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versus

TORQUAY UNITED



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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2022, KICK-OFF 3PM

SEASON 2021-22 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME £3

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BY MARK HYDE



WEALDSTONE 2021-22

Written in Stone

SUPPORTER SAFETY PERIMETER FENCING

During our home game against Dover Athletic a small section of the perimeter fencing around the pitch collapsed at The Gun Turret End of the stadium.

Due to this incident, there will be no standing permitted around the pitch barrier fence until further notice as recommended by the Sports Grounds Safety Authority and Hillingdon London Borough Council.

Yellow hatched areas will be painted around the floor in the affected areas and fans will need to keep a minimum of 1.2 metres away from the fencing. This will apply in both the home and away sections of the ground.

FIXTURE UPDATE MAIDENHEAD UNITED

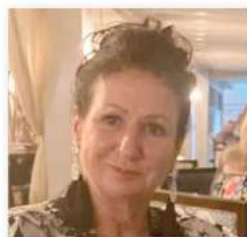
Our postponed National League fixture at home to Maidenhead United has now been rearranged to Tuesday 5th April with a 7:45pm kick off at Grosvenor Vale.

Tickets purchased for the original match will remain valid for the rearranged fixture including our 'February bundle' tickets purchased to include this fixture and the Yeovil Town fixture the week previously.



COLLECTION TINA WAUGH

Tina has worked in our burger bars for now around 4 years. She unfortunately had an accident opening the shutters on the new burger bar. The top of her ring finger from the bottom of the nail was ripped off. She was taken to Hospital but unfortunately the top of her was not able to be saved. Subsequently she had an operation to remove slightly more of the finger to tidy it up. We will be holding a collection for Tina at today's game. She is one of our own so please give generously is the message.



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FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2021/2022

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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
(Registered Number 03953962).
Shares in excess of 10% are
held by Peter Marsden Property
Finance Ltd & Wealdstone FC
Supporters Club**

GROUND REGULATIONS

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

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

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

BY STUART MAYNARD

WEALDSTONE 2021-22

From the Gaffer

Play your part and get behind the team again

Good afternoon and a very warm welcome Gary Johnson and his Torquay team to The Vale today.

Today will be another tough game as Gary's team are always well set up, so we will need to be at our best once again.

Performance levels have been really good recently and bar a couple of poor 45 minutes we have performed well all season. We had two great results against Yeovil and Barnet which put us on a really good points total. We were then very unlucky and incredibly unfortunate not to get something against Wrexham. We were slow to get going but after we addressed some things at half time we were the better team for the first 30mins of the 2nd half and deserved our goal. We all know what

happened after that and it's a shame the officials influenced the result as they did because we were well on course to pick up another 3pts. It's another example of how far we've come from last season and it's easy to forget we are a part time team within this division. We will have the occasional off day, but we have come a long way since last season and just need to keep improving slowly.

There's still a lot of games left to play, so there is plenty to look forward to over the next 12 weeks. A good performance today will help us get the result we want and will set us up nicely for the run in.

I hope you enjoy the game and make sure you help the lads out on the pitch by being the 12th man. Never underestimate how much it helps.

Stuart



Pic: Jon Taffel

BY SUDHIR RAWAL



The Elmslie Ender

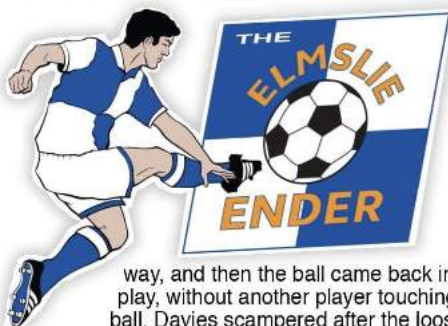
this week joins forces with Shoot! Magazine's 'You are the Ref' to debate the controversial equalising goal for Wrexham last week

Referees can have a huge influence on the outcome of a match. It can be positive or, as we saw last Saturday, negative... especially for those with blue tinted glasses.

Firstly, there was the six minutes of injury time. Where did it come from, especially as there were no meaningful injuries? Normally, even with some time wasting, that's around four minutes at most, with three substitutions aside.

Then there was the random nature of the dishing out of cards. Jack Cook booked very early on for a sliding tackle in wet conditions, whilst a Wrexham player, Davies, makes a dangerous challenge on Charlie Cooper which saw just a yellow card - when even BBC Wales were stating it should be red. There were plenty of handballs too for which players weren't booked (or even pulled up) yet Jack Cook in the dying embers of the game receives a second yellow for one. Inconsistency abounds. Of course, these comments come across as one of a sore loser. Maybe they are.

But the biggest error was the allowing of Wrexham's equaliser. Jordan Davies (who should have been red carded earlier) saw his free-kick crash off the cross bar, without touching anyone on its



way, and then the ball came back into play, without another player touching the ball. Davies scampered after the loose ball and curled a lovely shot into the top corner of the goal.

Law 13 clearly states: "If, after the ball is in play, the kicker touches the ball again (except with his hands) before it has touched another player, an indirect freekick is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred." So, instead of a goal being given, Wealdstone should have had an indirect freekick.

With momentum gone from the equaliser, there's a fair chance that they don't score the second either and instead of being pointless, we might have had all three!

From a supporters perspective the above law might be a technical one, which is why probably nobody noticed at the time nor was even mentioned in any post-match interviews - but it was picked up on social media soon after the game. From a referee's point of view, it is basic stuff, What was London-based referee Tom Bishop thinking? The only possible get-out is that he thought Wickens got a slight touch on the ball, though none of the video footage or photography supports that view.

Did we deserve the win? Probably not, but I thought we were well worthy of a draw against a side that can sign players for more than our entire annual budget. Yes,

Left: The referee leaves the pitch to some good-natured banter at the final whistle



YOU ARE THE REF



TODAY we ask for your verdict on the hypothetical scoring of a 'goal' in a National League match. Un-named Player A strikes his freekick (yellow lines and arrows) against the home team's crossbar, and chased after the rebound (white lines and arrows), controlling the ball and then hitting the rebound into the corner of the net. Without anybody else touching the ball. Should the goal have stood?



Above: The No 7's shot finds the net. Should he have fessed up to the referee and said "Actually ref, no-one else touched the ball. Look at Law 13"



George Wickens was busier in the second half, with the wind against us, than the first and there was one superb save low to his left, but I thought we were good value for at least a point against biggest spenders that non-league football has probably ever seen.

Their skipper Ben Tozer transferred from Cheltenham Town, where he was also their captain, for more than the WFC budget- let alone the captures of strikers of Paul Mullin and Ollie Palmer thereafter. We went toe to toe with them and it would be fair to say that you could not necessarily tell the difference between the full time Hollywood-financed team and the part-timers. I thought that Wrexham moved the ball slower than many of the Belts and looked quite

toothless upfront.

Whilst chances were few and far between for Wealdstone, just before their equaliser, we had a glorious opportunity to go two goals ahead when Charlie Clayden shot went high and wide rather than on target. Small margins, though for the second time this season, we have conceded an equaliser with moments of the game to go and then go on and let in a winner too. We should close out games better.

● There's another **Stonescast** on its way this week - should have landed yesterday in fact. That's three in three weeks! This time programme editor Mark Hyde is joined by Dave Reader, Tom Marshall and a guest panellist in the combative Gordon 'Guvnor' McKay. Could be feisty.

BY TIM PARKS



THE BIG STONES INTERVIEW

Nathan Ferguson

How to endear yourself to the fans.. score a cracker against Barnet in your second game!

Nathan Ferguson has had a rapid introduction to Wealdstone, the club he calls 'a bit different'.

First he was taken aback with the number of welcoming messages from the players 'and the club president' he received when he signed earlier this month.

"Is that unusual?" I asked the 26-year-old midfielder. "Yes, really unusual. Made me feel straight away at home... normally you're greeted like just another player, just another number.

"Mind you" he said, laughing, "In my first training session Matty Saunders came straight over and said hello - we'd played together at Dagenham & Redbridge in the past - and then told me: 'One thing we've spotted is that your marking is terrible'.

"So that was brutally honest! He said: 'You can mark space but not the player' ...so that's one thing I have to improve upon.

"It is a good environment though. I'm being trusted to make things happen with the ball, play on the front foot and I feel wanted here. I feel it's a good partnership with Aaron Henry because he likes to sit deeper and get on the ball earlier, and be creative from those areas. He's a real talent".

Nathan signed from Southend United - alongside Charlton loanee Aaron - just before the home Yeovil game and the pair were pitched straight

Nathan takes the plaudits from the 848 away fans after his first Stones goal

PICK THAT ONE OUT!

Nathan thumps in our opening goal in the battering of Barnet two weeks ago. Pics:Jon Taffel



into battle. Three points that evening were of course followed by the epic derby clash at Barnet.

"That was enjoyable. A great atmosphere from so many Wealdstone fans and the perfect start when I managed to score.

"At first I was going to drive the ball across the keeper but it sat up nicely so I just thought I'd smash it ...the ball ended up in the middle of the goal but it was the pace that beat the keeper".

We've all see on You Tube the extraordinary goal he scored for Southend last season in the League Two behind close doors game at Forest Green - off the laces from fully 45 yards - so is

WEALDSTONE 2021-22

manager Mark Moseley the team made a terrible start to the National League season after being relegated - and were in the drop zone right up until Christmas.

Then Kevin Maher, an ex-player, came in and reorganised things. Even ex-Southend star Stan Collymore helped out with the motivational stuff!

"It was an interesting time" said Nathan. "I played in the early season game at Wealdstone, a 0-0 draw and got a battering from the manager when I didn't throw myself into a challenge on George Wickens near the end when he ran out of the box.. but it was 50-50 at best and I was on a yellow card. I felt I was a convenient target".

The 6ft 2in midfielder took some stick from the Southend fanbase for his 'languid' style but Nathan responded that when you are clever on the ball that is an easy label. "Because I'm big I'm not going to be one of those buzzing-about players, so it may look as if I'm not moving quickly, but when I get going I'm fast! It's all about perception really.

"When the new manager came in I had Covid, just before Christmas, and then when I returned I felt he didn't trust me... it was two games in, three games out, that kind of thing.

"I was really pleased to switch to Wealdstone.



Nathan a prolific goalscorer from midfield?

"I've scored a few but only one other this season. It was in the home National League match with Eastleigh, the only goal in a 1-0 win but it came in the middle of protests about the club's management.

"There were fans threatening to invade the pitch and stop the game - which they did the next week when we lost 4-0 to Chesterfield - and my goal was almost an irrelevance! The ball went in the net and they looked round and thought 'Oh we've scored' but it barely registered with a lot of the fans".

That must have been an awkward time to be a Southend player. Under former Weymouth

Compared to Southend it may seem like a smaller club but it's where you're happy that's important".

Nathan was born in Walthamstow but now lives in Woodford Green. His dad, Dave, also played non-League for a number of clubs in North London and then ferried Nathan to training and matches for Interwood Youth FC - where a team mate was a certain Rhys Browne. I remember Brownie describing it as the best non-academy set-up in the country, with 11 of that 15-strong squad going on to make a professional career

"Yeah, I know Rhys from way back. He's a terrific player and I know how dangerous he can be.

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

THE BIG STONES INTERVIEW CONTINUED

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

There was a trial set-up with Norwich City Under-13s and Rhys was chosen to sign on for them - but there was a catchment area for Norwich, something like a 90-minute drive from the training ground and I lived just outside it!

"That was a real disappointment. But I was taken on for a scholarship by Dagenham & Redbridge, when they were in League One and stayed for a couple of years until I was released... then it was off on the road to a whole list of non-League clubs in my late teens and early twenties".

Deep breath, here we go: Chelmsford City, St Albans City, Hastings United, Billericay Town, Grays Athletic, Dartford, Southport, Bromley and Folkestone Invicta. Plew! Nathan also had two brief and unsuccessful spells in the EFL with Burton Albion and Port Vale, after impressing in his six-month spell at Grays.

There he flourished under the tutelage of Glenn Little! The former Stones, Wrexham, Reading and Burnley was helping out manager Mark Bentley (another ex-Stone) at the Essex club and I was hoping Nathan would describe the brilliant midfielder/winger as one of his boyhood heroes (who were Iniesta and then Yaya Toure 'as I got bigger')...but instead he was impressed by Glenn's quick feet and domination of the training games when the fancy took him.

So at the age of 22 Nathan's career was at a crossroads. Fortunately, he got a helping hand from Dulwich Hamlet boss Gavin Rose. "I didn't have a club for six months after leaving Port Vale and signing for Dulwich was just what I needed - Gavin is really tough on his players but I needed that. I had a great couple of years there, in midfield as a No.10 and sometimes up front... we won promotion from the Ryman Prem on a penalty shoot-out and then had a good season in the National League South - we even beat Wealdstone 3-1 at the Vale!"

Those sort of performances put Nathan in the shop window and in June 2019 he signed a three-year deal with Crawley in League Two. He

played 39 games that season and made a strong goalscoring start with one against Salford City and then also in the EFL Cup as Stoke City were KO'd.

His stock was high as he signed for fellow League Two side Southend in January 2021 for an undisclosed fee. "But it was a terrible season in many ways, with games being played behind closed doors. No atmosphere and you realise how important the fans are... it's like playing in an

Under-23s game and there is no importance attached to the games. You had to be mentally very strong. The supporters give you that adrenaline when you're tired: it's like an extra half-yard in your legs. That's a large part of why we were relegated".

So how has he enjoyed his first few weeks at The Vale? "Very much. The facilities are good, the pitch is a good surface even though it's a bit of a slope and we look like we can win games.

"The Wrexham game was really tough because of the conditions - it may not have seemed like it from pitchside, but the wind was really strong in the second half and we were having trouble getting the ball upfield - you could see it in George's kicking with the ball flying all over the place"

And what about the controversial 'free-kick rebound' goal? "I don't think anybody realised until afterwards that the ball hadn't hit anyone after the freekick came off the bar. I've certainly never been involved in a game where that happened... penalties coming off the bar or post yes, but that's more obvious. I think the wind carried the second shot into the net although, to be honest, we rode our luck up to that point. As for the winning goal, that wasn't even a proper shot was it? It just deflected of someone and

ended in the net - very tough to take".

As for the rest of the season... could we go on a little run and climb a few places in the table? And even overtake Southend?

Nathan: "That would be ironic" :)





WEALDSTONE 1

Browne 71 (pen)

WREXHAM 2

Davies 88, Hall-Johnson 90+6

MATCH STATS

WEALDSTONE V WREXHAM		
4	SHOTS ON TARGET	10
3	SHOTS OFF TARGET	11
3	CORNERS	4
0	OFFSIDE	2
8	FOULS CONCEDED	15
4	YELLOW CARDS	2
1	RED CARDS	0

By Nicole Cho-Yee

PROMOTION-CHASING Wrexham mounted a dramatic late comeback at The Vale to defeat ten-man Wealdstone and clinch all three points on the road.

Rhys Browne gave the Stones a 72nd-minute lead from the penalty spot before Jack Cook was sent off for a second bookable offence.

And the Dragons took full advantage with Jordan Davies levelling two minutes from time before Reece Hall-Johnson's effort in the fifth minute of stoppage time snatched victory at the death for Phil Parkinson's men.

"It's gutting and heartbreaking to come away with nothing from that," said Wealdstone assistant manager Matt Saunders.

"I thought we adjusted a few things second half and we were in the ascendancy and took the lead. A draw was probably the right result, but for the game to be affected by some questionable decisions, is tough to take."

The Dragons are on a title charge and came roaring out of the blocks with Thomas O'Connor and Davies both firing early efforts wide.

Wealdstone, however, gradually grew into the match, with Charlton Athletic loanee Aaron Henry fizzing a dangerous ball across the face of the goal in the 21st minute, which just evaded his team-mates.

Luke Young's long-range shot flew just wide before Hall-Johnson struck the post from an acute angle just before the break.

The Stones generated a chance straight from kick-off in the second half - top goalscorer Josh Umerah turning his marker and firing on target, but Rob Lainton produced a solid save.

The Dragons were thwarted by a super save from George Wickens in the 48th minute in a one-on-one with

DRAGONS SEAL IT AT THE DEATH

LINE-UPS



TOP CORNER: Jordan Davies fires the Wrexham equaliser

PICTURE: Adam Wilkins

captain Young, while Aaron Hayden headed O'Connor's corner just wide.

Stones boss Stuart Maynard introduced the talented Browne for Medi Elito and within ten minutes he won his side a penalty after being brought down in the box by Lainton, following an exquisite through ball from Charlie Cooper. The striker duly stepped up to convert coolly from the spot.

The Dragons, however, were quick to respond with Daniel Jarvis's effort expertly headed off the line by Connor McAvoy.

Cook saw red for an apparent handball four minutes from time and Wrexham instantly profited when Davies latched on to a rebound free-kick from the crossbar to strike an effort into the top corner.

Wealdstone still looked to have secured a credible draw, but in the penultimate minute of stoppage time, Hall-Johnson fired home through a crowd of players to snatch the points.

STAR MAN: George Wickens (Wealdstone) AT 1/90
ENTERTAINMENT: *****
REFEREE: Tom Bishop



PILE-ON: Wrexham celebrate Reece Hall-Johnson's winner

Due to deadlines, the usual 'it's a record' feature is replaced in this issue by a match report from the excellent Non-League paper. 'It's a record will be back for the next issue in all its glory!

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY FINGERS!

Sixty years a Stone... We say thank you and congrats to 'Mr Wealdstone'

On Monday, WFC Club Secretary Paul 'Fingers' Fruin is 60. He has refused to be a **Fan in the Stand** on many occasions in the past but we reckon we've seen him at matches since he was a fresh-faced teen back in the mid-70s. He was even the first goalkeeper for SFC Wealdstone, the Supporters Club Sunday League team, when we started off in 1978!

Alyson Angeldes probably knows Fingers better than most, having been 'pressganged' into working alongside him back in 2008....

I first met Fingers back in 2008 when I was working at Middlesex FA. There was an outstanding affiliation invoice for Wealdstone Youth which had caused the whole club (including the first team) to be suspended. He wasn't a happy bunny and paid the invoice himself to clear the first team to play - and proceeded to split the youth club from the adults as far as the FA was concerned.

The next time I came across Fingers and Wealdstone was when he, team manager Gordon Bartlett and Alan Massey came to Middlesex FA to appeal a pre-season sending off. I think there is a long story there!

My first visit to the Vale was in April 2013 against Concord Rangers in the play offs. I foolishly asked if Fingers if they needed any help with anything. Next thing I knew I was 'Match Secretary'!

I remember going to Hitchin Town in pre-season July 2013 with Fingers and Gary Strudwick in Paul's famous blue van. Gary and I shouted at him on the way back to wake him up as he fell asleep at the wheel! That showed how hard working a club secretary he is. Pre-season is a very busy time for him, signing all the players and all the paperwork to get ready for the season, as well as all the time spent preparing the pitch.

That was an eventful season. The evening that



Ally and Fingers do a bit of rehydrating at a very warm Weymouth in 2019

we went to Margate to win the League, I missed the coach at Ruislip. He held it back at the next pick up in Enfield so that I could catch it. He is such a kind man. The song that he sang on the coach on the way back was entertaining (Wobs knows the words).

In July 2014 Fingers had to attend the National League AGM and Dinner at Celtic Manor in Wales, I went with him for support. We didn't go in the van for a change. We went down early for the AGM, he was very professional getting to know the other secretaries, but at the same time feeling a bit

out of place. Dress code for the AGM was casual but Fingers had to wear a suit for the dinner. This is a totally different look for him. We drove straight back to the Vale him in his suit and me in long dress and walked into the bar. We got some strange looks!

Fingers does so much more at Wealdstone than just the secretary role. He has spent years doing the kit washing, painting, repairing things, sorting the drains, cleaning out the toilets, clearing the pit for the drainage pumps to work (and turning them on), moving the hoses to water the pitch in the summer (sleeping at the ground to keep them on all night) and loads more...basically everything that needs doing.

Being a club secretary has changed over the years that Fingers has been secretary at Wealdstone. It has gone from paper-based and the post to the computer and internet. He has adapted to the changes with his one-finger typing and lack of computer training.

And he is so respected by other club secretaries. He is frequently receiving phone calls asking for his advice on how to write contracts, league rules, signing players, pitch inspections, rearranging games etc. In particular Debra at Truro City! He is so dedicated to Wealdstone. It is his life.

Paul 'Fingers' Fruin

Congratulations to Wealdstone FC Supporters Club on this remarkable occasion of celebrating its 50th Anniversary.

When Supporters Club chairman David Albert asked me to put together a few words about my time on the Supporters Club, firstly as Junior Stones Secretary and later as Vice Chairman and then Chairman, my first thought were what a fantastic job the committee has done to get through the past 17 homeless years of Wealdstone Football Club.

I have also been a strong believer in rolling up my sleeves and getting my hands dirty and leading from the front. If you want a job done you can't expect people to put their time and effort into it if you are not prepared to do the same.

Having been around the club for a number of years, I first got really involved with the Supporters Club when the Stones first moved into the White Lion Ground, when then-chairman Howard Kraiss approached Graham Jones and myself about organising the "Walk To Wingate & Finchley" after both of us were involved in the highly successful "Fisher Walk" with Neale Harvey some years earlier.

The Supporters Club had just put a Club Shop into the White Lion ground and taken in new stock, only to see everything go up in flames one night.

Needless to say within a matter of a month or so both Grim and myself had joined the committee and we joined the fight to put the Supporters Club back on its feet following that dreadful fire.

No sooner was the walk to "Wingate & Finchley" over than I found myself as the new Junior Stones Secretary.

I felt that the move to the White Lion ground at long last gave not only Wealdstone Football Club, but the Supporters Club as well a real presence again after the four years spent at Watford FC and Yeading FC. Here was a chance to start to build from the base again.

The Junior Stones membership became a huge success with "Family Days" being organised on match days.

Indeed it was on one of these days that I managed to persuade a certain young lady



to dress up as a Blue Elf to join the Blue Santa Claus and the other Blue Elf in handing out Christmas presents, balloons & stickers on a pre-Christmas Family Day Match.

Some years later that gorgeous Blue Elf became my girlfriend.

Towards the end of the second season at the White Lion Ground, the main club approached both Grim & myself with regards setting up the Football Scholarship.

It was around this time too that the Supporters Club were offered the use of the main clubs portacabin to use as a Club Shop.

This really was too good an opportunity to turn down - at first we had a third of the portacabin, but wasn't long before the Supporters Club had taken over the whole thing!

At long last we had a proper, high-profile base to be proud of, our first since the days at Lower Mead.

Sponsored walks

Both Grim and myself came up with yet another bright idea, this time it was the "Walk to Bognor" in early March 2001.

Steve Paul, Terry Dolman, Deadly Doug, Trevor Davies, Grim and myself set off on the five-day hike on Sunday 4th March, with Deadly acting as our support drive.

Months of planning were ruined in the week leading up to the start of the walk, when Foot and Mouth Disease, hit the South East of England and a couple of our overnight stop-overs would not let us stay. It could only happen to Wealdstone!

Still, we arrived in Bognor safe and sound on the Thursday afternoon and had Friday to recover, before hitting the town to celebrate.

Now I've always wanted to travel to a game by canal boat and this dream came true in late March 2003 when Tony Short, Steve Paul, Roger Slater, Doc Blues, Deadly Doug, Peter Worby, Ray Kemp, Grim and myself set off on the 75 miles "Strolling Stones Walk" along the Oxfordshire Canal to the away fixture at Oxford City.

I'll leave Ray Kemp to describe our canal boat. And Peter Worby to describe the chemical toilets!

Fingers writes in the brochure for the Supporters Club's 50th anniversary dinner in 2008

celebrity corner

NO1: VINNIE JONES

Former Stone who has become a successful hard-man Hollywood actor...

Last time we had Tommy Steele, an actor who played for the Stones. Now we have Vinnie, a player who ended up an actor! Amazing!

Not really. He was always a bit of a thespian, even at Lower Mead. He'd spend hours in make-up before games, that's why he rarely started them for us

Tell Vinnie that to his face, would you?

I was talking about Tommy Steele

Nice sidestep.

Thank you. Funny thing was, Vinnie was never the scary one at Wealdstone. That was Paul Bowgett or Big Dennis. Or Paul Waites.

But wasn't Tommy Steele quite a tough little fella? How would Vinnie have coped with that little white ball?

He'd have grabbed them. Then twisted....



Opposition in focus

TORQUAY UNITED

THE GULLS

The history of Torquay United begins with the merging of Ellacombe, Babbacombe and Torquay Town. The elevation of Exeter City and Plymouth Argyle to the Southern League at the end of World War I prompted the emergence of a new Torquay United in 1921.

We immediately joined the Western League and finished sixth in that first season. In 1925, we reached the first round proper of the FA Cup, only losing out to Reading after two replays.

Two years later, we were crowned champions of the Western League and the club successfully applied for full membership to the Football League. Our first game was a 1-1 draw with Exeter at Plainmoor.

1954-55 season saw a fabulous run to the fourth round of the FA Cup. After humbling the mighty Leeds United 4-0, a record 21,908 crammed into Plainmoor for a narrow loss to Huddersfield, and that remains our highest ever attendance.

A change to the league structure and abolition of the regionalised system placed United in the newly-formed Division Four and the date of April 27, 1960 would finally see the club win promotion from the bottom league.

We then hit rock-bottom in 1985, finishing at the foot of Division Four for the first time in 57 years. That campaign of misery was immediately followed by another two disastrous seasons and we were extremely fortunate to earn re-election to the Football League.

The introduction of a relegation system to the Conference was obviously a concern in the 1986-87 season and we only escaped the drop by holding Crewe to a 2-2 draw on the final day, in a match that was held up by defender Jim McNichol being bitten by a police dog named Bryn. Paul Dobson would go on to equalise for the Gulls in the time subsequently added on.

A wonderful start to the 1990-91 season took us clear at the top before Christmas but a lull in form saw



TORQUAY'S 6,500 CAPACITY PLAINMOOR ST

John Impey introduced as manager. A finish of seventh place booked a place in the play-offs and Burnley were defeated in the semi-final.

A managerial merry-go-round resulted in Neil Warnock briefly taking the reins to rescue the plummeting Gulls from a double relegation out of the Football League. Unfortunately, the pattern was set and United finished bottom in 1996, only escaping relegation because Conference

Champions Stevenage Borough failed to meet League ground regulations.

The struggle continued, however, and we eventually needed a desperate last-day win at Barnet to avoid relegation. Next into the hot-seat was Leroy Rosenior and he would guide a talented young side to promotion in a thrilling 2004-05 season.

Sadly, the return to English

football's third tier was brief and a period of decline for the club resulted in a disastrous campaign that saw us relegated out of the Football League in 2007, the first time in 80 years we had been a Conference outfit.

Former midfielder Paul Buckle was in charge and he steered the Gulls to the fourth round of the FA Cup and a play-off final win over Cambridge. The Yellows were back in the Football League and a season of consolidation was followed by two thrilling campaigns.

The final year under Paul Buckle ended with



WEALDSTONE 2021-22



gardening leave and ex-Eastwood and Mansfield manager Paul Cox was put in charge of 1st team duties with a reduced playing budget for the coming season.

United started the season with a 1-0 win over Macclesfield but further wins were hard to come by and Cox resigned from his post in September 2015.

The Board of Directors appointed former player Kevin Nicholson to turn the season around and save the club from relegation.

The summer of 2016/17 was a season of change at the Club. Kevin Nicholson signed fourteen new players to revamp the playing squad. After three defeats in the first four games, Kevin Nicholson and the Club parted ways. Assistant manager Robbie Herrera took the reins and led the team for the next six games picking up two points.

After an extensive search for a new management team, the Club appointed Bath City manager Gary Owers as Head Coach. Owers was unable to lift United out of the relegation places, and despite a brief upturn in results and performances, United's fate was sealed following a 1-1 draw away to Hartlepool, as the club was relegated to National League South.

Owers departed after a poor start to the season and within 24 hours, former Yeovil Town and Bristol City manager Gary Johnson was announced as his replacement. What seemed like a season-long battle for top spot ensued, with United fighting it out with Woking for pole position on a weekly basis. As the season entered its final stages though, it was Johnson's men who held their nerve and secured the club's first championship title since 1927, and with it, promotion back to the National League at the first attempt.

Two years later, despite playing almost the entirety of the 2020/21 campaign behind closed doors, Johnson's men went agonisingly close to securing a return to the Football League with a 2nd-placed finish, before a memorable 4-2 Play-Off semi-final over Notts County at a raucous Plainmoor set the stage for a Promotion Final against Hartlepool United at Ashton Gate.

Once again, The Gulls' never-say-die spirit was on full display in front of a national TV audience, as goalkeeper Lucas Covolan's last-gasp header sealed a 1-1 draw, to send the match into extra-time. Sadly, penalty kicks would eventually deny United of the victory many felt they deserved.

United reaching the League 2 play-off final at Old Trafford but Stevenage proved too strong. The 2011-12 season, the first under Martin Ling, the new manager brilliantly rebuilt his squad and only missed automatic promotion on the final day before losing to Cheltenham in the play-offs.

Sadly, Martin Ling fell ill midway through last season and Alan Knill took over on a temporary basis, steering the Gulls away from relegation on the final day of a traumatic campaign. The club then parted company with Ling and installed Knill as permanent boss.

The Alan Knill era proved unsuccessful and a poor start to his permanent tenure ended with the club sacking their manager in December 2014. Chris Hargreaves was appointed boss in the January but the mountain was too much to climb, and United suffered relegation to the Conference.

Having finished the 2014/15 campaign in mid-table, the club faced a challenging summer as our very existence hung in the balance at one stage. In the end, a consortium of local business people, fronted by chairman David Phillips took over and began the task of building some solid foundations for future growth.

Manager Chris Hargreaves was placed on

WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v TORQUAY UNITED

P 6 W 1 D 1 L 4 F 7 A 15

Opposition in focus

WHO'S WHO?



1. MARK HALSTEAD - GOALKEEPER

30 year-old Halstead began his career at Blackpool, emerging from the bench in March 2011 to make a memorable Premier League debut for The Tangerines against Carlo Ancelotti's Chelsea. Since then, Mark has gone on to represent the likes of Stockport, Shrewsbury and Morecambe amongst others, and made 16 appearances for the latter as they won promotion from League Two last season.

2. BEN WYNTER - DEFENCE

Wynter, 20, joined the club after spending 2017/18 with National League side, Bromley. He spent his his youth career at Crystal Palace and he signed his first pro contract with the Eagles in 2016. Wynter has primarily played as a right-back, but can also play at centre-back.

3. DAN MARTIN - DEFENCE

21 year-old Dan Martin brings a range of options to Gary Johnson's squad, having proven to be equally adept in both left back and left midfield roles. Dan began his career at Craven Cottage with Fulham, before departing to join Cardiff City. Martin gained valuable first team minutes during a loan stint at Weston-Super-Mare in 2019/20, before being recalled by Neil Warnock's Championship side in order to further his experience at a higher level.

4. TOM LAPSLIE - MIDFIELD

Midfielder Tom Lapslie brings with him a wealth of experience, leaving League Two side Colchester United earlier this summer after making over 150 appearances for The Us. Having progressed through the youth ranks at the Colchester Community Stadium, Tom made his first-team bow as a substitute in the FA Cup against Cardiff in January 2015, and such was the impact he made during that cameo appearance, that his full debut followed just three weeks later.

5. ALI OMAR - DEFENCE

22 year-old Ali Omar was a commanding presence in the backline for Barnsley's U23 side last season, and manager Gary Johnson was understandably delighted that his pursuit of the centre half finally paid off. Having begun his career as a youngster Stevenage, before catching the eye of Championship side Queens Park Rangers before fellow Championship side Barnsley acquired his services in January 2020.

7. CONNOR LEMONHEIGH-EVANS - MIDFIELD

Connor, 22, first joined TUFC on loan from

Championship side Bristol City in January 2018, before returning for a second loan spell in September 2018. After playing a starring role as United marched towards the 2018/19 National League South title, the Yellow Army were delighted when it was announced Connor would be coming back to Plainmoor for a third time in August 2019.

8. ASA HALL - MIDFIELD (C)

Hall brings a wealth of experience to the squad having made over 300 first team appearances turning out for teams such as Luton Town, Oxford United, Shrewsbury Town, and Cheltenham Town. He was part of Gary Johnson's squad that earned the Robins a return to the Football League in 2016, prior to being reunited with his former manager again in 2018.

9. DANNY WRIGHT - FORWARD

Stints at the top tier of non-league football with Cambridge, Wrexham, Forest Green, Gateshead and Kidderminster had seen Danny earn himself a reputation as one of the most feared strikers at that level, however the Football League remained uncharted waters, until his move to Johnson's Cheltenham Town saw the Gloucestershire outfit reclaim their League Two status at the first time of asking. A move back into the National League with an ambitious Solihull Moors side in 2018 would once again see the best brought out in player and team.

10. ARMANI LITTLE - MIDFIELD

Midfielder Armani Little agreed a deal with the club in May 2019, following an outstanding season on loan at United's National League South title rivals, Woking. Little began his career at Premier League club Southampton, and made a handful of appearances in the Checkatrade Trophy for the club, prior to joining League One side Oxford in the summer of 2018.

11. JAKE ANDREWS - MIDFIELD

Jake Andrews delighted the Yellow Army by agreeing a permanent deal with the club in June 2019, following a tremendous spell on loan during 2018/9. After rising through the ranks at Championship side Bristol City, Jake enjoyed productive loan spells at non-league sides Guernsey and Chippenham Town prior to linking up manager Gary Johnson for the first time during a brief stint at Cheltenham Town.

WEALDSTONE 2021-22

12. STEPHEN WEARNE - MIDFIELD

TU AFC announced the loan signing of highly rated attacking midfielder Stephen Wearne from Sunderland in January 2022. The 21-year-old came off the bench to score on his senior debut for The Black Cats away at Lincoln City in the Papa Johns Trophy; Wearne followed this up with 90 minutes against Manchester United's U21 side and scored the winner in the 66th minute.

14. CHIORI JOHNSON - DEFENCE

After progressing through the youth ranks at Arsenal, spells at Bolton Wanderers and Welling preceded Chiori's trial at Plainmoor during the summer of 2021. Following a number of impressive showings, manager Gary Johnson offered his namesake a permanent deal at United.

15. STEPHEN DUKE-MCKENNA - MIDFIELD

Signed on loan from Queens Park Rangers in January, 21 year-old Stephen has been a regular member of the Championship club's matchday squad this season, and has also made three appearances from the bench during QPR's EFL Cup campaign, after making his debut in the 2-1 league win over Middlesbrough last term.

16. KEELAN O'CONNELL - MIDFIELD

21 year-old O'Connell is a hugely exciting winger who is comfortable on either side of the pitch, as well as in a more advanced position up front. Keelan has already gained his first taste of senior football north of the border, having made six appearances for Scottish Championship side Greenock Morton in 2018/19.

17. GABBY ROGERS - MIDFIELD

Former Yeovil Town midfielder Gabby Rogers joined United in the summer of 2021, following a successful trial with the Club.

18. OLAF KOSZELA - FORWARD

A hugely prolific scorer for the club's Under-18 team, Koszela made a number of impressive performances towards the end of United's 2018/19 title-winning campaign, culminating in scoring his first senior goal against Chippenham Town just a month after turning pro.

19. KLAIDI LOLOS - FORWARD

Greek-born forward Klaidi Lolos will be familiar to many Gulls fans, having established himself as one of neighbouring Plymouth Argyle's hottest prospects of the last few years. Capped by his native country at Under-19 level, Lolos began his youth career at Olympiacos before

setting his sights on the English game, and made his professional debut for Argyle against Newport County in August 2019.

20. SCOTT PIPER - MIDFIELD

A product of the Club's youth system, Scott is an attacking midfield player who possesses an abundance of flair and determination. In 2021, his promise was recognised in international level, as he was called up for the England Colleges squad.

21. DEAN MOXEY - DEFENCE

Dean, 34, brings with him a wealth of experience, having racked up over 550 senior appearances for the likes of Exeter City, Derby County, Crystal Palace and Bolton Wanderers.

22. ALEX MOYSE - MIDFIELD

Having begun his career in the youth ranks at neighbours Exeter City, Alex immediately showed up well in training following his switch to The Gulls.

23. MARCIN BRZOZOWSK - GOALKEEPER

Marcin is no stranger to The Gulls, having made his debut for us last season during a one month loan from parent club, Queens Park Rangers. Having impressed many with his performance in the Trophy tie at Woking, boss Gary Johnson wasted no time in securing his signature on a permanent basis following his release at Loftus Road.

26. LOUIE SLOUGH - DEFENCE

Louie is a product of the South Devon College post 16 football set-up, and his performances in United's 2019-20 pre-season campaign helped secure a permanent deal for the composed defender.

29. JOE FELIX - MIDFIELD

22 year-old Joe began his career as a youngster at Fulham before subsequently signing for Queens Park Rangers, where his continued progression for the Club's U23-side saw him called up to the bench for Rangers' EFL Cup tie against Bristol Rovers in 2018/19. Felix then went on to represent the likes of Woking and Maidstone, before making the move to Billericay in September 2020.

30. DAN HOLMAN - FORWARD

Dan Holman is a player well known to Gulls boss Gary Johnson, after his prolific spell at Cheltenham Town saw The Robins seal the National League title in 2015/16.

31. JOE LEWIS - DEFENCE

Joe Lewis, 21, returned to Plainmoor on a permanent basis in January 2021, following an impressive loan spell with The Gulls in 2019/20

37. SHAUN MACDONALD - GOALKEEPER

Already a hugely popular figure with the Yellow Army, MacDonald arrived back for a second spell at Plainmoor in September 2021 following a brief period away from the Club.

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FAN IN THE STAND NICOLA BROWN

Here's a sign of the new, inclusive Stones.. Nicola is our first female FiS but she's no stranger to the Wealdstone Family!

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

Whereabouts do you live, Nicola? Chesham, Bucks

Are you shocked to be the first-ever female fan in the stand (at least, not one of a couple)? It is a bit surprising that we haven't had a female participate solo before, I am honoured to have been asked to be the first! I was also the first female to feature on the fabulous Stonecast at the beginning of the year too.

Do you think the Vale is a suitable family environment? Absolutely! It's one of the reasons why we chose the Club. I have two young boys, Archie who is 7 and Finlay who is 9, both of them have a strong love for football, playing and watching. It was important for us that whoever we found as a club to support as a family, we were all welcome. The club has had some amazing initiatives over the season to help encourage families to come along and feel part of it, from the free scarfs and season tickets for the under 16's, to the flags that were given out at the Barnet home game. All these small gestures make a huge difference and will help encourage the future generation of Stones fans.

Are any members of your family also Stones fans?

Errr.. just a few! We regularly have 12 of us attending games - Myself, my husband Russell and our two boys, Finlay and Archie. My brother Paul and his three children - Amelia, Joe and Connie. My Mum & Dad and my two nieces Isabelle and Ruby. We just need to get my other brother Kevin and two sister in laws, Tracy & Leanne to come along too and we will have a full house! Finlay was actually the first one to go to a Wealdstone game, with his Uncle Paul, on 27th April 2019 when we played Hemel Hempstead, the last NLS league game of the season where we got into the playoffs - he instantly got the bug, he loved it and we haven't looked



back since.

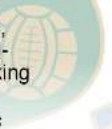
What is it about the club that appeals? Although we haven't been supporting as long as many of you, we have been wholeheartedly welcomed by all of the regular supporters, the club staff and the players themselves - who take time to speak to the boys, have photos, sign autographs, give high fives at the end of the games etc. The club has such a lovely atmosphere and community spirit, we instantly felt like we belonged.

Have you ever played the game, or other sports? I think I was born to spectate not participate! I did represent the school in a number of sporting events/teams, but it was never something I was very good at or really got much enjoyment out of. I am definitely much better, and happier, watching sport rather than playing!

Have any family members? All of my family were/are



Dentists' convention:
Nicola and bro Paul



Wanderers and my niece Amelia was the team mascot for the evening as it was her 12th birthday! We lost 1-0. Wycombe scored in the first few minutes of the game, but it was a glorious sunny evening and it gave me a great introduction to the beginning of life as a Wealdstone fan!

Do you go to away games as well?

I absolutely love an away game! The atmosphere is electric, a different vibe to a home game and one that is difficult to explain unless you have experienced it. As a family, we are trying to do as many away games as possible this

season, but fitting them all in around the boys' own football matches doesn't always make it possible.

What's your most memorable Stones game?

For me it has to be Havant & Waterlooville away, 18th Jan 2020. It was magical! 1-0 down after 4 minutes and a game that was end to end throughout. It could have gone either way, but the Stones dug deep and battled hard. We went on to win 4-2 with an 81st minute goal from Danny Green securing us the 3 points and a step closer to winning the NLS title for that season.

Who have been your favourite Wealdstone players and why?

Billy Clifford, he was a joy to watch. He dominated the midfield and made things happen on the pitch. Technically he is a great player, he was a crucial link between our defence and the attack, which is what you need from someone in his

position. He is a creative player who played every game with passion and the desire to win, never shied away from a challenge and scored some cracking goals too!

How big a part of your life is the game?

Football is a massive part of my life and I absolutely love it! I grew up watching and supporting my two brothers, Paul and Kevin playing football, at grassroots level from the age of 5, to school fixtures, through their teenage years and into non league and Sunday league in adulthood. I spent many hours cheering them on from the sidelines, all over the country, come rain or shine. If they were still playing now, I would definitely still be supporting them. I was, and still am their number 1 fan!

I now have my two boys Finlay and Archie to pick up where my brothers left off. I spend evenings and weekends watching them play and train, although at times it can be a challenge when game times clash. Finlay plays for Chesham Athletic U10s, where I am the assistant manager and Archie plays for the U8s at Chesham United - yes they are local rivals, but thankfully we don't have too much rivalry at home!

My husband Russell also played football from a young age and I actually met him, whilst watching my brothers playing in a match one Sunday morning, 15 years ago. After the match we headed to the local pub, we got chatting and the rest is history!

How did you cope watching the live stream last season?

Nothing beats standing on the terraces, with the fans, watching a live football match, however given this wasn't possible, us having the option of watching the Stones play via live stream was a Godsend! Just like going to the games, the live stream became part of our weekly routine and it gave us something to look forward to each week. We

CONTINUED OVERPAGE



The extended Franklin-Browns were out in force at Barnet a fortnight agoand they LOVED it!

sports, apart from me! My Dad Nigel was an exceptional footballer, playing semi professional well into his 20s. He is also a fellow Stone, having played alongside some of Wealdstone's greatest players. Unfortunately though, Dad didn't have the same strong family support that we have had from him and my Mum growing up, so when the opportunity arose to trial with First Division Clubs, such as Leeds, he sadly had to decline. My Mum was a fantastic netball player. Every Saturday I would go and watch her play, in awe of her energy on the court. And then there's my two brothers, Kevin and Paul. They represented the District and County Football teams whilst at school and played to non league level later in life.

What was your very first Wealdstone game? My very first Wealdstone game was 23rd July 2019. It was a pre-season friendly against Wycombe

FAN IN THE STAND CONTINUED



The youngsters had just as much fun at the Barnet home game.. a real flag day

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

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

streamed every game and sat down as a family to cheer the team on, just as we would if we had been there in person.

Have you ever been a fan of another club? I exchanged an Arsenal season ticket for a Wealdstone one! I started following Arsenal when I was 19. My boyfriend at the time was a season ticket holder and went to every game, so I soon followed suit! Along with my brother Paul too, we travelled home, away and across Europe watching them, right up until I was heavily pregnant with Finlay.

I won't lie, some of those years watching Arsenal were superb. Watching the likes of Patrick Viera, my favourite Robert Pires and Thierry Henry play was simply awesome. Their passion and love for the club was second to none and the results on the pitch showed this. They were great times, with great memories. I got to see some of the all-time greatest players in action, in amazing stadiums and witnessed some games which will forever be part of history. I even featured on the Unbeatables DVD in Milan when we won 5-1!

But, I would take going to watch a non league game with the family over this. At a Premier League club you don't get the same personal touch and sense of belonging you get watching a non league club. You don't get the players saying hello to you or having a chat, your opinion or voice doesn't get heard and you are just a number out of several thousands of fans. You also don't get a decent cup of tea at half time either!

It was a great experience, a totally different experience but as a family our hearts will stay with non league.

Do you buy a programme? I don't buy one myself but my Dad does, so I have a read of his. I will of course buy my own copy of this one!

Who's been your favourite Fan in the Stand? It has to be my Mum & Dad's - Patsy & Nigel Franklin - they were in one back at the beginning of March 2021.

There is family history and connections to Wealdstone FC, which makes the club that little bit more special to us. My parents both grew up locally to the club, my Dad followed Wealdstone with my Grandad from the

age of eight and ended up playing for them back in 1972/73.

My Mum also watched a few games growing up, but later in life she ended up working behind the social club bar at Lower Mead, whilst saving for their wedding. Her Dad was also the coach driver for the players when they went to Wembley in 1966 for the Amateur Cup final, where they beat Hendon 3-1!

It was so lovely to be able to read my Mum and Dad's story, which really warmed my heart. The club holds lots of great memories for them and we are lucky to now get to make many more memories together with them at the Club.

Where do you see the Stones in five years time? I would love to see the Club continue to grow and climb the ladder of the tables, maybe even moving up a league. Realistically though, I don't know if this will happen with the current capacity of the ground, funding and only having a part-time basis. I think the staff, players and the fans certainly have the desire to help achieve all this, it's just whether we will have the facilities and financial backing to do so.

WEALDSTONE 2021-22

BY SAMANTHA EVANS

Fan Zone



WELCOME to my inaugural notes as a member of the Executive Committee.

I originally got into football as my son used to play for his local team and then we used to go and watch my then local team, Blackpool FC, and it went from there. Then my son got scouted for Liverpool FC Football Academy so I spent many years going back and forth watching him and Liverpool play. I then moved from Lancashire to Ruislip over a year ago to be with my partner Terry Hissey, Membership Secretary, and he introduced me to the ground and the Wealdstone Supporters Club Megastore. I immediately fell in love with the Club and how friendly everyone was to me, especially everyone on the Supporters Club Committee, we are all like one big family.

What have I done so far?

I started during lockdown helping Terry in the Megastore Shop, when we had chance, and sorted through all the many and varied programmes. Getting them into order and also I used to clean up the shop for Adam Edwards, the Megastore Manager. I also then got asked if I wanted to help do the fundraising barbecues and I did my first one with Terry at the end of season football tournament. That went so well, I was approached if I would like to come back and do another one and it went from there. I was a regular chef with the guys in the Supporters Club during the European Championships in the summer. Soon after I helped emptying out the Megastore and packing things up ready for the new shop, hopefully opening this year. In the meantime, I assisted Simon Hibbs and Adam in the pop up shop at Dead Fox Corner whilst Terry was away. I've been to quite a few matches also which I'm loving, the most recent being the win over Barnet. The Supporters Club Executive Committee have recently recruited me and I'm loving that and hoping to bring new ideas to fundraise for the club.

Highlights

Wow there's so many from meeting and

getting to know everyone who works at the Club to the many volunteers who also work so hard. To watching the live matches again and the atmosphere it brings, to meeting the Wealdstone Raider in person last year and for him being such a lovely guy. Also meeting Roger Slater and his remembrance talk, to finding true friends with Peter Edwards and Nicole Cho-Yee to all the guys in the Supporters Club who have been amazing with me and so welcoming. I've taken Wealdstone to my heart now and it's a great club to belong to.

Aims

I've put forward the idea to hold a comedy and pie & mash night together to raise much needed cash for the club, so watch this space for that. I also hope to help out in the new megastore with the programmes and merchandise sales. I'm hoping to help out at future barbecues in the summer.

Favourite Player

Jacob Mendy Mendy - amazing talented player but I'm sure over time I'll have another favourite player as they are all talented.

Present Fundraising

Currently the Supporters Club are selling 50/50 tickets at every home game. These are available at the gate and are £1 a ticket with 50 % monies taken going to the winner, so please go and grab a ticket! We also have on our Easter Raffle where the 1st Prize is a Playstation 5, 2nd Prize 50" 4k TV, 3rd Prize £150 of Amazon Vouchers and many more prizes to be won. These are on sale right now for £1 a ticket and you can buy these from me, Terry or any other Supporters Club Executive Committee member that you see around the club, so please come and buy some. The draw date is Monday 18th April.

Finally

Please, so if you see me come and say Hi, it would be nice and if there's anything I may be able to help you with then just ask. I'll be glad to help you in any way I can.

Samantha



RESULTS

2021/2022

In Black = Started match In Blue = Sub

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

AUGUST	Comp	Score	(Total)	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers												
21 WOKING	VNL	1-2	1,405	380	16	Umerah	1	2	12	17	6	7	8	9	10	11	24	
28 Chesterfield	VNL	0-2	5,336	167	18		1	2	12	17	6	7	8(18)	9	10	11	24	
30 SOUTHEND UNITED	VNL	0-0	2,151	800	18		1	2	12		6	7(10)	9	10	11	24		
SEPTEMBER																		
4 Dagenham & Redbridge	VNL	2-2	1,735	170	18	Umerah, Lewis	1	2	12	17(34)	6	7		9	10(7)	11(3)	24	
11 ALTRINCHAM	VNL	1-0	1,013	N/A	15	Elito (Pen)	1	2	12		6	7(9)	9	10	11	24		
14 Notts County	VNL	2-3	5,213	208	14	Umerah (2)	1	2	12		6	7(9)	9	10(11)	11	24		
18 ALDERSHOT TOWN	VNL	2-2	1,106	280	15	Umerah, Jackson	1	2	12		6	7(9)	8(20)	9	11	24		
25 King's Lynn Town	VNL	1-0	885	180	13	Cooper	1	2	12	17			8(21)	9	10(9)	11(20)	24	
OCTOBER																		
2 Torquay United	VNL	0-5	2,097	132	16		1	2	12	17			8(20)	9		11	24	
5 SOLIHULL MOORS	VNL	0-0	1,501	120	16		1	2	12	17			8(18)	9		11	24	
9 EASTLEIGH	VNL	1-2	1,267	95	16	Umerah	1	2	12	17				9(18)			11	24
16 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	FAC4	1-2	718	185	17	Bird	1	2	12	17	6		8(11)	9		11	24	
23 Weymouth	VNL	1-1	1,024	170	17	McAvoy	1	2	12	17	6	7(9)	8(18)	9		11	24	
26 GRIMSBY TOWN	VNL	1-0	1,892	794	16	Buse	1	2	12	17	6	7(9)	8	9		11(16)		
NOVEMBER																		
13 BARNET	VNL	1-0	2,662	672	16	Browne	1	2	12	17	6(25)		8	9	10(16)		24	
20 Wrexham	VNL	0-0	8,592	194	17		1	2	12	17	6(17)			9	10		24	
23 Dover Athletic	VNL	3-2	510	200	15	Sweeney (2), Umerah	1	2	12		6		8	9	10		24	
27 STOCKPORT COUNTY	VNL	1-4	1,382	310	16	Jackson	1	2	12		6		8	9			24	
30 Bedford & Feltham	MCC2	1-2	TBC	TBC	16	Jackson												
DECEMBER																		
4 Bromley	VNL	2-3	1,747	220	17	Umerah, Cook	1	2	12		6			9			24	
11 FC HALIFAX TOWN	VNL	0-1	958	90	18						6	7		9			24	
18 Needham Market	FAT3	1-2	432	200	18	Buse					6	7	8(5)	9			24	
JANUARY																		
11 Boreham Wood	VNL	0-1	1,298	171	19					17	6	7	8	9				
15 DOVER ATHLETIC	VNL	2-1	940	45	19	Charles, Stevens	1	2	12	17	6	7					24	
22 Woking	VNL	0-2	2,667	232	20		1	2	12	17	6	7		9			24	
25 NOTTS COUNTY	VNL	0-0	1,547	450	20		1	2	12		6(2)		8	9			24	
29 Grimsby Town	VNL	1-2	4,747	166	20	Mascoll	1				6		8	9(22)			24	
FEBRUARY																		
8 YEOVIL TOWN	VNL	2-1	1,175	TBD	18	Umerah, Tavares	1	2	12	17	6			9	10(20)		24	
12 Barnet	VNL	3-1	2,248	848	16	Umerah, Ferguson, Mundle-Smith	1	2	12	17	6			9	10(20)		24	
19 WREXHAM	VNL	1-2	1,901	TBD	17	Browne (P)	1	2	12		6			9	10(20)		24	
22 Solihull Moors	VNL	1-2	TBD	TBD	18	Okimo	1				6			9	10			
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																	
5 MAIDENHEAD UNITED	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																	
TO BE ARRANGED																		



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

stitute (number of player replaced in brackets)

Dan WISHART	Ashley CHARLES	Alex DYER	Medy ELITO	Jack CAWLEY	Ira JACKSON	Charlie BARKER	Connor STEVENS	Jay BIRD	Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH	Connor MCAVOY	Zach DRONFIELD	Jamie MASCOLL	Jayden SWEENEY	Alfie MARIGLIANI	William DENNIS	Sam SARGENT	Douglas TAYLOR	David SESAY	Aaron HENRY	Nathan FEERGUSON	Charles CLAYDEN
3(11)	4	18(8) 18	20(7) 20(7)	34																	
3	4	18		34																	
	4	18	20(18)	34	16(10)																
	4	18	20	34	16(18)																
	4	18	20	34	16																
3	4		20		16	21															
3(12)	4	18	20(4)			21	5 (17)	22(3)													
	4	18	20			21	5	22	23(5)												
	4	18	20(4)		16(22)			22													
	4	18			16(22)			22		14											
	4	18			16			22(19)	23	14	19										
	4	18(8)			16			23	14	25											
	4	18						22(10)	23	14											
	18							22(10)	23	14	19(8)										
	18				16(22)			22	23	14	19(8)	25(23)	26								
	4	18			16			14		25											
	4	18			16(7)		5(25)			14		25	26	13(16)	21						
	4	18			16(25)		5	22(7)		14		25	26								
	4	18			16					14		25	26								
	4	18	20(7)		16(25)		5	23				25			21		22(8)				
	4	18	20(23)		16(22)		5	23				25					22				
	4	18	20(7)				5	23(6)				25					22(24)				
	4	18	20				5	23	14			25						11(20)			
	4	18(24)	20				5	23	14			25					22	11(23)			
16)		18(24)	20		16			23(25)	14			25						11(23)	22	7	
		18(23)	20					23	14									11(17)	22	7	
		20						23	14			25(10)						11	22	7	19(11)
	4	20(9)			16(4)			23	14			25(11)						11	22	7	19



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
9th February	Hampton & Rich.	H	L	1-5	Cooper

Above: Pictures from our deeply frustrating defeat at home to Wrexham last weekend, courtesy of Adam Williams.

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- Boardroom hospitality including a pre-match hot meal with wines and half-time refreshments courtesy of in-house caterer Lynn Evans
- Match-day programmes for all in your party
- Naming and presenting the 'Man of the Match' award
- A souvenir memento of your day.

retained in surroundings befitting such a special occasion be it a birthday, anniversary or any other special event!

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.

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

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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, 19th 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	Roffe-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, 26th October Vanarama National League	ADWConnect		
 BARNET Saturday, 13th November Vanarama National League	Roffe-East	Ray Corner & Peter Carter	



WEALDSTONE 2021-22

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

– Colin Walklate,
Harrow Windows

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

– Robert Barrett,
Rolfe-East

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

– Keith Davies, AFC Lightning

MATCH

SPONSORS



STOCKPORT COUNTY

Saturday, 27th November
Vanarama National League

AFC Lightning

Morty's Emslie Enders



FC HALIFAX TOWN

Saturday, 11th December
Vanarama National League

Harrow Windows



DOVER ATHLETIC

Saturday, 15th January
Vanarama National League

Ruislip Windows & Doors



NOTTS COUNTY

Tuesday, 25th January
Vanarama National League

Rolfe-East

Ruislip Windows & Doors



YEOVIL TOWN

Tuesday, 8th February
Vanarama National League

Fenton Civil Engineering



MAIDENHEAD UNITED

Tuesday, 15th February
Vanarama National League

Osmo UK

Rolfe East



WREXHAM

Saturday, 19th February
Vanarama National League

Union Athletic



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

WEALDSTONE 2021-22

Appearances

2021/2022 FIRST TEAM, up to & including 19/2/2022

A = STARTING APPEARANCES • S = APPEARANCE AS SUBSTITUTE • G = GOALS SCORED * = HAS NOW LEFT CLUB

	VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE			FA CUP			FA TROPHY			MIDDLESEX CHARITY CUP			TOTALS			WEALDSTONE CAREER		
	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G
Babalola, Fawaz										1			1			1		
Baker, Nathan										1			1			1		
Balogun, Solomon										1			1			1		
Barker, Charlie *	3												3			3		
Bird, Jay *	4	4		1	1			1					5	5	1	5	5	1
Browne, Rhys	6	7	2										6	7	2	6	8	2
Buse, Matt	8	6	1		1			1	1				8	8	2	8	8	2
Cawley, Jack *	5												5			32	5	2
Charles, Ashley	20	1	1	1				1					22	1	1	55	12	1
Clayden, Charles		1											1				1	
Cook, Jack	25	1		1				1					27	1		27		1
Cooper, Charlie	24	1	1	1				1					26	1	1	26	1	1
Dennis, Will *	1												1			1		
Dronfield, Zac *	1	2											1	2		1	2	
Dyer, Alex	16	4		1				1					18	4		168	20	35
Elefteriou, Andrew	11			1									12			12		
Elito, Medy	10	7	1		1								10	8	1	10	8	1
Envoudou Ada, Florian										1			1			1		
Fasanmade, Craig *	7	6						1					8	6		8	10	1
Ferguson, Nathan	3		1										3	1		3		1
Henry, Aaron	3												3			3		
Jackson, Ira	6	7	2		1			1		1	1		7	9	3	7	9	3
Ledger, Kian											1			1			1	
Lewis, Dennon *	10	3	1	1									11	3	1	88	9	19
Marigliani, Alfie		1						1		1			2	1		2	1	
Mascoll, Jamie	8	2	1					1					9	2	1	9	2	1
McAvoy, Connor	13	1						1					14	1		14		1
Mundle-Smith, Jaydn	11	3	1										11	3	1	11	3	1
Ogbebor, Heddwyn										1			1			1		
Okimo, Jerome	20	3		1				1					22	3		251	8	8
Quigley, Robbie										1			1			1		
Sargeant, Sam *	1												1			1		
Sesay, David	1	3											1	3		1	3	
Shrowder, Tecane										1			1			1	2	
Stevens, Connor *	6	2	1					1					7	2	1	87	3	9
Sweeney, Jayden *	5		2										5	2		5		2
Tavares, Nikola	15	1	1	1									16	1	1	17	1	1
Taylor, Doug *	2	2											2	2		2	2	
Umerah, Josh	24	2	10	1				1					26	2	10	26	2	10
Wickens, George	25			1									26			26		
Wilson-Braithwaite, Makai										1			1			1		
Wilson-Braithwaite, Marley										1			1			1		
Wishart, Dan	3	2											3	2		12		9

ON THIS DAY >>>>



BY TIM PARKS

37 years ago ...over 700 Stones fans at Earlsmead for semi-final win over Boro

**Tuesday February 19th 1985,
Middx Senior Cup semi-final:
Harrow Boro 0 Wealdstone 1**

There has been much talk in recent weeks about the Stones' mammoth 848 following at Barnet.

Strangely, it was on this day 37 years ago that possibly the second-highest evacuation from Wealdstone to a rival ground took place - the much-anticipated County Cup Semi final at Earlsmead against Harrow Boro. The official attendance of 1,003 was over four times their average crowd.

It seems outlandish these days but the Stones, Boro and Enfield were caught up in a three-way domination of non League football in the mid-80s: Brian Hall's Wealdstone were en route to winning both the Conference and the FA Trophy while Micky Tomkys' Boro were Isthmian League Champions (and bizarrely turned down the chance for promotion to the Conference) and Enfield were Conference champions in 83 and about to face Wealdstone in the FA Trophy semi final over two legs.

Just three days before this heavyweight Earlsmead clash, Eddie McCluskey's Enfield



Up we go... Boro's Steve Emmanuel (left) and Wealdstone's Alan Cordice tussle for the ball during Tuesday night's Cup derby.

Now Stones face Frickley

THE FA Trophy draw has gone Wealdstone's way yet again — they have been given a home quarter final tie with Frickley.

"The draw has been very kind to us," said Stones manager Brian Hall. "There was never going to be an easy game, but we are at home and the ball is in our court.

"Any side in the Gola League is going to be a threat to us, but at least we will know what to expect from them."

Wealdstone reach the quarter finals with a 3-1 win over Welling

had travelled to Boro in the last 16 of the Trophy and won 6-1.... turning on its head the 1983 clash when Borough were 5-1 winners at the same stage.

Add to the mix the fact that Boro had beaten the Stones 2-0 in the County Cup Final at Easter '83 and you can see why the fans flocked to Earlsmead in their droves to watch

Wealdstone Holmes

Harrow Borough 0, Wealdstone 1
A 74TH minute goal from Wealdstone's Lee Holmes was enough to settle Tuesday night's eagerly awaited local derby in the semi-final of the Middlesex Senior Cup.

And that all important goal must have come as a huge relief to Holmes, writes Paul Jacques.

Just nine minutes earlier he had been guilty of a glaring miss that could have proved so costly.

Wealdstone were awarded a penalty when Alan Cordice was flattened by Harrow Borough goalkeeper Andy Pape.

Roy Davies took the spot kick but sent it straight at Pape. The ball ran loose to Holmes but with the goal at his mercy he screwed his shot wide.

Holmes made no mistake with his second big chance when Andy Graham found him free on the left of the Boro

Hall upset

WEALDSTONE are unhappy at a County FA ruling that the Middlesex Senior Cup final must be played at Hendon on Easter Monday.

Having reached the final after Tuesday's win at Harrow Borough, Wealdstone wanted to toss a coin to decide the final venue.

They will meet either Enfield or Staines in the final. But county officials have said that the game must go ahead at Hendon.

Wealdstone reached the final in a match which Hall described as an "entertaining game."

"I thought it was quite a good

...sink Borough to reach final Holmes' delight



area. There was perhaps a suspicion of offside but Holmes calmly planted his shot wide of Pape to bring a huge roar from the large Wealdstone support.

Boro argued that they should have had a penalty themselves late in the game for handball on the line, but on the night they could have few complaints at the final result. Wealdstone were stronger, better organised and worthy of their victory.

The first half was instantly forgettable. Boro, still smarting from Saturday's FA Trophy defeat at the hands of Enfield, made a predictably cautious start.

Indeed, Boro had to wait until the 35th minute before winning their first corner.

The pace of Alan Cordice had Boro back-peddalling for most of the half. He created a good opening for Holmes after just ten minutes but the final header went high and wide.

Cordice was probably the telling difference between the two sides, a point emphasised by Boro skipper Harry Manoe after the match.

"He was so quick that he was even able to make a bad ball look good," admitted Manoe.

As has happened in so many Gola League matches this season, Cordice became the victim of some heavy challenges, and it was no surprise when he was finally substituted ten minutes from time to be replaced by his brother Neil.

Boro had barely a handful of chances in the first half — the best falling to Steve Long with a shot that Bob Iles was happy to smother at the second attempt.

The game found a breath of life after the break that was more in keeping with a local derby. Boro in particular, found a renewed belief in themselves.

"We didn't want a repeat of Saturday

and after that we were relieved to go in at half-time at 0-0. We knew then that we had nothing to fear," said Manoe.

Even so, Wealdstone again had the better of the early exchanges in the second half. A 49th minute header from Robin Wainwright was hooked off the line by Derek Harris and Holmes went close with another chance.

Wealdstone's goal prompted Boro into action and in that final quarter of an hour they produced probably their best football of the match.

A minute after the goal, Paul Morris — preferred to Clevere Forde — hit a shot that dipped just over the bar, and the shot from Manoe took a wicked deflection that Iles did well to hold.

Boro manager Mike Tomkys made a double substitution seven minutes from time — Laurence Holmes and Clevere Forde replacing Robbie Johnson and Long — but the gamble failed to produce the miracle he wanted.

David Silman was booked for a foul on Neil Cordice, and three minutes from time Holmes went close to adding a second for Stones with a shot that was well taken by Pape.

Boro won two successive corners in injury time but they didn't trouble Wealdstone who were happy to avenge that 2-0 defeat in the 1983 Senior Cup final.

Harrow Borough: Pape, Harris, Johnson, (Forde 83), Bateman, Manoe, Emmanuel, Long (Holmes 83), Pearce, Doyle, Morris.

Wealdstone: Iles, Davies, McCargo, Perkins, Rowett, Wainwright, Johnson (Jones 70), Holmes, A Cordice, (N Cordice 80), Graham, Donnellan.

● Wealdstone vice-chairman Fred Deans has resigned from the club to take over the chairmanship of Ruislip Town. Mr Deans, who was president of Ruislip Town, resigned from the Wealdstone board on Monday night.

...with county red tape

game," said Hall. "I thoroughly enjoyed it. It was a very entertaining and exciting game.

"It did not go dead at any stage. The game was still alive even after we had scored.

"Boro are always a difficult side to play against because they can pass the ball around well. I was very pleased with our first half performance, but I thought we were evenly matched in the second half.

"It was always going to be one of those games where whoever scored first would win and that's what happened. Holmes' goal was a superb

piece of clinical finishing."

Of a possible final showdown with Enfield Hall says: "Perhaps we are the best two teams in Middlesex at the moment. We have certainly been more consistent than the others and we are running a parallel course this season.

"I have no doubts about Enfield's ability."

Disappointed Boro manager Mike Tomkys admitted: "There wasn't much between us and I'm not unhappy at only going down 1-0 after Saturday.

"I'm disappointed with the goal they got. Everyone thought it was offside and I think the linesman was at fault.

the latest episode of the heavyweight drama.

Make no mistake, Brian Hall wanted to beat Boro. And like Dean Brennan nowadays, Tomkys' desperately wanted to restore the Reds' bruised pride.

It was hammer-and-tongs stuff. At the time I was covering Enfield for the big-selling Gazette and thus enable to see any of the Stones FA

Trophy games.

Three days before this it'd been at Boro 1 Enfield 6 for the Third round tie (while Stones were beating Welling 3-1) and was shocked at how skilfully and easily the Es had taken apart Harrow ... and they weren't making the same mistake against Stones with some brutal tack

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

ON THIS DAY CONTD >>>>

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

ling from Messrs David Howell, Harry Manoe and Steve Emmanuel heading the agenda. 'Target for tonight' was Alan Cordice, as ever, and our fleet footed striker was felled for a penalty by Boro keeper Andy Pape - but Pape saved Roy Davies' penalty and then watched, prone, as Lee Holmes somehow missed the follow-up.

But Holmes, the ex Enfield midfielder who was the missing piece of our trophy-winning jigsaw, slotted home the only goal shortly afterwards to send Stones into the County Cup final against... Enfield, of course.

This caused huge uproar. The men in blazers had slated the final (Middlesex FA's biggest money-maker of the year) for Easter Monday at Hendon FC, mindless of the fact that Enfield v Wealdstone (Trophy semi final 1st leg) was two days earlier at Southbury road and Wealdstone v Enfield (second leg) was at Lower Mead five days later. What madness was this!

Finally the County FA relented and switched the final to August Bank Holiday 1985 at Hendon's Claremont Road. And that, dear reader, was the last time the Stones have won the Middx Senior Cup - smashing Enfield 4-2 in front of an 850 crowd to make it a non-League triple, if you like. Heady days.

73 years ago: A tale of a 10,000 cup crowd and almost as many mergers for famous old Leytonstone FC



**Saturday February 19th
1949, FA Amateur Cup 4th
round: Leytonstone 0
Wealdstone 0**

Over 30 years ago I was compelled to make a detour on my way to work in central London, just to see where the idiosyncratic Leytonstone FC had been.

Granleigh Road. A football ground squeezed into the contours of suburban and industrial East London. Absolutely fascinating for this then thirty-something who had been able to recite every aspect of the directory of the Isthmian League grounds since the age of 13 and was determined to visit every one By the age of 14, ideally.

The directory was printed on the back of the Wealdstone FC handbook, 1970-71. The entry for Leytonstone read: Leytonstone: founded 1886. Ground adjoining

Leytonstone station (Midland Region). Telephone 01-539 6117. Colours: Red. Station: Leytonstone (Midland Region and central line). *8,000.

Now this was both exciting and confusing for this schoolboy. Most of the entries were of the standard variety with nearest bus stops and stations some distance from the ground, but Leytonstone FC seemed to be umbilically attached to the nearest station - so much so that the actual name of the stadium (Granleigh Road) didn't even get a mention.

And as for the asterisk (which denoted the record attendance at the ground, to nearest 500) marking the biggest crowd as 8,000... well that was just plain wrong.

Every young Stones fan worth his salt knew that the biggest crowd at our then Lower

CONTINUED OVERPAGE



WEALDSTONE BAFFLED CUP HOLDERS

SO long as there are Cup competitions in football, I guess there will always be a team ready to pop up and upset the picture one has justifiably built up of the two clubs most likely to reach the final stages. Such a team, at the moment, are Wealdstone.

While respecting their abilities, I doubt whether many observers gave them an outside chance of beating Leytonstone in the Amateur Cup Fourth Round at the High Road ground last Saturday. Strictly on the form book, could one do much else?

On the replay to-day at Lower Mead, I would not lay a shirt button either way—but at the same time, I shall not raise an eyebrow if the Athenians make the Bromley semi-final at Highbury.

There was nothing "fluky" about the way Wealdstone held the Cup-holders; the Isthmians were just not allowed to settle down to play their normal game.

That Leytonstone plugged away, and persevered grimly in an effort to do so, for 120 minutes without scoring, is testimony to a plan which almost won the day for the visitors. The home side's failure to produce an alternative measure was disappointing to many.

The Wealdstone strategy was simple, but so very effective. It incorporated the freezing out of the Leytonstone inside-forward, schemer-in-chief Alf Noble, the pinning down to a minimum of effort the menace of Leon Joseph. That it worked was evidenced by the fact that the home forwards became unbalanced—they rarely moved with the customary sweet cohesion.

The two wags below the press-box summed the whole thing up admirably—"Get rid of it, Alf—get rid of it!" exhorted the one—

By John Norman

"Hells bells! He ain't having any ruddy time to get hold of it!" observed the other.

Bert Dyke, the Wealdstone inside-left, shrewdly detailed to shadow Noble, Hill and Haydon, set to harass Joseph, did their respective jobs so thoroughly that Bailey's line became wholly individual. Noble looked like a Noble effort about twice; Joseph's scintillating efforts were whittled down to three really goal-looking runs and drives only negated by the sterling performance of England "keeper" Rowe.

Haydon and Barker hardly ever wasted the opportunities presented by a loose ball; these two gave a grand display of first-time tackling and accurate clearances. Skipper Edmonds, at centre-half, dominated the middle—Bailey would have netted twice could he but have beaten the sure-footed pivot to a close ball.

Edmonds was symbolical of his team's policy of—no waste, more speed.

I am confident that Wealdstone would have won this grimly-contested cup-tie with another inside-forward to appreciate the foresight of Bert Dyke. The visiting inside-left switched to attack late in the second half, when the local sparkle had faded out before a tireless and unyielding opposition.

Dyke and Eddie Smith, aided by the punch of Hardie on the right, gave Nicholls and co. an anxious time. Noble was back with his halves, strictly on the defensive.

The holders can be thankful for the quality of Hockaday at centre-half, he kept a tight rein on the industry of the ever-alert Smith—confined most of the danger to Dyke.

How dangerous Dyke could be was evident in the 80th minute. He sold the best "dummy" I have seen this term; skated through the whole home defence to a goal emptied by the advancing Jarvis. Dyke attempted calmly to place the ball—it went inches wide.

All in all a great game, with a draw as a just result. Wealdstone had everything—except, maybe, the luck.

Above: View of Granlegh Road from the railway platform. Right: 'Amateur footballer' report on the 0-0 draw. Below: Bob Rowe in the Wealdstone goal tips over in the replay at a rammed Lower Mead. Leytonstone won 4-0 and eventually won the trophy



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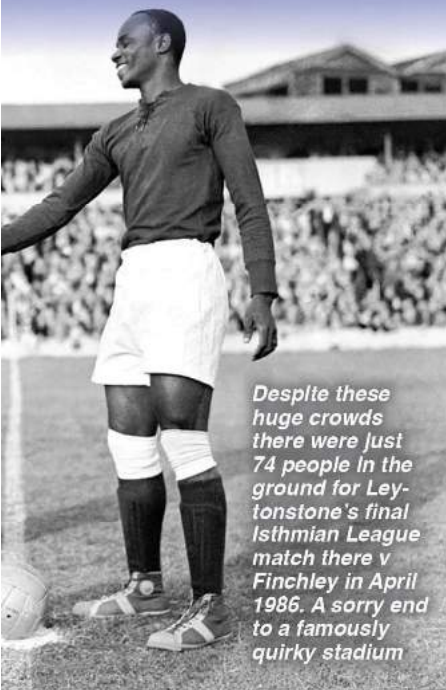
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Despite these huge crowds there were just 74 people in the ground for Leytonstone's final Isthmian League match there v Finchley in April 1986. A sorry end to a famously quirky stadium

moved to groundshare with Dagenham. The intention was for Leytonstone-Ilford to change its name to Redbridge Forest and move to a new stadium with cash from the sale of Green Pond Road, but that fell through and before long (yes you've guessed it) the club was moving in full time with Dagenham and merging once against to become Dagenham & Redbridge.

Three ground sales, three mergers and yet Dag & Red FC are still no further up the food chain than good old Wealdstone FC!

Which brings us neatly back to February 1949. This Leytonstone side were on course to make it three Amateur Cups in a row (having beaten Wimbledon in 1947 and Barnet in '48) as noted in the programme (left). Stones came close to landing the fatal blow in the first game but the East Londoners held on and another huge crowd filled Lower Mead for the quarter-final replay.

Leytonstone were ruthless 4-0 winners but they came unstuck in a semi-final replay to eventual winners Bromley. So no hat-trick for the other Stones!

WEALDSTONE 2021-22

14 years ago: Two-goal Papali helps keep us up

Tuesday February 26 2008, Ryman League Premier Division: Wealdstone 2 Harlow Town 1

The Stones were finding life tough 14 years ago, in our last season groundsharing at Northwood. Crowds barely crept above the 200 mark and every season since promotion to the Ryan Prem in 2004 had been a fight against relegation. We went into this battle with mid-table Harlow with just one win in the ten league games since the marvellous 5-1 battering of Harrow Borough on Boxing Day... personally, I enjoyed watching games on the leaf-strewn surface at Chestnut Avenue even if it was a little soulless at times.

But this wasn't about enjoyment. We had to win. With a tiny budget and manager Gordon Bartlett calling in favours left, right and centre we had gone to league leaders AFC Wimbledon and been clobbered 6-1 the previous midweek. And the previous Saturday we'd come from behind to grab a point at Margate in a 2-2 draw. We were third from bottom and it was looking desperate... and Harlow should really have been out of sight after an hour. Young keeper Daniel Carr spilled a shot, allowing Raphael Sylvestre to put the Hawks ahead but then produced three astonishing stops to keep it at 1-0.

A desperate GB made a triple substitution on the hour with striker Dean Papali, returning to fitness after a long injury absence, joining Jomo Faal-Thomas and Graeme Montgomery off the bench. Chris O'Leary, Marcus Gross and Stephen Hughes were the men to make way and on the face of it, it was like replacing rhinos with whippets. It was plain we now had pace to burn with Faal-Thomas, particularly, opening up Harlow on the right with his blistering runs. Yet it took a 71st-minute red card for Harlow's Leo Roget (a second bookable offence) to really spark Stones into life.

We were flooding down the slope towards the clubhouse (covered) end with the 215 crowd making quite a noise. With ten minutes to go PAPALI was tripped in the box and he got up to place home the penalty kick. 1-1!

And with five minutes to go the elegant Montgomery blasted a low cross into the danger zone and PAPALI turned the ball in for 2-1! This was a real turning point as the Stones climbed out of the relegation zone, to start a new life at Ruislip Manor with a place in the Ryman Prem assured.

Wealdstone: Carr, Yelland, Gross (Faal-Thomas), Howell, Bennett, Nicholas, Gray, O'Leary (Montgomery), Henderson, Hughes (Papali)



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BY STEVE DUCKER



Random Sightings

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

Saturday 7 September 1985

So who is the most famous person in the history of Torquay then - Agatha Christie? Helen Chamberlain? Basil Fawley? All good shouts, obviously. But if you want a local resident who encompassed the Torquay United supporting experience of the mid-1980s, transport yourself back to 100 years earlier and look no further than John Lee. AKA John "Babbacombe" Lee. AAKA "The man they couldn't hang".

Lee achieved notoriety in the late 19th century, while still in his early twenties, when he was tried and found guilty of the murder of his employer.

Under the law of the time, he was sentenced to death by hanging, but after three failures to execute him, this was quashed. So they locked him in prison for 22 years instead.

Torquay United's fate followed a similar pattern. Bottom of the old fourth division in 1985, they were saved at the league's AGM. Same again in 1986.

When relegation replaced re-election, they were in the last chance saloon. Literally. Losing at home to Crewe on the final Saturday of 1986-87, their game was halted when a police dog ran on to the pitch and bit defender Jim McNicol. I know - a police dog inside the ground

Line up

- 1 Allen
 - 2 Fowler
 - 3 Crowe
 - 4 Kelly
 - 5 Compton
 - 6 Wright
 - 7 Wheeldon
 - 8 Smith
 - 9 Lambert
 - 10 Pugh
 - 11 Loram
- Sub Dawkins for Loram

Attendance 3,403



A Torquay programme from circa 1985, not in fact from any of the matches mentioned in this article.

at a fourth division game, was that totally out of proportion or what? Ultimately, the dog proved both Torquay's symbol and their saviour. After a season that was Keystone Cops from beginning to almost end, they equalised in injury time and sent Lincoln down instead.

I caught the team in the middle of this tortuous trilogy of seasons, away to Preston North End, where they lost 4-0. It was one of 17 away defeats, with 56 goals conceded, and it's fair to say the away end was not overcrowded.



TORQUAY UNITED



Last word on John Lee. Little is known about him after his release in 1907, except that he eventually emigrated to and died in the USA, and in 1971 the folk rock band Fairport Convention recorded a concept album about him. But one story still does the rounds. Sometime between leaving prison and quitting the country, Lee managed a small shop in London. One day he came back from his lunch break and the shop wasn't there anymore. It had been blown to bits in a gas explosion.

"I bet that's the closest shave you've ever had," said a passer-by, none the wiser. Clearly it wasn't. But unlike Torquay United, at least Lee had faced the drop for the last time.

Saturday 11 March 2000

Following their own close shave in 1987, for TUFC the rest of the 20th century was really quite enjoyable. After reaching the play offs in 1991, they won promotion to the third division - making history as the first team to seal their elevation in a penalty shoot out. Despite coming straight back down, they recreated themselves as a solid fourth

division outfit and reached another play off final in 1998, only to find Colchester's end of season surge a bridge too far.

On this date, I saw Torquay at their Plainmoor home. I was there with visitors Rotherham United, as part of a bizarre 'attending all 46 league games despite the home games alone racking up about 7,000 miles' project. Which means I'd watched the game at Millmoor as well. It took place the previous November, and Rotherham won 1-0, and it remains memorable for seeing the great Neville Southall in goal for Torquay. If you can get someone who was once the best in the world to play for you in the league's basement division, respect is due. And during Torquay's dark 1980s days, the best keeper in the world is exactly what Southall had been. Had he not missed the end of 1985-86 injured, Everton would have won at least one leg of the league and cup double that ended up with their neighbours across Stanley Park. I don't think Southall played in this game, but Torquay didn't need him anyway. They won 2-1 and eventually finished ninth, missing out on the play offs by three points.

Saturday 15 September 2018

Six years earlier, to the exact date, I'd seen another Rotherham-Torquay game, this time at the New York Stadium. The Millers had only opened the new ground that summer and Torquay were the third team to visit for a league game. It ended 1-0 and this time there was definitely no Neville Southall to rescue it as a spectacle.

Torquay fell into non-league in 2014, and worse was to follow when they dropped into the National League South. I saw them away to Hungerford Town, a fixture that must have been inconceivable six years earlier.

But the all time low was also a new beginning. The club got Gary Johnson into the dug out to sort things out, and the fans responded. Unlike their almost no-show at Preston a couple of decades earlier, they must have had at least half the crowd at this one. In an effective home fixture, they got the result as well. Jamie Reid and Asa Hall scored in each half, Torquay won the league handsomely and the recovery that would lead to within a 'kick from the penalty mark' or two of a Football League return was underway. Because, as our man John "Babbacombe" Lee proved, what doesn't kill you makes you stronger.

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1899-1999

Torquay United
VERSUS
Rotherham United

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The image shows a matchday programme cover with a photograph of a footballer in a blue kit jumping for a header. The cover includes the Torquay United logo, match details, sponsors, and logos for Carlsberg and Nationwide.



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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
 BARNET Saturday, 13th November Vanarama National League	In memory of Derek Munday	Paul Gbogidi

WEALDSTONE 2021-22



MATCH

BALL DONORS

 STOCKPORT COUNTY Saturday, 27th November Vanarama National League	Barbara Robson		
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 YEOVIL TOWN Tuesday, 8th February Vanarama National League	David Leach	Harrow Sales & Marketing	
 MAIDENHEAD UNITED Tuesday, 15th February Vanarama National League	In memory of Roy Couch	Mike Pullin & Graham Clark	
 WREXHAM Saturday, 19th February Vanarama National League	In memory of Jim Klarfeld	Graham Clark & Mike Pullin	
 TORQUAY UNITED Saturday, 26th February Vanarama National League	Alan Couch		
 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	Your name or business here	
 CHESTERFIELD Saturday, 9th April Vanarama National League	Mick Fishman	Your name or business here	
 BOREHAM WOOD Monday, 18th April Vanarama National League	'Fans No Longer With Us' Tony Drew & Ron Moore	Your name or business here	
 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE Saturday, 30th April Vanarama National League	Your name or business here	Your name or business here	
 KING'S LYNN TOWN Saturday, 8th May Vanarama National League	Megaphone	Your name or business here	

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 DM = Defensive Midfield
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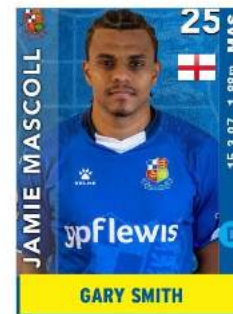
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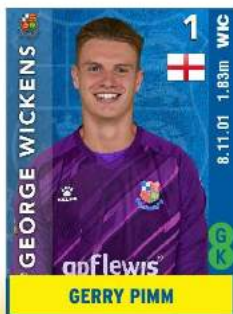
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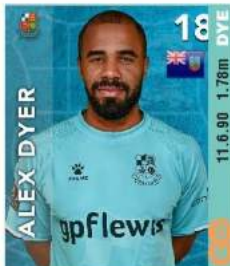
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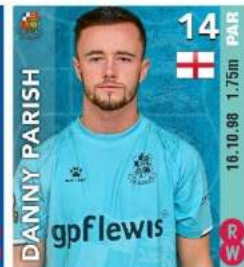
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Vanarama National League 2021/2022 – @22nd February 2022

	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	29	19	4	6	59	27	14	8	3	3	26	13	15	11	1	3	33	14	32	61	1-4
2 Chesterfield	28	15	10	3	52	27	13	7	5	1	25	14	15	8	5	2	27	13	25	55	0-2
3 Boreham Wood	26	15	8	3	36	17	14	9	5	0	22	6	12	6	3	3	14	11	19	53	0-1
4 Solihull Moors	28	15	7	6	46	26	15	9	3	3	30	13	13	6	4	3	16	13	20	52	0-0
5 Bromley	28	15	6	7	45	33	15	10	2	3	28	15	13	5	4	4	17	18	12	51	1-2
6 Halifax Town	26	15	5	6	41	21	12	9	0	3	23	8	14	6	5	3	18	13	20	50	2-3
7 Wrexham	27	14	7	6	44	27	11	5	5	1	10	6	16	9	2	5	34	21	17	49	1-2
8 Notts County	26	14	6	6	49	29	14	10	2	2	32	17	12	4	4	4	17	12	20	48	0-0
9 Grimsby Town	28	14	4	10	42	29	15	10	2	3	28	11	13	4	2	7	14	18	13	46	1-2
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	29	12	6	11	44	43	15	7	3	5	24	21	14	5	3	6	20	22	1	42	0-5
12 Yeovil Town	28	10	8	10	27	28	14	4	5	5	12	14	14	6	3	5	15	14	-1	38	2-1
13 Southend United	27	11	5	11	30	37	12	6	2	4	18	17	15	5	3	7	12	20	-7	38	0-0
14 Eastleigh	28	9	6	13	28	41	14	7	4	3	21	17	14	2	2	10	7	24	-13	33	1-2
15 Woking	28	10	2	16	42	44	14	5	0	9	20	24	14	5	2	7	22	20	-2	32	1-2
16 Barnet	29	8	8	13	34	55	14	4	4	6	14	27	15	4	4	7	20	28	-21	32	1-0
17 Wealdstone	28	8	7	13	29	41	14	5	4	5	13	15	14	3	3	8	16	26	-12	31	--
18 Maidenhead United	27	8	7	12	31	48	15	7	3	5	25	27	12	1	4	7	6	21	-17	31	1-2
19 Aldershot Town	28	8	6	14	32	44	14	2	4	8	13	26	14	6	2	6	19	18	-12	30	2-2
20 Altrincham	29	8	6	15	40	54	13	4	2	7	19	22	16	4	4	8	21	32	-14	30	1-0
21 Weymouth	29	5	7	17	30	53	16	3	5	8	17	24	13	2	2	9	13	29	-23	22	1-1
22 King's Lynn Town	27	4	4	19	24	51	13	2	1	10	11	22	14	2	3	9	13	29	-27	16	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



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GPF Lewis is an award winning national contractor providing
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HOW THEY LINE-UP TODAY

WEALDSTONE

Royal Blue/White/White



TORQUAY UNITED

Yellow/Blue/Blue

G George WICKENS 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Mark HALSTEAD G
Jack COOK 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 Ben WYNTER
Dan WISHART 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	3 Dan MARTIN
Ashley CHARLES 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 Tom LAPSLIE
Jerome OKIMO © 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	5 Ali OMAR
Nathan FERGUSON 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	7 Connor LEMONHEIGH-EVANS
Matt BUSE 8	<input type="checkbox"/>	8 Asa HALL
Josh UMERAH 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	9 Danny WRIGHT
Rhys BROWNE 10	<input type="checkbox"/>	10 Armani LITTLE
David SESAY 11	<input type="checkbox"/>	11 Jake ANDREWS
Andy ELEFThERIOU 12	<input type="checkbox"/>	12 Stephen WEARNE
G Alfie MARIGLIANI 13	<input type="checkbox"/>	14 Chiori JOHNSON
Connor MCAVOY 14	<input type="checkbox"/>	15 Stephen DUKE-McKENNA
ELIJAH HEARN 15	<input type="checkbox"/>	16 Keelan O'CONNELL
Ira JACKSON Jr 16	<input type="checkbox"/>	17 Gabby ROGERS
Nikola TAVARES 17	<input type="checkbox"/>	18 Olaf KOSZELA
Alex DYER 18	<input type="checkbox"/>	19 Klaidi LOLOS
Charles CLAYDEN 19	<input type="checkbox"/>	20 Scott PIPER
Medy ELITO 20	<input type="checkbox"/>	21 Dean MOXEY
Aaron HENRY 22	<input type="checkbox"/>	33 Alex MOYSE
Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH 23	<input type="checkbox"/>	23 Marcin BRZOZOWSKI G
Charlie COOPER 24	<input type="checkbox"/>	26 Louie SLOUGH
Jamie MASCOLL 25	<input type="checkbox"/>	29 Joe FELIX
	<input type="checkbox"/>	30 Dan HOLMAN
	<input type="checkbox"/>	31 Joe LEWIS
	<input type="checkbox"/>	37 Shaun MACDONALD G

RESULT: WEALDSTONE TORQUAY UNITED

REFEREE David Richardson **ASSISTANTS** Gary Jerden and Christopher Myatt **FOURTH OFFICIAL** George Warren
OBSERVER Brian Curson

NEXT AT THE VALE Weymouth, Vanarama National League, Saturday March 12, KO 3pm **AND THEN...** Bromley, Vanarama National League, Saturday March 26, kick-off 3pm

Main club sponsor:

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INSIDE
NATHAN
FERGUSON
INTERVIEW