

THE LINE-UPS

WEALDSTONE
ROYAL BLUE/AMBER

v

EASTBOURNE
ALL RED

- G Harvey Isted
- Michee Efele
- William Edjenguélé
- Billy Clifford
- Connor Stevens
- Jerome Okimo ©
- Michael Phillips
- Jack Jebb
- Ross Lafayette
- Danny Green
- Dennon Lewis
- Connor Smith
- Jacob Mendy Mendy
- Dejon Noel-Williams
- Fumnaya Shomotun
- Herschel Watt
- Afolabi Coker
- Ashley Charles
- G Jonathan North
- G Lewis Everett

- G Tom Hadler
- Tobi Adebayo-Rowling
- Kristian Campbell
- Kane Wills
- Kiran Khinda-John
- Manny Adebowale
- Greg Luer
- Mike West
- Nicky Wheeler
- Charlie Walker
- James Ferry
- Dean Cox
- Ayman Gharbaoui
- Sergio Torres
- Ian Gayle
- G Scott Chalmer-Stevens

REFEREE Phillip Staynings **ASSISTANTS** Jonathan Bolland & Thomas Holden **OBSERVER** Douglas Douglas

MATCH SPONSOR Emin Alibey and family

NEXT HOME GAMES

v **WELLING UNITED** (Vanarama National League South) Saturday December 21, KO 3pm

v **ST ALBANS CITY** (Vanarama National League South) Saturday December 28, KO 3pm

v **SLOUGH TOWN** (Vanarama National League South) Wednesday January 1, 2020 KO 1pm

Main club sponsor:



BEARING THE BRUNT
Stones' Michael Phillips was a magnificent stand-in centre-back at Bath City on Saturday, coming out on top in his physical tussle with the abrasive Ryan Brunt (right)

PICTURE: courtesy of @yuffie_c_itv



OFFICIAL AWARD-WINNING MATCHDAY PROGRAMME £3



@wealdstonefc
@wealdstonefootballclub

WEALDSTONE v EASTBOURNE BORO

Vanarama National League South,
Tuesday 10 December 2019, 7.45pm



Main club sponsor:
gp flewis



WEALDSTONE v EASTBOURNE BOROUGH

BY MARK HYDE



Written in Stone

Welcome to Grosvenor Vale this evening for our National League South meeting with Eastbourne Borough.

Also for the second time in a little over a month we extend a very warm welcome to our visitors, their management team, officials, players and supporters. We hope you enjoy your brief stay with us and that you manage to see some football on this occasion.

Many of you will be aware that our scheduled game against Eastbourne on the 9th of November was postponed due to a power supply issue that resulted in no

floodlighting or power in the stadium. Following this disappointment UK Power were on site for 12 hours on Sunday and a further 12 hours on Monday. The problem was a blown power cable under the pavement outside one of the houses about 50 yards from our entrance where water had found it's way in to the cable. Power was finally restored and the floodlights up and running at 6-45pm on Monday evening. In total 7 holes were dug in the pavements and the problem was finally found between hole 6 & 7 mid afternoon on Monday.

Please enjoy your evening

Mark

STONES ON THE ROAD BATH CITY 0 - 0 WEALDSTONE

Saturday 7th December 2019
Nicole Cho-Yee Reports.

The highly anticipated clash of the heavyweights ended in a goalless draw between the Stones and the Romans, as the visitors claimed a well-deserved point and clean sheet away from home.

Dean Brennan made one change to the starting line-up which defeated Concord Rangers last week, with midfielder Billy Clifford replacing defensive stalwart Connor Stevens, who was unavailable due to suspension.

The Stones were close to taking the lead in sublime style in the 4th minute, when Jack Jebb's corner to the far post found Michael Phillips, who headed down to William Edjenguele; he then attempted a fantastic acrobatic bicycle kick, which looped just over the crossbar.

The opening period of the match was fairly tight and even, with neither side able to gain ascendancy; nor dominate possession or proceedings.

The Romans first real threat on goal came in the 29th minute, as Noah Chilvers surged through to the edge of the box and fired a fierce shot, which narrowly blazed over the crossbar.

As half-time approached, the Stones began to generate a few more cohesive and fluid passages of play, with Jebb playing a delightful defence-splitting through ball to

Dennon Lewis in the 39th minute, but Ryan Clarke was quick off of his line to gather for the Romans.

On the stroke of half-time, Wealdstone were close to seizing the lead, as Jacob Mendy latched onto a loose ball and drove a low effort on target, prompting Clarke to make an awkward save.

After a goalless first half, the Stones resumed the second half in a determined fashion, with Michee Efete bursting down the right wing to whip in a teasing cross, which rebounded off of the crossbar, in the 50th minute.

Five minutes later, Wealdstone were again close to assuming the lead, as Phillips released Mendy down the right wing, where he cut inside and struck a shot which rolled agonisingly past the far post.

As the second half progressed, the match began to become more open and stretched, with end-to-end action, as both sides pressed for a coveted goal to break the deadlock.

In the 75th minute, the Romans were close to taking the lead as Adam Mann struck a brilliant first-time volley, which dipped just over the crossbar.

Another quick counter attack by the hosts in stoppage time saw Chilvers cut side and fire from the left-hand side of the box, but his effort flew past the far post.

The match finished in a stalemate, with both teams cancelling each other out, as defence prevailed.



WEALDSTONE v EASTBOURNE BOROUGH LEAGUE STANDINGS / FIXTURES

FOR ALL FIXTURE NEWS
WWW.WEALDSTONEFC.COM

HOME

WELLING UNITED

Vanarama National League South

Saturday 21st December, 3pm

St ALBANS CITY

Vanarama National League South

Saturday 28th December, 3pm

SLOUGH TOWN

Vanarama National League South

Wednesday 1st January, 1pm

CHELMSFORD CITY

Vanarama National League South

Saturday 11th January, 3pm

AWAY

SLOUGH TOWN

Vanarama National League South

Thursday 26th December, 1pm

OXFORD CITY

Vanarama National League South

Saturday 4th January, 3pm

BILLERICAY TOWN

Vanarama National League South

Tuesday 7th January, 7.45pm

HAVANT & W'LOOVILLE

Vanarama National League South

Saturday 18th January, 3PM

Vanarama National League South - Table @ 7th December

#	Team	Pt	HW	HD	HL	AW	AD	AL	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1.	Wealdstone	17	7	0	1	6	1	2	13	1	3	39	20	19	40
2.	Weymouth	18	7	1	1	2	6	1	9	7	2	34	18	16	34
3.	Slough Town	18	6	3	1	4	1	3	10	4	4	30	18	12	34
4.	Havant & Waterlooville	16	4	3	2	5	2	0	9	5	2	36	18	18	32
5.	Bath City	19	6	3	1	3	2	4	9	5	5	31	18	13	32
6.	Dorking Wanderers	19	6	2	2	2	4	3	8	6	5	30	29	1	30
7.	Hemel Hempstead Town	16	5	1	2	4	1	3	9	2	5	24	21	3	29
8.	Braintree Town	19	4	1	4	4	1	5	8	2	9	31	40	-9	26
9.	Hampton & Richmond Borough	19	4	1	4	4	0	6	8	1	10	28	32	-4	25
10.	Maidstone United	17	3	3	1	3	3	4	6	6	5	26	20	6	24
11.	Billericay Town	16	4	3	0	2	3	4	6	6	4	23	23	0	24
12.	Oxford City	18	3	2	4	3	3	3	6	5	7	27	29	-2	23
13.	Chelmsford City	19	3	5	2	2	2	5	5	7	7	31	34	-3	22
14.	Eastbourne Borough	18	3	2	4	2	5	2	5	7	6	17	25	-8	22
15.	Concord Rangers	19	4	2	4	2	1	6	6	3	10	26	32	-6	21
16.	Dartford	18	1	5	2	4	1	5	5	6	7	26	34	-8	21
17.	Welling United	19	4	2	4	1	3	5	5	5	9	20	24	-4	20
18.	Chippesham Town	17	3	3	2	1	4	4	4	7	6	16	19	-3	19
19.	Dulwich Hamlet	18	2	2	5	2	4	3	4	6	8	22	25	-3	18
20.	Hungerford Town	19	2	2	5	3	0	7	5	2	12	21	33	-12	17
21.	Tonbridge Angels	19	4	2	4	0	2	7	4	4	11	24	34	-10	17
22.	St. Albans City	18	1	3	6	2	2	4	3	5	10	18	34	-16	14



Written in Stone

Welcome to Grosvenor Vale this afternoon for our National League South meeting with Eastbourne Borough.

We extend a very warm welcome to our visitors their management team, officials, players and supporters. We hope you enjoy your brief stay with us.

Thanks also to Emin Alibey and family for sponsoring todays Game.

Further thanks to our ball donors the ever

generous Ray Corner and Peter Carter. We hope you all enjoy your day of hospitality.

We continue to look for sponsors to ensure we remain competitive on the pitch. Full details of all our sponsorship packages, which can be customised to your individual requirements, can be found in the pages of this very programme.

Enjoy the game

Mark

HELP REQUIRED

We are looking for a volunteer to join our amazing matchday hospitality team.

Operating in the roll of sponsor and guest liaison this position is a fantastic way to become involved in the club and help develop our important relations with our matchday sponsors and guests of the Board of Directors.

If you would like more details or to discuss the position

please E-mail club President Paul Rumens at paulrumens59@gmail.com



MATCH SPONSORS EMIN ALIBEY & FAMILY

I am delighted to support Wealdstone FC as today's Match Sponsor with my family and friends !

Born in North London, so of course I became a massive Arsenal fan, after moving to Harrow as a child I started watching Wealdstone at Lower Mead with my mates and over the years I have followed the Club, trying to get over to Grosvenor Vale for as many games as possible.

My career started in Advertising sales for the Informer Newspaper group, before moving onto launch All Sport Weekly which covered The Stones. I then became Business Development Manager at Watford FC, before spending 13 great years as a Senior Corporate Account Manager at Arsenal. I left the them in August 2018 to set up my own Sports Consultancy business based in Rickmansworth and working with a number of clients including Watford and Go Sport Travel.

Wealdstone is a very Special Football Club with the most amazing supporters who always travel to away matches in such large numbers. We find ourselves in a great league position after 15 games and so much credit must go to Dean, Stuart, the team and to Rory and the Board.

Please let's continue to more forward together and may I encourage all our amazing fans to really support the Team and Club in as many ways as possible and please let's all try and bring along one or two new supporters (family & friends) to a few matches to help increase our home crowds !

Emin

BALL DONORS RAY CORNER & PETER CARTER



WEALDSTONE

FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2019/2020

GROSVENOR VALE, RUISLIP, MIDDLESEX HA4 6JQ • 07790 038095 •
WEALDSTONEFC@BTINTERNET.COM • WWW.WEALDSTONE-FC.COM • COMPANY NO. 3953962

PERSONNEL

Club President Paul Rumens
Chairman Rory Fitzgerald
Vice Chairman Dominic Whyley
Commercial Director
Andy Lavin
Financial Director
Dominic Whyley
Supporter Representative &
Communications Director
Mark Randall
Operations & Community
Director Nick Symmons
Associate Directors
Paul Rumens, Paul Fruin,
Peter Worby, Mark Barton,
Keith Davies

SECRETARIES

Club Secretary Paul Fruin
(07790 038095)
Company Secretary
Andrew Lane

CLUB PERSONNEL

Life Vice-President Alan Couch
Treasurer Barry Benveniste
Press Officer & Head of Media
Dec O'Reilly
Assist. Press Officer
Nicole Cho-Yee
PA Announcer Ashley Holding
Club Historian Peter Worby
Media Manager Adam Williams
Club Photographer
Web Site Manager Dec O'Reilly
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
Russell Greenberg
Match Day Staff Paul Bowley,
Tony Waller, Adam Clancey,
Matthew Impey, John Cahillane
Boardroom & Hospitality
Alison Moran,
Lori Gale-Rumens, Paul Kelly

COMMERCIAL/ MARKETING

Graphic Design Steve Foster
IT Consultant Neil Rands

LIAISON OFFICERS

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

FOOTBALL MANAGEMENT

Manager Dean Brennan
Assistant Stuart Maynard
Coach Gary King
Sports Therapist
Abigail Maunders
Goalkeeping Coach
Kirk Rayment
Kit Manager Tony Waugh

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

Reflecting on the month of October I feel that we have done really well to win both league games, Chelmsford City away and Tonbridge Angels at home especially after our defeat at home to Havant & Waterlooville. Most pleasing for me is the response from the Havant defeat which has seen us take 7 points from the 9 available.

We had a decent cup run to help raise some much needed coppers for the pot and personally I learned so much from both Maidenhead games. Yes we were very unlucky not to win the first game, but in the 2nd game we learned that the detail and preparation Maidenhead brought into the replay was the difference for their victory. They had different set pieces and played with a different formation, with two runners from midfield and they trained Monday and Tuesday morning. We gave a good account of ourselves and refereeing decisions didn't appear to go our way. In the cup you always need that slight bit of luck.

Last week we travelled to Dorking Wanderers and our supporters were amazing. You guys sang loud and proud and I know our players appreciate your positive support. On the pitch it was a very entertaining game, Dorking are a good footballing side with a very ambitious owner. Before the game we would have been happy with a point with the amount of injuries and suspensions we had, but from the position we found ourselves in at halftime we should have killed off the game. We new the next goal was incredibly important and we had two glorious opportunities to get it before Dorking got a goal back. All in all I felt a draw was a fair result for both teams and we will respect the point and move onto the next game.

Today we host Eastbourne Borough

and they have had a change of manager in recent weeks, there's no doubt that their players will be right up for the game today. We have to continue to take it one game at a time, we have to make sure we keep setting the tone with our work ethic and earn the right to play our attack minded football. There are no easy games in our division and our players know what is expected of them. Get right behind the lads again today, we want to make the vale our hostile fortress.

Together we are Wealdstone

Dean



www.wealdstone-fc.com



IN MEMORIAM

TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE REPRESENTATIVES OF WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN TWO WORLD WARS.

1914 - 1918



PERCIVAL ANDREWS

DoB 28.04.1889 in Hendon, Middlesex. Died on 4th May 1918, aged 29 in 30 General Hospital, Calais, France.

CHARLES JOHN FRANCIS BELLCHAMBERS

DoB 16.09.1882 in Hendon, Middlesex. Died as a result of his wounds received at the Battle of Poelcapelle, on 11th October 1917, aged 35

CHARLES HENRY BIRD

DoB -.1894. Died of wounds received in the final advance with his unit in Picardy, at the battle of Mons between 17th October and 11th November 1918.

HENRY (HARRY) JAMES BOWELL

DoB -.04.1878. Killed in action on 27th September 1915.

RUSSELL WILLIAM BRADBERRY

DoB -.10.1884. Died of fever in Rouen Hospital on 3rd December 1917 aged Died 03/12/1917 Age 33.

WILLIAM HENRY COZENS

DoB -09.1877 in Fulham, London. Killed in Action on 21st March 1918 aged 41 in the Battle of St Quentin

FREDERICK FARMBOROUGH

DoB - - c1881. Killed in action 12th October 1916 in an attack on Baghdad.

GEORGE RICHARD (DICKY) GOODEGE

(Incorrectly recorded by the club originally as Goodage R) DoB -.1888. Killed in Action on 22nd November 1915 aged 27

WALTER LANGSTON HOWMAN

DoB -.04.1885. Killed in Action on 19th August 1916 while serving with the 1st Middlesex in the region of High Wood on The Somme

FRANK TINGAY MARTIN

DoB --.12.1888 in Harrow. Killed in Action on 30th July 1915 at Hooge, near Ypres, Belgium.

JAMES J ROBERTSON

(Incorrectly recorded by the club as Robertson G). DoB unknown. Died of wounds received aged 30, on 16th August 1918 at Vignacourt.

1939 - 1945



KENNETH GEORGE EDWIN BALDWIN

DoB -.01.1920. Killed in Action on 28th March 1945, during Operation Plunder, Rhine crossings

ROBERT WILLIAM BIDEWELL

DoB--.09.1919 in Watford, Herts. Killed in Action aged 25 on 25th September 1944 in Holland

CHARLES EDWARD BUNCE

DoB --.---.1913 in St Albans, Herts. died as a Prisoner of War of the Japanese on 25th June 1943.

WILLIAM AINSLEY BURTON.

A civilian killed as a result of enemy action.

WILLIAM WILFRED PARR

DoB --.---.1916. Killed in Action on 8/03/1942 aged 26.

ERNEST WILLIAM WALKER

DoB --.---.1920. Killed at Sea 3rd August 1944 when HMS Quorn was sunk by a human torpedo

THOMAS WILLIAM WINTERBOTTOM

DoB --.---.1924 (incorrectly recorded by the club as Winterbotham, W.) Killed in action on 28th March 1944.

LEST WE FORGET

As many of you will know, over recent seasons a great deal of research has been completed to identify and detail as much as possible about those representatives of Wealdstone FC that lost their lives in the two world wars. This culminated in an insert in the programme for the Remembrance weekend match in 2017 and last season, as part of the 100 Years Ceremony when the new Wealdstone FC War Memorial was unveiled in the clubhouse.

It had been intended that this would see the end of the research and in future years the club would revert to a simple memorial list, to pay our respects, however a couple of contacts have been made in the last year that I think are worthy of sharing as an update.

After the game last year, I was in the clubhouse watching people looking at the Memorial Panel when I was approached by none other than Charlie Townsend and his wife, Margaret. They spoke about one name on the memorial, that of Fred Farmborough, the former player (albeit with only one first team appearance among a handful of reserve appearances around 1900) who had been 'found' and added to the new memorial, having not appeared on the original. It turned out that Fred was in fact a relative (if I remember correctly Grandfather) to Charlie and in their own family research, they had recently found his name on the Wealdstone War Memorial tower in the town. What they hadn't been aware of through the family was his appearance for the club! Indeed, another Farmborough that had also played for the club a little later is another of Charlie's relatives!

Along similar lines, I received an email from Colin Ward who had picked up on a piece in the local paper when I said it would be good to find any living relatives of those that had fallen. He got in touch as Henry James Bowell (known as Harry and often recorded with the surname Bowells also) was one of those named. He had married in 1910 to Ellen May Corke, who was Colin's mother's aunt! He was able to provide a number of details about Henry including his work at David Allens print works which later became part of Her Majesties Stationary Office. What I was able to tell him was that Henry had also played for Allens Athletic who were often opponents of Wealdstone FC

in the early 1900's, prior to joining the club. Indeed, the family had no idea that he had played for either side!

A little later an email appeared forwarded I think by Fingers from a lady that had been in touch with the club. Steph Dimmock had found the Wealdstone history on the website and found the remembrance details from 1917 when the booklet was produced, and in particular having interest in Percival Andrews. Steph's grandmother was Percival's niece, though she knew very little about him as she was born in 1935, many years after he had been killed. I was happy to send them copies of press cuttings and his Obituary from the Harrow Observer and also a picture of his gravestone from the Les Baraques Military Cemetery in Sangatte, France. These, along with the other details added to the family knowledge of their ancestor. They were also able to correct a century old error in that the Harry O had named Percival's brother as Thomas when in fact it was Herbert! Our records have also been updated!

More recently, in fact a month or so ago, Sateesh Khanna copied me in on an email from Vikki Griffin. The gist of the mail was that Vikki had been told by her mum that "Uncle Walter used to play for Wealdstone before World War One but he was killed in the war". Happy to help once again, I was able to provide the two articles in which Uncle Walter had featured on the preceding Remembrance matches, and I also filled in what we know about Walter Langston Howman and his playing career (81 known appearances and 16 goals despite being profoundly deaf) and I was also able to send some further details and press cuttings about him and his brother who was also wounded in the war. Their sister, 'Nanny Louie' is Vikki's Great Grandmother, and Grandma who remembers Walter's brother Harold is now 93!

ROGER SLATER

**They shall grow not old, as we
that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the
years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and
in the morning
We will remember them.**



BY SUDHIR RAWAL



The Elmslie Ender



Back after his extended break EE catches up....

It has been a while. Sunday morning hangovers or weekends away have meant that the keyboard hasn't been bashed much of late, but EE is back for another instalment. There are a few games to catch up on since I last wrote. I suspect Maidenhead was covered in the Tonbridge prog, but another 4Q departure had the same cruel storyline as the last few have. We tend to get relatively easy draws until the 4Q and then get drawn against a Conference National side. Dagenham were top of the National; and as for Sutton some still haven't recovered from with us being a penalty kick away from the 1st round proper in injury time only to lose in the same added time!

Maidenhead were there for the taking in the first game at York Road. We dominated but the lack of being clinical in both boxes lead to the over 400 Stones fans settling for a draw. Monday's draw dangled the carrot but as you see more often than not, the lower ranked side's best opportunity is the first game and we were comprehensively beaten in the replay. Whilst Maidenhead aren't a live game, they have been selected to host MotD and extended highlights as well, so

time to keep away from TV this weekend. Wasn't Maidenhead the perfect example of how segregation can cause more problems than it solves? There has been no history of problems between both sets of supporters, quite the opposite in fact. Yet, in the second half of the first game, with both sets of supporters next to each other, the bravado and stupidity that fences bring was for all to show. No segregation, our fans would have been at the other end of the ground.

I'll ignore the Mickey Mouse county game, but against Tonbridge we got the show back on the road with a win, but a performance that, for those that were there, appeared to be our worst of the season. Well that's what the forum said. A sign of a good team is not to play well and still win, I suppose.

Last week we travelled to newly promoted Dorking Wanderers and their shiny new, county funded football ground. Stones were down to the bare bones and I suspect most of us would have taken a draw at the start of the game, with four starters missing and the bench looking a little threadbare. A win would have been a statement of intent to others that despite the missing players, we could still turnover a side that had a strong home

record. Until halftime, the win was certainly on and Dejon looking quite mustard in front of goal giving us a two goal lead! The crucial moments came just after half time when we probably had three good chances to finish the game off, but having not taken any of them, Dorking came much more into the game.

I would argue that there was a foul all day on Watts just before their first goal, but from there on in, it was almost all Wanderers and we could have easily lost the game but for some fine keeping from the Ox. Dorking's pristine new ground is a rather strange experience. It felt more like being at a rugby match rather than a football ground with it being obvious that a number of their supporters were new to football. Some stayed at the wrong end even. It was all rather muted to be honest especially when they scored apart from the music being played and the scoreboard flashing away. The whole experience a little too antiseptic and the ground clearly needs work on it to improve the supporter experience but the welcome was warm and the brouhaha about their stewarding had clearly been worked on, as they were pretty much hands off throughout the game. And Dorking is a lovely town.

This article is named, much like the fazine was before, after the great Elmslie End at Lower Mead. It's wooden terracing and high corrugated iron backing and

overhanging roof made it an iconic place to watch football from. Atmospheric and foreboding to opponents; it's yellow and blue sign hanging from the centre of the stand was responsible for many a banged head when a goal was scored. On the Last Day it was taken off its hinges and paraded around the pitch whilst the game was still going on! Anyway, the sign was housed and then

'The old and the new, bonded together to represent how far we have come'

taken around our various groundsharing arrangements until it was destroyed during a mysterious fire at the White Lion Ground. Probably the most iconic symbol of Lower Mead lost forever. We have now seen the old Supporters' Club shop sign, the actual original sign, restored to the Club Shop after nearly thirty years and there is a project to recreate the old EE sign and restore it to a part of the Vale. The old and the new, bonded together, to represent how far we have come since the dark days of losing Lower Mead, ground sharing around

southwest Hertfordshire and Middlesex. liquidators sell it off, probably to property developers, to pay off creditors. Without a stadium, a home, as we all well know, a football club is listless and a wandering soul deprived of the love of its family/community. For the moment we can sympathise with the Bury fans. We have been pretty close to the fate that has befallen them in the past.

Sud



Fan in the Stand

Let's be honest, the two years that I covered the Stones at Watford were not great.. but I'll never forget them

Today's FiS is not just any Stones follower. Andrew French was the young and fresh-faced Watford Observer reporter (right) tasked with covering Wealdstone during the club's ill-fated (and ruinously expensive) groundshare with Watford FC for two years between 1991 and 1993. We still look back fondly on his efforts to give the Stones comparable column inches with the Hornets. Andy is here today with his teenage sons, with the club in a much healthier position....

Was it really more than 28 years ago that I started two very memorable seasons (not always for the best reasons) of covering Wealdstone for the Watford Observer?!

I've got married, had two sons and am on my fifth job since then! But from 1991 onwards, Wealdstone (or Weald-stun as TV reporters seem to think, don't get me started...) has been one of 'my teams'. A



The Stones line-up at Vicarage Road Brian Hall and Dennis Byatt in the

team whose results I look for. I follow the Twitter feeds. And I regale my two teenage sons, who are at today's game with me, with stories from those two seasons.

Let's be honest, it wasn't a great couple of years no matter how you look at it. And for those loyal Stones fans who had seen Lower Mead disappear, watching their team anywhere else was never going to be suitable. The fact they ended up ground sharing with Watford at a Vicarage Road stadium - which was sort of half developed and half still in the early 1900s - was a pretty soulless experience.

But what I learned very quickly was that Wealdstone and their fans are unlike most other clubs I have encountered, both at professional and non-league level. I'm sure everyone says that about every club, but I genuinely believe it. I was amazed when I went to the first few away games in the 1991/92 season and saw how many Stones fans travelled - and how much noise they

made! Also, it was a friendly place, somewhere I was welcomed very quickly.

I remember dealing with the likes of Hughie Marshall, Peter Braxton, the lovely Couch brothers, Graham Smith and, of course, Brian Hall. I really liked Brian, and I respected what he had achieved with the Stones in the years before I covered the club. I always explain to my sons that had it happened a few years later, Wealdstone would have been in the football league and lauded as double winners thanks to Brian's achievements.

in 1991 with boss back row

So it was a shame to watch that 91/92 season because it was apparent from way out that Brian was not going to come close to achieving those heady days.

It was a very mixed squad - for every Neil Cordice there was a David Gipp - and although Brian shuffled the pack, the team was on a downwards trajectory. We started pretty well to be fair, and I remember a really comprehensive 6-2 win at Corby quite early on with Mark Hopson starring.

I recall thinking we looked very mid-table, able to turn it on and beat most teams but also equally capable of putting in an absolute stinker. There was an away defeat at Dover towards the end of September where I think we didn't register a goal attempt and after losing 3-0 Brian met the players at the door of the dressing room in an absolute rage, telling them to get their clothes and get straight on the bus.

Yet, despite the inconsistency, I never



Proud Dad: Andrew with his boys Liam (left) and Aidan

thought relegation was an issue. Until the New Year. We only won two league games in the first three months of 1992, and the death spiral started. We failed to score in six of the last 12 league games, and suddenly that first season at Vicarage Road was going to be remembered for all the wrong reasons.

I used to speak to Brian at least once a week on the phone, as well as after every game, and I could tell how much it hurt him. I also used to travel on the team bus to some away games, and to say some of the players didn't share his depth of passion for the cause would be a fair assessment.

Behind the scenes things were unravelling as well. I'd met Alan Clifton at a game at Lower Mead before the move to Vicarage Road, and as a 20-year-old cub reporter I found him a bit intimidating. He was always very pleasant to me, but I felt there was a side to his character I didn't want to discover.

However, he moved on and I remember David Pollock becoming chairman. I got on well with David, a very approachable man who helped me understand

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

ANDREW FRENCH CONTINUED

WEALDSTONE v EASTBOURNE BOROUGH 09.11.2019

some of the machinations of what was happening away from the pitch. I do remember thinking he had a much posher voice than most non-league officials I'd encountered as well!

Before the start of the 1992/93 season, Brian departed and Dennis Byatt stepped into the manager's chair. Of course, Dennis is a legend of that double-winning side, but I only knew him as a coach and then manager. He was a top bloke. More light-hearted than Brian but no less passionate and also a bit more open and forthcoming.

Having had a season where I'd done a lot of travelling on the team bus (*not a place to be after a bad away defeat with Brian Hall in a right mood but a couple of players laughing when he was delivering a ranting review of the game in the gangway between the seats*), I began to travel to away games with fans I'd got to know. As I said before, I really liked Wealdstone's fans. Proper football people. I'm very bad with names these days but the likes of Pete Worby, Roger Slater, Sudhir Rawal and Layne Patterson jump straight to my mind. I'm pretty sure Worby led me astray as I don't think most journalists headed for the pub nearest to the away ground that served good real ale, and then loaded up before dashing into the stadium as close to kick-off as possible....

I may be wrong, but was there also a guy called Forest? He always carried a plastic bag with contents unknown, and was greeted from the terraces with a chorus of

'Oh, he's here again, the man with a forest up his nose' to the tune of Kate Bush's The Man With a Child in his eyes....

We started the season by being thumped at home by Margate (am I right in thinking their supporters are the absolute antithesis of Stones fans?!) but after that we looked pretty decent.

There was the affable Dermot Drummy – taken far too soon – in midfield and then up front we had probably my favourite player of my period covering the club: Dave Venables. I loved the way he approached games – lively, pacy, alert and willing to run. We also had Drax – Johnson Hippolyte – who was probably more agricultural in style than Venables but was effective nonetheless.

A seven-game unbeaten run in the league with Venables and Hippolyte spear-heading things had the Stones right in the mix. During that run there was also a night I recall very fondly: a 2-0 FA Cup replay win away at Wivenhoe. As I said, my memory isn't good anymore but I seem to remember us being a goal up through Drax but were really hanging on. Drax then scored again, and there were proper limbs in the away end (by now I'd started watching games with the fans, and my celebrations were halted when a flying arm whipped my glasses off and they broke on the floor).

That run in the FA Cup (the Stones version of the Only Way is Essex as we beat Tiptree, Witham and Wivenhoe) may also have turned the season negatively as I remember we were drawn at home to Dagenham and Redbridge of the Conference. They gave us a 6-1 whipping and I'm pretty sure we weren't the same after that.

Behind the scenes I'd now met Paul Rumens, another Wealdstone stalwart who I have stayed friends with, albeit from a distance, in the years since. He's

why I'm writing this and how I came to be here at the game today. If you're reading this, you don't need me to tell you what a character Paul is, or how much he loves the club. Suffice to say I thoroughly enjoyed working with Paul, and he became well known to a few of my Watford Observer colleagues too – most notably the late and great Simon Ricketts, who came to a couple of games that season and got a love for the club and non-league football generally.

We used to refer to Paul as 'Rocking Rumens' (I'm not sure he knew that) after several very wild nights out at Sterlings, a club he owned in Northampton, which then finished at his rather swish house. What happened in Sterlings stayed in Sterlings, enough said.

I'm pretty sure we were still well in the promotion hunt at the end of the year but, as in the previous season, the Stones came down with the Christmas decorations in January. Only five league defeats by December 31, but 12 more in the New Year.

April was particularly bad, no wins, 13 goals conceded and there was a 5-1 defeat at Fareham Town which sticks in my mind as being one of the worst afternoons during a two-year spell when there were quite a few games that were readily forgettable.

We finished mid-table and on reflection, we were exactly that – very mid-table.

It had become obvious that the groundshare was not going to be viable and by the end of the season we knew the Stones were on the move again. That meant I would no longer be writing match reports but I was determined to stay in touch.

I made one very brief but memorable appearance for the supporters team (I came on as sub and my first 'touch' was somewhere between the opposition full-back's knee and thigh. The referee booked me but didn't need to ask my name as he was still writing it down from when I came on).

I saw watch quite a few games at Yeading and got to know Fred Callaghan pretty well, but then I changed jobs, leaving the Watford Observer to become Graham Taylor's Head



The 1992-93 season kicked off with a 4-1 home defeat by Margate... another season to forget

of Communications at Watford. That meant travelling home and away with the players which, as you imagine, was a dream come true for a fan. I was on the pitch when we won the 1999 Championship Play-Off Final at Wembley, and then had the experience of behind a club official during Watford's first season in the Premier League. We finished bottom by some way but I'd not have swapped that season of personal experiences for anything. I stayed in touch with Graham Taylor right up until his untimely death, a wonderful man I counted as a friend. I spent three seasons doing a similar job at Charlton (but commuting from Hertfordshire to Kent each day nearly killed me, literally), and since then I've worked in the gambling industry and I'm now Head of PR and Communications for Butlin's (yes I get cheap holidays, no I don't get a Redcoat).

Today is my first Stones game in I don't know how long, and certainly the first for my two boys. I'm delighted, they're excited and I really hope we see a thumping win for Dean and the boys.

So if you're at today's game and you see a tall, dapper, hirsute chap, that won't be me – but keep an eye out for a baldy with a middle-aged spread and glasses which aren't broken whose two kids might be helping him out of the car, and feel free to say hello. Up the Stones.



One shining light for the sparse fans: David Venables, who went on to play for the England non-League team after signing for Stevenage

EASTBOURNE BOROUGH

WEALDSTONE v EASTBOURNE BOROUGH

Opposition in focus

Founded as Langney Football Club in 1965, the club initially joined the Eastbourne & District Football League. The team played on local recreation grounds before moving to Prince's Park, near the Eastbourne sea-front. By 1973/74 the club had scaled the Eastbourne & Hastings League, and was beginning to look for a future beyond parks football. "They'll never be more than a parks team!" was the infamous comment of one very senior official in Sussex football – but they proved him wrong....

In 1983 Langney Sports were elected as a founder member of Division 3 of the Sussex County League, and swiftly moved up through the divisions, rarely finishing outside the top four in Division One, and respected as a force to be reckoned with. Finally after some close-run campaigns, the 1999/00 season, under management duo Garry Wilson and Nick Greenwood, saw the Sports take the Sussex County League title, gaining promotion to the Dr. Martens League (Eastern Division) where after a season of consolidation at the higher level, the Club finished a creditable ninth in the table.

Meanwhile, on the field, the Sports were laying sound physical foundations too. From those itinerant early years on local parks pitches, the club had always had the vision of a more permanent home, and audaciously they had approached the local council with the improbable project of turning Priory Lane – then a mere expanse of empty marshland – into a proper stadium. The County League years saw those plans beginning to be realised. Then during 2000/01 the club received a £117,000 grant from the Football Foundation to go towards further development of Priory Lane. At the end of the season the Football Committee made one of the most

crucial decisions in the club's history: the change of name to Eastbourne Borough FC. Stalwarts had their reservations, but the new name reflected the club's status as ambassadors for the whole town, and not only the original Langney. But to loyal supporters, we are and always will be still The Sports! Season 2002 saw the club win the Sussex Senior Cup for the first time, beating the holders Lewes 2-1, and within two seasons there was further promotion to the Dr Martens Premier Division. Within another year Borough were elevated to the newly inaugurated Conference South.

2004/05 proved to be a most successful season as Eastbourne Borough reached the Play-O Final. Over 1,000 Borough supporters made the 500-mile round trip to Stoke City for the North v South Final against Altrincham, but it wasn't to be, losing 2-1 in an exciting encounter. The following campaign was disappointing, but the Club achieved another milestone reaching the 1st Round proper of the FA Cup for the first time, with the reward of a home tie against League Two club Oxford United. Cheered on by a record crowd of 3,770, and in front of the Match of the Day cameras, Borough dramatically forced a 1-1 draw with a twice-taken last-minute penalty. Story-book stuff! The replay, though, was lost 3-0 at the Kassam Stadium.

The 2006/07 season saw the squad adopt a change in direction with Garry Wilson placing an emphasis on "quality" not "quantity" and finished in 7th place, 4 points off a play-off berth. Buoyed by the previous league season the club started the 2007/2008 season in high spirits and it was to prove a most successful campaign with Eastbourne Borough beating Hampton & Richmond Borough 2-0 in the Play-O Final at Stevenage. The triumphant night had completed a remarkable rise from

recreation ground football to the pinnacle of non-League, the Conference Premier.

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

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

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

Tommy Widdrington was to oversee a new phase. He remained at the club for two

seasons until April 2017 – a phase of mid-table stability in the National South. Equally important, the club's infrastructure was strengthening, with conversion to a Community Interest Club, the opening of an Academy, and a splendid new 3G pitch installed at Priory Lane. We have spent half a century building – building teams, building facilities, building friendships – and our proudest achievement of 2017/18 was the National League award as Community Club of the Year. On the pitch, Tommy moved on and Jamie Howell was appointed manager ahead of the 2017/18 season. Jamie left the club in February 2019 on the back of a poor run of form after a good start to the 2018/19 season, and Mark McGhee was appointed as interim manager. Under the former Scotland Assistant Manager, the Sports secured their National League South status ahead of 2019/20.

The Sports enter the new season with a new figure at the helm, with former Havant & Waterlooville boss Lee Bradbury named the new manager at Priory Lane.



SPORTS FACTS

GROUND - Priory Lane
CAPACITY - 4,151 (600 seated)

MANAGER - John Bonar
2018/19 - National Lg South . 18th

Previously
H 1/12/18 L 0-3 A 23/02/19 W 3-0

WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v EASTBOURNE BOROUGH

P 10 W 1 D 3 L 6 F 10 A 22

WHO'S WHO?

TOM HADLER - GOALKEEPER

Hadler signed at Priory Lane in June 2019 after his release from Gillingham. Having come through the youth system at the EFL club, he signed his first professional contract in 2015. Having spent spells on loan at Folkestone Invicta, Tonbridge Angels, Gloucester City and Grays Athletic, he became the Gills' second choice goalkeeper in 2017/18. Tom made his senior debut in April 2018 against Blackpool, where he received praise from then-manager Steve Lovell despite the 3-0 defeat.

TOBI ADEBAYO-ROWLING - DEFENDER

Originally a product of the Borough youth Academy, having enjoyed a time with Brighton & Hove Albion, Tobi went on to seek his fortune in the Football League with Peterborough United before going on to make the move to the Irish League, with spells at Sligo Rovers and Cork City. He returned to England in the summer of 2018 having signed on at Bromley, before he made a loan move at Priory Lane permanent later that season.

MANNY ADEBOWALE - DEFENDER

The 6"5 central defender joins after his release from Dover Athletic. Manny enjoyed a spell on loan at Priory Lane last term, starting twice and coming on the bench on three occasions during his month on the south coast. Born and raised in Stratford, Manny came through the ranks at West Ham United before joining then-League One side Shrewsbury United on a two-year scholarship in the summer of 2013. Upon his release from the Blades, he had spells with Hayes & Yeading United and Bishop's Cleeve.

KRISTIAN CAMPBELL - DEFENDER

Kris joined the Sports from Bromley in the summer of 2018 after a second spell with the Ravens. Athletic, pacey and eager to get forward, the left back has developed into a fan favourite with his committed approach. Has also enjoyed time with Dulwich Hamlet, Merstham and had a loan period at Bognor Regis Town.

DEAN COX - DEFENDER

Born in Haywards Heath, Cox progressed through the ranks at Brighton & Hove Albion

and made his debut as a 17-year old in August 2005. He joined the Sports on loan in 2005/06, playing 11 times without scoring. The playmaker would go on to play almost 150 games for the Seagulls over five years, before he left for Leyton Orient. Then in League One, he proved to be an integral part of Orient's side and scored in the 2013/14 Play-Off final where they lost to Rotherham United on penalties. After almost 300 games for the East London side, he left in the summer of 2016/17 and joined Crawley Town. After two years in West Sussex, Coxy made the switch to Priory Lane where he has made himself an important part of the team.

JAMES FERRY- MIDFIELD

Central mid elder Ferry began his youth career at Brentford, where he captained the Bees' U15 team to victory in the 2012 Milk Cup. He progressed through the youth system at Griffin Park before being rewarded with a professional contract in 2015. An ever-present in the U21 side, he found first team opportunities limited and joined Stevenage in the summer of 2017. After a handful of appearances, he spent time on loan with Nuneaton and Halifax Town before he joined Woking towards the end of 2018/19. After helping the Cards secure promotion to the National League, he joined the Sports in June 2019.

IAN GAYLE - DEFENDER

After coming through the academy at Dagenham & Redbridge, centre back Gayle made his senior debut for the Daggers in April 2014 having had spells on loan with St. Neots Town, Kingstonian, Whitehawk and St. Albans City. However, he was released by the Daggers after they suffered relegation from the Football League. Since then, he has enjoyed spells with Braintree Town, Welling United and Wealdstone before leaving Woking in the summer of Priory Lane.

KIRAN KHINDA-JOHN - DEFENDER

Central defender Kiran returns to Priory Lane for his second spell with the Sports after a year away. The former Crystal Palace academy product had spent four years with the Sports until leaving for pastures new last summer, when he had spells with Woking and Chelmsford City. Having shown great potential in his first spell at Priory Lane, he will be looking to impress once again under

Lee Bradbury.

GREG LUER- FORWARD

Luer joins the Sports after departing promoted Woking, where he scored nine goals as the Cards secured promotion to the National League last season. Greg may be a familiar name with some Borough fans, having played for the club's Under 18 side six years ago before he made the switch to Burgess Hill Town. It was from there that his career took off, as at the age of 20 he was snapped up by EFL Championship side Hull City in January 2015. He made his debut for the Tigers on the opening day of the 2015/16 season, before scoring his first goals in the League Cup that season against Accrington Stanley and Rochdale. However, with opportunities limited he went on loan to Scunthorpe United, Stevenage and then Maidstone United before he left Hull at the end of the 2017/18 season.

CHARLIE WALKER - FORWARD

Charlie signed for the Sports in the summer of 2018 from St. Albans City. Having progressed in the County League with Shoreham, Lancing and Whitehawk, it was his 43-goal season for Peacehaven & Telscombe that attracted the attention of Luton Town, who signed him in 2014. With opportunities limited with the EFL side, he joined Aldershot Town in 2015, where he finished the club's top scorer in his first season. However, he left in December 2016 in a bid for regular football. After scoring 16 goals in 18 months with fellow National League South side St. Albans, Charlie made the move to the South Coast where he has made himself a first team regular.

MIKE WEST - MIDFIELD

Westy joined the Sports in the summer of 2018 from Chelmsford City. Having come through the ranks at Ebbsfleet United, the playmaker went on to make over 100 appearances for the Kent side having made his debut in 2009. He left in the summer of 2012 for League One side Crewe Alexandra, before he returned to Fleet in 2014. Mike played the second half of the 2015/16 season

on loan with Whitehawk – a move he later made permanent. Scored one of 2018/19's most memorable goals against Dartford in a 6-0 win at Priory Lane.

NICK WHEELER - MIDFIELD

Nick is a winger who started his career in Charlton Athletic's youth set-up, where he spent seven years before taking a break from football. He joined Burgess Hill in 2010, before going on to play for Lewes and Tonbridge Angels. At the start of 2017/18 he signed for Dagenham & Redbridge having impressed during his two years at Tonbridge. In November 2017 he made the move to Billericay Town, before joining Woking last season where he helped the Cards win promotion to the National League.

KANE WILLS - MIDFIELD

Midfield engine Kane joined the Sports in August 2017 from Bostik Premier side Worthing. Having come through the youth system at Brighton & Hove Albion, he joined Ebbsfleet United in the summer of 2009. After just one season, he had a brief spell with the Sports in the summer of 2010 before joining Bognor Regis Town. Wills left the Rocks in 2015 to join Margate but returned to Sussex just one season later to join Worthing, where he was club captain up until his departure from Woodside Road.

SERGIO TORRES - MIDFIELD/ MANAGER

The original football journeyman, Sergio came from his native Argentina with basically a pair of boots and a pack of sandwiches, working his way through with sheer commitment as well as terrific talent. After earning a professional contract with Wycombe Wanderers, he has over 250 football league appearances to his name. He famously captained Crawley Town in their FA Cup run that ended at Old Trafford, and also captained Whitehawk's hugely successful side of a few seasons ago, where the Hawks twice made the play-offs in the National League South. Joined Borough in the summer of 2017 where he almost been an ever-present.



Connor Smith

'Of course I remember my loan spell here seven years ago...losing out to suspension in the Trophy semi-final was heartbreaking'

Do you want a midfielder who knows how to win promotion at a higher level? A box-to-box player in the prime of his career? Someone who can pick a pass and win possession? And who lives locally and knows the club inside out?

Connor Smith ticks every conceivable box. He's so perfect for the Stones that when news filtered through in May that he was rejoining the club it was received by our fans with a sense of wonderment.

Because we have been following Connor's career with a sense of pride ever since he dropped into our arms as a callow 18 year old back in November 2011. He signed on a month's loan - along with his mate, striker Britt Assombalonga - from Watford's youth team and within a fortnight Gordon Bartlett's team were galvanised from a misfiring, mid table Ryman League outfit into a side that careered up the table and into the FA Trophy semi finals, confounding every one of our fans.

It was a fantastic period and Connor remembers every moment. "How could I

Connor wins the ball in our fine 3-0 win at Hemel in August



forget any of it?' he said last week, finding a moment to chat after a busy morning coaching half-term kids at Boreham Wood FC.

The affable Irishman has been employed as a coach by the National League side since Wood signed him from Yeovil Town two years ago.

"We parted ways when Billericay came in for me, under Dean Brennan, but Wood wanted me to stay on as a coach and I was very happy to do that" said the 26 year old who lives in South Oxhey and is loving the fact that work, Wealdstone training (at Harefield) and The Vale are in such close proximity.

"I've spent the last six years up and down the country so the fact we are settled back here with my friends is brilliant."

We won't touch too much on Connor's

early years as they are covered (overpage) by a programme article back in 2012 when his impact as a loan star was first being appreciated.

"Me and Britt joining the club at the same time was a big factor" he says now. "It was our first taste of men's football and toughened us up - I was actually still growing at the time! Britt had the strength and the pace to worry teams at that level and of course he was soon flying - he's made a great career for himself and he's a real proven League goal scorer now. As for me, I was actually played wide right for Wealdstone, the only time in my life I've not been a central midfielder, and I'll never forget the Trophy wins over Barrow (we didn't want a Tuesday night replay) and of course the quarter final at Cambridge, and even beating Dartford in the last 16 even though I was sent off.

"That meant I was suspended for the semi final first leg at Newport County. I had to watch from the terraces and that was hard. I played in the 0-0 second leg but we lost on aggregate".

Connor's loan had been extended until the end of the season and he started 19 successive games through December-March in which we won ten, drew eight and lost just one.

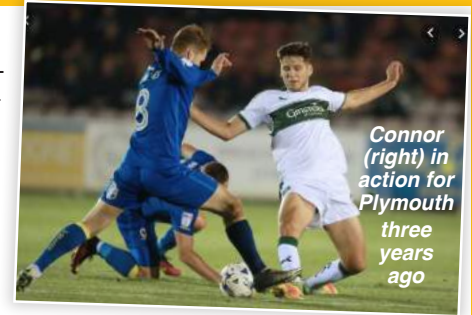
Britt Assombalonga scored 13 goals in his 13 games and Watford decided to move him on to Braintree Town after two months - he scored for fun there too but what might have been had he stayed and offered that goal threat in the games against Newport?

That summer, the Pozzo family bought Watford and Gianfranco Zola was installed as manager in place of Sean Dyche.

"Zola really seemed to like me and I was in and around the first team squad straight away" recalled Connor. "I made my debut off the bench on the opening day of the Championship season when we won 3-2 at Crystal Palace. Then I started at Blackburn in a 1-0 defeat but my most memorable game was the next one when we won 6-1 at Leeds - a massive win for us at a massive club".

Connor made eight appearances for the Horns but his debut season was halted in its tracks by a bad injury in November.

"I was on crutches for the rest of that season. Really bad timing as we ended up reaching the play off final... it was the game everyone remembers that got us there, the one against Leicester



Connor (right) in action for Plymouth three years ago

at Vicarage Road when they missed a 96th-minute penalty to make it 3-2 on aggregate - and Watford raced to the other end and Troy Deeney won it with the last kick of the game.

"I wasn't playing obviously but I hobbled on to the pitch with the rest of them at the end. It was extraordinary."

While Connor figured in the first team, Assombalonga was sent out again on loan to Southend before Peterborough signed him.

Nottingham Forest and Middlesbrough have since had the benefit of his goal-scoring prowess as the striker has racked up almost 100 league goals. We knew he was decent!

Watford were beaten in that playoff final by Crystal Palace, and as for Connor, he knew his time was up at the Vicarage when the Pozzos started to pump money into the club. "The players they were signing, I knew I wasn't going to get in the team. I went out on loan deals to Gillingham and Stevenage and then halfway through the 2015-16 season, AFC Wimbledon made me a good offer in League Two and we ended up promoted via the play off final at Wembley! An amazing day"

There were 60,000 in the ground to see late goals from Lyle Taylor and a stoppage time penalty from Adebayo Akinfenwa see off Plymouth Argyle with a 2-0 win.

"So was that your greatest moment in football?" I asked him.

"To be fair, my best times came the following season when Plymouth made me a great offer to move down to Devon.

"I had gone back home to Ireland that summer and was in talks with Wimble-

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

CONNOR SMITH CONTINUED

WEALDSTONE v EASTBOURNE BOROUGH 09.11.2019

FIND A WHOLE WORLD OF MEMORABILIA AT THE WEALDSTONE MEGASTORE: www.wfcmegastore.co.uk

don about the League One season - but Plymouth were very persuasive and I had a wonderful season there.

"I moved to Devon with my girlfriend Chelsea, and there was a great atmosphere among the players and their families, most of whom weren't from the area and we really enjoyed the city and the lifestyle.

"It was excellent on and off the pitch - we were leading the table for most of the season but on the last day we drew at Grimsby while Portsmouth won their game and nicked the title.

"The Argyll fans were unreal. We'd be playing at Notts County on a Tuesday night and there'd be 3,000 there, travelling up from Plymouth. Amazing commitment to their team. A big, big club.

"I probably made a mistake after that though, signing two year deal with Yeovil Town. It just didn't work out with the players we had and we finished lower mid table. I liked the town, though it's a lot quieter than Plymouth, but we decided to move back to the Watford area where Chelsea's from".

"Was she named after the team?" I asked semi seriously. "Yes!" said Connor "her dad's a big Chelsea fan. "I suppose she could have been called 'Sligo Rovers'" I joked. "Or Bohemians" he shot back. "That would just be a bit strange though".

Anyway, Connor and Chelsea moved back eastwards when Boreham Wood, fresh to the Conference National, offered an enticing package that included full-time coaching at the club's academy.

Within a few months though, Billericay (managed by Dean Brennan and Stuart Maynard) had lured him to Essex while he continued to coach for the Wood. "The driving for training and matches was getting a bit much so when Wealdstone came in for me it was like coming home" said the affable Irishman.

"I know Deano's style of play of course from the brief time I was with him at Billericay and it was very attractive - we've got some terrific players here and to be honest I'm not surprised the season's started so well. I knew Billy (Clifford) from playing

REACHING FOR THE SKY A very young Connor (left) and eventual winner Ben Greenhalgh pictured while filming Sky's 'Football's Next Star'

TIM PARKS MEETS..

ENFIELD RIFLED
Connor makes a dream Stones debut with two goals at Enfield in the Middlesex Cup

CONNOR SMITH

If Connor Smith, the Stones' Watford loan star, looks a bit familiar it could be for one of two reasons...

1) Young Connor survived six episodes of Sky One's 'Football's Next Star' programme in 2010 and was only just pipped for a year's pro contract at AC Milan; or

2) Because he bears a striking playing resemblance to Liverpool's Steven Gerrard.

Okay, the second one may be stretching the truth a little, but 18-year-old Connor is aware of that comparison made on the Stones' Fans Forum (by Hillsy) and simply laughed it off when I

pointed out the similarities. "Well it's flattering, but I think I've got a fair way to go before I could be bracketed with him" said the softly-spoken Irishman last week.

Yet the long-striding, sharp-shooting midfielder DOES look like an embryonic Stevie G. And no doubt it was that style that caught the eye of the Sky production team as they scoured the country for the TV show two years ago. For those that missed the show, fronted by Jamie Redknapp, the format centred around a number of roadshows the length and breadth of the UK

and Ireland, with over 4,000 teenage footballers being selected for the qualifying rounds.

Then the cull began. Over the course of the next hour's programme the thousands of youngsters fell away until just 20, and then a team of 10 were left to travel to Italy's Lake Como for the final episodes. Amazingly Connor, plucked from Westmeath in the Republic of Ireland, and the second-youngest of all the contestants at just 14, stayed the course right through to the final, when he was finally pipped by 15-year-old East London

against Chelsea Youth for Watford, and at Billericay and he's tough to play against. Though you don't know how good he really is until you play with him!

"Michael Phillips is class too, Greenie obviously should have played a lot higher and our centre backs are League One, League Two standard. Jerome is brilliant and I was Impressed with him when I had that loan spell at Stevenage.

CONNOR SMITH.. CONTINUED

winger Ben Greenhalgh.

I watched the final episodes and was struck by how young Connor just got on with it. The other finalists were loud, brash - and admittedly talented - but fell away as the Irishman, supported by his mum and dad, let his football do the talking.

"I just kept my head down, kept quiet and tried my best" says Connor. "And it was a great experience for me, being away on my own for several weeks for the first time... the facilities were out of this world and it was brilliant because, on the back of it, I was offered a YTS contract at Watford."

Now he combines college studies with training at the Hornets' London Colney base, and of course training and games for the mighty Stones. How are you enjoying your loan spell at Wealdstone, I asked him?

"It's been really good for me, in every way. One of my good pals at Watford is Gavin Massey, who was on loan at Wealdstone last year, and he told me I'd enjoy it - the lads here are all good fellas, close-knit and play good football.

"But the major thing for me is that I've got the chance to express myself. At Watford I play just behind the strikers and you don't have much time on the ball... at Wealdstone I've been playing in wider positions and it's given me the chance to run at players."

And what about that trick where you switch feet and accelerate away from

defenders?

"Ha, I just made that up last week! To be honest, I'm loving playing that role, getting on the ball and taking people on I'm not sure I'll be allowed to do that when I go back to Watford, I'll just do what I'm told!"

Although Connor has been with the Stones for just five weeks, he seems to have grown in stature game by game. "Yes, and I think I've actually grown a lot in the last year or so... when we filmed the Sky series I was so small and slight, but now I'm almost six foot and getting stronger all the time!"

Well, it certainly helps in today's programme, I told him. A good big 'un is always going to be favoured over a good little one... unless you're Lionel Messi.

"That's true. I suppose I'll find out in the summer when my YTS contract finishes and Watford decide whether they take me on full-time or not. I know I've got to impress in

the next few months and that includes doing well for Wealdstone."

When this loan spell ends it seems likely that both Connor and his pal Britt Assombalonga will spend time at another non-League outfit as part of the toughening-up process... but both are very happy here.

"I played in lots of Reserve games for Watford at the start of the season, against Fulham, MK Dons and Nottingham Forest, but they are all friendlies now as Watford Reserves aren't in a league. Wealdstone game's a different thing all together... very competitive and physical, and you learn to attack the ball and not just wait for it to come to you. Otherwise you'll get clattered!"

Connor is living in digs at Croxley Green but gets back to visit his family in Ireland whenever he can. And his dad came across at Christmas to watch the Carshalton game... probably the worst match he could have chosen as the Stones struggled to a 1-1 draw.

"That was a tough game" says Connor. "My favourite so far was probably my first match at Enfield Town when we won 4-0... I scored twice and set up a couple and it was nice to be so involved. "Apart from that the Lewes game was good as I managed to get on the ball quite a lot".

That is a bit of an understatement. For my money, Connor's performance in that game, as he sliced his way through the experienced Lewes defence, was as good as any winger we've seen in a blue shirt since former Fulham pro Brian Greenaway in the 80s, or even Alan Cordice.

Or even Steven G. Only time will tell...

"I don't want to jinx it but I really think we could have a good run in the Trophy this year. It would make up for that disappointment against Newport when I couldn't play - I was talking to Jerome about it the other day and he was saying how gutted he was when Wealdstone lost to Brackley in the semi final a couple of years ago.

"Promotion is the No.1 goal but a long run in the Trophy would be great".

● I asked Connor if he stayed in touch with any of the young players he competed with in the 'Search for a Star' TV show that earned him his start in football. "Well, Ben Greenhalgh (who won it) is at Dartford so I had a chat with him first day of the season... and my best mate is Anthony O'Donnell who I met on the show. Though I probably shouldn't mention him as he's now playing for Harrow Borough!"

NEXT UP TO BE INTERVIEWED: IT'S BILLY CLIFFORD!



CONNOR SMITH



Supporters' Scene

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen. I'll start by thanking Peter Edwards and Phil Jefferson for their time and expertise in restoring the Lower Mead era club shop signage. This now sits proudly outside of the Supporters Club Megastore. I'd say in this case acknowledging a piece of our history and using it in the present is a very commendable exercise.

There have been calls on social media to produce a replica of the legendary 'Elmslie End' sign and hang it somewhere in the ground. For those many fans who are relative newcomers to Wealdstone FC the Elmslie End was our 'Kop' end at our former Lower Mead home. A marvellous standing terrace of which had acoustic properties that have probably never been bettered. I'll happily admit the thought of the 'Elmslie End' sign hanging in the Bulla Stand sends the proverbial shiver down my spine. I'd also happily refer to this stand as the Elmslie Stand should there be money forthcoming to sponsor it as such. However, at what point do we let go of the past and simply concentrate on the present and future?? I must admit I have little idea of how many of our present regulars are from the days of Lower Mead. Given how many youngsters have appeared on the scene during the past few years I guess you could say us 'old timers' are possible now in the minority. When the Main Stand was given a splattering of dark brown and orange paint to conform with our sponsorship with Wenzels, only an extreme minority of supporters took exception. They are perfectly entitled to their viewpoint. To them it clearly gave the impression of ignoring our identity in the pursuit of finances. Even those established supporters who are quite precious about the kit we play in just saw this as a natural and logical evolution of the ground. Naming parts of the ground after long serving supporters will always get majority backing, especially if they contributed countless hours of their time towards for the benefit of the football club. Do we rename the Social Club 'The Elmslie Tavern'? This establishment of course being the one of which sat alongside our aforementioned former home. I very much doubt there will ever be an opportunity for another 'Cinema End' mind!

In my previous article I spoke in length

about the club's media activities and the level of expectation from supporters. Am going to rehash a little of that and pay tribute to those regular supporters who have provided professional match day photography for the club. Many of you will know this is something of which I've undertaken myself down the years. Its quite a commitment, especially if you agree to become the club's official photographer. Not only are you exposed to the elements during the winter months, there is also quite a lot of post-match work involved to ensure your captures reach a global audience. Going back to our latter days at Lower Mead, I can recall our current Secretary Paul 'Fingers' Fruin armed with a 35mm SLR Camera capturing the action. Have been reliably informed that most of the photographs from 'The last day' at Lower Mead were his work. A name of which springs to mind during our ground sharing days is Colin Bunner. Am sure he spent several seasons on the touchline producing excellent images that were used across a number of mediums. Onto the digital age of the mid 2000s, I had a few seasons as our 'official' photographer. Hopefully I produced enough decent images to warrant the title. Remember it being very difficult to recreate the 'big game' feel when there were usually only 250 people in the ground! Our move to The Vale saw Steve Foster take up the mantle and he became our official photographer for several seasons. Some of the work that he produced was outstanding and took the level of professionalism to new heights. He is still our go-to man when it comes to official material such as team photographs or kit launches and long may this be the case. We've also had some really useful contributions from the likes of Dan Finell. In spite of being a freelance photographer he provided services voluntarily on a short term basis. Apologies to any others who I may have missed out on. One thing is certain. No matter what kit you use, no matter how drenched you are, no matter how frostbitten your fingers become, there is immense reward in capturing a moment in the club's history that potentially could be viewed over and over again for years to come.

Enjoy the game!

Attic



MATCH SPONSORS

A great way to celebrate a special occasion or advertise your organisation's support of Wealdstone, match sponsorship packages start at just **£345** (fans) or **£395** (corporate). As match day sponsor you will enjoy:

- Match tickets for four people (inc. 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 stunning dedicated glass award

*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 your group in our magnificent 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 or call **07710 929692**) to discuss.



MATCH	SPONSORS	
DARTFORD Saturday, 3rd August Vanarama National League South	Support the Stones - sponsor a match!	
CHIPPENHAM TOWN Tuesday, 13th August Vanarama National League South	Wealdstone FC Supporters Club	
HUNGERFORD TOWN Saturday, 24th August Vanarama National League South	Ray Corner and Peter Carter	
MAIDSTONE UNITED Saturday, 31st August Vanarama National League South	Markie Barton	
OXFORD CITY Saturday, 7th September Vanarama National League South	The Guild	
HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE Saturday, 28th October Vanarama National League South	First Financial	
BRISTOL MANOR FARM Tuesday, 8th October FA Cup 3rd Qualifying Round	GPF Lewis	
MAIDENHEAD UNITED Tuesday, 22nd October FA Cup 4rd Qualifying Round	GPF Lewis	
TONBRIDGE ANGELS Saturday, 26th October Vanarama National League South	In memory of John O'Connor	AFC Lightning
EASTBOURNE BOROUGH Saturday, 9th November Vanarama National League South	Emin Alibey & Family	
CONCORD RANGERS Saturday, 30th November Vanarama National League South	Available	Available
WELLING UNITED Saturday, 21st December Vanarama National League South	GPF Lewis	Available

MATCH	SPONSORS	
ST.ALBANS CITY Saturday, 28th December Vanarama National League South	Tony Platt	
SLOUGH TOWN Wednesday, 1st January Vanarama National League South	Recycle DNC Ltd	Available
CHELMSFORD CITY Saturday, 11th January Vanarama National League South	The Simon Ricketts Matchday	Harrow Sales & Marketing
BATH CITY Saturday, 25th January Vanarama National League South	Available	Available
BILLERICAY TOWN Saturday, 8th February Vanarama National League South	Available	Available
DORKING WANDERERS Saturday, 22nd February Vanarama National League South	Available	Available
DULWICH HAMLET Saturday, 7th March Vanarama National League South	In memory of Darren Hooker	People for Print
BRAINTREE TOWN Saturday, 21st March Vanarama National League South	Wealdstone FC Ladies	Available
HAMPTON & RICHMOND Saturday, 4th April Vanarama National League South	In memory of Ian Spicer	Available
WEYMOUTH Easter Monday, 13th April Vanarama National League South	Available	Available
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN Saturday, 25th April Vanarama National League South	In memory of Harry Leigh	Available

**Monday November 9 1998,
FA Trophy 1st round
replay: Wealdstone 0
Dagenham & Redbridge 5**

THIS season at the end of the old millennium was nothing short of extraordinary!

Controversy seemed to dog match after match.... it may be 21 years ago but no doubt dozens of our fans will recall most of the incidents leading up to this bizarre home defeat by Dag & Red.

Just to set the scene: Wealdstone had taken voluntary demotion to Div Three of the Isthmian League in 1995 in a bid to get back on a financial even keel, and new manager Gordon Bartlett had steered the side to the Div Three title in '97 and then to third place and promotion from Div Two a year later.

Crowds at the White Lion - where we were ground sharing with Edgware Town - had doubled to a 400 average but our form had plateaued out against the better standard opposition.

Then: Bizarre Incident 1

Our away game at Grays was held up after the referee measured the height of the top end crossbar and found it to be just 7ft 6ins high. Luckily we had Noel Imber in goal and not Aston Oxborough as the Norwich giant would have had a sore head! The groundsmen and three stewards had a futile dig around in the goalmouth, trying to make up the missing six inches but to no avail - all three goals in Grays' eventual 3-0 win were scored in that net and several months later the League Management Committee decreed that the

21 years ago: Sunken goalposts at Grays, a ghost goal against Canvey and water sports at Dagenham ...was this the most bizarre season ever?



Villian of the piece: Steve Bircham (quarters) failed from the spot at Dagenham

game would have to be replayed. More on that later.

Bizarre Incident 2

Wealdstone's proud connection with the FA Trophy restarted with an away tie at Dagenham, after the

humiliation of having to play in the non League minnows' FA Vase during our time in the Isthmian lower reaches. It was about the toughest First Round draw we could have been handed, with the East Londoners riding high at the top of the Isthmian Prem and strikers Dave Cobb and Danny Shipp scoring for fun. But it was about the wettest October on record. 200 stones fans made the trip to their Victoria Road ground in pelting rain, and unsurprisingly the pitch was under water - yet the referee allowed the game to start.

The humour flowed faster than the riptide across the eighteen yard box. "Looks like Shipp's sinking!" called out one wag, to actual applause. Little Chris Walton was warned to "stay in the shallow end".

Cobb scored for the tenth successive game but after 20 minutes the referee called it off- setting up an epic rematch three days later at the same ground.

Strong winds had dried out the pitch and it was a long ball out of defence that should have seen the home keeper Paul Gothard sent off in the second half when he blatantly handled yards outside his box to prevent a goal. But the ref missed it, to the fury of the away fans who were now numbering well over 200.

It was the brilliance of Gothard and Stones keeper Imber that had kept the game goalless - but suddenly, with 10 mins remaining it seemed we would claim a notable scalp.

Stuart Kent, with just two goals all season was a bit of a flop up front but he put us ahead beautifully from a tight angle. Then Dagenham's Gary Blackford handled in his own area to give us a penalty!

Unfortunately, our 'dead eyed dick' from the spot, Micky Swaysland, had been



A disappointingly dry Victoria Road, Dagenham

substituted just minutes earlier and the man who had just come on, Steve Bircham, stepped forward to take it. Home fans turned to leave the ground a only to stop and file back in when Gothard blocked the penalty.

And, of course, in the Wealdstone way of things, Dag & Red piled forward in injury time and grabbed an inevitable equaliser through the unstoppable Cobb. Fergus Moore was red carded for a foul, and from the subsequent free kick Cobb turned in the loose ball for 1-1. Drat!

Bizarre incident 3

On the Saturday between that draw and the subsequent Monday night replay, Canvey Island were awkward opposition at the White Lion. Managed and bankrolled by Caravan Magnate Jeff King, Canvey were on their way from the Essex Senior League to the Conference in 10 years and mighty confident of themselves ... so it was rather wonderful to see our Dagenham bad luck reversed by a slice of good fortune in what turned out to be a 3-0 win.

Noel Imber was flattened coming for an early cross and the referee stopped the game on the halfway line to allow treatment.

CONTINUED OVERPAGE...

He dropped the ball to allow Canvey to pump the ball back to our keeper and Paul Donovan gave it a good welly back to Imber.... but our keeper seemed to mishandle it, maybe still a bit shaken, and the ball ended up in the net.

Canvey shouted "goal!" and the referee looked a bit perplexed before ruling that it was not in the spirit of the game. Things became a bit fractious after that and on the 30 minute mark Canvey midfielder Scott Lindsey was spotted aiming a blow at Stones' Bircham in our box - and was sent off. For once, events had fallen in our favour and goals from Swaysland, Brian Jones and Phil Dicker wrapped up the points.

Bizarre incident 4

Okay, maybe not that bizarre as we've all seen the Stones capitulate in Cup replays having missed a great opportunity to win the first game, but the 5-0 defeat to Dag & Red in front of a 464 crowd was a strange beast.

Again the Stones played really well against the higher-ranked Dagenham, but again foundered against the inspired Gothard - while at the other end Paul McKay handled on the goal line in a grotesque prequel to the 0-5 home defeat to high flying Kingstonian the following season.

We were 1-0 down and reduced to 10 men in the wake of that calamity. But even then, Stones kept playing football and were finally sunk by four goals in the final 18 minutes, with three of them coming from the lethal boots of Danny Shipp.

If only we'd holed his team below the plimsoll line in the first game.



Mick Swaysland (left, on ground) steers his header into the Canvey net to wrap up the 3-0 win at the White Lion



Ah, the final bizarre incident: as this season progressed, the Stones found themselves rooted in midtable. The playing budget was cut and little heed was paid to having to upgrade the ground if we were to finish in a promotion position.

But then, an extraordinary thing: The players discovered a unity and drive

which, allied to the abilities of players like Jonah, Paul Lamb, Dominic Sterling, Paul Benning, Rocky Baptiste, Bircham and Carl Holmes saw us string together an unprecedented 16 wins in the final 18 league games!

Sadly, and indeed bizarrely, it was all for nothing as our eventual third place was ruled irrelevant by the fact of not having a

bit of cover installed for the extra 30 seats that were deemed necessary for Isthmian Premier Division football.

As the wins accrued and the April 1 deadline approached, the club realised that extra turnstiles, fencing plus those extra seats would have to be sorted pretty damn quick. And despite having apparently had a verbal assurance that the deadline could be extended a few days, the League reneged and denied us promotion even after the work was done.

It still leaves a bad taste in the mouth two decades on. Especially when we travelled to play the return game at Canvey ten days after the deadline to hear them gloating that our appeal had failed - while their groundworks were rubber-stamped... even as works were visibly still being completed to Canvey's Park Lane ground!

Six years ago: Robins are sunk by misfiring Stones



Saturday November 9 2013: Wealdstone 3 Carshalton 1 STONES ended the 2013-14 season as Ryman Prem champions... but in early November we had been crushed 6-1 at Hornchurch in the FA Cup and been edged out of the FA Trophy 2-1 by Maidstone in a replay.

This hard-fought win got our season back on track and with some of the top sides in the league dropping points we were able to move up to 5th in the table. For all Stones' classy passing football we again struggled to convert chances. Dean Snedker (now at St Albans) had a fine game in the Robins goal and brought off a point blank save from Luke Pigden. The lively Alex Addai presented a real threat to the Stones defence but we took the lead in fortunate circumstances - Tom Pett's strike was saved but the ball rebounded off Quincy Rowe for an own goal on 32 minutes. Carshalton hit back immediately and snatched a goal back from a fine strike from Adriano Moraes seconds after Jonathan North had pulled off a wonderful save. The persistent Wright was instrumental in Stones second goal; he fed Pett and his ball saw Elliot Godfrey rifle past the exposed Snedker with great composure. On 73 minutes the home side sealed victory, Sean Cronin heading powerfully into the box for a relieved Scott McGleish to scramble into the net.

Wealdstone: North, Hammond, Siva, Hamblin, Cronin @, Godfrey, Little, Pigden, McGleish, Wright, Pett, Subs used: Bailey, Moore, Dean. N/u: Okimo, Bentley.



WEALDSTONE U18's SAMBA YOUTH LEAGUE 2019/20

2019 / 2020 FIXTURES & RESULTS

AUGUST	Opposition	Competition	Result
Wednesday 28th	BEDFONT SPORTS	League	W 3-0
SEPTEMBER			
Wednesday 4th	CB HOUNSLOW UNITED	FA Youth Cup P	W 2-1
Wednesday 11th	Hayes & Yeading United	League Cup P	0 - 0 W 5-4 Pens
Wednesday 18th	NORTHWOOD	FA Youth Cup 1Q	W 4-1
OCTOBER			
Thursday 10th	Northwood	League	D 2-2
Monday 14th	Hampton & Richmond Borough	League	L 2-1
Wednesday 23rd	BEDFONT SPORTS	FA Youth Cup 2Q	W 1-0
Wednesday 30th	Reading City	FA Youth Cup 3Q	L 2-0
NOVEMBER			
Monday 4th	Staines Town	League	P-P
Monday 11th	CB Hounslow United	MFA Youth Cup	
Thursday 14th	WOKING	League Cup	
Wednesday 25th	NORTHWOOD	League	
DECEMBER			
Wednesday 4th	ALDERSHOT TOWN	League	
Wednesday 11th	Hayes & Yeading United	League	
Wednesday 18th	BRACKNELL TOWN	League	
JANUARY			
Monday 6th	Uxbridge	League	
Monday 13th	Bedfont Sports	League	
Wednesday 22nd	HAMPTON & RICHMOND BOROUGH	League	
Thursday 30th	Camberley Town	League	
FEBRUARY			
Wednesday 5th	STAINES TOWN	League	
Thursday 13th	Northwood	League	
Monday 17th	Aldershot Town	League	
Wednesday 26th	HAYES & YEADING UNITED	League	
MARCH			
Wednesday 4th	Bracknell Town	League	
Wednesday 11th	UXBRIDGE	League	

MATCH REPORT

WEALDSTONE 1 - 0 BEDFONT SPORTS

FA YOUTH CUP 2ND Q ROUND WEDNESDAY 23RD OCTOBER

Wealdstone Under 18s took on Bedfont Sports in an FA youth cup second qualifying round replay.

It was a much improved performance than last time these two sides met, with Wealdstone starting brightly, creating a few early chances and even hitting the woodwork. A few more chances fell for Wealdstone but they failed to make anything of them. Bedfont started getting back into the game just before half time, hitting the post and testing out Wealdstone's keeper. At half time it was 0-0 with Wealdstone

having much the better chances. The deadlock was broken after 59 minutes as Josip collects the ball from inside his own half who squares it to Leonard who instantly has an impact of the bench assisting Morgan with the finish. Wealdstone created chance after chance and kept Bedfont at bay who offered very little up front in the second half. Wealdstone's defence were at the heart of every attack as they kept possession well, to see out the game.

Mom Ryan Morgan
Match Report - **Patrick Woulfe**

NEXT HOME MATCH U18'S

Middx FA Youth Cup
Monday 11th November
CB Hounslow United (A)

Saturday 2nd November 2019 - Meadowbank
National League South - Attendance 817



2

LINE-UP

- Huk
- Beard
- Harris
- D Gallagher
- McMannus
- Prior
- Barham
- McShane
- J Gallagher
- Moore
- Richards
- Subs:**
- Beckles
- Muitt
- Brigs
- Taylor
- Sole

STONES STILL TOP

Last Saturday we sent our top reporter
JOE FRANKLIN (8)
To cover our important clash with Dorking
Wanderers at Meadowbank



2

LINE-UP

- Oxborough
- Arnold
- Efete
- Sheppard
- Stevens
- Okimo
- Watt
- Smith
- Green-Williams
- Green
- Lewis
- Subs:**
- Coker
- Charles
- Saunders
- Everett
- Beckles-Richards

On Saturday the second of November 2019 I went to Dorking Wanderers FC to watch my Non League team Wealdstone FC. I travelled to the match with my Dad and sister Connie.

The Stadium looked new and it was compact. The pitch was made of 4G AstroTurf.

The weather was wet and windy so the conditions were challenging.

The match kicked off at 3pm.

After 8 minutes Wealdstone scored their first goal. It was scored by Dejon Noel-Williams.

He scored the second for Wealdstone as well just before half time.

Wealdstone lead two nil until Dorking scored in the 53rd and 73rd mins.

Either team could have won it but a draw was a fair result.

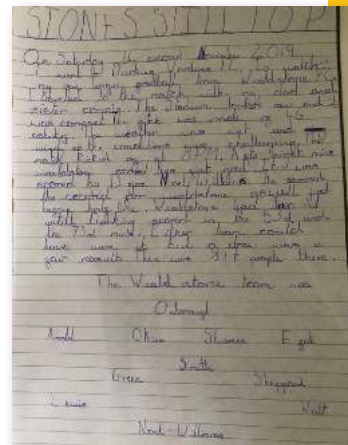
There were 817 people there.

The Wealdstone Team

- Oxborough
- Arnold Okimo Stevens Efete
- Smith
- Green Sheppard
- Lewis Watt
- Noel-Williams



He's Mustard - 2 goal hero Dejon Noel-Williams
Pic:Adam Williams



The TROJAN Beats



Where: Ruislip Social Club,
Grosvenor Vale, Ruislip, Middx, HA4 6JQ

When: Saturday, 30th November, 2019

Time: 9pm 'til 11.30pm

Tickets: **£12** (On sale **NOW** from the club)

*For more information, contact:
James - 07979 795414*



**CHRISTMAS
SKA PARTY!**



SKA & REGGAE ANTHEMS



BALL SPONSORS

A traditional package for businesses (from **£195+** vat) or fans (**£180**) 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:

- ❑ 2 x 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
- ❑ 2 x Match-day programmes
- ❑ A fabulous autographed team ball



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**

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!

MATCH	SPONSORS
DARTFORD Saturday, 3rd August Vanarama National League South	Support the Stones - sponsor the match ball
CHIPPENHAM TOWN Tuesday, 13th August Vanarama National League South	Support the Stones - sponsor the match ball
HUNGERFORD TOWN Saturday, 24th August Vanarama National League South	Mike & Val Weston
MAIDSTONE UNITED Saturday, 31st August Vanarama National League South	Thordor Training
OXFORD CITY Saturday, 7th September Vanarama National League South	Dotty Tabby Cat
HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE Saturday, 28th September Vanarama National League South	Half-Way Line Tea Bar
BRISTOL MANOR FARM Tuesday, 8th October FA Cup 3rd Qualifying Round Replay	Alan Hill & Roger Slater
MAIDENHEAD UNITED Tuesday, 22nd October FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round Replay	Alan Hill & Roger Slater
TONBRIDGE ANGELS Saturday, 26th October Vanarama National League South	Gordon McKay
EASTBOURNE BOROUGH Saturday, 9th November Vanarama National League South	Ray Corner & Peter Carter
CONCORD RANGERS Saturday, 30th November Vanarama National League South	Peter & Pauline Worby

MATCH	SPONSORS
WELLING UNITED Saturday, 21st December Vanarama National League South	In memory of Roy Couch
ST. ALBANS CITY Saturday, 28th December Vanarama National League South	In memory of Bob Hall
SLOUGH TOWN Wednesday, 1st January Vanarama National League South	Available
CHELMSFORD CITY Saturday, 11th January Vanarama National League South	Available
BATH CITY Saturday, 25th January Vanarama National League South	Available
BILLERICAY TOWN Saturday, 8th February Vanarama National League South	Alan Couch
DORKING WANDERERS Saturday, 22nd February Vanarama National League South	In memory of Jim Klarfeld
DULWICH HAMLET Saturday, 7th March Vanarama National League South	Available
BRAINTREE TOWN Saturday, 21st March Vanarama National League South	Available
HAMPTON & RICHMOND Saturday, 4th April Vanarama National League South	Available
WEYMOUTH Easter Monday, 13th April Vanarama National League South	Available
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN Saturday, 25th April Vanarama National League South	'In memory of Wealdstone fans no longer with us' - Ron Moore, Dave Edwards, Tony & Peter Drew

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT — SPONSOR A STONE!

YOU can support your favourite player by sponsoring their kit for every game of 2019/2020. The cost is **£175** for either home or away kit, and as well as your mention here and on the web site, you'll get:

- ...to meet your sponsored Stone in person
- ...a £10 voucher to spend in the club shop
- ...your name entered into a prize draw to win hospitality for two at a league game of your choice here at the Vale.

Also this season, you can sponsor both home AND away kit for **£250** – earning you a special extra treatment on these pages and on our web site. So come on, choose your favourite Stone now and call Paul Rumens on **07710 929692**.

Pictures courtesy of **Steve Foster** — @aqueoussunphoto

KIT SPONSORS 2019/2020

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

Note: Flags indicate national team as defined under FIFA eligibility rules. Players may hold more than one non-FIFA nationality.

 <p>STE  </p> <p>TONY WAUGH</p> <p>RAY CORNER</p>	 <p>LEO  </p> <p>LEO MORRIS</p> <p>MEGAPHONE</p>	 <p>WAT  </p> <p>SANCHEZ WATT</p> <p>TO SPONSOR SANCHEZ CALL 07710 929692</p>	 <p>NOR  </p> <p>JONATHAN NORTH</p> <p>AKHIL, NIKHIL AND SUDHIR RAWAL</p>	 <p>EFE  </p> <p>MICHEE EFETE</p> <p>TO SPONSOR MICHEE CALL 07710 929692</p>	 <p>COT  </p> <p>KAVAN COTTER</p> <p>TO SPONSOR KAVAN CALL 07710 929692</p>	 <p>SAU  </p> <p>MATT SAUNDERS</p> <p>TO SPONSOR MATT CALL 07710 929692</p>	 <p>PHI  </p> <p>MICHAEL PHILLIPS</p> <p>TO SPONSOR MICHAEL CALL 07710 929692</p>
 <p>COK  </p> <p>AFOLABI COKER</p> <p>TO SPONSOR AFOLABI CALL 07710 929692</p>	 <p>OXB  </p> <p>ASTON OXBOROUGH</p> <p>TO SPONSOR ASTON CALL 07710 929692</p>	 <p>CLI  </p> <p>BILLY CLIFFORD</p> <p>MIKE & VAL WESTON</p>	 <p>SMI  </p> <p>CONNOR SMITH</p> <p>ALYSON ANGELIDES</p>	 <p>SEL  </p> <p>RYAN SELLERS</p> <p>BARRY BENVENISTE</p>	 <p>ARN  </p> <p>NICK ARNOLD</p> <p>TONY & PETER DREW</p>	 <p>RBR  </p> <p>REECE BECKLES-RICHARDS</p> <p>TO SPONSOR REECE CALL 07710 929692</p>	 <p>LAF  </p> <p>ROSS LAFAYETTE</p> <p>STEVE ROBERTSON</p>
 <p>STE  </p> <p>CONNOR STEVENS</p> <p>TO SPONSOR CONNOR CALL 07710 929692</p>	 <p>GRE  </p> <p>DANNY GREEN</p> <p>DAVID LEIGH</p>	 <p>DNW  </p> <p>DE-JON NOEL-WILLIAMS</p> <p>TO SPONSOR DE-JON CALL 07710 929692</p>	 <p>LEW  </p> <p>DENNON LEWIS</p> <p>EVIE FITZGERALD</p>	 <p>ROB  </p> <p>PHIL ROBERTS</p> <p>TO SPONSOR PHIL CALL 07710 929692</p>	 <p>NOR  </p> <p>JONATHAN NORTH</p> <p>BRIAN BALL</p>	 <p>SMI  </p> <p>CONNOR SMITH</p> <p>JAMES KLARFELD</p>	 <p>SHE  </p> <p>JAKE SHEPPARD</p> <p>DOTTY TABBY CAT</p>
 <p>DB  </p> <p>DEAN BRENNAN</p> <p>RON MOORE</p>	 <p>SM  </p> <p>STUART MAYNARD</p> <p>ALAN COUCH</p>	 <p>MEN  </p> <p>JACOB MENDY</p> <p>TO SPONSOR JACOB CALL 07710 929692</p>	 <p>SHE  </p> <p>JAKE SHEPPARD</p> <p>DAVID EDWARDS</p>	 <p>OKI  </p> <p>JEROME OKIMO</p> <p>FRANKIE FITZGERALD</p>	 <p>RIN  </p> <p>JOE RINGER</p> <p>TO SPONSOR JOE CALL 07710 929692</p>		