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j	Rhys Tyler	

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PROGRAMME

Vanarama National Lge South: Saturday, October 27 2018, 3pm





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BT Sport

Written in Stone

would like to extend a warm welcome to both sets of visitors, including Managers Gary Johnson & Chris Todd, their back room teams, the Torquay & Gloucester Players and supporters.

Thanks to both sets of sponsors, your generosity is a vital part of our funding. Please enjoy your afternoon / evening and that you bring us luck in our quest for 3 points.

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Keystone Royals

The Keystone Royals are the Wealdstone FC Supporters Club of North America and we are glad to say that Ian Conklin and a group of members have traveled over from Phiadelphia to be with us at Grosvenor Vale for the Torquay match. A very warm welcome to you all from the Club lets hope its a fruitfull visit. Give the gang a follow on twitter @KeystoneRoyals





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WEALDSTONE

FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2018/2019

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

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.
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From the Gaffer and management team











warm welcome to Gary Johnson and Chris Todd their respective management teams, players and officials of Torquay United and Gloucester City Football Club.

This weekend sees us play our first midweek game since August. The opportunity to put 6 points on the board in 3 days is huge and having 2 back to back home games gives us that chance. The league is tight so any team that does that this week will make a big move up the league and we hope it us. The club are hoping for the 3rd 1,000+ plus crowd in a row for Torquay and we hope you come back out on Monday as games under the lights at the Vale usually provide for a great atmosphere.

Last weekend was heart breaking for us all in the way we went out of the FA cup. To be a kick away from the next round to 30 seconds later been out still leaves a bitter taste. That said we did our club proud in once again showing that we could compete with a team who will be challenging for promotion in the National League. They came here and gave us the utmost respect in their preparation and not taking us lightly which is a credit to the way the boys have been preforming. On the day, we felt after the first half Sutton wouldn't have much more and we urged to the boys to step it up a bit and really have a go at them attacking the Bulla. Our fast

start was rewarded by taking the lead which forced Sutton to make some changes and come back at us. They got their equaliser and the game seemed to be heading to a draw which at the time the question was whether we had really missed a chance to win it on the day. The end to the game was just sickening but this is football and I guess why we come back week after week for that kind of drama. This is a great group of lads and we win together and lose together so they have all rallied behind Brad who was devastated. We have trained hard once again this week and by Monday night our focus was on Torquay with smiles and hard work the only thing visible at training.

Torquay come here in a good run of form and they have benefitted by an experience manager in Gary Johnson coming in and getting more from the players. However, they will know this isn't an easy place to come and get a result as we aim to become only the second side to beat them away this year. They will bring a few fans so as always, we ask you to make more noise than them, get behind our lads and push on to those 3 points. Monday will see us face another new manager and a team that are far better than their league position suggests. Again we will be ready for a big night.

Enjoy the games!

Bobby and the management team.

Rhys Tyler

Return of the Spider Man!
Rhys is back after his strange injury and ready to run through walls for the Stones ...and probably climb a few too

RHYS TYLER has packed an awful lot into his quarter of a century.. and that's after spending ten years of his young life at Reading FC.

He's been at Aldershot in League Two; moved out to Germany at the age of 18 to play in the Bundes-liga's third tier with Rot-Weib Weiss Erfurt; then joined another pro side Rot-Weib Weiss Oberhausen (in the fourth tier); and became fluent in colloquial German before moving back to England and signing for Hungerford while training as a special needs teacher; and now plays for the Stones while contemplating taking a teaching degree to further his career away from the game.

Not bad for a 25-year-old!

"Yes, I supposed I'm more well travelled than most players but I was realistic about my prospects here after not having my scholarship extended at Reading" said Rhys when I finally caught up with him after his teaching job.

"I had two years there on contract and I was in TYS duties in the changing room area - it was during Reading's yo-yo years between the Premier League and the Championship and there were stars like Fernando Torres and Steven Gerrard at the Madejski Stadium every week. Very glamorous.

"But I wasn't getting a sniff of the first team. I took part in a few one-on-one sessions with people like Steven Hunt and Noel Hunt, but to be honest I knew I'd be released.

"I went on loan to Aldershot on loan in the last year of my scholarship as I knew Kevin Dillon, a coach there alongside manager Gary Waddock, and was confident I could get a first team spot there... but again it was just reserve team football.

was getting a bit despondent, but then I played in a friendly against Bristol Rovers and did well. An agent was there to watch one of my team mates but latched on to be instead. he suggested I took an opportunity in Germany and a few weeks later I'd flown out for talks with Erfurt. I had a trial and although I was technically signing for their under-19s they boosted me straight into the first team!"

Rhys made his 1st XI debut in cold and snow against Hanza Hansa Rostock, in front of a 15,000 crowd and the TV cameras.

"The standard was good, probably equal to the top end of League Two in England, and I was involved with the first team for two years although mainly playing with the under-19s - and we won promotion to to the Bundesliga under-19s top tier that first season."

Rhys had lost none of his

when he came on against

Sutton last week... while

(below left) the

aggression and acceleration

ex-Hungerford player of the

year shows off his trophies

But at the end of his second season Rhys was off again - and was offered contracts by both Rot-Webb Weiss Oberhausen and Düsseldorf's Under-23's.

"I went for Oberhausen as I wanted to play in the first team. Both were good offers and to be honest, I believe German football to be better balanced as the lower divisions have a mix of first teams and 'big clubs' under-23's. It means there is more trust in young players in that country - that's why a lot of our talent goes to Germany in search of first team football when they are frozen out by our Prem clubs'.

e spent another two years in Oberhausen's first team, in the fourth tier as a full-time pro... playing mainly at left-back.

'When I first when to Germany I had on my CV that I could play on the left and the right... so I spent most of that first summer practising with my left foot!' he admitted.

'Now I'm comfortable with both feet'.

Rhys won an extra year on his Oberhausen contract, but was then in a quandary when he was released and only had offers to play part-time. "I was only interested in

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

EIGHT LEGS REDUCED RHYS TO PLAYING ON ONE LEG

RHYS was outstanding in the rollercoaster game with Chelmsford here at the Vale, marauding up and down the right flank as the Stones so nearly rescued a 3-0 deficit. So it was a surprise to see him out of sorts in the FA Cup win over Great Wakering just two weeks later... but he was suffering from a

mysterious (and highly original injury) that kept him out of the side for a month until his re-appearance against Sutton as sub last

veek.

Says Rhys: "It all started a day or two before Great Wakering when I seemed to have an insect bite on my left calf. My leg just swelled up the following week and the boys spotted it at training... but it wasn't funny. I was in agony for a week. I had to take five days off work and I traced it back to when I was in woodland at the school. I think I was bitten by a False Widow spider - I googled it and the reaction is identical. It became infected and I had an open wound as big as a five pence piece in my leg." Ouch!

RHYS TYLER CONTINUED

playing abroad as a pro, so decided to come home three years ago and look for a new club and a job outside the game. One of my old playing pals Kelvin Bossman was playing at Hungerford and I also knew the gaffer, Bobby as he was working with Reading and managing Hungerford... they were in the Southern Prem but it was convenient

'In my first year there I was player of the year, players' player of the year and manager's player of the year and we won promotion to the Conference South through the play offs. They were great memories- we came from 2-0 down at Hitchin to win the semi final and then

came from 1-0 down to beat Leamington at our place in the final. That was probably the favourite game of my career... I had about 20 friends and family there and it was one of the great nights'.

ungerford had an excellent debut season in the National League under Bobby Wilkinson but then struggled last season and just avoided the drop.

"I particularly remember the game against Wealdstone at the Vale. Of course we spoke about Bobby who had just gone across to Wealdstone, but when the game started we were just very focused. One of our centre backs was injured so I had to play at centre back, with James Clarke at right back... but just as we were congratulating ourselves at getting the draw with a makeshift team, Stones got that late penalty and beat us 1-0. Frustrating!

'But I had good memories of the pitch, the ground and the passion of the fans so when Bobby contacted me in the summer I was very pleased to sign.

'We've got some very good players here. It's tactical that I don't get pushed forward; my job is to support the wingers and Jeff (Monakana) and Bradley Hudson-Odoi, and Danny Green all have fantastic feet. In Germany I played with some very technically accomplished players, but this is probably the best team I've ever played in.

'When you get 13 or 14 players forming



Rhys in action for Rot-Webb Weiss Oberhausen... looking good in red!

basically a new team it can be hit and miss, and take a time to gell. So to hit the ground running in August was impressive. There are no cliques in the team either, the chemistry is good and we all get on well'.

There must be an M4 car club though Rhys? All you Reading-based boys travelling in like James Corden?

'We do get the music up, it's true' he laughed. 'It's me, Freddie, Clarkey, Stef Brown and Platty who lives out in the sticks near Swindon. A journey before the journey!'

hys lives in the town with his girlfriend of two years Karolina, who comes to most of the games. His job, as a teaching assistant with autistic children at the Blessed Hugh Faringdon catholic school in Reading, was formerly held by his sister Georgie, who now teaches Science at the same school.

"I want to stay in the education system, maybe take a degree in languages and perhaps teach German. I wasn't able to attend formal German classes when I was playing out there as they clashed with training in the mornings - that wasn't going to happen - but I know the different dialects and my conversational German is strong. It would be good to put that to some use".

Save it for the Champions League when we take on Bayern at the Vale in ten years!



Pic. STEVE FOSTER aqueoussun@googlemail.com

THE WORKS PRESENTS

mad 4 brit

ARE YOU MAD FOR IT?

"These guys sound like the real thing They're bringing the 90's back to life" Thomas Turgoose

(Shaun From This Is England)

"Excellent show tonight you all are amazing can't wait to see you again" The Old Courts

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From the General Manager

warm welcome to everyone at The Vale today and a special welcome to our (mostly new) visitors from the West Country!

After last week's dramatic and massively disappointing exit from the Emirates FA Cup it's back to important league action. I say 'disappointing', but only from the truly devastating manner of the defeat; as I said to Bobby in the aftermath of that unbelievable last 4 minutes of the Sutton tie, I doubt a Cup scenario of missing a penalty kick in the 90th minute (that would have surely won us the game) to conceding a goal in the 94th will ever happen again, in that way, in his whole managerial career. There is little consolation in such a defeat but what I will say is that I was hugely proud of the way the boys performed against a very impressive Sutton side and were a credit to this football club. It just wasn't to be and as my Mrs said 'no one died'. We move on!

So, these are my last notes as an official of the club and I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank so many friends around the club for their good wishes when I announced the other week that I was leaving my PO and GM roles for a new challenge back in my former business sector. Nothing lasts for ever and change is healthy - I have been enjoying embracing the Press Officer role for more or less 10 years but it's probably time for a fresh approach.

With that in mind I have been busy ensuring that we build a new media team and I am sure you will all welcome Sam Watts and Sam Collard to the club both of whom have already got stuck in and are getting 'hands on' very quickly. Sam W was thrown into the deep end last Saturday to witness the uniquely 'Wealdstone experience' very rapidly! Both these guys will be working with Dan Finill, Geoff Smith, Alan Hill and the wider team

As far as my General Manager position was concerned, in my view this relatively new role at the club is a work in progress and I leave it with some regrets as unfinished business. I was proud to try to introduce several ideas and projects that I considered important over the past 22 months or so but the reality is that broader strategic challenges always need to be fully resolved first and that the projects I was attempting to introduce were not always able to be prioritised by the board. I understood this but unsurprisingly, at times, you will forgive me for saying it's been a frustrating period. Non-League football at whatever level is fraught with challenges, and a professional approach with limited financial resources can be an issue whatever journey or stage of evolution any football club is at.

However, much progress has been made, a good example being our highly successful season ticket strategy - but I do hope that projects such as modernising with cash- less turnstiles and a marketing strategy to include fully embracing seriously undertaken market research is more of a priority as some stage in the future. I'm sure it will.

I start my new job on Monday and my role will involve quite a lot of travel so I will no doubt be missing for a number of games but I will as ever be supporting the Stones in spirit!

Lastly, my grateful thanks to the WFC media team, club friends and press colleagues, our Chairman Peter Marsden for his encouragement and support and also to Bobby Wilkinson and his management team - we have come through much together!

Onwards and upwards - look out for me on my new twitter handle!

COYS!!

Nick

The Elmslie Ender



EE joins the growing debate over Non-League day

■wo weeks ago, on the self-styled Non-League Day, Wealdstone beat Hampton 2-1 in front of 1.163 fans. with the riversiders probably providing the 63! The fact that for the first twenty or so minutes we played some fantastic football, won the game, had our second best gate of the season, should mean that it is deemed to be a successful day. The corresponding fixture last season saw 929 at The Vale for the visit of the Beavers, with them bringing their best away support, according to them, that they had had in many a year. Last year we were also at home on NLD against Whitehawk which saw 953 file their way through the turnstiles at the Vale, so a fortnight ago saw a significant uptake in people coming through the gate for NLD.

By most measures NLD was a success, certainly here in HA4, vet there was an interesting tweet that went out last weekend from a northern ground hopper @leeds hopper. The tweeter stated that he believed that it no longer did any good whatsoever, merely reworking a stereotype rather than challenging it. The lengthy thread went on to say: "Non-league (is seen) as a once

a season novelty. Poky little clubs in the shadow of the big boys, to be indulged and patronised only if there aren't any real games on. NLD risks making non-league look even more marginal and tinpot when it thinks it is doing the opposite". He went on for a number of more tweets and hundreds of words to further discuss his theory.

What was surprising is that you would have imagined that responses from non-league followers' to be in the main disagreeing with the analysis, yet almost to a core the responses were nods of agreement by many sages of the non-league game. I sort of understand where he's coming from and the adage that any publicity is good publicity is not wholly correct. The pie eating goalkeeping coach at Sutton being a prime example or Dulwich goalkeeper who had parked his car in an unauthorised place for their friendly against Crystal Palace having it announced over the tannoy becoming a viral sensation, including the national press, just emphasising the mocking and twee nature that the press and the wider world have of the non-league game. We all have work colleagues that simply cannot understand why you would go and watch a non-league

game, especially away from home.

The argument is that NLD is for one day only and doesn't actually grow the game or attendances over the season. There has to be structure and planning on raising the numbers that come through the gate on a regular basis, but so much of that is dictated by what goes on the pitch. If you look in London area, the four clubs that have seen real and sustained growth in gates (I'm not including the left wing takeover of a club which is more or less park football) are Bromley, Sutton, Dulwich and ourselves, So much of the improvement through the gate has been through increased engagement with the local public. Bromley have a 3G pitch (which is now a community hub). massively improved their other facilities. won the Conference South and were thirty seconds away from winning the FA Trophy in front of nearly 20,000 of their own fans. Sutton also installed a 3G pitch (also used massively by the locals), introduced cheap as chips season tickets, won promotion to the Conference National and had a magnificent cup run which saw them finally lose to Arsenal on national TV. Dulwich Hamlet actually used NLD to kick start their growth in crowds, but have engaged with certain types of demographics in south London, whether through left wing politics, students or just people who fancy going for a beer and chatting away with friends, with a football match going on in the back ground. For Dulwich, the temporary move away from their home has seen crowds plummet. with the Stones visit still being their biggest gate of the season, despite schools having gone back and students at local universities returning for the term as well. As for us, our rise in attendances is very different in that our experience is a very old school one, with those that are either disillusioned with the progame, can't get tickets or will watch us when their other side aren't at home. Wealdstone haven't necessary enjoyed the exponential growth of crowds that the previous three have, but ours is steady and on an upward curve. If today's gate reaches four figures, as it is expected to be, then it will be the first time we would have had three thousand plus gates on the spin since 1982. We have tailed off on the various promotions that are aimed at those one season a game merchants,

but have concentrated on getting people in to watch matches on a regular basis. Many clubs have aped our reduced entrance fee for season ticket holders of professional clubs now, but we have a regular stream in the main of Chelsea, Watford and QPR season ticket holders when their other club isn't plaving.

To dismiss NLD wholly as being past it sell by date is unfair and misleading, but like puppies at Christmas, it can't not be just about a day. The aim for non-league clubs has to be to develop strategies in increasing crowds on a regular basis. Improvement in facilities, engage with the local population in order that they know that the club actually exists and get your product right both on and off the pitch. Win on the playing field but also ensure that the experience off the pitch is something that people want to come back and enjoy.

You will notice that there is segregation in place today, something that wasn't felt necessary, quite correctly, for the visits of Woking, which saw a decent away following and our biggest league gate in 30 years on a Monday evening, nor Sutton in the crucial FA Cup tie last week, was required. The plan, as I understand it, was not to segregate today but due to postings on social media by some followers of our visitors about their refusal to change ends in particular has now entailed that it is deemed required. Shame really. Let's hope it doesn't rain.

I have managed to stay away from the painful subject of last weekend's cup defeat for this long. On the balance of play. I don't think we can say that we deserved to win the game, let alone draw, as Sutton enjoyed the bulk of the play and had a number of chances which they failed to hit the target in the second half, but when you get a penalty in the last minute of the game, at 1-1, you can't even fathom that you wouldn't get the draw, let alone lose the match. We have now missed five penalties this season, including one each in the last four home games. Incredible! Not only have we missed out on the glory of the first round, but anywhere between 40k-100k in cash depending on the draw. That would have been vital. Only Wealdstone.

music whenever the physio was called on. I do remember missing the goal because I was looking at the floor!

Why did you go to that game? My dad took me to that game, so I have him to thank

for what has followed since. I am coming down from Scotland and he is driving up from Torquay for today's game, so we'll both be at the Vale. Looking forward to it!

What is your favourite-ever Torquay game? That's tough, but I think overall favourite would be the Conference Play-Off Final win against Cambridge in 2009. With some games you don't know at the time how important or memorable they're going to be, but with this we knew it was all or nothing. It was an incredible feeling of joy, relief and celebration at the final whistle, and the game itself had memorable goals from Chris Hargreaves and Tim Sills that have gone down in TUFC folklore.

After the trauma of relegation, are the fans hopeful of bouncing straight back now Gary Johnson is in charge? I would definitely say that fans are a lot more confident now. Before the season started I would say the general consensus from reading various forums and social media was that we should be making the play-offs, especially as seventh place qualifies. Gary Owers was not an inspiring man-Chris and ager in the eyes of most fans. his dad at Wembley, 2009

while Gary Johnson has given everyone a real lift since his arrival. There are a number of good sides in this division, but I think it's a fair expectation that we should be challenging at the top end. Promotion this



season is the ultimate aim.

Which season saw the best Gulls team in vour experience, and why? From the years I have been watching, the 2003/04 season has to take the crown. The other sides promoted that year were Hull, Doncaster and Huddersfield, and one of the best away games I went to that season was a 2-1 win against Swansea at the Vetch Field. When you see where those other sides have gone since, it shows just how good that side was to win promotion. The style of football was excellent too, with playmakers Alex Russell and Jason Fowler pulling the strings. Who are your four favourite all time Gulls players (one keeper, one defender, one midfielder, one striker)? For favourites, I would say: Neville Southall, Kevin Nicholson, Kevin Hill, Rodney Jack. Some of them only staved a short while, while others staved for a decade. We have had players who have gone on to a higher level than these, but they all made a connection with me for one reason or another.

Is the club still planning to build a new stadium? Officially, yes although Clark Osborne is vet to build one in the decades that he has been promising various other sporting teams to build one for them so I don't think many fans are expecting to ever see it built.

Who has been the club's best ever manager in your experience? The most recent part of our history has not been the most successful, but I would say there's three contenders from my time following the Gulls - Kevin Hodges, Leroy Rosenior and Paul Buckle. Of the three, with a gun to my head, I would go for Leroy. He worked during a time when money was tight - he didn't have an assistant, a coach or a scout and was competing against sides like Hull.

Doncaster and Huddersfield for promotion, which he achieved playing some of the best football Plainmoor has ever seen. Sadly his spell ended with a relegation back to League Two and his management career ended soon after, but the 2003/04 season will not be forgotten by those that witnessed it.

From before my time, Frank O'Farrell would be an excellent contender – having won promotion in his first season in charge in 1966, and going on to manage Leicester, Man United and Iran (as well as two further spells with Torquay) in his career.

What do you know about Wealdstone FC? Well I wouldn't choose it as my specialist subject if I were ever to appear on Mastermind! This is the first meeting between the sides during my time supporting the club, so being totally honest my knowledge is currently limited to not much more than the crest, colour of the kit and location, as well as the Wealdstone Raider videos.

Are you looking forward to visiting Grosvenor Vale and will the novelty factor of seeing new grounds keep the away attendances high? Torquay have always had very good away crowds, especially in ratio to home gates. Due to our location and the jobs available in the area, we have a lot of exiled fans around the country that attend games near to them and boost those travelling up from Torquay. In the last few years I have travelled down from Scotland to visit Hartlepool, Gateshead, Barrow and those games closest to me, that would be a long trip for anyone travelling from the bay.

Many of these are in the South East, and we've seen on average around 400 Gulls at our away games so far this season, so I would expect to see around the same

Have you ever followed another team, or have a favourite second team? Torquav are my club, and always will be, despite moving away from the area. On most Saturday afternoons I will be listening to the radio commentary through the internet. do believe in supporting your local team though, and so since moving to Edinburgh I have been going to more and more Edinburgh City games. Just after I moved, they became the first side to ever win promotion into the Football League on merit, via the new play-off system, so that seemed like fate. I've currently visited 33 of the 42 league grounds in Scotland, so I'd like to complete that over the coming year - you can't beat a live game.

Who are the Torquay players to watch today? The Bristol City loanees Jake Andrews and Opi Edwards have come into the squad and added a touch of quality. Edwards in particular is a pacy and direct winger and there's always a buzz when he picks up the ball. There may well be changes between the time of writing this and the game, but there's a very good chance that our most dangerous players will be on loan from Bristol City.

And who should the Gulls be fearing today? With the record over his career. I would say Bradley Bubb. We have not had a 20 goal striker since Tim Sills nearly a decade ago, and in recent relegation seasons our top scorer has finished with three and six goals respectively.

How do you think each team will fare this season? I think both sides will be looking to get into the play-offs, and that is an attainable target. We have had a slow start, but with the change in manager and arrival of some further Bristol City loan signings, I would expect us to pick up form and catch some of the sides above us. To put a number on it, Torquay 3rd and Wealdstone 7th. And finally... where will each club be in five years' time? I would say that Wealdstone have the crowds and location to support a National League side, so I would not be surprised to see you there. With

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

..WHILE FAN TIM CLARK

PROVIDES...

Torquay, I will really struggle to answer this. We have been a Football League side for the vast majority of our history, but the current club is a world away from that level. With the current situation, we are looking to get back into the National League again, and if nothing changes off the field, I think we should be able to achieve that within a few years. Beyond that through, there are huge fears around who we are currently owned by and what his longterm plans are. Some of the previous sports teams he has been involved with no longer exist, so the worry is that it could be AFC

Thanks Chris.
Whereabouts do you live (just general area). And how old are you?

Torquay.

I have just turned 30 earlier this month. and I live in Edinburgh now, having moved away from Torquay after university. I have travelled down to the game today as part of a week back home in Torquay. and so I'll be at the Weston-Super-Mare and Billericay matches later this week. Between trips home, the Christmas period and (until this season at least) some Northern away games, I am usually able to get into double figures for games each season.



72-year-old Tim Clark (PICTURED BELOW) says 'Cut my wrists and I bleed Gloucester City'.... he's been hooked on the club since 1959 and doubtless he'll be at the Vale tonight

When was your first game and what are your memories of it, Tim? The first match I attended was at Longlevens (where the club stayed until 1964) on Good Friday 27 March 1959 against Lovells Athletic. My late father took me. He was a staunch Gloucester Rugby supporter and went with him to Kingsholm from about 1956 onwards.

I asked him one day whether I could see a football match and he picked the Good Friday game as his beloved GRFC were playing New Brighton at Kingsholm the following day. I was hooked. My ultimate memory was getting Rob Coldray's autograph after that game who scored the only goal in a 1-0 victory for City.

What is the latest on the club's attempt to return to Gloucester after the flooding 11 years ago (pictured above)? The mood music is good. There is tangible momentum with progress at Meadow Park coming along every day and it's plain for all to see that Gloucester City is definitely coming home and that's the bottom line. The ambition is to be playing back for the 2019/20 season. Is the ground now flood-proof? It better be or we will be in deep water!!

Which season saw the best Tigers team in your experience, and why? I have to say 1996-97 under Leroy Rosenior. A season which promised much and took us to the cusp of the Alliance Premier League, Semi-Final of the FA Trophy and County Cup Runners-up. We played half a game too many toward the end of that season and ran out of puff!

Who are your four favourite all time

Gloucester players (one keeper, one defender, one midfielder, one striker)?

View

Difficult. Rón Coltman (1953-59) although I only saw him briefly he left a lasting impression on me for his agility. I had the

privilege of meeting him in 2009 and he was an absolute gent; Gary Kemp (1991-99) was a sterling central defender for 10 seasons remembered for his immaculately timed challenges!; Tom Webb (2001-18) record 719 appearances who would run through a brick wall for City and Rob Coldray (1955-70) a prolific goalscorer who went out of his way I am sure to give me an autograph at my first City game. Again had the privilege of meeting him on several occasions at his home prior to 2009 and always made me feel welcome

We know all about ground sharing, but I presume playing at Cheltenham's Whaddon Road wasn't bad? This season and last we are domiciled at the Jubilee Stadium in Evesham in Worcestershire! We have been 11 frustrating seasons away from Gloucester, sharing Forest Green Rovers and Cirencester Town's grounds as well. City spent 6 seasons at Whaddon Road and there is no doubt it was a great help in keeping us in existence.

Will the club be ready for National League football should the side go up this year?

No. Brutal but honest.

Who has been the club's best ever manager on your opinion? Also difficult. From an historical viewpoint Maurice Hukin (1931-38, 1960-62) achieved most honours and Brian Godfrey (1987-91, 1992-94) managed a record 378 games. However, I do have a soft spot for Leroy Rosenior who took on his first ever managerial role with City from 1996 to 1998. For a brief time he lent City a bit of glamour and hope during his tenure with us. Exciting times when hope sprang eternal! And also Tim Harris who was



WEALDSTONE v TORQUAY, GLOUCESTER 27/29.10.18

supportive to both myself when compiling my book and my son Simon when he became Press Officer.

Have you seen Gloucester take on Wealdstone before? Yes. I was at Horton Road for the Southern League Cup Final 1st Leg on 25 April 1982 when a young Stuart Pearce played for Wealdstone. David Brown, my work colleague from 1972-74 when I lived in London was a Wealdstone supporter (and presumably still is) and gave me his collection of Wealdstone programmes from the 1970s which I still have to this day.

Have you ever followed another team, or have a favourite second team?

Greedily I have three teams, the one I support, a fantasy team and my birthplace team. They are Gloucester City, Manchester United and SC Preußen Münster in the German 3. Liga respectively.

Who are the Tigers players to watch today? Noah Smerdon (left), 18 earlier this month, shows promise beyond his years and whose lustrous hair is a source of great envy from me; Matt Yates on loan from Derby County whose performances have been points winning.

And who should Gloucester be fearing today? Fear itself!

How do you think each team will fare this season? It's a difficult league and we have been punching above our weight since promotion to the Conference in 2009. We are, at this moment in time, under no illusion that mid-table obscurity is a triumph!

And finally, how big a part of your life is the club? Cut my wrist and I bleed Gloucester City AFC. My whole family are/ have been involved with the club. I am the Club Statistician. Match Day Host on Turnstiles and author of two publications and one pending about the club. My wife Christine was on the City Supporters Trust for two years and has been receptionist since 2009. My eldest son Paul was on the City Supporters Trust Committee for 6 years, ran the club shop for three years when we first shared with Cheltenham Town and currently helps out on turnstiles - and my voungest. Simon, match-reported the Under-18s when only 15 himself and was press officer for three years before getting a sports writers iob in Vienna three years ago.

So yes, as a family we've been quite involved!

WEALDSTONE LADIES

GREATER LONDON WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION 1

Wealdstone 3 - Larkspur Rovers 0

espite a mixture of rain and heavy rain Sunday's game against our local rivals Larkspur Rovers Ladies was given the go ahead after a pitch inspection by the referee. The pitch was in perfect condition and both sides were looking forward to the game. It was good to see a large number of former Wealdstone players amongst the Larkspur team.

Unfortunately with the game only a few minutes old Wealdstone lost one of it's strikers when Amy Murphy suffered a bad knee injury when trying to run on to a through ball. The game had to be suspended for a lengthy period whilst Amy was assessed and then carried from the pitch to await an ambulance. Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Amy who will be badly missed during her absence.

The game resumed with Maria Ward on as sub and the Wealdstone players showed great commitment and scored the first goal of the game when Courtney Munns received the ball outside the penalty area and hit a great shot across the Larkspur keeper into the goal. For the remainder of the half the Wealdstone defence comfortably dealt with all the Larkspur attacks. 1 - 0 at halftime.

In the second half Wealdstone almost conceded when the ball was given away in midfield and a quick attack lead to a powerful shot on our goal. However Harlee made an excellent save by tipping the ball onto the bar. After that scare Wealdstone again dominated and scored a second goal when the ball fell to Rosie Watts outside the penalty area and she smashed a left foot

effort into the top corner.

With Catia and Katie combining well in central midfield Wealdstone created further chances but the scoring was completed by a second goal from Courtney when she hit a well placed free kick over the wall and past the keeper's reach. 3 - 0 final score. Player of the match was Catia Campos for a classy all round performance.



PLAYER OF THE MATCH CATIA CAMPOS BEING INTERVIEWED BY '72 FILMS'

Reigate WFC 1 - Wealdstone 6 - Capital County Cup

ourtney opened up the scoring on our first attack. Followed by Katie Harling knocking in our second. with just seven minutes gone.

What happened for the remaining half was disappointing as 'The Stones' wasted chance after chance looking to score their third as Reigate frustrated and hassled them as every opportunity. Half-time talk was simple, keep a clean sheet and we've won the game. Not five minutes into the second half The Stones give away a direct free kick on the edge of the 18yd box. seconds later Harlee is picking the ball out of the back of her net. 1-2 game on. The game began to get sloppy with passes going astray and

clumsy challenges from both sides which ended in a player from both sides being sent off, with only twenty minutes to play. This was the catalyst for Wealdstone Ladies to start to play football and Katie took control of a lose ball from 20 yds out to blast into the goal giving their keeper no chance. 1-3. from then on it was all Wealdstone. Catia was brought down in the box and Courtney stepped up to take the penalty. She made no mistake and made it 1-4. with ten to go 'Super Sub' Rosie was brought on and scored from the get-go. 1-5. she quickly added her second in the closing minute to end the game 1-6.

Player of the match - Katie Harling

Opposition in focus



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

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

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

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

A change to the league structure and abolition of the regionalised system placed

United in the newly-formed Division Four and the date of April 27, 1960 would finally see the club win promotion from the bottom league.

The 1970s was something of a non-event but Bruce Rioch's arrival as boss coincided with another run to the fourth round of the FA Cup, where we lost out in a 3-2 thriller with Sheffield Wednesday.

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

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

The Sherpa Van Trophy became familiar to the Yellow Army when Dean Edwards scored twice over a two-legged semi-final against his hometown club, Wolverhampton Wanderers, and took United to Wembley, but Bolton were too strong in the Final.

A wonderful start to the 1990-91 season took us clear at the top before Christmas but a lull in form saw John Impey introduced as manager. A finish of seventh place booked a place in the play-offs and Burnley were defeated in the semi-final.

Wembley once again beckoned and Blackpool were the opposition. Edwards and Wes Saunders scored in a 2-2 draw and goalkeeper Gareth Howells would score in the penalty shoot-out before Dave Bamber missed for the Tangerines.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GULLS FACTS

GROUND - Plainmoor CAPACITY - 6,500 (2,950 seated) MANAGER - Gary Johnson 2017/18 - National League 22nd

growth.

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

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

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

At one point United were twelve points from safety but with the addition of some canny signings, Kevin Nicholson and his squad were able to avoid relegation from the National League. 'The Great Escape' was celebrated with a 2-0 win away to Bromley.

The next season proved to be equally as difficult as the team found it difficult to turn the result their way. Many games were lost by just one goal.

Just like the season before, Kevin Nicholson and his coaching team were able to turn the season around and stay in the National League.

The summer of 2016/17 was a season of change at the Club. Kevin Nicholson signed fourteen new players to revamp the playing squad.

After three defeats in the first four games, Kevin Nicholson and the Club parted ways. Assistant manager Robbie Herrera took the reins and led the team for the next six games picking up two points.

After an extensive search for a new management team, the Club appointed Bath City manager Gary Owers as Head Coach, and former Reading U23 coach Martin Kuhl as his Assistant on September 13th 2017.

THE GULLS WHO'S WHO...

ALEX BASS - GOALKEEPER

The Club completed the signing of Alex on a season-long loan from Portsmouth in the summer

Bass, 20, made his first start for Pompey last season in a 2-0 win over Peterborough He has progressed through Portsmouth's youth age groups. His debut came in the EFL Cup against Coventry in 2016.

BEN WYNTER- DEFENDER

Ben spent 2017/18 with National League side, Bromley. He was a part of Crystal Palace's youth system. He signed his first pro contract with the Eagles in 2016. Wynter has primarily played as a right-back but can also play at centre-back.

LIAM DAVIS- DEFENDER

Liam counts Coventry City, Northampton Town, Oxford United, Yeovil Town, GAIS, and Cheltenham Town among his former clubs. Davis has impressed the Yellow Army with his displays at left-back and left wing-back. His athleticism and pace are a valuable assets in turning defence into attack.

GEORGE ESSUMAN- DEFENDER

George joined the Club in the summer of 2018.

Essuman, 21, spent his youth career with Norwich City, West Ham United and Sheffield Wednesday. Spells at Maldon & Tiptree United, Grays Athletic, and VCD Athletic followed before Dover Athletic moved for him in March 2017. He then spent time on loan at Margate FC.

JAKUB SAKOLIK - DEFENDER

Jakub joined TUFC after leaving Plymouth Argyle in January. In total he made 20 appearances for the Pilgrims. He is a former Banik Ostrava and Liverpool youth player that also played for EFL sides Yeovil Town and Southend United, and represented his country at U16 and U17 level.

JAMIE SANDLES-WHITE - DEFENDER

United announced the signing of defender, Jamie Sendles White on a permanent deal in

September.

Sendles White, 24, spent his youth career with Queens Park Rangers before signing a pro contract with the Rs in 2013. Moves to Hamilton Academicals, Swindon Town, Leyton Orient, and St. Albans City followed.

RUAIRI KEATING. - FORWARD

Keating joined United in February 2017 after spells in Ireland with Sligo Rovers, Galway United, and Finn Harps.

Keating added pace, strength, and an eye for a goal last season. He will be looking to step up this season and add more goals to his game.

ASA HALL - MIDFIELD

Hall, 31, brings a wealth of experience to the squad this season having made over 300 first team appearances turning out for teams such as Luton Town, Oxford United, Shrewsbury Town, and Cheltenham Town.

He was part of the squad that earned the Robins a return to the Football League in 2016 making 45 league appearances, scoring 3 goals. Last season he made 37 appearances for Barrow, also finding the net 3 times.

BRETT WILLIAMS- FORWARD

Striker Brett Williams re-joined the Club from Bromley FC in January 2017.

It is Brett's second time signing for the Club after spending last season at Plainmoor. Before joining United, Williams made his name in the game during a prolific period with Aldershot Town. He scored 39 goals in 89 league starts for the Shots before moves to Stevenage and Forest Green Rovers.

JASON BANTON - MIDFIELD

Jason, joined TUFC in the summer of 2018 after a season with Woking FC. His former clubs include Liverpool, Leicester City, and Crystal Palace. The Yellow Army will know Jason from his time with Plymouth Argyle where he made 38 league appearances.

It was at Plymouth that he helped the Pilgrims reach the League Two play-offs in 2014-15 where he scored against Wycombe Wanderers in the semi-final home leg. Stays at Wycombe Wanderers, Notts County, and Crawley Town followed before joining the Cards.

ANDRE WRIGHT - FORWARD

It is Wright's second spell at Plainmoor after a successful loan move from West Bromwich Albion during our 2015/16 season when he was just 18. He made 22 appearances whilst with the Club and scored 3 goals. He thenjoined Kidderminster Harriers and Coventry City on loan while with the Baggies. Permanent moves to Kiddy and Nuneaton Borough followed.

SHAUN MacDONNALD-GOALKEEPER

Shaun, 21, came to the club from Blyth Spartans, having previously been with Gateshead.

0

SAMIR NABI - MIDFIELD

Nabi, 21, spent his youth career with West Bromwich Albion before making a brief move to play in India for Dehli Dynamos in the Indian Super League. He returned to England in 2017 and signed for Carlisle United.

JEAN YVES KOUE NIATE - DEFENDER

Niate, 25, joins the squad after spells in France and Belgium before arriving in England in 2016. He joined Solihull Moors and then moved to Oxford City, Ebbsfleet United, and Guiseley AFC.

RYAN DICKSON - MIDFIELD

Dickson, 31, a former Plymouth Argyle youth graduate, brings with him a wealth of experience playing for such clubs as Brentford and Southampton. He returns to Plainmoor after a very successful loan period at the Club in his early years of professional football. A left-back by trade, Dickson can also be used in midfield and will add quality from setpieces this season.

KYLE CAMARON DEFENDER

Cameron, 21, joined after spending his youth

career with Newcastle United. Whilst at Newcastle he spent time on loan at Workington, York City, and Queen of the South.

KALVIN LUMBOMBO-KALALA - MIDFIELD

Kalvin, 20, follows Gary Johnson from his former club Cheltenham Town where he signed after being spotted by head of recruitment Pete Johnson.

"We worked very hard to get him over from France to Cheltenham," said Gary Johnson. "He's a very good player on the ball; he's one of those players that is difficult to get the ball from. He'll fit in with us very nicely." Kalvin has spent his early career in Italy, playing for Jolly Montemurlo, Carpi, and a loan spell at Savona.

JAMIE REID -FORWARD

Reid adds pace and trickery to United's squad and can play either out wide or through the middle. He has shown that with his pace and persistence he can score regularly at this level. A local lad born in Torquay, Reid has proven his worth with some impressive performances.

CHRIS REGIS - MIDFIELD

Regis spent his youth career with Arsenal, Southampton and Colchester United. After spells with Sittingbourne and Farnborough Town he joined Port Vale in 2017.

TOMMY WRIGHT (20 - FORWARD

Previously played for Otterbourne. He played for Salisbury two seasons ago under dual-registration, scoring over 50 goals as they reached the Southern League play-offs, and transferred that form to the National League last season & winning the Young Player of the Year Trophy at the National Game awards, and earning his first England C cap. in Ireland began his caree





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- Match tickets for up to four* (prime main stand seats if required)
- A fantastic advertising package, including publicity over the PA system, website and social media
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- Match-day programmes for all in your party
- VIP car parking
- Name and present the 'Man of the Match' Award

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MATCH		SPON	SORS						
WESTON MICHAEL CLIF FIGURE CLIF	WESTON-SUPER-MARE Saturday, 4th August Vanarama National League South	Sent	inel7						
PRODEING:	WOKING Monday, 13th August Vanarama National League South	Wealdstone FC	Supporters Club						
CONCORD MANGES	CONCORD RANGERS Saturday, 25th August Vanarama National League South	Barry Eynon – in mem	nory of John O'Connor						
	TRURO CITY Saturday, 1st September Vanarama National League South	Optima Sit	e Solutions						
	CHELMSFORD CITY Saturday, 15th September Vanarama National League South	Optima Site Solutions							
	CREAT WAKERING ROVERS Saturday, 22nd September FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round	Dominic Whyley							
HRBFC	HAMPTON & RICHMOND Saturday, 13th October Vanarama National League South	David	Leigh						
	SUTTON UNITED Saturday, 20th October FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round	Sent	inel7						
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ococciste cry	GLOUCESTER CITY Monday, 29th October Vanarama National League South	Harrow Sales	& Marketing						
BATH CITY	BATH CITY Saturday, 10th November Vanarama National League South	Ray Corner &	Peter Carter						
À	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH Saturday, 1st December Vanarama National League South	Preston Manor	Century Boys						

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MATCH			SPONSORS	
STATE WITH HOME	SLOUGH TOWN Wednesday, 26th December Vanarama National League South	Sentinel7	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
TORD CALL	OXFORD CITY Saturday, 29th December Vanarama National League South	Tony Platt	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
	DARTFORD Saturday, 5th January Vanarama National League South	Sudhir	Your Name Here?	
8	HUNGERFORD TOWN Saturday, 19th January Vanarama National League South	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
	BILLERICAY TOWN Saturday, 2nd February Vanarama National League South	Mace	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?
	St.ALBANS CITY Saturday, 16th February Vanarama National League South	Sudbury	Your Name Here?	
	WELLING UNITED Saturday, 9th March Vanarama National League South	In Memory of	Darren Hooker	Your Name Here?
CT. FC.	CHIPPENHAM TOWN Saturday, 23rd March Vanarama National League South	Wealdston	e FC Ladies	Your Name Here?
	EAST THURROCK UNITED Saturday, 6th April Vanarama National League South	Jon Taffel	ProKit UK	Your Name Here?
(II)	DULWICH HAMLET Saturday, 20th April Vanarama National League South	In Me	mory of George	Mowle
	HEMFL HEMPSTEAD TOWN Saturday, 27th April Vanarama National League South	SFC Wealdstone	Your Name Here?	Your Name Here?









= Yellow Card	
= Red Card	
S = Straight Red	
= Man of the Match	

Pratt

⇒ Pratt

Brown

Bubb

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Pratt

⇒ Brown

= Penalty → = 1st Player Substituted ← = 1st Substitute Used

 ⇒ = 2nd Player Substituted
 ∃ = 3rd Player Substituted ≡ = 3rd Substitute Used

NLS = National League South MCC = Middlesex Charity Cup

FAC = FA Cud FAT = FA Trophy

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MSC = Middlesex Senior Cup

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WESTON-SUPER-MARE NLS

GREAT WAKERING ROVERS FAC2Q

Hungerford Town

CONCORD RANGERS

Billericay Town

WOKING

Dartford

27 Oxford City

OCTOBER **Hungerford Town**

20 SUTTON UNITED

27 TORQUAY UNITED 29 GLOUCESTER CITY

SEPTEMBER

TRURO CITY

Dulwich Hamlet

15 CHELMSFORD CITY

29 East Thurrock United

13 HAMPTON & RICHMOND

750

435

981

466 8

856

402

1-0 274 7 North

2-1 306 7 North

2-1 1,163 4 North

1-2 1,082 4 North

743 5 North

6 North 11 North

11 North

1-0 1.323

1-1 1,103

1,152 11

1-1

3-0

1-1 786

3-0

NLS

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FAC4Q

St Albans City 15 TO BE DECIDED FAT1P 22 Truro City 26 SLOUGH TOWN NLS 29 OXFORD CITY Slough Town NLS

DARTFORD 12 Concord Rangers NLS ---HUNGERFORD TOWN NLS 26 Woking FEBRUARY 2 BILLERICAY TOWN NLS 16 ST ALBANS CITY NLS ---NIS 23 Eastbourne Borough MARCH

2 Gloucester City **WELLING UNITED** 16 Bath City CHIPPENHAM TOWN 30 Torquay United NLS 6 EAST THURROCK UTD

22 Chelmsford City 27 HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TN NLS TO BE RE-ARRANGED

13 Hampton & Richmond

20 DULWICH HAMLET

_

#FCVClips @wealdstonefc

FRIENDLY RESULTS 2018/2019

June 30 Bracknell Town (Away) D 3-3

Bubb, Monakana (2) July 9 Marlow (Away) W 1-0

July 14 Swindon Supermarine (Away) W 1-0

July 17 Maidenhead United (Home) D 0-0

July 21 Aldershot Town (Home D 1-1

Hudson-Odoi

July 23 Reading U23s (Away) L 0-2

July 24 Staines Town (Away) W 5-2

Pratt (2), White, Monakana, Lench

July 28 Bromley (Home) L 1-2

July 31 Cardiff City (Home) W 3-0

Ahmidi, Harris, Bubb

Sep 3 Potters Bar Town (Home) W 2-1

Monakana, Own Goal

ABOVE: A still from FC Video – official video partner to Wealdstone - showing last week's hufely disappointing FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round exit against Sutton United.



BY MARTIN READ

WEALDSTONE v TORQUAY, GLOUCESTER WORLD OF BALL

minor irritants

ugh, can you believe last week's result? The ultimate sucker-punch and a final five minutes from hell. In all the heat it was good to see the response of our fans: sympathy for Bradley Bubb, who just forty minutes earlier had seemed to eradicate our penalty taking curse; and applause for the hard-working Stones team which, despite succumbing in the most appalling way, had clearly stuck to a game plan against notably stronger National League Premier opposition.

It's in the nature of the game that fans to go into grief mode following such a dramatic exit, but perspective is all and to my mind the bigger disappointment came with the news a few days later of Wadah Ahmidi's sudden long-term absence from the team. That's quite the skills gap we need to fill.

Anyway, as we were adjusting to our cuplessness last Saturday I couldn't help turn my eyes to the celebrating Sutton United supporters. Nothing against the club and their uniquely coloured kit, but seeing them jumping up and down as if they'd won the final - which, to be fair, we would have happily been doing ourselves - left me oddly compelled to list some of the things that get my goat about fans of 'the oppo' when they visit our humble abode. (Oh, and let's be clear, we're just as guilty when *we* travel away.) Why not treat this list as a kind of bingo card and check off how many you encounter today?

1) Low-level vandalism

Hang on, they they're banging on *our* corrugated iron walls? Surely the instruction not to do that is one that only we are allowed to ignore? Also, can you stop thumping those advertising panels with your fists, please? I know it makes a nice sound, but Guv Mum-

The World of Ball
Visiting
fans: a list of

mery's got a strong roofing service to sell (for full details, please email info@gmummervroofing.co.uk) so you, grubby away fan. are getting in the way of his message. Desist! Can you imagine us doing the same, or covering one of your club's ad panels with a flag about us? Of course not. Never.

2) Keeping The Vale untidy

Wait a second, that bloke's just dumped his chip wrapper / tea cup / coke can on the ground *next* to the bin? Or just casually thrown it away? Or left it at the back of the stand? No no NO! Only *we* should be giving our hard working volunteers this sort of clean-up work. Who do these opposition fans think they are?

3) 'It's nice to know you're here', and variants

It's particularly galling when, if our own support has been subdued after a particularly poor passage of play, to find that our own sudden burst of appreciative shouting is

No. Just no.

received at the other end of the ground as if we'd been asleep all the while.

Actually, from our perspective, sometimes it really is nice to know the opposition fans are here, as indeed they will surely be in some numbers from our visitors Torquay today (and Gloucester fans, respect is due for any of you here on Monday night). The amount of times you can look over and see just three or four blokes, a couple of full-kitters and a flag they could all be wrapped up in together, is appalling at this level. How's that going to up the atmos?

Instead of 'It's nice to know vou're here', sometimes we get ironic cheering amounting to the same thing. And ironic cheering of any kind can only be replied to in one way - ironic cheering of the ironic cheering.

for some time I kept this collection on a scarf. Obviously I blame Toby, but honestly, how long can you stay mad at a man whose glorious badge displays make every visit to the Vale feel like Christmas Day? (I drew a line at last year's range of badges for every match, though - the work of the devil.)

But here's my red line: taking such a scarf, weighed down with those shiny metal adornments, and wrapping yourself in it to visit an away match. Again, there's no maximum badge-to-scarf ratio to divide the acceptable enthusiast from the utter madman, but here. today. I offer such a number: four. More than four badges on a scarf and you're trying too hard. How many times have you had to edge past an oppo fan in a scarf seemingly transported out of the nineteenth century made up like a chuffing Christmas tree? Unacceptable.

6) Shirts of success from decades past

Leaving last week's devastating defeat I got walking behind a Sutton fan in what looked like a replica of the 1989 kit in which they beat cup holders Coventry City.

Hmm. Is this acceptable? I'm not so sure. OK, so it's a match that has become, under-

standably, a huge part of Sutton's history. But come on mate, it's hardly yesterday is it? You've gone on to play Arsenal since then. (Mind you, here's a suggestion for the mega-store: a (definitely not skinny-fit) replica t-shirt based on our double winning 1985 kit would, I have little doubt, sell in decent numbers.)

4) Flags

Here's a rule of thumb. The bigger and more ornately crafted the opposition supporters' flag, the fewer the fans likely to be accompanying it. This is no hard and fast rule, but you must have noticed.

Huge flags are fine and dandy if accompanied by massed hordes of opposition supporters, but the

fewer the fans the more we should deride their oversized banners. Unless, of course, they recognise this ridiculous ratio and are sufficiently self-deprecating. I'm particularly impressed by Wingate & Finchley's flag bearing the wonderful legend "Yes, this is all we take away." Class.

5) That scarf, those shiny badges

I'll admit to a certain amount of schizophrenia on this one. I've a full set of Stones enamel spanning the fifties to the modern day, and

7) Any hint of a drum

"Try clapping some time. You do

NOT, repeat NOT

need a drum"

Look, here's there situation: this is a football match. Can you use that drum to convey your disgust at that last failed attack? Can a drum communicate your advice to that flat-footed number four? No it cannot. It's like using a swanee whistle at a funeral or an air-horn in an orchestra. Jarring, stupid and entirely unacceptable. You have hands. There's this high-pitched percussive sound every time you slap them together. Try it some time. You do NOT, repeat NOT need a sodding drum...





Opposition in focus



he club was officially formed on March 5th 1883, Gloucester AFC, as they were then known, did not play their first game until 9th February 1884 when a match was advertised as the first in the city under Association Rules, losing 1-3 to Warmley. Unfortunately, the first venture was to last only three seasons and folded in 1886.

A group of players keen to have a major team in Gloucester played eight fixtures in 1888-89, after two games they were known as 'Gloucester Nomads' due to the lack of a home venue. It was these players who passed the baton on to two enthusiasts of the game who re-formed the club in September 1889, they being the Reverend Henry Lloyd Brereton, a local Headmaster, and Charles Poole, assistant Headmaster at a local Grammar school

The club became members of the Bristol and District League, which became the Western League. Although Gloucester AFC did not participate in the inaugural season of 1892-93, the historic first league match was the

following season away to Bedminster on Saturday 30 September 1893, losing 2-3.

In 1934-35, after winning both the Cup and League, City turned semi-professional, joined the Birmingham Combination and moved to a new stadium in Longlevens in which the club stayed for the next 26 years.

They won the Tillotson Cup for being the best club in the Combination, and then had former Chelsea and Wolverhampton Wanderers striker Reg Weaver blow away all records with his stunning tally of 67 goals in the 1937-38 season.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE ENTRY AND CUP SUCCESS

In 1939 the club participated in the Southern Football League for the very first time, albeit in a restricted wartime competition as they took part in the west section, a league they would spend the next 70 years in, becoming the longest serving members.

For three consecutive seasons, 1948–51, the club reached the First Round Proper of the FA Cup, each time losing to League opponents: Mansfield Town, Norwich City and Bristol City. The attendance record was set at Longlevens in 1952 when Stan Myers scored both goals to beat Tottenham Hotspur 2-1 in front of 10,500 spectators, a side which included the superstars of the day such as Alf Ramsey, Ted Ditchburn, Charlie Withers and Les Medley.

It took until the 1955-56 season for Gloucester to taste success, a famous Southern League Cup final win against Yeovil Town in which City had lost the first leg 4-1, only to beat Yeovil 5-1 in the second leg to win their first Southern League honour.

HORTON ROAD STADIUM ERA

In 1964 the club moved grounds again, from Longlevens to the massive Horton Road stadium, closer to the centre of Gloucester. City were promoted to the Southern Football League Premier Division in the 1968-69 season.

In the 1981-82 season a sixth place finish was enough to clinch a place in the reformed Premier Division. They were also runners-up in the League Cup, going down 1-2 to Wealdstone, who included future England captain Stuart Pearce in their ranks. Despite Kim Kasey scoring 40 goals, the club were relegated to the Midland Division in 1984-85, after three seasons in the Premier Division. It is generally seen as one of the lowest moments in the club's history.

MEADOW PARK

In 1986 the club moved grounds again, this time to the Hempstead area and Meadow Park.

In 1988 chairman Geoff Hester wanted to appoint a new manager and after an exhaustive search found his man: former Aston Villa and Wales player Brian Godfrey. Players such as Lance Morrison, Steve Talboys, Wayne Noble and Brian Hughes were among those who walked to the Championship title, but the most important signing came just before Christmas when Chris Townsend joined from Cheltenham Town.

It was a very competitive league and was actually the penultimate game of the season at King's Lynn's The Walks Stadium that saw City crowned Champions.

The next big achievement of the Godfrey years was the famous FA Cup run to Cardiff City. The Tigers suffered heartbreak in the replay after being 2-0 up at Ninian Park with just five minutes to go and beaten 1-0 in the replay at Meadow Park.

PROMOTION HEARTBREAK AND DEBT

The 1990-91 season was one of the most exciting ever seen at the club. On the final day, despite premature celebrations from the thousands of City fans that had travelled to see a victory at Bromsgrove Rovers, Farnborough had scored a winner three minutes from time to be promoted to the Conference instead.

Into the 1991-92 season, one that promised to start where the previous one

TIGER FACTS

GROUND - Jubilee Stadium CAPACITY - 3,000 MANAGER - Chris Todd 2017/18 - National League South 14th

had left off, and the bombshell hit City that Les Alderman had left the club. The squad was ripped apart: major players were released for derisory sums, some went unpaid and took the club to the FA and forced a transfer embargo.

THE GLORY YEARS AND FA TROPHY RUN

West Ham United and Bristol City striker Leroy Rosenior took over the club and had to virtually rebuild the team from scratch after most of the players had walked out. Leroy assembled one of the most potent front lines in non-league football and it was no surprise to see the Tigers beat all comers. Despite having to play manager Leroy in goal against Kingstonian in their first game in the FA Trophy, City managed to reach the semi-final before being beaten by Dagenham & Redbridge after a dramatic replay.

The cup run proved to be a thorn in the side for City as they had to play three games a week to claw back games in hand and eventually lost out to Cheltenham Town in the race for second spot.

ALMOST BANKRUPT

City struggled to keep their heads above water and the club's weekly playing budget was slashed. Managers came and went until club legend Chris Burns came in and steadied the ship. He was tempted back to Meadow Park from Forest Green Rovers and brought with him a largely untried bunch of young players. It took the side a while to find its feet, and they had some real setbacks too (namely the 1-7 home defeat at the hands of Bedworth United), but gradually began to look the part.

Just before Christmas 2000 Meadow Park

GLOUCESTER CITY



was struck another hammer blow when the River Severn burst its banks for the second time in a decade. The club was unable to hold matches at the ground for six weeks as the environmental health inspector ruled that Meadow Park wasn't fit for public population. The lack of revenue for the club almost saw it go under and it meant that due to non-payment of players several walked out on the club. This was added to a contract dispute with ex-squad members, and meant that the club couldn't offer contracts to players.

However, in November 2001 ex-director Colin Gardner returned to the club to take over the chairmanship. Working hand in hand with the Supporters' Club, together they settled with ex-players and lifted the contract restraints

imposed by the FA.

FLOODING, PROMOTION AND EXILE

In July 2007, Meadow Park was affected by the Gloucestershire flooding that engulfed the county. The club was hit with almost eight feet of water, almost submerging the crossbar; this forced the club to move away from Gloucester for the first time in its history.

The club's first season of exile was at Forest Green Rovers' New Lawn Stadium, despite the loss of a stadium and revenue stream the club finished a creditable 6th in the league.

In 2008 the club gained promotion to Conference North for the first time after defeating Farnborough in the Play Off Final.

It was announced in March 2010 that the club would be groundsharing with major rivals Cheltenham Town for the foreseeable future after a deal to share Cirencester Town's Corinium Stadium was not suitable under League rules.

For the 2016/17 season the club announced a further one season stay at Whaddon Road but with increased rent to Cheltenham Town. This would mean the club would have been in exile for 10 seasons, 7 of them at Cheltenham.

Confirmation that outline planning permission had been granted by the council came on 22 September 2015. A full reserved matters application for a 3,060 capacity category B stadium was validated by the council on 26 May 2016. The plan has an additional phase of work to take the stadium to over 4,000 capacity and meet FA category A requirements.

The club received full planning permission from Gloucester City Council to build the stadium on 4 October 2016.

From the 2017–18 season, Gloucester will be ground-sharing with Evesham United at the Jubilee Stadium, Evesham.

WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v GLOUCESTER CITY

GLOUCESTER CITY

P 16 W 9 D 2 L 5 F 30 A 22

S C PORTER S C

Supporters' Scene

Good afternoon/evening to all the supporters of Torquay Utd and Gloucester City ,on behalf of WFCSC I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all and hope you enjoy the game and have a safe journey home.

Writing these notes the morning after last Saturday's gut wrenching loss to Sutton Utd is proving extremely difficult as we had a great chance to be in the First Round of the FA Cup and all the financial rewards that go with it and unfortunately we came up short despite our players giving their all against a team from a higher level who last season made the playoffs.

Don't forget to see Mim at the gate for your

golden goals ticket and the chance to win $\pounds 50$ if you get the 1st goal time with a $\pounds 10$ prize for the last time.

Did you know that WFCSC is now the second highest shareholder in WFC? We are looking for people that want to stand up and be counted and help shape the future of Wealdstone FC. We are currently looking for people to join our committee. We currently need someone to run our website and people willing to help with our events, help in the Megastore etc. If this is you then please come and see myself or Adam in the megastore, you can email me at m_c_randall@hotmail.com or find us on twitter @WFCSC1

Victor

Travel - Chippenham Town



The next coach the Supporters Club plan to run is on November 17th when we visit Chippenham Town FC

A 51 seater coach with toilet will leave at 10am and will be stopping in Chippenham for lunch before going on to the ground and will depart at 5.30pm following the game and expect to be back at the club shortly after 7pm

The cost for this trip will Adults £25 Concessions £20 Children Under 14 £10 Bookings for this game up to November 1st are now being taken by text to **07881624890** or email **victor.klarfeld@btinternet.com**When booking please quote the FULL NAME / NAMES of the person/persons you are booking for and a contact phone number in case I need to call you.

As I am on holiday between November 2nd to 13th an announcement will be made on social media/forum on how to book in my absence

Team Draw Winners - September

Tim Allman	£125	
Mick Gallagher	£75	Voucher Stuart Chantrey
Adam Edwards	£50	
Alan Couch	£25	Quarterly Prize of a TV for
John Fairman	£25	holders of 3 or more entries:
Daniel Gloor	£10	Michael Bennett
Mark Randall	£10	
Ian Stapleton	£10	

WEALDSTONE U18's SAVE THE CHILDREN - BOSTIK ISTHMIAN YOUTH LEAGUE 2018/19

WHO'S WHO..

MILES K DUMBA

Position: Left Back

Age: 17

School: Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School

Studying: Maths. Biology. Chemistry

Teams Played For: King George FC, Histon FC, Saint Lawerence FC, Middlesex FA, Hertfordshire FA, Finesse FC Best Football Experience: The day I learnt to do kick ups Worst Football Experience: Getting rejected by Watford FC



MATCH REPORT WEALDSTONE 3 - NORTHWOOD 4

Despite having a two-goal lead after twenty-two minutes it was Northwood that came out on top in what proved to be a lively and entertaining west London derby.

Wealdstone got off to a blinder and took the leader after just two minutes. In a case of second time lucky a short corner goes through everyone at the near post falling to an attacker for an easy tap in within the six yard box (1-0).

Northwood nearly reply instantly. A throw from the left finds a Northwood player on the right and his cross/shot hits the far post from outside the box. Five minutes later a near 1 on 1 is prevented by a last minute sliding tackle. The resulting throw leads to a deflected shot which fell to the Northwood player on the right who drills it across six yard box but luckily for the blues no one was there to connect. Both sides had very good chances to score again but it was wealdstone who went on to double their lead. A free-kick on the left in line with the D sees an unbelievable cross find the head of Femi who places it brilliantly into the bottom right corner (2-0).

But the two goal lead didn't last long. Seven minutes later Northwood pull one back after a good interchange of passing in the circle and the edge of the box slips through an attacker who dinks it over the keeper (2-1). Then five minutes later a diagonal ball finds a Northwood player on the left edge of the box and he cuts inside releasing a lethal shot straight at the GK which he unable to handle (2-2).

The momentum of the game changed as Northwood pressured for the lead and forty minutes they nearly got their reward. A dribble round the back forces a save from the wealdstone keeper and the ball finds a Northwood player on the edge of the box who chips it back in and the ball is nearly caught by a dangling foot. Thankfully for wealdstone the ball drifts just wide of the left hand post. Then as half time approached a moment of controversy occurred. A late challenge saw wealdstone reduced to ten men rather harshly.

The beginning of the second half saw Northwood with most of the pressure but it was wealdstone with the first decent chance to score. New signing Femi finds a loose ball a couple of yards outside the D and his shot goes straight at the goalkeeper.

But it was fifty eight minutes that Northwood had a golden chance to take the lead. A pass from the left finds an attacker and he lays it off to another attacker and the ball goes just over the bar. A chance which many believe he should of scored. Then it was the blues turn. A sprint down the left finds wealdstones number 7 on the pen spot and the shot is just wide of the left post. Stones rammed up the pressure with another chance on sixty five minutes. A lob pass from the left finds wealdstones number six who takes it down and shoots but despite the keeper fumbling the initial shot it's kept out.

All of sudden disaster struck for the home side. A corner from Northwood is drilled into the box and despite the initial shot being blocked on the line, the visitors were lucky on the second attempt (2-3). Then straight from the kick-off wealdstone lose the ball in a central defensive position leaving the Northwood attack to run through and slide under the weald-stone keeper making it (2-4).

From then on Stones heads appeared to drop and Northwood seemed in control until in added time the home side got their reward and halved the deficit (3-4). All of a sudden wealdstone sparked into life and massive chance for 4-4 is saved by the visiting goalkeeper at the daeth.

A MOMENT IN TIME BY TIM PARKS



TORQUAY UNITED REWIND 27.10.2018

Saturday August 7, 1976, Friendly: Wealdstone 3 Torquay United 1

h, the long hot summer of '76. You'll have to excuse an even more self-indulgent column than usual this week for that summer was one to remember.

And not for the normal teenage-boy reasons either. Yes, girls were on the radar but football had dominated my thoughts for ten years and more...particularly Wealdstone FC

When I'd finally accepted I'd never be good enough to play up front alongside George Duck* I thought of pursuing a career in design or iournalism.

Hold on, what have these ramblings got to do with Torquay United, you are probably asking? Well, that that summer was to become the perfect triangle of my passions. Football programmes had long been an obsession of mine and, that summer 42 years ago. I put my mind to putting together a new cover for my beloved Wealdstone.

Nobody asked me. I had provided the late Colin Pope, erstwhile Stones press officer and programme editor with a few editorial ideas for the club publication but as the 1975-76 season ended I remember thinking that maybe something a bit more radical was required... and thus the 'Royal Blue Review' was born.

I had long thought that clubs at our nonleague level had programmes that were predictable at best. Typically they were an eight-page effort with club notes, supporters' club notes, the line-ups and er, well that was about it. Even the big London clubs like Chelsea and QPR were little better.

Manchester United's prog was called The

Wealdstone v Torquay 1976.. a tale of one programme and one long, hot summer



United Review, Perhaps that was an i nspiration. Another team (Coventry?) had the teams on the cover and that was definitely inspirational as not many non-League sides even carried the fixture on the front!

So I sat down with a sheet of blue card (purchased from WH Smith in Hatch End) and some white Letraset which, for any youngsters reading this, was a sheet of letters that could be rubbed off (like transfers) and magically appear like printed words on the card.

What is now the work of moments, thanks to inDesign or Quark Xpress, took hours of careful positioning in the 1970s and 80s.



The very first 'Royal Blue Review' makes an appearance for the Torquay friendly (left) ... without the teams that were supposed to adorn the cover. Two weeks later we played Barnet (right) and it was sorted



To be honest. I was just making it up as I went along. Which is much like I do nowadays in my day job, putting together sports pages for the Daily Mirror. But somehow the headline, the vertical panel to the right and the white space for the line-ups just fell into place.

I carefully placed the A5 sheet of card into an envelope and posted it off to Colin. c/o Wealdstone F.C. and thought little more about it. After all it was an unfeasibly hot summer, the temperatures rarely dropped below 30degrees for four months (even in Scotland, where I zoomed off to on

holiday) and there was much sunbathing to be done. I got back home a fortnight before the start of the season. And there was a letter from Colin Pope on WFC headed notepaper!

'Absolutely thrilled to receive your redesign of the programme cover' he wrote. 'We were planning to change it and very pleased to adopt your idea. Thank you'.

And thus, little more than a week later we kicked off our friendly matches at Lower Mead against Torquay United with the new design. And how thrilled was I... even if the club didn't seem to grasp the idea of listing the teams on the front for that opening issue. Colin sought me out and explained that the first programme was a 'double header' to cover games against Torquay and then Luton on the following Tuesday night 'and we couldn't get two lots of line ups on the cover' he explained.

All was rectified for our first competitive home game, against Barnet in the Southern League Cup, and that cover survived for four successive seasons until being subject to another redesign in 1980 when a picture of Lower Mead appeared and 'Royal Blue Review' bit the dust. From the year 2000 until the present, however. I've had the job of designing the programme... but Torquay United, 1976 was my first!

ne thing that puzzled me then, and even right up to a month ago, is why a Fourth Division side like Torquay travelled all that way to play a friendly at Wealdstone, Normally, a non League club will only attract league opposition as a favour from the bigger club - for signing a player for peanuts, for example.

The only obvious connection between the clubs was stout and ageing centre-back Bill Kitchener, who had played for the Stones briefly the previous season after

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

TORQUAY UNITED REWIND CONTINUED

Linesmen: Mr. A. Titcombe

Mr. G. Kirton

filling out the Torquay shirt admirably for many years in the late 1960s. I couldn't think of any other reason. But then the answer popped up on the Torquay fans forum a few weeks ago - apparently our chairman Harry Benjamin, a travel agent, had landed Torquay's youth team a good deal for a tour to Holland that summer and the Seagulls agreed to the friendly as a 'thank vou' to Harry.

It was quite a coup to be facing a Torquay who had only recent been playing in Div Three (or League One in today's money), and even more exciting to rack up a convincing win.

y overriding memory of that sunny afternoon, played out on a parched Lower Mead pitch at the height of the hosepipe ban, wasn't just the exciting new programme ... no, it was the discovery of a ball-playing midfielder to match the two exDartford stars who had saved us from relegation the previous season.

Danny Light and Kenny Halliday were the ex Darts with contrasting influence as the season wore on. Steve Edmundson was the man who exploded onto the scene against Torquay as substi-

WEALDSTONE TORQUAY UTD. (Red and White) John Morton (White) John Watson 1. T. Lee Lenny Prince STAFF B. Lynch
 P. Fandercock Danny Light AGENCY Keith Lawrence 4. I. Twicthin Bill Byrne LTD. John Arnold 6. J. Dunne Bobby Moss Let our trained 7 D. Rudge Ray Fulton Interviewers find the D. Kennedy George Duck RIGHT job at the M. Hickman 10, W. Brown 11, J. Martin 11. Kenny Halliday RIGHT salary Subs: Ray Bullen, TEMPORARIES Billy Stagg, always wanted, Steve Hanson and our rates are the best . . Raferee (v. Tarquay Utd.) LUTON TOWN (1) Mr. K. G. Salmon 205 KENTON (Orange) ROAD. 1. T. Knight Linesmen: Mr. G. A. Isaacs 2. P. Mead KENTON Mr. T. Lattimore 907 6071/2/3 4. T. Smith 907 6071 5 G Jones 6. J. McNichol Referee (v. Luton Town) 907 1240 Simon Mr. C. W. White

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tute, scoring a delightful goal from 35 yards, and then was impressive against a strong Luton side a few days later. Edmundson was a doctor, apparently South African, and he appeared to have the cure for our pedestrian midfield.

But alas. Like so many around that time

he flattered to deceive and by the time our southern League having star men Bobby Moss, Willie Watson and playmaker opening three games after all final game of the previous season at Wimbledon.

G. Ingram

Driver

9. I. Donnelly

11. K. Wassell 12. N. Johnson



before the big money arrived in football, and well-known (even international and World Cup winning) names appeared against the Stones on a regular basis. In September 1976, when the drought finally broke

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

Duck double sets up 'Stones' prestige win

by Daragh Croxson

Wealdstone 3 Torquay United 1

Workmanlike Wealdstone romped to a prestigious victory in the August sunshine on Saturday that, come December, could have all the significance of Britain's pre-Olympic

After falling behind to Fourth Division Torquay United the part-timers struck back to clinch a deserved, if meaningless, win with two goals from George Duck - who else? — and another from substitute Steve Edmundson.

But even if the euphoria created by this result wilts in the winter months 'Stones did give 626 Lower mead fans value for money.

Anybody who came to see manager Geoff Coleman and coach Alan Fogarty unveil the Jerusalem disappointed but there was enough to suggest several foundation stones have been laid close season.

SKILFUL SIGNING

Up front new signing John Arnold, a skilful bundle of energy, looked an asset on either flank and in the middle.

The pedestrian Kenny Halliday didn't but busy ex-Brentford apprentice Steve Stagg impressed as a possible choice alongside Arnold and the consistent Duck.

With all the available squad getting a run-out Coleman played a confusing game of musical chairs in midfield but Danny Light emerged as sharp as ever and Ray Fulton didn't do his chances of extending a month's trial any harm.

Steve Hanson, on the fringe of the first team for a year. sadly played only on the fringe of this game for half-an-hour before being replaced by Bobby

In a back line still vuinerapie to direct runs and still, at times, turned with alarming ease, Wealdstone may, however, have found three vital pieces to the jigsaw.

Former Palace left-back Lenny Prince turned in a solid performance and along with centre-half Keith Lawrence worked hard to eliminate last season's lapses.

And Bill Byrne's return to the back-four could prove an inspired move. He again looked a far better centre-back than centre-forward.

Torquay began the game with a formidable burst that saw Morrall rap the crossbar only for Lane to wildly blaze the rebound over.

MARVELLOUS

Wealdstone retaliated and Robbins produced a marvellous save to tip Halliday's rising volley, from Arnold's flick, away for a corner.

But it was the visitors who drew first blood after ten minutes when Morton misjudged a longe range effort from Morrall that squirmed under the 'keeper's body and into the net.

Five minutes later 'Stones retreived themselves and the match with as good a goal as any to start the season.

Duck's flick was delicately chipped up by Fulton into Arnold's path for the number seven to clude Boulton before

crossing perfectly to the far post where Duck rose unmarked to nod neatly home.

At the end of a staccato first half Bullen, Edmundson and Stagg joined the fray and as the visitors became increasingly ragged Wealdstone increasingly found themselves on top.

Unable to match anything like their first-half display the ruffled Torquay looked a division lower not higher in class than 'Stones, deservedly took the lead for the first time after 65 minutes.

Edmundson pierced a square defence for Halliday to burst through and although Robbins blocked the first attempt the 'keeper was left stranded as Stagg nipped in to push the ball back for Edmundson to float it into an empty net from 35 yards.

Bullen, as erratic as Morton earlier, almost let Torquay back into the game but redeemed himself with a superb reflex save from Boulton.

But 'Stones refused to run out of steam and bounced straight back as Stagg, Duck and Halliday had successive shots miraculously blocked on the line.

Ten minutes from time the alert Duck finally wrapped it up when he left Chatterley flat-footed as he chested on a right wing cross and beaded home at the second attempt.

Wealdstone: Morton (Bullen 45 min.), Watson, Lawrence, Byrne, Prince, Hanson (Moss 31 min.), Fulton (Edmundson 45 min.), Light, Duck (Stage 45 min.), Halliday, Arnold (Duck 66 min.).



Back Row (L to R): L. Chatterley, D. Stocks, P. Sandercock, P. Kruse, C. Boulton, T. Lee, Dunn, B. Lynch, M. Hickman, W. Brown. Front Row (L to R): I. Twitchim, D. Rudge, K. Lane, M. Musgrove, J. Martin, D. Kennedy, A. Provan

Above: The Harrow Observer report of that game and, on the opposite page Torquay's team picture that year plus the line-ups - and Harry Benjamin advert! And did the Stones really wear red?!

REWIND CONTD

GLOUCESTER CITY... HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

turning Lower Mead into Lower Mud, England's 1966 hat trick hero Geoff Hurst turned out for Telford in their 4-2 defeat; the following week the towering ex-Northern Ireland star Derek Dougan ran riot in Kettering's 3-0 win (marked by midgets); and the month ended with ex England and Man Utd winger lan Storey-Moore running rings around us for Burton Albion.

But we survived. Torquay United did too, in Div Four for a few decades at least until they dropped into non-League for the first time.

The other Wealdstone connection with The Gulls. I've just remembered, is the end of season trip to Devon by our supporters team SFC Wealdstone in 1996. We took on Torquay supporters on a Saturday morning in June and that match was remarkable for our ace striker Mickey 'Bananas' Kane running around like a loon as he attempted to rack up his 50th goal of the season against a rather makeshift Gulls team.... all the more amusing as the pitch was on a clifftop, and sloping from end-toend AND side-to-side!

Even more bizarrely, the game was refereed by World Cup official Lester Shapter who had only just hung up his whistle. He was certainly fitter than any of our players, and I remember hoping he would bring down the rampant Kaney as he homed in on goal for the umpteenth time.

Did he chalk up his half-century? No doubt Bananas will let us know this afternoon if you buy him a pint.

There was also much talk of our budget hotel in Torquay being haunted. I certainly didn't get a wink of sleep but that was more to do with sharing a room with Pete 'Snorer' Worby.

*I **DID** actually play alongside the legendary Georgie Duck in what was his last game in a Stones shirt. But that's a story for another day....



Hale was on a one-man mission to win Stones their first-ever points in the Southern League... and here he blasts us level just half a minute after Gloucester had taken the lead. In the background is the Elmslie End

47 years ago..Hale and hearty start to life in the pro game

Saturday September 27 1971, Southern League Div One North: Wealdstone 2 Gloucester City 1 www.wfcmegastore.co.uk

FIND PRE-LOVED PROGRAMMES LIKE THESE AT THE WFC MEGASTORE:

tones fans eyes light up at the very mention of Gloucester City - well, fans of a certain vintage anyway.

Back in April 1982 they were our opponents in the two-legged Southern League Cup Final when a single strike from teenage defender Stuart Pearce

(yep, the same Stuart Pearce) in the first leg, and a penalty from skipper Paul Bowgett in the second at Lower Mead tied up a 2-0 aggregate win. Over 2,000 people were at each game.

But who remembers our very first home League game as semi-professionals? Well, I do for one. And pretty memorable it was too, back in September 1971. Our hastily scratched together team - completely remodelled from the one that had quit the amateur Isthmian League a few months earlier - container a few nuggets in former pros like Cliff Jones (ex Spurs double winner and Welsh international), ex Millwall striker Micky Brown and former Watford and Swansea Republic of Ireland international Dixie Hale.

We were lucky to catch midfield general Hale just as Watford decided he wasn't up to Second Division (EFL Championship) football at the age of

36. Just two years earlier I'd seen him play against European Champions Manchester United in the FA Cup and actually overshadow Bobby Charlton. Yes, actually outplay him, although the Horns were beaten 2-0 in a Vicarage Road replay.

So, despite his ageing legs, the amiable Irishman unsurprisingly looked head and shoulders above most teams we faced in this debut Southern League (Div One North) season. Why was our first home game but until September though? I hear you asking. Well, the opening month was

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

Bletchlev and Banbury both comfortably at Lower Mead by 3-1, though losing 1-0 to Stevenage.

Our League campaign began with defeats at Kings Lynn (2-1) and Stourbridge (4-1) and thus it was September 25 by the time the very decent Gloucester side pitched up before a 1,000-plus crowd at our famous old

Cliff Jones, Micky Brown injured

Strikers off form so Dixie Hale hits two

Wealdstone 2, Gloucester City 1

WEALDSTONE secured their first Southern League victory by defeating a competent Gloucester side, but the manner of obtaining the points left much to be desired, for the home forwards squandered first half chances with reckless abandon in a game which should have been safely sewn up by the interval, writes Phil Sugden.

For club captain Dixie Hale it was a happy day. The former Eire international midfield player succeeded where the strikers failed and scored two goals in the second half - both well taken efforts.

there Unfortunately was a great deal on the debit side. Cliff Jones, who has been suffering from a pulled muscle for the past couple of weeks. limped off 12 minutes from the end and talented Micky Brown injured several toes in a tackle. Both could miss one or

two games. John Furie, who missed the F.A. Cup game with Harrow through injury, returned to the fray with Cooper taking the substitute's position and there is no doubt that Furie's return did much to stiffen the defence, although the need for a strong

man at the back is still evident. Mahon. Cockell. Watson and Hale got through a tremendous amount of work and generally speaking the side produced probably its best performance to date apart from that indifferent first half finsihing.

'Stones should have been two ahead after eight minutes. First Cliff Jorles ran through the defence, but with only the 'keeper to beat gently pushed the ball to him and then Trevor Watson found himself in an even better position but hesitated too long.

Five minutes later Gary Townend missed a good chance and then created a fine opening for Gary Hand, who headed strongly over the top.

Gloucester were by no means idle. Vale. their best forward, sent Barr sprawling to a low drive. Andrews shot across the face of the goal and 'Stones had a real let-off just before the interval when Hughes saw his in swinger roll along the Wealdstone crossbar,

SPRAWLING

Stones surely deserved a penalty when Townend was sent sprawling from behind, but referee J. B. Hazell would have none of that and almost immediately Gloucester took the

Hughes and Wingrove progressed up the right and from the latter's pass Vale hit a tremendous shot which Barr

Wealdstone needed only 20 seconds to get on terms. From the kick-off Brown sent a measured pass to Hale who steered his shot just inside the far post.

This was the signal for an all ut burst of attacking by the nome forwards and with play ast and furious Gloucester's Anderson earned himself a lecture after a couple of clashes with Hale.

Miles was in constant action in Gloucester's goal, but even his heroics were not enough to prevent the 74th minute winner.

DELICATE CHIP

Townend, surrounded by three defenders out on the right. somehow contrived to wriggle clear, move in and send the most delicate of chips over the 'keeper's head for Hale to head firmly into goal.

Cooper came on to replace Jones and at once caused consternation in the visiting defence with a tremendous drive which Miles turned over, a save the goalkeeper repeated minutes later from a Hand piledriver.

Townend also almost got his name among the scorers with a deft flick from Brown's pass and in the end 'Stones were better winners than the score line suggests.

The attendance of 1,021 was the best of the day in the First Division North.

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

'Stones sign new striker

The on-off signing of Wealdstone's new striker was finally completed on Sunday when 21-year-old George Urquhart. from Premier Southern League side Guildford City. signed a contract for the Lower Mead

As reported by Phil Sudden and the Harry O (left), it needed the goal scoring instincts of Mr Hale to save the day after we had fallen behind. And sadly we only had his services for less than two years as his new job took him to South Wales, too far to commute.

My efforts at tracking him down in 2018 pretty much came to nought. although a friend of his family has mentioned that the 83-year old (as he will be now) is apparently suffering from Alzheimer's in a care home in South Wales.

A sad situation for a much-loved footballer judging by the fond online mentions mainly in connection with his Swansea past. Hale began his career with Waterford and Shamrock Rovers in the Irish League before signing for the Swans (just across the water) in 1959 where he was popular with the fans... although not so popular five years later when he returned to the Vetch Field and steered his new team Workington to a 6-1 win in Division Four, bossing the midfield.

Apparently Dixie invited the Swansea team back to his house as a peace offering a few weeks later when the teams met again but Workington this time won 7-0!

ON THIS DAY

BY GORDON MCKAY



www.wfcmegastore.co.uk

FIND PRE-LOVED PROGRAMMES LIKE THESE AT THE WFC MEGASTORE:

20 years ago: Another tale of a late, late missed penalty sickener

Saturday 27 October 1998: Dagenham & Redbridge (FA Trophy) Away D1-1

his was a First Round FA Trophy match and on paper a tough draw. We were doing quite nicely in our first season in the Ryman Divi-

sion 1 whereas Dagenham were riding high in the level above in the Premier Division.

The game was initially played the previous Saturday but was abandoned after 40 minutes with the Daggers 1-0 up due to a waterlogged pitch. In truth the Stones hadn't been particularly impressive but looked a different side when the two sides met again a few days later.

Probably one of our better performances that season but chances came and went until the game burst into life in the last 5 minutes. Firstly we took the lead through a terrific Stuart Kent goal... and then a few minutes later we were awarded a penalty. This was the big moment but unfortunately Steve Bircham's penalty was saved and from that point on the tie ran away from us. With the game going into injury time Fergus Moore was sent off for a late tackle and from the resulting free kick Dagenham's prolific scorer Dave Cobb snatched an unlikely equaliser. Very harsh on us but we were comforted by our performance and a home replay to come. Attendance: 576

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? The replay was played a week later at the White Lion Ground and from the start you felt Dagenham realised they'd gotten away with one and were not about to waste the opportunity. Again the game hinged on a penalty with Paul McKay being sent off for hand ball on the goalline in the first half. Daggers scored looked back, eventually finished 5-0 winners but we all knew by then when the tie had been lost.

Football is about small margins and big moments and that penalty miss reinforced that view. A recurring theme....



October 29th 2005 Slough (Ryman League Premier Division) Home Drew 2-2

Ryman Premier league fixture at our shared ground at Northwood between two underwhelming teams. I remember in the new year we had the two top scorers in the division in Richard Jolly and Jermaine Beckford but were in the bottom four!

You might think that's almost impossible to achieve but if you had seen our hapless defence in action all would become clear. As fast as we'd bang them in our defence would find all sorts of ingenious ways to let the opposition back into the game - high scoring games were the norm. Beckford of course was imperious at the time and displaying the talent that led to his big money move in the spring to Leeds United. Attacking the Gravevard End we took an early lead when Beckford drilled home a low shot from the edge of the box and we doubled our lead in the 2nd half when Beckford scored an outrageous goal...as a defensive header dropped into his path some 30 yards out he just sent a volley screaming into the top corner (pictured above by Adam Williams) giving the keeper no chance. So 2-0 up with just over 20 minutes to go, could we hold out? Of course not and in fact we were hanging on at the end to save a point. Attendance: 380

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Both Beckford and Jolly were transferred in the same week in March as we cashed in..the goals dried up but somehow we stayed up!

Was Parker - FoW William Wilfred Parr - Roger Slater

Stuart Pearce - FoW + Nick Woolford Arthur Peel - Terri Moffitt + Old Wealden

Association

Steve Perkins - FoW

Jon Pettifer - Brian and Shirley Pettifer

J Poole - Roger Slater J J Robertson - Paul Harvey Barbara Robson - WFC SC Jack Russell - Roger Slater

Dave Ryan - Dom Whyley Gordon Sedgley - FoW

Val Shearer - WFC SC

Kireon Somers - David Leigh Charlie Townsend - Mike Weston + In memory

of Alf Goldsmith Robin Tucker - Dom Whyley

David Venables - Paul Saffer Julie Verrell - WFC SC

Tom Verrall - WFC SC Robin Wainwright - FoW + Dom Whyley

Ernest Walker - James Klarfeld Lee Walker - Miriam Goodman John 'Wille' Watson - Wealds70ne (Mick Fishman + Pete Worby)

Alex Welsh - WFC SC Thomas Winterbottom - Terry Hissey Henrik Wegrzyk - Alan Couch

Albert Haines - Geoff Haines Naomi Benveniste - Barry Benveniste Barbara Stern - Terry Stern

John & Jack Jones - Graham Jones

George Duck - John Fennelly + John Orchard

. Nick Woolford

Terry Dyson - Nick Woolford Fred Farmborough - Roger Slater George Richard Goodege - Clive Leaper

Brian Goymer - FoW Andy Graham - Toby Jackson

Mark Graves - Tim Parks James Gray - 'A Printer Brian Greenaway - FoW

Brian Hall - WFC SC

George & Alec Hardie - From a loving family Andy Hedge - Dom Whyley

John Henderson - Jon Taffel Lee Holmes - FoW

Walter Langton Howman - Roger Slater Bob Iles - Nick Woolford

Richard Jolly - FoW + Dom Whyley + Nick Woolford Brian Jones - Kathleen, Shane, Sinead

Cliff Jones - Harry Leigh

Bill Kitchener - Nick DuGard

Hugh Lindsay - Mike Weston + WFC SC + John Jeffreson

Glen Little - FoW + Nick Woolford Tony Lynch - Mark Hobbs John McCormick - FoW + Nick Woolford Leslie McDonald - Marilyn Bernard

Scott McGleish - Alyson Angelides Frank Tingay Martin - Warren Ladd Henrik Mikrut - Alan Couch

Fergus Moore - Dom Whyley

Lea Morris - WFC SC

Tom Morris - Tom Morris John Morton - Wealds70ne (Mick Fishman

+ Pete Worby) Bobby Moss - Jon Taffel + Ray Corner

Jonathan North - FoW + Dom Whyley

Chris O'Leary - Alan Hill Eddie Oshodi - Peter Marsden

Arthur Paisley - FoW Dean Papali - Adam Williams

Donation Details 'Stones Legend'

Percy Andrews - Mark Barton

Ryan Ashe - Adam Williams John Ashworth - FoW

Kenneth Baldwin - Victor Klarfeld Gordon Bartlett - Gordon Thomson + Nick Woolford

Allen Batsford - WFC SC Jermaine Beckford - FoW

Charles John Francis - Mark Hyde

Robert William Bidewell - Neil Rands Charles Henry Bird - Peter John-Baptiste

Henry J Bowell - Paul Harvey Paul Bowgett - Nicky Clark + Dom Whyley

+ Nick Woolford Russell William Bradberry - Sal Morris Bernie Bremer - Mick Fishman

Mickey Brown - Tim Parks

Steve Browne - Simon Heaney + Roger Slater

Charles Edward Bunce - Michael Vincent William Burton - Tony Maidment

Tim Buzaglo - WFC SC Dennis Byatt - FoW

Billy Byrne - Nick Woolford Andy Carter - Dom Whyley

Martin Carter - Dom Whyley Lee Chappell - Matt Hill Bobby Childs - FoW Jim Cooley - FoW

Alan Cordice - Nicky Clark + Sudhir, Akhil & Nikhil Rawal + Dom Whyley

+ Nick Woolford

Neil Cordice - FoW William Henry Cozens - Alyson Angelides

Sean Cronin - FoW

Roy Davies - FoW

Phil Dicker - Mark Conboy Eddie Dillsworth - Keith Hill Mickey Doyle - Nick Archer



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FIRST TEAM, SEASON 2018/19 at 20h October 2018 A = STARTING APPEARANCES • S = APPEARANCE AS SUBSTITUTE • G = GOALS SCORED * = HAS NOW LEFT CLUB

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Green, Danny	9	2	1	2												11	2	- 1	107	10	26
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Lench, Matt	3	6	1	1	- 1											4	7	- 1	4	7	1
Mambo, Yado *	1	1														1	1		1	1	
Mitchell, Reece		5															5			5	
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North, Jonathan	12			3												15			358		
Okimo, Jerome	12			3												15			112	5	1
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White, Joe *	5	1	1													5	1	1	22	5	9
Wilson, Glenn																			20	1	1











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• Barry O'Sullivan



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Toby Jackson (Lapels Badges)



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Roger Slater & Alan Hill

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Toby Jackson (Lapels Badges)



20th OCTOBER• FA CUP 4TH QUALIFYING ROUND

Sentinel7

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- In memory of Jim Klarfeld
- Anthony Rickman

Chippenham Town

Alan Couch

th APRIL • VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

th March • Vanarama National League South

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Your name and details here

 'In memory of Wealdstone Fans no longer with us': Ron Moore, Dave Edwards, Tony & Peter Drew

Hemel Hempstead Town

27th April • Vanarama national league sou

 Your name and details here Your name and details here



• Terry Hissey

Billericay Town

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Welling United

































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KEY: C = Management & Coaching Staff; D = Defender; M = Midfielder; F = Forward; L = Legend Note: Flags indicate national team as defined under FIFA eligibility rules. Players may hold more than one non-FIFA nationality.

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Monday, 29th October, 7:45pm £9 entry for Premier / EFL season ticket holders

Uxbridge

MIDDLESEX SENIOR CUP 2nd ROUND
Tuesday, 6th November, 7:45pm

Bath City

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Saturday, 10th November, 3:00pm £9 entry for Premier / EFL season ticket holders

Eastbourne Borough

VANARAMA NATIONAL I FAGUE SOUTH

Saturday, 1st December, 3:00pm £9 entry for Premier / EFL season ticket holders

AWAY

Welling United

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Saturday, 3rd November, 3:00pm www.wellingunited.com

Chippenham Town

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Saturday, 17th November, 3:00pm www.pitchero.com/clubs/chippenhamtown

St. Albans City

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Saturday, 8th December, 3:00pm www.stalbanscityfc.com

Truro City

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Saturday, 22nd December, 3:00pm www.trurocityfc.net (TO BE PLAYED AT TORQUAY)

Vanarama National League South — as at 24th October

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1 Billericay Town	12	8	2	2	23	10	6	4	2	0	11	6	6	4	0	2	12	4	13	26		0-1
2 Welling United	12	7	3	2	23	11	6	4	1	1	10	7	6	3	2	1	13	4	12	24		
3 Woking	12	7	3	2	20	13	6	4	1	1	12	8	6	3	2	1	8	5	7	24	1-0	
4 Wealdstone	12	6	3	3	19	12	6	4	1	1	13	6	6	2	2	2	6	6	7	21		
5 Bath City	12	7	0	5	17	10	6	4	0	2	12	6	6	3	0	3	5	4	7	21		
6 Dartford	13	6	3	4	14	15	7	4	2	1	9	7	6	2	1	3	5	8	-1	21		3-0
7 Hampton & Richmond	12	6	2	4	18	13	6	2	1	3	7	8	6	4	1	1	11	5	5	20	2-1	
8 Slough Town	12	6	2	4	16	11	6	3	2	1	8	4	6	3	0	3	8	7	5	20		
9 Torquay United	12	5	4	3	13	8	6	3	1	2	7	5	6	2	3	1	6	3	5	19		
10 St Albans City	12	6	1	5	25	21	6	3	1	2	10	8	6	3	0	3	15	13	4	19		
11 Concord Rangers	12	5	3	4	16	16	6	4	1	1	12	6	6	1	2	3	4	10	0	18	1-1	
12 Chippenham Town	12	6	0	6	17	18	6	4	0	2	10	7	6	2	0	4	7	11	-1	18		
13 Hemel Hempstead Town	12	5	3	4	16	18	6	2	1	3	9	12	6	3	2	1	7	6	-2	18		
14 Chelmsford City	12	4	5	3	21	15	6	1	3	2	5	7	6	3	2	1	16	8	6	17	2-3	
15 Eastbourne Borough	12	4	5	3	17	18	6	2	1	3	10	13	6	2	4	0	7	5	-1	17		
16 Dulwich Hamlet	13	5	2	6	15	17	6	2	1	3	5	6	7	3	1	3	10	11	-2	17		1-1
17 Oxford City	12	4	2	6	15	15	6	4	1	1	9	3	6	0	1	5	6	12	0	14		0-3
18 Gloucester City	12	4	2	6	8	14	6	2	2	2	5	6	6	2	0	4	3	8	-6	14		
19 East Thurrock United	12	3	0	9	7	17	7	3	0	4	6	8	5	0	0	5	1	9	-10	9		1-0
20 Hungerford Town	13	2	2	9	11	30	6	1	1	4	4	13	7	1	1	5	7	17	-19	8		1-1
21 Truro City	12	1	3	8	12	27	6	0	1	5	6	15	6	1	2	3	6	12	-15	6	3-0	
22 Weston-super-Mare	11	0	2	9	11	25	5	0	2	3	5	8	6	0	0	6	6	17	-14	2	4-1	





