**THE LINE-UPS DULWICH H** V

PINK/NAVY

### WEALDSTONE **BLUE & AMBER/BLUE**

#### **G** Aston Oxborough **G** Charlie Grainger **Marvin McCoy Michee Efete** Jacob Mendy Mendy **Jack Connors Billy Clifford Quade Tavlor Connor Stevens** Jesse Debrah Jerome Okimo © **Richard Orlu Jeffrey Monakana Ashley Charles Connor Smith Joe Bedford** Moses Emmanuel **Danny Mills Kieran Monlouis Danny Green Dennon Lewis Shamir Mullings Ross Lafavette Lionel Ainsworth** Jake Sheppard **Diogo Barbosa** Keiran Cadogan **Dvlan Kearnev Kreshnic Krasnigi Christian Smith Fumnaya Shomotun Dominic Vose** Herschel Watt David liaha Olly McCoy Aaron Barnes William Edjenguele **Nvren Clunis G** Lewis Everett **Nathan Smith**

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### Main club sponsor:

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Stones' Billy Clifford was outstanding in the goalless draw at Dartford last week atticsnaps.smugmug.com

INSIDE

SKIPPER OF THE **STONES DOUBLE WINNERS, 1985** 



WEALDSTONE v DULWICH HAMLET Vanarama National League South, Saturday March 7 2020, kick-off 3pm GROSVENOR VALE 

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2019-20

# FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 2019/2020 GROSVENOR VALE, RUISLIP, MIDDLESEX HA4 6JQ • 07790 038095 •

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### MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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

### MATCH DAY OPERATION

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

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### **MAJOR HONOURS SINCE 1950**

### LEAGUE TITLES

Athenian League
Southern League Division One South
Southern League Southern Division
Southern League Championship
National League Premier (Gola League)
Isthmian League Division Three
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.

WEALDSTONE v DULWICH HAMLET





### very warm welcome to The Vale for today's vital Vanarama National League South clash.

We extend this welcome to our visitors and old friends Dulwich Hamlet, their management team, officials, players and supporters. We hope you enjoy your brief stay with us this afternoon and join us in the bar before and after todays game.

A big thanks to those supporting us through their generous sponsorships and joining us in the hospitality lounge today.

Finances are always tight as we continue to operate a sustainable football club. As always

at this time of the season, we are still looking for supporters or businesses to step forward as sponsors to ensure we remain competitive on the pitch. We have a range of Matchday and Ball Sponsorship packages available to suit all pockets, as well as our ever popular Kit Sponsorship that allows you to show your support for your favourite player.

BY MARK HYDE

As well as these traditional fundraisers we still have the Rolling Stones Push for Promotion initiative available.

Full details of all these packages, which can be customised to your individual requirements, can be found in the pages of this programme. Mark

### **CYRIL 'TIGER' MAY**

As we go to press the very sad news has reached us that former player Cyril 'Tiger' May has passed away.

Cyril represented Wealdstone between 1953 and 1954 making 23 appearances before he joined QPR initially as an Amateur before eventually signing a profesional contract there. Cyril said the highlight of his Wealdstone career was the London Senior Cup Semi-Final at Highbury v Arsenal that was drawn 3-3....

### **MATCH SPONSOR** 'IN MEMORY OF DARREN HOOKER

Tracev

March has come round again so quickly, The girls and myself would like to thank everyone, friends and family for joining us once again today to watch the match at Wealdstone FC in memory of Darren. The 2nd March would have been Darrens 54 Birthday. We all have our own special memories of Darren and all miss him very much in our own individual way but come together today and open Daz's Bar to raise a glass or two and wish him a very Happy Birthday.

Happy Birthday Daz, Love you millions xAlways x



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**BALL DONOR** GRAHAM CLARK**BALL DONORS** DAVID MULLINS & CHRIS MAYNARD

### WEALDSTONE v DULWICH HAMLET 7TH MARCH 2020



Where are heading into the home stretch now having been top of the table for over 28 weeks and we have to continue to enjoy working hard and performing for each other.

We must also continue to take it one day a time, I know it's a boring statement but all we can do is take care of today, learn from yesterday and try to keep improving for tomorrow.

Looking back at the past week I feel that we deserved a better points return from our two performances. Against Chelmsford I feel we at least deserved a draw and away at Dartford I felt we were a goal better than the opposition. We can't however feel sorry for ourselves as it just shows us all how tough our division is. We are enjoying the tests been thrown at us every week in the league and will keep fighting.

Today will be no different with us hosting Gavin Rose's Dulwich Hamlet, they are one on the three full time teams in our league. They have seasoned players within their group, and they find themselves fighting for their lives.

Stu and I watched them destroy Chelmsford back in early February, so we know what to expect.



From our point of view, we have stick to the standards we have set both with our players work ethic and you our supporters positive vocal support. We must continue to make The Vale a fortress. We are really looking forward to today's game. Stick together and keep up the noise.

Together we are Stones



# THE ROLLING STONES PUSH FOR PROMOTION

fter the success of the Rolling Stones campaign earlier in the season, organiser Jeremy Albert is looking to re-start the crowdfunding scheme ahead of the final weeks of the season.

The Rolling Stones campaign was a massive success earlier this season, raising seasondefining amounts of money which has helped the club remain at the summit of the National League South.

**Rory Fitzgerald, Wealdstone FC Chairman**: "The fans support has been amazing this season and this supporters fundraising has made a genuine difference. The togetherness of the club has also been a big factor in where we stand today however, there's a long way to go and lots to do on and off the pitch if we want to finish the job and win promotion to the National League.

"We all need to do what we can in the coming months to drive the club forwards and continue to give Dean, Stuart, Gary, Kirk and the players the support they deserve."

There is still work on the pitch to be done before the end of the season and your contribution could help the club achieve success.

### To get involved, contact

Jeremy Albert via email (Jeremy.albert@jetsetflights.co.uk).

### WEALDSTONE v DULWICH HAMLET **ELMSLIE ENDER**

# **BY SUDHIR RAWAL**

The Elmslie Ender



# EE's the only member of the Programme Team we allow a holiday, but he's back....

ne point won was the general opinion amongst our supporters after a hard fought game against the in-form Dartford, though it could have easily have been all three points coming home to Middlesex. Neither keeper was really forced into making a decent save, thought the Darts' custodian did make a couple of good camera dives, and both defensives were really at the top of their game. I thought Hill and Bonner looked very good at the heart of Dartford defence , but equally we defended magnificently throughout the game played out in bizarre weather conditions, none more so than in the second half when we had our fans running for shelter from a downpour in a gale force wind and then have to cover their eyes from the sun to ensure that they could see the proceedings! A mark of our defensive attributes and the taking one for the team attitude was never more so illustrated than in the final minutes of injury time, when Billy Clifford ran half way across the pitch to take out a breaking forward; an action that drew warm applause from our supporters!

Despite the strengths of both defensives,

Wealdstone still had three decent chances to win the game. The Charles header against the bar, the Lewis penalty miss and then Emmanuel slipping as he was about to plant the ball in the back of the net late on. Another day could have seen a win. The type that champions squeeze across the line.

I didn't see the Chelmsford game as I was watching Chelsea unceremoniously - miracles barring - being dumped out of the Champions League at Stamford Bridge, but by all accounts the Dartford game was an improvement of what appeared to be a leggy performance against the Essex side. As much as we want to win every game. obviously this isn't realistic and I suspect most of us would have taken a point at Dartford from the off.

In theory we should have played Tonbridge this midweek, but from all the messages emanating from that part of Kent. there was as much chance as the Extinction Rebellion clearing up the mess that they leave behind after a protest. It is likely that the match will be played away from their Longfield ground and their chairman was pleading poverty on social media with having only two home games played since early



December: though in the same missive they were talking about possibly laying a 4G pitch in the summer. There seems little chance that they will play any games at home anytime soon, so will be travelling around that part of the world looking for options. The problem is their homes games are played on grass and looking at venues that might be able to accommodate them, all are likely, with the exception of Dartford who already have three clubs playing on their lush surface, to be on 4G. Would we be keen to play on 4G with our record on it?

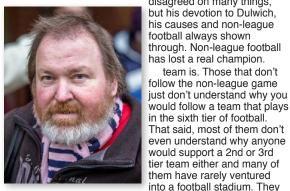
If you get the opportunity to listen to the Gaffer Tapes on YouTube,

with Dave Anderson and Dean Brennan, it is well worth a listen. Running for an hour, recorded before the Dorking Wanderers game, it is a window into our manager. his history. his footballing thoughts and a little about other members of our management team. Not necessarily masses of stuff about Wealdstone, but you will get a better picture of DB's philosophy and can understand why certain decisions have been made during the season. Well worth pouring a drink of something you fancy and listening away. Anderson is a decent broadcaster and for a former manager of a local darts and pool team, someone that gets a good welcome here at the Vale and clearly the friendship between the two shines

: through

Lastly, this is our first match verses Dulwich since the passing of their legendary super fan. Mishi Morath. Mishi, to the outside world, was Mr Dulwich. He could be a cantankerous sod at times, but oozed Dulwich pink and blue from his every pore and embraced the new Dulwich with all his soul. His love of non-league football was well known and since he joined social media, his tweets could be guite entertaining and also a window into his unhealthy feasts despite his initial heart-attack. I met him originally through the fanzine world and we probably disagreed on many things,

team is. Those that don't



### The Late Great Mishi

simply cannot understand why a defeat such as last week's, when you have been giant-killed by a team thirty league places below you, will cheese you off for the much of the week.

FIND OLD ELMSLIE ENDER MAGAZINES AT THE WFC MEGASTORE: www.wfcmegastore.co.uk

# THE STONES INTERVIEW BY TIM PARKS

### WEALDSTONE v DULWICH HAMLET 07/03/2020

Paul Bowgett In his own words: How it felt to be captain of the first Double Winners... lifting the league trophy in his coat... never wanting to let go of the FA Trophy... the fights... the hugs... the missed penalty at Wembley... not forgetting that horrible offside trap!

aul Bowgett's name will forever be writ large in Wealdstone history.

The uncompromising centre back was skipper of the brilliant Stones team that clinched an unprecedented non-League double 35 years ago, lifting both the Conference Championship and the FA Trophy in one unbelievable week - and it was guite emotional talking to the man who embodied the spirit of that WFC winning machine.

We caught up for a chat last weekend and 64-year-old 'Bowg' admitted he's not seen a game for years. "But I watch out for the Stones' results on Sky every Saturday and it's fantastic to think the club might finally be back in the Conference next season. It's where it belongs".

Paul experienced everything the game could throw at him in his 1,000-game career at Tottenham, Wimbledon, Wealdstone, Hitchin, Baldock, Stevenage and Arlesev, He was still playing at the age of 38 and now, four years into a happy retirement in Old Stevenage, can weigh up the highs and lows with a satisfied twinkle in his eye.

"1985. What a year. And what a week when we won the double!" he said.

"We had two League games left at the beginning of May and needed three points for the title. Kettering and Barnet, both away. And then five days after the Barnet game we had the Trophy Final against Boston Utd at Wembley.

"Nobody wanted to have to go to Barnet and have to win with the Wembley game so close behind, so when Andy Graham scored that amazing goal to win 1-0 at Kettering we

Paul Bowgett (ringed) meets Greenaway's corner perfectly .. but his header is fisted off the line (right)

were delighted. I was suspended that day (too many bookings) and couldn't play, so I picked up the trophy wearing my coat!

"Then there was the farce of the game at Barnet two days later.

"Nobody wanted to play, nobody wanted to get injured and with the big final on the horizon we just didn't compete really. We were awarded the trophy again having lost 7-0... Steve Mahoney, who was an old Stevenage mate of mine, kept running through and scoring and kept saving 'Another one there Bowg', 'Another one there Bowg" and I just said back to him each time: 'Wembley, Steve, Wembley'."

nd then the day itself. I reckon that first half an hour at the old stadium against a very decent Boston side was one of the most intense, powerful performances I've ever seen from a

Wealdstone side. "Yes, we turned the screw. We had all the pressure" he said. "Our set plays were always strong but funnily enough it was a mishit corner from Greeners (Brian Greenaway) that set up Andy Graham for the first goal... then he played the perfect high corner to give me the chance to make it 2-0.

"I have to say that was probably the sweetest header I ever made in my career".

Paul leaped above Boston centre half Creaney to send the ball arrowing from 15 yards towards the top corner, with keeper Kevin Blackwell nowhere.

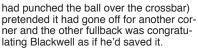
"I absolutely loved heading the ball, smacking it with my forehead and releasing that power. Creanev's head was on my stomach I'd got so high above him and I thought I'd scored until. at the last moment the ball disappeared over the crossbar" said Bowg.

There was a moment's confusion as Blackwell rolled around as if injured. left-back O'Brien (who

he Stones march ou

at Wembley with Bowg

(2nd left) following boss Brian Hal



Fortunately, the ref wasn't conned and he pointed to the penalty spot. No punishment for O'Brien - which would have been very different nowadays.

And now the big question: Why didn't the skip take the penalty himself? This was a man who'd scored 18 penalties in the 81-82 season and then shared the duties with Dennis Byatt, Mark Graves and Greenaway the next few years.

"Dennis just grabbed the ball and said 'I told you I was taking it'.

And of course, when he hit it straight at the keeper it made it worse. But we just kept on coming forward, making chances and we had a second goal before too long when Lee Holmes' header from another corner was deflected in."

After we'd pulverised Boston in the first half, Paul, did it get a bit nervy when they pulled that goal back just after the break?

"Yes, but a third one would have settled it down and I still don't know why Gary Donnellan wasn't allowed his goal when he headed it out of Blackwell's hands. Again the goallie rolled around and the ref was taken in.

"But, you know, we stopped playing the way we could in that second half. Nobody said 'okay boys, let's back off and let them play' but that's what happened. It's psychological. They had that late offside goal chalked off but we deserved to win."

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# THE STONES INTERVIEW

What would have happened, do you think, if it had gone to extra time? I asked him.

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"That's a good guestion. We would have been so down, devastated if they had pulled it back to 2-2. It would have been hard for us to get back on top - you had an idea of how good England were in 1966, how mentally strong, to come back from conceding that late goal to go on and win the World Cup in extra time.

"But it never came to that! We won it, and the feeling was indescribable".

Climbing the famous steps to get the trophy - following in those famous footsteps - must have been something?

"It was. My first thought was 'don't slip' because those shiny stone steps were so dangerous in studs. Then to show the trophy to the fans was a great moment. These days the players pass it

down the line but I wasn't letting ao!

"And there's a great moment as I was coming down the steps, clutching that trophy. I saw this little Irish quy. I can't remember his name

with him he stuck a roll-up behind my ear! "I don't know what

became of it but it had fallen out. I think. by the time we'd finished the lap of honour".

There is a photograph, I reminded Bowg, of him and manager Brian Hall cuddling the trophy. (below left). What were they saying?

"Ah yes; what a fantastic picture that is" he said. "I was just saying: 'Now you can step out of Allen Bats- Okay Robin, you can have ford's shadow'. Hally a turn... Bowd had taken over from reluctantly Batsford a couple of hands over the years earlier but had always been seen as Trophy on the lap of honour his no.2... this was Brian's moment and

he was a great manager in his own right." aul, though, credits the pragmatic Batsford for saving his career. 'Batty' was at Wimbledon before Bowg's time, having steered the Dons into the Football League in 1977, and wasn't at

but we used to have a fag together outside the clubhouse (yes, I smoked in those days) and when I leaned over to have a word

### Enfield player, when I was 20 and playing for Letchworth Garden City in the Athenian League. He'd come to see our opposition centre forward but I marked him out of the game! I played 50 or

get away with it nowadays.

### BOWG ON .....signing for Wimbledon

WEALDSTONE v DULWICH HAMLET 07/03/2020

Wealdstone when Bowg signed for us in the summer of 1980 - but his arrival wasn't far around the corner. Ken Pavne brought him to the club, but Paul wasn't overly impressed with the man who'd been promoted from reserve team boss.

"I'd dropped down from the Football League with Wimbledon, had just got married and with a baby on the way. It didn't look like a good decision!

"We had some talented players, some strong individuals but the dressing room was chaotic. Ken wasn't strong enough to deal with it - there were too many divisions - and a lack of bonding in the changing room is like a disease.

"Then Allen came in and was a good organiser. Very black and white was Batty. We had patterns of play, what to do and when, and it looked like we'd got out of trouble until that terrible last day of the season when we lost to Leamington and were relegated from the

Conference.

"Allen Batsford called me into his office that summer and basically told me to sort myself out and play to my potential... or I was off. Well, that was a shock. From being a pro to not being

And a chance to play for Portland Timbers in the US league. The Dons were in Division Three and it seemed closer to home ... until I drove from Stevenage to South London. Portland would have been quicker!

### **BOWG ON...** his family

Born and bred in Stevenage, the Bowgetts live in the pretty old part of town. Married 40 years this summer, Paul and Christine have three sons -Joe, 40, Danny 37 and Tom, 31. The two younger boys both played for Hertford Town and Arlesey, Danny up front and Tom at left back but they have both now stopped playing.

**BOWG ON...** that horrible offside trap "I didn't always see eve to eve with Dennis (Byatt) but we had a great partnership for half a dozen years. He was a big guy but, for my money, he was the best one-one-one defender in non League. Nobody got past him, and he was guick over distance too. But we were best remembered for our offside trap - we enjoyed driving people nuts! We'd catch them offside from the goalkeeper's long kicks, free kicks, anything

wanted at a club that was headed for the Southern League.

"But it was the shock I needed. I knuckled down, and then Allen said he was making me captain, and that I could be a leader".

Nine months later, Stones were back in the Conference having won everything on offer in the Southern League - and Bowg's stock was so high that he was invited to train with the England non-League side.

ut it was in the Spring of 1985 and the timing was lousy. After finishing third and then fourth in first two seasons back in the Conference, the bad weather caused an almighty backlog and the Stones were forced to play five games in eight days as our challenge for the title intensified.

The England training week coincided with this and Bowg's international chances were scuppered. "We weren't all great mates - I even had a punch-up in training with Dennis Byatt after he had clobbered little Paul Waites - but we all had each other's backs and those five games underlined the bond between us. I think it actually won us the league."

Those eight days started with a tight 3-2 Saturday home win over Weymouth. "Then we drove up and back to Altrin-

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

really. I'd call out 'Bowg' and that would be the signal for Polly and Dennis to step up ten yards. leaving me with the forward. I'd step back towards my goal and he'd come with me, ready for a tussle but then - all in the timing - I'd step past him just before the ball was played. Offside! "It wouldn't work now because someone else would run through and the first guy would be deemed as not interfering, but it worked every time, match after match."

**BOWG ON....** the funniest incident "Apart from Dennis's five-second own goal

against Weymouth at Lower Mead - volleying the ball over Bob Iles virtually from the kick-off - I reckon the midweek game at Frickley in freezing fog takes the biscuit. We were grinding out another away win when somebody started up a bonfire in a skip behind the goal. You couldn't see a thing but the referee told us "there's no way this game is not finishing". Just then Bob Iles launched the ball down the field, nobody could see where it was heading - and it hit Alan Cordice on the back of his head and knocked him over!"

### **BOWG ON....** his time at Tottenham "I was scouted by Spurs' Alf d'Arcy, the ex

60 reserve games for Tottenham in the Football combination between November 1977 and March 1979, but had my big chance in October '78 when I was down to make my debut at West Brom in the First Division. On the coach there, Steve Perryman said to me: "Big day for you Bowg, the game's on Match of the Day tonight''. But unfortunately the manager, Steve Burtenshaw, changed his mind at the last moment and played Gerry Armstrong at no.5 instead as he was scared of putting me up against the fearsome Cyrille Regis. I was sub, we won 1-0 and that was my opportunity gone" **BOWG ON....** his penalty technique I scored 18 penalties one season, nearly all thanks to Alan Cordice being fouled in the box. As for technique..., mainly I tried to hit the ball

low and hard to the keeper's left. That first summer I signed (1980) we had a penalty competition to see who would be taking them with the goallie, Ian Cranstone deciding. We had some stylish penalty takers. Like Willie Watson whereas I just hit the ball as hard as I could. They went top left hand corner, top right hand corner, straight up the middle... Ian said I was the winner "because I've got no idea where he was going to put the ball". I didn't know either! BOWG ON .... his Stones debut

My league debut was a memorable one: home to Telford United, managed by Gordon Banks. We won 4-0, I broke my wrist crashing into the Elmslie End wall and then I scored a penalty despite the pain. I missed two games, then played half a dozen with my wrist in plaster up to the elbow and covered by an inch of cotton wool. I used this weapon to good advantage! Wouldn't

### "Tottenham didn't want to renew my contract

and I had a couple of offers from Northern clubs.

# **THE STONES INTERVIEW**

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cham for a day for the Monday night game and pulled off a great 2-1 win. It was back into work on Tuesday, then we all got the train up to Newcastle on the Wednesday, and then the metro across to Gateshead's ground. And another 2-1 win thanks to Neil Cordice. For some reason, we then went to stay the night at a hotel in Whitley Bay after a few hours in the local nightclub... and that's when it all kicked off after a group of about ten lads followed us back to the hotel.

They said our boys were dancing with their girlfriends. Polly (Steve Perkins) and Vinnie Jones saw them off - you wouldn't want to mix it with either of them. Polly was so easy going normally but when he saw the red mist...

"The boss, Hally wanted to make it a final warning for Vinnie, who'd been in trouble with him before, but I managed to talk him round. And we needed Vinny because we had such a small squad that nearly all of us played in every one of those five games."

he squad traveled back down

on Thursday, and then went to work on Friday... before ending the week with home games against Runcorn on Saturday (won 1-0) and Scarborough (won 1-0) 20 hours later on Sunday morning! How on earth did they survive all those games? "Our legs were dead" laughed Bowg. "And it wasn't as

if we were playing on perfect surfaces. The pitches were rough in those days, but unless you had limbs hanging off you just got on with it. Nobody wanted to miss a game in case you lost your place in the side".

The squad was ridiculously small basically just 15 players - but one of the newcomers, Andy Graham, really made his presence felt.

"Hally loved Andy as he was big and physical, and loved flicking the ball on for Alan Cordice. You had to feel for Mark Graves, who was really unlucky to lose his place and not really feature in the run-in, and Wembley of course".

Which of those strikers would Bowg be least comfortable playing against?

"That's a tough question. Probably Alan because he'd need one touch and then he was away from you. I never had great pace so to be honest Andy Graham would be the one I'd mark as I'd enjoy the battle. Mark Graves had a great touch and was clever at finding space so you couldn't lose concentration for a second against him."

A fter the glorious highs of '85, perhaps the slow descent of Wealdstone FC was inevitable.

"The years after that, the club was in a state. A whole succession of bad managers, and so many players who had no respect for anything or anyone. If there's one thing I hate about players, it's bragging about where you've been and what you've done - and then failing to produce it on the pitch.

"I'll admit that my own game went downhill and perhaps I got sucked into that negativity. For me, the lowest point was when the club had to ask two supporters to make up the numbers for an away game at Altrincham that season we were relegated. Fair play to the lads, they did really well but to do that at Altrincham, where we'd had so many great battles in the past, showed how far we'd fallen."

Bowg left the club in the summer of 1988 when Baldock Town

Bowg lifts the

Conference

Barnet ..after

a 7-0 defeat!

trophy at

asked him to take over as player-manager.

They'd just been promoted to the Southern League Prem and the centre-back had a good couple of years until his back went and lan Allinson took over as boss - then it was off to Hitchin Town in the Ryman

Prem for another couple of years until, at the age of 38, he was playing for his local club Stevenage under Paul Fairclough on their march up the Ryman League.

Then it was back to Baldock -and even Arlesey - for a final swansong.

"Nowadays I get my exercise playing golf, and I even tried walking football but never again...

"One of my mates asked me over to play at the local sports centre, with teams split into fives and the first team we played had a female player - my first touch of the ball saw her overstretch and damage her knee. She was crying in pain at the side of the pitch - and as soon as the game restarted I went to tackle another player who managed to put his shoulder out, and was screaming in agony too. People were saying to my mate "Who is this bloke?!"

It's Paul Bowgett, what did you expect!

### WEALDSTONE v DULWICH HAMLET 07/03/2020

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

### WEALDSTONE v DULWICH HAMLET IAN STAPLETON





G ood Afternoon and welcome to our visiting fans who have made the trip up from Dulwich Hamlet. I am sure Mishi and Markie B are looking down on tonight's game and, as both men were prominent figures at their perspective clubs, they are not far from our thoughts.

We are now nearing the business end of the season and, at time of writing, we are still in pole position.

You can see from the results we have had and the way we have been playing why we find our selves in this position. Earlier in the season the "Rolling Stones" scheme was successfully launched to help fund the playing budget and has played a vital part in getting us to where we are in the league. This has now been relaunched to help our push for promotion. All monies raised from this will go directly into the playing budget. If you are able to contribute please contact Jeremy.albert@jetsetflights.co.uk

The megastore recently launched the Wealdstone quarter polo shirt (as modeled by the megastore mascot "Steve" outside the store on match days). The first order has been placed for these but if you are still interested there will be a second order going in so please let Adam in the megastore know. There is also a new range of tshirts on offer form the Pebble, Stone and Boulder range along with a tshirt celebrating the last match at Lower Mead. These are made to order and samples are available to view in the megastore on match days.

Many thanks to those that helped at the barbecue for the Aston Villa fans last Sunday. Events such as this are hard to organize and are only possible with the help of volunteers. Money raised go back into the running of the club so if you are able to help at fourth coming events then please let a member of the committee know.

The committee continues to meet and support the club in many ways. We are always looking for more people to join the committee. If you are interested in joining the committee and making a difference to YOUR club please talk to a member of the committee or email at wfcscsecretary@ gmail.com

Enjoy the game!

IAN



### WEALDSTONE'S OFFICIAL CHARITY

### Behind Every Kick is Wealdstone FC's 2019/20 season official charity partner. What a brilliant season it's shaping up to be for us both.

Behind Every Kick is a charity working across London with youth sports teams to empower young people. We engage them through a mutual love of sport and help them discover that they can harness the skills they are building on the pitch to create opportunities for themselves beyond it. Behind Every Kick has been working with Wealdstone FC's Under-16 team for the past two seasons.

Former Wealdstone FC Chairman David Pollock founded Behind Every Kick in 2016. David, a long-standing advocate for young people, recognises how beneficial his experiences as a keen amateur footballer have been in forging his successful career as an entrepreneur. Behind Every Kick has created a development programme for young people in partnership with Lane4 - worldrenowned experts in human performance who work with elite level athletes and business leaders - which enables them to unlock their potential.

Behind Every Kick is proud to have been asked to deliver our development programme to Wealdstone FC's Under-16s. The programme challenges the club's young players to; develop strategies for coping with pressure, communicate effectively, understand what motivates them, build confidence through knowing their strengths and perform as part of a team. We explore these themes using practical football-based

games and discussions on high profile incidents occurring in professional football - whether it be how a player reacts to being substituted, or how a manager motivates his team at half time to turn a game around. Each session we deliver ends with the young players being asked to consider how their learning applies to their wider lives beyond football. While they won't all progress to the first team, by engaging with Behind Every Kick,

Wealdstone FC is ensuring the club's young players have skills that will give them a lifetime of opportunities.

Wealdstone FC graduates from last year's Behind Every Kick programme joined young EVERY KICK

players from sports teams in Hackney and Stratford at our graduation ceremony, held at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium. Gunners' legend Charlie George was on hand to show them around.

Beyond the development programme Behind Every Kick has built a team of mentors who can work on a one-to-one basis with the club's young players to guide them as they take their next steps in life. Mentors are recruited specifically for their interest in sport and life experiences. This season Behind Every Kick has launched 'BEK Connect', where we help programme graduates explore potential careers by introducing them to inspirational people and organisations that spark their interest.

We are delighted that Wealdstone FC has selected Behind Every Kick as its official charity partner this season. It positively endorses the work we have done with the club's Under-16 team but also reflects the club's deep commitment to its young players. We were very grateful to Manager



Wealdstone U16 players at last years we are Behind Every Kick Graduation ceremony people. at The Emirates Stadium If you

ry grateful to Manager Dean Brennon, Dennon Lewis and Wealdstone's very own 'Raider' Gordon Hill for helping launch our Christmas Big Give campaign. In no small part thanks to the generosity of Stones fans we raised £26,000 during the Big Give. This money will allow us to continue the inspirational work we are doing with young

If you think you could provide young people

with an opportunity as part of BEK Connect we'd love to hear from you -

email info@behindeverykick.org

- To join our team of supporters by donating to Behind Every Kick please
- visit www.behindeverykick.org

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

# ALAN TREMEER Fan in the Stand

odav's featured Stones supporter is 69-yearold Alan Tremeer - who celebrated his big day a couple of weeks ago on February 17. Happy birthday Alan! Where do you live: Harrow town centre, just up the road from Tesco (or Lower Mead as it used to be known).

What was your first home game, and who introduced vou to the club? It was against Arsenal in the now-defunct London Challenge Cup, in 1964. My dad brought me along but I have no idea why as he never went to football at all. His 'local' team growing up was Torquay United and I never dreamed that one day we'd play them in a league match. Sadly, my dad didn't live long enough to see it. I got the Wealdstone 'bug' and have been watching the Stones ever since: 56 years!

Are you working, and where? I'm a part time caretaker at my local church, but otherwise I'm retired.

Do you follow another team? Yes. Tottenham since 1962. I used to watch them regularly into the 1990s but then the Premier League came along with its over priced tickets and overpaid plavers.

Is it easy to fit football into your work/ family commitments? Work's not a problem and i have no family, just my partner Karen and she's very happy to have an afternoon/evening on her own. She came to a shame once and has never been back since - she couldn't understand why they kept kicking the ball on the air!

What is the main attraction, to you, in

# My Dad's local team was Torquay United.. I never dreamed we'd play them in a league game



watching the Stones? Being able to stand or sit anywhere...changing ends and being up close to the action... far better than sitting in a stand way up high on a Premier League stadium. You are part of the club and your support really counts. You can meet up with friends, and the football's really good sometimes!

Do vou prefer non League over League football? Definitely ... it's how football used to be, before money and greed took over.

What's vour current favourite Stones line

### WEALDSTONE v DORKING WANDERERS 22.02.2020

up? Oxborough, Arnold (shame he was released), Efete, Clifford, Stevens, Okimo, Mendy Mendy, Smith, Lafayette, Jebb, Lewis. And your all-time favourite Stones line up (and which period)? Ray Goddard, Steve Perkins, Stuart Pearce, Paul Bowgett (all 1980s), John Willie Watson, John Henderson, George Duck (all 1970s), Brian Jones (1990s). Alan Massey, Richard Jolly, Tom Pett (all 2000s).

What is the favourite Stones game you've ever seen? Before the win over Bath last month I'd have said the 3-1 win at Northwood in 1997 to win our first trophy for years, closely followed by the 6-0 victories against Braintree and Harrow Borough. But 7-0 v Bath was football perfection!

... and what is the best game vou've EVER seen? The FA Cup final replay in 1981, with Ricky Villa's wonder goal beating Manchester City.

What is your favourite of the three stones kits this season? The blue & amber stripes, a throwback to the 1984-85 double year kit - hopefully it will bring us similar success in 2019-20.

What do you think of the match programme? Excellent value for money as always.

... and the pricing for games at the Vale? I'm very happy with my concession season ticket - it's far cheaper than pro league prices.

Do vou use the megastore. catering or bars? I do buy occasionally from the Megastore and have all the replica kits and cold weather gear. But I don't use the social club or buy food on match days - I'm there to watch a football game.

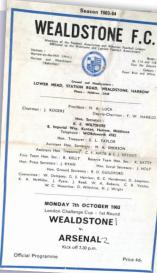
Do you think the club can progress to the Football League? Would you want it to? All things are possible. but not in the foreseeable future. I'm happy to stay in non League.

Alan's first Stones game was the 1-2 home defeat to Arsenal in the London Challenge Cup in October 1963 - in front of a 4.000 crowd. Stones were in the Athenian League in those days, effectively the second level of ama-

teur football

beneath the

Isthmian



League, in a 14-club division that left plenty of free Saturdays and midweeks for a stack of cup competitions.

And the London Challenge Cup came a close second to the Amateur Cup in terms of glory and prestige. All the London pro clubs entered, along with a select few of the top amateur and Stones were delighted to host Brentford in 1961 (lost 3-6) and then Millwall (won 3-0), West Ham (won 4-1) and Arsenal (drew 1-1 and lost Highbury replay 1-3) in 1962. Then came the 2-1 Arsenal defeat that Alan witnessed in 1963.

The Stones were invited to join the Isthmians in the summer of '63, much to the chagrin of Athenian champions Barnet who had wrapped up their third title in six seasons with 5-0 win at Lower Mead on May 1st. They had been runners-up in two of the other years while Wealdstone had not won the title since 1952!

Not that we were complaining... Wimbledon had turned semi-pro to join the Southern League to create the vacancy, and that is exactly what Barnet did two years later when they tired of waiting for the Isthmians' invite.

### WEALDSTONE v DULWICH HAMLET BY PAUL TORPEY



### Paul Torpey casts his eye over the growth in crowd numbers at both Wealdstone and Dulwich since 2004's critical meeting

or anyone supporting Wealdstone pre-Grosvenor Vale, a meeting with Dulwich Hamlet may stir memories of a certain play-off game at Champion Hill in 2004. Despite more recent epic days in the FA Trophy and a league title in 2014, it still gets cited by many as the iconic Stones occasion of the 21st century.

As a play-off it was an unusual proposition. Conventional promotion wasn't on offer, instead the prize was remaining in the third tier of non-league football after a reorganisation created the then Conferences North and South. But the ecstasy that greeted Richard Jolly's winning penalty spoke of a club still scarred by the infamous denied promotion which killed off our late 90s revival.

Hampered by the chronic insecurity of groundsharing, any kind of demotion would have imperiled the survival of the club. Jolls' penalty just about gave Stones the momentum to weather a few more seasons of existential dread. The mid-00s also became a difficult era for Dulwich who endured several seasons of lowly status and crowds to match, which makes their current rude health all the more remarkable. All in all, that match is a useful starting point to track the recent progress of both clubs - clearly

they are very different animals today.

As this chart of average home attendances shows, both Stones and the Hamlet were playing in front of around 300 people in 2004/05 - the first season after the

play-off. Our inaugural campaign in the new Isthmian Premier saw us finish just above the relegation zone while the Champion Hill mob placed 15th in Division One.

The following season was the first of three groundsharing with Northwood. Our crowds actually increased in 2005/06, rising above Dulwich's, which dipped below 300. A postplay-off feelgood factor may have caused the small uptick but the newly arrived AFC Wimbledon's big support was also skewing matters that season.

There was no Wimbledon fig leaf the following year when we transferred to the Southern League. With opposition mainly further afield and less inclined to bring away fans, a gruelling campaign saw our average gate fall to 240.

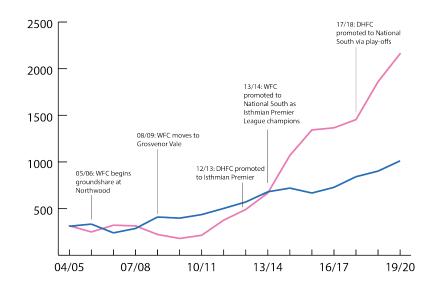
We found ourselves back in the Isthmian Premier for 2007/08 with crowds lifting a little to 287 but it felt like the club was slowly dying at Chestnut Avenue. The move to Grosvenor Vale in 2008/09 was a desperately needed shot in the arm but how many would have seen it as the first step on an unlikely path back towards possible National League football again?

Wealdstone's first season at the Vale saw average home gates increase from 287 to 410. At the time of writing, this remains our biggest rise in the period covered by the chart, although this season looks set to exceed or run that close. So even in that first season we would have attracted the first few curious local Ruislip residents. They saw a decent campaign as well with Stones finishing 7th. There was a small dip in crowds the following year but then our average rose for five consecutive seasons as Gordon Bartlett began to consistently achieve tophalf finishes.

'Jolls' penalty just about gave Stones the momentum to weather a few more seasons of existential dread' Meanwhile, as we settled into the Vale, Dulwich were becalmed. Two consecutive 12th placed finishes in 2008/09 and 2009/10 were witnessed by average home crowds of 223 and 180 respectively. But by

> the turn of the decade something was stirring in South London. Gavin Rose was appointed manager and in 2010-11, with crowds still below 300, they qualified for the play-offs. From then on, although the Hamlet didn't go up that season, their support would only grow.

Crowds were also growing steadily at Grosvenor Vale where, in 2011/12, an epic run to the FA Trophy semi-finals and defeat in the play-offs was followed by another



play-off heartbreak the season. With Dulwich crowned Division One South champions in 2012-13, these two upwardly mobile clubs would face each other in the league for the first time since the 2004 play-off.

Wealdstone's visit to Champion Hill in November 2013 was our first experience of the "new" Dulwich, whose burgeoning support and alternative matchday experience would soon attract attention from the national press. However, in a raucous and goodnatured atmosphere, the Stones took the spoils which were crowned by a piece of mazy Glenn Little magic. That first reunion was to prove brief as Stones romped to the title.

As Stones found their feet in the National South, crowd growth became a little sluggish. The Dulwich tide, on the other hand, showed no signs of going out. Between 2013/14 and 2014/15 they added a remarkable 403 fans to their average attendance, which passed 1,000 for the first time. With their profile and the revenue such crowds can generate, it was only a matter of time before the Hamlet joined Wealdstone in the National South. That was duly achieved in 2018, which brings us to today and the fourth National South encounter between these teams. We are enjoying a wonderful season under Dean Brennan and finally, belatedly, beginning to see our potential as a club realised on and off the pitch. Stones have now themselves passed the 1,000 average, helped by the monster 1,343 gate against Bath which was notable for numerous statistical reasons and the small matter of a 7-0 win!

The number of young families in recent attendance has been notable and it seems steadily building a community presence is now paying off for the Stones. In fact, having captured imaginations both clubs can dare to dream big. With sulky former football league clubs increasingly dominating the National League, two old school London clubs that have found renewal and regrowth in their local communities would be a breath of fresh air at the top table. Needless to say, I hope Wealdstone gets there first! Whichever way you look at it, 2004 seems a long time ago.

# VEALOSTON PC

# MATCH SPONSORS

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

Match tickets for four people (inc. prime main stand seats if required)

• A fantastic advertising package, including publicity over the PA system, website and social media

• Boardroom hospitality includes pre match and half-time refreshments as well as a superb array of culinary delights post match, courtesy of in-house caterer Lynn Evans

- Match-day programmes for all in your party
- VIP car parking
- Name and present the 'Man of the Match' award
- A stunning dedicated glass award



\*Please note that we can accommodate **multiple match sponsors** and can **tailor the experience** to whatever are your requirements. For example, we can cater for as many as **25 people** in your group in our magnificent new **hospitality lounge**. This facility has undergone a comprehensive re-fit with

substantial investment courtesy of our club sponsors GPF Lewis & Ruislip Social Club. Our match sponsors and their guests are all entertained in surroundings befitting such a special occasion be it a birthday, anniversary or any other special event!

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

MATCH		SPON	SORS	MATC		SPONSORS						
	<b>DARTFORD</b> Saturday, 3rd August Vanarama National League South	Support the Stones	- sponsor a match!		<b>ST.ALBANS CITY</b> Saturday, 28th December Vanarama National League South	Tony Platt	Kenneth Arntzen					
	CHIPPENHAM TOWN Tuesday, 13th August Vanarama National League South	Wealdstone FC S	Supporters Club	HALF NOW FILE	<b>SLOUGH TOWN</b> Wednesday, 1st January Vanarama National League South	Recycle DNC Ltd						
	HUNGERFORD TOWN Saturday, 24th August Vanarama National League South	Ray Corner and	l Peter Carter		WELLING UNITED Saturday, 11th January Vanarama National League South	The Simon Ricketts Matchday	Harrow Sales & Marketing					
MUFC Signal Sign	MAIDSTONE UNITED Saturday, 31st August Vanarama National League South	Markie	Barton		BATH CITY Saturday, 25th January Vanarama National League South	Rolfe East						
NRD CITY	<b>OXFORD CITY</b> Saturday, 7th September Vanarama National League South	The G	Guild		BILLERICAY TOWN Saturday, 8th February Vanarama National League South	Glide & Friends	Ashley Jones					
	HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE Saturday, 28th October Vanarama National League South	First Fi	nancial		<b>DORKING WANDERERS</b> Saturday, 22nd February Vanarama National League South	Connect Vending Ltd	Mick Fishman					
	BRISTOL MANOR FARM Tuesday, 8th October FA Cup 3rd Qualifying Round	GPF I	_ewis		CHELMSFORD CITY Tuesday, 25th February Vanarama National League South	Sports and Trophies						
	MAIDENHEAD UNITED Tuesday, 22nd October FA Cup 4rd Dualifying Round	GPF I	.ewis		DULWICH HAMLET Saturday, 7th March Vanarama National League South	In memory of Darren Hooker	People for Print					
	TONBRIDGE ANGELS Saturday, 26th October Vanarama National League South	In memory of John O'Connor	AFC Lightning	$( \mathbf{G} )$	BRAINTREE TOWN Saturday, 21st March Vanarama National League South	Wealdstone FC Ladies	Harrow Windows					
Â	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH Saturday, 9th November Vanarama National League South	Emin Alibe	y & Family	HRBFC	HAMPTON & RICHMOND Saturday, 4th April Vanarama National League South	In memory of Ian Spicer	Turf Doctor					
	ROYSTON TOWN Saturday, 23rd November FA Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round	Bearings Scaf	fold Services		<b>WEYMOUTH</b> Easter Monday, 13th April Vanarama National League South	In memory of Toby Jac Harry Leigh (Lapels B						
٢	CONCORD RANGERS Saturday, 30th November Vanarama National League South	Jim S	orrell		HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN Saturday, 25th April Vanarama National League South	Unavailable						

# **RESULTS & FIXTURES 2019/2020**

### **KEY TO SYMBOLS**

 ▲BC Three-letter Player ID ○ 1st substitution (See list)
 ○ 1st substitution
 ○ Caution
 ● Goals

 ○ 2nd substitution
 ■ Red Card
 ① Penalty

 ● 3rd substitution
 ■ Straight Red
 ● Goal + Pen



AUGUST         Competition         Result         Crowd         Lge         Wind/Sky Temp           3         DARTFORD         NLS         4-1         930         2         5         5         23-c           6         Dulwich Hamlet         NLS         0-1         1484         10         ⊙10         20-c           10         Braintree Town         NLS         4-0         482         6         ⊙24 <sup>2+</sup> / <sub>2</sub> 20-c           13         CHIPPENHAM TOWN         NLS         1-0         837         2         0         7         %         12-c           17         Hemel Hempstead Town         NLS         3-0         732         1         ⊙18         %         20-c           24         HUNGERFORD TOWN         NLS         3-1         771         1         ⊗ 8         29-c	OXB     ARN     EFE     CLI     O     STE     OKI       OXB     ARN     EFE     CLI     Image: Climit of the state of the s	7         8         9         10         11         12         14         15         16         17/GK           PHI         SMI         LAF         GRE         WATO         LEWO         RBR         SHE         MENO         RIN           PHI         SMI         LAF         GRE         WATO         LEWO         RBR         SHE         MENO         RIN           PHI         SMI         LAF         GRE         0         LEWO         ROB         RBR         SHE         MENO         RIN           PHI         SMI         LAF         GRE         LEWO         ROB         RBR         SHE         MENO         9         RIN           PHI         SMI         LAF         GRE         LEWO         ROB         RBR         SHE         MENO         9         RIN           PHI         SMI         LAF         GRE         LEWO         ROB         WAT         SHE         MENO         9         NOR           PHI         SMI         LAF         GRE         LEWO         9         ROB         WAT<         SHE         MENO         9         NOR           PHI         MENO         9         GRE
26         Weymouth         NLS         4-3         1522         1 ⊙ 4 ☆ 24c           31         MAIDSTONE UNITED         NLS         2-1         1066         1 ⊙15 ⊕ 21c           SEPTEMBER         3         St.Albans City         NLS         3-2         805         1 ⊙11 ⊕ 18c           7         OXFORD CITY         NLS         1-0         1102         1 ⊙10 ⊕ 17c           14         Welling United         NLS         2-1         594         1 ⊙ 4 ☆ 22c	OXB     ARN     EFE     CLI     STE     OKI       OXB     ARN     EFE     CLI     Image: Climit of the state of the sta	PHI       MENO       LAF       Image: Constraint of the state of
21         Farnborough         FAC2Q         5-0         404         1         ⊙12.%         24-c           28         HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE         NLS         1-4         1140         1         ⊙15.%         18-c           OCTOBER         FAC3Q         0-0         422         1         ⊙ 9.%         14-c           5         Bristol Manor Farm         FAC3Q         0-0         422         1         ⊙ 9.%         14-c           12         Chelmsford City         NLS         3-1         1263         1         ⊙ 9.%         14-c           19         Maidenhead United         FAC4Q         1-1         1         ⊙ 13-c         12-c         14-c	OXB     ARN     EFE     OLI     STE     OKI       OXB     ARN     EFE     CLI     STE     OKI       OXB     MEN     EFE     CLI     STE     OKI	PHI       SMI       LAF       @ GRE GRE       LEW       MENO       WATO       MCLO       SAU       NOR         PHI       SMIO       LAF       GRE       LEW       MENO       WATO       MCLO       SAU       NOR         PHI       MENO       LAF       GRE       LEW       MIO       WATO       CHA       SAU       NIN         PHI       SMI       LAF       GRE       LEW       GRE       WATO       CHA       SAU       RIN         PHI       WATO       LAF       GRE       LEW       GRE       CHA       SAU       RIN         PHI       WATO       LAF       GRE       LEW       SAU       CHA       COK       RIN         PHI       WATO       LAF       GRE       LEW       SAU       CHAO       COK       RIN         PHI       WATO       LAF       GRE       LEW       SAU       CHAO       COK       RIN         PHI       WATO       LAF       GRE       LEW       SAU       CHAO       COK       RIN
22         MAIDENHEAD UNITED         FAC4QR 0-2         835         1 ☉ 6 ☉ 12-c           26         TONBRIDGE ANGELS         NLS         3-1         866         1 ☉ 16 ☉         15-c           29         CB HOUNSLOW UNITED         MCC1         5-1         TBA         1 ☉ 9 ☉         8-c           NOVEMBER           2         Dorking Wanderers         NLS         2-2         817         1 ☉ 13 ☉         10-c           16         Hampton & Richmond         NLS         0-2         927         1 ☉ 2 ☉         7-c           23         ROYSTON TOWN         FAT3Q         2-3         436         1 ☉ 9 ☉         10-c           30         CONCORD RANGERS         NLS         3-0         832         1 ☉ 11-∞         6-c	OXB     ARN     EFE     CLI     STE     OKI       RIN     EKO     MEN     CLI     COK     SHE       OXB     ARN     EFE     SHE     STE     OKI       NOR     ARN     EFE     CLI     STE     OKI       NOR     ARN     EFE     CLI     STE     OKI       NOR     ARN     EFE     CLI     STE     OKI	PHI       WATO       LAFO       GRE       LEW       SMIO       SAU       CHAO       SHEO       RIN         PHIO       SMI       MENO       GRE       LEW       SHEO       WAT       CHAO       DNWO       RIN         SAUO       CHA       DNWO       WATO       AND       ARN       LOPO       MNDO       DNWO       RIN         WATO       SMI       DNWO       GRE       LEW       SAU       RBRO       CHAO       COKO       EVEO         WATO       SMI       DNWO       GRE       LEW       SAU       RBRO       CHAO       COKO       EVEO         PHI       SMIO       LAFO       GREO       LEW       MENO       DNWO       JEBO       CHAO       COKO       EVE         PHI       MENO       LAFO       GREO       LEW       MENO       DNWO       JEBO       CHAO       CHAO       EVE         PHI       MENO       LAFO       GREO       LEW       DNWO       JEBO       CHAO       CHAO       EVE         PHI       MENO       LAFO       JEBO       LEW       DNWO       JEBO       CHAO       EVE
DECEMBER         NLD         Corr         Corr	IST ARN EDJ ○ CLI O O STE MAT IST EFE EDJ CLI CHA OKI IST ARN EDJ CLI O STE OKI IST EFE OEDJ CLI O STE OKI O	CHAO       SMI       DNW       GRE       SHO       JEB       MENO       LOPO       SAR       ARNO         PHI       MENO       LAF       JEBO       LEWO       DNWO       GRE       SMI       ARNO       SHO         PHI       MENO       LAF       CHAO       LEWO       DNWO       GRE       JEBO       SMI       ARNO       SHO         PHI       MENO       LAF       CHAO       LEWO       DNWO       GRE       JEBO       SMI       SHO         PHI       MENO       LAF       CHAO       LEWO       DNWO       GRE       JEBO       SMI       SHO         PHI       MEN       LAF       CHAO       LEWO       DNWO       GRE       JEBO       SMI       SHO         PHI       MEN       LAF       CHAO       LEWO       DAWO       GRE       JEBO       SMI       SHO         PHI       MEN       COOO       GRE       LEWO       LAF       SHO       CLI       ARN       SMI
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FEBRUARY         NLS         3-0         1356         1         ⊙1426         8-c           8         BILLERICAY TOWN         NLS         3-0         1356         1         ⊙1426         8-c           11         HARROW BOROUGH         MCC 3-3 (5-6)         216         1         ⊙17         4-c           22         DORKING WANDERERS         NLS         3-1         1,131         1         ⊙1226         12-c           25         CHELMSFORD CITY         NLS         0-1         873         1         ⊙15         4-c           29         Dartford         NLS         0-0         1,403         1         ⊗ 8 © 8-c           MARCH         M4	EVE SHE COO CLI O MCC EDJ ( OXB EFE MEN CLI O STE OKI OXB EFE MEN CLI STE OKI	CHAO       SMI       EMMO       GRE       LEW       LAF       @ MCC       PHI       JEB       EVE         PHI       JEB       LAF       CAD       WAT       @ GRE       BRO       EFE       LOP       RIN         PHI       SMI       EMMO       0 GRE       LEW       EAF       SHE       WAT       MCC       CAD         PHI       SMIO       EMMO       0 GRE       LEW       LAF       SHE       WAT       MCC       CAD         PHI       SMIO       EMMO       GRE       LEW       LAF       SHE       WAT       MCC       EVE         PHI       CHAO       EMMO       GRE       LEW       LAF       SHE       WAT       MCC       EVE
7         DULWICH HAMLET         NLS         —         —           14         Chippenham Town         NLS         —         —         —           16         BRENTFORD         'B'         MSCSF         —         —         —           21         BRAINTREE TOWN         NLS         —         —         —	KEY TO PLAYED IDS EVE Lewis Everett	NOR Jonathan North OKI Jerome Okimo
10         Hungerford Town         NLS         —         —         —         —         —         —         —         —         —         …	PLAYER IDS     EVE     Lewis Everett       GRE     Danny Green       AND Enoch Andoh     IST     Harvey Isted       ARN Nick Arnold     JEB     Jack Jebb       CHA Ashley Charles     KRA     Kreshnic Krasniqi       CLI     Billy Clifford     LAF     Ross Lafayette       CAD Kieron Cadogan     LEW Dennon Lewis	OXB Aston Oxborough       PRE-SEASUN FRIENDLY RESULTS 2019 / 2020         PHI Michael Phillips       July 5, away vs. Bracknell Town - W 4-1 (Mendy, Lewis 2, Efete)         July 9, away vs. Hayes & Yeading United - D 2-2 (Green, Lafayette (pen))       July 12, away vs. Reading U23 s - L 0-2         ROB Phil Roberts       July 13, away vs. Hitchin Town - W 3-2 (Lafayette 2, Lopez)
	DNW Dejon Noel-Williams       LOP Eric Lopes         EDJ William Edjenguélé       MAT Daniel Matsuzaka         EFE Michee Efete       MCC Olly McCoy         EKO Enoch Ekoneo       MCL George McLennan         EMM Moses Emmanuel       MEN Jacob Mendy Mendy         MND Douglas Mendes       MAT Daniel Matsuzaka	SAR       Enforts Sartorius         SAU       Matthew Saunders         SHE       Jake Sheppard         SHO       Furnaya Shomotun         SMI       Connor Smith         STE       Connor Stevens         WAT       Sanchez Watt

## **NEIL RANDS**

# **A Marathon Not A Sprint**

t's been much to the surprise of most fellow Stones to hear that I am attempting to run the 2020 London Marathon, to raise money for

### Alzheimer's Research UK.

I have never been a runner. Indeed, those of you familiar with the wonderful Stones #TrainBeerFootball motto will know that I very much enjoy the middle element!

However, I am hoping that I've one last big challenge in the tank. I have been putting heart and soul into my training. It's hurting (especially trying to move my old and decrepit body around during all the recent storms!) but, with your help, we can make it worth it.

Every single pound raised will fund worldclass research into the UK's biggest killer and work towards a world free from its cruel heartbreak.

### My sponsorship page is at https://marathon.rands.co.uk

We will also be holding a bucket collection today and hope that you will give generously

and make all this craziness (and occasional abstinence) worth it.

Thank you for any support you can give to such a worthy cause.

### Charity Race Night

To launch the fund-raising in earnest, we are holding a Race Night at Ruislip Social Club on Saturday 21st March 2020, after the game against Braintree Town. The evening will be a chance to enjoy some light-hearted fun and banter with fellow Stones - hopefully with a few current and past legends present.

Tickets are just £5 and available from the RSC bar. Whether you can be there or not, why not own (and name!) a horse for only £5? If it wins, you win a prize!

You could even sponsor one of the eight races ( $\pounds$ 25) or take out an advert in the race card ( $\pounds$ 15)? All money raised goes straight to Alzheimer's Research UK.

Tickets and ownership/sponsorship are all available online at

### https://racenight.rands.co.uk

Neil

In aid of

Alzheimer's

Make breakthroughs possible

Research UK

RÂCE NIGHT

# SATURDAY 21st MARCH 2020

### **RUISLIP SOCIAL CLUB**

### DOORS 6PM | FIRST RACE 7PM

🐑 OWN A HORSE FOR £5

**PRIZE FOR WINNING OWNERS** 

BUFFET FOOD INCLUDED

### TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE BAR 07930 337865 or RACENIGHT.RANDS.CO.UK

TICKET

£5

# *The World of Ball* No drummer – but plenty of football's soul here at The Vale

So there we were last Saturday, almost simultaneously struck by shards of ice and retina-piercing sunshine, desperately willing the ball into Dartford's net (chin up, Dennon).

During a short lull in second half proceedings, I suggested to your illustrious programme editor that the Darts' Prince's Park is a decent ground.

"Yeah," he replied - "bit soulless though, isn't it?"

Which got me wondering. Because undoubtedly, Dartford's Princes Park is a rare non-league triumph. An unusually interventionist council prepared to help put the project together; a capacity of 4,000 plus to help make the cost of changes for Football League status relatively manageable: elevated positions and thus decent sight lines all round; sensible and flexible segregation gates ready for deployment where necessary; a variety of entry / exit points; and a pitch capable of surviving the weather where plenty of nearby grounds couldn't.

For a splash of character they also have that unusual Wooden Fan sculpture on the side. I'm sure we've all looked at that and wondered what something similar carved as The Raider might look like. ("Yew want some?" - no? Oh please yourselves.)



Dartford's perfectly decent Princes Park

Princes Park is compact, contained and retains the sound. What's not to love?

### A Vale through my heart

Perhaps, though, that's where any soullessness begins. The incessant beating of a drum is a pretty poor substitute for actual atmosphere, and maybe a ground that helps to amplify a drum subtracts from its soul with every bastard beat.

Sure, it's undoubtedly a nice ground - but it's all very uniform, too. There are other nonleague new builds that have the same flaw. Lovely and clean. Maybe too clean. Entering and exiting the ground feels more like a transaction. You arrive, you watch, you leave.

Let's compare that to Grosvenor Vale, shall we? You come to The Vale and it's like you're arriving back home or calling in at the local pub. No standard fare symmetry of sight lines here; Of necessity the Vale is a hotch-potch. No two corners the same. You visit Prince's Park, but you negotiate Grosvenor Vale.

The badge stand, the Brian Collins, the Bulla; take your pick which path in the maze you follow on arrival. Or perhaps you thread your way around the winding narrow lane that takes you past the 1966 (Elmslie!) stand and then up the stairs to visit a shipping container. (There is no better contrast between the Wealdstone and Dartford club shops; ours the oddball independent, theirs the Bond Street boutique.)

Most new grounds have better sight lines, but I would suggest that there's more soul to a ground in which you need to fight for your right to watch the action. The youth are fond of the term "limbs!" To describe the throes of a goal celebration. For us the task is to bob about for a decent decent view between everyone else's shoulders. Not so much "limbs!" as "necks!"

Then there's our club house. Is there any more welcoming sight? Toilet capacity aside, it really is, as much as anything else, one of

### BY MARTIN READ 🔝

#### FACTS, STATS, IDLE CHIT-CHATS ALSO OCCASIONALLY ACTIVE ONLINE AT: **WEALDIPEDIA**



the liveliest pubs in north west London. The low ceiling helps in sustaining its character.

So fine, there's much about our ground to annoy you if you let it, but you cannot say it's without soul. But let me tell you what a ground with soul very much is not: It's not paying £45 for a Premier League ticket to sit in the same seat for ninety minutes and have your view obscured by a seated steward while the flickering light of a sponsor's board, positioned just four feet away for the specific purpose, beams promotional twaddle into your face and thus takes your attention away from the very game you've paid to watch.

It <u>is</u> about a ground that allows you to follow the ebb and flow of your club's fortunes in your own unique way; it \*is\* about a ground that affords you the liberty to choose your



own (admittedly average) viewing position.

So, in hindsight, I can see your editor's point. But it takes two parties to tango, and that other oh-so-critical factor is, well, you. That's right, you, standing somewhere amongst the nooks and crannies that characterise the Vale, perhaps reading your programme at half time. A ground with football soul needs an audience with football soul if it's to truly work, otherwise I'd be celebrating the likes of Earlsmead, which of course would be complete and utter madness.

You're as much a part of football's true character as the ground around you. I know you got soul; if you didn't you wouldn't be in here.

(Finally, a quick word for the Dulwich Hamlet fans who have today walked the nineteen miles from Champion Hill to Grosvenor Vale in order to raise awareness of men's mental health and male suicide. A tremendous cause and a great effort, well done to all concerned and good luck for the rest of the season. That's 'rest of the season', mind - don't you go getting any ideas about today's game, will you?)

### **WEALDSTONE v DULWICH HAMLET**

# **DULWICH HAMLET**

Opposition in focus

Use the second s

Despite being locked out of their Champion Hill home at the beginning of last March in a well-publicised bitter dispute between their landlords and the local council, the Club remained strong and on the field the team maintained their focus and push for promotion under long-serving manager Gavin Rose. They were rewarded two months later when Hendon were defeated in a dramatic penalty shoot-out before a 3,321 crowd at their temporary headquarters at Tooting in the Bostik (Isthmian) League Premier Division play-off final to secure promotion.

Dulwich had worked extremely hard for their promotion after an incredible 111 seasons as members of the Isthmian League. Four playoff final defeats in seven seasons, including each of the previous two campaigns, had stiffened the Hamlet's resolve and backed by crowds of around the 1,400 mark, few would begrudge them their chance to have a crack at Step 2 football.

The Dulwich Hamlet story began way back in 1893, during the closing years of Queen Victoria's long reign. Towards the end of the summer that year, Lorraine Wilson was handed the princely sum of one shilling and eight pence (less than 10p in today's coinage) by a couple of keen young footballers and asked to start a Dulwich Hamlet Football Club. 'Pa', as Mr Wilson was affectionately known, tackled the task with great relish and over the next thirty years he helped to build Dulwich Hamlet into a powerful force in the world of amateur football.

Life in the early days was fairly tough. The

WEALDSTONE'S RECORD v DULWICH HAMLET

P 36 W 17 D 6 L 13 F 70 A 56

club's original ground in Woodwarde Road had no changing facilities. On match days the players used to walk half a mile through the streets of Dulwich Village to get from their dressing room to the pitch. Usually they had to carry the goalposts, crossbars and corner flags with them. One consolation was that the players' route took them through the gardens of the local inn where no doubt they paused on their return journey for a post-match drink or two!

Dulwich made their debut in competitive soccer when they joined the local Camberwell League in 1894/95. The following season the championship of that league's 'B' Division became the first entry on what has proved to be a long list of honours. Achieving senior status in 1900, the club proceeded from strength to strength and in 1904/05 they won the Surrey Senior Cup for the first time. They have now won the Surrey Cup a record 16 times, most recently in 1974/75. In 1907 Dulwich gained election to the Isthmian League.

During the First World War, the legendary Edgar Kail joined Dulwich. In his brilliant fourteen-vear career with the Hamlet after that war, Kail scored 427 goals (including a club record of 53 goals in the 1925/26 season). He also played three times for the FULL England International side, scoring twice on his debut against France. Kail helped Dulwich to the Isthmian League championship in 1919/20, 1925/26 and 1932/33, two FA Amateur Cup triumphs in 1919/20 and 1931/32, and the London Senior Cup in 1924/25. Another Hamlet legend of that era was goalkeeper Bert Coleman who gained a FULL England cap in 1921, keeping a clean sheet against Wales. Dulwich's other major successes during their heyday between the wars were two more FA Amateur Cup wins in 1933/34 and 1936/37,

and another London Senior Cup victory in 1938/39; they were also runners-up in the Isthmian League five times. Incidentally, their 7-1 win over Marine (Liverpool) in 1931/32 equalled the record score for an FA Amateur Cup Final.

Dulwich were quickly into their stride after the Second World War and in 1948/49 they were Isthmian League champions for a fourth time. In 1949/50 they lifted the London Senior Cup again, and it was in the same season that full-back Reg Merritt embarked upon a long career with the Hamlet during which he made a club record 576 appearances. One of the most popular players of the immediate postwar period was flying left-winger Tommy Jover whose career goals tally for Dulwich has only been bettered by Edgar Kail. Tommy completed more than seventy years magnificent service to the club, as player, official and latterly club President from 1985 until his death at the grand age of 91 in 2008. The club's main stand is now named in his honour.

Dulwich were runners-up to Wimbledon in the Isthmian League in 1958/59, but then went through a very lean spell which, apart from three good seasons in the mid 1970s, culminated in relegation from the top division. However, they bounced straight back under manager Alan Smith (who later managed Crystal Palace), winning the Division One championship at the first attempt in 1977/78. Midfield dynamo Chris Lewington was an ever-present that season and he repeated the feat in each of the next four seasons to complete a remarkable 290 consecutive appearances – another club record.

Since the phasing out of amateur football and the end of the FA Amateur Cup in 1974, Dulwich have been a semi-professional club and competed in the FA Trophy. Twice they have reached the quarter-finals, losing to Boston United in a replay in 1979/80, then to Macclesfield Town, again in a replay, the season before last.

It was most appropriate that Dulwich were able to celebrate their centenary in 1993 by moving into a new Champion Hill Stadium. Their famous old ground, which was situated on the same site, opened in 1931 and for a long time was the mecca of amateur football. Numerous Amateur Internationals and other important matches were staged there, including the FA Amateur Cup Final between Kingstonian and Stockton in 1932/33 which attracted a record crowd of 20,744. Sadly, the old ground fell into disrepair over the years and in order to satisfy safety regulations several alterations had to be made which reduced the capacity considerably. Eventually, in 1991, the stadium was totally demolished as part of Sainsbury's redevelopment of the area.

After the heartbreak of defeat in successive play-off finals, Gavin Rose and his squad had another crack at promotion in 2012/13 and this time they displayed real mental strength, pipping a well-supported and talented Maidstone United outfit to the Division One South title. In an exciting finale to the season, Dulwich drew 1-1 with Burgess Hill Town to finish top of the table, one point clear of rivals Maidstone. The team also reached the League Cup Final, but for the second time in three years fell at the final hurdle, losing 2-3 in extra-time to Concord Rangers.



### HAMLET FACTS

GROUND - Champion Hill CAPACITY - 3,000 (500 seated) MANAGER - Gavin Rose 2018/19 - National League South 14th PREVIOUSLY IN THE LEAGUE A 06/08/19 L 0-1 H 20/04/19 L 1-2

# **DULWICH HAMLET**

### LIONEL AINSWORTH - MIDFILED

33-year-old winger who joined Dulwich in November from Weymouth. Capped by England at U17 and U18 level, he began his career with Derby County and has played for several clubs in the Football League including AFC Bournemouth. Watford, Huddersfield Town, Shrewsbury Town and Plymouth Argyle. He also spent a few seasons playing for Motherwell in the Scottish League.

### **AARON BARNES - DEFENCE**

23-vear-old right-back who is another of this season's newcomers to Champion Hill. Began his career with Arsenal's academy and later spent four years with Charlton Athletic where he made his professional debut against Swindon Town in April 2017. He then had a spell with Colchester United.

### JOE BEDFORD - MIDFIELD

22-year-old midfielder who is currently on a month's loan from Dover Athletic and made his Dulwich debut in the recent victory over Chelmsford City. He was previously with Southend United where he graduated from their academy to become a regular in their under 23 side.

### **BEN CHAPMAN - DEFENCE**

Skilful defender or midfielder who was signed during the close season after being released by Gillingham. Aged 21, he played three First Team games for the Gills last term in the Football League Trophy.

### NYREN CLUNIS - MIDFIELD

28-year-old winger with a fine turn of pace, he is currently the Club's longest serving player with over 480 First Team appearances and more than 110 goals to his name. He is only the seventh Hamlet player to reach a century of goals since the last war. A graduate of the Hamlet's successful youth set-up, Dulwich is his only senior club. He made his First Team debut back in November 2009 and has twice finished the season as leading marksman - in 2010/11 and 2017/18. Two seasons ago, he cleaned up the Club's Player of the Year awards, winning each of the supporters', players' and manager's awards.

### JACK CONNORS - DEFENCE

Left-sided defender, aged 25, who joined during the summer from Dover Athletic. A Republic of Ireland Under 21 international. he previously had spells with Dagenham

& Redbridge, Hendon, Boreham Wood and Ebbsfleet United and also played for Hampton & Richmond Brough on loan last season.

### **JESSE DEBRAH - DEFENCE**

19-year-old central defender who joined at the turn of the year on loan from Millwall where he has impressed for their Under 23 side. He has previously had loan spells with Billericay Town and Eastbourne Borough.

### **PRESTON EDWARDS** -**GOALKEEPER**

Aged 30, who signed permanently during the summer of 2016 after spending the latter part of the previous season at Champion Hill on Ioan from Ebbsfleet United. An England C international, his other previous clubs include Millwall. Dover Athletic and Grays Athletic. He set a new Club record in 2016/17 with 66 First Team appearances - the most ever by a Hamlet player in a single season - and has now made over 175 appearances in total.

### **CHARLIE GRAINGER - GOALKEEPER**

23-year-old who was another of Gavin Rose's summer signings. An England Under 18 international, he graduated through the vouth ranks at Levton Orient to become a full-time professional and made his League debut in September 2015. Has had loan spells at Histon and Farnborough.

### **DAVID IJAHA -MIDFIELD**

Strong central midfielder, aged 30, who was another of Hamlet's summer signings. Having served an apprenticeship at Chelsea, he moved on to Wolverhampton Wanderers to finish his youth development. He then had spells at Harrow Borough, St. Albans City, Tonbridge Angels and Hayes & Yeading United before flourishing at Whitehawk which earned him a move to Plymouth Argyle. On leaving Plymouth, he had spells with Wealdstone and Whitehawk before spending last season at Welling United.

### **DYLAN KEARNEY - FORWARD**

Hard working 22-year-old striker who joined Dulwich at the beginning of December from Sutton United and recently scored in four successive games. He netted 24 goals in 28 appearances for Harrow Borough last season to earn a move to National League Sutton and has also spent two months with the Middlesex outfit on loan this term. Prior to joining Harrow, he had spells with Haves

# WHO'S WHO?

& Yeading United, WEALDSTONE and Uxbridge, the latter on loan.

### MARVIN MCCOY - DEFENCE

31-year-old defender who signed in September after a spell with Aldershot Town last season. He began his career in Watford's academy and went on to make over 100 appearances during a four-year stay with Wycombe Wanderers in League Two. He has also played for WEALDSTONE. York City and Ebbsfleet United and has won eight international caps for Antiqua & Barbuda.

### **DANNY MILLS - FORWARD**

28-year-old striker who made his name at Whitehawk, scoring over 100 goals for the Brighton-based club and twice helping them to the play-offs. He started his career at Crawley Town, before a spell at Peterborough United and in recent seasons has been with Ebbsfleet United and Welling United. Joined Dulwich during the summer and has become a key player for the Club with 20 goals already this term, including a hat-trick in the recent 5-3 win over Chelmsford City.

### JEFFREY MONAKANA - FORWARD

26-year-old wide midfield player who signed during the summer from Wealdstone. He was a voungster at Arsenal before joining Preston North End as an 18-year-old, jumping straight into their First Team. He made 49 appearances for the League One club before joining Brighton & Hove Albion in the Championship. He didn't play any First Team football for the Seagulls and was loaned out before a spell in Romania. Since then he has had stints with Sutton United, Welling United and WEALDSTONE.

### **KIERAN MONLOUIS - MIDFIELD**

23-year-old midfielder signed from Hemel Hempstead Town during the summer. A former Crystal Palace youth, he also had spells as a youngster with Stoke City and Charlton Athletic and has since played for St. Albans City and Hamilton Academicals as well as Hemel Hempstead. Has recently returned to Champion Hill after a loan period with Margate.

### SHAMIR MULLINGS - FORWARD

26-year-old forward who is currently on loan from Aldershot Town, for whom he made 23 appearances earlier this season. Began his career as a youth with Southend United and

has since had spells with Bromley, Havant & Waterlooville, Chelmsford City, Forest Green Rovers and Maidstone United.

### **RICHARD ORLU - DEFENCE**

Experienced central defender, aged 31. who signed during the close season after spells with Welling United and Hampton & Richmond Borough last season. Formerly skippered Dover Athletic during a four-year stay and helped them gain promotion to the National League. His other previous clubs include Canvey Island, Farnborough and Staines Town.

### **CHRISTIAN SMITH - MIDFIELD /** DEFENCE

32-year-old defender or midfield player who signed during the summer from WEALDSTONE. He has played for several other clubs during his career, the highlights of which have been winning the Northern Premier League with Chester and the National League South title whilst at Maidenhead United.

### NATHAN SMITH - DEFENCE

Aged 33, who signed for Dulwich in November. Gained plenty of Football League experience with both Yeovil Town and Chesterfield and he has two Full International Caps for Jamaica to his name. Had a spell with Dagenham & Redbridge last season.

### **QUADE TAYLOR - DEFENCE**

26-year-old who returned to the Club in September 2016 from Braintree Town. He previously made 12 First Team appearances for Dulwich in season 2010/11 after coming through the youth set-up, before being snapped up by Crystal Palace. He spent two vears at Selhurst Park, followed by another two years with Bolton Wanderers, for whom he played one First Team League match against Birmingham City at the end of the 2014/15 season. Has now made over 140 appearances for Dulwich.

### DOMINIC VOSE - MIDFIELD

Attacking midfielder, aged 26, who joined Dulwich in August 2018 and made 45 appearances last season. Began his career as a youngster with Fulham and West Ham United. Since then he has played in the Football League for Barnet, Colchester United, Scunthorpe United and Grimsby Town and in non-league for a number of clubs including Welling United, Whitehawk, Bromley and Chester.

**OPPOSITION IN FOCUS** 

### WE'VE MET BEFORE TIM PARKS

# [-/

# When it comes to Stones v Dulwich, what could compare to the 14-goal Cup match 90 years ago?

### SOLLY'S GREAT DAY AT WEALDSTONE Hamlet 'keeper Carries his Side through Thrilling Replay

By "THE SPOTTER." Dulwich Hamlet .. .. 2 .. 1 Wealdstone ...

When Dulwich Hamlet and Wealdstone met in the 4th Qualifying Round of the F.A. Cup at Champion Hill on Saturday, they shared equally no fewer than 14 goals. With the memory of that extraordinary score on my mind one turned up for the replay at Lower Mead, Wealdstone, yesterday prepared for fireworks. We got them.

The Hamlet won this spirited tussle by 2 goals to 1, but in my opinion they were fortunate to do so. They crossed over a goal up, scored by F. Minstull from long range after 30 minutes. They deserved this success for they were the better team up to the interval.

But it was a different story throughout the second half. Wealdstone sailed into battle with such determination that Dulwich were almost

constantly on the defence. Justice was done when, after 20 minutes, E. H. Hannam equalised. A fine run by L. Hoskins ended in A. Solly landing himself at the Wealdstone centre-forward's feet. Solly stopped Hoskins, but the ball

rolled away to Hannam, who netted. Then it was a duel between the Wealdstone attack and the Hamlet defence, with a personal argument between Solly and Hoskins as the

Solly rushed out many times to meet the Wealdstone man's rushes. He managed to grab the ball each time and, in addition, made numerous splendid saves from other Wealdstone forwards. Solly saved the game for the Hamlet.

Despite Wealdstone's continued pressure, however, it was Dulwich who claimed the winning goal, G. T. Copas secured the ball during a goalmouth scrimmage and had an easy task to drive it past R. V. Dunn, wealdstone fought on to the end, but Solly, S. Knight, and W. Edgar kept them out. Wealdstone were awarded a penalty kick in the first half, but Hannam drove the ball straight at Solly, who cleared. If that kick had been successful Wealdstone and not Dulwich Hamlet might have had the pleasure of entertaining Plymouth Argyle in the

So much for "The Spotter's" report of a classic match. fifth round

ame the greatest Wealdstone v Dulwich match? Well, it has to be the 4-1 win at Champion Hill five vears ago when Glenn Little scored two wonder goals. Hasn't it?

Well, to be honest - and you'd have to be almost 100 years old to have actually been there - undeniably the most memorable clash between our proud old clubs was on Saturday November 16 1930 in the FA Cup final gualifying round.

Yep, even I don't stretch that far back so we'll have to rely on the Harrow Observer for details on a pulsating 7-7 draw. Yes. 14 goals and the promise of a replay at Lower Mead three days later

There is no definitive record of the attendance at the first game but Dulwich regularly drew 10,000 crowds for big games at their old Champion Hill ground - which stood just 50 yards from the site of the club's current stadium.

The old ground, with a large 1.200seater stand along the one covered side and endless banks of open wood and cinder terracing around the remainder, recorded crowds of over 20,000 for England Amateur Internationals back in the day.

Lower Mead - formerly farmland and purchased by Wealdstone in

WEALDSTONE v DULWICH HAMLE 17.03.2020



Dropping shoulders and chipping in from the fringes of the green... Glenn Little salutes his champion goal at Champion Hill six years ago. Top left: Lower Mead in 1930 and below left. the Daily Express report on the replay which attracted huge interest after the goal glut

1922 - was slowly improved through the 1920s and by the time this dame came around there was a large main stand (bought from Summerstown FC in south London and transported up to Harrow) plus the newly-opened Elmslie Stand, stretching the width of the top end of the ground, which could hold 1,200 on its wooden steps. The High Mead side was freshly terraced with wooden sleepers and cinders and with more steps planned behind the Station Road end goal (there was no cinema in those days, just a large rambling Victorian House and outbuildings owned by a vet) there were boasts that the ground could hold 15,000 people.

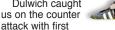
Try getting a safety certificate for 15.000 nowadays!

Anyway, I digress. Back to the FA Cup! The Hamlet were hot favourites to win this 4th gualifying round tie. They were front

runners in the Isthmian League (regarded as the strongest amateur league in the south of England and on a par with the big clubs in the Northern League) and had won the FA Amateur Cup three times in the 1920s and 30s.

The Stones, by comparison, were a decent side in the second-ranked Athenian League. And they did brilliantly to take the game to a

replay - especially after trailing 3-0 in the first half! Dulwich caught



Copas drilling in a low shot, and then the unlucky Stones defender Davies deflected another shot in for 2-0. When another Stone, Turner, miskicked into his own net for 3-0. trying to clear Murray's effort it seemed we were out of the Cup.

But the comedy of errors wasn't over. After Stones' Hoskins shot into the corner of the Dulwich net for 3-1, home full-back Hugo completed a trio of own goals by slamming an intended clearance past Hamlet keeper Cooper.

So 3-2 at half time. Copas scored again for Dulwich but Mr Hugo came to Stones assistance one again by comically slicing another clearance into his own net!

You can imagine the hoots of derision from the away fans (nothing changes) and they went up a notch when Hannam equalised at 4-4 from the penalty spot when Hoskins was fouled when clean through on goal.

CONTINUED OVER PAGE ...

### WEALDSTONE v DULWICH HAMLET 07.03.2020

## WE'VE MET BEFORE....

But then - disaster. With no substitutes allowed in those far-off days, Stones lost Hoskins and Davies for a while through injury and Hamlet took advantage of their nineman opponents to go 6-4 ahead. Lee hit both goals.

But Stones came back bravely, despite the hobbling pair, and the aptlynamed half back Champion pulled a goal back from close range after right-winger

Maskell's brilliant cross. Yet again, though,

Dulwich seemed to be home and dry at 7-5 as Lee completed his hat trick with a devastating run and shot. This was the Wealdstone line-up for that 1929-30 season - wearing the navy shirts that were the club's change strip that season. The first choice was white and black hoops

Who would have guessed at another twist though? In the gathering dusk in those prefloodlight days, Maskell produced another marvellous cross and Champion headed 'a beautiful goal' according to Press reports.

It seemed that time would deny the Middlesex visitors a deserved draw... but as the packed, fascinated crowd watched agog, left winger Hoster set up Hannam for a cut-back that no.9 Hoskins jubilantly swept into the net. 7-7!

Wealdstone: Dunn, Groves, Davies, Turner, Smith, Short, Maskell, Hannam, Hoskins, Champion, Hoster.

Alas, as the attached cutting shows (previous page), the Stones were edged out in the eagerly-awaited replay four days later (presumably an afternoon kick off). Both teams were missing key players for the first game, Stones being without centre forward Clarke although Hoskins had done well as his deputy - while Hamlet'a legendary international striker Edgar Kail was unavailable, along with first choice goalkeeper A.Solly.

Solly proved to be the pivotal player in the replay. The keeper had a magnificent game in front of the record Lower Mead crowd (at that point) of 10,200. He was equal to almost everything we could throw at him and he even stopped a penalty from Hannam in the first half.

And so it was that Dulwich went on to face Third Division (South) leaders Plymouth Argyle at Champion Hill in the First Round Proper... but the amateurs were no match for the Devon side as they slipped to a 3-0 defeat.

...and when it comes to most influential figures, Mishi Morath should now be right up alongside the mercurial Edgar Kai folklore

As a club we've had a pretty sad 2019-20 season with high-profile fans Markie Barton and Phil Tricker both passing away. Today's visitors also suffered the sad loss of arguably their No.1 fan, Mishi Morath, who successfully fought to return his club to Champion Hill - but lost his own battle with cancer earlier this season.

His passion for Dulwich Hamlet was never better illustrated by the piece he wrote for this programme when his club were re-united with the Stones in the Ryman Premier League in 2013. It coincided with Hamlet's emergence as genuine big-hitters in non-League football - thanks largely to the pink & blues tapping into local culture and the South London zeitgeist - and Mishi happily explained the phenomenon of Dulwich Hamlet. Along with the heartbreak of losing that 2004 play-off to the Stones...

and on heart....can you tell me the last time you cried at a football match? Not just annoyed, a bit of welling up, gutted type of thing. But a genuine, almost-breaking- down flood of tears, bawling your eyes out, with nothing you can do to stop yourself?

I suspect there are a number of Wealdstone fans who were shedding tears of joy at the same moment ten years ago... I was in total despair, the lowest moment of my entire Dulwich Hamlet-supporting life.

And I say that as a fan man and boy who has been following the Club for 40 years now. Yes, it was THAT one off 'winner takes all' play-off match back in 2004, when The Hamlet were a goal to the good with only eleven minutes left on the clock and a return to the 'promised land' of the Isthmian League Premier Division beckoned.

Then a needless free kick was conceded by Lee 'donkey' Doherty, inexplicably having a brainstorm, thinking he could play the ball out, instead of hoofing it over the perimeter walls, as had been his trademark all season.

From the free kick came the equaliser, and then the heartbreak of a penalty shoot-out, when we hit the crossbar in sudden death that would have got us promoted instead of The Stones.

> To make matters worse, long after the final whistle, as I was leaving the around, someone said to me that he could hardly hear our support during the game, despite the fact we had tried to sing our hearts out. Fair play to Wealdstone. Your fans have a 'bit of a reputation'. I am sure some partly justified, some not. But that night you were superb. Yes, I realise it was YOU who got

promoted & not us, but while you all went mental and cracked open the champagne there was time for our fans to be consoled and commiserated, not gloated over. And not all clubs would be able to say that about their fans.

Whilst it was hard to take at the time... sometimes things happen for a reason. Wealdstone have managed not just to hold their place in the Ryman Premier since then, but challenge for promotion in recent years, and look like favourites to clinch the title this season.

here would we have been if we had won that play-off a decade ago, as the form book intimated we should have done? Well who can say, we can only speculate... But I would suggest we wouldn't have stayed up as the Stones have. The style of play we had at the time was more functional than exciting, if we are brutally honest, and the vast majority of Hamlet fans from a decade ago didn't go to matches for the love of the game, the excitement, or the atmosphere, Truth be told I was in my late thirties back then...and one of the younger fans. We attended games just because that's what we did. There was no real anticipation or buzz to the next fixture

Fast forward to the present, managers have come and gone...and them along came Gavin Rose. A new manager on the block, having served a 'part-apprenticeship' as Youth Team boss at Champion Hill, before moving into senior football at Beckenham Town, followed by a shorter spell at Fisher Athletic. He ran his own footballing academy for youngsters, and started to bring them through The Hamlet First Team, playing an exciting, entertaining, play on the floor type of football that slowly but surely saw crowds rising.

The turning point for me, as a supporter, was the 2011/12 season, which finished in two defeats that set the scene for our support that we have today.

We reached the Isthmian League CupFinal, going down by two goals to nil at Imber Court

# WE'VE MET BEFORE....

### to Wingate & Finchley....yes we lost but the real joy that night was the unexpected turn out from our fans. Before Gavin arrived on the scene our away following was down to the hardy few, sometimes as low as 40 or so at local-ish and easy-to-get-to away games at the likes of Whyteleafe, and struggling to make double figures in numbers at some midweek away clashes. Then, out of nowhere, it seemed like 'everyone' was at the final, with over two hundred Hamlet fans singing loud and proud that night! The end of the season

finished with a devastating play-off final defeat at Leatherhead, losing 4-3 after extra time, having been two up, with less than ten minutes left on the clock in normal time. This was what the expression 'broken hearts' was invented for, but in defeat this was far more uplifting than the defeat against Wealdstone eight years previous.

Long term fans stood with the newcomers, who had discovered their local football club. not from our old working class heartlands of the council estates, but the up and coming middle class ranks of a changing East Dulwich. Together we united as one, well over



Stones v Dulwich, 2013: A 2-2 draw at The Vale. Above: The acclaim Scott McGelish's goal while(above right) the Hamlet

300 of us singing until well after the final whistle. I know I had to to stop the tears pouring out once more. The beauty of these two games was that the newer fans who had no really previously travelled away started to support the Hamlet on the road too, and slowly but surely our fan base grew home and away to the numbers that they are today.

o how has this happened? In truth there is no one definitive answer, though guite Clearly the wonderful football that Gavin gets his boys to play is the major factor. But as to where the credit goes for the rest. there really is no one attributable reason.

In the 'early days' the Dulwich Hamlet



### Stones fans (whatever happened to those flags) 'Rabble' add a bit of flare colour to the occasion

Supporters Trust paid for an advert in a local very much aimed at the house owning middle class folk free magazine called SE22, which drops through local letterboxes.

Some fans are disillusioned former fans of professional sides, either local ones, or exiled from their home towns, who simply want no truck with the modern game. One such fan posts photo-reports on the www.brixtonbuzz. **com** community website, and that highlights our eclectic fanbase, where young stand with old, ordinary with eccentric, middle class with working class...you get the picture. And if you don't just check out the blog!

Where else can vou get an 'old skool

working class dinosaur' of a fan like me, part of the 'original' Rabble behind the goal; embracing nouveau 'beardie weirdies' and assorted Hamlet fans... including one who brings an array of colour with him to games, including his famed Pink and Blue Voodoo Stick? The songs are a mix of traditional terrace and completely off-the-wall modern.

There's schoolkids alongside men old enough to be their grandfather, and women who

are old enough to be their mother! But we are all as one...just singing out hearts out, proud to

follow Dulwich Hamlet away!

And you know what, I can't quite put my finger on it, but I don't care. The most important thing for me is that I am loving every minute of it...and I feel like pinching myself to see if it's all a weird dream or not. It's not...it is REAL and I am living the dream!

And if the 'price' to be paid for that is to be labelled 'hipsters' and 'students' then so be it. For fans like me realise we are so much more than that.

Edgar Kail in my heart, keep me Dulwich... Mishi Morath. RIP



# A bit more nostalgia? Oh go on then...

Back in the 1970s there was a popular 'Face in the Crowd' feature in the Harry Observer. If you're the one ringed in the photograph you win a lucrative prize... well, a fiver was quite a lot of money 45 years ago. On the left is the mystery man ringed in the Wealdstone v Margate crowd in September 1974. I suppose the prize made up for our 3-0 defeat. Right: George Keep, 81, was featured in the Evening Standard, looking forward to our FA Cup tie at Aldershot in Nov '75. We were pipped 4-3.

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WEALDSTONE v DULWICH HAMLET 07.03.2020



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# **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	a	MATCH
Support the Stones - sponsor the match ball	<b>DARTFORD</b> Saturday, 3rd August Vanarama National League South	
Support the Stones – sponsor the match ball	CHIPPENHAM TOWN Tuesday, 13th August Vanarama National League South	
Mike & Val Weston	HUNGERFORD TOWN Saturday, 24th August Vanarama National League South	Ø
Thordor Training	MAIDSTONE UNITED Saturday, 31st August Vanarama National League South	MUFC Series
Dotty Tabby Cat	<b>OXFORD CITY</b> Saturday, 7th September Vanarama National League South	CORD CHANGE
Half-Way Line Tea Bar	HAVANT & WATERLOOVILLE Saturday, 28th September Vanarama National League South	
Alan Hill & Roger Slater	<b>BRISTOL MANOR FARM</b> Tuesday, 8th October FA Cup 3rd Qualifying Round Replay	
Alan Hill & Roger Slater	MAIDENHEAD UNITED Tuesday, 22nd October FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round Replay	
Gordon McKay	TONBRIDGE ANGELS Saturday, 26th October Vanarama National League South	
Ray Corner & Peter Carter	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH Saturday, 9th November Vanarama National League South	Â
Thordor Training	ROYSTON TOWN Saturday, 23rd November FA Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round	

Our magnificently refurbished hospitality lounge, courtesy of GPF Lewis & Ruislip Social Club, is looking foward to welcoming you and your guests in surroundings befitting such a special occasion be it a birthday, anniversary or any other special event!

SPON	
SPUN	JUNJ
Pete & Pau	line Worby
Russel	Grant
In memory	of Bob Hall
Thordor	Training
In memory of Roy Couch	Nick Woolford
OSM	D UK
Alan Couch	Blah Blah Catering
Mike and V	/al Weston
In memory of Jim Klarfeld	Ray Corner
Mike & Va	al Weston
Graham Clark	David Mullins & Chris Maynard
Middlesex Cricket Players' Pool	Thordor Training
In Memory of Markie Barton	Available
'In memory of Wealdstone fans no longer with us' - Ron Moore, Dave Edwards, Tony & Peter Drew	Available
Unava	ilable
	Russell In memory Thordor In memory of Roy Couch OSM Alan Couch Mike and M Alan Couch Mike and M In memory of Jim Klarfeld Mike & Va Graham Clark Middlesex Cricket Players' Pool In Memory of Markie Barton

### 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 your choice here at the Vale. Also this season, you can sponsor both

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

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**ASTON OXBOROUGH** 

KNIGHTSBRIDGE GOLF SCHOOL

**DANNY GREEN** 

**DAVID LEIGH** 

LEO MORRIS

**MEGAPHONE** 

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TONY WAUGH

**RAY CORNER** 

ASHLEY CHARLES

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**HOWARD LAMBERT** 

CONNOR STEVENS

**ALAN COUCH** 

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Pictures courtesy of Steve Foster — @aqueoussunphoto



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JONATHAN NORTH

AKHIL, NIKHIL AND SUDHIR RAWAL

CONNOR SMITH

**ALYSON ANGELIDES** 

**DENNON LEWIS** 

**EVIE FITZGERALD** 

VAT

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SANCHEZ WATT

**PAUL SAFFER** 

BILLY CLIFFORD

**MIKE & VAL WESTON** 

**FUMNAYA SHOMOTUN** 

**RAY CORNER** 



GK



**PAUL HARVEY** 



**STEVE ROBERTSON** 

**JACK JEBB** 

NICK DUGARD

**BRIAN BALL** 

NOF



**JAKE SHEPPARD** 

**DAVID EDWARDS** 



EM

**KIT SPONSORS 2019/2020** 

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

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

OK

**JEROME OKIMO** 

**FRANKIE FITZGERALD** 



D





PHIL MURRAY



**WEALDSTONE FC** SUPPORTERS CLUB



09-08-1989



JAMES KLARFELD











apfle







### HOME

### **Brentford 'B'**

MIDDLESEX SENIOR CUP SEMI FINAL Monday, 16th March, 7:45pm

### **Braintree Town**

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Saturday, 21st March, 3:00pm £9 entry for Premier / EFL season ticket holders

### Hampton & Richmond VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Saturday, 4th April, 3:00pm £9 entry for Premier / EFL season ticket holders

### Weymouth

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Monday, 13th April, 3:00pm £9 entry for Premier / EFL season ticket holders

### AWAY

### **Chippenham Town**

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Saturday, 14th March, 3:00pm pitchero.com/clubs/chippenhamtown/ | @ChipTownFC

Follow the Stones

here and on the road

### Eastbourne Borough VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Tuesday, 24th March, 7:45pm www.ebfc.co.uk | @EBFCTheSports

### Tonbridge Angels VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Tuesday, 31st March, 7:45pm www.tonbridgeangels.co.uk | @TonbridgeAngels

### **Hungerford Town**

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Saturday, 10th April, 3:00pm www.hungerfordtown.com | @HungerfordTown

### Vanarama National League South – Table @ 18th February

Opposition	All						Home								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	31	21	3	7	66	33	16	14	0	2	37	11	15	7	3	5	29	22	33	66		
2 Havant & Waterlooville	32	17	10	5	60	36	16	7	4	5	26	20	16	10	6	0	34	16	24	61	1-4	4-2
3 Slough Town	33	17	9	7	51	34	16	9	5	2	22	12	17	8	4	5	29	22	17	60	2-1	1-2
4 Weymouth	33	16	11	6	58	35	17	10	4	3	34	17	16	6	7	3	24	18	23	59		4-3
5 Bath City	33	17	8	8	49	37	16	10	4	2	28	15	17	7	4	6	21	22	12	59	7-0	0-0
6 Dartford	32	14	8	10	55	45	17	7	6	4	30	20	15	7	2	6	25	25	10	50	4-1	0-0
7 Dorking Wanderers	33	14	8	11	57	53	17	9	4	4	31	20	16	5	4	7	26	33	4	50	3-1	2-2
8 Hampton & Richmond	31	14	4	13	50	47	16	6	3	7	27	24	15	8	1	6	23	23	3	46		0-2
9 Chelmsford City	32	11	10	11	54	52	16	7	7	2	35	24	16	4	3	9	19	28	2	43	0-1	3-1
10 Maidstone United	31	11	9	11	45	40	16	6	6	4	26	18	15	5	3	7	19	22	5	42	2-1	
11 Hemel Hempstead Town	32	11	8	13	34	41	16	7	3	6	18	17	16	4	5	7	16	24	-7	41		3-0
12 Oxford City	32	11	8	13	45	56	16	6	3	7	23	34	16	5	5	6	22	22	-11	41	1-0	2-3
13 Welling United	32	11	6	15	35	43	16	7	2	7	23	22	16	4	4	8	12	21	-8	39	1-0	2-1
14 Chippenham Town	33	9	11	13	35	43	17	7	5	5	21	23	16	2	6	8	14	20	-8	38	1-0	
15 Concord Rangers	30	10	5	15	40	44	16	6	3	7	25	20	14	4	2	8	15	24	-4	35	3-0	
16 Tonbridge Angels	30	9	8	13	43	51	13	6	3	4	26	23	17	3	5	9	17	28	-8	35	3-1	
17 Eastbourne Borough	32	7	14	11	35	54	16	5	6	5	23	27	16	2	8	6	12	27	-19	35	2-0	
18 Braintree Town	33	10	5	18	43	64	17	5	4	8	21	27	16	5	1	10	22	37	-21	35		4-0
19 Dulwich Hamlet	33	8	10	15	48	47	17	4	4	9	27	28	16	4	6	6	21	19	1	34		0-1
20 Billericay Town	30	7	13	10	44	52	13	5	7	1	23	16	17	2	6	9	21	36	-8	34	3-0	1-3
21 St Albans City	33	8	10	15	39	52	16	3	6	7	16	25	17	5	4	8	23	27	-13	34	1-0	3-2
22 Hungerford Town	31	7	4	20	36	63	15	4	2	9	14	23	16	3	2	11	22	40	-27	25	3-1	