffocating, iron grip.

And there you have it, really. Turns out a club is all about the fans and their fervour, not the fixtures and fittings. It's good to have got that crazy first trip to PEPF off our chests. Now - on to bigger things.

Random snippets irregularly posted @Wealdipedia

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- A souvenir memento of your day.

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We will work with you to ensure you and your guests get to enjoy a truly memorable experience. If you or your organisation are interested in sponsoring a match here at The Vale, please contact Club President, Paul Rumens (**paul-rumens59@gmail.com** or call **07710 929692**) to discuss.

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Our match sponsors and their guests are all en-

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
 SOLHULL 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, 16th February
Vanarama National League

Osmo UK

Rolfe East



WREXHAM

Saturday, 19th February
Vanarama National League

Union Athletic



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

Your name or
business here



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	1	2	12	17	6	7	8	9	10	11	24
21 WOKING	VNL	1-2	1,405	380	16	Umerah											
28 Chesterfield	VNL	0-2	5,336	167	18												
30 SOUTHEND UNITED	VNL	0-0	2,151	800	18												
SEPTEMBER																	
4 Dagenham & Redbridge	VNL	2-2	1,735	170	18	Umerah, Lewis				17(34)	6	7		9	10(7)	11(3)	24
11 ALTRINCHAM	VNL	1-0	1,013	N/A	15	Elito (Pen)						7(9)		9	10	11	24
14 Notts County	VNL	2-3	5,213	208	14	Umerah (2)						7(9)		9	10(11)	11	24
18 ALDERSHOT TOWN	VNL	2-2	1,106	280	15	Umerah, Jackson						7(9)		8(20)	9	11	24
25 King's Lynn Town	VNL	1-0	885	180	13	Cooper				17				8(21)	9	10(9)	11(20)
OCTOBER																	
2 Torquay United	VNL	0-5	2,097	132	16								8(20)	9			11
5 SOLIHULL MOORS	VNL	0-0	1,501	120	16								8(18)	9			11
9 EASTLEIGH	VNL	1-2	1,267	95	16	Umerah											11
16 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	FAC4	1-2	718	185	17	Bird								8(11)	9		11
23 Weymouth	VNL	1-1	1,024	170	17	McAvoy							7(9)	8(18)	9		11
26 GRIMSBY TOWN	VNL	1-0	1,892	794	16	Buse							7(9)	8	9		11(16)
NOVEMBER																	
13 BARNET	VNL	1-0	2,662	672	16	Browne							6(25)	8	9	10(16)	24
20 Wrexham	VNL	0-0	8,592	194	17								6(17)	9	10		24
23 Dover Athletic	VNL	3-2	510	200	15	Sweeney (2), Umerah							6	8	9	10	24
27 STOCKPORT COUNTY	VNL	1-4	1,382	310	16	Jackson							6	8	9		24
30 Bedford & Feltham	MCC2	1-2	TBC	TBC	16	Jackson											
DECEMBER																	
4 Bromley	VNL	2-3	1,747	220	17	Umerah, Cook								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								6	7	8(5)	9
JANUARY																	
11 Boreham Wood	VNL	0-1	1,298	171	19												
15 DOVER ATHLETIC	VNL	2-1	940	45	19	Charles, Stevens											24
22 Woking	VNL	0-2	2,667	232	20												24
25 NOTTS COUNTY	VNL	0-0	1,547	450	20												24
29 Grimsby Town	VNL	1-2	4,747	166	20	Mascoll							6(2)	8	9		24
FEBRUARY																	
8 YEOVIL TOWN	VNL	2-1	1,175	TBD	18	Umerah, Tavares											24
12 Barnet	VNL	3-1	2,248	848	16	Umerah, Ferguson, Mundle-Smith											24
15 MAIDENHEAD UNITED	VNL																
19 WREXHAM	VNL																
22 Solihull Moors	VNL																
26 TORQUAY UNITED	VNL																
MARCH																	
5 Eastleigh	VNL																
8 Maidenhead United	VNL																
12 WEYMOUTH	VNL																
19 Stockport County	VNL																
26 BROMLEY	VNL																
APRIL																	
2 FC Halifax Town	VNL																
9 CHESTERFIELD	VNL																
15 Southend United	VNL																
18 BOREHAM WOOD	VNL																
23 Altrincham	VNL																
30 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	VNL																
MAY																	
2 Yeovil Town	VNL																
7 KING'S LYNN TOWN	VNL																
15 Aldershot Town	VNL																



PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY RESULTS

17th July	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

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Opposition in focus

WREXHAM AFC

Clwb Pêl-droed Wrecsam

THE DRAGONS

Founded in 1864, Wrexham are the third oldest professional football club in the world and oldest in Wales. They play at the Racecourse Ground (Y Cae Ras), the oldest international football stadium in the world, with Wrexham also the birthplace of the Football Association of Wales.

Wrexham have won the Welsh Cup a record 23 times, having won the first competition in 1878, but spent the majority of their existence playing in the English leagues. They started in the Combination in 1890 and stayed there until 1905 save for two seasons in the Welsh Senior League – which they won both times.

They were in the Birmingham & District League either side of World War One before becoming founder members of the new Division Three North in 1921/22, 100 years ago this season. Wrexham remained in the Football League for the next 87 years before financial troubles and mismanagement led to them dropping into the Conference in 2008. They are now the longest-serving current members of the Vanarama National League.

Wrexham enjoyed their peak in the late 1970s, under legendary former player turned manager Arfon Griffiths, when they won promotion to the second tier and remained there between 1978-1982 with Welsh internationals Joey Jones and Dai Davies among their star names.

Though they dropped down thereafter, Wrexham also enjoy a reputation as giant killers. Their Welsh Cup success allowed



Wrexham's 10,771 capacity Y Cae Ras (Racecourse Ground)

them to play in the European Cup Winner's Cup until 1995, where memorable results included knocking Porto out over two legs, and drawing at home with both Anderlecht and Real Zaragoza.

On



the domestic front, Wrexham reached the quarter-finals of both the FA Cup and League Cup in 1978, and famously beat league champions Arsenal – having themselves finished bottom of the Football League the previous season – in the FA Cup in 1992.

Mickey Thomas' free-kick and Steve Watkin's late winner proved the start of a decade of FA Cup giant-killing under iconic manager Brian Flynn, as Wrexham also beat Ipswich Town, Birmingham City, West Ham United and Middlesbrough

in subsequent seasons. They reached the quarter-finals for a second time in 1997.

Rogue chairmen and financial struggles

WEALDSTONE 2021-22



urse Ground)

Pic. Wrexham.com

dominated Wrexham's history since the turn of the Millennium, and it took supporters putting their deeds to their house up in order to pay a bond in 2011 that kept the Club in business. The Wrexham Supporters Trust took control of the Club months later, and the Red Dragons would narrowly miss out on promotion in each of the next two seasons.

After remaining in the National League, however, renewed hope arrived in 2020 when Rob McElhenney and Ryan Reynolds expressed an interest in buying the Club. The two actors' takeover was confirmed in February 2021, and they paid their first visit to North Wales in October 2021.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Saturday 20th November 2021

AWAY - Drew 2-2 (8,592)

Saturday 27th February 2021

AWAY- Lost 1-4 (BCD)

Saturday 17th October 2020

HOME- Won 4-3 (BCD)

HONOURS

WELSH CUP

Winning the Welsh Cup a record 23 times
(and runners-up 22 on a further occasions)

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS CUP

1975/76 – European Cup Winners' Cup
Quarter-Finalists (only losing 2-1 on aggregate
to eventual winner Anderlecht)

3RD DIVISION (LEAGUE 1)

1977/78 – Champions

FOOTBALL LEAGUE TROPHY

2005 – Winners (being Southend United at
the Millennium Stadium)

FA TROPHY

2013 – Winners

2015 - runners up



Jaydn in action at Y Cae Ras Pic. Jon Taffel

WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v WREXHAM AFC

P3 W1 D1 L1 F5 A7

Opposition in focus

WHO'S WHO?



1. ROB LAINTON - GOALKEEPER

Signed, initially on loan, in 2018, former Bolton and Port Vale stopper Lainton was voted Player of the Year in his first season at the Racecourse. He has since racked up more than 100 appearances, and sits fifth on the Club's all-time list for clean sheets.

2. REECE HALL-JOHNSON - DEFENCE

A pacey attacking wing-back, Hall-Johnson's career started in Norfolk where he was part of Norwich's FA Youth Cup winning team in 2013. He signed for Wrexham in 2020 after leaving Northampton and scored on his debut – one of seven goals he scored in his maiden campaign

3. CALLUM MCFADZEAN - DEFENCE

Signed in the January Transfer Window, left-back Callum McFadzean linked back up with former manager Phil Parkinson – who previously signed him for Sunderland. The versatile defender has promotions with Bury and Plymouth Argyle on his CV.

4. SHAUN BRISLEY - DEFENCE

The first signing of the summer and Phil Parkinson's reign, the centre-back had to wait for his Wrexham debut after a pre-season injury but headed in on his league debut against Barnet.

5. AARON HAYDEN - DEFENCE

The former Carlisle United vice-captain stepped down to the National League as one of several defensive reinforcements brought in by manager Phil Parkinson. He has proved his worth in both boxes, already scoring several headers this season.

6. BEN TOZER - DEFENCE

The promotion-winning captain of Cheltenham Town last season, with a howitzer of a long throw-in, Tozer signed for Wrexham for an undisclosed fee. A versatile defender/defensive midfielder, he was named Club Captain.

7. JORDAN DAVIES - MIDFIELD

Wrexham's Young Player of the Season last season, the midfielder first came through the Club's academy but left to join Brighton before making a senior Wrexham appearance. He returned to his boyhood club in 2020, however, and enjoyed a stunning end to the season – continuing his goalscoring form in 2021/22 and signing a new, long-term contract.

9. LUKE YOUNG - MIDFIELD

Wrexham's back-to-back Player of the Season, last year's top goalscorer and a two-time Goal of the Season winner, it is fair to say Luke Young has made

a big impression since swapping Devon for North Wales. The ex-Torquay midfielder was named first-team captain in the summer and is closing in on 150 league games for the Club.

9. JAKE HYDE - FORWARD

Signed from FC Halifax Town in the summer, experienced National League goalscorer Hyde has also enjoyed successful spells with Barnet and Woking. This season, the powerful striker made a goalscoring start to life at Wrexham but has been frustrated by injuries.

10. PAUL MULLIN - FORWARD

The summer's most eye-catching signing, after smashing the record books on his way to League Two Player of the Year, top goalscorer (by far) and promotion with Cambridge United. Chairman Rob McElhenney personally called the striker to secure his signature on a free transfer and he has raced into double-figures for the season already.

11. LIAM MCALINDEN - FORWARD

Another League Two promotion winner now forming part of this Wrexham side, McAlinden helped Morecambe go up through the play-offs last season. A striker, winger or attacking midfielder, he has proved a versatile addition so far.

12. DANIEL JARVIS - MIDFIELD

The former Stoke City youth player made an immediate impression when he stepped up to play senior football in 2019 with Wrexham – scoring on his debut. The pandemic curtailed his debut season, but the tricky playmaker has since extended his stay with the Red Dragons into 2021/22.

15. TYLER FRENCH - DEFENCE

The versatile defender is comfortable playing at centre-back or full-back, and has played regularly in both positions since arriving at the Racecourse Ground on the final day of the winter transfer window in 2021.

16. CAMERON GREEN - DEFENCE

The former Watford and Reading youngster impressed on a short-team deal after signing non-contract terms late in the 2020/21 season. His performances at left wing-back earned him a permanent contract in the summer and he scored his first senior goal against King's Lynn this season.

CLWB PŴL-DROED WRECSAM

17. BRYCE HOSANNAH - DEFENCE

The former Leeds United academy wing-back's start to life at Wrexham was eventful to say the least. His debut was abandoned in the rain at Aldershot – despite the yellow card he earned staying on his record – and he was then sent off against Maidenhead in a case of mistaken identity. He has since established himself as a regular starter, and scored his first goal just after Christmas

18. DAVID JONES - MIDFIELD

Former Premier League midfielder David Jones returned to North Wales – where his family is based – as Player-Coach of Wrexham AFC following a successful trial in the summer. He scored a Goal of the Season contender on his debut, the opening day of the season.

19. JORDAN PONTICELLI - FORWARD

Initially signed on loan from boyhood club Coventry City before COVID-19 ended the 2019-20 season, the striker was offered a permanent contract when football resumed the following summer and continues to battle for a regular place up front.

20. DIOR ANGUS - FORWARD

Part of Barrow's title-winning strike force in 2019/20, the son of Coventry defender Terry Angus was one of Wrexham's two deadline-day signings in February 2021. He scored seven goals in his debut campaign.

21. CHRISTIAN DIBBLE

- GOALKEEPER

Now the longest-serving member of the Wrexham squad, the goalkeeper followed in the footsteps of his father – former Wales international and Manchester City stopper Andy – in representing Wrexham. He has now made more than 50 appearances for the North Walian team since 2017.

25. RYAN AUSTIN - DEFENCE

A youth academy product and boyhood Wrexham AFC supporter, the tall young defender is bidding to return to match fitness after suffering a serious knee injury shortly after signing pro terms.

26. HARRY LENNON - DEFENCE

The defender, who opened his account for Wrexham in front of co-chairmen Rob McElhenney and Ryan Reynolds in the draw with Torquay, signed in the summer. Formerly with Southend, he has overcome

two serious injuries already in his career.

27. JAKE BICKERSTAFF- FORWARD

Another of Wrexham's youth academy products, Bickerstaff scored on his senior debut against Ayr United in the Tunnock's Caramel Wafer SPFL Challenge Cup in 2019.

30. JAMES JONES- MIDFIELD

Signed from Lincoln City on a free transfer in the summer, the energetic midfielder has also played for Crewe Alexandra – making a name for himself at both clubs with his tireless midfield play before dropping into the National League.

31. DAWID SZCZEPANIAK- GOALKEEPER

The Polish-born goalkeeper is Wrexham's third-choice stopper but he ensured his one senior appearance for the Club so far was a memorable one – saving a penalty as the Red Dragons beat Ayr United in a shoot-out in 2019.

32. MAX CLEWORTH- DEFENCE

Having broken through the Club's youth academy in 2019, Cleworth made his first league appearance on the opening day of the 2021/22 season and the defender has now committed his long-term future to Wrexham.

35. OLLIE PALMER- FORWARD

Wrexham's record signing when he joined in January – breaking a record that had stood since 1978 – giant striker Ollie Palmer made an immediate impact in North Wales with a match-winning goal on his debut.

39. KWAME THOMAS- FORWARD

The big striker was Wrexham's top scorer last season until he suffered a season-ending Achilles injury on Good Friday. He has since recovered and proved his fitness, and made a goalscoring return in the Buildbase FA Trophy.

MANAGER - PHIL PARKINSON

Phil Parkinson joined the Club in the summer of 2021, after Dean Keates' contract was not renewed. Parkinson arrived at the Racecourse Ground with a wealth of experience, having managed more than 800 Football League games across spells with Colchester United, Hull City, Charlton Athletic, Bradford City, Bolton Wanderers and Sunderland. Parkinson, alongside trusted assistant Steve Parkin, masterminded Bradford's giant-killing run to the League Cup final in 2013 and the FA Cup quarter-finals the following year. He has also earned promotions with Colchester, Bradford and Bolton.

WE'VE PLAYED YOU BEFORE



Oh for a time machine and the chance to see into the future of our two great clubs: Wrexham and Wealdstone



Charlie Wakefield (far right) has just given Stones the lead against Wrexham ... no crowds to celebrate but the players were pretty happy

Saturday October 17, 2020, National League: Wealdstone 4 Wrexham 3

‘What was the score the first time that Wealdstone ever met Wrexham?’ is one of those quiz

questions that might have contestants scratching their heads in 20 years time.

You know, in 2042 when the Dragons - who were famously bankrolled by Hollywood veterans Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney back in 2020 to put them on their epic trajectory to the Premier League - were meeting the similarly flush Wealdstone in a late-season clash to determine Champions League qualification.

“Was that in the pandemic?” contestant A might say. “They were crazy times. I heard Wrexham were only paying some of their players £1,000 a week!”

Cue canned laughter.

And no doubt tens of thousands of people would flood Twitter (still going strong despite umpteen imitations) to claim that they were at Grosvenor Vale that Autumn afternoon 20 years ago. I might be one of them, but I wouldn't be lying.

Because it was only a

select, lucky few who were present at the then-undeveloped Vale to witness Wealdstone's sensational win over the Red Dragons in the Stones first game back in the National League for 32 years.

The quizmaster might say: “It's hard to believe, of course, but this was years before the Ruislip Superdome. The ground was known as ‘The Vale’ and had a capacity of... wait for it...4,000! (cue intakes of breath and more canned hysteria).”

“And even more unbelievably, because of the Covid pandemic, the game was played behind closed doors, meaning there were just club officials, sponsors and media allowed to watch.

“Anyway, fingers on buzzers and off to round two”.....

That autumn 18 months ago will stay in my memory for a lifetime. We'd just been promoted as

Tim (right) is on comms for the Wrexham game with Robin Wainwright (left)



BY TIM PARKS

WEALDSTONE 2021-22



points-per-game champions of the National League South. We had no income and yet £100,000 worth of upgrades had to be carried out at the Vale.

There was a sizeable grant from the FA to tide clubs over for six months but, beyond that point, everyone was in the dark.

And little old Wealdstone were about to face full-time ex-Football League behemoths like Notts County, Stockport, Chesterfield, Halifax, Torquay, Hartlepool, Dagenham, Aldershot, Yeovil and yes, Wrexham!

The season would be kicking off late, on October 2 (due to the late conclusion of the Covid-delayed EFL season) and our club

received National press coverage for the absurdity of fans being allowed into the social club, peering through the blinds into the ground, while not officially being allowed in the ground.

And the further absurdity (and embarrassment) of our big kick off at home to Chesterfield being called off after torrential rain!

Personally, it was both daunting and exciting as I'd been asked to take on responsibility for commentary on the live streaming of our games. This had been mooted during the pre season friendlies when it first became possible that all games would be BCD - everyone was still hoping that fans would be allowed back in once the National League

season kicked off - and the club had to quickly adapt the usual coverage from FC Video to include the commentary from the camera gantry.

Mike Kane quickly switched from his usual stadium construction skills to technical know-how and within moments we had microphones, a table and a monitor up in the rickety, corrugated iron box which sits on the roof of the 'popular side' tea bar.

Glamorous it ain't!

There is a roof, but the open sides (with just a flapping sheet of clear plastic to keep out the often horizontal rain) meant the whole of that autumn and winter match days were spent in three layers of thermal clothing and gloves, trying to keep clipboard and notes dry while attempting to sound composed and knowledgeable about the game unfolding below us.

I say 'us' because the gantry was definitely not COVID friendly with a cameraman (or woman), technician, and co-commentator all sharing the eight-foot-square space. And hats off to the 'pundits' I often lured to the games to provide a bit of diverse comment - I wouldn't have blamed some for turning tail once they'd seen the loft ladder and hatch that had to be negotiated even before you could even stand upright with a microphone!

The Wrexham game was only our second 'WFCTV Production'. Stockport County was the first and it quickly became obvious that, starved of live football, the fans would buy £10 live streaming in their hundreds if not thousands, making it an important little earner for the club. And a bit of pressure to

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The future of Wrexham: Hollywood's Ryan Reynolds (right) and Rob McElhenney



WE'VE PLAYED YOU BEFORE CONTD..



Wrexham's Ade Yussuf somehow steered this one wide of Harry Isted's post at The Vale...



FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

provide a professional-sounding product.

Our first two national league games were both away and I eagerly tuned in to the live TV feeds from Yeovil and Dagenham. Every club was having teething problems, with good or indifferent quality depending on which company had been hired to provide the pictures, and 'buffering' was the bugbear in those early days.

Our stream wasn't perfect but as the weeks went by most of the problems were ironed out - and I've honestly had nothing but compliments for the coverage we provided for that strange and difficult season.

But back to Wrexham. After persuading a Stockport-born fellow journalist Howard Wheatcroft (complete with flat cap, and whipper probably) to join me for some quirky co-comms for the Stockport game, I thought I'd landed a bit of a coup when ex-Dragons star Glenn Little said he'd be delighted to join me in the box...but he had to pull out a few days before when he had a paid speaking gig at one of his former clubs.

Glenn, who also shone for the Stones of course in our Ryman promotion season, would have been brilliant but instead our ex-double winning midfielder Robin Wainwright volunteered. Fantastic! He turned up, looking like the Throbbin Robin of old with his flowing locks and craggy face, and proceeded to bemuse the good folk of Wrexham with his non-sequiturs and frequently ribald comments. He was also

spot-on with his reading of the game and we had a good laugh... especially as the match unfolded in memorable fashion.

Robin was leaping around after just 15 minutes

when Dennon Lewis's crisp cross was converted by Charlie Wakefield - who was back here in action with Yeovil last week - to poke in from close range.

But he was tearing his (considerable) hair out when Jamie Reckord's fierce but harmless cross was poked into the bottom corner by Jerome Okimo for a comedy own goal. And he was speechless when Wakefield was then dispossessed 30 yards from his goal by Jay Harris who played in Yussuf for 2-1. Wakefield got tangled in the net as he tried to clear the bobbling ball.

"This is worse defending than when I was playing.. and we got relegated!" said Robin.

But then the flip side: in the next moment: Stones wing back Jacob Mendy collected the ball 30 yards out and smashed an unstoppable effort past Rob Lainton and into the top corner for 2-2. (It prompted me to

WEALDSTONE 2021-22



...while Jacob Mendy Mendy's 30-yarder beat keeper Lainton all ends up to make it 2-2.
Below left, Michee Efete heads in for 4-2

ask Jacob in the post-match interview for the Chesterfield game three days later, when he cracked in an identikit goal from 35 yards, "have you been practising those in your back garden?" And he replied, with a deadpan quizzical look "I haven't got a back garden")

Then more drama after a quiet opening to the second half - Stones' Alex Dyer swerved over a free kick near the byline and Mich Efete dummied to see the ball creep in off the far post with Lainton stranded.

And our lead was extended on 63 minutes when Mendy's corner was met by the towering head of Efete! Wealdstone 4 Wrexham 2! Astonishingly, this could be our first ever win in the 'Conference' for 32 years!

Grosvenor Vale then turned into the Alamo with Wrexham peppering the Stones box with delivery after delivery. Yussuf finally doubled his tally late on but it was too little too late (a cliché Robin gleefully seized upon) and the game ended with great celebrations from the Stones contingent of club officials and sponsors, causing the rather bitter listeners from Wales to wonder if the game was "behind closed doors at all".

Indeed there was a welter of disappointed reaction from Dragons fans. Understandable!

suppose, as many of the forum contributors were expecting a routine win over a team they'd never heard of. Twenty years later (in my fantasy world anyway) they had!

Wealdstone: Isted, Efete, Phillips (Cawley 48), Okimo, Mendy, Dyer, Smith, Benyu (Green 66), Wakefield, Lewis, Lafayette (Emmanuel 70). Subs not used: Charles, Slew.

Wrexham: Lainton, Hall-Johnson, Kelleher, Vassell, Reckord, Harris (c), Young, Durrell, Rutherford (Jarvis 42), Yussuf, Thomas.

● It would be remiss of me not to mention the team of volunteer co-commentators who spent many hours 'genning up' on the opposition to provide excellent punditry at every game. Paul Franklin and ex-Stones keeper John Morton were the regular go-tos, with our ex-skipper Fergus Moore also appearing several times (and we always won, as he reminded the viewers). Also roped in were former strikers Mark Graves and George Duck, while you could only feel sorry for out injured hitman Ross Lafayette who climbed the ladder to co-commentate on the 8-2 defeat by Hartlepool. 'A bad day at the office' was his summation. Thanks also to fellow fans Adam Hills and Don Cross who provided a diversion as the season meandered to a close with a whole raft of defeats.

But we'll always remember Wrexham!

Incidentally, don't think we've forgotten the last two meetings of our fine sides. The return game at The Racecourse Ground ended in a 4-1 defeat in February - but only after Danny Parish's poacher's goal had us 1-0 up at the break. Kwame Thomas, Luke Young and Dior Angus did the damage.. and this season our first meeting (at the Racecourse in November) ended in a goalless draw in front of an 8,592 crowd. No BCD there!



Ross Lafayette (No9) tussles for the ball against Wrexham, probably hankering for a stint in the camera gantry, pictured in the background

ON THIS DAY >>>>



BY TIM PARKS

47 years ago: Grantham and all the quiriness you can handle

Saturday February 15, 1975, Southern League Premier Division: Grantham 1 Wealdstone 1 Attendance: 1,055

Regular readers will know that the 1974-75 season was probably my favourite Stones season ever.

Why? Because I was a teenager infatuated with a club that had just risen from the amateur days of parochial football around London's periphery, to embrace part-time semi pro football - and win promotion to the Southern League Prem, all in the space of three years.

From a following of a few dozen, haunting the bleak terraces of the Tootings and Ilfords of this world, I was now part of near-2,000 crowds at home games and a regular on one of the three supporters coaches that transported several hundred fans (also by car and train) to away games the length and breadth of the country (well, as far north as Lincolnshire anyway).

Going to these big, provincial towns with their big, impressive and often quirky stadiums was a real eye-opener.

Probably only this season in the National League comes close in terms of a step up... the difference being that these days we are very much the poor cousins to our full time opponents.

Back in 1975 the Stones were an unknown quantity, often referred to as the 'former amateur football giants from North London who took the SL Southern Division by storm last season, winning the title by 11 points'. Established clubs like Kettering, Yeovil, Nuneaton and Wimbledon were respectful but still expected to wipe the floor with us ... which is why it was so exciting when Eddie Presland's side found itself as genuine title contenders going into the new year 47 years ago.

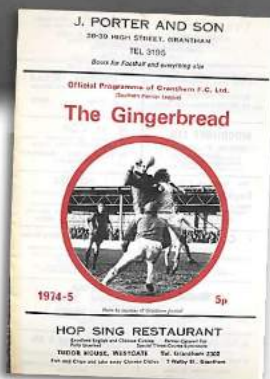
We weren't just setting up to frustrate teams. We were attacking, home and away and in George Duck, Johnny Henderson and the enigmatic Dutchman Adriaan Eglite had the firepower

to undo even the best defences. It's nigh-on impossible to compare the levels between 2022 and the top non League football of almost 50 years ago (when the Southern League Prem and the Northern Premier League carried equal billing). But it was

certainly easier to carve out chances back in 1975 - these days it needs Herculean effort to create goal opportunities against full time defenders, let alone finish them off, while Messrs Duck & Co were merrily crossing, volleying and heading the ball into the net while us die-hards cavorted on the terraces.

Maybe 2019-20 came close. The displays at Weymouth and Havant were the nearest to unbridled joy for the fans, although of course there were some amazingly ruthless displays in the 1984-85 double winning season.

But back to Grantham, 1975. This was the furthest north we'd travel in the league, the southern slopes of Lincolnshire and if 'quirky' turns you on when it comes to football



WEALDSTONE 2021-22

grounds the 'Gingerbreads' London Road 'stadium' ticked every box.

First up, it was all a bit Bramall Lane as the adjoining cricket pitch made the ground a three-sided affair. I may have been imagining this, as the accompanying pictures don't really support my memory, but I seem to recall the changing rooms being in a converted stable block behind the top end goal.

Then there was an old wooden seated stand between that and the goal at a strange angle, with a good 15

yards between that and the goal line (see main picture, above left).

The other two sides (pictured below left) were a little more conventional - a long, shallow covered side the length of the pitch and more covered terracing behind the bottom goal - but the extraordinary thing about London Road pitch was its 'many undulations' as mentioned in Colin Pope's match report (below right).

According to a Gloucester City fan on Twitter, the playing surface "had the contours of a saucer; left to its own devices the ball would always end up in the centre".

I remember making the long journey north again a few seasons later when Britain was in an icy grip. Grantham's pitch was amazingly passed as playable (it wouldn't have had a chance nowadays) and the players performed passable impersonations of Torvill and Dean. A few cones and the steep slope towards the bottom goal would have made a great cresta run.

That's what the players had to put up with 50 years ago. And the fact that the tiny squads every club carried (we only used 20 players in 52 games that season) meant they played when injured, or had to fill in a variety of positions. And there was just one sub!

In the Grantham game we had midfielder Paul Fairclough (yep, the current England C boss who has been in charge at Barnet) playing in central

defence and replacing striker Bill Byrne (unable to get way from his car sales job) who had previously been filling in there. Jim Godfrey had finally been allowed to miss a game despite being ill since Christmas...

Starring were the irrepressible George Duck and John Morton, heroes at either end of the pitch and still ever-present to this day! You can find them in the boardroom or hospitality areas at the Vale this season and their views on the differences between the mid-70s and 2020s are very enlightening :) My memories of the game are pin-sharp to this day, with Egilte giving us the lead from close range and then the gloriously-named Grantham front pair of Ernie Nixon and Bob Norris combining for a leveller. We dominated much of the second half but couldn't find a winner.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Well, this point at Grantham signalled the end of three successive defeats that threatened to send us down to mid-table. We followed up with wins at Telford, Atherstone and a draw at Romford, and home wins over Kettering and Chelmsford that propelled Stones into third place ...

But the limited squad, and injuries, took its toll and just a wonderful 2-1 win at eventual champions Wimbledon were gleaned from the final seven games.

We finished eighth. And bearing in mind all the parallels, I think we'd take that this season.

Stones without Byrne and Godfrey

New man O'Kane stars in draw at Grantham

By Colin Pope

Grantham 1, Wealdstone 1

AFTER THREE successive defeats Wealdstone arrested the slide at Grantham on first home defeat of the season. Even so, the Wealdstone of a month or so ago would surely have taken this poor Grantham side apart at the seams. In the event Grantham, have had the game won in the first half when Wealdstone struggled to find any sort of composure.

In the second half, however, it was a different story, especially in the last 30 minutes when Grantham rarely go out of their own half and Wealdstone could so easily have glorious ball to the feet of Duck, who volleyed it first time only to see it scrape the bar with Gardiner beaten all ends up.

Wealdstone were again forced to make changes, striker Bill Byrne being unable to get away from work and Jim Godfrey, who has been suffering from indifferent health since Christmas, finally being forbidden to play on medical advice.

Thus Duck moved to the front line. Egilte being recalled after being rested following loss of form, with new signing Vincent O'Kane continuing in mid-

defence. Club captain Willie Watson is playing under the handicap of an automatic suspension when the EA (heavily over-worked in their disciplinary dept.) get round to hearing his third booking. And this, alas, shows in his play, which now is not a naturally inhibited, thus stifling his natural aggressiveness.

Wealdstone opened well and Duck went close, the latter with a left-foot volley from way out on the right which only went

From then until the interval Grantham held the initiative and glaring misses were made by both Nixon and Norris, while a succession of faultless saves by Morton impressed all and sundry.

ENTERTAINING

Although no goals came in the second half, much entertaining football was played by Wealdstone and despite a pitch which, though well grassed, must be one of the best in the

BY STEVE DUCKER



Random Sightings

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

Saturday 11 December 1993

Ah, the winter of 1993. Wealdstone have been dumped out of the FA Cup by Harrow Borough, England have blown World Cup qualification, and Manchester United are reigning champions. Something has to change. I delegated improving my mood to Maidenhead and Staines. The ground was historic, public transport-friendly and in the town centre, and I'd bought and binge-read Fever Pitch three months earlier, so it would also be an homage to author and one-time Maidenhead resident Nick Hornby - an occasional visitor to United's York Road ground himself.

The game took place two weeks before Christmas, and the home side got

right into the spirit of things, firstly by scoring the first half own goal that lost the match, then missing a late penalty that would have rescued a draw.

From such an unpromising scenario, the effect on me was profound. My fixture list for the second half of the season shows visits to Ware, Tooting, Wivenhoe, Wembley, Purfleet, Barton Rovers and Hungerford, who all operated in the same Isthmian universe as Maidenhead.

The penultimate Saturday of the season saw me on a first visit to Edgware's White Lion ground, with no idea how often

Line up

- 1 Roffey
- 2 Sciarffa
- 3 Araguez
- 4 Brown
- 5 Pratt
- 6 Lennox
- 7 West
- 8 Cook
- 9 Dadson
- 10 Mulvaney
- 11 Wiltshire

Subs:

- 12 Harris
- 14 Goodliff



I would be there in the next decade watching a home team that wasn't Edgware at all.

In Fever Pitch, Nick Hornby talks of falling for a team who beat Stoke 1-0 with a penalty rebound. How apt then that his home town should see me being reunited with watching non-league as a neutral as the local team lost at home to a goal I missed while queuing for a Bovril.

Saturday 10 December 1994

A year later, and a second leg of sorts as the Magpies travelled to Staines' Wheatsheaf Park. Oh well, be rude not to. Maidenhead got a 2-2 draw after equalising twice, the second time with only minutes to go. The main reason I've included it is that the club's record with me watching is atrocious, and I wanted to give away fans reading this a break from a litany of defeats.

Saturday 8 December 2018

In the 25 years since the Staines home game, I'd made one visit to York Road, and saw my first and so far only Maidenhead win. It was against Wealdstone in the FA Trophy, so it's not a Random Sighting and I can't write about it. Given that it ended 5-1, there is no reason why I would want to. The only reason I haven't blanked it completely is that it happened the night before the legendary Tottenham v Man City FA Cup replay, which the

MAIDENHEAD UNITED



just after the restart, and Hartlepool saw out the game. The crowd of 1,157 was something else that would have left the diehards in December 1993 incredulous.

Saturday 9 November 2019

Maidenhead v Rotherham, FA Cup first round. It could have been Wealdstone v Rotherham, of course, but the Magpies did a thorough job in the fourth qualifying replay at The Vale and the Millers got to visit York Road for the first time.

The weather was abysmal, but 1,924 turned up to watch, including a vociferous home support who chose to serenade their northern guests with some good old traditional Home Counties folk songs, such as 'The Wheels On Your House Go Round and Round' and 'We Pay Your Benefits'.

Oh, how we laughed. And on 25 minutes they got something genuinely worth singing about, as Jake Cassidy raced away on the break to put their boys 1-0 up. It was still the score at half-time.

After the break through, the conditions that proved such a leveller in the early stages ultimately decided the game. Ex-Stone Alan Massey ploughed through the back of Ben Wiles on the wet surface and a red card was inevitable. Thus numerically advantaged, Rotherham scored three times in nine minutes and that was the end of that. After this, and the 7-4 defeat at Halifax last month, Maidenhead have probably seen enough of Yorkshire in the FA Cup for a while.

As for Rotherham, they went to Solihull Moors in round two and did their own version of Man City at Spurs, overturning a three-goal deficit that had endured until the 77th minute, before going on to lose at home to Hull in the last 64. I was over the moon with the Solihull result, but I can't lie to you. I'd wanted Boston United away. After all, how many teams could you name who have played consecutive cup rounds at York Road, York Street and the New York Stadium?

visitors won with 10 men after being 3-0 down at half time. By being at both, I saw 13 goals in two games played just 24 hours apart.

The 2018 vintage of Maidenhead United had seriously gone up in the world. On this day they entertained Hartlepool - a fixture that would have been unthinkable in 1993 when the difference between the two teams was four whole divisions.

By now, the gap was reduced to one goal, scored by Pools' Josh Hawkes in a first half where the most memorable incident was the visitors needing three goes to successfully execute the kick off. Any hope of a comeback took a big knock after Maidenhead's James Comley was sent off

Line up:

- 1 Dunn
- 15 Ofori-Twumasi
- 4 Ellul
- 24 Massey
- 3 Steer
- 6 Scheckleford
- 8 Comley
- 19 Upward
- 28 Smile
- 10 Kelly
- 9 Cassidy
- Subs:**
- 20 Thompson-Brisset for Steer
- 14 Whitehall for Smile
- 5 Davies for Kelly

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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

Saturday 20 September 1975

The first time I saw Wrexham was at the start of the greatest period in their history. More or less. Admittedly, they weren't great on this afternoon. Despite a Geoff Davies goal, they lost 2-1 to Rotherham United, one of seven straight away defeats at the start of the league season. Then, from November onwards, a transformation. The remaining 16 road trips produced seven wins and three draws, and a climb from drop zone to top six that ended only four points short of promotion.

But it was on the international stage that Wrexham grabbed the headlines. As Welsh Cup holders, they went into the European Cup Winners Cup and reached the last eight.

And they did it the hard way. No gimmes against Icelandic amateurs or Cypriot semi-pros here, thank you. First up, Wrexham faced Djurgarden from Sweden, one of the original 16 European Cup entrants 20 years earlier. They won at home, drew away, and repeated the trick with Stal Rzeszow of Poland, a country that had finished third at the 1974 World Cup and won the Olympics two years before that. The quarter finals pitted Wrexham with Belgium's Anderlecht, with the away leg first. At this time, Belgium's club football was as good as their international

Line up

- 1 Lloyd
 - 2 Hill
 - 3 Dwyer
 - 4 Davis
 - 5 May
 - 6 Evans
 - 7 Kelly
 - 8 Sutton
 - 9 Ashcroft
 - 10 Davies
 - 11 Griffiths
- Sub Lyons for Kelly

Attendance: 3,776

ROTHERHAM UNITED F. C.

10p

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME



(Cover not
Wrexham as I could
not find
an image
of that
particular
edition
)

Football League Division 3

SWINDON TOWN

Saturday October 4th

Kick off 3.00p.m.

team is now, and Anderlecht and their rivals FC Bruges were to reach five European finals in the next three seasons. One-nil down after their Brussels trip, Wrexham found the home goal they needed through Stuart Lee, but Holland international Rob Rensenbrink got the aggregate decider to put their hosts out after a hell of a fright. But the real moment to tell your grandchildren about had come in November 1975. Wales, needing a win against Austria to qualify for the last eight of the European Championship, got it. The game was played at Wrexham's Racecourse Ground, with 30,000 squeezed in, and a Wrexham player - Arfon Griffiths - got the decisive goal. For a third division team, can it ever get better than that?

Saturday 15 May 1982

After another promotion near miss in 1977, Wrexham made no mistake a year later. In the game that confirmed their elevation they dismantled Rotherham 7-1 in front of 17,000. Four years later, against the same opposition, less than one-fifth of that number saw the Racecourse stage its 84th and, to date, last second tier fixture.

Wrexham were already relegated before kick off, and Rotherham - bottom three themselves at the end of January - had also seen their season decided early, but only after a ludicrous promotion bid fizzled out with two games left.



Line up

- 1 Niedzwiecki
- 2 Jones
- 3 Bater
- 4 Cegielski
- 5 Dowman
- 6 Ronson
- 7 Arkwright
- 8 Hill
- 9 Vinter
- 10 McNeil
- 11 Carrodus

Despite two flat teams and a sparse crowd, and first goal - courtesy of home striker Mick Vinter - took just three minutes. Even then, in keeping with this nightmare season, Wrexham were behind by half-time. In the second half, Vinter completed a hat-trick and Wrexham won 3-2 for a successful sign off at their highest grade. But with league visits from the likes of Chelsea and Newcastle on

hold for at least a year, it was a hollow victory.

Saturday 4 May 1985

Any Wealdstone fans of a certain age - or indeed anyone who has glanced round the social club in recent years - will need no reminding of May 1985. Becoming the first club at non league level to do the national league and cup double tends to stick in the memory. I was still up north back then, and unaware of Wealdstone, but on the first weekend of May I managed a double of my own. A bandwagon-jumping, glory-hunting double, a phase I went through, and I'm not proud of it.

It concluded on Bank Holiday Monday at Goodi-

son Park, watching Everton win their first title for 15 years. Forty-eight hours earlier, I was in the more humble surroundings of Bury's Gigg Lane, as the home side returned to the third tier after five years away. With Wrexham, who had suffered another relegation in 1983 and shown no sign of getting back up in the two seasons since, in the role of extras.

My quest for some nail-biting drama failed dismally. Hereford United, the only team who could catch Bury, lost to Halifax on the Friday night and the Shakers were up without kicking a ball. At a time with no social media or mobile phones, word of Hereford's defeat must have spread remarkably quickly. The next afternoon, Bury performed like their players had been at a party that made Leicester City's bash at Jamie Vardy's house look like a senior citizen's whist drive. Andy Edwards, David Gregory and Shaun Cunnington all scored in a 3-2 win, the second time in three years I'd seen Wrexham take full advantage against opponents who were already on the beach.

Line up

- 1 Hooper
- 2 Williams
- 3 Comstive
- 4 Keay
- 5 Jones
- 6 Cunnington
- 7 Edwards
- 8 Rogers
- 9 Steel
- 10 Charles
- 11 Gregory

Saturday 9 March 2019

Wrexham slipped into non-league in 2008, and

a decade later they were still there. This season looked like it might be the comeback, and this game - away to Leyton Orient - was arguably the National League's match of the season. Despite live TV coverage, nearly 7,000 turned up, more than any of the Football League fixtures described above. The O's won 1-0 and took the seasonal Oscar, but it was Salford City, not Wrexham, who snuck through as Best Supporting Actor. For North Wales' finest, the Hollywood ending is still out there, somewhere.





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 ALDERSHOT TOWN Saturday, 18th September Vanarama National League	Lew Sheppard	
 SOLHULL MOORS Tuesday, 5th October Vanarama National League	Rossi McCann	
 EASTLEIGH Saturday, 9th October Vanarama National League	Neale Harvey & Arthur Villa	
 GRIMSBY TOWN Tuesday, 26th October Vanarama National League	Mike and Val Weston	Kevin Smith
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MATCH

BALL DONORS



STOCKPORT COUNTY

Saturday, 27th November
Vanarama National League

Barbara Robson



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Saturday, 11th December
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Saturday, 15th January
Vanarama National League

Barbara Robson



NOTTS COUNTY

Tuesday, 25th January
Vanarama National League

Tony Platt

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Tuesday, 9th February
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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
business here



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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business here



BOREHAM WOOD

Monday, 18th April
Vanarama National League

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

Your name or
business here



DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE

Saturday, 30th April
Vanarama National League

Your name or
business here

Your name or
business here



KING'S LYNN TOWN

Saturday, 7th May
Vanarama National League

Megaphone

Your name or
business here

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TOGETHER FOR FOOTBALL



This season, we've come together to face Covid 19 — football's toughest opponent. Through the Premier League, FA and Government's Football Foundation and Premier League's FSIF, we've supported over 39,000 teams, including over 1,000 in the National League System, to return to action.

Find out more about funding from the Football Foundation and Football Stadium Improvement Fund:

footballfoundation.org.uk



The Football Stadium Improvement Fund

Official Partners of The National League



KIT DONORS 2021/2022

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

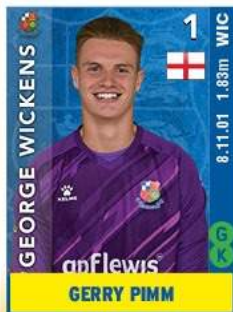
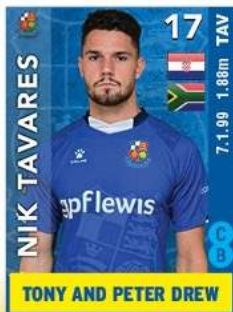
For **£150** you will be named here in the programme and on the club's website as well as on any social media interviews with your player.

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

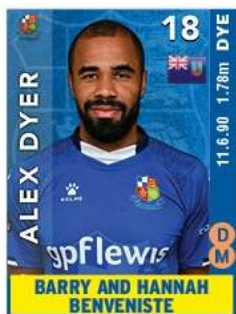
You can donate by clicking on the link below, speaking to any club official or e-mailing harveyhicks@wealdstonefc.com or paulrumens59@gmail.com

KEY

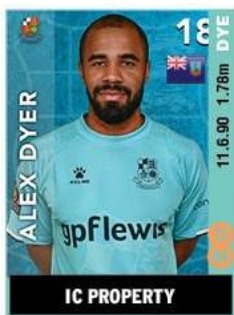
CS = Coaching Staff
 GK = Goalkeeper
 CB = Centre Back
 RB = Right Back
 LB = Left Back
 DM = Defensive Midfield
 RM = Right Midfield
 LW = Left Winger
 RW = Right Winger
 CG = Centre Forward



WEALDSTONE 2021-22



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



ALEX DYER
18
11.6.90 1.78m DYE
gpflewis
IC PROPERTY



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



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



JEROME OKIMO
6
8.6.88 1.82m OKI
CAPTAIN
gpflewis
LEW SHEPPARD



CONNOR MCAVOY
14
16.2.02 1.72m MCA
gpflewis
JON TAFFEL



RHYS BROWNE
10
16.11.95 1.75m BRO
gpflewis
ROGER SLATER



RHYS BROWNE
10
16.11.95 1.75m BRO
gpflewis
RAY CORNER



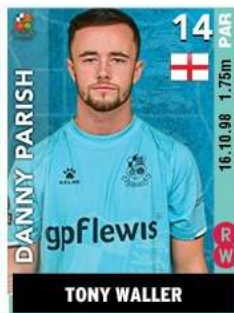
ASHLEY CHARLES
4
15.9.99
CHA
gpflewis
JIM SORRELL



ANDREW ELEFTHERIOU
12
8.11.97 1.72m ELE
gpflewis
JON TAFFEL



DANNY PARISH
14
16.10.98
PAR
gpflewis
TONY WALLER



DANNY PARISH
14
16.10.98 1.75m PAR
gpflewis
TONY WALLER



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



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



JACK COOK
2
16.9.99
JCO
gpflewis
JAMES KLARFELD



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

WEALDSTONE 2021-22

**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

**Tuesday
22nd February
7:45pm**

SOLIHULL MOORS (A)

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



**Saturday
26th February
3:00pm**



TORQUAY UNITED (H)
Vanarama National League

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

**Saturday
5th March
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



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



WEYMOUTH (H)
Vanarama National League

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

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

STOCKPORT COUNTY (A)

www.stockportcounty.com @StockportCounty Vanarama National League



Vanarama National League 2021/2022 – @13th 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	27	17	4	6	55	26	13	7	3	3	25	13	14	10	1	3	30	13	29	55	1-4
2 Chesterfield	27	15	10	2	50	24	12	7	5	0	23	11	15	8	5	2	27	13	26	55	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	26	15	5	6	42	28	14	10	2	2	27	12	12	5	3	4	15	16	14	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 Grimsby Town	28	14	4	10	42	29	15	10	2	3	28	11	13	4	2	7	14	18	13	46	1-0 1-2
9 Notts County	25	13	6	6	47	29	13	9	2	2	30	17	12	4	4	4	17	12	18	45	0-0 2-3
10 Dagenham & Redbridge	27	13	3	11	49	37	14	7	2	5	30	22	13	6	1	6	19	15	12	42	2-2
11 Torquay United	27	12	4	11	42	41	13	7	1	5	22	19	14	5	3	6	20	22	1	40	0-5
12 Southend United	27	11	5	11	30	37	12	6	2	4	18	17	15	5	3	7	12	20	-7	38	0-0
13 Yeovil Town	27	10	7	10	26	27	14	4	5	5	12	14	13	6	2	5	14	13	-1	37	2-1
14 Eastleigh	26	9	6	11	28	38	14	7	4	3	21	17	12	2	2	8	7	21	-10	33	1-2
15 Woking	27	10	2	15	42	43	14	5	0	9	20	24	13	5	2	6	22	19	-1	32	1-2 0-2
16 Wealdstone	26	8	7	11	27	37	13	5	4	4	12	13	13	3	3	7	15	24	-10	31	-- --
17 Altrincham	28	8	6	14	40	52	13	4	2	7	19	22	15	4	4	7	21	30	-12	30	1-0
18 Aldershot Town	28	8	6	14	32	44	14	2	4	8	13	26	14	6	2	6	19	18	-12	30	2-2
19 Barnet	27	8	6	13	32	53	13	4	3	6	14	27	14	4	3	7	18	26	-21	30	1-0 3-1
20 Maidenhead United	25	7	6	12	28	47	13	6	2	5	22	26	12	1	4	7	6	21	-19	27	
21 Weymouth	27	4	6	17	27	51	14	2	4	8	14	22	13	2	2	9	13	29	-24	18	1-1
22 King's Lynn Town	26	4	3	19	24	51	13	2	1	10	11	22	13	2	2	9	13	29	-27	15	1-0
23 Dover Athletic	28	1	4	23	21	63	14	1	2	11	9	24	14	0	2	12	12	39	-42	-5	2-1 3-2



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Wealdstone FC

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Building Excellence

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

gpflewis.co.uk

THE LINE-UPS: TUESDAY & SATURDAY

MAIDENHEAD UTD

White/Black/Black

G Daniel Gyollai 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G Rhys Lovett 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jamie Sendles-White 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
George Wells 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will De Havilland 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manny Parry 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remy Clerima 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dylan Asonganyi 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shaun Donnellan 8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nathan Blissett 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kane Ferdinand 10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Daniel Sparkes 11	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ryheem Sheckleford 16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reece Smith 17	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emile Acquah 18	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ryan Upward 19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shawn McCoulsky 20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jade Jay Mingi 21	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Josh Kelly 22	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alan Massey 24	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sam Barratt 25	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charlee Adams 27	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Josh Smile 28	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jack Senga-Ngoyi 46	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sam Beckwith	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alfie Egan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

WEALDSTONE

Royal Blue/White/White

G George Wickens 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jack Cook 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Wishart 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ashley Charles 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jerome Okimo © 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nathan Ferguson 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matt Buse 8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Josh Umerah 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhys Browne 10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
David Sesay 11	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andy Eleftheriou 12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G Alfie Marigliani 13	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connor McAvooy 14	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elijah Hearn 15	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ira Jackson Jr 16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nikola Tavares 17	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alex Dyer 18	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zach Dronfield 19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medy Elito 20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aaron Henry 22	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jay Mundle-Smith 23	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charlie Cooper 24	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jamie Mascoll 25	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CLWB PÊL-DROED WRECSAM

Red/White/Red

1 Rob Lainton G	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Reece Hall-Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Callum McFadzean	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Shaun Brisley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Aaron Hayden	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Ben Tozer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Jordan Davies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 Luke Young	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 Jake Hyde	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 Paul Mullin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 Liam McAlinden	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12 Daniel Jarvis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15 Tyler French	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16 Cameron Green	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17 Bryce Hosannah	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18 David Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19 Jordan Ponticelli	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20 Dior Angus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21 Christian Dibble G	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25 Ryan Austin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26 Harry Lennon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27 Jake Bickerstaff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30 James Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31 Dawid Szczepaniak G	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
32 Max Cleworth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
35 Ollie Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
39 Kwame Thomas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REFEREE Ryan Atkin **ASSISTANTS**

Steve Durnall and Daniel Robinson

FOURTH OFFICIAL Stephen Parkinson

OBSERVER Michael Tingey

REFEREE TBA **ASSISTANTS** Thomas

Cooke & Mark Meeten **4TH OFFICIAL**

Jorden Gibson **OBSERVER** TBA

MATCH SPONSORS v MAIDENHEAD 1) Osmo UK 2) Rolfe East

v WREXHAM Union Athletic **BALL DONOR v MAIDENHEAD** 1) In memory of Roy

Couch 2) Mike Pullin and Graham Clark **v WREXHAM** 1) In memory of Jim Klarfeld

2) Mike Pullin and Graham Clark

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