

# THE LINE-UPS

**WEALDSTONE**  
ROYAL BLUE & WHITE

V

**DARTFORD**  
WHITE/BLACK

<b>G</b> Jonathan North	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>G</b> Bailey Vose
Jake Sheppard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Onyemah
Ramarni Medford-Smith	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jordan Wynter
Connor Stevens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ronnie Vint
Jerome Okimo (c)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tom Bonner
Godfrey Poku	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Greenhalgh
Jeffrey Monakana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lee Noble
Simon Mensah	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	James Philpot
Dave Pratt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elliot Bradbrook
Daniel Green	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Hayes
Bradley Hudson-Odoi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Daniel Johnson
Ogo Obi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kudus Oyenuga
Alexander Samizadeh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dan Darbyshire
Matthew Lench	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Phil Roberts
Eion McKeown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Andre Coker
Pawel Kowalkowski	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Charlie Sheringham
Christian Smith	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alfie Cue
Christopher Regis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Callum Driver
Bradley Bubb	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taylor Fisher
James Clark	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Henri Fulton
Rhys Tyler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Liam Gillies
<b>G</b> Callum Thomas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tom Murphy
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>G</b> Ryan Nicholls

**REFEREE** Wayne Cartmel  
**ASSISTANTS** Ian Stewart and Jordan Cushen

**MATCH SPONSOR** Sudhir Rawal  
**BALL DONORS** Terry Hissey and Ray Corner

**NEXT HOME GAMES** v BRENTFORD 'B' Middx  
Senior Cup quarter-final Tues January 8, 7.45pm  
v HUNGERFORD TOWN Vanarama National League  
South Saturday January 19, KO 3pm

**gpflewis** plc

**ARBOURING A GRUDGE:** Connor Stevens leaps to head the only goal at Slough's Arbour Park on Tuesday, avenging the 3-0 reverse to The Rebels on Boxing Day. A great start to 2019! **PICTURE:** Dan Finill  
www.dfinillphotography.co.uk

# STONES

www.wealdstone-fc.com



**INSIDE**  
**JOHN**  
**'WILLIE'**  
**WATSON**  
**INTERVIEW**

**V DARTFORD**



Vanarama National Lge South,  
Saturday January 5, 2019, 3pm



@wealdstonefc



@wealdstonefootballclub

£3

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

Main club sponsor:  
**gpflewis** plc

League sponsors  
**JAKO** Living sports  
Official Benchwear and Match Ball Sponsor  
**NATIONAL LEAGUE**

**BT Sport**

WEALDSTONE v DARTFORD 05.01.2019

Written in Stone

BY TIM PARKS



# Welcome to 2019... a new year and new hope after breaking the plastic jinx!

**G**ood afternoon and today we extend the usual warm welcome to everyone connected with Dartford FC.

Well, what a start to 2018! The New Year dawned bright over Slough Town's impressive Arbour Park ground on Tuesday and the Stones suddenly rediscovered their mojo following that abject end to 2018. Three points were as impressive as they were unexpected (not by me, obviously) and a rich reward for a system that allowed us to protect the back four and spring forward into attack with natural width on both wings.

As matchwinner Connor Stevens told our media team on the final whistle: "When we're at the races we can beat any team in this league and everyone was on their game today. Now we've just got to keep this form going".

Slough have a very direct approach, attempting to turn the opposition's defence with long balls but Connor and skipper Jerome Okimo were outstanding as they stood up to the aerial bombardment - helped by the tenacity and composure of Jake Sheppard and Remarni Medford-Smith. And behind them, of course, Northy was supremely agile and confident, one tip-over from a second-half freekick sending Slough to their knees in frustration.

We might have had a couple of goals more (keeper Jack Turner's save from his own defender Lee Togwell right on half time looking suspiciously close to the goalline) before Dave Pratt was inches from converting Simon Mensah's clever cross.... but in the end that mighty leap and header from Connor (pictured above) was enough to start the New Year's party!

Scoring first was a crucial factor - it always helps to have something to bite on, a lead to defend and hopefully now we'll see more of the Wealdstone that won so convincingly at Dartford last



August. In possibly our best display of the season, two goals from Brad Bubb and a superlative strike from Jeff Monakana wrapped up a 3-0 win that made the rest of the National League sit up and take notice.

Our club needs leadership at the moment in every department, and it was great to see positivity from the management team on Tuesday. Onwards and upwards!

● Interestingly, the win at Arbour Park was our first on a plastic surface in a league game. We've lost at Maidstone and Sutton, and been walloped at Oxford City a couple of times but Tuesday was the first time the Stones looked really comfortable on it. Slough's surface is 4G however - far, far better than Oxford - and you can see why many clubs want to embrace the new pitch technology. Don't tell Fingers!

● Many thanks to today's match sponsor - our very own 'Elmslie Ender' Sudhir Rawal - and ball donors Terry Hissey and Ray Corner. Sud writes: *My sons, Akhil and Nikhil, and I are sponsoring a match for the very first time at the Vale and are hoping for a turn in footballing fortunes in 2019. One of my guests today is David Smith, a resident of Northampton, who is a Nottingham Forest fan. We had hoped to do a sporting weekend with the game today and then Chelsea v Forest tomorrow until the TV companies decided that the current holders were not worthy of being televised! My other guest is the nicest man at Wealdstone, David Leigh.*

● On Tuesday night we face the talented Brentford 'B' team at The Vale in the Middlesex Senior Cup quarter-final (7.45pm). The Bees 'reserves' beat QPR Under-23s 3-1 last week. Reduced prices for this game: £8 adults, £5 concessions and £3 for under-18s. See you back here!

FOLLOW THE STONES ON TWITTER @wealdstonefc AND ON FACEBOOK @wealdstonefootballclub





# WEALDSTONE

## FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2018/2019

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

### PERSONNEL

Chairman Peter Marsden  
Vice Chairman Rory Fitzgerald  
Directors Dominic Whyley,  
Nick Symmons, Mark Randall,  
Jon Pettifer, David Hawkins  
Associate Directors Paul Rumens, Paul  
Fruin, Peter Worby  
President Paul Rumens

### SECRETARIES

Club Secretary Paul Fruin  
(07790 038095)  
Asst. Club Secretary Alyson Angelides  
Company Secretary Andrew Lane

### CLUB PERSONNEL

Life Vice-President Alan Couch  
Treasurer Barry Benveniste  
Press Officer  
PA Announcer Ashley Holding  
Club Historian Peter Worby  
Kit Manager Tony Waugh  
Asst. Kit Manager  
Chris Humphries  
Club Photographers  
Geoff Smith & Dan Finill  
Web Site Manager Alan & Matt Hill  
Content Videographer Charlie Hoare  
Club Caterer Lynn Evans

### MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

Programme Editor Mark Hyde  
Production Martin Read, Tim Parks  
Printing People for Print Ltd.  
www.peopleforprint.co.uk  
wfcprogramme@gmail.com

### MATCH DAY OPERATIONS

Manager Steve Marshall  
Safety Officer Victor Klarfeld  
Match Day Staff Paul Bowley, Tony  
Waller, Russell Greenberg, Adam  
Clancey, Matthew Impey,  
John Cahillane

Boardroom Alison Moran,  
Lori Gale-Rumens, Paul Kelly

### COMMERCIAL & MARKETING

Commercial Manager Andy Lavin  
Graphic Design Steve Foster  
IT Consultant Neil Rands  
Reporting & Social Media

### LIAISON OFFICERS

WFCS / Social Club Markie Barton  
WFC / Social Club James Klarfeld

### FOOTBALL MANAGEMENT

Manager Bobby Wilkinson  
Assistant Manager Jamie Leacock  
Coach Mike Percival  
Sports Therapist Mark Povey  
Goalkeeping Coach Ian Hobbs

### 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
-------------	---------------------

#### 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

WEALDSTONE v DARTFORD 05.01.2019

# From the Gaffer and management team

**A warm welcome to Adam Flanagan, Jamie Coyle their management teams, players and officials of Dartford Football Clubs.**

**H**appy New Year to everyone and welcome back to the Vale for what we hope is a fantastic 2019!

These notes are being written on New Year's Eve and as most get ready to celebrate the night away and see the new year in we only have one thought and that is getting a win for this football club. The club has gone through a lot of change over the last 18 months. A new board, new management team and a new squad. We are all in agreement that to move forward this was needed and has been welcomed.

In fits and starts we have seen signs of what this club can be, so don't forget those moments as we are still Wealdstone Football Club. We have some very good individual players in the squad who can take us to where we want to be, the board has some professional highly successful business men and you have a talented management team who are working very hard day and night to find the right formula.

***Most of all the club is yours and we do have some great fans who only want the best for the football club. We are in a difficult moment and at these times you must dig deep and look at your yourselves as individuals and ask what can you do to be better. On the pitch, we want leadership and it is our job to make this happen, off the pitch we need leadership to galvanise and bring everyone together and again most of all we need fans that back the club no matter what, through the good times and the bad.***

We are all in this together. There will be no major overhaul of the squad with the current constraints we have in place and for now we will setup a system and trust these boys to deliver what we know they can.

On the injury front, Bradley Bubb and Freddie Grant remain long term absentees with Bradley having a scan this week to learn the extent and Freddie starting rehab imminently with the hope of potentially playing at the very end of the season. Rhys Tyler has struggled with a knee injury which we're hop-



ing to recover shortly and expect him back in action over the next week or so. Stefan Brown is close to fitness and has participated in training so will provide additional striking cover. Sam Cox and James Clark are out of loan for the foreseeable future and Rhys Mitchell has returned to the squad now after time at Wingate.

On to the game: Dartford are in the play-off mix having recovered well after a difficult start. They are a physical well organised side and will come here to compete and make it very difficult for us. As ever thanks for your support, back the boys to the very end, enjoy the challenge and look forward!

## **Bobby and the management team**

**STOP PRESS:** After the win at Slough on New Year's Day, Assistant Manager Jamie Leacock said: 'We've been in a difficult moment but the boys came out today and looked really good in the shape we gave them, showing the quality we always knew they had and are capable of. It was a credit to everyone and we needed that.'

"The holding midfielders were excellent, Simon Mensah coming in and making a difference- he has those two sides to his game, getting his foot in defensively and also being good on the ball and he was very creative today.

"Greenie, Jeff and Bradley were great in possession and Pratty back to his best, while the back line was solid with Connor and Jerome impassable.

"Connor is getting used to non League now and he's growing with every game - and he's a winner, his attitude is fantastic"

And he scored the odd goal or two!

**We only have one thought at this party time & that's to get a win**



BY SUDHIR RAWAL



WEALDSTONE v DARTFORD 05.01.2019

# The Elmslie Ender



## Is the expectancy of winning at The Vale a blessing or a curse?

There was palpable relief at the final whistle at Slough after our well deserved one nil victory, with hugs involving the management team appearing to have greater resonance than the normal.

We needed that for sure. The stats had not been good. No league wins in five games, four league matches without a goal and after our heady win at Hemel which took us momentarily to second spot (pictured right), a slump down the table to 14th place. We'd also never won a proper game of football on plastic. The portents were not good. We already know about our abject defeat at Biggleswade in the Trophy and once you get into a slump, confidence wanes and it is difficult to see where the next goal will come from - let alone a win. The two home defeats over Christmas hadn't helped the mood, as performances were a long way from where they should be. Slough in particular was awful.

So we went to Slough without much hope I suspect, certainly on the terraces, though I had some confidence that

we would win. Not by any logic of course but the fact that I had seen four other games live over the Christmas break, involving Stones and Chelsea, and the away team had won all four!

Football Web Pages				
	P	+/-	Pts	
1 Billericay Town	15	+14	31	
2 Wealdstone	17	+7	29	
3 Welling United	15	+12	28	
4 Woking	15	+8	28	
5 Torquay United	16	+9	27	
6 Concord Rangers	16	+4	27	
7 Dartford	16	0	27	
8 Bath City	16	+8	26	
9 Chelmsford City	16	+7	26	
10 Chippenham Town	17	+1	26	
11 St Albans City	17	+4	25	

The management team went with a bold line-up, set up to attack and after the first 15 minutes or so, we grew in confidence and started to be the better side. Their keeper pulled off a couple of great saves in the first half, including one fabulous one right on half time that kept the scores level.

Stones carried on attacking in the second forty-five and were rewarded with a goal, our first in the league for six weeks, with a fine Connor Stevens header. Yes, we had to weather a Slough fight back and needed a brilliant save from

Jonathan North at the very end to keep the scores level, but we could have been home and hosed had we'd taken one of the two tight edge chances that presented themselves in the second forty-five.

As I said before, the selection was bold, but we also saw some decent football played on the ground that was as equally pleasing as the win. I should also mention that Slough's 4G surface was as good as they get and,

most telling, was that you didn't realise it was an artificial surface, unlike say the awful surface at Oxford.

Now we need to continue in the same manner at the Vale; starting today, we need to improve our home form again. We haven't won a home league game since the fag end of October, when we beat Gloucester at the Vale.

In the post match interview, Neil Baker, the joint Slough Town manager, made an interesting comment. He basically said that they expected Wealdstone to come to the game at Arbour Park and play with the freedom we don't show at home, as the crowd gets on their (our team's) back at the Vale, as we saw on Boxing Day.

Whilst our home form has fallen off the cliff of late, our form away from home is still pretty solid with only one defeat in seven on the road. Our home record at the Vale has been poor since our promotion into the Conference South and whilst there has been an improvement under the current regime, it seems that the old fallibilities still exist. Our home crowds, particularly with expectations, can be seen as much as a curse as a blessing. That said, is it the crowd that is the problem or more defensive team selections? Food for thought certainly.



## Remembering Simon Ricketts and Les Bull



TODAY there will be a minute's 'banging out' in place of the usual silence to mark the passing of two well-known members of the Wealdstone family.

Banging out (on metal, or anything that makes a din) is the traditional mark of respect for journalists as they leave the building, and **SIMON RICKETTS** (pictured left with his partner Andrea Gibbs) was both a Guardian journo and a Stones fan who was loved

and respected by all who knew him.

He was a familiar face on the tea bar side at The Vale alongside his fellow wit, Glenn Rodgers, after switching his allegiance from Watford half a dozen years ago. His Twitter profile was one of the funniest and most humane, and his recent blogs (after being diagnosed with cancer) almost unbearably moving. Please remember him today.

**LES BULL** (pictured right) was well known to the Wealdstone fraternity throughout the 1980s when he was the first team kit man... and had the honour of being on duty in the Stones changing room at the 1985 FA Trophy final when (of course) we won the second part of the non-League double.

Staunch Stones fan Victor Klarfeld got to know him closely via the ground-hopping scene when he used to attend games all over the country with Les and his best friend Paul White.

"He used to love waving his stick in the air when he didn't agree with the referee's decision and - being a dyed-in-the-wool Sunderland fan - he got very animated at any mention of skunks, magpies, zebra crossings or in fact anything black and white! (Very Newcastle-averse was our Les)".

Victor missed the Slough game this week as he wanted to keep Les's friend Paul company at Wingate v Haringey. Paul was devastated at Les's passing but will be at today's game to pay his respects... as will we all.







# Supporters' Scene

Some things  
in life are more  
important  
than football  
..RIP Les  
and Simon



Former Stones kitman Les Bell (ringed, left) with the FA Trophy-winning squad at Wembley, 1985

## Good afternoon one and all

These notes are written after our match last Saturday when the team's performance was definitely an improvement on the two previous outings.

Now, more than ever, our team require our support from the terraces and not disparaging remarks being shouted out when any mistake is made. These do nothing to assist those on the receiving end, especially if the players are teenagers. Encouragement is a much better use of vocals.

Saturday was also a day when we heard of great losses to our fan base which puts all of our great club's problems into perspective. First we heard that Les Bull, a kit man whilst we were at Lower Mead and who was recently seen at the Vale, had passed away in Northwick Park Hospital before Victor had a chance to see him.

Then later the news broke that our fellow supporter Simon Ricketts had finally succumbed to the cancer that had been attacking him relentlessly. He spoke so eloquently in his blogs about his battle, showing that he

was more worried about the effect his situation had on his partner, family and friends than on himself. His attitude to life was awe-inspiring; he was a true gentleman, a good friend and had a marvellous way with words. Both will be sorely missed and long remembered. We send our deepest condolences to their nearest and dearest. RIP Les and Simon.

Back to today; please visit the Megastore situated by the half-way line to purchase your belated Christmas gifts or spend the money you were given. I will be performing my usual Golden Goal duties just inside the turnstiles. Tickets are £1 each, time of the first goal wins £50, time of the last goal wins £10 unless it ends one-nil. I shall be in the Megastore if you think you have a winning ticket. Good luck!

Here's hoping for an entertaining performance on the pitch this afternoon...come on you Stones!

Mim @GoldenGoalStone

## December Team Draw results

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. £150 - Bob Bangs        | 7. £10 - A. Smith          |
| 2. £75 - Chris Andrews     | 8. £10 - B. Woolford       |
| 3. £50 - Keith Stonestreet | 9. £10 - Doug Robinson     |
| 4. £25 - Toby Jackson      | 10. £10 - Stephen Lawrence |
| 5. £25 - Douglas Horgan    | Voucher - Trevor Davies    |
| 6. £10 - Daniel Gloor      |                            |



## WEALDSTONE YOUTH, ISTHMIAN YOUTH LEAGUE

# With the Under-18s



## JOE RINGER PROFILE

**Name:** Joe Ringer

**Position:** Goalkeeper

**Best Attributes:** Lots of Communication, Distribution, Shot Stopping, Committed, Organising the team

**Age:** 17

**School:** Canons High School

**Studying:** Level 3 B-Tech Sport

**Teams Played For:** Barnet FC, Rayners Lane FC, Northwood FC

**Best Football Experience:** Playing for Barnet FC reserves against Southend FC

**Worst Football Experience:** Not getting signed by Barnet FC



## Dan Finill pictures from Slough 0 Wealdstone1



**SO NEARLY A PRATT-TRICK....** Dave Pratt (9) returned from injury at Slough and might have had three goals with better luck. Here he just fails to connect with Simon Mensah's low cross

OUR TWITTER FEED: @wealdstone\_FC WFC MEGASTORE: www.wfcmegastore.co.uk

OUR TWITTER FEED: @wealdstone\_FC WFC MEGASTORE: www.wfcmegastore.co.uk



# WILLIE WATSON INTERVIEW



BY TIM PARKS

WEALDSTONE v DARTFORD  
26.12.2018/29.12.2018

## 18 England caps and a shot like Bobby Charlton...meet Willie Watson, a true Wealdstone FC all-time legend



Watson (left) at the 'Willie & George' sporting lunch at Ruislip in 2014. For once Willie takes a back seat as Mr Duck (right) entertains the large crowd

We've an eight-page New Year treat for you in this issue! Tim Parks sits down to interview one of his favourite Stones players in history...

**I**F THERE'S one little story that sums up the cheeky playfulness of John 'Willie' Watson - the man revered and feared throughout the Stones' first golden era of the 1970s - it's the one about Gibraltar and The Floodlights.

You've not heard it? Well, Wealdstone were winning the Southern League Division One South and the club rewarded Eddie Presland's team with a midweek break in Gibraltar - and a match against First Tower FC, the tiny nation's resident football team.

Willie takes up the story: "The pitch was right next to the airport runway, and at some point the referee said 'There is a plane due in soon, so I'm going to give a long blast on my whistle and the floodlights will go out for a moment so the pilot can land safely. Then we'll resume the game'... well,

his whistle went with the ball at our end of the pitch, pitch black, and when the lights came on again me and Ray Fulton were up in front of their goal, sticking the ball in the net and falling over laughing. They didn't know what on earth was going on!"

Willie and Ray were the jokers of the team, but chalk and cheese on the pitch with Watson the midfield enforcer and 'Ginger' Fulton the artful wide man. "Has Ray still got his red hair?" I asked Willie.

"Yeah, but now he keeps it in a box by his bed".

**W**atson's dry humour is the stuff of legend at Wealdstone.

But he earned respect on the pitch by having one of the biggest engines in the game, shrewd tactical awareness, a crunching tackle and a shot like Bobby Charlton.

Although cruelly overlooked at West Ham by manager Ron Greenwood

in his youth - and then, even more strangely being overlooked by the England non-League team in his seven years at Lower Mead - Willie finally reaped the international rewards when he was transferred to Yorkshire top-dogs Scarborough in 1980. His 18 caps for the semi-pro Three Lions, across six years are only bettered by Altrincham full-back John Davison.

Certainly, if playing for your country is a true measure of a footballer's ability, John 'Willie' Watson is in a league of his own among the Wealdstone greats.

You have to be of a certain vintage to have watched and appreciated the man who patrolled the centre of the pitch like a man on a mission, earning the admiration of friend and foe as he protected the back four and worked to provide chance after chance for our celebrated forwards of that time.

**Y**et it was his fiery temper and will to win that, perversely, stunted his opportunities of making it in the Football League. Willie had a tough upbringing in East London's Stepney Green. "My dad was a boxer. My mum was a cocker spaniel" he joked, making light of the difficult days when his path in life seemed likely to follow his dad, Stephen, into working at the breweries off the Mile End Road, mixed in with a bit of boxing for money in the fairgrounds of Southend.

"Me dad wanted me to do a bit of boxing but I gave it up - I was playing football twice on Saturday for the school and for Senrab, and in goal for a team on Sundays, plus training four nights a week" says Willie.

"I must have had something cos I got

in the East London Boys team and we had some great players there. I was spotted by the well-known scout, Wally St Pier and he came round our house which must have been an eye-opener!

"He invited me to train with West Ham twice a week... but the best thing to come out of that was meeting Ginge Fulton on the tube. He was a Burnt Oak boy, and we met up at Stepney Green and travelled on to training together. It's a friendship that has endured!"

**B**ut Willie is rightly scarred by his experience of pro football. His bitterness at his treatment by "The Academy of Football" at Upton Park is long-lasting and understandable.

"I was in West Ham's reserves at the age of 15. One of the youngest-ever. I was in the same team as Trevor Brooking, Harry Redknapp and David Coss, but about 10 years younger. John Lyall was the youth team manager and he rated me. We played Gillingham at Upton Park on my debut and we won 6-0. I was on top of the world.

"I got picked to play for England Youth in the Little World Cup, along with my team mates Kevin Locke and John Ayris, and the next week the West Ham manager made a point in the programme of congratulating the other two... but not me. For some reason I wasn't his cup of tea. Maybe I was a bit of a rascal, too naughty, always getting into scrapes - it was just the way I was brought up. Whatever it was, I was slung out of West Ham."

It was now 1971. John 'Budgie' Byrne, ex West Ham, was manager of Durban City in South Africa and he offered an escape route to 'the serious y p\*\*\*\*\*d off' Willie Watson.

"It may sound like a strange move but it was great for me. It was real quality football. Johnny Haynes, the ex-England and Fulham skipper was starring in midfield - he could be horrible on the pitch but a real gent off it, a smashing bloke - while the team had four Germans who had been in the World Cup squad a year earlier. Hertha Berlin had been punished for accepting bribes and all their players had to find a game outside FIFA, and South Africa was ideal as they were also outsiders because of apartheid. So Durban City was chock full of internationals, top quality players... and me! It was a real education."

**CONTINUED OVERPAGE**



Willie (No.4) poised to tackle Hereford in the FA Cup at Lower Mead, 1977



# WILLIE WATSON INTERVIEW CONTINUED

But after a year Charlton Athletic got in touch. "I had this persuasive letter from them and they convinced me that my future was back in London. So I returned. But I had a 'mare and very soon I was back at home wondering what to do."

**H**is saviours, as it turned out, were a combination of Wealdstone manager Sid Prosser and George Duck.

"Sid was an old friend of Ron Greenwood, and Ron actually did me a bit of a favour when he was slinging me out of West Ham a year earlier. As a parting shot, he said 'You should get in touch with Wealdstone'.

"At the time I thought nothing of it. I'd never even heard of Wealdstone. I just wanted to get away from West Ham. But then Sid kept writing to my old address in Stepney Green, even when I was in South Africa, sending those old blue airmail letters and my mum kept opening them.

"My dad had fixed me up with job at the brewery. I wasn't convinced. But my mum just said "At least this Sid Prosser bloke wants you, that must be worth something."

So I agreed to chat to

Sid, and first off I said 'to be honest, I don't know who you are, or where Wealdstone is. Who else have you got in the team?'

"And then he mentioned George Duck. Now, I'd sort of known George for a few years as he was at Millwall and Spurs, playing the same level and I knew how good he was. So I thought 'well, if this Wealdstone are good enough for him, they can't be bad'.

"I went over to train and it was a good set up, a nice tight ground, good training over the road at Hamilton's and a good feel about it. I'd stayed in touch with Ginge Fulton and when he was released by Orient I got him over too. And Vince O'Kane who was an East London boy like me.

"Well, we had some great years didn't we? I won the Conference in the 80s with Maidstone but that Wealdstone team, that group of players were something else. I'd never enjoyed football as much before or since. Particularly winning the Southern League in '74, the team had such a good balance and flow to it and we knew where the ball was going as if by instinct. The first year after promotion too. I was used

mainly at left back or right back but that season Eddie Presland (another Essex lad who used to give me a lift into training) moved me into midfield for the first time - at Dover, I think it was - and I thought I was terrible. I hardly touched the ball.

"I said to Eddie, 'I ain't done nothing all afternoon!' And he said: 'They ain't done nothing either Willie. That's all part of the game'."

**F**rom that moment, Willie Watson grew into the most powerful midfield presence in non-League football. He protected the back four, moved the ball seamlessly through midfield - literally over-powering the opposition - and enjoyed peppering shots on goal at the other end

The Stones' forward stars of that generation - Georgie Duck, Johnny Henderson and Bill Byrne - enjoyed the fruits of his endeavour

as the club built a reputation for fast, attacking football.

But the spiky, combative side of Willie's nature often bubbled to the surface. "It was always there, I'm afraid. I hate losing, whether it's at football or draughts and sometimes I stretched the laws."

His most high-profile moment was in the FA Cup 3rd round at QPR in 1977 when the referee booked Willie for one strong challenge too many - and the irate Watson knocked the card out of his hand!

**T**oday, that would mean a straight red and a lengthy ban. Willie knows how lucky he was, but it could have been even worse. "If you look at the footage of that game, I was actually picking up a lump of mud to throw at the ref when he booked me! I was just so incensed.... the non-League clubs always seem to get the rough end of the stick in those circumstances and the decisions went against us, right through the 90 minutes.

"But we only had ourselves to blame. We had some players who could have hurt Rangers but they went into their shells a bit. We weren't on our game".

I mentioned Steve Brinkman as being an exception.

"Well, Brinky was a showman. A real talent. Ex Arsenal youngster. I was working for Brent Council by then, working in paving and Brinky was my sidekick. I also got jobs there for Nigel Johnson and Seamus Horgan. Very sad though as Brinky and Nigel died very young.... must have been working with me" he said ruefully.

So what was Willie's career outside football up to that point? "Well, before the Brent Council lark I was working in the sausage factory in Acton, Wolseley Sausages. I got the job through Adriaan Eglite, the Stones



**Willie's renowned temper boiled over in the FA Cup game at QPR when he knocked the yellow card out of referee Ron Crabb's hand**

winger, who was a charge hand there. "

**B**ut the ultimate full-time job - playing football - was tantalising still within reach as the 70s wound to a close. With Wealdstone becoming inaugural members of the Football Conference (today's National League), Willie was able to shine on the biggest non-League stage and soon Hull City were sniffing after our mercurial midfielder.... and also the Stones' up-and-coming left back Stuart Pearce.

"Hull! I'm not going to Hull! I said when our daffy manager Ken Payne told me they were interested. I think Wealdstone were interested in the transfer fee. I was 25 and Stuart was 18, and I said 'I'm not going but you go, you might enjoy it'.

"But me and Stuart agreed to travel up there, despite neither really wanting to go, and we arranged to meet at Kings Cross. I turned up and there was no-one there. So I got on the train anyway, all the way wondering what I was doing, and it was like an Ealing Comedy when I got off the train one end and Stuart got off at the other. He'd been on it all the time!

CONTINUED OVERPAGE



(Photograph: Bob Thomas)

## ENGLAND SEMI-PROFESSIONAL SQUAD 1980

Back row (left to right): Ian Smith, Brendan Phillips, Bob Stockley, Kenny Hill, Dave Adamson, John Watson, Gordon Simmonite.  
Middle row (left to right): Adrian Titcombe (Admin. Officer), Neil Merrick, Brian Parker, Alan Smith (Physio), Dave Clarke, Les Mutrie, Dr. Arthur Tabor (Team Physician).  
Front row (left to right): Paul Mayman, John Davison, Terry Casey (Asst. Manager), Tony Jennings (Captain), Keith Wright (Manager), Barry Whitbread, John Denham.

**Willie (ringed, back row) with the rest of the England semi-professional side in 1980**



"We met the manager Mike Smith who put us up in digs, and then next day got on the coach for a trial match at Grimsby in pouring rain. Nobody spoke to us on the way down, Nobody. I said to Stu, 'They are no better than us, no way' and when the game started we bossed it, me playing left mid and Pearcey left back and Brian Marwood playing right midfield. Of course they were all over us on the coach going back, but the money wasn't great (they offered #200 a week) and I was adamant I wasn't going. It didn't stop me winding Stuart up, and he nearly signed because I'd told him I WAS going to!"

I remember the Hull fiasco well. I was a sports reporter for the Harrow Observer at the time covering Wealdstone (my dream job) and no sooner had I got to the bottom of the failed bid to land Willie and Stu Pearce than Scarborough - high fliers in the Conference - came in with a £10,500 bid for Watson.

It coincided with the Stones being knocked out of the FA Cup in a replay by Harlow Town. In fact it was no coincidence as the club had been 'robbed' of a cash windfall - the winners of that replay were to face Charlton at home in the First Round - and Chairman Fred Deanus quickly recognised that Willie could be the saviour.

"Fred told me 'You have to leave'. I said 'I don't want to leave'. He said that the club were in financial difficulties and so I said 'Who is it then?' When he said 'Scarborough' I said I wouldn't even want to go there for a holiday.

"Their manager Colin Appleton came down to watch me but he chose a game when I was suspended. We sat next to each other in the stand!"

It was all happening at Lower Mead at that time. Ken Payne was also sacked in the wake of the Cup defeat and it was appointment of new boss Allen Batsford that finally tipped Willie into leaving.

"Allen had a winning reputation but I'd had lots of run-ins with his Wimbledon side in the 70s and his methods weren't for me. I took part in his first training session and it was like a game of tennis with the ball whacked backwards and forwards over the net. Not a lot of subtlety.

"So I went back to Fred and said I'd sign

# Batsford buckles down

WEALDSTONE'S new boss Allen Batsford is under no illusions as to his task at Lower Mead.

"The present squad isn't nearly strong enough and there's a lot to be done on the playing side. But it's a lovely set-up here at Lower Mead and I'm looking forward to the challenge," he said after Saturday's match with Worcester.

The former Wimbledon and Hillingdon Boro manager — he steered Wimbledon into the Football League in 1977 after three successive Southern League championship titles — has not yet been put on contract by Wealdstone but that will happen in the next week or so.

In the meantime Batsford will be busy negotiating for new players. "I like my teams to go at people and that just wasn't possible with the players available today," he said.

by  
**Tim Parks**

There was a reassuring word for Wealdstone fans who were worried about a possible confrontation between the new manager and Robin Wainwright — the 'Stones' midfielder star who reportedly left Hillingdon after a disagreement with Batsford.

"It is true that Robin's departure from Hillingdon was partly due to a disagreement over his role in the team.

"I felt that his style of play wasn't compatible to that of the rest of the side. But times change and anyway, Robin and I have always got on as people," said Batsford.

Part of the £10,500 received from Scarborough for the John Watson transfer will be made available to

Batsford for new players, according to chairman Fred Deanus, and signings can be anticipated in the very near future.

But Martin Sperrin, the striker Wealdstone signed on loan from Barnet last month, will not be among them.

The club are currently involved in a wrangle with Barnet boss Barry Fry, who claims that former Wealdstone manager Ken Payne confirmed in writing that 'Stones' would be signing Sperrin for £4,000.

But the Wealdstone board say Payne acted "off his own back" by writing to Fry, and that they are under no obligation to sign Sperrin. More about this matter in Friday's Observer.

Meanwhile there will be activity of a very different sort at Lower Mead in the next two weeks, as their new floodlighting system is finally being installed.

# Willie's a hit in North

FORMER Wealdstone skipper John "Willie" Watson is already a hit at Scarborough, the club he joined for a record non-League fee ten days ago.

After starring in Scarborough's 3-2 win over Boston United in his debut last week, Watson scored the only goal at Barrow in Saturday's Alliance Premier League match.

It came direct from a 53rd minute corner, and endeared him to the many Scarborough supporters.

He has been described as "the best player on the park in both games" by Scarborough boss Colin Appleton and already seems to be justifying his £10,500 fee.

Watson is still living in Tring, incidentally, and commutes long distance for Scarborough's matches while still training locally.

## Harlow Observer, November 1980. Willie is sold to Scarborough and T. Parks reports

for Scarborough if I got a signing-off fee - which he granted. I met Appleton in the Post House Hotel at Luton on the M1 and suddenly I was a Scarborough player!

"They were good to me though. Even though it was a strange start.... I was introduced to the players by their skipper Sean Marshall, who I'd last encountered when I was sent off in the league match at Scarborough a month earlier. I'd nutmegged him by the touchline and he went straight through me - so I elbowed him in the face. But he was nice as pie when we were team mates. He said he'd deserved the elbow for that challenge!

"It's funny how all the on-field shenanigans disappear when you're away from the game. Years after I'd stopped playing I was living in Tring, pushing one of my kids in a pushchair along the High Street in Bekhamsted and suddenly this Italian voice

rings out 'Willie! Willie Watson!' And it was Anniello Iannone, who used to wind me up something rotten when he was playing for Weymouth against Wealdstone. Every game there was a run-in. We used to make jokes about him selling ice-creams and collecting the deckchairs on Weymouth beach.

"Now, years later he was visiting his cousin's Italian restaurant and invited me in. What a chance in a million!"

But back to Scarborough. Willie's time at Seamer Road was blighted by knee injuries and he ended up having arthroscopies (cartilage operations) on both knees.

"I was there for two years until the summer of 1982. The condition for me signing was that I could stay living in Tring, just travelling up for matches and I could hire a car for every game, home and away from a garage round the corner from where I lived. I was still training at Wealdstone to

start off with - until Batsford got the hump, saying I was a distraction. So I trained at Barnet, where Barry Fry was manager, but just played in league games. I was let off Yorkshire Senior Cup matches!"

At the time I remember thinking that Willie would be back to haunt the Stones but he can't remember facing his old club at all - until he signed for Dagenham. But that all came a bit later...

"A new manager came in at Scarborough, Jim McAnearney, and he wasn't happy that I played so few games. But I played more than I should have - squads were much smaller in those days and you just had to play through the pain.... I was suffering from a damaged cartilage at Scarborough for 12 matches but I wasn't going to be labelled a 'Southern Softie' so I just got on with it. Some games I could barely get through the warm-up!"

He was still training at Barnet, who were struggling in the Conference, and clearly coveted by their eccentric manager Fry - who announced one Friday morning in early 1982 that he had signed Willie on loan.

"I told him 'but I can't run - my knees are gone' and he said 'never mind that, you don't need to run - just tell the others they're f\*\*\*\*\*g useless and gee them up'. His coaching skills weren't the best, he just used to yell at the players, and they were just a mish mash. But somehow were scraped through FA Cup matches against Harlow (the big giant killers at the time) and Wycombe, and found ourselves facing First Division Brighton in the Third Round at Underhill in front of 4,000. It was on telly and we nearly won the game on the boggiest pitch you've ever seen. It finished 0-0 but we lost the replay 3-1. Gary Sargeant scored a cracking goal for Barnet after I'd won the ball in a tackle... only a year later Brighton were back at Wembley playing Man Utd in the FA Cup Final.

"But the funniest thing of all was that we had a decent left back at Barnet, Graham Pearce who wasn't getting games. Barry Fry didn't like Pearce but he stuck him in the team against Brighton to put him in the shop window. Sure enough, he played well and Brighton ended up buying him - and he played in that Cup Final the next year! That was typical Barry Fry".

CONTINUED OVERPAGE



Barnet couldn't afford to buy Willie, even with their Cup windfall and eventually Maidstone's chairman Jim Thompson came in with a £6,000 bid to bring him back closer to home.

"Bill Williams had just taken over as manager with Peter Taylor the ex-England winger as player coach. They finished well down the table the previous season but we had a three way battle with Wealdstone and Enfield for the Conference title in 1982-83... and I became a 'penalty king' like The Duck back in the Wealdstone days!"

**W**illie put away 18 penalties for Maidstone that season, plus four from open play but to this day he doesn't know why he was even taking them!

"We were awarded the first penalty in a pre-season game at Croydon and I was told to take it - maybe because I was the big-money signing - but I'd never taken one before. I actually kicked the floor, just scuffed the ball but the keeper mistimed his dive and the ball went in. It was a rubbish penalty but we got one against Bangor in our third league game and that went in too!"

He even scored twice from the penalty spot in a 2-0 home win over Barnet as Maidstone eventually finished Gola Conference runners up to Enfield by a single point, with Wealdstone third. Allen Batsford's team had had a fabulous season after promotion from the Southern League and the games against Maidstone were both cracking affairs - goalless at Lower Mead but a sensational 3-0 win at Maidstone on Easter Saturday.

But Willie Watson was a notable absentee from both games. "Around that time I was suffering from a viral infection that kept flaring up. It went on for about 18 months which restricted my appearances. I would have loved to played in those games because I had a lot

of friends still at Wealdstone - Stu Pearce, Robin Wainwright and Alan Cordice who I'd room with on England international matches. When Peter Taylor left the club to coach at Exeter City I took over his role - and the next thing you knew we were drawn against Exeter in the FA Cup and knocked them out!"

Willie was only touching 30 but his career was winding down. "I had an approach from Ken Knighton at Dagenham who admitted he'd never seen me play but wanted me to come over in a player/coach role....it was the season Wealdstone won the Conference and the Trophy and finally I managed to play against them, but our striker Steve Whitton missed three easy chances and we lost 1-0".

**H**is last game was for the Daggers was at Swindon Town in the FA Cup. Dagenham won 2-1 but Willie broke his hand and at the end of that season he was offered the chance to become landlord of Shades, a pub in Lower High Street, Watford.

"I knew I couldn't play for much longer and being a coach in those days meant just being a dogsbody... although I took my preliminary badge (along with Steve Brinkman) just so I could say I had that qualification. Sounds a bit silly but I wanted to have proof that football was my trade"

He was a publican for eight or nine years until the recession began to bite - so Willie took over another pub in Kings Langley while he did The Knowledge (licensed black taxi qualifications) and embarked on his cabbying career.

**S**o what is Willie up to these days, now he's 65? "Well, I'm still a cabbie, had a black cab for 25/30 years now. I live in Toddington (in Bedfordshire, just by the M1) with my second wife Christine and drive down to London for work every day - around the hotels mainly - leaving home about 3am and driving back about 1pm. I've been doing it for a long time but not as long as The Duck... although he's given up driving for the moment and now works at Budgens in Abbots Langley, just round the corner from where he lives. I used to see him every day when we were both cabbying but now we meet up to play golf mainly. I've been a member at Grimsdyke Golf Club in Harrow Weald for 15 years now, but when I play George it's more often at Whipsnade near Dunstable... it's quieter there and people can't see how bad he is :)

"He plays golf like he used to play: Very studied and careful. Like his penalties, he makes a science of it. Even when he was playing football, he worked hard to get his balance just right so he could volley and head the ball so well. But his golf is definitely getting worse..."

"My main thing now is going off middle-aged cruising! I'm not retired just yet but we love going off on theme cruises, particularly music ones. We've seen The Troggs, Yardbirds, Jerry and the Pacemakers although he's old enough to need one now! We're going around the Greek Islands next summer, plus the Caribbean in the New Year so we don't do too badly".

**B**etween them, Willie and Christine have four kids and eight grandchildren. And coincidentally, three of them (Alex and Mason Yerby, 12 and 10 years old, and six year old Ralph Miles, who live in Maple Cross) are playing for Wealdstone Youth under Ronnie Welch. And yes, for the (much) older Stones fans among us, those boys are related to ginger-haired Dave Yerby who played for the Stones in the last amateur days at the turn of the 1970s.

So we could see a Willie Watson descendant back in a Wealdstone first team shirt one day. And no doubt as bad a loser as his grandad!

## Willie for England

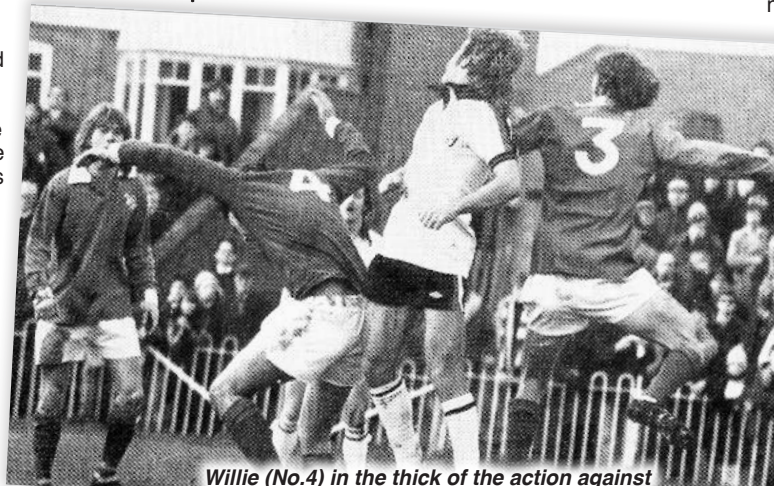


**W**illie Watson's first cap came in 1979 at the inaugural non-League tournament, staged at Stafford Rangers. The amateur game had become officially unrecognised in the mid-70s but it wasn't until the formation of the Alliance Premier League in 1979 that it was decided to form a representative non-League XI - and Stafford, one of the inaugural members of the APL, was chosen to host the first tournament.

"I can't remember much about it, except that we won it" says Willie. 'Scotland, Italy and Holland were in it and we beat the Dutch in the final'. With the Stones among the weaker teams in the League it was quite an accolade for our club captain to be chosen - and he was quickly made skipper of the England side too. An honour he held on to over the next six years, and 18 caps as England remained the strongest side in Europe. I recall travelling up to Scarborough in 1983 to watch England beat Scotland - and Italy beat Holland - on the same day, with Willie in majestic midfield form for his country (then a Maidstone player) while Wealdstone's Alan Cordice zoomed around up front to finish top scorer in that tournament. Scotland fielded striker Mo Johnson, who went on to make a name for himself with Watford and Everton.

The Stones' Neil Cordice and Paul Bowgett were also on the radar of the England selectors but missed out through injury.

"I told Keith Wright (the England manager) about how good Stuart Pearce was but he just said 'I've got a left back and that's John Davison'... well Altrincham's Davison was very sold and reliable but he was nowhere near as dynamic as Pearcey. I think he missed a trick there, but Stuart didn't do too badly in the end".



*Willie (No.4) in the thick of the action against Hereford in the FA Cup first round 1977 at Lower Mead. Left is Steve Brinkman and No.3 Alan Fursdon*

Wes Parker - FoW  
 William Wilfred Parr - Roger Slater  
 Stuart Pearce - FoW + Nick Woolford  
 Arthur Peal - Terri Moffitt + Old Wealden Association  
 Steve Perkins - FoW  
 Jon Pettifer - Brian and Shirley Pettifer  
 J Poole - Roger Slater  
 J J Robertson - Paul Harvey  
 Barbara Robson - WFC SC  
 Jack Russell - Roger Slater

Dave Ryan - Dom Whyley  
 Gordon Sedgley - FoW  
 Val Shearer - WFC SC  
 Kieron Somers - David Leigh  
 Charlie Townsend - Mike Weston + In memory of Alf Goldsmith  
 Robin Tucker - Dom Whyley  
 David Venables - Paul Saffer  
 Julie Verrell - WFC SC  
 Tom Verrall - WFC SC  
 Robin Wainwright - FoW + Dom Whyley

Ernest Walker - James Klarfeld  
 Lee Walker - Miriam Goodman  
 John 'Willie' Watson - Wealds70ne (Mick Fishman + Pete Worby)  
 Alex Welch - WFC SC  
 Thomas Winterbottom - Terry Hiseay  
 Henrik Wegrzyk - Alan Couch

In memory of  
 Albert Haines - Geoff Haines  
 Naomi Benveniste - Barry Benveniste  
 Barbara Stern - Terry Stern  
 John + Jack Jones - Graham Jones

George Duck - John Fennelly + John Orchard + Nick Woolford  
 Terry Dyson - Nick Woolford  
 Fred Farmborough - Roger Slater  
 George Richard Goodge - Clive Leaper  
 Brian Goymer - FoW  
 Andy Graham - Toby Jackson  
 Mark Graves - Tim Parks  
 James Gray - 'A Printer'  
 Brian Greenaway - FoW  
 Brian Hall - WFC SC

James Hammond - Martin & Syl Allen  
 George & Alec Hardie - From a loving family  
 Andy Hedge - Dom Whyley  
 John Henderson - Jon Taffel  
 Lee Holmes - FoW  
 Walter Langton Howman - Roger Slater  
 Bob Iles - Nick Woolford  
 Richard Jolly - FoW + Dom Whyley + Nick Woolford  
 Brian Jones - Kathleen, Shane, Sinead and Steve

Cliff Jones - Harry Leigh  
 Bill Kitchener - Nick DuGard  
 Hugh Lindsay - Mike Weston + WFC SC + John Jeffreson  
 Glen Little - FoW + Nick Woolford  
 Tony Lynch - Mark Hobbs  
 John McCormick - FoW + Nick Woolford  
 Leslie McDonald - Marilyn Bernard  
 Scott McGeleish - Alyson Angelides  
 Frank Tingey Martin - Warren Ladd  
 Henrik Mikrut - Alan Couch

Fergus Moore - Dom Whyley  
 Leo Morris - WFC SC  
 Tom Morris - Tom Morris  
 John Morton - Wealds70ne (Mick Fishman + Pete Worby)  
 Bobby Moss - Jon Taffel + Ray Corner  
 Jonathan North - FoW + Dom Whyley  
 Chris O'Leary - Alan Hill  
 Eddie Oshodi - Peter Marsden  
 Arthur Pataley - FoW  
 Dean Papali - Adam Williams

'Stones Legend' Donation Details  
 Brian Allen - FoW  
 Percy Andrews - Mark Barton  
 Ryan Ashe - Adam Williams  
 John Ashworth - FoW  
 Kenneth Baldwin - Victor Klarfeld  
 Gordon Bartlett - Gordon Thomson + Nick Woolford + WFC SC  
 Allen Batsford - WFC SC  
 Jermaine Beckford - FoW

Charles John Francis - Mark Hyde  
 Bellchambers  
 Robert William Bidewell - Neil Rands  
 Charles Henry Bird - Peter John-Baptiste  
 Henry J Bowell - Paul Harvey  
 Paul Bowgett - Nicky Clark + Dom Whyley + Nick Woolford  
 Russell William Bradberry - Sal Morris  
 Bernie Bremer - Mick Fishman  
 Mickey Brown - Tim Parks  
 Steve Browne - Simon Heaney + Roger Slater

Charles Edward Bunce - Michael Vincent  
 William Burton - Tony Maidment  
 Tim Buzaglo - WFC SC  
 Dennis Byatt - FoW  
 Billy Byrne - Nick Woolford  
 Andy Carter - Dom Whyley  
 Martin Carter - Dom Whyley  
 Lee Chappell - Matt Hill  
 Bobby Childs - FoW  
 Jim Cooley - FoW

Alan Cordice - Nicky Clark + Suchir, Akhil & Nikhil Rawal + Dom Whyley + Nick Woolford  
 Neil Cordice - FoW  
 William Henry Cozens - Alyson Angelides  
 Sean Cronin - FoW  
 Roy Davies - FoW  
 Phil Dicker - Mark Conboy  
 Eddie Dillsworth - Keith Hill  
 Mickey Doyle - Nick Archer



# STAND UP FOR WEALDSTONE

Thank you to the Wealdstone Supporters  
 for sponsoring the "Stones Legends" and helping to fund this stand







# MATCH SPONSORS

A great way to celebrate a special occasion or advertise your organisation's support of Wealdstone, match sponsorship packages start at just **£295** (fans) or **£395** (corporate) as match day sponsor you will enjoy:

- Match tickets for up to four\* (prime main stand seats if required)
- A fantastic advertising package, including publicity over the PA system, website and social media
- Boardroom hospitality includes pre match and half-time refreshments as well as a superb array of culinary delights post match, courtesy of in-house caterer Lynn Evans
- Match-day programmes for all in your party
- VIP car parking
- Name and present the 'Man of the Match' Award
- A memento of your day

\*Please note that we can accommodate **multiple match sponsors** and can **tailor the experience** to whatever are your requirements. For example, we can cater for as many as **25 people** in our magnificent and new **hospitality lounge**. This facility has undergone a comprehensive re-fit with substantial investment courtesy of our club sponsors GPF Lewis & Ruislip Social Club. Our match sponsors and their guests are all entertained in surroundings befitting such a special occasion be it a birthday, anniversary or any other special event!

We will work with you to ensure you and your guests get to enjoy a truly memorable experience. If you or your organisation are interested in sponsoring a match here at The Vale, please contact Club President, **Paul Rumens** ([paulrumens59@gmail.com](mailto:paulrumens59@gmail.com) or call **07710 929692**) to discuss.



MATCH	SPONSORS
<b>WESTON-SUPER-MARE</b> Saturday, 4th August Vanarama National League South	Sentinel7
<b>WOKING</b> Monday, 13th August Vanarama National League South	Wealdstone FC Supporters Club
<b>CONCORD RANGERS</b> Saturday, 25th August Vanarama National League South	Barry Eynon - in memory of John O'Connor
<b>TRURO CITY</b> Saturday, 1st September Vanarama National League South	Optima Site Solutions
<b>CHELMSFORD CITY</b> Saturday, 15th September Vanarama National League South	Optima Site Solutions
<b>GREAT WAKERING ROVERS</b> Saturday, 22nd September FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round	Dominic Whyley
<b>HAMPTON &amp; RICHMOND</b> Saturday, 13th October Vanarama National League South	David Leigh
<b>SUTTON UNITED</b> Saturday, 20th October FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round	Sentinel7
<b>TORQUAY UNITED</b> Saturday, 27th October Vanarama National League South	The Jeffresons & Martin Allen Diamond Comic Distributors
<b>GLOUCESTER CITY</b> Monday, 29th October Vanarama National League South	Harrow Sales & Marketing
<b>BATH CITY</b> Saturday, 10th November Vanarama National League South	Ray Corner & Peter Carter
<b>EASTBOURNE BOROUGH</b> Saturday, 1st December Vanarama National League South	Preston Manor Century Boys

MATCH	SPONSORS
<b>SLOUGH TOWN</b> Wednesday, 26th December Vanarama National League South	Sentinel7 Your Name Here? Your Name Here?
<b>OXFORD CITY</b> Saturday, 29th December Vanarama National League South	Tony Platt Your Name Here? Your Name Here?
<b>DARTFORD</b> Saturday, 5th January Vanarama National League South	Sudhir Rawal Your Name Here?
<b>HUNGERFORD TOWN</b> Saturday, 19th January Vanarama National League South	Your Name Here? Your Name Here? Your Name Here?
<b>BILLERICAY TOWN</b> Saturday, 2nd February Vanarama National League South	Wealdstone FC Ladies Your Name Here?
<b>ST ALBANS CITY</b> Saturday, 16th February Vanarama National League South	Sudbury Plastering Your Name Here?
<b>WELLING UNITED</b> Saturday, 9th March Vanarama National League South	In Memory of Darren Hooker Your Name Here?
<b>CHIPPENHAM TOWN</b> Saturday, 23rd March Vanarama National League South	Turf Doctor Specialists Ltd Your Name Here?
<b>EAST THURROCK UNITED</b> Saturday, 6th April Vanarama National League South	Jon Taffel ProKit UK Your Name Here?
<b>DULWICH HAMLET</b> Saturday, 20th April Vanarama National League South	In Memory of George Mowle
<b>HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN</b> Saturday, 27th April Vanarama National League South	SFC Wealdstone Your Name Here? Your Name Here?

# DARTFORD FC

## Opposition in focus



**D**artford Football Club was formed in early 1888 by members of the Dartford Workingmen's club and for the first few seasons, played only friendly fixtures with the occasional foray into cup football. A run to the final of the Kent Senior cup in 1894 encouraged the club committee to enter Dartford as a Founder-Member of the Kent League for the 1894-95 season. It was in October 1895 that Dartford first played in the FA Cup. Two seasons later Dartford became Founder-Members of the Southern League, Division Two winning the Championship at the first attempt. Over the next few seasons Dartford fluctuated between the Southern and Kent Leagues but a financial crisis in the early 1900s saw the club drift down to the West Kent League. At the same time the club, which had used several pitches in the area, gained the use of Summers Meadow in Lowfield Street on a long lease

After the war Dartford Football was slow to get underway as the Summers Meadow ground was no longer available. However local business men appreciating the value of a good-class football team bearing the town's name completely re-structured the club and, from 1921 onwards, Dartford FC was run as a public limited liability company, unique in

English football until Tottenham Hotspur followed suit some fifty years later. A site was found in Watling Street in the neighbouring parish of Stone, which was to remain the club's home until a major financial crisis forced the sale of the ground in 1992.

For a decade and a half following the 1939-1945 War Dartford had little to show for its efforts except for a sparkling Kent Senior Cup win over Bromley in 1947. At the same time Bromley vied with Bishop Auckland as the premier amateur club in the land and the Lillywhites look a 2-0 lead in the final before Dartford struck back with three goals to lift the trophy. Included in the Dartford line-up that day was Ted Croker, later to become the Secretary of the Football Association. Soon after this win Dartford transferred Riley Cullum and Fred Alexander to Charlton Athletic for £6,000, which wiped out the club's debts entirely.

The 1980s was a period dominated by two managers with contrasting styles: John Still and Peter Taylor. By winning the Southern Division of the Southern League in 1980-81 Dartford had gained a short-lived place in the Alliance Premier League. Relegated after just one season but having tasted life at the top of the semi-professional game Dartford wanted more. John Still who had led Leytonstone/Ilford to a clean sweep of trophies, was the man for the job, in 1983-84 he steered Dartford to a fourth Southern League Championship and a resultant return to the Alliance Premier League (by now known as the Gola League). This time Darts stayed two seasons finishing third in 1984-85. Another periodic crisis was looming, and with Still departing in February 1986, Dartford were relegated once again.

In the wake of the Bradford fire and the Hillsborough disaster Dartford, like so many clubs, needed to either re-locate or upgrade their current facilities with the Board going for the latter option. Large sums of money were spent on planning and design fees, which burdened a manageable financial deficit with

crippling interest charges.

At the same time Maidstone United, who had sold their own ground, needed a suitable home to launch their ill-fated foray into the Football League and the Dartford board agreed to let Maidstone ground-share at Watling Street, the rent income providing a welcome boost for finances.

Within a few years Maidstone had gone into liquidation, most of their cash being taken up to gain the eagerly-sought Football League place. Ground improvements, which Maidstone United has paid for, were sold to Dartford at a cost (around £500,000), which pushed Darts' debts beyond manageable proportions. Watling Street was sold to pay off creditors and Dartford withdrew from the Southern League four games into the 1992-93 season.

The club's Supporters' Association, around 400 strong, came to the rescue. A private limited liability company was incorporated in November 1992 to manage affairs which meant, primarily, keeping the Youth team operating, an action which was rewarded when the Youth team beat Maidstone Invicta (the club rising out of the ashes of the old United Club) in the final of the John Ullman cup by 2-0 at Gravesend & Northfleet before a gate of 562. The continuing existence of the Youth team enabled Dartford to maintain both its Senior status and Full Membership of the Football Association.

In February 1993 former player Tony Burman was appointed Manager and with the club being offered a ground-share arrangement by Cray Wanderers, Dartford were able to make a successful application for membership of the Kent League. Spurred on by an average attendance of well over 300 Dartford finished that first season in sixth position.

With a view to the future Dartford negotiated a ground-share with Erith & Belvedere in time for the 1994-95 season and a second Kent League campaign started with gates at a shade over 400. Early promise faded somewhat and the club finished in mid-table.

In the May 1996 came the welcome news that Dartford had gained promotion to the Dr

### DARTS FACTS

**GROUND** - Princes Park

**CAPACITY** - 4,100 (642 seated)

**MANAGER** - Adam Flanagan & Jamie Coyle

**2017/18** - National League South 2nd

Martens sponsored Southern League, exactly one hundred years after the club first entered that competition. Unfortunately, Tony Burman was forced to resign as manager in the December due to business commitments but the club quickly promoted reserve team manager Gary Julians to first team manager.

In September 1997 a disastrous fire at Erith & Belvedere put the club's future and standing with the Southern League into serious doubt and with this in mind a new ground sharing arrangement was made with Purfleet in time for the 1998-99 season.

A new ground sharing agreement was arranged with Gravesend & Northfleet in time for the 2001-02 season.

The 2004/5 season saw the restructuring of non-league football. Dartford remained in the Southern League

Princes Park hosted its first game on Saturday 11 November 2006 when the Darts entertained Horsham YMCA in the Ryman League.

Dartford were moved across to the Ryman League Division One North for the 2007/2008 season and won the Championship.

Having won the Ryman League title in 2009/10 - In 2010/11, the club made their debut in the Conference South, finishing a creditable tenth.

In 2001/2012 Dartford achieved promotion to the Nation League after beating Welling in the Play Off final.

Following the club's relegation from the National League in 2014/15 the league campaign ended with the Darts just outside of the playoffs.

Despite finishing in second place to Havant & Waterlooville last season Dartford lost in the playoff Semi Final at home to eventual winners Braintree Town 1-0.

### WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v DARTFORD

**P 37 W 12 D 13 L 12 F 50 A 63**





# APPEARANCES

## FIRST TEAM, SEASON 2018/19 at 29th December 2018

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

	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	1	
Brown, Stefan	1	2	1	1											2	2	1	2	2	1	
Bubb, Bradley	11	5	6	3		2									14	5	8	26	7	13	
Charles, Elliott *		5	3		1			1		1	1				1	7	4	1	7	4	
Clark, James		1								1					1	1		1	1		
Grant, Freddie	11			3											14			14			
Green, Danny	16	5	1	2			1	1		1					20	6	1	116	14	26	
Hudson-Odoi, Bradley	12	4	3	1			2								15	4	3	53	12	18	
Kowalkowski, Pawel	1	1						1							1	2		1	2		
Lench, Matt	5	7	1	1	1										6	8	1	6	8	1	
Mambo, Yado *	1	1													1	1		1	1		
Massingham, Luke										1					1			1			
McKeown, Eion		1					1								1	1		1	1		
Medford-Smith, Ramarni	2														2			2			
Mensah, Simon	4	3					1	1							5	4		5	4		
Mitchell, Reece		5									1				6			6			
Monakana, Jeffrey	7	7	1		2					1					7	10	1	13	12	2	
North, Jonathan	21			3			2								26			369		1	
Obi, Ogo	1														1			1			
Okimo, Jerome	21			3			2	1							26	1		123	5	2	
Payne, Joe	5									1					6			6			
Poku, Godrey	22			3			2								27			27			
Pratt, David	20		6	1			2	1							23	7		44	1	13	
Regis, Christopher	1									1					2			2			
Roberts, Myles	1														1			1			
Rodgers, Anton										1	2				1	2		1	2		
Samizadeh, Alexander	1							1							1	1		1	1		
Sheppard, Jake	9	3		2	1		1								12	4		24	5	1	
Shomotun, Fumnaya	5	4		3	2		1	1		1					9	5	3	9	5	3	
Slew, Jorome		1	1		1					1	1				1	2	2	1	2	2	
Smith, Christian	3						2	1							5	1		5	1		
Stevens, Connor	20		1	3	1		2								25	2		25		2	
Tyler, Rhys	18			1	1		1								20	1		20	1		
Wheeler, Sonny										1					1			1			
White, Joe *	5	1	1												5	1	1	22	5	9	
Wilson, Glenn	7						2								9			29	1	1	
Yala-Bolasi, Glenn										1					1			1			



# Fan in the Stand

## My first Wealdstone game was actually in the away end watching Bishops Stortford!

One of the high spots of this season has been the impact on the club's social media of 19-year-old Brunel University journalism student Sam Watts.

And now he's the subject of WFC Fan in the Stand...although sadly he won't be around the club much longer as he has been 'poached' by a new London online publication where he'll chiefly be covering QPR. Declan O'Reilly will be taking over at the Stones alongside photographer Dan Finill.

**Where do you live Sam?** At Uxbridge campus (while at University).

**What was your first game?** Actually my first OFFICIAL Wealdstone game was in the away end for my local club Bishop's Stortford! Wealdstone won that day and I never knew I would be involved with the club to this extent. I got in touch with the club's former Press Officer, Nick Dugard, as he was seeking help with the club's media output. He left one week after I joined and suddenly I was thrown into the deep end! But it was too good an opportunity to pass up. My duties are focused on producing match reports, interviewing players and management, putting up press releases/club statements and communicating with everyone at the club in order to ensure a smooth weekly output of club media.

**What is a typical working day for you at the Vale?** My normal routine for a home match is arrive around 1pm and assess the conditions...posting on social media my thoughts ahead of the game. I set up my laptop in the press box and retrieve the team sheets as early as possible. I conduct a Twitter Live pre-match discussion with fellow colleague Dan Finill (something we do at half time and full time too). I will take notes and



Sam in media mode!

write my match report during the game for the final whistle. After it's finished I will go to the tunnel area to interview WFC manager Bobby Wilkinson, but a lot of the time he delegates the job to Mike Percival or Jamie Leacock. We upload the post match interview to YouTube and social media for fans to watch. Then send the match report off if I haven't already and relax after another match!

**Do you follow other clubs?** In terms of other clubs I am a huge Arsenal fan. Having been attending the Emirates since I was seven years old with my auntie, I try to go as much as I can, even to away matches if

## SAM WATTS

WEALDSTONE v DARTFORD  
05.01.2019



I'm lucky enough. Once you're hooked on any team it's difficult to stay away! I'm extremely excited about the new era of the club under Unai Emery (it's the first time I've seen an Arsenal manager other than Arsène Wenger). And of course I follow football 24/7!

**Best football matches you've ever seen?**

Wow, that's incredibly tough and as much as I think I can't choose. Live? Definitely Arsenal beating Bayern Munich 2-0 at The Emirates. Atmosphere was unbelievable. And in terms of goals probably losing 3-4 to Liverpool, but I haven't seen matches other than Arsenal live! On TV it's impossible to choose. Any champions league final - Real Madrid 4-1 Atletico with Madrid 1-0 down in the 93rd minute.... England vs Colombia at the World Cup last summer winning on penalties.....Man City 3-2 QPR (obviously).....Arsenal 3-2 Hull City in the FA Cup Final....and apologies for the Arsenal-focused answer but Arsenal 2-1 Barcelona was my favourite. There are so many matches... Liverpool vs Roma last season was incredible. I love watching the champions league. Barca vs Real semi final.... Arsenal vs Liverpool quarter final 2008 when Walcott ran the length of the pitch (we still went out!)....I can't choose I'm sorry :)

**And the best Wealdstone game?** That is slightly easier (as unfortunately I have only been to around 20 matches at the time of answering). Probably the 3-2 win at Concord. I was shocked at how dominant a performance it was from Stones with the match looking so tough heading into it.

**Has it always been a big part of your life?** I can't remember not following football. It's been such a passion of mine since I was around 5 or 6 I think, always play and watch but love the discussions. What a fantastic sport to be part of.

I actually am also a huge tennis fan. My dad coached me and showed me how wonderful it can be - last year I queued for the entire tournament in my tent at Wimbledon! Fascinating competition and I love discussions in tennis just as much. My hobbies are very sport focused - listening to the radio, reading newspapers and watching sport. I suppose I like travelling too.

**How far are you into your degree?** I'm a journalism student in my 2nd year at Brunel University. My plan is to get my degree and NCTJ qualifications as well as bundles of experience trying everything I possibly can to be ready for the pressurised nature of sports journalism. But I love it!

My ambitions are firmly set on becoming a sports journalist. Whether that lies in print, online, radio or television I'm not sure as of yet but as long as the passion is there, I'm not too fussed. I need to have a job that I enjoy and my experience at Wealdstone so far has only solidified my ambitions.

**Is Wealdstone now in your blood?** Of course once you catch the Wealdstone bug, you form that connection. I'm sure that wherever I end up I will still maintain that connection with Wealdstone and be sure to keep up with their progress without a doubt.

**Are there more ways to improve our media presence?** I believe currently the fan base at Wealdstone is so strong, therefore it needs a good base structure for media output not only to keep the relationship between club and fans very positive, but also to give the information they desire on a regular basis. Right now? Our media presence is good and fairly consistent, but everything can always be improved! Myself and Dan are always thinking of new ways to engage fans and further the coverage we currently produce.

**What do you think of the programme?** I genuinely believe this: the club's programme is one of the best assets for Wealdstone FC. It should feature information, reports, features, history, interviews and club messages. It does this every match and always provides a reason to grab one upon entering the Vale. It's fantastic actually.

Print is such a joy. To pick up physical copies and read various items, maintaining the traditional journalistic values is wonderful. Does it have a future? It could do. Will it have a future? I don't think so unfortunately. We are in a digital age where information can be accessed quickly whenever desired. Why would there be a need to print information when it can be accessed quicker and easier on a phone or tablet? It's a real shame but I will work hard to keep those values if possible!

**Where do you see Wealdstone in five years' time?** Very interesting question. We could debate this for the next 5 years! But honestly the Conference National, knocking on the door of the football league. I believe if the right people were all like-minded then potentially this could happen quicker. We will see! Nevertheless, in 5 years Wealdstone will still be a family-orientated club with a strong fan base and a determined management team.

Cheers, Sam





**M**y house is a veritable treasure trove.

Searching for a different angle on today's visitors, I managed to unearth (in the West Wing haha) a whole stack of football club publications including this 45-year-old gem... the Dartford FC Handbook 1974 (pictured below).

People seem to imagine I have rooms devoted to All Things Wealdstone. Only one actually, but it is quite big. Probably only four bookcases and a pair of cupboards devoted to club paraphernalia... and I simply assumed that this book of Darts' derring-do four and a half decades ago had been thrown out after a bit of Spring cleaning. But happily it wasn't. And the memories of the mid-70s came flooding back through the pages of the book, when I was a teenager myself and the Stones' promotion to the top tier of the Southern League was opening up a whole world of new football experiences.

That summer of 1974,

# Stones v Darts 1974: Meeting of Southern League champions!



*Darts are denied by Chelmsford keeper Willie Carrick at Watling Street during their glory season. I like the 'CCFC' on the City shirts in those days before sponsors*

reigning champions Dartford come to town.

As a 16-year-old obsessed with my football team, this was the stuff of nightmares. What if we lost both games? There then followed tricky trips to Tonbridge, Kettering and Yeovil. We could be cast adrift at the bottom of the table before September arrived....

**B**ut boy, how the Stones came of age in that first week. We fell behind against Weymouth after just two minutes in front of a 1,500 crowd - confirming my worst fears - but Duck and Henderson grabbed late goals to take the roof off the Cinema End and send the fans home delirious, relishing a 2-1 win.

But could we replicate that performance against Dartford? Their manager, Ernie Morgan had taken over the previous summer, joining from Maidstone United whom he'd steered to the

Div One South title the year before we won it. His side had wrapped up the Premier Division title by a whopping eight points from runners-up Grantham, with Chelmsford third and Kettering fourth... and they'd also reached the FA Trophy Final that season, outplaying Morecambe for most of the game only to lose 2-1. I'd been at Wembley that April afternoon and the Darts were hugely impressive, playing the ball around smoothly with star men Danny Light, Kenny Halliday and Bob Glozier to the fore. They also had Graham Carr - who went on to manage the hard-nosed Nuneaton side - who was one of the most abrasive midfielders of that era, as a foil to the talented Light.

It was totally out of keeping when Carr's son Alan burst upon showbiz as a camp comedian!



**Above: Darts fans celebrate the Southern League Prem title in April 1974**

**A**nyhow... Dartford at Lower Mead under the lights, Tuesday August 20, 1974. The first-ever meeting. The upstarts against the Champions. Darts had been beaten on the opening day at Kettering, 2-1, so were looking to bounce straight back but Stones (with Ray Fulton both now available after suspension) literally blew them away in the first 30minutes. It was football from a stratospheric level.

You look back now and wonder how we exerted any control in the middle with our

4-3-3 line up comprising

three attack-minded midfielders in wide men Fulton and Johnny Henderson, plus the silky playmaker Derek Evans (who had signed from Trowbridge along with his

**CONTINUED OVERPAGE...**

**Left: The programme cover for that first-ever meeting in August 1974**



Wealdstone, having turned semi-pro just three years earlier, had won the Southern League First Division South and were suddenly pitched into the Big Boys League - and we really didn't know what to expect. Eddie Presland's side had won the division by 11 points from runners-up Bath City yet we were now taking on well-established non-League giants like Yeovil, Wimbledon, Chelmsford, Kettering and Nuneaton... and the reigning Southern League Premier Division Champions Dartford. All

those clubs were pulling in crowds of around 2,500-3,000 - at least three times what we were used to in the First Division - and we wondered if our beloved Stones would wilt in that hothouse atmosphere.

We hoped that the passion and noise generated at Lower Mead would help win enough home games to survive. Would the skills of George Duck, John Henderson and John McCormick be good enough in that exalted company?

Well, we found out within three days of the new season kicking off - the Southern League computer (or piece of foolscap paper more like) throwing up two home games in succession. Weymouth on the opening Saturday at Lower Mead was a test, but a game we could win... but the Tuesday night would see





twin brother Terry). Up front was the other Evans, a prolific goal scorer, plus the marvellous Bill Byrne and George Duck who were arguably the best front pairing in non League football in the mid-70s.

So that was seven players looking to get forward. And the defence (attacking right back Chris Kinnear, ex-football league centre backs Eric Burgess and John McCormick and midfielder Jim Godfrey filling in at left back for the still-suspended Willie Watson) were also happy to join in!

McCormick actually got on the scoresheet at the wrong end to gift Dartford their goal, but the game was already won by then with Fulton (an angled rocket from 18 yards) Byrne (a 22 yard screamer) and a diving header from Godfrey putting us 3-0 up at the break.

The Darts keeper from the previous season, John Morton, was now in goal for us - after his teaching job brought him North of the river that summer - and his replacement, the former ex-Exeter stopper Alan Clarke must have wondered what he'd stumbled into as shots rained in from improbable angles. Byrne finally made it four with a splendid header.

By the time we travelled to Dartford's old Watling Street ground for the return in April, the Darts (reigning



**Darts enjoy their open-top bus tour of South London the day after the Trophy final**

champions, remember) were all but relegated. Our season was all about unexpected highs and a few lows and that week in April was a good illustration... cramming in the last few games was a nightmare and the Stones travelled to new champions-elect Wimbledon on the Thursday night before facing the Darts on Saturday.

**T**he Stones delighted our three coach loads of fans - any many more by road and rail - in the 2,900 crowd at Plough Lane as we shocked the Dons by winning 2-1, George Duck hitting the winner with a sublime volley from Adriaan Eglite's cross. It was the only time that season that Wimbledon (the eventual Champions) were beaten at home and away... and the memory of our titanic 1-0 win at Lower Mead on New Years Day 1975 is instantly recalled by anyone lucky enough to be in the 3,200 crowd.

The Dons were a big draw (as they are today) and just four days later went to Division One high-flyers Burnley in the FA Cup 3rd round and won 1-0. That's how good Wealdstone were!

But... two days after completing that double, another three coachloads of fans set off for Kent and the return meeting with the

Darts who were deep in the danger zone. Maybe the Stones should have heeded the danger warnings from a fortnight earlier when our teams met in the Mid-Surrey Professional Floodlight League (a competition designed to give match practice to unused squad members) at Watling Street and the Darts whipped us 5-0.

The Stones fans may have been expecting a performance similar to the thrilling one at Wimbledon but instead we were overrun by the home side and lost 3-1.

It wasn't enough to keep them up and Darts fans must have reflected on how their club's fortunes had spectacularly changed in the space of a year - from almost Double Winners to relegation.

**S**o that glorious (for us) and inglorious (for the Darts) season was the first time our paths crossed. Dartford regrouped and won promotion back to the Southern Prem just 12 months later, and from that point we faced the Kent side in 10 of the next 15 seasons. Stones climbed into the Gola

### "TOWNSMAN" WRITES

I will not say that I predicted it, because that could make me some sort of clairvoyant. But what I will repeat is that, in last year's handbook I certainly foresaw something of the momentous happenings of the 1973-74 season, for what did I write?

"With Mr. Morgan settling in again at Watling Street, it could be the time to get the Southern League Championship back to Kent and into Dartford once more". And, after a break of 42 years, including the war years it happened.

It is history now that, after leading the way for over two-thirds of the season, the magnificent Darts finally managed the Championship on an emotion charged evening of Monday 22nd April when they tore Guildford City apart with some of the best football I have seen at Watling Street for many a long day.

Then, the climax to a great season came five days later at Wembley, when Manager Ernie Morgan led his men out for the final of the F.A. Challenge Trophy. It is also history that the 'double' of League and Trophy eluded the Darts as Morecambe went away 2-1 winners, but what an end it was to the greatest post-war season the fans have ever enjoyed.

Towards the end of the campaign, and with Dartford battling for the Championship, I was pleased to see the big increase in attendances, climaxing with a near 3,000 gate for the match against Grantham when the Southern League Championship Shield was officially presented. My sincere hope is that we shall continue to see that kind of support this coming season.

I don't suppose for a moment that we shall see the like of the past season again, but one never knows. Telford went twice to Wembley in two seasons, once as losers then,

So, as last time: What about it Dartford?  
**DICK BROAD**  
Sports Editor, Gravesend and Dartford Reporter

*I have to admit I'm a bit of a sucker for this sort of sentimental tripe in the Darts Handbook. The wonderfully named Dick Broad wistfully writes 'I don't suppose we shall ever see the like of the past season again' and do you know, he was absolutely right. They nearly won the non-League double in 1974. Eleven years later someone would....*

Conference in 1979 and the Darts joined us five years later, only for both clubs to be relegated back to the Beazer Homes Southern League by the end of that

decade. Dartford came third, incidentally, the year the Stones won that unprecedented non-League double in 1985.

Thus we were bracketed together for five years, with honours pretty much shared until the disastrous sale of Lower Mead in 1991 saw us move to Vicarage Road - and demotion within a year to the Southern League Southern Division.

Dartford were happily pottering along on at the same level until losing their own Watling Street ground after their own disastrous ground-share with Maidstone. The club had to resign from the Southern League, retain a youth team and re-form in the Kent League while playing home games at Cray Wanderers and Gravesend among others... a story not unlike our own. But after many



**Darts keeper John Morton (who later played for the Stones) fends off the giant Morecambe forwards at Wembley**



**Dave Cunningham (far left) scores in the last minute for Darts at Wembley but it was just a consolation goal**

**CONTINUED  
OVERPAGE...**





Danny Green's penalty is saved by Derren Abraham two years ago

years of planning, in 2006 the club was provided with the fantastic council-owned eco-friendly facility at Princes Park that was (and still is) the envy of many in non-League football. Thus it was that we were re-acquainted with Darts when they climbed back up through the levels to the Ryman League Prem in 2008. And despite Dartford's continued elevation - winning the Ryman and then the Conference South - they had not beaten the Stones in 10 games since their arrival at Princes Park, including the never-to-be-forgotten clash in the FA Trophy last-16 in 2012. In fact a total of 26 years all told.

That is until two years ago!

**W**e took on the Darts at Grosvenor Vale on January 28, 2017 on the back of that famous 2-1 win at Southport (another great FA Trophy memory) only to stumble and fall spectacularly flat on our faces as Luke Wanadio, Ryan Hayes and Elliot Bradbrook gave the visitors a deserved 3-0 lead at the break. And if you think our penalty-taking record this season has been poor... well, we missed **TWO PENALTIES** in the second half of this game as we fought to get back on terms. Danny Green hit the first far too close to keeper Deren Ibrahim after Omar Koroma had been tripped in the box, and then Koroma stepped up for the

**Dave Pratt runs to take the acclaim of the Brian Collins Corner crowd after his cross had picked out Dan Fitchett (No.7) for the goal that put us ahead against Darts last season**



second and, well, let's just say that in those pre-drone days Northolt aerodrome would have been inconvenienced as Omar's shot kept on climbing.

Dartford also beat the Stones here at the Vale last season in front of a 1,002 crowd. After our on-loan winger Iffy Allen was controversially sent-off three minutes from half time (yet another overturned decision), league leaders Darts fell

behind to a terrific Dan Fitchett header from Dave Pratt's cross and as the game moved into the last ten minutes it seemed the ten men would prevail. But increasing Darts pressure led to the giant Danny Mills - so often our nemesis - heading past Jonathan North, and then two minutes later the prolific Alfie Pavey converted another set-piece for the winner.

Yet we have never lost at Princes Park, the seven visits racking up five draws and two wins. The latest was of course the comprehensive 3-0 victory in August when two first-half poacher's goals from Bradley Bubb had the away fans celebrating wildly... and then sparking even more jubilant scenes when Jeffrey Monakana cut inside to wallop a tremendous clinching 25-yarder after the break.

Which way will it go today with the Darts reasserting themselves after a poor start to the season? It's anyone's guess...

## A new feature to test your memories...

**J**ust when you thought we couldn't squeeze any more nostalgia into your Super Soaraway Stones Prog... here's a picture quiz with a difference.

In fact, to be honest it's more about similarities (without giving anything away) as we kick off with a pair of pix from the 1980s.

Can you identify the two players in Picture 1,

who the Stones are playing and the venue? And the competition? If you get all five I'd be very impressed.

Picture 2 is a bit easier (!) and the Elmslie End in the background is a bit of a giveaway. But who are the opposition, the competition and the two dark-shirted defenders?

The answers are printed vertically up the side of Page 42 (the WFC Community Trust page) so no peeking!



PIC 2



PIC 1





## WEALDSTONE v DARTFORD 05.01.19

Picture quiz results: Pic 2 was of Stones' Paul Bowgett and Lee Holmes defending against Wycombe Wanderers in our home FA Trophy 2nd round tie (won 2-1) in February 1985. Pic 1 is Wealdstone's Tommy English (left) and Wycombe defender Keith Barrett during our 1-0 defeat at Loakes Park in the Gola League clash, February 1988

Most Stones fans will be aware that, following promotion to the National League South, the club formed its own Community Trust in order to play a more significant role in the local community. Its 3 operatives are Nick Symmons, Frank Funnell and Mick Fishman.

The 3 projects launched and operated by the club involve Walking Football, Tea Dancing and a joint football based activity and numeracy scheme for Year 3 pupils in local schools. Both the Walking Football schemes and that for the Tea Dancing have taken on lives of their own and are running very successfully. The Schools Project is a more complex animal and requires the involvement of a greater number of people in order to make it work. Having trialled it for the first year and run it successfully the following year, The Trust was announced winner of the National League Trust Schools Project of the Year of 2017/18, and with the award came a £5,000 prize for the Trust to use to expand its activities. The award was presented to the Trustees at the last home match against Eastbourne Borough by Brian Lee, the Chairman of the National League Community Trust.

As well as the prize Brian also awarded the Trust the maximum amount of £20,000 which a club can receive each season from the National League Trust for community activities. These cheques will fund the WFC Trust's programme for this season, Donations, however, are always welcome!

During the course of the 3 academic years in which the scheme has operated, the Trust has provided the activity in 9 schools – St Bernadette's, St Joseph's, Camrose, Aylward, Roxeth and Glebe in the London Borough of Harrow, and Sacred Heart, Lady Bankes and Field End in Hillingdon. In doing so the Trust has already reached well over 1,300 pupils.

A massive part in the scheme's success has been due to the involvement and enthusiasm of David O'Farrell, the Head Teacher at St Bernadette's school in Kenton. David, a serious Fulham fan but also a fairly frequent attendee at Wealdstone matches, co-devised with his Deputy Head Kevin Bassett, the numeracy pack used in the scheme. The pack provides the school teachers ten pre-prepared football related maths lessons for year 3 children. The



# Community Trust

schools are also provided with prepared question packs for every student in year 7. David's support for the scheme, particularly in selling it to other Head Teachers, has been invaluable.

Crucial to the scheme is the quality of the coaches and a big thank you must go out to Jade Dempster and Paul Hughes, who were the coaches for the first crucial year, as well as to Eddie Oshodi, Omar Koroma, Nathan Mavilla, Matty Whichelow, Taofiq Olomowewe, Ronnie Welch, Liam Goulding and Dylan Kearney, who have all coached at the schools during the subsequent years. A big thanks also to Stones legend, Gordon Bartlett, who took over the role of Head Coach last year and helped raise the standard of what was on offer still further.

## Wealdstone are winners of the pitch.. to the tune of £5,000

The Trust hopes to build on this success by continuing to offer the scheme to local schools and at the same time improving its content and delivery. "We are very proud of what we have achieved so far but it is no easy thing to construct a programme and recruit people with the suitable skills to carry it through. Whilst we have done well so far, we are not resting on our laurels and will work closely with our partners further to improve the scheme" said Trust Chairman Nick Symmons. One of the next steps is to convert the organisation into a registered charity so, beware; we will be looking for five new Trustees to make sure the new set up sticks to its charitable aims and objectives. The move to a registered charity should open the doors to more grant funders and hence open the programme up to more people and more diverse activities.

Wealdstone Football Club is proud of its Community Trust and what it has been able to achieve in such a short time in helping both young and old and in raising the club's profile within the local community.





# BALL SPONSORS

A traditional package for businesses (from £175 + vat) or fans (from £150) for two people that will give you the satisfaction of knowing you have paid for the ball that Wealdstone FC are banging into the net (or out of the ground!).

As 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



## WEALDSTONE v DARTFORD BALL SPONSORS

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  
• Ray Corner



## 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  
• Alan Couch - in Memory of Roy Couch  
• 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

## SHOW YOUR SUPPORT — SPONSOR A STONE!

**S**UPPORT your favourite player by sponsoring their kit for the whole of the 2018/2019 season. The cost is £130 to see your name on these pages through until our final game in April 2019. Choose your favourite and call Paul Rumens on **07710 929692**. All pictures on these pages reproduced courtesy of Steve Foster / Aqueous Sun Photography (@aqueoussunphoto)




**JAMIE LEACOCK**  
RON MOORE



**MIKE PERCIVAL**  
ALAN COUCH



**MARK POVEY**  
WEALDSTONE LADIES



**TONY WAUGH**  
NEIL & XANDER RANDS



**LEO MORRIS**  
MEGAPHONE MICK



**JONATHAN NORTH**  
AKHIL, NIKHIL AND SUDHIR RAWAL



**BRADLEY HUDSON-ODOI**  
RAY CORNER



**MATT LENCH**  
TO SPONSOR MATT  
CALL 07710 929692



**CONNOR STEVENS**  
FRIENDS OF WEALDSTONE



**DANNY GREEN**  
DAVID LEIGH




**DAVID PRATT**  
BARRY BENVENISTE



**FREDDIE GRANT**  
MIKE & VAL WESTON



**BOBBY WILKINSON**  
ALYSON ANGELIDES



**IAN HOBBS**  
TO SPONSOR IAN  
CALL 07710 929692



**GLENN WILSON**  
GINGE



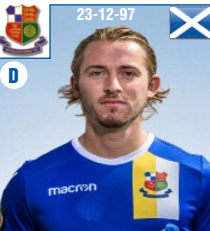
**GODFREY POKU**  
JAMES KLARFELD



**JEFFREY MONAKANA**  
TO SPONSOR JEFFREY  
CALL 07710 929692



**CALLUM THOMAS**  
TO SPONSOR CALLUM  
CALL 07710 929692



**JAKE SHEPPARD**  
DAVE EDWARDS



**JAMES CLARK**  
TO SPONSOR JAMES  
CALL 07710 929692



**RHYS TYLER**  
TONY & PETER DREW




**JEROME OKIMO**  
IAN, MIKE, BRIAN & DOUG




**ELLIOTT CHARLES**  
TO SPONSOR ELLIOTT  
CALL 07710 929692



**SIMON MENSAH**  
TO SPONSOR SIMON  
CALL 07710 929692



**STEFAN BROWN**  
TO SPONSOR STEFAN  
CALL 07710 929692



**BRADLEY BUBB**  
MARK & MATTY SNELL



**FUMNAYA SHOMOTUN**  
TO SPONSOR FUMNAYA  
CALL 07710 929692



**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.





Follow  
the Stones  
here and on  
the road

## UPCOMING FIXTURES

### HOME

#### Brentford 'B'

MIDDLESEX SENIOR CUP QUARTER FINAL

Tuesday, 8th January, 7:45pm

#### Hungerford Town

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Saturday, 19th January, 3:00pm

£9 entry for Premier / EFL season ticket holders

#### Billericay Town

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Saturday, 2nd February, 3:00pm

£9 entry for Premier / EFL season ticket holders

#### St Albans City

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Saturday, 16th February, 3:00pm

£9 entry for Premier / EFL season ticket holders

### AWAY

#### Concord Rangers

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Saturday, 12th January, 3:00pm

[www.concordrangers.co.uk](http://www.concordrangers.co.uk)

#### Woking

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Saturday, 26th January, 3:00pm

[www.wokingfc.co.uk](http://www.wokingfc.co.uk)

#### Weston-super-Mare

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Saturday, 9th February, 3:00pm

[www.westonsmareafc.co.uk](http://www.westonsmareafc.co.uk)

#### Eastbourne Borough

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Saturday, 23rd February, 3:00pm

[www.ebfc.co.uk](http://www.ebfc.co.uk)

FOR ALL FIXTURE NEWS: [WWW.WEALDSTONEFC.COM](http://WWW.WEALDSTONEFC.COM)

## Vanarama National League South at 1st January 2019

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 Torquay United	24	15	6	3	47	19	12	8	2	2	26	13	12	7	4	1	21	6	28	51	0-3
2 Woking	22	15	4	3	47	24	10	7	1	2	21	12	12	8	3	1	26	12	23	49	1-0
3 Concord Rangers	24	12	6	6	37	26	12	8	3	1	26	9	12	4	3	5	11	17	11	42	1-1
4 Chelmsford City	24	12	5	7	41	29	12	6	3	3	18	13	12	6	2	4	23	16	12	41	2-3
5 Bath City	23	12	4	7	38	21	12	7	1	4	22	10	11	5	3	3	16	11	17	40	3-3
6 Welling United	23	11	5	7	38	25	12	8	2	2	22	12	11	3	3	5	16	13	13	38	1-1
7 Billericay Town	23	11	5	7	39	33	11	5	3	3	17	17	12	6	2	4	22	16	6	38	0-1
8 Dartford	23	11	5	7	27	29	12	7	3	2	16	13	11	4	2	5	11	16	-2	38	3-0
9 Oxford City	24	11	4	9	41	30	12	7	2	3	22	10	12	4	2	6	19	20	11	37	0-3
10 St Albans City	23	11	4	8	40	35	12	7	2	3	21	15	11	4	2	5	19	20	5	37	0-0
11 Slough Town	22	10	4	8	29	21	11	5	2	4	13	9	11	5	2	4	16	12	8	34	0-3 1-0
12 Chippenham Town	24	10	4	10	36	40	12	7	2	3	23	17	12	3	2	7	13	23	-4	34	1-3
13 Wealdstone	23	9	6	8	28	30	12	5	2	5	18	20	11	4	4	3	10	10	-2	33	-- --
14 Hemel Hempstead Town	24	9	6	9	28	33	12	4	4	4	15	17	12	5	2	5	13	16	-5	33	1-0
15 Eastbourne Borough	24	8	6	10	34	37	12	5	2	5	21	21	12	3	4	5	13	16	-3	30	3-3
16 Hampton & Richmond	24	8	4	12	28	39	12	4	1	7	12	20	12	4	3	5	16	19	-11	28	2-1
17 Dulwich Hamlet	24	7	5	12	26	33	12	4	2	6	11	14	12	3	3	6	15	19	-7	26	1-1
18 Truro City	22	6	5	11	32	46	10	2	2	6	14	22	12	4	3	5	18	24	-14	23	3-0
19 Hungerford Town	24	5	4	15	24	51	12	3	3	6	12	22	12	2	1	9	12	29	-27	19	1-1
20 Gloucester City	24	4	6	14	17	35	12	2	5	5	11	16	12	2	1	9	6	19	-18	18	2-0
21 East Thurrock United	24	4	4	16	20	39	12	4	2	6	13	16	12	0	2	10	7	23	-19	16	1-0
22 Weston-super-Mare	24	3	6	15	28	50	12	0	5	7	11	22	12	3	1	8	17	28	-22	15	4-1