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#### BY MARK HYDE



# **WEALDSTONE 2021-22**

# Written in Stone

Good Afternooon and welcome back to The Vale.
On behalf of the club we would also like to welcome Luke Garrard and his staff and players

along with the officials from Boreham Wood.
Your incredible support is, as always greatly appreciated so please get behing the team today and make the difference.

Mark

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Despite passing years, we continue to keep alive the memory of dear friends and supporters who have passed away. All the above mentioned are remembered by today's ball sponsors, all of whom we have stood with on the terraces over passed seasons. We grieved their passing but they are not forgotten, they are especially remembered today.

#### MASCOTS FINLAY BROWN, ARCHIE BROWN & CONNIE FRANKLIN

Joining us today as mascots are three of our young dedicated home and away supporters. Connie (Left) is 8 years old, her favourite player is Jack Cook and her favourite game this season so far is Barnet Away. Archie (Centre) is 7 years old, his favourite player is Aaron Henry and his favourite game this season so far is our home game against Weymouth. Last but not least, Finlay (Right) is 9 years old, his favourite player is Ashley Charles and like his cousin his favourite game this season so far is Barnet Away.

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# WEALDSTONE

### FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2021/2022

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

The legal name of Wealdstone Football Club is Wealdstone Football Club (2000) Ltd (Registered Number 03953962). Shares in excess of 10% are held by Peter Marsden Property Finance Ltd & Wealdstone FC Supporters Club

#### GROUND REGULATIONS

The Vale Bar & Banqueting

Sarah Gowdy

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

- · 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.

Wealdstone FC Board of Directors



BY SUDHIR RAWAL

# The Elmslie Ender



# EE takes pride in our current crowd sizes and their diversity

orry, but I am back from my travels, so instead of beautifully written prose from Martin Lacey, my partner in crime over a decade or so when the fanzine was in full flow, you are back to my shambolic, incoherent ramblings. Martin's a bit of diva, mind, and a champagne socialist to boot, so he's off soon to Dubai to recharge his creative juices and will not be able to provide anymore

will not be able to provide anymore pieces this season, but I am hoping that next season he will share EE duties with me more often. And, Martin, yes it was work, not some jolly. Ok, there might have been a few photos on social media of an IPL game and a few roof top bars, but I can assure you it was lots of long days of hard work and not much fun.

Before I go any further, I love
the amount of "yoof" that are regularly
attending the Vale. Those of us that
remember back to the dark days Yeading, Edgware
or Northwood, will remember the only youngsters
there were due to being naughty at home and a

We're on our way to Loftus Road! Wealdstone's Kop, the supporters at the Elmslie Stand, salute Keith Furphy's first goal direct from a corner during Saturday's F.A. Cup match against Reading.

visit to watch Wealdstone was punishment rather than a pleasure. Nowadays it hankers back to the days when some of us started going to Lower Mead and the lure of the Elmslie Stand where you met untold mates from school

e you met untold mates from school under the EE stand sign. Hundreds now come. The Maidenhead game saw over 300 youth tickets

bought for a midweek game, which bar the Cuckoos game, is pretty much up there as a season high.

As our crowds have grown, more people attend that haven't really been to non-league football before, the less people know about non-league etiquette, it is probably about time we talked about "Wrong Enders".

Being a Wrong Ender is just plain wrong at a non-league game. Being a Wrong Ender means that you are, as the name suggests, at the wrong end of the ground. We have had to

# WEALDSTONE 2021-22



deal with Wrong Enders in the past ourselves, notably at Maidstone in recent years, where the bar is at the top end of the ground and in NLS you are still allowed to drink during the game, the reformed Stones supporters didn't change ends and, well, shall we say it was lively to say the least, with a couple hundred plus real Stones mixed in with the fakes. Every game down there since has been segregated, unsurprisingly.

I appreciate that the National league isn't really non -league football and vast majority of games are segregated, so it might be a moot point, but it is traditional that when there is no segregation, you stand at the end that Wealdstone are attacking not hanging around the Bulla for all of the game. I appreciate that the youngsters love George Wickens, but you don't need to be connected to him by an umbilical cord. I know that the Turret End is hopeless for atmosphere but that's why we need you up at that end. And, no, Maidenhead weren't trying to take our end, as some

thought. I haven't seen an end taken for years at Wealdstone, not since it was a bi-annual event every time we played Enfield and the Yellow Van ran the lot from Southbury Road ragged. And, let's be honest, Maidenhead's away support is amongst the smallest in the league, they have taken sixty or less to a number of games within the M25 this season, but they are good guys. Yes, due to the Easter holidays their youth were out in numbers and they brought a decent number to the Vale, but they are softies really and couldn't punch their way through the proverbial paper bag. Just change end, lads, when there is no segregation. It's simples.

Once again, we come up a little short against a Belt when we lost 2-1 at the Vale to Chesterfield. The truth is, the difference between the two teams wasn't the fact that the play-off chasing Spirites were better than us, far from it. The difference was the clinical nature of their finishing as opposed to ours. With the game going our way in the second half, momentum building for the Stones down the Vale slope. Chesterfield took the lead when their sub Quigley, on for the giraffe Denton, expertly took his chance, whilst later on, we had two golden opportunities that were blazed over or wide by our substitutes. Of course, once again, the referee played a pivotal part in the game. We could/should have had two penalties, one just seconds before they retook the lead. We deserved a draw, should have got one, and these are the small margins that we are playing with now. Make those small incremental changes and we will be operating higher up the table.

I thought the much-maligned Josh Umerah was superb against Chesterfield. He ran and ran and ran. Held the ball up well, brought people into the game, took his chance with his goal and deservedly won the man of the match award. I do wonder what people expect from him. He scores goals well above what you'd expect for a team in our position and does the job that's expected of him, ploughing a line furrow up top.

An enjoyable Q&A with the board and management team. Probably more questions at the board than they expected. Some quite spikey answers on occasions from the top table which I have no problem with, though you do wonder at the motives of some of the questions being asked. Now to be a quarterly event. Those wanting these to be over Zoom are misguided and the fullness and openness of answers given would not be the same if on Zoom and recordable.

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# **WEALDSTONE 2021-22**



## **SPECIAL GUESTS**

he Supporters Club are very pleased to welcome the family of John Ashworth to the game today as our guests. Mrs Ann Ashworth is making her first visit since the FA Amateur Cup Final Golden Jubilee reunion back in April 2016. What a great day that was!

John joined Wealdstone from Kingstonian making his debut on Christmas Day 1962. He

left us at the end of the 1965/66 season shortly after winning the FA Amateur Cup. He joined Hendon. During his time at Wealdstone he made 171 competitive appearances and scored 8 goals.

John also featured regularly for the England Amateur squad and Great Britain Men's Olympic football team.

Sadly John passed away in 2020.







David Sesay

'I just want to get fully fit and prove my worth to the Stones ..my home town team!'

don't know about you, but when I heard that the Stones had signed Sierra Leone international David Sesay from Barnet back in November it made me look up in surprise.

I knew he'd been at Watford, highly rated, and then after joining Crawley Town in League Two had been part of the team that knocked Norwich and Stoke out of the Carabao Cup two years ago - and was voted the Sussex club's Young Player of the Season.

And he'd been courted by Kenya to join their Africa Cup of Nations squad. So the 23-yearold was experienced and welltravelled for his age.. a bit of an international man of mystery.

"So where were you brought up, David?" I asked the wingback. "Wealdstone!" he laughed. "Well, Long Elmes to be precise, Harrow Weald, but yeah, I couldn't be closer to the club in many ways".

He was first scouted by Watford, just up the road, at the age of nine and stayed at Vicarage Road for ten years.

"It got to the point where the club were honest and said 'We can't see you making the first team'. It was a blow but Crawley moved quickly to sign me and I made 70 appearances between 2018 and 2021. The biggest buzz was making my League debut at Newport County in December 2018 ... the manager, Harry Kewell, told me I was in the team but I didn't believe it right up until I was handed the shirt!"

David actually made his Crawley debut against Spurs Under-23s in their EFL Trophy group stage game a few months earlier.. and he scored the winning penalty in the shoot-out.

And after establishing himself in the side he was flattered

the side he was liattered to be invited to join the Kenyan squad in March 2019."My mum is Kenyan, and my dad Deen is Sierra Leonian" David explained. "In fact my dad played professionally in the top division out there, and played for his country too".

Above: David
celebrates a
winning penalty to
knock Stoke out of
the Carabao Cup
when he was at
Crawley two years
ago. Right: In action
for Stones at
Eastleigh last month

gpflews

ut he had to turn down Kenya. "They are a top African country, always in the Africa Cup of Nations, but I was needed by Crawley to fight against relegation. But to be honest it did me a favour... because I then got a call-up from Sierra Leone and I'm much more comfortable there with the players and staff. It's a much smaller country (only 7million population compared to Kenya's 70million)".

David has since won four

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

WEALDSTONE



# **WEALDSTONE 2021-22**

year deal supposedly but after playing half a dozen games they were stalling on the deal I was promised. Then Harry Kewell was sacked and Dean Brennan took over.. and it got worse with a whole load of excuses

"That was the time I was called up for the AFCON qualifiers with Sierra Leone, but I suffered a groin injury so didn't take part.

"My agent put me in touch with Weald-stone and I jumped at the chance to sign - especially as the style of football and Stuart Maynard's vision really suited my game. I just had to get fit!

"Then I got COVID, and just as I was about to finally make my debut on Boxing Day (against Maidenhead) we had an outbreak of COVID at the club and so that was knocked on the head too!"

avid finally made his first appearance in a blue shirt against

Notts County in the 0-0 draw at The Vale. "I think we've got some excellent players here and I'm already looking forward to next season when I think we'll kick on. It's been good having people here like Ashley Charles and Andy Eleftheriou (and before them, Dennon and the two Connors) who were also at Watford while I was growing up there.

"Personally, I've got the

2022 Africa Cup of Nations in June to focus on, helping Sierra Leone to the finals hopefully. By then I should be fully fit and it will act as a great pre-season schedule for me to start 2022-23 up and running... I think you'll see the real me by then".

What's the difference between African international football and the National League? Lasked

"You come up against a whole different type of player, people who play top level football around the world. It's more technical and yet very physical... and although I think my best position is as a wing back, I've been used as a centreback for Sierra Leone as I'm comfortable bringing the ball out of defence. And I'm also quite decent in the air

"It's a good amosphere too, a lot of the players getting flights out of Heathrow together and the team bonding is good".

So I had to ask David: Growing up in Harrow, did you know of the rivalry between the Stones and Barnet, and why on earth did you sign for them?!

"Well, let's say I've been made aware of the rivalry and bad feelings between the clubs!" he laughed. "But it's football and you have to do what's best... I don't have another job so I'm trying to be as professional as I can, doing one-on-one training and gym work. I want to get back to my best".

caps for SIerra Leone, against South Sudan and Gambia, and against Togo and Congo in the last international break... and yet he admits that he is still a way off being fully fit. "After I was released by Crawley Town last summer -

"After I was released by Crawley Town last summer - the new manager didn't fancy me, basically - I went on trial to Northampton for two weeks and then I had a call from Harry Kewell who was the new manager at Barnet. It was a month-by-month deal, followed by a



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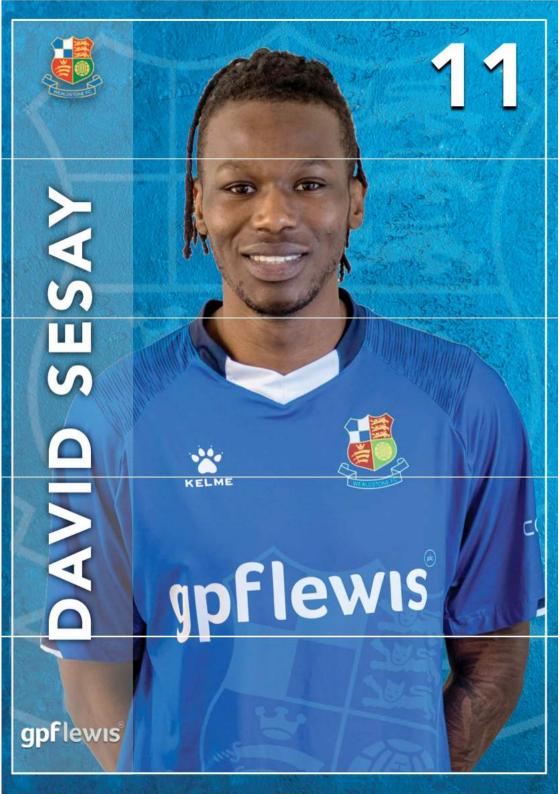


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### FAN IN THE STAND DAN ABRAHAM

# Living in York makes it tricky to get to games.. the atmosphere will keep me coming back though

**Your name and age?** Dan Abraham, 24

Whereabouts do you live, Dan? York

Have you always lived in that area? No, shortly after the first Covid lockdown started I moved to York with my girlfriend after studying at University of Sheffield. I previously lived in a village called Little Gaddesden, near Berkhamsted where I grew up.

When was your first Stones game? 2011 against the local rivals Harrow Borough, Lee Chappell got on the score sheet in a 1-1 draw. Rob Platt says my first game was before that but this is the first game I properly remember. The

first Stones player I remember Is good old Danny Spendlove who had a fantastic mop of blonde hair.

What were your first impressions of the club? A fantastic fanbase with a lot of entertaining characters which makes for a cracking atmosphere home and away. The relationship between the fans, manager and players is very special!

What was the first football match you ever saw live? Or on Tv? First one on TV I can remember was 2006 FA Cup Final when Steven Gerrard, as he so often did, saved the day!

**Do you follow any other team?** Liverpool, my older brothers support them so it was inevitable I started following them too.

What's the most memorable game you've EVER seen? Live at Anfield, seeing Shaqiri secure a 3-1 Liverpool win against Man Utd which resulted in Jose Mourinho's sacking. On TV, corner taken quickly ... Liverpool 4-0 Barcelona – need I say more?

And the best Wealdstone game? It has got to be the 1-0 win away at Margate in 2014 when Charlie



Penny's goal clinched the Ryman Premier Division Title and secured promotion to the Conference South. Being able to meet a lot of the players, and the club legend Gordon Bartlett, that got us to that title after the match was a great honour.

Who introduced you to the Stones? Rob Platt and his dad Tony. Being best friends and from the same village, I starting going with them to matches in 2011 and I soon got hooked, going to a lot of matches and having a season ticket for a few seasons before I went to Uni in 2016.

What level of football do you prefer? Nonleague, it is all about the football with everyone in ground with huge passion for the club whereas higher up the leagues its more of a business unfortunately.

How big a part of your life is the game? Massive, I watch as many games that's on TV as possible, whether that's premier league, champions league or championship.

How do you fit watching football in with your family/working life? Given most of the football I watch is on TV, quite easily. Being in York means

## WEAT D 201-22

Dan soaks up the camaraderie at the

Stockport away game, pre-match with his pals (Rob second from right) it is trickier to go to Stones matches, with the

recent Stockport County away game being the first match I've attended since Covid-19 - it was almost a very famous result for the Stones but it wasn't to be! It was lovely to see lots of familiar faces after not going to a Stones match for ages! I

will make sure I will not leave it so long.

How did you find following the Stones last season by the live stream? How did that compare to being back in grounds this year? The live stream certainly was convenient, as are the live games on BT Sport (even though the Stones featuring on there is rare) but nothing beats actually going to the matches and soaking up all the atmosphere!

Who are the best Wealdstone players you've ever seen? Could you name a best-ever Stones side? Glenn Little, majestic on the ball and he still very much had it at the age of 38. Tom Pett, a tricky winger who dominated defenders in the Ryman Title winning season before

deservedly getting his chance in the EFL. Jonathan North, Wes Parker and Sean Cronin - a fantastic triangle that was the heart of our defence for many years!

As a relative 'newbie' to the club, what chiefly attracted you to the Vale? I would say that the atmosphere was the initial factor that got me hooked, especially midweek games under the lights at the Vale during the Ryman Premier League days...oh and of course the away games! The sense of community at the club was great and it continues to be so even in the National league! I love all the chants and songs sang over the years too, my favourite being 'Molly Malone'.

What's the best away day you've experienced so far? I will give you three that are right up there. In 2016, playing away at Truro meant we got a flight, yes a plane (!), to Newguay and spent a terrific weekend with amazing away support - the 2-1 win made it all the more sweeter!

The first season in the Conference South, it was a pre-Christmas away day in Bath. Many drinks were had before I stacked it the whole way down their famous terraces when Joe Turner slotted it home in the last minute! Later that day. Tony kicked me out his car in Ickenham for throwing up everywhere! One too many beers that day I think! In the Ryman Premier Title winning season, 4-1 win away at Dulwich, seeing Little run 80 yards and skipping past the whole Dulwich team to score a magnificent chip to score in style!

Do you think Stones can aspire to playing in the EFL? Where do you think the future of the club lies? Definitely. Just look at how Sutton and Harrogate have done recently. I am not sure we will reach the EFL in 5 years, but certainly see us as a sustained National league club for years to come



### **GROSVENOR VALE SUMMER OF THE**

15 years ago, a band of four rode in to Ruislip to save the Stones from extinction... not for the first time. This is their almost-forgotten story

ne, with one ear pressed to tran-

found some old diaries at home the other day. One was from 1974, when I was 16. They were all about watching football, illegal drinking and what I'd had for my tea.

And there was an entry for Saturday May 18.... "Cycled to watch Ruislip Manor v Herne Bay at Grosvenor Vale with my mate Derek". And it all came flooding back... the wide green spaces around the pitch so we could have a kickaround while the game was going on; the funny old brick turret in the corner; the tatty old stand and clubhouse with its peeling paint and old men drinking Guiness and smoking woodbines.

That was the Vale, half a century ago. Maybe a hundred people watching a late-season Athenian League Division Two game in the June

sunshine, with one ear pressed to transistor radios to find out how England were doing in the Home International against Scotland at Hampden Park (we lost 2-0 with a pair of own goals from Mike Pejic and Colin Todd, if you're interested).

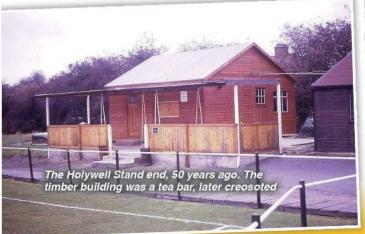
And that got me thinking about how the Vale has been transformed these part 15 years. Unrecognisable really, although features like the gun turret and the corrugated iron stand - widely derided by the visiting hordes of ex-League team fans - are what makes it unique at this level.

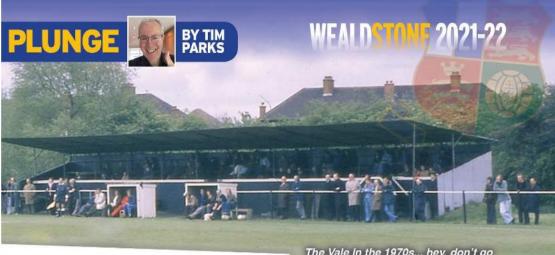
But how did it all come about? What is the story behind how Wealdstone came to be playing half a

dozen miles from its spiritual home in Harrow? So I sat down with Stones' associate director *Pete Worby* (deputy chairman to Nick Symmons that crucial summer) to ask the questions.... and the answers took me by surprise. It was a really sticky situation that had to be resolved.

've often asked myself if all the effort and angst we went through was worth it" said Pete.

"It was in September 2007 or thereabouts that Grosvenor Vale first surfaced as a possible home for us. We had lost out on the Prince Edward Playing Fields







The Vale in the 1970s... hey. don't go leaning on that fence! The Social Club (left) and the 1966 Stand are hardly recognisable today

though no fault of our own a few years earlier, and after groundsharing at Edgware and then Northwood for a dozen years the club was dying a death. We HAD to find a home to call our own.

"I still remember the evening that myself and Fingers Fruin first met and spoke with the Ruislip Manor chairman Fred Deanus. And it was at the beginning of 2008 we took over.

"Myself, Paul Rumens, Quentin Fox and Dominic Whyley all agreed to sink money into what could have been a bottomless pit. It's impossible to describe what we all went through. I know that I almost cracked up under the pressure of trying to deal with my day job as well as WFC, Ruislip Manor Social Club and the incredibly awkward people we encountered there.

"But I'm more than a little proud of what we have achieved. It's all a million miles away from where we were back in those tinpot days at Northwood. Paul, Dominic and Quentin....you are all heroes".

The fab four are certainly owed a debt of gratitude by this football club. The Stones have risen from having to pass the stringent grading to win a place in the Ryan Premier League in 2008, to further upgrading in 2014 when promotion was achieved to the National League (South)...and then of course an extra £100,000 was needed to upgrade the stadium to National League standard last year... in the midst of a pandemic!

This season we've seen an average attendance at home of over 1,500 culminating in a crowd of 2,662 for Barnet. Away games have, amongst others seen 5,356 at Chesterfield, 5,213 at Notts County, 8,592 at Wrexham and 7,400 at Stockport.

ut let's go back to the dark days of the late 2000s. This time let's hear from Stones director *Quentin Fox*, a lawyer by profession and the man charged with the legal ramifications of the takeover of Ruislip Manor FC.

"The WFC Board was approached in late 2007 or early 2008 by Fred Deanus, Manor's then chairman" says Quentin. "He told us that RM was heavily in debt and about to fold. He offered us the opportunity to acquire his majority shares in the company which held the lease (Ruislip Manor Sports & Social Club Ltd) for nothing, provided we were willing to take on the company's debts, which he said were in the region of £60,000.

"The Board were very interested in ending our nomadic status, but the club did not have the money to clear the debts. So the four of us agreed

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### SUMMER OF THE PLUNGE CONTINUED

#### FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

to put up (from memory) around £20,000 each on the basis that each of us would own approximately 25% each of the shares in RMSSCL.

"Speaking personally, and I think the others felt the same, I never expected to recovery a penny of that "investment"; indeed, I did not regard it as an investment, but just a vital way of helping the club progress."

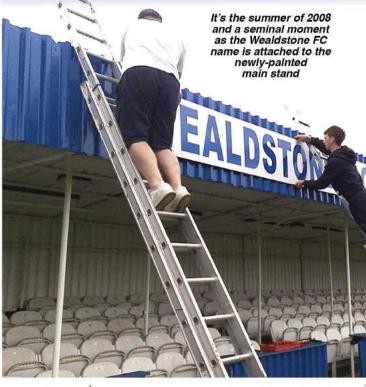
RMSSCL had an A and B share structure, with only the A shares having voting rights. So the Gang of Four (primarily Pete and Quentin) went to to visit the A shareholders - most of whom were very elderly - to try to persuade them to transfer their shares to Wealdstone to save RM. The alternative was its complete demise.

Said Quentin: "From memory, everyone we visited agreed to make the transfer. A few either could not be contacted or had died and they remain on RMSS-

CL's share register today. However, we secured the vast majority of the shares (about 98% from memory) and the deal went ahead. The four of us became the new Board of RMSSCL."

RM limped on for a while, initially funded by the foursome. However, the financial demands from its staff quickly became too much - and, because the Four were providing funding, the League tried to make them responsible for RM's fines and misdemeanours. Pete, Quentin, Paul and Dominic therefore stopped the funding.

uislip Manor became Tokyington FC and moved to the Wembley area, then groundshared at Viking Sports and Amersham Town before striking up an affiliation with Glasgow Rangers. The club again changed its name to London Rangers



and currently plays in the Middlesex County League Division One.

Quentin takes up the story: "We quickly found out that all was far from well with RMSSCL.

"It was very run-down and relied on a few heavy drinkers and a Friday night country & western gig. It was (unsurprisingly) heavily loss-making and its debts were more like £150k than the £60k we had been told about.

"The creditors were circling. From memory, the major creditors were HMRC, the brewery and the

company's accountants. HMRC were absolutely inflexible and had to be paid off. The brewery's loan was renegotiated on reasonable terms, whilst I settled the accountants' claim at a mediation at a very substantial discount.

"Further difficulties arose with the general manager of the social club who made

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### SUMMER OF THE PLUNGE CONTINUED





#### FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

of the social club who made our lives difficult in a number of ways in conjunction with his drinking pals there. He was eventually sacked and the unpleasantly aggressive friends were quietly 'persuaded' to leave.

"During that spell we also had two or three suspicious burglaries.

"After the manager's departure, the management of the club effectively fell to me, Pete and Dom, who all lived nearby, with Paul helping where he could. It became very onerous and it was apparent that we needed full time help.

"I think that's when we got Ray Kemp involved as manager, and ultimately Leo Morris."

y virtue of a lot of hard work, The Fab Four - plus the hardworking other directors and supporters - turned the fortunes of the social club around. The Vale social club was becoming profitable and now able to start funding the football club, either directly or by taking on its expenses.

It built up a decent nest egg - later controversially raided by former club chairman Peter Marsden to build the new stand at the Gun Turret end of the ground - and has played a large part in building the club's bright future.

As Quentin says: "The stadium was very run down when the Stones took it on and I would have been astonished at the time to have been shown pictures of how it looks today. Huge credit goes to all who have made the transformation possible.

"Many years later, the club had sufficient funds to pay off the loan without any uplift or interest.. but as I said, I never expected to get a penny back.

"We four did what we had to do to secure the future of the club and that's all that mattered".







**SCAN HERE** 



# Opposition in focus BOREHAM WOOD

# THE WOOD

oreham Wood Football Club celebrated its 70th Anniversary at the end of the 2017/18 season, having been formed in 1948 following the amalgamation of Boreham Rovers and Royal Retournez. The anniversary was celebrated in spectacular style with an appearance at Wembley and also beating a Football League club for the first time ever in the FA Cup – more later on both!

First though, back to our formative years and the club gradually progressed through the Mid-Herts, Parthenon, Spartan and Athenian Leagues. Under the Chairmanship of local man Bill O'Neill and the management of fellow local man Mickey Hunter, the club moved forward by winning back to back promotions at Athenian League level, before being elected to the Isthmian Football League in 1974/75, under the management of another local man Micky Lennon.

In 1976/77 the club won the Isthmian League Division Two Championship by sixteen points and then had a five-season spell in the Premier Division during the late seventies and early eighties. It then enjoyed another much more successful spell in the Premier Division during the nineties under the Chairmanship of Phil Wallace and the managerial expertise of Bob Makin. That sadly ended in relegation at the end of the 1999/2000 season under the then new Chairman Danny Hunter who remains our Chairman to this day. However, the club did bounce back

immediately from that disappointment and once again gained promotion to the Isthmian League Premier Division, as Isthmian League Division One Champions in 2000/01.

Following the Football Association restructuring of non-league football in 2004, Boreham Wood competed for the first time in the Southern Football League, playing in Division One East for two seasons. Winning the championship in 2005/06 the club was promoted again



and returned to the Isthmian League Premier

Division for the 2006/07 season.

Alongside the championship success in the 2005/06 season the club went on an incredible run in the FA Trophy, reaching the Semi-Finals. We are very proud to say that, at present, we are still the lowest ranked team to have reached the last four of

that prestigious tournament.

The 2009/10 season was also a highly memorable one for the club, as it saw us finish 4th in our Isthmian League Premier Division campaign and take part in a League Play-Off for the very first time. After defeating Aveley 1-0 away in the Semi-Final, the club went on to beat Kingstonian 2-0 at home in the Final and, under the shrewd management of lan Allinson, we deservedly took our place in the Football Conference South.

A poor start to our inaugural 2010/11 Conference South league campaign saw us initially struggle to compete at that level and we sat bottom of the table around the Christmas period. However, with clear leadership and further investment from our experienced Chairman, our manager Ian Allinson, our dressing room and our supporters all came together. We rallied and recovered well to finish in a very respectable 14th place.

The 2013/14 saw a long relegation battle for the



majority of the season but a strong finish saw us end up in 13th place. Another cup run saw us again reach the First Round proper of the FA Cup, and that culminated in us holding Football League One side Carlisle United to a 0-0 draw at Meadow Park. The replay ended in heartbreak, though, as we led 1-0, only to miss a penalty before two late goals saw us bow out of the competition 2-1.

In 2013, we got the go ahead to build a brand new 870-seater West Stand. The project was finally completed in May 2014 at a cost of around three quarters of a million pounds. The stand was officially opened by Mr Arsene Wenger in front of a bumper crowd of 3,400, in a specially arranged friendly against an Arsenal First Team on Saturday 19th July 2014.

The 2014/15 season was, at the time, the most successful in Boreham Wood Football Club's history. After leading the Conference South for the majority of the season, a controversial defeat at eventual League Champions Bromley cost us the title and so we took our place in the end of season Play-Offs.

Áfter playing magnificently to beat Havant & Waterlooville 2-0 away from home, and then drawing 2-2 at home in a two-legged Semi-Final, we faced the then big spending and strongly fancied Whitehawk Football Club at Meadow Park

in front of a partisan 2,200 crowd and eventualy winning 2-1.

The 2015/16 season was undoubtedly a historic season for the Wood with us competing at the top table of non-league football for the very first time in the newly named National League. By the October we had lost our very successful long-standing manager lan Allinson to his increased work commitments. We had replaced him with Allinson's experienced, but young, assistant manager Luke Garrard who was just 30-years of age and we continued to struggle and adjust to football at that level and faced a relegation battle that took us to the very last game of the season.

The following season, 2016/17, saw the club improve further, with an 11th place National League finish but the best was still to come one year later.

During that 2017/18 season the club finally realised two ambitions, the first of which was to beat a Football League club in the FA Cup. That happened on Saturday, November 4 2017 with a 2-1 victory over famous FA Cup winners Blackpool. That would have been the highlight of a normal season, but 2017/18 was anything but that for Boreham Wood FC as a great run of league form ended with an amazing 4th place finish in the National League. That meant vet another appearance in the Play-Offs and this time in the new format where six clubs were involved. In the eliminator round we beat AFC Fylde 2-1. We then faced Sutton United away just three days later winning 3-2 - Boreham Wood were going to play at Wembley Stadium! A place in the Football League was at stake but it was not to be, losing 2-1 to Tranmere Rovers but the memory of the day, the walk down Wembley Way and seeing over 4,000 fans supporting the club will last forever in the memory of everyone connected with the club.

Our club facilities are utilised on a daily basis, 52 weeks of the year. The club houses the largest sports education programme in the whole country, which has now been established for well over a decade. It is a programme that boasts over 600 scholar/students for the next academic year and 2018/19 season.

#### PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Tuesday 11th January 2022

AWAY - Lost 0-1 (1298)

Saturday 10th April 2021

AWAY Lost 1-3 (BCD)

Tuesday 2nd March 2021

HOME - Won 1-0 (BCD)

WEALDSTONE'S RECORD V BOREHAM WOOD FC P 26 W 12 D 4 L 10 F 54 A 37

# pposition in focus Wood FC ahead of the 2020/21 season.

2. JAMIE RECKORD - DEFENCE

Previous Clubs: Wolverhampton Wanderers. Northampton Town (Loan), Scunthorpe United (Loan), Coventry City (Loan), Plymouth Arayle (Loan), Swindon Town (Loan), Ross County, Oldham Athletic, Solihull Moors, Wrexham AFC, The Wood welcomed Reckord in January 2022 following a season-and-a-half in North Wales with National League big hitters Wrexham, after his time with the Red Dragons came to an end upon the mutual cancellation of his contract at the Racecourse.

3. FEMI ILESANMI - DEFENCE

Previous Clubs: AFC Wimbledon, QPR, Dagenham & Redbridge, Ashford Town, Dagenham & Redbridge, Histon (Loan), York City, Boreham Wood, Dover Athletic. Boreham Wood secured the return of Femi llesanmi in June 2018 having originally featured for the Wood in the 2016/17 campaign.

4. MARK RICKETTS - MIDFIELD revious Clubs: Charlton Athletic, MK Dons (Loan). Ebbsfleet United, Woking

Mark arrived at Meadow Park in the Summer of 2016 from Woking following a successful seven-year period with the Surrey Club.

5. WILL EVANS - DEFENCE

Previous Clubs: Swindon Town, Hereford United (Loan), Hereford United, Newport County (Loan), Eastleigh, Aldershot Town, Chesterfield. Former Chesterfield captain Will Evans signed a two-year deal with Wood following his exit from the Spireites in the Summer of 2021.

6. DAVID STEPHENS - DEFENCE

Previous Clubs: Norwich City, Lincoln City (Loan). Hibernian, Barnet, David signed for Boreham Wood in October 2015 making his debut in a 2-1 victory against AFC Hornchurch in the FA Cup.

7. JOSH REES - MIDFIELD

Previous Clubs: Arsenal, Brentford (Loan), Nottingham Forest (Loan), Nuneaton Town, Torquay United, Chelmsford City, Bromley, Gillingham, Bromley (Loan), Aldershot Town. Wood announced the signing of Josh Rees in 2021 after the expiry of his contract with Aldershot Town, signing a two-year deal at Meadow Park.

8. GUS MAFUTA - MIDFIELD

Previous Clubs: Colchester United, Bristol City. Weston-Super-Mare (Loan), Nuneaton Borough (Loan), Gateshead FC, Salford City, Hartlepool.

Mafuta signed a two year contract with Boreham

9. SCOTT BODEN - FORWARD

Previous Clubs: Sheffield United, IFK Mariehamn (Loan), Chesterfield, Macclesfield Town (Loan), Alfreton Town (Loan), Macclesfield Town, FC Halifax Town, Newport County. Inverness Caledonian Thistle, Wrexham, Gateshead, Chesterfield, Torquay United (Loan) He joined Boreham Wood in August 2021

10. TYRONE MARSH - FORWARD

Previous Clubs: Oxford United, Staines Town (Loan), Welling United (Loan), Ebbsfleet United. Torquay United, Dover Athletic, Macclesfield Town, Stevenage, Originally signed in 2019 Marsh left for Stevenage in 2020 before re signing for the second half of the 2020/21 season on an 18-month deal.

11. FRANKIE RAYMOND - MIDFIELD

Previous Clubs: Reading, Horsham (Loan), Basingstoke Town (Loan), Eastleigh (Loan), Hungerford Town (Loan), Gillingham. Eastbourne Borough, Dagenham & Redbridge, Eastbourne Borough (Loan), Bromley, Frankie Raymond joined the Wood on a two-year deal from league rivals Bromley in the summer.

12 JAMAL FYFIELD - DEFENCE

Previous Clubs: Levton Orient, Maidenhead United, York City, Maidenhead United (Loan), Grimsby, Welling, Wrexham, Gateshead. Former Gateshead centre-back Jamal arrived at Meadow Park in June 2018, as part of the Wood's summer strengthening.

13. DONNABHAN GREEN- GOALKEEPER

A graduate of the Club's renowned BW PASE Academy, Donnabhan Green joined Boreham Wood at 16 years old and progressed through the youth teams. He has reached new heights during the current campaign, being trusted to deputise for Nathan Ashmore and Taye Ashby-Hammond by featuring on the bench on numerous occasions despite being in the early vears of his career.

14. ADRIAN CLIFTON - FORWARD

Previous Clubs: Arsenal, Norwich City, West Ham United, Romford, Waltham Forest, East Thurrock United, Maidenhead United, Havant & Waterlooville, Staines Town (Loan), Staines Town, Maidenhead United, Bromley, Dagenham & Redbridge. Clifton joined from Dagenham & Redbridge at the expiry of his contract in June 2021.

# **WEALDSTONE 2021-22**

#### 15. DENNON LEWIS - FORWARD

Previous Clubs: Watford, Woking (Loan), Crawley Town (Loan), Falkirk, Bromley, Wealdstone. Ten goals in his first season with the Stones helped the club win promotion to the National League, netting a further five during 2020/21 season. He made a total of 86 appearances for the Stones before joining Boreham Wood for an undisclosed fee.

#### 16. JAMES COMLEY - MIDFIELD

Previous Clubs: Crystal Palace, Canvey Island, St Albans City, Kettering Town, St Albans City, Maidenhead United (loan), Maidenhead United, Walton Casuals. joined Maidenhead United initially on Ioan, with the deal being made permanent at the end of the 2015/16 season. He would go on to spend five years with the Magpies playing 196 times. After leaving he joined Boreham Wood.

#### 17. JACOB MENDY - DEFENCE

Previous Clubs: Carshalton Athletic, Wealdstone. Former Wealdstone wing-back Jacob Mendy Mendy joined the Wood on a three-year contract after the club activated his buyout clause, joining Luke Garrard's men for a club record fee. Mendy is a highly rated Gambian-born Spaniard who helped the Stones to win the 2019/20 National League South title, before winning the club's Player of the Season award for his efforts in a Stones shirt during the 2020/21 season. Ten goals from wing-back caught the eye of many National League and Football League clubs, with the Wood taking advantage of his buyout clause to bring him to Meadow Park.

#### 18. CONNOR SMITH - MIDFIELD

Previous Clubs: Watford, Wealdstone (Loan), Gillingham (Loan), Stevenage (Loan), AFC Wimbledon, Plymouth Argyle, Yeovil Town, Boreham Wood, Billericay Town, Kingstonian (Loan), Kings Langley (Loan), Wealdstone. Connor was a part of the side who won promotion to the National League in 2019/20 for Wealdstone. His first goal of his second stint with the Stones in fact came against the Wood, before leaving in June 2021. A return to the Wood soon came calling where he acts as player-coach.

#### 19 KANE SMITH - DEFENCE

Previous Clubs: Biggleswade, Hitchin Town. Kane joined the Wood on a two-year deal from Hitchin Town in July 2017.

#### 21. TAYE ASHBY-

HAMMOND - GOALKEEPER

Previous Clubs: Fulham, Chipstead (Loan),

Maidenhead United (Loan). Taye joined Boreham Wood on a short-term loan deal back in October, which was later extended until the end of the 2021/22 season just a month later.

#### 22. NILE RANGER- FORWARD

Previous Clubs: Crystal Palace, Southampton, Newcastle United, Barnsley (Loan), Sheffield Wednesday (Loan), Swindon Town, Blackpool, Southend United, Spalding United. Nile earned a deal with Boreham Wood after impressing on trial, and was unveiled as a Wood player in December 2021.

#### 23. JOSHUA ROACH - GOALKEEPER

Previous Clubs: West Ham United.
A product of West Ham United's Academy of Football, Joshua Roach joined the Hammers as a youngster and featured for the club's youth sides in the Premier League 2. After leaving East London, the 18-year old joined Boreham Wood on trial and impressed enough to earn himself a deal.

#### 24. CONNOR STEVENS - DEFENCE

Previous Clubs: Watford, Oxford City (Loan), Wealdstone. Connor began his career with Hertfordshire neighbours Watford, coming through the youth ranks at Vicarage Road to feature for the Hornet's under 18's and under 23's sides. In his first season at Grosvenor Vale, Stevens helped the Stones reach the end of season play-offs, eventually losing out to play-off winners Woking in the semi-finals following a comfortable 3-1 victory over Bath City in the eliminator match. Just a season later though, Wealdstone and Stevens went one step further, clinching the Stones return to Non-League football's top table as Champions of the National League South on a points per game basis following the curtailment of the 2019/20 season due the COVID-19 pandemic. Stevens joined Boreham Wood at the beginning of February 2022

#### 29. DANILO ORSI - FORWARD

Previous Clubs: East Thurrock United, Hungerford Town, Hampton & Richmond Borough, Maidenhead United, Harrogate Town. Orsi's rise to the Football League would be completed in the summer of 2021, as League Two side Harrogate Town gave him his first taste of league football when they announced his signing in June 2021 ahead of the 2021/22 campaign. Since arriving in Yorkshire, Orsi has netted six goals in 14 games in all competitions for Town, before joining the Wood for the remainder of the 2021/22 season on loan.



## RESULTS 2021/2022

ELEFTHERIOU

In Black = Started match In Blue = Sub

WEALDSTONE FE	ì					2022	George WICKENS	Jack COOK	Andrew ELEFTHERIC	Nikola TAVARES	Jerome OKIMO	Craig FASANMADE	Matt BUSE	Joshua UMERAH	Rhys BROWNE	Dennon LEWIS	Charlie COOPER
AUGUST 21 WOKING			(Total)			Goal scorers Umerah	1	2	12	17	6	7	8	9	10	11	24
28 Chesterfield 30 SOUTHEND UNITED SEPTEMBER		0-2 0-0	5,336 2,151	167 800	18		1 1	2	12 12	17	6	7 7(10)	8(18)	9 9	10 10	11 11	24 24
4 Dagenham & Redbridge		2-2	1,735			Umerah, Lewis	1	2 2	12 12	17(34	6	7 7(9)		9	10(7)	11(3)	24 24
11 ALTRINCHAM 14 Notts County	VNL	1-0	1,013 5,213	N/A 208		Elito (Pen) Umerah (2)	1	2	12		6	7(9)	A CONTRACT	9	10(11)		24
18 ALDERSHOT TOWN	VNL		1,106	280		Umerah, Jackson	1	2	12 12	17	6	7(9)	8(20)	9	10/01	11(20)	24
25 King's Lynn Town OCTOBER	VNL	1-0	885	180	13	Cooper	1	2	12	17			0(21)	9	10(9)	11(20)	24
2 Torquay United	VNL	0-5	2,097	132			1	2	12	17				9		11	24
5 SOLIHULL MOORS 9 EASTLEIGH	VNL	1-2	1,501	120 95		Umerah	1	2	12 12	17 17			8(18)	9(18)		11	24 24
16 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	FAC4	1-2	718	185	17	Bird	1	2	12	17	6	7/01	8(11)	9		11	24
23 Weymouth 26 GRIMSBY TOWN	VNL	1-1	1,024	170 794		McAvoy Buse	1	2		17 17	6	7(9) 7(9)	8(18)	9		11(16	24
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13 BARNET 20 Wrexham	VNL	1-0	2,662	672		Browne	1	2		17 17	6(25) 6(17)		8	9	10(16)		24 24
23 Dover Athletic	VNL	0-0 3-2	8,592 510	194 200		Sweeney (2), Umerah	1	2		17	6		8	9	10		24
27 STOCKPORT COUNTY			1,382	310		Jackson	1	2			6		8	9			24
30 Bedfont & Feltham DECEMBER	MCCZ	1-2	TBC	TBC	16	Jackson											
4 Bromley		2-3	1,747	220		Umerah, Cook	1	2			6	-		9			24
11 FC HALIFAX TOWN 18 Needham Market		0-1	958 432	200		Buse		2			6	7	8(5)	9			24 24
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11 Boreham Wood 15 DOVER ATHLETIC	VNL	0-1 2-1	1,298	171		Charles, Stevens	1	2		17 17	6	7	8	9			24
22 Woking	VNL	0-2	940 2.667	45 232	110	Charles, Stevens	1	2		17	6	7		9			24
25 NOTTS COUNTY	VNL	0-0	1,547	450	20		1	2			6(2)		8	9(22)			24 24
29 Grimsby Town FEBRUARY	VNL	1-2	4,747	166	20	Mascoll	_				0		0	9(22)			24
8 YEOVIL TOWN	VNL	2-1	1,175	TBD		Umerah, Tavares		2		17	6			9	10(20)		24(
12 Barnet 19 WREXHAM	VNL	3-1	2,248 1,901	848 TBD	16	Imerah, Ferguson, Mundle-Smith Brown e (P)	1	2		17	6			9	10(20)		24 24
22 Solihull Moors	VNL	1-2	3,219	209	18	Okimo	1			1004	6			9	10		SERVIN.
26 TORQUAY UNITED MARCH	VNL	1-1	0,000	N/A	19	Mundle-Smith	1	2		17				9	10		24(
5 Eastleigh	VNL	1-4	2.615	190	20	Clayden	1	2		17	130			9	10		24(
8 Maidenhead United	VNL	2-0	1,209	220	20	Cook, Browne	1	2			6			9(10)	10		24
12 WEYMOUTH 19 Stockport County	VNL	3-2	1,003 7,453	87 195	2.70	Browne 2, Cook Henry, Cook	1	2			6			9	10		24 24
26 BROMLEY	VNL	1-1	1,161	TBD	1000	Umerah	1	2		17(16)				9(14)	10		24
APRIL 2 FC Halifax Town	VNL	0-2	1,850	TBD	10		1	2		17	6			9	10		
5 MAIDENHEAD UNITED			1,222				1	2			6			9(4)	10		
9 CHESTERFIELD		1-2	1,337	TBD	18	Umerah	1				6			9	10		
15 Southend United 18 BOREHAM WOOD	VNL																
23 Altrincham	VNL																
30 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	VNL																
2 Yeovil Town	VNL																
7 KING'S LYNN TOWN 15 Aldershot Town	VNL																
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						FRIENDLY RESUL 17th July Hayes & 20th July St Alban	Yeadin			2-1	Char		sanma	de			

20th July

24th July

27th July

St Albans City

**Bedford Town** 

**Chesham United** 

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	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		
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	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																							

# Match Sponsors

A great way to celebrate a special occasion or advertise your organisation's support of Wealdstone, match sponsorship packages start at just £495 (fans) or £550+ VAT (for businesses).

As match day sponsor you will enjoy:

- Match tickets for four people (inc. prime main stand seats if required)
- 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.

Vanarama National League

Our match sponsors and their guests are all en-

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

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

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

Ray Corner & Peter Carter

Our ma	cn sponsors and their gues	its are all en-									
MATCH	ft.	SPONSORS									
<b>(#)</b>	WOKING Saturday, 21st August Yanarama National League	Harrow Windows									
Burness parts	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 Salurday, 18th September Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows									
I	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 Sebrday, 18th October FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round	Ability Security									
	GRIMSBY TOWN Tuesday, 26th October Vanarama National League	ADWConnect									
	BARNET	Factorial Participation									

Rolfe-East



A top drawer experience that League clubs to shame. Nothing was too much trouble highly recommended."

- Colin Walklate. Harrow Windows

"Great Hospitality 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 crowd and meeting the Raider! We will do it again this season!

- Keith Davies, AFC Lightning

#### MATCH

#### **SPONSORS**



#### STOCKPORT COUNTY

Vanarama National League

**AFC Lightning** 

Morty's Emslie Enders



#### FC HALIFAX TOWN

Vanarama National League

Harrow Windows



#### DOVER ATHLETIC

Vanarama National League

**Ruislip Windows & Doors** 



#### NOTTS COUNTY

Vanarama National League

Rolfe-East

Ruislip Windows & Doors



#### YEOVIL TOWN

Vanarama National League

Fenton Civil Engineering



#### MAIDENHEAD UNITED

Vanarama National League

Osmo UK

Rolfe East



#### WRFXHAM

Vanarama National League

**Union Athletic** 





### TOROUAY UNITED

Vanarama National League

Oldfield Construction Ltd



#### WEYMOUTH

Vanarama National League

**Harrow Windows** 

**Gerard Cook** 



#### BROMI FY

Vanarama National League

Rolfe-East

The Guild

In Memory of Brian Kat Kelly



#### CHESTERFIELD

Vanarama National League

**Harrow Windows** 

**Turf Doctor** 



#### BOREHAM WOOD

Vanarama National League

Ruislip Windows & Doors



#### DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE

Vanarama National League

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The Lower Mead 4

# The World of Ball From tannoys and trannies to Twitter: 100 years of in-ground communication

You may be reading this having first scrolled footie Twitter, texted a mate at another game and scanned the 'as it stands' league table. But this information ubiquity is pretty recent. Here's how we've obtained news of other live matches – while at our own – over the years.

#### 1900s - Present: Scoreboards

hen Burnley won the FA Cup in 1914, there was no TV or radio to relay the news. So, with the detail having first been telegraphed north, the club communicated its success by writing the result on a blackboard and having staff parade it around the ground to inform fans attending a reserves match that was (remarkably in itself) also taking place at the time.

Getting details of the match actually happening in front of you was difficult; players didn't even have numbers on their shirts until 1928. But getting match details from elsewhere often meant waiting until half an hour or so after the match to buy papers such as the 'Pink'un, produced at terrific pace for distribution in the streets in and around grounds, a practice that continued until the economics became unsustainable during the 1980s.

The basic ways of displaying in-match information to a crowd with no means of sourcing it themselves continued in the pre Public Address (PA) days with the development of the half time scoreboard. The programme would list the day's most important fixtures with a letter marked against each, for example H = Leicester vs Everton. At half time, officials would place panels displaying home and away team scores into the slot marked 'H' on the scoreboard.

(You can imagine scoreboard jockeys teasing news of local rivals, Liverpool fans craning their necks as a "0" is put in the slot representing Everton, before cheering the "1" put into to the Leicester slot.)

Such scoreboards co-existed with the early PA systems increasingly used by club officials to announce other important scores and information. Early systems struggled with tinny or muffled sound, and many non-league clubs still operate next to useless PA systems today.

#### 1960s - Personal transistor radios

Personalisation of the in-match score sourcing experience first came in the 1960s with the introduction of portable transistor radios - colloquially dubbed "trannies". (Oh, for sure: couldn't happen today...) Early models were the size of a shoe-box, but they soon slimmed down to the size of a cigarette packet to become realistic travelling companions for supporters.

Alas, these mass-assembled, desperately fragile units were manufactured using the world's most brittle plastic, their headphone jacks and tuning dials good only for a matter of months before failing. You'd use the single ear piece supplied, or press your ear to its tiny, tinny little speaker, shushing others so you could pick up on whatever was emerging from the country's only national source of live broadcast football updates: Radio 2

For the first time, 'trannies' gave crowds awareness of major goals scored elsewhere as they went in, the yelps of those listening causing the audio equivalent of a Mexican wave as the importance of the news spread across the terraces. And beyond sport, we children of the seventies found transistor radios perfect for discovering music. Radio 1 had an audience of many millions, while a typical evening would be spent trying to tune to Radio Luxembourg, then broadcasting as a pirate station.

Alas, medium wave signal strength was subject to fluctuating environmental conditions and the broadcaster's own signal strength. Typically, Luxembourg's pirate ship antenna proved no match for the mighty Radio Moscow; one minute you'd be listening to ABBA's Dancing Queen, the next Agnatha and Anni-Frid's vocals



Left: a typically fragile ansistor radio. Below: the classic Subbuteo half-time scoreboard shows how the idea worked.



would morph into the dry tones of a gun-to-thehead Russian news reporter introducing an item about the Soviet Union's record breaking potato crop yield / Siberian oil barrel production. Then, just as you were warming to the details of Ukraine's glorious wheat harvests, Bohemian Rhapsody would come and drown it out again.

While far from perfect, this combination of club PA and medium wave radio remained the principal form of external score line information for nigh on fifty years.

#### 1970s - Televisions

Since the 1990s, most new club stadiums have sported TVs in the concourses, while here at The Vale, as with most non-league grounds, we can walk into the club house to watch scores coming in from around the country.

But before Jeff Stelling and Co had become a 'thing', the invention of BBC Ceefax in 1974 (and its ITV equivalent Teletext) led to a generation of football fans cutting short their homeward journeys to peer through the windows of Ketts, Dixon's, Curry's et al where endless rows of rentable colour TV screens all showed the exact same scrolling list of footie results.

I remember waiting outside the Ketts store up at Rayners Lane tube station for Ceefax to display the result of the 1978 Stones-Enfield FA Cup 1st Round tie, only to be crushed when it came up — Wealdstone 0 Enfield 5 (Five).

#### 2000-Present: Mobile Phones

Ceefax was essentially a rudimentary form of centrally served web site, but in the early noughties mobile phones transitioned from simple voice and text communicators to devices sporting their own basic Ceefax-like equivalent. However, this 'WAP' (Wireless Access Protocol) internet site access was ponderously slow, while early 21st century handsets required way too much thumb tennis to get to what you wanted to see. But then, Steve Jobs intervened.

The introduction of the iPhone in 2007 transformed phone-accessed match communications at a stroke, providing full scale web site access and far faster 'push-pull' data traffic. And so, along came the apps.

For fourteen years, Twitter has allowed us to curate our own in-match score landscape. Dedicated sports score apps (FotMob, Flashscores et al) have since evolved the form further, with betting companies funding the development of some (for entirely altruistic purposes, obviously).

These apps instantly ping us scores and updated live league tables. So efficient are they that you can be watching a streamed match and get notification of a goal through an app before the ball has actually hit the back of the net on screen. (Same too if you're watching some live broadcast BT and Sky matches; absurdly, you now need to mute these notifications to enjoy a televised game).

So how does it work? Turns out that all clubs designate an individual to punch in to a dedicated app the details of various events immediately they take place. For Wealdstone, our chief app updater is Nicole Cho-Yee. When anything of note happens - goals, corners, free kicks, penalties, substitutions - Nicole taps it into this app which instantly informs a Press Association database. In a matter or micro-seconds, this news is pushed out to the broadcasters and app operators and then pushed back out to us. It's all very 21st century.

#### 2020s - Chip Implants, personalised 'info-bots'

I suspect that, with every tap, our Nicole is feeding the database that helps Gary Lineker drone on about Spurs having more shots in the first half against Southampton than any other side, etc.

I also suspect that more is to come. Artificial intelligence will see instant analysis pushed out with goal alerts. By 2025, not only will we know that Josh Umerah has scored, we will also be informed that it was Josh's fifth goal to be scored with his left leg in the six yard box on a wet Tuesday night. A Jack Cook header at the back stick will be presented as the 387th Stones goal from a left-handed Sagittarius whose blood group is Type 0, with his height off the ground and heart rate at time of scoring arriving simultaneously courtesy of the radio chip taped to his chest.

I'm perfectly serious about all of this, by the way; in our world of cheap chips and network ubiquity, ever more 'granular' insight is the only competitive advantage for firms to chase.

So, for better or worse, we've come quite a way from those pre Great War Burnley Reserves fans peering out at a distant blackboard to find out they'd won the cup. Now, why is my arse cheek buzzing? Ah good, Barnet have conceded again...

Random snippets irregularly posted @Wealdipedia



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# ON THIS DAY >>>> BY TIM PARKS



# **16 years ago,the tale of Stones** winning at Boro to stay up...and rescué mission of two big lads in a VW Polo!

Tuesday April 18, 2006, Ryman League Premier Division: Harrow Borough 1 Wealdstone 2

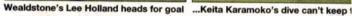
hat a season of hopes and fears this turned out to be! It was the season that boss Gordon Bartlett decided that, after 10 years at the helm, he'd invite Cheshunt's highly-rated young manager Andy Leese to join him in the dugout.

And at first the Stones seemed rejuvenated after a scary first season in the Ryman Prem which saw us claw our way to safety in the final game. Leese brought half a dozen Cheshunt 'stars' with him to Northwood - where we had been forced to move to as tenants after Edgware (our landlords for a decade) refused to confirm that we could stay and with Jermaine Beckford and Richard Jolly scoring freely, and the imposing ex-Amber Russell Ling in goal, signs looked good for at least a mid-table placing.

But then it went sour. The Leese/Bartlett relationship wasn't working, the defence began to leak goals in an industrial-sized way and the

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE







# Blue is

## Wealdstone are safe after c

by John Comfort

Harrow Borough 1 Wealdstone 2 WEALDSTONE finally gained the win they needed to secure their Premier Division status for another season and there could have been no better place to do it than at the home of their arch local rivals Borough, in front of a bumper 547 crowd on Tuesday.

The scoreline suggests a close fought derby clash but, in truth, Stones were emphatic winners against a Borough side who, with their own safety already assured, were a huge disappointment on the night.

After Friday's miserable capitulation against Maldon, Stones were a team transformed and they were cruising home with a 2-0 lead after an hour's play - and could have scored more.

But a needlessly conceded penalty gave Harrow a lifeline and they made the visitors suffer several anxious moments before the final whistle.

Wealdstone opened the scoring in the 21st minute after Emond Protain's foul on Lee Holland gave them a free kick on the right. Josh Cooper's pinpoint cross was superbly volleyed home by Chris Zoricich.

Francino Francis missed two good





# WEALDSTONE 2021-22



he ball out of the net

...and Holland sets off to celebrate his side's second goal with the Stones fans.

# the colour

## ompleting derby double over Borough

opportunities of adding to the score before the break and, in the opening minute of the second half, he had only Keita Karamoko to beat but was denied by a fine diving save from the keeper.

However, with 58 minutes gone, the visitors eventually went two up.

Holland got in behind the Harrow defence to get on the end of Lee Chappell's cross, and he beat the exposed Karamoko with a delicate header from close range.

Borough were posing little threat but, out of the blue, they received a massive boost on 71 minutes when Jamie Palmer clumsily climbed all over

Chris Zoricich mobbed after scorina the opening goal for Stones.

Marvin Neufville in attempting to head Daniel Nielsen's long throw in clear, and referee Mark Scholes pointed to the penalty spot. Brian Haule fired home and Harrow were belatedly in the game.

But Wealdstone still had the better of things and a flying save from Karamoko prevented the outstanding Danny Gibbs from restoring their twogoal advantage and the keeper somehow managed to claw away Francis's effort from the loose ball. He then produced a world class save to keep out Phil Turner's blistering 25-yard volley.

However, in a tense finale, Harrow twice came close to snatching a point.

Haule slotted past the advancing Lee Carroll when put clear by Leon Morris, only to see Marvin Homand get back to clear in the goalmouth. then Daniel Leech fired over an open goal from a corner. But Stones held out for three crucial points and a league double over Borough.

Harrow Borough: Karamoko, Nielsen, Protain (Williams), Walters, Neufville, McGonigle, Bent (Morris), Leech, Haule, Onochie, Newton, Other subs: Campbell, Dogbe, Nicholson.

Wealdstone: Carroll, Chappell, Holland, Hall, Palmer, Zoricich (Homand), Gibbs, Cooper, Francis, Miller (Turner), Montgomery (Christian).

Other subs: Burrell, Alexander.



Pictures by Stuart Emmerson

Proper coverage in the Harrow Observer... which, like many local papers, has now disappeared, RIP, Harry-O

### ON THIS DAY >>>> CONTINUED

first signs were losing 5-4 at home to Hendon after leading 4-2 at half time. Remember Ryan Harris? Andy Keepence? Ross White?

There were highlights like the autumn 1-1 draw at SFC Wimbledon in front of a 2,500 crowd, Beckford delighting the big Stones following with a second half equaliser, but the biggest comparison came in the return game at the end of March when the Dons whacked us 5-1 without really breaking sweat.

Bartlett faced a quandary. With Leese having departed, taking his motley Cheshunt crew back to Hertfordshire, and game-changers Beckford and Jolly both being sold to Leeds United and Heybridge Swifts respectively, he raided the loan

market and brought a number of youngsters into the team.

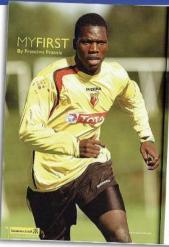
But we were running out of time to clamber out of the relegation places. Four days before this trip to Earlsmead to face our old rivals came a humilating 2-0 home defeat to rock-bottom Maldon Town. Losing to Borough, allied to two tough final games (at Folkestone and at home to Bromley) would seal the drop back to the Ryman Div One.

o this is where I reveal my own (heroic) part in *Saving The Stones Season!*Driving over to pick up fellow fan Mick Fishman in Harrow Weald on my way to the game, came a surprise call from Mr Bartlett. "Hi Tim, can you do me a favour... are you anywhere near Harrow & Wealdstone station? I need a lift for the two Watford lads, Francino and Marvin". I looked at my watch. It was 6.55.

"Er, cutting it a bit fine then. Yes of course Gordon, see you at the ground".

Mick was of course tickled at the thought of the rescue mission. And the picture of the two strapping footballers squeezing into the back seat of my VW Polo with Fishface (6ft 5in) sitting in the front with his knees under his chin made the night complete.

With Marvin Homand being French and not particularly talkative, and Francino Francis a Jamaican Brummie and taciturn, we couldn't get much out of the pair apart from drum-



He deli gene.

He deli gene del proposition de

Francino Francis was featured in the Watford programme a few months earlier

ming into them the H U G E importance of that night's local derby.

Which they took on board as they tumbled out of the car 20 minutes later at Earlsmead... and then went on to play starring roles in the game that effectively kept us up.

Both were academy lads at Vicarage Road. The 19-year-old Francis had come on as sub for Watford that season against Wolves in the League Cup, and against Leeds and Wigan in the Championship but that (and of course this brief loan spell with the Stones) was about as good as it got. He went on to play for Halesown and Tamworth, and is still in the Birmingham area 14 years later as manager of West Midland League side Wolverhampton Sporting.

As for Marvin Homand... the stylish defender has disappeared off the face of the Wikipediasphere. But I reckon he's sitting at home somewhere in Provence, noticing the Stones doing well in the National League and telling his kids: "Je jouais pour eux. Mais la dernière fois que j'avais à peine l'usage de mes jambes, elles étaient tellement engourdies d'avoir été entassées à l'arrière d'une petite voiture allemande sur le chemin du match."

("I used to play for them. But the last time I barely had the use of my legs, they were so numb from being crammed into the back of a tiny German car on the way to the game")

## **44 years ago: Poor old Bees** are battered again in giant step towards

Tuesday April 18 1978, SL Prem: Barnet 1 Wealdstone 2

or those of us long-time fans, 1977-78 will be remembered as the year Stones had their best-ever FA Cup run... which ended at QPR in the 3rd Round.

But dig a little deeper and this was a season that split neatly into three sections: The first third that saw Alan Fogarty's side sitting in the top half dozen in the Southern League Prem, and beating 3rd Division Hereford and then 4th Division Reading to reach Loftus Road; then a middle section that saw us win just once in 15 games (the 2-1 beating of Reading, amazingly); and then the final third which saw 'Foggie's' boys end the season with a staggering run of just one defeat in 20 games.

It wasn't pretty football on some bone-hard pitches but with George Duck weighing in with his usual 30-plus goals and Bobby Moss and Steve Briscoe a threat on the wings, the wins just kept coming. That sole defeat was 1-0 at Lower Mead to the wilv Italians of Udinese in the Anglo-Italian Trophy - Stones only taste of competitive European football in club history.

We finished eighth in the League, which proved crucial as the Alliance Premier League (forerunner of the Conference) was formed a year later and aggregate league placings were taken into account to qualify. We sneaked in....just!

## Duck's second helping is too nuch for Barnet

TWO goals from George Duck, one expertly taken and the other the result of a goalkeeping blunder, enabled Wealdstone to gain their second victory of the season at Underhill in their Southern Premier League local derby against Barnet on Tuesday

Despite their fortuitous decider which arrived soon after half-time there could be no disputing that Wealdstone deserved to emulate their win at the same ground in the Southern League Cup back in August. This was the 'Stones 14th game without defeat,

They showed a commendable appetite for hard work and with a bit more accuracy when it came to the crucial point of the exercise — planting the ball in the back of the net—they would have sunk Barnet without trace.

The home side's second string goalkeeper Chris Hartnoll in only his fourth

#### **Barnet 1 Wealdstone 2**

Southern League game, had

Southern League game, nad a nightmarish evening. He fumbled just about everything that came his way. It was surprising, perhaps, that Wealdstone did not exploit his glaring weakness in the air to greater effect.

greater effect.

In the very first minute
Dave Underwood scraped
the ball off the line when
Hartnoll dropped a Steve
Hockham corner. And
Barnet had another escape
as Bobby Moss, playing
against his former club,
drove a good chance wide
from 15 yards.

#### BEMUSED

Yet it was Barnet who took the lead with a soft goal after 13 minutes. Terry Price atter 15 minutes. Terry Price laid a corner back into the path of full-back Terry Tapping whose mis-hit shot from outside the area bounced several times as it found a way through a crowded box past the bemused Ian Cranstone.

The next few minutes saw bookings by referee Mr. Michael Taylor (Watford) for Underwood — for an off-the-ball incident which

off-the-ball incident which led to treatment for Duck—
and for Hockham, whose foul on Russell Townsend looked harmless enough.
'Stones drew level on the half-hour when Steve Briscoe drilled a superb diagonal pass towards the far end of the box. There was Duck to steer the ball beyond the advancing Hartnoll.
Five minutes later Moss from collected a return pass from collected a return pass from

Collected a return pass from Duck but struck it against the bar. Soon after that another mistake by Hartnoll ended with Moss firing wide.

Barnet brought on substi-tute George Chamberlain at the start of the second half and it took him only three minutes to have his name written down for dissent. threaten to expand it either. They seemed content to They seemed content to have avenged Barnet's win

have avenged Barnet's win by the same score at Lower Mead at Christmas. Wealdstone: Cranstone, McVeigh, Fursden, Parratt, Barwick, Moss, Watson, Brinkman, Hockham, Duck, Briscoe. Sub. Thomas.

#### RESERVE STALEMATE

Wealdstone Res. 0 Harrow Boro Res. 0

Saturday's important der-by Suburban League, Sec-tion "B" clash between table-topping Wealdstone Reserves and third placed Harrow Borough ended in a scoreless draw at Lower

Defences dominated this match and a draw was a fair result. Neither goalkeeper was seriously troubled.

As a result of stalemate, Southall stalemate, Southall and Ealing Borough reserves, who won on Saturday, sweep to the top, three and four points ahead of Wealdstone and Borough respectively. However, Southall have played an extra same. extra game.

Wealdstone Reserves: Lightfoot; Thomas, Phelan, Stratford (K), Hinson; Boyle, Dennison, Waymark, Sprinkle, Bensted (Nicoliadi-st S min), Topiwala Sprinkle, penals, s 85 min), Topiwala (Costello 63 min).

Harrow Borough

Harrow Borough Reserves: Currell; Forest, Green, Bax, Owen; Fergu-son, Byron, Floodgate, Wilson, Long, Pacquette (Williamson 75 min).

And again on Monday

#### **STONES** REALLY

ROLLING By Pat Mooney

Buoyant Wealdstone, un-defeated in 14 Southern Premier League games— the latest triumph coming at Underhill on Tuesday take a rest on Saturday but continue their league programme with two games in three

days.
On Monday the rolling Stones receive championship-chasing Weymouth at Lower Mead and then on Wednesday travel to Dover.

Wealdstone are on a crest of a wave at the moment. They have picked up a total of 23 points from their last 14 league games. At the moment the Stones have 40 points from 38 games which leaves them

games which leaves them just outside the top six. However, Weymouth will provide top class opposition. They drew 0.0 at Telford on Monday and now have 52 points from 36 games to remain in second spot. Wealdstone

#### WE'VE MET BEFORE MET BY TIM PARKS



## Wealdstone win through

by Steve Paull

Wealdstone 5 Boreham Wood 1

TO OUOTE the dog from a certain insurance company advertisement -'oh yes!' Another superb performance and another FA Cup victory for battling Wealdstone who, again, came from behind to win.

Boreham Wood, who came onto the White Lion Ground with a confident swagger, left it as a dejected rabble after clinical finishing destroyed their cup aspirations.

In a scrappy, yet passionate, first 30 minutes honours were even and goalscoring chances at either end were non-existent. Then, Lochhead curled a free-kick around the defensive wall and past Andy Carter's despairing dive to give the visitors the lead and, suddenly, there was a match

Wealdstone upped the pace of their game immediately, and were level within five minutes, Marvin Morgan's determination winning the ball in a tussle with Moran and, when it was laid back, Richard Jolly smashed it home from eight yards.

Morgan's curling effort soon after was acrobatically pushed away by former Stones keeper Noel Imber, but only straight onto the head of Gary Burrell leaving the score 2-1.

Morgan had been on the receiving

end of racial abuse from a section of the travelling Wood fans, but got his revenge with the third goal 10 minutes after the turnaround.

Brian Jones's pass was cut out by Lochhead, but fell ideally for the striker to crack it past Imber.

Wood did rally briefly at this point, and Moran headed a good chance over Carter's bar, but this was to be their only worthwhile opportunity in what must have been a desperatelydisappointing 45 minutes for their management team.

The fourth goal was the pick of the bunch. Burrell's mighty tackle won possession deep in his own half. He fed Gary McKeown, whose exquisite pass put Morgan away scampering down the left. When the cross came in Jolly arrived late at the far post to steer the ball home. Superb.

That only left Ben Alexander to replace Morgan and help himself to the fifth goal almost immediately after coming on. In an entirely-individual effort, he dispossessed Townley on the edge of his own area, did a couple of sidesteps to evade tackles and cracked the ball past Imber from 20 yards.

To repeat my comment after the last round 'why can't Wealdstone play

like this every week?"

Wealdstone: A Carter, Shaw, Carvell, Hyan,
Wolf, M Carter, Jones (Williams, 87), McKeown(
Michnowicz, 79), Morgan (Alexander, 83), Jolly,

## FA Cup glory as Stones wipe out the Wood.. twice

Saturday October 16th 2004 FA Cup 3rd Qual Rd: Wealdstone 5 Boreham Wood 1

he last couple of times we faced Boreham Wood was in the Stones' very first season in

the National League South (2014-15) when the Wood finished runners-up to Bromley and were promoted through the playoffs. That Wood side featured soon-to-be Stones stars Sam Cox. Matty Whichelow and Josh Hill and completed the league double... Sam even scoring a late winner as we went down 2-1 at the newlyredeveloped Broughinge Road. They then beat us 1-0 in March at The Vale. But ... we don't want to talk about those games! We want to talk about two classic FA Cup

ties, five years apart. The first, reported left by Steve Paull, was played out to a backdrop of menace from the travelling Wood fans who were sent home, tails between legs, by a combination of fearless stewarding by the late and loved Mim Goodman, and a barrage of goals from the potent Stones strike force of





Wealdstone players Tommy Williams and Ben Alexander celebrate their victory over Boreham Wood (left) while (above) Marvin Morgan's dogged determination helps his team push forward.

## **Ruthless Stones through** to next round of FA Cup

WEALDSTONE: Blue Square Premier opposition next in line

#### FOOTBALL

by Tim Edwards timedwards@trinitysouth.co.uk

#### FA CUP SECOND QUALIFYING ROUND

Boreham Wood Wealdstone

WEALDSTONE booked an FA Cup third qualifying round tie with Conference South outfit Lewes at Grosvenor Vale on Saturday week after tearing apart Ryman Premier rivals Boreham Wood.

Ryan Ashe and a Lee Chappell brace put them in control at half time before the Meadow Park side scored either side of Alan Massey's killer fourth goal.

It was an assured performance from a side oozing confidence but manager Gordon Bartlett insisted the scoreline flattered his team.

"They are a decent side and forced Sean (Thomas) into a good save early on before hitting the woodwork," he said.

We just happened to take our opportunities while they didn't. To go into the break 3-0 I don't think was a true reflection of the balance of the game.

"They had won five of their last six games which makes the result even more satisfying.

Stones now have Lewes in their sights and Bartlett is adamant his side can give anyone a run for their money at the moment.

"They are from a higher league but if we go into the game with the right attitude and play to our strengths then we'll have a chance," he added

Ashe fired the Stones ahead early on from Kieron Forbes' slide rule pass before Thomas made a wonderful save as the hosts stormed back.

With just ten minutes on the watch the Stones doubled their lead when Chappell took Massey's pass



in his stride before unleashing a

fierce drive past Tucker. Sean Sonner fired a warning shot just past Thomas's far post but Stones always looked dangerous on the break with Marvin McCoy and

Forbes linking up well. The Stones effectively put the result beyond doubt on the stroke

of half time. After Forbes was illegally stopped in his tracks, stand-in skipper Chappell arrowed his free-kick

into the top left corner of the goal. Chris O'Leary should have made it 4-0 with a free header early in the second period but directed the ball over the bar before the tireless Chris Ellerbeck was replaced by Ken During after 55 minutes.

Dean Green reduced the arrears for the Wood but Stones regained Photos by Steve Foster/Wealdstone FC

their three-goal advantage on 72 minutes when Massey blasted home at the far post after the hosts failed to deal with Ashe's corner,

Ross Lafayette came on for Greg Ngoyi before Ryan Kirby scored a late consolation for Boreham Wood. Wealdstone: Thomas, McCoy, Chappell, Fitzgerald, Massey, Ashe, Forbes, O'Leary, Ellerbeck, Ngoyi, E'Beyer.

Richard Jolly, Marvin Morgan and Ben Alexander. Jermaine Beckford had to sit out the game on the bench! And then (above) Gordon Bartlett's

side KO'd high-flying Wood in the 2nd Qualifying Round, the season we ended up facing Rotherham in the First Round Proper. Another great win!

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## Random Sightings

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

#### **Tuesday 18 October 1994**

Every so often football throws up a pairing that seems inconceivable as a league fixture even at the time, never mind years later.

York City v Manchester United and Mansfield-Spurs in the 1970s, Macclesfield hosting Manchester City in the final full season of the last century, and more recently Rochdale against Southampton in the third tier are all examples.

Boreham Wood's visit to Uxbridge, which was the first time I'd seen them play in person, doesn't fit into that category. But given the respective profile of the clubs these days, it still had me scurrving to the Rothmans Football Yearbook to make sure it wasn't a cup game. After all, there are so many knock out tournaments outside the top four divisions that a half-decent side could spent practically another league programme competing in them. Instead of aetting the confirmation I was seeking, I was proved only half-right. Actually, it was a cup game - a FA Trophy second qualifying round replay no less - but a few pages away was a league table firmly placing both teams in the same division. Isthmian One, in theory only three divisions away from the Football League.

Boreham Wood's Trophy run 1994-95

2nd Qualifying: Uxbridge H 1-1 (Replay: Uxbridge A 2-1) 1st Round: Grays Athletic H 1-0 2nd Round: Kettering Town H 2-1 3rd Round: Marine A 0-2 Uxbridge had a reasonable season, finishing in mid-table. But for Boreham Wood it was a golden time. They won 31 games out of 42

and racked up 98 points, 22 ahead of runners-up Worthing and a whole 86 clear of poor old Dorking, who not only finished bottom but conceded a whopping 163 goals in the process.

After being held 1-1 at home in the original game, Boreham Wood won this one as well, though the hosts opened the scoring and pushed them all the way. The confidence that the league results had produced translated easily to cup football and Wood went on to reach the last 16 before bowing out 2-0 to Marine. Like Boreham Wood, Marine won their division that season with 98 points. Crucially, it was the Northern Premier League, so they had both a one-division gap and home advantage in their favour.

#### Saturday 9 September 1995

As with my first sighting of Boreham Wood, the first time I saw them at home was a knockout match. This time it was in the FA Cup first qualifying round. They had been drawn at home to Chalfont St Peter, who were a lower division side, and on the face of it the game didn't have a lot to recommend it to the neutral. If the current television contracts had been in place at the time, the BBC Red Button wouldn't have been busting a gut to cover it, that's for sure.

As it was, I had to be somewhere that night and couldn't afford to be too ambitious in the afternoon. So I made the relatively short train trip to Elstree & Borehamwood station and walked the rest of the way to the ground.

In those days Elstree was famous, in my head at least, for its contribution to Britain's film industry and the BBC's now 10-year old soap opera East-Enders. The cultural phenomenon that was Big Brother was still the best part of five years away. My knowledge of Borehamwood the place was limited to Boreham Wood the team.

Essentially, my trip to Uxbridge a year earlier. I remember little of the game, apart from the home

## BOREHAM WOOD

#### Isthmian League Top 6 1995-96

- 1 Hayes 86 pts GD +44
- 2 Enfield 86 +43
- 3 Boreham Wood 83 +40
- 4 Yeovil 80 +32
- 5 Dulwich 80 +26
- 6 Carshalton 74 +19

side scoring a late penalty to win it 1-0, and making hard work of things in general. They eventually went out in the

next round to Staines. As far a cry from their exit this season as you can imagine - but at least third place in their first season after promotion was a handsome consolation.

#### **Tuesday 4 September 2018**

I've had three distinct times in my life when my enthusiasm for watching football went off a scale that was already considerable to begin with.

The first was in the summer of 1985, when the game - squeezed by hooliganism on one side and the government's membership card idea on the other - was facing nothing less than a fight for survival. The most recent was at the start of this

season, when we were finally allowed back into grounds after the various lockdowns and aborted seasons. It was even better at non league. I never thought I would take such ridiculous pleasure from watching a pre-season friendly, ordering a pint direct from a bar and then drinking it standing up, but these were clearly no longer ordinary times.

Sandwiched between the two was the aftermath of the 2018 World Cup, which despite the heart warming resurgence of England as a football power had been destroyed by VAR. I was keen to see as many non-VAR games across the top half of London as possible, and one of them was Boreham Wood v Chesterfield in the National League.

The contest was settled by a 7th minute goal by home defender Jamal Fyfield, as Wood sought to go one better than the previous season when they'd lost the promotion-play off final to Tranmere. Despite Chesterfield being backed by around a third of the total attendance of 737, there was no further scoring, and the visitors slumped to a sixth defeat in a row after winning their first three games. As for Boreham Wood, the inevitable play-off defeat hangover kicked in, and they eventually finished 20th.



## Ball Donors

A traditional package for businesses (from £225+ vat) or fans (£180) for two people that will give you the satisfaction of knowing you have paid for the ball that Wealdstone FC are banging into the net (or out of the ground!).

As match ball donor you will enjoy:

- 2 x Match tickets
- Prime seats in the main stand if required
- Publicity over the PA system and via the official club website and social media
- Captains Lounge hospitality with refreshments & snacks.
- 2 x match-day programmes
- A fabulous autographed team ball.

If you or your organisation are interested in donating the match ball for a home match then please contact Club President, Paul Rumens on **07710 929692** or at **paulrumens59@gmail.com** 

MATCH		BALL DONORS				
<b>(#)</b>	WOKING Saturday, 21st August Vanarama National League	In memory of Kat Kelly				
Rottess parts	SOUTHEND UNITED  Monday, 30th August Vanarama National League	Nick Woolford				
	ALTRINCHAM Saturday, 11th September Vanarama National League	In memory of Arthur Rogers				
	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			
VON September 1	BARNET Saturday, 13th November Vanarama National League	In memory of Derek Munday	Paul Gbogidi			

MATCH	<b>i</b>	BALL DONORS					
	STOCKPORT COUNTY Salurdoy, 27th Hovember Vanarama National League	Barbara Robson					
	FC HALIFAX TOWN Salurday, 1th Docember Vanarama National League	Tony and Peter Drew					
	DOVER ATHLETIC Saturday, 15th January Vanarama National League	Barbara Robson					
W	NOTTS COUNTY Tuesday, 25th Jenuary Vanarama National League	Tony Platt Steve Car		rter	Sienna Tilbury & Rhys Williams-Evans		
NOTE TOWN	YEOVIL TOWN Tuesday, 8th February Vanarama National League	David Leach		Har	row 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	
A	TORQUAY UNITED Saturday, 26th February Vanarama National League	Alan Couch					
	WEYMOUTH Salurday, 12th March Vanarama National League	Mike & Val Toby Jackson Jayden Councillor Douglas Mills Weston Lapels Badges Garthwaite & Councillor Sue O'Brien				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					
	DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE Saturday, 30th April Vanarama National League		r name or iness here			Your name or business here	
	KING'S LYNN TOWN Saturday, 7th May Vanarama National League	Ме	gaphone			In memory of Steve Brown Senior	

## New Lease Of Life At Vanarama



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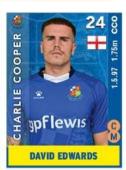


### **KIT DONORS 2021/2022**

















#### **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



IAMIE MASCOLL





**ypflewis** 

**GARY SMITH** 









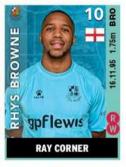




























Saturday 23rd April 3:00pm

#### ALTRINCHAM

www.altrinchamfc.com @AltrinchamFC Vanarama National League



Saturday 30th April 3:00pm



Monday 2nd May 3:00pm

YEOVIL TOW



Saturday 7th May 3:00pm



KINGS LYNN TOWN (H) Vanarama National League

Sunday 15th May 3:00pm

ALDERSHOT TOW www.theshots.co.uk @OfficialShots Vanarama National League



#### Vanarama National League 2021/2022 - @9th April 2022 HOME +/- Pts RESULTS 1-4 Stockport County 2-4 Wrexham 1-2 0-0 Halifax Town 0-1 0-2 Solibull Moors 0-0 1-2 Chesterfield 0-2 **Notts County** 0-0 2-3 **Grimsby Town** R 1-0 1-2 Dagenham & Redbridg 2-2 **Boreham Wood** 0-1 **Torquay United** R 1-1 0-5 1-1 **Bromley** 2-3 Yeovil Town -2 2-1 Southend United R -18 0-0 Woking -1 1-2 Altrincham -2 1-0 Maidenhead United q R -22 0-0 2-0 -24 3-1 Wealdstone -17 Eastleigh 1-2 -19 1-4 Aldershot Town -26 2-2 R King's Lynn Town -30 1-0 Weymouth -37 3-2 1-1 **Dover Athletic** 53 -55 2-1 3-2



#### **Building Excellence**

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## **HOW THEY LINE-UP TODAY**



Royal Blue/White/White \$

G George Wickens 1

Jack Cook 2

Ashley Charles 4 Jerome Okimo © 6

Nathan Ferguson 7

Josh Umerah 9 Rhys Browne 10

**David Sesav 11** 

Andy Eleftheriou 12

G Alfie Marigliani 13 Connor McAvov 14

> Elijah Hearn 15 Ira Jackson Jr 16

Nikola Tavares 17

Alex Dver 18

Charles Clavden 19

Medy Elito 20 G Eric Negrary 20

Aaron Henry 22 Jaydn Mundle-Smith 23

Charlie Cooper 24

Jamie Mascoll 25 Solomon Balgun 26

Robbie Quigley 27

Ruari O'Connor 28

Tecane Shrowder 29

Maki Wilson-Braithwaite 30

#### WEALDSTONE MOOREHAM WOOD

White/Sky Blue/Sky Blue

21 Tave Ashby-Hammond G

2 Jamie Reckord

3 Femi Ilesanmi

4 Mark Ricketts

5 Will Evans

6 David Stephens

7 Josh Rees

8 Gus Mafuta

9 Scott Boden 10 Tyrone Marsh

11 Frankie Raymond

12 Jamal Fyfield

13 Donnabhan Green G

14 Adrian Clifton

15 Dennon Lewis

16 James Colmev

17 Jacob Mendy Mendy

18 Connor Smith

19 Kane Smith 22 Nile Ranger

23 Joshua Roach G

24 Connor Stevens

29 Danilo Orsi

#### RESULT: WEALDSTONE



REFEREE To be announced

ASSISTANT REFEREES Scott Chalkley and Tom Bowkett ATH OFFICIAL Marcus Carmichael

NEXT AT THE VALE Dag & Red (VNL) Saturday April 30, 3pm AND THEN... Kings Lynn Town (VNL) Saturday May 7, 3pm

Main club sponsor:

gpflewis



The impressive David Sesay (interviewed inside today) in the thick of things against Chesterfield last weekend PICTURE: JON TAFFEL

INSIDE OHR OWN