

# THE LINE-UPS FOR THE LINE-UPS



# ST ALBANS CITY YELLOW/ BLUE/YELLOW

# WEALDSTONE **BIJIF/AMBFR/BIJIF**

# **SLOUGH TOWN SKY BLUE/WHITE**

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G Dean Snedker	G Harry Isted	<b>G</b> Jack Turner
Tom Bender	Michee Efete	Josh Jackman
David Longe-King	William Edjenguélé 🗌	George Wells
Joe Howe	Billy Clifford	Sam Togwell
David Diedhiou	Connor Stevens	Guy Hollis
Lewis Knight	Jerome Okimo ©	Lee Togwell
Oli Sprague	Michael Phillips	Max Worsfold
David Noble	Jack Jebb	Matthew Lench
Sam Merson	Ross Lafayette	Ben Harris
Zane Banton	Ashley Charles	Manny Williams
Scott Shulton	<b>Dennon Lewis</b>	Warren Harris
James Kaloczi	Danny Green	Joe Grant
Solomon Nwabuokei	Connor Smith	Mark Nisbet
Taylor Miles	Jacob Mendy Mendy	Scott Davies
Joe lanciofano	Dejon Noel-Williams	Dan Roberts
Jamie Fielding	Fumnaya Shomotun	Ryan Bird
Albert Adu	Herschel Watt	Simon Dunn
G Alfie Bonfield	Afolabi Coker	Nojus Trinovas
Munashe Sundire	Ashley Charles	Sean Fraser
Joshua Oyinsan	G Jonathan North	
•	G Lewis Everett	

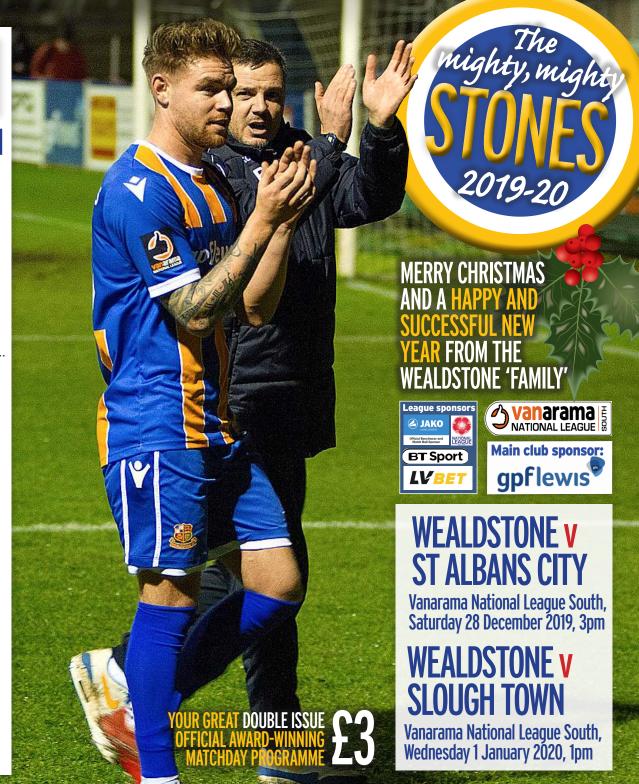
Wealdstone v St Albans REFEREE **Robert Massey-Ellis ASSISTANTS** Kieran Balley and Stephen Parkinson

Wealdstone v Slough REFEREE **Callum Wallchester ASSISTANTS** Mark Chalkley and Paul Burnham

MATCH SPONSORS (St Albans) Tony Platt; (Slough) Recycle DNC BALL DONOR In memory of Bob Hall

**NEXT HOME GAME v BATH CITY (Vanarama National League** South) Saturday, January 25, kick-off 3pm

Main club sponsor: **gpflewis** 







# Written in Stone

# **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Velcome to Grosvenor Vale for one or both of our important festive fixtures. Our guests today are the Supporters, Players, Management Teams and Officials from near neighbors St.Albans City or Slough Town who we hope have an enjoyable afternoon in our company.

Due to print deadlines we are still over a week away from the big day as I compose these notes but I sincerely hope that you had a wonderful Christmas and if you are reading this programme at the Staines game, a fantastic New Year.

Thanks as always to our Match Sponsors Tony Platt and Recycle DNC Ltd. as well as our Ball Donors In memory of Bob Hall. We hope you all enjoy your day in the warmth of our hospitality suite.

Who would have predicted the scenario

of us being top of the league at Christmas? Not many I would guess. The reality is that every game is now massive and I am sure there will be many twists and turns over the next 3 or 4 month.

Sponsorship is also now more than ever a vital part of our promotion push so please help if you can by getting a group together for an enjoyable afternoon or twist your employers arm to get involved in what could be a historic run in.

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 and once again Happy New Year

Mark

# **MATCH SPONSORS**

# ST.ALBANS CITY TONY PLATT SLOUGH TOWN RECYCLE DNC LTD.

# **BALL DONOR**

# ST.ALBANS CITY IN MEMORY OF BOB HALL

# **HELP REQUIRED**

e 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





# 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

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### **MATCH DAY OPERATION**

Manager Steve Marshall Safety Officer Russell Greenberg Match Day Staff Paul Bowley, Tony Waller, Adam Clancey, Matthew Impey, John Cahillane 1981 / 1982 Southern League Cup Boardroom & Hospitality Alison Moran,

# Lori Gale-Rumens, Paul Kelly **COMMERCIAL/ MARKETING**

Graphic Design Steve Foster IT Consultant Neil Rands

# **LIAISON OFFICERS**

WFCSC / 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**

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

# www.wfcmegastore.co.uk WFC MEGASTORE: @WFCSC1 W **OUR TWITTER FEED: @WfcMegastore**



# Supporters' Scene

estive greetings to our visiting fans and a happy time here at The Vale. Do visit the club shop (AKA Megastore) on the half way line, before and after the match and at half time. Lots on offer there including hundreds of retro programmes and footballing gifts for all. I'm sure you will find something of seasonal value?

Well as I type this with Christmas one week away, it's great to still see the Stones top of the League by 7 points and having the best goal difference too. A year ago, to just reach the premier spot in the League would have been considered an achievement. To have stayed there so long is a great achievement for everyone at the Club. Well Done!

Those of you that know me will tell anyone that history is my passion. Recently I subscribed to the online British Newspaper Archive to assist me with a local publication I part wrote and entirely edited. Having a surf of the Harrow Observer (RIP), what amazed me was how much reporting has changed over the years. Small detail such as a small organisation's meeting night or someone using Lower Mead for this or that function. Coverage that these days would be entirely online. So much history was available at my fingertips within a short time, and some money of course! I can recall 30 years ago the Observer gave regular coverage to the

Stones, Kingsbury Town, Edgware Town, Wembley and not forgetting the 'Darts Team' from South Harrow! Spread over three pages, there was interviews, fixtures imagery and match reports by the likes of John Comfort and Aaron Gransby. Of course this was before the internet, forum and even the 'Stones Soccer Line' which I made mention of in my last notes. As a Junior Stone I always kept the match report with the programme creating my own archive. Now I leave that the to the likes of Peter Worby. "Newspapers are only the first draft of History" someone once said, and what will the Times be writing if we win the League? The modern day Harrow Times devotes its solitary sports page to the Stones and the Darts Team. I always notice that the former get more space. Maybe we will move to the front page for one issue?

Recently the Supporters' Club organised a coach to Bath for the away match. Thanks to those that came, it is appreciated. The Club is always after new ideas for fundraising or socials. If you have any suggestions, please speak with a committee member.

Here's to some more points and "Up the Stones"!

Terry

# WEALDSTONE FC SUPPORTERS CLUB

























# Opposition in focus

ounded in April 1908, the golden period in the club history of St Albans City FC came during the 1920s but the past ten years have seen some of the most amazing days enjoyed and endured by the Hertfordshire club in the run up to its centenary.

In 1999, under manager Garry Hill, the Saints reached the last four of the FA Trophy but within two years were facing closure after being suspended by the Isthmian League for failing to maintain payments agreed by the previous board of directors to clear a six-figure debt. In February 2002, with the club having already made one visit to the High Court in London, a new buyer came forward and overnight the debt was cleared.

# **Saints Celebrate Promotion**

Despite finishing just three points clear of relegation in 2003-04, the Saints secured a place in the Conference South, from the Isthmian League, on the back of remarkable 4-3 and 5-4 Play-Off victories at Heybridge Swifts and Bedford Town respectively. Midway through the following campaign City were rooted to the foot of the table and facing an immediate return to the Isthmian League. Their fortunes changed with the appointment of the experienced Colin Lippiatt, assistant manager to Geoff Chapple during Woking's numerous successes during the 1980s, who moulded a struggling outfit into an attackminded one that rose to the safety of 14th place. The 2005-06 Conference South season kicked off with two consecutive defeats before Lippiatt's side found their rhythm and ultimately pushed Weymouth for the championship right to the final week of the season. City, scorers of 14 goals more than

the second highest scoring team in the Division, had to settle for second place but successfully claimed a place in the Nationwide Conference by overcoming Histon in the Play-Off in front of 3,175 spectators at Stevenage.

City's stay in the Conference National proved to be short lived and after just one season the club has returned to Conference South. The 2007-08 campaign saw the Saints on course for a second successive relegation as two managers, Ritchie Hanlon and then Dave Anderson, were dismissed within the first six months of the season. Former Saints boss Steve Castle returned in January but it was only with the return for a second spell of goalkeeper Paul Bastock that City's fortunes improved dramatically with relegation avoided during the final week of the season. Castle won the Conference South Manager of the Month award for March while Bastock, after his first six games, collected the Conference South Player of the Month award.

The 2008-09 season saw the club in calmer waters as they finished in a safe 12th position but had a poor time in all of the cup competitions.

# The Early Days

Football had been played at the Saints Clarence Park home for 14 years prior to the formation of the present day club. The original St Albans, which also played home matches at three other venues within the old Roman stronghold, met its demise in 1904 having come into existence back in 1881. After a four year lapse a senior club bearing the name of the city rose again in 1908 and during its formative years competed in the Herts County and Spartan Leagues. A move to the Athenian League in 1920 heralded the start of the Saints

WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v St ALBANS CITY

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halcyon days as that championship was won twice in three years paving the way for election to the Isthmian League. St Albans City won the Isthmian at the first attempt and followed it with two further successes before the decade was out. City remained in the Isthmian League until 2003 but never again did the title return to Clarence Park.

### The Famous Old Tree

When an extra Division was added in 1973 St Albans, along with Corinthian Casuals, had the dubious honour of being the first club to be relegated within the Isthmian League. When a second relegation followed 12 years later the club turned to its former player John Mitchell. whose semi-final goals took Fulham to the 1975 FA Cup final, to lead it to better days. Mitchell duly obliged with two promotions in three years. During a second spell in charge he took the Saints to the runners up position in 1992-93 only to be denied promotion to the Conference at that time due to a 140-year old oak tree standing within the terrace behind one of the goals. In 1998 the diseased tree was felled.

## **Cup success**

Along with the Saints five championship successes in eight years during the 1920s the club also enjoyed its greatest days in the Amateur Cup. Three times in that decade St Albans reached the semi-final but progress through to the final proved to be beyond them. The same fate befell the club in 1970 leaving them with the unwanted record of having made more semi-final appearances without going on to play in the final than any other club.

City's unsuccessful semi-final FA Trophy appearance in 1999 suggests that, given time, a new record could be set in that competition.

The 2nd Round or equivalent, of the FA Cup has been reached on five occasions but, to date, just one league scalp has been claimed when Brentford were defeated 5-3 in 1924. The most prestigious cup won by the Saints was the London Senior Cup in 1971while ten other cups have been won a total of 49 times.



# **SAINTS FACTS**

GROUND - Clarence Park
CAPACITY - 5,007 (667 Seated)
MANAGERS - Ian Allinson
2018/19 - National League South 9th
PREVIOUSLY IN THE LEAGUE
H 16/02/19 D 2-2 A 03/09/19 W 3-2

# WHO'S WHO?

### **DEAN SNEDKE - GOALKEEPER**

Experienced goalkeeper who joined the Saints in the Summer of 2017, Dean has had spells at Nuneaton Town, Hemel Hempstead, Kettering and Northampton Town.

# **TOM BENDER - DEFENDER**

Bender is a product of the Colchester United academy and spent 4 years there before moving to Millwall. He then moved on to Dartford FC for the 2014/2015 season He then made 10 appearances for Forest Green Rovers before he joined the Saints in November 2015. He has represented Wales at under-15, under-16, under-17, under-19 and under-21 levels.

# **DAVID NOBLE - MIDFIELD**

David Noble agreed to join the club in August 2016 having been released by Exeter City with over 300 football league appearances to his name, He began his career at Arsenal, with whom he won the FA Youth Cup in 2000 . A brief spell at West Ham United and Boston United followed before he moved to Bristol City. Following his exploits at Ashton Gate he joined Yeovil Town on loan i before he signed for Exeter City but was released after the Grecians were relegated in 2012. David signed for Rotherham United where he enjoyed two years before returning to his former club Exeter City.

# **ZANE BANTON - MIDFIELD**

Zane an exciting winger had a loan spell with the Saints at the back end of the 2016/17 season, he made his move permanent in July 2017. Sadly a foot injury picked up earlier this year ended his 2018/19 campaign early and has spent the summer undergoing extensive rehabilitation.

# **SAM MERSON - FORWARD**

Sam Merson signed for the Saints in May 2016. Merson joined from Southern Premier League side Redditch United. he began the 2015/2016 season at fellow Southern League side Biggleswade Town where he scored 15 goals. He then added eight more following his move to Redditch before making the step up to the Saints for the 2016/2017 season. Sam signed a 18-month contract with the Saints in October 2016.

### **DAVE DIDEHIOU - MIDFIELD**

The twenty-nine year old joined Hendon in

2008, developing into an integral piece of the side that suffered play-off final heartbreak against Dulwich Hamlet at the end of the 2017/2018 season. Dave made almost four hundred appearances during his time with the North London club, scoring 43 goals in the process. He signed for the Saints in June 2018.

# **SCOTT SHULTON - MIDFIELD**

Arrived from Hemel towards the latter end of last season. Shulton was a consistent performer for the Tudors over the last two years and widely regarded as one of the best midfielders in the division. Shulton started in the Watford youth ranks before signing professional with Wycombe Wanderers. Opportunities were limited at Adams Park meaning spells at various clubs followed including Ebbsfleet, Enfield Town and Braintree before making his mark in the Hemel midfield.

# JAMES KALOCZI - MIDFIELD

James Kaloczi was part of the successful promotion side in 2014 under James Gray and Graham Golds. He made his first team debut in December 2012 during a county cup win over Watford and settled as a midfield player. James Has also played for the City Youth and Reserve teams and previously with Harvesters and Boreham Wood Youth. He then left the Saints in the summer of 2015 and joined Dunstable Town in his favoured position of centre back. He quickly settled and soon became captain. In March 2016, he re-ioined the Saints on dual-registration Previously with Hemel Hempstead before following Dean Brennan in moving to The K's earlier last season. Signed a new deal at Clarence Park this summer.

# **JOE IACIOFANO - FORWARD**

21-year old who signed this summer from Northampton Town. He came through the Cobblers academy and after a spell on work experience with Corby Town in 2016/17 he was rewarded with a professional contract that summer. His first team opportunities were limited at Sixfields and spent most of the last few years on loan with Chesham United and Brackley Town along with a period with Northern Premier League side AFC Mansfield.

### JOE HOWE- MIDFIELD

Howe moved across Hertfordshire following his release from Hemel Hempstead Town. The right back enjoyed a long career at Ebbsfleet, having signed for the club in 2010. The 31-year-old started his career at MK Dons and after spells at Welling United. Fisher Athletic and Crovdon Athletic. joining Ebbsfleet in 2010. He made 234 appearances for the Fleet but found starts hard to come by at Stonebridge Road after returning from injury therefore Howe opted for a fresh start by putting pen to paper at Bromley under manager Neil Smith with whom he had worked with previously. The right back departed Hayes Lane to enjoy a season with Leatherhead before settling at Vauxhall Road in 2017 where he made 70 appearances for the Tudors.

# **OLI SPAGUE - DEFENDER**

Sprague joins the Saints after featuring for Hampton & Richmond Borough last season. Previously with Hendon, the left-back also had a brief spell with Welling United before signing a deal with Billericay Town. He won the Bostick Premier division title with the Essex side before his loan move to Hampton.

# **TAYLOR MILES - MIDFIELD**

City wasted no time in snapping up the creative midfielder following his release from fellow National League South opponents Chelmsford City. Miles joined the clarets in January 2018. He started his career in the youth setup at West Ham United and the midfielder arrives with an excellent pedigree having played for both Braintree Town and Concord Rangers in recent seasons. In 2016 he joined National League champions Lincoln City from Cressing Road, having previously worked with the Cowley brothers at Concord Rangers. From Lincoln, Miles had loan spells at Boston and enjoyed a return to Concord, before leaving the Imps following their promotion to League Two and signing for Hemel Hempstead Town before settling at Chelmsford.

# **SOLOMON NWABUOKEI - MIDFIELD**

Utility man Solomon Nwabuokei arrived at Clarence Park after agreeing a transfer from Biggleswade Town. formarly at Biggleswade & Enfield Borough

## DAVID LONGE-KING - DEFENDER

Longe-King arrives at the club after a very successful season at Biggleswade Town in the Evo-Stik South under former City assistant Lee Allinson. An England C International.

# **TOMMY BREWER - MIDFIELD**

Popular Ex **Wealdstone** player has put pen to paper on a permanent deal with the Saints having been initially signed by Tonbridge Angels boss Steve McKimm in May.

Tommy has plenty of experience of the nonleague pyramid and has featured for the likes of Lewes, Hampton & Richmond Borough, Staines Town and Kingstonian

# **LEWIS KNIGHT - DEFENDER**

Formerly at Concord Rangers before signing for East Thurrock. The twenty-six year old left the Saints to join Maidstone United during the summer, where he has featured on five occasions. He returns to this corner of Hertfordshire on a one-month loan deal.

# **JAMIE FIELDING - DEFENDER**

Arrives at Clarence Park on a loan deal until January . The talented defender initially signed from Hastings United in the summer having won the Isthmian League South East Division side's Young Player of the Season. The 19-year-old turned down reported interest from Premier League side Leicester City.

# **MUNASHE SUNDIRE - MIDFIELD**

Munashe is a versatile and energetic player who can play either full-back or midfield, and in addition to his time at Vauxhall Road has enjoyed spells with Hemel Hempstead Town, Kempston Rovers, Kettering Town and St Ives Town.

# **JOSHUA OYINSAN - FORWARD**

The former Cambridge player signed for Welling United but was unable to get sufficient game time. As a teenager, he was at Bromley before moving on to Potters Bar Town. He has also played for Ware, Dunstable Town, Barton Rovers and Royston Town

# FRANKIE MUSONDA - DEFENDER

Joined on a three month loan deal from Championship side Luton Town. Also played at Oxford City, and Hemel Hempstead Town.



o - new around these parts, are you? The brother, sister, uncle or aunt of a regular Stones fan who just tagged along to walk off those pigs in blankets? Get a bit of air? See what's happened to the old place since you moved away? Thought you'd just blag your mate's copy of the programme to see what we're about?

Well, good on you - and welcome to Wealdstone. Forget all that Premier League nonsense with its TV deals, generic hogwash spouting ex-player pundits, blinding electronic advertising boards, season-long prescribed seating and all that malarkey. Here, in this land VAR, VAR away, is all the theatre, pantomime and winter holiday entertainment you could possibly desire.

# Lead the world, let them know it's Christmas time

Particularly pantomime, in fact, because (and here we go) – "they're behind you!" Whose that? "The rest of the National League South" "Oh no they aren't." "Oh yes they bloody well are! At time of writing! Subject to other results!"

Yes, this season it's Wealdstone playing the part of the, er, fairy at the top of the tree. So chances are that unless vou're a Liverpool, West Brom, Wycombe or Swindon supporter (or Celtic - obviously Celtic), we will have something that your club doesn't: the absolutely crippling, debilitating status of league leaders.

We're at the peak, the pinnacle, the summit. The crest, the crown, the highest point.

Oh what, we should be so lucky, you say? Get away with ya - because let me tell vou, it's bloody agonising. Not obviously, of course; not so's that anyone could tell from our outward demeanour. We're not biting our fingernails or sweating at the brow. No. this is all internal psychological torture. Because from this vantage point, the only way is down. In our heads, it's all "It'll never last. It can't possibly last."

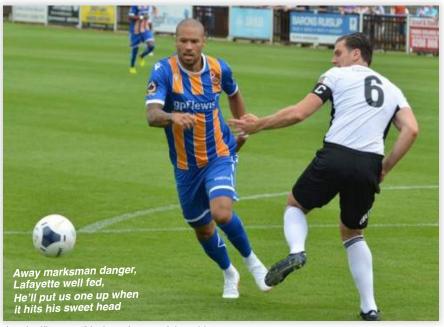
This isn't the normal state of things. 21 sets of supporters in any 22 club league set up will be in standard 'chase' mode. It's what you come to expect. This is non-league; it's meant to be a bit grungy, a bit unfinished, a bit out of kilter. There's not meant to be a period in which you win nine consecutive league fixtures.

# **High hopes**

Oh sure, sure, it's the whole point of league football to be, you know, leading it. You can't complain, of course. This is what we're all here for. But let me tell you, it can be psychologically challenging as a fan coming to terms with top. And perhaps that's even more the case for a club like ours.

The further up the footballing world you go, the more you'll find league leading clubs who believe firmly in their right to be doing so. I doubt there's a Liverpool fan alive who doesn't think their apparent certain success in 2020 is the rightful return to the good old days. Entitlement tends to start at the top of the footballing world and work its way down. Leeds fans will think it similarly outrageous that they could be anything other than in the frame for promotion. And you only have to look to Old Trafford to see the long term effects of suddenly being wrenched from a long-standing status as league leaders.

But for Wealdstone? This is as refreshingly unusual as it is tortuously scary. How do you describe all of this to others around the water cooler? With confidence? Indifference and a fatalistic shrug of the shoulders? Your work mates will in general have not a clue about



the significance. "Yeah, we're top of the table, but..." - as you try not to let all that potential for end-of-season euphoria go to your head in front of that bloke from Digital Ops who's an Arsenal fan looking at you as if you're a freak

# Summit's up

So think yourself lucky if you're not a Stones fan here today. You don't have to shoulder the worry. It's bad enough being on the fringes of the play-offs or "skirting" the relegation zone. Those are both perfectly reasonable situations in which to worry. But when you support the league leaders you're constantly of two opposing minds: You think it inevitable that we'll be caught and passed. while simultaneously reacting with outrage if we drop even so much as a point because. come on, we're surely too good to be caught and passed.

Here at Wealdstone, I'd venture to suggest we're all quietly smiling at passers-buy but inwardly experiencing an eclectic range of unusual emotions. Going into the festive period with a genuine shot at mustering our fiftieth point of the season is a genuinely surreal experience, not least because, were

we to genuinely end up winning this thing, we'd achieve something we haven't done for more than thirty - yes, thirty! -years: compete at non-league's toppermost level. (There's a Liverpool connection too - we could win back Tier 5 status after thirty years while the scousers win their first Tier 1 title in pretty much that same timespan.)

# The peak shall inherit the earth

Pace-setters, table toppers, league leaders - none of this sits easily with us fans. And none of it will, until the precise moment when the referee lifts the whistle to his lips and brings an end to the game that seals the result mathematically.

So, yeah, thanks a bloody bunch, Dean Brennan and company. I suppose you think it's clever to be putting us through the abject misery of having to constantly worry about what we might win? Can't you just give us the inner-peace of being part of the competition's perennial chasing pack, just as it's always been? No? Contracted to actually win this thing, you say? Er, OK - go on then.

PS: Apologies to any opposition fan reading this whose club's league position may be diametrically opposed fo ours.



# **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

Vanarama National League South

\*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.

A stunning dedicated glass awar	d	
MATCH	SPON	SORS
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	d 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 Fi	nancial
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 Alibe	y & Family
ROYSTON TOWN Saturday, 23rd November FA Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round	Bearings Sca	fold Services
CONCORD RANGERS Saturday 30th November	Jim S	orrell

MAIG	•	Jr one	JUNG
	<b>WELLING UNITED</b> Saturday, 21st December Vanarama National League South	GPF L	ewis
	<b>ST.ALBANS CITY</b> Saturday, 28th December Vanarama National League South	Tony	Platt
STATE WITH HOTEL	<b>SLOUGH TOWN</b> Wednesday, 1st January Vanarama National League South	Recycle DNC Ltd	Available
EALL S	CHELIMSFORD CITY Saturday, 11th January Vanarama National League South	The Simon Ricketts Matchday	Harrow Sales & Marketing
BATH CITY	<b>BATH CITY</b> Saturday, 25th January Vanarama National League South	Available	Available
	BILLERICAY TOWN Saturday, 8th February Vanarama National League South	Glide & Friends	Available
	<b>DORKING WANDERERS</b> Saturday, 22nd February Vanarama National League South	Available	Available
<b>(</b>	<b>DULWICH HAMLET</b> Saturday, 7th March Vanarama National League South	In memory of Darren Hooker	People for Print
<b>(2)</b>	<b>BRAINTREE TOWN</b> Saturday, 21st March Vanarama National League South	Wealdstone FC Ladies	Available
HRBFC	HAMPTON & RICHMOND Saturday, 4th April Vanarama National League South	In memory of Ian Spicer	Turf Doctor
	<b>WEYMOUTH</b> Easter Monday, 13th April Vanarama National League South	Available	Available
TO T	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN Saturday, 25th April Vanarama National League South	In memory of Harry Leigh	Available

# **RESULTS & FIXTURES 2019/2020**

# **KEY TO SYMBOLS**

<b>ABC</b> Three-letter Player ID	O 1st substitution	Caution	Goals
(See list)	2nd substitution	Red Card	① Penalty
	3rd substitution		Goal + Pen



AUGUS	<b>ST</b> Comp	etition I	Result C	Crowd L	ge Wind Sk	y Temp	- 1	2	3		4		5	6		7		8	9	10		11	12	14	15	16	17/GK
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6 Dulwich	Hamlet	NLS			10 @10C			ARN	EFE		CLI O	S	TE	OKI		PHI		SMI	LAF	GRE	WAT		LEWO	RBR O	SHE	MEN	RIN
10 Braintre	ee Town	NLS	4-0	482	6 ⊙244	<b>20</b> ℃	OXB	ARN	EFE		CLI	0 S	TE	OKI		PHI	S	SMI	LAF	GRE	1 LEW	10	ROB •	RBR	SHE O	MEN O	1 RIN
13 CHIPPEI	NHAM TOWN	NLS	1-0	837	2 @ 7 3	÷ 18℃	OXB	ARN	EFE		CLI O	O S'	TE	OKI		PHI	S	SMI 🔵	LAF	GRE	LEW	10	ROB	RBR O	SHE O	MEN O	RIN
17 Hemel H	lempstead Town	NLS	3-0	732	<b>1</b> @182	£ 20°c	ОХВ	ARN	EFE		CLI •	S'	TE	OKI		PHI	<b>0</b> S	SMI O	LAF	GRE	LEW	0	ROB	WAT	SHE O	MEN O	<b>0</b> NOR
24 HUNGER	RFORD TOWN	NLS			1 0 8 2			ARN	EFE	(	CLI •		TE	OKI		PHI			LAF	0 GRE	LEW	10 <b>(</b>	ROBO	WATO	SHE •	RBR	NOR
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SEPTE									_																		
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7 OXFORD		NLS	1-0		1 @102			ARN	EFE		CLI O		TE	OKI		PHI		MENO	LAF	GRE	LEW		ROBO	WAT	SHE	SMI O	NOR
14 Welling		NLS	2-1		1 0 4 3			ARN	EFE		CLI O		TE	OKI		PHI		MENO	LAF	GRE	LEW		ROB	WAT	SHE	SMI O	NOR
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## July 5, away vs. Bracknell Town - W 4-1 (Mendy, Lewis 2, Efete)

North, Nick Arnold, Okimo, Jacob Cook, Stevens, Olomowewe, Sheppard, Connor Smith. Lafayette, Green, Azeez Subs: Paterson, Cotter, Jacob Mendy Mendy, Noel-Williams, Michee Efete, Dennon Lewis, Afolabi Coker, Yaw Ofosu, Alfie Young, Matt Saunders, Hassan Jalloh

July 9, away vs. Hayes & Yeading United – D 2-2 (Green, Lafayette (pen))

(Squad Friendly)

15 Eastbourne Borough

7 DULWICH HAMLET

14 Chippenham Town

21 BRAINTREE TOWN

4 HAMPTON & RICHMOND

**TO BE ARRANGED** 

CHELMSFORD CITY

25 HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN NLS

28 Concord Rangers

10 Hungerford Town

18 Maidstone United

13 WEYMOUTH

29 Dartford

APRIL

MARCH

22 DORKING WANDERERS

NLS

NLS

NLS

NLS

NLS

NLS

NLS

NLS

NLS

July 12, away vs. Reading U23 s - L 0-2

Paterson, Michee Efete, Sellars, Matt Saunders, Ed Cook, Yaw Ofuso, Dylan Switters, Sheppard, Noel-Williams, Jacob Mendy Mendy, Dennon Lewis Subs: Eric Lopes, Billy Clifford, Femi Azeez

July 13, away vs. Hitchin Town - W 3-2 (Lafayette 2, Lopez)

Theo Richardson, Nick Arnold, Sellars, Billy Clifford, Yaw Ofuso, Okimo, Beckles-Richards, Connor Smith, Lafayette, Green, Dennon Lewis Subs: Jacob Cook, Dylan Switters, Sanchez Watt, Eric Lopes

July 16, home vs, Colchester United - L 0-3

Theo Richardson, Michee Efete, Nick Arnold, Billy Clifford, Stevens, Okimo, Jacob Mendy Mendy, Connor Smith, Lafayette, Green, Dennon Lewis Subs: Sheppard, Matt Saunders, Afolabi Coker, Yaw Ofosu, Reece Beckles-Richards, Jacob Cook, Dejon Noel-Williams, Sanchez Watt, Eric Lopes, Sellars

### July 18, away vs. Chesham United - L 2-3 (Watt, Clifford)

Paterson, Michee Efete, Sellers, Matt Saunders, Afolabi Coker Yaw Ofosu, Reece Beckles-Richards, Jacob Cook, Sanchez Watt, Sheppard, Dennon Lewis Subs: Nick Arnold, Joe Ringer Stevens, Okimo, Connor Smith, Billy Clifford, Green, Jacob Mendy July 20, home vs. Watford Under 23s – W 4-0 (Green, Noel-Williams, Mendy, Lewis)

Richardson, Arnold (Efete, 78), Sellers, Clifford (sheppard 61), Stevens, Okimo 9Coker 78), Michael Philips (Lewis 61), Smith (Cook 78), Noel-Williams (Beckles-Richards 45), Green (Saunders 89), Mendy (Watt 61), Subs not used: Paterson, Ringer July 23, home vs. Watford Under 23s – W 4-O (Green, Noel-Williams, Mendy, Lewis)

Richardson, Arnold (Efete, 78), Sellers, Clifford (sheppard 61), Stevens, Okimo 9Coker 78), Michael Philips (Lewis 61), Smith (Cook 78), Noel-Williams (B

### July 27, home vs. Wycombe Wanderers - L O-1

Joe Ringer, Nick Arnold, Ryan Sellers, Billy Clifford, Stevens, Okimo, Sheppard, Connor Smith, Lafayette, Green, Jacob Mendy-Mendy SUBS: Michee Efete, Sanchez Watt, Afolabi Coker, Jacob Crook, Matt Saunders, Reece Beckles-Richards, Noel-Williams, Dennon Lewis

### August 20, home vs. Hayes & Yeading United - W 2-1 (Roberts, Faniyan)

North, Bay Downing, George McLennan, Matt Saunders, Afolabi Coker, Kevin Songolo, Reece Beckles-Richards, Sheppards, Dejon Noel-Williams, Phil Roberts, Sanchez Watt. SUBS: "Joe Ringer, Ayomide Faniyan, Luca Perrin, Richie Malunda, Jahmali Esprit

MEMORABILIA

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**WEALDSTONE v ST ALBANS CITY 28.12.2019 WEALDSTONE v SLOUGH TOWN 01.01.2020** 

clean sheet as toothless Ipwich were beaten

Cambridges and Hillman Minxes to accompany me to Wealdstone v Bletchley. The previous 'family' trip to Stones v Hendon had been a cold and gloomy disaster... surely this would be a goal-laden feast of football with Sid Prosser's free-scoring Blues taking on Southern League Division One (South) whipping boys Bletchley?

I regaled my folks with tales of the deadly goalpoacher George Duck; arch creator Mickey Brown; and especially the genius of John Connell, the pint-sized amateur international inside forward who had surprised and delighted the fans by re-joining us from Hendon only a few weeks previously.

And hadn't we pulled off an excellent 3-0 win at Bognor just a few days earlier?

Yes, this was going to be a Boxing Day to

But, you've probably got the gist of this by now. Instead of being in the raucous bearpit of the Elmslie End. I was now standing in the unfamiliar territory of the High Mead terrace with my puzzled relatives as the most Godawful game unfolded. It was all a bit surreal. The free-flowing Stones failed to string more than two passes together: the stodgy pitch was as uneven as a Sainsburys rich fruit pud and Bletchley beat us 1-0 without rising above the mundane.

They had one decent player, the winger Johnny Henderson (who would be lured across to become a key cog in our titlewinning team the next season) and he was all they needed to hoover up the points. Even now, almost a half-century later, the footballloving side of my family (now in their dotage) find it hard to believe my devotion to a team they've only seen bedevilled by Christmas spirits.

I should add that Stones director Pete Worby (who is so enamoured of Christmas football that he is currently in the middle of a six week cruise to Thailand) argues that we have had some cracking Yuletide games, so here, to balance it up, are a couple...

Clean sheet as toothless Ipwich were beaten 2-0.

So, after that drama, you can easily imagine that by the time Boxing Day 1972 came round I was all fired up and expecting great things when the whole Parks family, plus Aunt and Uncle and Cousin, decided to forego The Sound of Music on BBCI and pile into assorted Austin Cambridger and Hillman Minyer to 1970 Cambridger and 1970 Cambridge



lmost 3,500 people watching a Wealdstone league game... that was a sight that the embittered former committee men never thought they'd see again when they'd fought (and lost) to keep the club's amateur status just three years earlier.

Those were the sort of crowds that had been the norm in the late 1950s and early 1960s when the Stones were rumbling along at the top of the Athenian and Isthmian Leagues and, quite frankly, any form of entertainment would draw large attendances.

Then came the dark years of 300-400 crowds. In 1971 the club narrowly decided to join the semi-professional world of the Southern League - a gamble, but one that stuttered and then paid off with promotion to the Premier Division and high-profile games against the Yeovils, Bath Citys, Ketterings, and Maidstones of this world. And then, on New Years Day 1975 the perfect 'storm' of a Lower Mead clash with glamour side Wimbledon.

The Dons and the Stones were in the top four - Wimbledon, though, with games in hand after a great FA Cup run that was taking them to Division One high flyers Burnley in the Third Round just three days after facing Eddie Presland's Stones.

So. A bright Wednesday afternoon. Nothing on telly. Everyone on holiday on those days before zero hours contracts. Even Sopers was closing early, with New Years Sales/Black Fridays etc etc still a thing of the future.

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

# **YULETIDE FOOTBALL CONTD**

# Own goal gives 'Stones a deserved victory

# By Phil Sugden

Wealdstone 1, Wimbledon 0

AN OWN GOAL in the 70th minute gave 'Stones two well-earned points from their New Year's Day match with Wimbledon which will be remembered for a long time by the crowd which approached the 3,500 mark.

It was, perhaps, Wealdstone's best performance of the season, marred only by the sending off of two players, John Watson, the Wealdstone captain, and Dave Bassett, of

Wimbledon, who tangled midway through the second half.

Bassett tackled Watson heavily and the Wealdstone player retaliated. Referee L. A. Bartels, from West cliffe, took Bassett on one side for a talk and then gave him his marching orders.

It was all very unfortunate, and very unnecessary, for there had been little needle before that

Wealdstone had altogether a splendid afternoon. Their star was undoubtedly Paul Fairclough, who in the sweeper's role gave a dynamic performance. Whenever the ball got through the defence, there was Fairclough.

Fulton also came back to tremendous form and so did Chris Kinnear

Morton was splendid in goal, making three fantastic saves. Watson, until his sad dismissal, had been prominent and Jim Godfrey looked much more like his old self in midfield.

George Duck, working tre-mendously hard in midfield, was often a revelation, and one wonders whether or not the big fellow would not be more gainfully employed in a midfield

Bobby Moss, the recent new signing from Barnet, worked his heart out up front, and took a lot of the weight off the rest. But he seemed a yard slow on occa-

Adian Eglite is a problem for any defence and he certainly gave Wimbledon the runaround.

Probably the South London club were not keen on this match in view of their F.A. Cup-tie at BURNLEY on Saturday, but they certainly, gave no quarter.

It was fought at tremendous pace throughout with Wealdstone always having a slight edge in attack. Eglite was injured in the second minute when flying through, but responded with a tremendous shot on the run which made Roy Guy, one of the Dons' three bearded players, fly through the air to make an amazing acrobatic save.

Dave Bassett, so many years a Harrow resident, set up a brilliant move for Connell, an ex-Wealdstoner, to slam a shot which Morton took brilliantly at the far post.

But it was mainly Wealdstone, with George Duck unleashing a tremendous 25-yarder which Guy took like a true professional, and Eglite letting go with a vicious drive from the end of the box as the half-time whistle went.

### LIKE A ROCKET

Wealdstone had but one real let-off. Mahon, Dons' flying number 11, who scored against Leeds for Colchester in the never-to-be-forgotten Cup-tie two seasons ago, went through the home defence like a rocket and hit an upright.

In the 71st minute Wealdstone went ahead and won the match, Fairclough had just hit a screaming free-kick over the bar when Eglite accepted Fairclough's pass, changed feet and hit to the far post.

Dons' Bryant sighted Moss screaming in for the perfect header, but was also unsighted by a big jump from Duck. The ball went in like a shot from his head, giving the agile Guy no chance.

Wimbledon offered one more gallant attempt with Morton saving well at L 2 foot of the post from Somers, but it was Wealdstone in command and finishing off with a flourish as first Duck and then Egifte fired in fierce shots.

Wealdstone: Morton; Kinnear, Watson, Fairclough, McCormick; Godfrey, Fulton, Henderson; Moss, Duck, Eglite. Sub.: Kitchener.



So what to do? Oh yes, Wealdstone are playing Wimbledon at 3pm. Both near the top of the table you say? Only 80p to get in? Might as well toddle along.

I remember arriving on my usual 183 bus from Pinner to Harrow on the Hill and wondering why there was a huge tailback along Hindes Road. And then surprisingly long queues as you approached the ground. Our crowds had been decent, averaging around 1,200 on the back of promotion the previous season but home performances weren't great and this was a real shock.

I'd not seen over 3.000 inside Lower Mead since FA Cup tues against Wycombe and Enfield in the late 60s so this was fantastic! And so was Wealdstone's performance as they ripped into a Wimbledon side with probably half a mind on the trip to Turf Moor.

In the end it was an own goal from the Dons' Jeff Bryant, a deflected header from Adrian Eglite's wicked cross, that conjured the 1-0 win and sent the huge crowd home to reflect on the Stones' arrival at the top of the non-League

And it became even more of a scalp when Wimbledon went to Burnley and won 1-0! And then held the mighty Leeds United to 0-0 at Elland Road in the 4th Round!

**SEASON 82-83** OFFICIAL MAGAZINE WEALDSTONE



MONDAY 27 DECEMBER

the glorious 1980s) were finally beaten 1-0 in the replay at a sold-out Selhurst Park. And then the joy of bashing Barnet 6-0!

The Dons, managed by Allen Batsford (who would of course go on to manage the Stones in

# Holiday wins for 'Stone:

WEALDSTONE made Barnet's Christmas a misery with an outstanding performance in the derby clash at Lower Mead.

They hammered their local rivals 6-0 in the Al-liance Premier League clash, no less than five of the goals coming in the second half.

In front of a crowd of 1.242 - easily their best of the season — 'Stones took the lead after 18 minutes when Nigel Johnrange following good work from Perkins and

Graves. Barnet enjoyed their best spell late in the first half but they were unable to equalise before half time and in the second half Allen Batsford's side ran riot.

Two bad blunders by keeper Gary Lewin opened the floodgates for buoyant 'Stones. In the 49th minute he fumbled a back pass to let in Mark Graves, and then six minutes later mishandled an Alan Cordice cross and again it was Graves

Holiday round up

who pounced to make it Wealdstone had to wait

until the 79th minute before scoring again. It came via their first Alliance penalty of the sea-son after Alan Cordice had been upended by the hapless Lewin, skipper Paul Bowgett making no mistake with the spot

The rout was completed with goals in the 84th and 86th minutes.

First Neil Cordice was on target at the far post to

score from brother Alan's cross, and then the latter joyfully volleyed into the

for three more Alliance Premier League points when they travel to mighty Enfield on Satur-

Fast forward seven years, and Christmas 1982 was the best in living memory... footballwise. We followed up a storming 6-0 win over old rivals Barnet at Lower Mead with a trip to Enfield, 'the best team in non-League' according to their manager Eddie McCluskey. Imagine our joy at stealing a -0 win thanks to a Mark Graves goal... although Enfield ended jup winning the Gola League title that season to prove McCluskey right.

# **YULETIDE FOOTBALL: DON'TCHA**

# **LOVE IT?**

# **WEALDSTONE v ST ALBANS CITY 28.12.2019 WEALDSTONE v SLOUGH TOWN 01.01.2020**



rable. And come to think of it. didn't we beat Barnet 6-0 at Lower Mead back in the glory days of '82-83, on our way to finishing third in our first year back in the

And then more recently, on Boxing Day 2016 there was the 2-1 win over a Maidenhead side nine points clear at the top of the National League South. Yes, real Bulla Stand delirium when Elliott Godfrev volleved that late winner.

But honestly, in the space of 50 years watching the Stones, that's not a great return.

This article is prompted by the memories of the dismal 3-0 defeat we witnessed last Boxing Day when newly promoted Slough came to the Vale and played us off the pitch, the match effectively ended after 50 minutes when Guy Hollis headed the third. I had to go into work afterwards and remember feeling quite relieved to have that excuse. I NEVER leave a match early. This was a first, and a welcome one at that.

It was just the latest in a string of unin-

ago. Paddy Mulligan is in the background

spiring Yuletide matches where the players seemed just as stodgy and leaden as the fans. It got me pondering whether there was an alternative to these Christmas Pudding matches. The players would clearly rather not be running around; is it just tradition that keeps the holiday programme more chocca than the post-turkey dining table when the Cadbury's Celebrations are being handed out?

Well actually it's all our fault. We supporters just LOVE to get out in the fresh air and away from the relatives on Boxing Day - hence the bigger-than-average crowds even at non-League level. It's a payday for the clubs and a holiday footie fix for the fans..... but does the entertainment provided live up to the anticipation?

The very first Christmas football I watched came (naturally enough) at Lower Mead back at the fag end of the 1960s when the bonkers tradition was to play our local rivals Hendon on Christmas morning, and then stage the return match less than 24 hours later on Boxing Day afternoon! Yes,

honestly!

Often, of course, the weather led to one or both games being called off. I came late to these frivolities, only seeing the last two seasons of Isthmian League rivalry with the Greens, and my first-ever Xmas game was on Boxing Day 1969 when I dragged my

Chelsea season-ticketholding- Grandad along to a very cold and dank Lower Mead. I'd sung the praises of the Stones all the way there on the train from Hatch End to Harrow & Wealdstone and well remember feeling quite embarrassed by the awful match the two teams served up in front of a 2,000 crowd. The Stones lost 1-0 to a Peter Anderson g

■he following season - our last as an amateur side - the absolutely unbelievable occurred for this football-daft 12-vearold. It was Christmas morning, there was thick snow on the ground and Wealdstone were playing at 11am. It was going to be the best day of my life!

Except that, er, it wasn't. I joyously left my half-opened presents behind, waved my parents farewell and set off through the snow drifts and falling flakes towards Hatch End station. How naiive was I? And why didn't my mum and dad realise? It certainly didn't occur to me that a) No trains would be running on Christmas Day; and b) The snow would have KOd any trains that had been scheduled.

And the end of my mile walk I reached the station to find the gates barred shut. I was devastated. I trudged back home and didn't even bother asking if I could have a lift to the ground as Christmas lunch preparations, involving both parents, were well underway.

Even my dad's comment 'The game won't be on in this weather anyway' failed to sooth my misery. I just knew the Stones

would be taking on Hendon in the snow without me - and I was right. The lines were cleared, an orange ball dug out from the kit room under the main stand and a crowd of some 1,500 watched one of the few Stones' games ever played in proper snow.

We were near the foot of the league and

Hendon flying high but we grabbed an unlikely 1-1 draw with Alan Pentecost hammering our goal past the Greens' **England Amateur** International keeper John Swannell, who had spent most of the game being pelted with snowballs by hundreds of schoolbovs behind the goal. I should have been one of them!

The following Christmas. 1971. something equally extraordinary happened. With my uncle away on business and his season ticket at Stamford Bridge available, I found myself watching a Boxing Day game with my Grandad again - only this time it was Chelsea v Ipswich. And it's a match still talked about by Chelsea fans, even 44 years later.

There we were, sipping our pre-match tea on the old West Stand wooden benches. when a buzz went around the crowd as the Chelsea team was announced. Centre-half David Webb would be starting the game in

Now, we've seen this at non-League level. not least at Wealdstone when centre-half Sean Cronin started a match v Molesev in goal when Ionathan North suffered a pre-match migraine a few years ago. But at First Division level? Unheard of.

First-choice keeper Peter Bonetti was injured, as was his deputy Tommy Hughes. Third choice Steve Sherwood (later to play for Watford in the 1984 Cup Final) was away in Yorkshire at his parents for Christmas and couldn't be contacted in time. So Webby pulled on the gloves... and actually kept a



Our programme was usually blue but 1969's Boxing Day issue had a red cover. It didn't cheer anyone up

**CONTINUED OVERPAGE** 

# Opposition in focus

he management partnership of Neil Baker and Jon Underwood have now completed five seasons with the club and prepare for the first season in the Vanarama National League South. In their first term back in 2014, Slough Town won the play-offs the hard way, to win promotion to the Southern League Premier Division. Two seasons of consolidation followed and 2016/17 saw Slough make a play-off place losing out to Leamington. A very strong run-in from Slough saw the Rebels finish in third place to earn a play-off place. Ironically, they beat Kettering in the semi-final, the same team defeated in the 2014 play-off final, and a tremendous fight back at King's Lynn saw Slough win promotion again by 2-1. Slough regained their position in the National League after 20 years. In the first term in the new division, Slough missed out on a play-off place by 2 points.

Slough found the going much harder in the National League South last term but still found themselves in the pack of clubs in the hunt for play-off places. Having a solid start to the first half season, Slough had a slump. After the home win against Chelmsford on 12 January, Slough did not win another league match until 2 March, drawing three games and losing four. However, Slough then went on an unbeaten run until the end of the season including a 2-1 win over Billericay and a 1-0 at Woking. Slough missed out by drawing their last two games.

Slough Town's origins have been taken as 1889, but a report in the Slough Observor records the first fixture being played sixteen years earlier in 1873 against Windsor Albion and documents their continuity to the present time. Slough were named as the Slows, before re-naming as Slough Rangers under the same leadership of Mr Sargeant the Club Secretary in 1876. In 1883 the club merged with the Slough Cricket Club and playing as Slough Athletic. The clubs separated in 1888 and Slough sought to merge with other local clubs to form a stronger club, including Slough Albion, Young Men's Friendly Society and the Ottos. Slough Ramblers were to merge later. but other local clubs including Chalvey never made the plunge, so Slough & District FC never came about. The newly named, Slough F.C. continued to play their home games at the Dolphin, which was shared with the Swifts, F. A. Cup Semi-Finalists. It is likely that The Swifts name influenced the original name of the Slough club (Slows) as they started regular fixtures in Slough in the 1870s. The Swifts can be shown playing games until 1893 when they merged with the Corinthians, now Corinthian Casuals.

Slough entered the first league competition in the South of the country that included Tottenham Hotspurs among others drawing 3-3 at home in the league and losing 5-2 away. Slough tried for membership of the Southern League in the 1800s but were unsuccessful. Slough entered league competition again in 1901 joining the Berks & Bucks Senior League. In 1905 Slough joined the Great Western Surburban League but struggled until 1913. In 1921 the club lost out by a narrow margin of votes to Wycombe Wanderers in an effort to obtain membership of the Isthmian League. The club joined the Spartan League instead where it remained until the outbreak of World War II.

In 1943, Slough amalgamated with Slough Centre F.C. and playing at Belfast Avenue, and became Slough United. During the first post war years the club became the first English club to play a friendly match against European opposition when Hilversum HVV t'Gooi came to the Centre Stadium in 1945, a game that was shown at cinemas all over the land. Slough led a move to create the Corinthian League and because of this became known as the 'Rebels'. Slough adopted the present style of Slough Town during 1947/48 returning to the Dolphin, after the 'Slough Centre' and 'Slough' went their separate ways over a dispute over home venues. In 1950/51. Slough Town achieved its first league championship when beating second placed Hounslow Town by 2-0 at the Dolphin in front of over five thousand spectators. The Corinthian League merged with the Athenian League in 1963 and the Rebels were promoted into that competition's Premier Division in 1965 after winning the First Division title. At this time Slough Town were one of the strongest nonleague clubs in the south of England under Bob Gibbs. During the season 1967-68, total home attendances exceeding more than sixty three thousand when winning the Premier Division title. Tommy Lawrence took over the reins at the Dolphin in 1970 and the 'Rebels' were able to field eight amateur internationals on a regular basis winning the Athenian title in 1971-72 and 1972-73 (also winning the League Cup and Premier Midweek League title). They were semi-finalists in the Amateur Cup in 1971 and then finalists in 1973 losing to a very late goal at Wembley. In 1973 the club joined Division One of the Isthmian League, winning promotion in the first season. In 1974 Slough moved to a new ground. Wexham Park Stadium, which was hastily built by the members and supporters. Slough won the Isthmian League title for the first time in 1980-81 and again in 1989-90, having regularly finished in the leading positions.

Thus the club was promoted to the GM Vauxhall Conference. In 1991 the club was forced into receivership. The club was immediately purchased by a consortium. The next season, under the management of Dave Kemp, and after chasing Wycombe Wanderers to the championship throughout the season in the final weeks the club fell away

a little to finish fifth. At the end of that campaign Kemp left to take over at Crystal Palace. At the end of the following season Slough Town were relegated. Slough's return the Isthmian (Diadora) League saw their immediate return to the Conference as runners up. At the end of 1997-98 the Rebels were semi-finalists in the FA Trophy for the second time losing 2-1 on aggregate to Southport. Finishing in eighth place after completing the double over Kidderminster Harriers, the consortium decided that they could not support the ground requirements for Slough Town to maintain their position in Step One.

Relegated to the Ryman League and playing at Windsor, it was a struggle to survive and by 2008 playing at Beaconsfield the club had a reprieve from dropping to step 5. A new Chairman, Steve Easterbrook, saw stability return to the club and the club's fortunes improved so that the play-offs were reached on three occasions between 2010 and 2012 under manager Steve Bateman.



# **REBELS FACTS**

GROUND - Arbour Park
CAPACITY - 2,000
MANAGERS - Neil Baker/Jon Undwood
2018/19 - National League South 11th
PREVIOUSLY IN THE LEAGUE
H 26/12/18 L 3-0 A 01/01/19 W 1-0

WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v SLOUGH TOWN

P17 W6 D5 L6 F29 A27

# **SLOUGH TOWN**

# WHO'S WHO?

# **JACK TURNER - GOALKEEPER**

Highly regarded keeper who joined from Staines Town in June 2017. Started his career with Staines Town before moving to AFC Wimbledon where he made seven appearances. Moved back to Staines firmly establishing himself in the first team. Made 148 appearances for Staines before moving to the Rebels.

## **NOJUS TRINOVAS - GOALKEEPER**

Young keeper who has progressed through the Slough Town Juniors setup and trained with the first team at the back end of the 18/19 season. Has continued to impress and will continue his progression with the first team squad providing backup for Jack Turner.

# **SEAN FRASER - DEFENDER**

Versatile player who joined the club in August 2012 from Banbury United. Has proven himself in midfield and defensive positions and captained the club in the 2016/17 season from right back. Has now appeared for the Rebels over 270 times.

# **GUY HOLLIS - DEFENDER**

Moved from Godalming in June 2013 with the managers and established himself at the heart of the Rebels defence ever since. Previously played for Ashford Town and Carshalton. Made his 200th appearance for the club in the promotion winning play off final at Kings Lynn in May 2018.

## JOSH JACKMAN - DEFENDER

Joined the club from March Town in the summer of 2016. Highly rated full back who is also comfortable in midfield and has put in a number of commanding performances on the right hand side of the pitch and will go past 50 appearances for Slough during the 2018/19 season.

### MARK NISBET- DEFENDER

Commanding centre back who made the short move from Maidenhead to join the Rebels in the summer of 2016 having made

over 300 appearances for the Magpies in a ten year association with the club and close to a century of appearances with Slough.

# **GEORGE WELLS - DEFENDER**

Left sided full back who joined the club from Kingstonian in the summer of 2017. Made 101 appearances for the K's, chipping in with two goals. Continued his goal scoring trend from defence with four goals for Slough in his opening season with the club.

# SCOTT ARMSWORTH - DEFENDER

Joined up with the Rebels in the summer of 2019 from Fulham. Capable defender who spent three years in Fulhams youth setup having been snapped up from Ash United.

# **SIMON DUNN - MIDFIELD**

Signed from Basingstoke in the summer of 2016. Playmaking midfielder who made over 50 appearances in his first season with the club. Came through the Academy at Basingstoke and also represented England Universities. Was awarded Managers Player, Players Player and Supporters Trust Player in the 2016/17 season.

# **WARREN HARRIS - MIDFIELD**

Right sided winger who is also comfortable playing upfront who followed the managers to the club in the summer of 2013. Now closing in on 200 appearances for the club and previously represented Ashford Town, Staines Town and Godalming.

# **MATT LENCH - MIDFIELD**

Re-joined the Rebels in January 2019 following short spell at **Wealdstone**. Matt is a highly sought after midfielder who initially joined the Rebels from Hitchin in the summer of 2017. Can play in a number of attacking positions and hit 16 goals in the 2016/17 campaign for Hitchin.

# MAX WORSFOLD - MIDFIELD

Hard-working left sided player who arrived from Maidenhead United, having played for the Magpies in two spells. He initially joined on loan from Aldershot Town before signing permanently in the summer of 2018. After

leaving Aldershot, Max went onto play for Dorchester Town, Hayes & Yeading United and chiefly Staines Town, where he was club captain and played alongside Jack Turner.

# **SAM TOGWELL - MIDFIELD**

33 year old defender or midfielder who has represented a number of teams in professional football including Crystal Palace and more prominently for Scunthorpe United, for who he won promotions out of the League One playoffs. Has also experienced promotions with Chesterfield and Barnet. Joined Slough in the summer of 2018.

# **JOE GRANT - MIDFIELD**

Signed from nearby Bracknell Town in June 2019. Having first dual registered with Slough as a 17 year old in 2015, the management team at Slough continued to track his progress. A tricky wide player who can also play upfront.

### SCOTT DAVIES - MIDFIELD

Popular Ex **Wealdstone** player who returned for his second spell with the club in the summer of 2019 having helped the Rebels to promotion via the play offs in the 2017/18 season. Assisted the Rebels in their county cup win in 2019, defeating Reading in the final, the club where he started his career.

# **MANNY WILLIAMS - FORWARD**

Initially joined on loan from Hungerford Town before making a permanent move for the start of the 2017/18 season. Comfortable in midfield or upfront. Hit 30 goals in a season for Maidenhead United and has also played for Notts County, Millwall, Yeading and Basingstoke.

# **BEN HARRIS - FORWARD**

Centre forward who joined Slough Town in December 2017 from Ascot United. Ben had been playing at Ascot to get his match fitness up after returning from playing in New Zealand for the previous two seasons, where he played for Team Wellington and Miramar Rangers in their top league, the New Zealand Football Championship. Prior to that, Ben was a big part of the Hampton & Richmond Borough team under Alan Dowson. Ben is

a local lad, having been born in Slough and now lives in Windsor, where he started his

**OPPOSITION IN FOCUS** 

# **DAN ROBERTS - FORWARD**

football career as a 17-year-old.

Joined Slough in February 2019 initially on a dual registration basis with Hellenic League side Windsor. Pacy forward player who caught the eye of the Rebels management team in May 2018. Scored a number of goals in Windsor's run to the FA Vase quarter finals in the 2018/19 season.

### **RYAN BIRD - FORWARD**

31-year-old striker Ryan Bird joined the Rebels in June 2019, making the short move from local rivals Maidenhead United. mHe began his footballing career at Burnham, where he was promoted to the first team in 2004 at the age of 16. In total, he scored 133 goals in 340 appearances for The Blues, including 45 in 45 appearances in 2012/13 as his side won Southern League Division One Central title. Has also represeted Portsmouth, Cambridge, Yeovil and Dover.

### FRANCIS AMARTEY - FORWARD

Amartey, who can play either through the centre or on the flank, was born in London and previously played for Beaconsfield Town and Flackwell Heath, where he scored 11 times in the 2017/18 season. Signed for Slough in February 2019. He was also registered with the FAB Academy, where he worked closely with Rebels player-coach Lee Togwell before signing a professional contract with Birmingham City in August 2018.

### **NEIL BAKER - MANAGER**

Joined Slough along with joint manager Jon Underwood in May 2013 following a successful spell with Godalming. Enjoyed a playing career with Wycombe, Farnborough, Aldershot and Bracknell amongst others.

### JON UNDERWOOD - MANAGER

Moved with Baker in May 2013, also from Godalming. Represented Farnborough, Aylesbury United, Staines and Bracknell in his playing days and has previously managed at Sandhurst Town prior to moving to Godalming.



# **APPEARANCES**

# 2019/2020 FIRST TEAM, up to & inc. @ 10/12/2019

A = STARTING APPEARANCES • S = APPEARANCE AS SUBSTITUTE • G = GOALS SCORED \* = has now left club

	l	ATIO EAG SOU			FA CUI		TI	FA Ropi		SE	IIDD NIO Cup	R	CH	IDDX ARITY CUP		OTA	LS		VFC REE	
	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S G	A	S	G	A	S	G
Andoh, Enoch													1		1			1		
Arnold, Nick	17	2		3			1			1					22	2		22	2	
Beckles-Richards, Reece		2														2			2	
Charles, Ashley	3	3			2					1			1		5	5		5	5	
Clifford, Billy	17	1	5	5		1	1			1		1	1		25	1	7	25	1	7
Coker, Afolabi		3			1								1		1.1	4	- 1	1	4	1
Edjenguele, William	3									1					4			4		
Efete, Michee	18		1	5		1	1								24		2	24		2
Ekongo, Enoch													1		1			1		
Everett, Lewis														-1		- 1			1	
Green, Danny	16	3	3	4			1			1		1			22	3	4	160	17	36
Isted, Harry	3									1					4			4		
Jebb, Jack	2	2						1							2	3		2	3	
Lafayette, Ross	16	1	9	5		3	1		1						22	- 1	13	28	9	14
Lewis, Dennon	17	2	5	5		2	1								23	2	7	23	2	7
Lopes, Eric											1	1		1		2	2		2	2
Matsuzaka, Daniel										1					1			1		
McLennan, George		1			1											2			2	
Mendes, Douglas														1		1			1	
Mendy, Jacob	10	6	6	4	1	2		1			1		1		15	9	8	15	9	8
Noel-Williams, Dejon	2	4	3			_		1		1		2	1		4	5	6	4	5	6
North, Jonathan	1	1					1	Ė							2	1	Ť	392	2	
Okimo, Jerome	19		2	5			1		1						25		3	170	5	6
Oxborough, Aston	15		_	5					-						20		Ť	20	Ť	
Phillips, Michael	18		3	5			1								24		3	24		3
Ringer, Joe													1		1		Ť	1		
Roberts, Phillip *		6											-		T.	6		-	6	
Sartorius, Elliott		ŭ									1					1			1	
Saunders, Matt											•		1		1			1		
Sheppard, Jake	1	12			1								1		2	13		42	19	4
Shomotun, Fumnaya										1		1			1	.0	1	10	5	4
Smith, Connor	9	2		2	3		1			1		•			13	5		35	16	5
Stevens, Connor	18	-	1	5	•		1			1					25	•	1	67	.0	7
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ALDST OUTH								1		J.	6	Me		K			gpf	leve (		



# **BALL SPONSORS**

A traditional package for businesses (from £195+ vat) or fans (£180) for two people that will give you the satisfac-

tion 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) 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 on 07710 **929692** or at

paulrumens59@gmail.com

**SPONSORS** 

Support the Stones - sponsor the match ball

Support the Stones - sponsor the match ball

Our magnificently refurbished hospitality lounge, courtesy of GPF Lewis & Ruislip Social Club, is looking foward to welcoming you and your quests in surroundings befitting such

a special occasion be it a birthday, anniversary or any other special event! **SPONSORS** MATCH

4-1	
<b>CONCORD RANGERS</b>	D. C.
Saturday, 30th November	Pete 8
Vanarama National Loanus Couth	

**HAYES & YEADING UTD** Tuesday, 3rd December Middlesex Senior Cup Second Round

# **Russell Grant**

& Pauline Worby

**WELLING UNITED** Saturday, 21st December

Vanarama National League South

**Rov Couch** In memory of **Bob Hall** 

In memory of

**Nick Woolford** 

**Available** 



**SLOUGH TOWN** Wednesday, 1st January

**Available** 

Available



0

Vanarama National League South

CHELMSFORD CITY Saturday, 11th January Vanarama National League South

**Available** 

**Available** 



**BATH CITY** 

Saturday, 25th January Vanarama National League South **Available** 

**Available** 



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MATCH

Vanarama National League South **HUNGERFORD TOWN** Saturday, 24th August

Vanarama National League South **CHIPPENHAM TOWN** 

DARTFORD

Saturday, 3rd August

Tuesday, 13th August

Saturday, 31st August Vanarama National League South OXFORD CITY

Saturday, 7th September

Vanarama National League South MAIDSTONE UNITED Mike & Val Weston **Thordor Training** 

HARROW BOROUGH Tuesday, 28th January Middlesex Senior Charity Cup

Mike and Val Weston



**BILLERICAY TOWN** 

Saturday, 8th February Vanarama National League South **Alan Couch** 

**Available** 



# **HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE**

Saturday, 28th September Vanarama National League South

Vanarama National League South

Half-Way Line Tea Bar

**Dotty Tabby Cat** 



**DORKING WANDERERS** 

Saturday, 22nd February Vanarama National League South In memory of Jim Klarfeld

**Available** 



# BRISTOL MANOR FARM

Tuesday, 8th October FA Cup 3rd Qualifying Round Replay Alan Hill & Roger Slater



## **DULWICH HAMLET** Saturday, 7th March Vanarama National League South

**BRAINTREE TOWN** Saturday, 21st March Vanarama National League South **Available** 

**Middlesex Cricket** 

**Players' Pool** 

**Available** 



# MAIDENHEAD UNITED

Tuesday, 22nd October FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round Replay **TONBRIDGE ANGELS**  Alan Hill & Roger Slater



# **HAMPTON & RICHMOND**

Saturday, 4th April Vanarama National League South

WEYMOUTH

Easter Monday, 13th April

**Available** 

**Available** 

**Available** 



## Saturday, 26th October Vanarama National League South

EASTBOURNE BOROUGH Saturday, 9th November Vanarama National League South

**Ray Corner & Peter Carter** 

**Gordon McKay** 



# HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN

Saturday, 25th April Vanarama National League South

Vanarama National League South

**Available** 

**Available** 



# **ROYSTON TOWN**

Saturday, 23rd November FA Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round **Thordor Training** 



Available

# SHOW YOUR SUPPORT — SPONSOR A STONE!

■OU 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

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.

your choice here at the Vale.

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



**RON MOORE** 



**ALAN COUCH** 



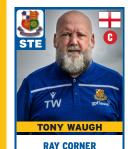
**DAVID EDWARDS** 



**KIT SPONSORS 2019/2020** 

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







**MEGAPHONE** 















































# Wainwright... Holmes... Little.. Margerrison... Pett... all great Wealdstone midfielders but is the class of 2019-20 the best?

t's a pertinent question. Longtime fans **Mick Fishman** and **Tim Parks** were debating the qualities of the Stones current midfield and wondered - is this the best the club have ever had?

Of course, we might be premature in posing this. The team might implode and end up finishing mid-table, but we hope not. We REALLY hope not because we are loving what we are seeing just now.

Touch, control, accurate passing and intelligent movement. Everything you'd wish to see from a football team with the added bonus of consistently winning games.

Mick: 'It was called "push and run" in the Arthur Rowe Spurs teams of the early 1950s; "give and go" in the Liverpool sides of the 1970s; and "pass and move" nowadays. But it's essentially the same thing. So pleasing to the eye.

Tim: 'And it's so difficult to cope with. The speed of thought is what impresses me. They must spend hours playing one and two-touch in training because it's bewildering at times.

"We've had so many years of just hitting balls into channels that seeing us play through the midfield is a joy to watch. No more percentage passes and 'hitting good areas'... the ball is moved around quickly, sweetly and accurately.

"Even in the Double Year, 35 years ago, it was very much playing by rote - they were told to play the ball forward at every opportunity and pressurise, pressurise, pressurise, bressurise... sure we

had good players but you can never say they were encouraged to go out and express themselves. This is literally a whole new ball game."

o is it solely the midfield that is making this team tick?

Said Mick: "Dean and Stuart Maynard has put together a great team for this level. The Ox stood in brilliantly for Norfy before Harvey Isted took on the gloves - also very capably. Nick Arnold is a classy right back who (I'm pleased to see) is happy to "take a card" for the team. Connor Stevens and Jerome Okimo are imperious in central defence and Mich Effete is a guick and powerful defender. Ross Lafavette is the best centre forward we have seen playing for the Stones for donkey's years.

"But yes, it is the engine room and the creative part of the team that is really catching the eye. Any combination of Greenie, Billy Clifford, Connor Smith, Mike Phillips, Dennon Lewis and Jacob Mendy Mendy - and recently Jack Jebb - are, for large parts of matches, simply playing football around the opposition.

"Individually they are very different in style. Mike Phillips quietly patrols midfield, reading the game and breaking down opposition attacks by shrewd interceptions or crisp tackling before setting our attack on the front foot with a telling short pass.

"Billy Clifford links play from defence before pinging balls, quarterback style, to our attack-



Said Tim: "But I suppose, when comparing how good they are with previous Stones midfields you have to take into account the level they are operating at? How tough was the Conference in the 1980s for example? The players were all part time then, but a lot of them were more experienced than Step One players these days.

"A lot of them were ex pros on their way down, whereas now they are often players rejected by the pro clubs trying to get noticed for a second chance.

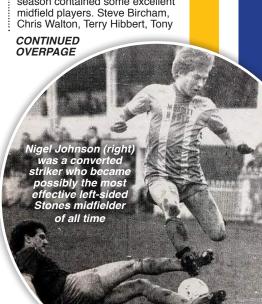
"Personally, I loved our midfield from 1981-83 when (the legend) Robin Wainwright was joined in the middle by John Margerrison, the ex Fulham and Orient star who'd just returned from a spell in the US. They were big, strong and clever players who could pick a pass and also win the ball for fun - and around them there was the tigerish Freddie Barwick, ex Spurs, Nigel Johnson (pictured right, ex Luton and a real goal scoring threat from left midfield) and Rov Davies (ex Reading) who had charisma and real footballing intelligence. Plus of course Neil Cordice who could strike the ball harder than anyone I've ever seen in a blue shirt".

Mick: "Well, if you're going to compare midfields I guess you

must first look to the teams that have won things. Our Ryman League champions of 2014 had Jonny Wright, Luke Pigden, Elliott Godfrey, Scott McCubbin, Tom Pett and the incomparable Glenn Little competing for places. All very fine players who contributed in their different ways, but take Glenn out of the frame and would we have been as effective?

e'd played at the top level for Burnley and Portsmouth (and put Kaka on his arse when playing against Inter Milan in the UEFA Cup - more about that later) and I know a lot of people turned up to watch the Stones in 2013 just to see him play. He was that good.

"The team that laid waste to the Isthmian Division 3 in 1997 and carried it through the following season contained some excellent midfield players. Steve Bircham, Chris Walton. Terry Hibbert. Tony





# THE BIG DEBATE CONTINUED

Smith and Paul McKay shared most of the midfield burden. Good as they were, they were competing in football being played 2 or 3 levels below where we now are.

"I agree with you Tim about our golden era of the early 1980s. The team that trashed the Southern League in 1981/82 and then finished 3rd in the Alliance Premier League had some special players - though I think Neil Cordice was an integral part. That team served

up some wonderful football and by the end of March 1983 it was purring along in 3rd place, one point behind Enfield and 4 adrift of Maidstone but with a game in hand on both.

"Do you remember us destroying Maidstone 3-0 on their patch on Easter Saturday? It was overshadowed by Neil Cordice's season being finished by a horrendous "tackle" from United's Brian Thompson. Neil's

form had

been so impressive he had been called into the England semi-pro squad. We only won just two of our final nine games and finished third.

"The double winning side two years later was more pragmatic with Robin Wainwright (far right), Neil Cordice, Roy Davies, Gary Donnellan, Brian Greenaway and Lee Holmes, with Nigel Johnson and Vinny Jones stepping in when required. That formation had grit, determination, pace and the ability to chip in with vital goals. It was perhaps more functional than expressive in comparison to the 1982/83 season midfield, but it



was mightily effective."

Recent and long ago: Godfrey

Poku (left) was the mainstay of

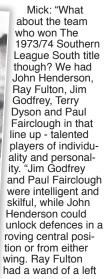
the midfield that made the play-

offs last season.... while Robin

Wainwright (above) was a key part of the brilliant, trophy-winning" Stones sides of the 1980s

Said Tim: "I was covering Enfield for the local paper from 1981-85 and when I got wind of Lee Holmes moving across to the Stones I got really excited. Even the fact that he was replacing Margerrison wasn't important - he was such a key player for Enfield I knew he would improve us no end.

"The previous season had seen David Price, the ex Arsenal Cup winner, playing for us in midfield but he was just going through the motions - Holmes was a real tough nut, hard in the tackle and great in the air and exactly what we needed at that time. Andy Graham and Alan Cordice got the plaudits that season but it was Lee Holmes and Robin Wainwright (below) who were the bedrock".



foot, and Terry Dyson (who was 39 then) had played at the very highest level in Tottenham's double winning side of 1961.

"For much of that season they played scintillating stuff, but I suppose the Southern Division of the league was nothing like as powerful as the National League South is now.

am old enough to have spent my formative years watching the Stones during their pomp in the amateur days of the mid to late 1960s. The Amateur Cup winning side of 1966 fielded the pacey and tenacious Brian Allen and the skilful and tricky Bernie Bremer on the wings, with England Amateur internationals Charlie Townsend and Hugh Lindsay imperious in centre midfield. Halcyon days!

"To my young eyes this was a team producing thrilling, skilful and dynamic football. Fast forward 2 years to the team that reached the Amateur Cup semi-final and I could still enjoy the immense talents of Townsend, Lindsay and Bremer, now joined by the vastly experienced Tony Slade, the clever trickery of Derek Smart and the youthful exuberance of John Hutchinson."

Said Tim: "That was a bit before my time. What about later in the 70s? You can make a case for the team that reached the Third Round of the FA Cup in 1977/78 - that had character and ability by the bucketload. Bobby Moss (ex Fulham and Orient); Willie Watson (the England non League captain); Steve Brinkman (ex Arsenal and the Greenie of his day); Fred Barwick and Keith Furphy with his Exocet left foot vying for the midfield slots. On its day that midfield could out-perform anyone - but when you look back they scored just 54 goals in 42 league matches, so it wasn't always edge of the seat stuff."

Mick: "let's be realistic though - it's a bit silly to suggest that the midfield of a team that's only played 25 matches is as good as or better than those from those of the past. We just don't yet know.

"On the evidence so far, however, I think they CAN be spoken about in the same breath as those illustrious predecessors - and they certainly measure up in the entertaining style in which they play. The true test is if they win anything. Then maybe we can look back in a decade and say: "that midfield of 2019-20 wasn't half bad."

# **Little: The Best Stones midfielder of all-time?**



Il but the real Wealdstone Johnny-Come-Lateleys will have heard of Glenn Little, the ex-Premier League star who dropped into our laps six years ago and (almost single-handedly) turned us

into Ryman League title winners.

He was a bit special, was Glenn.

And last year we discovered this online tribute to the former Burnley, Reading and Pompey winger, revolving around Portsmouth's unlikely flirtation with UEFA Cup glory after winning the FA Cup win in 2008.

Manager Harry Redknapp had just scarpered to Spurs after they'd lost to Braga in the UEFA Cup opener, and rookie boss Tony Adams stepped up - having to face an in-form AC Milan side in their next game (Glenn pictured above).

While the likes of David James, Glen Johnson and Peter Crouch had some pedigree it was a novelty for free-transfer Glenn who only found he was playing against Milan the previous day. "The noise was phenomenal" said Glenn. "I'd always been a fan of Italian football and I just remember staring at Kaka in the first-half. He had so much time on the ball. I remember thinking: this must be what it's like in Italy. This is alright. I'll take this: it's a hit of me

is alright. I'll take this; it's a bit of me

Pompey went in 0-0 at half-time. How was the dressing room?" I remember Pippo Inzaghi hit the post near half-time but we took the lead about an hour in. I slotted a nice throughball to Kanu who dinked it into Kaboul who then nodded it past Dida.

And then Kanua made it 2-0 and the place was rocking! I came off a few minutes after that, I was mashed. So Ancelotti sends on Ronaldinho and five minutes later and he bends a thirty-yard free-kick into the top bins. I've never seen anything like it. But even then we were still confident - until Pippo Inzaghi brought down a high ball on a penny and nips it in. We were gutted. 2-2. But what a great night!"

# **NOEL FURLONG AND DERRICK FRANKLIN**

# **WEALDSTONE v WELLING UNITED 21.12.2019**

Fans in the Stand

Two of the supporters' club ex-players are the main men today..so welcome to twinkle-toed Noel and Del Boy

oday we're proud to unveil match sponsors Noel Furlong and Derrick Franklin of Recycle DNC, who have both played football locally in their youth - including a spell with the Stones' supporters team SFC Wealdstone some 15 years ago.

They have been to quite a few games and no doubt they'll become regular fans... First up it's Noel....

Where do you live, Noel? Yeading Middlesex

When was your first Stones match?
One of my footballing pals was Gary Donnellan who signed for the Stones in the early 1980s so I came to watch him many times.
His signing introduced me to the club.

Have you followed another club? I grew up in Cricklewood so my brothers and I went to watch Hendon FC regularly - our nearest non league club as they played at Claremont Road near Brent Cross. In 1974 they got drawn away to Newcastle in the FA Cup 3rd round - I was just a lad and couldn't afford to travel at the time so waited at home for the score to come up whilst watching World of Sport on ITV... and I remember Dickie Davies telling the veiwers that Rod Haider had scored a late equaliser to earn Hendon a replay. Claremont Road was too small to stage the game to it was played strangely enough one afternoon at Watford

Above: Derrick (left) and Noel relaxing while (below right) Noel is pictured (far right, ringed) in an SFC Wealdstone line-up from the 2001-2 season. Can you spot the other familiar faces that day in a

FC - we all bunked off school to go to see the game. Hendon lost 4-0 but just watching Malcolm McDonald the Newcastle and England No.9 at that time was worth the Admission fee alone. Incidentally Hendon's last home game at their old ground was against Wealdstone, Stones running out 4 – 1 winners. Gary Donnellan's nephew Shaun now plays for Woking F C so I've been there a few times too this season.

leterans Cup game at Wembley FC?

What's the most memorable Stones

game you've seen? The FA Trophy Final at Wembley 1985 was a great occasion for everyone connected with the club - just getting there was great but lifting the cup was amazing.

Have you played the game yourself? Yes, for as long as I can remember. Playing under-14s was memorable for St Marys in Willesden - we won the Middlesex Cup, the first team from Brent to do so at the time. Paul Waites was in our team along with the aforementioned Gary Donnellan and many more excellent players. We were picked for Middlesex representative side along with Stuart Pearce (no introduction required) and Chris Whyte, the ex Leeds and Arsenal. I also remember playing against ray Houghton, ex Liverpool and eire and Dean Wilkins, ex Brighton plus many more. It was a special time ...

I also played for Welwyn Garden City when Mark Halsey (ex premiereship referee) was our goalkeeper ... as I worked Saturdays at the time it curtailed my football on Saturdays but I continued playing on Sundays, ending up many years later playing for SFC Wealdstone thanks to an introduction from Jamie Rous, who played for them at the time. Tim Parks was our captain and leader and I had five wonderful years with them... they were littered with Wealdstone fans like David and John Lloyd, Dave Kearney, Mark Richards, Matt Hoyle, Sudhir Rawal, Gordon McKay, Wayne Hughes and 'Mad' Micky Kane (I wonder did he ever release that top album he promised?). It was a great social club with Tim's regular write-ups slaughtering players who underperformed the

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

# **NOEL & DEL BOY CONTINUED**

week previous! From memory we got to two cup finals - one a Middlesex final - but I missed both due to work commitments. They won one of them!

Do you find it easy to get to games? worked for Ladbrokes for 38 years and our busiest day was Saturdays so I was unable to attend most games. But after being made redundant and opening our own company it's mostly Monday to Fridays and thus easier to attend games.

I've always loved sport especially horse racing so after leaving school I joined Ladbrokes who were based in Harrow on the Hill at the time I started as a settler working out clients winnings then progressed to a supervisor but always wanted to work on the racecourse so after 4 years doing various jobs I got a job clerking at the tracks going racing every day, and I've been to most greyhound tracks and every racecourse in the country. I ended up being a racecourse tic tac man for the last 15 years of my working days. After getting made redundant in February 2017 I spent a lot of time in Dubai with my wide Sue - where my son Charlie was working - before my best mate Derrick left his old waste company Powerday. We decided to team up and open our own waste management company.

What do you think of the current facilities at The Vale? Very good to be honest the main bar always seems to have a buzz about it before and after games. The caterers provide decent food with a big smile whilst serving - and the pitch always looks in great shape so well done to the groundstaff. Overall it's a nice place to come and watch a game.

How far do you think the stones can progress at the current ground? It's been a great season so far but sadly I think one day they'll have to move away to progress further. I think they are more than capable of pushing on though as it's such a well run club with a loyal fanbase.

Is non league football more attractive to you than EFL or prem football? I enjoy watching all football games to be honest but having played non league you know the amount of hours the players put in having to combine work, games and training you have to admire them greatly.

Overall myself Derrick and Chris are very

proud to be here today sponsoring the game.

nd now for **DERRICK FRANKLIN**, who lives in Harefield...What was your first Stones game? Like Noel, it was Wealdstone v Boston Utd at Wembley but it was a mate Mark Pope - a legend on the dancefloor - who introduced me to the

Have you supported anyone else? Man City is the team that I have supported since I was 12, but QPR was the club my dad first took me to see. They had the the likes of Stan Bowles, Gerry Francis, DaveThomas and Phil Parkes, etc. and their training ground was near the Polish War Memorial at Northolt close to where I lived.

I chose to support Manchester City purely because, having seen them play QPR, I loved the colour of their sky blue kit as well. Dennie Tueart was my favourite player.

The most memorable game you've ever seen? The FA Cup Final when Spurs beat City 3-2 with goals from Ardilles and Villa. Plus Wealdstone winning the FA Trophy final in 1984/5.

Have you played the game yourself? I played for Belmonst Seniors, Hillingdon Borough, Hanwell Town, Black Bull, Stedfast FC, Mirabeau Wine Bar, Ruislip Rangers, and SFC Wealdstone.

My showreel includes winning the London Senior Cup 1-0 with Hanwell Town - when I scored the winner in the final against a very good Ford United side - and I played for Hillingdon Boro v Norwich City in a pre-season game at the Middlesex Stadium . It was part of a deal to thank Hillingdon for signing Robert Rosario. Chris Sutton, Gary Megson, Robert Fleck were all playing but don't get me wrong - I was playing at right back and just watched as they pinged the ball around!

Where did you work before forming Recycle DNC? I worked at Ladbrokes and then Powerday PLC as as their top businss development manager, looking after a £10 million turnover. I started RECYCLE DNC LTD with my close pals Noel Furlong and Chris Fish - both here today - and we want to establish a first-class waste management company. We have also set up a charity for people suffering from mental health issues.

**WEALDSTONE v WELLING UNITED 21.12.2019** 

# IT'S CUP FINAL WEEK IN YOUR SFC NEWS

Team mates in tears as Ginger boy cuts up onions

FC RUBS management team were Uclose to tears last night when it became obvious that midfield talisman Noel Furlong would miss the Middlesex Junior Cup

"It's like Roy Keane missing the 1999 Champions League final for Man Utd" said a distressed Jamie "Although, like United, SFC have got a superbly talented David Beckham play-a-like on the right flank to compensate", he added.

Joint boss John Lloyd put a brave face on the loss of The Ginger Machine.

"Who's going to sky the ball hopelessly over the you know wot I mean" bar from free-kicks now?" confided Lloyd.

Newmarket with a longer face than the gee-gees

"And who's going to get on the referee's tits with 90 minutes of moaning? Oh, I forgot, Alan's volunteered

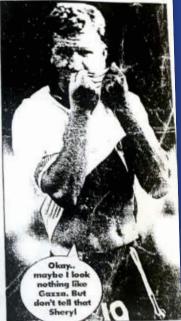
Lloydey, who has only missed one game on this year's Junior Cup journey for well-reported reasons (the baby will apparently be named after the entire Reserve Team squad if we win it, or Johnson Junior if we don't) denied that his band Ginger Whine were named after Furlong.

"I believe Noel's gingerness has more to do with his sexual proclivities, if

team, use Birkbeck on Sun day afternoons and I suspect Noel has been leaving from the front of the club-house and then sneaking in round the back entrance for an extra 90 minutes."

• Furlong dismissed rumours last night that he would declare himself available for the Final at the last moment, and then clean up on William Hill s First SFC Goalscorer bets.

· Published odds at the noment are: Alan Carter 4-1, John Lloyd 13-2, Dave Kearney 9-1, Tim Parks 20-1, Alton Morris, Jamie Rous, Gavin Hart 25-1. Wayne Hughes, Gordon McKay 30-1. Mickey Kane 50-1, Mark Storey, Marcus Godfrey 100-1, Trevor Fairweather 200-1, Sudhir Rawal 250-1, Jamie Burfitt 500-1,



touring Yorkshire later this month spread like wildfire through the county last night.

A spokesman for the Huddersfield Tourist Board compared it to Manches-ter United s Far East tour last year, and said that SFC Fever had already gripped the town

JJB Sports are engaged in a price war with First Sport for rights to market the authentic SFC Reserves replica shirt (short-sleeved blue & white quarters with

the chest), but SFC plc spokesman Sir James Rous said that he wanted to play down the tour in case of civil unrest in the town.

"The last thing we want is hundreds of young women turning up to mob our stars",

"My first priority is to protect the players and their anonymity. We're staying at the Huddersfield Hotel, 41 Kirkgate. I'm in room 22" he added.

TEARS BEFORE BEDTIME. Police have issued this pi of a Paul Gascoigne lock-alike who has been terri young women across Britain

Noel is featured in this SFC Wealdstone 'scandal sheet' before the Middx Sunday Cup final in May 2002

What are your first impressions of Wealdstone FC? The ground is great for the local community bringing back youngsters to get more involved in grass roots football which is where it all started. I love non-league as it's real and fans get

involved in the right manner with loads of good-humoured banter...most of the time!

Recycle DNC is honoured to sponsor this match and wish all the staff, players, fans etc all the best for 2020 and beyond.



Follow the Stones here and on the road

# HOME

**Slough Town** 

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Wednesday, 1st January, 1:00pm £9 entry for Premier / EFL season ticket holders

**Bath City** 

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Saturday, 25th January, 3:00pm
£9 entry for Premier / EFL season ticket holders

Harrow Borough MIDDLESEX CHARITY CUP

MIDDLESEX CHARITY CUP
Tuesday, 28th January, 7:45pm
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Billericay Town VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Saturday, 8th February, 3:00pm
£9 entry for Premier / EFL season ticket holders

**AWAY** 

**Oxford City** 

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Saturday, 4th January, 3:00pm
www.oxfordcityfc.co.uk|@OxCityFC

Billericay Town VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Tuesday, 7th January, 7:45pm www.billericaytownfc.co.uk | @BTFC

**Staines Town** 

MIDDLESEX SENIOR CUP QUARTER FINAL Tuesday, 15th January, 7:45pm

**Havant & Waterlooville** 

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Saturday, 28th January, 3:00pm www.havantandwaterloovillefc.co.uk

# Vanarama National League South - Table @ 15th December

Opposition	All								H	ome					Awa	ay						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts	Res	ults
1 Wealdstone	19	14	2	3	41	20	9	8	0	1	20	8	10	6	2	2	21	12	21	44		
2 Slough Town	19	11	4	4	31	18	11	7	3	1	17	8	8	4	1	3	14	10	13	37		
3 Havant & Waterlooville	17	10	5	2	38	19	10	5	3	2	18	10	7	5	2	0	20	9	19	35	1-4	
4 Weymouth	19	9	7	3	34	19	9	7	1	1	22	9	10	2	6	2	12	10	15	34		4-3
5 Bath City	20	-	6	5	31	18	11	6	4	1	18	7	9	3	2	4	13	11	13	33		0-0
6 Dorking Wanderers	20	9	6	5	31	29	11	7	2	2	16	8	9	2	4	3	15	21	2	33		2-2
7 Hemel Hempstead Town	17	9	2	6	24	23	8	5	1	2	13	9	9	4	1	4	11	14	1	29		3-0
8 Maidstone United	19	7	7	5	30	21	8	3	4	1	14	7	11	4	3	4	16	14	9	28	2-1	
9 Hampton & Richmond	20	8	2	10	29	33	9	4	1	4	14	13	11	4	1	6	15	20	-4	26		0-2
10 Braintree Town	20	8	2	10	31	41	9	4	1	4	14	18	11	4	1	6	17	23	-10	26		4-0
11 Chelmsford City	20	6	7	7	35	35	11	4	5	2	24	19	9	2	2	5	11	16	0	25		3-1
12 Dartford	20	6	7	7	30	37	9	2	5	2	16	16	11	4	2	5	14	21	-7	25	4-1	
13 Concord Rangers	20	7	3	10	31	32	11	5	2	4	20	14	9	2	1	6	11	18	-1	24	3-0	
14 Billericay Town	18	6	6	6	27	29	7	4	3	0	13	7	11	2	3	6	14	22	-2	24		
15 Welling United	20	6	5	9	22	24	11	5	2	4	17	12	9	1	3	5	5	12	-2	23		2-1
16 Oxford City	19	6	5	8	28	33	10	3	2	5	11	19	9	3	3	3	17	14	-5	23	1-0	
17 Eastbourne Borough	20	5	7	8	17	32	9	3	2	4	10	15	11	2	5	4	7	17	-15	22	2-0	
18 Chippenham Town	19	4	8	7	17	21	8	3	3	2	9	9	11	1	5	5	8	12	-4	20	1-0	
19 Dulwich Hamlet	19	4	7	8	23	26	10	2	3	5	13	17	9	2	4	3	10	9	-3	19		0-1
20 Tonbridge Angels	20	5	4	11	27	36	11	5	2	4	22	20	9	0	2	7	5	16	-9	19	3-1	
21 Hungerford Town	20	5	2	13	22	37	9	2	2	5	8	13	11	3	0	8	14	24	-15	17	3-1	
22 St Albans City	19	3	6	10	19	35	11	1	4	6	10	21	8	2	2	4	9	14	-16	15		3-2