

WEALDSTONE

versus

KINGS LYNN TOWN



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NATIONAL LEAGUE

SATURDAY MAY 7 2022, KICK OFF 3PM

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BY MARK HYDE



WEALDSTONE 2021-22

Written in Stone

Welcome to our last game of the season here at Grosvenor Vale.

As normal I always grab the opportunity that the last programme of the season provides to thank those who have been instrumental in it's production.

Unbelievably this has been our tenth season as a team and It simply would not be possible to produce a programme of this quality and content without the never-ending work and support of Tim Parkes, Martin Read and Martin Lacey.

Thanks also to Sudhir Rawal, Steve Ducker, Roger Slater, Peter Worby & Stuart Maynard who have provided (mostly) timely contributions.

The club has recently released details for season ticket renewals along with a membership initiative. Please support these offers and ensure we give the very best account of ourselves on the pitch.

Thanks finally to you for buying a programme, we and look forward to seeing you next season.

Mark

GUESTS OF HONOUR WEALDSTONE U11'S

What a season the U11Red's have had in 2021/22.

Playing 46 games in all competitions - Undefeated in the Harrow Youth Sunday league & winning the prestigious Saturday Junior premier league, County championship, London regional championship & becoming Premiership NATIONAL champions!

Winning the National championship involved playing teams from London, Hertfordshire, Oxfordshire, Leeds and Devon.

The boys now have the Aces National's to look forward to in June away in Nottingham where the 20 best teams in the uk battle it out for another national title.



PLAYERS - Vlad Denes, Frankie Booth, Patrick Price, Darren Drizys, Preston O'Neill, James Blackwell, Jack Kerr, Edvardis Statkus, Alfie White, Selyan Vernier, Keshon Parker Gordon, Ibrahim Hatabi, Hubert Staszewskiu, Olaf Walczak

OBITUARY - ROBERT JOHN

Bob was a huge Wealdstone fan who struggled with his mobility in the last few years of his life but he still found the strength and bravery to go to the mighty Stones each week as a season ticket holder. His reduced mobility also meant he had recently struggled with loneliness. Coming to Wealdstone every other week really helped him as he was able to see his friends/ acquaintances and gave some of the best memories of his last few years.



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FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2021/2022

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GROUND REGULATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

6) No Smoking or Vaping inside the ground.

MAJOR HONOURS SINCE 1950

LEAGUE TITLES

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

NATIONAL CUPS

1985 / 1986 FA Amateur Cup
1984 / 1985 FA Trophy

LEAGUE CUPS

1981 / 1982 Southern League Cup

MIDDLESEX COUNTY CUPS

1958 / 1959 Senior Cup
1982 / 1983 Senior Cup
1984 / 1985 Senior Cup
1987 / 1988 Senior Cup
1984 / 1985 Senior Cup
2003 / 2004 Charity Cup
2010 / 2011 Charity Cup

NON TITLE-WINNING PROMOTIONS

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

**The legal name of Wealdstone
Football Club is Wealdstone
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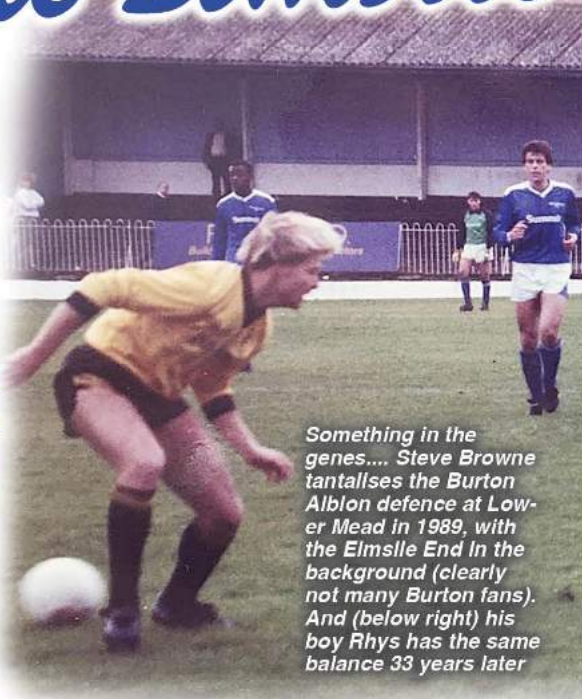
The Elmslie

Stones are safe and heading for a points total few would have expected... after a season of many great memories. Job done!

End of season brings the opportunity to reflect upon the previous nine months. The target at the start of this season would have been to secure another campaign in the National League and probably gaining around fifty points.

By the close of play today, the later might have been achieved, but more importantly the former was secured officially with five games to go, even if most of us thought it was done and dusted after we beat Weymouth here at the Vale in the middle of March. Job done.

As we discussed on the last *Stonescast*, we have been pretty consistent throughout the season. Won the games in the mini league that mattered, struggled against the more agricultural sides in the middle of the table, whilst we have performed well against the top of table teams but generally fallen to a narrow defeat.



Something in the genes.... Steve Browne tantalises the Burton Albion defence at Lower Mead in 1989, with the Elmslie End In the background (clearly not many Burton fans). And (below right) his boy Rhys has the same balance 33 years later

We do better against the better footballing sides. The management team have done a fine job, the "process" has worked, the duo have matured and learned on their journey as much has the team. We haven't gone on long runs of wins nor defeats - when we have lost badly, we have picked up a decent result pretty much the next game, the stats show that consistency has been the name of the game.

As fans, we have been fortunate to see football at the highest level that Wealdstone have played at. Yes, we have been in the National League before, but that was in a part time league, with only one season of relegation down from the then division three. Now, it's a full-time league with multitude of BELTs that have been stuck down here for years, with budgets three or four times ours, as we plough the furrow, with Altrincham (for the time being), of a part time club. No surprise that all three clubs going down are part timers.

Tuesday nights at The Vale have been special this season



Ender

reason to come and watch the Stones back in the fag end of our Lower Mead days.

The emergence of the "yoof" has been fantastic too and has brought some much-needed atmosphere to home games - especially those midweek nights at the Vale, where we have done so well under the lights.

One goal conceded at home midweek all season in six games (and that a dodgy penalty by Yeovil). Our away support has been phenomenal and getting much praise from even those BELTs. We are pretty much taking 20% of our core home support to away matches, averaging 236. No BELT does that. Days like those at Barnet and Southend will live long in the memory.

It all starts again in three months, and it will be even more difficult than this season, as there is another relegation place and without at least one basket case that meant there were only really two places up for grabs at the bottom.

The new clubs coming up all look well-funded and those coming down, will have parachute funds at their disposal from the EFL, even if at least one looks like a rather bad

comedy show.

This season has been a blast, and for that we thank the management team and the squad. We have enjoyed the last nine months too well and certainly don't want to be anywhere else. Let's do it all again next season.

Whilst it is a team game, there have been some fantastic individual performances. Jack Cook has his own man of the match award having won it so often. The loanees, who have been a great credit to themselves and their host clubs, have been probably the first names on the team sheet: Wickens, McAvoy and Henry in particular have all played instrumental parts in Wealdstone securing another season in the top division.

They are all likely to have a decent career in the professional ranks. There are many others you could mention, but it would be remiss not to name check Rhys Browne who has re-kindled memories of his dad in a Wealdstone shirt. At times, Steve Browne was the one



BY TIM PARKS



THE STONES INTERVIEW

Mr Indestructible.. why the evergreen Stones skipper is a long way off feeling his age

Jerome Okimo



“I’m not going to interview Jerome Okimo this season as it’s only couple of years since I spoke to him the last time”, I told programme editor Mark Hyde last week.

Then I had a look back and realised that it was FIVE years ago!

Time has flown by since Jerome was persuaded to return to the Stones in the summer of 2017 by the then-manager Gordon Bartlett.

“Not that I needed a lot of persuading” laughed the now-33 year-old Jerome, who had just spent a year fighting relegation from the National League with Braintree Town.

“That was a bit of a nightmare - I was living in Northolt and the journey round to Essex every day was dispiriting. And I didn’t get on with the manager Hakan Hayrettin (who’s just got Maidstone promoted back to the NL). So although I’d be moving to part-time football, coming back to Wealdstone was a

relief as I knew what a well-run and friendly club it was”.

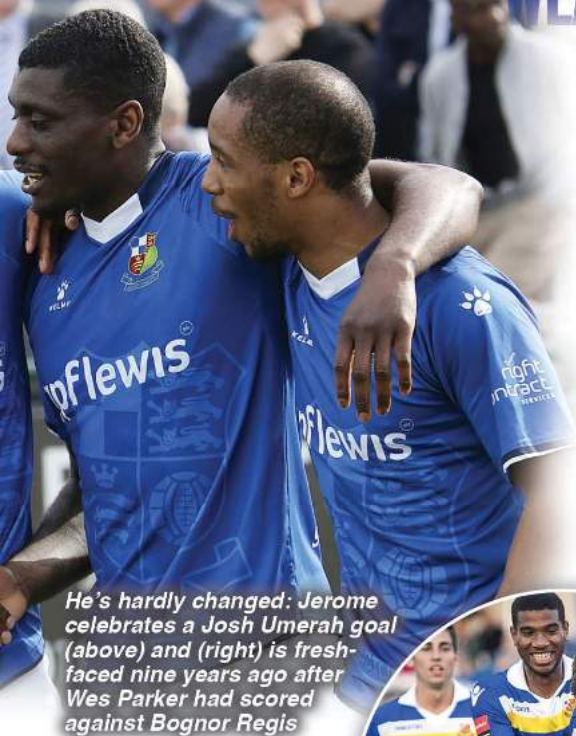
Supporters will recall Jerome being an integral part of the Stones side that won the Ryman League in 2014. And I remember, at the end-of-season presentation evening, trying to talk our star winger Tom Pett out of leaving the club for a career in the league with Stevenage. And trying to talk midfield maestro Glen Little out of retiring to take up coaching full time.

What we didn’t know was that Jerome - our fast-raiding left back - was also on the radar of



He doesn't score many, but who he does they're memorable...
Jerome heads the opener against Barnet last Easter

WEALDSTONE 2021-22



He's hardly changed: Jerome celebrates a Josh Umerah goal (above) and (right) is fresh-faced nine years ago after Wes Parker had scored against Bognor Regis

Stevenage boss Graham Westley, and within weeks he was off on trial with the League Two club.

"It was a great education for me. And I found myself making my League debut at Hartlepool in early August, up against Marlon Harewood!" he laughed.

If he could cope with Harewood (who scored bucketloads of Premier League goals with West Ham and Villa) he could cope with anything, and Stevenage reached the play-offs that season only to lose to Southend United at Roots Hall.

Westley decided to quit the game at the end of that season and Jerome's face didn't quite fit with the new manager... so Braintree stepped in for his unfortunate stint. He played every minute of every game as the Essex side were relegated back to the National League South. And although Hayrettin wanted him to stay on, Jerome quickly accepted GB's plea to return to the Stones.

It did mean he was back as a part-timer - but fortunately Brentford FC took him on as a coach

just as they were remodelling their entire football structure. "Brentford decided not to go with the usual academy structure, instead running with a B team (instead of under-23s) and with four teams of 16-19 year-olds in an educational programme at the club's sports hub in Gunnersbury Park. There are two astro turf pitches, a gym and leisure centre" said Jerome.

He is now one of eight coaches in charge of the four teams, having passed his A Licence coaching badge last summer.

"So what does a typical week look like for you now?" I asked him.

"It's very busy! On Monday I'm at the gym in the morning, then coaching for two and a half hours in the afternoon. Tuesday means more gym work, then coaching again before I set off for a Wealdstone match or training in the evening. Wednesday is matchday for the 16-19 year-old so I'm involved in preparation of those teams, and travelling to wherever the match is. Thursday is training in the morning and then academic work for the teenagers in the afternoon; and then Wealdstone training for me in the evening. Friday is education all day for the 16-19 year olds, and that means covering for teachers and generally helping out. Saturdays is obviously the Wealdstone match for me, and then a bit of rest and rehab on Sundays".

"Does that all get harder as you get older?" I asked.

"Maybe psychologically, but I feel pretty good. I'm not that old!"

It seems only yesterday that Jerome was being welcomed into the club in the summer of 2013. The Stones had just missed out in the Ryman League play-offs and there was a bit of a clear out with cult figures like Richard Jolly and Lee Chappell leaving the club. Skipper Chapps was being replaced at left wing back, apparently, by the Chalfont St Peter defender Jerome Okimo.

As fans, we were asking around. We heard he liked to get forward and had a rasping left foot. Scores a few goals. Sounds quite decent.

And then, when the season kicked off at Maidstone United's brand new Gallagher Stadium



CONTINUED OVERPAGE

THE STONES INTERVIEW CONTINUED

a few weeks later, on its brand new plastic pitch, there was Jerome running out at centre-back!

"I'd played there a few times at Chalfont but yes, that surprised me too!" he laughed. Yet he did a great job alongside Wes Parker as the Real Stones nabbed a 1-1 draw. Jerome - who now lives in South Ealing with girlfriend Miriam - had grown up in Northolt, playing for Sunday League sides like Ruislip Rangers and taking a B-tech course in football at the West London Academy near the Target roundabout.

"A guy called Danny Edwards was the head man, and he was also Chalfont St Peter manager" said Jerome. "I played there for a few years before joining Wealdstone but what a great season that was".

"What have been the highlights for you since you returned in 2017? I asked him. "I remember you being played in central midfield for a while under Bobby Wilkinson..."

"Yes, that was interesting! It was really just like having another defender in there. I think I was in there to replace Sam Cox who didn't see eye to eye with Bobby, as you my remember. It was funny having three 'lefties' in there, though, with Danny Green and Ricky Wellard. I was obviously the playmaker!

But the season we won the National League South was special. Especially that seminal game against Bath City... wasn't it the week after the Havant game? Great performances, as Havant were second in the table, behind us, when we went there and beat them and that put Bath into second place before we faced them. And then we beat them 7-0!

"And then the behind closed doors season, after promotion, when we won those five NL games in a row. I don't think we realised at the time what an achievement that was".

"Wasn't it in one of those games that you scored that amazing own goal, off your right foot wasn't it?"

"Thanks Tim! I was trying erase that from my memory! I think it was the Wrexham game we won 4-3, when I tried to clear it off my left foot when I should have used my right, and it beat Harry Isted at his near post. I'd rather remember the goals we scored that afternoon... Jacob Mendy Mendy was brilliant in those games".

So who has been your favourite partner at



centre-back?" I asked him. "If you could choose one to play alongside, who would that be?"

"Well, I'll give you three" he said. "Tom Hamblin, because he was so strong in the air, and a good talker, and because he became a close friend of mine. And then Connor Stevens, who is so mobile, and we struck up a good understanding. And finally of course Jack Cooke, who has been legendary this season.... so good in the air, and deceptively quick, and those long legs get him out of trouble all the time."

And who's been the toughest opponent this season?

"Wow, so many good players at this level... but I'd say Junior Moarias (here last Saturday with Dagenham) is very tricky and hard to get off the ball with his low centre of gravity; and Harry Cordwell at Southend was a tough customer too. And then you play sides like Stockport and Wrexham and they have good movement right across their forward lines and keep you on your toes. Very hard to handle."

Are Stockport and Wrexham the best sides then, in your opinion? I asked. "Yes... Stockport just keep on coming, they have so many entries in the box and their fans really get behind them to lift them. Chesterfield were decent too, and Notts County - but not as good as they were last season."

"And have you found this season enjoyable?"

"Oh yes, we love playing football this way but I can understand why the fans feel frustrated. You can feel and hear the frustration coming off the terraces - but we have to be patient and draw teams out, otherwise if you give up possession too easily you get turned over and that's when it gets dangerous."



6

CAPTAIN

JEROME OKIMO



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FANS IN THE STAND: DAVID AND

Father and son duo who are loving the passion and joy of supporting their long-time, local team

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

Your names and ages? David Leach 54, and Rhodri Leach 17

Whereabouts do you both live? Ruislip since 2007.. and before that Sudbury Hill

When was your first Stones game? **David:** In 77/78.. was the pre season friendly against Leatherhead in 1978/79, a 2-1 win

Rhodri:.. went with my dad when I was young but wasn't that interested. Then I started coming with mates the season before lockdown.

What were your first Impresslons of the club?

David: The hooped white railings that surrounded the pitch at Lower Mead ...the Elmslie End being like a smaller version of the shed at Chelsea... and that the players could hear everything the crowd said !

Rhodri: That everyone was very passionate .

What was the first football match you ever saw live? Or on TV? The first football game I actually went to was the season before the Stones game v Leatherhead: Chelsea v Everton in 77/78. Chelsea lost 0-1 at

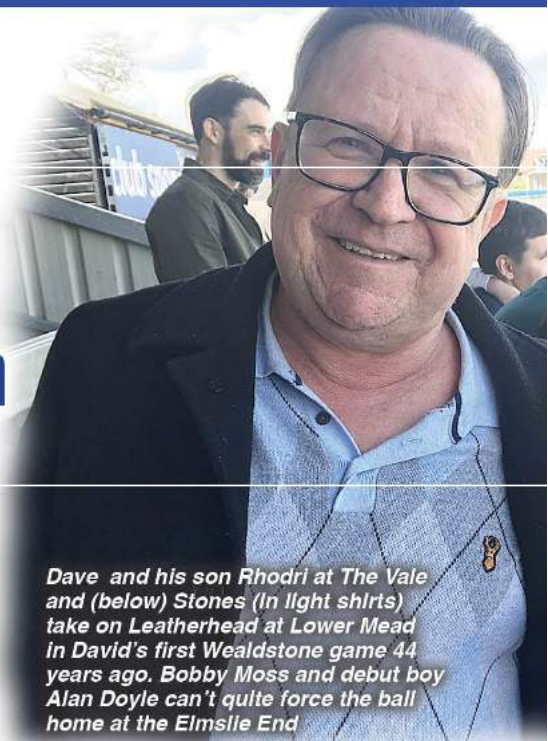
home and remember Gary Stanley missing a penalty.

Rhodri: Not sure if it was a Wealdstone game or Chelsea or even Wembley FC. I went to a few games with my Dad that season.

Do you follow any other team? **David:** Chelsea.

Rhodri: Chelsea too, but not that closely.

What's the most memorable game you've EVER seen? **David:** Still the one I remember most



Dave and his son Rhodri at The Vale and (below) Stones (In light shlrts) take on Leatherhead at Lower Mead in David's first Wealdstone game 44 years ago. Bobby Moss and debut boy Alan Doyle can't quite force the ball home at the Elmslie End

as a kid, Chelsea 4 Liverpool 2 in the FA Cup 1977-78 – most of the kids at school were Liverpool fans so Monday morning in the playground was great!

Rhodri: Bath City which was my first away game, a 1 -1 draw 3 or 4 seasons ago .. as much for the day out as for the game. I now understand why people travel to away games.

And the best Wealdstone game? **David:** Southend



RHODRI LEACH

WEALDSTONE 2021-22



side of going to watch Wealdstone .

How do you fit watching football in with your family/working life? **David:** No problem fitting in with family life. It's a challenge with shift work ... some games I just cant make. As Rhodri comes to games too I guess its part of family life and gives my wife peace and relaxation for the time we are out watching games!

Rhodri: I have missed one or two when I've had too much revising to do before an Exam. But I go to majority of home games and some aways.

Where do you work? **David:** In Administration, office based shift work

Rhodri: I'm in the 6th form at Bishop Ramsey studying for A levels.

How did you find following the Stones last season by the live stream? **David:** Bearing in mind we had no other option I thought that the team behind it did a fantastic job relaying the games to us. Commentaries were a lot better than most of the if not all the clubs in the league. They were something to look forward to during a pretty miserable time – the games at times were a tough watch though!!

Rhodri: I didn't watch it during lockdown - but I did see the home Torquay game this season when it was behind closed doors and thought coverage was good.

How did that compare to being back in grounds this year? **David:** You don't how much you enjoy things until you are stopped from doing them. Been determined to see as many of the new grounds this season and had some great days out!

Who are the best Wealdstone players you've ever seen? **David:** I'll stick to best players .. Stuart Pearce (I remember his free kicks for the Stones) Billy Clifford, Richard Jolly, Godfrey Poku, Mendy Mendy, Jack Cook, Ross Lafayette. **Rhodri:** Jack Cook

What's the best away day you've experienced so far? **David and Rhodri:** Southend! For the day out and game combined. Hard to beat a warm day at the seaside, not too long a journey and an away win .

Do you think Stones can aspire to playing in the EFL? **David:** Not sure – I think they need to establish themselves at this level first ..the league seems to get stronger every year so that in itself is a big achievement. The management team have done a fantastic job this season. The board appear to have a sensible approach to it all.

Rhodri: No... I'd like them to but don't think its realistic at the moment.

Where do you think the future of the club lies? **David:** Tricky .. I'd go for stay where they are as long as possible and keep growing slowly. I think this level of football can be a money pit even for the most astute business people ...(Be interesting to ask Barnet fans if they would rather be back at Underhill or at the Hive).

Rhodri: To stay where they are, if they can.

away on Good Friday a few weeks ago! Great atmosphere - okay a 'smash and grab' performance but so great to see Stones beat a big club in front of almost 6,000 fans away.

Rhodri: Same game, same reason.

Who introduced you to the Stones? **David:** My Dad Harry .. he took me to games at Chelsea and Wealdstone as a kid. I've got to be honest, I stopped watching when they left Lower Mead but came back as I moved to Ruislip pretty much same time the Stones did.

Rhodri : My Dad.

What level of football do you prefer? **David:** I enjoy watching the top level games on TV but you can't beat going to games watching Wealdstone.

Rhodri: I prefer Wealdstone... supporting the local team (it's not like I live in Chelsea)

How big a part of your life is the game? **David:** A big part ..I love it .. the home games, the away days out.. hard to measure , but I enjoy the whole experience.

Rhodri: Not a big part .. I enjoy going to games but I'm not a big football watcher out-

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Opposition in focus

KING'S LYNN TOWN

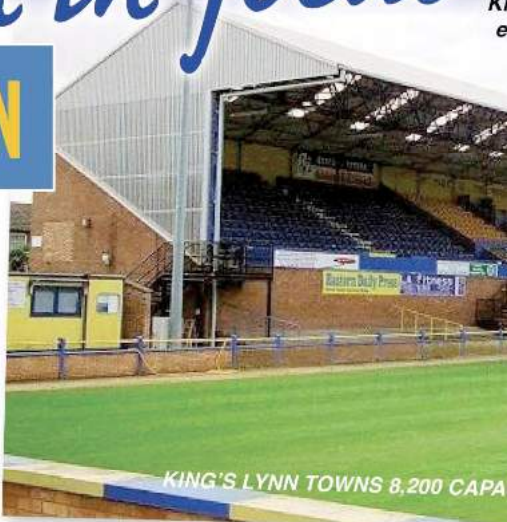
THE LINNETS

THE original club dates back to 1868 but ceased playing in the middle of the following decade. A new club was formed at a meeting on 30 August 1881, known locally as Lynn Town, and the name King's Lynn was not adopted until 1953.

Lynn won the Norfolk Senior Cup and went on to win it three more times at the end of the decade, in 1897 becoming founder members of the Norfolk & Suffolk League and were champions four times before World War I. In 1935 they were founder members of the Eastern Counties League. They left in 1946 to join the United Counties League, but returned to the ECL in 1948. During the 1949–50 season they set the league's record attendance of 8,387 for a local derby with Wisbech Town, and also set their own record later in the season when 12,931 saw them play Exeter City in the FA Cup. In 1953–54 they won the league and league cup, and at the end of the season stepped up to the Midland League. Four years later they joined the Southern League when it added a second division, becoming members of the South East Division for a transitional season.

In 1961–62 King's Lynn reached the FA Cup third round for the first and only time. After beating Chelmsford City 2–1 in the first round, they defeated Coventry City by the same scoreline at High eld Road. In the third round the club were drawn away to Everton, where they lost 4–0. The club ended the league season by being relegated to Division One but returned to the Premier Division after finishing second in 1963–64. They were relegated again to Duv One North in April 1971... just in time to meet the Stones in our first season of semi-pro football.

In 1980 the club transferred to the Northern Premier



League for just three years, returning to the Southern League and winning the East Anglian Cup again in 1984–85. They were relegated to the Midland Division at the end of the 1986–87 season, where they remained until finishing second in 1995–96 and earning promotion back to the Premier Division. They were relegated again in 2001–02, but returned to the Premier Division after winning Division One East in 2003–04. They won the League Cup in 2004–05 and qualified for the promotion play-offs in 2005–06 and 2006–07, but lost on both occasions. Although they were promoted to the Conference North as champions in 2007–08, they were demoted a year later due to ground grading issues. Midway through their first season back in the Northern Premier League the club folded due to financial difficulties.

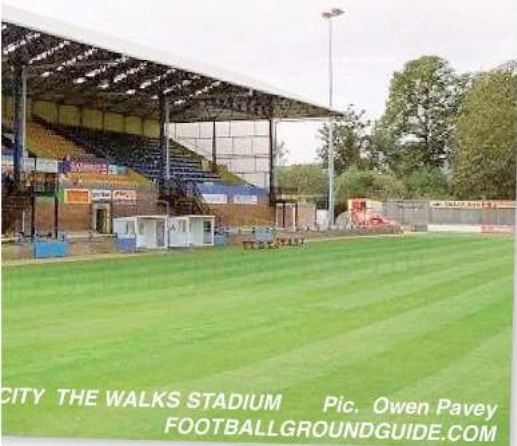


KINGS LYNN TOWN

The club was established in 2010 after King's Lynn was wound up in 2009, and admitted to the Premier Division of the United Counties League they finished runners-up in their first season and reached the semi-finals of the FA Vase, where

WEALDSTONE 2021-22

King's Lynn have played at the Walks for their entire existence, with the stadium name deriving from the historic park next to the stadium.



THE WALKS STADIUM Pic. Owen Pavey
FOOTBALLGROUNDGUIDE.COM

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Saturday 25th September 2021

AWAY - **Won** 1-0 (885) Cooper

Tuesday 9th March 2021

HOME **Won** 3-1 (BCD) Green, Lafayette, Mendy

Tuesday 27th October 2020

AWAY - **Won** 3-2 (BCD) Parish (3)



Danny Parish was a Hat Trick hero
back in October 2020
Pic Jon Taffel

they lost 6–2 on aggregate to Coalville Town. After finishing as runners-up again in 2011–12 the club were promoted to Division One South of the Northern Premier League. They won Division One South at the first attempt, earning promotion to the Premier Division.

In 2015 the club were transferred to the Premier Division of the Southern League and lost 2–1 to Slough Town in the play-off final two years later. The club were placed in the Premier Division Central for the 2018–19 season, going on to finish as runners-up and qualifying for the play-offs - and after defeating Stratford Town and Alvechurch, they were promoted to the National League North following a 3–2 win against Warrington Town in the super play-off final.

Amazingly, in their first season at this level the Linnets found themselves second in the league, two points behind leaders York City with two games in hand when the pandemic struck. The National League later decided the final league table would be based on points per game, resulting in King's Lynn being declared champions!

In 2020/21 the Linnets finished their first season at National League level in 21st position.

WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v KING'S LYNN TOWN

P 3 W 3 D 0 L 0 F 7 A 3

Opposition in focus

WHO'S WHO?



1. PAUL JONES - GOALKEEPER

Paul joined Lynn in June 2021 after leaving Sheffield Wednesday. Started his career with Charlton Athletic Academy before joining Leyton Orient. Paul then joined Exeter City where he was a member of the 2008 Conference winning team. He then had spells at Peterborough, Crawley Town, Portsmouth and Norwich City before he rejoined Exeter on loan in 2018 then Fleetwood Town and Sheffield Wednesday as goalkeeping cover.

2. LUIS FERNANDEZ - DEFENCE

Joined the Linnets in July on a season long loan from EFL side Stevenage. Starting his career in the Stevenage Academy, he made his professional debut at the age of 17 in the EFL trophy in August 2019. Spent time on loan at National League Southside Oxford City last season.

3. TYLER DENTON - DEFENCE

Attacking left back, the former England U17 international joined in January 2021 after leaving Chesterfield. Tyler started his career at Leeds United where he made three first team appearances and had loan spells at Port Vale and Peterborough United. In 2019 he joined Stevenage before joining Chesterfield in 2020.

4. KYLE CALLAN-MCFADDEN - DEFENCE

Kyle started his career with Irish Team Swilly Rovers before moving to Norwich City Academy at the age of 16. before he moved to Orlando City in the U.S. He has made International Appearances for The Republic of Ireland from Under 16 to Under 21 Level. Kyle joined Sligo Rovers, in the League of Ireland Premier Division in 2016.

5. PIERCE BIRD - DEFENCE

Joined the Linnets Eastleigh. Started his career with his local side Dunkirk in Nottingham before joining Notts County and spent time on loan at Leek Town, Alfreton Town, Grantham Town and Boston United. He left County in 2020 and joined Eastleigh. Pierce has represented Northern Ireland at U21 level.

6. DANIEL BOWRY - DEFENCE

Joined the Linnets in July from Cheltenham Town. Starting his career with Charlton Athletic he had loan spells at Kingstonian and Hampton & Richmond Borough. He joined Cheltenham in the summer of 2019 having loan spells at Bath City and last season a month with Wealdstone. Daniel has 10 caps for Antigua & Barbuda.

7. MICHAEL CLUNAN - MIDFIELD

Michael started his career at Norwich City before he signed for Boston United in 2013 before moving to Histon in October of the same year. In August 2014 he joined Lowestoft Town and later in that season he moved to Dereham Town, before joining King's Lynn Town in the summer of 2015.

9. GOLD OMOTAYO - FORWARD

Swiss born he started his career with FC Zurich before moving onto FC Schlieren and FC Wettswil-Bonstetten. In 2017 he joined Whitehawk FC then Bury FC. On release from Bury he joined Yeovil Town in 2019 before moving onto FC Halifax Town in 2020. He joined Gloucester City in 2021 scoring in his only game before joining Wrexham in April 2021 on non-contract forms, scoring three goals in eleven games.

10. THEO WIDDINGTON - MIDFIELD

Theo is currently on loan at King's Lynn joining from Havant & Waterlooville. Theo came through the Portsmouth academy before making the switch to Bristol Rovers then Bognor Regis.

12. MICHAEL GYASI - FORWARD

Joined the Linnets in December from St Ives Town. He spent his early career with the Northampton Town Academy before Chelsea paid a fee for him when he was just 11 years of age. Two years later he joined the Leicester City Academy before playing for a number of non-league clubs including Nuneaton, Bedford, Barton Rovers, Coggeshall Town, Cambridge City and Daventry.

16. BRETT MCGAVIN - MIDFIELD

Joined the club on a season long loan from Ipswich Town in August. Started his career with the Ipswich Academy signing professional terms in February 2019. The son of ex-professional Steve McGavin he has spent time on loan at Bury Town, Concord Rangers and Ayr United and has made 11 appearances for the Ipswich first team.

17. AARON JONES - DEFENCE

Aaron joined Ipswich Town Academy in 2002 where he stayed for 10 years. In 2013 he

WEALDSTONE 2021-22

moved to the U.S. joining Georgia State University and in 2015 moved to Clemson University. Whilst over the Pond, Aaron also played for Carolina Dynamo, Bethlehem Steel and joined Philadelphia Union in January 2017. Returning to the U.K. in early 2018, he joined Chelmsford City and moved onto Harlow Town before signing in 2018 with King's Lynn Town.

18. MUNASHE SUNDIRE - MIDFIELD
Zimbabwe born midfielder who joined Lynn in May 2021 from National League South side St Albans City where he made 36 appearances after joining them in November 2019. Starting his career with Kempston Rovers he made his first team debut during the 2016-17 season, winning the player of the year. From there he joined Kettering Town but moved onto Chesham United after only 11 appearances. He rejoined Kempston in March 2018 before moving onto St Ives Town that July. From St Ives he moved onto Hemel Hempstead Town and then St Albans.

19. KEN CHARLES - FORWARD

Ken joined us at the end of November. A pacy forward who knows where the goal is, had scored 13 times this season at Cheshut before joining Lynn. Charles started his career at Colchester United before being released in 2019 before joining a few non league clubs before his stand out season at Cheshut..

20. JOSH BARRETT - MIDFIELD

Barret started his career at Reading and played at all levels until Under 23's, he was released in 2019 and signed a deal at Bristol Rovers, Josh struggled with injuries whilst at The Gasmen and was later released by the club at the start of the season. Josh joined Lynn at the end of September.

21. BARIS ALTINTOP - DEFENCE

Baris joined us in October from Bury Town, described as a physical defender and strong passer, Baris has yet to make his debut at Lynn but is thought highly of at the club. Having started his career at Ipswich Town, Baris went on to be named captain at AFC Sudbury at the age of 19 after being released by The Tractor Boys.

22. ROSS BARROWS - DEFENCE

Ross signed from Grantham Town in 2019. Ross's early career was at Scunthorpe United. For the 2014 – 15 Season he joined Halifax Town. The following two seasons Ross went on Loan to Frickley Athletic and North Ferriby

United before joining Grantham Town in July 2018.

23. ARTHUR IONTTON - MIDFIELD

Iontton joined the club in November after being released by Stevenage having played most of his youth career there. Iontton describes himself as a defensive minded midfielder who works hard and drives his teammates forward.

24. OLIVER SCOTT - DEFENCE

The young English defender joined the club after a successful trial at the end of last year, last played for northern clubs Consett and Blyth Spartans. Very versatile player who can play multiple positions on the left.

27. CONNOR KURRAN-BROWNE - FORWARD

Connor initially joined on a one month loan deal from championship side Bournemouth, but has seen his loan extended to the end of the season. The Guyanan international started his youth career at Watford and after a serious leg injury suffered during a rugby tournament had the decision to choose between Football and Rugby.

28. JOSEPH GASCOIGNE - MIDFIELD

Local born player who has been a regular with King's Lynn U18 and U21 teams. Started his career with Norwich City Academy before joining the Linnets. Usually plays in midfield but can play at right back.

35. TYLER KNOWLES - MIDFIELD

Local born lad who came through the Lynn academy set up. Made his debut against Nantwich Town in the FA Trophy, and has made the match day squad a couple times.

MANAGER. TOMMY WIDDRINGTON

Manager Tommy Widdrington joined as manager in December getting off to a 2-1 victory over Dover. Tommy has been the Director Of Football At Bristol Rovers recently and even took charge on an interim basis. Other managerial experience has come at fellow non league side Eastborne where he would be a part of a management team with current Assistant manager Hugo Langton.

ASSISTANT MANAGER. HUGO LANGTON

Hugo joined the management under current boss Tommy Widdrington who had been together at Eastbourne. Hugo has always stayed loyal to Tommy working as Assistant Manager, a Scout and many more roles.

IT'S A RECORD!

The vital facts on recent Stones matches...

v Dagenham & Redbridge at The Vale, VNL Matchday 41

THE WHERE & THE WHAT

v Yeovil Town at new Huish Park, VNL Matchday 42

Saturday 30th April 2022, 3.00 pm.
A warm spring afternoon at The Vale with a limited crowd capacity

DATE AND CONDITIONS

Bank Holiday Monday May 2, 2022, 3 pm. Pleasant afternoon

1,321 (279 away fans)

ATTENDANCE

2,250 (152 away fans)

WEALDSTONE. Howes, Clayden, McAvoy (Tavares 58), Cook, Okimo, Mundle-Smith, Cooper (Dyer 58), Henry, Ferguson, Browne, Umerah.

TEAMS

YEOVIL: Smith, Williams, Wilkinson, Barclay, Robinson, Worthington, D'Ath, Lo-Everton, Knowles, Yussuf, Neufville

DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE. Justham, Wright, Johnson, Hare, Ling, Comley, Onailase, Rance, Robinson, Morias (Walker 62), McCallum (Sagaf 78).

WEALDSTONE: Howes, Sesay, Tavares, Cook, Okimo, Mundle-Smith, Cooper, Dyer, Henry, Clayden, Umerah.

STONES 1 DAGENHAM & R 2
Umerah 90 Morias 23, Onarise 47

RESULT

YEOVIL TOWN 0 STONES 0

POSSESSION

Stones 53% Daggers 47%

MATCH STATS

POSSESSION

Yeovil 54% Wealdstone 46%

SHOTS ON TARGET Stones 1 Daggers 7

OFF TARGET Stones 8 Daggers 1

CORNERS Stones 7 Daggers 6

SHOTS ON TARGET Yeovil 3 Wealdstone 4

OFF TARGET Yeovil 5 Wealdstone 4

CORNERS Yeovil 5 Wealdstone 5

Daggers' movement in the final third was excellent, while we moved the ball around to little effect... after Junior Morias had put Daggers ahead we needed to come out guns blazing for the second half but instead it was the visitors who hit the woodwork three times before Oaraise netted. Stones much better after than with more energy, but just a smart Josh Umerah header to show for it very late on.

STONES VIEW

Arguably the Stones best display of the season as we overcame the contentious red card for Alex Dyer - after just half an hour - against a side who had beaten Stockport in their last home game. We came closest to scoring through Jack Cook (three times) and an almighty goalmouth scrimmage where the ball just refused to go in the Glovers net. On-loan keeper Sam Howes (in place of the concussed Sam Wickens) was also excellent for the defiant Stones.

MANAGERS SAID

"It was a game where their ability to be clinical was better than ours. As a game, we controlled huge amounts of it and got into unbelievable areas, but our quality let us down" **Matt Saunders, Wealdstone assistant manager.**

"It was an excellent performance. I thought we were really, really good, really professional. We created numerous chances. I thought we would've scored more goals again. It was a great performance from the boys." - **Daryl McMahon, Dagenham's manager.**

"It's a shame we have to talk about the referees again, but there's no way that Alex's was a red card.. and then the elbow on Charlie Cooper was ignored and that was absolutely scandalous. It changed the game because we were making good chances and had to go more defensive after that" - **Stuart Maynard Wealdstone manager**

We couldn't unlock them today after the red card and credit to Wealdstone, they haven't given up on the season -**Charlie Lee, Yeovil**

OFFBEAT CORNER

THINGS WOT WE LIKED THIS WEEK

We've been on the wrong end of some strange refereeing decisions this season - witness Mr Tom Bishop who has twice apologised to the club for jaw-dropping mistakes in games. And Stuart Maynard commented after the soft sending-off of Alex Dyer at Yeovil last Monday that blunders by officials have possibly cost his side ten points this season.

But sometimes your club is a victim of what can only be called 'an act of God'. Or otherwise 'an act of poor goal design'.

Famously, half a dozen years ago, Stones were denied victory at Eastbourne by a late headed equaliser that went through the side net and into Jonathan North's goal. You have to attach a bit of blame to our defenders who thought something was amiss but failed to notify the ref, and even Northy who said he was 'surprised to be beaten on my near post'. It was really down to poor net-pegging, which Eastbourne later denied although it was bleedin' obvious from the match highlights that the ball went through the side netting.

Anyway.... fast forward to early last month and Chesham United, eager for points to aid their push for Southern League South division promotion, were at Walton Casuals. For old-school grass devotees like myself (and even, admittedly, with an interest in the very quirkiness of the goals themselves), Walton's Elbridge Xcel Sports Hub ground quickly reveals itself (even in the name) as being very 21st century.

The ground opened five years ago and is also home to Walton athletics Club - thankfully not with an athletics track around the pitch, but with a mirror-image main stand (much like Wingate & Finchley's unique design) that faces out onto the track on one side, and the football pitch on the other. A plastic pitch of course, for community use.

Indeed, it ticks all the boxes.

Plastic pitch: yep. Off-the-shelf concrete and aluminium terracing: yep. Soul-less environment: definitely. Wheel on, wheel off goals: I'm afraid so.

Normally, this wouldn't matter. Most National League club have



Replying to @cheshamutdfc

Has the ball fully crossed the line? No. Would it have fully crossed the line were it not for the awful design of the goal? Absolutely yes.

So technically not a goal, but a terrible injustice. Impossible situation for the ref.



temporary goals that they wheel on before the matches for a spot of goalkeeping/shooting practice. But these goals look very ugly and cumbersome.... and, well, now they are revealed as detrimental to the very game itself. I've seen videos of matches at Kingsbury's Silver Jubilee Park and at Worthing, where the whole plastic nature of the grounds makes acceptance of these temporary goals with their reinforced structure and, indeed, wheels, part of the new landscape.

Chesham United's picturesque Meadow ground is the very antithesis of this... and maybe that's why they were so up in arms on April 2 when **THE INCIDENT** occurred. Chesham striker Jayden Thompson Brissett opened up the Walton defence with a smart one-two and placed his shot wide of the home keeper to a point just inside the far post. The ball was undoubtedly going to brush the post on its way into the net when, instead, the ball was arrested by the triangular strut reinforcement the foot of the post and bounced back out, across the six yard box and into the keeper's arms.

What could the referee do? For once, you have to have some sympathy for the official as he waved play on. Fortunately, Chesham won the game 1-0 and they went on to finish just one point outside a play-off position... though with a GD just one goal different to Weston Super Mare, who claimed fifth place. That decision might have radically affected their season.

WEALDSTONE 2021-22

Appearances

2021/2022 FIRST TEAM, up to & including 30/4/2022

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

	National Lge			FA Cup			FA Trophy			Midxx Charity			Total			WFC Career		
	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G
Babalola, Fawaz										1			1			1		
Baker, Nathan										1			1			1		
Balogun, Solomon										1			1			1		
Barker, Charlie *	3												3			3		
Bird, Jay *	4	4		1		1		1					5	5	1	5	5	1
Browne, Rhys	19	8	6										19	8	6	19	9	6
Buse, Matt *	8	6	1		1			1	1				8	8	2	8	8	2
Cawley, Jack *	5												5			32	5	2
Charles, Ashley	26	3	1	1			1						28	3	1	61	14	1
Clayden, Charles	12	3	1										12	3	1	12	3	1
Cook, Jack	37		4	1			1						39		4	39		4
Cooper, Charlie	29	4	2	1			1						31	4	2	31	4	2
Dennis, Will *	1												1			1		
Dronfield, Zac *	1	2											1	2		1	2	
Dyer, Alex	17	10		1			1						19	10		169	26	35
Eleferiou, Andrew	11			1									12			12		
Elito, Medy	13	12	1		1								13	13	1	13	13	1
Envoudou Ada, Florian										1			1			1		
Fasanmade, Craig *	7	6						1					8	6		8	10	1
Ferguson, Nathan	17		1										17		1	17		1
Henry, Aaron	17		2										17		2	17		2
Howes, Sam	1												1			6		
Jackson, Ira	9	12	2		1			1		1		1	10	14	3	10	14	3
Ledger, Kian											1				1		1	
Lewis, Dennon *	10	3	1	1									11	3	1	88	9	19
Marigliani, Alfie		1					1			1			2	1		2	1	
Mascoll, Jamie	8	7	1				1						9	7	1	9	7	1
McAvoy, Connor	26		1				1						27		1	27		1
Mundle-Smith, Jaydn	21	7	2										21	7	2	21	7	2
Ogbebor, Heddwyn										1			1			1		
Okimo, Jerome	32	3	1	1			1						34	3	1	263	8	9
Quigley, Robbie										1			1			1		
Sargeant, Sam *	1												1			1		
Sesay, David	7	3											7	3		7	3	
Shrowder, Tecane										1			1			1	2	
Stevens, Connor *	6	2	1				1						7	2	1	87	3	9
Sweeney, Jayden *	5		2										5		2	5		2
Tavares, Nikola	20	3	1	1									21	3	1	22	3	1
Taylor, Doug *	2	2											2	2		2	2	
Umerah, Josh	35	5	15	1			1						37	5	15	37	5	15
Wickens, George	38			1									39			39		
Wilson-Braithwaite, Makai										1			1			1		
Wilson-Braithwaite, Marley										1			1			1		

**Wills & Property Trusts
Explained in
Plain English**



CENTRAL WILLS AND TRUSTS

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- Donna (London)



LADYGATE BOWLS CLUB OPEN DAY



Founded 1980



Ever fancied having a go at Flat Green Bowls then now's your chance

Ladygate BC (Ladygate Lane, Ruislip, HA4 7QX) are holding an open day giving everyone the opportunity to try the game for themselves.

Age, Gender, Race, able bodied or not there are no barriers in our sport, everyone is welcome whether a complete novice or a seasoned player looking for a new club/ challenge.

Qualified coaches and club members will be on hand to show you the ropes, all you need are trainers and comfy clothes.

For more information about all the clubs activities, including an extensive social calendar, visit the clubs website www.ladygatebowlsclub.org.uk their facebook page - Ladygate Bowls & Social Club or contact Bowls Secretary Tony via Tony.Waller1999@Gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you on the day

RHYS BROWNE SOCCER SCHOOL



**May 2022
half term week**
(Tues May 31 until Friday
June 3) at Wealdstone FC,
Grosvenor Vale, Ruislip
HA46JQ 9.30am-3.30pm

**Prices: £60 for all four days
£45 for three days
£35 for two days
£25 for one day**

**Contact SRBrowne95@gmail.com
for full details**

Fully-qualified Wealdstone FC striker **RHYS BROWNE** is hosting a soccer school open to all 7-11 year-olds on the outside pitches at the club's Grosvenor Vale home during the May half term week. All you need to bring is a packed lunch, a bottle of water and your football kit! Rhys and his colleagues hold Level Two coaching badges, relevant first aid and safeguarding certificates plus full liability insurance. The ratio of coaches to children is 1:16. So come and have a fabulous time, and bring your friends for a fun-filled few days at The Vale!

ROLEX



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RESULTS

2021/2022

In Black = Started match In Blue = Sub

George WICKENS

Jack COOK

Andrew ELEFTHERIOU

Nikola TAVARES

Jerome OKIMO

Craig FASANMADE

Matt BUSE

Joshua UMERAH

Rhys BROWNE

Dennon LEWIS

Charlie COOPER

AUGUST	Comp	Score	(Total)	(Away)	Lge	Goal scorers	George WICKENS	Jack COOK	Andrew ELEFTHERIOU	Nikola TAVARES	Jerome OKIMO	Craig FASANMADE	Matt BUSE	Joshua UMERAH	Rhys BROWNE	Dennon LEWIS	Charlie COOPER
21 WOKING	VNL	1-2	1,405	380	16	Umerah	1	2	12	17	6	7	8	9	10	11	24
28 Chesterfield	VNL	0-2	5,336	167	18		1	2	12	17	6	7	8(18)	9	10	11	24
30 SOUTHEND UNITED	VNL	0-0	2,151	800	18		1	2	12		6	7(10)		9	10	11	24
SEPTEMBER																	
4 Dagenham & Redbridge	VNL	2-2	1,735	170	18	Umerah, Lewis	1	2	12	17(34)	6	7		9	10(7)	11(3)	24
11 ALTRINCHAM	VNL	1-0	1,013	N/A	15	Elito (Pen)	1	2	12		6	7(9)		9	10	11	24
14 Notts County	VNL	2-3	5,213	208	14	Umerah (2)	1	2	12		6	7(9)		9	10(11)	11	24
18 ALDERSHOT TOWN	VNL	2-2	1,106	280	15	Umerah, Jackson	1	2	12		6	7(9)	8(20)	9	10	11	24
25 King's Lynn Town	VNL	1-0	885	180	13	Cooper	1	2	12	17			8(21)	9	10(9)	11(20)	24
OCTOBER																	
2 Torquay United	VNL	0-5	2,097	132	16		1	2	12	17			8(20)	9		11	24
5 SOLIHULL MOORS	VNL	0-0	1,501	120	16		1	2	12	17			8(18)	9		11	24
9 EASTLEIGH	VNL	1-2	1,267	95	16	Umerah	1	2	12	17					9(18)		24
16 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	FAC4	1-2	718	185	17	Bird	1	2	12	17	6		8(11)	9		11	24
23 Weymouth	VNL	1-1	1,024	170	17	McAvoy	1	2	12	17	6	7(9)	8(18)	9		11	24
26 GRIMSBY TOWN	VNL	1-0	1,892	794	16	Buse	1	2	12	17	6	7(9)	8	9		11(16)	24
NOVEMBER																	
13 BARNET	VNL	1-0	2,662	672	16	Browne	1	2	12	17	6(25)		8	9	10(16)		24
20 Wrexham	VNL	0-0	8,592	194	17		1	2	12	17	6(17)			9	10		24
23 Dover Athletic	VNL	3-2	510	200	15	Sweeney (2), Umerah	1	2	12		6		8	9	10		24
27 STOCKPORT COUNTY	VNL	1-4	1,382	310	16	Jackson	1	2	12		6		8	9			24
30 Bedfont & Feltham	MCC2	1-2	TBC	TBC	16	Jackson											
DECEMBER																	
4 Bromley	VNL	2-3	1,747	220	17	Umerah, Cook	1	2	12		6			9			24
11 FC HALIFAX TOWN	VNL	0-1	958	90	18						6	7		9			24
18 Needham Market	FAT3	1-2	432	200	18	Buse		2	12		6	7	8(5)	9			24
JANUARY																	
11 Boreham Wood	VNL	0-1	1,298	171	19					17	6	7	8	9			24
15 DOVER ATHLETIC	VNL	2-1	940	45	19	Charles, Stevens	1	2	12	17	6	7					24
22 Woking	VNL	0-2	2,667	232	20		1	2	12	17	6	7		9			24
25 NOTTS COUNTY	VNL	0-0	1,547	450	20		1	2	12		6(2)		8	9			24
29 Grimsby Town	VNL	1-2	4,747	166	20	Mascoll	1	2	12		6		8	9(22)			24
FEBRUARY																	
8 YEOVIL TOWN	VNL	2-1	1,175	TBD	18	Umerah, Tavares	1	2	12	17	6			9	10(20)		24
12 Barnet	VNL	3-1	2,248	848	16	Umerah, Ferguson, Mundle-Smith	1	2	12	17	6			9	10(20)		24
19 WREXHAM	VNL	1-2	1,901	TBD	17	Browne (P)	1	2	12		6			9	10(20)		24
22 Solihull Moors	VNL	1-2	3,219	209	18	Okimo	1	2	12		6			9	10		24
26 TORQUAY UNITED	VNL	1-1	0,000	N/A	19	Mundle-Smith	1	2	12	17				9	10		24
MARCH																	
5 Eastleigh	VNL	1-4	2,615	190	20	Clayden	1	2	12	17				9	10		24
8 Maidenhead United	VNL	2-0	1,209	220	20	Cook, Browne	1	2	12		6		9(10)	10			24
12 WEYMOUTH	VNL	3-2	1,003	87	16	Browne 2, Cook	1	2	12		6			9	10		24
19 Stockport County	VNL	2-4	7,453	195	16	Henry, Cook	1	2	12		6			9	10		24
26 BROMLEY	VNL	1-1	1,161	182	17	Umerah	1	2	12	17(16)	6			9(14)	10		24
APRIL																	
2 FC Halifax Town	VNL	0-2	1,850	125	18		1	2	12	17	6			9	10		24
5 MAIDENHEAD UNITED	VNL	0-0	1,222	220	18		1	2	12		6		9(4)	10			24
9 CHESTERFIELD	VNL	1-2	1,337	170	18	Umerah	1	2	12		6			9	10		24
15 Southend United	VNL	1-0	5,849	387	16	Browne	1	2	12		6			9	10(11)		24
18 BOREHAM WOOD	VNL	2-0	1,181	TBD	16	Henry, Umerah	1	2	12	17	6			9	10		24
23 Altrincham	VNL	2-4	1,657	178	16	Cooper, Umerah	1	2	12	17	6			9	10		24
30 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE	VNL	1-2	1,321	217	18	Umerah	1	2	12	17(14)	6			9	10		24
MAY																	
2 Yeovil Town	VNL	0-0	2,210	153	18			2	12	17	6			9	10(19)		24
7 KING'S LYNN TOWN	VNL																
15 Aldershot Town	VNL																

TO BE ARRANGED

FRIENDLY RESULTS

17th July	Hayes & Yeading Utd A	W	2-1	Charles, Fasanmade
20th July	St Albans City	A	D 1-1	Okimo
24th July	Bedford Town	A	D 2-2	Cook, Fasanmade
27th July	Chesham United	A	W 4-1	Fasanmade, Buse, Browne, Elito

stitute (number of player replaced in brackets)

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

31st July Colchester United A D 1-1 Umerah (Pen)
 7th August Dorking Wanderers A W 2-1 Browne 2
 10th August Watford Under 23s H W 3-0 Fasanmade, Dronfield, Wishart
 14th August Hungerford Town H W 3-1 Umerah 2, Lewis
 9th February Hampton & Rich. H L 1-5 Cooper

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 ALDERSHOT TOWN Saturday, 18th September Vanarama National League	Harrow Windows		
 SOLHULL MOORS Tuesday, 5th October Vanarama National League	Leasehold Management Services Ltd		
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 DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE Saturday, 18th October FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round	Ability Security		
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WEALDSTONE 2021-22

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FC HALIFAX TOWN

Saturday, 11th December
Vanarama National League

Harrow Windows



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Vanarama National League

Ruislip Windows & Doors



NOTTS COUNTY

Tuesday, 25th January
Vanarama National League

Rolfe-East

Ruislip Windows & Doors



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Tuesday, 8th February
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Fenton Civil Engineering



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Ruislip Windows & Doors



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Saturday, 7th May
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The Lower Mead 4

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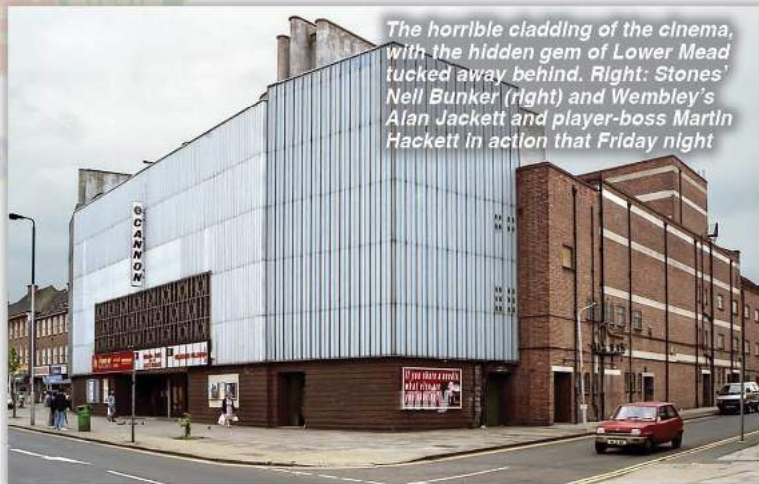


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REWIND >>>>> ON THIS DAY



The horrible cladding of the cinema, with the hidden gem of Lower Mead tucked away behind. Right: Stones' Nell Bunker (right) and Wembley's Alan Jackett and player-boss Martin Hackett in action that Friday night



51 years ago today: Wealdstone's last amateurs, round the back of the ABC

Friday May 7 1971, President's Memorial Trophy second leg: Wealdstone 5 Wembley 1

When Wealdstone played their very last match as amateurs, on this day 51 years ago, I was just coming up to my 14th birthday. It seemed a good time for new beginnings.

At that same time you could feel the weight of history surrounding the club's decision to join the semi-pro ranks of the Southern League just a few months earlier. The Stones might have been having a ropery 1970-71 season but just five years earlier the club were established as Isthmian League top six heavyweights with average crowds of over 2,000 and exhilarating winners of the Amateur Cup at Wembley in front of 45,000 excited fans.

This teenager had already fallen in love with Wealdstone: the tight, homely, atmospheric Lower Mead ground just a short train ride from home in Hatch End; the legends of Lindsay, Townsend and Johnny Ashworth and the historic club, fallen on hard times but who still had a proud away following of hundreds on the Home Counties Isthmian circuit.

I'd only been to a few away games: to Leighton Town for an FA Cup tie the previous October

(due to the coincidence of a caravan weekend nearby); to Tooting for a London Senior Cup tie in January (due to a visit to grandparents nearby); and then, funnily enough, to Grosvenor Vale to watch a Middlesex Senior Cup tie against Ruislip Manor (first away trip under my own steam, four miles from Hatch End on my bicycle).

All were unsuccessful. One defeat (Tooting) and two draws, both of which ended in hand-wringing home defeats in the replays.

But as the Isthmian season meandered to a close - the Stones in lower mid table - there was an unexpected treat in store as I perused the match programme for our final league game (against fellow strugglers Woking, a surprisingly upbeat 3-0 win). "Don't forget the President's Memorial Trophy games against Wembley FC to round off the season" I read. "With the first leg at Vale Farm on Tuesday".

Gosh, this was another away game I could get to. Just another couple of stops on the line from Harrow & Wealdstone, getting off at North Wembley. No Google maps in those days, just a dog eared London A-Z that would have to help me negotiate the route.

"Just mind you don't end up at Wasps!"

BY TIM
PARKS



game as Cinema

laughed my dad. "Same sort of floodlights, easily confused".

Of course, that was exactly where I ended up later that May evening, having taken the wrong turning in the maze of streets 'twixt North Wembley station and Vale Farm. A kindly man tried to direct me to Wembley Stadium. But I just fixated on the A-Z and soon I was inside the Wembley FC ground and suddenly aware of how low-key the "President's Memorial Trophy" was, with barely 200 people present.

Amateur football

**CONTINUED
OVERPAGE**

OBSERVERSPORT

A FIVE-GOAL FAREWELL

WEALDSTONE (3) 5, WEMBLEY (1) 1

Approximate attendance: 500

Wealdstone wound up their amateur career with a shattering defeat of local rivals Wembley on Friday night to avenge the previous Tuesday's 1-0 first leg at Vale Farm and hang on to the President's Memorial Trophy, now the sole silver that will decorate the top table at the annual meeting.

The performance was all the more rewarding when one realises that almost all the squad had been told the previous Monday evening that they won't be needed next season in the Southern League campaign but you could never have guessed it as on seven minutes skipper **Rob Williams** headed over the bar and then came storming back in two minutes later when **Brian Cox** pushed his first shot out to head in the equaliser.

The balance of the trophy now poised, only **Alan Jackett** late of Lower Mead, seemed able to take on a solid home defence that still had time to overlap. Overlapper-in-chief was right back **Tommy Mahon** who came in from his wing to curl a shot from the edge of the box round **Cox** and in to have Wealdstone yet again in front on 24 minutes.

HIT BACK

The goal pushed Wembley back in to attack and in the next three minutes **Mick Schools** had a shot saved by **Alan Thomas** who then pushed over the top a shot from **George Short**.

Wembley were worth a goal for their effort alone and, rightly, **Jackett** made it against his old colleagues. He crossed for **Billy Gill** and the winger slammed the ball at **Thomas** who pushed it against the post

and then into the net to level the scores again.

A bit unfair on **Thomas** to have to take the blame as he had worked hard despite his lack of inches to deal with the high balls pumped up at him.

He felt much better just one minute later as **Neil Bunker**, refreshed from his cricket at **Rayners' Lane** the previous Saturday, came full pelt down the left wing and flicked back for **John Ritchie** to take the ball through and push over the line for now a 3-2 aggregate.

SPECTACULAR

Charlie Townsend came in for **Bunker** at half-time as **Wembley** player-manager **Martin Hackett** brought on **Geoff Birchall** for **Dennis Rayner** and **Frank Allen** for **Roy Tweed**.

But the first minutes were nearly all little **Dave Yerby** who kept buzzing dangerously round the **Wembley** half.

But it took a free-kick on the edge of the box to send **Wealdstone** on their way to victory. **Alan Pentecost** flicked the ball to the left over the wall and **Ritchie**, running in, landed a spectacular diving header into the far corner.

With five minutes of amateur life remaining, **Wealdstone** finished it off in style. Rather, **Yerby** did as a poor back pass by **Alan Witham** intended for **Cox** was picked up and the winger went round **Cox** and

slotted what now becomes **Wealdstone's** last amateur goal.

Wealdstone: A. Thomas, T. Mahon, M. Barnard, R. Williams, G. Olson, G. Austin, D. Yerby, G. Hard, J. Ritchie, A. Pentecost, N. Bunker, Subs: A. Dafforn, C. Townsend.
Wembley: B. Cox, M. Hackett, A. Witham, G. Short, G. Rocknean, R. Tweed, B. Gill, M. Schools, D. Rayner, A. Jackett, S. Green, Sub: G. Birchall.

DIXIE JOINS

Two more professionals joined **Wealdstone** on Friday night before the slaughter of **Wembley**. They were former **Eire International** and **Watford**, **Dixie Hale** and, from now fellow **Southern Leaguers** **Hillingdon** Borough, **Gary Townsend**. The pair bring manager **Alan Humphries** pro signings to six.

Meanwhile coach **Edgar Francis** will continue with **Wealdstone** during next season, probably with the reserve side and **Charlie Townsend**. "This **Ruislip Manor** story has been doing the rounds for three months," he says "but **Lower Mead** is where I belong."

ON THIS DAY >>>>> CONTINUED

was awash with such competitions. The Stones had competed for the Uxbridge Hospital Cup, the NW Middx Invitation cup, the East Anglian Cup, the Battle of Britain Cup, the Mithras Cup, the Hitchin Centenary Cup, the AFA Senior cup, the London Charity and Challenge Cups, the London Senior Cup (plus of of course the FA Cup and Amateur Cup)... and in this 1970-71 season the Stones also played in the Premier Midweek Floodlit League in which, confusingly, we played several teams who were also in the Isthmian League.

This President's Trophy had only been played for three years (to commemorate a former Wembley President, unsurprisingly) and was soon to become a victim of the more competitive Southern League season... but to clubs like Wembley and, yes even Wealdstone, it was the only silverware on offer.

And it seemed, suddenly quite important. A couple of old boys next to me were discussing how two players were sent off for a punch-up in this fixture the year before - unheard of, they said, had never seen it happen before at Vale Farm - when suddenly the very same thing was happening before our eyes.

The referee jumped between the two warring players (Stones flame-haired Dave Yerby and the Lions' Billy Gill) and seemed set to just lecture them. But he then pointed to the dressing rooms.

"But it's a friendly, ref!" shouted one of the old boys. "Blimey, not that friendly" said his chum.

Former Wealdstone reserve Alan Jackett had already put Wembley ahead 1-0 and that's how it stayed but of course we still had the decisive second leg to look forward to.

To my 13-year old eyes this held all the glamour of the two legged European ties I'd grown up with: Newcastle winning the Cup Winners Cup in 1969 on aggregate, 6-4 against Ujpest Dozsa; Man Utd reaching the European cup final the previous year after beating Real Madrid 4-3 on aggregate.

Now the Mighty Stones would be facing the same second leg drama!

Well, for some reason (probably because the FA Cup final was being screened live on

Saturday May 8; Arsenal 2 Liverpool 1 if you're interested) the return leg of the PMT, as I like to call it, was staged on Friday May 7. Which makes it 51 years to the day.

And as I strode along Station Road that evening, up and over the railway bridge, past the Taj Mahal restaurant, the grocers (that also sold vinyl albums and dodgy magazines),

Turney Turbines and up to the

Danny Shop it seems that people were following the Harrow Observer's exhortations that morning to **'come along and join the experience of Wealdstone's last home game as amateurs'**.

My heart leapt!

For the early evening crowd were stretching around the corner, down and across in front of the ABC cinema next to the ground. This was amazing... thousands were turning out for this historic game.

And then, of course, I realised that it

was a Friday night and the flocks of people weren't headed for the football ground next to the cinema, but actually INTO the cinema. The spy thriller **'Get Carter'** with Michael Kane and Britt Ekland had just been released and was clearly even more of an attraction than Wealdstone v Wembley. Silly me.

Nevertheless, as I passed the popcorn-munching hordes there was a decent 500 crowd inside Lower Mead for the momentous battle... and even better, the Stones pulled out one of the best performances of an admittedly abject season to thrash the Lions 5-1 (5-2 on aggregate). Especially, as the match report mentions, considering that all but one of the team would be jettisoned for the following semi-pro season.

A glorious new era, as it turned out. Within 15 years the Stones were the best part-time team outside the Football League and, incredibly, that fact is still true today.



Topovsky 12y

I remember the queue here (when it was named the Harrow ABC) to see "Grease" in late August 78 was so far up the (side) road that we got to watch a bit of the first Wealdstone home game of the season at Lower Mead!

Two important bits of my childhood there - but the football ground was destroyed and is now a supermarket I believe. The awful cladding went up on the fleapit before I can remember but my parents always sighed and complained whenever we passed it.

I last went there in the late 80s, just before I moved away for good - in fact, I think the last film I saw was "Hairspray."

Proof! A bit of Googling came up with this message concerning the queue snaking around the High Mead side of the ground. He/she should have given up and watched the whole game!



The SFC Wealdstone team (plus Goddard and Pedlar) that faced Barnet at Lower Mead

The night Wealdstone's fans filled in for the first team... and beat Barnet 5-0!

Tuesday May 7 1985, Morritt Homes Capital League: Wealdstone 5 Barnet 0

It's all a bit surreal, looking back on it. That week back in 1985 when the Stones were about to make football history - the first ever club to win the Conference and FA Trophy double.

The Gola League trophy was already secure with a game to spare, thanks to the 1-0 win at Kettering Town on the Saturday (May 4). Our nearest rivals Nuneaton, Bath, Scarborough, Altrincham and Dartford couldn't catch us But the club had to squeeze three games into the next seven days before the Trophy Final at Wembley against Boston United.

The Bank Holiday Monday (May 6) took Brian Hall's side to nearby Barnet for our final Gola Conference league game. And the 7-0 defeat with a weakened side, though embarrassing, didn't matter.

But what about the two Capital League games that had to be accommodated? This new competition, designed to give run-outs to fringe players, had become an encumbrance - and there were home games against Barnet and Enfield to be

accommodated.

Then came Brian Hall's phone call to Steve Marshall, a Stones official and also goalkeeper/manager of SFC Wealdstone, the supporters club team who were top of the Marathon Sunday League Division Four. "Can SFC fill in for the two Capital League games Steve? You can have a couple of players to help out". Looking back, 'Hughie' must have been a bit miffed as one of the players was Ray Goddard, the ex-Orient keeper who was back-up to Bob Iles. Hughie wouldn't get to play against the Bees.

And so it was that, one day after the 7-0 annihilation at Underhill, that SFC Wealdstone (plus Goddard and striker Lance Pedlar) ran out at Lower Mead to face a - thankfully - also makeshift Barnet side. And we beat them 5-0 thanks to a Pedlar hat trick and two memorable strikes from supporters Martin Allen and Gordon McKay.

On the Friday night (Trophy Final eve) we were asked to do it all again in the final Capital League game against an Enfield supporters team and smashed them 10-1! Enfield were so humiliated by the scoreline that they insisted the game be replayed with 'proper teams' the next week. They were beaten 5-1!

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

Capital League

1984-85
 Oct 16 v Brentford (h) 10-0 Graves, Johnson, Jones, Donnellan
 2. Dribble 2, Holmes 3 (1 pen)
 Goddard, Perkins, Davies, Byatt, Bowgett, Johnson, Greenaway,
 Goddard, Perkins, N Cordic, Donnellan Subs: Graves, V Jones
 Holmes Dibble, N Cordic, Donnellan Subs: Graves, V Jones
 Oct 30 v Wimbledon (h) 3-1 N Cordic, Jones 2
 Goddard, Perkins, Baddley, Byatt, Bowgett, Holmes, Dibble, V
 Jones, A Cordic, N Cordic, Donnellan, Subs: Greenaway,
 Davies
 Nov 28 v Orient (h) 1-0 N Cordic
 Iles, Davies, Baddley, H Dowe, Johnson, Dibble, Greenaway, N
 Cordic, A Cordic, Graham, Donnellan, Sub: V Jones
 Mar 7 v Gillingham (h) 3-0 Graves, Jones, Bowgett (pen)
 Iles, Perkins, McCargo, Byatt, Bowgett, N Cordic, Greenaway,
 Holmes, A Cordic, Graves, Johnson Subs: Graham, V Jones
 Apr 10 v Dagenham (a) 2-3 O'Brien, Pedlar
 P Cotter, P Williams, J Taffel, H Dowe, D Cross, Holmes, G
 McKay, T Bunce, N Harvey, L Pedlar, J O'Brien Subs: T Parks,
 M Allen
 May 7 v Barnet (h) 5-0 McKay, Pedlar 3, Allen
 Goddard, P Williams, J Taffel, D Cross, M Chamberlain, M Allen,
 G McKay, B Kelly, L Pedlar, T Parks, J O'Brien Subs: G Jones,
 T Davies
 May 16 v Enfield (h) 5-1 Graham, Greenaway, Tonge 3
 Goddard, Perkins, Dowe, Byatt, Bowgett, V Jones, P Waite,
 Holmes, K Tonge, Graham, Greenaway, Subs: L Pedlar, D



Half a century years ago, Stones visited Kings Lynn for the first time.. and scored all three goals!

**Saturday September 11 1971,
Southern League Div One North:
Kings Lynn 2 Wealdstone 1**

It's amazing how useful football be in everyday life. My wife will routinely disagree with that but here's one very good example: nine years ago, when my daughter went into labour over two months early, the midwives at Enfield Chase Hospital went into panic mode as they realised they'd need an incubator and emergency care for little Daisy. The Enfield ward was full up.

"Where's the nearest hospital with a specialised baby unit?" demanded the doctor. "Er... Kings Lynn apparently" said the nurse with one quick phone call and he said 'Where on earth is that? Can we get her there in time?'

"It's 101 miles exactly" I piped up.

The consultant looked round. "Well, that's okay then, that's less than 90 minutes away. How do you know that?" he asked, rather suspiciously. I was going to answer: "Peter Fuller, 1971" but thought better of it. There are times when mentioning a Wealdstone away game can be an unwanted distraction.

(The reason I knew that was because, in Pete Fuller's programme notes before the Stones' first-ever visit to King Lynn, he casually mentioned that he expected to see a good turn-out of our fans at The Walks Stadium the following week 'as it's exactly 101 miles away, not far at all'. Those things stick in your mind).

Anyway, that was pretty much 51 years ago and probably the reason I remembered it was that it came fresh on the heels of Wealdstone quitting the amateur London-based Isthmian League for the exciting adventure of life in the semi-pro Southern League.

I wasn't really old enough to be allowed to go to away games. But the tantalising thought of swapping trips to Tooting & Mitcham, Enfield or Barking for long-haul missions to Stourbridge, Kettering, Burton Albion, Banbury and yes, Kings Lynn (in



The Mayor of Harrow, Mrs Marle Haslam was presented to the players before the FA Cup match at Earlsmead

Norfolk what's more!) was tantamount to having Christmas Day's presents and Easter Sunday's chocolate eggs all rolled into one.

So, obviously, I wasn't able to go to Kings Lynn on Saturday September 11

1971. And I had to wait until the Harrow Observer plopped onto our doormat the following Friday morning to glean even the merest of details about our boys' brave 2-1 defeat, all that way from home.

By that time I was excited about the prospect of travelling just a few miles down the road to watch the Stones in FA Cup First Qualifying action at Harrow Borough the following afternoon. Borough were in the Athenian League which was, well, a step down from the Isthmian League which was (in my eyes anyway) at least one step down from the Southern League (Div One North) in which we were competing. We were sure to smash them out of sight.

My eyes scanned the report of the Kings Lynn game for confirmation of my biased views. And yes, look, we scored all three goals at Kings Lynn! Our large-arsed, Brylcreem-coated centre forward Gary Townend put one in the Kings Lynn net while Stones defender Bill Bailey and our goalkeeper John Barr took credit for both the Linnets' goals. So we won 3-0, really!

It only took 24 hours for the realisation to dawn that this Stones side really weren't very good. We toiled to a 1-0 win at Earlsmead with



Our skipper Dixie Hale is saying: 'That's Cliff Jones. He's been growing his sideburns ever since Spurs won the double ten years ago

the banjo cowpoke Townsend surprising everyone with his second goal in two games, but we weren't fooling anyone, even this teenager.

Six months later, though, it was a different story. The flotsam & jetsam had been jettisoned by Stones chairman Don Brown (including manager Alan Humphries) who appointed Sid Prosser with the words: "Get us playing football again". Well, Sid swapped one Spurs double-winner, right-winger Cliff Jones for another Spurs double winner (left winger Terry Dyson) and drafted in John Pearce, Eddie Presland and John Beyer at the back, and Bill Byrne and Alick Brown up front



Wealdstone: Barr; T. Mahon, G. Hand, Furie, Bailey; J. Cooper, Hale, Brown; Townsend, Watson, Jones. Sub: Cockell.

Defence again in dire trouble

Wealdstone hit three, but still go down

King's Lynn 2, Wealdstone 1

WEALDSTONE scored three times at The Walks Stadium, King's Lynn, on Saturday, but unfortunately two of the goals were for the opposition as 'Stones gave their poorest display to date.

Although they topped their qualifying section of the Southern League Cup, it seems Wealdstone may find things tougher in the league. They have now played two league matches, lost both and conceded six goals while scoring two.

As has already been stressed, 'Stones must find a commanding centre-half. Bill Bailey had a nightmare game in this position and capped it all with an own goal.

Until something is done to strengthen this department all the good work by the forwards will continue to be cancelled out.

'Stones had the advantage of an early goal to cheer them on their way when after four minutes Gary Townsend accepted a simple chance set up by skipper Dixie Hale.

Despite a succession of blunders by the visiting defence, King's Lynn rarely looked like scoring with clever midfield build up breaking down through poor finishing and the agile Barr's ability to clutch high crosses.

Wealdstone, in fact, survived for 60 minutes before deciding to give Lynn the goals they could not get for themselves.

First Bailey, hard pressed on the 18 yards line, pushed back only to find Barr standing behind him without hope of collecting.

PALMED IN

And with 20 minutes to go the luckless Barr, who could not otherwise be faulted, could only palm Bloxham's corner kick into his own net.

Wealdstone, in fairness, were handicapped in losing John Furie with an ankle injury after 30 minutes.

Substitute Cockell was rarely able to get into the game and as a result 'Stones forwards were too often seeking the ball in midfield to have time to move up.

Most disturbing aspect of 'Stones play was a poor work rate and terrible distribution, with the ball often given to the Lynn forwards on a plate as a result of close passing in dangerous positions.

Yet Wealdstone could and should have saved a point in the closing minutes when Watson, best of the visiting runners, set up a chance for Mahon.

The fullback's shot was blocked by home keeper Steel and Townsend, with the goal at his mercy, smashed a shot against the keeper instead of side-stepping for an easy chance.

to parter Mickey Brown and suddenly we turned the corner. By the time we met Kings Lynn for the return game at Lower Mead we were on a run of one defeat in eight games, and that by just 1-0 at champions Kettering. Barry, Banbury, Bury and Burton had all been beaten at Lower Mead but just as we were expecting the run to end when we played a team that didn't start with 'B', our own B squad of Byrne and Brown popped up with the goals to sink the sixth-placed Linnets. Although, according to the report overpage, the last-minute penalty winner by Mickey Brown was a touch fortunate.

**CONTINUED
OVERPAGE...**

Saturday March 25 1972, Southern League Div One North: Wealdstone 2 Kings Lynn 1... fellow scorer Mickey Brown is on the far left as Bill Byrne soars to head the opening goal



Last minute penalty gives 'Stones points

Wealdstone 2, King's Lynn 1

FOR THE second time in five days Wealdstone left victory until the last minute and had to come behind to win the points, and when the Lynn players complained bitterly that that last-gasp penalty should have been no more than a free-kick for obstruction they had more than a few sympathisers among the home crowd, writes Phil Sugden.

Certainly Micky Brown was obstructed in the box, but whether he would have scored had not Lynn's Kerr stood in his path is open to debate. Personally I doubt if out-of-touch Micky would have netted.

What matters is that Brown, who had another dismal game, made no mistake with his spot-kick to register his 20th goal of the season. 'Stones won the points and have lost only one of their last ten games.

'Stones won without ever really convincing despite winning 17 corners to Lynn's seven, having much more of the play and a dozen shooting opportunities.

They climbed to the half way position in the league table without showing their best, perhaps because Trevor Watson was strangely subdued and certainly because Ray Whittaker's crosses were still badly missed.

After the energetic Byrne had twice gone close 'Stones again gave away a goal when Dave Cockell made a hash of his tackle and Brooks was left with the easiest of chances.

This produced a spell of all out assault from Wealdstone and Dyson finally crossed for Bill Byrne to soar high and head yet another fine goal.

Young Alick Brown, who had another splendid game, cheekily attempting moves which belied his years and experience, was so close with a flying header and a bullet-like shot and then John Pearce was out of luck with a shot which hit the bar.

Micky Brown showed his lack of confidence by passing when facing an open goal and Byrne was only inches out before that penalty, which will always remain doubtful in my mind, settled the issue.

Wealdstone: Barr; J. Beyer, Presland, Cockell, Pearce; Watson, A. Brown, Brown (M.); W. Byrne, Furie, Dyson. Sub: Hale.

Over 900 saw the game at Lower Mead, reported on by the Harry O in Phil Sugden's usual belligerent manner!

And so to the National League and the chance to double up once more on the Linnets



The Stones made a little bit of history when beating Kings Lynn 3-1 in the return game at Grosvenor Vale last season: It was our first league 'double' at National League level for 34 years.

In fact, as we reported 'live' at the end of that livestream back in March last year, we didn't manage even one league double in our last season in the Conference (1987-88) and we had to go back a year to a pair of wins over Cheltenham Town for the last time it happened!

Although many people would rather brush the 2020-21 pandemic-ravaged season under the carpet, Danny Parish will never forget his Wealdstone debut as he scored all three goals at the Walks Stadium when the clubs met in October last year.

That Tuesday night trip came just three days after Dean Brennan's team were bundled out of the FA Cup at the 4th Qualifying Round stage by Hayes & Yeading, 2-0 at The Vale. It was a humbling afternoon when H & Y showed much more appetite for victory... and Brennan consequently made six changes to his team to face the Linnets.

It was probably the best livestream experience of the season for Stones fans, envious of the dozen or so officials allowed to take their places in the cavernous main stand.

We were leaping about at home when a fast counter-attack after just six minutes saw Dennon Lewis square the ball to Ross Lafayette - and his deft flick set

up Parish for a precise finish from ten yards. 1-0!

It would turn out to be a see-sawing affair, with Lynn levelling just moments after half time through Kairo Mitchell. But then Parish (who had proven his goalscoring credentials the previous year at Maldon & Tiptree) restored the lead with a clever header from Danny Green's corner... and then, after Mitchell had again beaten Harry Isted with a cute finish, Parish popped up with the winner after Lafayette was bundled over in the Kings Lynn box.

Home keeper Archie Mair pulled off a fine save from Danny's spot kick, but he fastened onto the rebound to slam in the winner.

Five months later, the reality of a non-relegation season and the furloughing of players meant there was little at stake when the teams met again at Grosvenor Vale... apart (as mentioned earlier) the opportunity for that historic league 'double'.

It was duly captured when Danny Green, with a rare right-footed goal, and Lafayette with a smart finish from Jacob Mendy-Mendy's cross put us 2-0 ahead at the break. Then JMM slapped a fine left-footer past Mair from the edge of the box to tie up victory... despite Michell hitting a late consolation for his third goal of the season against the Stones.

And so to today. And the opportunity for the Stones' THIRD league double of the season (after Barnet and Dover) following our 1-0 win at the Walks back in September thanks to Charlie Cooper's 25-yard snap shot (pictured left). Let's finish the Vale season in style!

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BY STEVE DUCKER



Random Sightings

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

Saturday 6 December 1997

The FA Cup first round has always been one of my favourite days in the fixture calendar. As television companies have recognised, it has every plot you could imagine, as well as one or two that would be laughed out of a script meeting for being too implausible.

But however intently I study the 40 games that make up the now extended first round weekend, there always seems to be one that passes me by. In this respect the 1997-98 competition is Exhibit A, and Kings Lynn were my blind spot. In terms of their progress, I wasn't even aware they had been in the first round - where they beat fellow

Southern League Premier side Bromsgrove Rovers 1-0 at home - until I saw the draw for the second. The reason I suddenly became all too aware was because said draw had given them an away trip to face my team, Rotherham United.

Well, not exactly. At that stage it was still Rotherham United or Burnley. We had drawn 3-3 with the famous old Clarets on the Saturday, so it was still up in the air. Burnley's days of winning the first division title and competing in Europe may have been behind them, but they still had a magnificent stadium and enough clout to persuade former England international Chris Waddle to try his hand at management. It wouldn't have taken the Kings Lynn fan base long to work out which team they would rather be going toe to toe with next time out.

As it was, Rotherham spoiled everybody's party, winning 3-0. Despite ending up with the less glam-

orous draw, Kings Lynn were still well represented in South Yorkshire. When I turned off the M1 there was a long line of coaches being held for the last leg of the journey, and once inside Millmoor the old Railway End looked busier than it had when hosting several lower division league sides over the years. One of the KL crowd even managed to set off a flare. Buoyed up by the travelling support, the team responded and enjoyed a goalless first 45 minutes. Moreover, they missed probably the best chance of the half.

But Millers boss Ronnie Moore knew his way round an interval team talk and within 10 minutes of the restart Rotherham were 3-0 up. A similar scoring burst in the final quarter took the game even further out of Kings Lynn's reach and by the time the final goal went in, they had scored six times in 35 minutes, all by different players. I'm not sure I've ever seen this happen anywhere else. So in the end it wasn't to be for Kings Lynn and they missed out on a home tie with Sunderland four weeks later. I'd like to think they remember the Rotherham game with some affection though. Not for what happened on the field - after all, nobody enjoys watching their team get pumped - but for the pre-match excitement, the sense of occasion, and the numbers that travelled. There were nearly 6,000 present that Saturday, in a season when Rotherham's league average was 3,648, which tells you the non-league side's supporters' contribution to the proceedings. Kings Lynn went on to have a decent league season, finishing eighth. But with the cup game done and dusted, I forgot about them for a couple of decades. When they returned to my radar, that would be for an FA Cup game as well.

Tuesday 24 September 2019

I've always enjoyed spotting potential cup replays. Back in the day I could sit for hours with the draw for one of the Trophy, Vase or FA Cup (qualifying)

KING'S LYNN TOWN



With all this in mind, watching Kings Lynn v Alfreton in the FA Cup second qualifying round replay during a week's holiday in Norfolk three years ago already has an end of an era feeling about it. If so, it was a nice one to go out on. I was able to spend the hours leading up to the game in an attractive and historic town, the ground was reasonably central, the social facilities were great, the crowd (712) was decent and the game was good too. What's not to like? I wrote in a previous Random Sightings that the best outcome of a match for the neutral has to be the 3-3 draw. But if you're partisan, what can beat a 2-1 win after goalless first half and going behind just after the restart?

rounds - which could sometimes be a couple of hundred games or more - picking out possible midweek engagements for a couple of weeks hence. In a good round I'd have a short list of four or five, and after that it was all in the lap of the gods. But it's a much diminished activity now. The Trophy and the Vase have done away with replays altogether. In the season just finishing, it has still been possible in the early stages of the FA Cup, but it can't be long before the powers that be tell us there is no room in the calendar for two non-league clubs to face off on a perfect autumn evening. After which they'll no doubt add their latest variant of gimmicks such as the 36-team Champions League and 48-team World Cup, and assume we'll all be too stupid to notice.

That's what Kings Lynn gave their fans here. After Jason Killock put Alfreton ahead on 51, Adam Marriott levelled six minutes later and Nathan Fox clinched it with 13 to go. When my last hurrah comes, I'd love it to be after a game with a scoring sequence like that. And if anyone wants to remember me, fair enough. No minute's silence, though, because it's too respectful. And no minute's applause, it's too manufactured. But a minute's grumbling at 0-1 down? That'll do me, every time.

(Barring possible pieces linked to Scunthorpe United and Oldham Athletic next season, this is the last of these columns --no, really, this time we mean it -- thanks Steve! Ed.)

Action above and vright from our game away at King's Lynn Town way back in September where we came away with a 1-0 win. Picture courtesy Adam Williams





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Mike Pullin



TORQUAY UNITED

Saturday, 26th February
Vanarama National League

Alan Couch



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Saturday, 12th March
Vanarama National League

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Saturday, 26th March
Vanarama National League

Alan Couch



CHESTERFIELD

Saturday, 9th April
Vanarama National League

Mick Fishman



BOREHAM WOOD

Monday, 18th April
Vanarama National League

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



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Saturday, 30th April
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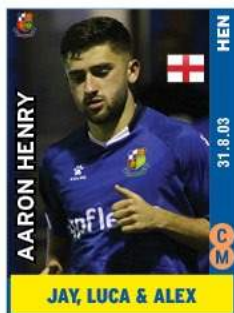


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RM = Right Midfield

LW = Left Winger

RW = Right Winger

CF = Centre Forward



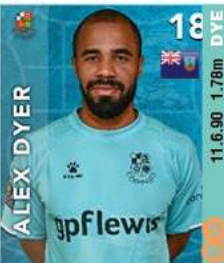
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	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts		
1 Stockport County	41	28	4	9	84	35	20	13	3	4	41	17	21	15	1	5	43	18	49	88	1-4	2-4
2 Wrexham	42	25	10	7	88	43	21	14	6	1	44	18	21	11	4	6	44	25	45	85	1-2	0-0
3 Halifax Town	42	25	8	9	61	32	21	17	1	3	36	10	21	8	7	6	25	22	29	83	0-1	0-2
4 Solihull Moors	42	23	12	7	77	44	21	13	5	3	48	23	21	10	7	4	29	21	33	81	0-0	1-2
5 Notts County	42	22	10	10	77	52	21	14	5	2	44	22	21	8	5	8	33	30	25	76	0-0	2-3
6 Grimsby Town	41	22	7	12	62	39	20	14	2	4	36	16	21	8	5	8	26	23	23	73	1-0	1-2
7 Chesterfield	42	20	13	9	69	49	21	11	6	4	36	26	21	9	7	5	33	23	20	73	1-2	0-2
8 Dagenham & Redbridge	42	21	7	14	76	50	21	9	6	6	43	29	21	12	1	8	33	21	26	70	1-2	2-2
9 Boreham Wood	41	18	12	11	47	34	21	11	8	2	28	11	20	7	4	9	19	23	13	66	2-0	0-1
10 Torquay United	41	17	11	13	63	52	21	10	6	5	37	23	20	7	5	8	26	29	11	62	1-1	0-5
11 Bromley	41	17	11	13	54	48	20	11	5	4	33	20	21	6	6	9	21	28	6	62	1-1	2-3
12 Southend United	43	16	9	18	44	60	21	10	4	7	25	26	22	6	5	11	19	34	-16	57	0-0	1-0
13 Yeovil Town	42	14	13	15	40	44	21	7	6	8	18	23	21	7	7	7	22	21	-4	55	2-1	0-0
14 Altrincham	41	15	9	17	61	64	21	10	4	7	39	26	20	5	5	10	22	38	-3	54	1-0	2-4
15 Woking	42	16	4	22	58	59	21	8	0	13	27	34	21	8	4	9	31	25	-1	52	1-2	0-2
16 Maidenhead United	42	12	12	18	45	65	21	9	5	7	32	34	21	3	7	11	13	31	-20	48	0-0	2-0
17 Wealdstone	42	12	11	19	46	63	21	7	7	7	22	23	21	5	4	12	24	40	-17	47	---	---
18 Barnet	42	12	11	19	55	84	21	6	6	9	26	38	21	6	5	10	29	46	-29	47	1-0	3-1
19 Eastleigh	42	11	9	22	46	69	21	8	5	8	29	29	21	3	4	14	17	40	-23	42	1-2	1-4
20 Aldershot Town	42	11	9	22	44	69	21	4	5	12	18	37	21	7	4	10	26	32	-25	42	2-2	---
21 King's Lynn Town	43	8	10	25	46	77	22	4	4	14	22	38	21	4	6	11	24	39	-31	34	---	1-0
22 Weymouth	42	5	10	27	37	85	21	3	7	11	20	36	21	2	3	16	17	49	-48	25	3-2	1-1
23 Dover Athletic	42	2	6	34	34	97	21	1	3	17	12	39	21	1	3	17	22	58	-63	0	2-1	3-2



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WHO SAYS HE CAN ONLY HEAD IT?!

Jack Cook comes oh-so-close with this volley that Yeovil keeper Grant Smith tipped over the bar last Monday

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