

wealdstone football club match magazine 2007-8 **£3**
souvenir edition



TODAY'S MATCH
SPONSOR

mcDonald & Lloyd
ESTATE AGENTS

stones v. hornets



pre-season friendly at
harefield utd fc,
wednesday july 18,
kick-off 7.45pm

INSIDE: Theo Robinson on playing for Wealdstone one week, and in the Premiership the next!

Today's Line-Up

THE MATCH

Wealdstone v **Watford**
Blue/White quarters Yellow/Red

Mitch SWAIN	Richard LEE
James GRAY	Mart POOM
Fergus MOORE	Adrian MARIAPPA
Marcus GROSS	Jordan STEWART
Kevin SWIFT	Danny SHITTU
Carl MARTIN	Jay DeMERIT
Lee O'LEARY	Clark CARLISLE
(C) Chris O'LEARY	Matt JACKSON
Peter DEAN	Gavin MAHON
Dean PAPALI	Al BANGURA
Graeme MONTGOMERY	Doug ANALDI
Lee CHAPPELL	Tommy SMITH
Craig VARGOS	Hameur BOUAZZA
Ben ALEXANDER	Jason MacANUFF
Seye ADEGOKE	Marlon KING
Lee GRANT	Tamas PRISKIN
Chris OWENS	Darius HENDERSON
Steve BROWN	Theo ROBINSON
Andre DELISSER	Lee WILIAMSON

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

Referee: Tony Power

Assistants: Graeme Thorley & Isaac Jempeji

Match Sponsor: McDonald & Lloyd

MANAGEMENT TEAM: 1ST XI Manager: Gordon Bartlett Assistant: Leo Morris Coach: Mark Gill
PHYSIO TEAM: Richard Crook, Daniel Fowler, James Smith
RESERVE TEAM MANAGEMENT: Jim Christian, Ricky Murphy;
YOUTH & STANMORE COLLEGE COACHES: Steve Beeks, Fitzroy Lewinson, Adrian Creamer, Andy Standford



The Club

Ground: Northwood Park
Chestnut Avenue
Northwood, Middlesex
Tel. 01923 827148
Ground: 020 8863 2120

CHAIRMAN
Howard Kraiss

DIRECTORS
Pete Worby
Paul Fruin
Quentin Fox

CLUB PRESIDENT
Paul Rumens

CLUB SECRETARY
Mick Fishman

MATCH SECRETARY
Alan Couch

COMPANY SECRETARY
Trevor Davis

RESERVE TEAM SEC
Terry McGovern

PRESS OFFICER
Steve Paull

SAFETY OFFICER
Pete Worby

PROGRAMME
Adam & Minnie Gloor

GENERAL SERVICES
Graham Smith
Pauline Smith
Drew Worby
Charlotte Taffel
Andy Burrows

HOSPITALITY
Joe McKeever

PA ANNOUNCER

Stones new chairman hails innovative, nae, revolutionary Hornets

A WARM WELCOME TO THIS pre-season friendly match between Wealdstone and Watford here at Preston Park. May I start by thanking everyone here at Harefield for all their help in staging this fixture. With Northwood not available we have been very impressed with Harefield's welcome as well as their facilities and we are very grateful for all their help tonight.

We are delighted to welcome Watford FC here this evening. Our developing relationship with 'The Hornets' has been a major benefit to our football club, in recent times. Theo Robinson and John Joe O'Toole were two major reasons why we were able to pull clear of relegation in the Southern League during the crucial part of last season. The two lads were a credit to themselves and to Watford; both in the way they played and in the way they conducted themselves throughout their time with us. We hope their Southern League experiences will be a major benefit to them in terms of their personal de-

velopment. The opportunity to play at a competitive level of senior football on a regular basis should have provided them with considerably more than just playing youth or reserve team games.

It may be that we will see plenty more of Theo this season, though more likely on television rather than in the blue and white quarters. I think everyone at Wealdstone was particularly delighted to see him come 'off the bench' in Watford's last Premiership game against Newcastle and we hope to see both his and John Joe's careers go from strength to strength.

Watford have been a great example to almost every professional club in the country with many innovative and exciting developments in recent years. I know that Gordon has been most impressed when he has had the opportunity to see Adie Boothroyd working up close. He describes some of Adie's methods as almost revolutionary and the impact Adie has had on the playing fortunes of the

Hornets has brought great success - almost ahead of plan.

I went to one Premiership game at Vicarage Road last season and I was struck by the number of home grown youngsters competing at Premiership level. Whilst relegation may not have been entirely unexpected I think it is fair to say Watford played with passion, dignity and a wonderful never say die attitude, as well as plenty of talent. I am sure they will not be far away from returning to the 'promised land' of the Premiership come next May.

The 'promised land', now there is a thought. I wonder what the 'promised land' is for us. Prince Edward? The Conference or Conference South? (or Blue square South as we need to call it now), a settled future? Maybe just a season where we didn't have to go to the wire to avoid relegation?

This summer has been short. Actually have we had a summer? At the time of writing and with pre-season training about to start it seems far more as if we are

Watford FC Manager Adrian Boothroyd.

deep into the season rather than what we might expect this time of year with some sun, barbeques and swimming.

Becoming Chairman in May has meant this has been a summer of learning fast for me. Trying to understand and influence every aspect of this club from new website to the relationship with Stanmore College, from potential sponsorship to the Football Association themselves amongst other things has been pretty time consuming.

The fun and games in mid June about which division we would be playing in, including a trip to Soho Square tested all of us. The upshot is that we are confirmed back in the Ryman League. Less travelling means less travel costs and more local derbies means more away support meaning more income. This is good. However the league itself will undoubtedly be tough. We are hoping we will have a competitive squad (we hope that every year) though I can tell you that as always we continue to lose out on too many players even to clubs one or more divisions below.

We still have a month until the new season begins. So still plenty of time to buy a season ticket, to persuade your employer to take an advert in the programme, to sponsor a match or a players kit and so on.

It goes without saying that our club continues to depend on the support of individuals. Perhaps too much. That is why events like this one are so important



and why we have gone to great lengths to try to attract a big crowd tonight. We had 30,000 leaflets distributed around the Watford area promoting this game and we thank Regal with whom we are working for helping us with this, and to tonight's match sponsors McDonald and Lloyd for all their support.

I hope the sun does shine tonight, that Wealdstone and Watford supporters alike enjoy the festivities. We guess that the Wealdstone fans will return but we hope some of the Watford supporters see enough to encourage them to come back to see us when Watford are away or not playing and to the effect we are delighted to offer ½ price admission to Ryman League games at Northwood on production of a Watford season ticket.

Enjoy the game, enjoy the rest of the summer and let's hope for a great year ahead for both Wealdstone and Watford.

Howard Kraiss

Wealdstone F.C Chairman



Major Honours since 1950

- 1951-52**
Athenian League
Champions
- 1958-59, 1962-63,
1964-65**
Middlesex Senior Cup
Winners
- 1965-66**
FA Amateur Cup
Winners
- 1967-68**
Middlesex Senior Cup
Winners
- 1973-74**
Southern League
Division One South
Winners
- 1981-82**
Southern League
Champions and
Southern League Cup
Winners
- 1984-85**
Football Conference
Champions, FA
Trophy Winners &
Middlesex Senior Cup
Winners
- 1996-97**
Isthmian League
Division 3 Winners
- 1997-98**
Promoted from
Isthmian League
Division 2 (3rd)
- 2003-04**
Middlesex Charity
Cup Winners
and promoted to
Isthmian League
Premier Division (
via play-off)

A long wet summer of uncertainty

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen, and welcome to Preston Park for tonight's friendly between Wealdstone FC and Watford FC. I would firstly like to thank Harefield FC for offering to stage the game for us, as it has often been difficult to obtain a suitable venue for a game against a professional club so early in the season.

And secondly, I would like to thank Watford FC, who have promised to send down a strong side. Hopefully, it will also include Theo Robinson and John-Joe O'Toole, two players who made their mark here whilst on loan with some committed and effective contributions last season. Lastly, I wish you all an enjoyable evening and a safe and pleasant journey home.

The last time we entertained Watford was in July 1999. Despite Wealdstone giving a good account of themselves and playing some excellent passing football, the final scoreline was 7-0 to Watford! We did create a number of chances, but where we failed, Watford excelled, and you

have to say some of their finishing was clinical to the extreme. They had just been promoted to the Premier League back then, but unfortunately were relegated within one season. They have just had the misfortune to be relegated from the Premier Division after just one season again, but may we wish them a speedy return to the top flight again.

Nothing is ever simple for Wealdstone FC, and this close season proved to be no exception. Having confirmed our Southern Premier Division survival after a dramatic Theo Robinson inspired 4-2 victory over Yate Town, the Stones went into the close season fairly confident they would be playing in the Southern League again next season.

However, a few rumours started coming out that we were to be moved across to the Ryman Premier Division, which in case any Watford fans are wondering, is the same level as the Southern League, but made up of more local clubs. This was then confirmed after the Ryman League constitution was announced. Whilst

supporters had mixed views, this was without doubt, good news for the club, as it means less travelling expenses and also makes it easier to sign players.

The Stones Management looked forward to being able to put together a stronger squad for the money. But in great Wealdstone tradition (!), a few rumours started to filter through that due to a number of clubs receiving reprieves and with a number of clubs going into administration, there was a chance the Stones could be moved back in to the Southern League!

So in short, Stones management had already had to re arrange their plans once, and looked like having to do it again. This would without doubt have had a detrimental effect on our ability to attract players. However, sanity prevailed and after a few scares, Stones were confirmed to be playing Ryman League Football for the 2007-8 season. So we will re acquaint ourselves with the likes of Harrow Borough, Hendon and AFC Wimbledon.

Obviously the season is at a very early stage, so news about new signings and

players who have been retained is very sketchy. But I can confirm that we have signed two new players in the form of midfielder Lee O'Leary and forward Peter Dean. Lee had a short and fairly successful spell with us during 2005 where his goalscoring record from midfield was impressive. He has signed from AFC Wimbledon. Peter is a highly rated forward who joins us from Northwood. May we wish them both a long and successful stay at the club. Most of last seasons squad have been back in training too.

Enjoy the game

Adam Williams

FA draws

The FA Trophy Draw was made today and Wealdstone will be away to either Leighton Town or Molesey in the first round qualifying. The ties will take place on Saturday 20 October 2007, 3pm KO.

Following the FA Cup draw (sponsored by E.ON) made at Soho Square, Wealdstone have been drawn at home to either Waltham Forest or Hainstead Town FC in the first qualifying round. The ties will take place on Saturday 15 September 2007, 3pm KO.

Edgware loses ground, as Harrow loses football

I AM SURE THAT MANY OF you are now aware that Edgware Town have effectively been evicted from their ground due after Harrow Council agreed planning permission for housing on the land. Sadly, as you know, land for housing is worth a small fortune, and money talks.

Although Edgware Town could reform and become fellow nomads, the ground as an amenity will be lost forever. All my great memories at Wealdstone home matches, be they Lower Mead or the White Lion, were in the Borough of Harrow. Both of these venues will never return. Surely this places extra pressure on the Council to do its utmost to deliver football in this great area?

Think how many grounds in Harrow presently hold a certificate for Ryman League Premier football, despite a population of around 250,000. Coupled with the fact that the London Borough of Barnet is hardly swimming in football facilities of this ilk, then surely PEPF going ahead is the best option for short and long term football.

The official statement from Edgware Town F.C. said, 'With the recent

purchase of the ground by Barratt Homes and the grant of planning permission by Harrow Council our main sponsor and benefactor has decided to withdraw their support with immediate effect, putting our lease of the White Lion ground in jeopardy.

'We must vacate the ground by the end of the year (December 2007) and with no alternative ground or ground sharing agreement available we will be unable to compete in the league and Cup competitions this season.

'This is devastating news after the success's of last season and all the work that has been done at the club to obtain an E grading for the ground. It will be a traumatic blow to the players, supporters and officials of the club who were looking forward to the new season.'

Our own chairman Howard Kraiss commented, 'What is so shocking about this is the speed with which everything has happened. We were actually due to meet with Edgware ... but on Tuesday morning I got a message from Paul Gregory saying they couldn't make it anymore.'

Edgware themselves were going through quite a revival at the time, winning all before them in the Spartan League, and were due to start this season just one division below Wealdstone. The only consolation was that they finished on a high.

Club News

Ryman League signs on broadband deal

The Ryman League has been given the go ahead by its Clubs to sign Heads of Agreement for its Broadband and Internet Protocol Television rights for the next three seasons.

This will mean the start of 'Ryman TV' and from the start of next season there will be a 'Match of the Week' every week during the playing season of some 40 minutes in length which registered users will be able to access within 48 hours of the final whistle of that game. Footage supplied by Member Clubs will also be incorporated.

Throughout the season two live games each month will be broadcast on a pay per view basis at a cost of £3.95. Matches will also be broadcast to pubs and clubs on a Saturday to fill the 'gap' between the lunch and tea-

time live matches.

At their recent AGM Clubs were given a presentation setting out the principal objects of the Agreement and some details of the requirements of the Clubs so that the company filming matches will not be given a worse vantage point than the clubs own filming team and clubs not taking their film crew to away matches. For the first time Club Managers will be required to be available for post-match interviews.

The income from this agreement is quite substantial with an average of £100,000 per season being paid to the League over the three seasons.

Additional income will be available to the Clubs individually for those featured on the live matches and for those wanting DVDs of matches for retail sale.

Commenting, Chairman Alan Turvey said, 'This is ground breaking area for the League. In the 50's matches from this League were shown on television but now we have a chance to elevate the profile of the League so that enthusiasts worldwide can watch our level of football through the Internet.'

Injury News

Graeme Montgomery had an operation at the end of May on his troublesome cartilage problem in his left knee. The operation went well and is currently receiving treatment with the aim for him to take part in pre-season training.



IN MEMORIUM

It comes with great regret to announce the passing of an extremely loyal Wealdstone supporter Steve Somers, who died tragically of heart failure at the tender age of 37.

Steve first started watching the club as a young boy in the late 1970s and has been a regular at home and away games ever since. He was without doubt, a real gentle giant and great company during long away trips. Yet another loyal supporter who sadly will not see us in our new home at PEPF. For his funeral, a number of Wealdstone supporters presented an arrangement of flowers done in the blue and white lettering of 'Wealdstone FC'.

Our feelings and deepest sympathy are with his family.



Big Ben rings in again



Big Ben Alexander is back with us, and here (top and middle left) we see him bamboozling and then scoring against Folkestone.

Bottom: a reminder of his sheer strength.

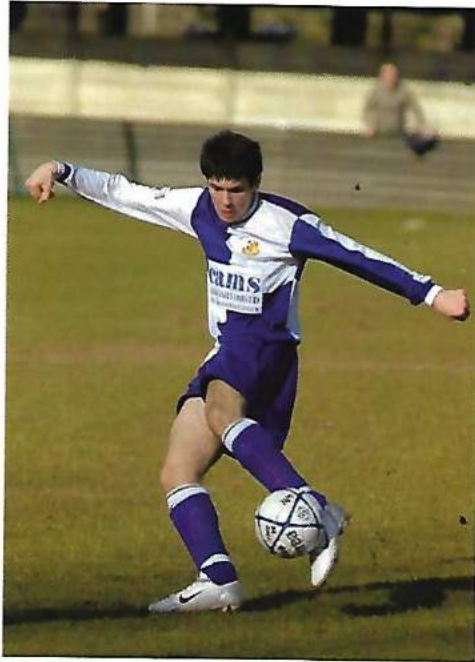


Below: Josh Cooper, who we were expecting to sign again at the time of going to press.

Gallery

Young guns go for it

With a combined age of less than many of our fans, the youngsters from last season show their skill.



Top: Montgomery
Top right: Donnelly
Above: Robinson
Left: Carl Martin





The boys with a sting in their tails

Danny Shittu

James Chambers

Before his August 2004 move from The Hawthorns, he'd played just 78 times in well over five seasons as a professional with West Brom. Blessed with a good turn of foot, his versatility has been a key factor in his new club overcoming the limitations presented by a small squad. Born in the Black Country, James joined for a fee of £250,000.

Spent a period on loan at Championship side Cardiff City during 2006/07 before he returned to Vicarage Road and established himself in the side before injury struck just before Christmas and restricted his top-flight appearances.

Jordan Stewart

Adrian Boothroyd's first major signing in July 2005, Jordan Stewart penned a three year contract following his £125,000 move from

Leicester City. A versatile left-sided player with pace and good crossing ability, Jordan is comfortable at left-back or a more advanced midfield role. Premiership experience with the Foxes led to a call-up to the England U21s, having already gained several caps at U18 level. He made 127 appearances for Leicester and became a regular for Watford during the promotion season of 2005/06.

Matt Jackson

A hugely experienced and popular figure in the game, Matt Jackson became Aidy Boothroyd's first summer signing when he arrived from Wigan Athletic.

He has over 500 games under his belt after starting his career with Luton Town. A big money move to Merseyside followed where he joined Everton, winning an FA Cup medal in 1995.

After five years with the Goodison Park outfit he had brief loan spells with Birmingham City, QPR and Charlton, before he made a permanent switch to Carrow Road with Norwich City.

The Leeds-born defender spent five years there and left to join Wigan Athletic and gained promotion to the Premiership with them. He formed a reliable and solid defensive partnership with Jason de Vos and became club captain while at the JJB Stadium as well. Jackson has previously worked with Boothroyd during a spell with Norwich City.

Clarke Carlisle

Imposing defender Clarke Carlisle completed his transfer to the Hornets prior to the 2005/06 from Leeds for £100,000. Pitched straight into the defensive line, the Preston-born centre-half acquitted himself

The Opposition

well and formed a good partnership with the likes of Jay DeMerit and Malky Mackay at the back.

Started out as a trainee at Blackpool, was signed by QPR for £250,000 in 2000 and after three seasons moved to Elland Road to be part of Kevin Blackwell's new-look Leeds squad. At 6'3" he's a constant danger at set-pieces as proved with his 20-plus career goals to his name so far.

Jay DeMerit

When playing a trial game for Northwood against the Hornets in July 2004, the centre-half from Wisconsin took to professional football like a duck to water. After earning a one-year deal while trialling with the Hornets, the club wasted no time in signing the 25-year-old on a longer contract.

He became the second Northwood player - after Scott Fitzgerald - to make a successful move five steps up the football pyramid. And

James Chambers



his dramatic rise to prominence continued in the 2005/06 season when he helped Watford to promotion, scoring the winning goal in the final.

His reliable performances were rewarded when he received his first call up and debut in March 2007.

Damien Francis

A goal-scoring midfielder who was signed last summer prior to the start of last season. Francis started his career with the Crazy Gang at Wimbledon.

He made just under 100 starts for the wombles and then moved on to Norwich where he continued his impressive scoring record - bagging 14 goals in 71 starts. He spent two years at Carrow Road before he moved to Wigan. Francis spent a year in the north west before returning South, to Vicarage Road.

Has grabbed important goals but he saw his season cut short when he injured his anterior cruciate ligaments.

Jobi McAnuff

Recently signed, the former Crystal Palace winger for an initial £1.75m, which could rise to £2m

McAnuff began his career with Wimbledon before he moved across London to West Ham. His career at Upton Park lasted only a short time though and in 2004 he went to Cardiff.

He began to earn rave reviews at Championship level and with Cardiff having their own financial problems

they sold the Edmonton-born midfielder to Palace.

Gavin Mahon

Won the 'Player of the Season' award in 2003/04. Since signing from Brentford in 2001/02, he's fought back from two knee injuries to make the central midfield berth his own, skipping the Hornets to promotion at Cardiff in May 2006.

Highly respected by the manager, Mahon has made over 150 appearances for Watford. Was a near ever-present figure during the Hornets' Premiership campaign and finished the season with a blistering half volley strike in the demolition against Portsmouth.

Marlon King

Pronounced by Watford fans as the King of Vicarage Road, the London-born forward started his career with Barnet before heading to Gillingham in 2000/01. But after making his name in Kent with a tally of 47 goals in just 93 starts Nottingham Forest came calling, spending £950k to replace Marlon Harewood.

King was to endure two difficult seasons at The City Ground and found himself on loan at Leeds United. Watford swooped to sign the striker on loan and the move paid instant dividends for both parties, as King became the first player since Luther Blissett to score 20 goals in a season for the Hornets. King's rich vein of form saw Watford sign him permanently for an initial £500k in December 2005,

The Opposition

as he went on to end the season with a final tally of 22 goals in 44 appearances.

The 'King' started where he left off in 2006/07 with a breathtaking strike against West Ham. However his first time in the top-flight was cut short after a knee injury in October. With the help of the medical team he returned to the team and captained the side at the tail-end of the season.

Darius Henderson

Striker Darius Henderson joined the Hornets for £450,000 from Gillingham. Big, strong, fast and physical, Henderson was one of Boothroyd's prime targets in August 2005. Able to hold up the ball, score with both feet and use his pace when necessary, the big striker is a handful up front and has proven to be a good foil for the electric pace of strike partner Marlon King. He finished 2005/06 with an impressive tally of 15 goals. After King's injury it was down to Henderson to lead the Hornets' strike line.

Richard Lee

First-choice at the start of the 2004/05, former Academy goalkeeper Richard went on to establish himself as one of the leading performers in the division with some memorable performances during the Hornets' run to the Carling Cup semi-final.

Lee has spent the 2005/06 season on loan at Blackburn Rovers.

The stopper returned to the Vic at the start of the

2007/08 and impressed the boss so much that he signed an improved contract at the club. The local lad stepped in when Ben Foster was sidelined and played his part in the club's FA Cup run.

Dan Shittu

The powerful centre half was another Aidy Boothroyd signing prior to the start of the new 2006/07 Premiership season.

Shittu had been at QPR since October 2001 when he initially joined on loan from Charlton Athletic, the club he started his career with.

Known for his physical stature and heading ability the Nigerian international relishes physical battles but is also a likeable, friendly man off the pitch and works with children in his native East London during his time away from football.

Hameur Bouazza

A former Swindon loanee, Hameur Bouazza has made excellent strides in recent seasons since progressing from the Hornets' burgeoning Academy set-up. The Evry-born attacker broke his foot at the tail end of the 2005/06 promotion season but recovered in time to take his place on the bench for the Play-Off Final. Bouazza scored Watford's fourth goal at Bramall Lane in the 4-1 rout of Sheffield United in February 2006, combining electrifying pace and no little strength, which is a feature of his displays. Brought up in the tough suburbs of Paris, Hameur's journey to Vicarage Road is



Darius Hewitt

a success story in itself.

The winger-come-striker made his debut for Algeria during the 2006/07 season and finished the season strongly, including hitting the winner in the FA Cup Quarter Final. Bouazza also scored a spectacular overhead kick in the semi final against Manchester United.

Mart Poom

The Estonian international 'keeper has vast experience in English football having made over 200 appearances for Sunderland and Derby. He famously scored a headed goal when playing for Sunderland against The Rams at Pride Park in September 2003.

Adrian Mariappa

A commanding and uncompromising defender for one so young. Came to prominence when he took his place on the subs bench against West Ham United, but has since made several first-team appearances for Aidy Boothroyd's side.

The Opposition

Mariappa has effortlessly stepped up to become a regular right back. Despite not being his natural position he has not looked out of place in the top flight.

Tamas Priskin

The Hungarian international arrived at from Gyori ETO FC who play in the Hungarian league. He made his debut at Goodison Park and grabbed his first goal in the Carling Cup tie against Hull City.

The 20-year-old is highly thought of continues to develop at an impressive rate.

Tommy Smith

Returned to Hertfordshire in September 2006 after Aidy Boothroyd moved to bring the former Hornet back to Vicarage Road. The Hemel Hempstead born winger is a graduate of the successful Academy at the club but left to join Sunderland in September 2006.

After a season in the north west he joined Derby County where he played under George Burley. It was here he developed as a player and turned into more of wide-man rather than a striker. Burley used a front three system with Smith on one wing and he has since developed into a tricky wide player.

The chance to return home to the Vic proved too much for the talented wide man and he made his second debut against Bolton Wanderers.

Smith got better as the Premiership season went on and Boothroyd later described the wide-man as his

outfield player of the season for 2006/07.

Alex Campana

Made his debut in the Carling Cup in August 2005 while still a first year scholar. Identified as 'one to watch' by the gaffer in a Staff v Scholars match in training, Alex got his chance and came on in the second-half. A skilful, stocky midfielder, Campana is already enjoying involvement at reserve team.

Signed a pro deal towards the end of the season, joining Theo and Jordan Parkes with the first team squad. Captained the Academy side during the season and became a regular for the second string side.

Lee Williamson

Signed by Boothroyd in the January transfer window.

A midfielder who can operate down the middle or on the right hand side - joined in a joint deal with fellow ex-Rotherham player Will Hoskins. The pair were signed in a deal that could rise to £1m.

Started his career with Mansfield and after making 150 appearances moved to Northampton Town. He signed for Rotherham in 2005 and made a name for himself alongside Hoskins for the Millers.

Made his debut at Old Trafford for the Golden Boys in front of 76, 032.

Theo Robinson

Birmingham born Theo burst on to the scene in the latter stages of the 2005/06 campaign, after impressing

in action for both the Reserve and Academy sides - the highlight of his second-string season coming when he scored a hat-trick against Portsmouth in late-March.

Boothroyd place his faith in youth throughout the season and Robinson's chance came in April 2006, when used as a sub against QPR in a 2-1 win. A fast-paced, skilful centre-forward who's never short of confidence, Robinson's first touch at Loftus Road was an audacious overhead kick, which only narrowly missed the net.

Robinson signed his pro first deal with the club in February 2007 and he is under contract at the Vic until 2008. He was loaned out to neighbours Wealdstone during the later stages of the 2007/08 season and he had no problem in regularly finding the back of the net for the non-league side.

Jay DeMerit





Papali strikes again and again and again



Gallery



Chris O'Leary in the air and on the floor.



BGB Southern League Table 2006/7

Final Table. 2006-07 Season

	PL	Home					Away					PTS	GD	H	A
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A				
Bath City	42	13	5	3	43	15	14	5	2	41	14	91	55	L0-4	L1-2
Team Bath	42	14	3	4	39	19	9	6	6	27	23	78	24	W2-1	L1-2
King's Lynn	42	15	3	3	37	12	7	7	7	32	28	76	29	D1-1	L0-1
Maidenhead U	42	11	6	4	31	17	9	4	8	27	19	70	22	L0-3	L0-3
Hemel H'std T	42	12	6	3	44	22	7	6	8	35	38	69	19	D2-2	L2-5
Halesowen T	42	11	6	4	43	30	7	7	7	23	23	67	13	L1-3	L3-5
Chippenham T	42	11	6	4	35	20	8	3	10	26	36	66	5	W3-1	L0-2
Stamford	42	10	4	7	31	23	6	7	8	34	39	59	3	L2-5	D2-2
Mangotsfield U	42	5	11	5	21	22	8	8	5	23	23	58	-1	D1-1	L1-3
Gloucester City	42	6	6	9	28	40	9	7	5	39	30	58	-3	L0-1	W2-0
Hitchin Town	42	11	3	7	31	28	5	6	10	24	40	57	-13	W4-0	L2-4
Merthyr Tydfil	42	10	7	4	28	15	4	7	10	19	31	56	1	L1-2	L0-3
Banbury United	42	6	6	9	33	33	9	4	8	27	31	55	-4	W4-0	L1-3
Yate Town	42	7	7	7	41	36	7	5	9	18	35	54	-12	L0-1	W4-2
Tiverton Town	42	10	3	8	30	26	4	5	12	26	41	50	-11	W2-1	L1-2
Cheshunt	42	10	3	8	34	29	4	4	13	22	42	49	-15	W5-2	D0-0
Rugby Town	42	10	2	9	32	32	5	2	14	26	47	49	-21	W2-1	L0-2
Clevedon Town	42	6	7	8	32	30	6	5	10	28	31	48	-13	D3-3	D2-2
Wealdstone	42	8	6	7	38	36	5	3	13	31	46	48	-13		
Corby Town	42	5	6	10	27	33	5	3	13	25	36	39	-17	W2-1	W4-2
Cirencester T	42	6	6	9	29	36	3	6	12	17	40	39	-30	D2-2	W3-0
Northwood	42	4	4	13	23	37	4	6	11	21	37	34	-30	D1-1	W2-1

Wealdstone FC Team Draw Results - June 2007

1 C Andrews - £100

2 D Towell	£50	3 L Taylor	£30
4 B Sargeant	£20	5 P. Baptiste	£10
6 N Conway	£10	7 C Kemp	£10
8 A Dawson	£10	9 P Drew	£10

Well done to all of our Team Draw winners.

If you haven't yet received a prize from a previous draw, please call Nick DuGard on 01727 872675 - it could be that we don't have a current address for you. Don't forget to always update us with any **address changes** or please advise us if you withdraw your standing order (or if you change it).

Thanks to all our previous winners who donated their prizes back to club funds.
Teamdraw currently contributes £1000 a month to the playing budget.

Profile



Honorary Stone who helped save the day

Tim Parks talks to **THEO ROBINSON** about playing for Wealdstone one week.. and against Newcastle United



THE LIST OF EX-STONES players who have gone on to make a living from pro football – even in recent years – is pretty impressive. Think Stuart Pearce, Vinny Jones and Jermaine Beckford and you'll realise why our club is not a bad stepping stone (no pun intended) for those with larger ambitions.

I think Theo Robinson may fit into that category. Although not technically a Wealdstone player, having joined us on loan from Watford in February, the 18-year-old soon found a

place in everyone's hearts with the raw pace, power and finishing ability that played a large part in the Stones escaping relegation last season.

So how did he enjoy his few months in the high-octane world of BGB Southern League Premier football?

"To be fair, it taught me a lot and it was really good for my game" said the softly-spoken Theo a few weeks ago. "I played at QPR for the Watford first team at the end of the 2005-6 season, when we won

2-1, but last year I was just getting the odd run-out for the Reserves and my form wasn't really going anywhere.

"It is a more technical game in the reserves and the manager (Aidy Boothroyd) thought it would be good for me to play more 'men's football'. So Wealdstone has been very enjoyable... I've had more chances to score, more involvement in the games and it's more passionate than Watford's reserves. So yeah, it's been good".

Those sentiments were

Profile

echoed by ex-QPR youth star Scott Donnelly, who played those last few months of the season behind Theo in midfield. "It actually means something playing for Wealdstone, rather than in the reserves of a big club. Then it's more about showing a few clever touches and avoiding injury."

But back to Theo. He must have been delighted at that surprise call-up to the Watford first team for the last game of the season - against Newcastle at Vicarage Road?

"Yeah, it was amazing. I didn't think the manager was thinking of me, but then I was named on the bench and actually got on the field for the last few minutes. My Premiership debut! Awesome! I actually had the chance to run at the Newcastle defence and made some space, but the couple of times Marlon (King) had the chance to play me in he didn't release the ball. That was frustrating! In the end Marlon put away a penalty and it finished 1-1.

"But it was great to be involved. Only two weeks before I had been playing for Wealdstone at Kings Lynn. I just have to work really hard at my game now - I was given a one-year contract in February and I have to prove that I deserve to be in the Watford squad."

Theo's family background is tuned more into basketball than football, with his

cousin Steven Hansell an England and GB regular and older brother Wayne, 24, an ex-Birmingham Bullet and England youth prodigy. But even though Theo is also tall and rangy like the rest of his family, he always wanted to make it in the 11-a-side game.

"We moved around a lot when I was a kid, from Birmingham to London and then back again, but I was mainly brought up around Handsworth, near Birmingham. Stoke City signed me as a 16-year-old but didn't take me on as a pro in the end.

"But I scored loads of goals in youth football, 60-odd a season in Stoke and Birmingham, and I'm feeling really sharp now after my time with Wealdstone. I know I miss a few chances, but I'm working hard on my finishing and maybe I was working too much on the rest of my game at the start of the season."

So what was Theo's favourite out of the dozen or

so goals he scored to get us out of relegation trouble in the Spring?

"The one I best remember was at the Cemetery End at Northwood, in a midweek game, can't remember the opponents, but I flicked the ball over a defender at the angle of the box and volleyed it into the top corner. Really liked that one!" (It was our second goal in the 3-3 home draw with Clevedon)

"Then the away game at Gloucester was special, when Monty put a great cross in and I just steered it into the far corner. That was an important game, I was really pleased to get a goal".

Who are you going to play for tonight then, Theo?

"Ha ha, I don't really know anything about the friendly game, but we'll have been back training at Watford for a couple of weeks and I don't know if I'll be involved. But it'll be a good night I'm sure".

**Opposite:
Robinson
signalling
another
attack
against
Bath.**

**Right: Go-
ing for the
ball
against
Halesowen.**





WEALDSTONE FC
Ground Regulations

People are only allowed entry to Northwood Park on match days subject to the following rules and regulations. 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 by 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.
- Carrying items which may be considered a danger to others, including cans, bottles or drinking 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 offensive language like to cause offence to others.
- Using violence of any nature.

The consumption of alcoholic drinks is permitted **INSIDE** the social club bar and board room areas.

Vehicles parked on the Northwood Park site are at the owners risk.

Wealdstone FC
Board of Directors

Love-torn between the Vicarage Road and Lower Mead

There is no doubt that as a committed Stones supporter I have always had a powerful 'love-hate' relationship with Watford Football Club. Love in the sense that it was the Hornets that introduced me to the game of football that led to a life long obsession with the beautiful game.

I watched my first football matches at Vicarage Road with my brothers in the early 1970s when the likes of Stewart Scullion and Duncan Welbourne were plying their trade in the lower divisions of the old football league. I have many good memories of those early days of my football supporting experiences because without them I would never have got involved with the stones or with football at all. My older brother, Melvyn, remains a committed Hornets man and without his enthusiasm I doubt I would have ventured through the turnstiles. I hope that Melvyn will be here today.

But something was missing in that Watford was not *my* team and although I was enjoying the matches, Watford was my brother's passion and I was an interested spectator - I wanted

to develop a passion for my *own* team, although I don't think I realised this at the time.

My team turned out to be a local non-league team and came about purely by chance through a college friend (ironically at Stanmore College), and the late lamented Lower Mead rather than Vicarage Road became my hallowed turf, my football passion.

My wife Karen, whom I met through Wealdstone (on an FA Cup trip to Grays Athletic with her Dad), worked for Watford FC for two very happy years during their great period of the 1980s under three managers and was interviewed for her job by Graham Taylor himself. I came to understand through her experience at Watford at that time, how a club should be run and how effective marketing and working with the community can be. I used to chat with Dave Bassett when collecting Karen from her office and I remain a fan of Harry because of this experience.

Karen and I were invited to one of Elton John's Garden Parties during her time as a staff member and this was also an experience we shall never forget.

Karen DuGard with Elton John, former chairman of Watford Football Club, and passable musician.



Not unsurprisingly, Karen remains a Hornets fan and we continue to wind each other up over our respective loyalties – even though both teams are now worlds apart in terms of status.

Watford - and I think that those Hornets fans that have any knowledge of this period will understand why.

Our terms of removal after only two seasons at Vicarage Road, with the then

Hornets in 1999 played at Edgware as our centenary match. This was before Watford's opening games in the Premiership following a play off win at the old Wembley against Bolton that I witnessed with Karen.

We thank Watford and Aidy Boothroyd in particular for the very effective loans of Theo Robinson and John-Joe O'Toole last season and we are delighted at the relationship we now have between the clubs – something we can really build on in the future to our mutual benefit.

Enjoy the game and maybe some memories...

Nick DuGard

We continue to wind each other up over our respective loyalties.

The Wealdstone/Watford connection was unexpectedly thrust upon us in 1990/91 after I had left the Board of Wealdstone following the sale of Lower Mead and I was informed that our new home was, incredibly, to be Vicarage Road. Sadly for us at the Stones this move turned out to be one of the greatest mistakes ever made by a Wealdstone regime and this whole dreadful period in our history eventually soured my relationship with

Chairman Jack Petchey calling the shots, meant that, in my opinion, a near bankrupt Wealdstone FC effectively paid for the Vicarage Road stand to be built - and even with the passing years this still stabs away whenever I drive past it.

Things move on however, and we have good memories of the last friendly with the

Sadly for us this turned out to be one of the greatest mistakes.

Supporters' Club

On behalf of Wealdstone FC Supporters Club, we welcome all Stones and Hornets fans to tonight's prestigious friendly against Watford. Does it really seem eight years since we last played Watford in a friendly? Let's hope that the scoreline will be a little more favourable towards the Stones than the 7-0 defeat at the hands of a team that was just about to go into the Premiership after promotion from Division 1 (as it was then known).

RYMAN LEAGUE

Well it has really been a very interesting close season. First, we heard the news that we would be playing in the Ryman Premier League. Then we heard that we were then going to be moved back to the Southern League and then a few days later, we heard that we would then be definitely playing in the Ryman Premier League.

Overall the move to the Ryman Premier League is a good one. We expect to have higher average attendances at home matches, we will be able to save costs on travelling and hopefully it will be easier for our manager, Gordon Bartlett to attract players.

WELCOME TO HOWARD

There have been changes in the Wealdstone FC Board of Directors. I first of all would like to express congratulations to the newly appointed Chairman, Howard Kraiss. It is great to see that a genuine supporter has made it to the top as it were. I have known Howard

since the early 1980s. We used to travel to away games on the Supporters Club coach in the early 1980s. Both of us attended each other weddings and we worked together when he was on the Supporters Club committee, firstly as a member and then as Chairman.

He has had a tough baptism due to the apparent lack of progress in the development of the Prince Edward Playing Fields and then he has had to deal with the fiasco of contemplating playing again in the Southern League after being told that we were going to be playing in the Ryman Premier League.

After hearing the news of the possible switch back to the Southern League, Howard went to the FA's Headquarters at Soho Square in London to plead our case. Perhaps he had something to do with staying in the Ryman Premier League although the delay in developments at Scarborough Football Club was probably the major reason.

The Supporters Club have already had a meeting with Howard and Paul Fruin and we were all impressed with his honesty about progress, or should I say lack of progress with Prince Edward, and his thoughts on future developments for Wealdstone FC. We on the Supporters Club wish Howard and his new Board the best of luck for the future.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

There have also been some

changes in the Supporters Club Committee. Sarin Rawal, who has been Chairman since 2005, has stood down and Adam Hills as Secretary. We are thankful to both for their services and I am pleased to report that Sarin will continue as treasurer and Hillsy will assist where possible on the committee.

After much thought and 20 years on the committee, I decided to put myself forward as Chairman and I was finally voted in at our last meeting at the beginning of July. I now feel quite privileged to become Chairman after being a supporter for over 30 years and I look forward to steering the Supporters Club forward to help and promote Wealdstone Football Club in any way possible.

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

A couple of weeks ago, as a response to the apparent lack of progress with the development of Prince Edward Playing Fields, the Supporters Club decided to write to both the Harrow Observer and the Harrow Times and we were pleased to see that both were given prominence on their letter pages. We are pleased to reproduce the letter in case supporters did not see it.

Last week, many of Wealdstone's independent Supporters Club members attended the Annual General Meeting of Wealdstone Football Club and I was very concerned to hear from our new Chairman, Howard

Krais and his Board of Directors, that since the last AGM, over eleven months ago, there has been little progress with regard to the development of the Prince Edward Playing Field. It seemed that eleven months ago after it was announced that Barnet Football Club were intending to lease the land, it was only going to be a matter of time before building works commenced and we would see the dream of seeing Wealdstone Football Club playing in its own stadium for the first time in over 16 years. Harrow Council has been very supportive of the plans and ensuring that Wealdstone will at last be playing in a new ground which they can more or less call their own. They have approved plans and supported Barnet's vision of ensuring a future for Wealdstone and ensuring that the local community will all benefit from the development. The question therefore has to be asked: Why has there not been little or no apparent progress in the last eleven months? We fully support Barnet's vision and look forward to meeting with their Chairman soon.

Within this period there have been signs of increased vandalism and graffiti and generally increased dereliction at the site of the Prince Edward Playing Fields and added to the fact the site had already been abandoned for 2 years, the site will only get far worse and

cost more to put right. As most people know, Wealdstone Football Club have been living a nomadic existence since leaving Lower Mead Stadium in Harrow in 1991. We have ground shared at Yeading, Edgware and are at present ground sharing with Northwood and this situation cannot continue, as, soon enough, there will not be any money left in the pot to carry on. We are sure that Harrow Council does not want to see this great club go the way of former North London rivals Enfield who recently went out of business.

We, the Wealdstone FC Supporters Club, have been in existence for nearly 50 years and in fact we will be celebrating our Golden Anniversary in 2008. We are an independent group with its own views and opinions but we have always done our best to promote and support Wealdstone Football Club. Now at this most important time in the club's history, we are happy to offer our help to Harrow Council in any possible way to ensure that we will be supporting and promoting Wealdstone Football Club for at least another 50 years.

CLUB NEWS

At our last committee meeting, we have agreed to give the main club a donation of £1,500 which will be used for the players budget for this coming season. We hope to be able to give a cheque for £1,500 to

Howard this evening. We also hope to be able to sponsor one of the early home matches of the season in return for the main club paying for the trophies that the Supporters Club presented at the very successful awards evening at the end of last season.

At present on the Supporters Club committee, we have a vacancy for a Secretary and we could really do with at least a couple more committee members. If you would like to help in any capacity, please let me or any other committee members know and we would be happy to discuss where you can help.

Next February actually sees the 50th anniversary of the Supporters Club. It was actually founded in February 1958. We are in the initial stages of planning a Celebration Dinner at the end of the season which we really hope to be a very special evening. More details will be announced in due course.

We will be selling Golden Goals this evening. Tickets costs £1.00 each and you all have the opportunity to win £50.00.

If you want to be updated regularly with news regarding the main club and the Supporters Club, please check our website, www.wfesc.co.uk

Let's hope tonight sees a large attendance and is a very successful evening both on and off the pitch.

UP THE STONES!

Friendlies....

....Scholarships

PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY FIXTURES

FIRST TEAM

JULY	Wednesday 18 th	WATFORD	@ Harefield United	KO	7-45pm
	Saturday 21 st	Hitchin Town	Away	KO	3pm
	Tuesday 24 th	Edgware Town	Away	KO	7-45pm
	Saturday 28 th	Windsor & Eton	Away	KO	3pm
	Tuesday 31 st	Burnham	Away	KO	7-30pm
AUGUST	Saturday 4 th	Hayes	HOME	KO	3pm
	Tuesday 7 th	Chesham United	Away	KO	7-45pm
	Saturday 11 th	Leatherhead	Away	KO	3pm
	Monday 13 th	Hillingdon Borough	Away	KO	7-45pm

RESERVE TEAM

JULY	Tuesday 10 th	Bushey Rangers	@ Broadfields	KO	7pm
	Saturday 14 th	Rayners Lane	@ Broadfields	KO	12pm
	Saturday 21 st	Chalfont St Peter	@ Broadfields	KO	12pm
	Saturday 28 th	Edgware Town	@ Broadfields	KO	12pm
AUGUST	Saturday 4 th	Berkhamsted Town	Away	KO	3pm
	Tuesday 7 th	Gatside Rangers	Away	KO	6-45pm
	Saturday 11 th	Potters Bar Town	@ Broadfields	KO	12pm

FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP

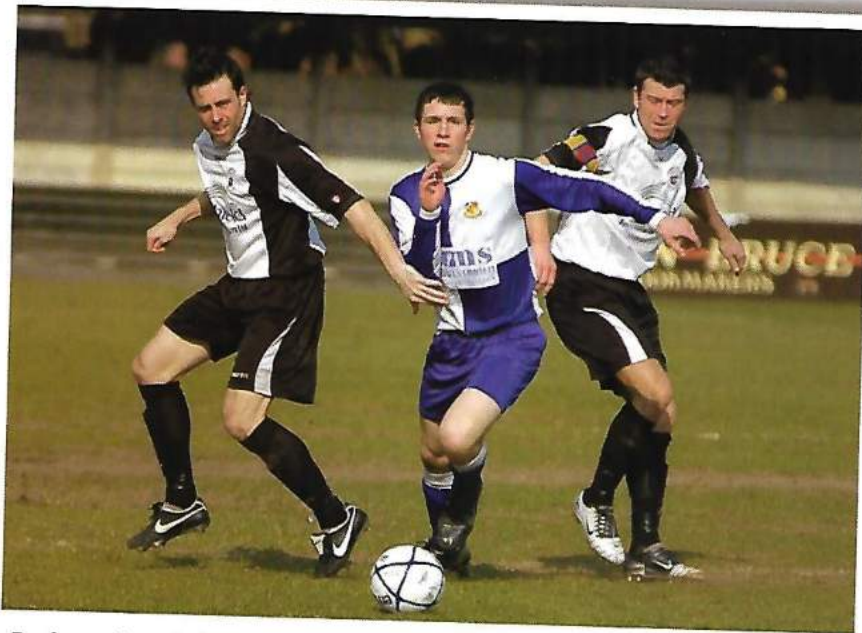
AUGUST	Wednesday 8 th	Bedfont Green	KO	6-30pm
		Contact Kim Turner		
		Dunstable Town	KO	6-30pm
		Contact Kevin Thoburn		
Wednesday 15 th	AFC Hayes (Brook House	Contact Barry Crump	KO	6-30pm
		Edgware Town	KO	6-30pm
		Contact Jason Scannell		
		Wednesday 22 nd	Burnham	Contact Mervin 07860 734003
North Greenford United	KO			6-30pm
Contact Steve Hawkins 07746 883142				
Wednesday 29 th	Harefield United			Contact Glenn Bellis
		Chesham United	KO	6-30pm
		Contact Bob Hatcher		
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 5 th	Gaeside Rangers	KO	6-30pm
		FA Youth Squad		
		Contact Hillisy 07912 932946		



Fergus and Monty: looking after the left side for the Stones



Gallery



John Jo O'Toole, on loan from Watford.
Below: a group effort—goal!





The hornet and the stone, a tale of two football clubs

RIVALRY? WELL, PROBABLY not in the true footballing sense as Wealdstone and Watford have never really met in competition on equal terms. There have, however, been a number of matches between the two sides under their various incarnations, and being local clubs of similar age, checking through the histories of both clubs shows fascinating links going back to the very beginning of football in these two towns, just five miles apart.

Perhaps with a different train of thought and a little more support, Wealdstone may today have been the Championship side visiting their non-league Hertford-

shire neighbours... Slightly earlier than Wealdstone's inception as 'The Oaks' in 1887, Watford FC's forerunners Watford Rovers (formed in 1881) were an embryonic club founded by one Henry Grover.

Rovers' West Herts ground in Cassio Road saw the first (known) meeting between The Oaks and Watford Rovers on 7th January 1888, Rovers running out winners by 3-2. It was only the eighth match ever played by The Oaks, who were also to play Rovers second XI in November of the same year, losing 1-0.

In fact it wasn't until the fifth game between a

Wealdstone side and Watford Rovers were 'Stones' to garner any success. Following two matches in 1887, the next was to take place in January 1898, when Wealdstone Juniors were comprehensively beaten 6-0 away.

Later that same year, the now renamed Wealdstone Albion were to face Watford Rovers home and away, in between Wealdstone's first season of league fixtures. After losing away from home 4-1 with only nine players, Wealdstone Albion managed a 1-1 draw in the return fixture on New Year's Eve in 1898.

There had also been a number of matches between

Historic Rivals

the various incarnations of Wealdstone FC and other Watford sides - Watford Swifts and Watford Church Institute that survived for lesser periods, and a third club, Watford St Mary's who were absorbed into Watford Rovers, the new club known as Watford FC from the late 1890s.

The Oaks had become Wealdstone FC (for the first time) by 1892 and the following season opened their campaign of friendlies with an 11-0 win over St Mary's, though they ended the season with a 1-1 draw against the same side. The only other meeting between the clubs was in 1894 - by then the original Wealdstone were playing as part of Harrow Athletic, and another friendly resulted in a 3-0 win for the Harrow side). With differing fortunes as Watford progressed through the Southern League into the Football League and Wealdstone battled through County Leagues, the Spartan and Athenian competitions, both clubs moved grounds in 1922 - Watford to Vicarage Road and Wealdstone (after a number of stops on the way) to Lower Mead, but there were no further matches between the two clubs until 6th May 1939.

It was the first match between the two sides to take place at Lower Mead, but the visitors were to run out winners by 2-1. With the Second World War starting shortly afterwards

League football for Wealdstone was suspended, and although wartime leagues did start up, the majority of Stones fixtures during the hostilities were friendly matches against local clubs.

It is surprising in hindsight that only one of these friendly matches was organised against Watford as a local professional side, that match played on the 21st May 1941, again at Lower Mead with 'Stones recording their first win in matches between the clubs by four goals to two.

Three further friendly matches were played - at Lower Mead in May 1951 (L2-4), Feb 1962 (L2-3) and Feb 1965 (L1-2), the latter followed in early September by an unusual joint match - Wealdstone and Harrow Town providing players for a match against Watford at Lower Mead in aid of the Mayor of Harrow's Charity. Watford led twice in the first half, before Wealdstone's Bernie Bremer and then Bobby Childs restored equality, before another 'Stones player, Mackenzie scored a second half winner, the result being 3-2. The combined side was; C Davidson, M Reynolds, A Holloway (all Harrow Town), D Richards, M Doyle (both Wealdstone), M Boist Harrow Town), B Allen, D Sidley, R Childs (sub E Mackenzie) E Dillsworth and B Bremer (all Wealdstone).

On 12th August 1966 - my eighth birthday - saw another pre-season friendly

and my first Wealdstone match! I was taken along to watch as a birthday present, but the outcome was another defeat, again by 2-1. Wealdstone's team that day showed five new faces from the previous seasons' Amateur Cup winners, though it was also Bobby Childs' third appearance against Watford, and he had scored in all three.

Though it was my first-ever Wealdstone match, it wasn't until a few weeks ago writing this article that I realised the part Watford had played in my football upbringing from this date... not least as I was led to believe I was a distant relative of Watford Scottish keeper at the time, Bert Slater, who I did meet once or twice though I don't think we ever established how tenuous or otherwise, the link.

The following two seasons, 1967/8 and 1968/9 saw Wealdstone and Watford compete in the same leagues for the first time. Not however the heights of the Football League, but the Bucks Border League (67-68) and the wonderfully named M1 Floodlight League (68-69) - very much 'other competitions' as they were intended almost as Reserve leagues.

Played late in the season, in the first match at Vicarage Road, Watford fielded mainly a reserve side, and Stones came away with a 1-0 victory which meant that only a draw was required in the return at Lower Mead to

Historic Rivals

at least ensure a share of the title. Watford brought a far stronger team, including no less than six regular first team players and £30,000 winger Stuart Scullion, who had dazzled Manchester United's European Cup winners with a goal in an FA Cup tie at Old Trafford only a few months earlier.

Wealdstone though, played brilliantly and in one of their best performances of the season won by 3 - 2 to seal the Championship, Townsend, Montague and Phillips playing outstandingly in midfield in an excellent team performance. The press reported at the time, 'It was a really remarkable Wealdstone show. They were taking on the best side to visit Lower Mead this season and were playing up and beyond them, despite losing goalkeeper Andy Williams to injury, Bernie Bremer taking over in goal. Wealdstone later went down to nine men as Mike Packer landed a cracking tackle on Hughie Lindsay's shin and he too left the field!'

The teams that day were Wealdstone; A Williams, A Phillips, D Leonard, C Townsend, T McGuinness, D Montague, B Bremer, T Slade, K Somers, H Lindsay, J Hutchinson. Sub; M Clary
Watford; Hanson, Packer, Hand, Galloway, Rivers, Eddy, Scullion, Farrall, Welbourne, Pearce, Low, Sub; Cooper.

The following season, the M1 Floodlight League wasn't to present further silver-



Wealdstone c.1893, none of the players above are still with the club.

ware however as Stones drew the away match (1-1) and lost at home 2-0, but the 68-69 season also saw youngster Colin Franks make a name for himself in around 30 games for Wealdstone before he left and signed for the Hornets, subsequently joining Sheffield United and eventually Toronto Blizzard.

In the 1971/2 pre-season, a Watford XI again visited Lower Mead to take on the newly-professional Stones, who were just setting out on their Southern League adventure under coach Alan Humphries. Wealdstone ran out winners by 4-2. It was the start of an era when Wealdstone and Watford were to be separated by a single Division as Stones reached Southern League Premier Division in 1974

while Watford spent most of the mid and late 70's in Division 4 of the League.

The first two seasons as a professional club saw Stones again hosting their Hertfordshire neighbours in pre-season matches winning one and losing one, sharing 13 goals across the two games and I have to confess it was around this time that, as a 14 year old I was a fairly regular fan in the Rookery, no longer being taken to QPR by my father (no doubt something to do with teenage angst!) preferring to travel to Watford with a couple of friends.

My confession - we were actually thrown out on a number of occasions, rarely seeing the end of matches... more for teen bravado, aimed verbally at the local

Historic Rivals

police than any actual hooliganism, I'm sure! Between 1976 and 1978, Wealdstone hosted Watford on three more occasions, winning twice and losing once to maintain the more recent improved record against their visitors, but they were to lose again in another fixture some ten years further on in 1987-88, Watford scoring four to Wealdstone's one goal in their last visit to Lower Mead.

1991 saw Wealdstone move out of Lower Mead and whether a good or bad decision (this programme isn't big enough to go through all the problems and issues of the time) Stones found themselves buying a 50% holding in the 125 year lease on Vicarage Road, and it saw Peter Worby and myself migrate from the terraces (Cambridge City was the last Wealdstone match I watched as just a supporter) into the PA box - about 10 kilowatts of PA System and a 40 foot scoreboard was ours for the foreseeable future!

I can't remember now if it was a Watford fanzine or website - maybe the late 'Blind, Stupid and Desperate' or both, but one comment I do remember from those fans who attended our first game at Vicarage Road was their reaction to the Stones running out to 'Sex and Drugs and Rock and Roll' by Ian Dury and the Blockheads. The comment was something along the lines of

the Watford PA man blowing a gasket, the PA being more used to the Z Cars theme, popular at Vicarage Road at the time, and still today.

It was a short stay, but long enough for the PA to make its mark - a 4-1 home defeat at the start of the second season was met by the players leaving the field to Shattered Dreams. Then an 'on air' comment about what I still say was an awful decision by the referee, which led to Bashley scoring their second goal in a 2-1 home defeat, was enough to require letters to officials, clubs and the FA and, frankly, a serious dressing down at the time. Oops! By the time Wealdstone and Watford were to meet again, Stones had moved on and the dust settled on what had become a soured relationship.

Now based at the White Lion Ground in Edgware, Manager Gordon Bartlett had started to build bridges on the playing side, and newly promoted Watford accepted an invitation for a pre-season match in July 1999, running out comfortable 7-0 winners in front of a crowd of over 1400. A busy night for all of us, not least Noel Imber in the Stones goal.

Eight years further on, and Gordon Bartlett in particular has continued to develop the Stones-Hornets relationship - and it is because of that that Stones last season were privileged to play host to John-Joe O'Toole and Theo Robinson

on loan for the later stages of the season. Loaned out by Ady Boothroyd, to whom we remain ever grateful, those two played a big part in Stones' eventual survival at Premier Division level, Theo returning to Vicarage Road to make his Premier League debut in the last match of the season.

Let's hope that the experience gained by Theo and John-Joe was enough to warrant similar arrangements in the future, though hopefully from Wealdstone's perspective, a little higher up the table!

On a personal level, having dealt with Watford on a number of occasions over the last few years as Secretary and as a Director, they have always been professional and courteous which is far more than you can say for a number of other clubs that we've had dealings with.

And to close out the loop as it were, another 'first' as I'll be watching the game tonight as a supporter and nothing else for the first time since Wealdstone left Lower Mead sixteen years ago. I hope it's the start of success for Stones and progress on the new ground.

Perhaps Watford will be happy to come back again to help open the stadium once finished, and I hope that they have a successful Championship season and can see their way to a loan or two as the season goes on...

Roge



Hornets v. Stones: Action from 1999.

Picture: Colin Bunner

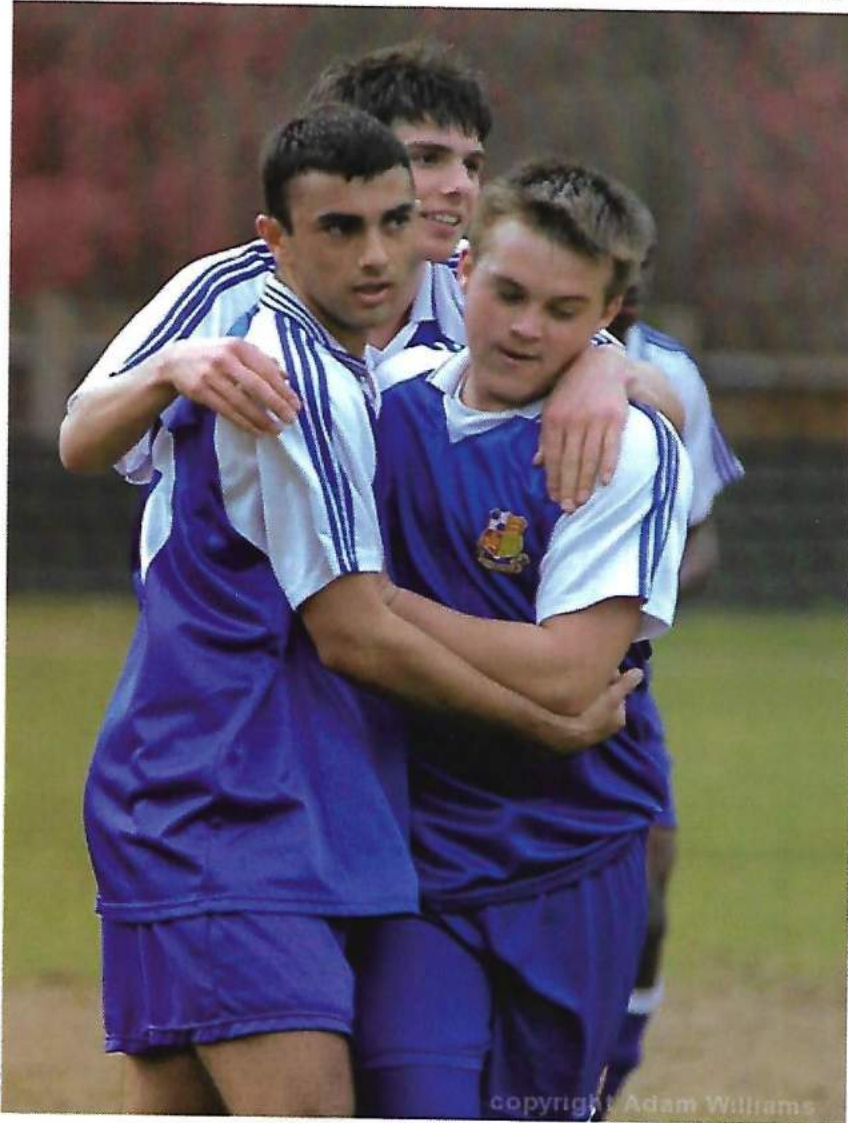
David and Goliath on the ball

Don't Forget — Golden Goals

On sale today:

£50 for the first, £10 for the last

Gallery



Brothers in Arms
Papali, Montgomery and Donnelly

Player Profiles

Men of Stone

We take a look at some of the boys who keep us coming back, week after week after week.



Gordon Bartlett Manager- Joined Wealdstone in June 1995 having had successful spells as Manager of Yeading, Hounslow and Southall. He is an A' licence holder, F.A. tutor assessor and Middlesex County Coach. As a Manager, he has had Cup success, leading both Southall and Yeading to F.A. Vase Finals at Wembley, as well as four County Cup Finals with Yeading. Since joining Wealdstone has guided them to four promotions. Gordon is a teacher and was a player with Portsmouth, Denver Dynamos (USA) Brentford, Slough Town and Hayes.

Leo Morris Assistant Manager Joined Wealdstone a few days after Gordon, thereby continuing the successful partnership with Gordon at Hounslow and Yeading. Led Yeading out when they won the replayed FA Vase Final in 1990 at Elland Road.

Mark Gill First X1 Coach Gilly is a former Professional with Brentford who, after spells with Hendon and Hampton, joined Uxbridge in 1990. Despite two serious broken legs, amassed over 650 games and 175 goals in an 18 year playing career. Appointed coach of Uxbridge in 2001 and helped guide the reds to three top 7 finishes, a play-off final in 2005 and success in both the Middx and London Senior cups before joining the Stones last summer

Chris O'Leary Club Captain Chris signed from Uxbridge in June 06. Whilst at Uxbridge he won over 100 caps, and was voted their best player of the season in successive seasons. Fantastic for Wealdstone last season and will always be a terrace favourite for the effort he puts into every game.



For exclusive, up to the minute comments and news from Gordon Bartlett call 09062 892011 and listen to line 3. All calls cost 60p/minute at all times, and revenue from your calls is sent to the club monthly. Last season we raised over £1500 from your calls.

Player Profiles



Fergus Moore Left/centre Back In his third spell at the Stones, coming back to us from Northwood. Originally came here in 1995 from Uxbridge, and has also played for Hemel, Borehamwood, Staines and Brentford. Proved doubters wrong by showing that he can still do it. Not just a fine player, but a great character too.

Mitch Swain Goalkeeper A product of our youth system, who has deserved a lot of credit after the club's goalkeeper crisis last season saw him step up to the plate admirably.

Carl Martin Centre Back/Midfield A Stones youth product who could be playing league football one day. Injury set-backs have frustratingly kept his appearances down, but you don't need to watch him for too long to see his potential. Did a great job at the back last season, his skill and awareness can also be devastating in the midfield.

Lee Chappell Defender Only 22, Lee originally joined us from Cheshunt, but left briefly for Ware. Returned last September, and his sheer pace and gradual improvement saw him make quite a few starts.



Kevin Swift Centre Back Formerly with Hillingdon, before going via Uxbridge-130 caps- to Wealdstone last summer. A tall strong centre back, Wealdstone need him at his imposing best this season.

Dean Papali Striker Possibly find of the season for us, Dean came to us from Brook House last season, and has been a consistent threat up front, and to be fair to him, despite the adulation heaped on Theo Robinson, he was comfortably keeping up with Theo on the goals/games ratio.

Graeme Montgomery Left Wing A very sweet left foot shot from the floor or on the volley, has seen some spectacular efforts on goal. Only 19 now, but now easily getting a place in the first team. A good future ahead for this guy, but in the meantime we are happy to watch this talent mature.

Stuart Goodall Midfield Formerly with Uxbridge, Staines Town and Hayes before joining us last summer. Often seen coming on as a substitute last season, but hoping to get a first choice berth this term.

Let the sleeping giant wake

IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE that the close season is over and we are back to playing already. Actually it was only eight weeks from the last Southern League game at Kings Lynn to training starting at Broadfields in the first week of July.

It has been an eventful few weeks with the appointment of a new Chairman, the indecision, but then eventual move to a new league, new members of the management team and a number of new players.

Purely on a personal note, it feels as though the summer break has actually been harder work and more time consuming than the season itself. However, I believe it has been a fruitful one and I have always maintained that the harder you work the luckier you seem to get. I thought I would give you a very brief outline of those eight weeks.

Firstly, I'm delighted to welcome John Turner to the club as first team coach to work alongside 'Gilly'. John played for Leo and me at Hounslow and Yeading for about six years before going into management at Yeading, Hendon and most recently at AFC Wimbledon. He is a great character with a wealth of experience and I am delighted to have him working alongside us.

We also have a new Reserve team set up, with

Ricky Murphy appointed as team manager and Steve Hartley as his assistant. I am delighted with these appointments and feel it will help develop the links with the Stanmore Scholarship scheme even more this season which can only benefit the young players at the club at the moment.

Our recent meeting with the scholarship coaches proved to be very encouraging and the general feeling is that the current group of young players is the best crop for sometime. It was brilliant to feel the excitement and enthusiasm of the coaches who were all singing the praises of John Moran so has 'spotted' much of this local talent.

I feel the appointment of Howard as Chairman has already shown a fresh approach to the position. It is early days and he has already met with a number of setbacks, but he remains positive and I'm sure his idea of a daily 'internet blog' will go down well with the fans.

One major priority is to attract a main club sponsor at the moment. We all realise it is a difficult task with lack of finances, but with no ground and a lack of a sponsor it makes life extremely difficult. I think it would be a wonderful chance for a company to help change our fortunes

around because we are a sleeping giant and anyone who can bring some success back to this once great club, would get a lot of publicity.

On the player front, we have lost Scott Donnerly, Jay Carbon, Dean Clark, Ben Martin, Simon Martin and obviously the two Watford lads. On the plus side and at the time of writing, we have gained Lee O'Leary, Craig Vargas, Adam Martin, Marcus Gross, Peter Dean, James Gray, Ed Chamail, Lee Grant, Chris Owen and Steve Brown. They are in addition to John Christain, Josh Cooper, 'Jomo', Junior Thompson and Luke Smith all showing a keen interest to come back. I will leave all their details for a later date, but I can assure you that we are excited by the capture of so many quality players into our squad.

Not surprisingly, we had 65 players at our first training night but I'm afraid I cannot reveal how the second training session went, because I'm writing these notes just before leaving for that session.

I must give a brief mention of the end of last season and our successful fight against relegation. Our heavy defeat against Hemel near the end of the season really turned the screw and left us with a mountain to climb in our last 5 games. It was still in our hands, but

From the Dugout

we had to produce. We decided to have a change of pre match routine for the Banbury game, particularly against a side who were unbeaten for six games. We needed to change the negative mind set of the players, so we started with a much earlier meet time. We warmed up early without the balls, came back in the changing room for a meeting with the players who had to do most of the talking for a change, then back to our usual warm up and finally the pre match motivation. The end product was a 4-0 win, confidence grew, and we followed it up by three more straight wins to get us to safety and a huge sigh of relief.

I always believed but we certainly achieved it the hard way! Some of the credit must go to today's opponents who kindly lent us two of their young players over the closing weeks of the season. Theo Robinson and Jon Joe O'Toole were major influences in our escape and I'm sure you will join me in saying thank you for their outstanding efforts and with them both every success in the future. I would also like to say a big thank you to Adie Bothroyd and Mark Stow for giving us the trust and opportunity to help develop these two talented young players. Their character and attitude were a credit to both themselves and to Watford FC.

In fact, just a week after

Expressing his feelings, Gordon Bartlett on the touchline.



our own season finished Adie called me to tell me that Theo was actually on the bench against Newcastle that afternoon. How many young players perform in the Southern Premier one weekend and then in the Premiership the next!

We hope the link between the two clubs can develop over the coming seasons and we can offer this valuable experience of senior football to other youngsters who are trying to climb the ladder.

Today we welcome Adie and his Watford team to Harefield, who have been kind enough to offer their facilities, once it was realised that Northwood would not be ready in time. A big thank you them for their kindness and of course, to Watford for bringing over a strong team to play us as they prepare for their Championship campaign.

Finally, the club have granted me a Testimonial this season as Leo and myself now start our thirteenth year at the club. Actually

Howard pointed out that Chairman normally go through managers, not the other way round! I would like to set up a Sportsman's evening, a golf day and of course a game against a Pro-side later in the season. If there is anyone willing to help set something up or just assist in any way possible, I'd be very grateful.

Well, this is the first of many friendlies, but it is the most important to me. A decent crowd will help boost the budget, a decent performance will give us confidence and make Watford sit up and take notice of some of the young talent we have here at the club. Add the two together and we might just boost attendances, increase the support levels and give us the opportunity to have a good start to our league season. If we can, who knows what this season has in store for us.

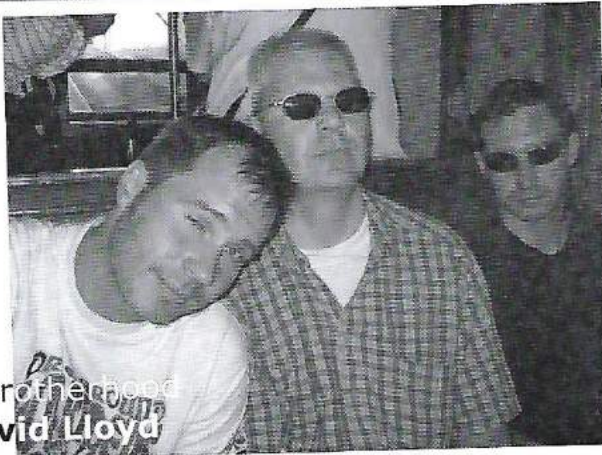
There is a lot more but that will do for now. Good luck and enjoy the game.

Gordon

My Wealdstone

A family reunited in the one true faith

Memories of youth and brotherhood from Stones stalwart **David Lloyd**



MY EARLIEST EXPERIENCE of watching football was Watford v Chesterfield at Vicarage Road as an 8 year old, as my elder brother Mark (whom some of you will know) was an ardent Watford fan.

This was the late 1970s and Watford were just beginning their surge through the divisions. But it was during a family shopping spree in Harrow town centre in 1978 when my eyes set upon two things that changed my life. The first was a ramshackle football ground tucked behind the Dominion cinema, the second was a poster advertising a game between Wealdstone and West Ham Utd whom I had a soft spot for on account of owning a West Ham towel (you know how allegiances work when you're a kid!).

Two days of badgering my rugby loving, football hating dad to take me, he eventually agreed, and it was on that freezing night after a 0-

0 draw, leaving Lower Mead clutching my dads' hand as skirmishes between Wealdstone and east London's 'finest' broke out round the back of the cinema, that my love affair with this great club began!

So it was in the Lloyd household during the early 1980s that on Saturday mornings brothers Mark, Johnson and I would set off (after Swap Shop obviously) for South Kenton station and the northbound train, Mark continuing on to Watford High St, mocking 'little Weeeeldstone' as John and I jumped off at Harrow & Wealdstone. He would soon learn!

By our early teens John and I were starting to travel to away games with other mates we'd drag along from school, usually telling our parents we were 'going up London on a Red Bus Rover' and then making our merry way to Boston or Nuneaton for the day.

Season 84-85 saw the

Lloyd siblings united as older brother Mark finally realised the error of his ways and joined his younger brothers at Lower Mead. Some would point to the fact that Wealdstone were crowned Conference & FA Trophy winners this season, the finest non league team in the country, and he was merely a glory hunting turncoat. A tad harsh I feel.

In fairness I'll openly admit a soft spot for today's visitors, indeed during the 1980s I did for a few years flit between Vicarage Road and LM depending on where the Stones were away to that week. I was there at Wembley in '84 and Spurs/Argyle Villa Park semis(glory hunter!), and they're the closest I get to having a 'second team'. But somehow the lure of Wealdstone was always too strong. After all, a choice between Barnes, Blissett, Callaghan etc or Pearce, Wainright and the Cordice brothers? Come on!

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The last time the Stones met Watford it was a rarity for our club: one of the few times Wealdstone have taken on a pretty-much full-strength top flight side.

You'll probably remember that glorious July evening at Edgware, precisely eight years ago, when Gordon Bartlett's team look on Graham Taylor's Premiership new boys and were beaten by the odd goal in seven.

Well, it was 7-0 actually (!) but certainly not as one-sided as that may suggest. The 1500 crowd were treated to some slick interpassing by both sides, though of course in the end the Hornets pedigree shone through.

The Stones had just been refused promotion to the Ryan Premier Division on a ground-grading technicality and we had players of the calibre of Noel Imber, Rocky Baptiste, Chris Walton, Brian Jones and Carl Holmes... but my abiding memory is of Joe Lyons, our new left-midfielder from Edgware, skaling past Watford's right back Des Lytle on an embarrassing number of occasions. Rocky also looked impressive and it was a great evening all round.



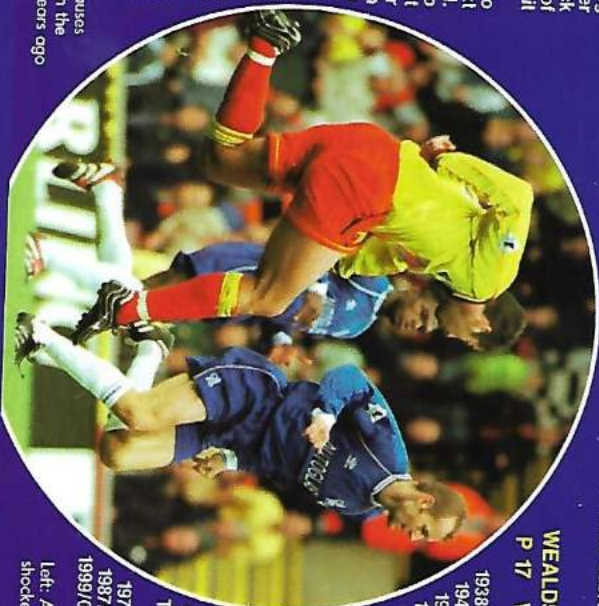
Our performance that night was put into perspective the next time I saw Watford. Just a month or so later I was at Vicarage Road for their game with Chelsea, and a tremendous strike from Allan Smart saw Graham Taylor's side grab an unlikely 1-0 win over the expensively assembled Blues — who included World Cup winners Didier Deschamps and Marcel Desailly in their line-up.

Left: Rocky Baptiste causes the Hornets problem in the game at Edgware 8 years ago

stones mix it with top flight

We've only once taken on a Premiership side in a competitive game. That was 30 years ago when we reached the FA Cup 3rd round proper and were beaten 4-0 at First Division QPR.

But in 1974 the Stones took on the Wolves first team in a testimonial for our defender Eric Burgess, at Lower Mead, and made a good fist of a 5-2 defeat with George Duck scoring twice. The only other occasion I can recall of a top flight side



taking on Wealdstone was in another testimonial, this time for our non-League international midfielder Willie Watson, when West Ham turned up at Lower Mead with Billy Bonds, Alan Devonshire et al in the late 70s. Willie had started out with the Hammers and it was a real coup to get the free-scoring 'Irons' along for his big pay-day.

But there was a bit of an irony that evening. A decent crowd of over 1,000 turned out but the Stones, under ultra-defensive coach Alan Fogarty, were reputed to be able to stifle the life out of any game. "Testimonials usually finish 5-5, especially against a team like West Ham, but with Fogarty around it'll probably finish goalless!" we joked before the match.

Final score: Wealdstone 0, West Ham 0.

WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v WATFORD

	P 17	W 6	D 2	L 9	F 27	A 39
1938/39	Friendly	Home				D 1-1
1940/41	Friendly	Home				W 4-2
1950/51	Friendly	Home				L 2-4
1961/62	Friendly	Home				L 2-3
1964/65	Friendly	Home				L 1-2
1966/67	Friendly	Home				L 1-2
1967/8	Bucks Border League	Home				L 1-2
		Away				W 1-0
	Bucks Border League					
	Home					W 3-2
1968/9	M1 League	Away				D 1-1
	M1 League	Home				L 0-2
1971/72	Friendly	Home				W 4-2
1973/74	Testimonial (John Pearce)	Home				L 2-5
1976/77	Friendly	Home				W 2-0
	Testimonial (George Duck)	Home				L 1-2
1977/78	Friendly	Home				W 1-0
1987/88	Friendly	Home				L 1-4
1999/00	Friendly	Home				L 0-7

Left: Allan Smart cracks in the goal that shocked Chelsea at Vicarage Road in 1999