





# Written in Stone

**I would like to extend a warm welcome to our visitors from Hemel Hempstead Town, Manager Joe Deeney, his back room team, players and supporters.**

Tradition dictates that I take this opportunity to thank all of those that have helped bring you our matchday programme this season. Tradition over the last seven seasons that I have been at the wheel also dictates that I miss someone out... so sorry in advance.

I will start with the core team of Messrs Tim Parks, Martin Read and Martin Lacey. It would quite simply not be possible to produce a programme of this standard without the incredible work and dedication of these guys, so a personal massive thanks to you all.

Thanks also to everyone who contributes content over the course of the season as articles, reports, pictures or statistics..... Content is King. Sud, Fingers, Guv, Jamie, Dom, Roger, Peter, Matthew, Steve, Attic,

Dec, Dan, Nicole and all of the Supporters Club contributors.

Thank you to everyone who thanks me personally throughout the year or congratulates me on awards won (we are still the National League South Programme of the Year you know). As you can see this is a team production and I accept your praise on behalf of us all.

Finally a huge thank you to 'The Friends of Wealdstone' and Ruislip Social Club who financially dug us out of a disastrous IT black hole earlier in the year and without whom you genuinely wouldn't be reading this programme.

Just time for some final reminders to grab your Early Bird Season Ticket bargains and to keep an eye on our social media channels for some exciting pre-season friendlies.

Enjoy your summer and see you all next season.

**Mark**

TWITTER - @WealdstoneProg

wfcprogramme@googlemail.com



## Match Sponsor **The Weiner Family**

Notwithstanding Oli and Matthew being avid Arsenal supporters and season ticket holders, they have adopted Wealdstone FC as their second team and look forward to cheering The Stones on this afternoon. Whilst, Grosvenor Vale might not have all the creature comforts of The Emirates, the Weiner's love being that much closer to the action and the intense atmosphere unique to The Stones' home games. Oli will be wearing his replica shirt with pride this afternoon.

## Match Sponsor **SFC Wealdstone**

## Ball Donors **The Franklins & Mascott Joe Franklin**

Joe is 8 years old and is in Year 3 at Chalfont St Giles Village School. He started supporting The Stones last season after seeing his Grandad, Nigel, feature in the matchday programme. He loves to watch them home and away keeping a record of all the grounds he has visited. His favourite Stones player is Freddie Grant.

If he isn't supporting the Stones he likes to follow The Arsenal and play Fortnite.

He plays for Chalfont Saints U/8's and attends the Wycombe Wanderers Development Centre. His favourite position is Centre Midfield and likes a go on goal occasionally.



Joe (right) pictured with his sister Connie and Dad Paul





# 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

Interim Chairman  
Rory Fitzgerald  
Interim Vice Chairman  
Mark Randall  
Directors Dominic Whyley, Nick Symmons, Jon Pettifer  
Associate Directors  
Paul Rumens, Paul Fruin,  
Peter Worby, Mark Barton  
Technical Director  
Richard Johnson  
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  
Events Officer  
James Klarfeld  
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 OPERATION

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

### LIAISON OFFICERS

WFCSC / 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

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

## GROUND REGULATIONS

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 Bulls stand
- 2) No spectator ball games.
- 3) The consumption of alcoholic drinks is permitted INSIDE the social club bar, garden and boardroom areas.
- 4) Vehicles parked on the Grosvenor Vale site are at the owners' risk.
- 5) Wealdstone Football Club supports the FA's campaign on pyrotechnics (e.g. flares and smoke bombs). Any misuse of such items in and around the Ground will result in those responsible being asked to leave the ground and, in line with football authority guidance, may result in a report to the Police, potential prosecution and a ban from the Club of up to three years.

Wealdstone FC Board of Directors



# From the Gaffer and management team



## **A** warm welcome to Joe Deeney his management team, players and officials of Hemel Hempstead Football Club.

Today marks the last game of the season. It seems to have flown by, but we can be proud that as we enter the last game of the season, we very much have everything to play for. Yes, we need a bit of luck but we have to believe that it is possible. We have to take care of what we need to do and not worry about what we can't control. I urge you today to enjoy the day. Create a party atmosphere and back these boys for the 90 minutes as you have every week at The Vale.

Last weekend was full of mixed emotions. The Dulwich game was disappointing, and the feeling afterwards was painful. To then pick ourselves up and produce the display we did at Chelmsford was incredible and the boys yet again just showed the character they have. To have given ourselves a small chance epitomised this squads never say die attitude. The thought of coming to play a game out with nothing riding on it is an experience we've only experienced last year and we didn't want to face that scenario again. This is something we impressed on the boys and they delivered for us on the day.

We would like to thank each and every one

of you for your support throughout the season. This is a special club with huge potential and when we all come as one there is no doubt it is one of the best in non-league football. As we look forward, we have a renewed confidence in what we can achieve. Despite the recent uncertainty after some very positive meetings with Rory he has ensured us that he has the welfare of the club at heart and only wants success for Wealdstone. Our job will be to learn from this year, make the required tweaks and continue to progress this club. We should all be excited and believe that we will achieve the success we all want. Never stop believing.

Back to today and we have a local derby so Hemel will not come and roll over here. They will want to finish the season well so we know it will be a tough game. There is no second chance after today so the boys know what they need to do and we are ready to capitalise on any slip ups above us.

Enjoy the game and hopefully we'll see you for a drink at the awards this evening to celebrate the season.

**Bobby and the management team.**

# Behind the Vale

**FROM THE BOARDROOM****BY DOMINIC WHLEY**

**W**elcome to the last game of the season with us mathematically in with a shout of the play offs. A win today and a series of favourable results could sneak us into 7th place. However if we miss out, I suspect in the cold light of day, we'll reflect on this season being an opportunity missed.

Plans are underway for pre-season and we will try and keep everyone informed over the Summer as and when there is news to share about players and the running of the club. The past few months have been especially tough as we looked to close out this season whilst retaining a budget that gave us a chance to make the play-offs, whilst planning forward-looking activity which we hope will help the club progress.

The summer will inevitably see a number of players move on and we thank everyone who has represented us this season for their efforts. I want every player to leave Wealdstone with a good impression and an appreciation of what a great club this is.

There's lots of speculation about next season's budget and in the same way we haven't publicly disclosed our playing budget in previous seasons, there's no intention of doing so for next season. We will start with a lower budget than was set for this season and consequently will have to use it wisely to be competitive. Bobby is aware of the budget and has had positive conversations with Rory around building for next season. Whilst comparing budgets across clubs in the division is rarely more than supposition, the budget we have will certainly not be 'peanuts' and I have every confidence we can over achieve if we all pull together.

There are clearly members of the current squad that we'd like to retain and, in most cases, discussions have started with those players. The nature of football at this level is that we may well lose one or two players that we want to retain. The offers we make will be fair and I believe competitive compared to other clubs at this level, however if a player is offered considerably more money elsewhere then we obviously risk losing them.

I'm personally looking forward to next season and the chance to start with a clean slate. There's understandably some scepticism about our ability to compete, however one thing I know is that we'll give ourselves a better

chance of succeeding if we all pull together and get behind the Manager, the players and the Board.

I've always said that I want Wealdstone Football Club to be the club that every player in the area (and beyond) aspires to join. In my opinion, we have the best ground, the best pitch, the best fans and pay competitive wages. We also have a good track record of players progressing into full-time football – we have something to sell to players.

I also want Wealdstone Football Club to conduct itself in the right way, to have principles and values. How we treat other clubs, how we treat former and current players, respecting opposition fans, players and officials, all those things should be important to us.

Every single member of your Board wants to progress the club, every single one of us wants to be as successful as we can be on the pitch. I, like most other fans, read the forum and Twitter and whilst supporters should absolutely question the Board about the running of the club, and I respect everyone's right to an opinion, there's a couple of names unlikely to make it onto my Christmas card list any time soon! It's easy to peddle an agenda and snipe but I am comfortable in the knowledge that our energies and efforts are being spent in trying to make OUR club better.

As always at this stage of the season, there are too many people to thank individually and collectively and we're blessed to have such amazing volunteers and such a loyal and passionate fan base. From stewarding, to ground works, the pop-up bar, music gigs, Wembley fan visits, turnstyle operators, tannoy announcers, our award winning programme, the brilliant club shop. Golden Goals, our catering, our ever improving social media and great photographers, Fingers!, our boardroom hospitality, away coaches, fundraising events etc. We should be mighty proud to be a part of the Mighty Mighty Stones. This club simply wouldn't be the club we are without the amazing support and generosity of our fan base.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you to everyone for their support this season. I've said before and I'll say it again, this club is special and we have some of the best supporters at our level in the country. We also have a great history and huge potential.

**Dominic**

BY SUDHIR RAWAL

WEALDSTONE v HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN  
ELMSLIE ENDER

# The Elmslie Ender



## It's time for the traditional EE end of season report...

**U**ltimately, as the season draws to a close, it will be one that ends with great disappointment as Wealdstone are likely to finish around 10th or 11th, pretty much where we ended the last campaign and lower than the season before. Four seasons in Conference South football have seen us firmly ensconced in mid-table. Our budget for the last two campaigns have been the highest and second highest in our history, so a return that means the play offs haven't been reached can only be seen in those terms of disappointment.

There was great optimism in August. A number of signings had been made early and the management team had the summer to drill the squad and get their fitness levels to a standard that would hold Wealdstone in good stead throughout the season. Stones started well, with particularly a win over title favourites Woking at the Vale, in front of our largest league attendance since our Conference National days thirty years previously, particularly getting the fans purring with what we could achieve this season. Whilst there was the odd blip in terms of results, the run through towards the end of October was good and Stones firmly in a play off place. Then, due to unforeseen and

unfortunate circumstances, we lost Wadah Ahmidi and crashed out of the FA Cup at home to Sutton, despite having a penalty to win the game as the match moved into injury time at the end of the game. Torquay came to town and gave us a footballing lesson.

November saw the start of rumblings around the finances of the club. A meeting called by the board stated that there was six figure hole in the budget, with our then chairman reducing his investment for the coming season to a third of what it had been the previous two seasons. Despite this, we carried on over budget! Our form on the football field fell away, no doubt affected by the boardroom issues that ultimately saw the chairman asked to stand down, but the players continued to be paid in full and on time. If the second half of November was poor, then December was horrible as we crashed out of the Trophy to lower league Biggleswade and didn't win a league game all month, scoring a single goal. We were hurtling towards the cliff and there were many more concerned about the trap door at the bottom than the play offs.

To the immense credit of the management team and the playing staff, 2019 saw the resurrection of our footballing season which went down to the Dulwich

match before we bowed out, after a similar defeat at lower mid-table Hampton the week before. Yes, as I write this on the morning of our trip to Chelmsford, we have a faint chance of still getting a play off spot, but it would need the help of Malaysian betting syndicates that even Jeremy Albert wouldn't bet on for that to happen. I suspect we just ran out of puff in the end. The small squad, reduced to keep in line which what the finances required, stretched too far and the management team were unable to refresh when required, whilst teams around us were able to bring in new players. So what went wrong? I suggest most of us are happy with our defensive line-up and the centre of midfield. You'd have to say our inability to score goals, certainly from the centre forward positions, has had a huge impact. As I am typing this, something has popped into my twitter timeline that sums it up perfectly: "Stones were a goal scoring forward away from getting into the play-offs". It's harsh maybe, but pretty much spot on. Bradley Bubb's injury will not doubt be crucial when the season embers are picked over. Our leading goalscorer in the league has eleven, after which the next has six. You don't go up with a scoring record so lame. Dulwich and Hampton defeats summed it up perfectly. Early domination, missed chances and then the opposition score and we can't recover.

There has to be an underlying feeling that the generous largesse of Peter Marsden has been wasted. We may never be in a situation of being so flushed with cash again and what do we have to show for it: a Trophy semi final and a new stand? It seems painful that new and old directors were unable or unwilling to work together. Peter's money should have set the club up for many years.

This brings me to next season. A much-reduced budget will see us in very different terrain. With the Conference South only relegating two clubs next season, it will be hopefully be more difficult to fall out of the trap door. The league next season looks incredibly strong when you look at the likely

teams coming up and more importantly who will be coming down. The job of the board is to ensure the management team is given a budget that allows them to be competitive and keep our better players, whilst refreshing other parts. Getting value for money will be key. It would be an awful shame if we lost players like Jonathan North, in his testimonial year, Connor Stevens, Jerome Okimo, Freddie Grant, Rhys Taylor, Danny Green and the magnificent Godfrey Poku because we couldn't afford them anymore. Obviously there are others as well, but you can build a team around those that I have mentioned next season.

Whilst not being involved in post season games is a real disappointment; bizarrely, though assisted by the fact that we have actually had some away fans this season visiting the Vale, our home gates could well average over 900 this season, for the first time since the mid-seventies. Currently averaging 906, an increase of 8.5% on the last campaign, almost of a third of our league games have attracted four figure gates and if we managed to get our stuff together at Grosvenor Vale and engage not eject the burgeoning youth element, we could easily average four figures, which, when we came to the HA4, would have been pie in the sky stuff. Our first league attendance at the Vale was 387. We have come along a long way.

Anyway enjoy the summer. Hopefully Middlesex's decent start with the white ball will continue and the cricketing world cup brings a win for the boys in blue!

I will leave you with a quote from Hunter Davies: "True supporters care. They care enough to argue vehemently but often perceptively about the team, the players, the issues; they care enough to commit themselves to be the cause of the club; they care enough to turn up week after week and support the team; they care enough to criticise amongst themselves their own players. The opposite of love, after all, is not hate, but indifference.

Sud



# REFLECTIONS FROM EL PRESIDENTE

BY PAUL RUMENS



**G**reetings from the Vale and here we are bringing the curtain down on yet another season (or not depending on the results today!). I know this, IF we sneak into the play offs nobody will want to play us, least of all Chelmsford and Woking but it starts with beating Hemel who will be no pushovers today.

Since the turn of the year, it's been a period of change and much greater stability throughout the club which has been long overdue. Funny how that has translated so well onto the pitch with a smaller group of players and tighter budget controls!

As a club we now have an excellent man at the helm in Rory and a more settled board to take the club forward.

There will be more announcements in due course to come in the coming weeks as the club secures the right deals on player recruitment, new sponsors and other outside investment.

I can assure all of you that huge strides are being made behind the scenes to give Bobby a decent budget to work with for the next campaign. We all want the same things as you to put the best team out on the pitch and glean some silverware.

One thing for sure is this board will never sanction the profligate spending that was allowed to happen with some stupendous and ill thought out contracts dished out to some players which came close to putting the club into serious financial measures. This is NOT the fault of any player mind.

We as a club have always honoured our contracts to players and always will do.

Thankfully from the swift intervention of Rory, Dominic and Nick Symmons - these gentlemen have had to cover a massive shortfall from the previous regime of nigh on £100K just to get us to where we are now otherwise we would be in trouble. I thank them enormously and so should you.

Bear in mind, this is after you take into account our £180K reserves built up in the social club over a ten year period that have been largely wasted in side 2 years and now find ourselves down to a few thousand pounds.

Leo, Karen, James and all the staff do an amazing job at Ruislip Social Club and are already making inroads to replenishing those coffers since the turn of the year but this will take time over and above the increasing contributions it already makes to the football club on an ongoing basis.

We WILL recover from this but a real crying shame that the money could not have been put to better use.

It's just such a pity that a couple of people sought fit to ignore the rest of the board and plough on regardless.

Lessons are now learnt with the right measures firmly in place.

Other good news sees our attendances continually rise and that is clearly down to the bargain season tickets offered by the club with over 450 signed up for this current campaign and hopefully similar numbers for next. Let's not also forget we are many Premier & Football League fans second team by way of the long established discounted admission prices and we will continue to push this.

Imagine how good our attendances could be if we can turn around our home form since we came into the NLS which has been pretty poor.

The club are working to rebuild the bridges with the youth set up and incorporate ever stronger links going forward. They have over 450 players now wearing the famous blue & white - and are also a huge part of our future. The Ladies are going from strength to strength under the stewardship of Mark Barton as well.

I thank everyone connected at the club and too many to singularly mention for this and every season for all their incredible efforts to keep pushing the club forward. You are ALL truly amazing!

We are a unique and special organisation with incredibly passionate fans and fantastic volunteers so let's galvanise this great club again and exceed the sum of our parts like I know we can do.

The snipers have had their say now it's time to move on.

As a WHOLE UNIFIED set up moving in the same direction, we have no limits to what we can achieve both on and off the pitch.

By the way, don't be too surprised if you get a phone call from Jez Albert or the like during the close season as you, the fans, will have a role to play in helping with some funding of a player or two. You've made the difference before and you can play a big part again.

Enjoy the summer, but first let's see you all make the club's "End of Season Awards" which kicks off this evening at 6.30 in the clubhouse while joining us for a beer or two as well.

Paul

# IN MEMORIAM



## Jim Carrington 1965-2018

As a young boy Jim, my brother, inspired by his hero Gordon Banks, started off footballing life as a Stoke City supporter. However it wasn't long before our dad, who himself had been born in Wealdstone, took my brothers to Lower Mead and Jim caught the bug and transferred his loyalty to WFC. I was considered too young to go along, and had to make do with learning about Georgie Duck second hand.

However before too long Jim started taking me to games. I have happy memories of munching sandwiches together on the bus over to Lower Mead, singing on the terraces about Barbara Robson and getting my own heroes - Clevere Forde, The Cordices, Byatt and so on.

1985 was a memorable year. We were growing up and a little apart. But we were there. We met on the terraces of the old Wembley at kick-off and watched The Stones win the F.A. Trophy and clinch the cup and league double. It was the stuff of dreams.

We returned home to share our day with our delighted dad, who by then was starting to succumb to cancer, that had been diagnosed two years earlier. The man who had started it all, our own hero, died aged 53 a few weeks later.

I lost all interest in Wealdstone FC. That however, was not Jim's style. He followed them closely wherever he was and whatever he was doing. A true supporter of the club. In time it was Jim's turn to take his own boys, Eddie and Thomas, this time to Grosvenor Vale, along with his wife Liz.

For me 2018 will also remain a memorable year. After 33 years I made it to a game- the FA Trophy victory over Warrington. I was there with my son Ben, and with Jim and Thomas. Different ground, different everything but same fantastic atmosphere that we had experienced at Lower Mead and one that makes premier league matches look like a vicar's tea party.

We had a great day. But we knew it wouldn't happen again. Jim was like dad in many ways, and sadly this extended to health.

Jim died from cancer, also at the age of 53, on 11th May 2018. A hero for me and many others.

**Peter**



## Steve Kingman

Steve Kingman Loving husband, caring father of 4 and loyal stones supporter sadly passed away 30th March 2019.

**The Board and Management of Wealdstone FC offer their sincere condolences to the families and friends of Jim and Steve.**





# Fan in the Stand

STEVE HOBBS

WEALDSTONE v HEMEL  
HEMPSTEAD 27.04.209

**Whereabouts do you live Hobbsy?** I've recently moved back to Pinner after a short stay in Hemel Hempstead but I have lived most of my life in & around the Harrow area

**Are you working?** Yes, I'm full time and have been with the same company for just over 30 years, based in Hayes, Middlesex.

**First Stones game?** The first game that I actually remember going to was Wembley in 1966 Amateur Cup Final versus Hendon, winning 3-1 - although I've been told I was actually taken to a few games from the ripe old age of three!

**What or who persuaded you to become a Stones fan?** My Dad, Grandad and Uncles have all been Stones fans since the 1930s. I also have a cousin that has caught the family bug (Mark) and now a couple of my grandsons (Kieran and Ashley) attend on a regular basis home and away.

**Do you follow any other team?** QPR results only (enough said) but Wealdstone has been -and always will be - the one for me (it's running through my veins). As we say: Once a Stone always a Stone.

**What was your favourite era watching the Stones?** I'd have to say the 1980s (Gola & FA Trophy Double Winners)

**How do you fit watching football, and Wealdstone, into your family/working life?** To be honest Wealdstone always used to come first, so I never had a problem getting to matches (even mid week games



Hobbsy and his oldest grandson Kieran at The Vale

Wealdstone have always come first since my school days... amazingly I always seemed to be unwell when Stones had a long away trip

away such as Gateshead, Altrincham etc... Amazingly I always seemed to feel unwell on school days when the mighty Stones had a long away trip).

**How big a part of your life is the game?** Massive. Even if I can't get to games now I'm always glued to twitter and the forum & get regular updated texts from others who attend the games (like Big Dave).

**Most memorable game/s you've EVER seen?** There's been a few (all Weald-



stone).. Trophy Final in 85 / Kettering away to win the Gola League 1985 / Newport away in the trophy 2012 / Cambridge away again in the Trophy 2012.

**And most memorable Wealdstone game, and moment?** Wembley in 85, winning the FA Trophy by beating Boston United & becoming the first team to win the Non League Double - and the celebrations continued well into the early hours.

**What really gets your goat watching football?** Players diving & rolling around like they have been shot.

**Have you ever played the game yourself (to any level) and most memorable moments ?** Only for SFC Wealdstone (Only??? - Ed)

**Any suggestions to improve your Stones -watching experience at the Vale?** To be honest there isn't, the ground at Ruislip has come on leaps and bounds since we moved in & I can honestly say it feels like home after so many years on the road. I just hope the lease can be sorted for the long term.

**Favourite current Wealdstone line-up?** Northy - Tyler - Okimo - Stevens - Grant - Poku - Smith

- Green - Mensah - Allarakhian - Bubb (when fit) Otherwise it would have to be Dave Pratt.

**Favourite all-time Stones line-up?** Bob Iles - Steve Perkins - Stuart Pearce - Dennis Byatt - Paul Bowgett - Brian Greenway - Robin Wainwright - Gary Donnellan - Neil Cordice - Alan Cordice - George Duck.

**Best away trips to watch football?** Alder-shot (when we took approx 13 coachloads of fans in the FA Cup, 1975) + Reading + QPR + Newport County & Cambridge United,

the atmosphere at those games were unbelievable.

**What was your highlight of last season?** The trophy run, only to fall at the semis again.

**Best non-League ground you've visited?** I'd have to say Boston United

**Best stadium you've EVER visited?** The new Wembley Stadium

**Where do you like to stand (or sit) at the Vale?** Either in The Bulla / Brian Collins or the new seated area at the turret end

**What are your expectations for the Stones for this season?** Was always the Play Offs - and we still have hope

**How does the current programme compare with others you see?** There's no comparison, it's by far the best in the league & total value for money.

**Any articles or features that you'd like to see?** Not really, I wouldn't of thought you could fit much more in it!

**What do you think of the bars and catering at The Vale? Any beers or food you'd like to be added?** I can't fault either really.

It would be nice to have something hot and different during the winter months like curry n rice (if we ever get midweek games).

**Do you buy much at the clubshop?** Have done occasionally, also have bought online

**How do you feel on the kit debate-solid blue shirts or quarters?** I would go with the Solid Blue ones

**What is your Wealdstone 'claim to fame'?** One of the famous two who wore the Boiler Suits back in the 80s. Say no more :)

**Finally, where do you see the club in five years time?** We should be in the National Conference.



# THE BIG, BIG INTERVIEW



BY TIM PARKS

## The George Duck Story: Part Three



Left: George was put on the spot a fortnight ago when match sponsor Jon Taffel persuaded him to wear an 'I hate Harrow Borough' badge in the boardroom... although the legend might have been distracted by Jon's lovely daughters Lucy (far left) and Charlotte. How apt that today's Part Three covers George's 'defection' to our arch rivals...

In the last home programme we continued the story of Stones' greatest-ever goal-scorer: George Duck, who netted 251 times in just seven seasons, between 1972 and 1979.

Parts One and Two covered his youthful career at Spurs, Millwall and Southend before making "the best decision of my life" and signing for Sid Prosser at Wealdstone. Then came the difficult decision to join Dagenham in search of Wembley glory - which he achieved - and finally, the controversial move to local rivals H\*\*\*\*w B\*\*\*\*\*h....

So now let's grasp the poisoned chalice. George, how could you then go and sign for Harrow Borough? What were you thinking? The King of Lower Mead joining our arch-rivals? It was tantamount to Stevie Gerrard signing for Everton... like David Beckham signing for Man City.... like Tony Adams signing for Spurs.

"To be honest, it was just a deal to suit Dagenham at the time and it's only in retrospect that I realise what I did. Let me say, in all honesty that I did not sign for Harrow Borough to spite Wealdstone... maybe it seems a bit naive but I didn't realise the intense rivalry. I was thinking more in terms of us moving from Leighton Buzzard to Harrow Weald at the time, so it suited me geographically" said George.

"I know there are a few supporters at Wealdstone to this day who will never forgive me for

signing for Harrow. I understand and accept that.

"But to give you a bit of the background to it, Eddie and Terry had been sacked in my second season at Dagenham and I was astonished. We were second in the Isthmian League behind Enfield with a real chance of winning the title.

"But there were always people harking back to the glory days under Ted Hardy, and when he became available again it was only a matter of time before they brought him back to manage the side.

"To be fair, Ted was actually a straight-up manager and after I said I was quitting in support of Eddie, he just said "Stay and play, George". I had scored 55 goals in my two seasons there and it seemed they wanted to keep me.

"But Dagenham were dead keen on signing Eddie Stein

from Harrow.... so keen that it was set up as a two-for-one exchange with me and winger Steve Jones (the son of ex-Spurs legend Cliff Jones) going to Earlsmead and Eddie going the other way."

I remember feeling quite shocked that George had signed for The Hairdressers. It never occurred to me that he would be facing us on the pitch, with Stones just relegated to the Southern League and Borough in the parallel Isthmian Premier Division.

Much water had flowed under the bridge since he had left Lower Mead and maybe we thought he would be a spent force in the red shirt of Micky Tomkys' men. Nothing was further from the unpalatable truth.....

**Saturday October 24 1981: FA Cup Third qualifying round, Wealdstone v Harrow Borough at Lower Mead.**

The Stones were enjoying life in the Southern League and looking to bounce straight back to the Conference, this



Alan Cordice (left) puts the pressure on Harrow defender Dave Howells and keeper Les Currell in the Rumble at Lower Mead, October 1981

game coming after a run of 12 wins and a draw in 13 games.

A crowd of 1,138 were in attendance, seemingly most of them in the bear pit of the Elmslie End and howling for the heads of the opposition. There was real rivalry between the teams – Borough were building a decent team to challenge for honours and their number included former Stone David Pearce as well as the mercurial George, who was looking forward to returning to his old stomping ground.

"Lower Mead was my Theatre of Dreams. It was strange turning left into the away changing room, but apart from that it brought back nothing but anticipation. I wasn't really thinking about the fact I was playing against Wealdstone... I think only Nigel Johnson and Stuart Pearce were left of the team I had played in, and they were just kids really.

"The atmosphere was crackling and I scored an early header – then Dave

**CONTINUED OVERPAGE**



# GEORGE DUCK CONTINUED

WEALDSTONE v HEMEL  
HEMPSTEAD 27.04.19

Howell, our centre back, bulletted one in at the Elmslie End to put us 2-0 up with about two attacks. Wealdstone pulled it back to 2-1 – and really, they should have been well ahead – but then I managed to score another, going round Ray Goddard and putting the ball in from a narrow angle. I slid on my knees to the corner flag and celebrated – I was just delighted to have come back to Lower Mead and scored a couple of goals.”

The game ended in acrimony with Borough keeper Les Currell pelted with stunning accuracy by half a dozen eggs. The game was stopped and Stones chairman David Martle came over to the Elmslie End fans to appeal for calm, while stewards roped off an area immediately behind the goal.... And not long after play restarted, Dave Pearce netted a breakaway goal against his old club to complete the humiliation.

“But Wealdstone beat Borough the next time!” George laughed. ‘Just seven days later we met again in the FA Trophy in a strange twist of fate... and that time we had all the play but it ended 2-2. In the replay we got absolutely stuffed 4-0 at Lower Mead.’

**T**he dream of repeating his FA Trophy heroics still beat loud in George’s heart, however.

The following season, with Duck & Pearce forming a deadly partnership, Borough steamed all the way to the semi-finals with a stream of impressive wins - including a 5-1 walloping of holders Enfield in the last eight.

It led to the famous second leg, dubbed ‘The Miracle of Earlsmead’ by barely-believing Telford fans. Despite the bitter cross-Harrow rivalry, you had to feel for George and his team when they suffered tragedy just a week before the first leg. Dave Howell’s cousin Mickey, playing for Hayes against Borough, died after a clash of heads.

“It was terrible for the staff and players, and we travelled up to Telford under a great cloud. Obviously Howellsey wasn’t



**Left: A blast from George’s past. Who recognises the players flanking our ex-star? Yes, it’s West Ham legends Trevor Brooking (left) and skipper Billy Bonds... who were showing off their FA Cup in 1980 in East London when someone suggested that they set up a photoshoot with FA Trophy winners Dagenham. And who else would you choose to meet than Daggars’ main man George?**



**Above: Trophy misery for George. The Shropshire Star carries the story of Telford’s amazing comeback win over Harrow Boro**

playing and we missed him – but it was an awesome performance that day that saw us win 2-0,,, and it might have been 3-0 when I had a goal disallowed for a tight offside flag” said George.

**I** couldn’t get to the Stones game at Weymouth the following Saturday, and instead arrived a bit late at Earlsmead fully expecting to see George book his second Wembley appearance in three years. Just as I came through the turnstiles, there was Dave Pearce right in front of me, wheeling away after scoring for Borough in the first five minutes.

“It was maybe the worst thing that could happen” said George. ‘Telford just had to go for it – you can’t sit back when you’re 3-0 down on aggregate. But what I really remember is that three or four of our players just couldn’t handle it. They went into their shells.

“Clever Forde especially, the winger who had been at Wealdstone the year before – he was our matchwinner, so clever and strong, players just bounced off him and me and Pearcey has said pre-match: ‘Just get the ball over to us, Clev, and we’ll get the goals’.

But he was totally controlled by their right back, Anton Joseph, and we just stopped playing. Telford had a great following there and when they got a goal back you could see the belief flowing through them”.

I reminded George about the dramatic game-changing save by Telford keeper Kevin Charlton right on the full-time whistle. “Ah no, don’t make me think about that” he agonized. “Telford had made it 3-1 on the day, 3-3 on aggregate, and I think the players were settling for extra time when we had one last chance – the ball came over and I hit it on the volley from the edge of the box. I couldn’t have hit it sweeter. I was on my feet about to celebrate when the keeper somehow reached the shot and turned it onto the crossbar.. it was like his arm came out of his sleeve an extra 18 inches! I think that was the best save I’ve ever seen and it couldn’t have come at a worse moment.”

**I** was standing behind that goal and can still remember the anguish among the Borough fans, who saw their Wembley dream evaporate at that very moment. The momentum was entirely with the Shropshire side, backed by around 1,000 travelling fans and it was no surprise when they scored twice more in extra time to win 5-1 on the day, and 5-3 on aggregate. Their special train was delayed but nobody cared! Especially not the Stones fans who were rocking the supporters coaches as the news came through on the way back from Weymouth!

“It was desperately sad” said George. “I sat in the changing room afterwards and the players were upset, but not as upset as they should have been. Me and Jonesy

**CONTINUED OVERPAGE**



# GEORGE DUCK CONTINUED

WEALDSTONE v HEMEL  
HEMPSTEAD 27.04.19

had been at Wembley three years earlier and we knew what they were missing”.

The following season, 1983-84 was an amazing time to be a football fan in North London. Harrow, Wealdstone and Enfield were the undisputed top dogs.

“They were three great teams: said George. “Stones got to the FA Cup second round after beating Enfield in a replay, and Harrow got to the second round too but we both lost – us to Newport and Wealdstone to Colchester. We won the Isthmian League, me and Pearcey getting the goals, but didn’t take promotion to the Conference.”

**Was that Boro side better than Wealdstone in the 70s? I asked him.**

“That’s a difficult question, but I have an easy answer: No! Boro had very committed players in Harry Manoe, Ray Metz, Dave Howell, Steve Emmanuel, Derek Doyle, Les Currell... but the DNA was different at the Stones. We had better quality players playing pure, easy on the eye attacking football. Win the ball back quickly; get it on the deck; keep it out of the mud; play it wide; quality crosses into the box; get on the end of them; and then GOAL! The greatest feeling in the world.

“Here are a few of those quality players: John Morton, Willie Watson, Ray Fulton, John Henderson, Eric Burgess, John McCormick, Bobby Moss, Freddie Barwick, Steve Brinkman, Billy Byrne, Terry Dyson, Adriaan Eglite... I rest my case!

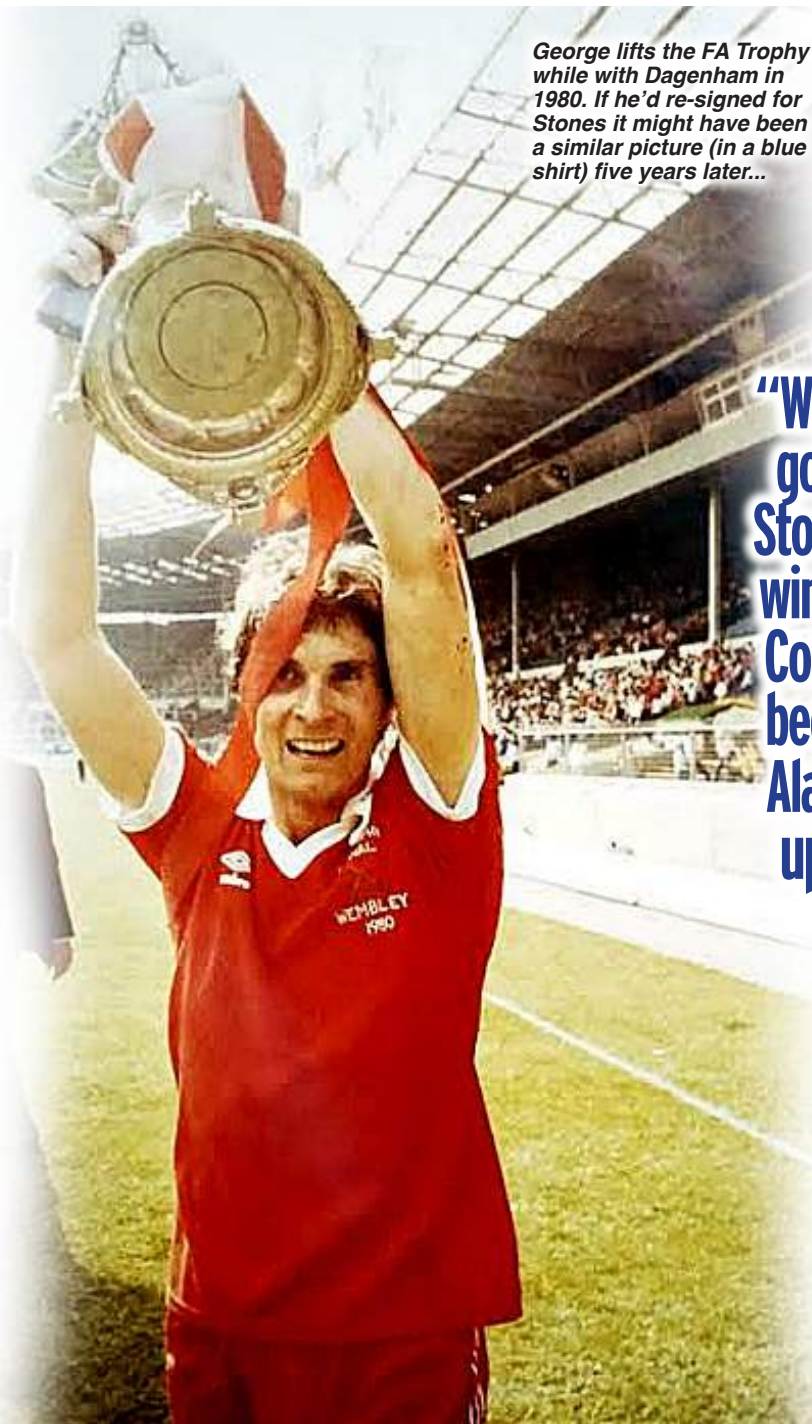
“And if the club had wanted to play the Wimbledon way I’d have been off inside a couple of years. I stayed seven years! That says it all really”.

George was now 32, had won two league titles and one Trophy winners medal but was still desperate for one last tilt at Wembley... but he passed up what may have ensured a glorious finale to his astonishing career.

“I think most people know this story by now, but in the summer of ’84 I met the Wealdstone manager Brian Hall at the John Lyon pub in Harrow, with a view to me returning to the club. How I wish that conversation had gone differently!

“I knew he had built a good squad at Lower Mead and the thought of coming ‘home’ was a big pull. But then the question of money came up and I was dismayed to hear that the

*George lifts the FA Trophy while with Dagenham in 1980. If he’d re-signed for Stones it might have been a similar picture (in a blue shirt) five years later...*



club were still paying half the money in a wage slip, and half the money over the bar.... I had never liked that situation and I don’t know, even now, why it was handled that way. Every other club used wage slips, simple as that.

“Brian Hall wouldn’t budge and so I went and signed for Eddie Presland again, who was by then the manager at Hendon... it was a massive mistake. Hendon just didn’t have the players and in the end we just avoided relegation – I scored a volley at Epsom & Ewell to keep us up in the last game.

“All the time I was looking over at Wealdstone enviously and wondering what might have been. I was

**“Would I have got into the Stones double winning side? Could it have been me and Alan Cordice up front?”**

genuinely delighted for everyone at the club and I hold my hands up and say that was the biggest regret in my career, showing loyalty to Eddie again. I would have given everything to have just been in the Wealdstone squad and been travelling to Wembley. Would I have got in that double-winning side? Was I too similar to Mark Graves? Would the club have needed Andy Graham? Could I have played up front with Alan Cordice?

“No one knows the answer, but history might have been very different if I’d re-signed for the club at the John Lyon.”

Personally, I reckon George could very easily have filled AG’s shoes. In many ways he was a similar player – good touch and balance, and a devastating volley – and in one way he was better: In the air. George Duck, at 6ft, might not have been the biggest centre forward

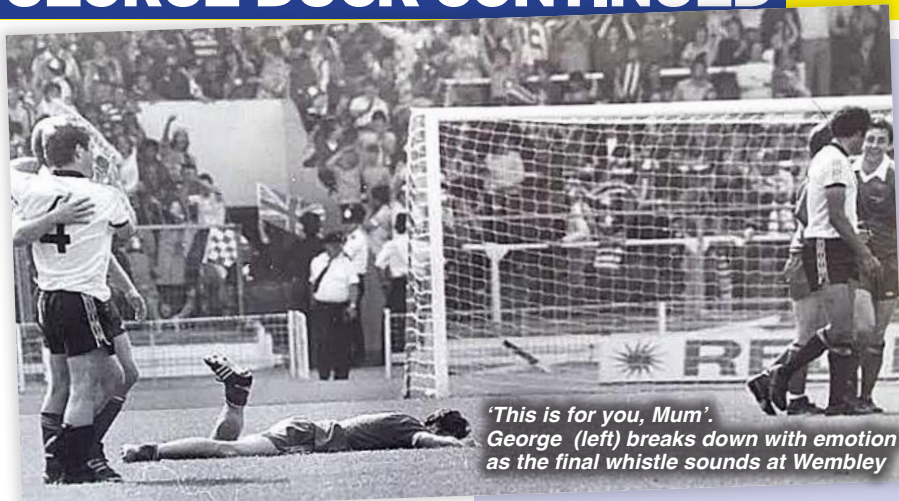
around but his guile and accuracy meant he was unparalleled outside the League for a dozen years.

It was a shame George missed out on the Stones’ finest hour as his career drew to a premature close with Hendon the following season, following a collision with a goalkeeper that broke his cheekbone. “I just got to the ball first and nodded it past him, and he caught me with his fist – an injury like Gary Mabbutt’s for Tottenham around the same time. I was in Northwick Park Hospital for two days, with my cheek all caved in, and I had no feeling in that part of my face for years afterwards.

“I was lucky to only suffer a couple of injuries in all those years – the other was stretched ligaments just after scoring my 200th goal for Wealdstone – but that was enough to make me think I should pack it in.

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

## GEORGE DUCK CONTINUED



*'This is for you, Mum'.  
George (left) breaks down with emotion  
as the final whistle sounds at Wembley*

"Eddie Presland had left the club by then, and he contacted me to ask if I'd sign for his new club Dulwich Hamlet. I told him: 'Eddie, I can't keep following you. You've been sacked three times as my manager, shouldn't that tell you something!

"I loved playing for Eddie but that was the final straw for me. I had decided to get into the cabbying game, had learned 'The Knowledge' and got my licence, so there I was in my black cab alongside Willie.... a job I had for over 30 years. Every day we stopped and chatted about football in general, and Wealdstone in particular and I loved it.

"Football is a drug and it will never leave me. But finally I have to say that I always felt a special bond with the Stones fans - they treated me like Royalty and I agree with Tina Turner when she says you're 'Simply the Best' supporters I ever played for throughout my whole career - and what a wonderful day it was when the club kindly hosted that special sporting lunch a few years ago for me and Willie.

"The unpaid, behind-the-scenes work that all the volunteers carry out at Wealdstone is wonderful. It's not un-noticed. You're all very special people."

*(signed) George Duck No.10.  
See you at the back post ...*

**G**eorge, now 67 years old, is separated from wife Sue and lives on his own in a retirement block in Abbots Langley, working part-time in the Budgens store round the corner.

*"It suits me down to the ground" he says. 'For years I was a cabbie but I suffered an anaphalactic shock, out of the blue, a couple of years ago that is still unexplained. Several things can bring it on and I'd eaten an Indian meal while I had the flu - and I just passed out. I spent two nights in Watford General and had to give up my licence.*

*So now I play a bit of golf, watch a lot of football, keep up with the grandchildren (he has a son Chris and daughter Karen, who has three kids of her own, all girls) and do a bit of dog-walking for my neighbour.*

*"It's a good life. I don't get to talk enough about football but just wait till I get down to Grosvenor Vale!"*

**"Would I have got into the Stones double winning side? Could it have been me and Alan Cordice up front?"**



# HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN

## WEALDSTONE v HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN

# Opposition in focus



**T**he history of Hemel Hempstead Town FC is a complex past, with mergers between local clubs and numerous name changes before finally settling as the club as it is known today. Of the clubs that merged over the years to form the club as we know it today, the history of Apsley FC goes furthest back. Formed in 1885 as Apsley End FC, the club was based at Salmon Meadow and played in a claret and blue strip. The first record of competitive football was in 1889, when the club entered the Herts Senior Cup. Apsley End were then one of the founding member clubs of the West Herts Football Association and entered their first league competition in 1891/92, before changing the name to just Apsley FC two years later. Apsley won the Division One championship in 1894/95, the first honour in the clubs history. Around this time, many clubs competed in more than one league at a time; small numbers of competing clubs meant that entering more than one competition would allow the clubs to play more regularly. Apsley also competed in the Herts County League, entering as a founding member club in 1898/99. Apsley were one of the more successful local teams competing in the Herts County League either side of the first World War, winning three league championships along with many other

high league finishes. In 1922, Apsley left the Herts County League to join the Spartan League.

Apsley competed in the Spartan League for 30 years, during this time the club moved home twice, first to Gee's Meadow in Bourne End for one season, before moving to the new Wood Lane Ground, more commonly known as Crabtree Lane where the club remained until 1972. Whilst in the Spartan League, Apsley claimed three runners up spots in the lower divisions, there was a Division One championship place in 1933/34, but the club failed to make an impression in the Premier Division and were soon relegated. Apsley were one of 29 clubs who rejoined the Spartan League in the season immediately following the second World War, the club showed a great improvement in form and consistency at this time but again only had a couple of runners up spots to show for it. The clubs name changed to Hemel Hempstead Town, it had been some time now since the club had actually been based in Apsley, and following promotion to the Spartan Premier League for the 1951/52 season, the club left to join the Delphian League. Hemel didn't set the Delphian League alight, finishing in the bottom two of the division on five occasions during eleven seasons. The clubs best finish in the Delphian League was as runners up in 1961/62, this success was unable to be built upon as the following season continuous poor weather caused the Delphian League to be abandoned after Hemel had played twelve games. An emergency competition was organised giving Hemel a further eight fixtures, however the Delphian League disbanded once the season finished in 1963 and the clubs formed Division Two of the Athenian League.

In their opening season in the Athenian League, Hemel finished fifth in Division Two and were subsequently promoted to Division One due to restructuring. In 1964-65 Hemel finished as runners up in Division One, winning promotion to the Premier Division.

Hemel only lasted three seasons in the Premier with a best finish of ninth in 1966 before two consecutive relegations saw Hemel start the 1969/70 season in Division Two, a level which Hemel remained for nearly 30 years! In the summer of 1972, Hemel Hempstead Town merged with Hemel Hempstead United, the new club took the simple name of Hemel Hempstead and made United's Vauxhall Road ground as its home.

The last ten years has been very eventful for Hemel with various ground improvements, 2 league championships, a play-off final win, two automatic promotions, promotion through restructuring, and a relegation, not to mention seven changes of manager. The first tasks of the new Committee which gained control of the club in 1997 were to change the name back to Hemel Hempstead Town FC, then to install successful Leverstock Green manager and ex-Hemel captain Mick Vipond as manager. The result was a quick promotion with Hemel winning the Division Three championship at the first attempt, conceding only 28 goals that season and scoring 86, quite a turnaround from the previous season. This was the first league championship the club had won since 1934. After a stuttering start to Division Two, Hemel parted company with Vipond in December 1998 and ex-Watford star and 1985 FA Cup finalist Neil Price was appointed as manager. Price guided the Tudors to 4th place and bettered this the following season when Hemel won the Division Two championship, only to be denied promotion due to insufficient ground grading. In this championship season Hemel conceded just 27 goals in 42 league games, the best defensive record in the clubs history. Hemel followed this up with a 6th place finish and in the summer of 2001 Price was replaced at the helm by former Barnet goalkeeper Gary Phillips. By this time various ground improvements had led to a "B" grading for Vauxhall Road which made the club eligible for promotion. Hemel failed to find their feet in the

### TUDORS FACTS

**GROUND - Vauxhall Road**

**FOUNDED- 1885**

**MANAGER - Joe Deeney**

**2017/18 - National League South 5th**

2001/2002 season and following the resignation of Phillips after a 6-1 defeat at the hands of Chertsey, ex-Hemel player Tony Kelly was appointed as manager. Following another 6th place finish, restructuring saw Hemel leave the Isthmian after nearly 30 years of competing in that league and for the first time Hemel started a season in the Southern League, competing in the Premier division.

The 2017/18, season saw the National League South increase play-off positions to the second to seventh placed sides in the final league table. With the prospect of a play-off position much more achievable, a competitive season saw many clubs fancying their chances at promotion. Despite some inconsistent form, a more settled Hemel squad than previous seasons did well enough to spend much of the season in the play-off's and even in the latter stages of the campaign automatic promotion was still with sights. Eventually, a new club record finish of fifth place in the National League South secured a home play-off "elimination" tie (effectively a "quarter-final") against Braintree, who beat Hemel on penalties on their way to winning the play-offs. The Tudors reached the final of the Herts Senior Cup this season but conceded the final against Hitchin Town, due to Hemel staffs concerns about the safety of their players on the playing surface of the neutral venue. This season also saw landmark appearances for Tudors players Jordan Parkes and Kyle Connolly who each reached 200 appearances for Hemel, whilst the management team of Dean Brennan and Stuart Maynard took charge of their 300th game.

### WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN

**P 18 W 3 D 7 L 8 F 24 A 31**



# HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN

## OPPOSITION IN FOCUS

### TUDORS WHO'S WHO

#### Laurie Walker - GOALKEEPER

Returned to Vauxhall Road in the summer of 2017, two years after departing from his first spell at Hemel. A hugely popular figure amongst Tudors fans, Laurie was a member of the 2013/14 Southern League Championship winning team and broke the record that season for the most clean sheets kept by a single Hemel 'keeper in one season.

#### Danny Boness - GOALKEEPER

A former West Ham scholar who has also played for Colchester, Grays Athletic, Biggleswade Town and local side Kings Langley. Danny joined the Tudors in 2017 and has spent a duration of 2018/19 on loan at Hendon.

#### Kyle Connolly - DEFENDER

Formerly with Arsenal and Boreham Wood. Joined Watford's Academy in December 2011. Trialled with Hemel in the summer of 2013 and subsequently signed by Dean Brennan for the 2013/14 season, during which went on to be awarded "Young Player of the Year". In 2014/15, Kyle scored the goal of the season, a deft volley against Chelmsford City. A nasty injury sustained during 2015/16 side-lined him for a couple of months, but didn't prevent him from going on to collect the Manager's Player of the Year award.

#### Tom Hamblin - DEFENDER

signed from today's hosts **Wealdstone** in the summer of 2017. Tom is a no nonsense, old school centre back who moved to London in June 2013. Tom has played for Gloucester City in the Vanarama Conference North League for seven seasons, prior to this he was also at Bristol City and Mangotsfield.

#### Joe Howe - DEFENDER

Joined Hemel in the summer of 2017, finishing last season with Ryman League Premier Division side Leatherhead. Formerly with MK Dons, Northampton Town, Kettering Town, Welling United and Croydon Athletic, the defender made over 200 appearances for Ebbsfleet United over six years before moving on last year to National League side Bromley, in turn moving to the Tanners.

#### Darren Ward - DEFENDER

Vastly experienced central defender Darren

has played over 500 games in the football league, with his previous clubs including Watford, Millwall, Crystal Palace, Wolves, Swindon Town and Yeovil Town.

#### Jacques Kpohomouh - DEFENDER

Previously of Bangor, Southport and Droydsden, Jacques more recently played for Southern League Premier Division side Hartley Witney before joining Hemel midway through the 2018/19 season.

#### Jordan Parkes - MIDFIELD

Fans' favourite Jordan re-joined The Tudors from Ebbsfleet United in September 2016. Parkes joined Ebbsfleet at the beginning of last season having spent three years at Vauxhall Road, captaining the side to the Evo-Stik League Southern Premier Division title and to the First Round Proper of the FA Cup. The Conference (National League) South player of the year for 2014/15 and a set-piece specialist, Fleet paid Hemel an undisclosed fee for Parkes after he scored 31 goals from midfield for the Tudors. He began his playing career at Watford, making his League debut in 2008, while also earning international honours with England under-18s, under-19s and under-20s. He played for Brentford, Farnborough and Barnet on loan, joining the latter on a permanent basis in 2010, operating mainly in the full-back position. After fifty-one appearances for the Bees, he was briefly at Chelmsford City before signing for his home-town club Hemel Hempstead in 2012. In three seasons with the Tudors, Parkes helped the club to promotion from the Southern League and scooped all three player-of-the-year awards for 2014/15.

#### Kavan Cotter - MIDFIELD

Started his career with Arsenal's youth academy, before moving to Queens Park Rangers and then Luton Town at under-13 level, with whom he started his scholarship. Cotter was a member of the under-18 team that won the Youth Alliance South East title and the Youth Alliance Cup in 2015-16, and also reached the quarter-finals of the FA Youth Cup. He captained the under-18 team the following season and made his first-team debut in a 2-1 victory away to Gillingham in an EFL Trophy group stage match in 2016. Cotter signed a professional contract with Luton in 2017. Loan spells with Hitchin Town and Oxford City followed before he was



released by Luton at the end of the season, joining The Tudors in the summer of 2018.

#### Jack Snelus - MIDFIELD

A graduate of the Luton Town academy until his release in 2017, Jack impressed in the Hatters' FA Youth Cup run in 2016/17, scoring a hat-trick against Dagenham & Redbridge, plus earning his first team debut as a late sub in a 2-0 win over West Brom U23s. Jack had a spell in Sweden at second division side Eskilstuna City, before joining The Tudors in the Autumn of 2018.

#### Kieran Monlouis - MIDFIELD

Kieran is a box to box midfielder who joined Hemel in the latter stages of 2018/19. Kieran was at St Albans City the previous season when last summer Hamilton Academicals paid a fee to take him to Scotland. Previous clubs include Stoke City, Charlton Athletic and Maldon & Tiptree.

#### Mark Randall - MIDFIELD

Spent his formative footballing years at Arsenal where he was touted by manager Arsène Wenger as a key Arsenal player for the future. He was released at the end of his contract in 2011 and subsequently joined Chesterfield, where he won the Football League Trophy. In 2013 he signed a two-year contract with Italian third-tier side Ascoli. In March 2014 Randall completed a move to MK Dons then in January 2016, following a mutual decision to terminate his contract with Milton Keynes Dons, Randall joined League 2 side Barnet. Spells with Newport and Crawley followed before joining Hemel in March 2019.

#### Sanchez Watt - FORWARD

On loan to the Tudors from Billericay Town. He has represented England at under-16,

under-17 and under-19 levels, and he is also eligible to play for Wales and Jamaica through his Welsh mother and Jamaican father. Watt is a product of Arsenal's youth academy and came to prominence during the Gunners' 2008-09 FA Youth Cup winning season and made his full debut for the Arsenal first-team the following season. He has featured on loan for a number of Football League clubs, including Southend United, two spells at Leeds United, Sheffield Wednesday, Crawley Town and Colchester United.

#### Arell Amu - FORWARD

Joined The Tudors midway through the 2018/19 season, having already scored 14 goals for Dunstable Town in his second prolific season at the Southern League Division One Central side. Original with Luton Town, Amu's non-league journey has also seen him represent Barton, Arlesey and Welling.

#### Jason Williams - FORWARD

Began his career with Southend United. In 2014 he joined Chelmsford City initially on a one-month loan deal, which was later extended, where he was in impressive form, scoring five goals in seven league games. Williams returned on loan to Chelmsford City in 2016. After being released by Southend, Williams joined Concord Rangers in 2017 but left the Beachboys before the start of the season to sign for Bishop's Cleeve. He moved to Kingstons in February 2018 then Whitehawk in July 2018. He joined Hemel Hempstead Town in March 2019.

#### Daniel Rowe - FORWARD

Joined The Tudors in March 2019, having been released from Braintree Town. Formerly of Boston, QPR and Leicester City.

KEY TO SYMBOLS

- = Yellow Card
- = Red Card
- = Straight Red
- = Man of the Match
- ⊥ = Goal
- ⚡ = Penalty
- = 1st Player Substituted
- ↔ = 1st Substitute Used
- ↔ = 2nd Player Substituted
- ↔ = 2nd Substitute Used
- ↔ = 3rd Player Substituted
- ↔ = 3rd Substitute Used
- NLS = National League South
- FAC = FA Cup
- FAT = FA Trophy
- MSC = Middlesex Senior Cup
- MCC = Middlesex Charity Cup

# RESULTS & FIXTURES 2018/2019

AUGUST		Competition	Result	Crowd	Pos.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17/GK
4	WESTON-SUPER-MARE	NLS	4-1	750	2	North	Tyler	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	White	Ahmidi	Pratt	Green	Hudson-Odoi	Bubb	Mambo	Lench	Monakana	Sheppard
7	Hungerford Town	NLS	1-1	435	5	North	Tyler	Sheppard	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	White	Ahmidi	Pratt	Green	Hudson-Odoi	Bubb	Mambo	Brown	Lench	Monakana
11	Billerica Town	NLS	0-1	1,152	11	North	Tyler	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	White	Ahmidi	Pratt	Green	Hudson-Odoi	Bubb	Mambo	Green	Wilson	Clark
13	WOKING	NLS	1-0	1,323	8	North	Tyler	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Monakana	Ahmidi	Pratt	Green	White	Bubb	Mambo	Lench	Clark	Mitchell
18	Dartford	NLS	3-0	981	5	North	Tyler	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Monakana	Ahmidi	Pratt	Green	Bubb	White	Mambo	Mitchell	Clark	Lench
25	CONCORD RANGERS	NLS	1-1	786	5	North	Tyler	Grant	Okimo	Mambo	Poku	Monakana	Ahmidi	Pratt	Green	Bubb	Wilson	Hudson-Odoi	Mitchell	White	Lench
27	Oxford City	NLS	0-3	466	8	North	Tyler	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	White	Lench	Pratt	Green	Hudson-Odoi	White	Bubb	Sheppard	Monakana	Clark
SEPTEMBER																					
1	TRURO CITY	NLS	3-0	743	5	North	Tyler	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Bubb	Ahmidi	Pratt	Green	Hudson-Odoi	Mambo	Monakana	Mitchell	Lench	Sheppard
8	Dulwich Hamlet	NLS	1-1	1,103	6	North	Tyler	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Monakana	Ahmidi	Pratt	Green	Hudson-Odoi	Wilson	Sheppard	Brown	Monakana	Lench
15	CHELMSFORD CITY	NLS	2-3	856	11	North	Tyler	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Bubb	Ahmidi	Pratt	Green	Hudson-Odoi	Wilson	Sheppard	Brown	Monakana	Lench
22	GREAT WAKING ROVERS	FAC20	2-0	402	11	North	Tyler	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Lench	Ahmidi	Brown	Bubb	Shomotun	Wilson	Mambo	Hudson-Odoi	Monakana	Sheppard
29	East Thurrock United	NLS	1-0	274	7	North	Sheppard	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Lench	Ahmidi	Brown	Shomotun	Hudson-Odoi	Wilson	Green	Monakana	Slew	Clark
OCTOBER																					
6	Hungerford Town	FAC30	2-1	306	7	North	Sheppard	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Shomotun	Ahmidi	Bubb	Green	Hudson-Odoi	Wilson	Monakana	Lench	Slew	Clark
13	HAMPTON & RICHMOND	NLS	2-1	1,163	4	North	Sheppard	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Shomotun	Ahmidi	Pratt	Green	Bubb	Wilson	Charles	Clark	Slew	Lench
20	SUTTON UNITED	FAC40	1-2	1,082	4	North	Sheppard	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Bubb	Ahmidi	Pratt	Green	Shomotun	Wilson	Charles	Lench	Hudson-Odoi	Slew
27	TORQUAY UNITED	NLS	0-3	1,241	7	North	Sheppard	Tyler	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Shomotun	Lench	Pratt	Green	Bubb	Wilson	Charles	Mensah	Hudson-Odoi	Clark
29	GLOUCESTER CITY	NLS	2-0	675	5	North	Tyler	Okimo	Wilson	Stevens	Poku	Shomotun	Mensah	Pratt	Bubb	Hudson-Odoi	Sheppard	Green	Clark	Charles	Slew
NOVEMBER																					
3	Welling United	NLS	1-1	507	7	North	Tyler	Payne	Stevens	Wilson	Poku	Sheppard	Mensah	Pratt	Bubb	Hudson-Odoi	Shomotun	Charles	Green	Clark	Slew
6	UXBRIDGE	MSC2R	5-3	180	7	Wheeler	Yala-Bolasie	Payne	Massingham	Rodgers	Regis	Sheppard	Slew	Charles	Green	Azeez	Shomotun	Mitchell	Monakana	Mensah	Clark
10	BATH CITY	NLS	3-3	901	7	North	Tyler	Payne	Okimo	Wilson	Poku	Hudson-Odoi	Mensah	Pratt	Bubb	Regis	Sheppard	Shomotun	Monakana	Green	Charles
13	Hemel Hempstead Town	NLS	1-0	703	2	North	Tyler	Payne	Stevens	Okimo	Wilson	Sheppard	Poku	Bubb	Green	Pratt	Charles	Hudson-Odoi	Rees	Mensah	Monakana
17	Chippenham Town	NLS	1-3	618	5	North	Tyler	Payne	Stevens	Okimo	Wilson	Sheppard	Mensah	Bubb	Green	Pratt	Charles	Hudson-Odoi	Shomotun	Sheppard	Monakana
24	Concord Rangers	FAT30	3-2	281	7	North	Tyler	Okimo	Stevens	Wilson	Poku	Shomotun	Smith	Pratt	Green	Hudson-Odoi	Bubb	Charles	Monakana	Payne	Mensah
DECEMBER																					
1	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	NLS	0-3	719	8	Roberts	Tyler	Okimo	Stevens	Wilson	Poku	Shomotun	Smith	Pratt	Green	Hudson-Odoi	Bubb	Azeez	Monakana	Payne	Mensah
8	St Albans City	NLS	0-0	730	11	North	Tyler	Payne	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Shomotun	Smith	Pratt	Green	Monakana	Hudson-Odoi	Wilson	Mensah	Regis	Shomotun
15	Biggleswade Town	FAT1P	1-2	258	11	North	Sheppard	Okimo	Stevens	Wilson	Poku	Mensah	Smith	Pratt	McKeown	Green	Wilson	Samizadeh	Kowalkowski	Monakana	Regis
26	SLOUGH TOWN	NLS	0-3	1,059	12	North	Sheppard	Medford-Smith	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Lench	Samizadeh	Pratt	Green	Monakana	Wilson	Hudson-Odoi	Smith	Obi	Kowalkowski
29	OXFORD CITY	NLS	0-2	711	14	North	Sheppard	Medford-Smith	Stevens	Wilson	Okimo	Smith	Pratt	Green	Monakana	Wilson	Hudson-Odoi	Smith	Mensah	Lench	McKeown
JANUARY																					
1	Slough Town	NLS	1-0	995	13	North	Sheppard	Medford-Smith	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Monakana	Mensah	Pratt	Green	Hudson-Odoi	Wilson	Smith	Lench	Kowalkowski	Obi
5	DARTFORD	NLS	1-1	824	12	North	Sheppard	Medford-Smith	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Monakana	Mensah	Pratt	Green	Mitchell	Wilson	Smith	Lench	McKeown	Obi
8	BRENTFORD 'B'	MSCOF	0-2	190	12	Wheeler	Yala-Bolasie	Medford-Smith	Wilson	Mambo	Smith	Clark	Rodgers	Bridgeman	Mitchell	Azeez	Kowalkowski	McKeown	Sheppard		
12	Concord Rangers	NLS	2-2	492	13	North	Mitchell	Medford-Smith	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Allarakhia	Mensah	Pratt	Green	McKeown	Monakana	Obi	Smith		
19	HUNGERFORD TOWN	NLS	1-0	740	11	North	Sheppard	Medford-Smith	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Allarakhia	Mensah	Pratt	Green	Monakana	Hudson-Odoi	McKeown	Smith	Mitchell	Azeez
26	Woking	NLS	2-0	2075	10	North	Sheppard	Medford-Smith	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Allarakhia	Mensah	Pratt	Green	Smith	Monakana	Mitchell	McKeown	Azeez	Psterson
FEBRUARY																					
5	Truro City	NLS	2-1	251	8	North	Clark	Medford-Smith	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Allarakhia	Mensah	Pratt	Green	Smith	Monakana	Mitchell	McKeown	Paterson	Azeez
16	ST ALBANS CITY	NLS	2-2	1,001	9	North	Sheppard	Medford-Smith	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Allarakhia	Mensah	Pratt	Green	Smith	Monakana	Mitchell	McKeown	Brown	Azeez
23	Eastbourne Borough	NLS	3-0	720	8	North	Sheppard	Medford-Smith	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Allarakhia	Smith	Pratt	Green	Monakana	Mensah	Paterson	Mitchell	McKeown	Brown
25	BILLERICAY TOWN	NLS	1-1	906	8	North	Sheppard	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Allarakhia	Mensah	Pratt	Green	Brown	Smith	Mitchell	Azeez	Monakana	McKeown
MARCH																					
2	Gloucester City	NLS	0-0	396	8	North	Sheppard	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Allarakhia	Mensah	Pratt	Green	Smith	Monakana	Paterson	McKeown	Brown	Tyler
5	Weston-super-Mare	NLS	5-0	546	8	North	Tyler	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Allarakhia	Mensah	Pratt	Green	Smith	Sheppard	McKeown	Brown	Paterson	
9	WELLING UNITED	NLS	1-3	811	8	North	Sheppard	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Allarakhia	Mensah	Pratt	Green	Brown	Smith	Paterson	Tyler	Aziz	Cox
16	Bath City	NLS	1-1	966	9	North	Sheppard	Grant	Smith	Okimo	Poku	Allarakhia	Mensah	Pratt	Green	Brown	Monakana	Paterson	Clark	Antwi	
23	CHIPPENHAM TOWN	NLS	1-0	902	8	North	Tyler	Grant	Smith	Okimo	Poku	Allarakhia	Brown	Pratt	Green	Sheppard	Moankana	Mensah	Azeez	Clark	Paterson
30	Torquay United	NLS	2-3	2934	9	North	Tyler	Grant	Smith	Okimo	Poku	Allarakhia	Brown	Pratt	Green	Sheppard	Pratt	Azeez	Mensah	Clark	Paterson
APRIL																					
6	EAST THURROCK UTD	NLS	3-0	764	9	North	Tyler	Grant	Smith	Okimo	Poku	Allarakhia	Monakana	Pratt	Green	Sheppard	Brown	Mensah	Azeez	Clark	Paterson
13	Hampton & Richmond	NLS	1-2	725	9	North	Tyler	Grant	Smith	Okimo	Poku	Allarakhia	Monakana	Pratt	Green	Brown	Clark	Azeez	Azeez	Clark	Paterson
20	DULWICH HAMLET	NLS	1-3	1245	11	North	Tyler	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Monakana	Smith	Pratt	Green	Brown	Clark	Sheppard	Allarakhia	Mensah	Paterson
20	Chelmsford City	NLS	3-0	954	10	North	Tyler	Grant	Stevens	Okimo	Poku	Allarakhia	Smith	Brown	Green	Mensah	Clark	Pratt	Monakana	Azeez	Paterson
20	HEMEL HEM[STEAD TN	NLS	1-3																		

## FRIENDLIES 2018/2019

June 30 **Bracknell Town** (Away) **D 3-3**  
 Bubb, Monakana (2)  
 July 9 **Marlow** (Away) **W 1-0**  
 Pratt  
 July 14 **Swindon Supermarine** (Away)  
**W 1-0**  
 Bubb  
 July 17 **Maidenhead United** (Home) **D 0-0**  
 July 21 **Aldershot Town** (Home) **D 1-1**

Hudson-Odoi  
 July 23 **Reading U23s** (Away) **L 0-2**  
 July 24 **Staines Town** (Away) **W 5-2**  
 Pratt (2), White, Monakana, Lench  
 July 28 **Bromley** (Home) **L 1-2**  
 Bubb  
 July 31 **Cardiff City** (Home) **W 3-0**  
 Ahmidi, Harris, Bubb  
 Sep 3 **Potters Bar Town** (Home) **W 2-1**  
 Monakana, Own Goal





# 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
<b>OXFORD CITY</b> Saturday, 29th December Vanarama National League South	Tony Platt
<b>DARTFORD</b> Saturday, 5th January Vanarama National League South	Sudhir Rawal Ray Corner
<b>HUNGERFORD TOWN</b> Saturday, 19th January Vanarama National League South	The Half-Way Line Tea Bar
<b>BILLERICAY TOWN</b> Saturday, 2nd February Vanarama National League South	Wealdstone FC Ladies
<b>ST ALBANS CITY</b> Saturday, 16th February Vanarama National League South	GPF Lewis PLC
<b>WELLING UNITED</b> Saturday, 9th March Vanarama National League South	In Memory of Darren Hooker O'Neill & Brennan
<b>CHIPPENHAM TOWN</b> Saturday, 23rd March Vanarama National League South	Turf Doctor Specialists Ltd
<b>EAST THURROCK UNITED</b> Saturday, 6th April Vanarama National League South	Jon Taffel
<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	The Weiner Family SFC Wealdstone



# PROGWATCH 2018-19



From left: The St Albans, Biggleswade, Slough, Town Concord, Woking programmes

**ST ALBANS CITY** You get just 32 pages for your £2.50 at Clarence Park this season – and given there are 1½ pages of adverts then all in all it's a pretty small programme. A very bland cover as well in my eyes. Admittedly there are one or two decent articles including Manager Ian Allinson's editorial but ultimately this programme is a mid-table affair. **Score: 6.5/10**

**BIGGLESWADE TOWN** A nasty front cover on this 32 page programme which despite having fewer advertising pages (10) than St Albans manages to deliver far less information. Does it really need the 2 centre pages to list both team's line-ups and does it really need 2 whole pages for 2 league tables? Space filling in anyone's eyes. Take away the 7-page Wealdstone FC History and there is virtually nothing at all to read. It's a shocker really, but better than Hungerford's effort!! **Score: 2.5/10**

**SLOUGH TOWN** The front cover is in colour, and so are the adverts – but the rest is black and white. There's plenty of scope for someone to improve the lay-out which, frankly, is unexciting. There are no photos (apart from some small pieces of clip art) which seems odd. The fact that it sells for just £2 means that this 40 pager is just about value for money but it's another mid-table effort really. **Score: 5.5/10**

**CONCORD RANGERS.** Well, at least Concord changed the front cover on this programme for our league match but apart from this the programme was almost identical to the programme that was produced for our visit to Essex nearly 2 months previously for our FA Trophy tie. Very disappointingly there was virtually nothing to read apart from the usual "welcomes". Sorry to say, but this is a very poor effort. **Score: 2/10**

**WOKING** A glossy £3 affair as you would perhaps expect from a club with big attendances who were in the National League last season.

## Here it is: Part Two of our own NLS programme review. Guess what? Yes, we've won it again!

A "big" programme too which some people like - although it does often mean that coat pockets aren't quite big enough to put the programme in! It's a 40 page programme with nearly half of those pages being adverts. A quick glance gives an impression of a pretty decent programme but a closer inspection reveals that it flatters to deceive – the main plus points being a 2 page look back to 1937 and a 2 page player interview with Greg Luer. It is lacking in content though and so not a contender in my book for a top 3 position. **Score: 7/10**

**TRURO CITY** Part of me wants to give credit to Truro for issuing a fresh programme for our February visit rather than simply re-using the original programme for our postponed trip on 22/12. However, a closer inspection reveals that Truro were playing Eastbourne on the Saturday and Wealdstone on the Tuesday so they went for a double header. A very small 28 page programme is what you get for your £2.50. I thought the lay-out was pretty good although the front cover was pretty naff. An average mid-table effort. **Score: 6/10**

**EASTBOURNE BOROUGH.** It's not a bad effort this 48 pager that sells at £2.50. As they had just appointed new manager Mark McGhee this gave the editorial team something to write about and a farewell article about the outgoing manager too. I wasn't sure what the Editor's blog featuring Ivan Broadis was about really as he had no connection with Eastbourne – it seemed a bit random to me, albeit fairly interesting I suppose. As always, I quite like the large colour



BY PETER WORBY

WEALDSTONE v HEMEL HEMPSTEAD  
27.04.2019



... and above, the offerings from Truro City, Eastbourne, Gloucester, Weston SM and Torquay

photo that formed the centre page spread.

**Score: 7/10**  
**GLOUCESTER CITY.** This is a £3 effort and exceptionally poor for the price. It's a 40 pager but 22 of them are adverts. Excellent stats but nothing else really to commend this programme because once you strip out the usual "welcomes" from Manager and Chairman and then take away the usual blurb about us there really was little to enjoy – unless you like doing a quiz! **Score: 4/10**

**WESTON SUPER MARE.** Another £3 offering. It was the original programme from 9th Feb so nearly a month out of date but at least the editor did include a 4 page insert with an up to date league table. We were treated to a Fan in the Stand article featuring our own Alan Hill which one can only applaud but the programmes basically (a) lacking original articles (b) padded out with big font so that space is filled. **Score: 5/10**

**BATH CITY.** 50% of this 48 page programme is adverts so well done to Bath's commercial manager. I really do not like the centre page statistics where you have to try and de-code what black boxes, green boxes, grey boxes etc mean. Quite a good Looking Back piece on previous clashes between Bath and The Stones and I also admired the Bath City Hero article on Billy Horton. All in all, a reasonable effort. **Score: 7/10**

**TORQUAY UTD.** Well, I was hoping for a great programme here from a Club that has the best ground in the league and the highest support (nearly 3,000 in attendance for our match). I was disappointed though as the small programme was only 36 pages with more than half of these adverts. I wonder if the team photo across the 2 centre pages is featured in every programme or was it a one-off when we visited? Odd to see statistics that don't show who played and don't show

the attendance either. Also, very strange for there to be a whole page allocated to a 16 line poem written by someone who purports to be "The Bard of TUFC". At least though it only costs you £2 to buy this one. **Score: 7/10**  
**HAMPTON & RB.** Most definitely one of the better offerings – in fact I think it's the best of the rest. A cover price of £2.50 buys you 40 pages, of which 11 are advertising. It's well laid out and designed and looks professional. An interview with our own Tim Parks shows a bit of effort on the part of the editor. On the negative side – do we really need a whole page just listing the teams in our division and their addresses? I thought the Old Historian might be reminiscing about yesteryear Hampton

matches but no, it's part 24 of a local history piece. Better than most though. **8/10**  
**WEALDSTONE.** And now to the big one. Well, if you are reading this then there's really no need at all for me to explain why the Wealdstone programme is easily the best in the division. Granted I haven't seen the Chelmsford programme yet which is usually quite good but, for me, The Stones matchday programme easily qualifies for a near perfect score. Just looking at the most recent effort (v East Thurrock, [pictured



left) a 56 page affair which has a whopping 25 pages (plus stats and more) or readable articles. Absolutely brilliant and congratulations to everyone who contributes to our wonderful publication. **Score: 9.5/10**

### OVERALL SCORES

Wealdstone 9.5, Hampton 8.5, Billericay & Welling (both 7.5), Dartford, Woking, Eastbourne, Bath & Torquay (all 7), St Albans 6.5, Dulwich Hamlet & Truro (both 6), Hemel & Slough (both 5.5), Oxford, Chippenham & Weston (all 5), East Thurrock & Gloucester (both 4), Biggleswade (FAT) 2.5, Concord (FAT) 2.5, Concord 2, Hungerford (FAC) 1, Hungerford 0. Chelmsford were not rated.

# Supporters' Scene

**G**ood Afternoon and welcome to today's final home match of the season against one of closest rivals Hemel Hempstead Town. Will it be the final match of the 2018/19 season? We shall see! Whatever happens, I hope that all of you will be coming the end of seasons awards night this evening to reflect and share a drink as one club.

Before going any further today, we will shall be having a minutes silence to remember to Chris Humpries' wife who sadly passed away after a long illness. You may have seen Chris, who is our Assistant Kit Manager, going about his business quietly but competently all season and our thoughts are with Chris and his family at this time.

There are a couple of points that I would like to cover at this time. Firstly, there has been some talk that the board of directors do not want promotion and I can assure all of you that this is not the case. It is no secret that we do not currently have the investment to compete in the national league premier and the ground would also need a great deal of investment. This being said we are all football people and not to take an opportunity that presented itself would be a complete disservice to everyone connected to our great club. Secondly, the budget for next season. It will be lower than this season as currently it is not sustainable under either the current or previous board. This number will not be publicised but the number currently being discussed as a minimum is this season's median average for this league from the leagues own official figures. Discussions with some of the current squad are under way and hopefully there will be some positive news over the next few weeks.

There are several meaningful discussions and negotiations currently in progress behind the scenes for both new investment and ways of increasing our own revenue streams. Whilst these are not ready to be announced, they are taking place and a sign of all the hard work that is going on behind the scenes.

It is only right that I pay homage to all the hard-working volunteers around the club for their fantastic efforts over the course of the season. The amount of work that goes on behind the scenes just so that 900



people can watch a football match on a Saturday has to be seen to be believed. From car parking to programme contributors, stewarding to player registration, without these jobs there wouldn't be a game to watch. On behalf of all the board, I thank you all and if you want to give something back then please make yourself known to any matchday helper who will point you in the right direction.

Last Saturday night saw the latest fundraising event put on by WFCSC with two ex-Chelsea legends Paul Canoville and Nigel Spackman visiting the club and around fifty-five guests enjoying excellent conversation with a fish and chip supper. Despite us hoping for more, we are pleased to report that we made a profit on the night that will go to the club. We are waiting for the final numbers which should have been announced by the time you read this.

Please come and see us in the megastore behind the dugouts for the final chance to purchase sale items in person. We have the current home and white away kit on offer for £20 with only a few sizes left so grab a bargain. There are also mugs, clocks, books and much more on offer.

Mim is back selling her golden goals this week after her understudies Don and Lee Cross filled in last weekend. Mim will be just the other side of the turnstiles so bring your £1 coins for a chance to win £50 for the correct time of the 1st goal and £10 for the last.

Up The Stones

Mark



# SFC Wealdstone

The WFC Supporters team (1979-2006) are match sponsors today, and here TIM PARKS outlines just what made the club so special in those glorious trophy and laughter-filled years of the 70s, 80s, 90s & noughties

Today's game is sponsored by SFC Wealdstone, the Stones' supporters team which was founded 40 years ago and competed in the Marathon Sunday (Middlesex) League for almost three decades until that competition closed down in 2006.

The club was mothballed and re-started briefly in 2008 once Wealdstone had moved into Grosvenor Vale... but it only lasted a few months, with manager/secretary Andy Burroughs failing to attract enough players.

Back in the 1970s Sunday football was hugely popular. You couldn't find a spare pitch for love nor money - and when SFC was formed, we had to travel 20 miles for home games at Raynes Park, Wimbledon!

Those early days were the true spirit of the club. As players, we may not have been the best but our enthusiasm and togetherness - forged through watching Wealdstone on good days and bad days for a decade - turned the club into one of the biggest and most popular in Sunday football over the next 20 years.

That spirit is illustrated by the fact that pretty much every one of the squad who



*It's 1983 and SFC have just lifted their first trophy... and at Lower Mead to boot! We beat local rivals Northwick Park Hospital 3-1 to clinch the the Marathon League Div Five title, having lost 6-0 to the Hospital in the first league clash a fortnight earlier*

pulled on a Wealdstone shirt at Raynes Park 40 years ago should be here today and can still be counted as regular supporters - the only notable omissions are Chris Jefferson, Kevin Bright and Phil Clegg (and star of the 90s Alex Tsitsis) who have since passed away. How they would have loved today's get-together.

Ten years ago we celebrated the club's 30th anniversary with a match here at the Vale between two SFC Wealdstone Past XIs (it quickly became obvious they were actually past-it XIs) and produced a programme that chronicled SFC's colourful history. I won't recreate that here (although I believe there are a few copies available in the Megastore

## 40TH ANNIVERSARY

WEALDSTONE v HEMEL HEMPSTEAD 27.04.2019

### Champion SFC find their Holy Grail

TWENTY one years after being formed on a coach coming home from a Southern League match, SFC Wealdstone, Wealdstone FC's supporters' team, has reached the Holy Grail of the Marathon League Premier Division Championship.

Hundreds of players have played their part over the years in helping the club reach this lofty height, and there are still a number in the squad with 15 or more years of service.

Indeed, with a reserve team handily placed in Division Two and a third team in the Harrow Challenge League, SFC Wealdstone can rightly claim to be one of, if not the strongest, Sunday teams in



**Champions SFC Wealdstone, back row (left to right): Tim Parks, Matthew Hoyle, Kevin Howes, Dave Kearney, Mark Richards, Ian Harrington. Front: Mike Kane, Gavin Harf, John Lloyd, Sudhir Rawal, Akhil Rawal, Matthew Fletcher, Mark Storey**

Harrow

With the prospect of moving to the new sports complex at Prince Edwards

Playing Fields, the future is looking bright. A link up with Wealdstone Juniors FC is in the offing and at

the other end of the age spectrum, the formation of a veterans team is also on the cards

*It's 1999 and the first team lift the Marathon Division One title at our Birkbeck College ground in Greenford. A year later we were Premier Division Champions!*

this afternoon) but what is obvious reading through the glossy pages is the love and affection players had for the club.

They were fantastic times. Originally you had to be a paid-up member of the Supporters Club to play for SFC and that was fine until the end of the 1980s... in fact the team won the Marathon League Divisions Five, Four and Three in that era, while the senior Stones were enjoying unprecedented success on the pitch, capturing the non-League 'double'.

The Sunday side were considered good enough to fill in for the Stones, in fact, in a couple of Capital Midweek League fixtures at that time, against Dagenham and Barnet... what a dream, for a fan to end up playing for

the team he supports! That decade was the highlight for me, personally, although it became clear that we needed an injection of fresh blood at the turn of the 1990s as the team, growing old together, suffered successive relegations back to Division Four.

An influx of former Swan United players - people like Kenny Pegg, Teddy Edwards, Roy Sharpe, Maurice Chapman and Dermot Fitzpatrick - had some ex-players complaining that 'they're not really Wealdstone fans' and of course, they weren't. But it's satisfying now to see that Ken and Roy, at least, are both

CONTD OVERPAGE



# SFC ANNIVERSARY CONTINUED

WEALDSTONE v HEMEL  
HEMPSTEAD 27.04.2019

## JEEPERS, CREEPERS, WHERE D'YOU GET THOSE KEEPERS!

To celebrate the club's 15 years, and the five years since I began to put together its history, here's a 4-page taster of what you might eventually read when I catch up with the 1992-3 season...

POPULAR mythology would have you believe SFC Wealdstone was conceived on the back seat of the supporters' coach returning from Dover one dark night in early 1978.

It's not unlikely...some strange pastimes were practised on those long, invariably fruitless trips back in the foggy days. So when Spunky Towell and Fingers Fruin spawned the idea of a supporters' football team it wasn't dismissed as the success-starved rantings of two imbeciles.

After all, as someone probably remarked, it wasn't as ridiculous as Wealdstone winning the non-League double (hoots of laughter and derision all round).

And even Fingers' announcement that he would be our goalkeeper provoked few fatalities... although in retrospect, if the driver had just turned the coach around and made for Beachy Head it would have saved an awful lot of heartache in years to come.

Incidentally, blood tests later taken to determine the parentage of the new club revealed one part rhesus negative to three parts Shepherd Neame bitter. Strong enough evidence to incriminate Messrs Towell and Fruin who (significantly) have never denied it.

### Some strange things happened in those early friendlies...

\*As a footnote to the above Cheltenham Supporters game, Justin recounts an incident from the second half that I had almost forgotten. From a corner taken on the right-hand side, he leaped almost 10ft off the ground (I kid you not) and looked down to see the ball passing harmlessly somewhere below his armpit. He was high as a kite.

No-one has been able to explain Jasper's extraordinary feat, but I must say he was soaking some pretty funny cigarettes in the car on the way down.

trip to play Division Five runaway leaders Charlton Heston at Gunnersbury Park the next week in a double-header. Heston may have had a silly name but they were a pretty humourless lot as they scythed their way that season past everybody (15-0 and 10-0 against 108 Sports). Indeed, only one team had managed to score more than one goal against them - Innes Arden - until SFC arrived.

Actually, we played very well in the first game of the double-header. Raffle was a bit of a lottery in goal (ha ha) but first Patsy and then Justin booted one in to give us a notable two goals against the high-flyers. The only problem was that Charlton Heston scored four.

Never mind, we thought. A fellow named Bob Booth had volunteered his services as a 'keeper on the terraces at Lower Mead the previous day, claiming to have performed there with distinction for AFC Embassy among others. Maybe I should have noted the sidelong glance from Embassy's Jon Irvine when Bob was recounting his exploits.

Mr Booth replaced The Barrel for the second game of the double-header and it was immediately obvious all was not well. I had to point out that goalkeepers normally stood in front of the goal line. Before we knew it we were three down, but the best bit was when Heston hit a low, aimless cross soon after halftime and our new acquisition shepherded the ball into the corner of the net, protecting it from a swarm of defenders anxious to kick it clear.

As the season wound down we were making some useful contacts. My desperate search for a 'keeper led to me pestering Embassy's Tony Short so much that, in the end, he said: "Look, a Wealdstone fan and he's played over there. He's before, although really he's played in goal for us. That fellow was Stephen Hubert Marshall. Well, I'd never met Hughie Marshall. know, after chatting for a few minutes it seemed like we'd known each other all our lives. Eventually Steve took his tongue out of my ear and I heard him mutter something about a really good striker who played for his BR Euston team. This chap's name was Neale Harvey. It was too good to be true. Here we had a pukka Wealdstone fan and both with a bit of a reputation. I won't embarrass either of their mothers by repeating it here.

THE AMPLE figure of Rev Bright figures largely in my memories of Summer 1979. Standing in the middle, like an overstuffed ringmaster, while we pranced around doing sit-ups, squat thrusts, star jumps and God know what else, Kevin guided us belligerently towards something approximating full fitness during marathon sessions at Headstone Manor.

Then came the light relief as boss CJ, embarking on the first tenuous steps in management before making his play for Ron Greenwood's England job, outlined his tactics for the coming season. Our set plays were out of this world. In fact you had to be an alien to understand them.

Chris had worked out a signalling system whereby Gordon Mac, who was to take all freekicks around the penalty box, would hold the appropriate number of fingers to denote which type of pass was coming. They ranged from Freekick Mode 1 to 8.

Sadly, CJ's masterplan was doomed to disaster on several counts. Firstly, Gordon couldn't remember which freekick move was which. Secondly, he wasn't particularly numerate and thirdly - and most importantly - by the time we'd finished training under Kevin it was virtually dark and we couldn't see how many fingers Mac was holding up anyway.

It was usually two, though, brandished in CJ's direction.

Still we had a week to recover from that drama before the dawning of Sunday, September 23rd, 1979 - the club's first ever league fixture. Ealing North Labour, who had struggled in Division Five the previous season, would prove the barometer to SFC's chances of silverware.

And CJ was taking no chances. We had a 15-mile journey to Raynes Park so he ordered an 8.30 departure from Harrow (presumably in case a huge fissure in the earth's crust opened up somewhere around Stonebridge Park and caused us to be delayed) with the result that we sailed down to Kimbleton in our hyped-up state in 35 minutes flat. Still, we needed an hour and 25 minutes to squeeze our heads through the neckholes of these awful QPR shirts.

The team for that historic game was: Dorian Cross, Worland, Don Cross, Parks, Bright, Chamberlain, McKay, Keilly, O'Brien, Dylan Cross, Allen. Subs: Hurford for McKay, Towell for Bright.

Below right: Jon Taffell took his remarkable beer-belly-dancing talent on tour to Dortmund, Germany... and the statue outside the DAB Brewery was rather apt

ing football team.

Nobody really succeeded apart from Steve 'Hughie' Marshall (our first goalkeeper worthy of the title) and he oversaw that terrific period in the mid-80s.

Into the 90s, Pete Worby had taken on the gargantuan task of Operations Manager - with a lot of success - but it was Dave Kearney who was the driving force behind the first team's

CONTINUED OVERPAGE



25 years ago we marked the club's 15th anniversary with a match at the Post Office ground in Sudbury, and the programme included these snips about the club's early days

season ticket holders at The Vale.

Together with some promising youngsters from the newly-formed reserve team, the new faces got the club moving upwards again. Staunch Stones fan Paul Ryan introduced his mate Liam Moffatt to the club, and in turn Liam started the chain of events that saw his friends Dave Kearney, Matt Hoyle, Gavin Hart and Kevin Howes sign up. They weren't really supporters either but they were bloody good players!

In the space of a decade (with only me,

Mickey Kane, Sudhir Rawal and Gordon McKay remaining of the 'old guard') the club had mushroomed to running four teams while the first team won Divisions Four, Three, Two and One... and even the Marathon League Premier Division in April 2001.

Our very first team manager was the aforementioned Kev Bright, in tandem with Chris Jefferson, and in subsequent years Roger Slater, Cleggy, Don Cross, Steve Hobbs and even myself all had shots at harnessing our dysfunctioning natural talent into a function-



# SFC ANNIVERSARY CONTINUED

WEALDSTONE v HEMEL HEMPSTEAD 27.04.2019

championship-winning renaissance with his astute management... and trusty left peg!

I'm hoping around 40 will be sitting down for lunch today to remember the old days - and roll back the years by pinging a

penalty past Northy once the serious business (Wealdstone v Hemel Hempstead) is finished.

With quite a few of us touching 60 that could be quite amusing!



Left: SFC line up at our Box-tree Lane ground in the terrific 84-85 season when we won the League Division 4.

Below left: A pukka supporters team travelled to Bishop Stortford to beat the Herts club's fans in a special challenge match. Even Attic and Jez Albert (and Colin Bunner) got to play!



The club's first overseas tour (to the DAB brewery in Dortmund saw plenty of horseplay. Jasper O'Brien beat the German beer-drinking champion (top pic) while Tim and Neale (right) displayed the correct tea-drinking etiquette



## Supporters have plenty to keep cheering about

SHOULD Wealdstone suffer another spate of injuries in the New Year, manager Brian Hall knows just where to look for replacements — no further than the Lower Mead terraces!

For there, shouting and cheering the 'Stones on every Saturday are the club's "second XI" ... the squad of 15 or so fervent fans who turn out every Sunday morning for SFC Wealdstone in the Marathon League, writes Tim Parks.

The initials stand for "Supporters of Football Club Wealdstone". And after watching their heroes rocket to the top of the Gola League earlier this season, the Sunday side carried off a pretty fair impersonation by winning 10 successive matches — and not conceding a goal in their opening five Marathon League Division Four games!

It's a record that ought to have Mr Hall donning his sheepskin coat and spending a couple of

hours watching SFC in action on their sloping home pitch behind the bus garage at Harrow Weald.

They clocked up 64 goals in their opening 16 games with the bulk shared between strikers Justin O'Brien, Tim Parks and Neale Harvey (15 each) and right-winger Gordon McKay (11).

At the other end, goalkeeper player-manager Steve Marshall has kept eight clean sheets ... and much of the credit for the team's excellent start has been down to his cool, confident handling and good positional sense.

SFC suffered the blow of losing last year's player of the season, full-back Paul Williams, with cartilage problems a month ago but they have been well served at the back by Jon Taffell, Mark Chamberlain, Duncan Towell and the tigerish central pairing of Don Cross and Brian 'Kat' Kelly.

Jon and Mark, stalwarts of the Supporters Club's half-time raffle at Lower Mead for years, have

made attacking a real lottery for opposing forwards

Pocket atom Trevor Davies and Graham Jones — known as the Grim Reaper for his scything tackles — shore up the midfield, leaving former QPR Junior O'Brien and ex-schoolboy star McKay to set up the chances for Parks and Harvey.

McKay, who had a brief spell with Wealdstone Reserves, was enjoying his best-ever season for SFC until breaking his right arm in a training accident at the end of November.

His return after Christmas should set up a real Third Division promotion push for SFC ... and the side are hoping for a repeat of the successes of two years ago when, apart from winning the divisional championship, they also reached the League's Junior Cup Final at Hounslow FC.

So take heed, Mr Hall. You don't have to look outside your own club for quality players!

In a tongue-in-cheek article in the Harrow Observer in 1985, it was suggested that Wealdstone should call on the supporters to fulfil a few fixtures in a hectic end of season. Amazingly it happened as SFC represented the club at Dagenham in the Capital League (lost narrowly 3-2) before beating Barnet 5-0 at Lower Mead (top picture)





# The last day at Lower Mead.. the cheers, the tears and the awful realisation of what we had lost



**28**  
YEARS AGO

**Saturday April 27 1991, Southern League Prem: Wealdstone 1 Cambridge City 1**

On the face of it, this was a routine 'dead rubber' end-of-season game. But it was the final proper match at our old, iconic Lower Mead ground and would be a date seared in the minds of our older fans for the rest of our lives.

What a sad day! In the article reproduced here, from the Last Day magazine published a few weeks after the ground was closed and demolished for yet another Tesco store, Sudhir Rawal stated: 'Whatever happens in the future, the club we supported is dead. Lower Mead was Wealdstone and Wealdstone was Lower Mead'.

But does he still feel the same today? Our club has enjoyed a renaissance in the intervening 28 years and the facilities here at



Grosvenor Vale are arguably superior to those at LM. Certainly the crowds are growing progressively larger - and had we made the play offs this season the feelgood factor would probably have prompted a denial of Sud's emotive final paragraph.

If and when the Stones leave Grosvenor Vale my feelings will be similar. We've had so many great memories in these 11 short years in Ruislip I dare say there will be a similar weeping and wailing should that day ever arrive.

But back to 1991. The bare facts are that an indifferent first half kicking towards the Cinema End - despite the nonstop songs and badinage from the vocal crowd - was transformed when Tony Kelly found himself through on goal midway through the second

**"WEALDSTONE WAS LOWER MEAD, LOWER MEAD WAS WEALDSTONE"**

I don't suppose that Lower Mead could have had a more magnificent end even if we could have tried. A win would have been nice, but it was almost perfect in every other way.

The atmosphere of Lower Mead, the vociferousness of our supporters and the passion generated by a Lower Mead crowd may be a myth or an exaggeration of the truth, especially in the last couple of years, but the 'Last Day' had all of that and more.

The size of the crowd was certainly disappointing but it probably helped the atmosphere and created an intimacy that was so evident. I've been going to Lower Mead regularly since I was nine years old, some eighteen years ago, but rarely has there been a more noisy, atmospheric and passionate day at Lower Mead in that time.

The singing in the ground started as soon as the bar began to empty and never abated, even during the half-time interval. A never ending stream of different songs were sung, just as one finished another five were started one of which would catch on with the rest. Songs that weren't heard for years were aired along with those from the current period, all sung with passion and feeling.

Alcohol flowed all through the

game, every by-law was broken as bottles of vodka, gin, whisky and beer were downed to oil already well lubricated throats. Balloons, streamers, confetti all added to a carnival atmosphere.

We could have just won the league for all the celebration, yet all it was was a wake. Seventy years of football being drawn to a sad end because financial mis-management had allowed the debts to pile up leaving the inevitable sale of Lower Mead as the only way the crisis could be ridden. This is a fact that we've lived with for the last three years or so but the bitter pill is still so hard to swallow when you can't see any light at the end of the tunnel and with the bulldozers and demolition men taking apart a ground that we all held in so much esteem.

If you asked many of those at the game what had actually occurred during the match, the chances would be that you would have been given a blank look. The crowd went about their antics almost oblivious to the game, the noise simply didn't waiver for one minute regardless of what was happening on the pitch.

If the atmosphere of the first half was brilliant, then the second was indescribable. It was perfect. The last match would see Wealdstone attacking the infamous Elmslie End in the second half, even many High

Manders had come into the place that epitomises the passion of Lower Mead.

When we scored, Pandemonium met in. The surge of the crowd saw fans push forward and over the fence. A pitch invasion. Tony Kelly submerged under a mass of fans and players. Fans all around dencing. All I can remember was PJ - he of the balding head - hugging me for what seemed an eternity. For a while I even thought we would win, but then any assumptions made under the influence of alcohol has to be called into question.

Another pitch invasion. The unhinged Elmslie End sign was paraded around the penalty box and the game was halted for a couple of minutes. The police were called having been told that the ground was being demolished, nothing further could have been from the truth. When they did arrive heavily backed by five van loads, the prospect was of this minor incident overshadowing what had gone on before. There were threats that any pitch invasion at the end would see offenders arrested. However, the police soon realised that the atmosphere was more jovial than violent and let everyone carry on as before even joining in with the spirit with smiles.

The final whistle went and the crowd streamed on to the pitch to mob the players and surround the tunnel. They chanted and sang for the players to re-emerge and for a speech from Brain Hall. They duly did and were about to throw their shirts to the crowd when they were informed that they would be needed for two more games. Brian Hall said a few words, just as the crowd had demanded.

The players went back in and the crowd dispersed. The anti-climax of everything finally struck, the bravado of the day gave way to the empty feeling that this indeed was the final day. Tears flowed

uncontrollably from many people, who could really blame them. Anyone that says non-league football is 'sickie mouse', lacking in passion and excitement should have seen the day's events and those emotional scenes at the end. Passion comes from the heart, it doesn't matter what level of football you watch at.

The rest of the day simply faded away in a drink induced haze. Maybe time has dulled the memory but I really think that the 'Last Day' was celebrated in more style than the double.

One thing for sure, whatever

Wealdstone do in the future, the club that we all supported is now dead. Wealdstone was Lower Mead, and Lower Mead was Wealdstone. It will never be the same again.

Sudhir Rawal

**Main picture: Tony Kelly puts Wealdstone ahead and (below) he is mobbed by fans at the Elmslie End**

half. He tucked the ball into the Elmslie End net to prompt an eruption like Hiroshima on the terraces behind the goal.

For five minutes we were in rapture. Then Cambridge - a few places higher than the 11th placed Stones in the table but realistically adrift of the playoffs - hooked in an equaliser and the game drifted to its inevitable, undisputed conclusion.

So not a glorious end to the old ground. The crowd tried its best but perhaps the lethargy that had brought just 850 fans through the turnstiles for this nostalgic final day was testament to the lack of appetite for non League football (or perhaps any football) in Harrow. **CONTINUED OVERPAGE**





# REWIND CONTINUED

## Disgraceful 'Night of the Long Studs' at top dogs Wimbledon

Tuesday April 27 1976, Southern League Prem: Wimbledon 4 Wealdstone 1

Into the Guinness Book of records (for all the wrong reasons) went the Stones and Wimbledon 43 years ago as SIX players were sent off for fighting on what was supposed to be a night of celebration for the title-winning Dons.

All the Southern League dignitaries were at Plough Lane to see the South Londoners retain their league trophy. But they must have been horrified by the malicious tackling from both sides - Daragh Croxson, the excellent Harry O reporter, summed it up beautifully in



Wimbledon Football Club Ltd  
 Founded 1889 Registered in England No. 11120  
 Ground: Corner of Plough Lane & Denmark Road, Wimbledon, S.W. 20  
 Tel. 01-894 2263  
 Members: The Football Association, London Football Association, The Southern League & The Amateur Football Association  
 Chairman: J. N. Bamber (Chairman) J. Bull (V. Chairman)  
 Captains: G. J. Stacey, A. H. Punt, A. G. Neal, P. C. Carr  
 Manager: Alan Stewart Secretary: A. E. Cooper  
 Plough Lane - Wimbledon Football Club Southern League Champions 1976/77  
 Captain Secretary - G. Lewis Program Manager - C. E. Phillips  
 OFFICIAL PROGRAMME by

his report shown here.

Wimbledon went on to make it a hat-trick of titles the following season and even the 'closed shop' of the Football League could not deny them a place in Division Four - under Allen Batsford and Brian Hall (who of course gave us our greatest five years in WFC history in the 1980s) the Dons began the Crazy Gang tradition that stretched the laws of the game to the very limit.

Many observers reckoned that mindset began on this night in SW19.

I remember how desperate we were for survival under new manager Geoff Coleman, who had sparked a mini revival and brought in some decent players but still found ourselves in the bottom four. We actually played really well in

the first half, new boy Danny Light scoring a beautiful free kick but with clowns like Ray Bullen (in goal) and centre back Sammy McHale the Dons were always going to overpower us as the game went on.

The game ended in a bizarre way, just eight a side before Wimbledon trooped up to receive the trophy and medals.

Then all topped off with the brick attack on the three supporters coaches parked outside the ground in which Barbara Robson's mother was hitting by flying glass - leading to the spectacle of the furious, 50-something Barbara running up the road prepared to take on all-comers!

Yes, a night to remember. But not in a good way.

# Six sent off in Plough Lane brawls Moss, Watson and Light involved in massive night of soccer hate

By Daragh Croxson

Wimbledon 4, Wealdstone 1  
**SOCCER'S SAGGING** reputation sank to its knees in this malice ridden shambles at Plough Lane on Tuesday evening as six brawling players — three of them Wealdstone's — got their marching orders and a seventh was booked.

Bobby Moss, John Watson and Danny Light along with Wimbledon's Glen Aitken, Selwyn Rice and John Leslie were all dismissed for fighting in a game that erupted into an Argentinian style punch-up involving a dozen players 15 minutes from time.

After Moss and Aitken were sent off for a point-less 44th minute exchange of blows referee Mike Taylor (Hertfordshire) appeared to lose control as at least three men appeared to come out for the second-half hell bent on violence.

In front of 2,181 fans and a bunch of league officials, there to see Wimbledon receive the Southern League trophy, players on both sides became caught up in a series of vicious vendettas.

As Stones surrendered an early lead, through a lovely Light free-kick, to go 4-1 behind football was displaced by an insane exhibition of the nastier arts of foul play.

### NIGGLING

In a culmination of niggling bad feeling from the off Watson committed a dreadful tackle on Rice before the players square to each other. Cooke was booked for a retaliatory punch after a scything Byrne tackle. Light was spoken to after angrily reacting to a wicked Leslie foul and an evil Rice challenge floored Halliday.

The touchline explosion, therefore, came as no surprise. As the beligerent Rice jumped in on Watson the full back became involved in a confused melee as he made a beserk attempt to strangle the Dons midfielder.

Light intervened and got kicked in the back by Leslie for his pains and started a fresh fight behind Mr. Taylor's back as the official dismissed the first offenders.

Fortunately linesmen J. M.

## Chance for Billy Stagg

Teenage starlet Billy Stagg may pull on a Wealdstone shirt for the first time when the 'Stones Youth side take to the field in an attractive challenge match with a formidable Battersea side

## Fans attack coach

Rampaging Wimbledon fans matched Tuesday evenings on the field violence at Plough Lane off the field by attacking the Wealdstone supporters coach.

After massing in front of the stand to cheer their championship team a group of Dons fans moved into the carpark where they smashed several windows in the 'Stones coach.

Police reinforcements were called in to strengthen the squad of a sergeant and five constables at the game.

Wilson spotted the incident and with the crowd baying for blood the second pair also left for an early bath.

But to compound the worst evidence, I or anyone else will never be unlucky enough to see, Watson was reported to have attacked Rice again as the pair walked down the tunnel and clocked the Wimbledon trainer who tried to separate them.

Light, despite manager Coleman's bid to quieten him, started a screaming match with a home fan and Dons manager Allen Batsford added nothing to the affair by marching onto the field and arguing with the linesmen.

Connell, who piled stream of abuse on Mr. Taylor's head, Edwards and Sammy McHale, who both threw punches should also have gone.

### SYMPATHY

Of the three Wealdstone dismissals there can only be sympathy for Moss, who reacted to Aitken's first punch, and looked desperately upset as he left the field.

But if Danny Light had sat up and begged for a fight he couldn't have made his intentions clearer.

Watson, on this and previous evidence, needs a psychiatrist not a manager.

In between the sparring there were spasmodic moments of football.

Wealdstone, as so often

equaliser despite Moss's frantic efforts to clear off the line.

In the same minute, however, 'Stones could and should have retaken the lead. Light flicked the ball through an eye of a needle to Moss who pulled it back for Duck to miscue his shot giving Byrne an open goal.

But the number nine's drive ricocheted off Guy's legs to safety.

At half-time, however, the Moss dismissal apart, Wealdstone could feel quite pleased with their performance. But it's a fitting epitaph to a graveyard of a season that they tamely gave up all they had won soon after the break.

From yet another free-kick, given away by the inevitable Watson, the unmarked Connell spectacularly volleyed Wimbledon back into the lead after 54 minutes and equally isolated Cooke headed them 3-1 in front four minutes later.

A schoolboy through ball left Dyson and Edmundson for dead after 64 minutes as Holmes gambolled through to plan the ball past Bullen.

And apart from entering the Guinness' Book of Records for all the wrong reasons Wealdstone now have to wait until the League annual meeting in June to hear if they have a Premier Division future.

Wealdstone: Bullen; Edmondson, Dyson, McHale, Watson; Light, Moss, Byrne; Halliday, Duck, Henderson (Sub: Lewis 69 mins.)





# 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 HUNGERFORD 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



## Dartford

5th JANUARY - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH  
• Ray Corner & David Hooper



## Hungerford Town

19th JANUARY - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH  
• Toby Jackson - Lapels



## 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  
• Arthur Rogers (90th Birthday)



## Chippenham Town

23rd MARCH - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH  
• Alan Couch  
• Peter Smallwood & Jack Foran



## East Thurrock United

6th APRIL - VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH  
• Mark Barton  
• Peter Smallwood



## 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  
• 'The Franklins'  
• Your name and details here







# KIT SPONSORS 2018/2019

## SHOW YOUR SUPPORT — SPONSOR A STONE!

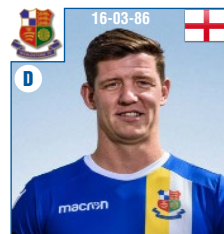
**S**UPPORT your favourite player by sponsoring their kit for the whole of the 2018/2019 season. The cost is £130 to see your name on these pages through until our final game in April 2019. Choose your favourite and call Paul Rumens on **07710 929692**. All pictures on these pages reproduced courtesy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



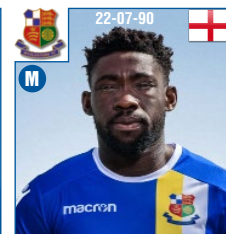
**BOBBY WILKINSON**  
ALYSON ANGELIDES



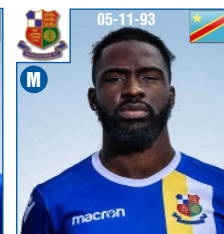
**IAN HOBBS**  
TO SPONSOR IAN  
CALL 07710 929692



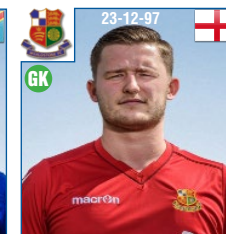
**GLENN WILSON**  
GINGE



**GODFREY POKU**  
JAMES KLARFELD



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



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



**JAMIE LEACOCK**  
RON MOORE



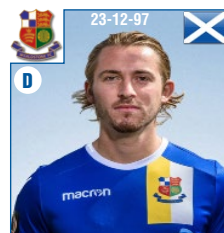
**MIKE PERCIVAL**  
ALAN COUCH



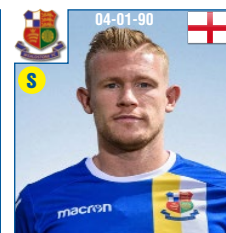
**MARK POVEY**  
WEALDSTONE LADIES



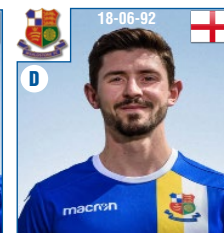
**TONY WAUGH**  
NEIL & XANDER RANDS



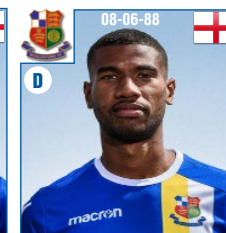
**JAKE SHEPPARD**  
DAVE EDWARDS



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



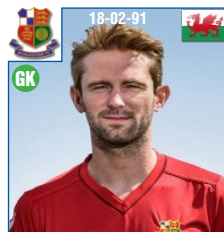
**RHYS TYLER**  
TONY & PETER DREW



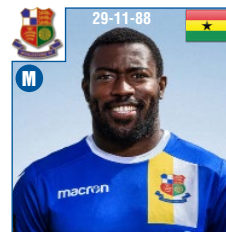
**JEROME OKIMO**  
IAN, MIKE,  
BRIAN & DOUG



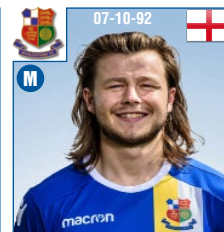
**LEO MORRIS**  
MEGAPHONE MICK



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



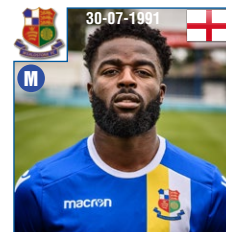
**BRADLEY HUDSON-ODOI**  
RAY CORNER



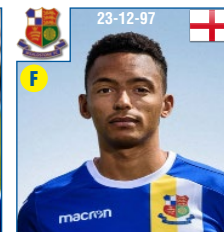
**MATT LENCH**  
TO SPONSOR MATT  
CALL 07710 929692



**THE PROGRAMME TEAM**  
FRIENDS OF  
WEALDSTONE



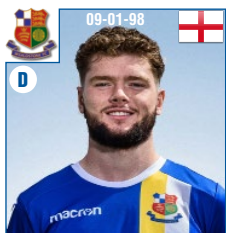
**SIMON MENSAH**  
TO SPONSOR SIMON  
CALL 07710 929692



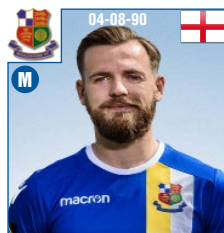
**STEFAN BROWN**  
TO SPONSOR STEFAN  
CALL 07710 929692



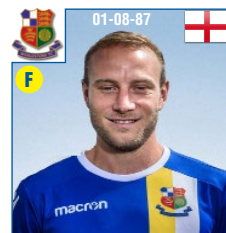
**BRADLEY BUBB**  
MARK & MATTY SNELL



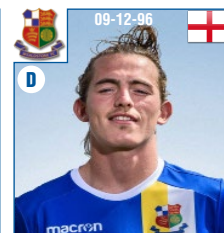
**CONNOR STEVENS**  
FRIENDS OF  
WEALDSTONE



**DANNY GREEN**  
DAVID LEIGH



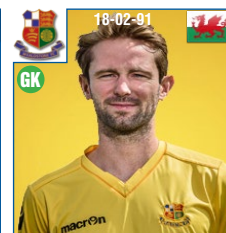
**DAVID PRATT**  
BARRY BENVENISTE



**FREDDIE GRANT**  
MIKE & VAL WESTON



**THE PROGRAMME TEAM**  
RUISLIP SOCIAL CLUB



**JONATHAN NORTH**  
BRIAN BALL



**DANNY GREEN**  
SENTINEL7



**DAVID PRATT**  
SENTINEL7

KEY: C = Management & Coaching Staff; D = Defender; M = Midfielder; F = Forward; L = Legend; B = Blokes  
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

FOR ALL FIXTURE NEWS: WWW.WEALDSTONEFC.COM

HOME

AWAY

FOR ALL INFORMATION CONCERNING  
WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB, PLEASE VISIT  
WWW.WEALDSTONE-FC.COM

**Vanarama National League South at 24th April 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	41	26	7	8	89	41	21	15	2	4	53	23	20	11	5	4	36	18	48	85	0-3 2-3
2 Woking	41	23	9	9	75	47	20	12	2	6	37	23	21	11	7	3	38	24	28	78	1-0 2-0
3 Welling United	41	22	7	12	66	47	20	14	4	2	41	22	21	8	3	10	25	25	19	73	1-3 1-1
4 Chelmsford City	41	20	9	12	67	50	21	12	5	4	35	23	20	8	4	8	32	27	17	69	2-3 3-0
5 Bath City	41	19	11	11	56	36	21	12	4	5	33	18	20	7	7	6	23	18	20	68	3-3 1-1
6 Concord Rangers	41	19	13	9	67	47	21	11	7	3	39	19	20	8	6	6	28	28	20	67	1-1 2-2
7 Billericay Town	41	19	8	14	72	63	20	10	3	7	32	31	21	9	5	7	40	32	9	65	1-1 0-1
8 St Albans City	41	18	10	13	67	60	20	12	4	4	34	22	21	6	6	9	33	38	7	64	2-2 0-0
9 Dartford	41	18	10	13	51	56	21	12	6	3	32	21	20	6	4	10	19	35	-5	64	1-1 3-0
10 Wealdstone	41	17	12	12	60	49	20	8	5	7	29	30	21	9	7	5	31	19	11	63	-- --
11 Slough Town	41	17	11	13	53	47	21	9	7	5	26	19	20	8	4	8	27	28	6	62	0-3 1-0
12 Chippenham Town	41	16	7	18	57	63	20	10	4	6	34	27	21	6	3	12	23	36	-6	55	1-0 1-3
13 Oxford City	41	16	5	20	62	62	20	9	2	9	35	27	21	7	3	11	27	35	0	53	0-2 0-3
14 Hampton & Richmond	41	13	10	18	49	62	21	6	4	11	20	33	20	7	6	7	29	29	-13	49	2-1 1-2
15 Dulwich Hamlet	41	13	9	19	51	64	21	8	4	9	28	31	20	5	5	10	23	33	-13	48	1-3 1-1
16 Hemel Hempstead Town	41	12	12	17	51	65	21	6	7	8	27	36	20	6	5	9	24	29	-14	48	1-0
17 Gloucester City	41	11	11	19	33	53	21	3	10	8	17	26	20	8	1	11	16	27	-20	44	2-0 0-0
18 Eastbourne Borough	41	10	12	19	51	63	20	6	6	8	32	32	21	4	6	11	19	31	-12	42	3-3 3-0
19 Hungerford Town	41	11	8	22	44	71	20	6	5	9	23	30	21	5	3	13	21	41	-27	41	1-0 1-1
20 Truro City	41	9	11	21	60	84	20	5	3	12	27	40	21	4	8	9	33	44	-24	38	3-0 2-1
21 East Thurrock United	41	10	6	25	41	62	21	8	4	9	26	25	20	2	2	16	15	37	-21	36	3-0 1-0
22 Weston-super-Mare	41	8	10	23	49	79	20	2	6	12	18	35	21	6	4	11	31	44	-30	34	4-1 5-0