

WEALDSTONE

versus
MAIDENHEAD

versus
CHESTERFIELD

TUES APRIL 5 2022,
7.45PM

SATURDAY APRIL 9 2022,
KICK-OFF 3PM



SUPERSUB! Josh Umerah bundles in the Stones' late and deserved leveller against Bromley in our last home game **Picture: JON TAFFEL**

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BY MARK HYDE



WEALDSTONE 2021-22

Written in Stone

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MASCOTS

**XANDER RYAN &
JOHN O'SULLIVAN**

Xander Ryan and John O'Sullivan are our mascots for the Chesterfield game.

Both boys are aged 8, season ticket holders and passionate Stones fans who follow the team home and away. The boys are sons of two Stones stalwarts - Paul Ryan and Barry O'Sullivan - and have graced the terraces at The Vale from a very young age.

Xander will be attending his 136th Stones game today, his first being away at Carshalton in March 2014 when he was just 3 months old. John's first game was against St Albans in December 2014 aged just 13 months old. Here are both boys with Stones keeper George Wickens at a recent training session.

Enjoy your day boys!



WELCOME

OLIVER MARLOW

Please welcome one of our newest supporters 8 year old Oliver Marlow.

Oliver suffers from Autism and Despraxia. He supports Wealdstone, QPR and Watford.

Wealdstone has got Oliver back into loving football and going to watch games again and his favourite player is the very popular George Wickens.

Oliver attends Wealdstone games with his dad Steve who also coaches Oliver at Chorleywood FC where he plays as a striker and is currently their top goalscorer with 16 for the season so far.



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WEALDSTONE

FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2021/2022

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GROUND REGULATIONS

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

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

- Entering the ground through any means other than through the turnstiles or entrances
 - Entering the field of play before, during or after a game without prior authorisation
 - Being drunk, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs • Using violence of any nature
 - Carrying items which may be considered a danger to others, including cans, bottles, or glasses containing alcoholic beverages
 - Throwing any article onto the field of play • Climbing floodlight pylons, fences, stands or any structure or building
 - Using obscene or bad language likely to cause offence to others • Hitting the side or back panels of the Bulla stand
- 2) No spectator ball games.

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

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

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

6) No Smoking or Vaping inside the ground.

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MAJOR HONOURS SINCE 1950

LEAGUE TITLES

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

NATIONAL CUPS

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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Football Club is Wealdstone
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BY MARTIN LACEY

The Elmslie Ender

'Getting your children interested in watching Wealdstone is not as easy as some seem to find it'



Grandad, will you take me to St Albans next week?

F*@\$
o**!

Martin pictured with his grandson at The Vale this season. The first of many trips? We shall see...

Many of you will have been introduced to football by a parent or older relative and I know for a fact there will be fourth- or fifth-generation Stones fans reading this. I'm not one of them. You see, I come from the world's least sporting family. I don't think I ever saw my older brother so much as kick a ball and - I don't want to make out I had a deprived childhood or anything - my father, in all his years, never once took me to a football match or came to watch me play.

My mother, on the other hand, was obliged to watch me play, occasionally, though only because she was the family's dedicated driver. Given half a

chance she'd spend the match with her head buried in a book, or knitting, though I knew she was watching once, because after a successful penalty shootout in an early round of the Daily Mail Junior 5-a-side championship (I was a goalkeeper) she commented loudly within earshot of our opponents' parents that it was most unsporting of them to kick the ball at me that many times, though it was nice of that other boy to take turns.

As a parent myself I have been determined not to make the same mistakes and have done my best, with limited success, to indoctrinate my

own offspring in the One True Faith.

My oldest daughter came to Lower Mead before her first birthday. Indeed, she was enrolled in the Junior Stones at the age of one day, and held the record for being the youngest ever member of the Junior Stones until Sudhir (yes, that Sudhir, my one-time literary *Eimslie Ender* colleague, the one who's supposed to be writing this column but is, allegedly, in India according to his copious Facebook messages)... until Sudhir somehow managed to register his first child, Akhil, in the Junior Stones when he was about one minute old.

This was a record I was actually prepared to give up in good grace because I understand that to qualify he had to invite the entire Supporters Club committee into the delivery room, which I think is, frankly, undignified.

And, while I think of it - Oil Sudhir! What would happen if the rest of the team went swanning off on holiday in the football season? There'd be no programme, would there? Who do you think you are, Jonathan North? Sorry, just had to get that off my chest...

My second daughter made her debut during the Watford groundshare years, and, I recall, amused herself by pulling chewing gum off the terraces. I don't think she ate it, but I can't be sure; I was watching the match, obviously. Sometimes we would sit in the otherwise deserted main stand, where the girls would find entertainment running up and down the rows of empty tip-up seats putting them all in the 'down' position (they weren't on springs).

Much later I wondered if Watford sent Wealdstone a bill for a couple of thousand pounds after each match for putting them back up. If so, I apologise.

As for my youngest, I don't recall his first match, but I can date his first - chip off the old block - pitch invasion, at Northwood on May 3 1997, the day we won the Isthmian League Division 3 title. (Note to Chesterfield fans here today: when you eventually win promotion from the National League, possibly many years from now, although you will recognise it as only the first step on the route back to your rightful place it won't make the achievement any less sweet. Isthmian League Division 3 was our equivalent.)

There is actually video of this event, which has been labelled the most sedate pitch invasion ever. I just wasn't going to let a push-chair stop me joining in the festivities so I lifted



Martin's daughters Alice (left) and Cella (right) are pictured at Weymouth in April 1994 when they were Stones mascots for the day. What a thrill!

it over the fence and off we went.

I look like someone who's got lost on a walk in the park next door and been startled to find a football match taking place. Come to think of it, I reckon my son was mentally scarred by the experience as he hasn't taken part in a pitch invasion since, not that there have been many occasions in our recent history that justified such behaviour. He has in his possession the ball - subsequently autographed - used in the penalty shootout at Dulwich in 2004, for the simple reason that a kindly Dulwich official decided it belonged by rights to a Wealdstone supporter and he was the only Wealdstone supporter who wasn't on the pitch.

So where has this attempted brainwashing got us? My son attends one or two games a season, usually when I bribe him with the offer of a pre-match curry. Oldest daughter lives half way round the world (though does admit she gets Wealdstone goal alerts on her phone) and middle daughter is, shall we say, indifferent. She has, however, provided me with the blessing of a grandson to work on. This is an especially pressing and personal crusade because they live in St Albans and there is the ever-present danger that he will be lured to the dark side (of Clarence Park).

And it's so far, so good. He's only been to one Wealdstone match, but when his nursery held a celebration of St Albans City's cup run (2nd round? Call that a cup run?) he insisted on attending in his Wealdstone hat and not taking it off all day. There's hope yet.

BY TIM PARKS



THE STONES INTERVIEW

Aaron Henry

Stones' on-loan Charlton midfielder is not lacking in confidence..or in ability

When you watch Aaron Henry, when you talk to Aaron Henry and when you analyse the technical ability of Aaron Henry there can be no doubt.

He's in Jude Bellingham's class when it comes to supremely confident 18 year-olds.

That might seem an unlikely comparison when you hear the plaudits for the Borussia Dortmund and England youngster, but it's surely only a matter of time before Aaron - not 19 until August - makes the breakthrough he craves at Charlton, his parent club.

This spell on loan at the Stones is only cementing his reputation. The only surprise is that the League One club have not made him a mainstay of their midfield.

"To be honest, I've been disappointed not to have made a league start and this summer will be really important for me - have a good pre-season and hopefully I'll be figuring in their plans. Or another maybe another loan as high up the leagues as possible" said the teenager.

He made his Charlton debut over two years ago when just 16, in a 1-0 FA Cup defeat to West Brom at the Valley. He was the third-youngest-ever player to start a game for the Addicks... behind Jonjo Shelvey and Paul Konchesky, who have both gone on to play for England.

"I came off after an hour and was physically shattered - I don't think I appreciated how tough



25-YARD STUNNER

Aaron's goal that silenced an 8,000 Stockport crowd last month... pure technique!



men's football is. That's why this loan spell is so good for me.... Under-23s football is good but it's not the challenge I needed."

Aaron has featured in six games for the CAFC first team, mainly on the bench but his progress was blunted last summer by contracting Covid.

"I only had to isolate for ten days and it wasn't serious, but it affected my breathing at that crucial time in pre-season. It probably affected me for a couple of months."

WALDSTONE 2021-22



Aaron on the ball in the Bromley home game and (below) celebrating his Stockport goal with Charlie Clayden



For some entertaining info on the young Aaron Henry, I'd recommend watching (on YouTube) **Academy Football Life: The Great Big Chinwag Podcast #6 by Ethan Gilsean** which is a 40-minute insight into academy football life. Aaron's schoolfriend Ethan (since the age of 4) opens up a whole package of memories including playing against Jude Bellingham and Harvey Elliott, debating haircuts and getting up at 6am every morning to travel on the ferry from Tilbury to Gravesend, and then on to the Charlton training ground. Great stuff!



But Aaron's whipped delivery....



...flies in at the near post!

Aaron was outstanding in a few games for the Addicks as his performance levels returned - and that was when his agent was contacted for the Stones loan.

"I've loved being here, and me and Charlie (Clayden) had a great start with the two wins over Yeovil and Barnet. Barnet especially! The atmosphere was amazing, the Stones fans outshining the home crowd and it went to a whole new level. That game, and the ones at Solihull and Stockport were my favourites so far - we played really well

and dominated some very good teams".

That free kick at Stockport was definitely memorable - is that the best goal you've ever scored? I asked him.

"It was great to see that fly in but no... I've scored twice at Swansea in under-18s and under -23s games, one with an angled volley and one from the halfway line, and another against Man Utd in the under-23 from just inside their half.

"I tried it at Stockport and at Maidenhead but it

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

THE STONES INTERVIEW CONTINUED

didn't quite come off".

"So are dead balls something you spend hours practising?" I asked him. "I spend as long as I possibly can, as long as the Charlton coaches let me!" laughs Aaron.

He had a lightbulb moment two years ago when he realised that he was technically gifted.

"I recognised that being good at free kicks and corners was a real threat, and an area in which I could excel, so from the moment I went full time at 16 as a scholar I've been working to perfect that ability".

I asked if he has players he looks up to in that respect.

"Well David Beckham is an obvious one and I loved watching Steven Gerrard - especially when he played a deeper role later in his career - but James Ward-Prowse is probably the most similar to me. He's taken the game to a whole new level with his delivery from dead balls. That's what I've got to aspire to".

Aaron scored seven free kicks for Charlton in his first year as a scholar, and it's no surprise that he's now entrusted to be the Stones free kick specialist.

"That first week I came to Wealdstone we didn't have a game, so we had an in-house match and the gaffer quickly made it clear that he wanted to use my ability whenever possible. That was great to think I had his trust, especially with people like Coops (Charlie Cooper) in the squad. Obviously I can't take every single corner, every free kick but I'll do my best to keep progressing".

Those who wandered down to Grosvenor Vale last Tuesday to watch Aaron play for the Charlton under-23s against QPR will bear testament to that - he was the pick of the away side and provided a trademark defence-splitting pass to help rangy striker Miles Leaburn (son of ex-Addick Carl Leaburn) to the



Stones fans favourite: Aaron celebrates with the supporters at Barnet and after Bromley (below)

first goal of his hat trick in the 3-0 win.

Aaron lives in Thurrock, close to the Thames in Essex and has been set on a football career from the age of five when he was first scouted by Arsenal. That put Aaron in dreamland, being a childhood Gunners fan, but it ended in disappointment through a mix-up.

"My birthday is on the last day of August, just before midnight, which makes me the youngest in any year group" he said.

"I was doing well at Arsenal as a striker, scoring lots of goals but when it came to me signing forms they had reached their maximum quota in that year group.. they thought I

was older.

"So I was released, and quickly picked up by Charlton. And on my first day at training the centre-forward told me to play in defence! But I ended up playing in midfield so he probably did me a favour"

The job of ferrying the nine-year-old to training and matches fell to dad Gary and mum Kim - quite literally for a while as his mum often dropped him at the nearby Tilbury ferry to make the short river crossing to Gravesend.

"They've been brilliant - my dad played locally semi-pro for Concord Rangers, Tilbury and Aveley and they come to watch me now... they were at the Barnet game and even at Stockport last week!"

And how proud must they have been when Aaron was picked for the England under-16s

three years ago alongside Dortmund's Mr Bellingham.

"I was at the training camp for three days and then played a tournament in Turkey. My parents flew out to watch me play against Russian, Moldova, Turkey and Albania, coming second in our group, but we won the 3rd/4th place play-off.

"My dad said 'Shout out the anthem, loud and proud' so I did!"



22

AARON HENRY

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FAN IN THE STAND RAJ DARBAR

'I grew up in Harrow and had watched Chelsea for 10 years... but, weirdly, it all got a bit boring'

Your name and age? Hey, I'm Raj and I'm 29, this all sounds a bit Take Me Out/Blind Date doesn't it...

Whereabouts do you live, Raj? I moved to Kilburn last year and it's been great except the longer commute to the Vale. However, I've spent most of my life in Harrow, growing up in North Harrow.

Where do you work? I'm a product manager at Meta (social media).

When was your first Stones game? I believe it was a pre season friendly right at the end of GB's tenure, against Watford U-21s in 2017. To be honest, nothing stands out from the game. It was a game played at pre season tempo in the sun. That said it was enough to convince me to get a season ticket for Bobby Wilkinson's first season.

What were your first impressions of the club? I was unsure of what to expect, there'd been a massive gulf of football that I hadn't experienced between premier league and park level Saturday football. It was being so close to the pitch and the relationship between the team and the fans that really stuck with me.

What's your first footballing memory? France '98 - I recall having the World Cup ball and

my sister having a France 98 jumper. I'm believe I can remember watching the France-Brazil final but for some reason can't recall watching the England-Argentina game. Although I was only five so I'm unsure how much of the final I actually 'remember'.

Do you follow any other team? I follow England and get myself to most home games and a few aways / major tournaments. For me, country wins the club vs country debate every time. I don't think there's anything in football that compares to a Euros/World Cup tournament.

What's the most memorable game you've EVER seen? There's been a fair few to choose from, I've been fortunate enough to have been to a fair few international stadiums, some big champions league nights and of course some big games following Wealdstone. One that was recent but will be hard to forget will be beating Germany in the recent Euros. From going in with very little expectation and then winning it at an absolutely rocking Wembley.

And the best Wealdstone game? And the best away day you've experienced so far? Bath to both of these! Beating Bath 7-0 at home was remarkable



and some of the best football I've seen us play, but the best Wealdstone game overall has to be Bath away in the playoffs in May 2019. There was so much excitement going into the playoffs from the way we qualified, we travelled in numbers on a weekday under short notice and the game lived up to the occasion with a 3-1 win, a red card, Northy's terrible injury... and who can forget Pratty's late goal to seal the place in the semis.

As a relative 'newbie' to the club, what chiefly attracted



Raj leads the Stones Mass Kings Lynn earlier this sea



you to the Vale? I'd been going to Chelsea for over 10 years and started to feel disconnected from the club, weirdly enough it started to get a bit boring. There was also the cost following Chelsea home and away which adds up quite quickly. It was also becoming regular to see clubs lower down in the football leagues or non-league starting to fold and that's where I thought my money could be better spent following a non-league team (and I'd probably enjoy it more). That team could only have been

Wealdstone as it was always going to be a club that was close to where I grew up - and I recall conversations with my uncle Mahavir who would talk about going to Lower Mead occasionally.

What level of football do you prefer?

This is a tough one, on one hand the quality in the premier league is unbeatable however being a defender I do miss some of the more 'traditional' tackles that have been phased out of the top tiers. Let's not get started on how poorly VAR has been implemented by the FA or the super league debacle... I'd quite happily miss all the Prem football and watch Wealdstone.

It's always interesting to see people shocked by the quality of national league football, it feels like there's this perception from premier league fans that national league football is Sunday league standard.

How big a part of your life is the game? Huge but I think that's the case for a lot of people up and down the country. The last few years have been challenging for all and something as simple as going to the football with some friends can be such a great release every weekend. Most of my Saturdays are busy

following Wealdstone and I still try and play a couple of times in the week for works teams - when I was at Betway we played our games at the West Ham Ladies training ground, right next to the Hammers' men's training ground

How do you fit

watching football in with your family/working life?

Well Saturday 3pm kick offs allow you to plan around the football which definitely makes it easier to balance. It can be a challenge getting to the midweek games with work so I do unfortunately miss some of these.

It's definitely difficult explaining the 'need' to go to every game to someone who doesn't have the same affiliation. I remember trying (and failing) to explain to the girlfriend, why it was so vital I watched a live stream at 3pm on a sunny Saturday in a season that was likely to be null and void.

The stream served a good purpose during lockdown however nothing beats being back at grounds. Football draws fans because it's exciting and regardless of the quality of the production it's always more exciting when you're there in person around other fans.

Who are the best Stones players you've ever seen?

The first name that springs to mind is Abo Eisa. his goal where he picks the ball up just outside our 18, breezes past about four players and finishes from about 25 yards out.

Do you think Stones can aspire to playing in the EFL?

Where do you think the future of the club lies? This is obviously exciting times for the club, we're playing Notts County, Wrexham, Southend etc etc. Without sounding too much like a manager top of the league... we've got to focus on the next few seasons as they come. Let's focus on establishing ourselves at this level, it'll only get harder as more money starts to filter into the league, after all this league could easily be called 'League 3' with the number of pro clubs in it.

If we want to compete we need to create a plan to become full time. Let's not poke the elephant in the room around the ground...



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WEALDSTONE 2021-22



Fan Zone

The Wealdstone FC Supporters Club are delighted to have been accepted as Associate members of the Football Supporters' Association. The FSA is the national, democratic, representative body for football supporters in England and Wales. They are the leading advocates for supporter ownership, better fan engagement, cheaper ticket prices, the choice to stand at the match, protecting fan rights, good governance, diversity, and all types of supporter empowerment. The breadth of work is huge and difficult to sum up in a paragraph or two. As the national organisation we have regular contact with the Premier League, the EFL, National League, and the FA, as well as a whole host of other organisations within football such as the Professional Footballers' Association.

'Football is for all and we work closely with

organisations such as Kick It Out and Level Playing Field to ensure that core belief is happening in the real world. As secretariat to the All Party Parliamentary Football Supporters Group we have strengthened the voice of fans within Parliament in recent years.

FSA Mission statement:

We are an inclusive, independent, democratic organisation working with supporters, governing bodies, leagues and clubs to drive positive change in football through supporter engagement at every level of the game.

We nurture and develop supporter networks at local, national and international levels, working with supporters' trusts, clubs and individuals to initiate and support campaigns on issues of concern to football supporters, encouraging good governance, supporter representation on club boards, community-ownership and sustainable stewardship of football clubs.

A commitment to diversity underpins all of our activity and we oppose all forms of discrimination or violence in relation to football.

Many years ago, the Supporters Club was a member of the National Federation of Football Supporters' Clubs and the Executive Committee looks forward to this new partnership with the successor organisation.

FSA
FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION

Certificate of Membership

This is to certify that **Wealdstone FC Supporters Club**
is an Associate member of the FSA.

FSA mission statement:

- Promote goodwill between supporters and protect the interests of FSA members.
- Provide a democratic and independent voice for fans and supporter-led campaigns.
- Encourage supporter engagement and promote the benefits of community-owned clubs.
- Oppose all forms of discrimination and violence.

Helen Clarke
Chair

3rd February 2022

John McE...
Chief executive



Opposition in focus

MAIDENHEAD UNITED

THE MAGPIES

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

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

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



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

Spartans and Corinthians

After

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

There was immediate success in the first season

of structured league football as

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



WEALDSTONE 2021-22



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

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

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

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

Athenians and Isthmians

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

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

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

WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v MAIDENHEAD UNITED

P 53 W 15 D 9 L 29 F 66 A 111

Opposition in focus

WHO'S WHO?



1. RHYS LOVETT - GOALKEEPER

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

3. GEORGE WELLS - DEFENCE

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

4. WILL DE HAVILLAND - DEFENCE

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

5. MANNY PARRY - MIDFIELD

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

6. REMY CLERIMA - DEFENCE

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

7. DYLAN ASONGANYI - FORWARD

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

8. SHAUN DONNELLAN - MIDFIELD

Born: 16/01/96 Combative holding midfielder signed

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

9. NATHAN BLISSETT- FORWARD

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

10. KANE FERDINAND - MIDFIELD

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

11. DAN SPARKES - MIDFIELD

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

12. BRAD KEETCH - GOALKEEPER

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

14. ANDRE BURLEY - DEFENDER

15. SAM BECKWITH - MIDFIELD

WEALDSTONE 2021-22

16. RYHEEM

SHECKLEFORD - MIDFIELD

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

17. REECE SMITH - MIDFIELD

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

18. EMILE ACQUAH - FORWARD

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

19. RYAN UPWARD - MIDFIELD

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

21. JAY MINGI - MIDFIELD

22. JOSH KELLY- FORWARD

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

in March 2019.

24. ALAN MASSEY ©- DEFENCE

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

25. SAM BARRATT - FORWARD

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

26. JAMES HOLDEN - GOALKEEPER

27. CHARLEE ADAMS - MIDFIELD

28. JOSH SMILE - MIDFIELD

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

MANAGER - ALAN DEVONSHIRE

ASSISTANT MANAGER- RYAN PETERS

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(and plentiful!). My wife is Polish so conversations about away games tend to follow this pattern: Her: "where is the match this week?" Me: "Altrincham" [or similar] Short pause. Her: "Where is that actually...." Before we were married she also made the sardonic observation "Why is it, when a match is postponed, you come back later, and more drunk?!"





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

Do you travel to away games with friends?

Depends where the game is (see below).

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

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

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

Best days out which also featured a memorable

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

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

Are Maidenhead equipped to move up the table to safety? Since first writing this in December I'm pleased to say that my faith was rewarded with a string of outstanding results against most of the promotion chasers in the New Year. This has created a comforting chasm between United and the final relegation spot so although not theoretically secure I am already looking forward to next season and first ever trips to Scunthorpe and Oldham.

As an ex-Prog Editor, does the matchday programme constitute a large part of your football-going experience? It used to. I have a treasured collection of programmes. The issues from the 70s-90s are particularly valued for their quality and memories they preserve. However the spread of the internet saw them lose their cachet. No longer were they an indispensable source of statistics and news. Unfortunately the inevitable decline in popularity that ensued, was accompanied by a decline in quality with many issues seemingly tailored towards children with a distinct absence of insightful writing. This of course led to fewer sales and a further decline. Therefore I stopped buying them about five years ago and actually got rid of loads more recently, **Are you disappointed to see that some clubs have discontinued printed programmes?** No. Design and graphics have improved across the board, but for a programme to have any value it needs to feature articulate, in-depth articles on football matters and sadly these are disappearing.

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

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

THE VIEW FROM THE

...and now the thoughts

Your name and age? Murdo Macleod, over 50.

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

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

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

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

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

And what are your top three Maidenhead games of all time, and why? Phew. There have been quite a few. Billericay 3 - 5 Maidenhead. Isthmian Division One, about 1995. Team stuck in traffic, arrive do shortly before 3pm, 3-0 down after 12 minutes. Scored 5 in the last 22 and even hit the bar on the final whistle. An amazing turnaround at a place we usually did well at, and one of the few Essex trips I used to enjoy. I don't miss doing laps of the M25 every other Saturday!

Hartlepool 1 - 2 Maidenhead. 23rd December 2017. Great train awayday and points against former EFL side. Friendly locals, decent pubs and a party on the journey home, along



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



Hat-trick hero Sean Marks

AWAY END 2

WEALD STONE 2021-22

of the venerable Murdo



Vale? Likely to be less than it would have been on Boxing Day.. it feels like a bit of a dead rubber and comes in the middle of three away games in a week. We've been generally dreadful on the road recently, just two wins in 16 games and only 10 goals, six of which came in the two wins.

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

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

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

debacle season. The rest is history! We've met at gigs, had supporters matches, supported you at Stones Aid, play off finals and will be meeting a load for drinks prior to the return at ours.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

How many fans are you likely to bring to the

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BY MARTIN READ



The World of **Ball**

Rubbish & Wrong: why an ampersand should never connect two club names

The ampersand is the neatest of all the punctuation marks – a tiny ‘knot’ with which to bind the last word to the next. It has its purposes, sure. But is one of them to join the names of two previously distinct, historic non-league clubs together? Don’t be daft, I’ve a column to write.

Let’s start with the obvious. Whenever an ‘ampersand’ club is discussed, the second part of the name rarely survives first mention. People talk of going to watch Tooting, Dagenham or Havant – never Mitcham, Redbridge or Waterloooville. (And in Waterloooville’s case, that’s a crime given that club’s considerably richer history than merger partners Havant Town.)

Combining two names in this way is a horrible compromise. To me at least, the resulting “&” name seems ironically smaller and less ‘complete’ than the two bigger names involved. Havant Town FC and Waterloooville FC were two sizeable clubs down south, but ‘Havant & Waterloooville’ sounds like an out-of-town parkway station.

These names sound so, ahem, cheap & cheerful. Like Bangers & Mash, Bubble & Squeak, Whizzer & Chips, etc. etc. The second half of the name is way too disposable (in most cases, reports and league tables refer to just ‘Dagenham & R, Tooting & M’ etc.)

& now for something completely different

It’s even worse when they slip on a ‘United’ at the end. I’m looking at you, Hayes & Yeading. The fact that these two clubs are now ‘united’ is surely explicit through the use of the ampersand? And let’s face it, not a single former Hayes FC or Yeading FC supporter is going to enquire of a fellow fan, “hey, do you know the United score?” Unless they actually mean the one from Manchester.

It’s worth noting that Football League clubs which once sported ampersands have all ditched them. Witness Bournemouth & Boscombe Athletic, for example. And when Peterborough United formed, they elected not to use the Peterborough & Fletton United monicker used by the defunct club they replaced.

There’s an even fresher level of hell reserved for

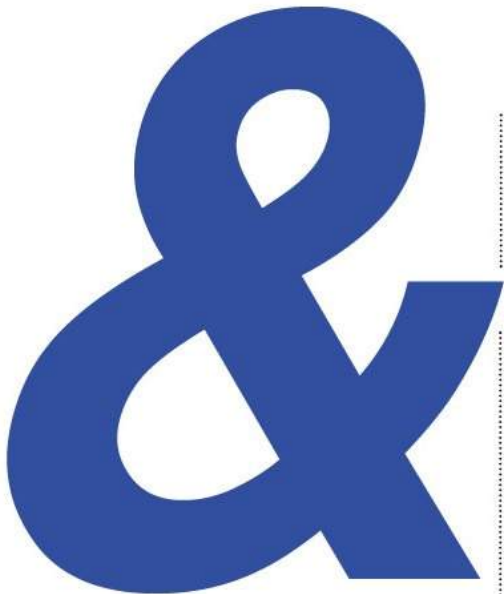
clubs who decide to add an ampersand without actually merging with anyone. Take Hampton & Richmond Borough, for instance. Visitors will muse that there’s surely no such London borough as ‘Hampton & Richmond’, while younger football fans might well assume that Hampton FC merged with Richmond Borough FC at some point. In fact there was no such club; Hampton simply added “& Richmond Borough” for the perceived gravitas. Has it worked? Do they now ‘own’ the Richmond moniker? Ask Ted Lasso.

Similarly, Addlestone FC had existed for 95 years before its directors decided it needed to expand its appeal to a wider potential audience just up the road in Weybridge. So, they changed their name to Addlestone & Weybridge Town FC in 1980. These double-barrelled names are rarely succinct, but this one became one of, if not the longest club names in world football. And how did it go? Five years later, in Addlestone’s centenary year, the club went out of business. (Their last game was against the pre-merged Waterloooville, funnily enough.) The moral of these stories? Whatever the problem was, it wasn’t your club’s name. I guess you Live & Learn...

East London Massive

There is one particularly big daddy of ampersandisation; the east London club that hides more historical “&”s than any other: Dagenham & Redbridge. In truth, today’s D&R comprises four 20th century Isthmian League giants” Dagenham FC & Walthamstow Avenue FC & Leytonstone FC & Ilford FC.

It’s not like we need to be told about the late 20th century’s economic impact on non-



league clubs, but east London seems to have been particularly badly affected. Leytonstone FC (founded 1886) and Ilford FC (1881) had already merged to form Leytonstone & Ilford FC (1979) when the once mighty Walthamstow Avenue FC (1900) also went under. Thus, Leytonstone & Ilford combined further with Walthamstow Avenue FC in 1989.

But how to name such a cumbersome beast? In this case, ditch all those iconic club names and start over with a ham-fisted local authorities' wet dream: 'Redbridge Forest'. Apparently there were some typically grandiose plans to relocate on the borders of London's Redbridge and Waltham Forest boroughs, which of course never happened. The Redbridge Forest Frankenstein experiment lasted three whole seasons before they merged yet again with Dagenham to create the club we know today.

"As she wheeled her wheelbarrow, through..."

I've said before how proud we should all feel that Wealdstone remained simply Wealdstone FC throughout our travels back to the non-league summit. But had a merger with Harrow Borough ever been on the cards, 'Harrow & Wealdstone' - because of the wider resonance around the train station name - would have been a possibility. That said, we've actually

had the chant for donkey's years: Sweet Molly Malone is often name-checked as she "wheeled her wheelbarrow through Wealdstone & Harrow..." - but obviously no, no and thrice no; perish that completely obscene thought.

I can only think of one ampersand club that has gone the other way and reversed out and into an entirely new club name: Gravesend & Northfleet, originally the merger of Gravesend United FC and Northfleet United FC, changed again to Ebbsfleet United with no other merger involved.

Then there's one of the oddest of ampersanded clubs: Rushden & Diamonds. Typically, such clubs use the name of the two towns involved, but not here. Rushden Town FC merged with the extraordinarily named Irthlingborough Diamonds FC, the latter name so wonderful that they opted to co-opt the 'Diamonds' bit rather than the 'Irthlingborough'.

However, following some typical non-league entrepreneur claptrap - oversized new ground, soaring ambition, brief league status, etc. - Rushden & Diamonds hit the buffers and have since been reborn as, even more tortuously, "AFC" Rushden & Diamonds. (And of course, clubs using "AFC" is a whole other article.)

Finally, guess what? Most times, a fresh variant of the individual clubs typically ends up filling the perceived void. Witness AFC Hayes, a new Walthamstow Avenue, and even a Redbridge FC.

& so, that's why using an ampersand doesn't work. & that's all, folks.

Wealdstone's record against ampersand clubs

**Played 167 Won 76 Drawn 33 Lost 56
For 332 Against 271**

12 clubs played: Bedford & Feltham; Biggleswade & District; Dagenham & Redbridge; Epsom & Ewell; Erith & Belvedere; Gravesend & Northfleet; Havant & Waterlooville; Hornchurch & Upminster; Hyde & Kingsbury; Walton & Hersham; Windsor & Eton; Wingate & Finchley

Random snippets irregularly posted @Wealdipedia

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- A fantastic advertising package, including publicity over the PA system, website and social media together with a piece in the programme
- Boardroom hospitality including a pre-match hot meal with wines and half-time refreshments courtesy of in-house caterer Lynn Evans
- Match-day programmes for all in your party
- Naming and presenting the 'Man of the Match' award
- A souvenir memento of your day.

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

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

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

Our match sponsors and their guests are all en-

MATCH	SPONSORS		
 WOKING Saturday, 21st August Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows		
 SOUTHEND UNITED Monday, 30th August Vanarama National League	Ray Corner and Peter Carter		
 ALTRINCHAM Saturday, 11th September Vanarama National League	Wealdstone FC Supporters Club		
 ALDERSHOT TOWN Saturday, 18th September Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows		
 SOLHULL MOORS Tuesday, 5th October Vanarama National League	Leasehold Management Services Ltd		
 EASTLEIGH Saturday, 9th October Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	In memory of John O'Connor aka OC	Dorset Stones
 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE Saturday, 18th October FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round	Ability Security		
 GRIMSBY TOWN Tuesday, 25th October Vanarama National League	ADWConnect		
 BARNET Saturday, 13th November Vanarama National League	Rolfe-East	Ray Corner & Peter Carter	



WEALDSTONE 2021-22

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– Colin Walklate,
Harrow Windows

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

– Robert Barrett,
Rolfe-East

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

– Keith Davies, AFC Lightning

MATCH

SPONSORS



STOCKPORT COUNTY

Saturday, 27th November
Vanarama National League

AFC Lightning

Morty's Emslie Enders



FC HALIFAX TOWN

Saturday, 11th December
Vanarama National League

Harrow Windows



DOVER ATHLETIC

Saturday, 15th January
Vanarama National League

Ruislip Windows & Doors



NOTTS COUNTY

Tuesday, 25th January
Vanarama National League

Rolfe-East

Ruislip Windows & Doors



YEOVIL TOWN

Tuesday, 8th February
Vanarama National League

Fenton Civil Engineering



MAIDENHEAD UNITED

Tuesday, 15th February
Vanarama National League

Osmo UK

Rolfe East



WREXHAM

Saturday, 19th February
Vanarama National League

Union Athletic



TORQUAY UNITED

Saturday, 26th February
Vanarama National League

Oldfield Construction Ltd

The Lower Mead 4



WEYMOUTH

Saturday, 12th March
Vanarama National League

Harrow Windows

Gerard Cook



BROMLEY

Saturday, 26th March
Vanarama National League

Rolfe-East

The Guild

In Memory of
Brian Kat Kelly



CHESTERFIELD

Saturday, 9th April
Vanarama National League

Harrow Windows

Turf Doctor



BOREHAM WOOD

Monday, 18th April
Vanarama National League

Ruislip Windows & Doors

Your name or
business here



DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE

Saturday, 30th April
Vanarama National League

The Old Gits Club

Your name or
business here



KING'S LYNN TOWN

Saturday, 7th May
Vanarama National League

Ashley Holding

Your name or
business here



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	George WICKENS	Jack COOK	Andrew ELEFTHERIOU	Nikola TAVARES	Jerome OKIMO	Craig FASANMADE	Matt BUSE	Joshua UMERAH	Rhys BROWNE	Dennon LEWIS	Charlie COOPER
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)	8	9	10	11	24
SEPTEMBER																	
4 Dagenham & Redbridge	VNL	2-2	1,735	170	18	Umerah, Lewis	1	2	12	17(34)	6	7	8	9	10(7)	11(3)	24
11 ALTRINCHAM	VNL	1-0	1,013	N/A	15	Elito (Pen)	1	2	12		6	7(9)	8	9	10	11	24
14 Notts County	VNL	2-3	5,213	208	14	Umerah (2)	1	2	12		6	7(9)	8	9	10(11)	11	24
18 ALDERSHOT TOWN	VNL	2-2	1,106	280	15	Umerah, Jackson	1	2	12		6	7(9)	8(20)	9	10	11	24
25 King's Lynn Town	VNL	1-0	885	180	13	Cooper	1	2	12	17			8(21)	9	10(9)	11(20)	24
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			8(18)	9(18)			24
16 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	FAC4	1-2	718	185	17	Bird	1	2	12	17	6		8(11)	9		11	24
23 Weymouth	VNL	1-1	1,024	170	17	McAvoy	1	2	12	17	6	7(9)	8(18)	9		11	24
26 GRIMSBY TOWN	VNL	1-0	1,892	794	16	Buse	1	2	12	17	6	7(9)	8	9		11(16)	24
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)		8	9	10		24
23 Dover Athletic	VNL	3-2	510	200	15	Sweeney (2), Umerah	1	2	12		6		8	9	10		24
27 STOCKPORT COUNTY	VNL	1-4	1,382	310	16	Jackson	1	2	12		6		8	9			24
30 Bedfont & Feltham	MCC2	1-2	TBC	TBC	16	Jackson											
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	8				24
22 Woking	VNL	0-2	2,667	232	20		1	2	12	17	6	7	8	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	2	12		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	2	12		6			9	10		24
26 TORQUAY UNITED	VNL	1-1	0,000	N/A	19	Mundle-Smith	1	2	12	17				9	10		24
MARCH																	
5 Eastleigh	VNL	1-4	2,615	190	20	Clayden	1	2	12	17				9	10		24
8 Maidenhead United	VNL	2-0	1,209	220	20	Cook, Browne	1	2	12		6			9(10)	10		24
12 WEYMOUTH	VNL	3-2	1,003	87	16	Browne 2, Cook	1	2	12		6			9	10		24
19 Stockport County	VNL	2-4	7,453	195	16	Henry, Cook	1	2	12		6			9	10		24
26 BROMLEY	VNL	1-1	1,161	TBD	17	Umerah	1	2	12	17(16)	6			9(14)	10		24
APRIL																	
2 FC Halifax Town	VNL	0-2	1,850	TBD	18		1	2	12	17	6			9	10		24
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(24)	18(8) 18	20(7) 20(7)	34																	
3	4	18		34																	
	4	18	20(18)	34	16(10)																
	4	18	20	34	16(18)																
	4		20	34	16																
3	4		20		16	21															
	4	18	20(4)			21	5(17)	22(3)													
3(12)	4	18	20				5	22	23(5)												
	4	18	20(4)		16(22)			22													
	4	18			16(22)			22		14											
	4	18			16			22(19)	23	14	19										
	4	18(8)			16			23	14	14	25										
	4	18						22(10)	23	14	26										
		18						22(10)	23	14	26										
		18			16(22)			22	23	14	19(8)	26									
								22	23	14	19(8)	25(23)	26								
	4	18			16			23	14	25	26			13(16)							
	4	18			16(7)	5(25)				14	25	26		21							
	4	18			16(25)	5	22(7)			14	25	26									
	4	18			16			23		25	26			13							
	4	18	20(7)		16(25)	5		23		25	26				21						
	4	18	20(23)		16(22)	5		23								22(8)					
	4	18	20(7)			5		23(6)		25						22	22(24)				
	4		20			5		23	14	25								11(20)			
	4	18(24)	20			5		23	14	25							22	11(23)			
16)		18(24)	20		16			23(25)	14	25								11(23)	22	7	
		18(23)	20					23	14									11(17)	22	7	
		20						23	14									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
																		11	22	7	19
4)	4				16(10)			23(17)	14									11	22	7	19
					16			23	14	25(16)									22	7	19
								23	14										22	7	19
	4(22)	18(19)	20(24)					23										11	22	7	19
		18(24)	20(24)					23											22	7	19
					16			23	14										22	7	19
	4(18)		18		16(10)			23(14)	14										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

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Opposition in focus

CHESTERFIELD FC

THE SPIREITES

Potentially five or more teams have been called Chesterfield Football Club at different times. A Derbyshire Times newspaper report from 2 January 1864 noted a scheduled game between “Chesterfield and Norton football clubs”, suggesting that a Chesterfield FC, whether loosely or formally organised, was active from at least 1863.

A second Chesterfield FC was formally created as an offshoot of Chesterfield Cricket Club in October 1867. The cricket and football clubs moved to the Recreation Ground at Saltergate in 1871, the same year that they became separate entities. However, a souring of the relationship between the two led to the closure of the football club in 1881, when it found itself homeless. Many players joined other local sides, notably Chesterfield Livingstone, a club that took up using the Saltergate site, and Chesterfield Spital, a team which competed in the early years of the FA Cup.

Three years later, in 1884, a third entity called Chesterfield Football Club was formed, again making its home at Saltergate. It drew in players from the preceding club and both Chesterfield Livingstone and Chesterfield Spital, though records show Spital continued as a separate club. After changing its name to Chesterfield Town, the club turned professional in 1891 and won several local trophies in the following two seasons, entering the FA Cup for the first time in 1892. For the 1892–93 season, the club wore an extraordinary playing strip of all dark blue with the Union Jack emblazoned across the front of the shirt. Chesterfield joined the Midland League in 1896, and successfully applied for a place in the Second Division of the Football League at the start of the 1899–1900 season, finishing seventh. After finishing bottom of the League three years in a row, the club failed to



Chesterfield's 10,500 capacity Technique Stadium

gain re-election to the League in 1909, returning to the Midland League.

In 1915 Chesterfield Town was put into voluntary liquidation and a new club with the same name was formed by a local restaurateur to play wartime football using locally based 'guests'

from Football League clubs. It lasted only two years before its management and players were suspended by the FA for illegal payments and the club shut down.

The current Chesterfield FC was formed on 24 April 1919 by Chesterfield Borough Council, seeing it as a way to spearhead improvements in local recreational provision. Initially called Chesterfield Municipal, the club made great strides on the pitch in its first season, lifting the Midland League title – and did so despite three changes of

management. However, The Football Association and the Football League had already made clear their vehement opposition to a council-run club and ultimately forced it to cut its ties and become independent, reflected in a name change to Chesterfield FC in December 1920.

In 1921–22, Chesterfield became a founder member of the new Football League Third Division North and won the league title in the





has been their home since 2010

1930–31 season and were promoted to the Second Division. Relegation followed in 1933, but the Third Division North title was again won in 1936.

After the war the club achieved their best League position, finishing fourth in the Second Division in 1946–47 but were relegated at the end of the 1950–51 season. They were placed in the Third Division on its formation at the start of the 1958–59 season; future England international goalkeeper Gordon Banks made his professional debut in a Third Division game in November 1958, but was sold to Leicester City for a then-club record £7,000 fee at the end of the season. In 1961 Chesterfield were relegated to the Fourth Division for the first time.

Chesterfield spent eight seasons in the Fourth Division, earning promotion as champions in 1969–70. The Anglo-Scottish Cup was won in 1981. The club was relegated in 1983–84, and won the Fourth Division title the following season. Financial difficulties forced Chesterfield Borough Council to bail out the club in 1985 and the club's training ground to be sold. Relegation followed in 1988–89; Chesterfield reached the play-off competition a

year later, but were beaten by Cambridge United in the play-off final. Play-off victories over local rivals Mansfield Town and Bury in 1994–95 to earn promotion to the redesignated Second Division. The 1996–97 season saw Chesterfield beat six clubs including Premier League side Nottingham Forest to reach the semi-final of the FA Cup for the first time. The semi-final match against Middlesbrough was contentiously drawn 3–3 after extra time; Chesterfield lost the replay 3–0.

The club were relegated to the Third Division in 2000. The following year, Chesterfield were deducted nine points for financial irregularities. Amid mounting evidence of fraud ownership passed to a hastily organised fans' group, the Chesterfield Football Supporters Society. Massive debts forced the club into administration, but the team still secured the division's final automatic promotion place. Chesterfield were relegated to League Two at the end of the 2006–07 season.

The club departed its historic home at Saltergate at the end of the 2009–10 season, and moved to newly built B2net Stadium. Chesterfield were promoted to League One after winning the League Two title in 2010–11 season. They went on to win the EFL Trophy for the first time in March 2012, defeating Swindon Town 2–0 in the final. However they were relegated out of League One the following month, before again returning to the third tier as League Two champions at the end of the 2013–14 season.

Chesterfield secured sixth-place in League One at the end of the 2014–15 campaign.

Following relegation to League Two in 2017/18 the club was again relegated out of the English Football League at the end of the 2017–18 season.

Last season Chesterfield finished in 6th place in the National League, losing 3-2 away to Notts County in the play-off quarter final.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Saturday 28th August 2021

AWAY - **Lost** 0-2 (5356)

Saturday 15th May 2021

AWAY- **Drew** 0-0 (BCD)

Tuesday 20th August 2020

HOME - **Won** 3-2 (BCD)

WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v CHESTERFIELD

P 3 W 1 D 1 L 1 F 3 A 4

Opposition in focus

WHO'S WHO?



1. SCOTT LOACH - GOALKEEPER

Loach started out at Lincoln City before making his name at Watford, where he made over 150 appearances. He was capped by England 14 times at Under-21 level and also featured in the full squad. After spells at Ipswich Town, Rotherham United, Notts County and Hartlepool United, Loach joined Barnet two years ago. He was signed in the summer after leaving Barnet.

2. GEORGE CARLINE - DEFENCE

Born in Derby, Carline played for a number of clubs including Solihull Moors and Leamington before joining the Spireites. He is a versatile player, who can play in a number of different positions. Predominantly a central midfielder, he can also play as a right-back, right-winger and also as a left-back. Carline signed for the Spireites in December after leaving Gloucester City by mutual consent.

3. CALVIN MILLER - MIDFIELD

Chesterfield secured Miller's signature recently, beating off competition from other clubs to sign him. The 23-year-old Scot, who started his career at Celtic, played against Chesterfield for Notts County in the play-offs at the end of last season. He had been on loan at Notts from Harrogate.

4. EMMANUEL OYELEKE - MIDFIELD

Oyeleke joined the Spireites from Port Vale in April for an undisclosed fee. He was with Chelsea and Queen Park Rangers as a youngster. Oyeleke made his breakthrough at Brentford and had spells at Exeter City and Aldershot before signing for Vale in the summer of 2018.

5. GAVIN GUNNING - DEFENCE

The experienced defender, who joined Chesterfield in January, was a free agent after leaving Gloucester City. He has had spells at various clubs including Rotherham United, Grimsby Town, Port Vale and Dundee United.

6. LAURENCE MAGUIRE - DEFENCE

Maguire is a proud product of Chesterfield's academy. Born in Sheffield, he made his first-team debut in 2016 against Wolverhampton Wanderers U23s in the Checkatrade Trophy, only a year after being handed his first professional contract by the club. He is the brother of Manchester United and England star Harry Maguire. Laurence is also an England international, after he was called up to the England 'C' squad in October 2018. He was loaned out to AFC Fylde in 2017 for a short spell

7. DANNY ROWE - FORWARD

After being with Manchester United as a youngster, Rowe played in non-league football, which included a prolific six-year spell with AFC Fylde. He joined Oldham Athletic in 2020 before moving to Bradford City. The Spireites signed Rowe for an undisclosed fee in April 2021.

8. CURTIS WESTON - MIDFIELD

Weston is an experienced midfielder who has played for a number of clubs including Millwall and Leeds United. He became the youngest player to ever play in an FA Cup final, when he appeared for Millwall against English giants Manchester United at the age of just 17 years and 119 days in 2004. He signed for Gillingham in 2008, where he spent four years and made nearly 150 appearances, scoring 15 goals, before leaving to join Barnet in 2012. Weston was a Barnet player over a period of 6 years, making 213 appearances and scoring 23 goals for the Bees. Weston then made the switch back up north, signing for the Spireites in 2018. Perhaps his most memorable moment in a blue shirt was his stunning strike in the dying seconds against Wrexham in the 2019/20 season, which won the Spireites a vital three points with seconds to play. Weston won the League Two play-offs in 2009 with Gillingham and also won the Conference Premier in 2015 with Barnet.

9. AKWASI ASANTE - FORWARD

Born in Amsterdam, Akwasi moved to England to join Birmingham City, where he settled into the youth system before signing a professional contract with the club in 2011. After being released by Birmingham in the summer of 2014, Akwasi signed for Kidderminster Harriers. Spells at Solihull Moors and Chester followed before he moved to Gloucester City, where he scored eight goals in nine appearances. He was signed by the Spireites for an undisclosed fee in December and regularly featured on the score-sheet until suffering a long-term injury.

10. LIAM MANDEVILLE - MIDFIELD

Mandeville began his career at Doncaster Rovers, coming through the club's academy before breaking into the first team and making his debut in 2015. He spent a small amount of time on loan at Whitby Town and Colchester, before spending the 2018/19 season on loan at Morecambe. He was released from Doncaster in 2019 and signed for the Spireites ahead of the 2019/20 campaign. Mandeville is a ball-

WEALDSTONE 2021-22

playing midfielder, who plays in an attacking role, but can also play as a striker.

11. JACK CLARKE - MIDFIELD

Clarke joined the Spireites on loan from Aston Villa in January. The young midfielder started out with Villa's Under-9s and had a spell on loan at Yeovil Town earlier in the season. He was signed permanently this summer after coming to the end of his contract at Villa.

17. JAK MCCOURT - MIDFIELD

McCourt played for the likes of Port Vale, Northampton Town and Barnsley before joining the Spireites in 2017. Following relegation from the Football League in 2018, he left the club and went on to play for Swindon Town and Macclesfield Town. The central midfielder rejoined the Spireites as a free agent in December.

18. NATHAN TYSON - FORWARD

Tyson signed on loan for the Spireites from Notts County in 2020. Born in Reading he has played for a host of clubs, including Nottingham Forest, Derby County and Wycombe Wanderers. Tyson has made over 500 Football League appearances and has also played for Scottish club Kilmarnock. He was promoted to the Championship in 2007 as part of a Nottingham Forest side who finished runners-up.

20. JEFF KING - DEFENCE

King, who features as a right-sided wing-back, joined Chesterfield after winning FC Halifax Town's Player of the Year award last season and being named in the Vanarama Team of the Season. He scored seven goals in 35 appearances last term, including one against the Spireites at the Technique Stadium. King joined Halifax from St Mirren two years ago after playing for a number of clubs including Bolton Wanderers.

22. JAMIE GRIMES - DEFENCE

The central defender joined Chesterfield after helping Hereford reach the FA Trophy final at Wembley at the end of last season. The 30-year-old's former clubs include Ebbsfleet United, Macclesfield Town, Cheltenham Town and Dover Athletic.

23. STEFAN PAYNE - FORWARD

The experienced striker joined Chesterfield this summer after leaving Grimsby Town. His former clubs include Barnsley and Shrewsbury Town and he has previous National League experience, having enjoyed a successful spell at Dover Athletic.

24. TOM DENTON - FORWARD

Denton was signed from Alfreton Town in 2018. Born in West Yorkshire, he spent his youth career at Wakefield before signing for Huddersfield Town in 2008. From 2008 to 2014, he played for several clubs before joining North Ferriby Town in July 2014. He went on to win the FA Trophy with the club, despite missing a penalty in the final at Wembley. Denton then spent two years at Halifax Town where he scored 27 goals in 74 appearances, before making the switch to Alfreton in 2018. He made less than ten appearances for the club before signing for the Spireites for an undisclosed fee. Denton uses his height to good effect, but he is also very comfortable with the ball at his feet.

26. HAYDN HOLLIS - DEFENCE

Born in Nottingham Haydn came through the ranks at Notts County as a youth. Hollis had some time out on loan at teams such as Barrow and Darlington before making his breakthrough into the first team at Meadow Lane. He then signed for Forest Green in January 2018. At the start of the following season, he was loaned out to the Spireites before making his move a permanent one.

29. ALEX WHITTLE - DEFENCE

Whittle, who plays on the left-hand side of defence, joined Chesterfield after leaving Gloucester City in January 2021. After being with Liverpool as a youngster, he played for Dunfermline Athletic for three years. Whittle then played for a number of clubs including AFC Fylde, Southport, York City and Forest Green Rovers before signing for Gloucester in August 2020, where he played under James Rowe.

31. DYLAN WHARTON - GOALKEEPER

32. FRASER KERR - DEFENCE

The Scottish defender began his career at Birmingham City before heading north of the border to play for Motherwell, Cowdenbeath and Stenhousemuir. Later playing for Gateshead, Hartlepool United and Torquay, Kerr joined the Spireites in March 2021.

39. JOE ROWLEY- MIDFIELD

Rowley is one of Chesterfield's current longest-serving players. Born in Sheffield, he played for Sheffield United as a youth but made the switch to the Spireites academy later on. He progressed through the club's academy and made his first-team debut in March 2017 at the age of just 17. Rowley scored his first-ever professional goal against Port Vale in April 2017, just one day after signing his first professional contract with the club. In March 2019, he was called up to the England 'C' squad to make his international debut. Rowley plays in central midfield or on the right-wing for the Spireites.

ON THIS DAY >>>>



BY TIM PARKS

40 years ago, Stu Pearce and Ray Goddard set up first trophy of a Southern League clean sweep

Tuesday April 5, 1982, Southern League Cup Final, 1st leg: Gloucester 0 Wealdstone 1

Forty years ago! Yes, it seems scarcely

credible that it is now four decades since the Stones landed the first blow in our bid to win everything on offer in the Southern League. A night when two men - one a teenager and one approaching the veteran stage, teamed up to secure this single-goal win in the first leg of the Southern League Cup final at Gloucester City's atmospheric old Horton Road ground.

Stuart Pearce and Ray Goddard. The first a product of the Stones' reserve team (and who went on to play 72 times for England, many of them as captain, and was a World Cup semi-finalist in 1990) and the second a 32 year-old goalkeeper who had played close to 500 games

APRIL 5 1982

First blood to 'Stones in final

Gloucester City 0
Wealdstone 1

FULL back Stuart Pearce volleyed Wealdstone to a first leg lead in the Southern League Cup Final against Midland division rivals Gloucester City on Monday night.

The nineteen-year-old defender smacked a bobbling ball from the edge of the box post startled City keeper Cornwell after 51 minutes after 'Stones had weathered the storm in the first half.

Now 'Stones look to be sitting pretty in the second leg, set for Lower Mead on Wednesday.



Winner — Stuart Pearce.

Earlier on 'Stones had played a waiting game as Gloucester staged some fiery first half attacks.

Ray Goddard made some fine stops as a 2,300 Horton Road crowd saw the 'Stones

defence see off some relentless front running from City strikers Burford, Wheeler and Doyle.

But as Wealdstone became more adventurous Dennis Byatt saw his free kick turned round the post by Cornwell before, following a corner, Pearce hit against keeper little chance as it found the top right-hand corner.

'Stones came close to increasing the lead when a bad clearance from Cornwall was pounced upon by Ray Knowles whose shot floated perilously close across goal. Knowles threatened again late in the game as Cornwell did well to stop his powerful bouncing shot.

Wealdstone: Goddard, Perkins, Pearce, Ryan, Bowcott, Barwick, Waites, Wainwright, Cordice (A), Knowles, Davies, Hardman sub.

in the Football League with Wimbledon and Leyton Orient.

Gloucester were having a decent season in the Southern League's midland division, finally finishing sixth. The local Press was full of anticipation as the last time the Tigers had reached the final - in 1955-56 - they served up



There is something terribly sad about an abandoned football ground. This is the natural bowl of Horton Road, scene of that epic Cup Final first leg

WEALDSTONE 2021-22



perhaps the biggest shock in the history of the competition... for having lost the first leg 4-1 to mighty Yeovil Town at their Huish ground (and been written off by everybody) Gloucester stormed back to win the second leg 5-1 and lift the trophy 6-5 on aggregate!

City certainly put in a hell of a shift in the first leg against the Stones in '82, watched by a crowd of 2,300 hoping to cheer the Tigers on to their first piece of silverware in 26 years.

At that time, City had been continuous members of the Southern League for 41 years (and took that to a record 50 years before they were promoted to the Conference in 2009) while Wealdstone's record in the League Cup in our ten years' membership had been laughable. We'd made it to the quarter-finals once (and a bleak defeat at Dover) in 1976 but our efforts were so ridiculed that fellow fan Nick Symmons (later to become club chairman) decided to re-name it The Nick Symmons Trophy as it was as tin-pot as he was (in his own words).

So imagine our delight when this 1981-82 season began to develop a life of its own... with a squad of just 17, the club went on an astonishing winning run with often four games played every week as it reached its success-soaked conclusion.

We played 72 games that season, including six in the Southern League Cup on our way to that improbable two-legged final.

Some 250 Stones fans made their way down the M4 that Monday night, April 5, and my own ancient Renault Five was carrying three of them as we dropped down off the A40 towards the City... and then spotted a group of blokes standing by a broken-down car, waving their arms hysterically in those pre-smart phone days.

It was Nick and his pals, the acclaimed Four Skinless Bangers of Sausage of the Season fame! What a time to break down, within touching distance of the climax of his own season, the final of the N.Symmons Trophy...

How tempting it was to just keep on driving!

No. Behave yourself. How could I deprive Nick of the pinnacle of Southern League joy? We pulled up, breathed in (Messrs Fishman, Paul,

and Symmons are no lighweights, believe me) and made space for our fellow fans and the Renault audibly complained as it groaned, squeaked and rode low on its axles all the way to the ground.

Where, of course, goalkeeper Ray Goddard had his finest hour in a Wealdstone shirt. Ray had played in Divisions Two, Three and Four (even reaching the FA Cup semi-final with Orient against Arsenal at Stamford Bridge in 1978), but he can never have looked as utterly unbeatable

as he did on this tempestuous night in Gloucester.

The Tigers were a very decent side, finishing sixth that season, and they were facing a leg-weary Wealdstone who would go on to play THIRTEEN games in April.

No surprise then that City were all over us in the first half with top scorer Dave Lewis drawing save after save from Goddard as they peppered our goal.

Goddard, though, barely seemed to move his feet as he plucked shots out of the air from all angles.

And Gloucester hearts were broken in the dying minutes when Stuart Pearce - who had been

unusually restricted to defensive duties - managed to get on the end of a loose ball on the angle of the City box to blast it past the surprised keeper and into the net.

Around 1,200 were at the second leg at Lower Mead to see skipper Paul Bowgett fittingly lift the trophy (pictured above) after it was his penalty that had again separated the sides for a 2-0 win on aggregate.

Poor old Bowg would be getting backache before too long as he went on to lift ...the Southern League South title, the Southern League Shield (winners of the South v North match) and the Southern League Challenge Cup (title winners v cup winners). Poor old Gloucester, as Cup runners-up, were the team chosen to face the Stones in the last-mentioned game which took place the following October. In fact we faced the Tigers four times in 1982, winning all four and they must have been heartily sick of us.... **CONTINUED OVERPAGE**



ON THIS DAY CONTINUED >>>>

Mighty 'Stones march boldly to championship

By Colin Pope

Bognor Regis 1, Wealdstone 2

STUPENDOUS! This is the only word which accurately conveys the sheer red-blooded courage and spirit of Wealdstone as they surged to a breath-taking victory at Bognor on Tuesday to move into a five points lead at the top of the table, five ahead of Waterlooville with three games in hand.

One did not need to be a diehard 'Stones supporter to feel a pang of pride as they battled superbly for three-quarters of the match a goal behind to see their efforts justly rewarded with two goals in the last 14 minutes.

They have now gained 16 points out of the last 18 — championship form indeed. They now need six points from the last eight games to ensure the championship pennant flying at Lower Mead Stadium in the Premier Division next season.

In their preview of the game, the local newspaper commented: "Wealdstone are the finest team seen in Division One (South) of the Southern League for years". After the match, few would disagree with that verdict, and for their final home games Wealdstone deserve big attendances on pure soccer skills.

Bognor had one real chance in the match, and this they took to score after only 15 minutes.

Time was running out for 'Stones after they had mesmerised Bognor with football a joy to watch and most of the incredibly loyal Lower Mead supporters would gladly have settled for a point.

But then, in the 76th minute, Jim Godfrey struck. Bill Byrne

engineered the goal with superb panache as he took the ball right to the by-line on the left of Bognor's goal, defied all attempts to run him over the line, and slid a precision pass along the ground right into the path of the onrushing Godfrey who almost took the net apart with a crashing right-foot shot.

Five minutes later, the pitch was invaded as the incomparable George Duck seized on a defensive blunder, rounded Wiltshire at full-back and then, with incredible coolness in view of what depended upon it, carefully placed the ball wide of Patterson and just inside the post. It was George's 55th goal of the season — an achievement which may well last many decades.

Wealdstone retained the team which beat Andover on Saturday, which meant that Terry Dyson stayed in to the exclusion of the now-fit Fairclough,

who was substitute. What Terry lacks in the tackle he more than makes up for with adroit passes into space. His crosses and corners remain as big a pose for a goalkeeper as in his halycon days with Spurs.

SET PACE

Although they played the ball out of trouble with delicate precision, Wealdstone's back-four were not generally as invincible as they have been, and it was this that led to Bognor's goal, scored by top scorer Holmes, with 18. Knight, one of Bognor's best players, beat Fulton and Watson wide on the left before slipping the ball through.

Earlier, Wealdstone had set the pace, Godfrey having a searing header bounce off the post. Soon afterwards Phillips cleared a McCormick shot off the line with Patterson well beaten. Bognor, too, survived what appeared a clear handling offence in the penalty area and were fortunate to hold their lead to the interval.

With 57 goals, Wealdstone have the second best attacking record in the division, only one less than Poole Town, who have played two more games. Their record is: P30, W20, D5, L5. Goals for 57, against 30. 45 points.

Wealdstone: MacKenzie; Kinnear, Watson, Burgess, McCormick; Godfrey, Dyson, Fulton; Byrne, Duck, Henderson. Sub: Fairclough.

APRIL
9 1973

55 goals for George Duck!

Forty-nine years ago, this was the first Stones team that made me really proud as Eddie Presland's boys stormed to the SL Div One South title, eventually winning by 11 points from runners-up Bath City. And yes, George Duck kept on scoring and ended up with a staggering 64 in all games!

WE'VE MET BEFORE



BY TIM PARKS

The new season kicked off.. but not with Stones v Chesterfield 18 months ago

SAT
OCTOBER 3
2020

It should have been the best of times... but it was the worst of times. It should have been the Stones' glorious return to the

top level of non-League football for the first time in 32 years - following Dean Brennan's team winning the NLS title on points-per-game - but with Covid causing grounds to be shut and games played behind closed doors, these were desperate days for the whole of football.

Naturally enough, it turned out to be worse for the Stones. After all the hullabaloo over whether fans would be allowed into games, or even to watch a live stream from adjoining clubhouses (culminating in the Daily Mirror story, right) Wealdstone fans were denied even that when the historic opening game against Chesterfield was rained off on the Saturday morning!

It was bizarre enough that the League was kicking off two months late, due to the unnatural Covid break and then resumption of the Premier League season and EFL season. But it was laugh-out-loud bonkers that the seemingly-cured Dead Fox Corner drainage problem should rear its ugly head that very



BARRED The clubhouse at Grosvenor Vale will have its windows (left) blacked out. Pics: Adam Williams and Dec O'Reilly

BARMY

Fans can watch Wealdstone match in clubhouse on giant screens.. but can't look out of the windows at the game!

BY DAVE ARMITAGE
CRAZY Covid-19 rules mean fans at Wealdstone can watch their opening game of the season live on clubhouse screens - but cannot peer through windows to view the action unfolding just yards away.

The National League new boys kick off their campaign against Chesterfield at a spectator-free Grosvenor Vale.

The club have arranged for the match to be streamed to about 100 supporters at their Ruislip Social Club.

But the building's windows will be blacked out because it is so close to the pitch.

The stadium, which is in Prime Minister Boris Johnson's constituency, has been brought up to strict Covid-19 safety standards.

Lifelong fan Tim Parks, who is doing the commentary on the game, said: "It's daft. Following this club has never

been dull having gone down five times and been promoted five times in recent years.

"We had unprecedented success last season and this was going to be a big day. Now no one can get in the ground to watch it.

"There have been times when things weren't going so

well that blacking out viewing might have been welcome, but not now. It's like the whole momentum has been stalled.

"We've been kicked in the teeth so many times, but this beats the lot.

"The nonsense of it is that all the people in the social club could be standing watching the game in the fresh air just 10 yards away."

Chairman Rory Fitzgerald, who owns a construction business, said: "I'm one of the privileged ones as I'm allowed in to the ground. Mind you I will have a stand to myself.

"It's crazy. I can see us going to the wall if there's no help with funding. We've been left in no man's land, especially after doing all the work to bring the ground up to spec."

"We've dreamt of reaching this level again because of the additional revenue from supporters. The crazy thing is we've spent an absolute fortune over the summer ready to get the fans in - now this.

"We've put in additional toilets, seating and turnstiles to meet all the guidelines. It's an even bigger punch in the gut.

"It's ridiculous because it would be far safer for fans to be in the ground watching the game."



CONTINUED OVERPAGE

WE'VE MET BEFORE CONTD

weekend. But with the whole of football seemingly up in the air, what was another unforeseen problem?

Instead, the Stones kicked off their first season back in the 'big time' (although it hardly seemed it, to an eerie backdrop of empty stands) with a 2-2 draw at Yeovil on the Wednesday night and an unlucky 1-0 defeat at Dagenham & Redbridge three days later.

Chesterfield, spared a wet afternoon at The Vale, made an underwhelming start with

three defeats in their opening four games (to Hartlepool, Stockport and Torquay) before once again making the long trip down the M1 to Ruislip on Tuesday October 20 when their fans, watching the live stream in numbers from their sofas, were fully expecting three points. But it wasn't to be.

The Stones had rocked Wrexham three days earlier with a four goal salvo that brought our first National League win in over three decades. Jacob Mendy Mendy's magnificent, explosive 30 yarder in the 4-3 win seemed like the sort of goal that just couldn't be repeated... but to Chesterfield's horror the Spanish left wing back did just that in the second half to extend the Stones' lead to 3-1! (pics below)

The towering Tom Denton, looking like a middle-aged dad playing in a kids' playground game, had shot the Spireites into the lead after just two minutes when Harry Isted's clumsy challenge on Nathan Tyson brought about a penalty. But then Moses Emmanuel, a revelation in Stones NLS title charge, came alive in

THE LINE-UPS

WEALDSTONE v CHESTERFIELD

WEALDSTONE	CHESTERFIELD
Royal Blue/White	White and green
1 Harry Isted 1	1 Kyle Lethbridge 6
2 Mickey Clark 2	2 David Buchanan 4
3 Adel Gafali 3	3 Joel Varner 5
4 Ashley Charles 4	4 Lawrence Maguire 7
5 Gerson Stevens 5	5 Joe Rowley 8
6 Jerome Okimo 6	6 Curtis Weston 9
7 Michael Phillips 7	7 Liam Manderville 10
8 Connor Smith 8	8 Luke Coldridge 11
9 Ross Lafayette 9	9 Milan Butterfield 12
10 Danny Green 10	10 Nathan Tyson 13
11 Denson Lewis 11	11 Scott Boden 14
12 Charles Hughes 12	12 Jamie Sherman 15
13 Daniel Wshart 13	13 Jack McKay 16
14 Danny Parfitt 14	14 Jonathan Smith 17
15 Kunal Bony 15	15 Tom Denton 18
16 Jacob Mendy Mendy 16	16 Luke Rawson 19
17 Charlie Wakefield 17	17 Hayden Hollis 20
18 Moses Emmanuel 18	18 Jerome Siew 21
19 Jerome Siew 19	19 Lewis Ewart 22
20 Lewis Ewart 20	20 Jay Williams 23
21 Jay Williams 21	21 Jack Crawley 24
22 Jack Crawley 22	

RESERVE: Lloyd Wood
 SUBSTITUTES: Grainger Kormoslevics & Joshua Crofts
 FORTHCOMING: Russell Jones
 CUSCUSERS: John Norbury
 BALL BOYS: Thorpe Training

NEXT HOME GAMES v STOCKPORT COUNTY
 (Vanarama National League) Tuesday Oct 13, 7.45pm
 v WIDECOMBE (Vanarama National League) Saturday
 October 17, 3pm

Main club sponsor:
gpflewis

INSIDE

The big interview: Ashley Charles



PLUS
 • Opposition fans' view
 • The Emslie Ender column
 • The amazing World of Ball
 • Stones Fan in the Stand
 • Rewind: 41 years ago when the Conference was born...

WEALDSTONE

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Welcome back to the Champions!

Wealdstone v Chesterfield
 Saturday October 3
 2020, kick-off 3pm
 vanarama NATIONAL LEAGUE
 Main club sponsor: gpflewis

the Stones box to steer home two half chances from Denson Lewis deliveries.

Oh for a crowd! The Vale would have been jumping... especially when JMM produced his firecracker to put the Stones in charge midway through the second half. Chesterfield responded with a barrage of late pressure that saw Denton use his frame to nod in a long throw, but you could almost hear the 1,000+ live stream listeners from the Peak District switching off in dismay when the final whistle sounded.

The return game at the Technique Stadium on May 15 was equally dismal for the home faithful. The Spireites were pushing for a play-off place (finally finishing sixth) while the Stones had not won in nine games - making the goalless draw unexpected.

This season, of course, Chesterfield were off to a flier and won the August 28 clash at the Technique 2-0 with early and late goals from Saidou Khan and George Carline.



IT'S A RECORD!

The vital facts on recent Stones matches...

v Bromley at the Vale, Vanarama National Lge Matchday 34

THE WHERE & THE WHAT

v FC Halifax Town at the Shay Stadium, VNL Matchday 35

Saturday March 26 2022, 3pm.
Sunny afternoon (17 deg) before a reduced capacity crowd

DATE AND CONDITIONS

Saturday April 2, 2022, 3 pm. Cold but sunny day on a bobbly pitch thanks to Rugby Lge groundshare

1,161 (approx 160 away fans)

ATTENDANCE

1,850 (125 away fans)

WEALDSTONE. Wickens, McAvoy (Umerah 83), Cook, Okimo, Mundle-Smith, Cooper (Dyer 48), Henry, Ferguson, Jackson (Tavares 83), Browne, Claydon.

BROMLEY: Balcombe, Partington, Webster, Bush, Forster (Coulson 17), Wagstaff (Dennis 69), Bingham, Vennings (Trotter 60), Whitely, Cheek, Alabi.

TEAMS

HALIFAX: Johynson, Warren, Debrah, Maher, Bradbury, Green (Woods 82), Spence (Summerfield 80), Gilmour, Warburton, Daernley (Waters 56), McDonagh
WEALDSTONE: Wickens, Cook, Okimo (c), McAvoy (Mundle-Smith, 70) Tavares, Dyer (Charles 74), Ferguson, Henry, Clayden, Ferguson, Browne (Jackson 80) Umerah.

STONES 1
Umerah 89

BROMLEY 1
Webster 61

RESULT

HALIFAX 2 STONES 0
Waters 60, 75

POSSESSION

Stones 53% Bromley 47%

SHOTS ON TARGET Stones 9 Bromley 5

SHOTS OFF TARGET Stones 3 Bromley 4

CORNERS Stones 5 Bromley 5

MATCH STATS

POSSESSION Halifax 50% Stones 50%
SHOTS ON TARGET Halifax 8
Stones 2
OFF TARGET Halifax 6
Stones 2
CORNERS Halifax 5
Stones 3

The Stones were one-paced and predicatable until the late introduction of Alex Dyer, Josh Umerah and Nik Tavares... then Bromley, leading by Webster header from a set-piece long throw, didn't know what hit them. With Clayden and Henry pulling the strings, the ball came off the post and bar before keeper Balcombe (who nearly scored with a 75-yard drop kick, wonderfully tipped over by Wickens) was finally beaten by a stooping Umerah from close range

STONES VIEW

Disappointing display in West Yorkshire from the Stones, who found themselves held at arm's length by the powerful, well drilled Halifax side. The Shaymen moved up to second place in the table and were good value for the win... although it took the introduction of 20-goal Billy Waters on the hour to spark victory. Waters denied Stones three points last season by stoppage-time goals in two games for Torquay - and once he'd rapped in the opener from close range, and then made it 2-0 with another smart angled finish the game was up.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Matt Saunders: "We've hit the bar 3 times and their goalkeeper has made 3 unbelievable saves...for a part-time club to be coming away from games like this feeling frustrated we haven't won is incredible and testament to how good we've become."

Andy Woodman, Bromley manager: "We were unlucky not to get the 3 points - the lads will be disappointed but they should be chuffed with how they've gone about their stuff today."

"Disappointing performance, lacked intensity and for the second time this season, we have been suffocated by Halifax. Also disappointing numbers off the park, only officially 125 travelling fans - our lowest of the season. What those that didn't travel missed was a fantastic town, with a beautiful central square and a numerous top notch pubs". **Emslie Ender, Stonesnet forum**

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Explained in
Plain English**



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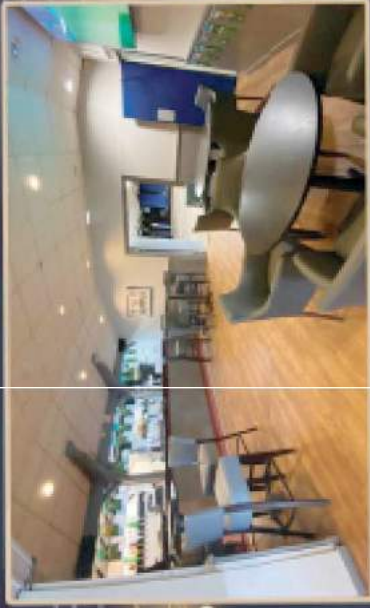
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MEETINGS



PARTIES

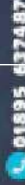


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Football and War

London Seminar

A Football and War Network Seminar in partnership with Wealdstone FC

Tuesday April 12th 7.30pm

Wealdstone FC, Grosvenor Vale, Ruislip, Middx, HA4 6JQ

This is a FREE EVENT - Free Tickets can be booked in advance at;
<https://wealdstonefc.ktckts.com/event/visitaw/football-and-war-london-seminar>

Programme:

Introduction - Alex Alexandrou, Football & War Network

FA Cup 150: Wartime FA Cup Facts & Stats - Phil Annets

(Author: FA Cup 150 Longlist for the Sunday Times Sports Book Awards, Football Book of the Year)

Harold (Spud) Taylor's Cup Final - Roger Slater

- interval -

Lost Football Heroes of the First World War - Jeff Williamson

(Author: Lost Football Heroes of the First World War)

Chelsea FC Graves Project - Nathan Whitehouse

Questions and Answers (from the floor)

Bar and refreshments available

BY STEVE DUCKER



Random Sightings

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

Saturday 11 December 1993

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

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

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

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

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

Line up

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

Subs:

- 12 Harris
- 14 Goodliff



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

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

Saturday 10 December 1994

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

Saturday 8 December 2018

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

MAIDENHEAD UNITED



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

Saturday 9 November 2019

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Line up:

- 1 Dunn
- 15 Ofori-Twumasi
- 4 Ellul
- 24 Massey
- 3 Steer
- 6 Scheckleford
- 8 Comley
- 19 Upward
- 28 Smile
- 10 Kelly
- 9 Cassidy

Subs:

- 20 Thompson-Brisset for Steer
- 14 Whitehall for Smile
- 5 Davies for Kelly

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BY STEVE DUCKER



Random Sightings

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

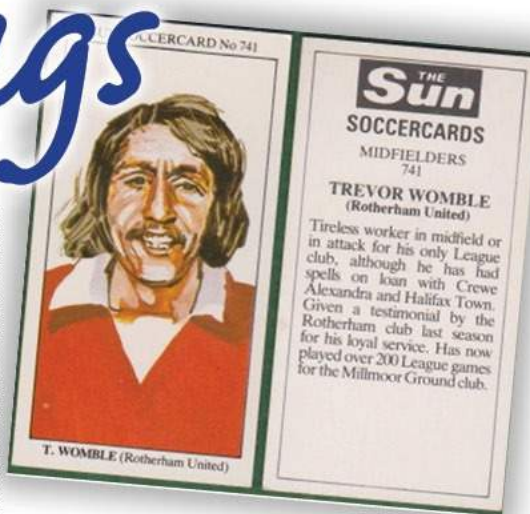
This article marks a first in the Random Sightings series. Never before have all the games featured been against the same opposition. All I can say is that in 50 years of watching football I've only ever seen Chesterfield play against two teams. One is Boreham Wood, which I need for the Easter Monday programme. The other one is Rotherham, which I don't. So with apologies to visiting fans, here are three personally significant fixtures involving the Millers. I hope you find they tell their own story and are part of the bigger picture at the same time.

Saturday 6 December 1975

The first time I saw Chesterfield play, and history, or at least my 1992 edition of the NME's big book of the pop charts, tells me this was the day that

Bohemian Rhapsody entered the top 30 for the first time. By 4.45pm at Millmoor, a different song was being adapted for the chant that was ringing around three sides of the ground.

A year or two earlier, music producer Mike Batt had put together a group of session musicians in oversized costumes to perform as 'The Wombles'. The TV cartoon series featuring Elizabeth Beresford's furry litter pickers had swept the nation (Wombles chocolate bars, anyone?) and the hits had kept on coming - the theme from the



series, the glam-rock pastiche 'Remember You're a Womble', the novelty 'Wombling Merry Christmas', and - in the late summer of 1975 - the proto-'We Will Rock You' effort 'Super Womble'. The reason this otherwise forgettable single achieved immortality in S60 was because of Trevor Womble the Rotherham footballer. At 3pm that Saturday, he sat down in the dugout in his number 12 shirt. With Rotherham boss Jim McGuigan - who had managed the visitors to the fourth division title five years earlier - not known for subs unless absolutely necessary, Womble must have viewed a quiet afternoon coming up.

Ten minutes later he was putting on the green shirt and gloves after Millers' keeper Jim McDonagh suffered a broken leg. I'd never previously been to a game where a goalie had gone off injured. Thankfully I knew nothing of the game against Bournemouth in 1972 when Rotherham had ended up using three different players in goal - and lost 7-2. As it was, Chesterfield scored precisely seven goals fewer than Bournemouth did in that fixture, while Rotherham's total, courtesy of Mark Rhodes and Jimmy Goodfellow, was the same. Super Womble had kept a clean sheet for practically a whole game, and an unlikely home win was the result.

Line up
1 Tingay
2 McEwan
3 O'Neill
4 Kowalski
5 Hunter
6 Barlow
7 Darling
8 Moss
9 Shanahan
10 Fern
11 Bentley
Sub Burton for Fern
Attendance: 6,474



Saturday 9 February 1980

Rotherham and Chesterfield more or less traded results around that time, so Rotherham's 2-0 home win in September 1979 wasn't much of a surprise, particularly as it was one of seven wins in the first 10 games as they surged to the top of the old third division. By the return game, it was the men in blue who were mounting a promotion bid. So much so that, with regional ITV coverage still in force (as it was until 1983) Yorkshire TV sent its cameras to Saltergate, even though it's not even in the county.

Line up

1 Kendall
2 Tartt
3 O'Neill
4 Kowalski
5 Green
6 Pollard
7 Ridley
8 Moss
9 Walker
10 Salmons
11 Crawford
Attendance: **9,073**

This was my first Rotherham away game, and it ended in a comprehensive defeat. Phil Walker and Ernie Moss,

two players at opposite ends of the experience scale, got the first two goals and before half-time it was 3-0. Geoff Salmons, who I'd seen on the box playing in the top division for Sheffield United and Stoke City, strode imperiously through the middle of the park and slapped in a 25-yarder with his right foot.

There were no further goals after the break, but the home side had done enough. In the second half they were kicking towards us, and I'm sure I saw Salmons taking outswinging corners from the left wing with the outside of his right foot. It was something I'd never seen before, and - at third tier level at least - I've never seen it since.

Saturday 2 May 1992

Twelve years on from that game, Rotherham still hadn't beaten Chesterfield, home or away. It was not so much a neurosis as its own episode of the Jeremy Kyle Show. If the run was going to end, this was the day. Not only had the Millers forced a 1-1 draw earlier in the season with outfield player Nicky Law taking over from injured keeper Billy Mercer (sound familiar?) they had effectively wrapped up promotion with a 3-0 win at Wrexham in midweek and here, in the last game of the season, needed just a point to dot the t's and cross the t's. The visitors had nothing to play for

whatsoever.

The first half went with league position, Tony Cunningham scoring to put Rotherham ahead. Afterwards, Chesterfield equalised, but that would have essentially been a footnote to the story had not their goalkeeper hauled down Don Page, who was past him with an open goal, minutes before the end. An act of equal parts cowardice and cynicism as taking the lower cash offer on 'The Chase'.

He got a red card, but his team held on. We all know that song: 'You'll never beat [insert name or nickname of club here]'. I've heard it lots of times as well, but never with the conviction that Chesterfield fans were singing with that afternoon. We eventually beat them in 2004.





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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



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FC HALIFAX TOWN

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

Barbara Robson



NOTTS COUNTY

Tuesday, 25th January
Vanarama National League

Tony Platt

Steve Carter

Sienna Tilbury &
Rhys Williams-Evans



YEOVIL TOWN

Tuesday, 8th February
Vanarama National League

David Leach

Harrow Sales & Marketing



MAIDENHEAD UNITED

Tuesday, 15th February
Vanarama National League

In memory of Roy Couch

Mike Pullin &
Graham Clark



WREXHAM

Saturday, 19th February
Vanarama National League

In memory of Jim Klarfeld

Graham Clark &
Mike Pullin



TORQUAY UNITED

Saturday, 26th February
Vanarama National League

Alan Couch



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



CHESTERFIELD

Saturday, 9th April
Vanarama National League

Mick Fishman



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

Megaphone

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KEY

CS = Coaching Staff

GK = Goalkeeper

CB = Centre Back

RB = Right Back

LB = Left Back

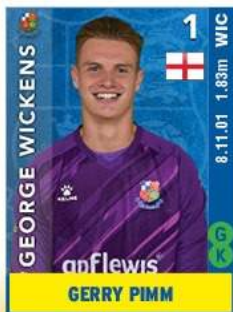
DM = Defensive Midfield

RM = Right Midfield

LW = Left Winger

RW = Right Winger

CF = Centre Forward



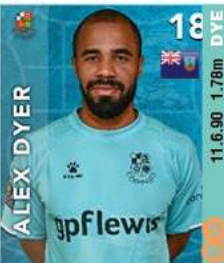
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TONY WALLER

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WEALDSTONE 2021-22

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



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**Friday
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SOUTHEND UNITED (A)

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



BOREHAM WOOD (H)

Vanarama National League

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**Saturday
23rd April
3:00pm**

ALTRINCHAM (A)

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**Saturday
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3:00pm**



DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE (H)

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**Monday
2nd May
3:00pm**

YEOVIL TOWN (A)

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**Saturday
7th May
3:00pm**



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Vanarama National League 2021/2022 – @2nd April 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	35	25	4	6	74	29	17	11	3	3	34	15	18	14	1	3	40	14	45	79	1-4	2-4
2 Halifax Town	35	21	6	8	53	28	17	14	0	3	31	9	18	7	6	5	22	19	25	69	0-1	0-2
3 Wrexham	34	20	8	6	65	36	16	10	5	1	29	15	18	10	3	5	36	21	29	68	1-2	0-0
4 Solihull Moors	35	19	10	6	65	39	19	11	5	3	43	22	16	8	5	3	22	17	26	67	0-0	1-2
5 Chesterfield	37	18	13	6	62	39	19	10	6	3	33	23	18	8	7	3	29	16	23	67		0-2
6 Notts County	36	18	10	8	64	42	18	11	5	2	36	20	18	7	5	6	28	22	22	64	0-0	2-3
7 Grimsby Town	36	19	5	12	55	35	18	12	2	4	32	14	18	7	3	8	23	21	20	62	1-0	1-2
8 Boreham Wood	33	16	10	7	40	25	18	10	7	1	24	8	15	6	3	6	16	17	15	58		0-1
9 Dagenham & Redbridge	35	17	4	14	62	45	17	8	3	6	35	25	18	9	1	8	27	20	17	55		2-2
10 Bromley	33	15	9	9	47	37	16	10	3	3	28	15	17	5	6	6	19	22	10	54	1-1	2-3
11 Torquay United	35	15	8	12	55	48	18	9	4	5	31	21	17	6	4	7	24	27	7	53	1-1	0-5
12 Yeovil Town	36	13	10	13	36	38	18	6	5	7	16	20	18	7	5	6	20	18	-2	49	2-1	
13 Southend United	36	13	8	15	38	51	17	8	3	6	22	24	19	5	5	9	16	27	-13	47	0-0	
14 Woking	37	14	4	19	51	51	18	7	0	11	25	29	19	7	4	8	26	22	0	46	1-2	0-2
15 Altrincham	36	13	7	16	54	56	18	9	2	7	33	22	18	4	5	9	21	34	-2	46	1-0	
16 Barnet	35	11	9	15	45	61	18	6	5	7	23	31	17	5	4	8	22	30	-16	42	1-0	3-1
17 Eastleigh	36	11	7	18	38	56	18	8	5	5	26	22	18	3	2	13	12	34	-18	40	1-2	1-4
18 Wealdstone	35	10	9	16	39	55	17	6	6	5	18	19	18	4	3	11	21	36	-16	39	--	--
19 Maidenhead United	36	10	8	18	39	62	19	8	4	7	28	32	17	2	4	11	11	30	-23	38		2-0
20 Aldershot Town	35	8	7	20	33	60	18	2	5	11	13	33	17	6	2	9	20	27	-27	31	2-2	
21 King's Lynn Town	36	6	7	23	35	66	18	3	2	13	16	32	18	3	5	10	19	34	-31	25		1-0
22 Weymouth	35	5	7	23	32	69	17	3	5	9	17	26	18	2	2	14	15	43	-37	22	3-2	1-1
23 Dover Athletic	35	1	6	28	29	83	17	1	3	13	11	30	18	0	3	15	18	53	-54	-3	2-1	3-2



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MAIDENHEAD UNITED

White/Black/Black

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

WEALDSTONE

Royal Blue/White/White

G George Wickens 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jack Cook 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ashley Charles 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jerome Okimo © 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nathan Ferguson 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Josh Umerah 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhys Browne 10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
David Sesay 11	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andy Eleftheriou 12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G Alfie Marigliani 13	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connor McAvoy 14	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elijah Hearn 15	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ira Jackson Jr 16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nikola Tavares 17	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alex Dyer 18	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charles Clayden 19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medy Elito 20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G Eric Negraru 20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aaron Henry 22	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jay Mundle-Smith 23	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charlie Cooper 24	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jamie Mascoll 25	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Solomon Balgun 26	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Robbie Quigley 27	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ruari O'Connor 28	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tecane Shrowder 29	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maki Wilson-Braithwaite 30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHESTERFIELD

Red/White/Red

1 Scott Loach G	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 George Carline	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Calvin Miller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Emmanuel Oyeleke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Gavin Gunning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Laurence Maguire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Danny Rowe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 Curtis Weston	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 Akwasi Asante	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 Liam Mandeville	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 Jack Clarke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13 Melvin Minter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16 Jim Kellermann	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17 Jak McCourt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18 Nathan Tyson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19 Kabongo Tshimanga	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20 Jeff King	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22 Jamie Grimes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23 Stefan Payne	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24 Tom Denton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26 Haydn Hollis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28 Saidou Khan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29 Alex Whittle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31 Dylan Wharton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
32 Fraser Kerr	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
39 Joe Rowley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REFEREE Gary Parsons **ASSISTANTS** Mark Pond & Karl Sear **4TH OFFICIAL** Thomas Whay **OBSERVER** Keith Hill
COACH Ralph Bone

REFEREE TBA **ASSISTANTS** Christopher Myatt & Jack Fagg **4TH OFFICIAL** David Harrison **OBSERVER** TBA

NEXT AT THE VALE Boreham Wood (VNL) on Easter Monday, April 18, 3pm

Main club
sponsor:

gpflewis ^{plc}