

THE LINE-UPS

WEALDSTONE
ROYAL BLUE & WHITE

V

EASTBOURNE
ALL RED

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Godfrey Poku	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tom Gardiner
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Bradley Hudson-Odoi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joel Rollinson
Elliott Charles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marvin Hamilton
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REFEREE Robert Whitton
ASSISTANTS Richard Carter and Craig Pullen

MATCH SPONSORS Preston Manor Century Boys
BALL DONOR Tony and Peter Drew

NEXT HOME GAME v SLOUGH TOWN
Vanarama National League South Boxing Day, Wednesday December 26, KO 1pm

gpflewis 

SHOMO THE WAY TO GO HOME:
Concord's Connor Essam is bamboozled by the brilliance of Fumnaya Shomotun in the first half of Stones' 3-2 FA Trophy win on Saturday
PICTURE: Adam William
atticsnaps.smugmug.com

STONES



www.wealdstone-fc.com

INSIDE:
ELLIOTT CHARLES
INTERVIEW



v EASTBOURNE BOROUGH
Vanarama National Lge South, Sat December 1, 2018, 3pm

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£3

Your award-winning match programme (voted No.1 in the National League South) sponsored by Ruislip Social Club

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BT Sport



WEALDSTONE v EASTBOURNE BOROUGH

BY MARK HYDE



Written in Stone

I would like to extend a warm welcome to this afternoon's visitors, including Manager Jamie Howell, his back room team, the Eastbourne Borough Players and supporters.

It's good to be back here at the Vale after three away fixtures.

If you missed the FA Trophy 1st round draw last Monday the news is we will play

Biggleswade Town away on the 15th of December. The Supporters Club are looking to run a coach to this match priced at Adults £20 Concessions £15 Under 14's £10 The aim is to leave the club at 11am. Contact Victor by text on 07881624890 or via email victor.klarfeld@btinternet.com to book.

Mark



Poppy Appeal 2018

The Eastcote British Legion have asked us to pass on their thanks to everyone at Wealdstone FC and Ruislip Social Club who contributed to this years Poppy Appeal. We are very proud to say that you raised an awesome sum of **£546.71**

Norwegian Blues

We are pleased to have a contingent of Norwegian (Chelsea) Blues with us today who have chosen to cheer on the Stones before tomorrow's Chelsea v Fulham derby. Welcome all and we hope you enjoy your afternoon.



Match Sponsors - Preston Manor Century Boys

It is with great delight and some surprise that that the Preston Manor Century Boys are once again sponsoring today's auspicious mouth-watering fixture. We have no words. Other than these ones. And, in truth, these aren't great.

We aim to not lapse into football programme article cliché. We hope that we got here with minimal fuss and we especially hope that we have a safe journey home. We hope we endure no prangs, no misfortunes and minimal pratfalls. In the interim we anticipate some raucous merrymaking, some good-to-moderate music and, not forgetting, some football. I can report all the lads of the PMCB have been training hard for this sponsorship day and have really put in a shift in preparation. As Shankly once said, preparation means reparation. He talked some nonsense that bloke. On second thoughts it might not have been him. Come back to me on that.

We work hard. Because hard work means working hard. Or something. You can have that one. I'd be hard pushed to put a percentage on exactly how hard we've been working but it's well north of the high nineties. But we aspire to greater!

We aim to sponsor today's game with a smile on our face, faces, whatever, and with a minimum of fuss, redolent of a south Essex dressing room cleaning crew. Traditionally this fixture has been something of a banana skin for Wealdstone. So lets hope we can put The Sports to the sword today. Anyhow. Enough. As is traditional in space-filling articles such as this I need to finish with...Come on you Stones!



Ball Donors - Tony & Peter Drew

TWITTER - @WealdstoneProg

wfcprogramme@googlemail.com



WEALDSTONE

FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2018/2019

GROSVENOR VALE, RUISLIP, MIDDLESEX HA4 6JQ • 01895 637487 •
WEALDSTONEFC@BTINTERNET.COM • WWW.WEALDSTONE-FC.COM • COMPANY NO. 3953962

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MAJOR HONOURS SINCE 1950

LEAGUE TITLES

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

NATIONAL CUPS

1965 / 1966	FA Amateur Cup
1984 / 1985	FA Trophy

LEAGUE CUPS

1981 / 1982	Southern League Cup
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MIDDLESEX COUNTY CUPS

1958 / 1959	Senior Cup
1962 / 1963	Senior Cup
1964 / 1965	Senior Cup
1967 / 1968	Senior Cup
1984 / 1985	Senior Cup
2003 / 2004	Charity Cup
2010 / 2011	Charity Cup

NON TITLE-WINNING PROMOTIONS

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

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

GROUND REGULATIONS

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

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

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

2) No spectator ball games.

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

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

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

– Wealdstone FC Board of Directors



From the Gaffer and management team



A warm welcome to Jamie Howell his management team, players and officials of Eastbourne Borough Football Club.

It is a welcome return to league action today which once again sees us starting the day in the playoff positions. The league continues to remain tight with no team seemingly capable of putting a run together and there is a surprise result every weekend. As we approach the festive season whilst most people are preparing for parties and celebrating the work for the players and staff really kicks in. With 5 league games and a FA Trophy tie all within this month it will be an intense 4 weeks which will leave us in no doubt as to where we will be competing. The dedication of this squad is a credit; they are focussed and ready for the challenge.

The fighting spirit of this team came to the fore in our last home game against Bath and the point proved to be a vital one. In our league game at Chippenham it was a bad day at the office and a below par performance which we asked the boys not to dwell

on but come back better. Last week they did that with a performance that is up there with one of the best since we've joined the club. The tempo we played at, speed of movement of the ball and some great goals saw us win at a place where only one team had gone and won this season. The individual performances were exceptional and the boys certainly demonstrated what we know they are capable of. It was also pleasing to progress in the trophy with memories of last year and the financial benefit to the club. We look forward to another tough away game in a few weeks in the next round.

Back to today and seems like we say it every week but another hard game. Eastbourne got a big win in the week away at Dartford which we watched and are a side that are well drilled and play good football. It is setup to be a good game to watch and hope you enjoy a Wealdstone win.

Get behind the boys today and thank for your amazing support!

Bobby and the management team.

Elliott Charles

'I got a lot of stick from the lads when I signed, having got a hat-trick here last season for Hampton. To beat Northy three times was quite something!'

Today's opponents will be hoping that one name is missing from the Wealdstone team sheet: Elliott Charles.

For the giant Grenadian had a prolific goalscoring spell at Priory Lane four years ago and they will be well aware of the damage he can cause.

"Eastbourne Borough will remember me as the main striker, the focal point of their



Penalty king: Elliott blams his penalty down the middle to put us back in the thriller against Bath here at The Vale. Below left: Elliott torments Matt Day on his way to netting a hat-trick against us for Hampton

attack" says Elliott, who grabbed 11 goals in his first 24-game spell with the Sussex club. And he will also never be forgotten by the Hampton fans who saw him score a hat-trick in 15 minutes on this ground - against the Stones - on New Years Day 2018!

It must be frustrating for the 6ft 2in target man to be currently sitting on the bench, but he remains confident in his ability. And confident that he can change Bobby Wilkinson's mind by the scoring the goals to earn him a regular start.

"I can understand how hard it is to be the manager but all I can do is impress him, and the fans, by making myself a nuisance of myself when I come on and keep getting the ball in the net."

Elliott's minutes-to-goals ratio for the Stones is spectacular. He came on for the last 20 minutes against Bath City and scored twice (one a penalty); came on for the last 20 at Chippenham and scored; and started the Middlesex Cup game against Uxbridge and scored again.

I asked him if he'd be boosting that goal average by taking more penalties in the future?

"Ha! I will if I'm on the pitch" he said.

But what's the story behind him taking that spot kick in the Bath game, following our abject record from 12 yards this season?

"To be completely honest, I came on, I was there, I just grabbed the ball and the gaffer was saying 'Give it to Greenie'. But when Greenie came over he just said 'Are you sure Els?' and I said 'Yeah'. It was no problem.

"The Bath keeper was giving me the eyes, and said 'You gonna put it down the middle Big Man?' 'So I said 'Yeah'... a bit of mind games cos he dived right and I just blammed it down the centre. It wasn't the sort of game, or conditions, to try to place it."

I think we're lucky to have the services of the 28-year-old. "I wasn't going to play at all this season" Elliott admitted when I caught up with him after work last week. "My experience with Hampton & Richmond wasn't good last season - I was a bit disenchanted with the way things turned out.

"I'd been out of the game almost two years after undergoing cartilage operations while I was playing for Eastbourne Borough. I carried out my own rehab - I'm a personal trainer so I know how these things work - and did it slowly and carefully, so when Alan Dowson (Hampton manager) came in for me he was surprised how fit I was.

"I wasn't sure if I was match fit but I made my debut for them on New Year's Day here at Wealdstone... I got a hat trick in 20 minutes so it wasn't a bad start!

"I got a lot of stick from the players last month when I signed for the Stones, especially Northy. To beat him three times was quite something, he's such a good keeper. I knew I'd have to be on my Ps and Qs that day."

But despite that amazing start, and another goal not long after, last season tailed off into one long story of being sat on the bench.

"We got into the Conference South play-off final against Braintree but lost 4-3 on penalties (yes, Elliott scored his spot-kick in the shoot-out) and The Iron were promoted to the Conference National.

"But I was fed up with being a bit-part and decided I was going to take a year out. My friend Ricky Gabriel was playing for Braintree earlier this season and I gave him a lift to their game, and was just planning on watching when their manager Brad Quinton spotted me and said 'Why aren't you playing for anybody? Come down and train with us, we need another striker'.

"So I did. And was picked for the bench. And so it started again and well... I was very happy when Bobby came in with seven-day approach and brought me to Wealdstone. It's a great club, great set-up, great training facilities, great fans and I really want to make a mark here."

I asked Elliott if he'd crossed paths with Jefferson Louis in the past? "Of course, a real player. Had a few clubs though."

He couldn't believe that Big Jeff was on his 39th club. And that Elliott had had 20

CONTINUED OVERPAGE



Favourite memory: Scoring for Barnet against Arsenal pre-season 2007

ELLIOTT CHARLES CONTINUED

himself. "No! That many? Have I really? I'm not going to have as many as Jefferson though, that's just unreal!"

Despite being a same size, and employing the same physicality to his game, Elliott also shares the same childhood passion for Arsenal and also played against them as a youngster - just as Big Jeff famously had in the FA Cup for Oxford Utd, way back when.

"My game against Arsenal was only a pre-season friendly but it was my most memorable match. I was just starting out at Barnet (he signed a three year deal with the Bees in 2008 after netting 20 times for their Protec youth team) and I was buzzing to come on against their first team at Underhill in front of a sell-out crowd. It was amazing: they had people like Theo Walcott and Andre Arshavin who were just electric - it was like watching remote control humans, they were so good.

"But I was feeling sharp and it was beyond my dreams when I managed to score a goal past Fabianski, bending the ball into the corner of the net. It was at the top end of the ground but I ran all the way back to the other end, past Arsene Wenger, to celebrate with my dad behind the other goal! I was thinking 'Sign me Arsene, sign me, but he didn't :)"

Barnet were in League Two at the time and Elliott made eight appearances (his debut against Brentford) without finding the net as the Bees struggled to avoid the drop back into the Conference. He went out on loan to Farnborough, Lewes, Hemel Hempstead, Ebbsfleet and Havant & Waterlooville before a three-clubs-in-three-years spell with Kettering, Dover and Concord Rangers.

It wasn't until he joined Hendon in the Ryman League that he started scoring

regularly - 11 in 24 games which brought a move to Eastbourne, where again he hit 11 goals in the same number of appearances. Then came the cartilage ops that have restricted his starts ever since...

Elliott was brought up in Archway and still lives in that North London area on the Wood Green/Muswell Hill borders with his missus Corinne and their two children - a seven year girl and two-year-old boy. His family are all close which is very useful for child care.

"It's not really a problem for me - when I left Barnet at the age of 21 I realised I had to either try and stay in the full-time game or find a non-League club and get a 'proper' job.

"I started helping my dad in his carpentry business but it wasn't for me. Personal fitness training was the perfect fit; now I work out of two gyms, Futures First near Liverpool Street and The Zone which is close to where I live at Wood Green. It means I can stay in good shape even when I'm not playing".

So talk us through the last few minutes at Chippenham? You so nearly changed the game again!

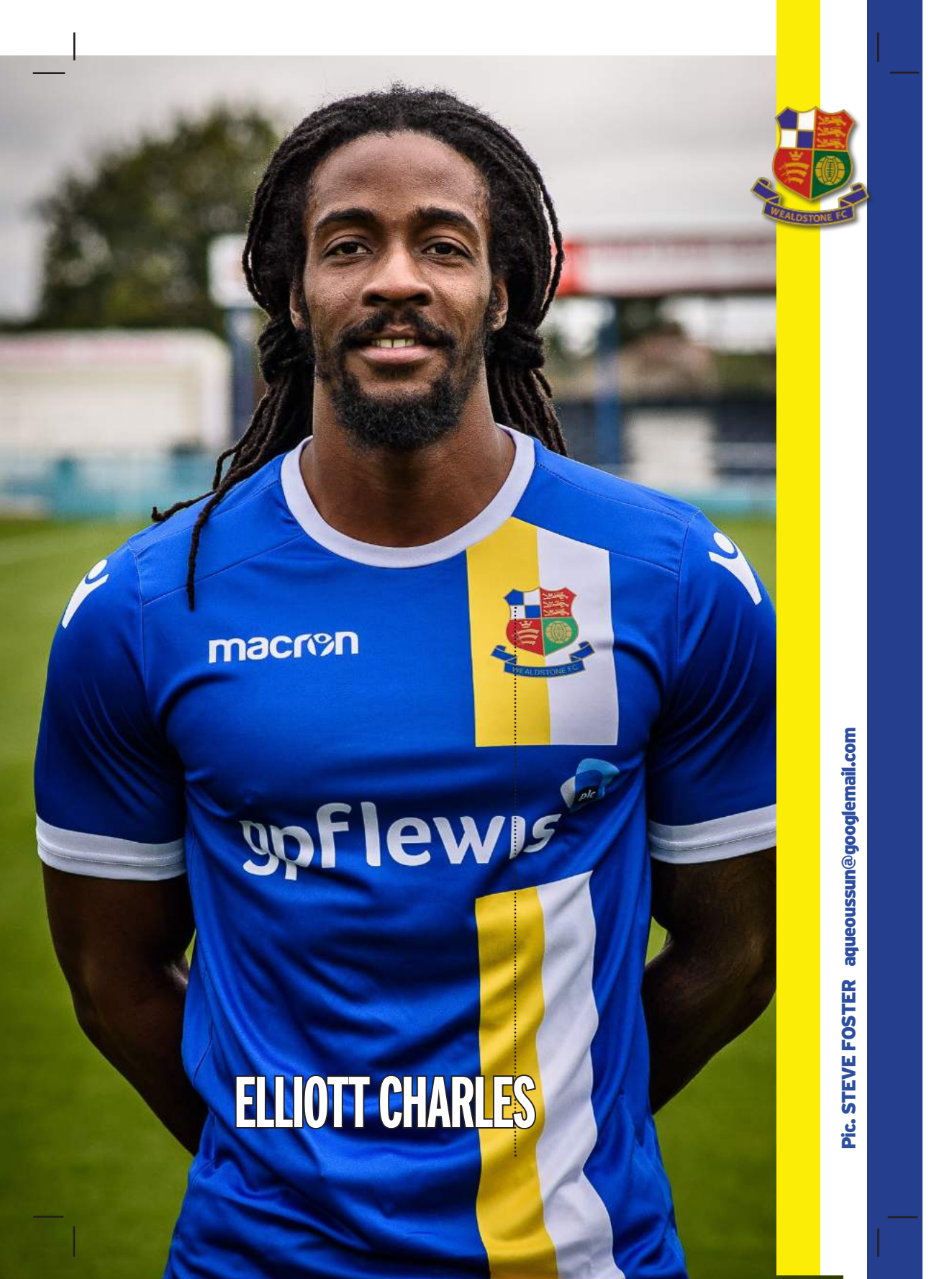
"Yeah, I scored one but I could have had a hat trick.... and I'm not quite sure how I didn't. My first chance was a header, headed off the goalline but it came back to me - and I was leaning back and skied it over the bar. Then I was in on the keeper who spread himself well but I just got too much on it, and it went over the bar again. The goal I was quite pleased with... it was at an angle and the keepers hate it when you lift it into the roof of the net.

"Fummy Shomotun made the goal though - his feet are so quick it's a joke! I don't for the life of me know why he's on loan and not playing for Barnet... maybe he's trying too hard to perfect other bits of his game when he should be concentrating on how good he is at going past players and delivering. That's what he's good at.

"But I've had times in my career when I've been flying but then it crashes down so quickly. Football's like that."



Back of the net: Elliott scores a beauty at Chippenham



ELLIOTT CHARLES

Pic. STEVE FOSTER aqueoussun@googlemail.com

Supporters' Scene



ADAM EDWARDS

OUR TWITTER FEED: @WfcMegastore & @WFCSC1 WFC MEGASTORE: www.wfcmegastore.co.uk

Good afternoon one and all and welcome to The Vale for this afternoon's game versus Eastbourne Borough. We trust every fan has a pleasant stay here with us in the heart of Middlesex and also has time to share a drink with the supporters in the clubhouse after the game

These notes could not be more perfectly timed. Its that time of year when my life gets quite busy and I spend so much time at the local post office I feel I should be getting an invite to their Christmas party. As with previous years there are many, many items to keep every member of your family happy when you are sitting around the tree opening presents on xmas morning. Whether you are buying online via our Megastore website (wfcmegastore.co.uk) or perusing our wares on a matchday there will be something to keep you smiling over the festive period.

For Mums / Dads & Kids – Who wouldn't be excited to peel back the wrapping paper to reveal a Wealdstone home, navy or white away shirt. We have most sizes available in both the home or navy shirts and a few of the white away shirts left. You can not go wrong at £35 for adults and £33 for kid's sizes. If football shirts are not your cup of mulled wine then obviously we have a vast range of polo shirts in all types of colours and sizes. There is something to fit the little elves out there as well. Generally, the polo shirts and t-shirts are priced at £25 or less.

Granny's little gift – With today being the first official day of winter the nights are getting colder and standing on the terraces can become a real test of loyalty when the weather is Arctic. Well now is the time for the Grandmas and Grandads out there to ensure every little Stone keeps their top half warm with our range of scarves and hats. Both beanies and scarves are priced at a very reasonable £10. Also if your grandparents are like mine they will be telling you to treasure things important to you this Christmas, namely your Stones programmes. Why not try some of our programme binders available in three sizes ranging in price from £12.95-£13.95.

Stocking Fillers – we specialise in these smaller Wealdstone items. We have water bottles (£4), a vast range of Stones mugs (£5) available in a multitude of colours, fridge magnets (£2), 1985 Trophy final DVD with commentary (£8), 1966 final DVD (£10), Steve Foster Artwork Canvas (£12), Wealdstone fan Lives here plaques (£7), Stones Car Scarf (£7.50), Coasters (£3 or 4 for £10), two

different stones clocks (£15) or finally one of the two Wealdstone tea towels on offer (£5).

For Xmas Heroes – If your house is anything like mine the most important person on Christmas morning is the cook. Well don't let them go unnoticed and unappreciated this year. What better way to baste the turkey than whilst sporting a new Wealdstone Apron. They are guaranteed to make the meat taste moist and succulent. Yours for only £10.

Putting your feet up – When the dishes have been put away and its time to sit down and play games or watch the tele, why not rest your weary head on a stylish Wealdstone cushion cover & / or cushion. 9 out of 10 people who have brought one have slept better at night. Covers only £7 or cushion and cover for £10.

New to the Megastore – Today's match sees the arrival of three new polo shirts. Following on from last years WFCSC drill tops and quartered polos we have added some striped polo shirts in navy & white, as well as pink and navy. Also, we are unveiling a very nice-looking contrast navy and turquoise polo shirt. Pop in and check them out to see the very reasonable price tag.

Xmas posting – The last day for website orders to arrive before the 25th this year is the 19th Dec. Also see the website for international postal dates.

Junior Stones Loyalty Voucher – For any Junior Stones / kids out there reading these notes (or their parents) you will be pleased to know we have once again decided to run the Junior Stones Loyalty voucher system. Pick up a free card, get it stamped at six different home games by us in the Megastore this season and once you have all your stamps you can choose from a free Stones hat, scarf, mugs, coasters, magnets or even sweets. There is a wide selection of items to make your selection from.

Fergie Moore Book – Today will be a busy day selling the newly arrived Fergus Moore book 'And Sometimes the Dog was Busy'. It has already proved exceedingly popular at our few last home game, as well as keeping me very busy posting books brought via the website. Pick up your copy today for £10.99. Fergie has even signed every copy.

Golden Girl – Mim will be selling Golden Goals just inside the ground for your chance to scoop an extra £50 for the first goal scored or £10 for the last goal. If you are lucky enough to win, pop into the Megastore at the end of the game to collect your prize from Mim.

Adam E

Fan in the Stand

"On our run to the Amateur Cup Final in 1966 I told the Barking goalkeeper he was play-acting.. he pointed to blood running down his face and said 'What's this then, f*** make-up?'"**

Today's FIS is a bit longer than usual... but then I knew it would be as former Stones director and Press Officer Graham Sharpe has so much to reminisce about!

And what an informed journey through the life and times of Wealdstone FC it is....

Who first introduced you to the Stones, Graham? Well, I am basically a Harrow boy, although I was born in Edgware, lived in Kenton for my first four years, then moved to Wealdstone (Grant Road) until about 13 - and this is where I lived when older boy John Patterson, later a local cabbie, whose 'gang' I was in, first took me aged about eight or nine to Lower Mead and showed me how to get in without paying (*This seems to be a theme amongst supporters who end up as Directors, such as Quentin Fox - Ed*).

No idea which would have been first game - I guess against Enfield, Hendon or Barnet. Then we moved up close to Belmont Circle. When I got married we lived first near Kodak, then in Harrow Weald and now in Hatch End.

So how come you also follow Luton Town? I became a Stones' fan shortly before I went down to the end of Grant Road to watch the supporters' coaches going through Wealdstone High Street to get to Wembley on FA Cup Final day 1959. I liked the black and white colours sported by one group of

fans and wasn't over-keen on the red and white ones. Hence I became a Luton Town supporter that day. We lost then and have rarely stopped doing so in the following sixty seasons. The red and whites were, of course, Nottingham Forest, who went on to win every-bloody-thing the game has to offer. A few years ago my son Steeven moved to New Zealand. He lives in Wellington and when we visit I go to watch Wellington Phoenix, the only Kiwi team in the A-League - who I now get up early regularly to see lose on BT Sport live on Saturday or Sunday mornings.

Do you prefer lower-League football? Supporting these teams, OF COURSE I love lower and non-league football. I can think of no disadvantages in supporting lower league sides - it enables you to poke fun at those glory-chasing supporters who declare undying love to teams playing in towns or cities they've seldom or never visited.

How do you fit football in with family and working life? Like most other supporters I fit everything else around watching my football teams, rather than vice-versa. It is easier to do now that I am semi retired - mind you, I somehow managed to be on the Board at



Graham (right) at the Vale with son Steeven (middle) and pal Graham Brown. Unbelievably, Sharpey appears to be wearing a Luton shirt

GRAHAM SHARPE

**WEALDSTONE
v EASTBOURNE
01.12.2018**



Wealdstone for ten years when I was working most of the hours God sent for William Hill.

Has football has always been a big part of your life? Oh yes. I played until the age of 45, and was manager and chairman at different times of Hatch End FC, a local Sunday side for a good number of years. I slightly distrust anyone who doesn't have some kind of football loyalty.

What is your most memorable game?

That is undoubtedly Wealdstone's

incredible 6-5 win over

Stevenage in which they were 5-3 down with about eight minutes to go, during which time Hugh Lindsay helped himself to a hat-trick, one of them remaining in my memory as the hardest-struck free kick I have ever seen, which crashed in from (as I remember it) about a hundred yards out.....and that with a ball boasting a lace.....

What gets your goat watching football?

I absolutely detest the rule which makes a fouled player with an injury go off, thus giving the team who fouled, a numerical advantage for a possibly significant time... plus I hate the 'toss' at the start of a game in League games. It should be abolished, with the home team always choosing which way to kick, while their opponents will have the same advantage when they host the return match. I'd keep it for Cup games, though.....

Did you play at a decent level? My own playing career was lengthy but not at an elevated level. I was good enough to play for Harrow as a schoolboy, and later for the

Sunday League representative team my club was in, but I went to rugby-playing Harrow County School, then when I left, started work immediately for the local Weekly Post paper. I got that job only because I agreed to play for the editor's own team in Lewisham, for which I became top scorer until he decided he'd better get me reporting on local matches for the paper on Saturdays.

I played for Wealdstone Athletic in my mid to late teens, where we became the first club ever to turn out for matches in an all-black kit (pictured below), somehow acquired from dubious sources by our dodgy manager of the time, which completely mind-boggled the refs. We were banned from doing it by the end of the season we started doing so.

Most memorably, I managed a team to a Middlesex County Cup Final only to be beaten by a team who had played an ineligible player in their semi final yet were allowed to remain in the competition. We lobbied for the beaten semi finalists to play us in the final and eventually at least succeeded in having the outcome of the Final voided with no one awarded the trophy.....thus endearing myself to the Middx FA for which, ironically, both of my sons would subsequently work for.

How do you enjoy the Vale as a venue?

It's a traditional non-league ground with big enough crowds to create an atmosphere but rarely big enough to provoke serious disturbances. I appreciate the ability to walk around the ground if necessary or desired, but accept that for games such as the recent Torquay match, segregation is sometimes required.

My preferred place to watch from is with a

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Respondent in the black shirts of Wealdstone Athletic, circa 1968 are Sharpey (circled in yellow) and Graham Brown (white)

GRAHAM SHARPE FAN IN THE STAND

couple of mates from the away-team side of the dugouts - perfect for providing those away managers/coaches and players, ensconced there with some useful information and opinions as the game progresses.....

What's the strongest current line up, in your opinion? I have reached the stage of support for Stones where I have no strong opinions about the line up, mainly because every time I watch a game now there seem to be new players I've never heard of before!

But I consider **Jonathan North** to be easily our best, most consistent player, and am very surprised that no one has come in for him (maybe they have and he doesn't want to go) from a higher level. His astonishing double save from the penalty v Torquay would have been shown over and over had it happened at a higher level, and he is remarkably consistent. I also enjoy watching **Godfrey Poku**, who I saw many times when he was at Luton for a couple of seasons, and thought he had something about him. Hopefully he'll settle down and stay longer here than he seems to have done at a large number of his other clubs, for whatever reason(s).

Over the years there have been some real greats to watch playing for Wealdstone - **Hugh Lindsay** (already mentioned); **Eddie Dilsworth**; **Simon Garner**, **Brian Jones**, **Robin Wainwright**, both **Cordices** - but, to be fair, I've always supported the club, rather than specific players.

What's your most memorable away game?

I'm not that big a fan of away matches, but loved that win at Braintree back in the late 90s, courtesy of Simon Garner (right), when they were our bitter rivals for a while, and have always remembered experiencing the largest burgers I've ever seen at Tonbridge Angels. I also recall following the Stones to every game during their run to winning the Amateur Cup Final - and was behind the goal when Barking's keeper went down injured after a corner in an earlier round. I shouted at him and the ref that he was just acting to waste time, whereupon he stood up, pointed a finger at the blood coursing down his face and demanded: 'What's this, then, f***ing make-up?!

What the best non league

ground you've ever been to? Lower Mead And the best stadium ever? Kenilworth Road.

How do you think this season will pan out? This season I expect Stones to flatter to deceive and just miss out on a play off place.

What do you think of the Stones' programme? It's one of the best at any level, but I have NO time at all for digital programmes.

And what about the catering and bars?

I think the catering at Wealdstone is fine, although I rarely avail myself of it as I've usually had lunch before I arrive and will have dinner when I get home or Mrs S will not be best pleased. Cadging sweets from Steve (son of legendary George) Mowle during games is my main form of sustenance, although he has been a little less than generous in that direction this season.

Do you use the Megastore? Yes, I often buy stuff from the well stocked club shop to send to my elder son Steeven who lives in New Zealand but is still very much a supporter.

What's your view on the solid blue v quarters shirt debate? I felt betrayed, and still do, that the club ever stopped wearing blue and white quarters on the feeble pretext (as it was explained to me at the time) that the new kit supplier didn't make quartered shirts. If that were true, which I very much doubt, then they should have been dumped as suppliers/sponsors. That was unforgivable and I haven't forgiven....

What's your Wealdstone claim to fame?

I have two! 1) Being voted off the Board because I dared to criticise a certain Alan Partridge-style Ryman League official/dictator (Alan Turvey) in the programme. Freedom of speech is vital and I was badly let down by fellow board members who didn't support me, and club members who almost certainly and perfectly understandably didn't like me! 2) Along with Layne Patterson, standing up against fellow board members who wanted to offer the team manager's job to someone already with the club - and ap-



CONTINUED...

proaching Gordon Bartlett to see whether he'd be interested in joining us. Paul Rumens pushed the deal over the line, but Layne and I started the ball rolling.....

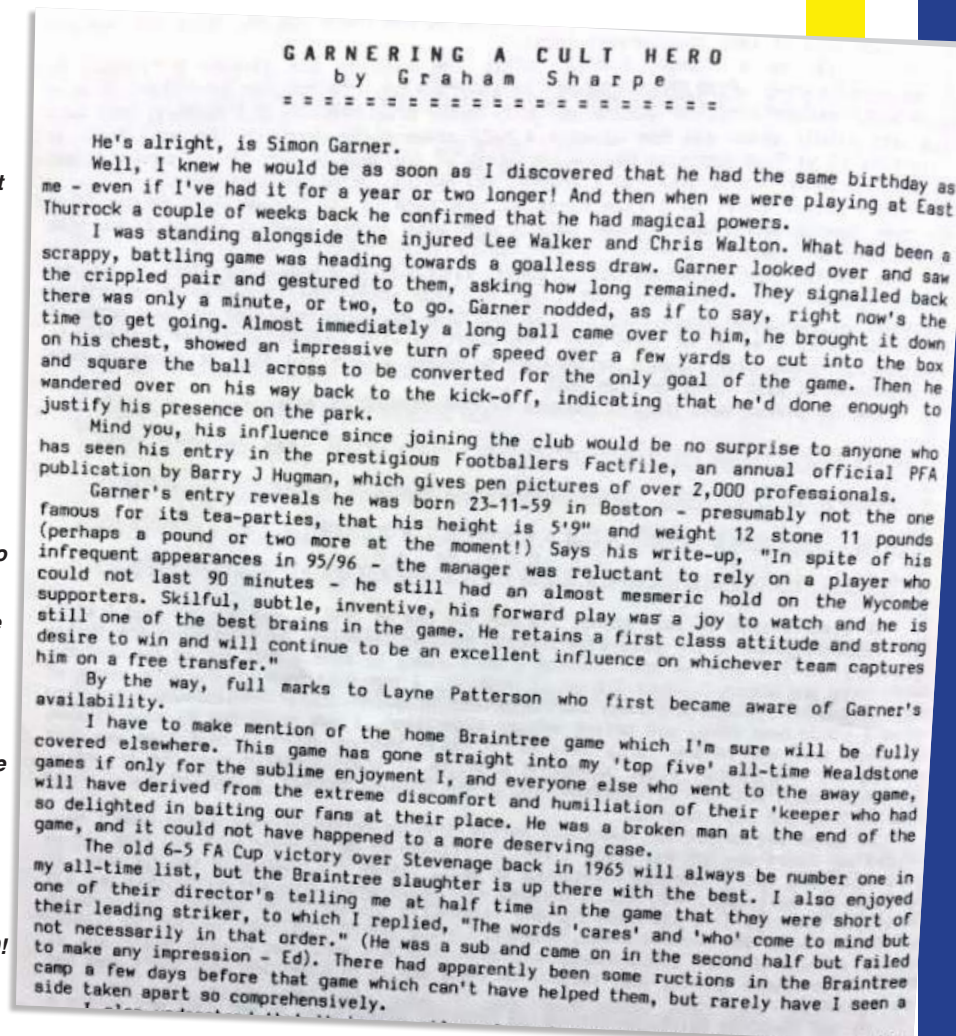
Where do you think the club will be in five years' time? I very much hope that in five years time Wealdstone will be precisely where they are at the moment. I doubt whether the current hierarchy will still be in place. I can only see potential financial ruin should we be promoted to the Conference - look at how Barnet seem to be paying the price of trying

to compete and play in the EFL, for example and how teams like Stevenage would probably be better off in non league.

This is a club which has always flourished as a big fish in a small pond, which appeals to those not interested in glamorous, much bigger and wealthier nearby Prem/EFL teams who we could never compete with and against. We've always enjoyed being non league big boys and I believe that's where we should stay.



Here's a flavour of the excellent column Graham used to write in the Stones prog back in the 90s.. here he praises our star striker Simon Garner (left) who had a terrific pedigree with Blackburn-Rovers. The old Braintree rivalry also bubbles to the surface after we stuffed them 6-0!



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



WHO'S WHO..

ETHAN GRUBB
(GRUBBY)

Position: Goalkeeper

Age: 16

School: Bishopshalt School

Studying: HGV Technician Apprenticeship at Volvo

Teams Played For: Reading, Sandgate, Burnham, Ruislip Rangers, Hillingdon & Middlesex Schools

Best Football Experience: Running out onto the Madejski pitch in my Reading FC days. Representing my School at both District and County level. Playing away for Middlesex County in Cornwall. Voted Sporting Player of Year in my final year of Youth football with Ruislip.

Worst Football Experience: Losing two County Cup Finals. Picking up a serious injury a day before the final of the League Cup.



		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Bedfont Sports	6	5	1	0	23	5	16
2	Camberley Town	5	5	0	0	22	3	15
3	Staines Town	7	4	1	2	18	9	13
4	Potters Bar Town	5	4	1	0	12	5	13
5	Wealdstone	8	3	0	5	18	19	9
6	Hayes & Yeading	5	1	1	3	18	15	4
7	Aldershot Town	3	1	1	1	6	7	4
8	Northwood	7	1	1	5	18	19	4
9	Hampton & Richmond	4	0	0	4	3	17	0
10	Ashford Town	4	0	0	4	2	31	0



NEXT MATCH

Wednesday 5th November
v Aldershot Town 7.30 Kick Off - HOME

WEALDSTONE FC UNDER 18'S 2018/2019 FIXTURES - ALL HOME GAMES KO @ 7.30PM

ACTION REPLAY

Words - Sam Watts

Saturday 24th November 2018 - Thames Road
FA Trophy 3rd QR - Attendance 180



2

Minshull, Wall

LINE-UP

Beasant
Popo
Shaw
Essam
Minshull (C)
Sterling
Green
Nash
Wall
Midson
Blackman
Subs Used:
Clohessy
Pollock
Unused:
Moore
Froud
Glover



FIRST HALF

Wealdstone are through to the 1st Round of the FA Trophy after beating Concord Rangers 3-2 at Thames Road. Stones were dominated the tie for the most part but had to fight of a late comeback from the home side to reach the next stage.

After 14 minutes, Wealdstone took the lead with a finely executed goal. Bradley Hudson Odoi picked up the ball on the left side and curled a cross to the near-post in the aftermath of the start, finding Okimo who glanced it in.

Concord Rangers responded positively, though, increasing the pressure but only shooting from range. Wilson took a powerful effort to the stomach from Concord's Danny Green but stood strong, as did Connor Stevens. Concord pressed and Liam Nash forced Jonathan North into a save down to his right, but Wealdstone looked extremely quick on the counter.

Stones' attacking assets struck again on 23 minutes, with Fumnaya Shomotun making it 2-0. The floating number 10 drifted in and out, using Rhys Tyler as distraction on the overlap, before cutting inside and curling a wonderful effort into the top left corner. It was quite a remarkable contrast to the previous week.

Defensively Stones were resolute, their passing and movement was rapid, and their game-plan was executed in good fashion. Concord's last efforts saw Nash putting a tame header wide towards the end of the half, but at half time, it was almost the perfect scenario for Stones.



SECOND HALF

Concord made a well needed substitution at half time. Green was replaced by Sean Clohessy, and their urgency was significantly lifted.

As much as Concord Rangers tried to respond to a dreadful first half, they seemed to struggle and Stones went 3-0 up to put the game into a supposed lack of contention. Rhys Tyler found space down the right and appeared to have lost it, but Shomotun picked it up and floated a cross to the back post for Stones' David Pratt to nod in on 63 minutes.

Perhaps it was the complacency that allowed Concord a way in. Within 6 minutes of the third goal, it was 2-3. Nash smashed a ball low into the mix of players and captian Lee Minshull stabbed it in before Alex Wall took the ball down on the left side and whacked a rising effort into the top right corner leaving North static.

Wealdstone had taken the foot of the gas and stooped to cruise control with Concord's supporters urging their team to complete the comeback. They very nearly did on 83 minutes when Clohessy's free kick was hooked just over by Wall.



3

Okimo, Shomotun, Pratt

LINE-UP

North
Tyler
Okimo (C)
Stevens
Wilson
Poku
Shomotun
Smith
Pratt
Green
Hudson-Odoi
Subs Used:
Mensah
Charles
Unused:
Bubb
Monakana
Payne

EASTBOURNE BOROUGH

WEALDSTONE v EASTBOURNE BOROUGH

Opposition in focus



Founded as Langney Football Club in 1965, Eastbourne Borough Football Club has now moved into its second half-century. It has been a remarkable history, not quite unique- for many clubs in non-League can look back with pride on their small beginnings and genuine grass roots. But the Sports-Borough story has been quite a journey....

If you've visited us in past seasons, you may recall that the club is on the eastern fringe of town. Back in 1965, there was an Eastbourne and a Langney – and almost literally a stretch of open land between. Originally a boys' team who had outgrown their age group and wanted to stay together, the Club initially joined the Eastbourne & District Football League. The team played on local recreation grounds before moving to Prince's Park, near the Eastbourne sea-front. By 1973/74 the club had scaled the Eastbourne & Hastings League, and was beginning to look for a future beyond parks football. "They'll never be more than a parks team!" was the infamous comment of one very senior official in Sussex football – but they proved him wrong....

Sussex County League.

In 1983 Langney Sports were elected as a founder member of Division 3 of the Sussex County League, and swiftly moved up through the divisions, rarely finishing outside the top four in Division one, and respected as a force

to be reckoned with. Finally, after some close-run campaigns, the 1999/00 season, under management duo Garry Wilson and Nick Greenwood, saw the Sports take the Sussex County League title, gaining promotion to the Dr. Martens League (Eastern Division) where after a season of consolidation at the higher level, the Club finished a creditable ninth in the table.

Climbing the Pyramid.

Meanwhile, off the field, the Sports were laying sound physical foundations too. From those itinerant early years on local parks pitches, the club had always had the vision of a more permanent home, and audaciously they had approached the local council with the improbable project of turning Priory Lane – then a mere expanse of empty marshland - into a proper stadium. The County League years saw those plans beginning to be realised. Then during 2000/01 the club received a £117,000 grant from the Football Foundation to go towards further development of Priory Lane. At the end of the season the Football Committee made one of the most crucial decisions in the club's history: the change of name to Eastbourne Borough FC. Stalwarts had their reservations, but the new name reflected the club's status as ambassadors for the whole town, and not only the original Langney. But to loyal supporters, we are and always will be still The Sports! Season 2002 saw the club win the Sussex Senior Cup for the first time, beating the holders Lewes 2-1, and within two seasons there was further promotion to the Dr Martens Premier Division. Within another year Borough were elevated to the newly inaugurated Conference South.

Conference Football Comes To Eastbourne.

2004/05 proved to be a most successful season as Eastbourne Borough reached the Play-Off Final. Over 1,000 Borough supporters made the 500 mile round trip to Stoke City for the North v South Final against Altrincham, but it wasn't to be, losing 2-1 in an

exciting encounter.

The following campaign was disappointing, but the Club achieved another milestone reaching the 1st Round proper of the FA Cup for the first time, with the reward of a home tie against League Two club Oxford United. Cheered on by a record crowd of 3,770, and in front of the Match of the Day cameras, Borough dramatically forced a 1-1 draw with a twice-taken last-minute penalty. Story-book stuff! The replay, though, was lost 3-0 at the Kassam Stadium.

The 2006/07 season saw the squad adopt a change in direction with Garry Wilson placing an emphasis on "quality" not "quantity" and finished in 7th place, 4 points off a play-off berth.

Buoyed by the previous league season the club started the 2007/2008 season in high spirits and it was to prove a most successful campaign with Eastbourne Borough beating Hampton & Richmond Borough 2-0 in the Play-Off Final at Stevenage. The triumphant night had completed a remarkable rise from recreation ground football to the pinnacle of non-League, the Conference Premier.

The Pinnacle of Non-League Football.

The 2008/2009 season was another step into the unknown for the club, with the opening Premier fixture a home game with Rushden & Diamonds. Any doubts re: competitiveness of the squad, infrastructure of the club, the approach to only segregate when deemed appropriate, or the support of the Eastbourne public were dispelled by the end of the day. Notable results during the season included a double over Forest Green Rovers, a home win over ex-league club York City, success over Wrexham and an incredible 4-0 win at Woking. The season proved to be most rewarding with an impressive mid-table finish, amongst the 'giants' of the non-league game.

2009/10 was a tough season after a bright start, AFC Wimbledon and eventual FA Trophy winners Barrow were defeated at Priory Lane. But a three and a half months drought for a league victory left the Sports needing victory over champions Oxford United in the final game of the campaign. With 6 minutes to go and the scores level at 0-0, and results going against them elsewhere, Borough appeared to be heading for the drop. Then a final minute penalty, coolly converted by Simon

SPORTS FACTS

GROUND - Priory Lane

CAPACITY - 4,151 (600 seated)

MANAGER - Jamie Howell

2017/18 - National League South 18th

Weatherstone, sparked wild scenes and another season in the Premier was secured. **Relegation Comes to Priory Lane - 2010/2011**

The Sports' 3rd season at National Conference level finally proved too much for the side and the club suffered its first ever relegation.

Back in Conference South the Sports had the honour of kicking off the first ever match at the Amex Stadium, against Brighton and Hove Albion in a held-over Sussex Senior Cup Final. The 9,500 attendance remains the biggest crowd that the club has played in front of. There was much optimism for the 2011/2012 season, but after a bright start the season became a struggle, and after only one league win in 12 outings the club parted company with Garry Wilson and Nick Greenwood. The decision for the club was difficult and painful. The decade (plus) of their tenure had seen unprecedented success but the decision was made and Tommy Widdrington took the reins.

New Start

Tommy Widdrington was to oversee a new phase. He remained at the club for five seasons until April 2017 – a phase of mid-table stability in the National South. Equally important, the club's infrastructure was strengthening, with conversion to a Community Interest Club, the opening of an Academy, and a splendid new 3G pitch installed at Priory Lane. Tommy moved on and Jamie Howell was appointed manager ahead of the 2017-18 season.

More than a Club

Borough's first aim, in the new 2018-19 season, is no different from our opponents: maintaining the status. The National South is a high-quality division and a challenging one, and we love competing in it. With seven play-off places once again available, the season is sure to be very open right till the end, and like everyone the Sports would love to be in the mix.

EASTBOURNE BOROUGH

OPPOSITION IN FOCUS

THE SPORTS WHO'S WHO..

JAMIE HOWELL- MANAGER

Jamie captained England Schools at Under-15 level and began his career at High-bury where he was a member of the Arsenal FA Youth Cup winning team. Spells followed at Portsmouth, Notts County, Torquay United and Brighton, before joining Bognor Regis Town. He had managerial experience at Burgess Hill Town before returning to Bognor, where an impressive record included promotion to National South and a remarkable run to the semi-finals of the FA Trophy in 2015/16, losing out to Grimsby Town.

Jamie's coaching staff includes Danny Bloor, Dean Lightwood and player-coach Ian Simpemba, as well as phts Isobel Tavares.

Since replacing Tommy Widdrington, Howell has completely turned over the playing staff – the only “survivor” being the legendary Ian Simpemba, although three or four of the 2018-19 squad are returning to the Lane for a second (in one case, a fourth!) spell. Some of the faces you may spot today include:

MARK SMITH - GOALKEEPER

Mark joined Borough mid-way through last season from Aldershot and is a popular and imposing figure in goal. He distinguished himself with no fewer than three penalty saves in a single FA Trophy tie at Royston, and his vocal “encouragement” to the defenders in front of him is second to none.

JAMES EARL - GOALKEEPER

James is goalkeeping back-up, and one to watch.

IAN SIMPEMBA - DEFENDER

Capped by Ireland at youth level, Ian went on to key roles at a series of successful clubs including Havant, Dover and Ebbsfleet. Centre-backs are supposed to be big and ugly, but Ian, merely big and elegant, is one

of football's good guys. Now – in his fifth season at Borough

KRISTIAN CAMPBELL - DEFENDER

Kristian joins the Sports from a background at Charlton Athletic and, last season, Bromley. With his pace, footwork and quick brain, we are starting to wonder why he's a mere full-back and not a flying winger.

MARVIN HAMILTON - DEFENDER

Marvin is the man with the return ticket, back at Priory Lane for the fourth time. A hugely popular character, Marvellous Marvin could list his former clubs if you insist, but it might take until past kick-off time

HARRY RANSOM - DEFENDER

A product of the club's Academy and still only 19

HARRY POLLARD - DEFENDER

Only 18 and a recent recruit from Charlton Athletic

TOM DAY - DEFENDER

A recent young recruit from Crystal Palace via Barnet, completes a trio of full-backs.

TOM GARDINER - DEFENDER

Counts St Albans City as well as Dartford on his CV.

SERGIO TORRES (C). - MIDFIELD

The original journeyman footballer, Sergio came from his native Argentina with basically a pair of boots and a pack of sandwiches, working his way through sheer commitment as well terrific talent. He famously captained Crawley Town in their FA Cup run that ended at Old Trafford and also captained Whitehawk's hugely successful side of a couple of seasons ago.



KANE WILLS - MIDFIELD

A Sussex man schooled at Brighton and Hove Albion and with experience at, among others, Bognor and Worthing, who signed up to Jamie's project early in season 2017-18.

DAVE MARTIN . - MIDFIELD

Has played at Derby County, Millwall and Luton Town

MIKE WEST- MIDFIELD

West enjoyed successful spells at Ebbsfleet, Crewe Alexandra and Whitehawk.

RYAN HALL- MIDFIELD

Ryan arrives at Borough with a brimming CV that includes Palace, Leeds United, South-end and Luton Town.

DEAN COX - MIDFIELD

Sports favourite Dean is back at Priory Lane – where he first played at 18 – after notch-

ing up 399 games with Brighton, Orient and Crawley.

ANDREW BRIGGS . - MIDFIELD

Another young player up from the Academy, is athletic and all-purpose midfielder

YEMI ODUBADE - FORWARD

Brought his career full circle when returning in Summer 2017 to the Lane, where he was a sensationally successful goalscorer who actually signed for Brian Talbot at Oxford United on the strength of his FA Cup display against the U's.

LLOYD DAWES - FORWARD

Was signed from Worthing last year to play alongside Yemi, bringing devastating pace and an unpredictable quality of inventive running.

CHARLIE WALKER - FORWARD

Arrived in close season, from St Albans City, with a proven track record of goalscoring

WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v EASTBOURNE BOROUGH

P 8 W 0 D 3 L 5 F 7 A 19

KEY TO SYMBOLS

□ = Yellow Card	! = Goal	⇌ = 2nd Player Substituted	NLS = National League South	MCC = Middlesex Charity Cup
■ = Red Card	⚽ = Penalty	⇌ = 2nd Substitute Used	FAC = FA Cup	
S = Straight Red	→ = 1st Player Substituted	⇌ = 3rd Player Substituted	FAT = FA Trophy	
■ = Man of the Match	← = 1st Substitute Used	⇌ = 3rd Substitute Used	MSC = Middlesex Senior Cup	

RESULTS & FIXTURES 2018/2019

AUGUST		Competition	Result	Crowd	Pos.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17/GK
4	WESTON-SUPER-MARE	NLS	4-1	750	2	North	Tyler	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	White	Ahmidi	Pratt	Green	Hudson-Odoi	Bubb	Mambo	Lench	Monakana	Sheppard
7	Hungerford Town	NLS	1-1	435	5	North	Tyler	Sheppard	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	White	Ahmidi	Pratt	Green	Hudson-Odoi	Bubb	Mambo	Brown	Lench	Monakana
11	Billericay Town	NLS	0-1	1,152	11	North	Tyler	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Monakana	Ahmidi	Pratt	White	Hudson-Odoi	Bubb	Mambo	Green	Wilson	Clark
13	WOKING	NLS	1-0	1,323	8	North	Tyler	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Monakana	Ahmidi	Pratt	Green	White	Bubb	Mambo	Lench	Clark	Mitchell
18	Dartford	NLS	3-0	981	5	North	Tyler	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Monakana	Ahmidi	Pratt	Green	Bubb	White	Mambo	Mitchell	Clark	Lench
25	CONCORD RANGERS	NLS	1-1	786	5	North	Tyler	Grant	Okimo	Mambo	Poku	Monakana	Ahmidi	Pratt	Green	Bubb	Wilson	Hudson-Odoi	Mitchell	White	Lench
27	Oxford City	NLS	0-3	466	8	North	Tyler	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	White	Lench	Pratt	Green	Hudson-Odoi	White	Bubb	Sheppard	Monakana	Clark
SEPTEMBER																					
1	TRURO CITY	NLS	3-0	743	5	North	Tyler	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Bubb	Ahmidi	Pratt	Green	Hudson-Odoi	Mambo	Monakana	Mitchell	Lench	Sheppard
8	Dulwich Hamlet	NLS	1-1	1,103	6	North	Tyler	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Bubb	Ahmidi	Pratt	Green	Hudson-Odoi	Wilson	Sheppard	Brown	Monakana	Lench
15	CHELMSFORD CITY	NLS	2-3	856	11	North	Tyler	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Bubb	Ahmidi	Pratt	Green	Hudson-Odoi	Wilson	Sheppard	Brown	Monakana	Lench
22	GREAT WAKING ROVERS	FAC20	2-0	402	11	North	Tyler	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Lench	Ahmidi	Brown	Bubb	Shomotun	Wilson	Mambo	Hudson-Odoi	Monakana	Sheppard
29	East Thurrock United	NLS	1-0	274	7	North	Sheppard	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Lench	Ahmidi	Brown	Shomotun	Hudson-Odoi	Wilson	Green	Monakana	Slew	Clark
OCTOBER																					
6	Hungerford Town	FAC30	2-1	306	7	North	Sheppard	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Shomotun	Ahmidi	Bubb	Green	Hudson-Odoi	Wilson	Monakana	Lench	Slew	Clark
13	HAMPTON & RICHMOND	NLS	2-1	1,163	4	North	Sheppard	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Shomotun	Ahmidi	Pratt	Green	Bubb	Wilson	Charles	Clark	Slew	Lench
20	SUTTON UNITED	FAC40	1-2	1,082	4	North	Sheppard	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Bubb	Ahmidi	Pratt	Green	Bubb	Shomotun	Wilson	Charles	Lench	Hudson-Odoi
27	TORQUAY UNITED	NLS	0-3	1,241	7	North	Sheppard	Tyler	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Shomotun	Lench	Pratt	Green	Bubb	Wilson	Charles	Mensah	Hudson-Odoi	Clark
29	GLOUCESTER CITY	NLS	2-0	675	5	North	Tyler	Okimo	Wilson	Stevens	Poku	Shomotun	Mensah	Pratt	Bubb	Hudson-Odoi	Sheppard	Green	Clark	Charles	Slew
NOVEMBER																					
3	Welling United	NLS	1-1	507	7	North	Tyler	Payne	Stevens	Wilson	Poku	Sheppard	Mensah	Pratt	Bubb	Hudson-Odoi	Shomotun	Charles	Green	Clark	Slew
6	UXBRIDGE	MSC2R	5-3	180	7	Wheeler	Yala-Bolasie	Payne	Massingham	Rodgers	Regis	Clark	Slew	Charles	Bubb	Azeez	Shomotun	Mitchell	Monakana	Mensah	Tyler
10	BATH CITY	NLS	3-3	901	7	North	Tyler	Payne	Okimo	Wilson	Poku	Hudson-Odoi	Mensah	Pratt	Bubb	Regis	Sheppard	Shomotun	Monakana	Green	Charles
13	Hemel Hempstead Town	NLS	1-0	703	2	North	Tyler	Payne	Stevens	Okimo	Wilson	Sheppard	Poku	Bubb	Green	Pratt	Charles	Hudson-Odoi	Rees	Mensah	Monakana
17	Chippenham Town	NLS	1-3	618	5	North	Tyler	Payne	Stevens	Okimo	Wilson	Sheppard	Poku	Bubb	Green	Pratt	Charles	Hudson-Odoi	Shomotun	Sheppard	Monakana
24	Concord Rangers	FAT30	2-1	281	7	North	Tyler	Okimo	Stevens	Wilson	Poku	Shomotun	Smith	Pratt	Green	Hudson-Odoi	Bubb	Charles	Monakana	Payne	Mensah
DECEMBER																					
1	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	NLS	---	---	---																
8	St Albans City	NLS	---	---	---																
15	Biggleswade Town	FATIP	---	---	---																
22	Truro City	NLS	---	---	---																
26	SLOUGH TOWN	NLS	---	---	---																
29	OXFORD CITY	NLS	---	---	---																
JANUARY																					
1	Slough Town	NLS	---	---	---																
5	DARTFORD	NLS	---	---	---																
12	Concord Rangers	NLS	---	---	---																
19	HUNGERFORD TOWN	NLS	---	---	---																
26	Woking	NLS	---	---	---																
FEBRUARY																					
2	BILLERICAY TOWN	NLS	---	---	---																
9	Weston-super-Mare	NLS	---	---	---																
16	ST ALBANS CITY	NLS	---	---	---																
23	Eastbourne Borough	NLS	---	---	---																
MARCH																					
2	Gloucester City	NLS	---	---	---																
9	WELLING UNITED	NLS	---	---	---																
16	Bath City	NLS	---	---	---																
23	CHIPPENHAM TOWN	NLS	---	---	---																
30	Torquay United	NLS	---	---	---																
APRIL																					
6	EAST THURROCK UTD	NLS	---	---	---																
13	Hampton & Richmond	NLS	---	---	---																
20	DULWICH HAMLET	NLS	---	---	---																
22	Chelmsford City	NLS	---	---	---																
27	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TN	NLS	---	---	---																



ABOVE: Action from our excellent win away at Concord Rangers in last week's FA Trophy 3rd qualifying round match. As a result, we are now away to Biggleswade Town in the 1st Round proper, two weeks from today. Picture: @dfinillphotos

FRIENDLY RESULTS 2018/2019

June 30 **Bracknell Town** (Away) **D 3-3**

Bubb, Monakana (2)

July 9 **Marlow** (Away) **W 1-0**

Pratt

July 14 **Swindon Supermarine** (Away) **W 1-0**

Bubb

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**

Bubb

July 31 **Cardiff City** (Home) **W 3-0**

Ahmidi, Harris, Bubb

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

Monakana, Own Goal

55 YEARS AGO THIS WEEKEND... STROLL DOWN MEMORY LANE



BY TIM PARKS

When you've been following a football team for a few decades - and accumulating a houseful of programmes and press cuttings, in my case - certain names swirl around in your subconscious, evoking half-remembered games and occasions.

I'm fortunate that many Stones fans have passed on their own collections (my wife will routinely disagree on this) and only a few weeks I opened an envelope to find the programme pictured on the far right. And that was an extraordinary coincidence... For on those rare occasions when I'm not watching football, working or catching up with my family I love to jump on my trusty old Claude Butler (ooeer missus) and pedal off into the Hertfordshire/Bedfordshire countryside. And just recently, on one such adventure my interest was piqued by the glimpse of an enclosed football ground, with a small stand and floodlights, just half a dozen miles from where I live in Harpenden.

It was hard to collect my thoughts. The runway at Luton airport was just a few hundred yards away and the roar of jets was a shattering change from the peace and quiet of the cycle path I'd left just moments before.

So what was this football ground, you're wondering? None other than the once-upon-a-time home of Vauxhall Motors FC, the venue of the match and the programme I'd received that very morning. Quite remarkable, as David Coleman would have said.

I knew a bit about VMFC, of course. I'd seen us play the Luton-based

team twice, once in the FA Cup in 1990 at Lower Mead, when we squeaked through against the Isthmian League Div Two side and ended up signing their clever winger Trevor da

A bike ride, a chance glimpse of an old ground.. suddenly we're back in 1963 & a classic Amateur Cup encounter

Saturday Nov 30 1963, Amateur Cup First Round: Vauxhall Motors 0 Wealdstone 4



Silva, and once in our penultimate year as amateurs (1969-70) when we again shaded it 3-2 at Lower Mead in a qualifying round of the Amateur Cup.

But I was always intrigued by the concept of a 'works team'. The Met Police side has exploded that myth in recent years (not even one copper in the present XI but still bankrolled by their sports and social club and ultimately the taxpayer) but even back in the 1970s and 80s supposedly closed-shop works teams had welcomed all and sundry... as long as they were good enough.

Back in 1963, when the Stones travelled



Left: The only decent view of the old Vauxhall Motors ground, looking from the parapet of the M1 junction nine flyover. Above left: The hefty gates preventing a close-up view and (right) the programme for the 1963 meeting

the 20 miles up the newly-laid M1 to Luton they were facing a genuine amateur Vauxhall Motors team who worked - to a man - at the car manufacturing plant.

The Vauxhall team played in the Spartan League (probably two levels below our Athenian League Premier division 'giants') and made quite an occasion of this Amateur Cup first round tie. Their Park Street ground was neat and tidy, with a small wooden stand and an enclosed pitch and pavilion- there are no details of the attendance but Stones' travelling support would have been in their hundreds for such a local game.

I'd imagine over 1,000 crammed into the tiny ground and now, 55 years later peering over the security fences and hedges, it's not difficult to imagine the smell of an upset in the air.

Disappointingly, it's impossible to get more than a distant glimpse of the former Vauxhall ground. It's now owned by a sporting trust, has been laid with astro turf and is principally used by college teams and Luton Town ladies.

The once-thriving sports hub of Vauxhall Motors is now sold off, part of the 20-odd

acre site now a Premier Inn and part a Baptist College. And of course Vauxhall Motors FC is no more.... in fact they disappeared as long ago as 1991 when the head honcho of the Vauxhall sports and social association decided that his favourite sport, hockey, was a much better bet for the Luton site, kicking off the football section and laying a first generation plastic pitch for the jolly hockey players.

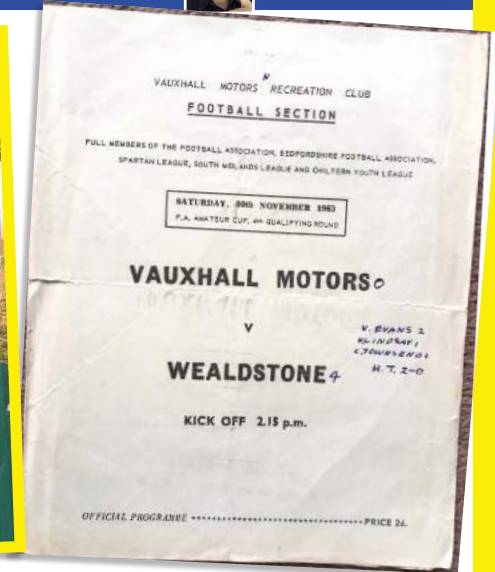
It was particularly devastating as VMFC, after years of trying for promotion to the Isthmian League, had finally been accepted when the league expanded to three divisions - and had just won promotion from Division Two as runners-up to champions Stevenage.

It was also ironic that the league was then sponsored by Vauxhall! (Who interestingly dropped their sponsorship within a year of the football club's demise).

But back to 1963. The Stones, as mentioned, were one of the leading lights in the amateur game despite being snubbed for membership of the Isthmian League... yet our record in the Amateur Cup (the only real measure of a club's standing) was truly abysmal.

Between our first campaign in the cup in 1922 and the trip to Luton, the Stones had competed for 41 years (save for a five-year

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MEMORY LANE CONTINUED

break during World War II) and only reached the last eight on one occasion.

Probably the closest was a last-16 1-0 replay defeat to eventual winners Leytonstone at Lower Mead in 1948 in front of 11,500. The following year we went a round better, to the quarter finals but had the misfortune to draw the powerful Leytonstone side again... again drawing in East London but losing the replay 4-0 at Lower Mead before a new record 13,504 crowd.

Through the 1950s the Stones struggled to

get past the qualifying rounds- and the disappointment was finally turning to anger in the early 60s when first lower-ranked Maidenhead, and then little Letchworth Town knocked us out by identical 3-1 scorelines in the first round, in successive seasons.

Thus the 1963-64 season dawned with the supporters determined we would rectify the situation.

Alas! Vinny Burgess' team, which had finished third in the Athenian League the previous year, got off to a terrible start (one win in nine games) and the Amateur Cup campaign was infected by the team's malaise.

Admittedly, the team disposed comfortably with Vauxhall Motors

but so they should have done! As the programme highlighted, we fielded four amateur internationals and on the day two goals in each half secured the 4-0 win. The evergreen Viv Evans got two and England

Amateur Cup Replays WEALDSTONE KNOCKED OUT

CARSHLTON A 3 WEALDSTN 1

FIRST time tactics by Carshalton plus a disputed penalty goal, put Wealdstone out of the Cup in their replay at the Coolston Memorial Ground.

Star-studded Wealdstone failed to make the most of their chances and after drawing level in the opening half were deservedly beaten by the speed and do-or-die tactics of Carshalton.

A mistake led to Carshalton openings the score in the sixth minute. A shot from Griffiths bounced off Durdle's chest and MILLS scored from the rebound.

Townsend was in great form for Wealdstone and he made the pass for EVANS to equalise in the 11th minute.

H.-T.: Carshalton 1, Wealdstone 1

Carshalton forced the pace in the second half but it was following a hotly disputed penalty that they regained the lead in the 74th minute, when skipper HOLDEN scored from the spot.

Wealdstone hit back but their hopes of saving the game disappeared eight minutes later when Holden found FADDON with a long pass and the centre forward completely deceived Durdle before shooting into an empty net.

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen.

Vauxhall Motors Recreation Club and especially the Football Section, extend a very warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of Wealdstone F.C. on their first visit to The Brache Estate.

Founded in 1899 Wealdstone played in the Willesden and District League, London League and Spartan League before being elected to the Athenian League in 1927.

Of the current side, six are internationals, four English and most of the others have made big names in representative soccer. W. Creasey, C. Townsend, J. Ashworth and H. Lindsay are the English 'caps' and the latter three represented their Country as late as last Saturday against Wales at Bangor.

For the information of our Wealdstone friends, Vauxhall have played in the Spartan League since 1948 after many years in the South Midlands League.

Our only claim to fame in the F.A. Amateur Cup was in 1957/8 when, after playing through all the qualifying rounds, we were defeated by Ilford in the quarter finals. Hounslow, Devizes and Bromley were beaten in the Competition proper and nine games had to be played in all.

Eight times since the war the Final of the County Senior Cup has been reached, winning on five occasions.

In closing we hope you have an enjoyable afternoon's football and it is a pleasure having you.

midfielders Hughie Lindsay and Charlie Townsend the others.

But it was to end in dismay, once again when the Stones were held 1-1 at Lower Mead by fellow Athenians Carshalton Athletic (in front of a 1,694 crowd) in the First Round, and then beaten 3-1 in the replay at Colston Avenue (see report from the Evening Standard, left).

Would the Amateur Cup torment ever end? Of course it did, in glorious fashion at Wembley Stadium three years later when Hendon were put to the sword in front of a delirious 45,000 crowd.

So just two more years of heartbreak. Tales for another day.

I simply jumped on my bike and pedalled home, marvelling at the rich and proud history of our club, with the promise of greater glories to come.

Wembley 2019 anyone?

WEALDSTONE (BLUE AND WHITE)

RIGHT

LEFT

R. DURDL E				
W. CREASEY		R. GOOD		
C. TOWNSEND	J. ASHWORTH	D. RICHARDS		
A. PEAL	H. LINDSAY	M. FARRELL	D. BELL	V. EVANS

Referee: Mr. T. Hutchinson (Aylesbury)

Linesmen: Mr. H.G. Smith (Princess Risborough) Mr. J. Flynn (Aylesbury)

R. COLES	T. PANTER	D. GORNALL	P. CERASELL	R. PARKER
G. MULLEN	W. WRIGHT	D. POTTER		
D. SUMMERS		W. ROBBINS		
L. KER				

LEFT

RIGHT

VAUXHALL MOTORS (ROYAL BLUE AND GOLD)

Two Vauxhall Motors, there's only two..

VAUXHALL Motors FC is often confused with Cheshire outfit Vauxhall Motors FC, based in Ellesmere Port - also a works side for the company which was founded when Vauxhall opened a car plant in that town in (coincidentally) 1963... the year we played the Amateur Cup game detailed above.

The Cheshire side enjoyed much more success in its first 40-odd years, rising from local football to the Conference North and knocking QPR out of the FA Cup in their first ever appearance in the First Round in 2002. But running costs became too steep and despite staying in the Connie North for its inaugural 10 seasons, VMFC were forced to resign and join the West Cheshire League where they still compete.

STATTO CORNER: in 1987 Warrington Town (whom we met in the F.A. Trophy last February) played BOTH Vauxhall Motors teams in the same season. They faced the Ellesmere Port side in the Cheshire Senior Cup and then, a few weeks later, beat Vauxhall Motors Luton in the fifth round of the FA Vase en route to Wembley (where they lost to St Helens Town).

Come to think of it, St Helens v Warrington in a football final must have been equally confusing!



ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY  **BY GORDON MCKAY**

WEALDSTONE v EASTBOURNE 01.12.2018

33 years ago: A win at Weymouth sparks the Stones amazing season



Mark Graves dives headlong to head a spectacular goal to win the game against Altrincham at Lower Mead - just a couple of weeks after his double had downed Weymouth

Graves double lifts Wealdstone

Weymouth 0 Wealdstone 3
TWO goals from Mark Graves and another from Lee Holmes gave Wealdstone a welcome Gola League victory at Weymouth on Saturday.

Indeed, Weymouth were fortunate to escape so lightly as Wealdstone produced an exciting blend of opportunities and well drilled football.

Graves will be particularly disappointed not to have punished Weymouth more heavily. He missed the chance of a hat-trick when his penalty kick was saved by Len Bond in the dying minutes of the match.

Wealdstone keeper Bob Iles — a former Weymouth Player of the Year — might as well have taken the afternoon off. He had very little to do, apart from bravely spreading himself a couple of times at the feet of Weymouth centre forward Anniello Iannone when he decided to go it alone in the second half.

Weymouth manager Brian Godfrey admitted he was not happy with his sides performance to say the least. He felt that some of his players had lost their confidence.

"Fitness was not the problem, it was getting the minds of the players right. They appeared to have lost their way completely".

In the opening minutes however, it was all Weymouth. They attacked strongly and both Tony Agana and Richard Bourne missed good chances -

It's better says Hall

WEALDSTONE Manager Brian Hall admitted that Saturday's victory had shaken off the frustrations of recent weeks.

"From the players' reaction in the dressing room afterwards you would have thought we had won the FA Cup," said Hall.

"We had not been playing badly, but our defending had been all over the place. On Saturday we looked tight in defence and dangerous going forward. We were good value for the victory."

Wealdstone are without a game on Saturday but entertain Barnet on Tuesday night in a re-arranged Morris Homes Capital League match.

That breathing space should allow the full recovery of injured Nigel Johnson and Steve McCargo who both completed full training sessions on Tuesday night. Steve Perkins is also back in training.

Agana screwed a shot across the face of goals and Bourne headed the wrong side of the post from close range.

But after that early flurry, Weymouth slipped out of the match and Iles did not touch the ball for something like half-an-hour.

It was no surprise when Wealdstone eventually took the lead after 35

minutes — Holmes slotting home after a free kick had been blocked.

Graves made it two in the 40th minutes. Paul Bowgett, such a powerful figure at the back for Wealdstone, set up the opportunity with a superb pass that found Brian Greenaway on the left of the box.

Greenaway quickly switched the ball into the area and Graves confidently fired home from close range.

For much of the second half, Weymouth pushed forward, but failed to create any real chances. They continually ran into blind alleys with Bowgett keeping a keen eye on Iannone and generally proving an inspiration for Stones.

Wealdstone broke to increase their lead in the 71st minute. Weymouth were found to be sparse at the back and Graves strolled in to head home after a shot from Alan Cordice had rebounded off the bar. Greenaway, whose crosses caused such confusion in the Weymouth defence, had again supplied the ball.

Mike Doherty handled to give Wealdstone a penalty, but keeper Bond guessed right to save Graves' spot kick.

Bond had been very fortunate just a moment earlier the defender Paul Arnold missed a tackle and allowed Alan Cordice a clear run.

Wealdstone's Iles, Davies, Boddley, Holmes, Bowgett, Wainwright, Greenaway, N Cordice, A Cordice, Graves, Donnellan.

Saturday December 1 1984: Weymouth (away) Alliance League Won 3-0

After a barnstorming start to the season we travelled down to Weymouth's homely Recreation Ground on the back of a mixed set of results.

We weren't playing particularly badly but the results which seemed to follow seamlessly in the early part of the season had temporarily deserted us. After a bright start to the game Weymouth were simply overpowered as we took control and once we took the lead in the 35th minute from Lee Holmes the result was

never in doubt. Mark Graves doubled the lead five minutes later and that seemed to suck the life out of Weymouth as from that moment keeper Bob Iles - a former Weymouth custodian - hardly touched the ball.

We scored again in the 71st minute when a shot from Alan Cordice came back off the bar to find Graves lurking in the six yard box to head home the rebound. Graves in fact missed a great opportunity near the end to complete his hat trick when Len Bond saved his spot kick after a hand ball. A very polished performance from the Stones... a good team at the top of their game.

11 years ago: Boreham Wood battered

Saturday December 1, 2007: Boreham Wood (away) Ryman Premier Won 2-0

A tough looking fixture for the Stones as we travelled to 4th placed Wood in a game played out in pouring rain.

Luckily the pitch has always been decent there and it seemed to suit our more intricate style of play as opposed to their more direct approach. We were starting to put a decent side together though at the time and had had some notable scalps in the Autumn particularly in the cups and a large following accompanied the team across North London. A strong start to the game saw Stones race into a 2-0 lead with goals from Ryan Ashe and

Steve Hughes in the first 20 minutes and indeed we had plenty chances to increase the lead such was our dominance. The expected 2nd half onslaught from Wood just never materialised as we comfortably held on for the win. A few weeks later we went to Harrow Borough on Boxing Day and won 5-1 and it really looked as though we had a side to reckon with. However we never really scaled the heights again that season and in hindsight we peaked in December but I guess thats better than never peaking at all.



Alex Campana (No.2, left) and Lee Chappell (11) score to send the crowd wild at Earlsmead that Boxing Day

WEALDSTONE LADIES

GREATER LONDON WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION 1

Wealdstone 4 - Guildford Saints 1



Wealdstone Ladies were hoping to keep their unbeaten run going with a County Cup victory over Guildford Saints.

Our very own 'Bend it like Beckham' Star Maria Ward scored her first goal of the season with a well placed shot from inside the box to put The Stones a goal up against Guildford Saints. Our second goal came minutes later with a ball pumped forward by Giovanna Monachello to Imogen Raddon who used her speed to get in front of The Saints defender to chip their keeper from 20 yards. Captain Catia Campos got her chance when she picked a badly cleared ball from a Saints defender, she then played a neat one two with Imogen and calmly slotted the ball passed their keeper to go three up in under 15 minutes. Wealdstone Ladies then took their foot of the gas and begun to give Guildford Saints hope and chances to get back into this match. The Stones were cruising, playing a long ball game as they sloppily missed chances upon chances with badly made decisions and being found offside on numerous occasions. With 43 minutes on the clock Guildford Saints pulled a goal back after a mistake from midfield. Half Time score Wealdstone Ladies 3-1. The dressing room

talk from Manager Gary was to outline the way we should play the second half. play football with short passes (which we did in the first 20 minutes of the match). Pass and move and show to feet. Not worried if we don't score another goal, just keep it tight at the back.

Second half started nervously for The Stones as Rosie had a goal disallowed for off side as the game began to open up. The Saints hit our crossbar from a corner kick as they searched for their second goal. With Catia and Rosie forcing their keeper to make some great saves. Finally persistence paid off for Rosie who was rewarded with a goal to make it 4-1 and put The Stones into the hat for the next round of the County Cup. With five minutes to go Captain Catia, came off with an Achilles injury.

What I liked about today was our defence, who got very annoyed with themselves for conceding the goal, as they had gone from a goal difference of minus eleven, to plus Nine with an unbeaten run of five games. First goals of the season for Maria, Imogen & Catia.

Player of the match was awarded to Rosie for not giving up and playing with the Flu.

Mark Barton



*Captain Catia calmly scoring
Pic. Nadine Robson*

FERGUS MOORE: THE BOOK



BY ROGER SLATER

WEALDSTONE v EASTBOURNE
BORO 01.12.2018

'When I joined the Stones we had a training match and 70 or 80 fans turned up to watch! I knew then that this club was a different beast'

No-nonsense defender Fergus Moore played for Wealdstone for a dozen years, across two spells. His literary collaboration with Roger Slater, 'And Sometimes the Dog was Busy', is now on sale in the megastore and all good sports bookshops ... and this programme will be giving a taste of the goodies within. This chapter chronicles Fergie joining the Stones...

THERE was a free paper given out around the Borough of Harrow called *All Sport Weekly*, which carried match reports and news during the season on the local sides - though mainly about Wealdstone.

I was looking back through a couple of old copies (to be honest, to see if I got a mention at my last club Uxbridge, but I didn't) and I noticed that the 'Stones fans were mentioned almost every week. They'd brought in my old Yeading gaffer Gordon Bartlett as boss and he rang me and asked me to go along for the start of the 1995-96 season.

A club that had taken a voluntary demotion to Division 3 seemed a big step down, but there was a passion about the place. Gordon was building a brand-new team (as just about every player had left) and yes I got a bit more money to go there, but that



Fergus still playing (and managing) today at Edgware. Left: The book!

wasn't the driver for me. (Note to GB. If you'd offered me the same money as at Uxbridge, £45, I'd probably still have joined). Looking back, it was the best thing I ever did. I could have been at Uxbridge forever, I'd have been 100% loyal and enjoyed the craic, but football and winning spurred me on, this was a new challenge.

Gordon knew me and I knew the ground as the 'Stones were ground sharing at Yeading FC - or so I thought. I was almost right... they had just moved to ground share with Edgware Town, but actually



logistically that suited me better as I lived in Finchley at the time. GB said that he felt I'd got the attributes to be a winner and that was what he wanted, and he said he thought I'd relate to the fans and vice versa.

It meant dropping down a couple of divisions, but it really wasn't the money that sold it to me, it was Gordon with his talk of the 'big club' and 'on the way up' and 'getting the success back'. It all appealed to me and I joined them for pre-season to have a nose around and see who else was coming on board.

I knew I'd probably sign and after a couple of sessions at Stanmore Polytechnic (where lots of bodies had been involved), Gordon asked me what I thought on a few. Some good, some not so. I recommended a few more likely players for him. Players come and go quite a bit in pre-season, especially at clubs where there isn't silly money on offer.

On the following Saturday we had an inter squad game, a few trialists, a few of the previous season's Wealdstone fringe players (John Shanahan and Terry Birch spring to mind) and as we went out to get warmed up I was stunned. There were about seventy or eighty 'Stones fans along the touchline to watch a bloody training match! I'd never experienced anything like that, it was as many as Uxbridge would get for a home game! It really fired me up, a great adrenalin rush. It was what I thrived on as I'd always loved to play in front of a crowd (normally the other side's fans) but this was different. These were my (well, our) fans.

That buzz is great but there are often nerves too, because the last thing you want is to make a mug of yourself. That's even worse when it's your own fans because, and this was multiplied at Wealdstone, they're not shy of reminding you the next week (and the next week, and probably for a few weeks after that as well) if you cock up. (Christ, even if I go back now someone

will mention Hertford Town! - see below). Thankfully, that day I was fine and I was still buzzing with a pint in my hand after the game.

I signed league forms and as the season loomed large we ended our pre-season schedule with a four-team tournament to be played at Harrow B*rough and Edgware over a weekend (not quite up to the standard of The Emirates Tournament, eh!) We beat Edgware on the Saturday and were set to face the club's most local rivals Harrow B*rough in the Sunday final. B*ro were the senior side being two divisions higher up the league and although Wealdstone lost by a couple of goals, to play a friendly in front of a couple of hundred partisan fans was a great boost with the first league game a week away. I'm sure both of the B*ro fans enjoyed it too.

The league season started away to Cove and we won 9-1 with me playing left back. It was a great start for a whole new side, and it really was a new team, only a midfielder called Roddy Braithwaite played from the previous season's side. Well over a hundred 'Stones fans travelled down and that was more than most Ryman Division Three clubs would get week in week out. It was still a time of change, though, as Gordon looked for the right formula and the right mix on the field, so there were still new faces coming in. To be honest, perhaps he tinkered a bit more than he needed as he sought the right balance which eventually cost us.

On a personal note, I wasn't the star player I and a few others thought I would be, having dropped down from the first division. It meant the fans had a few doubts. 'The jury's out' was probably fair after the first few games, but they soon saw I was steady, turning in 7 or 8 out of 10 performances every match.

Wealdstone FC was then (and still is) a different beast. The fans build the pressure and players either sink - many do - or swim. I wanted and needed the fans and the buzz they gave me, but I still had to overcome them mentally to get to the top of my game. Now I don't play for them yet they still bloody get to me! Many have watched me at other clubs as a player, always saying hello and I've always been pleased to see them. In fact, when the news broke about me becoming a manager, I reckon more than half the

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FERGUS MOORE: THE BOOK CONTINUED

congratulations messages by text and on Twitter were from 'Stones fans, so I must have done OK there, eh!

That first season I started as left back and though I didn't mind that, I was hardly a wingback bombing up and down the line. My best games were to come at centre half, but the full back slot gave me the chance to use a range of passes in and out of the midfield or long to the forwards. It wasn't strange to me, it was just a bit more restrictive and I didn't get the chance to win as many headers! I was steady but wasn't setting the world alight (and despite the odd big win, nor was the team) but I was there week in, week out. When the results or the team performance aren't great it can knock you back into your shell a little bit and I'm still no different in that.

The side got to mid-season and like Uxbridge previously, were still inconsistent. We lost to Leighton Town, Windsor & Eton and Horsham in a short spell and that was a signal for a couple of new bodies to come in. One was to become a good mate, the mercurial talent, wide boy and nutter that was (and still is) Lee Walker, aka The Devil. At least, the devil if he didn't like you but a smashing bloke if he did and thankfully, we're still good friends today.

Looking back, he started unbelievably quietly. It took him a couple of games to get used to us, the system and the crowd. Their first impression was always scepticism. No half measures. Wealdstone could have signed Bobby Moore the day after he won the World Cup and he'd have had to prove himself to the fans. Then as now, players have to start to prove themselves as soon as the team is read out. No bedding in, no finding your feet. It really is sink or swim from your first touch in the pre-game warm-up.

The club and the fans have been through the proverbial wringer since topping the Non-league tree with a Conference and FA Trophy 'double' in 1985. They were the first club to achieve the feat but were denied promotion to the Football League under the old 're-election' system (a couple of seasons before automatic promotion came



Fergus (centre left) celebrates winning the Ryman Div Three trophy. But that's a story for the next time...

'The crowd's first reaction to new players was always to be sceptical. If Wealdstone had signed Bobby Moore the day after he won the World Cup he'd still have to prove himself to the fans'

in). Then they tripped over the top of the mountain, slid down and spent the best part of twenty years trying to scratch their way back up. (As I write, they're almost there finishing in the top half of Conference South and definitely on the up).

They'd stopped falling at least when I joined, but only because there wasn't much further to go. They'd lost their ground - and then the money that was due in a fraud - and had been homeless nomads since 1991, playing in front of fewer and fewer fans in a financially-strangling half ownership of Watford's Vicarage Road, before escaping just about intact to play in front of even less fans further from 'home' at Yeading FC's Beaconsfield Road ground. Falling

crowds and falling income were topped by increasing travel costs in the Beazer Homes League Southern Division, and the decision was made to take a voluntary transfer to the Isthmian League. A league at the same level, but much more South East and London orientated. The problem was, no-one of similar status, i.e. Division One would swap, so Wealdstone had to start at the bottom of the league in Division Three.

This was Wealdstone. Ever looking to the positive the publicity machine took over: New Manager, great squad, new ground (a share at Edgware, at least), then a 9-1 win away from home at Cove in the first match of the season. As if there wasn't enough hype around the club, the bloody Chairman went public in the local paper telling the world that we would win promotion at a canter. Christ, most of us didn't know everyone in the squad's first names! There were more promises in the papers by Christmas of promotion, success and a new era of Wealdstone returning to the top of the non-league ladder. Just the four



divisions to win and over a hundred places to climb, then. No half measures!

The 20 of us in the dressing had to cope with this as our reality. Walks (pictured below) made a big difference as he changed the dynamic in the squad. He wasn't afraid to dig people out, but he'd include everyone in the banter as well, it was a bit all for one and one for all, or perhaps more accurately, all for Walks and Walks for all.....

After a couple of games to settle in, he also struck up an affinity with the crowd and that actually helped a few others by taking some of the pressure off. It also helped me as my relationship with the crowd strengthened after a spell where things had been a bit rough, in particular after an FA Cup tie. I'm known for a few high points in my career but there have been a few lows along the way and Hertford Town away in the FA Cup was one of them. We were drawing but on top. I sprinted down the left wing (really!) and cut inside then tried to knock the ball wide to young winger Gavin Hart but the intended pass was intercepted. They broke away and with no defender to beat on our left-hand side, scored the winner. Another cup run over. The fans dug me out for a few weeks for that one. It was a game we should have won and worse still we had a player's night out planned for the evening. (Weeks? As I said before it was over 20 years ago, and I go to Wealdstone now to watch a match and someone will bring it up!)

In true non-league tradition, it had all gone sour for me on the pitch but after a few liveners the evening went OK! We were up in Northampton so we all stayed over and the next morning met up early to get away. I was stood in the hotel lobby with Steve Bircham and a few of the lads when all we could hear was retching from the gents. Moments later, out walked our very own Mr Bartlett. Players 1 Manager 0.

We were in the mix for the promotion places throughout the season and we had some good results, but late on we stuttered and lost a couple of games at home. We just missed out, finishing fourth by a couple of points and really, we were still a work in progress. Instant success with a new side is rare and we were no exception, but a good base had been built for the following year...

TO BE CONTINUED...



APPEARANCES

FIRST TEAM, SEASON 2018/19 at 28th November

	NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH			FA CUP			FA TROPHY			MIDDX SENIOR CUP			MIDDX CHARITY CUP			TOTALS			WEALDSTONE CAREER		
	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G
Ahmidi, Wadah	11			3											14			14			
Azeez, Femi									1	1					1	1	1	1	1	1	
Brown, Stefan	1	2	1	1											2	2	1	2	2	1	
Bubb, Bradley	11	4	6	3	2										14	4	8	26	6	13	
Charles, Elliott		5	3		1			1		1	1				1	7	4	1	7	4	
Clark, James		1							1						1	1	1	1	1	1	
Grant, Freddie	11			3											14			14			
Green, Danny	12	5	1	2			1		1						16	5	1	112	13	26	
Hudson-Odoi, Bradley	11	2	3	1			1								13	2	3	51	10	18	
Lench, Matt	4	6	1	1	1										5	7	1	5	7	1	
Mambo, Yado *	1	1													1	1	1	1	1	1	
Massingham, Luke									1						1		1				
Mensah, Simon	4	2						1							4	3	4	4	3		
Mitchell, Reece		5								1					6		6			6	
Monakana, Jeffrey	5	5	1		2					1					5	8	1	11	10	2	
North, Jonathan	18			3			1								22			365		1	
Okimo, Jerome	17			3			1	1							21	1	118	5	2		
Payne, Joe	4								1						5		5			5	
Poku, Godfrey	18			3			1								22		22			22	
Pratt, David	17	6		1			1	1							19	7	40	1	13		
Regis, Christopher	1								1						2		2			2	
Rodgers, Anton									1	2					1	2	1	2		2	
Sheppard, Jake	6	3		2	1										8	4	20	5	1		
Shomotun, Fumnaya	4	3		3	2		1	1		1					8	4	8	4	3		
Slew, Jorome		1	1		1				1	1					1	2	1	2	2		
Smith, Christian							1								1		1			1	
Stevens, Connor	16	1		3	1		1								20	2	20		2		
Tyler, Rhys	16			1	1		1								18	1	18		1		
Wheeler, Sonny									1						1		1			1	
White, Joe *	5	1	1												5	1	22	5	9		
Wilson, Glenn	5						1								6		26	1	1		
Yala-Bolasis, Glenn									1						1		1			1	





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As the match ball donor you will enjoy:

- 2x Match tickets (+ car parking space)
- Prime seats in the main stand if required
- Publicity over the PA system and via the official club website and social media
- Boardroom hospitality (half time refreshments, snacks and hot food after the game)
- Bar allowance
- 2x Match-day programmes

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

BECOME A 2018/2019 BALL SPONSOR BY GETTING IN TOUCH ON 07710 929692

Bromley

28th JULY - PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY
• Alan Couch



Weston-super-Mare

4th AUGUST - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Alan Hill
• Simon Stephens



Concord Rangers

25th AUGUST - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Barry O'Sullivan



Truro City

1ST SEPTEMBER - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Alan Couch
• Mike & Val Weston



Chelmsford City

15th SEPTEMBER - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Toby Jackson (Lapels Badges)



Great Wakering Rovers

22nd SEPTEMBER - FA CUP 2ND QUALIFYING ROUND
• Roger Slater & Alan Hill



Hampton & Richmond

13th OCTOBER - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Toby Jackson (Lapels Badges)



Sutton United

20th OCTOBER - FA CUP 4TH QUALIFYING ROUND
• Sentinel7



Torquay United

27th OCTOBER - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Your name and details here
• Your name and details here



Gloucester City

29th OCTOBER - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Your name and details here
• Your name and details here



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Our magnificently refurbished hospitality lounge, courtesy of GPF Lewis & Ruislip Social Club, is looking forward to welcoming you and your guests in surroundings befitting such a special occasion be it a birthday, anniversary or any other special event!

Bath City

10th NOVEMBER - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Your name and details here
• Your name and details here



Eastbourne Borough

1st DECEMBER - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Tony & Peter Drew



Slough Town

26th DECEMBER - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Markie Barton
• Your name and details here



Oxford City

29th DECEMBER - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Your name and details here
• Your name and details here



Dartford

5th JANUARY - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Terry Hissey



Hungerford Town

19th JANUARY - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Your name and details here
• Your name and details here



Billericay Town

2nd FEBRUARY - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Your name and details here
• Your name and details here



St.Albans City

16th FEBRUARY - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• In memory of Jim Klarfeld
• Anthony Rickman



Welling United

9th MARCH - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Your name and details here
• Your name and details here



Chippenham Town

23rd MARCH - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Alan Couch



East Thurrock United

6th APRIL - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Your name and details here
• Your name and details here



Dulwich Hamlet

20th APRIL - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• 'In memory of Wealdstone Fans no longer with us': Ron Moore, Dave Edwards, Tony & Peter Drew



Hemel Hempstead Town

27th APRIL - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
• Your name and details here
• Your name and details here






KIT SPONSORS 2018/2019

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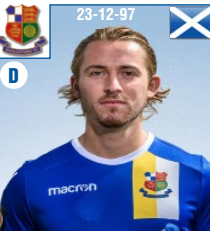
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JONATHAN NORTH
BRIAN BALL



DANNY GREEN
SENTINEL7



DAVID PRATT
SENTINEL7

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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the Stones
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UPCOMING FIXTURES

FOR ALL FIXTURE NEWS: WWW.WEALDSTONEFC.COM

HOME

Slough Town

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Wednesday, 26th December, 1:00pm

£9 entry for Premier / EFL season ticket holders

Oxford City

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Saturday, 29th December, 3:00pm

£9 entry for Premier / EFL season ticket holders

Dartford

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Saturday, 5th January, 3:00pm

£9 entry for Premier / EFL season ticket holders

Brentford 'B'

MIDDLESEX SENIOR CUP

Tuesday, 8th January, 7:45pm

—

AWAY

St. Albans City

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Saturday, 8th December, 3:00pm

www.stalbanscityfc.com

Biggleswade Town

FA TROPHY 1ST ROUND

Saturday, 15th December, 3:00pm

www.pitchero.com/clubs/biggleswadetownfc

Truro City

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Saturday, 22nd December, 3:00pm

www.trurocityfc.net

Slough Town

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Tuesday, 1st January, 1:00pm

www.sloughtownfc.net

Vanarama National League South — as at 27th November

Opposition	All						Home						Away						+/-	Pts	Results
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A			
1 Woking	17	10	4	3	31	21	8	5	1	2	16	11	9	5	3	1	15	10	10	34	1-0
2 Billericay Town	16	9	5	2	31	17	8	5	3	0	15	9	8	4	2	2	16	8	14	32	0-1
3 Welling United	16	9	4	3	30	16	9	6	2	1	17	10	7	3	2	2	13	6	14	31	1-1
4 Torquay United	17	8	6	3	28	14	9	5	2	2	17	9	8	3	4	1	11	5	14	30	0-3
5 Dartford	17	9	3	5	21	21	8	5	2	1	12	9	9	4	1	4	9	12	0	30	3-0
6 Bath City	17	9	2	6	25	16	8	5	0	3	13	7	9	4	2	3	12	9	9	29	3-3
7 Wealdstone	18	8	5	5	27	22	9	5	2	2	18	12	9	3	3	3	9	10	5	29	-- --
8 Chippenham Town	18	9	2	7	28	25	9	6	1	2	17	10	9	3	1	5	11	15	3	29	1-3
9 Hemel Hempstead Town	18	8	4	6	22	25	9	3	2	4	12	15	9	5	2	2	10	10	-3	28	1-0
10 Concord Rangers	17	8	3	6	25	22	8	6	1	1	18	6	9	2	2	5	7	16	3	27	1-1
11 Chelmsford City	17	7	5	5	28	23	9	3	3	3	9	11	8	4	2	2	19	12	5	26	2-3
12 St Albans City	18	8	2	8	33	31	9	5	1	3	17	13	9	3	1	5	16	18	2	26	
13 Slough Town	16	7	3	6	20	16	8	4	2	2	9	5	8	3	1	4	11	11	4	24	
14 Eastbourne Borough	18	6	6	6	27	28	9	4	2	3	18	16	9	2	4	3	9	12	-1	24	
15 Dulwich Hamlet	18	6	4	8	22	25	9	3	2	4	9	10	9	3	2	4	13	15	-3	22	1-1
16 Oxford City	17	6	3	8	24	24	8	4	2	2	11	7	9	2	1	6	13	17	0	21	0-3
17 Hampton & Richmond	16	6	3	7	22	22	8	2	1	5	9	13	8	4	2	2	13	9	0	21	2-1
18 Truro City	17	4	5	8	23	33	9	2	2	5	13	19	8	2	3	3	10	14	-10	17	3-0
19 Gloucester City	18	4	3	11	14	27	9	2	3	4	9	12	9	2	0	7	5	15	-13	15	2-0
20 Hungerford Town	18	3	3	12	16	39	9	2	2	5	8	16	9	1	1	7	8	23	-23	12	1-1
21 East Thurrock United	17	3	2	12	13	27	9	3	1	5	9	12	8	0	1	7	4	15	-14	11	1-0
22 Weston-super-Mare	17	1	5	11	20	36	8	0	4	4	9	13	9	1	1	7	11	23	-16	8	4-1