

WEALDSTONE

versus

WEYMOUTH



SATURDAY MARCH 12, 2022, KICK-OFF 3PM

SEASON 2021-22 MATCHDAY PROGRAMME £3

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BY MARK HYDE



WEALDSTONE 2021-22

Written in Stone

Good Afternoon and welcome back to The Vale for this vital National League clash with Weymouth.

On behalf of the club we would also like to welcome David Oldfield and his staff and players. We hope you enjoy your brief stay with us and have a safe journey home after the game.

As I write these notes It's late on Tuesday night

and we have just taken a huge step towards safety and another stab at the National League next season with our 2-0 win away at our old friends Maidenhead. Things are never quite that easy however and today's encounter is as big as they come for both sides, so play your part and get behind the team as always.. Come on you Stones

❤ Mark

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My name Jayden Garthwaite and I am 12yrs old. I am a George Wickens fan and I am lucky enough to have had a training session with George. George inspires me and most importantly is a nice guy. I am a goal keeper at Oxford United academy. My dream is to play for England and in the premier league. I'm proud to be part of the Walkingsbrilliant team raising funds and awareness for Mental Health and NHS. Our Walkingsbrilliant leader Mark Crosley has been appointed "point of light award" by the Prime Minister. <https://www.pointsoflight.gov.uk/walkingsbrilliant/>

I want to help make a difference, Mental Health is a big part of the world today. We are currently on £32,364 of £50,000 please check out our link

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/watch-walkingsbrilliant?utm_term=xA62xwJD9

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WEALDSTONE

FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2021/2022

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MAJOR HONOURS SINCE 1950

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

NATIONAL CUPS

1985 / 1986 FA Amateur Cup
1984 / 1985 FA Trophy

LEAGUE CUPS

1981 / 1982 Southern League Cup

MIDDLESEX COUNTY CUPS

1958 / 1959 Senior Cup
1982 / 1983 Senior Cup
1984 / 1985 Senior Cup
1987 / 1988 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

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Shares in excess of 10% are
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People are only allowed entry to The Vale on match days subject to the following rules and regulations:

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

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

2) No spectator ball games.

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

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

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

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BY SUDHIR RAWAL



The Elmslie Ender

I am trying to pick the good bits out of the bones of the dreadful defeat at Eastleigh... and I am struggling.

Probably the only shining light of the game was our goal, which saw a beautiful "Hollywood" pass from Aaron Henry to his fellow Charlton loanee, Charles Clayden - he jinked past a few defenders before planting the ball in the net.

The rest was pretty awful from the start to finish. We played our unappealing form of walking football from the off and were harassed and pressed by Eastleigh.

Yes, the foul by Jack Cook which led to their opener wasn't even close to being a foul, but why did the situation even arise? We were fanning around and gave the ball away. It wasn't the only time in the first half that we did it, and we consistently found ourselves on the back foot due to it.

A change of shape helped, but the performance didn't particularly improve.

We had a golden chance at the start of the second half to draw level, but Josh Umerah fluffed his lines with a weak finish. Minutes later they went up the other end and increased their lead.

The third and fourth goals were pretty shambolic too. The poor performance of referee Adrian Quelch didn't help, as Stuart Maynard said in his post-match interview: "The referee played better than us and he was dreadful" but didn't affect the scoreline. That was about a bad performance as we have seen this season, maybe Torquay away was worse. Just not at the races.

I wasn't at the Solihull game so can't comment on the performance nor did I watch the stream of the Torquay game - as I didn't for much of last season - but those three games, including Wrexham, saw us lead in two and level in one going into the eightieth minute yet not win any of them. That has got to change. (And it did! See final paragraph -Ed)



Sudhir rants at referees, youth... while Abramovich

Stewarding this season at various clubs has been excellent this season - in fact I can't think of one which hasn't been done well: firm, in control, hands-offish and friendly, even at the cuckoo's nest.

Yet the ones at Eastleigh surpassed themselves in being utterly useless.

From the off, when Eastleigh took the lead and their players, rather than going to their pre-pubescent fans to celebrate, decided to do it front of our fans, apparently it was our supporters fault and ultimately their lead steward, smirky smile and all, had to be moved by the security team.

Said Under-12 squad, across a short segregation section, who thought they were auditioning for the next Green Street film, were allowed to throw coins, stones and food at our fans with no action taken. They were lucky that something worse didn't happen.

With my *other* blue hat on, I can't let this opportunity go without saying a few words on Roman Abramovich. I





Annoyances: Charlie Clayden (left) is shocked by one of referee Quelch's inexplicable decisions while (above) the adolescent population of Eastleigh had a grand day out

hopeless stewards and feral Eastleigh is a jolly good chap. Strange, that...

have no idea if or how close he might be to the despotic Putin – he has sued people and won against those claiming that he is, but his writing-off the loans he has made to Chelsea, setting up the foundation in which all of the proceeds from the sale of club will be put for the benefits of the victims of the invasion sends a strong message, surely.

In the circumstances, it is probably right that he has put Chelsea up for sale, but as an owner of a football club, he's been as benign and beneficial as one could be. As football supporters, you can condemn the invasion of Ukraine, stand with the country, and still feel that RA has been good for Chelsea.

He has built a trophy-winning dynasty and Chelsea **weren't** a basket case before he joined; in the six years prior to him buying Chelsea from Ken Bates for £140m, they had won the FA Cup twice, a League Cup and a European Cup Winners Cup - something my Spurs-supporting mates can only dream off, but he disrupted English football and propelled the Blues to super-club level that crunched out trophy after trophy.

He built an academy that is the envy of the footballing world which churns out Premier League standard players, whether for Chelsea or not, and whilst he hired and fired managers at will, it all fitted in the trophy winning mantra.

His work through the Foundation in bringing anti-Semitism to the forefront was visionary and ground-breaking, his help for the NHS during Covid was far superior to anyone now sticking the boot in. He brought back former Chelsea footballing giants back into the fold.... the list goes on and on. I am not sure Chelsea will find a better owner.

Tuesday evening update: Watched on by new board member and investor Todd Johnson (who had flown in on the red eye that morning) Stones chalked up a 2-0 win over a one-dimensional Maidenhead United side, with goals from Jack "Magic Hat" Cook and Stephan Browne in the second half, cheered on by 300 or so Stones. Dare I say it, a win today versus Weymouth and that's about it in terms of survival at this exalted level. A number of great performances across the pitch - Jackson, Browne, Henry - but for me, Charles Clayden had the Magpie defenders on strings. More today please!

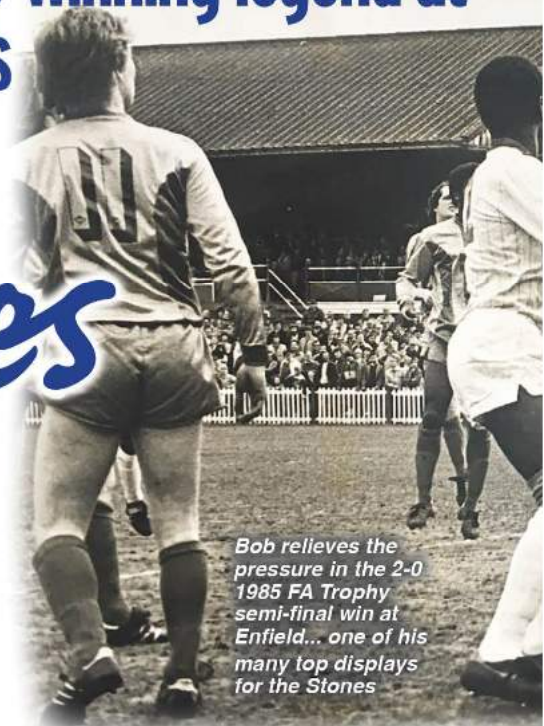
THEY PLAYED FOR BOTH TEAMS

From clean-sheet king at Weymouth... to Chelsea... to double-winning legend at Wealdstone... this is the extraordinary story of *Bob Iles*

BOB ILES was the goalkeeper when Wealdstone made history by winning the Conference and Trophy non-League double 37 years ago.

That is reason enough to be interviewing the 66 year old, now living in peaceful retirement on the Hants-Dorset border - but the story of how he came to leave Chelsea and join Wealdstone in 1983 exposes the huge gulf between the Blues of the hooligan-torn 1980s and the current Stamford Bridge World Champions.

It's almost unfathomable, but in the spring of 1983 Chelsea (then in Division Two, today's Championship) were so broke that they dropped their first choice keeper and risked relegation to



Bob relieves the pressure in the 2-0 1985 FA Trophy semi-final win at Enfield... one of his many top displays for the Stones

the third tier... for the sake of £5,000!

Bob, then 28 years old, was the Chelsea no. 1. On the Blues' goalkeeping staff were the veteran Peter Bonetti, John Phillips and the teenage Steve Francis, but Bob had been signed from Southern League Weymouth five years earlier for £10,000, with a £5,000 add-on if he played 15 games.

In five difficult years, with Chelsea in disarray in the era of electrified fences at the Bridge and Ken Bates buying the

Left: Chelsea FC squad, 1980-81... Bob is ringed, standing next to manager Geoff Hurst and his rival for the No. 1 shirt that season, Petar Borota





BY TIM PARKS

WEALDSTONE 2021-22

terrace cult hero at



five years after the transfer, Chelsea were in such disarray that I don't think they were even aware of the extra five grand if I played one more game. The only possible explanation is that I was told Weymouth had written to Chelsea asking for the money, thinking that I had played well past 15 games. That's what alerted them.

"It's crazy now, looking at the money that's in football, that Chelsea would jeopardise their chances of staying up for the sake of £5,000".

Chelsea avoided relegation by two points, finishing ahead of Grimsby Town, Rotherham, Burnley and Bolton by virtue of a freakish 35 yard right foot effort by Clive Walker that beat bottom club Bolton... and then a suspicious 0-0 draw against Middlesbrough on the final day when (according to Bob) not one shot was fired in anger. Boro were John Neal's old club and a draw kept both clubs free of danger.

So Bob has plenty of reason to be bitter about Chelsea- yet he only has warm feelings about the players there and the pride that comes from being jet-propelled from non-League into the top flight of the English game... the fact that Chelsea gave him that chance.



Highlight:
Lifting the FA
Trophy at Wembley

“I was born in Leicester but my family moved down to Ferndown, near Bournemouth when I was just a few months old” he says,

“Then, growing up, I always wanted to be a goalkeeper like my Leicester hero Gordon Banks - I signed school-boy forms for Bournemouth and was there until my late

teens. I didn't play for the first team but our reserves won the Football Combination - all the big clubs were in there - in 1973 which was amazing in itself. You'd find yourself playing people like Charlie George, Peter Marinello and Trevor Francis, on all the big Division One grounds. But I was released and spent two years at Poole Town in the Southern League”.

Bob has a great anecdote about his falling-out with Poole's player manager Denis Walker, “four-

impoverished club for £1, Bob lles had only played 14 games.

“I was in possession of the jersey and deserved to be, even though we were losing games in Division Two and in real danger of relegation to the third tier” said Bob.

He came back into the team for a win over Carlisle and a draw with Fulham, and then played another five in a row... and then a day before the next game (at Burnley) the manager, John Neal, told him he was dropped. He never played again.

“I was never given a reason” said Bob. “Young Steve Francis was given the shirt, despite shipping eight goals in a reserve defeat by Crystal Palace the previous week. And I don't believe that

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

THEY PLAYED FOR BOTH TEAMS: BOB ILES

foot nothing whose legs had gone, playing at centre half".

Says Bob: "We lost 4-0 at Trowbridge one Tuesday night and he tore into me after the game. So I said to him: 'if you could run, none of that would have happened... it's you or me. Either you go or I do'. And Walker was sacked!

Bob was ready for a step up and Weymouth had assembled a decent squad in 1977. He negotiated a deal with manager Graham Carr that included clean sheet bonuses - and Bob cleaned up as The Terras had a tremendous season that saw them runners-up in the league to Bath City, and also Southern League cup finalists.

"We barely conceded double figures at home all season and that included a 7-2 defeat by Bath on Boxing Day" he chuckled. "We were very solid defensively - Carr's mantra was the the man or the ball could go past you, but not both".

And so, on the back of that reputation came his five years as a full-time pro at Stamford Bridge and 14 first team appearances.

The Chelsea

I think it's fair to say that Bob had a love-hate relationship with Chelsea...he was excited at the prospect of trying to establish himself as No.1 keeper at the famous West London club yet admits he never really struck the right relationship with any of the managers to secure their trust.

"I learned that as time went by - it's not so much how good you are, but how you get on with people that earns you the shirt.

"Ken Shellito was the manager who signed me in the summer of 1978 - I was in competition with Peter Bonetti and John Phillips - and my first taste of the 'big time' was in pre season when I played the second half of a friendly against New York Cosmos at Stamford Bridge. It was live on US TV, 40,000 in the ground and we were facing Franz Beckenbauer, Johan Cruyff, Dennis Tueart... an array of world stars.

"It was 0-1 at half time but we came back to draw 1-1. I felt amazing afterwards, almost invincible. My competitive debut came on October 7 1978 at Derby

NOT EVEN MILJAN CAN SOLVE THIS

THEY filed out of the dressing room and into the bus like men in a trance. Chelsea, the team of the living nightmare; were beaten, battered and bewildered by an afternoon bereft of all charity. The match slipped from their

by JAMES MOSSOP.

Derby 1 Chelsea 0

grasp into fiendishly cruel incidents.

First they missed a penalty and then they gave Derby victory with a totally accidental own goal by that loyal unwavering veteran Ron Harris.

This was the cold savage side of soccer that tortures teams when they are down. Not even Miljan Miljanic, the Yugoslav coach Chelsea hope to recruit, can possess the answer to this kind of misfortune.

It seemed briefly that their luck was changing for the better in the 56th minute when referee Derek Lloyd spotted Steve Buckley handing off Bill Garner as a centre from Tommy Langley floated across the goal. A penalty—and silence fell upon the scene as

Kenny Swain moved up for the kick.

Chelsea need every break these days but the nervous tension showed as Swain's low shot to the keeper's right lacked power and John Middleton's athletic pounce got him to the ball in time to turn it away.

The own goal was a monumental blow.

DEFIANT

Gerry Daly moved through to take a pass from Charlie George and Chelsea's debutant keeper Bob Iles rushed from goal to make a defiant save with his legs.

It was a splendid piece of goalkeeping by the young man signed from Weymouth in the summer and called into action as a late deputy for Peter Bonetti but the ball flew from his shins straight at Ron Harris who must have endured mental agony as the ball cannoned off him and flew into the net.

The match report shows the kind of pressure manager Ken Shellito was under: the highly-rated Yugoslav coach Miljan Miljanic was toying with the idea of taking over at the Bridge amidst much Press speculation...but eventually he turned down the chance

years

County in Division One when Bonetti was injured. We lost 1-0 but I loved it... the goal was unlucky as I saved a one-on-one with Gerry Daley, who was free down the middle, but it rebounded into the net off Ron Harris. But the crowd were fantastic and applauded me off the pitch."

The Sunday Express match report (below left) shows how unlucky Chelsea were... and praises Bob's "splendid goalkeeping".

His home debut the following week saw Chelsea 3-0 down to Bolton before they fought back to win 4-3. It was stirring stuff and although Bob was in inspired form the next four games all ended in defeat for the young Chelsea side.

The match report (right) describes how he received a standing ovation at Elland Road (including from match referee David Richardson) following a 2-1 defeat.

"But it really was men against boys" he says. "We were desperately in need of experience but all we had was an ageing Ron Harris moved to centre back..."

"One game that stuck out was when we played Man Utd at the Bridge. They were star-studded: a team of internationals against Ray Wilkins and no surprise we lost, although it was only 1-0.

"There wasn't the TV



No.1 rivals: Peter Bonetti (top) and Peter Borota (above)

exposure you have now - just highlights of a couple of games on Match of the Day and a couple on Sunday afternoon. Unfortunately one of the featured games was our 7-2 defeat at Middlesbrough"

Bob played in the next game, a goalless draw against fellow strugglers Bristol City but that was his last game for over a year. "It was a strange atmosphere" he said.

"Ken Shellito carried the can for the poor results and was sacked - the coach, Frank Upton took over but only lasted a day. That was funny because Frank gave us a two-hour lecture on his vision for the club, and ended by saying 'Call me boss'.

Next thing we knew he was back as coach and the players were saying 'What do we call you now Frank?'"

Danny Blanchflower, the ex Spurs legend, was installed as manager

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Chelsea bring off McKenzie

By John Keith: Leeds 2 Chelsea 1

DUNCAN MCKENZIE, yet to play in a winning Chelsea side, was pulled off last night in a game where all the scoring was over in five minutes.

McKenzie, bought from Everton for £165,000 two months ago, made little impression before he was replaced after 72 minutes by Clive Walker.

Chelsea, without a League win at Elland Road for 42 years, swept into the lead inside the first three minutes.

Ray Wilkins left the Leeds defence flat-footed with a great through-ball and Tommy Langley sent everyone for pace to steer a shot past David Harvey.

Leeds hit back instantly when Frank Gray's cross from the left caused panic and Arthur Graham nipped in to equalise.

Then with the game just five minutes old, Leeds went ahead when John Hawley's drive was ballooned in the air by Ron Harris and Ray Hankin sent a glancing header into the net.

Flying

But Leeds missed out on a goal rush. And that was due mainly to the heroics of Chelsea keeper Bob Hes, a £10,000 signing from Wey-

mouth, recalled in place of John Phillips.

He made a flying save to clutch a 20-yard effort from Frank Gray and then beat down a close range shot from Brian Flynn.

Wilkins reminded Leeds of his presence after 32 minutes when he tested Harvey with a 40-yard blast.

But Hes again earned applause four minutes before the interval when Graham and Flynn linked to give Hawley a shooting chance.

Leeds showed more urgency in the second half, but as the game wore on Hes became more and more an unbreakable figure.

Even referee David Richardson joined in the applause for the Chelsea keeper five minutes from time when he pushed away a Flynn shot that seemed destined to bring Leeds a third goal.

ALSH

limped off in r. United has red his right cely to be out

CIT' GAME FOGGED OFF

MANCHESTER CITY'S U.F.A. Cup third-round tie against Milan was postponed because of thick fog covering the San Siro stadium. The match will now be played this afternoon, kick-off 1.30 p.m.

THEY PLAYED FOR BOTH TEAMS: BOB ILES

The Chelsea years continued

and it was a bleak period for Bob as he was effectively frozen out of the first team. Yet it was to get worse for the frustrated keeper when Geoff Hurst took over as manager a year later.

"He wasn't well-liked" said Bob, bluntly.

"The very first thing he did was to split the 32-man squad down the middle. He said: 'You 16 are my first team squad and the rest the reserves' which immediately drove a wedge through the club. I can't imagine what he was trying to achieve. Of course, with injuries and suspensions he quickly had to recruit players from the second 16 so you had resentful players who were united in defiance against him... you can see immediately when you watch the game which players are giving 100% and which aren't, and we had half the team not really trying".

Bob stressed, however, that the atmosphere among the players was good - it was the managerial team of Hurst and his assistant Bobby Gould who were despised. "I had a great life to be honest, spending my free time playing golf, tennis and snooker. I had bought a house near the training ground at Walton on Thames and the Chelsea keepers trained together, as well as regular trips to Bisham Abbey where the FA specialist coaches got the First Division keepers together for sessions under Bob Wilson, Fred Davies (who had been my mentor at Bournemouth) and Alan Kelly.

"I didn't play as many games as I should have, and it all ended under a cloud obviously. But I still have great affection for Chelsea and I'll always be a fan of the club".



Above: Bob marshalls his defence in the 1-0 defeat to Man Utd at the Bridge



CAREER DETAILS:
Chelsea League Apps: 8

BOB ILES

Bob Iles made his Chelsea debut in 1976 when he was 24. In 1978 he was named as the first-choice goalkeeper in the first team.

Most memorable Chelsea moment: My career with Chelsea player to watch: Alan Hansen (Liverpool)

Best moment of my career: Winning the FA Cup with Chelsea

Favourite other team: Arsenal

Football hero of childhood: Bobby Moore

Most difficult opponent: Arsenal

Present-day player I would like to play with: Alan Hansen

They do a great job of it: Arsenal

If I wasn't a professional footballer I would like to be a: Footballer

My Division 7 mate: Alan Hansen

(Manchester): Alan Hansen

(Barnsley): Alan Hansen

Curran (Sheff Wed)

Best team: Chelsea

Team to watch: Arsenal

Favourite manager: Alan Hansen

Advice to your own club: Win the FA Cup

The Professionals

... The Stones years...

So how did Bob's signing for Wealdstone come about?

"Well I had a life choice in the summer of 1983" he said. "I had talks with Swindon and Gillingham but I was thinking to myself 'do I really want to be playing Div 3 football at that age, almost 30?' I knew I could get a job outside the game so going back to non League was a good option ... and then Allen Batsford, the Wealdstone manager, made contact".

I remember at the time being surprised that we'd moved for a new keeper as Ray Goddard had been brilliant between our posts for two seasons. The ex Orient and Wimbledon stopper was the bedrock of our defence as we'd won the Southern League and finished third in our first year back in the Conference.

"To be honest I wasn't made aware of Ray Goddard being competition for the jersey" said Bob. "I don't think I ever trained with him - maybe he was at the veteran stage - but as far as I was concerned I was the No. 1 choice and that was refreshing after my time at Chelsea".

If his clean sheet record at Weymouth had been good, it was sensational in that first season with the

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IT'S CASH OR CRASH FOR YOU, CHELSEA



RON HARRIS

Flanagan turns on the style

by JAMES HASTINGS
Charlton 0 Fulham 0

CHARLTON at last performed their in-but off age of Ful-

half force they that off ass

AS CHELSEA CRASHED to the sixth home defeat of their nightmare season, the faces of their frustrated followers were as long as the afternoon shadows. For the stricken Blues have now let in 21 goals at Stamford Bridge and, on this form, are not only the worst First Division side I have seen this season, they are DOOMED.

If this sounds a savage verdict, it is, at least, far better than hiding behind easy excuses. After the game, the Chelsea management - Manager Ken Shellito - whose own face was, understandably enough, a mask of misery after yet another morale-wrecking reverse - banned his players from talking. Nor would he comment himself.

And maybe he was wise. For what could he or anyone say? Was Ray Wilkins can hardly expect to be picked for England against Czechoslovakia at Wembley on Wednesday after such a piddling, lack-lustre display? The Chelsea lacked invention in the middle, bite up free passes - especially in the front - and gave away too many set pieces that some of their supporters sneering at the end were quite unparlous.

FINE SAVES

But, apart from two fine saves by Chelsea's young keeper, Bob Miles - from a first-half free kick by Steve Coppell shot - there was little to show for United's overall superiority.

I like Thomas, who operated as an out-and-out winger. As Sexton said: "The lad made a ball well. He made a lot of good crosses." Yes, a quick, accurate footballer.

I also liked United's tall new keeper, Gary Bailey. He is capable, brave, and big. Apart from knowing how to deal with centres, he made one beautiful save from Steve Wickes' header.

I wish I could say the same only the balding Gary Stanley, veteran Ron Harris, regular striker Steve Stride, and left-back David Stride, none in the general shambles.

Stride was booked for decking Jordan, who had fouled him earlier. The top-physical Jordan did not let up to Graham Wickes, but it is Wickes in the first half who was especially fouled mysteriously escaped punishment.

by ALAN HOBY.
Chelsea 0 Man Utd 1

game came in the 60th minute. Joe Jordan, United's big centre, lost control to the left of the Chelsea goal.

The ball seemed to be going out. But Mike Thomas, Chelsea's £300,000 Welsh international signing from Wrexham, somehow found his foot around the ball before forcing it back into the box. Up dashed Jimmy Greenhoff's fair head to United about the empty net.

And it was not far more easily. With talent like Lou Macara, Gordon McQueen, Martin Buchan, the Greenhoff Brothers and Sammy McIntyre on the field, they should have quickly.

But, apart from two fine saves by Chelsea's young keeper, Bob Miles - from a first-half free kick by Steve Coppell shot - there was little to show for United's overall superiority.

I like Thomas, who operated as an out-and-out winger. As Sexton said: "The lad made a ball well. He made a lot of good crosses." Yes, a quick, accurate footballer.

I also liked United's tall new keeper, Gary Bailey. He is capable, brave, and big. Apart from knowing how to deal with centres, he made one beautiful save from Steve Wickes' header.

I wish I could say the same only the balding Gary Stanley, veteran Ron Harris, regular striker Steve Stride, and left-back David Stride, none in the general shambles.

Stride was booked for decking Jordan, who had fouled him earlier. The top-physical Jordan did not let up to Graham Wickes, but it is Wickes in the first half who was especially fouled mysteriously escaped punishment.

Above: Bob lies is commended for two fine saves'. Left: Player profile from the match programme

regular League football and make a 100 league
regular: My debut at home to Bolton in October
other league 10-2-86
the future: Colin Peck
Manager: Stephen Lee (Chelsea and winning the Kingston
Cup 1981-82)
Leicester City, Luton, Wrexham, C.C. and Leicester
Club where I was born)
agent: John Virgo
in my position's most active: Peter Shilton
clubs: Sheffield County
opportunities: Taking the last two and putting my gloves in
of it for me.
jobs for the glasses: Goal nets - at the other end of court
see without my glasses
professional footballer: I'd like to have been a cricket
Two representative sides in 4-3-3 formation (see below)
on (C. Palace), Stevens (Luton), Wicks (C. Palace), May
Jenkins (Harrow), Givon (Barnsley), Henry (Bolton), Burke
Jenkins (H.P.R.), Young (Leicester), Malone (Leicester), Sullivan
(Wid.)
we have played so far: Norwich Reserves
atch for in Div. Two: Chelsea
a sportsperson outside football: Jack Nicklaus.
a would-be professional: Be dedicated, enjoy the game and set
standards high.

essional

THEY PLAYED FOR BOTH TEAMS: BOB ILES

Stones. He conceded just six goals in his first 13 games.

We were second in the table for most of the season despite the turbulence caused by boss Batsford having to go into hospital three times for a heart bypass operation.

"I'd barely met him when he had to step back from the club. His No.2 Brian Hall took over and eventually was given the top job ... our tactics were a simple formula, a classic 4-4-2, very much like the tactics Leicester employed when they won the Premier League. His doctrine was that if we played for a 0-0 we'd win the game because we had great pace and ability on the counter attack.

"We had two banks of four and invited teams to come on to us ... we positively encouraged it because if the full backs and midfield bombed in we could nick possession and utilise that space behind them.

"We did a lot of work in defensive shape, not dropping too deep. My job was all about organisation ... in those couple of years I didn't actually have to make many saves!"

Was that your main strength, communication? I asked him. "Well it wasn't kicking!" he laughed, aware that probably the only criticism you'd hear levelled at Bob Iles in his Wealdstone years was the erratic nature of his clearances. "Peter Bonetti was a weak kicker too" he reflected "And neither of us could strike the ball beyond the halfway line even with a following wind.

"My strength, I think, was in one-on-ones with opposing strikers. It was all about choosing the moment when he takes a touch and getting out to smother... I spent hours on that in training, honing a technique to get up for a follow-up save by using the torso... if you use your hands to get up again you won't have them to make the save.

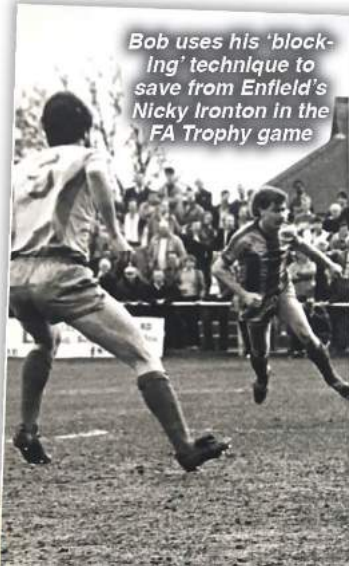
"Mind you" he said, "I was saying my kicking may not have been the best but I scored a goal against Orient in the Capital league at Lower Mead, at the Cinema End with a half volley drop kick. And I hit the crossbar in one game for Weymouth!"

So what were his Wealdstone highlights? "Well winning the double obviously ... the 1-0 at Kettering that won us the title and the win at



Wembley over Boston United ... though I didn't have much to do in that game apart from coming for crosses. We were aware that Boston's Bob Lee was dangerous in the air and would provide knock-downs so I decided to come for everything. The trophy-lifting and lap of honour is a great memory.

"The game at Reading in the FA Cup the following season was also memorable. They were unbeaten all season, top of Division Three, but



Bob uses his 'block-ing' technique to save from Enfield's Nicky Ironton in the FA Trophy game



WEALDSTONE 2021-22



Bob (far right) celebrates at Wembley with the Trophy winners... and (right) enjoying the coastal delights with wife Karen

we matched them all the way and were unlucky to lose 1-0. I managed to make a few saves. It all kicked off, of course, when Vinny Jones came on as sub and we had two players sent off and Reading one... the Reading fans were singing '1-0, 1-0' and our fans were singing '2-1, 2-1'. It made me laugh at the time and it still does.

"Although the funniest thing I heard from a crowd was somewhere in the Midlands when I was at Weymouth. The previous year Weymouth had a fella in goal who looked like Windsor Davies, and midway through the first half some fans were saying 'the last goalie was better than you, and he looked like the coach driver'. I loved that!"

Bob left Wealdstone in the summer of 1987, recognising that we were going into decline, and took up Brian Hall's offer to go and join Yeovil Town. Hall had left Lower Mead a year earlier and was quickly approached to save the Glovers from the ignominy of another season of Isthmian League football.

"That side was full of ex-Wealdstone players as he recruited people he knew and trusted - Neil Cordice, Gary Donnellan, Steve Tapley, Andy Wallace, Steve Rutter...

and we won the league and league cup to get back to the Conference. But I was only there two seasons because of a cruciate ligament injury that never settled down. I retired at the age of 34, before my prime really and I'm left with arthritis in the other knee and a bad back as a legacy of my football career.

"Though I've been so lucky" he said. "All the clubs I follow have seen success: Leicester as they won the Prem; Man City (who I also supported as a boy) coming out of the wilderness; Bournemouth rising to the Premier League; then playing for Chelsea in the top flight and all their success since; and then of course winning trophies for Wealdstone and Yeovil. And almost winning some for Weymouth. Fantastic really".

Bob has been married twice and has three boys with his second wife Karen, who he met at the party following the Stones' Wembley win in '85!

Their sons Jonnie, Nick and Chris were all sporty in their youth with Nick turning out in goal for Pegasus Juniors in the Hellenic League.

Bob worked in financial planning when he entered the part-time football world at Wealdstone, originally with Mark Graves (for Imperial Life) before later setting up his own brokerage in Walton on Thames. He later worked for Friends Provident and the Zurich Group, but his best time came as a yacht broker in later years after they'd moved down to the village of Bransgore, close to the Solent.

"I loved snooker and tennis when I was younger, but grew to love sailing and golf. I've had racing dinghies and a 40-footer in the past, but now I just sail radio controlled model yachts at Poole Park, near the harbour".

Bob and Karen missed out on the 30 year celebration of the Double Season seven years ago as they had committed to a Mediterranean cruise - which coincided with the big do at Ruislip. "I'd have loved to have gone - it's the only cruise I've ever been on and the timing was terrible.

"But I did come to see the FA Cup game at Brockenhurst, just round the corner from me a few months later and that was amazing" he said.

"Yes" I agreed. "That was quite some game with that Scott Davies goal from 60 yards."

"No, not just the game" he said. "It was more the reception I got from the Stones fans, something wonderful. I felt touched by the fact they remembered me and wanted to talk about those times. That was really special".



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THE NATIONAL LOTTERY™

FOOTBALL WEEKENDS

Wealdstone FC are delighted to be a part of The National Lottery Football Weekends. If you are a National Lottery player you will be able to come and watch our home match against Bromley on Saturday 26th March with a friend and get one of the tickets for free.

As fans, you know full well how damaging the pandemic has been to clubs like ours. With a halt in the football calendar and no gate revenue there were serious fears about the future of many clubs. Thankfully National Lottery players stepped in to protect many local football clubs, providing £12.5million of support to clubs in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

As thanks for the essential support, 231 clubs in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are now taking part in The National Lottery Football Weekends. Each club will, for one home fixture in March or April, run a special 'Buy One Get One Free' ticket offer for National Lottery players to take someone – potentially for the very first time – to a game.

Club Chairman Rory Fitzgerald said: "The National Lottery players play a vital role in supporting our national game, but especially at non-league and grassroots level. Wealdstone prides itself on being a club that is closely connected with the local community, and it is thanks to the emergency funding, that ensured our survival, that we are able to continue delivering the projects that make a real difference to our fans and the wider community."

WE'RE IN



#TNLFootballWeekends

Opposition in focus

WEYMOUTH FC

THE TERRAS

Weymouth Football Club were founded in 1890 and played their first game on 24 September of that year. Nicknamed The 'Terras' due to their terracotta strip. Founder members of the Dorset League, Weymouth joined the Western League in 1907–08. The club embraced full-time professionalism in 1923 after winning the Western League, joining the Southern League in the process. By 1928–29, with debts mounting, the club withdrew from the Southern League to become amateur once again. They climbed back up the table and reached the Premier League and then folded for five years and reformed.

The Second World War saw an end to football in Weymouth as the Recreation Ground was requisitioned for the War effort in 1939. The club reformed in 1947 on a semi-professional basis, and soon achieved promotion back into the Southern League. In successive seasons 1964–65 and 1965–66, The Terras were Southern League champions, and they share with Telford United and Yeovil the distinction of playing all twenty seasons in the Premier Division prior to the re-organisation of the league structure at that time.

A move from the club's town centre ground to the new Wessex Stadium in 1987 brought initial success but the club entered somewhat of a slump after relegation from the Conference, see-sawing between the Premier and Southern Divisions of the Southern League.

On 21 October 1987, Manchester United came to play against Weymouth on the night of the stadium unveiling by Ron Greenwood. Weymouth won 1–0 against Manchester United which included players such as Remi Moses and Brian McClair. Peter Conning scored the goal for the Terras.

In the 2005–06 season, the club briefly reached national attention after holding former European Cup winners Nottingham Forest to a 1–1 draw in the



FA Cup. Forest won the replay 2–0, in front of 6,500 fans at the Wessex Stadium and a live Sky TV audience.

The Terras finished 11th in the Conference National in 2006–07. In close season 2008, the club started a rebranding programme, with the club badge changing, and a club motto being introduced, "Forward Together". The club also announced plans for a new stadium situated in

the town

which would not just be used for the club, but community purposes too.

At the start of 2009, it was announced that Weymouth were in financial difficulties. It is suspected that Weymouth were £30,000 in debt and on 19 January 2009, Chief Executive Gary Calder announced that Malcolm Curtis had resigned as a Director and as Chairman of Weymouth Football Club Ltd.

On 21 February 2009, following irregularities with first-team medical insurance, Weymouth were forced to field their under-18 team against Rushden & Diamonds. The subsequent 9–0 scoreline is the heaviest league defeat in Weymouth's history.

It was announced on the 31 August 2009 that unless Weymouth could find £50,000 by Tuesday 8 September they would have to go into administration and possibly face extinction.



WEALDSTONE 2021-22



In February 2012, club director and lifelong fan Nigel Biddelcombe completed a takeover of the club from George Rolls, who's controversial reign at the Bob Lucas Stadium ended with him moving to another club in deep financial turmoil, in Kettering Town.

Biddlecombe and his board set up a trust which would mean no one person would ever be able to have total control of the club again. The shares Nigel, members of the board and most other shares bought over the years were officially transferred into the Trust before the Terras home game with Frome Town on Easter Monday.

Weymouth finished 17th in the Southern League Premier Division in 2011-12. They had looked safe for much of the season but a downturn in form saw the Terras only secure safety on the penultimate day of the season with a 2-1 victory at home to Hitchin Town. That season the Terras also made it to the FA Trophy second round proper. After beating Chippenham Town 2-1 in round one, the Terras slumped to a 6-0 home defeat against Conference National side Alfreton Town.

Following reorganisation of the Southern League for the 2018/19 season, Weymouth finished the season in first place of the Southern League Premier Division South, to secure promotion to the National League South. The subsequent champions' play-off with Kettering Town ended in a 1-1 draw. Weymouth won the penalty shoot out 5-3, to be crowned overall Southern League Premier champions.

Weymouth finished the 2019/20 season in 3rd place and on 1 August 2020, they were promoted to the National League after a play-off final win against Dartford.

Last season despite all the issues with Covid the club managed to consolidate another season in the National League after finishing the 2020/21 season in 18th position.

On 1 September 'The Terras Saviour 100' was launched in one last attempt to save the club from going to administration. And as the deadline neared, it was going well, so on deadline day the board decided to extend the deadline of getting 100 local businesses and this paid dividends, as on 11 September the club reached their target of 100 businesses needed to raise the £50,000 that would keep the club running.

With the club sitting bottom of the Conference South, on 26 October, the club made the following announcement.

"Weymouth Football Club regrets to announce that Notice of Intention to Appoint Administrators was filed at The Courts of Justice, London earlier today. The Board is now working with the proposed firm of Administrators and the Terras Supporters Trust to try to find a way to enable the Football Club to remain in existence".

In November 2009, former Cambridge United chairman, George Rolls made a successful bid for the club and became the new owner but in March 2010 applied Weymouth Football Club for a CVA (Company Voluntary Agreement) because of the £822,000 debt at the club. The CVA was accepted on 26 March, saving the club from extinction.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Saturday 12th December 2020

HOME - Won 2-1 (772)

Saturday 20th March 2021

AWAY- Lost 0-4 (BCD)

Saturday 23rd October 2021

AWAY - Drew 1-1 (1024)

WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v WEYMOUTH FC

P 44 W 19 D 7 L 18 F 70 A 71

Opposition in focus

WHO'S WHO?



1. ROSS FITZSIMMONS - GOALKEEPER

Ross joined the club this summer from Stockport and has a wealth of experience at several conference clubs including Stockport, Chesterfield & Notts County.

4. XANDER MCBURNIE - MIDFIELD

Weymouth hope that this Scot will bring the "X factor" this season. Xander played for Barnet last season and also played for Ytterhogdal in Sweden earlier in his career.

5. BEN MORGAN - DEFENCE

Standing at just shy of two metres tall, Big Ben made a bright start in the side after joining mid-season from Conference North table toppers Gloucester City but sadly injury curtailed his campaign..

6. TYLER CORDNER - DEFENCE

Southampton born Tyler has been on the books at AFC Bournemouth for many years and impressed when loaned to Southend United in league two last season. However, when his contract expired at AFCB this summer "blue eyes" opted to move further along the coast to sign a permanent deal at Weymouth.

7. BRANDON GOODSHIP - FORWARD

From 2017 to 2019 Brandon was a "once in a generation" striker for Weymouth with his prolific scoring record during the Southern league days. Now back at the club after two years at Southend, the fans can't wait to see if his golden boots will shine in the national league.

8. OMAR MUSSA - MIDFIELD

A former Belgium U18 international, Omar first played for Walsall in this country and ended up at Douvres Atlethiqué last season before impressing for The Terras in pre-season and earning a contract.

9. BEN THOMSON - FORWARD

Some say one knows Ben's real age and others that he was raised by wolves. All we are sure of is he leaves nothing on the pitch, except perhaps limbs of tackled opponents.

10. JOSH MCQUOID (C) - MIDFIELD

Now entering his fourth season at the club, "wolverine" has gone from strength to strength during successive promotions. The ex-Northern Ireland international, who played for AFC Bournemouth & Luton, can play anywhere in the middle of the park in a defensive or attacking capacity.

11. BRADLEY ASH - FORWARD

Plucked from his hometown club as a youngster by Barnsley, Brad went on to play for Boreham Wood initially on loan before a permanent deal. Last season he was plying his trade at Conference South Chippenham Town and has impressed for Weymouth this summer, top scoring with eight goals in pre-season.

12. HAJI MNOGA - DEFENCE

The Pompey academy graduate signed his first professional deal with the club just before Christmas in 2019. He has represented England up to under-19 level and made his Blues debut in an EFL Trophy victory over Crawley in 2018. Mnoqa's first senior goal came in the same competition at Cheltenham last season. He put pen to paper on a new contract at the start of the season before going on to loan to Bromley. He has now moved onto The Terras for the second part of the season.

14. TOM BEARWISH - FORWARD

Born in London but growing up locally on Portland, this is something of a homecoming for Tom who joins from Eastleigh having been with the Hampshire club since he was a youth.

15. JOSH LESLIE-SMITH - DEFENCE

Signed from Poole Town in 2019/20, Josh is one of the brainier members of the squad as he is currently completing his Master's degree whilst looking forward to a good run in the starting line-up this season.

16. ANDREAS ROBINSON - MIDFIELD

A Southampton FC academy product, "Andy" played for their first team before moving on

WEALDSTONE 2021-22

to Bolton Wanderers. Signed from Havant & Waterlooville in 2019, he is a mainstay of the Terras midfield.

17. AARON DREWE - DEFENCE

Aaron joined the Terras in mid-January on loan until the end of the season from Championship side Q.P.R. He is David Oldfield first signing since taking over the reins. He is a player the new manager knows really well as he had him on loan at previous club Oxford City last season.

19. MARTELL TAYLOR-CROSSDALE - FORWARD

Taylor-Crossdale began his youth career with Chelsea but left the club following the expiration of his contract in the summer of 2019, signing a two-year deal with Fulham instead. He had turned down a move to Bundesliga side Hoffenheim to join Fulham, despite travelling to Germany to complete a medical with the side. On 4 September 2020, Taylor-Crossdale joined League Two side Colchester United on a season-long loan deal. He made his debut for Colchester as a second-half substitute during their 2–0 EFL Trophy defeat to Portsmouth on 8 September. But on 18 October 2020, Taylor-Crossdale returned to his parent club Fulham after he left Colchester United via mutual consent. In February 2021, Taylor-Crossdale joined EFL Championship side Queens Park Rangers on a trial period. He scored the only goal in a 1-0 U23 match against Ipswich Town on 23rd February 2021. After trials at Queens Park Rangers and Doncaster Rovers, Taylor-Crossdale joined National League side Weymouth in October 2021.

20. TOM BLAIR - FORWARD

Tom is well known to Terras fans as he spent many seasons at close rivals Dorchester Town. He then moved onto National League Eastleigh. He joined the Terras in November 2021 and is now hoping to make his mark with Weymouth.

21. HARVEY BUNKER - MIDFIELD

Harvey is on a month's loan from Sky Bet League Two leaders Forest Green Rovers and has already made a difference in the Terras battle to avoid the drop. Harvey started his career in the youth ranks of Southampton FC..

23. CAMERON MURRAY - MIDFIELD

Nicknamed "The Scottish Messi", the diminutive Jock is a fans favourite, now in his fourth season at the club having joined from one-time local rivals Dorchester Town.

25. HARRISON BRUTON - GOALKEEPER

Having worked his way through the youth set up, Harrison has found himself as an understudy on the bench at the club and is biding his time for his big break.

26. OLLIE HARFIELD - DEFENCE

Canine lover Ollie is as fit as a butcher's dog and has rarely missed a match or training session in two seasons. Largely a left-sided player he is happy to bound up the wing. Played for Boreham Wood and Dagenham & Redbridge in this division.

27. AKHEEM ROSE - FORWARD

A familiar name to Grimsby fans, Akheem joined us this summer from Dover Athletic. The Jamaican also notably played for Boston United, and a couple of West Midlands based teams at the start of his career.

28. DAN SMITH - FORWARD

Dan has joined the Terras on a month's loan from fellow National League side Eastleigh FC. He signed for Eastleigh from Bognor Regis Town and started his football journey in Sky Bet League One Portsmouth Academy.

30. TAOFIQ OLOMOWEWE - DEFENCE

Former Wealdstone player Taofiq is another of our summer signings. Once on the books at Burnley, he has spent most of his career in non-league and turned out for Hemel Hempstead and Braintree last season. (On Loan at Dulwich Hamlet).

31. TOMMY SCOTT - GOALKEEPER

Tommy joined the club from Poole Town after a nasty hand injury to Harrison Bruton. Tommy will be Ross Fitzsimmons understudy and be looking for an opportunity to impress.

32. SEAN SHIELDS - MIDFIELD

Tommy joined the club from Poole Town after a nasty hand injury to Harrison Bruton. Tommy will be Ross Fitzsimmons understudy and be looking for an opportunity to impress.

FAN IN THE STAND NICOLA BROWN

Here's a sign of the new, inclusive Stones.. Nicola is only our second 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 only the second solo female fan in the stand (since Lee Cross a few years ago)? It is a bit surprising that we've had so few females participate solo before, so I am honoured to have been asked! I was the first female to feature on the fabulous **Stonecast** podcast 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?

Err.. 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



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

sporty, 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

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

FAN IN THE STAND CONTINUED



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

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've been 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.

FiS EXTRA: IT'S NYGELL JONES!

Long-distance loyalty: Big Dave's boy Nygell makes the most of his rare visits

Your name and age? Nygell Jones, 50

Whereabouts do you live? Sheffield, South Yorks. I've been there for some 25 years now.

Have you always lived in that area? No, Harrow before that, just opposite the old Lower Mead ground

When was your first Stones game? Early 1980's, but I can't remember who it was against.

Who first brought you along to a game? My mate David Jones (actually my dad!)

What were your first impressions of the club? Exciting, friendly, and lively

Do you follow any other team? Manchester Utd

How devotedly? When I lived in Harrow I used to watch them play away matches down south sometimes, plus a few home.

What's the most memorable game you've EVER seen? 1990 Man Utd v Crystal Palace FA Cup Replay.



And the best Wealdstone game? 1985 FA Trophy v Boston United. A wonderful, amazing, happy Wembley day out!

Favourite away Wealdstone trip? 12/02/2022 Barnet 1 - 3 Wealdstone. Lots of other brilliant away trips, but this one is up there right now. We played great. Our support was brilliant. And they deserved every last bit of it. That's the problem of living so far away - travel expenses and my health stops me from getting to a lot of games but when I do they're even more memorable!

What level of football do you prefer? Non league. I don't really bother with Premiership and all that money nonsense anymore.

How big a part of your life is the game? A large part. It always will be.

Who are the best Wealdstone players you've ever seen? Stuart Pearce and

Vinny Jones.

What do you think of the bars and catering at the Vale? They are great. The bars have been outstanding for years and the food is really good.

Do you visit the Megastore? Yes. Exceptional gear.

Have you been enjoying the season so far? Yes, except for the losses. We have the talent and ability to be a lot further up that table, but we have thrown away quite a few points. But also referees have been responsible for losing us points as well.

How did you cope with just having the live stream last season? I stayed at home in Sheffield and watched from there.

Finally, where do you hope Wealdstone FC will be in the year 2025? What are the obstacles to that? It would be nice to see us in the EFL. The obstacle is money, simple! Too many other teams with bags of it in the division making it very difficult for us to get promotion.

Part of the Stones following at Barnet





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	3,219	209	18	Okimo	1				6		9	10			24	
26 TORQUAY UNITED	VNL	1-1	0,000	TBD	19	Mundle-Smith	1	2	12	17			9	10			24	
MARCH																		
5 Eastleigh	VNL	1-4	2,615	TBD	20	Clayden	1	2	12	17			9	10			24	
8 Maidenhead United	VNL	2-0	1,209	TBD	20	Cook, Browne	1	2	12		6		9(10)	10			24	
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																
	4	18	20	34	16	21															
3	4	18	20		21	5(17)	22(3)														
3(12)	4	18	20(4)		21	5	22														
	4	18	20				22	23(5)													
	4	18	20(4)	16(22)			22														
	4	18	20(4)	16(22)			22			14											
	4	18	20	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				23	14	25											
	4	18		16(7)		5(25)			14	25	26	13(16)									
	4	18		16(25)		5	22(7)		14	25	26	21									
	4	18		16				23	14	25	26										
	4	18	20(7)	16(25)		5		23		25											
	4	18	20(23)	16(22)		5		23									22(8)				
	4	18	20(7)			5		23(6)		25							22				
	4	18	20			5		23	14	25							22(24)				
	4	18(24)	20			5		23	14	25								11(20)			
						5		23	14	25								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									11	22	7	19(11)
	4		20(9)	16(4)				23	14	25(10)								11	22	7	19
7)	4	18(22)						23(11)	14	25(11)								11	22	7	19
	4																	11	22	7	19
4)	4		20(24)	16(10)				23(17)	14									11	22	7	19
				16				23	14	25(16)								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 important win at Maidenhead United on Tuesday evening, courtesy of Jon Taffel.

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BY MARTIN READ



The World of **Ball**

Just Putin it out there: Wealdstone helped me survive the 80s Cold War

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has brought to mind the last time nuclear annihilation felt like an actual, imminent possibility. And it's made me realise that my early 80s Armageddon anxiety was all but cancelled out by the performances of our fantastic team at that time

For both Wealdstone Football Club and the Cold War, the 1980s turned out to be a game of two very different halves. The sense of momentum for each hinged on two hugely significant events that just happened to occur in the same, particularly important week during the merry month of May 1985.

I'll explain that reasoning in a bit. But first, some context for all you young'uns amongst us. The early 1980s, you see, were really rather grim. And, like many Stones fans I was out in the working world for the first time, living in growing fear of the seemingly inevitable: a nuclear holocaust and the Stones first ever relegation. (The latter did indeed transpire at the end of the 1980/81 season.)

We had entered the new decade somewhat concerned about nuclear power. In 1979, two days after Wealdstone had lost 0-4 at Nuneaton Borough in our first ever National League campaign, a major nuclear accident happened at Three Mile Island accident in America, with the enormity of what had nearly happened colouring international debate for months.

It was, however, the tension between the world's two superpowers that presaged an impending nuclear nightmare. Essentially, everyday life took place to the backdrop of a constant nagging fear about US / USSR brinkmanship and the prospect of a nuclear exchange triggered either by design or, perhaps even more worryingly, miscalculation.

The war was cold, the football hot

Looking back from today I can see a pattern that wasn't clear at the time. From 1981 onwards, every time the international tension was ratcheted up there was some fresh Wealdstone success to take the worries away. As each year took us closer to the brink of war, so Wealdstone edged closer to the brink of National League success.

In 1982 it was all about the UK's citing of American Cruise missiles on UK soil at a US base in Greenham Common. Fortunately we were too busy winning every trophy the Southern League could throw at us, winning promotion back at the first attempt, to notice much.

In 1983 the news was of a USSR early-warning radar mistakenly reporting the launch of intercontinental ballistic missiles from US bases. I mean, that took the edge off the buzz we were feeling after our 3-1 win over Altrincham the previous weekend, I can tell you.

There were peace marches, solemn warnings, a palpable sense of dread all round. And then, in November 1983, NATO's 'Able Archer' military exercises were interpreted by members of the Soviet Politburo as actual preparations for a nuclear first strike. Fortunately our minds were elsewhere, focused instead on the three match marathon against Enfield in which we eventually won 2-0 to set up an FA Cup 2nd Round tie at Colchester United.

Nuclear annihilation was an ever-present possibility. It permeated the culture and jostled with recession to paint a pretty bleak scene by comparison to the seemingly calmer hippies 'n' Summer of Love era that our parents enjoyed.

That said, the early 1980s was also a time of extraordinary music (new wave, new romantics, the new wave of British heavy metal, even. Ska, too. Er, jazz funk?), and in 1984, Frankie Goes to Hollywood scored a huge hit with 'Two Tribes'. "*When two tribes go to war, a point is all that you can score*", went the chorus. But out on the pitch, while two points were all that you could score for beating Gateshead 4-0 at Lower Mead, we were enjoying three points for our



The most important people of 1985

5-2 away win at Frickley Athletic thanks to the National League's unique points structure.

1984 also brought us *Threads*, a TV drama on BBC2 that remains the single most relentlessly depressing dramatisation of a nuclear holocaust ever broadcast. Not a single scene offered respite from the horror of its storyline in which the UK was hit by more than 200 nukes. It was meant to shock, and it certainly succeeded at that. Worst of all, *Threads* was broadcast on Wednesday 23 September 1984 - thus really taking the shine right off our 4-0 demolition of Worcester City the night before.

Often the fear of war was raised another notch whenever a Soviet leader died, which was a pretty routine occurrence back then. Leonid Brezhnev carked it just as we'd been promoted back to the National League, his successor Yuri Andropov surviving briefly to note our steady success until he shuffled off in February of the 83/84 season. Next man up, Konstantin Chernenko, would have enjoyed watching our double campaign if only he too hadn't met his maker.

Graham & Cordice: a decent perestroika

And so to 1985, which proved to be the turning point for both club and crisis. Just six days after Bowge went up to lift the Trophy Cup, recently appointed Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev - much younger than the parade of stiff who'd come before - gave an era-defining speech in Leningrad in which he publicly criticised the USSR's inefficient economic system. Rather than see him sent to the Gulag, we were all pleasantly surprised when he was singing the same song just nine months later, calling for political and economic restructuring (*'perestroika'*) and a new era of openness (*'glasnost'*).

Effectively, from that fateful week in May 1985 our fortunes reversed. Having conquered non-league's summit, Wealdstone's on and off-field performances slowly declined over the remainder of the decade. Meanwhile, in the wider world, the prospect of nuclear war receded as the Gorbachev era took hold. Chernobyl in 1986 helped focus minds on nuclear containment and was a key factor in speeding up the end of the USSR.

As the geopolitical tension slowly subsided, so the culture responded with easily the most appalling music of the decade, with the big-haired and shoulder-padded jiggling in their whitewashed jeans to Stock, Aitken, Waterman, Kylie, Jason, Bland, Bland and Bland. Fortunately, by 1989 it had got its mojo back with house music, Stone Roses, Happy Mondays, the opening up of festival culture.

By 1991 the world was, temporarily at least, a happier if perhaps still economically fragile place. We'd all enjoyed a second summer of love and seen the falling of the Berlin Wall. The future seemed bright, this time not because of imminent nuclear fireballs. Alas, for Wealdstone our own footballing world was crumbling as we said goodbye to Lower Mead and watched the club enter its own state of seemingly imminent armageddon.

Thus ends my story of how Wealdstone saw me through those dark early eighties. And so to 2022. Is this just the beginning of the end of Russia's imperialist tendency? Can Ukrainian resistance fundamentally alter the world order? Will a cornered Putin lash out indiscriminately? Will Stu and Matty see us through to a third successive season back in non-league's top flight? The weeks ahead will surely affect us all profoundly.

Random snippets irregularly posted @Wealdipedia

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tertained 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.)

MATCH	SPONSORS		
 WOKING Saturday, 21st August Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows		
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 ALTRINCHAM Saturday, 11th September Vanarama National League	Wealdstone FC Supporters Club		
 ALDERSHOT TOWN Saturday, 18th September Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows		
 SOLHULL MOORS Tuesday, 5th October Vanarama National League	Leasehold Management Services Ltd		
 EASTLEIGH Saturday, 9th October Vanarama National League	Rofe-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, 28th October Vanarama National League	ADWConnect		
 BARNET Saturday, 13th November Vanarama National League	Rofe-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

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DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE

Saturday, 30th April
Vanarama National League

The Old Gits Club

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KING'S LYNN TOWN

Saturday, 7th May
Vanarama National League

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Since the Stones left the amateur ranks in 1971 we've faced Weymouth on 44 occasions with the wins and losses almost equal. We have won 19, Weymouth 18 with seven draws.

Yet the recent newbies among the Stones fanbase will probably only have had the pleasure of seeing 'The Terras' once. That was in the first National League game last season when fans were allowed into the Vale, on December 12 when the Stones won 2-1.

The previous season, when we won the National League South and Weymouth were promoted via the play-offs, Stones won a see-saw game at Weymouth 4-3 thanks to a Ross Lafayette hat-trick, while the return game was never played as the country shut down for the Covid pandemic.

That was a game I was really looking forward to. I'd grown up accustomed to seeing the Stones face The Terras at least twice a season for dozens of years through the 70s, 80s and 90s in various Conference and Southern League divisions as our fortunes fluctuated - and then suddenly not at all in the league for 25 years!

On April 29 1995 the sides met at our then-groundshare, Yeading FC, when both our clubs were at a low ebb. In that Southern League Division One South season, Wealdstone were to finish 15th and then decide to drop out of the SL for financial reasons, taking a two-level hit and starting anew at Edgware in the Isthmian

15 years ago, heartbreak as Weymouth nick a 1-0 death... Jefferson Louis



Sucker punch: Big Jeff squeezes home winner and celebrates (left) while Lee Marcus Gross (5) and Ryan Ashe (6)



League Division three. Weymouth were on course for an underwhelming 8th-place finish and it's little surprise that only 197 were in the ground to see it... though it was a surprise when Wealdstone won 4-1 thanks to goals from the lively Steve Browne (dad of our current star Rhys), Roddy Braithwaite, Billy Hudson and Jean-Paul Brindou. And especially as goalkeeper Jon Franklin were unfit to play and our only replacement was defender Mark Hill!

The ensuing 25 years saw The Terras surge up through the leagues thanks to a sudden influx of cash... hence the reason our clubs

for Stones right at the the culprit!



the late, late Chappell (11) are in shock



Above: Despair at the final whistle for Peter Dean (foreground) and Marcus Gross, while Weymouth look simply relieved. Left: The match programme

never met again until the Ross Lafayette glory game on August Bank Holiday Monday 2019.
And yet..... there was one clash that is rarely recalled.....

Friday December 14 2007, FA Trophy First Round Proper: Wealdstone 0 Weymouth 1

THIS Friday night Trophy clash at Northwood FC's Chestnut Avenue (where we were by then groundsharing, our final stop-off before securing the lease at The Vale) gave us long-suffering Stones fans a whiff of the sort of glory we'd not tasted for decades.

Having clawed up from the Ryman Div Three to the Premier Division in the space of nine

peniless years, Gordon Bartlett was finally putting together a team capable of threatening the non-League food chain. Youngsters, loanees and a few old lags admittedly, but in that 2007-8 season his team may have remained stubbornly in the lower reaches of the league table but they had dumped Conference South sides Bishops Stortford and Welling United out of the FA Cup and FA Trophy respectively. Both times at Northwood, and both times by 1-0.

Now we were drawn against full-timers Weymouth from the Conference National. The Terras' 'Story So Far' was one of glory, glory, then financial implosion.

Under the stewardship of football journalist Ian Ridley - who got his old mate Steve

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

WE'VE PLAYED YOU BEFORE **CONTD**

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Claridge involved and doubled attendances at the Wessex Stadium - Weymouth just missed out on making the Conference. Then he resigned and new owner Martyn Harrison threw buckloads of money at the problem, winning promotion under a full-time regime.. That was in May 2006, and by the time their team bus rolled into Chestnut Avenue just before Christmas 2007 the club was haemorrhaging money and in the lower reaches of the table.

The scene seemed set for an upset. And it so nearly was. The disappointing crowd of 317 (not helped by having to play on a Friday night due to Northwood having first dibs on a Saturday 3pm kick-off; fair enough as it was their ground, or by Weymouth bringing all of a dozen fans) saw the Stones tear into their professional counterparts. James Gray's ferocious tackle in the opening minute set the tone but clear opportunities were missed by the usually clinical Peter Dean and Ryan Ashe.

Ashe missed again in the second half, kicking down the Northwood slope and with Keita Karamoko untroubled it seemed only a matter of time that the noisy crowd would be celebrating a goal.

Boss Bartlett turned the screw by introducing strikers Ben Alexander, Graeme Montgomery and Watford loanee Alex Campana off the bench... and Big Ben nearly struck in the dying moments with two efforts charged down by the frantically-defending Terras.

We were all checking our diaries. We were resigned to Weymouth on a Tuesday night - not the easiest place to be - and then even that was dashed in injury time when Weymouth mounted one of their very few attacks. The ball was played into the left-hand channel and striker Jefferson Louis (a name that seems somehow familiar) held off the challenge of James Gray to lift the ball into the roof of the net... to dumbstruck silence.



Surely this time... Ryan Ashe pulls his shot across the face of goal



Nor this time... Peter Dean is denied by the overworked Weymouth keeper Jason Matthews



Nice touch: Wealdstone players applaud the memory of ex-Stones keeper Ray Goddard, who had died at the age of just 59. From left: Andre Delliser, Marcus Gross, Carl Martin, Ryan Ashe, Chris O'Leary, Lee Chappell, Jon Nichols, Stephen Hughes, Keita Karamoko, James Gray, Peter Dean

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IT'S A RECORD!

The vital facts on recent Stones matches...

v Solihull Moors at The ARMCO Arena VNL Matchday 28

THE WHERE & THE WHAT

v Torquay United at the Vale. VNL Matchday 29

Tuesday 22nd February 2022, 7.45 pm. Cold, dry evening on The Moors magnificent playing surface

DATE AND CONDITIONS

Saturday 26th February 2022, 3 pm. Cool and wet afternoon at an empty Vale due to fence safety work

3,219 (209 away fans)

ATTENDANCE

No spectators

SOLIHULL MOORS: Book, Clarke, Storer, Gudger, Sbarra (Barnett 80), Maycock, Boyes, Malcolm (Maynard 45), Dallas (Hudlin 89), Ellis, Newton.

TEAMS

WEALDSTONE: Wickens, Sesay (Mundle-Smith 56), Tavares, McAvoy, Cook, Claydon, Henry (Dyer 85), Charles, Ferguson (Cooper 77), Umerah, Browne. **TORQUAY:** MacDonald, Duke-McKenna, Wynter, Lewis, Moxey, Wearne, Johnson (Felix 75), Lapslie, Little, Lemonheigh-Evans, Wright (Lolos 67, O'Connell 67).

WEALDSTONE: Wickens, McAvoy, Okimo (c), Mundle-Smith, Sesay (Mascoil 82), Charles (Jackson 76), Henry, Ferguson, Clayden, Browne, Umerah (Elito 86)

SOLIHULL 2

STONES 1

RESULT

STONES 1

TORQUAY 1

Dallas 18, Maynard 80

Okimo 28

Mundle-Smith 72

Wynter 81

POSSESSION

Solihull Moors 52% Stones 48%

MATCH STATS

POSSESSION

Stones 45% Torquay 55%

SHOTS ON TARGET Solihull 6 Stones 4

SHOTS OFF TARGET Solihull 3 Stones 3

CORNERS Solihull 5 Stones 4

SHOTS ON TARGET Stones 1 Gulls 4

OFF TARGET Stones 3 Gulls 3

CORNERS Stones 3 Gulls 4

"Frustrated that we didn't get what we deserved but I'm incredibly pleased with the performance.

Within the game we were so good, got into unbelievable position but were not clinical enough at those key moments. We are a young squad and that will come with experience." - **Matt Saunders, Wealdstone assistant manager**

STONES VIEW

Matt Saunders: "It's another good performance and a good point towards our target. I thought they edged the first half but then I thought we came out second half and took control of the game. It was disappointing to concede but we're evolving as a side and it's very exciting to watch it unfold"

SOCIAL MEDIA

However ugly the win may have been, it was still done the hard way with only 10 men for the last quarter against and accomplished Stones side who will no doubt feel a point would have been a fairer result on overall balance of play - **Moors Forum**

I was pleased with the overall performance until they went down to 10 men and I knew it would change. It always does. Solihull's 10 men played like demons, especially their number 24. He became like a man possessed and took on all our team and came close to scoring, a beast. - **BillyByrnefan Stonesnet forum**

"We may on balance had the better of the first half and the odd flash in the second but the majority of the second 45 was Wealdstone's. Their forward line was more inept than ours - that's why they didn't bang in four." **Torquay forum**

"A case of the overall performance not being great. However, the vitals are that Wickens wasn't really called into action bar routine stuff. We actually created a couple of really decent chances in the second half too. With a little more composure at the end we could have nicked a game that we were never really in control of." - **Stones fans' forum**

WEALDSTONE 2021-22

v Eastleigh at the Silverlake Stadium, National Lge Matchday 30

THE WHERE & THE WHAT

v Maidenhead at York Road, Vana-rama National Lge Matchday 31

Saturday 5th March 2022, 3pm.
Cool and breezy afternoon (7 deg)

DATE AND CONDITIONS

Tuesday 8th March 2022, 7.45pm.
Chilly evening on a okay surface (8 deg)

2,615 (190 away fans)

ATTENDANCE

1,209 (approx 320 away fans)

WEALDSTONE. Wickens, Sesay, Tavares (Mundle-Smith 46), McAvoy, Cook, Clayden, Henry (Dyer 85), Charles (Cooper 65), Ferguson, Umerah, Browne (Jackson 68)
EASTLEIGH: McDonnell, Camp, Boyce, Broadbent, Kelly, Miley (Silva 72), Pritchard, Holland, Hesketh, Hill (Pitman 79), Whitehall (Barnett 72)

TEAMS

MAIDENHEAD: Palmer, Parry, Donnellan, Massey., Ferdinand, Sparkes (Smith 45), Beckwith, Sheckleford, Blissett (Acqua 69), Upward, Kelly (McCoulsky 79)
WEALDSTONE: Wickens, McAvoy, Cook, Okimo, Mundle-Smith, Cooper (Elito 67), Clayden, Henry, Ferguson, Browne (Umerah 85), Jackson (Mascoll 82)

EASTLEIGH 4 **STONES 1**
Whitehall 9, Hill 52 Clayden 58
Broadbent 63, Hollands 66

RESULT

MAIDENHEAD 0 **STONES 2**
Cook 64
Browne 75

POSSESSION

Eastleigh 49% Wealdstone 51%
SHOTS ON TARGET Stones 2 Spitfires 8
OFF TARGET Stones 6 Spitfires 5
CORNERS Stones 1 Spitfires 6

MATCH STATS

POSSESSION
Magpies 49% Stones 51%
SHOTS ON TARGET Magpies 1 Stones 4
OFF TARGET Magpies 5 Stones 4
CORNERS Magpies 4 Stones 4

"Eastleigh were way better than us all over the pitch from first to last. We weren't really at the races today and came up short. The lads are devastated to put in a performance like that. The referee had a poor game, but we were worse! - **Stuart Maynard, Wealdstone manager**

STONES VIEW

Bouncebackability! Stones cut out the defensive mistakes and needless passing, showed grit and tenacity and ended up playing some great football in the Magpies' half to fully deserve the win. Charlie Clayden and Aaron Henry were again the key men, Henry's freekick landing perfectly for Jack Cook's far post volley - and then great work from sub Medy Elito saw him kick the ball on the edge of the box and enable Rhys Brown to drift past two tackles and hit top bins! Stones moved up to 16th in the National League table and the fans partied.

Wealdstone were decent coming forward, their goal was great play from their winger (although defensively we will ask questions), but defensively they looked dodgy, their keeper didn't have the best of days either. The ref was IMO terrible again, it was NEVER a free-kick for our first goal, even if it was a great finish by Whitehall, and that was one of several poor decisions, that affected both sides.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- **Eastleigh fans' forum**
DREADFUL display, made an average side look world beaters. Hate the tactics, thought we had moved away from that style which does not suit, especially against a high pressing side. Seemed today was a backward step to previous games. Had several chances to score, but all wasted. Clayden's goal was the one piece of class action. Very bad day at the office" - **John Young, Stones fans' forum**

We were matching them for hoofball tactics, Maidenhead still adopting a Land Of The Giants line up who tended to win most head-tennis battles - but we did close the opposition down quicker and battled for every ball. Half time nerves were settled for both sets of fans by the news that Weymouth were losing heavily, and Murdo (a Maidenhead fan) quipped to us as we changed ends that we can all relax and treat the rest of the game as a pre-season friendly - **Deadly Doug, Stonesnet forum**



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MATCH	BALL DONORS	
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 SOUTHEND UNITED Monday, 30th August Vanarama National League	Nick Woolford	
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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



FC HALIFAX TOWN

Saturday, 11th December
Vanarama National League

Tony and Peter Drew



DOVER ATHLETIC

Saturday, 15th January
Vanarama National League

Barbara Robson



NOTTS COUNTY

Tuesday, 25th January
Vanarama National League

Tony Platt

Steve Carter

Sienna Tilbury &
Rhys Williams-Evans



YEOVIL TOWN

Tuesday, 8th February
Vanarama National League

David Leach

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MAIDENHEAD UNITED

Tuesday, 15th February
Vanarama National League

In memory of Roy Couch

Mike Pullin &
Graham Clark



WREXHAM

Saturday, 19th February
Vanarama National League

In memory of Jim Klarfeld

Graham Clark &
Mike Pullin



TORQUAY UNITED

Saturday, 26th February
Vanarama National League

Alan Couch



WEYMOUTH

Saturday, 12th March
Vanarama National League

Mike & Val
Weston

Toby Jackson
Lapels Badges

Jayden
Garthwaite

Councillor Douglas Mills
& Councillor Sue O'Brien



BROMLEY

Saturday, 26th March
Vanarama National League

Alan Couch

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CHESTERFIELD

Saturday, 9th April
Vanarama National League

Mick Fishman

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BOREHAM WOOD

Monday, 18th April
Vanarama National League

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

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DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE

Saturday, 30th April
Vanarama National League

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KING'S LYNN TOWN

Saturday, 7th May
Vanarama National League

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KEY

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



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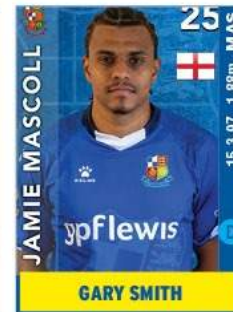
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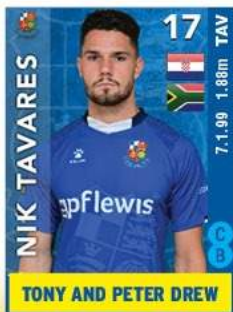
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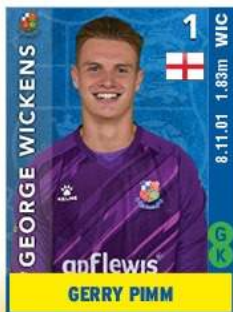
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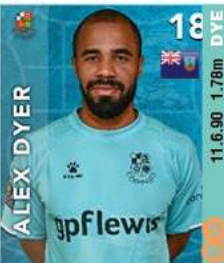
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WEALDSTONE 2021-22

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

STOCKPORT COUNTY (A)

www.stockportcounty.com @StockportCounty Vanarama National League



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



BROMLEY (H)

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**Saturday
2nd April
3:00pm**

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**Tuesday
5th April
7:45pm**



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Vanarama National League

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**Saturday
9th April
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**Friday
15th April
3:00pm**

SOUTHEND UNITED (A)

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**Monday
18th April
3:00pm**



BOREHAM WOOD (H)

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Vanarama National League 2021/2022 – @8th March 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	31	21	4	6	62	27	15	9	3	3	27	13	16	12	1	3	35	14	35	67	1-4
2 Chesterfield	32	17	11	4	58	32	17	9	6	2	31	19	15	8	5	2	27	13	26	62	0-2
3 Wrexham	31	18	7	6	56	30	14	8	5	1	20	9	17	10	2	5	36	21	26	61	1-2 0-0
4 Halifax Town	29	17	6	6	45	22	13	10	0	3	24	8	16	7	6	3	21	14	23	57	0-1
5 Boreham Wood	28	16	8	4	39	21	15	10	5	0	23	6	13	6	3	4	16	15	18	56	0-1
6 Solihull Moors	31	15	10	6	52	32	17	9	5	3	35	18	14	6	5	3	17	14	20	55	0-0 1-2
7 Notts County	31	15	9	7	57	37	16	10	4	2	34	19	15	5	5	5	23	18	20	54	0-0 2-3
8 Grimsby Town	31	16	4	11	46	31	16	11	2	3	29	11	15	5	2	8	17	20	15	52	1-0 1-2
9 Bromley	29	15	7	7	45	33	15	10	2	3	28	15	14	5	5	4	17	18	12	52	2-3
10 Dagenham & Redbridge	31	15	4	12	56	41	16	8	3	5	34	23	15	7	1	7	22	18	15	49	2-2
11 Torquay United	31	12	8	11	45	44	16	7	4	5	24	21	15	5	4	6	21	23	1	44	1-1 0-5
12 Southend United	31	12	8	11	35	41	14	7	3	4	20	18	17	5	5	7	15	23	-6	44	0-0
13 Yeovil Town	31	10	9	12	28	33	15	4	5	6	12	17	16	6	4	6	16	16	-5	39	2-1
14 Altrincham	32	10	7	15	48	54	15	6	2	7	27	22	17	4	5	8	21	32	-6	37	1-0
15 Eastleigh	31	10	7	14	33	44	16	8	5	3	26	19	15	2	2	11	7	25	-11	37	1-2 1-4
16 Wealdstone	31	9	8	14	33	46	15	5	5	14	16	16	16	4	3	9	19	30	-13	35	-- --
17 Barnet	31	9	8	14	40	56	15	5	4	6	20	27	16	4	4	8	20	29	-16	35	1-0 3-1
18 Maidenhead United	31	9	8	14	35	54	17	7	4	6	25	29	14	2	4	8	10	25	-19	35	2-0
19 Woking	32	10	4	18	43	48	15	5	0	10	20	26	17	5	4	8	23	22	-5	34	1-2 0-2
20 Aldershot Town	31	8	7	16	33	50	16	2	5	9	13	28	15	6	2	7	20	22	-17	31	2-2
21 Weymouth	32	5	7	20	30	61	17	3	5	9	17	26	15	2	2	11	13	35	-31	22	1-1
22 King's Lynn Town	31	4	6	21	27	59	15	2	2	11	12	26	16	2	4	10	15	33	-32	18	1-0
23 Dover Athletic	31	1	5	25	22	72	15	1	2	12	10	27	16	0	3	13	12	45	-50	-4	2-1 3-2



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WEALDSTONE

Royal Blue/White/White



WEYMOUTH

Yellow/Black/Yellow

G George WICKENS 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Ross FITZSIMONS G
Jack COOK 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 Alexander McBURNIE
Dan WISHART 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	5 Ben MORGAN
Ashley CHARLES 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	6 Tyler CORDNER
Jerome OKIMO © 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	7 Brandon GOODSHIP
Nathan FERGUSON 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	8 Omar MUSSA
Matt BUSE 8	<input type="checkbox"/>	9 Ben THOMSON
Josh UMERAH 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	10 Josh McQUOID
Rhys BROWNE 10	<input type="checkbox"/>	11 Brad ASH
David SESAY 11	<input type="checkbox"/>	12 Haji MNOGA
Andy ELEFThERIOU 12	<input type="checkbox"/>	14 Tom BEARWISH
G Alfie MARIGLIANI 13	<input type="checkbox"/>	15 Josh LESLIE-SMITH
Connor MCAVOY 14	<input type="checkbox"/>	16 Andy ROBINSON
ELIJAH HEARN 15	<input type="checkbox"/>	17 Aaron DREWE
Ira JACKSON Jr 16	<input type="checkbox"/>	18 Manasse MAMPALA
Nikola TAVARES 17	<input type="checkbox"/>	19 Martell TAYLOR-CROSSDALE
Alex DYER 18	<input type="checkbox"/>	20 Tom BLAIR
Charles CLAYDEN 19	<input type="checkbox"/>	21 Harvey BUNKER
Medy ELITO 20	<input type="checkbox"/>	22 Daniel NIELD
Aaron HENRY 22	<input type="checkbox"/>	23 Cam MURRAY
Jaydn MUNDLE-SMITH 23	<input type="checkbox"/>	25 Harrison BRUTON G
Charlie COOPER 24	<input type="checkbox"/>	26 Ollie HARFIELD
Jamie MASCOLL 25	<input type="checkbox"/>	27 Ahkeem ROSE
	<input type="checkbox"/>	28 Dan SMITH
	<input type="checkbox"/>	30 Taofiq OLOMOWEWE
	<input type="checkbox"/>	31 Tommy SCOTT G

RESULT: WEALDSTONE



WEYMOUTH

REFEREE Sunny Gill **ASSISTANTS** Scott Chalkley and Andrew Gray **FOURTH OFFICIAL** Luke Scott
OBSERVER David Crick **COACH** Stephen Dunn

NEXT AT THE VALE Bromley (Vanarama National League) Saturday March 26, KO 3pm **AND THEN...** Maidenhead Utd (Vanarama National League) Tuesday April 5, KO 7.45pm

Main club sponsor:

gp flewis ^{plc}



COOKIE MONSTER

Jack Cook is rather pleased with his goal in Tuesday night's win at Maidenhead... and Rhys Brown (No.10) was about to add a second one!

PICTURE: JON TAFFEL

INSIDE
BOB ILES
 STONES AND CHELSEA HERO OF THE 80s